



**THE
ULTIMATE
T20
WORLD CUP
QUIZ BOOK**

Stories and Questions from
10 editions of the tournament



ARINJAY GHOSH AND ANIKET MISHRA

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Introduction

Cricket, at its core, is a game of memories. It is woven with statistics, but those numbers are merely the scaffolding for the emotions that bind us to the sport. As you hold this book, what we intend to be a meticulous and joyful celebration of the first ten editions of the ICC T20 World Cup, you are holding a time machine.

When the inaugural tournament kicked off in South Africa in 2007, the world wasn't quite sure what to make of this frantic format. It felt like an experiment. But then came a young, charismatic captain, leading a relatively inexperienced Indian side. For those of us who watched it unfold, the memories remain vividly etched in our minds. The sheer audacity of the bowl-out against Pakistan. Yuvraj Singh's six sixes painted the night sky in Durban. And finally, that breathless moment in Johannesburg: a scoop shot hanging in the air, Sreesanth settling underneath it, and MS Dhoni handing his jersey to a young fan as a billion people erupted in disbelief and unbridled joy. That victory didn't just crown a champion; it legitimized a format and birthed a global phenomenon.

Over the next several editions, the tournament gave the world its own pantheon of miracles. As you flip through the trivia in these pages, you will revisit Carlos Brathwaite demanding we "remember the name," Mike Hussey doing the impossible in Saint Lucia, and the tactical

masterclasses of the West Indies and England. Every tournament brought a new flavour, a new hero, and a new piece of trivia to stump your friends with.

Yet, for Indian fans, the narrative of this tournament carries a uniquely poignant weight, particularly when we look at the ninth and tenth chapters of this story.

To understand the emotional resonance of the 2024 and 2026 editions, one must first acknowledge the silence of November 19, 2023. The loss in the 50-over World Cup Final in Ahmedabad was a collective heartbreak that lingered like a heavy fog over the cricketing landscape. A nation had dared to dream of absolute perfection, only to be left reeling at the final hurdle.

But cricket, much like life, always offers a new dawn. The 2024 T20 World Cup arrived when the healing had barely begun. When the team fought tooth and nail in the Americas, ultimately lifting the trophy in Barbados, it was more than just a victory. It was a release. It was the sight of Rohit Sharma collapsing on the turf and Virat Kohli's tears of quiet vindication that served as a soothing balm for a recovering fan base.

By the time the 10th edition rolled around in 2026, the format had once again done what it does best: it rejuvenated us. It reminded a still-tender nation that resilience is rewarded, that joy can be found in the chaos of a 20-over shootout, and that the spirit of the game always endures.

This book captures the essence of that chaos and that joy. From the forgotten cameos and the obscure bowling records to the iconic moments that defined a generation, the trivia within these pages is a testament to why we keep coming back to the game.

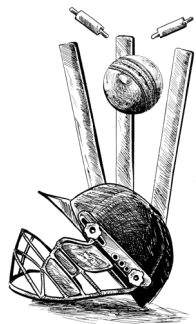
Whether you are a casual fan looking to relive the highlights or a quizzier hunting for the most obscure factoids from the last ten tournaments, this collection is for you. Turn the page, test your knowledge, and let the memories wash over you.



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2007 T20 World Cup



Stories & Tidbits

‘India will never play T20 cricket’

‘T20? Why not ten-ten or five-five or one-one? India will never play T20’.

BCCI Honorary Secretary Niranjan Shah strictly rejected the idea of India participating in twenty overs cricket in a March 2006 ICC Board Meeting, throwing the global governing body’s plans of becoming the first-movers in this exciting, albeit unexplored, format into serious jeopardy.

Shah’s skepticism, however, was met with tactical, administrative strong-arming by the ICC which was simultaneously evaluating bids for the 2011 and 2015 50-over World Cups.

While Australia and New Zealand were leading contenders to host the 2015 edition, ICC rejected BCCI and their neighbouring Asian nations’ joint-bid for the 2011 tournament, citing non-compliance issues, but leaving the door open for a second, compliant bid should the bidding parties ‘support all ICC events’, including the inaugural World Twenty20. Facing this interesting dilemma, India and the

other subcontinent nations, who had originally agreed to the creation of this tournament on the condition that their participation would not be obligatory, confirmed their participation. And as fate would have it, the final of the World Twenty20 in Johannesburg turned out to be an all-Asian affair.

The First Bow

Barely 24 hours since capturing the world's attention with his nigh improbable six sixes in an over spectacle against a hapless Stuart Broad, Yuvraj Singh was conspicuous by his absence in a must-win Super Eight game for India against hosts South Africa. Unbeaten and riding a great wave of momentum, the Proteas had India in trouble in the powerplay. Having lost two wickets off consecutive deliveries and now three down, captain MS Dhoni decided to send a 20-year-old to bat in the same position Yuvraj had walked out a night earlier.

In only his second T20 match ever, and in his first bow with the bat at that level, Rohit Sharma scored an unbeaten half-century, first seeing off the South African seamers in Durban's testing, damp conditions, before hitting the final ball of the Indian innings into the crowd to complete his milestone and edge his team over the 150-run mark. Rohit's unbeaten 50 was the highest score in that game for either side, and he would later affect a run out to dismiss the dangerous Justin Kemp, help his side defeat South Africa, knock them out of the tournament, and reach the semi-final. The Mumbaikar was awarded Player of the Match for his efforts.

Adrenaline, fireworks, and the perfect appetiser

There was palpable tension in the Wanderers' air on 11 September 2007. As the curtains were about to be drawn into the unknown, all parties involved were slightly stranded between the seriousness of a World Cup and the hitherto jovial mood of cricket's newest format. First impressions matter and destiny, aided by Graeme Smith's decision to field first, had curated the perfect plan. Chris Gayle, never too bothered by occasion or opposition, strode out to a setting as close to his personality as he could have imagined. With DJs blaring chartbusters and cheerleaders seamlessly grooving to those beats, the atmosphere was akin to a rock concert, and T20 cricket's first superstar launched the tournament into immediate headlines with a century that included as many as ten sixes.

South Africa responded in kind. With adrenaline pumping from all the fireworks, Gayle's teammates failed to control line, length and nerves, dropping catches and conceding a whopping 23 wides as Herschelle Gibbs powered his side to victory with more than two overs to spare.

More than 400 runs in less than 38 overs was an early sighting into the future of T20 cricket where big blades and the flying ball would dictate entertainment value.

Boys played well

Pakistan gave a good account of themselves in South Africa, finishing runners-up to their neighbours India following an intense final which swung both ways and showcased that even the shortest format provided enough space for ebbs and flows before a tantalising conclusion.

While Misbah-ul-Haq could not carry his nation over the line in the final over of the run chase at Johannesburg, wins against Australia, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Scotland were enough to impress then PCB Chairman, Nasim Ashraf, who was 'proud' of their display at the world event.

A special reception was subsequently organised where all 23 members of the squad, including the 15 players and the support staff received INR 2.5 million for their efforts.

The Pakistan Cricket Board had already set a precedent for incentivising laudable performances when they announced a cash prize for each player after Misbah and captain Shoaib Malik combined to orchestrate a successful run chase to defeat Australia in the Super Eight stage.

According to an ESPN report, the Pakistan squad was further rewarded as a Dubai-based conglomerate owned by a Pakistani businessman also expressed their delight to the players through a cash prize.

Time is the best healer

Early 2007 was a strange and difficult time for the ICC. Their marquee event, the 50-over World Cup, turned out to be calamitous and, in the words of ICC Chief Executive Malcolm Speed, it was 'an event from hell', punctuated, if not wholly summed up, by the sponsors' backdrop collapsing on him during the post-tournament press conference.

With the game's reputation very much at stake, the ICC set forth on an ambitious plan to host a world event for T20 cricket. Their remit was clear – bring joy back into the game and crowds back into the stadiums.

There was plenty to fix, though. From convincing Member Nations to participate to sensibly pricing tickets,

marketing a new format and scheduling it into the international match calendar, the ICC practically went into organisational T20 mode.

In six months, from the disaster in the Caribbean, the world gathered once again in South Africa for what turned out to be a two-week extravaganza that repaired the ICC's reputation and shaped the future of limited overs' cricket throughout the world.

Wisden would later describe this ICC event in 2007 as a 'dream'.

Hits and misses

An India versus Pakistan match at a world event is never bereft of drama, and their group stage game proved to be another memorable occasion, resulting in a tie that was decided by the first-ever bowl out in an ICC competition.

Following a washout against Scotland, India recovered from a disastrous start to post 141 in their maiden World T20. Pakistan's response began in a similar fashion before Misbah-ul-Haq's heroic half-century levelled the score with two balls to spare.

In what would turn out to be the first of two times in the tournament, Misbah failed to score the winning runs against India, and the two teams readied themselves for yet another sojourn into the relatively unknown.

The equation was simple: Both teams select five players who have an attempt each to knock down the stumps, and the team with more hits wins.

India was asked to go first by Shoiab Malik and opening batter Virender Sehwag drew first blood. Yasir Arafat was Pakistan's first bowler, and his wide full toss gave India the early advantage, which they pressed home with two consecutive successful attempts by Harbhajan Singh and

Robin Uthappa.

By this time, Pakistan was under immense pressure as Umar Gul had already missed his attempt off a short run up and when Shahid Afridi also missed the target, the players in blue rather sheepishly hugged each other in celebration.

India had won the game and perhaps the tactical mastermind of Dhoni played a part in the 3-0 bowl out result as, unlike his Pakistani counterpart, he decided to stand close to the stumps, providing an enhanced visual target for his bowlers.

The British Disaster

England had a competitive advantage heading into this World T20 given their relatively superior knowhow of the format, which debuted in the English domestic circuit in 2003, and to nobody's surprise, Paul Collingwood's men began their campaign with a convincing victory against Zimbabwe in Cape Town.

Their fortunes, however, would soon take an irreversible turn for the worse. In the very next game against familiar foes Australia, the English side were dealt a crushing defeat and one batting failure turned into two when hosts South Africa put them in a precarious spot with a fairly comfortable 19-run win in the first Super Eight game.

England's misery would only augment when they failed to cross the line against New Zealand, plunging them on the brink of elimination. And on the very next day, an incensed Yuvraj Singh, triggered by a verbal exchange with Andrew Flintoff, dealt the final knockout blow in the space of six Stuart Broad deliveries.

England's unsuccessful, albeit laudable, run chase became a mere footnote and what garnered more attention

was their captain, who was charged for admitting to drinking at a lap-dancing bar on the eve of their defeat to South Africa.

The Strange Outside Path

The ICC headed into the inaugural edition of the World T20 surrounded by uncertainty.

Still reeling from the public embarrassment that was the 50-over World Cup in the Caribbean and in a tight spot, grappling with challenges surrounding scheduling and marketing a new format; while also dealing with Full Member nations' reluctance to participate, the ICC's unease was perhaps best reflected in the naming of the competition itself: the *World Twenty20*.

The hesitation of the global governing body to call this competition a 'World Cup', despite its structural and functional resemblance to one, was telling.

This uncertainty seems to have spilled over from boardrooms onto the cricket field as the ICC determined the now-defunct World Cricket League to decide which teams will grab the two spots that were available to the Associate Nations, in addition to the ten Full Members. In principle, that made sense, except for one small detail: the World Cricket League was a 50-over competition.

Kenya and Scotland eventually secured their tickets to South Africa with four wins each, finishing ahead of Bermuda, Canada, Ireland, and the Netherlands.

Respect the game

Reality felt hardly believable in Cape Town as shock and jubilation unfolded in equal measure when Brendan Taylor's flick missed the bat, brushed his pad and trickled

down to the fine leg boundary.

Overjoyed Zimbabweans sprinted to the middle as the giant screen flashed what nobody would have imagined at the start of the evening, 'Congratulations Zimbabwe'.

The mighty Australians had finally been beaten in a white-ball world event.

Heading into the World T20, this Australian side were three-time defending world champions in 50-over cricket, including two undefeated title defences and while there were murmurs about their casual approach towards the game's newest format, it bears saying that the same Australian team were as close to invincibility as the game had ever seen.

Upset and fuming over what some would claim as an impending inevitability, Aussie skipper Ricky Ponting, who had previously trivialised defeats in this format, called their maiden World T20 performance 'diabolical' and called on his side to start 'respecting' the format.

Even if it was for one night, interim ICC President Ray Mali's bold claim that Zimbabwe would become the leading power in cricket rang true.

The Sri Lankan onslaught

T20 cricket was still at a nascent stage in 2007, and the format itself was exploring its possibilities. Teams were treating T20s as a truncated ODI game while figuring out the specifics of their approach across the different phases of an innings.

Sanath Jayasuriya, however, was an early pioneer of powerplay batting, revolutionising ODI cricket on the world stage as early as the 1996 50-over World Cup.

Needing no second invitation when his nation lined up against Kenya in their opening game; he helped Sri Lanka

post a record-breaking 260 with able support from captain Mahela Jayawardene and fellow southpaw Jehan Mubarak.

Among the pre-tournament favourites courtesy of their runners-up finish in the other white-ball World Cup earlier in the year, Sri Lanka's score at the time was the highest in a T20 international and so was their 172-run victory.

The onslaught resulted in three Kenyan bowlers conceding more than 50 runs each, a first in world T20s. A total of 186 runs came in boundaries, including 30 fours, both of which set new world records for a T20 innings.

2007 T20 World Cup Quiz



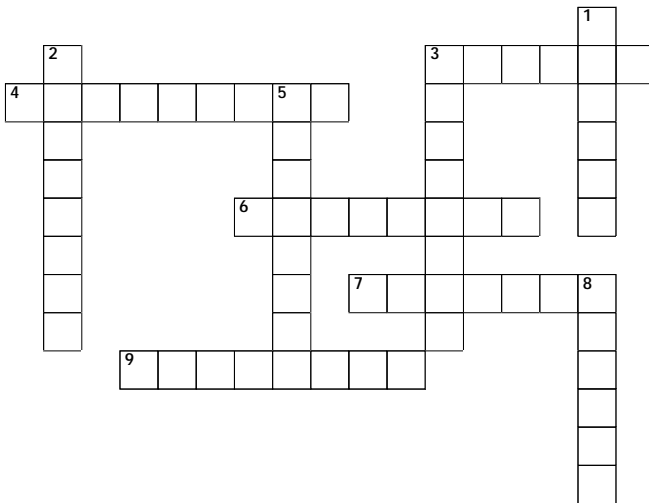
1. Which two Associate Nations qualified for and participated in the inaugural 2007 tournament?
2. Who was the non-striker when Yuvraj Singh hit 6 sixes in an over off England's Stuart Broad?
3. In the famous India vs. Pakistan group stage match that went to a bowl-out, which three Indian players successfully hit the stumps?
4. Conversely, which three Pakistani bowlers completely missed the stumps in that exact same bowl-out?
5. Which Indian player made his T20 International debut in the final of the tournament, opening the batting in place of an injured Virender Sehwag?
6. Chris Gayle scored the very first century in T20I history (117) in the opening match against South Africa. Despite this, the West Indies lost. Which South African batsman led the chase with an unbeaten 90 off 55 balls?
7. Who was the highest run-scorer of the entire tournament?
8. Which player hit the maximum number of sixes in the tournament (13 sixes)?
9. Sri Lanka registered the highest team total of the tournament, scoring an enormous 260/6. Against

- which team did they achieve this?
10. Who was awarded the “Player of the Tournament” for his all-round performances?
 11. Which team sent shockwaves through the tournament by defeating the mighty Australians by 5 wickets in the group stage?
 12. Who was the leading wicket-taker of the 2007 T20 World Cup?
 13. Yuvraj Singh scored a blistering 70 off just 30 balls in the semi-final to help India secure a spot in the final. Which team were they playing against?
 14. Brett Lee took the first-ever hat-trick in T20 International history during the Super 8s stage. Which team was on the receiving end?
 15. Which two umpires stood on the field for the grand final between India and Pakistan?
 16. How many balls did Yuvraj Singh take to score his fifty against England, setting a record for the fastest-ever T20I half-century?
 17. Which South African stadium hosted the final match of the tournament?
 18. Gautam Gambhir was the top scorer in the final. How many runs did he make?
 19. Who was the captain of the host nation, South Africa, during the 2007 campaign?
 20. Who was named “Player of the Match” in the final?
 21. In the final over of the tournament, Misbah-ul-Haq attempted a scoop shot. Who was the Indian fielder at short fine-leg that took the tournament-winning catch?
 22. Which bowler had the nerve-wracking task of delivering that final over against Pakistan?

23. How many teams in total participated in the inaugural 2007 edition?
24. By exactly how many runs did India defeat Pakistan in the dramatic final?
25. Which Pakistani batsman was run out by Robin Uthappa for 33 runs in the final, breaking a crucial opening partnership?

Crossword

2007 T20 World Cup



Across:→

3. Most runs scored in the tournament
4. Venue for Yuvraj's Six 6s
6. First ever hatrick in T20I (5, 3)
7. Local great turned Match Referee
9. India's opponent in abandoned game

Down:↓

1. English umpire in the final
2. Team which upset Australia in opener
3. Scot, who played one Test for England
5. Player of the match as Bangladesh upset WI
8. India's manager

2007 T20 World Cup

Answers



1. Kenya and Scotland (qualifying via the 2007 World Cricket League Division One).
2. MS Dhoni.
3. Virender Sehwag, Harbhajan Singh, and Robin Uthappa.
4. Yasir Arafat, Umar Gul, and Shahid Afridi.
5. Yusuf Pathan.
6. Herschelle Gibbs.
7. Matthew Hayden (265 runs).
8. Craig McMillan (New Zealand).
9. Kenya.
10. Shahid Afridi.
11. Zimbabwe.
12. Umar Gul (13 wickets).
13. Australia.
14. Bangladesh.
15. Mark Benson and Simon Taufel.
16. 12 balls.
17. The Wanderers Stadium, Johannesburg.
18. 75 runs.
19. Graeme Smith.
20. Irfan Pathan (for his spell of 3/16).
21. S. Sreesanth.

END OF SAMPLE

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