

# **Saina Nehwal unlikely to be challenged until Quarterfinals in World Championships**

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World No. 3 and third seed Saina Nehwal has been drawn in the same half as world No. 1 Li Xuerui of China and the two could face in the women's singles semifinal of the BWF World Championships to be held in Guangzhou, China, from August 5-11. This, should she manages to beat eighth seed Minatsu Mitani of Japan in the quarterfinals.

Saina will begin her campaign against the winner of Olga Golovanova (RUS)-Alesia Zaitsava (BLR) in the second round after receiving a first-round bye. She is expected to have it easy against her opponents in the second and third rounds.

Fellow Hyderabadi PV Sindhu, seeded 10th, is in the other half and faces the prospect of bumping into world No. 2 Wang Yihan in the third round. Sindhu has also received a first-round bye and meets the winner of Kaori Imabeppu (JPN)-Aprilla Yuswandari (INA) in Round 2.

In men's singles, 13th seed Parupalli Kashyap is set to face sixth seed Hu Yun on Hong Kong in the third round. Kashyap faces Estonia's Raul Must in the first round. while Ajay Jayaram opens his campaign against 12th seed Wong Wing Ki of Hong Kong.

In men's doubles, Arun Vishnu and Tarun Kona will meet Poland's Adam Cwalina/Przemyslaw Wacha in the opening round. The second Indian men's doubles pair of Pranaav Jerry Chopra and Akshay Dewalkar are set to face Germany's Peter Kaesbauer/ Josche Zurwonne in the first round.

In women's doubles, Ashwini Ponnappa/ Pradnya Gadre and Aparna Balan/ Sikki Reddy carry India's hopes. Ashwini-Pradnya will open against the Danish pair of Line Damkjaer Kruse/ Marie Roepke while Aparna- Siki will meet England's Lauren Smith and Gabrielle White.

In mixed doubles, Arun Vishnu/ Aparna Balan will take on Chinese Taipei's Liao Min Chun/ Chen Hsiao Huan in the opening round while the Tarun Kona/ Ashwini Ponnappa duo will lock horns with Japan's Hirokatsu Hashimoto/ Miyuki Maeda first up.