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Kuldeep Yadav

Kuldeep Yadav (born 14 December 1994) is an Indian cricketer who plays for India and for Uttar Pradesh in domestic cricket and for Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL. He started out as a fast bowler at academy level, but his coach advised him to become a rare left-arm unorthodox spin bowler considering his build, which was ill-suited for fast bowling. He played for India Under-19 cricket team in the 2014 ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup where he took a hat-trick against Scotland which brought him into the limelight.

He became the second Indian other than Bhuvneshwar Kumar and the third spinner other than Imran Tahir and Ajantha Mendis to take 5-wicket hauls in all three formats.[1] On 18 December 2019, against the West Indies, he became the first bowler for India to take two hat-tricks in international cricket.[2] On 17 January 2020, in the second ODI against Australia, Yadav became the fastest spin bowler for India, in terms of innings, to take 100 wickets in ODI cricket, in his 58th innings.[3]

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Domestic career

Kuldeep Yadav was born and raised in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, the son of a brick kiln owner. In an interview, he revealed that it was his father who wanted him to continue playing cricket and even took him to a coach (Kapil Pandey). Inspired by bowling greats Wasim Akram and Zaheer Khan, he wanted to become a left-arm seamer. However, given his slight build, his coach insisted on him becoming a wrist-spin bowler as he was impressed

Kuldeep Yadav

Personal information	
Born	14 December 1994 Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, India
Batting	Left-handed
Bowling	Left-arm unorthodox spin
Role	Bowler
International information	
National side	India (2017–present)
Test debut (cap 288)	25 March 2017 v Australia
Last Test	3 January 2019 v Australia
ODI debut (cap 217)	23 June 2017 v West Indies
Last ODI	5 February 2020 v New Zealand
ODI shirt no.	23
T20I debut (cap 69)	9 July 2017 v West Indies
Last T20I	7 January 2020 v Sri Lanka
T20I shirt no.	23
Domestic team information	
Years	**Team**
2012	Mumbai Indians
2014–present	Kolkata Knight Riders (squad no. 23)
2014–present	Uttar Pradesh

Career statistics				
Competition	**Test**	**ODI**	**T20I**	**FC**
Matches	6	59	21	30
Runs scored	51	92	20	846
Batting average	8.50	13.14	20.00	24.88
100s/50s	0/0	0/0	0/0	1/6
Top score	26	19	16	117
Balls bowled	989	2,238	453	5,774
Wickets	36	102	39	117

with the turn and variations he was providing unknowingly at the trials. Since then, he started following and watching videos of Shane Warne's bowling and made him his role model.

Bowling average	24.12	25.85	13.76	30.01
5 wickets in innings	2	1	1	6
10 wickets in match	0	0	0	0
Best bowling	5/57	6/25	5/24	6/79
Catches/stumpings	3/–	5/–	8/–	13/–

Source: ESPNcricinfo (http://www.espncricinfo.com/india/content/player/559235.html), 5 February 2020

> "I keep watching videos of Warne. His grip of the ball, length of deliveries and use of the crease are unbeatable. I try to learn from the footage"
>
> — Kuldeep Yadav in an interview

He also revealed that earlier in his life, there was a dark phase in his life when he thought of giving up cricket and committing suicide, when he was not selected in the Uttar Pradesh's under-15 team.[4][5][6]

He was a member of the Mumbai Indians squad in 2012 and signed up by the Kolkata Knight Riders in 2014, whom he represented at the 2014 Champions League Twenty20.

In January 2018, he was bought back by KKR in the 2018 IPL auction for INR 5.8 crores.[7] In the 2019 edition, he played only 9 matches, taking 4 wickets and scoring a total of 12 runs. He broke down during the match between Kolkata Knight Riders and Royal Challengers Bangalore, at Eden Gardens, because Moeen Ali (RCB) thrashed 3 sixes and 2 fours during his last over. Kuldeep Yadav did not play any further match in the 2019 edition of IPL, after the encounter between RCB and KKR at Eden Gardens.

International career

On September 21, 2017, he became the third bowler for India to take a hat-trick in an ODI after Chetan Sharma and Kapil Dev. He took a hat-trick at Eden Gardens, Kolkata, against Australia, on 21 September 2017.[8][9]

He was selected in the Indian cricket team to play against West Indies in October 2014 but did not appear in any match.[10] In February 2017 he was added to India's Test squad for their one-off match against Bangladesh.[11] He made his Test debut for India against Australia on 25 March 2017, at the Dharamshala Cricket Stadium, taking four wickets in the first innings.[12] Kuldeep Yadav is the first left-arm wrist spin bowler to represent India national cricket team in Test cricket. He is also only the third such bowler in Test cricket to take four wickets on debut.

In June 2017, he was named in India's squad for a limited overs tour to the West Indies.[13] He made his One Day International (ODI) debut for India against the West Indies on 23 June 2017.[14] However, during this game, he was unable to bowl a single delivery as the game ended with no result due to rain during the first innings while India was batting. He was ultimately able to bowl in the next match of the series, where he took three wickets.[15] He made his Twenty20 International (T20I) debut for India against the West Indies on 9 July 2017.[16]

On 3 July 2018, Kuldeep Yadav took his first five-for in a T20I and also became the first left-arm wrist-spin bowler to take five wickets in a T20I during the first T20I against England, in fact he also became only the third Indian after Yuzvendra Chahal and Bhuvneshwar Kumar to take a five-wicket haul in a T20I.[17][18]

On 12 July 2018 during the first ODI against England, he grabbed his maiden five-wicket haul in an ODI and also set a new record for registering the best bowling figures by a left-arm spin bowler of any kind in an ODI (6/25).[19] He also shattered the record of Shahid Afridi for registering the best bowling figures by a spinner against England in ODIs and also broke Afridi's record for recording the best ever bowling figures by a spinner in an ODI in England.[20][21]

On 6 October 2018, in the first test against West Indies he took his first five-wicket haul in Tests.[22]

After an impressive showing against Australia, in the *T20I series* of India tour of Australia 2018/19, Kuldeep jumped 20 places to claim a career-best third position in the MRF ICC T20I Bowlers Rankings, updated on 26 November 2018.[23]

On 6 January 2019, in the fourth Test against Australia at the SCG and in his first Test match on Australian soil, he took his second five-wicket haul (5/99) in Tests, in Australia's first innings.[24]

On 11 February 2019, he moved to second position in the T20I Bowlers Rankings.[25] In April 2019, he was named in India's squad for the 2019 Cricket World Cup.[26][27] On 30 June 2019, in the match against England, Kuldeep played in his 50th ODI.[28] On 18 December 2019, against West Indies became the first bowler for India to take two hat-tricks in ODIs.[29]

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