



Rio 2016



### SERVING AN ACE

The other success story came from ace shuttler P.V. Sindhu who also created history when she became the first woman who secured a silver medal in Badminton after losing a closely contested match to World No. 1. Carolina Marin in the women's singles final. While the celebrated Saina Nehwal stumbled, Sindhu went on to script a story that is a testament to a story of grit and hard work. In her first appearance at the Olympics, the 21-year-old's journey is nothing short of a fairy tale. No one gave the World No. 10 an outside chance, but Sindhu proved everyone wrong with several stellar performances that saw her even beat World No. 2 Wang Yihan in convincing fashion. In fact, in the finals she won the first set and never made it easy for Carolina as she took the game to the third set and ensured that the finale was a nail biting thriller. In

fact, what Sindhu did after the match, made her a true winner in more ways than one. Walking up and congratulating Carolina, she actually picked up her racquet and kept it in her opponent's bag. A sign that here is a sports person that has tremendous respect for her game and her opponents too! "I'm really proud about it. I'm really happy. I could not win the gold. But I really worked hard. It was anybody's game. I really fought very hard and gave my heart out. When I came to final, I told myself just one match to go and you could win a gold medal. Give it your best, and I tried very hard. I feel it was her day," was how she summed up her game. It was a podium that showcased her ability to perform under pressure on arguably the world's best stage and Sindhu came out with flying colours.



### WOMEN ON TOP

Apart from the fact that both the medal winners were women, it is important to spare a thought to some of the other women athletes that came up with a sterling performance. Among one of the brightest performers was Dipa Karmakar who became the first Indian gymnast to qualify for the Olympics. And make no mistake she is a Produnova expert, the most difficult vault currently being performed in the women's gymnastics.



Beating all odds, Dipa secured the 4th position in Women's Vault event with an overall score of 15.066 missing the bronze by a whisker. In fact, she actually apologised for not winning a medal and says she will aim for one in Tokyo 2020. Likewise, long-distance runner Lalita Babar became only the second Indian woman to qualify for the final of track and field event at the Olympics and finished 10th in the 3,000m steeplechase final and teenage golfer Aditi Ashok



also qualified for the final. While P. T. Usha's protégé Tintu Luka did not qualify for the semi-finals in the 800m event, she still clocked her season best time at 2:00.58 and stood 29th in the 65-stong field. Of the other players that showed some mettle, were Sania Mirza and Rohan Bopanna lost the bronze medal playoff to Radek Stepanek and Lucie Hradecka of Czech Republic and Abhinav Bindra finished 4th in the finals of the 10m Air Rifle (Men) event.