



MCC LIBRARY FACT SHEET NOVEMBER 7-10, 2024

FOUR-DAY MATCH AUSTRALIA A V INDIA A

Australia A versus India A

The 2024/25 tour of Australia by India includes two four-day games between the Australia A and India A sides. The first of these was held at the Great Barrier Reef Stadium in Mackay from October 31 to November 3. The MCG hosts the second of these games. Although the MCG has played host to a number of Australia A games in the past, the most recent being in 2020 when they were beaten by the English Lions in a day-night match, records suggest that this will be the first four-day game between Australia A and India A at the MCG. Both the 'A' series matches this year have first-class status and are important lead-up games to the Australia versus India test series for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, the first to be contested over five tests since the 1991/92 series in Australia.

India A in Australia 2016

The most recent series of Australia A and India A matches in Australia took place in 2016, although during the most recent tour of Australia by an Indian side in 2020/21, two three-day Australia A versus Indians games were played. The first of these took place at the Drummoyne Oval in Sydney and the second at the SCG.

In August and September 2016 an India A team toured Australia. It took part in a series on one-day games played in Townsville and Mackay, which also involved Australia A, South Africa A and the Australia National Performance Squad. In the final of this series, played in Mackay, India A defeated Australia A by 57 runs.

Following the one-day series, India A and Australia A played each other in two four-day games at the Allan Border Field in Brisbane. Australia A won the first of these by three wickets, India A, captained by Naman Ojha, scoring 230 and 156 to Australia A's 228 and 7/161. Player of the Match was Australia A's captain Peter Hanscomb, who scored 87 and 24. Hanscomb top scored in Australia A's first innings, while Cameron Bancroft led their scoring in the second innings with 58 not out. Spinner Mitch Swepson claimed four wickets in India A's first innings and pace bowler David Moody three; Moody and pace bowlers Daniel Worrall and Chadd Sayers claimed three wickets each in their second innings. Manish Pandey (77) was the only India A batter to score over 50 in their first innings, the top scorer in their second innings being Jayant Yadav with 46. Yadav took three wickets with his offbreaks in Australia A's first innings, as did pace bowler Varun Aaron. Pace bowler Shardul Takur took three wickets in their second innings.

The second game ended in a draw. India, sent in by Australia A captain Joe Burns, scored 169, Hardik Pandya making 79 of these. Australia A fast bowlers Kane Richardson and Jackson Bird taking 4/37 and 3/53, respectively. A century from Hilton Cartwright (117) was a highlight in Australia A's first innings of 435 with Nick Maddinson scoring 81 and keeper Sam Whiteman 51. Shardul Takur took 5/101 for India A. Opener Akhil Herwadkar (82) remained undefeated in India A's second innings of 4/158, left-arm spinner Jon Holland taking three wickets for Australia A and the other dismissal being a run out. Hilton Cartwright was named Player of the Match.

Australia A in India 2018

The most recent Australia A versus India A games took place in 2018. An Australian A team toured India in August and September of that year, taking part first in a quadrangular one-day series with India A, India B and South Africa A, and then playing two four-day games against India A. In the final of the one-day series, India B defeated Australia A by nine wickets at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore.

The first of the Australia A versus India A four-day matches also took place at the Chinnaswamy Stadium from 2 to 5 September. Australia A, captained by Mitch Marsh, won the toss and batted, making a total of 243, despite five batters scoring ducks. Usman Khawaja scored 127, Marnus Labuschagne 60 and Kurtis Patterson 31. India A's pace bowler Mohammed Siraj took 8/59. India A replied with 274, Ankit Bawne scoring 91. Pace bowler Michael Nesser took four wickets for Australia A and spinner Jon Holland three. Australia A made 292 in their second innings, Travis Head contributing 87. Siraj took a further three wickets to end with 11 for the match. Set 262 to win, India A was all out for 163, Australia A winning by 98 runs. India A did not lose their third wicket until 106 runs were on the board, Mayank Agarwal scoring 80, Shreyes Iyer (captain) 28 and Bawne 25. They fell away badly after that, however, Jon Holland being the main destroyer with 6/81.

The second game was held at the Karnataka State Cricket Association Ground in Alur from 8 to 11 September. Australia A again won the toss and compiled 346 with Mitch Marsh scoring an unbeaten 113. Spinner Kuldeep Yadav took 5/91 for India A. In reply, India A scored 505, including 106 from keeper Srikar Bharat, 86 from Abhimanyu Easwaran and 83 from Ravikumar Samarth. Pace bowler Chris Tremain and spinner Ashton Agar took two wickets each for Australia A. Australia A made 213 in their second innings, Peter Hanscomb top scoring with 56; spinners Yadav and Krishnappa Gowtham took three wickets each. Set only 55 to win the game, India A made the runs for the loss of four wickets. The only bowlers used by Australia A, Tremain and Michael Nesser, took two wickets each.

India versus Victoria 1947

The first ever tour of Australia by an Indian side took place during the 1947-48 summer season. Prior to playing two tests against Australia at the MCG during a five-test series, the Indians took on Victoria in a four-day game at the MCG on October 30-31 and November 1 & 3, 1947. The Indian team was captained by all-rounder Lala Amarnath and Victoria by test batter Lindsay Hassett. Amarnath won the toss and dominated India's first innings, scoring 228 not out in a total of 403. Bill Johnston, bowling his left-arm pace deliveries, and spinner Ian Johnson both claimed three wickets for Victoria. Like the Indians, who had been 3/0, the Victorians were in early trouble at 3/11 but 77 from Sam Loxton, 87 from Neil Harvey and 54 from Des Fothergill helped them to 273 all out. Left-arm orthodox spinner Vinoo Mankad took four wickets for India. India made 203 in their second innings with opener Mankad scoring 59 and Vijay Hazare 83. Bill Johnston and Ian Johnson again captured three wickets each. The game ended in a draw with Victoria 2/138 and Hassett unbeaten on 67.

Lala Amarnath leads the Indian team onto the MCG during the tour match against Victoria, 30 October – 3 November 1947.



Lala Amarnath – A Father Figure in Indian Cricket

Lala Amarnath Bhardwaj (1911-2000) scored the first ever century for India in test cricket in 1933 (118 against England). He was independent India's first cricket captain and captained India in their first test series win against Pakistan in 1952. He played three test matches before World War II and a further 21 after the war. In his 24 tests, he made 878 runs at an average of 24.38, scoring one century and four fifties. He also took 45 wickets with his medium pace deliveries at an average of 32.91, twice taking five wickets in an innings. In 186 first class matches, he scored 10,426 at 41.37 with 31 centuries and 39 fifties, his highest score being 262. He also captured 463 wickets at 22.98, taking five wickets in an innings 19 times and ten wickets in match three times. His best bowling figures were 7/27. After playing his final test toward the end of 1952, Amarnath remained heavily involved in cricket, later becoming a selector, team manager, coach and broadcaster. His three sons all became first-class cricketers and two of them (Surinder and Mohinder Amarnath) played test cricket for India. Amongst many honours, Lala Amarnath was inducted into the *Wisden India* Hall of Fame in 2019.

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Sources consulted: Ray Webster's First-Class Cricket in Australia. Vol. 1 & 2,

Wisden Cricketers' Almanac – various issues, www.cricketarchive.co.uk

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