

If given an opportunity, it will be an honour to captain India: Jasprit Bumrah

■ AGENCY

PAARL: India pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah on Monday said he is not averse to leading the national team if an opportunity comes knocking at his door in the near future.

With Virat Kohli's captaincy tenure in all formats coming to an end following his resignation from Test leadership, there are questions about who could be his long-term successor considering that Rohit Sharma will be 35 next year.

"If given an opportunity, it will be an honour and I don't see any player (who) would say no and I am no different," Bumrah, who is KL Rahul's deputy for the ODI series against South Africa, replied to a query from PTI in a press conference ahead of the three-match rubber starting Wednesday.

"Be it any leadership group, I always look to contribute however I can, to the best of my abilities," he added.



Bumrah said taking responsibility and helping teammates comes naturally to him.

"I look at this situation in the same manner... taking responsibility and talking to players and helping them out has always been my approach and it will always be my approach going further keeping any situation in mind."

The India pace spearhead believes that there would be no tangible change in his role although he is the vice-captain now.

"Having post or not doesn't matter. I always focus on how

fields that need to be set and the same role I will try to do that again as well."

"No specific role or added pressure I am going to take. Yes, helping KL in any way possible and trying to keep a calm head."

The Indian team management, following Virat Kohli's complete exit from captaincy roles across formats, bears a new look but Bumrah doesn't see "anything weird" and believes that one needs to respect the new set-up that's in place and start moving ahead.

"I can't speak for everyone but I can say that for me, it doesn't really make much of a difference. I am here to help all in whatever way I can. All the players are responding to the changes that have happened and everybody is respectful and understand how the processes are going."

"Change is the only constant and we are happy everybody is contributing and we are get-

ting (acquiring) a lot of knowledge and trying to contribute to that. I don't think anybody is facing a problem or is in a weird space with the change that is happening," Bumrah spoke for himself.

Acceptance is key and that's what Bumrah expects from everyone.

"Everybody understands change and have played enough cricket to understand that this is the way the game goes and this is how you move forward. So everyone in the team is quite positive and eager to contribute."

I always love asking questions and welcome new perspective.

There is no fun if there is no responsibility," said Bumrah.

"If there is no responsibility or pressure, where is the fun? I look forward to fulfilling my responsibilities," he said when asked how much he will have to mould himself for the new role.

Saidgarh XI defeats Rehal XI in cricket



Participating teams posing for a photograph with dignitaries.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Saidgarh XI defeated Rehal XI and won the cricket match played under the Late Pandit Premnath Dogra Sports Competition organized by Jammu and Kashmir Co-operative Society, S.I. Harish Chandra (Police Station Bishnah), Sunil Sharma, Convener Sports Cell, Jammu and Kashmir and Councillor Sahil Gupta from Municipal Committee Bishnah.

Batting first, Saidgarh XI scored 119 runs and in reply Rehal XI failed to chase the target and lost the match. Sadhu Choudhary of Saidgarh XI was declared as Man of the Match.

Earlier the match was

declared open by the Chief Guest, Rajni Sethi, Spokesperson of BJP Jammu and Kashmir in the presence of Sham Lal Gupta, Co-Convenor of Jammu and Kashmir Co-operative Society, S.I. Harish Chandra (Police Station Bishnah), Sunil Sharma, Convener Sports Cell, Jammu and Kashmir and Councillor Sahil Gupta from Municipal Committee Bishnah.

Rajni said that from October 24, under Late Pandit Shri Premnath Dogra Sports Competition, different

sports games are being organized in every region and the message is being given that youth should stay away from drugs and bad society.

Those present were Retd. BDO Chaman Lal, Peer Baba Sewa Samiti Head Mohan Lal, BJP Members Purnshotam Sharma, Subedar Gurcharan Singh and NGO Members Ravi Kumar, Rakesh Kumar, Ratan Lal, Tushar Digras, Rohit Kumar, Abhay Sharma, Robin Sharma, Ajay Bhagat, Seema Devi, Mamnoon Singh and Sunny Kumar.

Javed wins gold medal in All India Inter-University Fencing C'ship

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Javed Ahmed Choudhary, Ace fencer of Jammu & Kashmir and a student of Fencing Hall, M.A. Stadium Jammu won gold medal in All India Inter-University Fencing Championship held at Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU), Amritsar.



Javed representing GNDU won individual gold medal in Sabre Event besides also won gold medal in Sabre Team event.

Pertinent to mention here that Javed Ahmed has represented Indian University in World University Games two times, one at Chinese Taipei in 2017 and one at Italy in the year 2019. He has won a total of 8 gold medals in different All India Inter-University Championships.

The Adhoc Committee of JKAFA, all sportspersons and fencing fraternity congratulated him and extended their warm wishes for his future participation in World University Games to be held in the month of June 2022 at China.

Rohit close to getting match-ready, likely to be available against West Indies

■ AGENCY

NEW DELHI: India's white ball captain Rohit Sharma is recovering well from his left hamstring injury and has a bright chance of making a comeback for the six-match home white-ball series against the West Indies next month.

Rohit, who was also the designated Test vice-captain for the tour of South Africa, sustained a left hamstring strain during a net session just prior to the team's departure for the tour and had to pull out.

He was subsequently also forced to skip the ODIs in

South Africa, starting this Wednesday, as he couldn't attain full fitness before the selection committee announced the team.

"Rohit's rehabilitation at the National Cricket Academy is going pretty well. He is expected to be okay for the West Indies series. It's still close to three weeks from now before the first ODI is played in Ahmedabad from February 6," a BCCI source privy to developments told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

The series against the West Indies comprises three ODIs and as many T20

Internationals. The one-dayers will be played February 6 to 12, followed by T20Is from February 15 to 20.

For Rohit, the hamstring has been a recurrent problem which also forced him to miss the first two Test matches as well as the white-ball leg of the tour of Australia in 2020-21.

He did make a comeback for the final two Tests after serving a two-week hard

quarantine in Sydney for the last two Test matches.

Currently, as per BCCI's policy, each and every player has to mandatorily appear for fitness tests at the NCA before being awarded 'fit to play' certificates. The selection committee is informed about their availability only after this exercise.

With Virat Kohli now having relinquished captaincy even from the Test format, there is greater need for Rohit to remain injury-free in the current set-up.

It has been an open secret in recent years that apart from being one of the best

performers across formats, Rohit has been a few notches

above his peers in terms

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