



Jofra, Jacks power England to sensational win after Salt's 62

PALLEKELE, FEB 22:

The pace-spin duo of Jofra Archer and Will Jacks tore through Sri Lanka's top-order after Phil Salt's 40-ball 62 to set up a sensational 51-run win for England in an eventful Super Eights fixture of the T20 World Cup here on Sunday.

After left-arm spinner Duniya Wellalage (3/26) did the star turn for a disciplined Sri Lankan attack to limit a scratchy England to 146 for nine, the islanders seemed to have the match under control.

But speedster Jofra and off-spinner all-rounder Jacks turned the game on its head in the second half, leaving Sri Lanka tottering at 34 for five in the sixth over in a total domination of the powerplay. Sri Lanka were eventually bowled out for 95 in 16.4 overs.

Jacks returned five figures of 3/22 in four measly overs while Archer ended with 2/20 in three overs, and they were well supported by Liam Dawson (2/27 in 4 overs) and Adil Rashid (2/13 in 3.4 overs) as they wrapped up the lower-order and tail. In the end, Salt's knock too proved to be vital to the final outcome of the match, even as his other colleagues in the batting unit failed miserably.

For Sri Lanka, skipper Dasun Shanaka was the top scorer with 30 off 24 balls. If England's start was bad, Sri Lanka's beginning was worse as Jofra got rid of the dangerous Pathum Nissanka (9 off 8 balls) cheaply, caught by Jamie Overton who was asked to stand at deep mid-wicket just before that ball and the opener fell into the trap to a fast and full delivery.



Reprising the role played by Wellalage in the first half, Jacks then got into the act by removing Kusal Mendis and Pavan Rathnayake in successive balls.

Archer had Kamil Mishara caught by Overton at gully and Jacks sent Wellalage after he played across the line to get caught by skipper Harry Brook at mid-on.

A soft dismissal off Liam Dawson saw Kamindu Mendis take the long walk back to the Lankan dugout, leaving the packed house in Palkelele stunned.

Earlier, having struggled in the group-stage games, England's batters' start to the second phase of the showpiece was in stark contrast to captain Brook's assertion of playing aggressive cricket in the Super Eights.

Not only did Sri Lanka stifle the English top-order in the powerplay, but they also managed to snaffle a couple of wickets to leave the visitors at a poor 37 for two at the end of the first six overs, on a pitch that offered something for the bowlers

but not as much as the batters made it look.

Considering Jos Buttler's woeful run of form in the tournament and his recent struggles against spinners, it was not surprising to see Sri Lanka captain Dasun Shanaka using Wellalage in the powerplay.

Wellalage did a wonderful job, snaring the wickets of Butter and Brook (14 off 7 balls) in his first three overs to leave England precariously placed at 68 for four in 10 overs, dismissing the captain as their innings approached the halfway mark.

Wellalage bowled one slow through the air and got it to drift and miss Brook's bat and hit his pads. Buttler (7 off 14 balls) was the day's first casualty as he was rapped on the pads after a failed attempt at reverse sweeping the spinner, bringing to an end a scratch knock that might just force the England team management to starting thinking seriously about giving someone like Ben Duckett a chance in the next game, especially keeping in mind the

Nottinghamshire man's excellent record against the spinners.

Maheesh Theekshana (2/21 in 4 overs) dismissed Jacob Bethell after the batter got a leading edge to the third man fielder Dilshan Madushanka (2/25 in 4 overs), who also thrifty with the new ball, conceding just 16 runs in three overs.

Tom Banton (6) was on his way back to the dressing room after setting off for a suicidal single, while Sam Curran was out caught in the deep of the bowling of Dushmantha Chameera.

Meanwhile Salt, who has survived the powerplay for the first time in the tournament, played some fine shots, including a six over extra cover off Wellalage and a maximum over fine leg against Chameera, and raced to his half-century in 36 balls.

However, Wellalage fought back to get rid of Salt when the tiring opener failed to send a short ball over long-off, and the England innings deteriorated further after that.

Kathua Admin launches Open District Cricket Tournament

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 22**

District Administration Kathua, in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department Kathua, today commenced the Open District Cricket Tournament under the aegis of Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, with inaugural day matches being held across different subdivisions of the district.

The tournament is being organized under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma, with the objective of promoting sportsmanship and spreading awareness against drug abuse among the youth.

At Billawar, under the supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner Billawar, Vinay Khosla, two matches were played at Playground Bhaddu as part of the inaugural fixtures. In the first match, A.K Billawar defeated United II Billawar. In the second match, M.K Deccan Charges Billawar secured victory against Ramkot Cricket Club.



Similarly, at Government Model Higher Secondary School Basohli, inaugural matches were conducted under the supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner Basohli, Pankaj Bhagotra. Plassi Cricket Club defeated Game Changer CC Mahanpur, while Basohli Warriors emerged victorious against United Hut.

At Hiranagar, under the supervision of Sub-Divisional Magistrate Hiranagar, Phulail Singh, two inaugural matches were

played at Sai International Stadium.

Hiranagar Cricket Club defeated Superking Cricket Club, while Mukesh II Cricket Club registered victory over Pro II Cricket Club.

Likewise, at Degree College Bani, under the supervision of Sub-Divisional Magistrate Bani, Sandeep Kumar, Bani defeated Duggan, while Backen secured victory over Lowang in the opening day matches.

Refreshments were served to all participating

players and officials. The tournament will continue in the coming days, with winning teams advancing to subsequent rounds, culminating in the grand finale at District Headquarters Kathua.

Pertinently, the District Administration Kathua has undertaken a resolve to engage youth in constructive pursuits and strengthen the fight against drug abuse through sustained sports-based interventions under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan.

SAI holds 'Sunday on Cycle' event with ESIC



**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 22**

The Sports Training Centre (STC) Jammu of Sports Authority of India (SAI) organized the 62nd Edition of 'Sunday on Cycle' in collaboration with the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) under the aegis of the Fit India Movement, here today.

The cycling rally com-

menced from Maulana Azad Stadium, here and culminated at the University of Jammu (JU). The event was organized with the objective of promoting health awareness, physical fitness, and workforce well-being in line with the vision of the Fit India Movement.

A large number of athletes, coaches, officials, staff members, and fitness enthusiasts participated enthusiastically in the rally,

reflecting strong community engagement towards adopting an active and healthy lifestyle.

Specially designed Fit India T-shirts were presented to the participants.

The event was graced by Aman Sharma, HPD and Incharge, STC Jammu. Officers from ESIC, namely Abhinandan Garg, Deputy Director, and Rajinder Kumar, Assistant Director, were also present. Coaches

of SAI STC Jammu and supporting staff extended their full cooperation in the successful conduct of the event.

"The successful organization of the 62nd edition of the initiative once again demonstrated the commitment of SAI and FIT India towards fostering a culture of fitness and encouraging mass participation in physical activities across the region," said Aman Sharma.

Vandewinkel ends Adkar's historic run to clinch ITF W100 Bengaluru title

BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 22: Third seed and World No.124 Hanne Vandewinkel of Belgium capped a dominant week with a 6-0, 6-1 victory over wildcard Vaishnavi Adkar in the Final of the International Tennis Federation (ITF) Women's Open W100 Bengaluru 2026.

Adkar, the 21-year-old from Pune, ranked World No. 690, was playing the biggest match of her career after becoming the first Indian woman since Sania Mirza to reach an ITF W100 Final, but Vandewinkel's experience and consistency proved decisive from the outset, as per a press release from ITF.

For her title run, Vandewinkel earns 100 WTA ranking points and prize money of USD 15,239. Adkar, meanwhile, takes away 65 ranking points and USD 8,147, a significant boost that will propel her up the rankings.

The Belgian broke Adkar



in the opening game before she could settle and quickly built a 3-0 lead, capitalising on unforced errors while dictating play with her forehand. Maintaining relentless depth from the baseline, Vandewinkel closed out the opening set 6-0 with a service ace.

The second set began in similar fashion, with another early break giving the world number 124 control. Adkar showed glimpses of her fighting spirit in the

third game, striking a couple of winners to hold serve for the first time in the match.

She then earned three break points in the fourth game as Vandewinkel briefly faltered.

However, the Belgian responded intelligently, taking pace off her returns and varying her patterns to disrupt Adkar's timing. She saved all three break points, held for 3-1, and continued to apply pressure. Van-

dewinkel pushed Adkar to deuce again before stretching the lead to 4-1, and despite the Indian's efforts to extend rallies and force errors, the Belgian remained composed.

In the seventh game, Vandewinkel surged to two match points and converted the second to seal the championship in just over an hour.

"It was a bit of an unknown coming into the match, but I knew she beat some really good players, so I was very aware of that. I didn't want to make the mistake of not being fully there in the match and letting her come into the match, because I saw the last few matches she could play some really good tennis. So I think I was just there from the beginning.

I made her work for every point, and I think that was the goal of today, and I think I managed pretty well," Vandewinkel commented after clinching the title.

Punjab's Manju pips Priyanka to win race walk gold

CHANDIGARH, FEB 22: Punjab's Manju and Uttar Pradesh's Ram Baboo won gold medals in the women's and men's full marathon (42km), respectively, during the 13th Indian Open Race Walk Competition, introduced from this season by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI), at Sukhna Lake today.

Manju won the first place in a strong field that included experienced race walker and Olympian Priyanka Goswami from Uttar Pradesh. Manju stayed with the leading group of three athletes, including Priyanka, till the 32km mark of the race. Thereafter, she made a decisive move. As the race pro-



gressed, she continued to drift away from Priyanka, who finished second. "There was no one to challenge me otherwise I could have improved my time," said Manju in the post-race interaction.

Manju clocked 3 hours, 33 minutes and 24 seconds. She was nearly four minutes faster than Priyanka. Payal of Uttarakhand finished third.

Manju's future plans are to stay healthy and win a medal at the Asian Games in September. "Asian Games is the main target this year," she said.

Meanwhile, 26-year-old Baboo clocked 3:09:17.00 to win the gold medal.

'Mubarkaan Jatt ji': Shikhar Dhawan ties knot with Sophie Shine in private ceremony

CHANDIGARH, FEB 22: Shikhar Dhawan, former India cricketer, tied the knot with his girlfriend, Sophie Shine, in an intimate ceremony in Delhi on February 21.

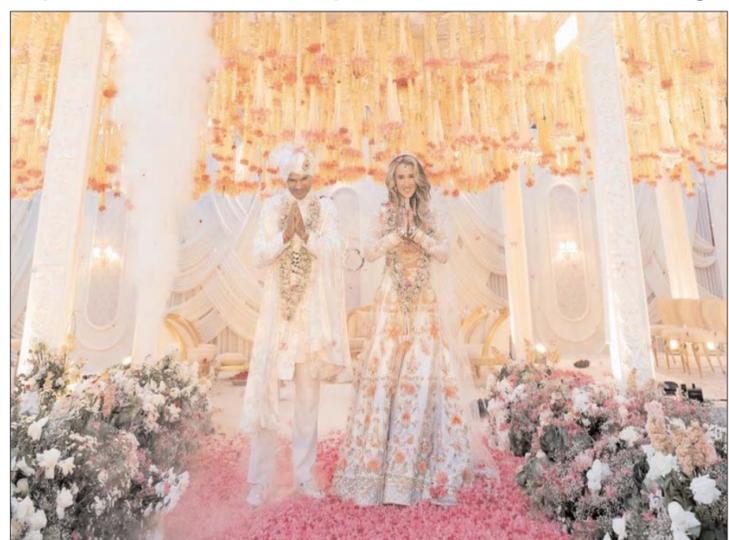
Their dreamy wedding pictures were all over social media, with the fans admiring Sophie's looks with congratulatory messages pouring in from the cricket fraternity and fans alike.

The first glimpses from the private ceremony were shared by Dhawan's former teammate, Yuzvendra Chahal, who posted pictures from the ceremony captioned, "Mere yaar ki shaadi hai."

Dhawan's former Delhi teammate Virat Kohli congratulated him on X, saying, "Mubarkaan Jatt ji."

Among those present at the wedding were cricketers Rohit Sharma, Suresh Raina, Irfan Pathan, Robin Uthappa and wife Sheethal Goutham. BCCI vice president Rajeev Shukla also attended the function.

Dhawan and Sophie, who



have been together since early 2025, had confirmed their engagement on Instagram in January. The couple was first spotted on camera during a Champions Trophy match in Dubai in 2025. In the days leading up to their marriage, the couple celebrated the 'haldi' and 'sangeet' ceremonies in the

presence of close friends and family. Dhawan shared moments from the 'sangeet' night on social media, captioning the post, "Almost the Dhawans."

Ireland-born Sophie is a product consultant and currently serves as second vice president at Northern Trust Corporation in Abu Dhabi

and holds a degree in marketing from Limerick Institute of Technology.

This marks Dhawan's second marriage. He was previously married to Aesha Mukherjee, with whom he shares a son, Zoravar. The couple separated in October 2023 after 11 years of marriage.