

India aim for semis, Pakistan eye survival in Sunday showdown

Josh tames Three Lions

**PTI, DUBAI:** Hyped as a marquee showdown but mostly lopsided on the field, India and Pakistan lock horns in the ICC Champions Trophy, here, on Sunday with Rohit Sharma's men aiming to seal a semi-final spot and Mohammad Rizwan's team desperate to avoid early elimination from the tournament.

While India are on a high after claiming a measured six-wicket win over a sprightly Bangladesh, Pakistan are evidently tense after the 60-run loss in the tournament-opener against New Zealand.

PREVIEW

The sub-continental rivals' last Champion Trophy clash was the 2017 final in which Pakistan walked away with the win and the trophy. Rizwan and Co. would look to draw inspiration from that triumph in London but would also need to scale up their performance in every department.

Though the buzz surrounding the match is nowhere close to being what it used to be at the peak of diplomatic tensions between the two countries, there is an air of quiet anticipation for the Group A clash at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

India will have a distinct advantage in every aspect. The side has settled in nicely while Pakistan have flown in a couple of days ago after the drubbing handed by the Black Caps in Karachi.

More often than not, an India-Pakistan clash is as much a battle of nerves as cricketing abilities and India would be in a much better space on both counts come Sunday afternoon.



Indian cricketers during a practice session ahead of the ICC Champions Trophy match against Pakistan, in Dubai, UAE, on Saturday

For starters, skipper Rohit seems to be getting back to his best if the lucid stroke-making against Bangladesh was anything to go by. The man who is feeling the heat in the Indian team right now is Virat Kohli after yet again failing to convert a fairly decent start. His focus hasn't looked the same for a while but Kohli does have the knack of coming up

with special efforts against Pakistan.

India have a fit-again and in-form Mohammed Shami, who is being brilliantly backed up by Harshit Rana. Shami's fifer against Bangladesh ensured that India did not miss injured talisman Jasprit Bumrah just yet.

A l l - r o u n d e r Hardik Pandya has always turned up with his best

against Pakistan in major ICC tournaments. He will be hoping to make up for the 2017 Champions Trophy final disappointment where he fought as a lone warrior for India but failed to take his team over the line.

India are likely to continue with their winning combination and remain unchanged. The spin trio of Kuldeep Yadav, Ravindra Jadeja, and Axar Patel will be included once again on the tweaker-friendly surface to

exploit the conditions.

Pakistan would also be hoping to prove a point by getting the better of India, who refused to travel across the border for the tournament which is otherwise wholly scheduled in Karachi, Lahore and Rawalpindi.

**SQUADS**

**India:** Rohit Sharma (captain), Shubman Gill (vice captain), Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul (wicketkeeper), Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Arshdeep Singh, Harshit Rana, Rishabh Pant (wicketkeeper), Ravindra Jadeja, Varun Chakravarthy.

**Pakistan:** Mohammad Rizwan (captain), Salman Ali Agha (vice captain), Babar Azam, Fakhar Zaman, Kamran Ghulam, Saud Shakeel, Tayyab Tahir, Faheem Ashraf, Khushdil Shah, Usman Khan, Abrar Ahmed, Haris Rauf, Mohammad Hasnain, Naseem Shah, Shaheen Shah Afridi.

**Match starts at 2.30 pm (IST)**



Australia's Josh Inglis celebrates after scoring a century during the ICC Champions Trophy match against England, in Lahore, Pakistan, on Saturday

**SCOREBOARD**

**England:** Philip Salt c Carey b Dwarshuis 10, Ben Duckett lbw b Labuschagne 165, Jamie Smith c Carey b Dwarshuis 15, Joe Root lbw b Zampa 68, Harry Brook c Carey b Zampa 3, \*Jos Buttler c Ellis b Maxwell 23, Liam Livingstone c Ellis b Dwarshuis 14, Brydon Carse c and b Labuschagne 8, Jofra Archer not out 21, Adil Rashid not out 1. **Extras:** 25. **Total:** 351-8. **Fall of wickets:** 13-1, 43-2, 201-3, 219-4, 280-5, 316-6, 322-7, 338-8. **Bowling:** Spencer Johnson 7-0-54-0, Ben Dwarshuis 10-0-66-3, Nathan Ellis 10-0-51-0, Glenn Maxwell 7-0-58-1, Adam Zampa 10-0-64-2, Matthew Short 1-0-7-0, Marnus Labuschagne 5-0-41-2. **Australia:** Matthew Short c and b Livingstone 63, Travis Head c and b Archer 6, \*Steven Smith c Duckett b Wood 5, Marnus Labuschagne c Buttler b Rashid 47, Josh Inglis not out 120, Alex Carey c Buttler b Carse 69, Glenn Maxwell not out 32. **Extras:** 14. **Total:** 356-5. **Fall of wickets:** 21-1, 27-2, 122-3, 136-4, 282-5. **Bowling:** Mark Wood 9.3-0-75-1, Jofra Archer 10-0-82-1, Brydon Carse 7-0-69-1, Adil Rashid 10-1-47-1, Liam Livingstone 7-0-47-1. Joe Root 4-0-26-0.

**Man-of-the-match:** Josh Inglis

TRUE VALUE

THE GREAT PRE-OWNED & EXCHANGE CAR-NIVAL

MARUTI SUZUKI

Step into the ultimate car carnival!

Explore top-quality pre-owned cars at unbeatable prices, with exciting deals that make every ride worth it.

Bring the family for fun games and entertainment, and drive home with smiles and savings!

Visit to Avail Exciting Benefits Worth ₹10 000\*

DATE: 22-02-2025 TO 23-02-2025

VENUE: SAI SERVICE TRUE VALUE, NEAR PIRNI CIRCLE, VERNA - MARGAO HIGHWAY, VERNA, GOA

VENUE: CHOWGULE INDUSTRIES PVT. LTD, OPP. TO DATTA MANDIR, DAVORLIM MARGAO GOA

VENUE: CHOWGULE INDUSTRIES PVT. CHALTA NO 2, PT SHEET NO 60, OPP. TO SHETYE SALES SYNDICATE SHOWROOM, KARASWADA MAPUSA GOA

VENUE: SAI POINT CARS PVT LTD, H.NO:17, WARD V, MARGAO PONDA HIGHWAY, SONFATOR LOUTOLIM CAMURLIM SALCETE GOA.

MARUTI SUZUKI

TRUE VALUE

\*T&C apply. Creative Visualization. Accessories and features shown may not be part of standard fitment. Car colour may vary due to printing on paper. Images are used for illustration purposes. Maruti Suzuki reserves the right to withdraw offers at any point in time without any advance notice. Offer valid till stocks last. Offer valid for limited models and in select states only. Offer may vary subject to the cities, model and variant purchased.

Goa: Mapusa, True Value Mapusa: 9850966938 | Verna, True Value Verna: 9834398383, 9552518823 | Dhavorlim: Chowgule Industries Pvt. Ltd.: 9890962589 | Sonfator: Aryaman Sai: 8459482028.