

Kiwis shock India

New Zealand survive Jadeja scare to stun India in World Cup semi-final thriller

● **New Zealand triumph by 18 runs to reach Sunday's final at Lord's against either England or Australia**

● **India's top three of Sharma, Kohli and Rahul each out for one**

AFP | Manchester

New Zealand stunned India to reach their second successive World Cup final as they survived Ravindra Jadeja's late heroics to clinch a thrilling 18-run win at Old Trafford yesterday.

It was a superb display by the underdog Black Caps, who came into the match on the back of three straight defeats by Pakistan, Australia and England and only qualified for the semi-finals on net run-rate, while India topped the 10-team group stage.

New Zealand will face the winners of Thursday's second semi-final between Australia -- the team that beat them in the 2015 final -- and hosts England in Sunday's title match at Lord's.

"We had to ask a lot of questions. We knew if we created pressure we'd have a chance because it wasn't an easy pitch to score on," New Zealand's man-of-the-match Matt Henry said.

"We pride ourselves on always giving ourselves a chance. They have world-class finishers and we knew we'd have to bowl them out to win. It's special to be going to Lord's on Sunday."

Two-time world champions India lost key batsmen Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and KL Rahul for just one run each.

They slumped to five for three in pursuit of a target of 240 and were 24 for four when Dinesh Karthik was out.



Matt Henry of New Zealand celebrates with teammates after taking the wicket of KL Rahul of India

New Zealand pacemen Henry (three for 37) and Trent Boult (two for 42) did the damage with the new ball.

Shell-shocked India captain Kohli admitted his team had paid the price for the dismal start to their innings.

"It's tough, 45 minutes of bad cricket put you out of the tournament. It's hard to come to terms with but New Zealand deserve it. They put us under pressure and came through in the key moments," Kohli said.

"Our shot selection could've been better but otherwise we played a good brand of cricket and I'm proud of the way we played."

India, one of the pre-tournament favorites, were all but beaten at 92 for six when Jadeja came in to bat alongside MS

Dhoni.

The pair gave India hope during a World Cup record seventh-wicket stand of 116, all-rounder Jadeja boldly leading the way with 77.

Jadeja hit well-struck sixes off both Jimmy Neesham and left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner during a 39-ball fifty.

With 10 overs left, India were 150 for six and needing a further 90 runs off the final 60 balls of the innings.

Jadeja got them closer with a superb straight six off fast bowler Lockie Ferguson and, with five overs left, the target was down to 52.

But left-hander Jadeja's 59-ball innings, featuring four fours and four sixes, ended when he skied Boult to New Zealand captain Kane Williamson.



A devastating new-ball burst from Trent Boult and Matt Henry was ultimately decisive as in the nerve-shredding semi-final

With India needing 31 off two overs, Dhoni uppercuted Ferguson for six to the delight of the massed ranks of India fans in the crowd.

But going for a second run to keep the strike, the 38-year-old Dhoni, India's 2011 World

Cup-winning captain, was just run out by Martin Guptill's direct hit for 50 off 72 balls.

Shock victory

With 23 required off the last six balls, tailender Yuzvendra Chahal glanced Neesham for four.

But the match finished with three balls to spare when Chahal edged to wicketkeeper Tom Latham, a review confirming his dismissal and New Zealand's shock victory.

Sharma, who had already made a five hundreds at this tournament -- a record for a single World Cup, began the procession of top-order dismissals when he was caught behind off Henry.

Kohli fell next, lbw to a superb inswinger from left-arm bowler

New Zealand (overnight 211-5)

M. Guptill c Kohli b Bumrah	1
H. Nicholls b Jadeja	28
K. Williamson c Jadeja b Chahal	67
R. Taylor run out (Jadeja)	74
J. Neesham c Karthik b Pandya	12
Grandhomme c Dhoni b Kumar	16
T. Latham c Jadeja b Kumar	10
M. Santner not out	9
M. Henry c Kohli b Kumar	1
T. Boult not out	3
Extras (lb5, w13)	18
Total (eight wickets, 50 overs)	239

India (target 240)

KL Rahul c Latham b Henry	1
R. Sharma c Latham b Henry	1
V. Kohli lbw b Boult	1
Pant c Grandhomme b Santner	32
D. Karthik c Neesham b Henry	6
H. Pandya c Williamson b Santner	32
MS Dhoni run out (Guptill)	50
R. Jadeja c Williamson b Boult	77
B. Kumar b Ferguson	0
Y. Chahal c Latham b Neesham	5
J. Bumrah not out	0
Extras (lb3, w13)	16
Total (all out, 49.3 overs)	221

India were then five for three when Rahul was brilliantly caught by a diving Latham after edging Henry.

Neesham then held a brilliant superb one-handed catch at backward point to dismiss Karthik off Henry.

Rishabh Pant holed out for 32 when he was caught at deep midwicket by Colin de Grandhomme following a lofted sweep off Santner, leaving India slipping towards an unexpected exit.

Earlier, New Zealand added 28 runs in the remaining 23 balls of their innings to finish on 239-8 after rain had stopped play on Tuesday.

Ross Taylor, who resumed on 67 not out, top-scored with 74 after Williamson had made a masterly 67 in awkward conditions.

SEMI FINAL-2

ENGLAND VS **AUSTRALIA**

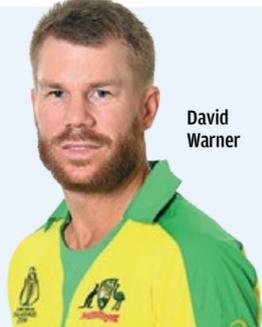
EDGBASTON CRICKET GROUND - EDGBASTON

TODAY 12:30 pm

CRICKET AUSTRALIA



Jonny Bairstow



David Warner

- » Momentum is with England who are coming off two successive wins while Australia suffered defeat in their last match.
- » Australia have the psychological advantage of having crushed England when the two teams faced-off earlier in the tournament.
- » England have beaten Australia six times in their last seven ODI meetings and on the previous three occasions at this ground.

England

England thrashed New Zealand by 119 runs at Chester-le-Street in their final league game to advance to the semi-finals. With 12 points, they finished third on the CWC 2019 points table having won six and lost three out of their nine matches. The hosts have been impressive with the bat in their last two games, scoring 337 versus India and 305 versus New Zealand. Against the Kiwis, their bowlers put up a clinical show as they bowled them out for just 186 in 45 overs.



Eoin Morgan

Probable XI

Jason Roy, Jonny Bairstow, Joe Root, Eoin Morgan (c), Ben Stokes, Jos Buttler (wk), Chris Woakes, Liam Plunkett, Jofra Archer, Adil Rashid, Mark Wood

Pitch Condition

300+ has been scored thrice in the last two matches at Edgbaston which shows how good this pitch has been for batting recently. Batsmen will look to target the short boundary on one side of the ground. The pitch is likely to favor pace bowlers more than spinners. The weather forecast does not look too good with frequent showers expected on Thursday as well as on Friday (reserve day). Temperature will be between 19 and 22 degrees Celsius while humidity will be around 65%.

Australia

Australia have finished second on the CWC 2019 leaderboard with seven wins and two losses from their nine league matches. They went into their last game against South Africa at Manchester on the back of five consecutive wins but their winning run came to an end with a 10-run defeat. Their only other defeat in this World Cup came against India last month by 36 runs at the Kennington Oval in London. The Aussies did not have a great game with the ball last time as they allowed the Proteas to rack up a big score of 325 which was always going to be a tough ask on a slowing surface.



Aaron Finch

Probable XI

David Warner, Aaron Finch (c), Steven Smith, Peter Handscomb, Glenn Maxwell, Marcus Stoinis, Mitchell Marsh, Alex Carey (wk), Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, Jason Behrendorff, Nathan Lyon

Morgan urges England to embrace World Cup 'dream'

AFP | Birmingham

England captain Eoin Morgan has urged his side to embrace their World Cup dreams as they prepare for Thursday's blockbuster semi-final against old rivals Australia.

Morgan can lead England to their first World Cup final since 1992 if they beat the holders at Edgbaston.

Advancing to Sunday's title match at Lord's would be the culmination of four years' hard work for Morgan and his squad after their dismal performance at the 2015 edition.

On the eve of the crunch clash, Morgan issued a passionate plea for his players to take pride in their achievements so far and to relish their moment in the spotlight rather than be weighed down by pressure.

"Sometimes I'm guilty of it,

you can lose sight of the position you're in and the fact you're living your dream," Morgan told reporters yesterday.

"I think it's possible to play with a smile on your face tomorrow."

Asked if the World Cup hosts were feeling excited, nervous or simply focused on the task at hand, Morgan added: "All of those things. But I think excitement probably should be the dominant one."

"Everyone is excited to play this semi-final. The fact that through the group stages getting to this stage looked unlikely, or was called into question, makes it even more exciting for us."

Morgan's side have established a proud recent record against Australia, winning 10 of the last 11 one-day internationals between the old rivals prior to this tournament.