CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION OF THE SUBJECT:

1.01] Cricket as a game of mass appeal and social contact:

Cricket is undoubtedly an international game. Although only 9 countries are the permanent members of International Cricket Conference and have got the status of Test playing Countries, there are many other countries in Asia, Europe and America which play cricket, or we can say that Cricket is played on large scale in these countries. 27 countries used to participate in qualifying rounds for the world cup which is one of the biggest sports extravaganzas in the world, held after every four years.

India is a Cricket loving country. Practically, thousands of people are mad after this game. Every match is witnessed by fifty to eighty thousand people in the stadium and crores watch the ball to ball happenings on the Television and the same number listen to the running commentary on Radio. For varied reasons the game has mass appeal. Not only the international matches but national matches are also witnessed by the enthusiastic spectators. Apart from international and national matches, many tournaments are organised at most of the cities in India which pull considerable crowd. There are many
tournaments which are being organised every year from last fifty years. Even School Cricket or Club Cricket also pulls thousands of spectators. When these tournaments are organised & arranged regularly, many people come forward to patronize the game & the players. Many business concerns sponsor even the lower level Cricket tournaments only because it is the best crowd-puller game in India.

Common man is very much interested in the game and the gossip that goes with it. Cricket becomes the routine commodity for Indian middle class people like newspaper, Tea, TV. Cricket is unavoidable part of their life.

Like film stars and political leaders, Cricketers also occupy the center-stage (place) in the society. They are the idols for the society. People not only love them but also respect them like anything. Particularly, when the Cricketers of International, National or even local level having undoubtable merits perform well, they enjoy special status in the society. If somebody is a meritorious cricketer he enjoys a special status. This is not the case with players of equal merit in other sporting disciplines. In any office if somebody is introduced as Cricketer, people try to help him & his all problems are solved promptly.

Majority people read magazines & news papers only for cricket. Many buy a particular magazine or news paper only
to read some articles written by a Cricketer or in the name of a cricketer.

One will hardly find any ground empty on any of the holidays or Sundays. Every ground pulls crowd because of the cricket matches. Number of matches are played on one ground and sometimes it is very difficult to recognize for which side the player is playing.

The elections of the B. C. C. I. i.e. the governing body for cricket in India, gets special flash in news papers, on T. V. and Radio. Any news connected to Cricket regarding Rules, Amendments, board meetings, tours, National or International tournaments or players is covered by media because it is socially important. People are interested in knowing what is happening in the state or at international level in Cricket. Moreover, the people are interested in knowing the private life of the cricketers their marriages, their affairs, habits and so on.

Even the political leaders who enjoy the status of Central Ministers are also interested in the Cricket Control Board’s politics, and leave no stone unturned to be an office bearer of the Board. It shows how much importance the game has acquired in the Indian society. The game is popular and played in the cosmopolitan cities as well as in the smallest village of this Country. In the cosmopolitan cities the street Cricket is one of the biggest headache for traffic & police.
Advertising agencies are also in the race, cashing in on the name & fame of the leading Cricketers, by using them as models in their advertisements. Even some of the films made by these advertising agencies stress only one point that because a particular cricketer is using their product it is good for common people. They just try to emphasis the need of their products through Cricket & Cricketers.

There might be difference in the opinions about the national issues, even about the abilities of the leaders but the entire country is one on the issues like national integration, batsmanship of Great Sunil Gavaskar and enormous talent of young Sachin Tendulkar.

As for this country, cricket is not only the game of mass appeal and social contact but also a mean which unites the nation.

1.02] Evolution of Cricket and progress of the game particularly in Common Wealth Nations :

Cricket is religion in West Indies. A passion in India. Big time T. V. in Australia and an Industry in England. And for the man who plays, it is his life. But like every great custom or tradition the Universal Game is nobody's invention. It evolved
and developed naturally due to its own glory and love of the supporters. Although it evolved some where in Europe or more pinpointingly in today's England no evidences are available to state the exact period of its evolution. The first reference about the evolution of Cricket appears in the, "Accounts of Wardrobe" for the twenty-eighth regional year of Edward I i.e. 1299-1300, in which expenditure shown for Prince Edward to play 'Creag' and other games with his friends. That means the game must have evolved much earlier than the period referred to by this evidence. But it is the clear cut indication of the popularity and the existence of the game. It also shows that even at that time the game had come off age, and as the development is a continuous process, we find it in today's modern form.

It is very difficult to state the year or even era of the evolution of the game. The only conclusion one can draw from all the available records is that, the game is evolved in England and spread all over the world by Englishman and the cricket lovers. The purpose of this study is not the History of the game, but it has a great history. Looking back into the history, we can make it in two parts i.e. from 1864 to Second World War and post war period. The period between 1864 to 1912 or just before the start of the world war I, is said to be the 'Golden Age' of the game. Not because during this period the game was widely played but because of the development of it and the true spirit with which it was played during that period. Although the
categories of professionals and amateurs were in existence even at the highest class, Cricket was played with true spirit of the game. It is the period which has given the "gentleman's status" to the game. This period has seen some of the all time greets in peak form and the evolution of some of the grates who dominated the field by their deeds. The all time grates are obviously Dr W G Grace, Victor Trumper, Sidney Barnes, J K Hobbs and the great Don Bradman.

The game developed in the common wealth nations and British Isles with different pace. The causes of the development and growth of the game among these countries vary although the popularity and the degree of enthusiasm was same. So, for even having a glance in to the evolution, development and growth of the game in common wealth nations we will have to split it country-wise. Let us discuss the development and the growth of the game after 1864 under the sub headings of different nations.

England : - (M C C ) Before the formation of Marylebone Cricket Club. Hambaldon Cricket Club was in existence for about 30 years. The Marylebone Cricket Club was formed during the year 1787-88 by the members of old White Conduit Club. Since early days the M C C has grown in status, as it superseded the Hambaldon Cricket Club as the leading Club of England and subsequently become recognised as the top authority of the game any where in the world. There was no actual laws to sustain this authority but the sense of purpose and the integrity of the man
who have led the club over the years has been respected by Cricket lovers everywhere, so much so that they have gladly accepted the guidance and ruling of the M C C.

They serve the game with such dedication that they are taken as highest authority to amend the laws of the game if required to impose the new laws for the cricket.

The most important step in the development of the game is legalisation of the over arm bowling. It is only legalisation of over arm bowling which has brought up the game up to today's modern stage. Although the game was very popular in England and there were some clubs and countries in existence it was the year 1861-62 which saw the first English tour abroad, that is to Australia. There after many overseas teams toured England and all English teams undertook overseas tours.

The M C C acquired the Lords Cricket Ground for 1800 in 1866 and it has been the headquarters of the game ever since. In the year 1882 Australian side defeated the English team and "The Ashes" tradition was established. Since then whenever the two teams play the test matches they are said to be fighting for The Ashes or The Series of the test matches between these two countries is recognised as "Ashes".
During the year 1898 a Board of Control was set up to administer the test matches played in England. But M C C had a firm grip or control of English Cricket at top level. In the year 1909, Imperial Cricket Conference was formed with Australia, South Africa & M C C representing England as founder members of it.

Throughout this period, Cricket in England flourished and developed through the efforts & guidance of the M C C. Merylebone Cricket Club’s contribution in the development of English Cricket is so much that the English team itself was recognised in the name of M C C until recently.

Following the formation of sports council with Government aid for sports it was decided in 1968 to bring cricket in to line with other sports by setting up new central authority "The M C C Council" to include not only members of the M C C itself but also the Test and County Cricket Board which was recognised as Board of Control for test matches played in England, the National Cricket Association and the minor counties.

Though England has given many great players and the side is regarded as great fighters, it has lost some of its prestige after 1970 with Australia, West Indies & India emerging as the new world powers. Still, as a cricket playing country M C C has its own status. Although the English side has not won any of the
major tournaments so far, again they are emerging as world power in 1990s.

At present England has seven test centres. These are as follows

1. Oval. 2. Lord's.
5. Nottingham 6. Sheffield

All these centers have completed almost hundred years and at least 50 test matches have been played on each of these grounds except Sheffield.

England have produce some all time great players like Dr. W G Grace, J K Hobbes, Sir Len Hutton, G Boycot & I Botham.

Australia: The British first settled in Australia towards the end of the 18th Century and it is safe to assume that Cricket was introduced into that country very soon after this, probably by soldiers, who were stationed in the South-Eastern region of the continent around the turn of the century.

The first club to be formed is thought to have been the 'Hobart Town Club' which came into existence in 1832. The name was changed to a 'Derwent Club' in 1837. This was followed by Melbourne Cricket Club in 1838. Inter-Colonial matches began in 1851 with a game between Tasmania &
Victoria, and the earliest match which subsequently was recognised as a first class was one was played between Victoria an New South Wales at Melbourne in 1856. Indeed, this was the earliest first class match played outside the United Kingdom.

The first English team toured Australia in the year 1861. There after many overseas teams toured Australia and the home team also undertook many overseas tours.

Mr C Lawrence, the proficient allrounder who played for Middlesex and Surrey stayed in Australia to coach Sydney's top cricket team from Albert Club. Lawrence had played an important role in the improvement and growth of Australian cricket. Now, the cricket was well established in Australia around 1880s. The first test between England and Australia was played at Melbourne in the year 1877.  

The Australian Cricket Council was formed in 1892 and they instituted the Sheffield Shield Competition in the year 1892-93. It is named after the Lord Sheffield who presented a sum of money for the benefit of Australian Cricket The competition has continued regularly even since, with the exemption of the years of the two world wars, and it is regarded as National Cricket Competition for Australia.
The Australian Board of Control was set up in 1905, although the final arrangements of this new board was not completed until the following year.

The Australian cricket's history cannot be completed without mentioning the name of Sir Don Bradman. The greatest batsman who had dominated all the figures in first class cricket has lost his peak cricketing years due to the Second World War.

After 1960s, Australia emerged as the world power, they defeated England & West Indies and established themselves as world champions.

Late 1970s saw some conflicts arising between the Board and the businessman, Mr Kerry Packar who tried to form new trends in the cricket and got success except the boundings of the Nations. Early 1980s saw some decline in the performance of Australians at International level but with sincere efforts they overcome the situation and late 80s saw Australian cricket again at top of the world. So Australia had its ups and downs but overall it has always been a strong and fighting side. At present Australia have five test centres, namely,

1. Adelaid
2. Brisbane
3. Melbourne
4. Perth
Cricket was played in South Africa over 180 years ago. The first match of which any records has been found was between Officers of Artillery Mess and Officers of the Colony at Cape Town for $1000 - a-side on 5th January 1808. However, it is quite likely that Cricket had been played at the Cape Town several years before this by members of the first occupation force who were stationed there between 1795 and 1802.

Visiting servicemen played the game regularly in the early part of the 19th century but it was really established in that part of the world, by pioneers from England who went out to settle there in the 1840s and 1850s. It is known that a club was formed at Port Elizabeth in 1843 and at Bloemfontein in 1855.

By 1876 there were so many Cricket teams that the town of Port Elizabeth presented a trophy, "The Championship Bat", for competition in the Cape of Good Hope. This was the first Cricket competition in South Africa and it helped to create a keener interest in the game for a few years until the
inauguration of the "Currie Cup" in 1889, put competitive Cricket on a firmer basis.

The season of 1888-89 saw the arrival of the first English touring team in South Africa. The first South African side toured England in 1907 and was captained by Mr. Sherwell. The South Africans had actually sent touring teams to England on three previous occasions, but these sides which came over in 1894, 1901 and 1904 did not engage in Test matches, and the first side was not given first-class status.

The South African Cricket Association was formed at a meeting held at Kimberlay, on 8th April 1890. They were one of the three original members of the Imperial Cricket Conference in 1909 but they dropped out in 1961 after leaving the Commonwealth.

After 27 years, South Africa had again staged a come back in International Cricket during the year 1991, by playing One day International match against India at Calcutta which eventually they lost. But there after within a very short time they figured in last 4 in the World cup held in Australia during 1992.

South Africa have produced some all time great players like Barry Richards, Graham Pollack and of course, the
electric fielder Jonty Rohdes. South Africans have earned a reputation as a good fighters, which can bat any side on any grounds on any occasion. They were better Cricketers, they are, and they will remain better Cricketers.

At present South Africa have 4 test centres namely

1] Cape Town 2] Durban

New Zealand: - Cricket is being played in New Zealand since the 1830, and Wellington Cricket Club is known to have been in existence by 1842. The first inter-provincial match was played in 1860 between Wellington & Auckland. This game took place at Mount Cook Barracks. The return match was played over two years latter at Auckland.

In the year 1864 the first English team toured New Zealand which went there from Australia.

The New Zealand Cricket Council was formed in 1894 and it was admitted to the Imperial Cricket Conference in 1926. The principal cricket competition in New Zealand is the Shell Shield which was first presented in 1975-76 and won by Canterbury. Before the Shell Shield the Plunket Shield was
taken as the principal competition for this country. Although the New Zealand side is regarded as good fighting side because of its outstanding ground fielding, it never emerged as the best side for any of the period of its existence.

One of the greatest bowlers the world has ever seen is 'Richard Hadlee" who became a legendary personality not only for the New Zealand but for the World Cricket also. He has taken over 400 wickets in the test cricket and whatever the bright moments New Zealand has had after the 1970s are due to this great man.

New Zealand is having five test centres, namely

1. Auckland  
2. Christchurch.  
3. Dunedin  
5. Napier.

West Indies: - As in so many other parts of the world it were the British troops who introduced cricket to West Indies in the early part of the 19th Century.

Records are scarce but it is known that the 59th Foot defeated the Trinidad Club in 1842 and even at that time the home club had been in existence for some time. Clubs were also formed in the other Island Capitals at about the same period.
The first Inter-Colonial match was played in Barbados in Feb. 1865. Trinidad entered the Inter-Colonial Cricket Field in 1869 but matches were few and far between, until the early 1880s when the game really established in that part of the world. In the year 1886 a representative West Indies side toured the United States and Canada.

In 1891, a triangular tournament between Barbados, British Guiana and Trinidad proved such success that it was decided to institute a regular Inter-Colonial Cup Competition. This Trophy was subscribed for throughout the West Indies and first put up for the competition in 1893 and continued until 1939.

Although the overseas teams toured West Indies the home side toured England for the first time in 1900. The West Indies played their first official test against England during their 1928 tour and during the previous year i.e. 1927 the West Indies Board of Cricket Control was formed. And even before the formation of West Indies Cricket Control Board it was admitted to International Cricket Conference in the year 1926 along with India and New Zealand.

Since the formation of West Indian Board of Control the side has become more stronger. They are famous for their fast and power play in general but they have produced some stylish
players also. West Indies is a power in the world. They have beaten every side of the world and hence the world winners indeed. After the 1970s they have not lost any of the test series under the captainship of Clive Loyd. Although late 1980s saw the West Indian Cricket's decline and the team performing poorly against most of the sides, still one must admit that they are the world beaters.

West Indies have produced some of the great players like Frank Warell, Sir Garry Sobers, who are the legendary personalities in the world cricket. One of the most wonderful characteristics of West Indies is, when they are at the top they outplay their opponents in every department of the game but when they are going down others dominate in every department of the game.

At present there are five test centres in West Indies. These are as follows

1. Bridgetown
2. Georgetown
3. Kingston
4. Port of Spain
5. Antigua.

Pakistan : - The partition of India in 1947 did not favour Pakistan from Cricketing point of view. They were left with very few first class players and grounds. However the Pakistanis are
very keen cricketers and they quickly set about developing the resources left to them in the Sind, North West Frontier Provinces, Baluchistan, about half of the state of Punjab and Eastern Bengal.

This area included two of the continent’s principal grounds, namely Dhakka and Karachi, although following the establishment of Bangala Desh in what was formerly East Bengal, in 1971, there was further reduction in resources with the loss of Dhakka.

In the year 1951, Pakistan played their first test match against India. They made their first tour to England in the year 1954.

Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan formed during year 1949 and they were admitted to International Cricket Conference for the first time in 1952.

The National Championship of Pakistan is played for a Quaid-e-Azam trophy, a knock-out championship which was established in 1953-54. The another tournament, Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan patron’s Trophy was first played in 1971, the name being changed simply to Patron’s Trophy in the year 1972.
Now, Pakistan is regarded as a strong side in the world. They are known for their fighting spirit. They have produced some very good players like Imran Khan, Javed Miandad, Abdul Qadir & famous Mohammad Brothers.

At present Pakistan have following test centres

1. Bahavalpur 2. Hyderabad (Sindh)
3. Peshawar 4. Rawalpindi
7. Faisalabad 8. Multan

Sri Lanka: - Cricket was first introduced in Ceylon by British troops in 1820s and it was latter established by British Coffee and Tea planters. The first club in records is the Colombo Cricket club formed in 1863 and this organisation become the leading authority for the game in Island.

Between 1820 to 1860 cricket was only played by British Tea and Coffee planters and it was not developed indigenously.

The first English team to play in Ceylon was in 1882 and almost every International team travelling between England and Australia has played in Sri Lanka in recent years. The Sri Lanka cricket Association was formed in 1921 but they
played their first unofficial test against M C C in the year 1969-70. Sri Lanka was first admitted to International Cricket Conference during the year 1981\textsuperscript{22}.

One reason, why it took so long to achieve test status was the doubt about its Cricketing infrastructure and ability to support a tour. The lack of adequate plane grounds was held against it.

Sri Lanka is so far regarded as weak side and has not left much impact on international cricket except for some bright moments.

At present Sri Lanka have the following test centres.


India :- The earliest cricket to be played in India was probably that at Cambay by sellers of East India company in 1797.\textsuperscript{23}
The old Etonians met the Parses in 1784 and the Calcutta Cricket Club is believed to have been in existence as early as 1792.

A Cricket club was established by the Parses in Bombay in 1841 and it is this religious sect which has done most to establish the game on the Indian Continent. The Hindus formed their first Cricket club in 1866 & the Mohammedans in 1883, the Parses team in year 1886. And the first Indian Team toured England in the year 1911. Indian cricket developed through the patronize of the Princes like Maharaja of Patiyala and Maharaja of Vijaynagaram.

As it is earlier mentioned that the clubs were formed on religious basis. One tournament was instituted in Bombay and it become pentangular in the year 1937, the participants were Hindus, Parses, Muslims, English and rest. This tournament was very much popular and was continued till late 1940s.

During the year 1926 India was first admitted to International Cricket Conference and only a year after i. e. in the year 1927 the Indian Cricket Control Board was formed. The cricket control board has instituted Ranji Trophy during the year 1934-35 as National Cricket Competition in the memory of K S Ranjeetsinghji. At the present time over forty teams
compete for the trophy. They are divided into North, South East, West and Central Zones, and first two teams of each Zonal Competition, which is decided on a points system, then take part in a knockout competition to decide the winner.

India has dominated the world cricket with the spin attack, the like of which the world had not seen for several years. After 1970, India has emerged as the power in the world cricket. They have won some of the world championship and have come to the reputation of the world beaters.

India has produced some of the all time great players like Ranjitsinghji, Duleepsinghji, C K Nayudu, Vinoo Mankad, B S Bedi, Chandra, Prasanna, Sunil Gavaskar and Kapil Dev. These players have not only dominated Indian Cricket but the world cricket also.

At present India have five major test centres in Bombay, Delhi, Madras Calcutta and Banglore. There are some other test centres like Kanpur, Hyderabad, Nagpur and Ahemadabad. At present, India is having 17 Test Centres altogether. Except the first five every centre has staged couple of test and one day matches but the major contribution is of the big five.

Foot notes :-
01. First brought up to notice by P. F. Thomus in old English Cricket" a collection of five p amphlets issued between 1923-29.


03. Encyclopaedia of Cricket - Rupa & co.- compiled by Murice Golesworthy (1978) page no.140, para 2, 2nd column


05. In the year 1882 Australian side humiliated England by defeating it in Ovel Test. In remembrance of that a stump was brunt and the "Ashes" were presented to English captain. Since then whenever two nations play they are said to be fighting for "Ashes". Ref.: Jagatik Cricketcha Itihas- Priya publication- 1981. By Dr. Vasant Naik


07. Ibid. page no. 21, para 3, column 1.

08. Ibid. page no. 21, para 8, column 2.

09. Ibid. page no. 22, para 6, column 1.

10. Ibid. page no 22, para 7, column 2.

11. Ibid. page no .174, para 2, column 1.

12. Ibid. page no 62, para 2, column 1.

13. Ibid. page no 175, para 3, column 1.
14. Ibid. page no 146, para 8, column 1.
15. Ibid page no 147, para 3, column 1.
16. Ibid. page no 199, para 3, column 2.
17. Ibid. page no 200, para 2, column 1.
18. Ibid page no 200, para 2, column 2.
19. Ibid. page no 154, para 4, column 2.
20. Ibid. page no 155, para 4, column 2.
21. Ibid. page no 176, para 1, column 2.
23. Ibid. page no 209, para 2.
25. Ibid. page no 107, para 2 column 1.