

SACHIN'S MADE US PROUD

Suniel Shetty, who is a big fan of Sachin Tendulkar, reacted to the master blaster's century of all centuries on Friday

Ankur Batra

When Sachin Tendulkar broke the nervous 90 jinx to hammer the 100th ton in Mirpur on Friday, actor Suniel Shetty was in Delhi to attend a conference. While juggling a hectic schedule, Anna (as he's fondly known) kept a close tab on Sachin's record-breaking innings. In fact, he locked himself inside his hotel room in the final hour and refused to leave the TV set, determined to see Sachin doing the nation proud, this time. And when the master blaster hit that mark, Suniel reacted, "He has made us proud. It's an emotional moment. Our prayers are finally answered." Excerpts of an interaction with TOI...

Sachin has created history...

Yes, I was in Delhi to attend a conference but I sought for time out from there to watch the match since there was no chance I could have missed Sachin's crucial inning. Sachin often says, 'People sometimes throw stones at you

and you convert them into milestones'. Today, he has proved his own words right. Despite being run down by people since a year now for not hitting this crucial ton, he didn't quit.

Any plans of a party for the champion?

Yes, definitely. But since Sachin is part of the IPL's Mumbai Indians, a team I am a fan of, I am sure the Team has plans to toast his feat in a big way...I will join in with them.

You are very natural with your reactions...

I don't believe in faking it. Whatever I am going through shows on my face. I feel lucky about my natural instincts. I am an emotional person.

Your eyes had moistened when Team India clinched the World Cup in Mumbai...

I was extremely happy and could not hold back my tears. *Vaise woh khushi ke aansu thay. Yeh sab 28 saal baad hua.*

But the hero of the WC, Yuvraj Singh is going through pain...

He is on BBM with me and we have a word almost daily. I am Yuvji's fan and that's why I changed my BB status to "YUV Strong". When I got the news that he's diagnosed with cancer, I locked myself in a room and cried. Today also when his innocent face comes in front of my eyes, I simply cry. We are glad to hear that he's soon set to return home after his successful therapy. God bless him.

You follow cricket passionately, you champion the cause of hockey as its ambassador...don't you think you should have been a sports person?

I think so too (smiles). I love sports and that too with a passion. Besides acting I devote lot of time watching and playing games. Cricket, undoubtedly, is my favourite game but hockey is something I adore. Also, the nation comes first for me. I love India and would want to see it on top in every aspect.

GRAND SALUTE:
Suniel Shetty

