

The Indian Cricket Legend: Bishan Singh Bedi

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A sport is an activity that is governed by a set of rules or customs. Sports commonly refer to activities where the physical capabilities of the competitor are the sole or primary determiner of the outcome (winning or losing), but the term is also used to include activities such as mind sports and motor sports where mental activity or equipment quality are major factors. Sports play a vital role in the life of man. Even in earlier societies in different countries sports acclaimed due to recognition but today's games and sports are highly specialised and scientific. Sports have a special weightage and significance in spreading a healthy culture in the national life. Our government has also given top priority to the sports and sportsman.

A legend is a person having a special place in public esteem because of exceptional qualities or deeds. A person about whom stories are passed on to the coming generations people start calling him legendary and many aspire to emulate him. Such characters are very rare perhaps very few in many generations.

Cricket is a "kingly" sport. It is one of the most popular and the richest of all ball games. There is no exact record available which shows when and by whom cricket was started in England. It is essentially an English game. Old work shows that it is as old as 13th century. The main aim of spin bowling is to bowl the cricket ball with rapid rotation so that when it bounces on the pitch it will deviate from its normal straight path, thus making it difficult for the batsman to hit the ball. Spin bowling is divided into four different categories, depending on the particular physical technique used. There is virtually no overlap between the two basic biomechanical techniques of wrist. Depending on technique, a spin bowler uses either predominant wrist or finger motion to impart spin to the ball around a horizontal axis that is at an oblique angle to the length of the pitch. This sort of spin means it is also possible for them magnus effect to cause the ball to deviate sideways through the air, before it bounces. Such deviation is called drift. The combination of drift and spin can make the ball's trajectory complex, with a change of direction at the bounce. This variety of trajectories achievable by a spin bowler can bewilder inexperienced or poor batsmen. Spin bowlers are generally given the task of bowling with an old, worn cricket ball. A new cricket ball better suits the techniques of fast bowling than spin bowling, while a worn one grips the pitch better and achieves greater spin. Spin bowlers are also more effective later in a game, as the pitch dries up and begins to crack and crumble. This again provides more purchase for the spinning ball and produces greater deviation.

Bishan Singh Bedi is a former Indian Cricketer born on 25 September 1946 in Amritsar; Punjab was primarily a slow left-arm orthodox bowler. He was one of the famed Indian spin quartets, former Indian Captain, before Anil Kumble and the Indian Spinner with the highest number of test wickets. He has played for Northern Punjab and Delhi in the various tournaments. He made his debut of his Test Cricket career with a match against West Indies on 31st December 1966, while he played his first one day international ODI cricket match against England on 13th July 1974. In English County Cricket, he played for Northamptonshire. Bedi was the first modern Indian Captain who was an all-rounder; a leader both on and off the field, approachable, communicative and a guru to the youngsters in the side. Bedi has expressed strong opinions on many aspects of modern-day cricket and has been described as "being jealous of modern great spinners". He bowled with a big heart too, challenging the batsman to hit over the top by giving the ball plenty of air and was a consistent wicket-taker for most of his career. He was forthright and outspoken throughout his playing career and inevitably courted controversies. A generous man possessing infinite wisdom, his zest and passion for the game still remains undiminished, although his outburst against various aspects of the game sometimes make him seem prone to the incurable malaise of bitterness. The men who were the key to the successes in the 1960s and 1970s were the quartet of spinners; they were Bishan Singh Bedi, Erapalli Prasanna, Bhagwat Chandrashekhar and

Srinivas Venkatraghvan. Considered to be one of the most outspoken and explicitly expressing Cricket players India has ever seen, Bedi's bold statements and decisions often created so many controversies throughout his Cricket career. He had been appointed as coach of the Indian Cricket team in the year 1990. As a matter of fact, he has to his credit the honour of being appointed as the first full time coach of the Indian Cricket team. He was awarded Padma Shree in the year 1970, Arjun Award in the year 1969, Indian Cricketer of the Year 1967, C.K. Nayudu Lifetime achievement in the year 2004, Wisden India Hall of Fame in the year 2015. More than a quarter century after his retirement that hardly matters. Bedi is an artist and will not be remembered for his wickets alone.

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