

## O HERALDO

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## Shubman Gill's moment has come — or has it?

The able and stable shoulders of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli may have carried Indian cricket's hopes and dreams for years, but now it's time for a young Turk — Shubman Gill — to take over from them.

The 25-year-old, India's new Test captain, is a prodigious talent entrusted with leading the team through perhaps its most challenging transition in over a decade. While the appointment brings hope, it is also a bold gamble. And as India braces for a tough five-Test series in England starting June 20, Gill's mettle will be tested — both with the bat and while wearing the skipper's cap.

There is little doubt about Gill's talent with the bat. His elegant strokeplay and calm demeanour have made him a mainstay in the Indian batting order. He's already played 32 Tests, averaging 35.05 — modest by elite standards, but enough to indicate the makings of a long career. Yet, captaincy is a different beast altogether. It demands more than personal excellence — it

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calls for vision, authority, man-management, and the ability to take hard calls.

The biggest challenge Gill faces is timing. This appointment does not come cushioned by the comfort of a home series against a lower-ranked team. Instead, he will lead an evolving side in swinging English conditions, where India has historically struggled. The five-match series is not just a stern examination of skills; it is a baptism by fire for a young leader who has never captained a Test match before.

His only leadership experience at the international level came during a short T20I series in Zimbabwe — a far cry from what awaits in Leeds, Birmingham, London, and Manchester.

In addition, Gill will have to manage the psychological and tactical dimensions of captaincy without the stabilising presence of some of Indian cricket's biggest modern-day figures. With Rohit, Kohli, and Ashwin gone, a combined void of 296 Test caps now exists. This vacuum in experience will be hard to fill, no matter how talented the incoming players are.

The selectors, led by Ajit Agarkar, have shown a long-term vision in picking Gill. "You don't pick captains for one or two tours," Agarkar stated, hinting at a roadmap beyond just the England series. Yet, the decision does come with significant risk. Gill's overseas Test record — an average of 27.53 compared to 42.03 at home — reflects a batsman still learning how to master difficult conditions. Whether he can simultaneously shoulder the additional burden of leadership remains to be seen.

One of the more nuanced aspects of this transition is that Gill's leadership style contrasts sharply with that of his predecessor, Kohli. Where Kohli was a natural-born leader — vocal, aggressive, and demonstrative — Gill is composed, understated, and internally driven. He rarely draws attention on the field unless he's batting. While this quiet confidence can be a strength, it may also challenge him when it comes to asserting authority, inspiring teammates, or responding to the high-octane pressure of modern Test cricket.

Fortunately for Gill, he will have the dynamic and street-smart Rishabh Pant as his deputy. Pant's return as vice-captain is crucial. Beyond his explosive batting, he brings valuable leadership instincts and familiarity with England's conditions. The combination of Gill's serenity and Pant's spark could strike a healthy balance, provided their partnership flourishes under stress.

Then there is Jasprit Bumrah — previously India's vice-captain and a leader in his own right — who has been sidelined from the leadership conversation due to workload management. While this is understandable given his injury history, it subtly underlines another challenge Gill faces: managing egos and expectations within a team full of players who are leaders in their own domains.

The squad around Gill is young but talented. Yashasvi Jaiswal, Sai Sudharsan, and Dhruv Jurel represent the next generation, while players like KL Rahul, Siraj, and Jadeja offer a smattering of experience. Yet the absence of consistent match-winners abroad makes the task daunting. And with fans and media notoriously unforgiving of failures, a poor series could see Gill's captaincy questioned long before he has a chance to mature into the role.

Leadership transitions in Indian cricket have always been fraught. Even legends like Tendulkar and Dhoni faced immense pressure early in their tenures. The captaincy is not just a job — it is a symbol of national pride and a lightning rod for criticism. Gill, for all his calm and class, will need thick skin and a strong inner circle.

The story of Shubman Gill's captaincy will not be written in one series. But how he handles this tough initiation — in a land where swing and scrutiny are equally sharp — will define the early contours of his leadership era.



ROBIN ROY

## New era for Team India in Tests

Old order changeth as the new era begins. Whatever begins must end. That's nature's rule. After a fairy tale-like tenure... both Virat and Rohit had quit the game and hence made way for youngsters who will face acid test as they visit England.

Not Jasprit Bumrah but 25-year-old Shubman Gill will take over the mantle of captaincy and wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant will be his deputy thus unleashing a new era for Team India in Tests. Gill incidentally became India's 37th Test captain.

Even as regulars like Gill, Pant, KL Rahul, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Mohammed Siraj, and Ravindra Jadeja will be in the playing XI, notable omissions are Mohammed Shami and Sarfaraz Khan.

However, the Think Tank had to do a lot of hard work to prepare a team that has the blend of experience and freshness and strike a balance between veterans and youth obviously keeping the English weather conditions in mind.

The best part of the Think Tank's process was to think beyond Ajinkya Rahane and Cheteswar Pujara and this shows that the "wise men" of the BCCI not only had faith in the bench strength but the best part was that they chose to show courage to build a team from the enormous talent pool that the country has today. And this is highly laudable.

**With veterans paving way for Young India, stage is set for the future of Team India**



By appointing this team, the board has made one point clear and that is they are planning for the future and for that the team management is ready to take risks but prepare a solid blueprint for the future and not rely on old war horses and keep fresh and youth power in the cold stage.

Gill who is yet to establish himself in the Test squad has been appointed with one thing in mind that the management is ready to give him a long rope and this is certainly not a quick fix decision.

Speaking on Gill's appoint-

ment, chief selector Ajit Agarkar said, "You don't pick captains for one or two tours."

"We've seen improvement in his leadership - yes, in T20 cricket with Gujarat Titans - but we take feedback from various sources. We're hopeful he's the right person to lead this team."

**LONG LINE OF BATTERS**

Team India included Sai Sudharsan, Abhimanyu Easwaran, and Karun Nair in the batting line up, while KL Rahul, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Gill are expected to take the extra burden of scoring in the middle. In the whole process, it is expected that one of the newcomers will create a mark.

Having scored tons of runs across all formats of the games, Sudharsan, who also has the exposure in County cricket is likely to be considered for a debut in the opening match.

Easwaran also stands a bright chance for a berth and Agarkar explained that Nair's experience in the absence of Kohli was a deciding matter over Sarfaraz getting the axe.

"Karun has scored heavily in domestic cricket, has Test and County experience. With Virat missing, we're short on experience in the middle order, and felt his profile suited that need," Agarkar said.

Meanwhile, Shreyas Iyer's absence raised several eyebrows. Chief selector Ajit Agarkar said that there was 'no room' for him in the team and urged him to 'keep doing well' to get a chance.

Iyer last played Tests for India against England on home turf in February 2024. However, bad form and a back issue played spoilsport for him midway through the series. Since then, he has only played white-ball formats on the global circuit. However, his form in the most recent Ranji Trophy season was pretty good with 480 runs at an average of 68.57, with two centuries.

"Shreyas Iyer had a good One-Day series," Agarkar, however, told the media.

"Shardul is a bowling all-rounder," Agarkar explained. "Sometimes with the way the team's structured, you need a bowler like that who can bat a bit. Nitish Reddy showed what he can do with the bat. He's going on the A tour as well, so he'll get some bowling under his belt. But he's a young player who has obviously impressed with the bat and who can also bowl, if the conditions in Eng-

land. It'll depend on the team management at that point but he's a batting all-rounder, hopefully his bowling keeps coming on as well."

**NUMBER 4 DILEMMA**

The multi-dollar question about who will replace King Kohli at number 4 is still unclear. Agarkar said captain Gill and coach Gambhir will take a call once they reach England. However, according to some Gill is the frontrunner to drop to that slot.

**ALL-ROUNDERS GALORE**

India have named four all-rounders. Shardul Thakur is back and will join the ranks with Nitish Kumar Reddy, Washington Sundar, and Ravindra Jadeja. It's likely to be a direct contest between Shardul and Nitish for the seam-bowling (all-rounder's) slot. Despite a modest IPL 2025 season, selectors may be interested in Nitish.

**BOWLING DEPTH**

While Kuldeep Yadav is the only specialist spinner, Jadeja is expected to deliver his services as the other spinner. The pace unit looks strong, though Bumrah is not expected to play all five Tests. Agarkar confirmed that while Bumrah remains the leader of the pace attack, the decision was made to keep in mind his immense workload.

Haunted by fitness issues, Mohammed Shami has been left out. The veteran star in the bowling department struggled in the IPL 2025.

Harshit Rana failed to make it while Prasad Krishna and Arshdeep got the berths. Harshit's hit-the-deck style failed to make the cut for playing conditions.

While Arshdeep has been impressive with the white ball, he also has a county stint where he left a mark.

"He's a quality bowler, has County experience, plays domestic cricket regularly. He's tall, can swing the new ball, and has built a decent body of work in red-ball cricket over the past couple of years," said Agarkar.

Now, it is left to see how the boys perform to carry on the legacy of the greats like Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Mohammad Shami.

However, at the end of the day we must acknowledge the fact that ONLY CHANGE IS PERMANENT.

*(Robin Roy is a senior journalist and former senior associate editor, O Herald, Goa)*

## people's edit

## DOCTOR AND A TALL ORDER

SANDHYA VASUDEV

The Hippocratic oath, an ethical code attributed to the ancient Greek physician Hippocrates, has been adopted by the medical profession as a guide to conduct and is still taken in the graduation ceremonies of many medical schools around the world. While undertaking this oath, the physician pledges to prescribe only beneficial treatments, according to his abilities and judgment; to refrain from causing harm or hurt; and to live an exemplary personal and professional life. A tall order indeed!

The oath imposes immense responsibility upon a doctor to exhibit extraordinary qualities of the head and heart. The former aid in correct diagnosis and prognosis; the latter go towards a humanistic treatment of the patient, wherein treatment implies the medicine, as well as the words and behaviour adopted by the doctor towards the patient. The correct diagnosis is largely based on the test and scan reports, aided by the doctor's inherent prowess and years of experience in the line of treatment. These capabilities are academic by nature and there is no scope for any subjectivity here. But two doctors, both excellent in these attributes, can make a difference in impact on the patient, by certain other qualities, totally unrelated to academic excellence. These qualities are those of the heart referred to above, which may not be hereditary always and can be learnt at any stage of life - the earlier the better for a successful career. As attributed to the ancient philosopher Seneca, "People pay the doctor for his trouble; for his kindness they still remain in his debt." A debtor will always seek out such a kind creditor.

These qualities or competencies are together known as "emotional intelligence", and aid in the holistic healing of a patient, who feels comforted that the doctor actually understands his feelings and situation. In the good old days, this may have been referred to as the doctor's bedside manners.

A doctor should understand that, apart from the pain of the ailment, the patient is under tremendous anxiety about the prognosis and treatment options. The anxiety may stem from financial constraints or the fear of medical interventions or the fear of the disease itself. So if a doctor opts to take a mechanistic view of the issue while doling out the medicines and treatment options, the patient's anxiety will increase as he feels a sense of humiliation as being treated as simply a "case". Thus, the doctor's emotional skills are needed to assuage the patient's anguish which itself is dependent on many variables, like the patient's literacy levels, family support and personality traits. Emotional intelligence encompasses a set of portable skills that can transform the individual's outlook towards life, as well as influence the way he is regarded by people around him. The skills can be learnt throughout one's life, with experiences adding their own flavors to the learning process. Where a doctor is concerned, a few of the important qualities that he has to develop are two sided. One that affect the self - like self control, trustworthiness and conscientiousness; the others that affect social relationships - like communication and empathy. Private hospitals have verily turned into commercial organizations; so a doctor's, as well as the front desk staff's level of emotional intelligence may make the difference for a patient choosing one hospital over another.

## Delayed court orders become insignificant

In 2012, a person had allegedly encroached upon the land of Curti Panchayat (Ponda) and constructed several rooms, a chicken shop, scrapyards and more (O Herald May 25). The same year, a demolition squad was sent but since the Public Works Department (PWD) team had not turned up, the process was postponed. Subsequently, the alleged encroacher obtained a stay order from the court. Finally, after 13 years, the court ordered the razing of the structures and on May 22 the panchayat cleared about 1,000 sq m of land. A judgement after 13 years becomes inconsequential because in all these years, the alleged encroacher must have made a handsome profit from rentals obtained from the tenants and from the shops and scrapyards (if owned by him).

This is not a one-off case but perhaps common throughout the country due to long pendency of lawsuits in the courts for various reasons. Under these circumstances, the courts could fast-track the cases or seize the encroached land and release it once the verdict is out. Further, any establishments existing on the infringing land should be sealed, tenants should pay their rents in the court while house title-holders should deposit the relevant ownership documents in the court. The money and documents would remain with the court till the judgement of the petition is declared. Unless such a nation-wide deterrent procedure is not implemented, encroach-

## letterstotheeditor

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ers would have a field day raking in the money by selling and renting out the trespassed lands belonging to the governments or panchayats.

**Sridhar D'Iyer, Caranzalem**

## Drone tech to combat mosquito infection

It is learnt that top doctors of the Directorate of Health Services and heads of departments of Goa Medical College and Hospital held a meeting to assess the state's preparedness to face the threat of vector-borne diseases in the face of heavy early rains arriving in Goa. It must be said just as in any other illness, in vector-borne diseases too prevention is better than cure. This is done by creating awareness among locals and taking necessary steps to prevent mosquito breeding. Soon research would reportedly be initiated in Goa to study the deployment of drones to combat mosquito infestation. Drones fulfill the growing need for mosquito management in areas which are dangerous and inaccessible. It is learnt that drones equipped with high-resolution cameras and sensors can identify mosquito breeding sites like stagnant water, even in hard-to-reach areas. They lend speed and precision.

They can also collect real-time data on mosquito density, species and movement patterns. Drones can be used to spray larvicide in

non-residential areas since traditional methods like fogging and manual spraying have proven inadequate. They can access areas that are difficult or dangerous for humans to reach thereby making mosquito control more effective. Drones can survey and treat large areas quickly, saving time and resources.

This highly maneuverable technology reportedly uses GPS technology to access mapped target sites, leading to precision. Drones can survey and treat large areas quickly, saving time and resources. Indeed drones are transforming the way we approach vector control programs as they bring unmatched precision and efficiency. According to experts the technology will continue to progress at a rapid rate.

**Adelmo Fernandes, Vasco**

## Repercussions of the Big Beautiful Bill

It does seem as if Trump holds all the aces as far as India is concerned, the prime reason being Adani. Modi will bend over backward to fulfill Trump's wishes, it will not be surprising if Apple exits India and Modi does nothing to stop that exit and the consequent job losses. With the passing of the 'Big and Beautiful Bill' by the US Congress, Indians sending money back home will now be subjected to a 5% tax at source, the tax can increase to 15% or 20% depending on

Trump's whims. This will encourage hawala transactions, which effectively means that US dollars will no longer come into India, they will be settled abroad while Indian rupees will exchange hands back here.

India received remittances of \$ 32 billion last year, even if 50% of transactions shift to hawala, then the dent to Indian inward remittance from US will be \$ 16 billion ie. Rs.1,36,000 crores. Last year, NRI's repatriated \$ 120 billion with a large chunk of that being accounted for by the US. It will be interesting to see how Modi handles this problem, whether he fights back or allows his good friend Trump to pulverise India simply because Adani is involved.

**Vinay Dwivedi, Benaulim**

## Immediately arrest inhuman brutes

It is painful that while our sisters who have been widowed by the terrorists who killed their husbands in cold blood in Pahalgam are still struggling to come out of their great sorrow and the nation is praying that they should come out of their grief soon, the utterances of some of our leaders do not appear to subscribe to this intention.

Sindoor on the forehead of our Indian sisters is considered sacred because it is a symbol of holy matrimony. When our military mission against Pakistan was called 'Operation Sindoor',

we believed and appreciated that it was named so, as the operation was to avenge the dastardly act of the terrorists which snatched the Sindoor of our sisters.

In the circumstances, recently while announcing various projects in Rajasthan, Prime Minister Modi thundered, 'it is not blood which flows in my veins but 'boiling' sindoor' and he also compared the sacred Sindoor to the gun powder used by the armed forces in 'Operation Sindoor'. One wonders what type of an impact his speech would have made on our widowed sisters who have lost their Sindoor.

Right now, what our sisters expect from PM Modi is not this type of rhetoric on their lost Sindoor but immediate arrest of the four terrorists who are still at large after killing their husbands in cold blood and maximum punishment rendered to those inhuman brutes.

**Tharcus S Fernando, Chennai**

## Crescendo concert

What a marvellous show/ Crescendo...I enjoyed every bit. It went on so well. What a lively show... very good songs so well trained. The orchestra was so good too..... Wish the Crescendo was of another hour long. Excellent. I was feeling so sad to leave. May you have many more musical shows to come. May God bless you immensely with good health, happiness, patience n peace to compose, arrange and write music. This type shows should be held outside Goa too.

My best wishes to Fr Peter Cardoz and group today and in near future.

**Linda Diniz Braganza, by email**