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## Pakistan eyes comeback in Newlands test despite Centurion Heartbreak, Says Salman



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RKI Web desk

CAPE TOWN: Despite a narrow defeat in the Centurion Test, Pakistan's morale remains high as they gear up for the second Test against South Africa at Newlands starting Friday, according to all-rounder Salman Ali Agha.

Pakistan fell agonizingly short in the first Test, with South Africa's Marco Jansen and Kagiso

Rabada steering the hosts to victory after being 99-8 chasing 148. The result secured South Africa's

place in the World Test Championship final, while Pakistan, despite their struggles in this cycle, took heart from a spirited performance.

“It was a great game; it could go anywhere,” Salman remarked during a media talk. “We missed some opportunities, but we’ve learned from our mistakes and are confident of a win here. Our morale is boosted after the ODI series whitewash.”

Salman highlighted the contrast between Centurion’s seamer-friendly wicket and Newlands, where spinners could play a significant role. “This pitch has less grass and looks different from Centurion. Spinners should come into play here, and I feel my role will be key this time,” he added. The all-rounder also praised Mohammad Abbas for his six-wicket haul, which kept Pakistan in the Centurion game. “His accuracy and skill are unmatched. The way he brought us back in the second innings was phenomenal,” Salman said.

Pakistan is determined to bounce back in Cape Town, aiming to end the series on a high.