Sarpreet Singh became the **first footballer of Indian origin to start a FIFA World Cup match**, featuring in New Zealand's 2–2 draw against Iran in the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Born in Auckland to Punjabi parents, the attacking midfielder made his World Cup debut in the Group G match and played almost the entire game. He is a former player of FC Bayern Munich and has been a key member of New Zealand's national team.

His achievement marks a significant milestone for the Indian diaspora in global football and highlights the growing presence of players of Indian heritage at the highest level of the sport.

APSC Relevance: Sports personalities, Indian diaspora, FIFA World Cup, and international sporting achievements.