

## SOUTH AFRICA

The world is concerned with only one thing when South Africa enter a major tournament: can they shed the chokers tag? The Proteas were triumphant in 1998, but they only had to play three games to get to the prize. In major Champions Trophys and World Cups, South Africa have won only one game in the knock-out phase, a mental roadblock on their path. However, stars like Hashim Amla, AB de Villiers and Quinton de Kock look to overcome that and backed by bowlers like Imran Tahir, Kagiso Rabada and Morne Morkel, their chances seem bright.

### SQUAD

AB de Villiers (c), Hashim Amla, Quinton de Kock, Faf du Plessis, JP Duminy, David Miller, Chris Morris, Wayne Parnell, Andile Phehlukwayo, Kagiso Rabada, Imran Tahir, Dwaine Pretorius, Keshav Maharaj, Faheem Behardien, Morne Morkel

### FIXTURES

June 3 v Sri Lanka,  
June 7 v Pakistan, June 11 v India

### BEST RESULT

Champions 1998 (ICC KnockOut)



### KEY PLAYER

#### QUINTON DE KOCK

After a prolonged lean patch in 2015, de Kock turned the corner late that year and has continued scoring big since. The 24-year-old wicketkeeper/batsman has scored 53 on average with six tons over the last 20 months and has made punts liken him to Australian's Adam Gilchrist.

| MAT | RUNS | HS  | AVE   | 100 | 50 | 45 | 65 |
|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|----|----|----|
| 82  | 3410 | 178 | 43.71 | 12  | 12 | 31 | 52 |

### X-FACTOR

#### KAGISO RABADA

Called the next Dale Steyn ahead of the tournament, 21-year-old Rabada is one of the most exciting talents in the cricketing world. He already has a burgeoning reputation and is being looked to shine on the world stage. With pace, bounce and swing, he is an ultimate fast bowling package.



## INDIA

After a public battle with the ICC, India were the last team to name their squad for the Champions Trophy, leaving Virat Kohli's men with around 10 days to acclimatise to the conditions in the British Isles. However, the key to their team is experience and the side has plenty of pedigree in the tournament itself – having gone all the way twice. They have developed a strong bowling arsenal with the inclusion of some young blood, and former captain MS Dhoni will be keen to go out with a bang, and with a second Champions Trophy to his name.

### SQUAD

Virat Kohli (c), Shikhar Dhawan, Rohit Sharma, Ajinkya Rahane, MS Dhoni (wk), Yuvraj Singh, Kedar Jadhav, Hardik Pandya, Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Mohammad Shami, Umesh Yadav, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah, Dinesh Karthik

### FIXTURES

June 4 v Pakistan,  
June 8 v Sri Lanka, June 11 v South Africa  
BEST RESULT  
Champions 2002 (shared with Sri Lanka),  
2013



### KEY PLAYER

#### VRAT KOHLI

Although Kohli's performances have fallen off since his deity-like 2016, the skipper remains one of the best in the game. Wielding his willow with authority and with unmatched swagger on the pitch, he can lead his side through any obstacle, especially if it is in a chase.



| MAT | RUNS | HS  | AVE   | 100 | 50 | 45 | 65 |
|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|----|----|----|
| 179 | 7755 | 183 | 53.11 | 27  | 39 | 39 | 81 |

### X-FACTOR

#### JASPRIT BUMRAH

Behind Jasprit Bumrah's somewhat ungainly action lie many surprises. Batsmen find it tough to pick up the length, and allied with his facility for bowling yorkers at good pace at the death makes him doubly dangerous. He will certainly be India's secret weapon when it comes to the last 10 overs.



## SRI LANKA

The 2000 joint champions are the genuine dark horses in this edition. They have had a torrid time of late, winning just one of eight ODIs in 2017. Their Champions Trophy lead-up began in the worst possible fashion as they lost a warm-up to lowly Scotland by seven wickets. But they seemed to have corrected course since then, and the return from injury of captain Angelo Mathews and pace superstar Lasith Malinga will also be huge boosts. Also, with the swing of Nuwan Kulasekera and the seam of Suranga Lakmal backing Malinga up, there are all the ingredients for a potent pace attack in seam-friendly England.

### SQUAD

Angelo Mathews (c), Upul Tharanga (vc), Niroshan Dickwella, Kusal Perera, Kusal Mendis, Chamara Kapugedera, Aseela Gunaratne, Dinesh Chandimal, Lasith Malinga, Suranga Lakmal, Nuwan Pradeep, Nuwan Kulasekera, Thisara Perera, Lakshan Sandakan and Seekuge Prasanna



### FIXTURES

June 3 v South Africa,  
June 8 v India, June 12 v Pakistan

### BEST RESULT

Joint-winners with India (2002)



### KEY PLAYER

#### ANGELO MATHESWS

Coming back from a lengthy injury lay-off, Angelo Mathews struck a 106-ball 95 against Australia in a Champions Trophy warm-up. With his handy pace bowling and batting consistency in addition to his obvious leadership skills, Mathews remains the key player for his side.

| MAT | RUNS | HS*  | AVE   | 100 | 50 | 45  | 65 |
|-----|------|------|-------|-----|----|-----|----|
| 180 | 4492 | 139* | 40.10 | 1   | 32 | 340 | 72 |

### X-FACTOR

#### LASITH MALINGA

The Islanders' spearhead has not played a single ODI since November 2015 due to various fitness issues and he enters this tournament as an unknown quantity. A hat-trick against Bangladesh in April this year showed that he has still got it, but if he can deliver on the big stage, then all bets are off.



## PAKISTAN

One of only three teams to feature in the tournament to have never won the prize, Pakistan will look to stage an unlikely heist this time around. Although their heydays are far gone, Sarfraz Ahmed has led the nation into the modern game with an attacking brand of cricket. They also possess one of the most dangerous, if erratic, fast bowling arsenals in the tournament. Their lack of ODI cricket in recent times will certainly hinder their chances, but if the batsmen play up to potential and the bowlers hit top gear, few teams will be able to deny them their maiden win.

### SQUAD

Sarfraz Ahmed (c), Agha Ali, Ahmed Shehzad, Mohammad Hafeez, Babar Azam, Shoaib Malik, Fakhr Zaman, Imad Wasim, Hasan Ali, Faheem Ashraf, Wahab Riaz, Mohammad Amir, Junaid Khan, Shadab Khan, Haris Sohail



### FIXTURES

June 4 v India,  
June 7 v South Africa, June 12 v Sri Lanka  
BEST RESULT  
Semi-final (2000, 2004, 2009)



### KEY PLAYER

#### SARFRAZ AHMED

In a team that is often criticised for being stuck in a 1990s mindset, Sarfraz Ahmed is a breath of fresh air. An enterprising batsman and wicketkeeper, Sarfraz can be counted upon to give the innings the injection of pace it often needs, as is evidenced by a strike rate of almost 89.

| MAT | RUNS | HS  | AVE   | 100 | 50 | 45 | 65 |
|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|----|----|----|
| 70  | 1568 | 105 | 35.63 | 2   | 6  | 45 | 7  |

### X-FACTOR

#### MOHAMMAD AMIR

The scandalous pacer made a splash on his return to cricket in the Bangladesh Premier League, but his most outstanding performance came in the Asia Cup T20, where he nearly defended an 83-run total against India singlehandedly. He may lack discipline, but his venom deliveries can bring anyone down.



(TOP) Although the West Indies will not feature in this edition, their triumph in 2004 was a source of joy to their legions of fans all over the world, who will sorely miss the Calypso Kings this time. (BOTTOM L) Australia became the only team to retain their title in 2009 in South Africa. (BOTTOM R) India came back from the jaws of defeat to beat hosts England in the final of the last edition in 2013.

