

Ravichandran Ashwin — An electric bowler and all-rounder in the Indian cricket team

Ravichandran Ashwin, fondly known as Ash, is an Indian International cricketer. He came into prominence as a mystery spinner and later showed his batting skills too. Now, he is a regular in Virat Kohli's Test team and plays as a genuine all-rounder. His contribution is immense to take the Indian Test team to number 1 in the ICC rankings. Ashwin was born on 17 September 1986 in a Tamil Brahmin family in West Mambalam, Chennai. He did his schooling from Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan and St. Bede's. Later, he studied engineering at SSSN College of Engineering. His father Ravichandran played cricket at the club level as a fast bowler. Ashwin started his career as an opening batsman, but at St Bede's coaches, C.K.Vijay and Chandra changed his bowling style from medium pace to off-spin. Later he was dropped to the middle order and from there a mystery spinner was born.

R Ashwin's domestic career is quite little to talk about as compared to his international and IPL success. Ashwin played as an all-rounder for Tamil Nadu and South Zone. He made his first-class debut for Tamil Nadu against Haryana in the 2006-07 Ranji season. In 27 first-class matches, Ashwin has picked up a huge total of 134 wickets. He played as an all-rounder for Tamil Nadu and the South Zone.

Ashwin was picked up by the Chennai franchise in the Indian Premier League. He debuted in 2009 and the MS Dhoni-led team went on to win the coveted trophy twice consecutively. He picked up 13 and 20 wickets respectively. He continued to be MS Dhoni's leading man with the ball.

He made big names like Chris Gayle his bunny. Chennai Super Kings was banned in the 2016 and 2017 seasons, so Ashwin shifted to a new team, the Rising Pune Supergiants. In the 2018 auction, he was picked up by the Kings XI Punjab and he was entrusted with the responsibility of the captain.

Ashwin in International Cricket

With the success in the IPL, he was fast-tracked to the international scene. He made his ODI debut against Sri Lanka on 5 June 2010, scoring a 32 ball 38 and taking 2/50 in that match. His T20I debut came a week later, against Zimbabwe at Harare where he took 1/22 in four overs.

In a series against New Zealand in November- December 2010, India won the ODI series 5-0 and Ashwin was the leading wicket-taker with 11 scalps. Stand

in captain Gautam Gambhir called him 'the find' of the series. Despite the recognition, Harbhajan Singh, Piyush Chawla, Pragyan Ojha and Ravindra Jadeja were first choices for the captain.

Ashwin was picked up for the ICC World Cup 2011 which was held in the subcontinent. He played only two matches in the World Cup and made his World Cup debut in March 2011 against the West Indies with bowling figures of 2/41 in 10 overs. In the quarterfinal against Australia at Ahmedabad and picked 2/52 and took up the crucial first wicket when the opening partnership was building on.

He was picked up for the Tests for the first time against West Indies in November 2011 at Delhi. Ashwin took 3/81 in the first innings and 6/47 in the second, helping India win the match. He was awarded the man of the match, becoming the third Indian player to win the award on Test debut. In the third test match in Mumbai, he scored his first international century – 103 off 118 balls. Ashwin went on to become the Man of the Series.

When Australia toured India in 2013, Ashwin surpassed the great Anil Kumble's tally of 27 wickets for most wickets by an Indian bowler in a four-Test series. He took a total of 29 wickets at 20.10 and won the Man of the Series award as Australia lost 4-0.

In 2015, he became no. 1 Test bowlers in the ICC rankings. In December 2016, the International Cricket Council named Ashwin the ICC Cricketer of the Year and the ICC Test Cricketer of the Year for 2016.

Awards and Achievements

On 23 August 2016, Ashwin grabbed his sixth Man-of-the-Series Award, surpassing the tie by Sachin Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag, and in only his 13th Test series, and 8th series where he played every Test.

He along with Ravindra Jadeja became the first pair of spinners to be jointly ranked number 1 bowler in ICC Test Rankings history in 2017.

Ashwin won the Arjuna Award in 2014. He was awarded the BCCI's Dilip Sardesai Award for India's best cricketer in 2010-11 and 2015-16.

He won the BCCI's Polly Umrigar Award for International cricketer of the year in 2012-13.

He was honoured with ICC Test Player of the Year and ICC Cricketer of the Year in 2016. He also made it to the ICC Test team in 2013, 2015, 2016 and 2017.



Kids Craft: String Puppet Plane



Things You Need:

- Pencil
- Cardboard
- Long cardboard tube
- Scissors
- Cardstock (several sheets)
- Glue
- Corrugated cardboard
- String
- Tape
- Needle

What to Do

- Using cardboard and a pencil, trace around one end of a long cardboard tube. Cut out the circle and tape it to one end of the long tube.
- Cover the tube and circle with paper, leaving one end of the tube open.
- Cut a propeller from cardstock. Glue it to the

circle.

Cut wings from the corrugated cardboard. Decorate them with paper and glue them on the tube. (For a biplane, add another set of wings underneath, with cardstock struts between the top and bottom wings.)

Cut two pieces of cardstock for a tail. Cut a slot in one, and slide them together, making a plus-sign shape. Cut slots in the open tube end for the tail pieces to slide into.

For the handle, tightly roll two sheets of cardstock separately. Tie them together with string, forming an X.

Tie long pieces of string to three ends of the handle. Tape them in place. Poke the ends of two strings through the wings using a blunt needle. Knot the strings beneath the wings.

Poke the third string through the airplane body near the tail. Knot it inside the tube. Slide the tail pieces in place, then take off!



FUN RIDDLES

You can touch me,
but I can't touch you back.
You can see me,
but I only reflect you
and can never reject you.
What am I?

English Proverbs and Meanings

* **A burnt child dreads the fire.**
A bad experience will make people stay away from certain things.

* **A friend to all is a friend to none.**
Someone who is a friend to everyone makes none of them feel special.

* **A good beginning makes a good end.**
If a task is carefully planned, there's a better chance that it will be done well.

* **A monkey in silk is a monkey no less.**

No matter how someone dresses, it's the same person underneath.

* **A stumble may prevent a fall.**
Correcting a small mistake may help you to avoid making a bigger one.

* **A young idler, an old beggar.**
If you don't work, you won't have any money when you're old.

* **Beauty is only skin deep.**
A person's character is more important than their appearance.

Smoked vegetable sushi rolls



- Ingredients:**
1oz baked and smoked tofu
4 red bell peppers
1 sheet toasted nori
1/4 ripe avocado, sliced
- For sushi rice:**
2/3 cup of sushi rice
3/4 cup of water
3/4 tsp salt
1tbsp rice vinegar

- How to cook:**
Rinse the rice under cold water for 2 minutes. Put it in a saucepan with the other ingredients and heat it to a simmer for about 10 minutes. Remove it from heat and allow it to sit for some more minutes. Keep the noris with its non-shiny side up. Place the rice, avocado, bell pepper, tofu and cucumber pieces across the noris and roll them up. Wet the end inch of noris to make a good seal for the sushi roll. Cut them into eight pieces.

JUNIOR CHEF

Banana Bread With Chocolate Chunks



- 1 egg
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2/3 cup chopped dark (70%) chocolate

How to make:

- Preheat the oven to 350° Fahrenheit. Ask your kids to peel and mash the bananas using a potato masher. You could also use a fork. In a small bowl, mix the bananas with the yogurt and baking powder. Set it aside. In a large bowl, combine oil, eggs, sugar, and vanilla extract and mix well, using a wooden spoon. In another large bowl, sift the flour (kids can do this) and baking powder. Mix well. Add the mashed banana mix and the oil mix to the dry ingredients and stir well. Quickly stir in the chocolate to the mix. Make sure that the batter is smooth, without any pieces of chocolate or dry lumps. Grease a loaf pan and spoon the batter into it. Bake in the oven for 50 minutes. Let it cool for ten minutes before serving.

- Ingredients:**
1 1/2 cups nutritional flour blend
1 cup mashed bananas
3/4 cup brown sugar
1/4 cup (50 ml) canola oil
1/2 cup plain yogurt