

## Memorable Bowling Spells in T20 World Cup History



The T20 World Cup, a whirlwind of cricketing action, throws up moments of brilliance with almost every passing match. Batsmen smash boundaries, fielders pull off spectacular catches, and bowlers weave their magic with pace, spin, and strategic cunning. Today, we delve into the realm of the bowlers, focusing on some of the most exceptional bowling performances in T20 World Cup history.

### **1. Ajantha Mendis (6/8 vs Zimbabwe, 2012)**



Ajanta Mendis, the Sri Lankan mystery spinner, takes the top spot on our list. In the 2012 edition of the World Cup, facing Zimbabwe, Mendis unleashed a spell that left everyone speechless. His doosras, carrom balls, and variations bamboozled the Zimbabwean batsmen, who were left stranded at a meager 100 runs. Mendis' haul of 6 wickets for just 8 runs remains the best bowling figures in T20 World Cup history, a testament to his mastery of deception.

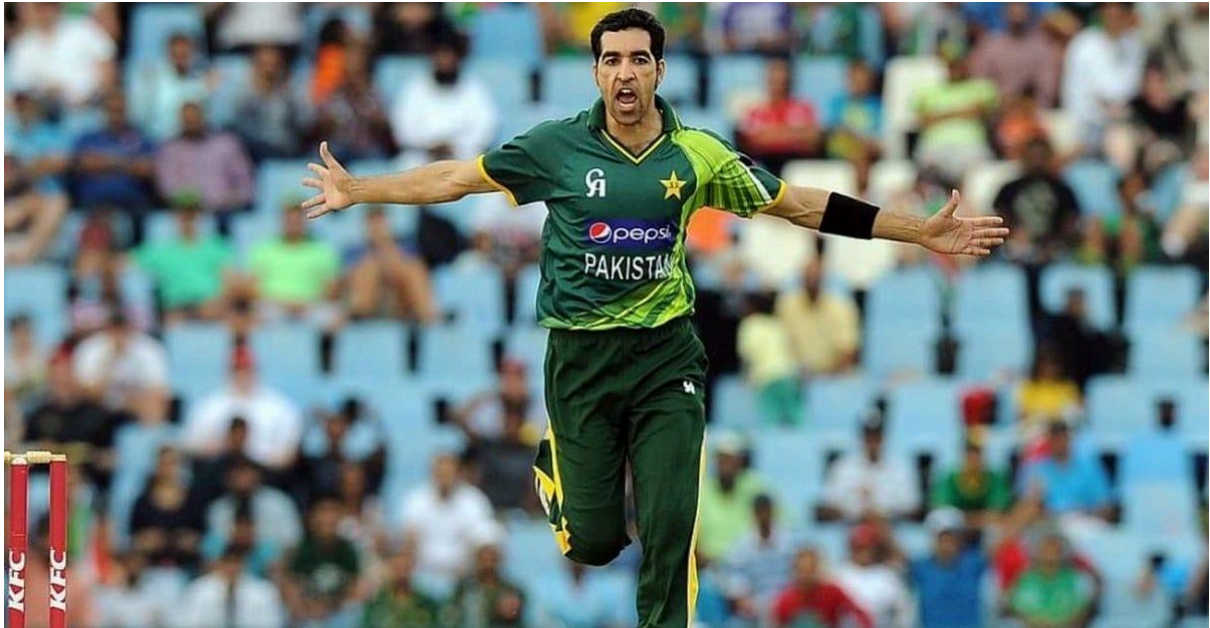
## 2. Rangana Herath (5/3 vs New Zealand, 2014)





Another Sri Lankan spinner finds a place on our list, this time the ever-reliable Rangana Herath. In the 2014 World Cup, facing New Zealand, Herath produced a display of exceptional control and accuracy. His left-arm spin deliveries found their way past the Kiwi batsmen with alarming regularity, as he picked up a staggering 5 wickets for just 3 runs. This is the most economical bowling performance in T20 World Cup history, proving that sometimes, guile trumps brute force.

### **3. Umar Gul (5/6 vs New Zealand, 2009)**



Rewind to the inaugural edition of the T20 World Cup in 2009. Pakistan's speedster Umar Gul, known for his fiery pace and aggressive bowling, announced his arrival on the world stage in style. Facing a strong New Zealand batting lineup, Gul unleashed a barrage of yorkers, bouncers, and well-directed deliveries, claiming a match-winning 5 wickets for just 6 runs. This performance not only propelled Pakistan to victory but also set the tone for the fast-bowling dominance that would characterize the early years of the T20 World Cup.

### **4. Sam Curran (5/10 vs Afghanistan, 2022)**



The 2022 edition of the World Cup saw the emergence of a new bowling hero—England's Sam Curran. Facing Afghanistan, Curran displayed a maturity beyond his years, swinging the new ball with precision and exploiting the conditions to his advantage. His ability to mix pace and variations proved too much for the Afghan batsmen, as he picked up a well-deserved 5 wickets for just 10 runs. This performance marked the arrival of a potential future star in the world of T20 bowling.

#### **5. Lasith Malinga (5/31 vs England, 2012)**



Lasith Malinga, the Sri Lankan-slinging fast bowler, needs no introduction. In the 2012 World Cup final against England, Malinga saved the best for last. His trademark yorkers and well-disguised slower balls had the English batsmen on edge throughout their innings. While he couldn't prevent England from posting a decent total, Malinga's fiery spell of 5 wickets for 31 runs showcased his experience and skill on the biggest stage.

## **Beyond the Wickets: Recognizing Bowling Brilliance**

These are just a few examples of the exceptional bowling spells that have lit up the T20 World Cup. It's important to remember that not every brilliant bowling performance translates into a five-wicket haul. Bowlers who take crucial wickets at key moments, control the run flow, and create pressure for the opposition also deserve recognition.

## **The T20 World Cup: A Stage for Bowling Marvels**

The T20 World Cup provides a platform for bowlers to showcase their skills on a global stage. From the fiery pace of Umar Gul to the deceptive spin of Ajantha Mendis, these bowlers have etched their names in cricketing history with their remarkable performances. As the next edition of the T20 World Cup rolls around, we can expect to witness more such spells of brilliance, leaving fans in awe and aspiring bowlers inspired.

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