



Deepti Sharma's record spell powers India to 94-run rout of Thailand in women's Asia Cup opener

DUBAI, AUG 30: Shafali Verma's belligerent 64 set the tone before Deepti Sharma's record-breaking three-wicket burst without conceding a run powered India to a thumping 94-run win over Thailand in their Women's T20 Asia Cup opener here on Sunday.

The flamboyant opener smashed eight fours and three sixes in her 36-ball knock before Thailand's spinners, led by Suleeporn Laomi's three-wicket haul, triggered an inexplicable Indian collapse to restrict the seven-time champions to 159/9.

But the total proved more than enough as Thailand folded for 65 in 16.1 overs, with Deepti, playing in her landmark 150th T20I, claiming three wickets in seven balls without conceding a run to take her tally to 171 wickets, becoming the outright leading wicket-taker in Women's T20I cricket.

The 29-year-old veteran



allrounder, who became only the third Indian after Harmanpreet Kaur and Smriti Mandhana to reach the 150 T20I landmark, had earlier drawn level with Thailand's Thipatcha Putthawong at 170 wickets after taking two wickets in the ninth over to leave Thailand

reeling at 44/6. Indianews updates

She returned in the 17th over and struck with her very first delivery to dismiss wicketkeeper-batter Nannapat Koncharoenkai, who had offered Thailand some resistance with a 41-run knock to complete a sensa-

tional spell.

Seamers Kranti Goud (1/26) and Nandani Sharma (3/18) removed both Thailand openers inside four overs before left-arm spinner Shree Charani (2/10) and Deepti strangled the chase.

Charani struck twice in successive overs before Deepti produced a double-wicket maiden to virtually end Thailand's hopes, reducing them to 44/6 inside nine overs.

India, despite their late collapse with the bat, completed a comprehensive victory to begin their Asia Cup campaign in emphatic fashion from Group A. India next face Hong Kong on Thursday.

For Thailand, this was their first loss after two matches, having begun their campaign with six-run win over Hong Kong on Friday. Asked to bat, India cruised past 100-run mark in 10 overs, with Shafali smashing her 19th T20I fifty off just 26 balls.

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 30

As part of the ongoing Sports Day Celebration WEEK activities, the Department of Youth Services & Sports Zone Baderwah, on Sunday organised a vibrant cycle rally on the theme "Sundays on Cycle", promoting fitness, healthy living and the importance of cycling in everyday life.

Around 50 cyclists participated enthusiastically in the rally, demonstrating their commitment towards fitness and healthy living. The sports staff of Zone Baderwah also actively participated in the event and encouraged the cyclists throughout the rally.

The event was organised under the directions of ADC Sunil Kumar Bhutyal and District Youth Services and Sports Officer Ashok Kumar.

The rally was flagged off

Sports Day Celebration Week 'Sundays on Cycle' Rally taken out at Baderwah



by Zonal Physical Education Officer (ZPEO) Vijay Kotwal, who led the participants in spreading the message of physical fitness and an active lifestyle.

Jonty Sidhu steals show as Central Delhi Kings storm into DPL 2026 final

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 29: Central Delhi Kings stormed into the final of the Delhi Premier League (DPL) 2026 with a convincing 72-run win over Purani Dilli 6 in Qualifier 2.

Captain Jonty Sidhu produced a brilliant all-round performance to lead his team into the title clash. The left-handed batter played a stunning unbeaten knock of 106 off just 46 balls, giving Central Delhi a strong platform with the bat, according to a release.

He received good support from Aditya Bhandari, who finished unbeaten on 24 off 12 balls as Central Delhi Kings posted a challenging total.

Chasing the target, Purani Dilli 6 struggled to build partnerships and kept losing wickets at regular intervals. They were reduced



to 91/6, with key batters Aryan Gaur, Samarth Seth, Dev Lakra and captain Anuj Rawat back in the dressing room. The pressure contin-

ued to grow as Central Delhi's bowlers kept control of the chase. Purani Dilli 6 were eventually bowled out for 146, falling 72 runs short

of the target.

Jonty once again made an impact with the ball, picking up 3/25 in three overs and completing an impressive all-round performance. Money Grewal also claimed two wickets for 27 runs in his four overs, while Tejas Baroka picked up two wickets for 19 runs from his four-over spell.

With the comprehensive victory, Central Delhi Kings have booked their place in the DPL 2026 final, where they will face South Delhi Superstarz on Sunday at the Arun Jaitley Stadium that will host the international fixtures between India and Afghanistan.

After a dominant performance in Qualifier 2, Central Delhi will now look to finish their campaign on a high and lift the DPL trophy. (ANI)

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 30

A volleyball tournament was organised at Golpattan in Marh on the occasion of National Sports Day by BSF Battalion-44 under the "One Hour on the Playground" campaign.

Former Minister and senior BJP leader Sukhnandan Choudhary attended the event as the chief guest.

An exciting match was played between the BSF and Golpattan teams, with players from both sides displaying enthusiasm, discipline and strong team spirit. After a closely contested encounter, the Golpattan team emerged victorious with an impressive performance.

Congratulating the players, Sukhnandan Choudhary said that sports play an



important role in keeping people physically and mentally fit and help inculcate discipline, self-confidence, leadership qualities and team spirit among youth.

He appreciated the "One Hour on the Playground" initiative, saying such programmes help create awareness about the importance of sports and encourage youth and the general public to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

The tournament witnessed enthusiastic participation from players and considerable interest among local residents. The event aimed at promoting sports and encouraging youth to actively participate in sporting activities.

Thailand edge Hong Kong, China by 6 runs in Women's T20 Asia Cup opener

DUBAI [UAE], AUGUST 29 : Thailand Women held their nerve to secure a six-run victory over Hong Kong, China Women in a low-scoring opening match of the Women's T20 Asia Cup 2026 at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium, Dubai on Friday.

After winning the toss, Hong Kong, China opted to bowl first and made early inroads into the Thailand battingline-up by removing Aphisara Suwanchonrathi (11) and Phannita Maya (19). Thailand captain Naruemol Chaiwai, however, played a crucial knock of 43 off 31 balls, hitting four boundaries and two sixes.

Nannapat Koncharoenkai supported her with a patient 27 off 41 balls as Thailand posted 120/9 in their 20 overs.

Hong Kong, China's Marina Lamplough was the pick of the bowlers, claiming four wickets for just 11 runs in her four overs. Alison Siu also impressed with three wickets for 37 runs.

Chasing 121, Hong Kong, China struggled to score freely in the early stages. Opener Kary Chan pro-



vided some momentum with a quick 28 off 20 deliveries and no. 3 Yasmin Daswani also helped the team with 28 off 41 balls.

Hong Kong, China remained in the contest heading into the final overs, but Thailand's bowlers produced a disciplined performance to close out the game. Off-spinner Onnich Kamchomphu claimed 3/27, while Phannita Maya

took 2/22 as Thailand restricted Hong Kong, China to 114/7 in 20 overs.

Despite the late efforts from Chan and the Hong Kong lower order, Thailand managed to defend their modest total and begin their Asia Cup campaign with a win.

Chaiwai was named Player of the Match for her important innings, which helped Thailand post a

competitive total on a challenging surface.

Brief Scores: Thailand Women 120/9 in 20 overs (Naruemol Chaiwai 43, Nannapat Koncharoenkai 27; Marina Lamplough 4/11, Alison Siu 3/37) beat Hong Kong, China Women 114/7 in 20 overs (Yasmin Daswani 28, Kary Chan 28; Onnich Kamchomphu 3/27, Phannita Maya 2/22) by 6 runs. (ANI)

SRINAGAR, AUG 30: In the footprints of history, nothing is etched in stone. With the passage of time and changing perspectives, the past acquires meanings that can colour the present, just as the present can reshape our understanding of the past.

Kashmir, with its many-layered complex history, is a place where cricket has often come to symbolise something beyond sport. The news that its state team will play 'Rest of India' for the Irani Cup — a regular annual fixture featuring the current Ranji Trophy champions — in the first week of October in Srinagar, therefore, raises intriguing possibilities.

Before one jumps into a contest that pits Jammu and Kashmir cricketers against the might of India — or to be politically more precise, the Rest of India — there is a bit of disturbing history worth revisiting. It is history that may cast a long shadow over a cricket match that on the surface is merely about bat and ball.

The year 1983 is embellished with the golden hue of India's crowning glory: winning the World Cup of one-day cricket. It was an unlikely triumph that turned the established order of world cricket upside down. 'Kapil's Devils', the epithet

A cricket match in Srinagar



that a British newspaper bestowed on that all-conquering Indian team, became the phrase by which they are remembered. On that famous, sun-drenched afternoon at Lord's on June 25, India had done the impossible — defeating the seemingly invincible West Indies to become world champions.

Barely 110 days later, on October 13, 1983, the newly crowned world champions found themselves facing the same rivals, this time amid one of the most picturesque settings imaginable, the Sher-i-Kashmir stadium in Srinagar.

The majestic backdrop of the mountains, with the massive Chinar trees shedding their golden-amber, paw-shaped leaves, provided an evocative setting for the first encounter between the two teams since the World Cup final.

Post-Partition Kashmir had generated enormous heat, dust and turmoil, becoming a land of divided loyalties and competing narratives, with its place within India repeatedly contested, despite its accession in 1947 under certain constitutional provisions.

To the utter dismay of those whose loyalty to India was unquestioned, the cricketing skirmish on the field was pushed into the background by spectators openly hostile to the Indian team. To the surprise, and perhaps delight, of the West Indies players, they found themselves being cheered as though they were playing on home ground.

Many objective accounts and my own conversations with the cricket writers who

chronicled the match helped build a picture of a place where anti-India sentiment was visible enough to stun those unfamiliar with Kashmir's thorny past.

These very journalists had just a day earlier partaken of the sumptuous wazwan, the traditional elaborate cuisine, laid out by the state's Chief Minister for the teams and the Press. It was hard for them to digest being witness to a large crowd openly resentful of the Indian team, the next day.

At the lunch break, a few mischievous elements stormed the ground and dug up the pitch, while the weather too played its part. The match had to be curtailed, with West Indies chasing the revised target without losing a wicket.

The unsettling and unexpected outcome of that match was not the defeat, but the disturbing manner in which a festering wound had surfaced as a spectacle for the world to watch.

More than four decades have passed since that day in Srinagar. It may be a long span in an individual's life or a nation's journey, but is barely a dot in the collective existence of Planet Earth. As of today, cricket has placed the erstwhile state in a pre-eminent position in India's sporting structure.