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BOULT SWINGS ONE BACK

TOP GUN: Trent Boult celebrates with teammates after taking a wicket in Hamilton on Thursday

Bowler's Fifer Helps NZ Decimate India In ODI

Hamilton: India seemed shorn of their aura in the absence of talismanic skipper Virat Kohli as pacer Trent Boult's fiery five-wicket haul guided New Zealand to a stunning eight-wicket win in the fourth One-day, halting the visitors' domination here on Thursday. With run-machine Kohli rested after the side claimed an unbeatable 3-0 lead in the five-match series, India's much-vaunted batting was dismissed for its seventh lowest ODI total — 92 in 30.5 overs here — after Boult (5/21) dished out a deadly opening spell.

It was also the lowest total posted by any side on this venue, the previous lowest of 122 also against India's name. Boult wreaked havoc with the new ball and in Colin de Grandhomme's (3/26) company utilised the swinging conditions at the Seddon Park perfectly. In the absence of Kohli and an injured Ma-

INDIA'S LOWEST COMPLETED INNINGS IN ODIs

Vs SL on 29.10.2000	54
Vs Aus on 8.1.1981	63
Vs SL on 24.12.1986	78
Vs Pak on 13.10.1978	79
Vs NZ on 10.8.2010	88
Vs SA on 22.11.2006	91
Vs NZ on 31.1.2019	92

—Stats: Rajesh Kumar

hendra Singh Dhoni, the Indian batting unit found the going tough against the Kiwi bowling attack. India's lowest ODI total is 54 against Sri Lanka at Sharjah in 2000. It was also India's second lowest total in ODIs against New Zealand, having somehow managed to surpass the 88 scored at Dambulla. Bowling his 10 overs at a stretch, Boult

2010 The last instance when India got dismissed for less than 100 in ODIs — 88 vs New Zealand at Dambulla in August 2010.

5/21 Trent Boult has produced his first five-wicket haul vs India — his fifth in ODIs.

18 Chahal becomes the second No. 10 batsman to top-score for India in an ODI — the first being Javagal Srinath's 43 off 40 balls in a total of 180 vs Pakistan in Toronto on September 16, 1998.

troubled the Indian batsmen with both ways movement to return with impressive figures of 5 for 21, while Grandhomme gave him perfect support from the other end after New Zealand won the toss and elected to bowl.

While chasing, even though New Zealand lost Martin Gupthill (14) and skipper Kane Williamson (11) early to Bhuvneshwar Kumar (2/25), the hosts completed the formalities in

14.4 overs with eight wickets in hand. Henry Nicholls (30 not out) and Ross Taylor (37 not out) then completed the easy task for the Kiwis without any further damage.

Earlier, the pitch didn't seem unplayable but the Indian batsmen failed to apply themselves against the swing bowling of Boult and Grandhomme. Only four Indian batsmen — Shikhar Dhawan (13), Hardik Pandya (16), Kuldeep Yadav (15) and Yuzvendra Chahal (18 not out) — posted double digit scores.

Dhawan's search for big runs continued and he was the first to depart, caught plumb in front of the wicket by Boult in the sixth over. Rohit, who is leading India in the last two matches of the series in the absence of Kohli, didn't have a happy outing on his 200th ODI and was caught by Boult off his own bowling an over later. Grandhomme then joined the party and dismissed both Ambati Rayudu and Dinesh Karthik for ducks. A lot was expected from debutant Shubman Gill (9) but pressure got the better of him as he got out like Rohit, caught by Boult off his own bowling. ¶

'One of our worst batting shows in a long time'

Hamilton: Stand-in captain Rohit Sharma on Thursday described India's batting performance as "one of the worst in a long time" after the visitors were shot out for their seventh lowest ODI total in a shocking eight-wicket loss to New Zealand in the fourth ODI. "One of our worst performances with the bat for a long time. Something we didn't expect. You got to give credit to the New Zealand bowlers. It was a magnificent effort by them," said Rohit after a disappointing outing on his 200th ODI.

"At times, you need to absorb pressure (when asked about how to bat in swinging conditions). We need to blame ourselves for it. Things were looking good at one stage. It was about applying ourselves," he said.

The skipper said poor shot selection was the cause behind India's terrible showing on Thursday. "Once you get in, things will start to look easier. We played some bad shots as well. It's always challenging when the ball is swinging," Rohit said. "We have been enjoying a good run in the limited formats for a number of series. Everyone knows what went wrong. There will be times when it swings and we need to deal with it. Good teams usually keep ticking the boxes and today we didn't tick the right boxes," he added.

New Zealand captain Kane Williamson was all praise for his bowlers for their splendid effort of bundling India out under 100. "We didn't expect the surface to behave like this. Nice to restrict

"Everyone knows what went wrong. There will be times when it swings and we need to deal with it. Good teams usually keep ticking the boxes and today we didn't tick the right boxes."

—Rohit Sharma
INDIA CAPTAIN



them to a 90-odd total. It stood up a little bit and nipped a bit. It spun as well. One of those days, things went well," he said. "Credit to the areas guys bowled. We always wanted early wickets, to be able to do that was a real step at the right direction." "Termining his bowlers' effort as "outstanding", Williamson said: "It was swinging, that was a weapon we wanted to use because we were able to put India under pressure, we were able to pick regular wickets." "We exploited the conditions really well." ¶

'I'M A DIFFERENT BOWLER WHEN THE BALL SWINGS'

Hamilton: Hamilton: New Zealand pace spearhead Trent Boult on Thursday said he is a different bowler in conditions aiding swing bowling after destroying India with an incisive five-wicket haul in the fourth ODI here. "It's purely a conditions thing... It was nice to see the ball move in the air like that. I feel like I am a different bowler definitely when it swings. I made the most of it today," he said.

New Zealand were outclassed in the first three ODIs and Boult said it was really frustrating. "It was frustrating and disappointing to start the series the way we did, we know we have the skills in the tank and plans that are good enough for anyone on a day, so very satisfying," he said.

"My job as an opening bowler is to lead the bowling, so I had my job to do and the batters wanted to make a few wrongs right, we wanted to field with a lot more initiative, so it was nice to claw one back in the series. It was a quick turn around."

Boult said the visitors missed the talismanic skipper Virat Kohli on Thursday. "They obviously missed a classy player like their captain. It is all about putting pressure on their top order, that's been our game plan," he said. "It is nice to get through them and have a look at the middle order, so it was very satisfying, we knew we had the game plan, it was all about executing them."

Talking about the conditions and his fiery spell, Boult said: "It's just one of those things. You get a couple of wickets at the top... the rhythm felt good. The ball was still swinging later in the spell, so it was about making the most of it."

India to play Bangla, New Zealand in WC warm-up matches

Dubai: India will play New Zealand and Bangladesh in their warm-up matches leading up to the ICC ODI World Cup starting May 30 in England. All 10 competing nations will play two official warm-up fixtures ahead of the tournament, which will take place at four venues across England and Wales.

"The fixtures will be held over five days between May 24-28, and will be hosted at four of the official Tournament Venues; the Bristol County Ground, Cardiff Wales Stadium, Hampshire Bowl and The Oval," the ICC said in a statement.

India will take on New Zealand on May 25 at the Oval followed by a game against Bangladesh on May 28 in Cardiff. The warm-up fixtures will be 50-over affairs but will not carry official ODI status as teams would be able field all members of their 15-strong squads during the match. "These games provide another fantastic opportunity for fans to see world-class players at their local venue," said World Cup 2019 managing director Steve Elworthy. ¶

ACTION TODAY

BASKETBALL: NBA: Golden State vs. Philadelphia, 9 am (Live on Sony ESPN & Ten 1)
CRICKET: West Indies v England 2nd Test Day 2, 7.30 pm (Live on Sony TEN 1); Australia v Sri Lanka 2nd Test Day 1, 5 am (Sony SIX); South Africa v Pakistan, 1st T20, 9.30 pm (Sony ESPN); New Zealand v India Wpmen's 3rd ODI, 6.30 am (Star Sports 1); BBL: Brisbane Heat v Perth Scorchers, 3.10 pm (Live on Sony Six)
FOOTBALL: Asian Cup Final: Japan v Qatar, 7.30 pm (Star Sports 2); ISL: Mumbai v Goa, 7.30 pm (Live on Star Sports 3)
HOCKEY: FIH Pro League, 10 am (Star Sports Select 1)

Stump mics create an atmosphere: ICC CEO

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New Delhi: Cricket has endured a rough year when it comes to the conduct of players across the globe. The recent advent of the stump microphones has only magnified the focus on the on-field behavior of players. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has backed the usage of the stump microphones and one could also see the device in operation in the upcoming World Cup in England.

"What we tell players is that if you want to say something that you don't want to be heard, then don't say it. Stump microphones have the ability to create an atmosphere. It can get tedious if it's kept on for a long period but some of the chatter is very informative," ICC CEO David Richardson told TOI on Thursday.

From Sandpapergate in March last year to Hardik Pandya's 'insensitive' remarks and Sarfraz Ahmed's racist comment in South Africa, the code of conduct for players has been debated hotly. "I would like to believe we have had a bad period. But we have got stricter with our actions on breach of code of conduct. With cases like Hardik's, which was off the



DAVID RICHARDSON

field, we leave the jurisdiction to the home board," the former South Africa wicketkeeper said. "If you see how cricket's being played in the last few years, it has been fantastic. The way Australia and India conducted themselves during the recent Test series was fantastic."

With the World Cup round the corner, does the ICC plan to have sensitization sessions with the participating teams? "As a protocol, we ensure both captains sit down before a bilateral series and get a run-down on the code of conduct," Richardson remarked. Richardson also stressed that the 10-team World Cup ensures quality and said that the ICC is looking at global cricketing events as the pinnacle of the sport. "We have just 40 countries playing this format of the game. It doesn't

make sense to have half of them playing in the World Cup. T20 is the format we are looking at to globalizing the game," he said.

The outgoing ICC CEO said that the announcement of the ICC World Test Championship has helped in bringing money into the format. "Earlier, it looked like that ICC was busy marketing ODIs and T20s. But there has been considerable interest in Test cricket from sponsors since the announcement of the Test Championship. The five-year deal with Coca-Cola is one such deal," Richardson mentioned.

No progress in BCCI-Wada row

ICC has been trying to play the mediator between the Indian cricket board (BCCI) and the World Anti-doping Agency (Wada) to make BCCI compliant with Indian agency for dope control, Nada, but there has been no progress in the issue for the last four months. ICC has bid for the inclusion of women's cricket in the 2022 Commonwealth Games (CWG) which will need the participating teams to be completely Wada compliant. "We are still stuck at the same stage. Our bid hasn't been accepted yet. We have to wait till then," Richardson said.

Antigua Test: WI pacers torment England again

North Sound (Antigua): Jonny Bairstow fought a lone counter-attacking hand as the West Indies fast bowlers again ripped through the England top order with the visitors stumbling to 106 for six in 33 overs on the opening day of the second Test in Antigua on Thursday.

Put in on a green pitch at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium which challenged the batsmen through pace and variable bounce, Alzarri Joseph and Kemar Roach took two wickets each while Jason Holder and Shannon Gabriel claimed one each to justify Holder's decision to bowl first on winning the toss.

Pummelled by 381 runs in the first Test a week earlier in Barbados when they were routed by the four-pronged pace attack for 77 in the first innings before the spin of Roston Chase demolished them second time round, England were swiftly forced onto the back foot again with only Bairstow, who blazed his way to 52 with nine fours and one six, offering anything resembling substantial defiance. **BRIEF SCORES:** England 106/6 in 33 overs (Bairstow 52*; Joseph 2-18, Roach 2-24).

WI women spoil Pakistan's party: The visiting West Indies women's team spoiled Pakistan's 100th T20i celebrations with a convincing 71-run victory in the first match of the three-game series here on Thursday. In a match that was played under heavy security, Deandra Dottin blasted an unbeaten 90, while Chedean Nation hit a 50 not out to share an unbroken third-wicket partnership that helped West Indies score 160 for two after electing to bat first. The visitors then bowled out the home side for 89 in 18 overs. AGENCIES

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SCOREBOARD

India: Rohit c & b Boult 7, Dhawan lbw Boult 13, Gill c & b Boult 9, Rayudu c Gupthill b De Grandhomme 0, Karthik c Latham b De Grandhomme 0, Jadhav lbw Boult 1, Pandya c Latham b Boult 16, Bhuvneshwar b De Grandhomme 1, Kuldeep c De Grandhomme b Astle 15, Chahal (not out) 18, Khaleel b Neesham 5. Extras (lb1, w6) 7; Total (In 30.5 overs) 92; FoW: 1-21, 2-23, 3-33, 4-33, 5-33, 6-35, 7-40, 8-55, 9-80; Bowling: Henry 8-2-30-0, Boult 10-4-21-5, De Grandhomme 10-2-26-3, Astle 2-0-9-1, Neesham 0.5-0-5-1.

New Zealand: Gupthill c Pandya b Bhuvneshwar 14, Nicholls (not out) 30, Williamson c Karthik b Bhuvneshwar 11, Taylor (not out) 37; Extras (nb1) 1; Total (2 wickets, 14.4 overs) 93; FoW: 1-14, 2-39; Bowling: Bhuvneshwar 5-1-25-2, Khaleel 3-0-19-0, Pandya 3-0-15-0, Chahal 2-4-0-32-0, Kuldeep 1-0-2-0.

INDIA'S BIGGEST DEFEATS IN TERMS OF BALLS REMAINING IN ODIs

Vs NZ on 31.1.2019	212 balls
Vs SL on 22.8.2010	209
Vs SL on 24.7.2012	181
Vs SL on 10.12.2017	176
Vs Aus on 8.1.1981	174
Vs Aus on 15.2.2003	166
Vs NZ on 4.1.2003	146

Dravid: Higher-level challenges important for domestic players

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Thiruvananthapuram: Giving game time to more players has been the biggest positive for India 'A' from a 4-1 one-day series success over England Lions, feels coach Rahul Dravid. "We were able to give a lot of people opportunities, from the likes of seniors like Rahane, Vihari and Rahul to some youngsters. We gave opportunities to some 20-23 players. That was a real positive — that we were able to rotate the squad," said Dravid on Thursday.

Batsmen from both teams found it tough on some challenging pitches. Only one, England captain Sam Billings, could score a century in the series — in the opening match — and as the series progressed,

Consolation win for Lions: Ben Duckett starred with an unbeaten 70 as England Lions pulled off a narrow one-wicket win over India 'A' in a low-scoring fifth and final match of the unofficial one-day

series in Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday. **BRIEF SCORES:** India 'A' 121 in 35 overs (S Lad 36; Overton 3/24) lost to England Lions 125/9 in 30.3 over (B Duckett 70; D Chahal 3/25, R Chahal 3/43).

runs dried up drastically. "These wickets were challenging but I think they were not 125-wickets. Batsmen needed to apply themselves a little bit more. 240-250 was actually winning score on these pitches. Today, we should have seen through the initial stage and put up a decent score," said Dravid after his team went down by one wicket in the dead rubber.

Dravid was impressed with the way the Indians fought back from tricky situations, like in the chases in the first and the fourth games. "There were occasions where we were pushed

to the wall and we always fought back. It was a lot tighter than 4-1. I think we just won the key moments," he said. During the India 'A' tour to New Zealand, there was a debate on whether the India 'A' games are depriving domestic teams of the services of some of their key players for Ranji Trophy. But Dravid thinks the clash between domestic calendar and 'A' tours are inevitable sometimes.

"It's not easy to avoid the clash. In this series, we did not pick anyone involved in the Ranji Trophy knowing the importance of the quarterfinal, semifinal and the final. But we have to balance out the needs of some of the players. If we don't challenge our players at a level higher than domestic first-class level, how are we going to develop our players for international cricket? A lot of the tours are reciprocal. We try to balance it out as much as possible but sometimes the clashes are inevitable," said Dravid.

Touring families a 'headache' for BCCI!
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New Delhi: Indian cricketers traveling with their wives, children and nannies have put the BCCI in a spot of bother. The players have been allowed to have their families with them for two weeks during lengthy tours but the BCCI is finding it tough to manage things logistically. Sources said that the BCCI had faced some problems in Australia — like transporting the players, support staff and family members whose number was close to 40. The board hired two buses at times but still found it difficult to manage the numbers. Indian captain Virat Kohli had asked for WAGs to be allowed on overseas tour. As reported by TOI, BCCI had allowed wives to stay with their husbands after first 10 days of the tour. The board also tried a 'family period', wherein the families visited the players for a set period of time, which varied from tour to tour. It is learnt that the visit of families is not costing BCCI much because the cricketers are footing the bills of their families, but it's turning out to be a logistical issue for BCCI. "If the team is travelling with less number of members, it is easier to manage. It's easy for BCCI staff to make off field arrangements. Right from booking tickets to rooms, the entire management of handling the arrangement is with BCCI. It would be a logistical nightmare if this arrangement — of families travelling with the players — continues to be there in England for the entire duration of the World Cup," a BCCI official told TOI on Thursday. Taking a cue from the recently concluded Australian tour, BCCI isn't happy that a few Test players who weren't even regulars, travelled with their extended families for two weeks. "It is difficult to manage all of them together. There is also the problem of arranging match tickets for their families. It has to be regulated. This is not a question of money," the official added.