CONCLUSION

Cricket in India for a long time has been an elitist game, inherited originally from the British by the landed gentry and educated upper classes. There are differences of opinion with regard to the origin of the game; cricket as a game of bat and ball seems to have been patronized as a church event to promote community spirit. In spite of divergent views, ideas and theories pertaining to the origin and homeland of the game, it is almost certain that it was nurtured and developed by the British. Since the 17th century, cricket enjoyed patronage in England, gradually gained popularity and during the course of the 19th century, became one of the most popular games in England. Hence, early modern England had been the game master of the world and of all the major sports it gave birth to, cricket is the one which the English themselves recognise and uphold as their national game.

The history of cricket in Tamil Nadu - like cricket elsewhere - is inextricably linked with British history though the power centre of the game has in the recent past has shifted to the Indian sub-continent. Cricket is older than the British Empire, and according to at least one claim, it was first played around A.D.1340. The game grew in complexion and popularity, and by the 1700s it became a spectator
sport. The origin and development of cricket in India is a British colonial legacy. The establishment of cricket clubs was a source of comfort to the British colonial masters since through this game they could impose order in the areas under their control and could also feel that they had even brought a bit of their country with them.

In the beginning, the British who landed in India as representatives of the English East India Company had only the intention of establishing factories and promoting the Company's trade. The Company's servants, officials and soldiers wanted some kind of relaxation and also free themselves from the homesickness, by playing cricket among themselves; it was a medium of relief. They invented the game at home and played it in India as a welcome retreat from the utter strangeness of life abroad. In course of time, the game began to spread in different parts of India, and yet it remained as a British sport and played between the British officials and the British military men. The British had neither the intention nor the inclination to teach the game to Indians and they were not supposed to do so. Hence, the Indians remained as spectators of the game, but gradually got fascinated and grasped the basics of the game. The Indians developed a certain amount of aptitude towards the game and with the help of the local
carpenters and cobblers made cricket bats and balls. Thus, the Indians prepared the ground to play the game with their colonial masters irrespective of the fact that there was a gulf between the masters and the subjects.

A few British Governors evinced a keen interest in the development and promotion of the game cricket besides administration. Lord Harris and Lord Hawke was cricket loving Governors; and Lord Harris, because of his special interest in cricket, earned the title the "Father of Indian Cricket", and paved the way for the development and promotion of cricket in India. In fact, the playing of cricket, during the colonial period, bridged the gap between the so called rulers and the ruled. Lord Harris was perhaps the greatest administrator and missionary in the history of Indian cricket. While he was the Governor of Bombay, he took special initiative to improve Indian Cricket and did a lot to infuse interest of the game among all classes of people.

The British trader and soldier took the game abroad; the East India Company and its successors planted the seeds of cricket in India as early as the 18th century. However, cricket was by no means the first sport the British introduced in Madras. It became a regular sports affair
only when the Madras Cricket Club was founded by Alexander Arbuthnot in 1846. In the beginning, the Madras Cricket Club used the Island Grounds for playing cricket, but the ground did not satisfy the expectations of the players, and hence the MCC appealed to the government to allot the Chepauk Palace grounds. The ground was allotted to the MCC for the purpose of playing cricket by the government of Madras and the MCC leveled the ground in 1865 and constructed a pavilion in 1866. The game cricket, at that time, was meant for the Englishmen and the natives were not given any opportunity to play with them. The arrival of Buchi Babu on the scene, changed the complexion of the game, and he was instrumental in helping the natives of Chennai to play cricket in its real sense. For the development and promotion of the game, Buchi Babu established a native cricket club called the “Madras United Club” and because of his services for the development of cricket in Chennai, he has been rightly called the “Father of Madras Cricket”.

The Madras United Club which came into existence in 1888 was later destined to become the “Tamil Nadu Cricket Association”. Later the MUC got merged with other local cricket clubs and the Madras Cricket Association was formed in 1934, and on 30th April 1935, at a
meeting of the representatives of 45 city Cricket Clubs, P. Subbaroyan was elected the first President and K.S. Ranga Rao the first Secretary and Treasurer. This association was registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 on the first day of May 1953. The registered office of the Association is located at the M.A.Chidambaram Stadium, Victoria Hostel Road, Chennai. Rules and regulations of the association were soon framed, and the TNCA began to function as the State’s official body controlling and governing the activities of the game in the entire State.

From such an impressive beginning, the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association has progressed steadily earning the reputation as the best cricket establishment in the whole country. Many illustrious administrators like P.Subbaroyan, the first President, C.R.Pattabiraman, T.Srinivasaraghavan, M.A.Chidambaram, S.Sriraman, V.Pattabhiraman, A.C.Mthiah and the present President N.Srinivasan ensured that the Association remains a shining example and a role model for cricket associations in other parts of India.

The Tamil Nadu Cricket Association conducts the best cricket league tournament in India with the only competition that merits
comparison coming from Mumbai. A marvel of logistics and organizational excellence, the association completes the league well within the season. Cricket was quite prominent in the districts of the state as far back as the thirties and forties. At the turn of the 1950s districts like Salem, Tiruchirapalli, Pudukottai and Coimbatore were quite active. There are at present 776 clubs participating in the leagues conducted by the various districts and over 3500 matches taking place annually. Thirunelveli, Thiruvallur, Kanchipuram, Villupuram, Pudukottai and Ranipet have turf wickets while there are practice turf wickets in Coimbatore and Theni for coaching camps.

Coaching camps for district players who have performed creditably well in the round robin and combined districts matches are conducted by the Association. These camps are supervised by the Level-I and Level-II Coaches and uniform coaching methods as prescribed by the National Coaching Academy are followed. The District Associations also enjoy patronage and sponsorship from certain institutions Canara Bank, Indian Bank, the India cements, the TI cycles, Sumeru Media communications, Kumbhat House, Pricol and the Jaya Educational Trust. The Tamil Nadu Cricket Association has given importance to district cricket by offering considerable representation to
the district officials in the administration. Two Vice-Presidents, an Honorary Assistant Secretary and Five Committee Members are elected to the Association at the State level. The District Forum provides the collective activities of District Members a unique identity.

In the year 1934, the Madras Cricket Association was formed and all the then existing 45 city clubs merged with that and became members. The MCC assumed the responsibility of arranging grounds and fixtures in a systematic manner for the first time in the City, relieved the players of extraneous responsibilities and made them concentrate on playing of the game. Over the decades, city league cricket had to depend on the corporate patronage, thanks to the galloping financial and infrastructure demands of the game. Tamil Nadu is really fortunate in having a number of companies evincing keen interest in the game and also the readiness to invest substantially in talent promotion and infrastructure development. Some of these sponsors have also established premier coaching establishments and many other facilities which enable the state's players participate in national level matches and a few players have training in batting and bowling abroad.
The District Associations and City Cricket Clubs played a vital role in the development and promotion of the game throughout the state and they can be rightly regarded as nurseries of budding and talented cricketers. They have been stepping stones for many cricketers to elevate themselves to the level of national and international cricketers. Some of the city cricket clubs like the Triplicane Cricket Club and Mylapore Recreation Club are among the oldest ones; and other notable Clubs are the Madras Cricket Club, State Bank of India, Alwarpet Cricket Club, Jolly Rovers Cricket Club, SPIC, IOB and Vijay Cricket Club helped to nurture cricket as part of TNCA.

Tamil Nadu had the vibrant support of the media, especially English Newspapers the *Mail, The Hindu,* and *The Indian Express* which extended good support by means of their wide coverage of the game. The Hindu newspaper played an important role is publishing columns on cricket, and S.K.Gurunathan of *The Hindu* was a pioneer Cricket Column writer. The veteran photographer K.Narayanachari, popularly known as Chari, had several decades of Association with *The Hindu* and contributed his mite as a Veteran Photographer with beautiful shots of the Test-cricket. Sports magazines, journals and Television coverage are also contribute to the popularity of Cricket.
Cricket in Tamil Nadu continues to enjoy the corporate support and a wonderful backing from a variety of cricket loving institutions. In Tamil Nadu a powerful form of Industry-Institution co-operation operates to promote sport especially cricket. Prominent companies like the India Cements, Chemplast Sanmar, SPIC, India Pistons, MRF and SICAL have adopted colleges and institutions and are spending a handsome amount on developing and maintaining world class cricket facilities with superb turf wicket and practice facilities. Institutions like the Southern Railway, the Integral Coach Factory, the Sri Ramachandra Medical College and the Pentamedia also provide such facilities.

Tamil Nadu remains one among the pioneer states in India to have the privilege of a well organized cricket. The Madras Cricket Association comprises the entire State of Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Pondicherry. Its objectives are to maintain a general control of the game of cricket in Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Pondicherry, and to have its final decision on all matters related to the game either when referred to or sue motto. The Association assumes the responsibility of spreading the game throughout its area of jurisdiction by organizing tournaments including Inter-University, Inter-School and Inter-Associations.
The affairs of the Association are governed and controlled by the General Body and managed by an Executive Committee elected annually by the General Body. The General Body is composed of a President, Six Vice-Presidents, one Honorary Secretary, one Assistant Secretary [District] one Honorary Treasurer, and one representative from each member club or Institution, a representative for each District Association. The General Body has the power to make, add, delete, alter or amend any of the rules and bye-laws of the Association. It may delegate its powers to all or any other Committee or Sub-Committees, and ask them to act on their behalf.

The Executive Committee consists of the President, four Vice-Presidents from the city of Chennai and two Vice-Presidents from District Associations, the Honorary Secretary, and the Honorary Joint Secretary, the Honorary Assistant Secretary, the Honorary Treasurer, nine representatives elected out of the clubs in the City of Chennai and five representatives elected from the District Associations. The office bearers and Members of the Committees are elected annually at the Annual General Body meeting, and hold office till the new office bearers are elected at the next Annual General Body meeting.
The Tamil Nadu Cricket Association has the reputation of having an effective and efficient administration with a chain of highly talented administrators at all levels, and is considered one among the best administered bodies in India. With in seven decades of its origin and development, it has seen and enjoyed the selfless and devoted services of able and efficient administrators who laboured hard for the promotion of cricket at all levels in the State of Tamil Nadu. Special mention may be made of three legendary personalities of the game and its state administrators namely P.Subbaroyan, M.A.Chidambaram and S.Sriraman. P.Subbaroyan, the first President of the TNCA was a versatile personality, and had the privilege of being the first Indian to play for the MCC. He was a qualified Umpire, a Congressman, and a Minister at both the State and the Centre. M.A.Chidambaram, a pioneer Industrialist who founded a number of industries, was the President of TNCA for 33 years an incredibly long period. Sriraman another veteran of cricket administration was the Secretary of the Association for more than thirty years and remained as one of the pillars of the Association. To continue their tradition of patronage to cricket, A.C.Muthiah and N.Srinivasan made number of efforts to achieve the objectives of this Association.
District Associations started getting due recognition in the administration of the Tamil nadu Cricket Association only after the election of N.Srinivasan its President. One of the contributions and also the main reason for the victory of his entire team in the elections of the TNCA was the unity and solidarity N.Srinivasan has given to the District Secretaries Forum by attending all its meetings even after becoming the President of the TNCA and an office bearer of Board of Control for Cricket in India.

Right from the beginning the Association has been doing splendid work with the support of the media. The Madras Cricket Association which came into being in 1930 began to foster the league cricket with a regular schedule and well framed rules and regulations. The MCC, later to be known as the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association, began to assume the responsibility of controlling and governing the game cricket in the State of Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Pondicherry. The Association progressed steadily and with the sagacity of able and talented administrators, it earned the reputation of one of the best run cricket Association of the country. Right from the beginning the Association, has been doing splendid work for providing world class facilities for the development and promotion of the game.
Many schools and colleges have played a vital role in the development of the game by providing excellent grounds for the matches conducted by the TNCA.

The Tamil Nadu Cricket Association may be said to have achieved its objective of promoting the game, at the grass root level, taking it to every nook and corner of the state, by supporting the activities of the District Associations to provide every opportunity to those young aspirants who possessed the expected talent to play the game in style. TNCA provides proper coaching facilities to the players through the Tamil Nadu Cricket Academy in different aspects in tune with the international standards. The MAC Stadium at Chepauk has also undergone periodical changes and developments and at present provides the latest and modern infrastructure facilities on par with international standards. The TNCA is the only state association in India which issues majority of tickets to the general public during international matches when compared to other state associations.

The Tamil Nadu Cricket Association with a rich background of seventy five years has produced a number of world class bowlers, batsmen, coaches, commentators, Test and one day international
players. Among them, S.Venkatraghavan and Krishnamachari Srikkanth, were elevated up to the highest level of captaining the Indian team. S.Venkatraghavan also elevated himself in umpiring too up to the level of getting into the elite panel of umpires created by the International Cricket Conference. V.V. Kumar who took more than 400 wickets and S. Sharath played 100 matches made distinction for Tamil Nadu Cricket Association in the Ranji Trophy, the most coveted national level domestic tournament conducted by BCCI. It has been rendering excellent service to promote the game cricket in the state by providing excellent opportunities to talented players to exhibit their talents in bowling and batting. It has lot of vision to be translated into practice in the years to come.

As Tamil Nadu Cricket Association is an existing Association and also to fulfill its objectives, the following suggestions are being offered.

1. The term of office for the TNCA office bearers can be three years instead of one year, for the effective planning and execution of promotional activities.

2. The representation to the Districts in the administration of TNCA can be increased as the Districts constitute a majority of Tamil
Nadu population. Each district Association has more than 30 active clubs and there are as many as 1100 clubs in the entire districts of Tamil Nadu whereas the city of Madras is having only 135 clubs on the rolls of Tamil Nadu Cricket Association.

3. The representation of district players in the state team is not adequate when compare to city because the state team selectors of the state team take into account the performance of the player in the first division league match of the city.

4. To compete with the city players, the district players should be given more opportunity and facility of playing on the Turf rather than the matting pitches.

5. It is high time the TNCA should build a state of Art stadium of international standard at one of the districts located in the interior part of Tamil Nadu since many matches get abandoned due to cyclone or torrential rains at Madras which is located in the cyclone prone coastal line of Bay of Bengal.

6. To highlight the legacy of the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association, museum can be developed at the premises of M.A.Chidambaram Stadium by Tamil Nadu Cricket Association.
7. Dr. Subbaroyan Library at the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association can be promoted as a research library as the collections are beneficial to the research scholars in sports and physical education.