

Match Deep Analysis — *India vs New Zealand*

1st ODI | New Zealand tour of India 2025–26

11 January 2026 | Kotambi Stadium, Vadodara

Result: India won by 4 wickets (6 balls remaining)

Player of the Match: Virat Kohli

1. Match Overview & Context

- **Toss:** India elected to **field first** — opting to chase in a day-night ODI ahead of an extended white-ball season.
- **Conditions:** Batting-friendly but offering some seam movement early; dew later aided the chase.

Storyline: India successfully chased down a competitive 301+ total, reinforcing their reputation for strong run chases and strategic batting depth.

2. Bowling First — India's Containment Strategy

New Zealand Innings

Team	Score
New Zealand	300/8 (50 ov)

Top Performers:

- **Daryl Mitchell:** 84 (71) — top score for NZ
- **Henry Nicholls:** 62 (69) — steady middle order presence
- **Kyle Jamieson:** 4/41 — crucial wickets in the middle overs

Bowling Summary:

India applied pressure through disciplined lines, with Jamieson's four-wicket haul being the

standout performance for NZ. Mohammed Siraj supported with two wickets, and Harshit Rana chipped in with key dismissals.

Phase Insight:

New Zealand built solid partnerships early but lacked a big late-innings surge — which kept the total within the chaseable bracket.

3. India Chase — Anchors and Accelerators

Team	Score
India	306/6 (49/50 ov)

Key Batting Contributions

Batter	Runs	Balls	SR
Virat Kohli	93	91	102.19
Shubman Gill	56	71	78.87
Shreyas Iyer	49	47	104.25
KL Rahul	29*	21	138.09
Harshit Rana	29	23	126.08

Analysis:

- **Kohli (93)** controlled the chase with a mix of timing and calculated aggression — anchoring India’s innings.
- **Gill (56)** provided the first half-century partnership, setting up the platform for India early.
- **Iyer (49)** and *Rahul (29)** steadied the chase during middle overs and provided acceleration when needed.

Insight: India managed the chase effectively by rotating the strike consistently and minimizing dot balls, allowing continued scoring momentum against both pace and spin.

4. Phase-Wise Match Dynamics

New Zealand Batting Phases

Phase	Overs	Runs	Description
Powerplay	1–10	≈55	Steady start, no collapse
Middle	11–35	≈140	Built backbone through Mitchell-Nicholls partnership
Death	36–50	≈105	Lost momentum late, fewer boundary conversions

Observation: Strong top order and middle order but lacked a big end-game surge.

India Chase Phases

Phase	Overs	Runs	Description
Powerplay	1–10	≈60	Solid opening platform
Middle	11–35	≈120	Control with smart rotation
Death	36–49	≈126	Calculated acceleration

Observation: India’s chase stayed ahead of the required rate almost throughout, thanks to partnerships that managed risk and reward effectively.

5. Turning Points of the Match

- Jamieson’s middle-overs burst:** Four wickets slowed India’s momentum briefly.
- Kohli-Iyer counterattack:** These two took the pressure off during a phase where required rate began increasing.
- Late hits by Rahul & Harshit Rana:** Quick cameos ensured India didn’t feel the required rate creep.

6. Impact Players & Their Influence

Player	Role	Key Contribution
Virat Kohli	Batter	Anchored the chase with 93
Shubman Gill	Batter	Built early partnership for India
Kyle Jamieson	Bowler (NZ)	4 key wickets to threaten chase

Insight: Kohli's innings exemplified a **successful anchor role with calculated aggression**, proving decisive before India's finishers clinched the win.

Tactical Learnings

India

- ✓ Managed phases expertly during chase
- ✓ Rotation of strike kept scoreboard ticking
- ✓ Middle overs stability enabled low-risk acceleration later

New Zealand

- ✗ Couldn't capitalize late despite 300
- ✗ Lack of big innings in death overs
- ✗ Bowling lacked consistency at key points

Analyst Summary

India successfully chased down 301+ due to a balanced innings combining a classical anchor knock from Kohli, strategic partnerships, and intelligent phase management highlighting their strength in run-chase scenarios.