

Topic of the week for discussion: 24th to 30th Oct. 2013

Topic: When GOD called it a day: Sachin's retirement decision

On 10th October, 2013 Sachin Tendulkar announced his decision to retire from Test cricket after playing his landmark 200th match against the West Indies next month, bringing an end to the intense speculation about his future. Here is what the foreign media has to say about his announcement:

BBC: Sachin Tendulkar: India batting legend to retire from all cricket
Legendary India batsman Sachin Tendulkar has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.

The Guardian: Sachin Tendulkar to retire from cricket after 200th Test for India. The 40-year-old Tendulkar is the most prolific batsman in international cricket history with 15,837 runs in 198 tests and 18,426 runs in 463 one-day internationals.

Huffington Post: The 40-year-old's record of 100 international centuries is a dedication to his longevity and class, while even his leg-spin deliveries have claimed the scalps of 200 batsmen with India.

The Telegraph: Sachin Tendulkar announces he will retire from cricket after his 200th Test Match for India. He has broken almost every batting record in the sport, having scored the most Test and ODI runs in history and compiled the most hundreds in both forms of the game.

The Wall Street Journal: Sachin Tendulkar Announces Retirement. Tendulkar has scored a record 15,837 runs and 51 centuries in 198 Tests. Only a cold-hearted soul wouldn't wish for him to end his spectacular career with another big score, or two. (Read more here)

CNN: Indian cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar announces retirement

Some Known & unknown facts about the Genius:

- As an aspiring fast bowler a young Sachin Tendulkar was rejected by Dennis Lillee's MRF Pace Foundation in 1987.
- Sachin Tendulkar is India's first active cricketer to be nominated to the Rajya Sabha.
- During the 1987 world cup, Sachin was a ball boy for the match between India and Zimbabwe at the Wankhede Stadium. He was 14 then.
- Sachin Tendulkar fielded for Pakistan as a substitute during a one-day practice match against India at the Brabourne Stadium in 1988.
- Tendulkar has 13 coins from his coach Ramakant Achrekar. He would win a coin if he could get through an entire session of nets without being dismissed.
- In October 1995, Sachin became the richest cricketer when he signed a five-year contract worth Rs 31.5 crore with World Tel.
- Sachin Tendulkar used to sleep with his cricket gear during his junior days.
- Sachin Tendulkar loves collecting perfumes and watches.
- Tendulkar's first car was a Maruti-800.
- Sachin Tendulkar was the first international batsman to be given out by the third-umpire. In 1992, on the second day of the Durban Test, a Jonty Rhodes throw caught Tendulkar short of the crease. After watching TV replays he was adjudged out. Karl Liebenberg of South Africa was third umpire in the match.

Topic Introduction

- At 19, Sachin Tendulkar became the youngest Indian to play county cricket.
- The first brand which Sachin Tendulkar endorsed was the health drink 'Boost.' He was seen alongside Kapil Dev in many of their ad films, the start of which happened in 1990.
- In his debut Test match English fast bowler Alan Mullally complained that Sachin Tendulkar was batting with a bat broader than the normal willow.
- Sachin Tendulkar was led onto the field on his Ranji debut by his then captain, Ravi Shastri.
- Sachin Tendulkar uses a very heavy bat at the crease, weighing 3.2lbs. Only South Africa's Lance Klusener used a heavier bat in world cricket.
- Sachin Tendulkar, who is considered as calm character was a big bully in the school.
- Sachin Tendulkar went to watch the movie Roja in 1995 with a beard and disguise. It all went wrong when his glasses fell off and the crowd in the cinema hall recognized him.
- Sachin Tendulkar has been granted the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, Arjuna Award and Padma Shri by the Indian government. He is the only Indian cricketer to get all of them.
- When young Sachin fell from a tree on a Sunday evening during his summer vacation, while Guide was shown on national TV, his infuriated brother (and mentor) Ajit sent him to cricket coaching class as punishment.
- The naughty Sachin Tendulkar used to go fishing for tadpoles and guppy fishes in the stream that ran through the compound of Sahitya Sahawas at Bandra East.
- Sachin Tendulkar once told a Marathi news channel in an interview that his weakness is 'vada-pao', a popular Maharashtrian snack.
- Sachin used his favourite vampire bat during the innings in which he scored the historical 50th Test ton.
- Sachin Tendulkar batted in his debut Test against Pakistan wearing the pads gifted to him by Sunil Gavaskar.
- Sachin Tendulkar was a huge fan of John McEnroe, a former tennis legend. He grew his hair and tied a band around it to copy his idol.
- Tendulkar has scored most centuries in a calendar year: 9 ODI centuries in 1998.
- In 1998 he made 1,894 ODI runs, a record for ODI runs by any batsman in a calendar year.
- Sachin Tendulkar is himself a role model for many admires from other sports such as tennis starts Pete Sampras and Boris Becker, and Argentina footballer Diego Maradona.
- Sachin Tendulkar was named after the great musician Sachin Dev Burman. Sachin's father's, Ramesh Tendulkar was a big fan of SD's music.
- Sachin loves Kishore Kumar and rock group Dire Straits.
- Sachin calls Sourav Ganguly 'Babu Moshai' while Ganguly calls him 'Chhota Babu'.
- Sachin once made his mother look for a frog Bhaji recipe!
- The nanny who looked after Sachin has been universally called Sachuchi Bai.
- Sachin is so possessive about his Ferrari that wife Anjali is not allowed to drive it.
- Sachin Tendulkar was without a bat contract until the start of the 1996 Cricket World Cup. At the end of the tournament a famous tyre manufacturer sponsored his willow.

Read further:

http://zeenews.india.com/sports/cricket/sachin-tendulkar-to-retire-after-200th-test_770524.html
<http://www.ndtv.com/article/india/foreign-media-on-sachin-tendulkar-s-retirement-430547>
<http://www.dnaindia.com/sport/1901743/report-sachin-tendulkar-retires-from-test-cricket-40-interesting-facts-about-the-little-master>