

# India vs New Zealand 3rd ODI 2025: India Announces Their Playing 11, Wins the Toss and Elects to Bowl First



India and New Zealand faced off in the **3rd ODI of the 2025 series**, with the match holding huge importance for both sides. With the series on the line, **Team India won the toss** and made a bold decision to **bowl first** against the Black Caps. The announcement of India's Playing 11 also caught fans' attention, as a few tactical changes were made to strengthen the bowling unit.

## India's Toss Decision: Why Bowl First?

The Indian skipper chose to field first, keeping the pitch conditions in mind. The surface was expected to offer early movement for the pacers, while dew later in the evening could make batting easier.

Bowling first also allowed India to:

- Take advantage of morning swing
- Put pressure on New Zealand's top order
- Plan a controlled chase under lights

The decision was seen as a strategic move to gain an early edge in this crucial encounter.

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## **India's Playing 11 for the 3rd ODI**

Team India made a few changes to improve their balance, especially in the pace department. The Playing 11 featured a mix of experience and youth, with a strong focus on bowling depth.

### **India's Playing 11:**

- Rohit Sharma (C)
- Shubman Gill
- Virat Kohli
- Shreyas Iyer
- KL Rahul (WK)
- Hardik Pandya
- Ravindra Jadeja
- Kuldeep Yadav
- Arshdeep Singh
- Mohammed Siraj
- Jasprit Bumrah

The inclusion of Arshdeep Singh added a left-arm pace option, while Bumrah and Siraj provided control and aggression with the new ball.

## New Zealand's Challenge on Indian Soil

New Zealand came into the match with confidence after strong performances in the series. However, playing in Indian conditions is never easy. The visitors needed a solid start and smart partnerships to post a competitive total.

India's bowling attack, packed with quality pacers and spinners, posed a serious threat to the Kiwi batters.

## Key Players to Watch

- **Jasprit Bumrah:** Known for early breakthroughs and deadly yorkers.
- **Virat Kohli:** India's batting backbone in pressure games.
- **Hardik Pandya:** A crucial all-rounder who can change the game in both departments.
- **Kuldeep Yadav:** His spin could trouble New Zealand's middle order.

## Fans React to the Team Selection

Indian fans had mixed reactions to the Playing 11. While many were happy to see Arshdeep Singh back in the side, some questioned the middle-order combination. Social media was filled with discussions, predictions, and excitement ahead of the high-stakes match.

## What This Match Means for India

The 3rd ODI was not just another game—it was about pride, momentum, and series dominance. A win would help India bounce back strongly, while a loss could raise concerns ahead of major tournaments.

## Final Thoughts

By winning the toss and choosing to bowl first, [India showed intent and confidence](#) in their bowling attack. With a balanced Playing 11 and strong home support, Team India aimed to control the game from the very first over.