

Asia Cup 2025: India Test Bench Strength, Beat Oman by 21 Runs in Final Group Match

India closed out their group stage campaign in the **Asia Cup 2025** with a hard-fought **21-run victory over Oman**, a game that highlighted both their depth and areas that need fine-tuning ahead of the Super Four stage. With qualification already secured, India opted to rest some key players and test their bench strength, giving opportunities to youngsters and fringe players.



India's Batting Effort

Batting first, India fielded a slightly altered line-up. Shubman Gill anchored the innings with a composed knock, while youngsters like Ruturaj Gaikwad and Tilak Varma were tested in the middle order. Despite some hiccups, India managed to post a competitive

total, thanks to a quick-fire cameo from the lower middle order. The experiment may not have yielded fireworks, but it showed the team's intent to build a reliable back-up core.

Oman Put Up a Fight

Oman, despite being the underdogs, didn't make it easy for India. Their bowlers stuck to tight lines, restricting the flow of runs in the middle overs. While chasing, Oman showed admirable spirit, with their top order stitching crucial partnerships that kept them in the hunt for most of the innings. However, India's experience in crunch moments helped them pull things back when it mattered.

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Bowlers Seal the Win

India's bowling unit, led by Mukesh Kumar and Washington Sundar, rose to the occasion. Kuldeep Yadav chipped in with timely breakthroughs, ensuring Oman couldn't run away with the game. The young attack displayed composure under pressure, sealing the contest by 21 runs.

What It Means Going Forward

This win was more than just about points—it was about preparation. India successfully tested their bench strength, which could prove invaluable in the later stages of the tournament. With the Super Four looming, India now carries momentum while also having a clearer idea of their squad depth.

Final Word

Beating Oman by 21 runs may not go down as a classic win, but it was a crucial step in India's campaign. By balancing victory with experimentation, the team showed they're not only chasing the Asia Cup title but also building a foundation for future challenges.

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