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India's Spin Maestro Ravichandran Ashwin Retires from International Cricket

Published on December 19, 2024

Document Date: Sun, Dec 22 2024 03:54:27 pm

Category: ,English,Snippets,Sports -

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Ravichandran Ashwin, India's 'carrom ball' champion and one of the nation's finest spinners, has announced his retirement from international cricket. The 38-year-old's illustrious career saw him take 537 wickets in 106 Tests, second only to Anil Kumble's 619 among Indian bowlers.

Ashwin's retirement comes after being left out of the first and third Tests against Australia, playing his final match during the day-night Test in Adelaide. Across all formats, Ashwin claimed an impressive 765 wickets, establishing himself as a match-winner on India's turning pitches and a master of the art of spin bowling.

Debuting in 2010, Ashwin filled the void left by Anil Kumble's retirement. His arsenal included the innovative 'carrom ball' and a fast bowler's aggression, making him a formidable opponent.

Obsessed with perfection, he continually refined his technique and even ventured into leg spin during domestic cricket to broaden his skills.

Ashwin's influence extended beyond the field, inspiring peers like Australian spinner Nathan Lyon, who regarded him as a mentor. His legacy includes six Test centuries and his controversial advocacy of 'Mankading,' famously running out Jos Buttler during an IPL match.

Reflecting on his career, Ashwin expressed gratitude for the memories and bonds formed with teammates like Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli. He described himself as part of the "last bunch of OGs" in the dressing room.

Though stepping away from international cricket, Ashwin hinted at continuing in club-level cricket, stating, "There's a bit of punch left in me as a cricketer."

A true cricketing legend, Ashwin's contribution to the sport will be remembered for generations.