

= Murali Kartik =

Murali Kartik ( Tamil : முரளி கர்திக் ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? pronunciation , born 11 September 1976 ) is an Indian cricketer who sporadically represented the India national cricket team from 2000 to 2007 . He is a specialist slow left arm orthodox bowler known for his loopy trajectory and ability to spin and bounce , but has found international selection blocked during his prime years by the presence of Anil Kumble and Harbhajan Singh . He is also a left @-@ handed batsman , and although he has had some success with the bat at first @-@ class level with 19 half @-@ centuries , he has not been able to repeat this at international level .

After starting out in the Delhi junior system , Kartik moved through the age group ranks at Railways , was selected for the Indian Under @-@ 19 team . He made his first @-@ class debut in 1996 ? 97 and after a few productive seasons at domestic level , made his Test debut in early @-@ 2000 as Kumble 's bowling partner . However , he ran into disciplinary problems and was expelled from the National Cricket Academy in the same year , while new national captain Sourav Ganguly was reluctant to entrust him with responsibility . Ganguly called for off spinner Harbhajan to be recalled in 2001 , and was rewarded with a series @-@ winning performance against Australia . This entrenched the off spinner in the team and left Kartik on the outer .

For the next four years , Kartik was on the fringes of selection . He made his ODI debut in 2002 and had a short stint before being dropped and missing the 2003 Cricket World Cup because of mediocre performance . He was recalled in late @-@ 2003 for limited overs matches and played in around half of India 's matches for a six @-@ month period , as well as one Test after Harbhajan suffered a serious injury . In late @-@ 2004 Kartik played in three Tests as India fielded three spinners , and claimed his only man @-@ of @-@ the @-@ match award in Tests against Australia in Mumbai , but was again dropped two matches later . In late @-@ 2005 , Kartik became a regular member of the ODI team for a few months when the International Cricket Council introduced an experimental rule that allowed one substitute to be used , opening an extra vacancy in the national team . However , Kartik was unable to secure his position in the team and the rule was later revoked . In late @-@ 2007 , Kartik broke back into the ODI team and took 6 / 27 in one victory over Australia , but lost form soon after and was again dropped . He has not represented India since then . Aside from domestic cricket , Kartik plays for Royal Challengers Bangalore in the Indian Premier League and has been in demand in English county cricket as an overseas player , representing Lancashire , Middlesex , Somerset and Surrey .

= = Early years = =

Born in chennai Murali Karthik wanted to be a genetic engineer , he was a medium pacer in his early years , before switching to a left arm finger spinner in the classical mould , Kartik grew up trying to emulate past Indian orthodox spinners Bishen Singh Bedi , Maninder Singh and Venkatapathy Raju . He also garnered attention for what was perceived to be a fiery attitude , but took pride in coach Kapil Dev saying of him " I have never seen a player with such an attitude towards the game in my 20 years of international cricket " .

Kartik started out in the junior system at Delhi . He broke into their Under @-@ 16 team in December 1992 , and took a match total of 10 / 74 on debut against Himachal Pradesh , as well as scoring 52 not out in an innings victory . He took 2 / 91 in the next match against Haryana , but could no longer play in the Under @-@ 16s because of his advancing age . He could not break into the Under @-@ 19s at Delhi , and played no further youth domestic matches for two years , when he transferred to Railways and broke into their Under @-@ 19 team .

In five matches for his new team during the 1994 ? 95 , he took 24 wickets at 14 @.@ 58 including a haul of 5 / 28 against Vidarbha . He was rewarded with selection in the Under @-@ 19 Central Zone team for the zonal one @-@ day tournament , taking five wickets at 25 @.@ 00 in four matches . He had little success with the bat , scoring 47 on one occasion during the season , but otherwise only aggregating nine runs in six innings .

The following season in 1995 ? 96 , Kartik had a more successful season for Railways Under @-@

19s . He started with 5 / 73 and 5 / 55 against Madhya Pradesh and made it three five @-@ wicket hauls in a row with 5 / 42 against Vidarbha . He took another five @-@ wicket haul later in the season against Rajasthan and ended the competition with 38 wickets at 18 @.@ 94 in seven matches . Railways made the final , where they faced Punjab . Kartik was Railways ' most effective bowler , taking 4 / 57 in Punjab 's first innings of 310 . He then made 14 not out as Railways ceded a first innings lead , which was enough to give Punjab the title as the match ended in a draw . Kartik took 3 / 138 in the second innings . After the final , newly crowned champions took on the Rest of India , and Kartik took 2 / 25 and 4 / 89 to help his team to a six @-@ wicket victory . Kartik had a less successful time in the zonal one @-@ dayers for Central , taking only one wicket in three matches . He also improved his batting marginally , scoring 57 and three other double @-@ digit scores .

As a result of his performances during the season , Kartik was called up to the Indian Under @-@ 19 team for an international series against their counterparts from South Africa . In the youth Test , he took 4 / 40 as India dismissed South Africa for 159 to take a 19 @-@ run lead . In the second innings , he took 3 / 30 as South Africa fell for 107 in pursuit of 277 . In two youth one @-@ day internationals that followed , Kartik was prominent in the Indian victories , taking 3 / 23 and 3 / 33 respectively .

= = Senior domestic debut = =

The following season , 1996 ? 97 , Kartik was promoted into the senior ranks of major cricket . In his first match , a List A fixture against Madhya Pradesh , Kartik took 2 / 27 from his allotment of ten overs but was unable to prevent a four @-@ wicket loss . He made his first @-@ class debut the next day against the same team and sent down 16 overs taking a total of 1 / 18 in a drawn match . In a close @-@ run match , Madhya Pradesh were 8 / 89 , 17 runs short with two wickets in hand when time ran out . Kartik had scored a rearguard 47 in the second innings , without which Madhya Pradesh would have won . In his next first @-@ class match , against Vidarbha , he took a hat trick in the first innings , ending with 6 / 28 , helping to bowl Vidarbha out for 130 . He then took 3 / 27 in the second innings as Vidarbha made only 95 to cede victory to Railways . He ended the season with 16 wickets at 19 @.@ 37 , and 185 runs at 20 @.@ 55 including a 74 against Bengal , but was overlooked for the Central Zone selection for the Duleep Trophy after taking only six wickets in his last four matches for the season . In four one @-@ dayers for Railways , Kartik took seven wickets at 12 @.@ 42 , including a match @-@ winning 4 / 13 against Rajasthan .

The following season he managed 14 wickets at 18 @.@ 42 in four matches , but was dropped in the later stages of the tournament . After taking a match total of 7 / 74 in helping to orchestrate an innings victory over Rajasthan in his third match of the season , Kartik went wicketless in the next match against Madhya Pradesh , and was dropped . He scored 70 runs at 23 @.@ 33 during the tournament . In four one @-@ dayers for Railways , he took four wickets at 29 @.@ 75 at an economy rate of 3 @.@ 30 . Despite being dropped by Railways , Kartik was called up to make his senior debut for Central Zone . He took two wickets at 63 @.@ 00 in two first @-@ class matches , and then took three wickets at 43 @.@ 00 at an economy rate of 4 @.@ 30 in three matches .

Despite the modest returns during the season , Kartik was selected for an India A tour of Pakistan in February and March 1998 . In four first @-@ class matches , which were persistently curtailed by the weather , Kartik bowled only 31 overs , and only two in the two matches against Pakistan A . He finished with four wickets at 27 @.@ 50 . In the two one @-@ dayers , he proved expensive , taking 1 / 53 and 0 / 73 from ten overs each , as Pakistan won both matches easily .

At the start of the 1998 ? 99 season , Kartik took 23 wickets for Vijay Cricket Club in the Chennai League . He played more regularly in the 1998 ? 99 Ranji Trophy , taking 29 wickets in seven matches at 19 @.@ 3 to be the 13th highest wicket @-@ taker . This included a 3 / 8 and 4 / 62 in an innings win over Rajasthan , and 5 / 84 and 5 / 55 in the last two matches of the campaign against Tamil Nadu and Delhi . He also added 29 and 53 with the bat against Tamil Nadu to help stave off a defeat after his team had trailed by over 200 on the first innings .

He was rewarded with selection for Central Zone and after taking 4 / 133 against North Zone ,

claimed 5 / 73 and 2 / 22 in the final to help them defeat West Zone by 112 runs in Aurangabad to claim the Duleep Trophy , and was the leading wicket @-@ taker during the tournament . He scored a total of 183 runs at 18 @.@ 30 for the entire Indian first @-@ class season . He took five wickets at 26 @.@ 60 in four zonal one @-@ dayers , and tasted victory in all four fixtures .

= = Early international career = =

Kartik had a truncated but productive 1999 ? 2000 Indian season . After taking a solitary wicket in a truncated match for India A against the touring New Zealand , Kartik snared 6 / 62 and 6 / 31 against Vidarbha , He then went on an India A tour to the West Indies , so his only other first @-@ class match was a Ranji Trophy encounter against Rajasthan in which he took 4 / 53 . In four first @-@ class matches in the Caribbean , Kartik took 18 wickets at 16 @.@ 38 . This included two matches against West Indies A , in which he took 6 / 75 before claiming 3 / 64 and 5 / 73 in the second match , although he was unable to force a victory in either . In two one @-@ day matches against their West Indian counterparts , Kartik took two wickets at 26 @.@ 00 at an economy rate of 3 @.@ 46 . Returning to India , he took 12 wickets at 13 @.@ 08 in five matches for Railways and the Indian Board president 's XI , before playing in the zonal one @-@ dayers with less success , managing only two wickets at 91 @.@ 50 at an economy rate of 4 @.@ 57 . Despite these struggles , he was selected for the India A team for the Challenger Trophy , where he took four wickets at 38 @.@ 00 at the expensive economy rate of 5 @.@ 84 .

Despite the downturn in his limited overs fortunes towards the end of the season , Kartik 's form was enough to earn him selection in the Indian Board president 's XI for the tour match against the visiting South Africans before the Tests . He had a match total of 2 / 122 , which was enough for him to secure national selection , playing in both Tests against South Africa in early 2000 at Mumbai and Bangalore as India sought a second spinner to accompany Anil Kumble , after Harbhajan Singh 's performance in the role in the previous season had been deemed inadequate . Kartik scored 14 before being bowled by Shaun Pollock as India batted first and made 225 . He then took 2 / 28 from 18 overs as the Indians restricted the tourists to 176 , before collapsing to be all out for 113 in the second innings , Kartik scoring only two before Pollock had him caught behind . Kartik took 1 / 50 in the second innings as South Africa ground their way to the target of 163 with four wickets in hand . In the Second Test , Kartik took 3 / 123 and scored a duck and two as India were crushed by an innings . Overall , Kartik performed steadily , taking six wickets at 33 @.@ 50 .

Kartik was selected in 2000 for the first intake of the National Cricket Academy in Bangalore , after earlier having made his Test debut in early 2000 in a home series against South Africa . However , his stay was cut short along with that of Harbhajan , when they were expelled by the director Hanumant Singh over disciplinary issues .

In the 2000 ? 01 season , Kartik started in fine form as he set out to maintain a Test position . In the Irani Trophy , the traditional season opener between the reigning Ranji champions ? Mumbai ? and the Rest of India , Kartik orchestrated the demise of the title @-@ holders . After taking 4 / 73 in Mumbai 's 260 , Kartik scored 22 in the Rest of India 's 389 . He then took 9 / 70 to cut down Mumbai for 184 , and his batting colleagues accumulated the 55 needed for victory without loss . Kartik then took 3 / 82 and 1 / 45 against Madhya Pradesh to secure his spot in the Test team .

Kartik then played in one Test against Bangladesh and Zimbabwe respectively in India , taking match totals of 1 / 42 and 2 / 66 . He scored 43 in the nine @-@ wicket win over Bangladesh but was not required to bat in the seven @-@ wicket win over Zimbabwe . New captain Sourav Ganguly ? who had taken over after Sachin Tendulkar resigned following the South African whitewash ? did not show much confidence in him , by only affording him frequent but short spells . Kartik was dropped from the team after the First Test against Zimbabwe , and did not have an opportunity to immediately prove his captain wrong , as the one @-@ day domestic circuit was in progress at the time . Kartik took nine wickets at 25 @.@ 22 at an economy rate of 4 @.@ 02 , and then had a chance to stake his claims for a Test recall in the Duleep Trophy .

Kartik struggled , taking 2 / 129 against East and then 0 / 178 in the first innings as North Zone accumulated 8 / 690 declared . He then had to endure the humiliation of not being trusted to bowl in

the second innings as North reached 8 / 233 . In the last match against South , Kartik could only aggregate 1 / 87 . Although Kartik had scored 45 and 27 in his two innings , he totalled only three Duleep Trophy wickets at an average of 131 @. @ 33 . The selectors were unsatisfied by these performances , and despite a shoulder injury to Kumble , Kartik was discarded as India hosted Australia in the 2001 Border Gavaskar Trophy . Harbhajan was recalled and took 32 wickets at 17 to engineer an Indian series win and permanently establish himself as India 's leading spinner alongside Kumble . Kartik played in one more match for Railways at the end of the season , and his poor season continued , managing only a total of 2 / 152 , although he did score 79 with the bat .

Kartik started the new 2001 ? 02 season well , taking 20 wickets at 15 @. @ 40 in the first four first @-@ class matches of the season , including five @-@ wicket hauls against Rajasthan and Vidarbha , and 3 / 84 against the touring English Test team for a Board president 's XI , but this was not enough to force the selectors to recall him for the Tests . He continued his form for Railways in the one @-@ dayers , taking seven wickets at 20 @. @ 57 in four matches at an economy rate of 4 @. @ 00 , before suffering a serious back injury that forced him to travel to Adelaide for treatment , which was funded by the Board of Control for Cricket in India . He made a successful comeback in January after a month @-@ long layoff , and ended as fourth @-@ highest wicket taker in the Ranji Trophy , with 34 at an average of 17 , taking 5 / 51 and 3 / 7 , and scoring 69 in his final match of the season to secure a win over Baroda . He batted well in the second half of the season , also scoring 42 and 58 . He also performed well in the Challenger Trophy and zonal one @-@ dayers after his surgery , taking ten wickets at 21 @. @ 70 in seven matches . At the end of the season , Kartik was rewarded with his debut in One Day Internationals ( ODIs ) ; he was punished by the Zimbabwean batsmen , conceding 47 runs without taking a wicket from eight overs , but India still won by five wickets .

= = Fringe player = =

Since then , Kartik was India 's third choice Test spinner behind Kumble and Harbhajan for most of the decade , only playing due to their injuries or when India selected three spinners . At the end of the 2001 ? 02 season , Kartik was selected for an India A tour of South Africa . He struggled in the first two first @-@ class matches , before taking 6 / 101 and scoring 59 in the second match against South Africa A to end the three games with ten wickets at 32 @. @ 50 . He had more success in the one @-@ dayers , taking four wickets at 17 @. @ 50 at an economy rate of 2 @. @ 50 in three matches .

The West Indies toured India at the start of the 2002 ? 03 season and Kartik had a chance to press his claims for Test selection in two tour matches against the visitors . However , he had little impact , taking 2 / 92 for the Board president 's XI and 0 / 117 for Railways against the Caribbean tourists , although he scored 72 with the bat in the latter match . He then took a total of 2 / 135 as Railways , the reigning Ranji Trophy holders , defeated the Rest of India in the Irani Trophy . With these lean returns , Kartik was overlooked for the Tests .

Kartik had opportunities in the ODI format following his strong form in domestic limited overs matches , playing in four consecutive matches against the West Indies . After going wicketless in the first of these matches , he broke through in the next match to take his maiden ODI wicket in his third appearance . Kartik then took 3 / 36 in the next match as India scraped home by three wickets , but he was punished in his fourth outing of the series , conceding 69 runs in nine overs without success , after which he was dropped . He had taken four wickets at 47 @. @ 25 , at an economy rate of 4 @. @ 84 .

Kartik was called into the Test squad to tour New Zealand in late 2002 after Kumble withdrew , but in the warm @-@ up match he bowled one only over , in which he was hammered for 23 runs . He then watched from the sidelines as India only fielded one spin bowler ? Harbhajan ? in the Tests , held on green , pace @-@ friendly surfaces . Kartik returned to India and was ineffective in the zonal one @-@ dayers , taking a total of 1 / 148 from 24 overs in three matches , conceding more than a run a ball . Combined with his results against the West Indies , the poor returns saw him left out of the 2003 Cricket World Cup squad , with Harbhajan and Kumble preferred .

While the World Cup was in progress , Kartik toured the West Indies with India A , playing against the domestic teams in five first @-@ class matches . He took 14 wickets at 30 @.@ 50 including a 5 / 105 against Barbados and 4 / 57 against Trinidad and Tobago . India A then toured England during the northern hemisphere summer and Kartik took 10 wickets at 40 @.@ 00 and scored 79 runs at 26 @.@ 33 including a 50 in four first @-@ class matches , and three wickets at 44 @.@ 33 in one @-@ days .

At the start of the 2003 ? 04 season , Kartik took 2 / 118 and 2 / 41 for India A in a match against the touring New Zealanders , and was overlooked for the Test series against the visitors . He managed only a total of 1 / 84 from 18 overs in the Challenger Trophy but was called into the ODI team and gained semi @-@ regular appearances during the TVS Trophy against New Zealand and Australia , competing with Kumble and Harbhajan for a regular position in the team . In four matches during the competition , he was economical although not very penetrative , taking four wickets at 38 @.@ 25 at an economy rate of 3 @.@ 82 .

= = Occasional international appearances in 2004 and 2005 = =

After taking match figures of 6 / 117 and 5 / 140 for India A against Sri Lanka A , Kartik made his first overseas appearance for India , replacing the injured Harbhajan midway through the 2003 ? 04 tour of Australia . He had little success in his first tour match , taking 1 / 64 and 1 / 53 against Australian A. He played in the final Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground when India fielded two spinners for the only time in the series . He was punished by the Australian batsmen , taking a total of 1 / 211 from 45 overs , a run rate of 4 @.@ 68 , in a high @-@ scoring draw .

Kartik then made sporadic appearances in the VB triangular ODI series , playing in four of India 's ten matches , as he and Kumble were brought in and out of the team in an attempt to challenge the Australian superiority . He continued to be punished by the Australian batsmen , taking a total of 1 / 178 from 26 overs , an economy rate of 6 @.@ 84 . However , he did manage to resist the Australians with the bat ; in his only two innings he made 32 not out and 23 as the Indian batting was dismissed for only 203 and 151 respectively .

Despite these performances , Kartik was retained for the ODI tour of Pakistan with Harbhajan still injured , taking five wickets at 32 @.@ 80 at an economy of 5 @.@ 46 . He played in three of the five matches and India won all of these . Kartik was also in the Test squad , but saw not action as India opted to field only Kumble and took the series 2 ? 1 .

Kartik started the 2004 ? 05 season by scoring 56 and 16 and taking 2 / 42 and 2 / 49 as the Rest of India defeated Mumbai in the Irani Trophy , but it was not enough to prevent Harbhajan from resuming his position in the team for the home Test series against Australia . He got an opportunity in the Third Test in Nagpur , when Harbhajan was ill , taking 3 / 57 and 2 / 74 as India were 342 runs to lose their first home series to Australia since 1969 ? 70 . Kartik held his place when Harbhajan returned for the final Test in Mumbai as India fielded three spinners , and took 4 / 44 and 3 / 32 in a man of the match performance which saw India win by 13 runs . Both of these performances occurred under the captaincy of Rahul Dravid with Ganguly injured , in which Kartik netted his wickets at an average of 17 @.@ 50 compared to 51 @.@ 08 under Ganguly 's leadership . Kartik played the last of his eight Tests in a subsequent opening match against South Africa in Kanpur , taking a total of 2 / 93 under Ganguly 's command , being dropped after India chose to only use two spinners in subsequent matches . Kartik spent the next month watching from the sidelines as the reserve slow bowler , as only Kumble and Harbhajan played during the tour of Bangladesh . During this campaign , he was allowed to play in the second ODI , taking 2 / 43 as India lost to Bangladesh for the first time . Kartik returned to India and took seven wickets at 35 @.@ 42 at an economy rate of 4 @.@ 69 in the zonal one @-@ days and Challenger Trophy , and then played four first @-@ class matches to end the season , taking 10 wickets at 19 @.@ 10 . At the end of the season , he took 2 / 54 in a home ODI against Pakistan , who scored 7 / 319 to overhaul the target .

He enjoyed more opportunities in the ODI arena in 2005 , when Kumble was dropped by newly appointed coach Greg Chappell due to his lack of athleticism , as well as the introduction of the experimental rules which allowed the use of one substitute , thus opening an extra position in the

team . Kartik had a modest start under the new regime , taking 1 / 52 from nine overs in a win over a depleted host Zimbabwe team . He returned to India and started the new season in fine all @-@ round form . After taking 2 / 34 in the first innings , he scored his highest first @-@ class score of 96 to guide Railways to 311 , giving them a first @-@ innings lead of 88 runs over the Rest of India in the Irani Trophy . He then took 3 / 28 to dismiss the Rest of India for 137 in their second innings , setting up a nine @-@ wicket win . He then took seven wickets at 16 @-@ 85 at an economy rate of 4 @-@ 56 in three matches for India Seniors in the Challenger Trophy , including a match @-@ winning 5 / 29 in the final against India B.

Kartik was thus selected in the Indian ODI team for the home summer , and played in ten of the twelve ODIs that India hosted in late @-@ 2005 . He started well with 3 / 48 in a 152 @-@ run crushing of Sri Lanka in Nagpur , and went on to finish the series with eight wickets at 30 @-@ 25 , playing in six of the seven matches . However , his form dissipated and he went wicketless in the South African series , conceding 126 runs in 28 overs , and giving away more than a run a ball in the last two matches . Kumble remained in favour for the Tests along with Harbhajan , and Kartik returned to Ranji competition while they bowled against Sri Lanka in the five @-@ days . Kartik took 5 / 95 against Mumbai and then 8 / 40 against Delhi , and in three Ranji Trophy matches took 17 wickets at 19 @-@ 94 .

Despite his ineffectiveness against South Africa , Kartik was retained in the ODI squad , but after conceding 64 runs from nine overs in the first ODI loss against Pakistan , he was replaced in early @-@ 2006 in the Test and ODI squad by 17 @-@ year @-@ old legspinner Piyush Chawla and off @-@ spinner Ramesh Powar respectively .

= = Discarded again = =

In late @-@ 2006 , India 's ODI team began to hit rocky waters . After losing a bilateral series in the West Indies , they were knocked out of a triangular tournament in Malaysia ahead of the finals , and were eliminated in the first round of the 2006 ICC Champions Trophy on home soil . Kartik took four wickets at 34 @-@ 00 and an economy rate of 5 @-@ 36 in the Challenger Trophy and could not earn a recall . He had a steady domestic first @-@ class season , taking 26 wickets at 25 @-@ 53 in nine matches , never taking more than five wickets in a match . He took 13 wickets at 27 @-@ 92 in eight one @-@ day matches for the season , and was overlooked as Kumble and Harbhajan were the spinners selected for the 2007 Cricket World Cup . India were knocked out in the first round after losing to Bangladesh , and Harbhajan was dropped while Kumble retired from ODIs , but Kartik did not do enough to persuade the selectors to hand him a recall .

In 2004 , Kartik played in the Lancashire League with Ramsbottom as their professional . In 19 games , he took 80 wickets at 9 @-@ 92 and scored 464 runs at 25 @-@ 77 . He scored three fifties with a best of 83 against Colne and took nine five @-@ wicket innings hauls including a best of 9 / 30 against Enfield in addition to two other matches in which he took seven wickets .

In 2005 , he returned to Ramsbottom as their professional for a second season , with more effect . He took 83 wickets at 9 @-@ 19 and scored 519 runs at 37 @-@ 07 in 20 matches . He scored five fifties including a best of 66 , and took eight five @-@ wicket innings hauls including a best of 9 / 47 against Church as well as 7 / 27 against Lowerhouse . These performances earned him notice , and in late @-@ 2005 , he appeared as a late @-@ season overseas player substitute for Lancashire , and became the first overseas Lancashire player to take ten wickets on their debut , with 10 / 168 against Essex . This 5 / 93 and 5 / 75 helped Lancashire to an eight @-@ wicket win , and in his only other first @-@ class match , he took 4 / 43 and 2 / 49 was not enough as the Roses went down to Leicestershire by four runs . His sixteen wickets at 16 @-@ 25 placed him second on the season 's bowling averages , and helped the team to be promoted from Second Division . In two one @-@ day games , Kartik took five wickets at 13 @-@ 40 .

Despite these performances , he was not initially offered a contract for 2006 . Eventually in August 2006 , he was again signed as a late @-@ season overseas player for Lancashire just in time to appear in the C & G Trophy final against Sussex , taking 2 / 28 and scoring a duck in a 15 @-@ run defeat . He took eight wickets at 17 @-@ 25 in four one @-@ days , and six wickets at 39 @-@

00 in three first @-@ class matches with a best of 3 / 89 , as well a 40 with the bat against Hampshire .

In 2007 , he joined Middlesex as an overseas registration . He made his debut as the county club 's 700th first @-@ class cricketer against Somerset at Taunton in April 2007 . He took 51 wickets at 24 @.@ 96 in 12 matches and agreed to sign on for a further season in 2008 . A highlight of Kartik 's stint was a haul of 6 / 21 and 3 / 52 that helped set up an innings win over Glamorgan , and 6 / 85 and 3 / 83 that secured a 38 @-@ run win over Leicestershire . A third five @-@ wicket haul , 5 / 38 against Derbyshire , was not enough to prevent a 15 @-@ run defeat . With the bat , Kartik contributed 209 runs at 19 @.@ 00 with a best of 35 . Kartik was also prolific for his new county in the one @-@ dayers , taking 21 wickets at 23 @.@ 52 in 15 matches , taking three wickets in a match twice , both of which resulted in wins . During the T20 tournament , Kartik took nine wickets at 10 @.@ 77 and an economy rate of 5 @.@ 70 , including a haul of 5 / 13 in a vain attempt to halt an Essex run @-@ chase .

= = Brief international return and later career = =

In late @-@ 2007 , Kartik was recalled to the ODI team in place of the struggling Powar mid @-@ way through the series against Australia . He played his first ODI in 18 months when he returned for the fourth match at Mohali . He took 1 / 48 , and conceded only two runs in the 48th over as Australia stumbled in a tight run chase to give India their first win of the series .

Kartik took only one wicket in the next two matches , which Australia won . In the seventh and final match , Kartik took a career best of 6 / 27 from 10 overs at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai to bowl Australia out for 193 . The tourists had reached 2 / 117 after 19 @.@ 4 overs , scoring at over six runs and over before Kartik removed Brad Hodge and Andrew Symonds from consecutive balls . He failed to get his hat @-@ trick , but in the 32nd over he removed Brad Haddin from the first ball , and then Brad Hogg and Brett Lee from the fourth and fifth balls . Again Kartik missed the hat @-@ trick opportunity , but returned to claim his six wicket . In reply , India had fallen to 8 / 143 before Kartik chipped in with an unbeaten 21 from 34 balls in an unbroken 52 @-@ run stand with Zaheer Khan , guiding India to a two @-@ wicket victory . Kartik was recognised by being selected as the man of the match . Kartik then made his T20 international debut , taking 0 / 27 from four overs in an Indian win over Australia .

In the following series against Pakistan , Kartik was only selected in the first , third and fifth matches , and took two wickets at an average of 68 @.@ 00 at an economy rate of 5 @.@ 23 . As a result , Kartik was omitted from the ODI tour of Australia in favour of Chawla .

Due to his international commitments , Kartik made only sporadic appearances during the Indian domestic scene in 2007 ? 08 . He took nine wickets at 44 @.@ 22 and scored 77 runs at 19 @.@ 25 in three first @-@ class fixtures . After being dropped from India 's limited @-@ overs team , Kartik continued his strong one @-@ day form at domestic level , taking six wickets at 25 @.@ 33 at an economy rate of only 3 @.@ 16 in six matches .

Kartik was purchased by the Kolkata Knight Riders in the inaugural 2008 Indian Premier League . He played in six matches , taking three wickets at 42 @.@ 33 , but was dropped because his economy rate was beyond eight runs an over . All of these came in one match in which he took 3 / 17 .

Kartik was part of the Middlesex team that won the 2008 Twenty20 Cup in England , their first domestic title for 15 years . He played in 11 matches and took 14 wickets at 20 @.@ 14 at an economy rate of 6 @.@ 71 , claiming at least one wicket in all but one of the matches . Kartik represented Middlesex in the Stanford competition in October , taking two wickets at 25 @.@ 50 at an economy rate of 6 @.@ 37 .

His second first @-@ class season with Middlesex was much less successful than the first ; Kartik took only 16 wickets at 34 @.@ 06 in seven matches , with a best of 4 / 101 against Derbyshire . He scored 161 runs at 20 @.@ 12 with a best of 44 against Warwickshire . His one @-@ day form was also lean , yielding six wickets at 33 @.@ 00 in six matches .

Kartik returned to India and took 16 wickets at 32 @.@ 75 in six matches for Railways in the Ranji

Trophy . After taking 5 / 85 in the first innings of the season opener against Karnataka , his performances fell away and he managed only four wickets in his last three matches . Nevertheless , he was selected for Central Zone in the Duleep Trophy and took a total of 2 / 98 as they lost on first innings to South and were eliminated after one match . Kartik made some contributions with the bat , scoring 197 runs at 24 @. @ 62 for the season , including a score of 56 against Maharashtra and two other efforts of 30 . Playing for both Railways and Central , Kartik took 12 wickets at 23 @. @ 50 in the one @-@ day matches for the season . He also scored 65 runs at 13 @. @ 00 .

During the 2009 IPL season , which was held in South Africa , Kartik played in ten matches and took four wickets at 50 @. @ 25 , but he was one of the most economical bowlers , conceding only 5 @. @ 91 runs per over . Kolkata were wracked by infighting and came last . Kartik also scored 21 runs without being dismissed . In the 2009 English season , Kartik resumed service for Middlesex , and as in the IPL he was most effective as a stock bowler , taking only four wickets at 51 @. @ 50 in eight T20 fixtures at an economy rate of 6 @. @ 86 , never taking multiple wickets in a match . Middlesex , who had won the domestic title the previous year , only tasted victory in two of the Twenty20 matches that Kartik played in .

Kartik played in ten first @-@ class matches for Middlesex , taking 33 wickets at 22 @. @ 87 . He took his season 's innings best of 5 / 65 and then 2 / 26 in the season opener against cross @-@ London rivals Surrey , and then took 3 / 32 and 4 / 53 in a hard @-@ fought 47 @-@ run win over Kent , and a total of 6 / 139 in the next match against Essex , but his season fell away at the end , managing only six wickets in the last three matches . With the bat , he made 336 runs at 24 @. @ 00 , the most prolific season of his career with the willow , including 62 against Essex and 57 not out against Gloucestershire . He played in a solitary one @-@ dayer , taking 2 / 19 against Northamptonshire .

At the end of the 2009 season , it was announced that Kartik would join Somerset as their overseas player for the 2010 season .

During the 2009 ? 10 Indian season , Kartik played in seven matches for Railways in the Ranji Trophy , taking 17 wickets at 25 @. @ 05 including a best of 5 / 81 against Mumbai . He also scored 44 against the team and ended with 97 runs at 12 @. @ 12 for the season . However his figures were not enough to gain selection for Central Zone in the Duleep Trophy .

= = Environment Concerns = =

Murali Kartik has done many advertisement for the PETA India , including the ' Save Your Chicks ' campaign , which aimed for awareness against flesh farming of poultry .