

# Aussies survive Pakistan scare

● Mitchell Starc sinks Pakistan's pursuit of Australia after David Warner's century

● Pat Cummins claimed three wickets

AFP | Taunton

David Warner scored his first international century since completing a ball-tampering ban as Australia returned to winning ways at the World Cup with a 41-run victory over Pakistan at Taunton yesterday.

Warner made 107 and, with Australia captain Aaron Finch (82), got the defending champions off to a flying start with an opening stand of 146 -- the highest partnership for any wicket at this World Cup to date.

Mohammad Amir dragged Pakistan back into the game with career-best figures of five for 30 in 10 overs but Australia still managed to post a challenging score of 307, which ultimately proved beyond their opponents.

"It means a lot to a batter to get a century," said man-of-the-match Warner. "It was a great effort from Pakistan in the end but our bowlers bowled excellent. They probably got closer than we expected."

Pakistan, after a middle-order collapse that saw them lose three wickets for 11 runs in 15 balls, were all but beaten at 200 for seven in the 34th over.

But captain Sarfaraz Ahmed (40) and the big-hitting Wahab Riaz (45) gave them renewed hope with a stand of 64.

Australia, who lost to India on Sunday, were again looking to Mitchell Starc to get them out of a tight spot, as had done in an earlier win over the West Indies and the fast bowler duly delivered with 2-43.

He had Wahab caught behind got off a thin edge, although it needed an Australia review of an original not out decision to leave Pakistan 264-8.

Two balls later, Amir played on for a duck before Glenn Maxwell ended the match with a brilliant direct hit run out of Sarfaraz.



Australia's David Warner plays a shot



David Warner hit his first ODI century since being banned for a year

## Pakistan chase

Pakistan's chase started badly when Fakhar Zaman fell for a duck uppercutting Cummins to Kane Richardson at third man.

Babar Azam was in superb touch, with 28 of his 30 runs coming in fours, before he mishooked Nathan Coulter-Nile to deep backward square leg.

Opener Imam-ul-Haq was upping the tempo in his 53 when he gloved Pat Cummins (3-33) down the legside to wicket-keeper Alex Carey.

Finch, an occasional slow bowler, grabbed a real bonus wicket when Mohammad Hafeez (46) hit a rank full toss straight to Starc at deep square leg.

And when Shoaib Malik was brilliantly caught for nought by a diving Carey after inside edging Cummins, Pakistan

were in dire straits at 147-5.

Both Warner and Steve Smith, also returning from a year-long ban for ball-tampering, had been jeered by fans in previous games but Pakistan fans largely heeded an appeal from Sarfaraz not to boo the pair, preferring to roar chants of "Amir!, Amir!"

Warner completed his 15th one-day international hundred when an edge off Shaheen Shah Afridi flew past slip for four.

An elated Warner leapt in the air in celebration but his 111-ball innings ended soon afterwards when he was caught at point off Shaheen, having gone past fifty for the third time in four innings at this World Cup.

"I'm very disappointed," said Sarfaraz. "We lost three wickets in 15 balls and that's why we lost."

"We conceded too many runs in the first 20 overs apart from Mohammad Amir. We came back and restricted them well but it was a 270-280 pitch."

"We made some runs and got starts but we've got to convert them and go long. If you want to win matches your top four must score runs."

Australia have three wins in four matches while Pakistan are struggling, with just one victory in their four games so far.



## Cricket World Cup 2019 standings

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Tied	No result	Run rate	Points
New Zealand	3	3	0	0	0	2.163	6
Australia	4	3	1	0	0	0.570	6
England	3	2	1	0	0	1.307	4
India	2	2	0	0	0	0.539	4
Sri Lanka	4	1	1	0	2	-1.517	4
West Indies	3	1	1	0	1	2.054	3
Bangladesh	4	1	2	0	1	-0.714	3
Pakistan	4	1	2	0	1	-1.796	3
S Africa	4	0	3	0	1	-0.952	1
Afghanistan	3	0	3	0	0	-1.493	0

## Today's match

## India vs New Zealand

Rohit Sharma



at Trent Bridge, Nottingham  
12:30pm



Martin Guptill

- » Both teams have a very strong batting lineup
- » Both India and New Zealand are unbeaten in the world-cup up until now
- » India's bowling attack is better than New Zealand and that could be the edge it needs to win
- » Securing convincing victories against South Africa and defending champions Australia would have boosted the confidence of the Indian team.
- » Trent Boult tormented the Indian batsmen in the warm-up game and he could again put pressure on them by picking up a few early wickets.
- » India's batting has looked impressive so far but the loss of Shikhar Dhawan will now put additional pressure on Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli.

## India

India have won 10 out of the 15 one-day internationals they have played so far this year. They lost to Australia 2-3 in a five-match ODI series at home before coming into the World Cup. They have won their first two encounters in the tournament rather convincingly and are currently placed third on the CWC 2019 points table with four points. After beating South Africa by six wickets in their campaign opener at Southampton, India got the better of Australia by 36 runs at London in their last game.

## Probable XI

Lokesh Rahul, Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli (c), Vijay Shankar/Dinesh Karthik, MS Dhoni (wk), Hardik Pandya, Kedar Jadhav, Bhuvneshwar Kumar/Mohammed Shami, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Jasprit Bumrah

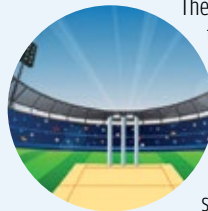
## New Zealand

New Zealand have been very impressive in the game's 50-over format over the last couple of years. They have won 10 out of their 14 one-day internationals this year including the last six straight. The Kiwis have made a perfect start to their World Cup campaign, winning each of their first three games, and are leading the league standings with six points. They decimated Sri Lanka by ten wickets in their opening game at Cardiff, then pipped Bangladesh by two wickets in a close encounter at London before brushing aside Afghanistan with a seven-wicket win at Taunton.

## Probable XI

Martin Guptill, Colin Munro, Kane Williamson (c), Ross Taylor, Tom Latham (wk), James Neesham, Colin de Grandhomme, Mitchell Santner, Matt Henry, Lockie Ferguson, Trent Boult

## PITCH REPORT



The weather around the United Kingdom has been bad this week and the forecast in Nottingham for this match is not very good either.

A lot of rain is expected to fall in Trent Bridge and we could struggle to get any cricket in. The best case scenario looks one where a shortened match is possible to get a result.

The pitch in Trent Bridge is flat and full of runs. The batsmen are going to be able to score at their will and a score of about 330 seems to be par for the venue.

## Head to Head

- India and New Zealand have played 106 one-day internationals against each other with the former winning 55 of those and the latter 45. One of those encounters has resulted in a tie while five have not produced any results.
- The men in blue have won six of their last seven ODIs against the Black Caps which includes the dominant 4-1 series win when India toured New Zealand earlier this year in January-February.
- The two countries have faced each other just once at the Trent Bridge in the fifty-over format of the game - at the 1999 World Cup - with New Zealand registering a convincing five-wicket win.

# India call up Pant as cover for Dhawan

AFP | Nottingham

Rishabh Pant has been called up as cover for the injured Shikhar Dhawan in India's World Cup squad, team chiefs confirmed yesterday.

Dhawan injured his hand during the team's 36-run victory against Australia on Sunday and remains a doubt for the rest of the 50-over tournament.

The left-handed opener has been put under medical observation and Pant will join the team in England and Wales and stay on as standby.

"We will be observing Dhawan and around the 10th or 12th day we will know where he stands," India's assistant coach Sanjay Bangar said ahead of Thursday's match against New Zealand at Trent Bridge.

"We do not want to rule out a precious player like Shikhar. As far as batting order goes, KL (Rahul) moves top of the order and there are various options the team can utilise going into the next game."

Bangar added: "If and when a re-



India's Rishabh Pant during nets

placement is required, it's always good to have a replacement coming in and practising with the team as a standby".

Dhawan made 117, putting on 127 for the opening wicket with Rohit Sharma to set up India's second straight win in the World Cup against defending champions Australia.

Bangar said India would miss Dhawan but the team had enough strength in

depth to maintain their momentum in the round-robin tournament.

"Shikhar will definitely be missed in the next three to four games but we have great back-up for each position," he said. "With that we should be able to make it up."

"He (Pant) bats in middle order and obviously being a left-hander helps and he was named in the standbys as well, so the team management has gone and picked him," he said of Pant's call-up.

Team management said Pant would join the side in Manchester ahead of the match against arch-rivals Pakistan, which takes place on Sunday.

The 21-year-old, a flamboyant wicket-keeper-batsman, made his Test debut in England last year and scored his maiden Test century during the series.

Pant, who is being groomed to take over from M.S. Dhoni as first-choice wicketkeeper in all formats of the game, also underlined his worth with an unbeaten 159 against Australia in Sydney earlier this year.

## New Zealand need to grab half-chances against India: Ferguson

Reuters | Nottingham, England

New Zealand cannot afford to squander even half-chances against a team of India's calibre in Thursday's World Cup match at Trent Bridge, Kiwi fast bowler Lockie Ferguson said.

The right-arm paceman will be spending much of his 28th birthday trying to tame a formidable Indian batting order headlined by Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, the top two batsmen in ODI rankings.

"They're world-class players, you're not going to blow them out of the water, but if you can build

up enough pressure against them and then create a half-chance, that could be the wicket and you can then build from there," Ferguson told reporters on Tuesday.

"Obviously, they're playing some great cricket and they're one of the top teams in the competition but we're definitely looking forward to the opportunity of playing them in England and we haven't played them for a while in England."

India have adopted a new approach to the first powerplay overs which was evident in their clinical victory against Australia on Sunday.