

TRADE ON SPORTS



T20 WORLD CUP 2026

ANALYTICS REPORT

India & Sri Lanka | February 7 - March 8, 2026

20 Teams | 55 Matches | 8 Venues | 29 Days

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report integrates advanced analytics from multiple sources to provide comprehensive tournament analysis.

Outright Betting Odds

Team	Odds	Imp%	Team	Odds	Imp%
India	2.30	43%	New Zealand	13.00	7.7%
Australia	4.50	22%	Pakistan	15.00	6.7%
England	6.50	15%	West Indies	19.00	5.3%
South Africa	7.00	14%	Afghanistan	26.00	3.8%

Critical Tournament Developments

AUSTRALIA INJURY CRISIS:

- Pat Cummins OUT (lumbar stress injury)
- Mitchell Starc RETIRED from T20Is
- Josh Hazlewood set to MISS START of tournament (Achilles)
- Nathan Ellis recovering from hamstring issue
- Tim David hamstring injury (hopeful to be fit)
- Sean Abbott added as travelling reserve
- Lost 3-0 to Pakistan in warm-up series

SOUTH AFRICA SQUAD CHANGES:

- Heinrich Klaasen RETIRED from international cricket
- Donovan Ferreira OUT (shoulder injury)
- Tony de Zorzi OUT (hamstring injury)
- David Miller groin issue - FITNESS UNCERTAIN
- Ryan Rickelton & Tristan Stubbs called up as REPLACEMENTS

NEW ZEALAND:

- Adam Milne RULED OUT (hamstring) - Kyle Jamieson to main squad
- Michael Bracewell DOUBTFUL (calf issue)
- Lockie Ferguson - calf injury concern
- Ben Sears added as travelling reserve

OTHER KEY UPDATES:

- INDIA: Tilak Varma joining WC squad Feb 3; Washington Sundar UNCERTAIN (side strain)
- AFGHANISTAN: Naveen-ul-Haq RULED OUT (shoulder surgery) - Zia-ur-Rahman replacement
- WEST INDIES: Alzarri Joseph FITNESS UNCERTAIN (lower back); Nicholas Pooran RETIRED

PART 1: VENUE ANALYSIS

Analysis combines Cricmetric historical data with 600-match simulation dataset.

Venue Scoring & Toss Strategy

Venue	Pitch	Avg Total	Field %	Bat 1st %	Key Fixtures
Ahmedabad	Flat	181.6	37.8%	54.1%	FINAL
Mumbai	Flat	179.0	31.5%	60.0%	SF2
Delhi	Pace	178.9	54.9%	54.1%	Super 8s
Kandy	Pace	163.9	59.8%	62.5%	Super 8s
Kolkata	Spin	160.5	59.8%	54.7%	SF1
Colombo RPS	Spin	154.7	62.0%	20.0%	Groups
Chennai	Spin	150.9	62.4%	53.3%	Super 8s

CRITICAL: Colombo RPS has 80% chase success rate. Teams winning toss should ALWAYS bowl first.

PART 2: TEAM ANALYSIS

Form Since 2024 World Cup

Team	Win %	Chase %	Tech Idx	Form Idx	PP SR	Death SR
Australia	74%	80%	299.8	78.7	155.2	130.5
India	72%	75%	312.7	80.3	150.2	147.1
Afghanistan	67%	40%	220.5	66.3	111.1	146.4
England	60%	64%	284.9	74.9	166.5	142.1
New Zealand	59%	60%	260.7	73.1	133.4	143.4
Pakistan	50%	53%	271.6	72.0	116.6	138.3
South Africa	39%	39%	249.9	73.0	121.3	137.9
West Indies	28%	35%	237.2	68.5	124.4	147.0

AUSTRALIA WARNING: Death-overs SR of 130.5 is worse than Netherlands. Injury crisis compounds this.

SOUTH AFRICA WARNING: 39% chase success rate is a **CRITICAL** weakness for knockout cricket.

Team Matchup Scores vs Bowling Types

Positive = outperforms average. Negative = vulnerability.

Team	LAP	RAP	Legbreak	Offbreak	SLA
India	+2.49	+9.76	+28.97	+24.49	+30.67
England	+1.04	+22.52	+9.95	+36.33	+4.58
Australia	-0.77	+30.89	+28.45	-7.49	+5.21
South Africa	+0.37	+13.33	-0.49	+16.98	+10.08
West Indies	-3.32	-6.45	-0.29	+19.94	-7.00

KEY: India AND England are the ONLY teams with no negative matchup against any bowling type.

PART 3: PLAYER ANALYSIS

Top Batters (IPL Valuations - Tournament Players)

Note: Odds shown are for Top Team Batter markets.

#	Player	Team	Value	Odds	Key Insight
1	Tristan Stubbs	South Africa	140	8.00	SA20 final hero, CALLED UP
2	Tilak Varma	India	127	5.00	Joining squad Feb 3
3	Jos Buttler	England	125	3.00	Injury concern
4	Sanju Samson	India	123	5.00	Recent lean patch
5	Suryakumar Yadav (c)	India	115	3.75	Captain, SR 165.48
6	Travis Head	Australia	106	3.25	Best PP numbers AUS
7	Phil Salt	England	104	2.75	SR 166.77
8	Abhishek Sharma	India	93	2.75	HIGHEST CEILING

Top Bowlers (With Odds)

Note: Odds shown are for Top Team Bowler markets.

#	Player	Team	Value	Odds	Key Insight
1	Jasprit Bumrah	India	150	4.00	Best in world
2	Kuldeep Yadav	India	147	3.10	Best spinner model
3	Varun Chakaravarthi	India	130	3.00	Mystery spinner
4	M Pathirana	Sri Lanka	135	2.60	Death specialist
5	Wanindu Hasaranga	Sri Lanka	N/A	2.25	Fav for SL, 151 wkts
6	Rashid Khan (c)	Afghanistan	95	2.37	Form dip but elite
7	Noor Ahmad	Afghanistan	102	4.75	100+ wkts, VALUE
8	Adil Rashid	England	N/A	3.50	'Best spin in tourney'
9	Adam Zampa	Australia	N/A	2.50	140 wkts, key spin
10	Kagiso Rabada	South Africa	106	4.00	Yorkers in form

Batting Partnership Synergy (Same Country Only)

Based on Divyansh Peswani's SR Delta model ($R^2 = 0.861$). Only international teammates shown.

Partnership	Country	Runs	Inns	Pair SR	SR Delta
Jos Buttler & Phil Salt	ENG	2,061	49	161.39	+19.38
Ibrahim Zadran & R Gurbaz	AFG	1,695	37	134.1	+8.39
Kusal Mendis & Pathum Nissanka	SL	2,006	56	138.34	+7.28
KL Rahul & Rohit Sharma	IND	1,651	36	155.46	+6.52
Rassie vd Dussen & Reeza Hendricks	SA	1,843	42	132.21	+1.71

PART 4: TOURNAMENT PREDICTIONS

Group Stage Projections

Group	Winner	Runner-up	Upset Risk	Dark Horse
A	India	Pakistan	Low	USA
B	Australia	Sri Lanka	Medium	Ireland
C	England	West Indies	Medium	Nepal
D	South Africa	New Zealand	HIGH	Afghanistan

GROUP A NOTE - PAKISTAN FORFEIT:

"The Pakistan Cricket Team shall not take the field in the match scheduled on 15th February 2026 against India." - Pakistan Government statement. India will receive a walkover for this fixture.

Super 8 Projections

Super 8 Group 1	Super 8 Group 2
India (A1)	Pakistan (A2)
Australia (B1)	Sri Lanka (B2)
West Indies (C2)	England (C1)
South Africa (D1)	New Zealand (D2)

SUPER 8 GROUP 1 ANALYSIS

Teams: India (A1), Australia (B1), West Indies (C2), South Africa (D1)

INDIA (A1)

Win %: 72% | Chase %: 75% | Tech Index: 312.7 (1st) | Form Index: 80.3 (1st) | PP SR: 150.2 | Death SR: 147.1 (1st)

Key Strengths: ONLY team in group with NO negative matchup against any bowling type. Bumrah (IPL value 150) + Kuldeep (147) + Varun (130) = best bowling unit. Death SR 147.1 is tournament-best. Middle overs SR 151.3 dominates. W/L ratio of 5.2 vs major teams is historically elite.

Key Concerns: SKY and Samson recent lean patch. Washington Sundar fitness uncertain (side strain). Top 3 reliance of 47.4% but 50% win rate when they fail shows depth.

SOUTH AFRICA (D1)

Win %: 39% | Chase %: 39% | Tech Index: 249.9 | Form Index: 73.0 | PP SR: 121.3 | Death SR: 137.9

Key Strengths: De Kock return transformative (leading scorer vs India, century vs WI). Stubbs (IPL value 140) called up. Brevis "most exciting white-ball batsman on planet". Rabada yorkers in form. 60% win rate when top 3 fails shows genuine depth. WTC Final win removes ICC pressure.

Key Concerns: 39% chase success is worrying but can be managed by batting first. Klaasen RETIRED, Miller DOUBTFUL (groin). Vulnerable to legbreak (-0.49 matchup).

AUSTRALIA (B1)

Win %: 74% | Chase %: 80% | Tech Index: 299.8 | Form Index: 78.7 | PP SR: 155.2 | Death SR: 130.5 (WORST)

Key Strengths: Best chase success rate (80%). Travis Head PP numbers elite. Zampa (140 T20I wickets) provides spin threat.

CRITICAL CONCERNS: INJURY CRISIS - Cummins OUT, Starc RETIRED, Hazlewood set to MISS START, Ellis/Tim David hamstring issues. Death SR 130.5 is WORSE than Netherlands. Lost 3-0 to Pakistan in warm-ups. Only 78 pace wickets since Jan 2025 (vs Pakistan's 135). CANNOT DEFEND 200+ (0 wins from 6 attempts). Offbreak vulnerability (-7.49).

WEST INDIES (C2)

Win %: 28% | Chase %: 35% | Tech Index: 237.2 | Form Index: 68.5 | PP SR: 124.4 | Death SR: 147.0

Key Strengths: Death SR 147.0 matches India. Russell/Powell power. Lowest top-3 reliance (40.9%) = most balanced batting.

CRITICAL CONCERNS: Pooran RETIRED - massive loss. 28% win rate since 2024 WC is worst among contenders. Multiple negative bowling matchups (LAP -3.32, RAP -6.45, SLA -7.00). W/L 0.576 vs major teams.

GROUP 1 HEAD-TO-HEAD ANALYSIS

INDIA vs AUSTRALIA: India's death SR 147.1 vs Australia's 130.5 = +16.6 advantage. India have NO matchup weakness; Australia vulnerable to offbreak (-7.49). Bumrah vs depleted AUS batting in death overs is mismatch. Edge: INDIA (comfortable)

INDIA vs SOUTH AFRICA: SA beat India in 2024 WC group stage. India's 75% chase rate vs SA's 39% = critical if chasing. India's legbreak matchup +28.97 vs SA's -0.49 = India can exploit. Edge: INDIA

SOUTH AFRICA vs AUSTRALIA: KEY MATCH for 2nd place. SA batting firepower (De Kock/Stubbs/Brevis) vs Australia's depleted attack. AUS death SR 130.5 and 0/6 defending 200+ is CRITICAL - if SA post 180+, Australia cannot defend if they bat first. SA depth (60% win rate when top 3 fails) vs AUS injuries. Edge: SOUTH AFRICA

AUSTRALIA vs WEST INDIES: AUS PP SR 155.2 vs WI 124.4 = +30.8 advantage. But AUS injuries compound issues. WI 28% win rate makes this AUS's best chance. Edge: AUSTRALIA (narrow)

SOUTH AFRICA vs WEST INDIES: SA batting firepower should overpower WI. De Kock/Stubbs/Brevis vs depleted WI bowling. WI 28% win rate is crippling. Edge: SOUTH AFRICA

PROJECTED GROUP 1 STANDINGS

Pos	Team	W	L	Key Factor
1st	INDIA	3	0	No weakness, Bumrah, home
2nd	SOUTH AFRICA	2	1	Batting depth beats injured AUS
3rd	Australia	1	2	Injuries + death SR 130.5 = EXIT
4th	West Indies	0	3	28% win rate, Pooran loss

GROUP 1 VERDICT

INDIA should top this group comfortably. They have the best Tech Index (312.7), best Form Index (80.3), best death SR (147.1), and NO matchup vulnerability. Home advantage and Bumrah make them near-unbeatable.

SOUTH AFRICA take 2nd place. Their batting firepower with De Kock/Stubbs/Brevis can overpower Australia's depleted bowling. The 39% chase rate is concerning but manageable if they bat first. Crucially, Australia's death SR of 130.5 and 0/6 record defending 200+ means SA can post match-winning totals that Australia simply cannot chase down.

AUSTRALIA EXIT at Super 8 stage. The injury crisis is too severe - Cummins OUT, Starc RETIRED, Hazlewood DOUBTFUL. Their death SR of 130.5 is WORSE than Netherlands, and they've won 0/6 games when opponents post 200+. This aligns with our betting advice: AVOID Australia @ 4.50.

WEST INDIES are outclassed. Pooran's retirement leaves a massive void, 28% win rate since 2024 is worst among contenders.

SUPER 8 GROUP 2 ANALYSIS

Teams: Pakistan (A2), Sri Lanka (B2), England (C1), New Zealand (D2)

ENGLAND (C1)

Win %: 60% | Chase %: 64% | Tech Index: 284.9 (1st in group) | Form Index: 74.9 (1st) | PP SR: 166.5 (1st) | Death SR: 142.1

Key Strengths: Only team in group with NO negative bowling matchup. Buttler-Salt partnership (+19.38 SR delta) - best opening combo in tournament. Rashid "best spinner in tournament". Highest PP strike rate (166.5). Jofra Archer "fastest bowler in tournament". Recently "bashed up" Sri Lanka in T20s.

Key Concerns: Only 25 T20Is since 2024 WC - least settled of contenders. Unsettled combinations. Only 34 pace wickets since Jan 2025 - far fewer than any other major team. Defending 200+ W/L = 0.142 (1 win from 8).

NEW ZEALAND (D2)

Win %: 59% | Chase %: 60% | Tech Index: 260.7 (2nd) | Form Index: 73.1 (2nd) | PP SR: 133.4 | Death SR: 143.4 (1st in group)

Key Strengths: Best death-overs SR in group (143.4). PP bowling averages 2 wickets at just 8 RPO (Matt Henry, Jacob Duffy). Finn Allen SR 200+ in last 6 matches. Glenn Phillips power. Daryl Mitchell "ability to disrupt spinners".

CRITICAL CONCERNS: Adam Milne OUT (hamstring). Michael Bracewell DOUBTFUL (calf). Lockie Ferguson calf concern. PP SR only 133.4 - lowest among contenders. CANNOT DEFEND 200+ (0 wins from 6 attempts).

PAKISTAN (A2)

Win %: 50% | Chase %: 53% | Tech Index: 271.6 (3rd) | Form Index: 72.0 (3rd) | PP SR: 116.6 (WORST) | Death SR: 138.3

Key Strengths: Beat Australia 3-0 in warm-ups. Loaded with spin for Sri Lanka conditions (Abrar Ahmed, Shadab Khan). Saim Ayub "evokes memories of young Yuvraj Singh". Shaheen Afridi @ 3.60 favourite for top bowler. Best spin bowling economy (6.91) and 141 wickets.

CRITICAL CONCERNS: Forfeited India match - momentum/rhythm concern. PP SR of 116.6 is critically low. 50% win rate since 2024 WC. Historically inconsistent in knockouts. Opening SR 134.05 = 14th globally.

SRI LANKA (B2)

Tech Index: N/A (4th estimated) | Form Index: N/A (4th estimated) | Opening SR: 139.95 (9th)

Key Strengths: HOME ADVANTAGE in Sri Lanka venues. Nissanka & Mendis partnership (+7.28 SR delta) - "two pillars Sri Lanka will hope to build around". Hasaranga (151 T20I wickets) favourite @ 2.25. Pathirana death specialist (IPL value 135).

CRITICAL CONCERNS: 58.6% reliant on top 3 batters - when they fail (<30% contribution), 0% WIN RATE. Theekshana "form is worrying". If England deploy Rashid early, middle order vulnerable. Limited batting depth.

GROUP 2 HEAD-TO-HEAD ANALYSIS

ENGLAND vs PAKISTAN: England NO negative matchup vs any bowling type. England PP SR 166.5 vs Pakistan PP SR 116.6 = +50 advantage. Edge: ENGLAND

ENGLAND vs NEW ZEALAND: Both teams have no significant matchup weaknesses. England PP SR 166.5 vs NZ PP SR 133.4 = +33 advantage. NZ PP bowling (2 wkts @ 8 RPO) could trouble Buttler-Salt. Edge: ENGLAND (narrow)

ENGLAND vs SRI LANKA: Sri Lanka home advantage but England “bashed up” SL in recent T20s. Rashid vs SL middle order = major advantage. Edge: ENGLAND

NEW ZEALAND vs PAKISTAN: NZ PP bowling could exploit Pakistan’s PP weakness (116.6 SR). Edge: NEW ZEALAND (narrow)

NEW ZEALAND vs SRI LANKA: Both have injury concerns. SL home advantage in Kandy. NZ PP bowling could expose SL top-order reliance. If NZ get early wickets, SL collapse likely (58.6% top-3 reliant = 0% win rate when they fail). Edge: NEW ZEALAND

PAKISTAN vs SRI LANKA: Pakistan “loaded with spin for Sri Lanka matches” (Abrar Ahmed, Shadab Khan). SL home advantage but PAK spin may neutralise. Edge: PAKISTAN (narrow) - spin advantage

PROJECTED GROUP 2 STANDINGS

Pos	Team	W	L	Key Factor
1st	ENGLAND	3	0	No weakness, Rashid, PP SR 166.5
2nd	NEW ZEALAND	2	1	PP bowling, death SR 143.4, Allen
3rd	Pakistan	1	2	PP SR 116.6 too low
4th	Sri Lanka	0	3	58.6% top-3 reliance = 0% if fail

GROUP 2 VERDICT

ENGLAND should top this group comfortably. They have Best Tech Index (284.9), Best Form Index (74.9), Best PP SR (166.5), NO matchup weakness, and tournament-proven partnership (Buttler-Salt). This aligns with our value bet on England @ 6.50.

NEW ZEALAND are the best bet for 2nd place despite injuries. Their PP bowling can exploit Pakistan’s 116.6 PP SR, and if they get early wickets against Sri Lanka, the top-3 reliance (58.6%) becomes fatal.

PAKISTAN have the spin arsenal but their PP batting (116.6 SR) is a critical weakness that England and NZ will target.

SRI LANKA have home advantage but are too reliant on Nissanka/Mendis. If Rashid or the NZ seamers get them early, the middle order has historically failed (0% win rate when top 3 contributes <30%).

Semi-Final & Final Predictions

Match	Venue	Projected Teams	Prediction	Confidence
SF1	Kolkata	India vs New Zealand	INDIA	High
SF2	Mumbai	England vs South Africa	CLOSE	Low
FINAL	Ahmedabad	India vs England/SA	INDIA	High

PART 5: BETTING ANALYSIS

Synthesizing all analytical sources. Honest assessment of value and risk.

Outright Market Assessment

Team	Odds	Strengths	Concerns	Path	Value
India	2.30	Home, Bumrah, no weak matchup	SKY/Samson form	Winner	FAIR
Australia	4.50	PP batting, 80% chase	INJURIES, death SR 130	S8 exit	AVOID
England	6.50	No weak matchup, Rashid	Only 25 T20Is since WC	Final	VALUE
S Africa	7.00	De Kock, Brevis, Stubbs	39% CHASE RATE	Final	SPECULATIVE
New Zealand	13.00	PP bowling, Allen form	Injuries, lack power	Semi-final	FAIR

ENGLAND @ 6.50 - HONEST ASSESSMENT

CAN ENGLAND WIN THIS? A BALANCED VIEW:

POSITIVES:

- One of only TWO teams (with India) with NO negative matchup against any bowling type
- Buttler & Salt partnership (+19.38 SR delta) - best proven opening combo in tournament
- Adil Rashid described as 'best spin bowler in tournament' by expert analysis
- Jofra Archer 'fastest bowler in tournament' - only 6 T20I appearances in 2025 adds surprise element
- PowerPlay SR of 166.5 - highest of any major team
- Batting depth: 'most bowlers can contribute useful runs, extending hitting deep into lineup'
- Recently won ODI series in Sri Lanka defying tough conditions, then 'bashed up' same opponents in T20s
- Harry Brook 'world-beater in the making with a point to prove'
- Sam Curran was Man of Match in 2022 T20 WC final - knows how to win these moments
- Liam Dawson 'crafty old dog' providing excellent foil for Rashid

CONCERNS:

- Only 25 T20Is since 2024 World Cup - least settled of contenders
- Only 6 English players have featured in 10+ T20Is during this period
- 60%-win rate and 64% chase rate - solid but not elite
- Bowling concerns in pace department beyond Archer
- Josh Tongue inclusion (red-ball specialist) 'underlines uncertainty around fast-bowling resources'

- Sam Curran's 'stock has steadily declined since 2020 T20 triumph'
- Jamie Overton impressive but unproven at this level in pressure moments
- Tech Index (284.9) trails India (312.7) and Australia (299.8)
- No home advantage - playing entirely in subcontinent

VERDICT: England @ 6.50 offers **GENUINE VALUE**. Unlike South Africa's crippling 39% chase rate, England's 64% chase success is respectable. Their key advantage is having **NO** matchup weakness - they can compete against any bowling attack. The Buttler-Salt combination is tournament-proven, and if Rashid/Archer fire together, they have genuine wicket-taking threat. The concern is lack of T20I cricket and unsettled combinations, but recent Sri Lanka form suggests they're peaking at the right time.

RECOMMENDATION: Medium stake. More confident than South Africa due to better chase record and no matchup vulnerabilities.

SOUTH AFRICA @ 7.00 - HONEST ASSESSMENT

CAN SOUTH AFRICA WIN THIS? A BALANCED VIEW:

POSITIVES:

- De Kock return transformative (leading scorer vs India, century vs WI)
- Dewald Brevis 'most exciting white-ball batsman on the planet'
- Stubbs (IPL value 140) + Rickelton called up after injuries
- ICC pressure off after WTC Final win
- Batting unit may match India/England on flat pitches
- 7.00 is generous for a 2024 finalist

CRITICAL CONCERNS:

- 39% CHASE SUCCESS RATE - This is a **FUNDAMENTAL** weakness for knockout cricket
- Klaasen **RETIRED** - was their best finisher in 2024 final
- David Miller **GROIN ISSUE** - fitness uncertain
- De Zorzi & Ferreira both **OUT** - depth reduced
- Vulnerable to legbreak bowling (-0.49 matchup)
- If they need to chase in a knockout with dew, history says they'll struggle

VERDICT: South Africa @ 7.00 offers **VALUE** but is a **HIGH-RISK/HIGH-REWARD** bet. The 39% chase success rate is a critical flaw that could be exposed in knockout cricket. If they bat first on flat pitches, they're dangerous. If they need to chase under pressure, history suggests they'll falter.

RECOMMENDATION: Small stake only. Less confident than England due to chase weakness.

AUSTRALIA @ 4.50 - AVOID

- Cummins OUT, Starc RETIRED, Hazlewood set to MISS START
- Ellis hamstring, Tim David hamstring
- Death-overs SR 130.5 (worse than Netherlands)
- Lost 3-0 to Pakistan, struggled vs spin
- 4.50 does not reflect injury crisis

RECOMMENDED DUTCHING STRATEGY

Based on comprehensive analysis, we recommend dutching England and South Africa as value alternatives to India.

Dutch: England & South Africa

Team	Odds	Stake %	Implied Prob	Rationale
England	6.50	60%	15.4%	Better chase rate, no weakness
South Africa	7.00	40%	14.3%	Batting firepower, but risky

DUTCHING RATIONALE:

- Combined implied probability: ~30% for two teams that could realistically reach the final
- Both teams project to reach SF2 (Mumbai) where they would face each other
- Weight 60/40 towards England due to superior chase rate (64% vs 39%)
- England have NO matchup vulnerabilities; South Africa weak vs legbreak
- Both can beat India on their day - SA proved it in 2024 group stage, England have Rashid/Archer
- If either reaches the final vs India, value is crystallized

Example Stakes (£100 total)

Team	Stake	Odds	Return if wins	Profit if wins
England	£60	6.50	£390	£290
South Africa	£40	7.00	£280	£180

Note: Stakes weighted 60/40 to reflect higher confidence in England. Adjust based on risk appetite.

Why Not Just Back England?

South Africa's inclusion provides insurance against:

- England's lack of T20I cricket (only 25 matches since 2024 WC)
- Unsettled bowling combinations beyond Rashid/Archer
- Buttler injury concerns
- South Africa's raw batting firepower on flat Ahmedabad pitch in final

If SF2 comes down to England vs South Africa (as projected), one of your selections reaches the final regardless.

Top Team Batter Value Picks

Note: Odds shown are for Top Team Batter markets.

Team	Selection	Odds	Value	Rationale
India	Abhishek Sharma	2.75	STRONG	SR 194.74, highest ceiling
S Africa	Tristan Stubbs	8.00	VALUE	IPL value 140, SA20 hero
New Zealand	Finn Allen	3.25	VALUE	SR 200+ last 6 matches
Pakistan	Saim Ayub	4.50	VALUE	'Young Yuvraj' - expert

Top Team Bowler Value Picks

Note: Odds shown are for Top Team Bowler markets.

Team	Selection	Odds	Value	Rationale
Afghanistan	Noor Ahmad	4.75	VALUE	100+ wkts, 'elevated level'
India	Kuldeep Yadav	3.10	FAIR	Best spinner by model (147)
S Africa	Anrich Nortje	4.50	SPECULATIVE	If fit, express pace threat
England	Jofra Archer	4.00	FAIR	'Fastest in tournament'

Summary of All Recommendations

OUTRIGHT DUTCH: England (60%) @ 6.50 + South Africa (40%) @ 7.00

TOP BATTER: Stubbs (SA) @ 8.00, Finn Allen (NZ) @ 3.25, Saim Ayub (PAK) @ 4.50

TOP BOWLER: Noor Ahmad (AFG) @ 4.75

AVOID: Australia outright @ 4.50 (injury crisis)

DARK HORSE ASSESSMENT

Can Afghanistan or Sri Lanka realistically challenge for the title?

AFGHANISTAN @ 26.00

Win %: 67% | Chase %: 40% | Tech Index: 220.5 | Form Index: 66.3 | Death SR: 146.4

WHY THEY COULD WIN:

- Best spin bowling economy in tournament (6.74) with 73 wickets
- Rashid Khan (180 T20I wickets, Econ 5.92) - greatest T20 spinner ever
- Noor Ahmad (100+ wkts, Econ 7.30) - VALUE pick @ 4.75 for top team bowler
- Gurbaz-Zadran opening partnership (+8.39 SR delta) - proven combination
- Death SR 146.4 - matches top teams
- Subcontinent conditions suit their spin-heavy attack

WHY THEY WON'T:

- Naveen-ul-Haq RULED OUT (shoulder surgery) - pace bowling weakened
- 40% chase success rate - poor for knockout cricket
- PP SR 111.1 - lowest among serious contenders
- W/L 0.666 vs major teams - not elite
- In Group D with South Africa and New Zealand - tough draw

VERDICT: Can upset anyone on their day (beat Australia in 2024 WC), but consistency and chase struggles make outright win unlikely. @ 26.00 is SPECULATIVE but not without merit if Rashid/Noor fire together.

SRI LANKA (Home Team) @ 41.00

Opening SR: 139.95 (9th globally) | Spin Economy: 8.00 | Top 3 Reliance: 58.6%

WHY THEY COULD WIN:

- HOME ADVANTAGE - Colombo RPS and Kandy fixtures favour them
- Hasaranga (151 T20I wkts) - tournament favourite @ 2.25 for top SL bowler
- Pathirana (IPL value 135) - death bowling specialist with unique action
- Nissanka-Mendis partnership (+7.28 SR delta) - "two pillars to build around"
- Colombo RPS has 80% chase success - they know how to use it

WHY THEY WON'T:

- 58.6% reliant on top 3 - when they fail (<30%), WIN RATE IS 0%
- Theekshana "form is worrying" - key spinner off-pace
- Group B with Australia means tough Super 8 path
- England recently "bashed them up" in T20s - mental edge lost
- Limited batting depth - if Rashid gets Nissanka/Mendis early, collapse likely

VERDICT: Home advantage is real but the 0% win rate when top 3 fails is a tournament-ending flaw. Too fragile to recommend. Project Super 8 exit.

ASSOCIATE TEAM VALUE PICKS

Top Batter and Top Bowler prospects from smaller nations worth considering.

TOP TEAM BATTER VALUE PICKS

Pathum Nissanka (Sri Lanka): Part of +7.28 SR delta partnership. Consistent opener on home soil. If SL progress, he'll have volume of runs.

Rahmanullah Gurbaz (Afghanistan): Explosive opener with IPL experience. Part of +8.39 SR delta partnership with Zadran.

Paul Stirling (Ireland): Experience counts. Top performer in Cricmetric batting leaders. Ireland face Zimbabwe, Oman - runs available.

Yashasvi Samra (Canada): Opening SR of 194.57 - 3rd highest globally! 323 runs at ave 53.83. Underrated threat.

JN Frylinck (Namibia): Opening SR of 193.93 - 4th highest globally! All-rounder adds value. Namibia have kind fixtures.

TOP TEAM BOWLER VALUE PICKS

Noor Ahmad (Afghanistan) @ 4.75 - STRONG VALUE: 100+ T20I wickets. Economy 7.30. If Afghanistan progress, he'll have opportunity. "Elevated level" per expert analysis.

Wanindu Hasaranga (Sri Lanka) @ 2.25: 151 T20I wickets. Home conditions. Short price but justified - expect 8-10 wickets minimum.

Matheesha Pathirana (Sri Lanka): IPL value 135. Unique slinging action troubles batters. Death specialist - wickets in crucial phases.

Mark Watt (Scotland): Economy 6.88 - rivals top international spinners. Scotland face beatable opponents in groups.

Bernard Scholtz (Namibia): Economy 6.11 - tournament's BEST among players with significant overs. Underpriced at long odds.

Sandeep Lamichhane (Nepal): Top Nepal wicket-taker. Leg-spin suits subcontinent. If Nepal cause upsets, he'll be central.

Roelof van der Merwe (Netherlands): IPL experience. Economy 6.35. Netherlands have shown they can compete with Test nations.

BEST VALUE ASSOCIATE PICK: Noor Ahmad (AFG) @ 4.75 for Top Team Bowler. 100+ wickets, excellent economy, and Afghanistan should reach Super 8s from Group D. Strong each-way value.

APPENDIX: INJURY UPDATES

Key Squad Changes (per Wisden Feb 2):

- AUS: Cummins OUT, Hazlewood DOUBTFUL, Ellis hamstring, Abbott reserve
- SA: Klaasen RETIRED, Ferreira OUT, de Zorzi OUT, Miller DOUBTFUL, Stubbs/Rickelton IN
- NZ: Milne OUT, Bracewell DOUBTFUL, Jamieson to main squad, Sears reserve
- IND: Tilak Varma joining Feb 3, Washington Sundar UNCERTAIN
- AFG: Naveen RULED OUT, Zia replacement
- WI: Pooran RETIRED, Alzarri Joseph DOUBTFUL

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