T20 WORLD CUP LENS



Dhoni's audacious gambit

India vs Pakistan Final 2007 T20 World Cup in Johannesburg

Joginder Sharma, who is now working in the Indian Police Service, was the man who won India the inaugural T20 World Cup in 2007. With the reliable Misbah-ul-Hag on strike, Pakistan needed 13 from the final over with one wicket in hand. With RP Singh, Sreesanth and Irfan Pathan done with their overs, skipper MS Dhoni was left between choosing lead spinner Harbhajan Singh and the inexperienced Joginder. After a long thought, Dhoni handed the ball to Joginder. And when the medium-pacer conceded a wide and was struck for a six in the second delivery, Indian fans' groan could be heard clearly. But the next ball would see Joginder turn a hero and Dhoni a mastermind as Misbah's trademark scoop was caught at short fine leg with India snatching a historic five-run win.



Afridi wins title for Pakistan

Pakistan vs Sri Lanka Final 2009 T20 World Cup at Lord's

Two years after having their heart broken by arch-rivals India in the final of the inaugural T20 World Cup, Pakistan pacified themselves with their first and sole T20I title at Lord's. It was Shahid Afridi, Pakistan's most iconic T20 cricketer, who steered his team to a thumping eight-wicket victory. He had shown maturity, an attribute that eluded him in his youth, during his unbeaten 40-ball 54 as he kept his cool for most of the game. He sprinted the final run, a leg-bye, and raised his arms in triumph -- Afridi's trademark celebration -- waiting for the running Pakistan players to embrace him in jubilation.



Amir's bizarre five-wicket maiden

Pakistan vs Australia Group match 2010 T20 World Cup in Gros Islet

The first innings' final over saw something unprecedented after pacer Mohammad Amir was handed the ball by Pakistan skipper Shahid Afridi. Amir ended up bowling a five-wicket maiden, that too in the final over of a T20 game -- a bizarre feat indeed. In an instance of magnificent bowling and suicidal running, Amir castled Mitchell Johnson and Shaun Tait after having Brad Haddin caught at short third man while Michael Hussey and Steven Smith ran themselves out trying to sneak singles. Amir finished with figures of three for 23 and despite the phenomenal last-over, Pakistan lost the game by 34 runs as they failed to chase Australia's mammoth 191.

