

INDIAN CRICKET

PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

PROJECT REPORT

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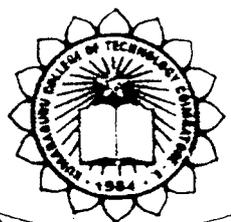
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CHARACTER IS LIFE

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This is to certify that the project entitled

***INDIAN CRICKET –
PAST,
PRESENT
& FUTURE***

is a bonafide record of studies carried out by this group under the guidance of Mr.JIJU VARGHESE JACOB at KCT and submitted to the department of English in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the completion of English paper (I B.E) during the year 1999-2000

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PREFACE

Cricket, which has become as important to the world, as heartbeat is to man, is a game that has opened up wide perspectives for better international understanding. This sport, brings the players of various nations together and thus enables them to emerge as examples to the million thousand people who follow them closely.

Cricket is however a big cause of anxiety, excitement and frustration from an Indian's point of view. To him, cricket is life. But how did the match first get rooted in India? How did it proceed? Where is it heading? This thesis will answer all the above questions, thus passing on information about the past and the present, and reflecting hope for the future.

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I. COMMENCEMENT

Centuries before, a few poor farmers made balls of clay, and rolled it from one person to the other. This game was a source of entertainment and refreshment for these few farmers amidst their hectic activities. Slowly they thought that a plank of wood to face the ball would make the game more interesting. Thus planks of wood and the balls of clay made the day complete for these men who had no other source of entertainment.

The fathers of this game, which is now called "CRICKET", would never have imagined that this game that refreshed them would become a big sensation in the years to come.

Cricket is the life of most men who give up their work, studies and everything else to watch a match, which when their country wins, gives the impression of a battle won!!

Though cricket attained popularity from a very early period, it was officially declared a game in 1400 A.D. However, the 29th of June 1709 marked the first match between Kent & Survey at Dartford Brent. This match gave the right start to the storm called "cricket". From then on matches have been many, men have been inspired and new dimensions were created. Rules were formulated and this led to the match, gaining more appeal to the viewers.

<i>SEP 12TH 1982</i>	<i>SRILANKA</i>	<i>WON BY 78 RUNS</i>
<i>SEP 15TH 1982</i>	<i>SRILANKA</i>	<i>WON BY 6 WICKETS</i>
<i>SEP 20TH 1982</i>	<i>SRILANKA</i>	<i>WON BY 6 WICKETS</i>
<i>MAR 29TH 1983</i>	<i>WEST INDIES</i>	<i>WON BY 27 RUNS</i>
<i>APR 7TH 1983</i>	<i>WEST INDIES</i>	<i>WON BY 7 WICKETS</i>

Thus with an undaunted spirit, the Indians marched forward until the day dawned with India emerging as the world leader in cricket, winning the world cup in 1983. Kapil Dev, who led the team with vigor and spirit remarked rightly, “winning the 1983 prudential cup was not as much the dream of the country”.

England, which hosted the 3rd world cup, fed the respect and pride of the Indians with sending them back home with the “ever-beloved” world cup. June turned out to be in tune with the Indian players for it was during this month of autumn the world cup was held. India after winning over England in the semi-finals prepared them with grid to face the rulers of cricket of the time—“The mighty West Indies.”

The victorious army was welcomed with garlands of flowers and love and cheers of the million people all around the nation. This success of the nation inspired many more youngsters who began practicing the game regularly so as to find a place for themselves in the team through which they would be able to make the nation proud.

“MIGHTY WARRIORS NEVER END WITH A SINGLE BATTLE WON”—proving this very famous saying Indians won many more matches in the following years. They won the Rothman’s Asia cup in 1984 and another series in England in 1985. Benson & Hedges cup took India to the threshold with its winning all the five matches it played against Pakistan, England, New Zealand and Australia. In 1986-87, the world saw India’s victory against Sri Lanka, West Indies and Pakistan at Sharjah.

However India could not continue its victory in the world cup with its losing to England in the semi-finals of the Reliance World Cup—1987. Even though the mach was held in the home soil, the Indians could not reach the standard of the other teams and thus faced a very terrible loss. The matches were held at Madras, Bombay, Bangalore, Delhi, Ahmedabad and Nagpur.

<i>India won against</i>	<i>India lost to</i>
<i>New Zealand</i>	<i>Australia</i>
<i>Zimbabwe</i>	<i>England in the</i>
<i>Australia</i>	<i>Semi-finals.</i>
<i>Zimbabwe</i>	
<i>Australia</i>	

However India has always been doing well in the test matches. Most of the test matches India played have ended in a draw. In November 1951, India played a test match against England and the match ended in a draw. In February 1952, India won the test match against England by an innings and 10 runs. The test match in 1977 never reflected well for India. She has been losing during this period.

THE MATCHES LOST DURING THIS PERIOD

<i>Place</i>	<i>Month and year</i>	<i>Against</i>
<i>Manchester</i>	<i>June 1974</i>	<i>England</i>
<i>Lords</i>	<i>June 1974</i>	<i>England</i>
<i>New Delhi</i>	<i>December 1976</i>	<i>England</i>
<i>Bombay</i>	<i>February 1977</i>	<i>England</i>

India made a come back with a scintillating victory in 1986 winning a test series against England. Thus till the year 1987, India has been performing remarkably well in both test matches and one day internationals, though some of the matches have been lost. But within a period of 55 years, India had made a good progress, improving the standard of both test and one-day cricket.

In the month of January in 1988, the thousands of viewers at Eden gardens, Calcutta were thrilled and overwhelmed with joy when the Indians won over West Indies by 55 runs. On the 19th of January 1988, India played another series and lost to the West Indies. The next excitement came to the viewers when India won the Sharjah cup against Sri Lanka and New Zealand. India won the Asia cup against Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan in 1989. The year 1989 however saw India losing to West Indies and Pakistan in the Champions Trophy at Sharjah. India was doing well in the one-day internationals during this period. However it lost the test series to England in July 1990 held at England.

III. CONTINUATION AND DISASTER

The year 1990 saw our nation winning a one-day international series against England held at England. And this healed the wounds of the Indians who lost to England during the same time in the test series. In December 1990, India won a series against Sri Lanka. India lost the Sharjah cup in the year 1991. Though it won five preliminary matches, India lost to Pakistan in the finals.

Then arrived the most-awaited match, The Benson and Hedges world cup—1992. The match was hosted by Australia and the most enthusiastic team from Pakistan took home the cup. This world cup was a nightmare for India with its winning only 3 matches and losing all the other matches. India performed very poorly and thus even lost the chance to enter the semifinals. In 1993, India won all the 3 test matches against England carrying home the cup and a heavy cash prize.

Hero cup, which brought back a sigh of relief to the Indians who lost pathetically in the 1992 world cup, was held at India in 1993. The teams that participated were the West Indies, South Africa, India and Zimbabwe.

INDIAN CRICKET PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

<i>PLACE</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>AGAINST</i>	<i>RESULT (INDIA)</i>
<i>KANPUR</i>	<i>November 7</i>	<i>SRI LANKA</i>	<i>Won by 7 Wickets.</i>
<i>AHMEDABAD</i>	<i>November 16</i>	<i>W. INDIES</i>	<i>Lost by 69 Runs</i>
<i>INDORE</i>	<i>November 18</i>	<i>ZIMBABWE</i>	<i>Match tied</i>
<i>MOHALI</i>	<i>November 22</i>	<i>S.AFRICA</i>	<i>Won by 3 Runs</i>
<i>CALCUTTA</i>	<i>November 24</i>	<i>S.AFRICA</i>	<i>Won by 2 runs.</i>

FINALS:

*At EDEN GARDENS, CALCUTTA, on the 27th of
November against West Indies.*

*India won this match by 102 runs under the captaincy
of Mohd.Azharuddin.*

In the series against Sri Lanka in February 1994, India won the series with two victories over the “Island players”. The series at New Zealand in 1994 found the New Zealandians equally remarkable as the Indians for the series ended in a draw with India and New Zealand both winning two matches.

Though India entered the finals of the Australasia cup, at Sharjah beating UAE and Australia, they lost to Pakistan by 39 runs in the final match. The loss of the Australasia cup though heart-breaking to the Indians, was overcome by its winning the Singer cup held at Sri Lanka in the same year.

- 1. The total number of matches →4*
- 2. The number of matches India won →2*
- 3. The number of matches India lost →1*

One match was abandoned due to rain, as it was held in the month of September at Sri Lanka.

Of the five matches against West Indies in the series held at India, the Indians emerged champions, winning four of them. India however could not continue its victory in the Singer cups—it lost to Sri Lanka in the year 1996. In the test match held at England, India lost to England. The match was held at the famous LORDS ground at England.

The next world cup, the most sensational of all world cups till date- ‘THE WILLS WORLD CUP –1996’ was held partly at India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan. The SriLankans made a come-up creating a storm in the history of cricket. They carried home the prestigious cup, winning all the matches they played and thus proving the cliché statement- “THE WORLD CHAMPIONS!”

Though India entered the semi finals, it lost the match by default.

INDIA'S PERFORMANCE IN WORLD CUP—
1996

<i>DATE</i>	<i>PLACE</i>	<i>AGAINST</i>	<i>RESULT (INDIA)</i>
<i>FEB 18</i>	<i>CUTTACK</i>	<i>KENYA</i>	<i>WON BY 7 WKTS</i>
<i>FEB 21</i>	<i>GWALIOR</i>	<i>W.INDIES</i>	<i>WON BY 5 WKTS</i>
<i>FEB 27</i>	<i>BOMBAY</i>	<i>AUSTRALIA</i>	<i>LOST BY 16 RUNS</i>
<i>MARCH 2</i>	<i>DELHI</i>	<i>SRILANKA</i>	<i>LOST</i>
<i>MARCH 6</i>	<i>KANPUR</i>	<i>ZIMBABWE</i>	<i>WON BY 40 RUNS</i>

QUARTER FINALS:

MARCH 9	BANGALORE (The famous Chinnaswamy Stadium)	PAKISTAN	WON BY 39 RUNS
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This was the match where Ajay Jadeja scored 22 runs in a single over and dazzled the Indian viewers.

SEMI FINALS:

MARCH 13	CALCUTTA	SRILANKA	LOST BY DEFAULT
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The semi finals of the WILLS WORLD CUP—1996 held at Calcutta was disastrous not because India lost the match, but because of the uncivilized behavior of the viewers that stunned the millions of men all around the world. The viewers who were annoyed with a continuous fall of wickets began throwing bottles at the SriLankan players. As the match could not be resumed, taking the other considerations, Sri Lanka was declared winners of the match. The name and fame EDEN GARDENS enjoyed had thus been lost for a long time till many more matches were held there without the interference of the viewers.

After the loss at Eden gardens, India faced a very bad phase losing the Singer cup held at Singapore, Sharjah cup at Sharjah and Sahara cup at Toronto. The revival of the

Indian cricket was in the month of November in 1996 when India won the Titan Cup against South Africa and Australia at Bombay. This chilled the roasted minds of the million Indian fans, who lend their support once again and encouraged the players of the Indian team.

From 1997 onwards India has been facing majority loss in both one-day internationals and the test matches.

SOME OF THE MATCHES INDIA LOST:

- 1. Standard bank triangular series in South Africa
–1997*
- 2. Series against West Indies in West Indies—1997*
- 3. Asia cup in Sri Lanka—1997*
- 4. Series against Sri Lanka in Sri Lanka—1997*
- 5. Sahara Cup in Toronto—1997*
- 6. Series against Pakistan in Pakistan—1997*
- 7. Champions trophy in Sharjah—1997*

After a series of loss, the Indians, both the players and the viewers had lost the morale and spirit. It was during this time the Independence Cup at Bangladesh came as a relief to India. India won the series by winning two out of three matches against Pakistan. However luck seemed to be in the opposite direction for the Indians as they won all the league matches but lost the final match against Australia at New Delhi in which Australia won by four wickets.

IV. INDIAN CRICKET IN ITS PRESENT FORM

The COCA COLA CUP in the Sharjah in 1998 put back the Indians in the "Once-Lost-Throne". With the efforts of the MASTER BLASTER Sachin Tendulkar, India first qualified for the finals and later won the series. The target for India was 276 to win the match and 252 to qualify for the finals. India thus qualified for the finals and won the finals against Australia by 6 wickets. The shots of Tendulkar for Warne's bowling dazzled not only the Indians, but also the people from all over the world. Warne's only comment about the efforts of Tendulkar was "IT STILL GIVES ME A FEAR!"

The few test matches played during the time was also satisfying for the Indians for most of the matches were won by them.

STATISTICAL DATA OF THE TEST MATCHES
PLAYED IN INDIA IN 1998:

<i>DATE</i>	<i>PLACE</i>	<i>AGAINST</i>	<i>RESULT</i>
<i>1ST TEST: MARCH 6-10</i>	<i>CHENNAI</i>	<i>AUSTRALIA</i>	<i>INDIA WON BY 110 RUNS</i>
<i>2ND TEST: MARCH 18-22</i>	<i>CALCUTTA</i>	<i>AUSTRALIA</i>	<i>INDIA WON BY AN INNINGS & 219 RUNS</i>
<i>3RD TEST MARCH 25-29</i>	<i>BANGALORE</i>	<i>AUSTRALIA</i>	<i>AUSTRALIA WON BY 8 WKTS</i>

Captain of the Indian team – Mohd. Azharudin

Captain of the Australian team- Mark Taylor

Man of the series - Sachin Tendulkar

THE TEST MATCH AT SRI LANKA

<i>DATE</i>	<i>PLACE</i>	<i>AGAINST</i>	<i>RESULT</i>
<i>1ST TEST: NOV 19-23</i>	<i>MOHALI</i>	<i>SRILANKA</i>	<i>DRAW</i>
<i>2ND TEST: NOV 26-30</i>	<i>NAGPUR</i>	<i>SRILANKA</i>	<i>DRAW</i>
<i>3RD TEST: DEC 3-7</i>	<i>MUMBAI</i>	<i>SRILANKA</i>	<i>DRAW</i>

*Captain of the Indian team → Sachin Tendulkar
 Captain of the SriLankan team → Arjuna Ranathunga.
 Man of the series → Sourav Ganguly.*

The Triangular match was held during the month of April in 1998 between India, Australia and Zimbabwe. Though the Australians won the series, India presented a very competitive performance. The first match India played was against Australia on the 1st of April at Kochi. India won the match by 41 runs. Ajay Jadeja of India was adjudged the man of the match as he had scored 105 runs. The next match was played against Zimbabwe where India scored 274 and won by 12 runs. The 3rd match was between

India and Australia on the 7th of April at Kanpur. India won the match by 6 wickets. Sachin Tendulkar who scored 100 runs was adjudged man of the match. The Indians also won the next match played at Cuttack on April 9th against Zimbabwe. The two enterprising cricketers of our side—Mohd. Azharuddin and Ajay Jadeja carved the world record partnership of 275 runs during this match, with Azharuddin on 153 and Jadeja on 116. The final match was played between India and Australia where Australia won by 4 wickets.

The Independence cup held at Bangladesh in 1998 was a dream victory for India. The first match was played against Bangladesh in which the Indians won by 4 wickets. The second match was played against Pakistan where India again won the match by 15 runs. The first final match against Pakistan was won by India. The 2nd final was won by Pakistan and this increased the thrill of the entire series. The third final where Pakistan scored 364 runs was won by India. This was an astounding victory where each player of the Indian team carved neatly and gave shape to the final success.

Thus the year 1998 augured very well for India. It was the year in which India managed to put behind a series of set backs, both in tests and one-day internationals.

However these victories could never replace the sorrow and shock that the death of the brave cricketer brought to the lovers of cricket—the death of the great Raman Lamba. Raman Lamba's death on the cricket field was the most tragic episode in the history of the game. There have been occasions when players have been hit and ruled out for the battles; but never had death occurred to a cricketer on the field.

For the cricket fraternity in Delhi, the news that Lamba was hit in Dhaka came as a shock because very few knew that he was away from Delhi. Though India has lost Raman Lamba, he shall always be remembered. "Let us remember Raman Lamba and wear a helmet," implores a hoarding even after months of his death thus proving the proverbial words "Great men even when they die leave a lesson for millions to learn".

In the month of February in 1999, India played a test match against Pakistan at Eden Gardens, Calcutta. Pakistan won by 26 runs and Javagal Srinath was adjudged man of the match. This match was followed by India's match against New Zealand, which ended in a draw. However Javagal Srinath was on a run as he won the man of the match. The test match held at the Singhalese Sports Club, SriLanka, on the 24th of February ended in a draw with India scoring 518 in the first innings and 306 in the second innings.

The world cup in 1999 was hosted by England and India was led by Azharuddin for the 3rd time, the maximum number of times a captain has led the team for world cup. This world cup has raised a lot of expectations and the Indians firmly believed that they were going to win yet another world cup for they were on the point that history would certainly repeat! However, luck was not on the side of the Indians as the series turned out to be a big disaster. Though the Indians played considerably well, the new system of choosing teams based on their performance in all games, deceived India. However not many lovers of Indian cricket could take this loss. This loss had not only disappointed the viewers but had also left the players heart-broken.

RESULTS OF WORLD CUP—1999

<i>DATE</i>	<i>PLACE</i>	<i>AGAINST</i>	<i>RESULT (INDIA)</i>
<i>MAY 15</i>	<i>HOVE</i>	<i>S. AFRICA</i>	<i>LOST</i>
<i>MAY 19</i>	<i>LEICESTER</i>	<i>ZIMBABWE</i>	<i>LOST</i>
<i>MAY 23</i>	<i>BRISTOL</i>	<i>KENYA</i>	<i>WON (MAN OF MATCH— TENDULKAR)</i>
<i>MAY 26</i>	<i>DAUNTOS</i>	<i>SRILANKA</i>	<i>WON (MAN OF THE MATCH— GANGULY)</i>
<i>MAY 29</i>	<i>EDGSBASTON</i>	<i>ENGLAND</i>	<i>WON</i>

SUPER SIX MATCHES:

<i>DATE</i>	<i>PLACE</i>	<i>AGAINST</i>	<i>RESULT (INDIA)</i>
<i>JUNE 4</i>	<i>THE OVAL</i>	<i>AUSTRALIA</i>	<i>LOST</i>
<i>JUNE 8</i>	<i>OLD TRAFFORD</i>	<i>PAKISTAN</i>	<i>WON</i>
<i>JUNE 12</i>	<i>TRENTBRIDGE</i>	<i>NEWZEALAND</i>	<i>LOST</i>

Thus with a loss in two matches, India had to return home. However Rahul Dravid made a mark as the “Wall of India”, the wall that protected India from a fall. He scored the maximum runs.

To add to the wounds caused during world cup, India lost the test series played against Australia. The first match was held at the oval in which Australia won by 255 runs. The second test match was played a few days after at Melbourne in which again Australia won by 150 runs. Sachin Tendulkar was adjudged man of the match. In the first match of the new millennium, a one-day series was held at Australia—‘The Carlton United series’. Pakistan, Australia and India played the series. Though India won a few matches, it did not enter the finals.

A test series was held in February 2000 with South Africa playing against India. India lost both the test matches and thus rewriting the history that India has never lost a test match in the home soil for 13 years. This was a challenge to the South Africans and they took it up well. Immediately after the series, the crown was handed over by Sachin Tendulkar to Sourav Ganguly who is still leading the team in the one-day series. The 1st match was held at Kochi where Ajay Jadeja was declared the man of the match for his 92 runs. The 2nd match was played at Jamshedpur in which India won again with Sourav Ganguly declared the man of the match. The third match which was played at Faridabad was won by S. Africa with Cronje as the man of the match.

By winning the match held at Vadodara on 17th of March, India had lifted the series by winning 3 out of 4 matches. Though one more match is yet to be held. The scoreboard of the series-winning match is:

INDIA

<i>Batsmen</i>	<i>Runs</i>
<i>S.Ganguly (c-Pollock, b-Strydom)</i>	<i>87</i>
<i>S.Tendulkar (c-Elworthy, b-Kallis)</i>	<i>122</i>
<i>R.Dravid (c-Cronje, b-Boje)</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>M.Azharuddin(c&b Kallis)</i>	<i>39</i>
<i>A.Jadeja (b-Pollock)</i>	<i>5</i>

<i>Robin Singh (not out)</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>S.Joshi (b-Pollock)</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>S. Karim (not out)</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Extras (lb-3, w-5, nb-3)</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Total (for 6 wickets in 49.5 overs)</i>	<i>283</i>

The S. Africans scored 282 in this match.

The Pepsi cup that we played very recently between the 9th & 19th of March has revived the hope of millions of Indians with Indian team winning the series against S.Africans. Sourav Ganguly, the new captain of the Indian team is brimming with joy while Ajay Jadeja & Mohammed Azharuddin who are back in the team have carved a stable place for them. Tendulkar, who according to many seemed to have lost his form, has proved everyone wrong by winning the "Man Of The Series" title for his masterly 274 runs and well attained 6 wickets. The Indians with the new hope and renaissance are heading for the Sharjah Cup to be played in April.

V. RECORDS**Different world records bagged by the Indians:**

1.	<i>Highest number of runs in one-day internationals.</i>	<i>Mohammed Azharuddin.</i>
2.	<i>Maximum number of matches played</i>	<i>Mohammed Azharuddin</i>
3.	<i>Maximum number of catches</i>	<i>Mohammed Azharuddin</i>
4.	<i>Maximum centuries in one-day internationals</i>	<i>Sachin Tendulkar</i>
5.	<i>Highest number of test match centuries</i>	<i>Sunil Gavaskar</i>
6.	<i>Maximum double centuries in test matches</i>	<i>Sunil Gavaskar</i>
7.	<i>Player of the maximum number of test matches</i>	<i>Sunil Gavaskar</i>

8.	<i>Highest wicket taker in the test matches</i>	<i>Kapil Dev</i>
9.	<i>Ten-wicket holder in a single inning.</i>	<i>Anil Kumble</i>
10.	<i>Highest 4th wicket partnership</i>	<i>275 runs between Azharuddin and Jadeja.</i>

However the enormous number of defeats in various matches in the present can be attributed just not to the lack of enthusiasm and planning strategy among the players but interference from the part of the viewers, unstable playing conditions and an unstable team. Even before a particular team gets set, revisions are made and thus occur a number of changes. The same is the case with the captaincy. Even before a captain gets enough chance to prove his caliber and leadership qualities, he is sacked and literally abused for various reasons. This has drowned the spirit and the courage of the players both to take up captaincy and to carry on with it. That's what has happened with Mohd. Azharuddin who has won the maximum number of games under his leadership. However a few poor performances saw this captain thrown down to the garbage bin, neither the public nor the selection board considering the number of victories he brought to our nation.

However even Sachin Tendulkar who was chosen the next captain could not carry on well and a part of this can be attributed to the bitter criticisms from all directions. Personal bias has always been a very big reason that has pulled down the spirits of great many Indian stars. Further, intervening the personal life of the stars with their game has been a big reason for a great number of maladies in Indian cricket. It is very essential for both the board and the viewers to understand a very important fact that the game and the personal life of the players are laid on two different tracks. By trying to take both into consideration they are only ruining Indian cricket!!

VI. WHAT'S FOR TOMORROW?

Now, with this state of affairs, what can be predicted for the future of India?! Where are we heading? Some questions seem to confuse while some others scare. However the future is not as bizarre as it looks.

**“A few bowlers who can soar,
Stiff and steady like the iron ore!
A few men with the bat,
Who with ‘runs and runs’ can often lift
their hat!**

**All of them who will remarkably field,
For it is with this, results we yield!!
A Dream Team, A Dream Team, A
Dream Team,**

**It may very difficult to all seem!
But hope is what still lasts,
For this has always been the case,
even in the past!”**

Yes! Victories, appreciations, world cups and many more trophies are all in store for the Indians in future. For it can always be rightly said that even if the entire world is exhausted, India would still go on, for nothing can stop India from its journey towards the sky, towards the dreams unlimited! With new players blooming down the lanes, with new spirits imbibed in the Indians, victory is not far away from us. We'll emerge again as world leaders posing a threat to all other nations as players!

Smiles will be back on the Indian lips, joy will be back in the Indian hearts, runs will be back on the Indian boards –these are all not just dreams, they are hopes, hopes that are going to find place in the books of truth and reality. For there is neither a darkness that has defeated the dawn nor a defeat that has defeated success!!

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