

Sachin Tendulkar: The Iconic Cricketer

Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar, who is considered one of the greatest batsman of the world, retired from active sports when he played his 200th and final match against West Indies at his home turf Mumbai on 15th November 2013, bringing an end to 24 years cricket career. Even as 'Tendulkar mania' gripped the nation, engulfing every Indian cricket fan, the man in the middle of it all remained least affected. Sachin Tendulkar's retiring from the game ends a great era. Even the final match was a milestone: he was the first to play 200 Tests. Just being the first to achieve something must have been a great motivator for him.

He was also called Jordan of cricket. Sachin Tendulkar is to cricket what Michael Jordan is to basketball and Muhammad Ali to boxing. By the age of 15, Tendulkar had become a sensation in school and domestic cricket. He made his debut for India against Pakistan in Karachi in 1989. For this 'Boy Wonder,' though, life began and ended with cricket. While staying focused kept him on track, his exceptional ability to bat in all conditions made Tendulkar doubly lethal. Technically, he was as good a batsman cricket ever saw. The unusual concoction of a bottom-handed grip and an unusually heavy bat didn't stop him from scoring runs on bouncy, seaming tracks, earning him praise from even the staunchest of critics from England and Australia, who would often scoff at the Indians' ability to play outside the sub-continent.

He currently holds the record for most hundreds in both Tests and One Day Internationals. In 198 Test matches, Sachin Tendulkar scored over Fifteen Thousand Eight hundred runs at an average of 53.86. He slammed 51 Test centuries and an unbeaten 248 against Bangladesh in Dhaka in 2004 was his best ever.

Tendulkar's many firsts

- First to score 10,000 runs in ODIs.
- First to score a double hundred in ODIs.
- First to score 1,000 Test runs in a calendar year on six occasions- the most by the player- in 1997, 1999, 2001, 2002, 2008 and 2010.
- First to play 400 ODI matches.
- He was the first ever to play 200 Test matches.
- Only once in his long test journey was Sachin Tendulkar stumped.

Runs by Year

Year	Tests	Runs	100s	50s
1989	4	215	0	2
1990	7	373	1	2
1991	2	78	0	0
1992	7	419	3	0
1993	8	640	2	5

1994	7	700	2	3
1995	3	58	0	1
1996	8	623	2	2
1997	12	1000	4	3
1998	5	647	3	1
1999	10	1088	5	4
2000	6	575	2	1
2001	10	1003	3	6
2002	16	1392	4	5
2003	5	153	0	1
2004	10	915	3	2
2005	6	444	1	3
2006	8	267	0	1
2007	9	776	2	6
2008	13	1063	4	3
2009	6	541	2	3
2010	14	1562	7	5
2011	9	756	1	5
2012	9	357	0	2
2013	6	276	0	2

Total Matches	100s	50s	Total Runs
200	51	68	15921

SOME AWARDS

1994: Arjuna Award Recipient for achievements in Cricket

1997: Tendulkar was one of the five cricketers selected as Wisden Cricketer of the Year.

1997/98: India's highest sporting honour – Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna

1999: Padma Shri – India's fourth highest civilian award

2008: Padma Vibhushan – India's second highest civilian award

2010: ICC Cricketer of the year – Highest award in the ICC listings

2010: LG People's Choice Award

2013: Sachin Tendulkar is named for Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award
