**PRE-MATCH REPORT FOR CHAMPIONS TROPHY MATCH NO 5**

India VS Pakistan

**Team Overview**

**India:**

* India enters the tournament as the reigning T20 World Cup champions, looking to maintain their winning momentum.
* The team faces a setback with Jasprit Bumrah ruled out due to a back injury, with Harshit Rana stepping in as his replacement.
* Despite Rana's potential, his lack of experience on such a big stage could be a concern.
* India's batting remains strong, led by seasoned players Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, who are key to providing a solid foundation.

**Pakistan:**

* Pakistan is hosting its first major ICC tournament since 1996 and aims to capitalize on home advantage, despite this match being in Dubai.
* The batting lineup is strong, with Mohammad Rizwan leading the charge and Fakhar Zaman bringing experience, especially from the 2017 final against India.
* The team's main concern is its bowling attack, which has been inconsistent in recent series.

***Playing Eleven For Both the Teams***

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| ***India*** | ***Pakistan*** |
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| Rohit Sharma (Captain) – Right-hand opening batter | Mohammad Rizwan (Captain) – Right-hand wicketkeeper-batter |
| Shubman Gill (Vice-Captain) – Right-hand opening batter | Fakhar Zaman – Left-hand opening batter |
| Virat Kohli – Right-hand top-order batter | Babar Azam – Right-hand top-order batter |
| Shreyas Iyer – Right-hand middle-orderbatter | Saud Shakeel – Left-hand middle-order batter |
| KL Rahul – Right-hand batter and wicketkeeper | Khushdil Shah – Left-hand middle-order batter |
| Hardik Pandya – Right-hand all-rounder (medium-fast bowler) | Iftikhar Ahmed – Right-hand all-rounder (off-spin bowler) |
| Ravindra Jadeja – Left-hand all-rounder (slow left-arm orthodox bowler) | Faheem Ashraf – Left-hand all-rounder (medium-fast bowler) |
| Axar Patel – Left-hand all-rounder (slow left-arm orthodox bowler) | Shaheen Shah Afridi – Left-arm fast bowler |
| Mohammed Shami – Right-arm fast-medium bowler | Haris Rauf – Right-arm fast bowler |
| Arshdeep Singh – Left-arm medium-fast bowler | Shadab Khan – Right-hand all-rounder (leg-spin bowler) |
| Kuldeep Yadav – Left-arm wrist-spin bowler | Naseem Shah-Right Arm Fast Bowler |

### Pitch Conditions – Dubai International Stadium

* The pitch in Dubai is usually on the slower side, with some assistance for spinners as the game progresses.
* Pacers will get early movement, especially under lights, but after the first 10-12 overs, it tends to settle down.
* Dew factor in the second innings will play a massive role—teams prefer chasing here.

### Toss Strategy

Win the toss → Bowl first

* Early swing under lights → Get wickets upfront.
* Dew factor later → Easier to chase in the second innings.
* Teams batting second at this venue usually have an advantage.

If forced to bat first

* Need to post at least 280-300 to be in the game.
* Careful in the first 10 overs, then accelerate once settled.

### **During Match Analysis – India vs Pakistan | ICC Champions Trophy 2025**

Dubai International Stadium | India won the toss and chose to bowl first

### Bowling Innings – Pakistan's 251/9

*First 10 Overs – Tight Start but Early Pressure*

* Shami got the breakthrough early by dismissing Fakhar Zaman, using the swing.
* Hardik Pandya stuck to his short-ball plan, keeping Babar Azam under control with his pace.
* Kuldeep Yadav came on early in the 9th over, and his spin helped India slow down Pakistan’s scoring rate.
* Harshit Rana struggled a bit, giving away a few boundaries, allowing Pakistan to get off to a decent start with 55/1 in the first 8 overs.

*Middle Overs – Strong Control but a Counterattack*

* Jadeja and Kuldeep applied steady pressure. Jadeja removed Babar Azam, which was a big breakthrough.
* Shadab Khan and Iftikhar Ahmed took the game to India, hitting a few big shots and accelerating the scoring.
* With Pakistan at 175/4 by the 35th over, India needed to break this partnership to prevent a big total.
* Shami and Hardik returned to break the momentum. Hardik dismissed Shadab Khan, and the game shifted back in India’s favor.

*Death Overs – Dew and Tight Execution*

* As the ball got wet due to dew, the bowlers struggled to bowl Yorkers.
* Harshit adjusted and took the important wicket of Iftikhar Ahmed.
* Shami and Hardik mixed up their lengths, bowling wide Yorkers and slower bouncers, which worked effectively in the final overs.
* Pakistan finished their innings at 251/9, which is a challenging but chaseable total.

### Batting Innings – India's Chase of 252

*Opening Phase – A Calm Start*

* Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill started cautiously, with the pitch still offering a bit of swing early on.
* Shaheen Afridi and Naseem Shah posed a threat with the new ball, but the openers stuck to solid defensive techniques.
* Rohit and Gill played for the first 6 overs without taking unnecessary risks, rotating strike and focusing on building a solid foundation.

*Middle Overs – Rotation and Stability*

* As the game progressed, Virat Kohli and Shreyas Iyer took the responsibility of rotating strike and putting pressure back on the bowlers.
* Shadab Khan and Iftikhar Ahmed tried to control the middle overs, but Kohli and Iyer found ways to keep the scoreboard ticking.
* Shubman Gill looked comfortable at the crease, playing confidently against the spinners.

*Final Phase – Acceleration with Key Contributions*

* KL Rahul provided stability in the middle, and when the required run rate started climbing, Hardik Pandya and Jadeja provided the much-needed acceleration in the final overs.
* With dew making the ball easier to hit, Hardik targeted Haris Rauf and Shaheen Afridi, scoring crucial boundaries to bring the game closer.
* The key to India’s chase was not taking unnecessary risks in the middle overs but stepping up in the final phase with strong hitting.

### Summary:

* Bowling: India’s bowlers were disciplined, especially in the middle overs, but they faced a strong counterattack from Shadab Khan and Iftikhar Ahmed, which made the game tricky. Smart adjustments, including bringing back key bowlers at the right time, helped keep Pakistan’s score at 251/9—a challenging but achievable total.
* Batting: India’s chase started steadily with solid contributions from Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill, and Virat Kohli. The middle overs were controlled, and in the final overs, Hardik Pandya and KL Rahul provided the acceleration needed to seal the game. India’s strong batting depth played a key role in chasing down the target successfully.