



## **Indian shuttler Sai Praneeth stuns three-time winner Lee Chong Wei in 1st round at All England**

Reuters: Mar 10, 2016 |



**Three-time Champion Lee Chong Wei was sensationally beaten by India's B Sai Praneeth 24-22, 22-20 in the first round of the All-England Championships on Wednesday, putting a firm dent into his preparations ahead of the Rio Olympics .**

**"I can't believe I lost in the first round," Lee told reporters. "I had pressure to win but I made mistakes and I'm shocked at how well he played. "This is a real learning curve for me."**

Lee, the former world number one, was playing his first All-England since 2014. Praneeth, however, clawed his way back from 11-3 and 15-7 deficits in the first game to take control of the match and hailed the win as his best result.

**"It is a big shock for me too and after the last rally I cannot believe that I won," said Praneeth, "I do not know how I turned it around. I think he was under pressure as it was a close match and that was a big advantage for me. Of course it is my greatest victory of all time."**

The 33-year-old Chong Wei led 15-7 in the first game and 16-10 in the second game but the 23-year-old Praneeth managed to come back in style for his biggest career win.

The defeat is Chong Wei's first since a second round loss to Hong Kong's Wei Nan at the Denmark Open last October and he will want to bounce back at the Swiss Open next week.

World No. 37 Praneeth will next take on Denmark's Hans-Kristian Vittinghus, ranked 26th in the world. The Indian had retired midway in their only meeting in 2013 French Open.

**Besides, ace Indian shuttlers Saina Nehwal, Kidambi Srikanth and Sameer Verma too entered the second round of the USD 550,000 tournament at the Barclaycard Arena here.**

World No. 2 Saina, who is making a comeback after a long injury lay-off, dispatched Commonwealth Games Champion Michelle Li of Canada 21-17, 21-12 to set up a clash with Thailand's Busanan Ongbumrungphan.

**World No. 10 Srikanth too showed the door to England's Rajiv Ouseph, a Silver Medallist at the 2010 Commonwealth Games, 21-17, 21-12.** The Guntur lad will meet Japan's Kento Momota, seeded fourth, here.

**Young Sameer also dished out a superb performance as he dismantled Hong Kong's Hu Yun 21-10 21-14 in another Men's Singles match and will meet Chinese eight seed Tian Houwei next.**

For two-time bronze medallist at World Championship, P V Sindhu, it turned out to be yet another disappointing tournament as she lost 21-18, 17-21, 12-21 to Porntip Buranaprasertsuk of Thailand.

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