



Celebrating friendship through cricket

President's-XI emerge victors against Ambassador's-XI as they are beaten by 74 runs



The victory being celebrated

SONAM PENJOR Thimphu

The first edition of the series of cricket match organized by Indian Embassy saw team President's-XI defeat Ambassador's-XI by 74 runs.

It was a friendly T20 cricket match at the Indian Embassy estate's cricket ground in Thimphu which was played on 30 August.

While team Ambassador's XI had to chase a target of 201 run in 20 overs, they could manage only 127 runs in 20 overs and losing nine wickets in the process.

Team President's-X were represented by one of the finest professional players in both men and women categories while officials from the Bhutan cricket Council Board played for Ambassador's XI. The two teams were represented by the Embassy of India and Indian citizen across Bhutan.

The press release from the Indian Embassy stated that the event is part of the ongoing Azadi ka Amrit

Mahotsav celebrations in Bhutan. The Embassy of India in Bhutan had instituted an annual Bhutan-India Friendship Cricket Series to foster people-to-people ties between the two friendly countries.

Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj, said that cricket is passion in India. She said: "I am informed that the sport is gaining in popularity and that some 45000 Bhutanese across 12 districts play the game."

The Ambassador added that Bhutan's women's team started practicing at the Indian Embassy Estate crickets ground ahead of their T20 qualifies in Malaysia later this year.

"We are indeed delighted to weave in the cricket story as part of the India@75 narrative, through a celebration of sporting links, in this case cricket, a passion in India, and an almost equal passion in Bhutan," she said.

Meanwhile, the winning team took home the India at 75 Cricket Cup and top players, such as the Player of the Match, Best Batsman and Best Bowler, were also

awarded cash prizes.

Bhutan played its first international game in Kathmandu in a tri-series against Maldives and Nepal in 2003. In 2004, Bhutan won its first international match by beating Iran in the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Trophy.

Bhutan's Men's National Team won their first major title in the 2018 ACC T20 Tournament in Thailand. In 2008, the Women's Team played its first international tournament

in Thailand. In 2010, the Women's U-19 team were the finalists in the ACC U-19 championship held in Singapore. In addition, cricket is the fastest growing sport in Bhutan, according to the press release.

It further states that India and Bhutan share an excellent bilateral relationship grounded in mutual trust and affection. On 2 August this year, the Indian Embassy in Thimphu had offered

its ground to Bhutan's Women's Cricket Team for their training sessions as a special gesture of friendship.

Meanwhile, the Chief Guests for the event was the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr Tandi Dorji, and the Chief Operations Officer, Lt. General Bato Tshering. The match also was attended by members of the diplomatic community, press corps and prominent Bhutanese from various walks of life.



The cricket match in full swing