



Sachin Tendulkar

Cricketer, Philanthropist,
Member of Parliament

Interviewed by :

Sneha Agarwal, Faraz Rizvi, Ishmeet Singh Batra &
Mehul Agarwal

YT: Your biopic, Sachin: A Billion Dreams, gives an insight into your personal as well as professional life. How difficult has it been to keep a steady balance between the two?

ST: It may seem like it is a difficult task to balance the personal and professional facets of my life, since I have been constantly on the move. But once you're clear about your priorities and your family understands you and supports you in what you have set out to accomplish, life is much easier. My career wouldn't have been possible without their support and guidance. I owe a lot to them for allowing me to balance my professional and personal commitments.

YT: In our interview with Brett Lee last year, he mentioned that he relished every encounter of bowling at you. If you had to pick one bowler you enjoyed batting against, who would it be?

ST: It is difficult to compare the greats, as each of them had their unique style and gift. All of them, Wasim, Waqar, Ambrose, McGrath, Brett, Warne and Muralitharan were special and remain among the all-time greats of the game. They are legends in their own field and I thoroughly enjoyed the contest.

YT: Having played alongside the likes of Rahul Dravid and Virender Sehwag, which batting style would you prefer: the elegant finesse of the former, or the striking flair of the latter?

ST: All styles of batting are equally important in today's cricketing atmosphere and must be applied intelligently by the cricketer as per the situation in the game. We cannot have a preference anymore as the game has evolved from what it was 20 years ago.

YT: According to you, what is one quality that every young and budding batsman must possess, so as to succeed at the international stage?

ST: There are no shortcuts to success and every budding cricketer must first contemplate why they started playing this beautiful game and work hard day in and day out. If it is their calling, the only way is to worship the game, and believe me, the game will give you plenty. One must also build strength for longevity right from one's early days. Don't lose heart when facing any failure or challenges in life because this will be the cornerstone of your success. Just remember to never give up.

YT: In today's generation, a lot of emerging cricketers look up to you as their role model. During your training days, whom did you idolize?

ST: In Cricket, as I was growing up, Sir Don Bradman, Sir Vivian Richards and Sunil Gavaskar were my role models. Outside of Cricket, I always looked up to John McEnroe and even used to emulate his look as a youngster.

YT: You mentioned in your speech after your final test that you want to spend most of your post retirement life with your family. What challenges does Sachin Tendulkar face in his life after moving on from Cricket?

ST: The net practice sessions have surely stopped, but life goes on and I now have a chance to give back to society with multiple development projects lined up on the SAGY front; this includes two villages that I have adopted for development under Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana. Also, I get more quality time with my family now, which is great.

Over the last two years life has taken me to new shores, I have been to new continents and countries. My trip to Brazil to cheer for the Indian Olympic contingent at Rio and my trip to China in 2015 were both new experiences. These are countries I had never visited during my playing days. I have visited my adopted village twice, once after it was first adopted and then again after all the development work was completed in the first phase, which was a very satisfying trip.

Overall, life has been different and all these experiences in my second innings are teaching me more about the world, and India, in a way that is unique to how I experienced travel during my cricketering career.

YT: From leading the Men in Blue to coaching the Mumbai Indians, you've had an all-encompassing career. Is there anything that you regret not being able to do in your career?

ST: It has been extremely satisfying. From being one of the Men in Blue to now mentoring the Mumbai Indians team has been a long journey. From the time I picked up the bat to play for my country, this is all I wanted to do and I am grateful to God that I could do it for over 24 years. I have no regrets, although, like everyone I would have liked to win the World Cup more than once for India. That one moment, the 2011 World Cup win, will always be special for me and I'd never trade it for anything.

YT: The students of St. Xavier's College, Kolkata are avid followers of Cricket, and without a doubt, devoted fans of Sachin Tendulkar. What is your message to them?

ST: I wish to thank all of you for the unconditional love and support you have showered on the game, and me, throughout the years. My best wishes to all the students for their respective careers. Remember, keep working hard as there are no shortcuts to success. And, as you step out into the world, be a positive example to your fellow classmates and to all the future students of St. Xavier's College.