Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar (/?s?t??n t?n'du?lk?r/ (About this sound listen);
Hindi/Marathi:
 ???? ????????; born 24 April 1973) is a former Indian cricketer and a
former captain, widely
regarded as one of the greatest batsmen of all time.[4] The highest run
scorer of all time
in Tests and ODIs, Tendulkar took up cricket at the age of eleven, made
his Test debut on 15
November 1989 against Pakistan in Karachi at the age of sixteen, and went
on to represent
Mumbai domestically and India internationally for close to twenty-four
years. He is the
only player to have scored one hundred international centuries, the first
batsman to score
a double century in a One Day International, the holder of the record for
the number of runs
in both ODI and Test cricket, and the only player to complete more than
30,000 runs in
international cricket.[5]

In 2002, just halfway through his career, Wisden Cricketers' Almanack
ranked him the second
greatest Test batsman of all time, behind Don Bradman, and the second
greatest ODI batsman
of all time, behind Viv Richards.[6] Later in his career, Tendulkar was a
part of the Indian
team that won the 2011 World Cup, his first win in six World Cup
appearances for India.[7] He
had previously been named "Player of the Tournament" at the 2003 edition
of the tournament,
held in South Africa. In 2013, he was the only Indian cricketer included
in an all-time Test World XI named to mark the 150th anniversary of
Wisden Cricketers' Almanack.[8][9][10]

Tendulkar received the Arjuna Award in 1994 for his outstanding sporting
achievement, the
Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award in 1997, India's highest sporting honour,
and the Padma Shri
and Padma Vibhushan awards in 1999 and 2008, respectively, India's fourth
and second highest
civilian awards.[11] After a few hours of his final match on 16 November
2013, the Prime
Minister's Office announced the decision to award him the Bharat Ratna,
India's highest
civilian award.[12][13] He is the youngest recipient to date and the
first ever sportsperson
to receive the award.[14][15] He also won the 2010 Sir Garfield Sobers
Trophy for cricketer
of the year at the ICC awards.[16] In 2012, Tendulkar was nominated to
the Rajya Sabha, the
upper house of the Parliament of India.[17] He was also the first
sportsperson and the first
person without an aviation background to be awarded the honorary rank of
group captain by the
 Indian Air Force.[18] In 2012, he was named an Honorary Member of the
Order of Australia.
[19][20]

In December 2012, Tendulkar announced his retirement from ODIs.[21] He
retired from Twenty20

cricket in October 2013[22] and subsequently announced his retirement from all forms of
cricket,[23][24] retiring on 16 November 2013 after playing his 200th and final Test match,
against the West Indies in Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium.[25] Tendulkar played 664 international
cricket matches in total, scoring 34,357 runs.

Early years

Tendulkar was born at Nirmal Nursing Home in Dadar, Bombay on 24 April 1973 in a Maharashtrian
 family.[26] His father, Ramesh Tendulkar, was a well-known Marathi novelist and his mother,
Rajni, worked in the insurance industry.[27] Ramesh named Tendulkar after his favourite music
director, Sachin Dev Burman. Tendulkar has three elder siblings: two half-brothers Nitin and
Ajit, and a half-sister Savita. They were Ramesh's children from his first marriage.[28]
Although, Sachin has not mentioned this even in his autobiography. He spent his formative
years in the Sahitya Sahawas Cooperative Housing Society in Bandra (East). As a young boy,
Tendulkar was considered a bully, and often picked up fights with new children in his school.
[29] He also showed an interest in tennis, idolising John McEnroe.[30] To help curb his
mischievous and bullying tendencies, Ajit introduced him to cricket in 1984. He introduced
the young Sachin to Ramakant Achrekar, a famous cricket coach and a club cricketer of repute,
 at Shivaji Park, Dadar. In the first meeting, the young Sachin did not play his best. Ajit t
old Achrekar that he was feeling self-conscious due to the coach observing him, and was not
displaying his natural game. Ajit requested the coach to give him another chance at playing,
but watch while hiding behind a tree. This time, Sachin, apparently unobserved, played much
better and was accepted at Achrekar's academy.[citation needed] Ajit is ten years elder and
is credited by Sachin for playing a pivotal role in his life.[31]

Achrekar was impressed with Tendulkar's talent and advised him to shift his schooling to
Sharadashram Vidyamandir (English) High School,[1] a school at Dadar which had a dominant
cricket team and had produced many notable cricketers.[32] Prior to this, Tendulkar had
attended the Indian Education Society's New English School in Bandra (East).[32] He was also
coached under the guidance of Achrekar at Shivaji Park in the mornings and evenings.[33]
Tendulkar would practice for hours on end in the nets. If he became exhausted, Achrekar
would put a one-rupee coin on the top of the stumps, and the bowler who dismissed Tendulkar
would get the coin. If Tendulkar passed the whole session without getting dismissed, the

coach would give him the coin. Tendulkar now considers the 13 coins he won then as some of
his most prized possessions.[34] He moved in with his aunt and uncle, who lived near Shivaji
Park, during this period, due to his hectic schedule.