



Indian top order eyes improved show against Zimbabwe in 2nd women's T20 International

RAIPUR, OCT 17: The Indian top order will look to deliver a more assured batting display when they take on Zimbabwe in the second women's T20 International here on Sunday.

India survived a major scare in the series opener, recovering from 19 for four through a match-winning 82-run partnership between debutant Niki Prasad and seasoned all-rounder Deepti Sharma to secure a four-wicket victory.

The Indian batters were guilty of throwing their wickets away, with off-spinner Nyasha Gwanzura striking thrice in the powerplay.

The hosts will be keen to avoid a repeat of the early collapse, with the top four—captain Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma, Anushka Sharma and former skipper Harmanpreet Kaur—all falling for single-digit scores.

However, Deepti backed India's commitment to an aggressive approach, saying there would always be occasions when luck favoured the opposition.

"Of course, we want to



play an aggressive brand of cricket, and that was in our mind," Deepti told reporters after the match. "Occasionally these things happen in a match. There is no god who gives you exactly what you want. But we always learn from our innings and our matches. I'm sure what happened today won't happen in the next match," she added. Mandhana, who took over the captaincy at the start of the series, will also be keen to lead from the front.

Niki, meanwhile, made an impressive start to her senior international career, showing composure and

sound strokeplay under pressure.

"Niki played really well. Honestly, it didn't seem at all like she was making her debut. It felt like she had played quite a few matches in the past, for the country.

"This confidence from a youngster is remarkable - you're building a partnership when the team needs it, winning the match from a tough situation. I'm sure she'll take a lot of confidence from this match," Deepti said.

India's bowling unit did a reasonable job to restrict Zimbabwe to 114 for five, al-

though the visitors will draw confidence from the contributions of opener Kelis Ndhlovu and Sharne Mayers.

Zimbabwe will also hope Gwanzura can build on her impressive three-wicket haul, which exposed India's vulnerability against spin during the powerplay.

Squads
India: Smriti Mandhana [c], Shafali Verma [vc], Niki Prasad, Harmanpreet Kaur, Anushka Sharma, Richa Ghosh [WK], G Kamalini [WK], Deepti Sharma, Prema Rawat, Shree Charani, Nandni Sharma, Kranti Gaud, Arundhati Reddy, Jintimani Kalita, Minnu Mani.

Zimbabwe: Josephine Nkomo ©, Beloved Biza, Chipo Muger-Tiripano, Kelis Ndhlovu, Michelle Mavunga, Francisca Chipare, Olinder Chare, Kudzai Chigora, Nyasha Gwanzura, Nomvelo Sibanda, Loryn Phiri, Chiyedza Dhururu, Modester Mupachikwa, Tendai Makusha, Sharne Mayers. Match starts at 7 pm IST.

DPS Jammu students win silver medals at Inter-Zonal District-Level Football Competition

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, OCT 17

Students of Delhi Public School, Jammu, won silver medals and secured runner-up positions in the Inter-Zonal District-Level Football Competition organised by the District Youth Services and Sports Department at Khel Gaon, Nagrota, from 27 to 29 August 2026.

The students who represented the school in the Under-17 category were Sai Mahajan (IX-G); Shashwat Sharma (XI-C); Dhruv Mahajan (XI-F)

Furthermore, Shashwat Sharma also participated in the District UT-Level Football Competition held on 8



August 2026.

All the participating students received certificates of participation. They were trained under the expert guidance of Alfred Jacob, the School Football Coach.

The management of DPS Jammu, including Sh. M.K. Ajatshatru Singh Ji (President, RCT), Kunwarani Dr. Ritu Singh Ji (Pro-Vice Chairperson), and Sh. S.S. Sodhi Ji (Director), along

with Ms. Ruchi Chhabra (Principal) and the school staff, congratulated the students and their parents on their achievement and appreciated their dedication and sporting spirit

Denmark Open 2026: Tanvi Sharma, Treesa-Gayatri's quarter-final losses end India's campaign

ODENSE [DENMARK], OCTOBER 17: Indian shuttlers' campaign at the Denmark Open 2026 ended in the quarter-finals, with Treesa Jolly-Gayatri Gopichand and Tanvi Sharma suffering defeats in women's doubles and women's singles on Friday, respectively.

Tanvi, the last Indian shuttler remaining in the tournament, went down 21-15, 21-13 to world No. 1 and top seed An Se-young of the Republic of Korea in a match that lasted 38 minutes.

Earlier, the women's doubles pair of Treesa and Gayatri lost 14-21, 21-17, 21-11 to Malaysian pair of Pearly Tan and Thinaah Muralitharan. Ranked 18th in the world, Treesa-Gayatri made a strong start and held an 11-7 lead at the first interval be-



fore comfortably taking the opening game, according to Olympics.com.

The Malaysians, currently ranked fifth, initially trailed in the second game as well, with the Indian pair establishing a 14-11 advantage. However, Pearly and Thinaah fought back to level the

match. The Malaysians dominated the decider, denying the Indian pair a chance to stage an upset.

The Malaysian duo had also knocked the Indian pair out in the quarter-finals of the Asian Games 2026 in Japan earlier this month.

Meanwhile, world No. 24

Tanvi began promisingly in her first meeting with reigning world and Olympic champion An Se-young but was unable to maintain the momentum as the Korean secured a straight-games victory.

Several of India's leading shuttlers, including PV Sindhu, Unnati Hooda, Satwicksairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty, Lakshya Sen and Ayush Shetty, had exited the BWF Super 750 tournament in the opening round.

Kidambi Srikanth progressed to the second round of men's singles before losing to reigning world champion Alex Lanier of France.

Indian shuttlers will next compete at the French Open, scheduled to be held from October 20 to 25. (ANI)

ISL: Bengaluru FC maintain winning start with 2-0 victory over Chennaiyin FC

BENGALURU, OCTOBER 17: Bengaluru FC beat Chennaiyin FC 2-0 in the Indian Super League (ISL) 2026-27 at the Kanteerava Stadium on Saturday.

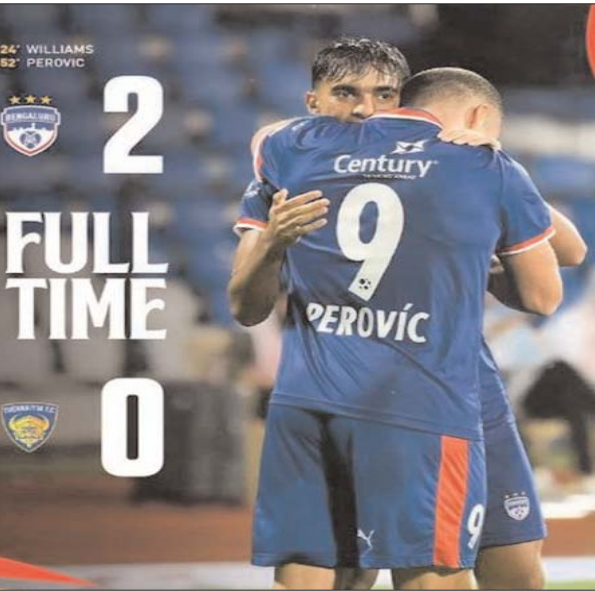
Ryan Williams opened the scoring in the 24th minute before Mihalio Perovic doubled the hosts' advantage in the 52nd, securing three more points for Bengaluru on a rain-soaked evening, as per an ISL press release.

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Bengaluru looking to build on their opening-day win and Chennaiyin coming off a 1-1 draw against FC Goa, both sides began with intent despite the wet conditions. The midfield battle was intense, with neither team willing to concede space easily.

Bengaluru fashioned the first clear opportunity in the 11th minute when Ryan Williams delivered a curling ball into the box. Perovic connected with a close-range header, but Chennaiyin goalkeeper Mohammad Nawaz reacted sharply to keep the effort out.

The hosts broke the deadlock in the 24th minute. Soham Varshney played a line-breaking pass to Borja



Martinez, whose right-footed effort was parried by Nawaz. Williams was quickest to react, converting the rebound to give Bengaluru the lead.

Chennaiyin responded with a promising opportunity in the 33rd minute. Mohammed Saheef's cross picked out Ramon Tanque, whose header was kept out by Gurpreet Singh Sandhu. The visitors continued to find openings in the final third, but Bengaluru's defence held firm to preserve

their 1-0 advantage at half-time.

Bengaluru carried that momentum into the second half and extended their lead just seven minutes after the restart. Williams made way for Ashique Kuruniyan at the break, and the substitute made an immediate impact. In the 52nd minute, Ashique threaded a through ball to Borja Martinez, who delivered a floated cross into the box. Perovic finished calmly to make it 2-0, capitalising on Nawaz's decision to come

off his line.

Chennaiyin looked to respond immediately, with Prakadeswaran driving into the box in the 55th minute. His right-footed attempt, however, was comfortably dealt with by Gurpreet, who continued to provide a reassuring presence in the Bengaluru goal.

Both teams turned to their benches as the second half progressed. Bengaluru introduced Naorem Roshan Singh and Nikhil Poojary in the 63rd minute, while Chennaiyin brought on Bryce Miranda and Ladrinpuia four minutes later. Sunil Chhetri entered the contest in the 70th minute, replacing Soham Varshney, and came close to adding a third when his long-range left-footed effort in the 87th minute was tipped over the crossbar by Nawaz.

Chennaiyin continued to search for a way back into the contest, with Brison Fernandes testing Gurpreet from distance in the first minute of stoppage time. The Bengaluru goalkeeper made another save to deny the visitors, ensuring the hosts preserved their clean sheet.

NEW DELHI, OCT 17: R Ashwin has questioned Yashasvi Jaiswal's omission from India's squad for the upcoming ODI series against New Zealand, warning that the lack of international game time could dent the young opener's confidence.

The BCCI announced India's ODI and Test squads for the New Zealand tour on Friday but Jaiswal's name was missing from the list, leaving Ashwin miffed.

Calling Jaiswal a "run-machine" Ashwin said he should have been considered for the final two ODIs if captain Shubman Gill was unavailable, arguing that the left-hander's lack of opportunities could affect his confidence at a crucial stage of his career.

"If Shubman Gill is not playing the last two ODIs, then Yashasvi Jaiswal should definitely get that spot. It is very unfortunate because all of this can ruin his confidence. Now, with the way he was scoring runs..." Ashwin said on his YouTube channel.

"I can understand Shubman Gill's situation because he is travelling. I can also understand KL Rahul's situation. But Yashasvi Jaiswal has no game time at all, right? I am not talking from a



perspective of just handing Jaiswal opportunities.

"I understand and agree with your point. However, his confidence is being completely ruined. I do not know, but if you look at his batting, he is not batting the way he used to bat two or three years ago," he added.

The 24-year-old left-hander had starred with an unbeaten 110 off 86 balls in India's 3-0 ODI series sweep against Afghanistan in his last 50-over appearance in June, having come into the playing XI as a replacement for the injured Virat Kohli.

Ashwin said it was the responsibility of the selectors and team management to ensure the youngster received opportunities whenever possible.

North Kashmir, as fans eagerly await the final showdown. The league has provided a platform for local cricketing talent while promoting sportsmanship, competitive spirit and community participation across the region. All eyes are now on the second semi-final, with the winner set to join Pathan Panthers Lolab in the much-anticipated title clash.

Friends XI Lolab will take on Sopore XI in what promises to be a keenly contested encounter.

With the tournament entering its decisive stage, cricket fever is gripping

'It is very unfair': Ashwin questions Yashasvi Jaiswal's omission from ODI squad

honestly, if I were in the position of the team management or selectors, I would have gone and asked Yashasvi Jaiswal: 'This is the situation for these two ODIs, do you want to play? If you want to play, please go ahead and play.' There is absolutely nothing like international game time."

Ashwin said it's important to prepare for Test cricket, but he also questioned when Jaiswal had last featured in each of the three international formats.

"I agree that he needs to prepare for Test cricket. But tell me, when did Yashasvi Jaiswal last play an ODI? When did he last play a T20? When did he last play a Test match? The one he played in Sri Lanka was his last Test," said Ashwin.

Ashwin maintained that Jaiswal's recent run-scoring form made his absence from the international setup particularly disappointing, describing him as a valuable talent who needed the backing of the selectors and team management.

"After that, he has not played any international cricket at all. Yet, this is a player who was in prime form and scoring runs consistently. Wherever you set up stumps, he was scoring runs.