

Bhaji's Candid Comment: 'I'm not the same bowler anymore'

Admitting that his role in Team India has undergone a change since making his debut, Harbhajan Singh said he has come a long way from being a struggler trying to cement his place in the side to be the spin partner of Anil Kumble. "I am not the same bowler what I was four years back. I am learning in every match (that) I am a different cricketer. When I started my career, I was trying to cement my place for the next match. Now my thinking is that I want to play longer and win matches," he said in an interview.

"The team looks up to me because they know I have done it and they know I can do it. So with time my responsibilities have changed," he added. Harbhajan Singh said he enjoyed bowling in the one-day series in the Carribean recently as he got a chance to come out of a lean patch.

"I enjoyed myself. I got wickets and I was quite happy with my bowling rhythm. The ball was landing where I wanted it to and was doing what I was trying," he said of his performance in the recently concluded tour of West Indies. The off-spinner described the series against Australia at home as the turning point of his career and said the 32-wicket haul lifted his spirits to an altogether new high. "The Australia series was the turning point of my career. It gave me the self-belief that I can do it. Before that I had never taken five wickets in Test cricket. In that last series I took a total of 32 wickets in the series. I was in a daze. The confidence went to another level and the hunger kept increasing," he said recalling his successful fun in the series when he took a hat-trick.

Showering praise on Kumble, Harbhajan said the veteran leg-spinner's achievements were unmatchable and he was privileged to play alongside him. "I have to accept that nobody in Indian cricket has achieved what Anil Kumble has. I feel privileged I get to bowl with such a great bowler from the other end. I get to learn a lot from him," he added.

