

1. **anyone's game** (phrase) – it refers to an equally contested game in which either side has an advantage/potential to win.
2. **fancy** (verb) – wish for, want, desire.
3. **the last word** (phrase) – the best, the peak, the ultimate.
4. **hierarchy** (noun) – ranking, grading; class system.
5. **abridged** (adjective) – shortened, reduced, decreased.
6. **bragging** (adjective) – relating to showing excessive proud, pride and boastfulness.
7. **vanish** (verb) – leave, go away, withdraw.
8. **swagger** (noun) – bragging, boasting, showing off.
9. **quadrennial** (adjective) – recurring every four years.
10. **pit against** (phrasal verb) – compete against, compete with, vie with, grapple with.
11. **legacy** (noun) – footprint, effect/outcome (something received from a predecessor or from the past).
12. **showpiece** (noun) – best example, pride, pride and joy.
13. **flatter to deceive** (phrase) – looks favourable, but fails to achieve.
14. **bundle of nerves** (phrase) – restless person, someone who is extremely anxious.
15. **choke** (verb) – to lose self-control and fail to perform effectively in a crucial moment/situation.
16. **climactic** (adjective) – ending, finishing, concluding.
17. **shot** (noun) – attempt, try, effort.
18. **anomaly** (noun) – abnormality, irregularity, oddity.
19. **kitty** (noun) – a sum of something (money/things) made up of small of contributions.
20. **wrest** (verb) – snatch/seize, grab; take something (power) after some difficulty.
21. **standard-bearer** (noun) – a leader (in a movement).
22. **ball-tampering** (noun) – (in Cricket) an action in which a fielder illegally alters the condition of the ball.
23. **perpetrator** (noun) – a person who does immoral, harmful and illegal activities; criminal, culprit, evil-doer.
24. **keen** (adjective) – eager, wishing, ready/determined.
25. **redemption** (noun) – recovery, retrieval, return.
26. **yearning** (noun) – longing, desire/wish, appetite.
27. **burning** (adjective) – important, crucial, urgent/pressing.
28. **step in** (phrasal verb) – get involved, take action, take a hand.
29. **combative** (adjective) – aggressive, belligerent, threatening.
30. **rookie** (noun) – starter, beginner, newcomer.
31. **triumph** (verb) – win, succeed, gain a victory.
32. **component** (noun) – unit.
33. **clutch** (noun) – group, collection, set.
34. **helm** (verb) – manage, steer/lead, administer.
35. **prevail** (verb) – win, victory, overcome.
36. **gripping** (adjective) – exciting, thrilling, interesting.
37. **David and Goliath** (phrase) – denoting an underdog situation, a contest where a smaller, weaker opponent faces a much bigger, stronger adversary.
38. **quell** (verb) – beat, overcome/rout, defeat.
39. **tale** (noun) – story, narrative, fable.
40. **subsequent** (adjective) – following, ensuing, later.
41. **outfit** (noun) – organization, group, party.

42. on someone's day (phrase) – a day when something good happens to someone.

The ICC Cricket World Cup, a cup to win

It's anyone's game at the ICC World Cup, but India would fancy its chances

The ICC World Cup remains the last word on cricket's hierarchy. There are multiple rankings linked to the game's formats ranging from five-day Tests to abridged Twenty20s, but when it comes to bragging rights about what constitutes the best squad, it is essential to have won the World Cup. Debates vanish and the champion unit is allowed its swagger. As the quadrennial event returns to England, with Thursday's opening game pitting the hosts against South Africa at the Oval, it is an opportunity for captains and their teams to reshape their legacies. Interestingly, the inaugural fixture features two under-achievers in cricket's showpiece event. England and South Africa have often flattered to deceive. The former failed to get past stronger opposition in some summit clashes while the latter repeatedly remained a bundle of nerves and choked at climactic stages. Both now get another shot at correcting these anomalies, and the first step among many more to follow will be made on Thursday. A history of under-performance is not among Australia's worries as it has five World Cup titles in its kitty. But it needs to wrest back its reputation as a standard-bearer. Last year's ball-tampering crisis drove a knife into a proud sporting nation's heart; two of the perpetrators, Steve Smith and David Warner, are back in the squad, keen to recover their lost space and respect. Redemption is not just a yearning, it is a burning need.

India, cricket's commercial heart, steps in under a captain who is as combative as ever. Virat Kohli was a rookie when M.S. Dhoni's men triumphed in the 2011 World Cup final at Mumbai; now he leads the squad and remains batsman-supreme. An experienced batting component, a clutch of all-rounders and a fine pace-bowling unit helmed by Jasprit Bumrah are at India's core, and it would be an upset if this squad doesn't prevail in the round-robin league and qualify for the semifinals. But this is anyone's game as Kapil Dev and his men showed at Lord's in 1983 while stunning the West Indies in a gripping World Cup final. That 'David quelling Goliath' tale found many repetitions in subsequent World Cups, and any outfit from among Pakistan, New Zealand, West Indies, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh can be the world-beater on its day. There is Afghanistan too as cricket's latest illustration of its power to be about more than the competition itself. It is thus disappointing that driven by commercial considerations, the ICC chose to limit the 2019



tournament to just 10 teams. In the end, World Cups are won by captains who believe nothing is impossible and lead from the front. India will hope that it will be Kohli when the final concludes on July 14.

Gupta Classes