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YT: After being a part of the game for such a long time, do you recall the feeling of wearing the blue jersey for the first time? Looking back, do you see the moment differently now?

SG: I have made lots of memories in the blue jersey. Now, I wear a different blue for a different team but there were great moments as I recall. When you get to play the sport and you get an opportunity to play for your country, it can't get better. The memory of wearing the jersey is the same, moreover the respect and the pride doesn't change.

YT: You redeemed Indian cricket after one its darkest episode, and for that and countless other things you're the favourite captain for millions. On that note, what do you feel, are the necessary traits for the person leading the men in blue?

SG: Character and honesty are very important traits, without which it becomes very difficult to lead such a high profile side. Strength of character is very important. In anything you do, whoever you lead, if it has got a public presence, strength of character becomes paramount.

YT: Cricket has always been an emotional sport, especially in India, where it is almost equivalent to a religion. With fans, media, critics and the nation's expectations, how did you cope with the pressure?

SG: I got used to it after a while; we have to find a way to deal with the pressure. Every job has pressure, you just have to deal with it. There is no job in the world that does not have ups and downs. From that point of view, it will always remain; you just have to solve it because if you don't, someone else will. It is important to keep it simple and

concentrate on performance and that eventually takes care of pressure. With performance you develop self-belief and confidence and you learn how to handle pressure. So when you think of it, it's finally about performance.

YT: One of the important features of modern day cricket is the level of formalized administration that governs its proceedings. How crucial can a governing body be in determining a team's success?

SG: It is very crucial, a governing body has a role in determining a team's success because they guide the players, setup rules and ways of playing the sport along with shaping the value of the game in front of the world. Governance in anything is very important. Right governance and controlled governance play a crucial role in a team's journey to success.

YT: You made your debut in national cricket in the year 1992, and even after retiring, you're very closely associated with the sport. How has cricket evolved over the years, and India with it?

SG: The sport has evolved financially and game wise as well. I never played the T20 game for India and now T20 is such an interesting and important part of the format, aiding both players and viewers of each country. It has changed just as everything changes. When we first started, there were no mobile phones but now it has become an important part of everyone's life because the world is moving towards

digitalization. That is life, everything moves on and you just have to move on with it.

YT: The IPL has revolutionized the entire landscape of the cricket. What role do you think commercialisation has yet to play in the future of the game?

SG: A huge role, commercialisation has revolutionized and influenced the careers of players, their financial security and so much more.

YT: You've had an extremely illustrious first innings and after retirement, we believe the second innings of your career is, perhaps, equally exciting. Could you give us some insights on that?

SG: It's a different role, a different job and a different responsibility. The first one was a lot more challenging and exciting as it depended on your performance, whereas this is slightly easier. It's true that in different stages of your life, you have different chapters.

YT: In which modern day cricketer do you see your reflection?

SG: I don't look at it that way. Everyone is different with their own talent and ways of doing things. Indian cricket is very strong, as we have enormous talent and will continue to have them. Who expected Tendulkar to come after

Gavaskar? Who expected Kohli emerging after Tendulkar? That is simply proof that Indian cricket will always keep producing remarkable talent.

YT: Cricket has always been the heart of India, but for many of us in Bengal, football is our first love. As an avid fan of the sport as well as the owner of an illustrious franchise, what do you think is the future of football and other sports apart from cricket in the evolving Indian landscape?

SG: To get close to, or, anywhere near cricket might be difficult. I want every other sport to develop and hopefully football has taken a step forward. There are other leagues going on, like Kabaddi and Hockey, which are regaining their lost shine.

YT: As the captain of the Indian cricket team there were times when you had to let go of personal feats for the betterment of the team. How do you think that plays in the mind of a captain?

SG: It is very important to take actions only keeping in mind the betterment of the team. In fact, leadership is all about that. It is about the team being in front and you have to do that as a leader in any aspect of life.

YT: As a beloved member of the St. Xavier's family, what would your words of wisdom be, for the young Xaverians of today?

SG: It's a great institution, I have spent a lot of time there. Discipline and ethics are very important for anyone and the institution caters to that. I hope the institution sustains and flourishes for what it has stood for from the beginning.