

# 50th Birthday: The A to Z of Sachin Tendulkar

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: To the Indians, Sachin Tendulkar is the man for "all seasons".

It has been 10 years since he bid farewell to international cricket, leaving the nation full of moist eyes.

As India's favourite son completes his 50th birthday, PTI chronicles his life and times in alphabetical order. It could be people, places and events related to the great man, which have dominated our lives for a better part of three-and-a-half decades.

A (Anjali, Arjun, Ajit)

As Sachin Tendulkar maintains, better-half Anjali is the "best partnership" of his life. Son Arjun is carrying forward the Tendulkar legacy on the cricket pitch. And, had it not been for brother Ajit's efforts, who knows we would have been deprived of the batting wizardry of the man from Bandra.

B (Bristol)

The venue will always have an emotional connect with Tendulkar. It was here that he scored 140 against Kenya but, more importantly, it came less than a week after the death of his father, Professor Ramesh Tendulkar.

C (Centurion)

The venue in South Africa where Tendulkar perhaps played one of his greatest ODI knocks -- 98 versus Pakistan during the 2003 World Cup. The six off pace bowler Shoaib Akhtar over point will always be remembered by fans.

D ('The Don')

Sir Don Bradman will forever remain the 'Greatest' with his average of 99.94. But when 'The Don' said the "little fella's" batting style resembled his, the debate on contemporary cricket's best batter ended there.

E (Eden Gardens)

Wankhede, where Tendulkar played his 200th Test, might be his soul but Eden Gardens, where he played his 199th game, remains one of his favourite grounds. Tendulkar the bowler attained superstardom when he bowled the epic last over in the Hero Cup semi-final against South Africa in 1993. India managed to defend 195 by restricting the Proteas to 193/9, with Tendulkar conceding just three runs in the 50th over.

F (Ferrari)

Tendulkar's favourite car and also his favourite Formula One team. He was the proud owner of a gleaming red Ferrari back in the day when the company decided to present him one in 2002 for equaling the record of 29 Test centuries by Sir Don.

G (Gujranwala)

Tendulkar ended his ODI career with 49 hundreds but the first of his 463 games was played in this Pakistani city. How much did he score on debut? Well, he didn't trouble the scorers.

H (Harris Shield)

The famous Mumbai Inter-school cricket tournament, where the world first came to know about Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar after his 664-run stand with Vinod Kambli.

I (Inzamam ul Haq)

The former Pakistan captain had an interesting story to tell. His son Ibtisam was a big fan of Tendulkar. During the 2004 historic tour of Pakistan, Inzamam actually brought his school-going son during an Indian practice session to introduce him to Tendulkar.

J (John McEnroe)

Tendulkar is a tennis buff and during his teenage years,

he used to be a big fan of American John McEnroe. Old-timers say that, like McEnroe in the early 80s, the curly-haired Indian genius could be seen moving around his housing society wearing a red headband.

K (Vinod Kambli)

Tendulkar's childhood buddy, Kambli was his partner in that world-record stand of 664 runs in Harris Shield. Kambli's famous comment on Tendulkar is still one of the most quotable quotes: "Sachin went to the top riding a lift. I had to take the staircase".

L (Brian Lara)

The debate on who between the two was the bigger cricketer will never cease. But to enjoy Sachin Tendulkar's class, one also needs to appreciate Brian Lara's panache. The two lit up the 90s like never before and the mutual respect was there for everyone to see. They brought so much grace into rivalry.

M (Glenn McGrath)

Tendulkar versus McGrath was the contest that made Test cricket so lively. The two master operators gave it their all when they were competing against each other. Not even an inch of territory was conceded, and their duels in the 1990s and 2000s remain one of the most fascinating rivalries of all time.

N (Narsingh Deonarine)

Narsingh Deonarine's international career is nothing to write home about but the West Indian cricketer will forever cherish being the last-ever bowler to dismiss Tendulkar in international cricket -- during the second Test at the Wankhede Stadium in 2013. Sachin was dismissed for 74 by the off-spinner in a match India won by an innings and 126 runs.

O (Old Trafford)

No cricket venue in the world is more dear to Tendulkar's heart than Old Trafford in Manchester. This is the ground where he scored the first of his 100 international hundreds. The unbeaten 119 enabled India to save the second Test of the 1990 series against England.

P (Peshawar)

It was the venue where world cricket first took note of the teenage Indian prodigy who hit 53 off just 18 balls. It was an exhibition match curtailed due to rain, but Sachin played a T20-style innings to regale the spectators and make a lasting impression on them.

Q (Abdul Qadir)

When we talk about that Peshawar game, can Abdul Qadir be far behind? On several occasions, Tendulkar has recounted the instance where Qadir tried to sledge him after he had launched into Mushatq Ahmed. "Bache ko kya marthe ho, humein maar ke dikhao? The rest is history as Tendulkar clobbered Qadir for 28 runs in an over.

R (Rahul Dravid)

An excellent batter in his own right, Rahul Dravid and Sachin Tendulkar are the most successful Test-batting pair with 20 century-plus stands between them and 6,920 cumulative runs in partnerships.

S (Shivaji Park Gymkhana)

This is where it all started. Under the watchful eyes of Ramakant Achrekar, Tendulkar learnt the ropes of the game at this very ground, considered to be the cradle of Mumbai cricket.

T (Toronto)

The Skating and Curling Club ground at Toronto will always be special for Tendulkar. It was here that he got his first 'Man of the

Match' award as captain after scoring an unbeaten 89 off 89 balls in a winning cause against Pakistan.

U (U2)

Tendulkar is a Lata Mangeshkar devotee but when it comes to English songs, he is a big fan of world famous Irish rock band U2. His favourite U2 song is "Where Streets Have No Name".

V (Virat Kohli)

The day Tendulkar retired, Virat Kohli gifted his chain, which was his father's memory, to Tendulkar and sang "Tujh Mein Rahb Dikhtar Hai" inside the Wankhede dressing room.

W (Wimbledon)

A tournament Tendulkar has hardly missed. The legend makes an annual pilgrimage to SW19 and can be seen sitting in one of the VIP zones watching marquee Centre Court matches.

X (St Xavier's School)

It was this particular school against whom Tendulkar and Kambli, playing for Sharadashram Vidyamandir, scored 664 runs in Harris Shield.

Y (Yorkshire)

English County side Yorkshire has been in the midst of several racism allegations but in 1990, they received Tendulkar with open arms. The Indian icon was the first overseas player recruited by the club.

Z (Zimbabwe)

Zimbabwe bowler Henry Olonga had rattled Tendulkar with a bouncer that the Indian fended and was out caught by close-in fielders during a league game of the 1998 Champions Trophy in Sharjah. However, in the final the icon scored 124 runs as India won by 10 wickets with 120 balls to spare.

## Wrestlers return to protest site, demand release of panel report on sexual harassment allegations against WFI Chief

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Country's top wrestlers, including Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat, returned to protest site Jantar Mantar on Sunday and demanded that the government makes public the findings of the oversight panel that investigated into sexual harassment allegations against WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

The wrestlers, surrounded by a huge posse of police personnel, also demanded that an FIR be lodged against the WFI boss, who has denied the allegations that first surfaced in January this year when grapplers had staged a 'sit-in' protest and demanded that federation be disbanded.

The six-member oversight panel, headed by legendary boxer MS Mary Kom, had submitted its report in the first week of April but the government has not yet made it public.

"How long is it going to take for the (government) committee to submit its report. It's already been three months and we are still waiting to hear from them. Will the report come out after the girls, who have filed complaints, die?," questioned Vinesh, the world championship medalist.

"We are tired of asking the government to release the findings. We have filed a complaint at a police station in Connaught Place and want an FIR to be filed against Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

"We have nothing to do with the (WFI) election process. We are more con-



cerned about our careers. The (Paris) Olympics are upon us and we want to begin preparations in right earnest," she added.

Singh, who has completed 12 years as WFI president, has confirmed that he will not contest for the top post in the WFI election on May 7.

However he had indicated that he may find a role for himself within the national federation.

"You people can see who is running the federation despite such serious charges. We only have the power of truth which I suppose is not sufficient," she said, adding, "The least the government can do is to take action on the sexual harassment that has been done. We demand justice. We will continue out protest."

During the three-month period since the country's top wrestlers made the allegations, Singh has appeared before the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and the government's oversight panel.

However, multiple sources have confirmed that the wrestlers couldn't prove the sexual harassment charges against the WFI chief.

"We will not budge from Jantar Mantar," said Rio Olympic bronze medalist Sakshi Malik, adding "this fight will not stop".

"The girls have appeared before the committee, but the report hasn't come. The federation is running as before, organising nationals in their region. So what has changed?"

"The promises that were made to us when we first protested, not one of them has been fulfilled. Two day back, seven girls, including a minor, lodged a complaint in a CP police station.

Despite that they are not taking us seriously, not lodging FIR. Don't know who is behind this laxity, because such sensitive issues are taken up on an urgent basis," said Sakshi.

Bajrang said it was his moral duty to stand up with the protesting women wrestlers.

"Agar hum inke saath nahin khare honge toh aur kaun khara hoga (If we don't stand up with them then who will?)," the Tokyo Games bronze medalist said.

"Even if I have to lay down my life for their cause, I am willing to go to that extent," he added.

## DC, SRH eye collective batting effort

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HYDERABAD: Their first win secured, Delhi Capitals would expect more from their batters when they take on a stuttering Sunrisers Hyderabad, who will be eager to return to winning ways, in the IPL here on Monday.

The Capitals have had a tough season so far. They have struggled in all departments and, as a result, lost five games on the trot.

However, David Warner and his troops finally managed to eke out their maiden victory as they scrapped their way to a four-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders on Thursday.

The bowling unit got its act together and put up a stellar display to restrict KKR to 127 but the Delhi batters, barring skipper Warner and deputy Axar Patel, failed once again as the hosts huffed and puffed to the win.

Much was expected of Prithvi Shaw and Mitchell Marsh but the two have been huge let-

downs so far this season.

Scores of 12, 7, 0, 15, 0 and 13, in the six outings have highlighted Shaw's inability to tackle pace and spin, and a quick-fix is unlikely.

Australian all-rounder Marsh has also had a woeful run with the bat, that includes two ducks in the four games and a high score of four. He hasn't fared well with the ball either, and it is to be seen if the management persists with him or the likes of Rovman Powell and Rilee Rossouw are given another chance.

With the young Indian batters struggling, the onus is also on Manish Pandey, a seasoned campaigner; to bat more responsibly in the middle so that Axar has the freedom to play the big shots towards the end.

While the Capitals have a lot of work to do, there are a few positives they can build upon.

Playing his first game of the season, veteran Ishant Sharma bowled a brilliant spell, turning back time. He bowled with accu-

acy and produced inward movement to fashion the team's first win.

Ishant was complemented well by the rest of the Delhi bowlers, who had been underwhelming so far.

Under the scanner for his below-par strike rate, skipper Warner also looked at his fluent best against KKR. He will hope to continue in similar vein against his former team, come Monday.

Sunrisers Hyderabad have slumped to back-to-back defeats after it seemed their campaign had taken off. They currently occupy the penultimate spot on the table with four points from six games.

The Orange Army has looked good on paper but their batting has failed them. Their batters have neither been able to chase nor put up a good total in the previous two games they lost.

With plenty of match winners in the side, they would hope to get their campaign back on track.

Squads (from):

Delhi Capitals: David Warner (c), Prithvi Shaw, Sarfaraz Khan, Anman Hakim Khan, Abhishek Porel (wk), Axar Patel, Khaleel Ahmed, Kuldeep Yadav, Rovman Powell, Rilee Rossouw, Anrich Nortje, Mustafizur Rahaman, Chetan Sakariya, Mukesh Kumar, Phil Salt, Lungi Ngidi, Praveen Dubey, Lalit Yadav, Ripal Patel, Vicky Ostval, Ishant Sharma, Manish Pandey, Kamlesh Nagarkoti and Yash Dhill.

Sunrisers Hyderabad: Aiden Markram (c), Abdul Samad, Rahul Tripathi, Glenn Phillips, Abhishek Sharma, Marco Jansen, Washington Sundar, Fazalhaq Farooqi, Kartik Tyagi, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, T Natarajan, Umran Malik, Harry Brook, Mayank Agarwal, Heinrich Klaasen, Adil Rashid, Mayank Markande, Vivrant Sharma, Samarth Vyas, Sanvir Singh, Upendra Yadav, Mayank Dagar, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Akmal Hosen, Anmolpreet Singh.

Match starts: 7:30pm IST.

## CWG Regional Meet: India makes strong case for inclusion of Wrestling, Archery and Kabaddi

### ■ AGENCY

BRISBANE: The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Sunday made a strong case for the inclusion of archery, wrestling and kabaddi as regular sports in Commonwealth Games roster at CGF's Asia and Oceania regional meet.

While kabaddi has never been a part of CWG programme, shooting and archery are two disciplines where Indian athletes have had excellent performances in past editions before it was done away during previous Games in Birmingham.

The Indian delegation, led by IOA president PT Usha along with its acting CEO and joint secretary Kalyan Chaubey and executive council member Lt Gen Harpal Singh met the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) President Dame Louise Martin and her team to discuss and deliberate topics

for development of Indian sports with regards to the strategic plan being proposed by CGF.

"I welcome the steps taken on return of shooting in the 2026 Victoria Commonwealth Games. At the same time, we have sought the intervention of the CGF leadership to make Archery, Wrestling and Kabaddi as part of the Games competition roster in future," Usha was quoted as saying in a media release.

CGF and the Commonwealth Games Australia had earlier unveiled the full sport programme for Victoria 2026 CWG, featuring 20 sports and 26 disciplines, including nine fully integrated para sports.

Shooting returns at the 2026 CWG Games after being controversially dropped from the 2022 Birmingham edition. Shooting has been India's

strongest sport in the Commonwealth Games with 135 medals (63 gold, 44 silver and 28 bronze) till now.

Wrestling is in third spot with 114 (49 gold, 39 silver and 26 bronze) medals. It yielded the most number of medals -- 12 (6 gold, 1 silver, 5 bronze) at the Birmingham Games. The sport has been dropped from the 2026 edition after featuring in four successive Games since 2010.

Archery, on the other hand, has featured only twice in the CWG -- in 1982 and 2010 -- and India stands second in the all-time medal tally for the sport.

"Shooting has been India's strongest sport and its return in 2026 CWG is a welcome development for India. I'm sure that the

inclusion of para-shooting will also add to India's medal tally," Chaubey said.

"I believe we have made a strong case for India to have wrestling and archery back at CWG. The wrestling results at Birmingham Games is a testimony of India's dominance in the sport with an all-time second best to Canada since the history of the Games."

In addition to workshops and extensive discussion around the forthcoming strategic plan, which will be launched later in the year, there were updates on development, a review of regional plans and sharing of best practice between delegates.

Jeroen Weimar, CEO of Victoria 2026, also attended the meeting, providing an update on progress of the next Games.

## Archery World Cup: Indian men's recurve team wins silver

### ■ AGENCY

ANTAYLA: The Indian men's recurve team signed off with a silver medal after going down to China by the thinnest of margins in a shoot-off at the Archery World Cup Stage 1, here on Sunday.

In pursuit of their first World Cup gold medal since 2010, the men's recurve team, comprising Tarundeep Rai, Atanu Das and Dhiraj Bommadevara, bounced back from being 0-4 down to level and force a shoot-off.

But the trio went down 4-5 (54-55, 50-56, 59-58, 56-55, 28-28\*) with the Chinese team of Li Zhongyuan, Qi Xiangshuo and Wei Shahoxu hitting an X (closer to the centre) in the shoot-off in a dramatic finish. India now have two golds, one silver from Stage 1 of the meet, while Dhiraj is also in the medal hunt in recurve individual category.

In hindsight, the team would rue its pathetic second set where it totalled just 50 out of a possible 60, after hitting the red rings thrice (one 7 and two 8s) as China won by six points to take a 4-0 lead.

India had a slow start and China took the first set by a slender one-point margin.

It was only in the third set the team bucked up to drill in a series of five 10s including three Xs. China then cracked under pressure in the fourth set which India won by a one-point margin.

It was so near, yet so far for the Indians as a gold medal continued to elude the Olympic recurve archers yet another time.

In 2014, India came close to winning the World Cup twice in Stage 2 Medellin and Stage 4 Wroclaw, but on both occasions they ended up losing.

India has so far won five gold medals in the men's recurve team event.

It is at the same Mediterranean coastal resort of Antalya where the Indian men's recurve team had tasted its first success in a World Cup way back in 2008.

India had last won a World Cup gold medal in men's recurve team event in Shanghai in 2010.

The 39-year-old Army man Rai was also a member of the gold-winning side in Shanghai when he along with Jayanta Talukdar and Rahul Banerjee had defeated Japan 224-220 in the final.