

# A sweep for a sweep, Kiwis exact sweet revenge

First blanking for India in a full ODI series in New Zealand; Rahul's century goes in vain

## INDIA IN NZ

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MT. MAUNGANUI

In a stunning reversal of fortunes, New Zealand inflicted an One-Day International series whitewash (3-0) on India with a five-wicket victory in the third and final match on Tuesday.

### Flying start

Henry Nicholls scored 80 off 103 balls and Martin Guptill made 66 off 46 as the hosts scored 300 for five in 47.1 overs. Colin de Grandhomme smacked 58 not out off 28 balls at the end to help seal the win with 17 balls to spare.

Earlier, India had scored 296 for seven after being put in, thanks to K.L. Rahul's (112) fourth ODI hundred.

New Zealand got off to a flying start as Guptill and Nicholls put on 50 off just 40 balls. Overall, they scored 106 for the first wicket.

Guptill smacked six 4s and four 6s as the Indian new-ball bowlers faced an onslaught. Shardul Thakur and Navdeep Saini struggled to find their rhythm and were taken for runs, while Jasprit Bumrah finished the series wicketless. Yuzvendra Chahal (3-47) provided the breakthrough, bowling Guptill in the 17th over. Nicholls scored a half-century off 72 balls.

He added 53 runs with Kane Williamson, but Chahal struck twice and Ravindra Jadeja removed the in-form Ross Taylor cheaply. New Zealand was reduced to 189 for four in the 33rd over.

de Grandhomme then smashed a half-century off only 21 balls. His knock included six 4s and three 6s, as his 31-run fifth-wicket partnership with Jimmy Neesham (19) came off only 31 balls.

Earlier, Rahul's first hundred at No. 5 helped anchor India's innings. He hit



The despatcher: Colin de Grandhomme's onslaught sealed the match for New Zealand. ■ AFP

nine 4s and two 6s, and rescued India from 62 for three.

He put on 100 with Shreyas Iyer (62, 63b) for the fourth wicket, and 107 with Manish Pandey (42, 48b) for the fifth. Hamish Bennett finished with four for 64.

India made another poor start. Kyle Jamieson bowled Mayank Agarwal, who has suffered a torrid tour thus far.

The big blow came when Virat Kohli was out in the seventh over. Prithvi Shaw provided the initial flourish with 40 off 42 balls, but he was run-out going for a second run in the 13th over.

Shreyas then batted steadily and reached his half-centu-

ry off 52 balls, his third 50-plus score in this series. But he couldn't carry on.

### Onus on Rahul

It was down to Rahul then, who crossed 50 off 66 balls. His stand with Pandey progressed well as India reached 250 in the 45th over.

Rahul's hundred came off 104 balls, and he perished in a bid to accelerate. This is where India's innings fell apart, as Pandey also holed out off Bennett shortly afterwards.

Taylor was adjudged Player-of-the-Series for his 194 runs in three innings and being dismissed only once.

## STAT SPHERE

1 This is the first time India has not taken a wicket in the first 10 overs of an ODI series

NZ after the first PowerPlay  
1st ODI: 52/0 | 2nd ODI: 54/0

3rd ODI: 65/0

3 Kohli has now gone three consecutive ODI series without a hundred (vs WI, Aus and NZ). The last time this happened was in 2012-13 (vs Pak, Eng and Champions Trophy)

4 India suffered its fourth whitewash in bilateral series in ODIs (minimum 3 matches). The visitors had lost 2-0 to the Kiwis in New Zealand in 1981

1983 vs West Indies 5-0 (in India)

1989 vs West Indies 5-0 (WI)

1997 vs Sri Lanka 3-0\* (SL)

2020 vs New Zealand 3-0 (NZ)

\* The third ODI was a 'No Result' and was replayed on the reserve day

4 Rahul registered his fourth ODI hundred, each one of them coming in a different country. Yuvraj is the only other Indian to score his first four centuries in different countries

1 Guptill (6178) has scored the most runs as opener for New Zealand in ODIs, eclipsing Astle (6176)



## SCOREBOARD

### INDIA

Prithvi Shaw run out 40 (42b, 3x4, 2x6), Mayank Agarwal b Jamieson 1 (3b), Virat Kohli c Jamieson b Bennett 9 (12b, 1x6), Shreyas Iyer c de Grandhomme b Neesham 62 (63b, 9x4), K.L. Rahul c Jamieson b Bennett 112 (113b, 9x4, 2x6), Manish Pandey c Santner b Bennett 42 (48b, 2x4), Ravindra Jadeja (not out) 8 (7b, 1x4), Shardul Thakur c de Grandhomme b Bennett 7 (6b, 1x4), Navdeep Saini (not out) 8 (6b, 2x4); Extras (b-1, w-6): 7. Total (for 7 wks. in 50 overs): 296.

### FALL OF WICKETS

1-8 (Agarwal, 1.6 overs), 2-32 (Kohli, 6.4), 3-62 (Shaw, 12.1),

4-162 (Shreyas, 30.3), 5-269 (Rahul, 46.4), 6-269 (Pandey, 46.5), 7-280 (Shardul, 48.2).

### NEW ZEALAND BOWLING

Southee 9-0-59-0, Jamieson 10-0-53-1, Bennett 10-1-64-4, de Grandhomme 3-0-10-0, Neesham 8-0-50-1, Santner 10-0-59-0.

### NEW ZEALAND

Martin Guptill b Chahal 66 (46b, 6x4, 4x6), Henry Nicholls c Rahul b Shardul 80 (103b, 9x4), Kane Williamson c Agarwal b Chahal 22 (31b, 2x4), Ross Taylor c Kohli b Jadeja 12 (18b, 1x4), Tom Latham (not out) 32 (34b, 3x4), James Neesham c Kohli b Chahal 19 (25b, 1x4, 1x6), Colin de Grandhomme

(not out) 58 (28b, 6x4, 3x6); Extras (b-1, lb-2, w-6, nb-2): 11. Total (for 5 wks. in 47.1 overs): 300.

### FALL OF WICKETS

1-106 (Guptill, 16.3), 2-159 (Williamson, 27.1), 3-186 (Taylor, 31.5), 4-189 (Nicholls, 32.5), 5-220 (Neesham, 39.3).

### INDIA BOWLING

Bumrah 10-0-50-0, Saini 8-0-68-0, Chahal 10-1-47-3, Shardul 9.1-0-87-1, Jadeja 10-0-45-1.

Toss: New Zealand.

Man-of-the-Match: Nicholls;

Man-of-the-Series: Taylor.

New Zealand won by five wickets with 17 balls to spare and clinched series 3-0.

# We didn't deserve to win, says Kohli

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MT. MAUNGANUI

India captain Virat Kohli on Tuesday berated his bowlers for their mediocre performance as he tried to explain the team's first ODI series whitewash in over three decades, saying the visitors lacked composure all through.

The five-wicket defeat here meant India lost the series 0-3 to an injury-plagued New Zealand that had been defeated by a 0-5 whitewash of its own in the T20 format.

### Missed chances

"The games were not as bad as the scoreline suggests. It boils down to those chances that we didn't grab," Kohli said.

"With the ball, we were not able to make breakthroughs, we were not at all good on the field. We haven't played so badly but when you don't grab those chances, you don't deserve to win," he said.

The ineffectiveness of the

bowlers can be gauged from the fact that the team's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah finished the series without a wicket and the attack couldn't dismiss the complete rival line-up even once.

Kohli lauded New Zealand for bouncing back after the T20 hammering. "New Zealand played with a lot more intensity," he said.

He is looking forward to the Test series, which begins on February 21. "I think because of the Test Championship, every match has that much more importance. We have a really balanced Test team and we feel we can win the series," he said.

Kane Williamson, who missed the first two games due to injury, was lavish in his praise for his team's grit.

"An outstanding performance, very clinical. India put us under pressure, but the way the guys fought back with the ball and kept them to a par total," he said.



Standing tall: Rahul's century provided some consolation on a day when nothing much went right for India. ■ AFP

# Stage set for enthralling final

India will be buoyed after beating Australia in previous game

## TRI-SERIES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MELBOURNE

India will fancy its chances of claiming the women's T20 Tri-series when it faces Australia in the summit clash here on Wednesday.

After failing to fire in unison in its first three league matches, India produced a good batting show to record a seven-wicket win on Saturday, which took the Harmanpreet Kaur-led side into the final.

Smriti Mandhana continued to be the batting bulwark along with Harman-

preet, but the most heartening thing was that 16-year-old Shafali Verma came good in the last game against Australia.

The home side posted 173 for five, but India overhauled the target in 19.4 overs, largely due to Shafali's 49 off 28 balls and Smriti's 55 off 48 balls.

Jemimah Rodrigues also contributed with a quickfire 19-ball 30 to help India chase down the target.

### Bowlers doing well

The Indian bowlers have been doing well in this tournament with the likes of Deepti Sharma and Rajesh-

wari Gayakwad producing consistent performances.

### The teams (from):

India: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Shafali Verma, Smriti Mandhana, Jemimah Rodrigues, Veda Krishnamurthy, Taniya Bhatia, Deepti Sharma, Shikha Pandey, Pooja Vastrakar, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Radha Yadav, Richa Ghosh, Arundhati Reddy, Harleen Deol, Nuzhat Parween and Poonam Yadav.

Australia: Alyssa Healy, Beth Mooney, Ashleigh Gardner, Meg Lanning (Capt.), Elyse Perry, Rachael Haynes, Jess Jonassen, Delissa Kimmince, Annabel Sutherland, Georgia Wareham, Megan Schutt, Nicola Carey, Sophie Molineux, Erin Burns and Tayla Vlaeminck.

Match starts at 8.10 a.m. IST.



Impact player: Shafali Verma, who is back in her groove, will have a crucial role to play. ■ GETTY IMAGES

# Nagal rolls over Jaziri

Poonacha posts biggest win of career, dumps Rosol

## BENGALURU OPEN

ASHWIN ACHAL  
BENGALURU

Indian players enjoyed a good day at the office in the \$162,000 Bengaluru Open ATP Tennis Challenger at KSLTA Stadium here on Tuesday.

While Saketh Myneni and Niki Poonacha knocked out higher-ranked opponents, Sumit Nagal underlined his class with a comfortable win.

Poonacha created a huge stir, taking out favourite Lukas Rosol 6-4, 2-6, 6-3 in the second round. Rosol, who famously upset Rafael Nadal in the second round of Wimbledon 2012, struggled to get going against Poonacha.

For Poonacha, ranked 937 places below Rosol, this was the biggest victory of his career. "I received a wild-card for this tournament, and I wanted to make the most of it. This win is a huge confidence boost," the 24-year-old Poonacha said.

As the crowd began to swell in the evening session, Nagal took centrestage. Armed with a crushing forehand, Nagal whipped Tunisia's Malek Jaziri 6-0, 6-4. Jaziri made the mistake of dropping too many short balls, which Nagal had little trouble dispatching for winners.



Holding centrestage: Sumit Nagal had little trouble capitalising on Malek Jaziri's errors. ■ SUDHAKARA JAIN

Nagal ran around the ball to get his forehand into play – a ploy that worked well. "My forehand is my strength. I'm not going to defeat anyone with a serve-and-volley game," Nagal said.

The 22-year-old Nagal, however, must be worried about his weak serve, which conceded seven double-faults.

Jaziri, who reached a career-high world ranking of 42 only a year ago, made too many unforced errors. Jaziri was unhappy with a few line calls, but his protests had little impact on the outcome of the match.

Myneni, meanwhile, recorded a 6-3, 6-3 win over sixth-seeded Russian Evgeny Donskoy. Sasikumar Mukund was the rare Indian to disappoint, losing 5-7, 3-6 to

Ilya Ivashka of Belarus.

**The results: Second round:** Saketh Myneni bt Evgeny Donskoy (Rus) 6-3, 6-3; Sumit Nagal bt Malek Jaziri (Tun) 6-0, 6-4; Yuichi Sugita (Jpn) bt Valclav Safranek (Cze) 6-4, 6-3; Niki Poonacha bt Lukas Rosol (Cze) 6-4, 2-6, 6-3; Ilya Ivashka (Blr) bt Sasikumar Mukund 7-5, 6-3.

**First round:** Benjamin Bonzi (Fra) bt Manish Sureshkumar 6-2, 6-3; Stefano Travaglia (Ita) bt Filippo Baldi (Ita) 6-2, 6-1; Abhinav Shanmugam bt Daniel Masur (Ger) 7-5, 6-3; Julian Ocleppo (Ita) bt Anirudh Chandrasekar 6-2, 6-1.

**Doubles (first round):** Frederico Ferreira Silva (Por) & Nikola Milojevic (Srb) bt Sriram Balaji & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan 6-7 (1), 7-5, [10-8]; C. Hsieh (Tpe) & D. Molchanov (Ukr) bt N. Prashanth & Vishnu Vardhan 6-3, 7-6(6); Purav Raja & Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Prajwal Dev & Adil Kalyanpur 6-2, 6-2.

# How India's U-19s became the new glamour boys



## BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

A few decades ago, Indian Universities were stepping stones to international cricket. The Rohinton Baria and Vizzy Trophies were hotly contested, and players like Bishan Bedi, Sunil Gavaskar, Mohinder Amarnath, Kapil Dev, Dilip Vengsarkar, Aunshuman Gaekwad, Sanjay Manjrekar emerged.

### New nursery

The new nursery of Indian cricket has been the Under-19. Within six months of leading India to the world title in 2008, Virat Kohli played his first international for the senior team. More players have come through the Under-19 system – Virender Sehwag, Yuvraj Singh, Rohit Sharma, Cheteeswar Pujara, Ravindra Jadeja, Shikhar Dhawan, K.L. Rahul, Shreyas Iyer, Rishabh Pant – than through university cricket.

This indicates both the decline of university cricket and the planned growth of the age-group system.

Where the university stars were, at one time – the glamour boys – it is now the under-19 players who are fet-

ted and around whom fascinating origin stories are written. Yashasvi Jaiswal, Player-of-the-Tournament and top-scorer at the recent World Cup in South Africa, is, at 18, already a heroic figure. He slept in a tent for three years, and sold *pani puri* at the Azad Maidan in Mumbai, all the while keeping his long-term vision uncluttered.

Now he is on the fringes of the National team, was bought by Rajasthan Royals for ₹2.4 crore in the IPL. It is a heart-warming story.

The cricket board's handling of Under-19 has, in recent years, probably been more professional, more compassionate than their handling of anything else. By putting Rahul Dravid in charge, and giving him a largely free hand it showed the players both respect and concern. Dravid coordinated with the National coaches Ravi Shastri and Anil Kumble, and the pipeline from the Under-19 to the senior level became free of the usual impediments to a smooth transition like quotas and politics and poor judgements.

Dravid's personality also meant that players were educated in much more than the forward defence or the curling leg-break. He has reverence for the game and what it means. It is doubtful if the fracas that followed the end of the World Cup final on Sunday would have taken place had he been present at the venue.

Bangladesh's victory was well-deserved, and it is good for the game that a team lower down the pecking order in world cricket should stun favourites India who have won the title four times. It is a win that can do a lot for Bangladesh cricket, with many of their heroes graduating to senior levels.

### Bad taste in the mouth

Yet, in the end, the tense day's cricket left a bad taste in the mouth because of player behaviour. Although the Bangladesh captain said something that has been interpreted to mean he was apologising, I am not so sure. He did use the word "sorry", but it could have been that he was sorry that such a thing happened. International captains at the Under-19 level, may not fully appreciate the nuances of the language; in any case it was convenient to believe he was apologising and that only one side was to blame.

Clearly the International Cricket Council thought otherwise and the video footage did suggest that both teams were involved. By calling out three Bangladeshi and two Indian players, the ICC made that clear.

You can see this as immature players (in both age and experience) reacting to victory or defeat, and therefore let it go as "one of those things." But these players are one step away from playing for the senior team, and such behaviour has to be

punished now. To see a bunch of teenagers behave in this manner on a sports field is nauseating.

The tension had been building up for a while. A big chunk of the responsibility, therefore, should rest on the umpires who could have nipped the trouble in the bud had they been more proactive and pulled up the players during the course of the match. It is part of their job description to keep things on an even keel on the field of play; such unruly behaviour is seldom spontaneous and gathers steam over the day. That should be clearer to the men in charge than anyone sitting in the stands or watching on television.

That India had both the tournament's highest scorer and its highest wicket-taker (Ravi Bishnoi) is a reflection of the depth in Indian cricket. Losing a final is no crime. What India sometimes gets wrong is the injury-management and workload of the under-19 players.

### A warning

One of the heroes of India's 2018 World Cup win, the fast bowler Kamlesh Nagarkoti's words (in an interview last year) are poignant. "At 19, I must be running in and bowling fast. But here I am, not playing, not studying, out injured, away from home, all by myself, and trying to get fit even as my friends are playing in the IPL and for India-A. It is tough."

That is a warning too.

# Lalremsiami is FIH Rising Star of Year



Lalremsiami. ■ GETTY IMAGES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LAUSANNE

India forward Lalremsiami has been named as the 2019 FIH Women's Rising Star of the Year, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) said on Tuesday.

The 19-year-old attacker took the prize ahead of Argentina's Julieta Jankunas and Frederique Matla of the Netherlands, who finished second and third respectively, the FIH said in a statement.

The player from Mizoram

got 40% of all the votes cast. She got 47.7% of her votes from among national associations, while the media, fans/players contributed 28.4% and 36.4% respectively.

Lalremsiami first came into the wider hockey consciousness at the Hockey Women's World Cup in 2018 when she was one of the stand-out players of the tournament.

Since then she has been at the heart of the rise of the Indian women's hockey team.