



Shanti Pereira Makes History at Commonwealth Games 2026: Singapore's First Individual Sprint Finalist

Description

History was made in Glasgow on Saturday night as Singapore's **Veronica Shanti Pereira** became the first Singaporean to compete in an individual sprint final at the Commonwealth Games. At the **Shanti Pereira Commonwealth Games 200m final 2026**, she crossed the line in 8th place with a time of 23.21 seconds but the significance of her presence on that start line was far greater than any position in the results sheet.

Singapore has waited a long time for a sprinter to reach the pinnacle of a major multi-sport Games. Shanti Pereira is that sprinter. And in Glasgow, she delivered the kind of performance that will inspire a generation of young Singaporean athletes for years to come.



Source: Team Singapore official website (teamsingapore.sg)

The Race That Rewrote Singapore's History Books

The women's 200m final at Glasgow 2026 was a world-class affair from the first bend. Gold went to **Adaejah Hodge** of the British Virgin Islands, who stormed to victory in a stunning 22.07 seconds – one of the fastest 200m times recorded at any Commonwealth Games. Silver went to **Shaniqua Bascombe** of Trinidad and Tobago (22.35s), with **Alana Reid** of Jamaica claiming bronze in 22.56s.

Behind them, the field was stacked with Caribbean and African sprinters – athletes from nations with deep traditions of sprint excellence. And then there was Shanti Pereira, representing Singapore, a city-state not known historically for producing world-class sprinters. Yet there she was, running in lane, competing toe-to-toe with the best in the Commonwealth.

Her time of 23.21 seconds in the final came after she had already produced the race of her life in the semi-finals just days earlier – a stunning **22.81 seconds** that set a new season's best and confirmed that she had every right to be at this level. That semi-final run broke the clock and broke expectations. For Shanti, it was validation after years of relentless dedication.

A Journey Built on Sacrifice and Self-Belief

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Source: ActiveSG Circle official website (activesgcircle.gov.sg)

Shanti Pereira's path to this Commonwealth Games final has not been a straight line. The 29-year-old Singapore's fastest woman has spent the better part of a decade quietly building her credentials on the global athletics circuit, collecting SEA Games gold medals and Singapore records while international recognition slowly caught up with her performances.

She has spoken openly in the past about the challenges of being a professional athlete in Singapore the balancing act between training demands, public expectations, and the financial realities of competing in a sport that does not command the same commercial attention as football or tennis. That she has persisted, improved, and now stood in a Commonwealth Games individual sprint final is a testament to her strength of character as much as her physical gifts.

At the 2025 SEA Games in Thailand, Shanti completed a dominant sprint double, winning gold in both the 100m and 200m. That performance underlined her dominance within the region and sent a clear signal that she was ready to challenge at a higher level. The Glasgow Commonwealth Games has now confirmed that she belongs at the very top of the Commonwealth sprint pecking order not as a participant, but as a finalist.

What This Moment Means for Singapore Sport

Sport has a unique power to change the way a nation sees itself. When Shanti Pereira crouched in her blocks in Glasgow and exploded out of them in a Commonwealth Games 200m final, she was not just running for herself she was running for every young Singaporean who has ever been told that sprinting is not our sport.

This is Singapore's first individual sprint finalist at the Commonwealth Games. Full stop. That is the kind of record that does not get broken it gets built upon. The next Singaporean sprinter who reaches a major Games final will stand on the foundation that Shanti has laid in Glasgow this weekend.

The reaction on social media was swift and emotional. She did it, wrote thousands of Singaporeans who had stayed up through the night to watch. The Straits Times, Channel NewsAsia, and virtually every Singapore sports outlet led with her achievement. It was, without question, one of the defining moments of Singapore's sporting year if not the decade.

For Team Singapore, the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow has produced multiple highlights from the swimming pool to the weightlifting platform, the lawn bowls courts to the athletics track. But Shanti Pereira's 200m final will be the image that endures: a Singaporean sprinter, fearless and fast, competing at the very highest level and making every one of us incredibly proud.

Her story is far from over. With her season's best now at 22.81 seconds, the next major targets the Asian Athletics Championships, the 2028 Commonwealth Games, and beyond suddenly look very much within reach. Singapore's sprint queen is only getting started.

Read our full build-up: [Shanti Pereira's journey to the Commonwealth Games 200m final in Glasgow 2026](#) and [what her Commonwealth Games campaign means for Singapore athletics](#).

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