

Rohit Sharma

Rohit Gurunath Sharma (born 30 April 1987) is an Indian international cricketer who plays for Mumbai in domestic cricket and captains Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League as a right-handed batsman and an occasional right-arm off break bowler. He is the vice-captain of the Indian national team in limited-overs formats. He is the only cricketer in the history of cricket to score more than one ODI double-hundred, having scored three of them. In January 2020, Sharma was named as the ODI Cricketer of the Year by the International Cricket Council (ICC).^[5]

Outside cricket, Sharma is an active supporter of animal welfare campaigns. He is the official Rhino Ambassador for WWF-India and is a member of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). He has worked with PETA in its campaign to raise awareness of the plight of homeless cats and dogs in India.

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Rohit Sharma



Rohit Sharma in 2016

Personal information

Full name	Rohit Gurunath Sharma
Born	<div>30 April 1987</div> <div>Nagpur, Maharashtra, India</div>
Nickname	Shaana, ^[1] Hitman, ^{[2][3]} Ro ^[4]
Height	5 ft 8 in (1.73 m)
Batting	Right-handed
Bowling	Right-arm off break
Role	Batsman
Relations	Ritika Sajdeh (m. 2015)

International information

National side	India (2007–present)
Test debut <div>(cap 280)</div>	6 November 2013 v West Indies
Last Test	22 November 2019 v Bangladesh
ODI debut <div>(cap 168)</div>	23 June 2007 v Ireland
Last ODI	19 January 2020 v Australia
ODI shirt no.	45
T20I debut <div>(cap 17)</div>	19 September 2007 v England
Last T20I	2 February 2020 v New Zealand

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Early life

Sharma was born on 30 April 1987 in Bansod, Nagpur, Maharashtra.^[6] His mother Purnima Sharma is from Visakhapatnam.^[7] His father Gurunath Sharma worked as a caretaker of a transport firm storehouse. Sharma was raised by his grandparents and uncles in Borivali because of his father's low income. He would visit his parents, who lived in a single-room house in Dombivli, only during weekends.^[8] He has a younger brother, Vishal Sharma.^[9]

Sharma joined a cricket camp in 1999 with his uncle's money. His coach at the camp was Dinesh Lad who asked him to change his school to Swami Vivekanand International School where Lad was the coach and which had better cricket facilities. Sharma recollects, "I told him I couldn't afford it, but he got me a scholarship. So for four years I didn't pay a penny, and did well in my cricket".^[9] Sharma started as an off-spinner who could bat a bit before Lad noticed his batting ability and promoted him from number eight to open the innings. He excelled in the Harris and Giles Shield school cricket tournaments, scoring a century on debut as an opener.^[10]

T20I shirt no.	45			
Domestic team information				
Years	Team			
2006/07–present	Mumbai			
2008–2010	Deccan Chargers <i>(squad no. 45)</i>			
2011–present	Mumbai Indians <i>(squad no. 45)</i>			
Career statistics				
Competition	Test	ODI	T20I	FC
Matches	32	224	107	92
Runs scored	2,141	9,115	2,713	7,118
Batting average	46.54	49.27	31.90	56.04
100s/50s	6/10	29/43	4/20	23/30
Top score	212	264	118	309*
Balls bowled	346	593	68	2,104
Wickets	2	8	1	24
Bowling average	104.50	64.37	113.00	47.16
5 wickets in innings	0	0	0	0
10 wickets in match	0	0	0	0
Best bowling	1/26	2/27	1/22	4/41
Catches/stumpings	31/–	77/–	40/–	73/-
Source: ESPN Cricinfo (http://www.espncriinfo.com/india/content/player/34102.html), 2 February 2020				

Youth and domestic first-class career

Sharma made his List A debut for West Zone against Central Zone in the Deodhar Trophy at Gwalior in March 2005. Batting at number eight, he scored 31 (not out) as West Zone won by 3 wickets with 24 balls remaining. Cheteshwar Pujara and Ravindra Jadeja made their debuts in the same match.^[11] It was Sharma's unbeaten innings of 142 in 123 balls against North Zone at Udaipur in the same tournament that brought him into the limelight.^[12] He visited Abu Dhabi and Australia with the India A squad and was then included among India's 30-member probables list for the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy tournament. although he did not make the final squad.^[13]

Sharma made his first-class debut for India A against New Zealand A at Darwin in July 2006. He scored 57 and 22 as India won by 3 wickets.^[14] He made his Ranji Trophy debut for his Mumbai in the 2006–07 season and scored 205 off 267 balls against Gujarat.^[15] Mumbai went on to win the tournament with Sharma scoring a half-century (57) in his second innings in the final against Bengal.^[16]

Sharma has spent his entire domestic first-class career at Mumbai. In December 2009, he made his highest career score of 309 (not out) in the Ranji Trophy against Gujarat.^[17] In October 2013, upon the retirement of Ajit Agarkar, he was appointed team captain ahead of the 2013–14 season.^[18]

International career

Test matches

In November 2013, during Sachin Tendulkar's farewell series, Sharma made his test debut at Eden Gardens in Kolkata against the West Indies and scored 177, the second-best score on debut by an Indian behind Shikhar Dhawan (187).^[19] He followed it up with 111 (not out) in the second test at his home ground, the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai.^[20]

Having been out of the test team since 2017–18, Sharma went on the 2018–19 tour of Australia after he had earned a recall earlier. Chief selector M. S. K. Prasad said the reason for his recall was that his natural game suited the bouncy Australian pitches.^[21] Sharma played in the first test in Adelaide, scoring 37 and 1 in an Indian victory.^{[22][23]}

During the first Test, he sustained a minor injury which saw him miss the second Test in Perth.^[24] He recovered for the Boxing Day third test at Melbourne and scored 63 (not out) to help India total 443/7 and win both the test and the series.^[25] After the third Test, Sharma had to return to India for the birth of his daughter.^[26]

In October 2019, in the third Test against South Africa, Sharma scored his 2,000th run and his first double century in Tests. He made 212 in the first innings of the match.^{[27][28]}

2015 and 2019 Cricket World Cups

In March 2015, Sharma made his first appearance in the Cricket World Cup and played in eight matches for India in the 2015 tournament in Australia. India reached the semi-final stage where they were defeated by Australia. Sharma scored 330 runs in the tournament with one century, a score of 137 in the quarter-final tie against Bangladesh.^[29]

On 15 April 2019, Sharma was appointed vice-captain of India's squad for the 2019 tournament in England.^[30] In the opening match against South Africa, he scored 122, including his 12,000th run in international cricket.^{[31][32]} In the match against Sri Lanka, he became the first batsman to score five centuries in the same World Cup tournament,^[33] and equalled Tendulkar's record for the most centuries in all World Cup matches.^[34] Sharma totalled 648 runs in the tournament to finish as the leading run-scorer and win the ICC's Golden Bat award, the third Indian player to do so.^[35]



Sharma during the 2015 Cricket World Cup in Australia.

Other one-day international matches

Sharma made his full international debut in a one-day match against Ireland in Belfast on 23 June 2007. This was part of the 2007 Future Cup competition which also involved South Africa. He was number seven in the batting order but did not bat as India won the game by 9 wickets.^[36]

Sharma scored his maiden ODI half-century (52) against Pakistan at Jaipur on 18 November 2007 and was selected for the Indian squad going to the 2007–08 Commonwealth Bank Series in Australia.^{[37][38]} In that series, he scored 235 runs at an average of 33.57 with 2 fifties, including 66 in the first final at Sydney when he partnered Sachin Tendulkar for most of India's successful run chase.^{[39][40]} After that, however, his ODI performances suffered a downturn and he lost his middle-order position to Suresh Raina. Later, Virat Kohli took his position as the reserve batsman. In December 2009, following his triple century in the Ranji Trophy, he was recalled to the ODI team for the tri-nations tournament in Bangladesh as Tendulkar opted to rest in the series.^[41]

Sharma scored his maiden ODI century (114) against Zimbabwe on 28 May 2010 and followed it up with another century in the next match of the tri-series against Sri Lanka on 30 May 2010 by scoring 101 not out.^{[42][43]} He had a run of poor form in South Africa just before the 2011 World Cup and as a consequence he was left out of India's squad for the tournament.^[44]

Sharma was recalled to the limited-overs squad for the tour of the West Indies in June and July 2011.^[45] In the first match at Queen's Park Oval, he scored 68 (not out) from 75 balls with three fours and a six. In the third match at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua, he scored a matching-winning 86 off 91 balls after India had been reduced to 92 for 6.^[46]

Sharma had a disastrous loss of form in 2012 and scored only 168 runs in the whole calendar year at the very low average of 12.92 with just a single half-century. Even so, his captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni, showed faith in him and his career was revived in 2013. Dhoni decided to move him up the batting order to open the innings with Shikhar Dhawan in the 2013 ICC Champions Trophy. The pairing was a success and India won the competition, defeating hosts England in the final.^[47]

Sharma's good form continued and, later in the year against Australia, he scored 141 (not out) in Jaipur. He followed that with 209 off 158 balls in Bangalore and established a then world record for the most sixes (16) in a one-day international innings.^[48] On 13 November 2014, playing against Sri Lanka at Eden Gardens in Kolkata, Sharma broke the world record for the highest score in a one-day international innings with 264 from 173 deliveries.^{[49][50]}

In December 2017, India's captain Virat Kohli was rested for the series against Sri Lanka, in preparation for India's tour to South Africa, which began in the first week of January 2018. In his place, Sharma was named the Indian team captain for the first time in his career and India under his leadership won the series 2–1, their eighth consecutive series win since defeating Zimbabwe in June 2016.^{[51][52]}

On 12 January 2019, in the opening match against Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground, Sharma scored 133 but it was in vain as India lost by 34 runs. It was his 22nd century in one-day internationals.^[53] At Delhi on 13 March 2019, in the fifth and final match of a home series series against Australia, Sharma scored 56 including his 8,000th run in one-day internationals. It was his 200th innings.^[54] After India v/s West Indies 2nd ODI at Vizag, Rohit Sharma surpassed MS Dhoni record. Rohit now has 187 plus sixes in 116 innings to his name as compared to Mahendra Singh Dhoni who has 186 in 208 innings at home.^[55]

In 2019, he scored the most runs in ODIs by any batsman, with 1490 runs.^[56]

Twenty20 international matches

Sharma was included in the Indian squad for the 2007 ICC World Twenty20 and made his mark by scoring an unbeaten 50 from 40 deliveries against hosts South Africa in the quarter-finals. This enabled India to win the match by 37 runs and they went on to defeat Pakistan in the final, when Sharma scored 30 (not out) from 16 deliveries.^{[57][58]}

On 2 October 2015, during the South African tour of India, Sharma scored 106 in the first Twenty20 international at HPCA Stadium in Dharamshala. With that, he became the second Indian cricketer to have scored centuries in all three formats of international cricket.^[59] On 8 July 2018, during a series in England, Sharma became the second Indian batsman, after Virat Kohli, to score 2,000 runs in a Twenty20 international career.^[60] He was the fifth batsman worldwide to achieve the feat: the others besides Kohli were Brendon McCullum, Martin Guptill and Shoaib Malik.^[61]



Sharma hitting a six

In November 2019, in the opening match of the series against Bangladesh, Sharma became the most-capped cricketer for India in T20Is, playing in his 99th match.^[62] In the next match of the series, he became the first male cricketer for India to play in 100 T20Is.^[63]

Indian Premier League

Sharma has been one of the most successful players in the Indian Premier League (IPL) as captain since 2013 of the Mumbai Indians, who have won the tournament four times under his leadership.^[64] He is currently (July 2019) one of ten players who have scored 4,000 career runs in the competition. Sharma has 4,898 with one century and is the third highest run scorer after Virat Kohli and Suresh Raina.^[65]

Sharma joined the IPL in 2008 when he was signed by the Deccan Chargers franchise, based in Hyderabad, for the sum of US\$750,000 a year.^[66] In the 2011 auction, he was sold for US\$2 million to the Mumbai Indians.^[67] He scored his only IPL century in the 2012 tournament with 109 (not out) against the Kolkata Knight Riders.^[68] Under his leadership, Mumbai have won the IPL in 2013, 2015, 2017 and 2019; they also won the former Champions League Twenty20 competition in 2013.^[64]

Playing style

Sharma is considered an aggressive batsman but with style and elegance.^{[69][70]} He is usually an opening batsman in limited-overs cricket, but has played most of his test cricket as a middle-order batsman.^{[71][72]}

Sunil Gavaskar considers Sharma to have a batting style similar to those of Virender Sehwag and Viv Richards. In his column for The Times of India in November 2018, Gavaskar said:^[73]

The standout performer in both the limited overs series and the T20 series has been Rohit Sharma. Like Virender Sehwag before him, he is unstoppable once he gets going and like Viru he has an appetite for big

hundreds. When Viru used to get out looking to hit another delivery out of the park, there used to be consternation around the ground, just like it is when Rohit gets out to a seemingly casual shot. If Rohit can turn his white ball exploits into red ball cricket, he will be the most destructive batsman in the world after Viv Richards and Virender Sehwag.

While Sharma is not a regular bowler, he can bowl right arm off spin.^[6] He usually fields in the slips and says this is a part of his game on which he works very hard for improvement.^[74]

International centuries

As of 20 January 2020, Sharma has scored 39 international centuries: 6 in Test cricket, 29 in one-day internationals and 4 in Twenty20 internationals. Sharma is also ranked joint 17th among players with the most centuries in international cricket.^[a]

Achievements

Records

Sharma holds the world record for the highest individual score by a batsman playing in a one-day international match, having scored 264 against Sri Lanka at Eden Gardens, Kolkata, on 13 November 2014.^[6] He is the only player to have scored three double-centuries in this form of international cricket.^[76] In Twenty20 international cricket, he currently holds the world records for most career runs and most career centuries.^[77] On 5 October 2019, during a Test match against South Africa, he became the first batsman to score two centuries in his first appearance as an opening batsman.^[78] In the same series, Sharma broke Shimron Hetmyer's record for the highest total of sixes in a Test series.^[79]

Awards

- Arjuna Award (2015)
- ICC ODI Player of the Year (2019)
- ICC ODI Team of the Year (2014 (12th man), 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019)

Outside cricket

Personal life

In April 2015, Sharma was engaged to Ritika Sajdeh and they were married on 13 December 2015.^[80] Sharma and Sajdeh became parents to a baby girl on 30 December 2018 named Samaira.^[81]

Commercial endorsements



Sharma playing a late cut shot during the 2015 World Cup.

Sharma has been sponsored by several brands including the Swiss watchmaker Hublot and CEAT.^{[82][83]} In his career spanning 11 years, Sharma has endorsed many other brands including Maggi, Fair and Lovely, Lay's, Nissan, energy drink Relentless, Nasivion nasal spray, Aristocrat by VIP Industries, Adidas and Oppo mobiles.^[84] Commenting on the partnership with CEAT, Anant Goenka, the managing director, said:^{[85][86]}

We are proud to announce Rohit Sharma as the latest Indian cricketer to join CEAT's family. Rohit is not only an extremely talented batsman but also a great leader and an inspiration to young aspiring cricketers. We believe that his dynamic personality combined with his performance and dependability on the field represents the values that CEAT believes in.



Sharma and Ritika Sajdeh during their wedding event

Philanthropy

Sharma is noted for his philanthropic activities and promotes various causes such as animal welfare, health, and children.^[87] He is particularly vocal about the protection of animals and has supported various initiatives and organisations to promote the cause.^[88]

In February 2015, Sharma joined People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) to support sterilisation of homeless cats and dogs. When supporting the cause Sharma said, "Sterilisation is important because I feel that if we can stop (the homeless-animal crisis), there will be control of population among the street dogs".^[89]

In September 2015, along with Hollywood actors Matt LeBlanc and Salma Hayek, Sharma joined an anti-poaching campaign in Kenya to save the wild animals of Africa including the last surviving northern white rhinoceros. When joining the campaign Sharma said, "I have been a member of PETA and when I was informed about the cause, I thought it is my duty to join the anti-poaching drive. That's what got me to Nairobi. I was fascinated to have a look at Sudan (the last northern white rhino) and the sniffer dogs who catch hold of the poachers".^[90]

In November 2017, Sharma in a video on social media said that he had tied up with an online store to merchandise mobile phone covers and other items that would use his name and ODI jersey no. 45. Sharma also said to his Twitter followers: "All proceeds from your purchases would go to an animal charity of my choice".^[91]

In 2018 on "World Rhino Day", Sharma was announced as the WWF-India Rhino Ambassador. Ravi Singh, the CEO and Secretary General of WWF-India, said about the association with Sharma: "We are encouraged that sportsmen like Rohit are coming forward to support the call for conservation. Rohit's contribution to international cricket is well known and his supporting the conservation of rhinoceros in India will help the cause of the species. We welcome Rohit into the WWF family". After taking pledge for the cause of rhino conservation Sharma said, "My love for rhinos sparked when I first heard about Sudan, the last male northern white African rhino who passed away this year thus leading to the inevitable extinction of the entire species and that broke my heart. As the world and I mourned for my fallen friend Sudan, I researched the best way for me to help prevent something like this happening and the best way I know how is to create awareness.

After getting in touch with WWF I learnt that 82% of the world's rhinos reside in India and I am honoured to be WWF-India's rhino ambassador to spread awareness and do my bit to contribute to the protection and survival of the rhino and help make this world a better place for them".^[92] Rohit Sharma embraces heartfulness meditation.^[93] He laid the foundation stone for a cricket stadium in the presence of spiritual master Kamlesh D. Patel (known as Daaji) at heartfulness institute in Hyderabad.^{[94][95]}

Notes

- a. Sharma shares the position with South Africa's Graeme Smith.^[75]

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