

Srikanth Kidambi, first Indian male badminton player to become World No. 1



The popular Indian badminton star Srikanth Kidambi, who has become one of the most dominating badminton players on international level in last couple of years ? has now achieved the incredible milestone of being the first Indian male shuttler to become World No. 1 in BWF rankings.

On Thursday, Indian badminton ace Srikanth Kidambi joined the elite group of people who has become World No. 1 in men's singles category after Badminton World Federation (BWF) updated its weekly ratings. With this feat, Kidambi has become the first Indian man to reach the topmost rank and only the second Indian after Saina Nehwal to achieve the feat in BWF's global badminton rankings. Currently, Kidambi holds the World No. 1 position with 76,895 points in men's singles category after winning four major Super Series titles, including - Indonesia, Australia, Denmark and France.

Srikanth replaced the previous World No 1 Viktor Axelsen for the top rank as the Danish shuttler lost at least 1,660 points for not being able to defend his Malaysian Open title. The BWF rankings are calculated based on a player's performance over the previous 52 weeks ? which means, Viktor lost 1660 points due to Malaysian Open series, whereas, Kidambi won the mixed team gold in the ongoing Gold Coast Games and continues to feature in the men's singles format in that event ? gaining credit points in the BWF list.

The 25-year-old Indian badminton player, hailing from Gunter in Andhra Pradesh, was really close to the chance of becoming World No. 1 last year, but missed it due to leg injury. However, he has finally managed to achieve the feat and make history in the modern ranking system by BWF. Interestingly, both Indian World No.1 players ? Nehwal and Kidambi have been trained by the same coach - Pullela Gopichand from his academy in Hyderabad. There has always been lauding for Indian women players in badminton, but Kidambi's achievement has put a limelight on men's badminton in India.