

RKI Network India will look to capitalize on their venue advantage when they face Australia in the Champions Trophy semi-final in Dubai on Tuesday. With Dubai proving favorable to spinners, India is confident after securing valuable insights from the low-scoring conditions. Despite the venue familiarity, captain Rohit Sharma downplayed any advantage, stating the team is not used to playing at Dubai International Cricket Stadium regularly. He also mentioned that the pitch conditions vary and India must adapt to them. The semi-final brings an opportunity for India to settle scores with Australia, who defeated them in both the 2023 World Test Championship and the 50-over World Cup finals. India will also benefit from Australia's injury crisis, with key players like Pat Cummins sidelined. Steve Smith will lead a depleted side and rely on their

second-string pace attack. India, on the other hand, boasts a strong spin unit, with Varun Chakravarthy leading the charge after his remarkable 5-42 performance in the last group match against New Zealand. While Australia's Marnus Labuschagne and Travis Head pose a threat, India's spinners, particularly Chakravarthy, have been in fine form. Rohit indicated a similar spin-heavy combination could be used for the semi-final. "It's a good headache to have," he said of the decision to include multiple spinners in their lineup. Rohit, however, anticipates a challenging contest against the formidable Australian side.

"Australia has been a great team over the years," he noted, adding that India will expect some tough moments in the middle during this high-pressure clash.



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