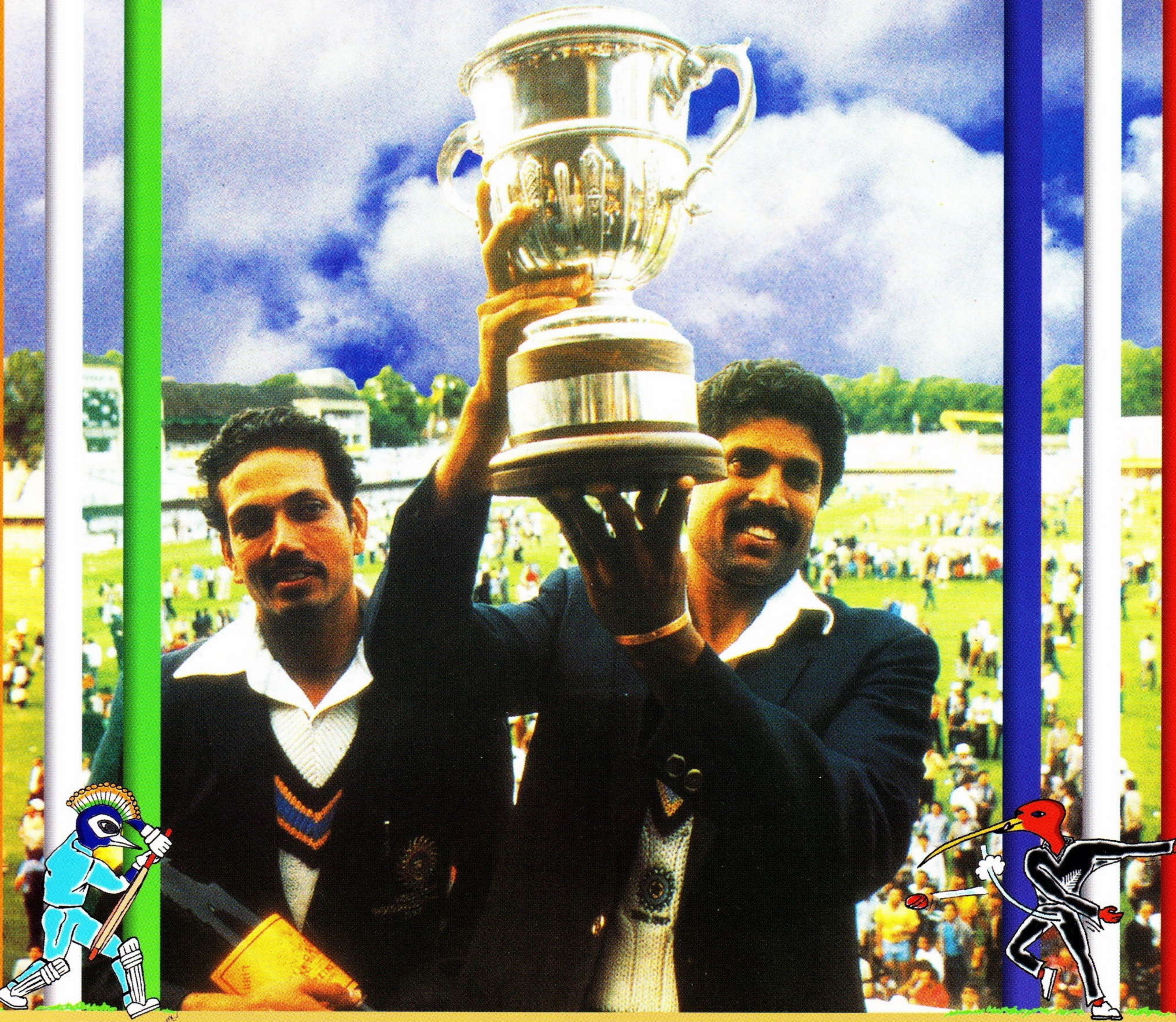




मेघ राजदूतम्
Megha Rajdootam
The Cloud Envoy



High Commission of India
Wellington, New Zealand

Tribute to a Super Sport
December 2002

भारतीय हाई कमिशन
वेलिंग्टन (न्यूजीलैण्ड)

India-New Zealand Cricket Legends

Bert Sutcliffe
1923 – 2001



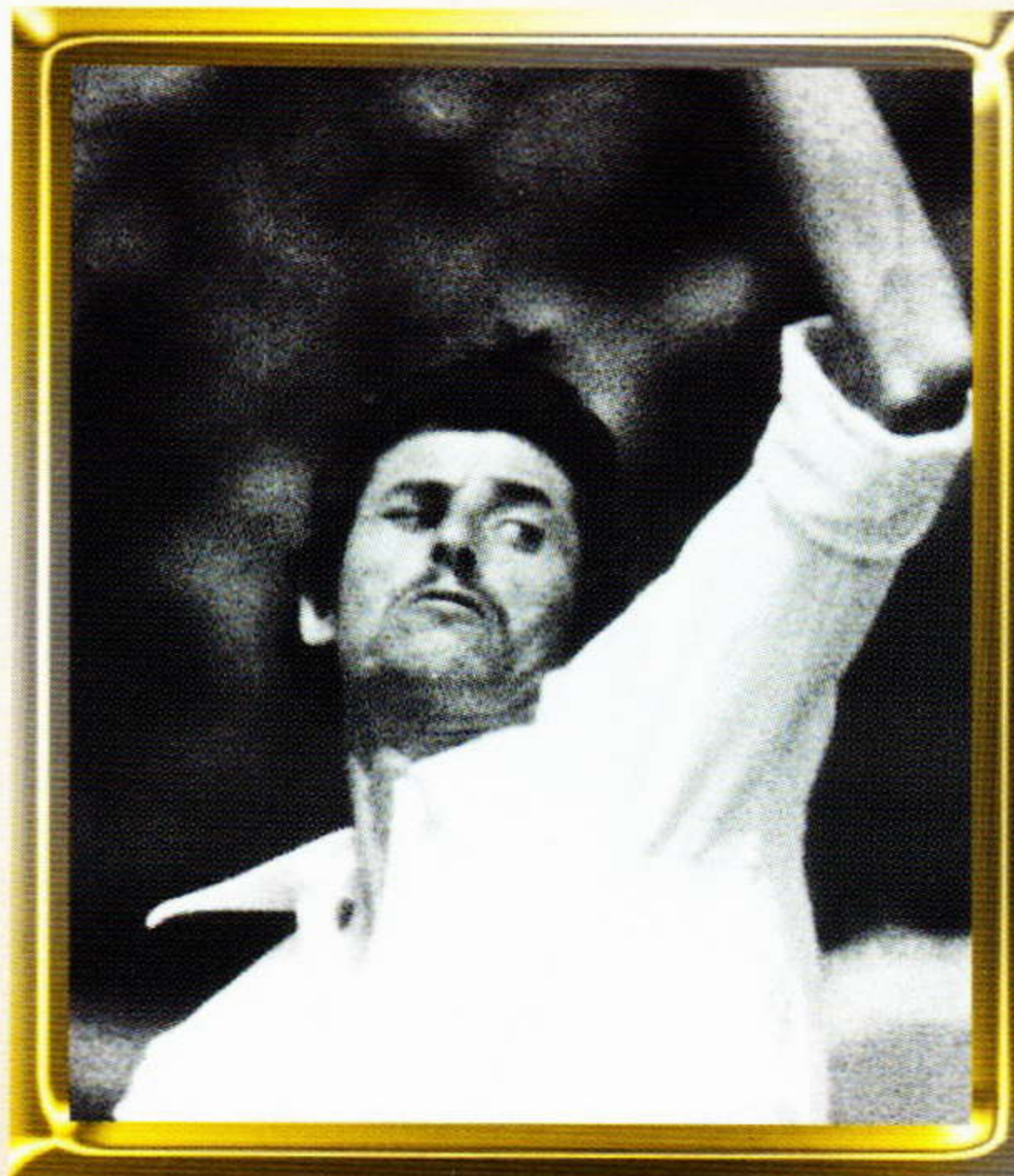
New Zealand's great Left Hand opener epitomized the sport.

Sunil M Gavaskar



First to score 10,000 runs in Test Cricket and surpass Don Bradman's record of 29 centuries to 34.

Sir Richard Hadlee



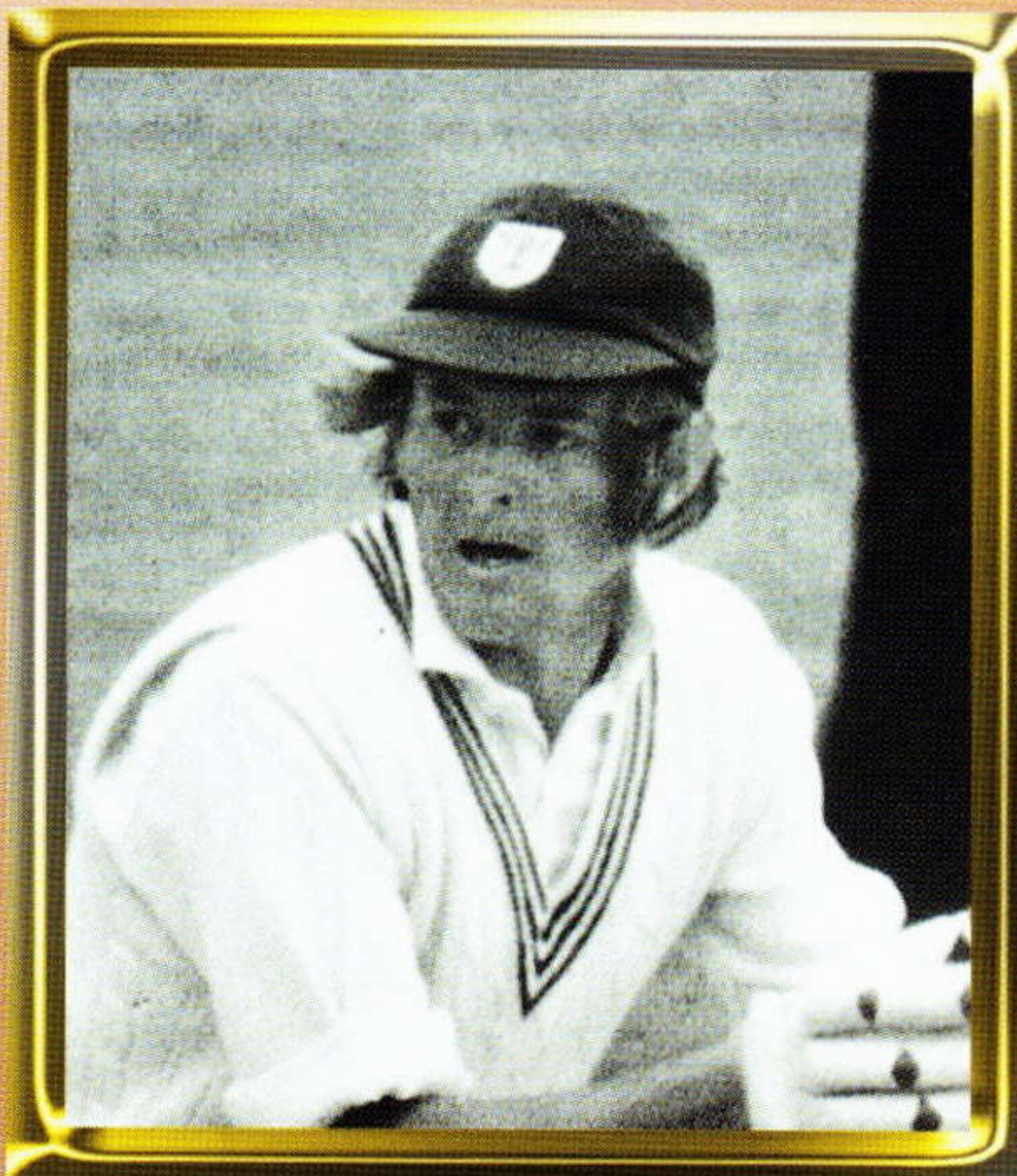
Took New Zealand to new heights of cricket.

Kapil Dev



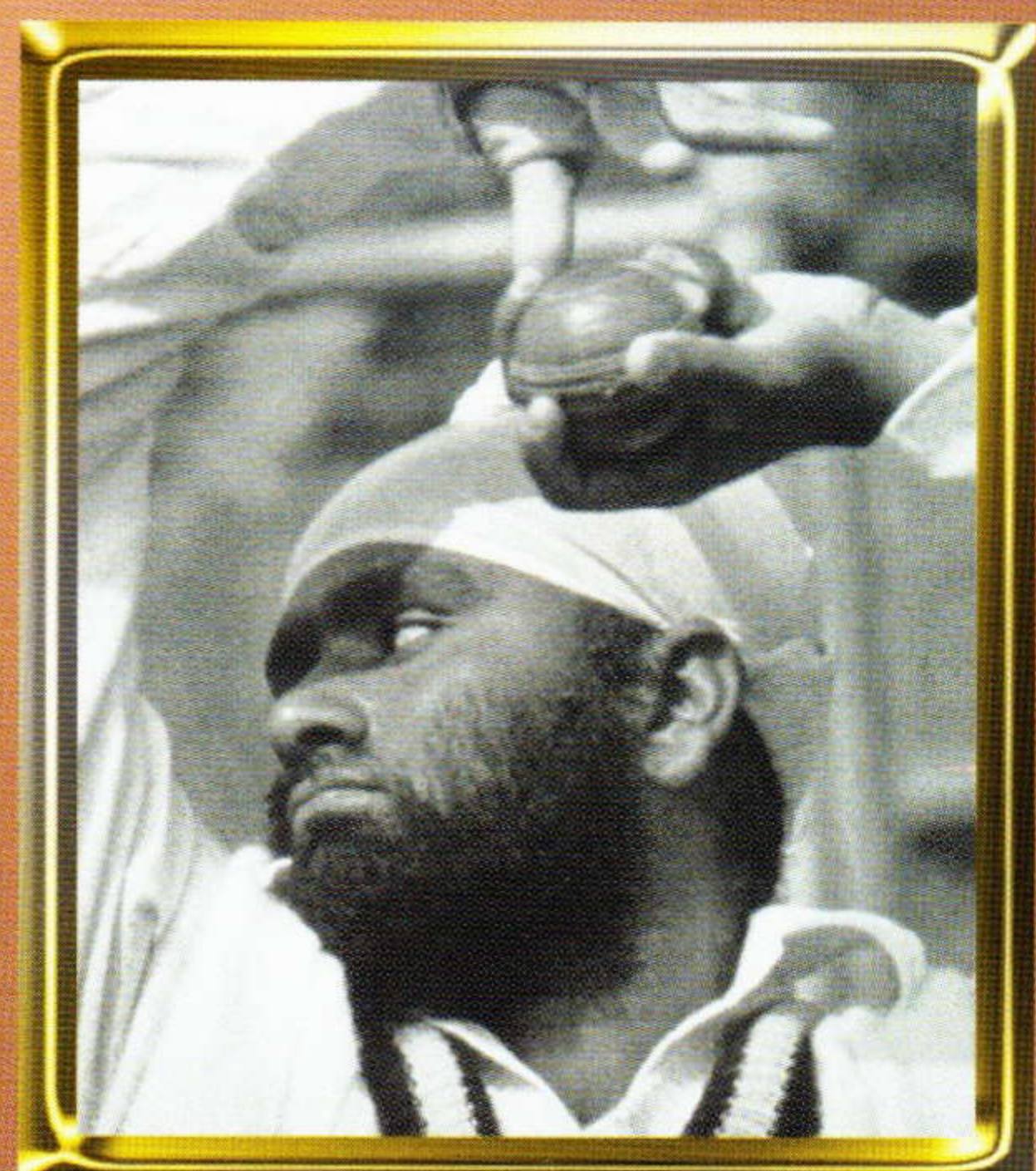
Bettered Sir Richard Hadlee's record of 431 Test Wickets and scored 5,240 runs in Tests.

Glenn Turner



Famous Cricketer 'son-in-law' of India; one of New Zealand's greatest batsmen.

Bishen Bedi



'Sardar' of Indian spin attack, and many famous victories.

Published for the High
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Megha Rajdootam

The Cloud Envoy

Vol. 1 No.2

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XI', Photos Courtesy:
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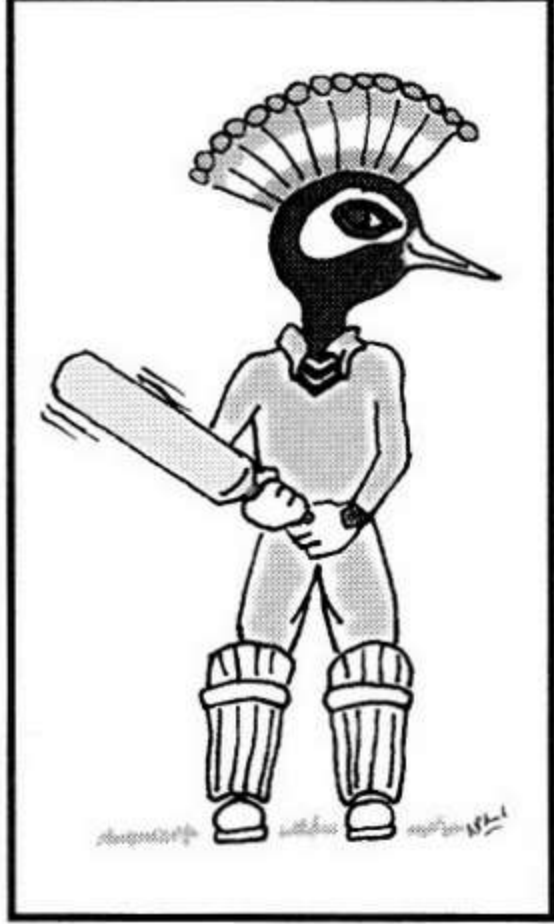
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Opening Lines... 'Runs' of Memories

भारतीय हाई कमिश्नर
वेलिंग्टन (न्यूजीलैण्ड)

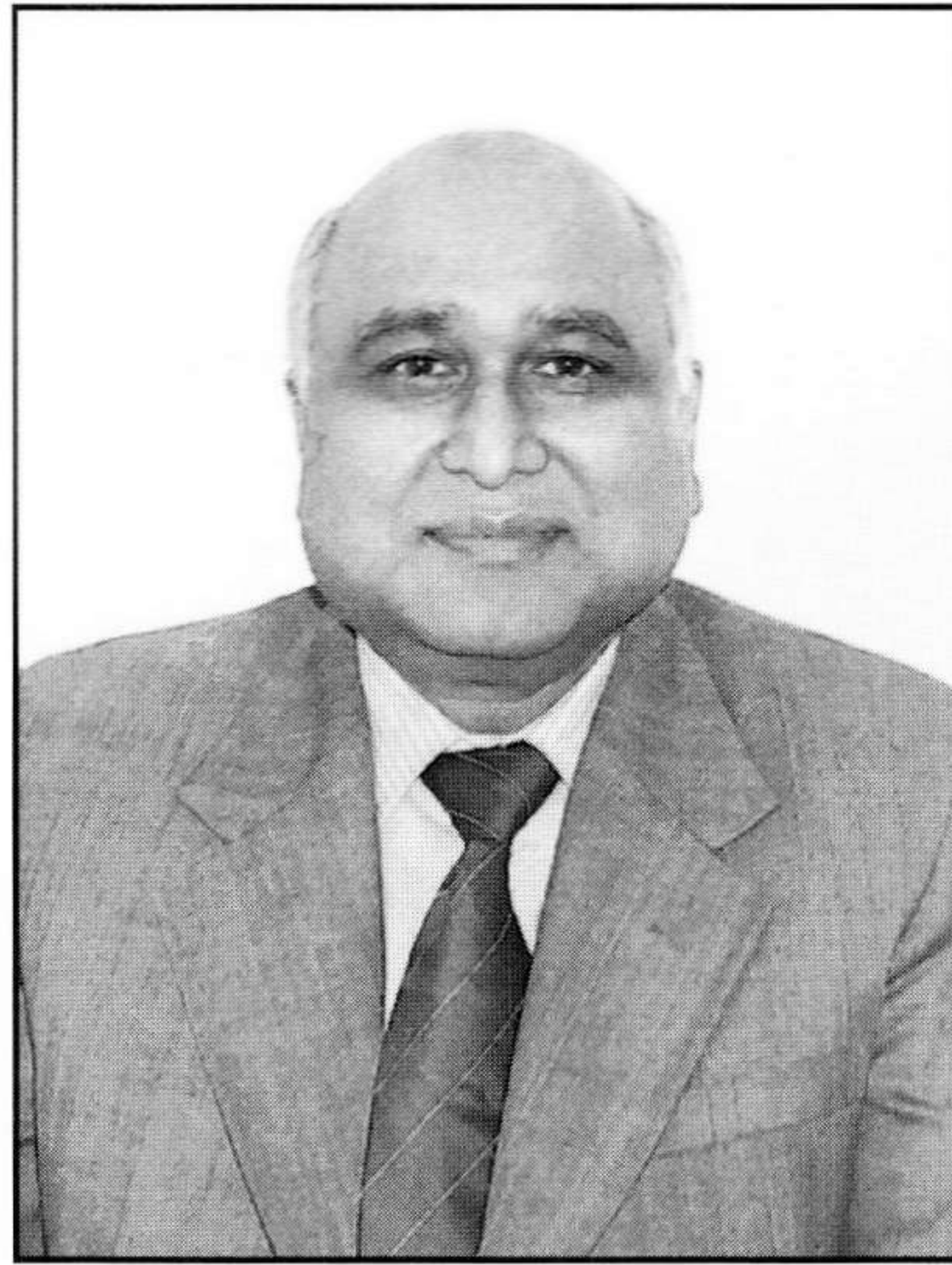
High Commissioner of India
WELLINGTON (New Zealand)



If someone is asked, 'What is the connection between cricket and a High Commissioner?', the answer could be, 'Ambassadors are called High Commissioners in the countries where cricket is a popular sport.' A similarly intriguing question for an Indian cricket fan could be, 'Who was the English cricketer to be the High Commissioner of India to Australia and New Zealand in 1950-53?' Well, the gentleman was Prince K. S. Dilipsinhji, the nephew of legendary cricketer Ranjitsinhji of Nawanagar, who had played for England against Australia.

Looking back to my early years at school, I vividly recall how the climbing of the Everest by Sherpa Tenzing and Edmund Hillary on 29th May, 1953 had been one of the most impressionable event for me. Again, it was the visit of the New Zealand cricket team to India in 1955 which opened vistas of the great game for me. I can exactly recall the tall scores made by the legendary New Zealand opener Bert Sutcliffe and the brilliant all-rounder John Reid. The headlines in the sports columns of English and Hindi dailies flash before my eyes. I do remember how the young and old in my town used to be glued to the radio sets - the running commentary was almost inaudible due to the continuously disturbing sound similar to the thunders of the monsoon clouds! The interest in the game continued to multiply, thanks to the brilliant coverage of the international cricket in the Indian press.

Cricket has been sought to be explained as a sport which is played much more intensely in the minds of the spectators and also its remarkable resemblance to human life. The five-day tests were indeed perceived to represent the whole range of agonies and ecstasies of a lifetime. There could always be a



chance of a positive turn; one had to grab all the possible chances; the batsman had to treat every ball on its merit; the bowler had to be brave hearted and tactful enough to tempt the batsman to mistime a shot. Above all, it was always the team effort which brought victory. In the typical context in India, cricket proved a great social equalizer.

The one-day version of the game has imparted a new vigour, dynamism and an explosive character to cricket. The slogan, 'Hit out or get out!', by the fatigued and bored spectators of the five-day rituals has been finally accepted. Cricket has blossomed in the deserts of Dubai and more nations across the continents seem to be falling a prey to a game earlier described as, 'the British disease.'

It is indeed significant that India, with its formidable batting strength, arrives in New Zealand in time for the much needed practice before the World Cup championship in South Africa. The Indian 'tigers' have been notorious for roaring more on the home turf - hope they maintain their recent form of displaying a highly competitive game. The two teams are expected to ensure the triumph of the game.

I and my family have decided to herald the New Year, 2003, watching the 3rd ODI in Christchurch. Let us hope, pray and dream that this match would be the pre-play of the World Cup final!

I may confess that it was the interest in Cricket ignited by the visit of the first ever Kiwi team to India that put a shy lad from a tiny town of India on a path that has taken him to the position of the High Commissioner of India to New Zealand.

The list of those to be thanked for their generous support for this publication is a tall score - NZ Cricket Inc. and NZ Museum for providing rare photographs; contributors of special messages; Prof. R. Guha and the prestigious Indian weeklies - India Today and Outlook - for authorising utilisation of the invaluable material/photos published earlier. M/s Thames have indeed experienced the pressure of an ODI in timely bringing out this issue of Megha Rajdootam.

बाल आनन्द

(Bal Anand)

High Commissioner of India to
New Zealand
Concurrently accredited to
Samoa, Nauru and Kiribati

My Cricket 'Affairs' with India

I have been able to visit the Sub-Continent of India on five separate occasions - twice as a player (1955 & 65) and three times reasonably recently : as an ICC Referee to officiate in several Test series as well as the 1996 World Cup.

The many Indian players I have played against include names like Vinoo Mankad, Subhash Gupte, Polly Umrigar and Mushtaq Ali, Nadkarni, Naree Contractor and Manjrekar, all great players, who have laid a solid foundation for the success of Indian cricket over the years.

More recently, I have been fortunate to observe at close quarters the delightful skill of Sachin Tendulkar - what a truly great batsman he has become. Rahul Dravid also has one of the most correct techniques that youngsters would do well to emulate. Bowlers win matches and in the pace of Srinath and the spin of Kumble and Harbhajan Singh, India certainly have the basis of a good attack that would test any International side.

In my early days of Indian tours, we did have Hotel and food problems, but today the Hotels compare very favourably with the best in the world - mind you, the Hotel in Ahmedabad and Gauwahati do hark back to the bad old days of the 1950s - but most are very good.

The cricket grounds in India are just superb, with Eden Gardens Stadium in Calcutta (now Kolkata) holding close to 100,000 fans, being the best, but the old

Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai would take a lot of beating - accommodation almost on the field at fine leg, and tea and crumpets served at tables on the outfield after the day's play, hark back to memories that are perhaps out of date, but that is what the spirit of the game of cricket is all about - serene, safe picturesque settings for



this wonderful game.

Unfortunately, the ugly face of finance has appeared, bringing with it accusations of match-fixing, and associated goings-on, accompanied by the inevitable murmurings of some New Zealanders and Australians being involved, also some Indian "greats" have been mentioned, but from my associations with Kapil Dev and Mohammed Azharuddin, I have found no fault, and in fact called upon "Azzur" to quiet the rioting crowd at Bangalore due to his doubtful run-out - which he did successfully.

My stint of nine years as an ICC

Referee, enabled me to mix with the elite of the International Test players - frankly I have not been very impressed with some of them, role models they are not and act on and off the field as though the code of conduct and the spirit of the game of cricket did not exist - but I never had any problems from Indian teams.

The ICC had appointed 20 Referees from the 10 test playing countries, who were expected to monitor the code of conduct rules. Due to the varying nature and different personalities, some of those Referees were tougher on the players, than others. I was probably one of the tougher ones, but remember, a Referee does not initiate any of the on-field problems - he just finishes it. Players should take notice of the "Thou shalt not" rules.

I am hoping to see a number of the Indian v New Zealand matches, and hope that we as New Zealanders extend to our Indian visitors a similar standard of hospitality that was extended to me on my various trips to that enchanting country. I wish both teams have a close and entertaining series.

JOHN R. REID, OBE
Ex-New Zealand Captain
Ex-ICC Match Referee



Cricket Encounters of the Indian Kind

Cricket was taken up in the white Dominions as the good parson expected, but its most dramatic conquests have been the excitable and intemperate Asiatics. They have played and watched and talked cricket with a verve and intensity that would have amazed, and perhaps, dismayed the game's Victorian chroniclers. Indeed, the case can be made that as a *national* sport Indian cricket has no parallel. There may be more money in American Basketball, and as much passion as Brazilian soccer. It is the weight of numbers that makes Indian cricket bigger still, with money and passion being multiplied by the 500 million who partake of it.

When India became free, some Anglophobe nationalists called for the game to disappear along with its promoters, the British. In this they were spectacularly unsuccessful.

What was previously an urban sport has penetrated deep into the countryside. Indigenous games like *Kabaddi and Kho -Kho* never had a chance but cricket has also vanquished sports like hockey, where India was once the acknowledged world leader. The doings of the national cricket team are followed all over the country. The best players enjoy the iconic status otherwise re-

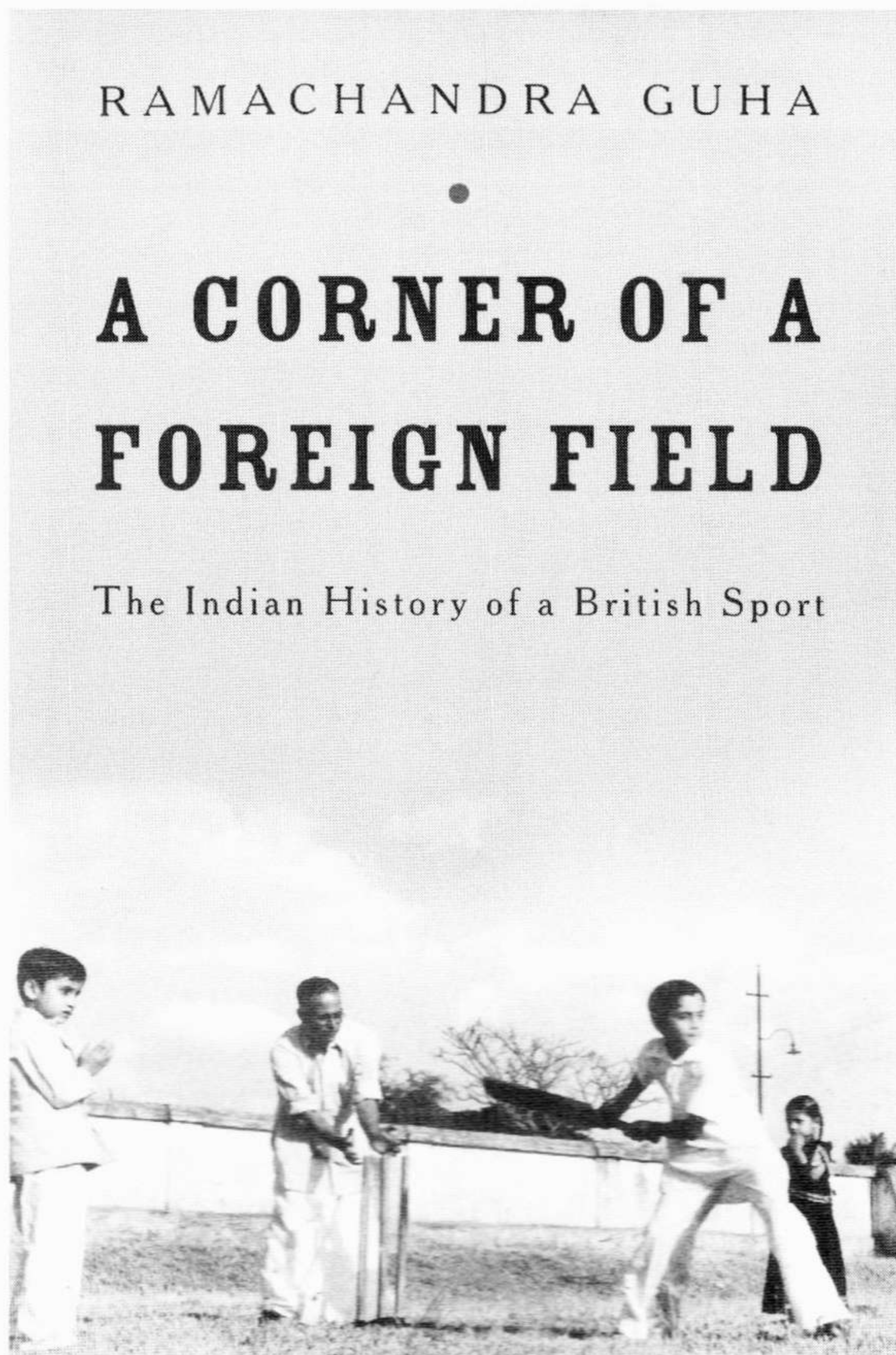
served for Hindu gods and film stars. Their faces peep out of highway billboards; on television they commend all kinds of

The commercialization of modern cricket and the corruptions that have come in its wake have led commentators to ask wistfully of a time when it was a 'gentleman's game'. In truth, there was no golden age, no uncontaminated past in which the play-ground was free of social pressure and social influence. Cricket has always been a microcosm of the fissures and tensions within Indian society: fissures that it has both reflected and played upon, mitigated as well as intensified. The cricketer or cricket lover might seek to keep his game pure, but the historian finds himself straying, willy-nilly into those great, overarching themes of Indian history: race, caste, religion and nation.

* * *

Like the Hindi film, cricket in India transcended the boundaries of class and region. With the help of two

innovations it was to reach further yet. The first was satellite television which took the game from cities to small towns and villages across India. Cricket on television captured two social groups previously not infected by the bug: the housewives and the farmers. The second innovation was the coming of One Day Cricket. India played its first One



consumer products. The Bombay batsman Sachin Tendulkar is perhaps the best-known Indian as well as one of the richest. There are pamphlets and books about him in his native Marathi, and in Hindi and Tamil too. How did this most British of games become so thoroughly domesticated in the sub-continent?

* * *



Day International in 1974, and played only 150 such matches in the next 15 years. Between 1989 and 2000, however it played almost 300. These matches whether played in India or abroad were all beamed live. For the big games television audience was counted in the hundreds of millions. As one journalist remarked, 'soap operas had been replaced in terms of popularity and advertising power by the mega event of the century - one day cricket. For the Indian viewer it has turned out to be the longest-running, uninterrupted saga of runs, overs, sixes, fours, wickets, victories and defeats.'

The process was greatly aided by the hosting, by India and Pakistan of the 1987 World Cup, the

first time this tournament was played outside England. The allocation of the World Cup was a triumph of anti-colonialism. The President of Indian Cricket Board, N. K. P. Salve, had been given two tickets for the 1983 final, to be played at Lord's. When his team unexpectedly qualified, Mr. Salve asked the MCC for two more passes, for friends who had just flown out of India. The MCC refused, whereupon Mr. Salve set about organizing the associate members of the International Cricket Council in a revolt that led eventually to the World Cup being shifted out of England.

This at any rate, is the version given out in *The Story of the Reliance Cup*, a book released by

Mr. Salve just before that tournament began. The parallels with another rebuff are not hard to establish. Back in 1896, in the South African town of Pietermaritzburg, one Mr. M. K. Gandhi was thrown out by an Englishman from a railway compartment for which he had (or so he thought) bought a legitimate ticket. The Mahatma's rebellion was slower in coming, for it was fifty-four years before he was successfully to throw the oppressor out of India. The moral for the white man? Never mess around with an India lawyer.

* * *

Adapted: 'A Corner of a Foreign Field' - The Indian History of a British Sport. by Ramachandra Guha

Cricket Games in the streets of India are a common sight and are a breeding ground for Cricket Stars



Maharajas of Cricket

Britain's Indian Empire comprised the British India, directly under the crown, and 532 recognized Rajas, Maharajas and Nawabs who ruled over an area covering about one-third of the Indian subcontinent and one-fifth of the population. This class of nobles and aristocrats has been reviled by historian and novelist alike for 'spending their money on women, wine, jewels, trips to Europe and wasteful habits.' The picture needs to be qualified for the love of the Indian princes for various classical arts including music and, above all, the game of cricket.

One of the earliest and the most consistent of the princely patrons of cricket was the Sikh Kingdom of Patiala, in southern Punjab. Around 1900, Maharaja Rajendra Singh built a splendid stadium and recruited an English coach, the Surrey and England professional Walter Brockwill - a Wisden Cricketer of the Year in 1895 - to train the Royal Highness and young nobles of his court. There is a record of the Patiala Cricket XI which played against the Calcutta Rangers in December 1898.

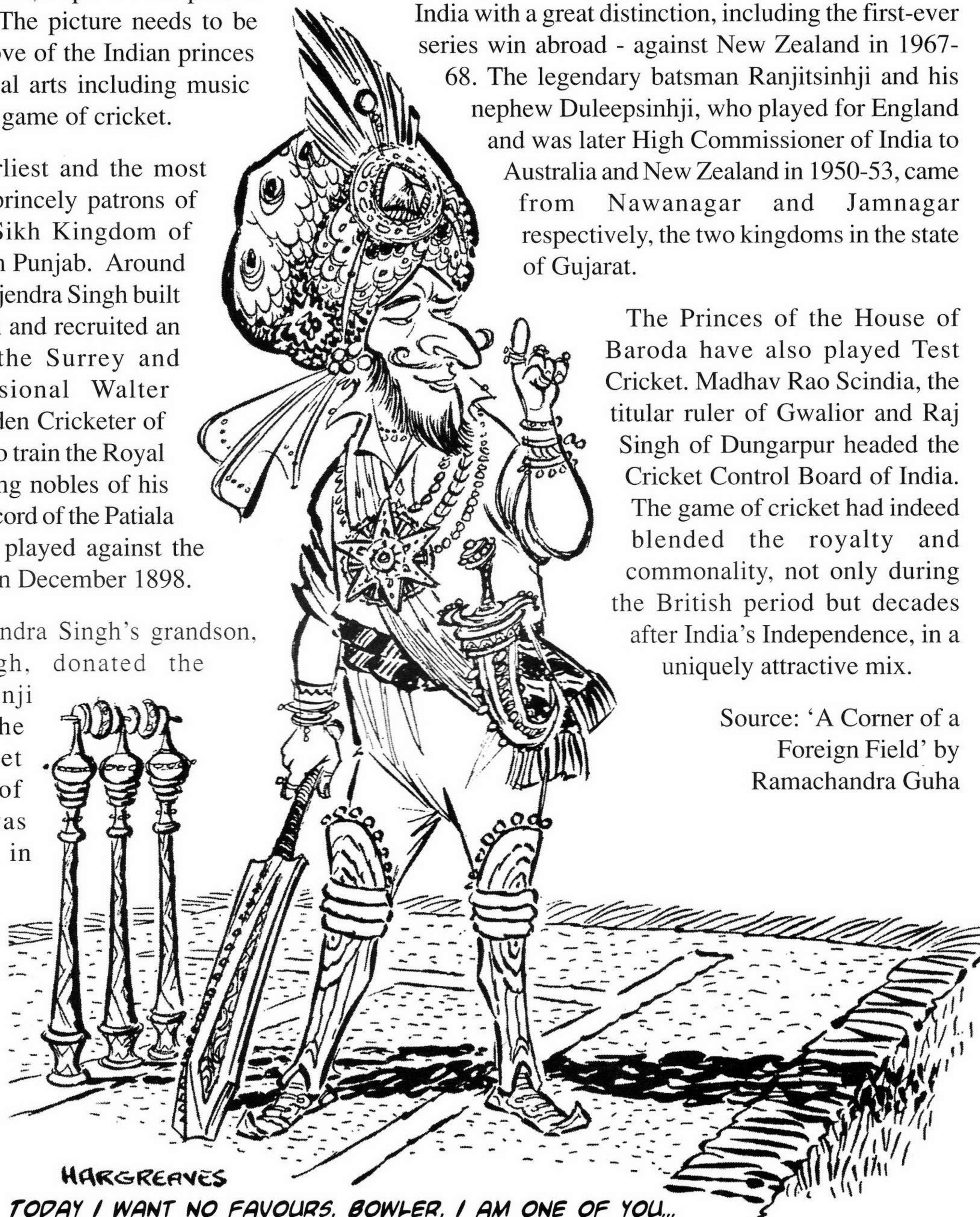
Maharaja Rajendra Singh's grandson, Bhupendra Singh, donated the prestigious Ranji Trophy for the National Cricket Championship of India. He was instrumental in inviting the MCC Team for a tour of India in 1933. He purchased the Brabourne Stadium in Bombay and gifted it to the

Cricket Association. He built the highest altitude cricket ground in the world, in Chail, in the beautiful Shivalik hills of the Himalayas.

The small principality of Pataudi situated in the present state of Haryana has produced two brilliant cricketers, i.e., Nawab of Pataudi (Senior) who played for England and the Junior M.A.K. Pataudi who led India with a great distinction, including the first-ever series win abroad - against New Zealand in 1967-68. The legendary batsman Ranjitsinhji and his nephew Duleepsinhji, who played for England and was later High Commissioner of India to Australia and New Zealand in 1950-53, came from Nawanagar and Jamnagar respectively, the two kingdoms in the state of Gujarat.

The Princes of the House of Baroda have also played Test Cricket. Madhav Rao Scindia, the titular ruler of Gwalior and Raj Singh of Dungarpur headed the Cricket Control Board of India. The game of cricket had indeed blended the royalty and commonality, not only during the British period but decades after India's Independence, in a uniquely attractive mix.

Source: 'A Corner of a Foreign Field' by Ramachandra Guha

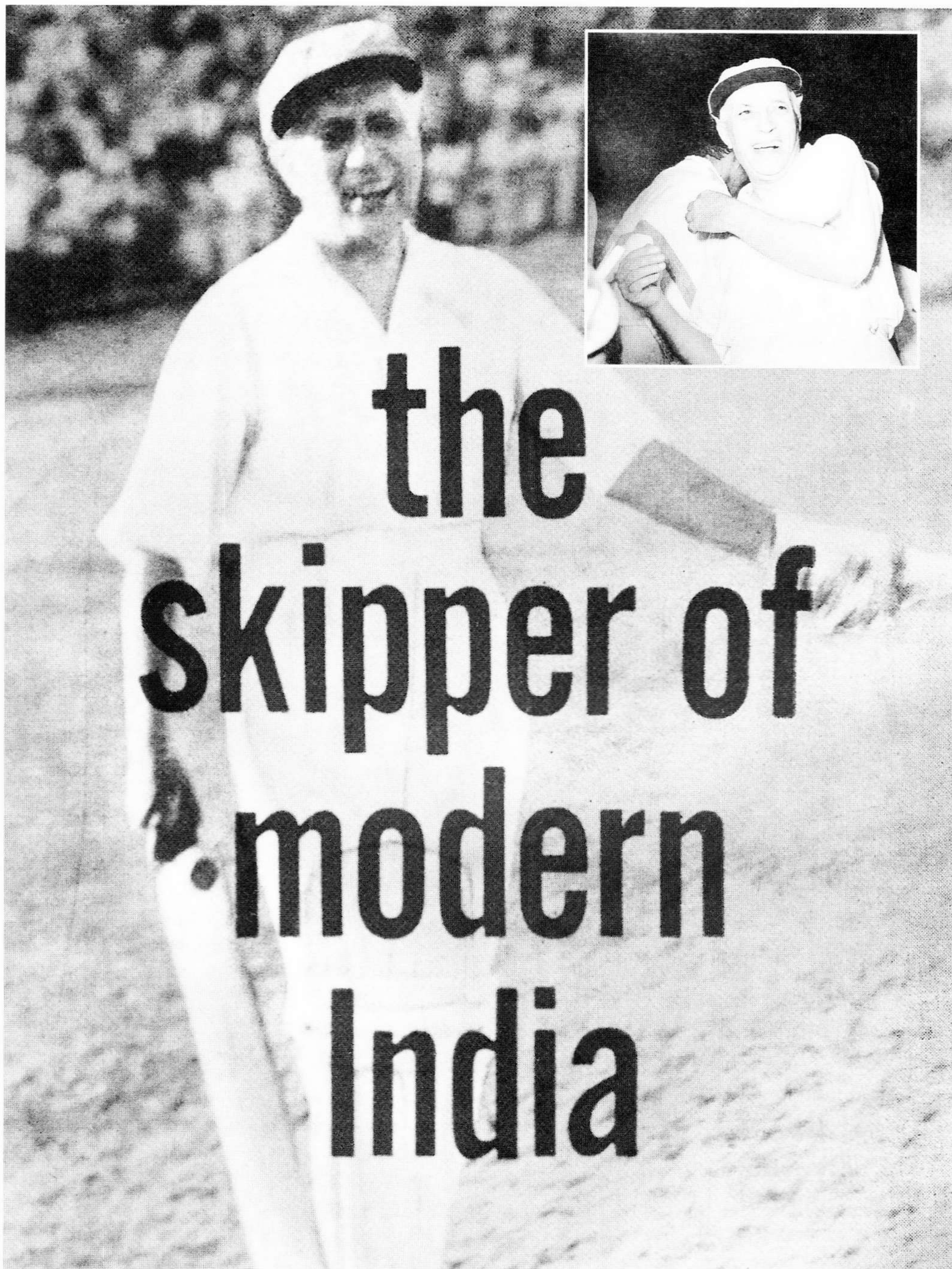


HARGREAVES

TODAY I WANT NO FAVOURS, BOWLER, I AM ONE OF YOU...
TOMORROW IS ANOTHER DAY - DEPENDANT ON TODAY.



J.L. Nehru - A 'Complete' Cricketer



Jawaharlal Nehru enjoyed watching the game and played it on occasion. A product of Harrow and Trinity, he would teach the sons of friends how to play the defensive stroke, and would put an amiable appearance, bat, pads and all, during the annual match between the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament.



The Spirit of Cricket



“Cricket”

“You do well to love it for it is more free from anything sordid, anything dishonourable, than any game in the world. To play it keenly, honourably, generously, self sacrificing is a moral lesson in its self and the class room is God’s air and sunshine. Foster it my brothers, so that it may attract all who may find the time to play it; Protect it from anything that may sully it so that it may grow in favour among all men.” (Lord Harris 1931)

Much has been said recently in cricketing circles about the spirit of cricket. The above words penned by Lord Harris in 1931 capture the essence of that spirit and the traditions that all cricketers should seek to uphold in their playing of the game and perhaps too in their business and personal relationships.

India, like New Zealand, has rich cricketing traditions and an almost universal love of the game.

It is my hope that the coming matches between India and New Zealand will reflect the spirit of cricket and all that is good about the game.

These matches should be played in an atmosphere of sportsmanship and fair play as well as one of fierce competition as each team seeks to play to its full potential.

The first test played between our two countries was in 1955 in Hyderabad. The match featured New Zealand greats such as John R Reid and Bert Sutcliffe and Indian greats such as Polly Umrigar and Fergie Gupte. The match and the series were drawn.

Since that time New Zealand and India have competed against each other in 40 tests. India has won 14, New Zealand has won 7 and 19 have been drawn.

New Zealand and India have also played 61 games of One Day International cricket having first met in the one day game at the 1975 World Cup. India has won 31 of those encounters, New Zealand has won 27 and three have had no result.



Richard Hadlee remains the leading wicket taker in tests between India and New Zealand with 65 wickets at 22.96. The leading wicket taker against New Zealand is Bishen Bedi with 57 wickets at 19.14.

Graham Dowling has the most test cricket runs for New Zealand against India at 964 at 48.20 followed by Bert Sutcliffe at 885 at 68.07.

India’s leading run scorers against New Zealand are Sachin

Tendulkar with 891 at 63.64 followed by Mohammad Azharuddin at 796 at 61.23.

These players are part of a fine tradition which will be continued during this season’s National Bank Test and One Day International Series.

In my own cricketing career I enjoyed playing against India. In that time, I had the opportunity to be part of New Zealand sides which competed against some great Indian teams and some great players.

For any touring side one of the challenges of playing away from home is adjusting to the different climatic conditions, the different pitches and a different time zone. For a New Zealander playing in India these factors were always a challenge. However, touring India was a great opportunity and an experience I enjoyed.

International sport should help create greater understanding between countries and cultures. I am certain that New Zealand welcomes the opportunity to showcase itself to the millions of Indians who will watch the coming matches on television.

New Zealand also has a vibrant Indian community which will enjoy the opportunity to see India play against New Zealand and some may even be conflicted as to who to cheer for.

Martin Snedden
Chief Executive
New Zealand Cricket

The Square Rectangle

Timeri N. Murari

SOME things come naturally, as if we're born to it. Some people are born mathematicians, others musicians, dancers or philosophers. I believe a nation too is born to excel in some things. It can discover that, as a people, they're not merely gifted in something that is quite alien to their past experience, but can also have fallen deeply in love with that thing.

For us, that thing is cricket. We've absorbed the game into our collective bloodstream even as a shot of heroin into a junkie's veins. We worship cricket, we dream cricket, we are cricket. I suspect this game has been waiting in the wings of our national subconscious for centuries, even millennia. If the British had not introduced the game for India over two centuries ago, we'd have had to invent it. India has always had the genius of absorbing other cultures that have invaded her over the centuries. We're a seamless continuity of our historical experiences, whether it is Afghan, Mughal, British, French or Portuguese. These alien cultures sit with us as if they've been a part of our identity all along.

Cricket is now a very Indian game. It's as Indian as the Taj Mahal, the Lok Sabha, or the English language. It's become inseparable from our Indian psyche; it's woven into our culture and our language. Words like 'silly point', 'deep mid-wicket', 'first slip', 'square cut'. From one end of India to another, we understand these technical words, even if we don't speak the English language. There's the commonality of these words that eases our communication with total strangers. We can bond in an instant listening to a radio commentary in a rural area or glimpsing a Test or a one-dayer on television. "What's the score?" "Who's out?". So we bridge the gaps between ourselves through this game.

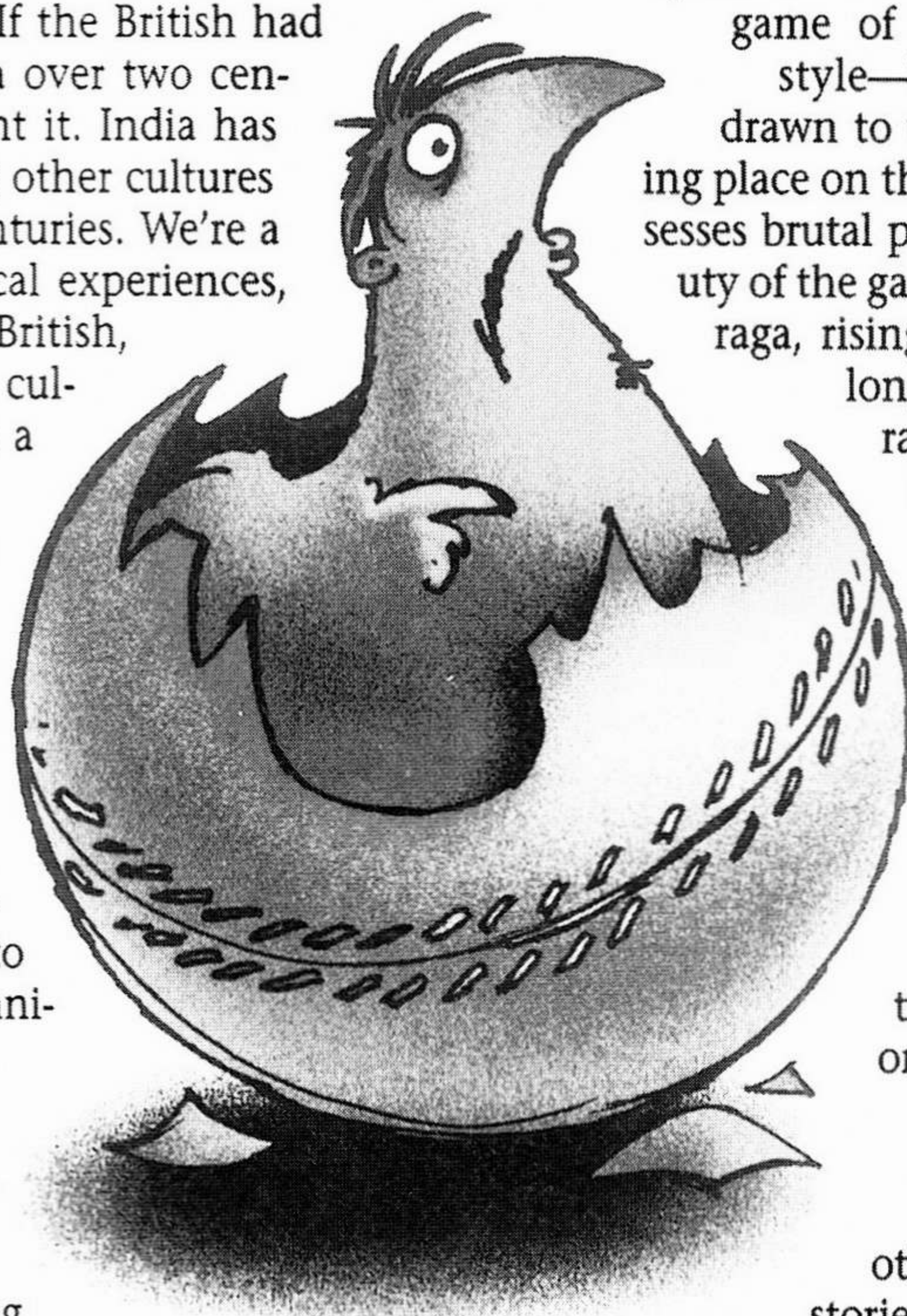
Cricket fuses us into one people—it dissolves our complex diversity, especially when we're playing in the international arena. It's the nature of sport that it can give a nation a single identity, whether for a 90-minute football game or a five-day Test match or a one-dayer. It also has the strange effect of uniting Indians who have long left our shores to live in the UK or Australia or New Zealand. They come to cheer us on, identifying briefly with the country of their forefathers and drawing some strength from that identity. We know when we play Pakistan especially, we're single-mindedly Indians,

determined to win. Sport can also be a substitute for war, certainly a healthier one.

We've grown up with cricket coursing through our blood. Go anywhere in India—east, west, north south, desert, plain, mountain, valley—and you'll see cricket being played. From the smallest of boys to grown men, we all know the rules and how to play this game. They're not playing hockey (11 sticks and a ball) or football (biggest ball). We create cricket pitches on the road, on a building site, in the middle of the jungle too, with stumps drawn on the ground, a stick for a bat and any kind of ball.

Why have we been seduced by this game? It's a game of style with substance. In that style—batting or bowling—we're drawn to the aesthetics of the action taking place on the field. It has subtleties, yet possesses brutal power. We see the rhythmic beauty of the game, the all-day raga, the five-day raga, rising and fall, a note stretched out long. It's a game which, like the raga, demands improvisation of the moment and of the mood. A cover drive, a square cut, a leg glance, the ball spinning away from the bowler's hand, making that graceful arc to bite and turn, these are the musical notes in the game. The substance lies in its complexity, the underpinning of a philosophy in how the game is to be played. It's a game with not only a subtext but also of epic qualities which reflect our imaginings of our epic past. Cricket is a long narrative game, unlike other sports. They are merely short stories and we're not a short story culture. We like our stories long and complex.

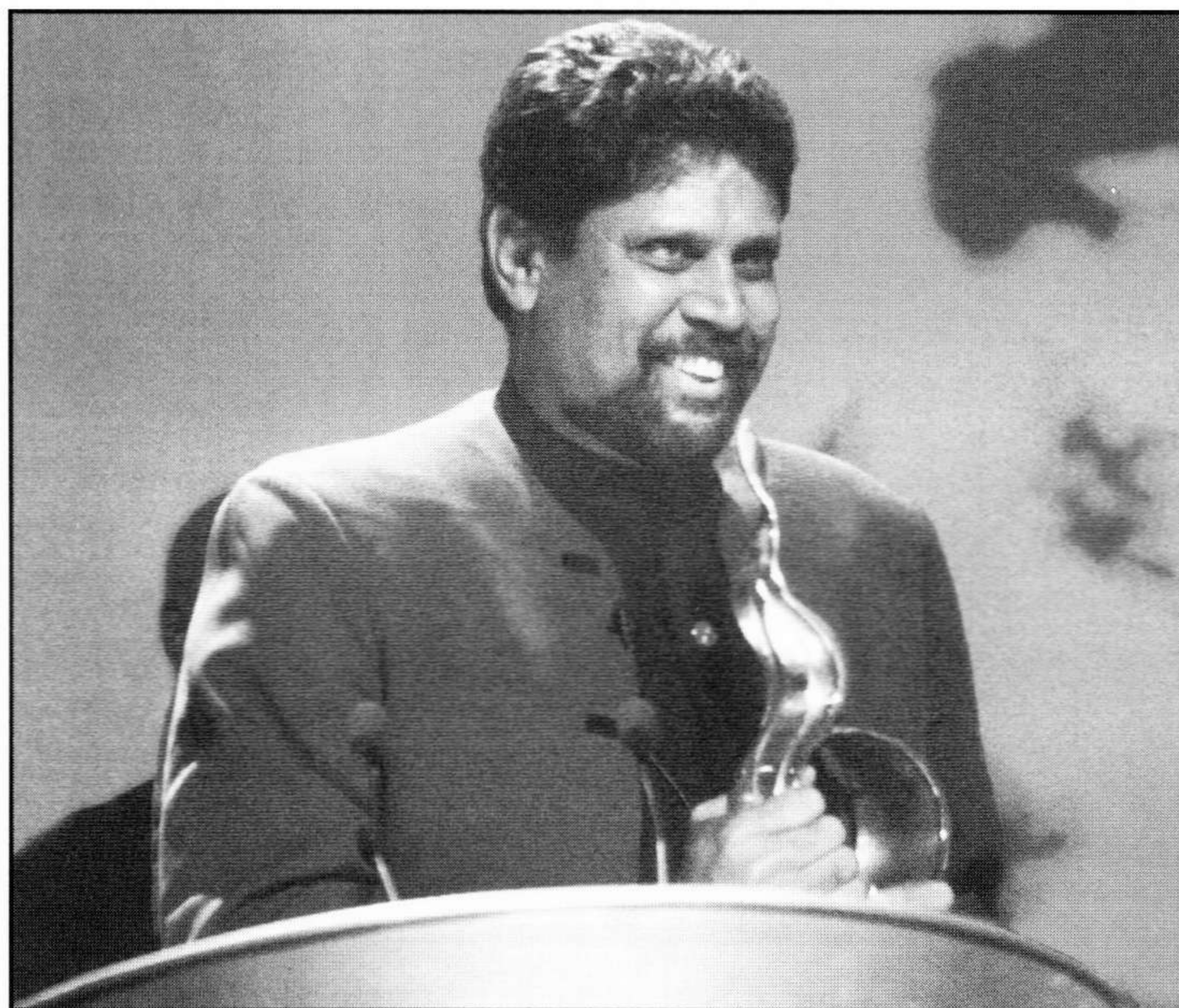
We can settle down, with our picnic lunches, our teas and watch a cricket match unfold gracefully and gradually. Even as our ancestors would settle down to hear the story-teller narrate those familiar epics, the Ramayana or the Mahabharata, in the village. Cricket has a beginning, a middle that can tensely lead us into any direction and then the satisfying, or not, end. *
(A novelist, filmmaker and playwright, Timeri N. Murari started his writing career as a police reporter for a small-town Canadian newspaper before moving on as features writer for The Guardian. He's also written for The Sunday Times, The Washington Post and various other magazines. In 1997, he wrote and produced The Square Circle, voted by Time magazine as the best film of the year.)



JAYACHANDRAN

Dev ... Devil ... Divinity

Syed Kirmani



Kapil Dev receiving the award "Wisden Indian Cricketer of the Century"

Kapil deserves this honour (Wisden Indian Cricketer of the Century). I have seen him grow, from a National Camp young pace bowler in 1974 to the day he played his first Test for India against Pakistan in 1979 and as captain of the Indian team which won the World Cup in 1983. His dedication to the game and his eagerness to face challenges has struck me most. The worst pitches and the most trying times have brought out the best in me. This is true with Kapil who was a positive cricketer and took up the challenges with the ball or the bat and stood ahead of the rest.

I kept wickets for Kapil from the time he played his debut Test against Pakistan and would like to say without hesitation that he was the best outswing bowler I have ever seen. He was an outstanding

all-rounder and athletic on the field. Between Kapil and me, we have accounted for 53 batsmen in Tests. On the field, he was a man of few words but full of action. He used to say a few words only when we had to get a batsman out.

I do not want to make any comparison between men who have led the Indian team, but in Kapil we appreciate his positive approach. During the World Cup, we seniors gave him complete support, and as a majority of us were with him, the team spirit was evident. It is very important for the captain to have the confidence of his players and so we made sure that we all gave 100 per cent on the field.

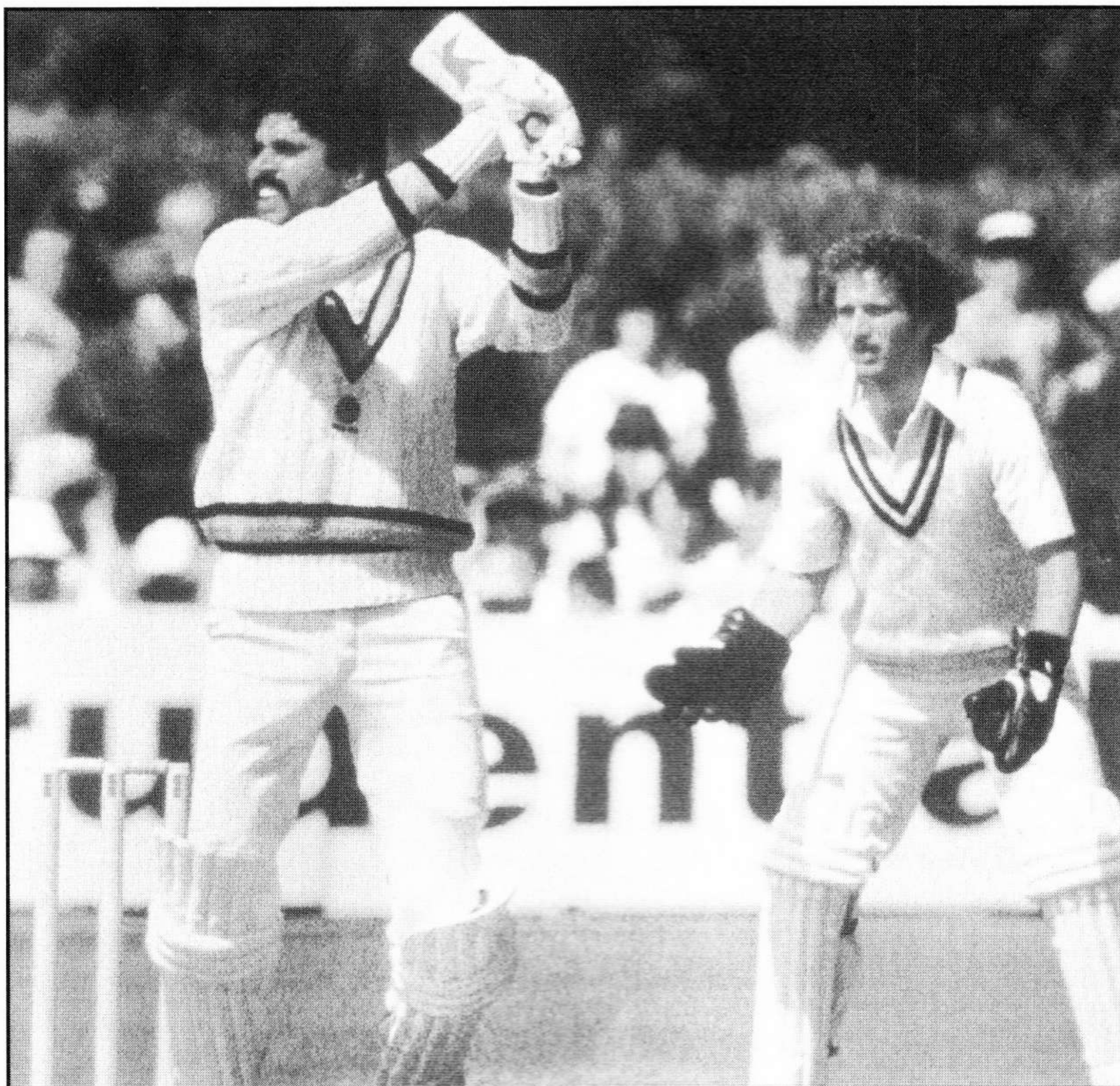
There are a couple of things I remember about the World Cup. The match that Kapil won for us

with his batting against Zimbabwe in Tunbridge Wells. I walked in when we were precariously placed (at one stage India was tottering at 17 with five batsmen back in the pavillion). I told him to play his natural game and that I will do my best at the other end. I judged the first two balls well and smashed the third ball to the point boundary. I gave him the confidence and watched his blitzkrieg. It was Kapil all the way! We added a record 126 runs for the ninth wicket, Kapil unbeaten on 175 and me not out on 24.

When we made it to the final, he told us at the team meeting that we had nothing much to lose and that everyone must make their best effort. So, we didn't panic and were helping one another. Of course, God was with us in the form of a good-luck cycle.

For youngsters, Kapil was always the greatest motivator. He would step on to the field first, even if it was a training session or nets or a match. He used to encourage youngsters a lot and with his leadership qualities he had turned into an ideal role model for them.

I spoke to Kapil when he was under a cloud following allegations of match-fixing. He was dejected and sounded extremely low. I told him that everyone has to go through difficult phases in life and if you are honest, you will emerge on the top.



Kapil Dev dispatches the ball to point in an epic innings of 175 n.o. against Zimbabwe at Tunbridge Wells in 1983.



The Record-breaker - Kapil is acknowledging the crowd after breaking Richard Hadlee's 431 wicket-record in 1992-93.

'Ins' and 'Outs'

You have two sides, one out in the field and one in.

Each man that's in the side that's in goes out and when he's out he comes in and the next man goes in until he's out.

When they are all out the side that's out comes in and the side that's been in goes out and tries to get those coming in out.

Sometimes you get men still in and not out.

When both sides have been in and out including the not outs.

THAT'S THE END OF THE GAME, HOWZAT!

Amazing Kapil Dev Facts:

- *His brilliant catch of Viv Richards at mid-wicket in the final, possibly won India the 1983 World Cup.*
- *The only batsman ever to have got his first Test century with a six*
- *The only batsman in the world to hit four successive sixes in Test innings - off Eddy Hemmings at Lord's in 1990; he did it when India needed 24 to avoid a follow-on with nine wickets down.*
- *The only fast bowler to claim 8 or more wickets in a Test innings on three occasions*
- *The only fast bowler ever to claim 70 or more wickets in a calendar year twice*
- *His first 100 wickets were in a record 1 year and 105 days*
- *Rescued India, tottering at 17 for 5 against Zimbabwe in the 1983 World Cup with 175 not out, then a record; still remains the record for No. 6 batsman in one-dayers*
- *The youngest player ever to achieve the Test double of 1000 runs and 100 wickets*

India-New Zealand Cricket - An Overview

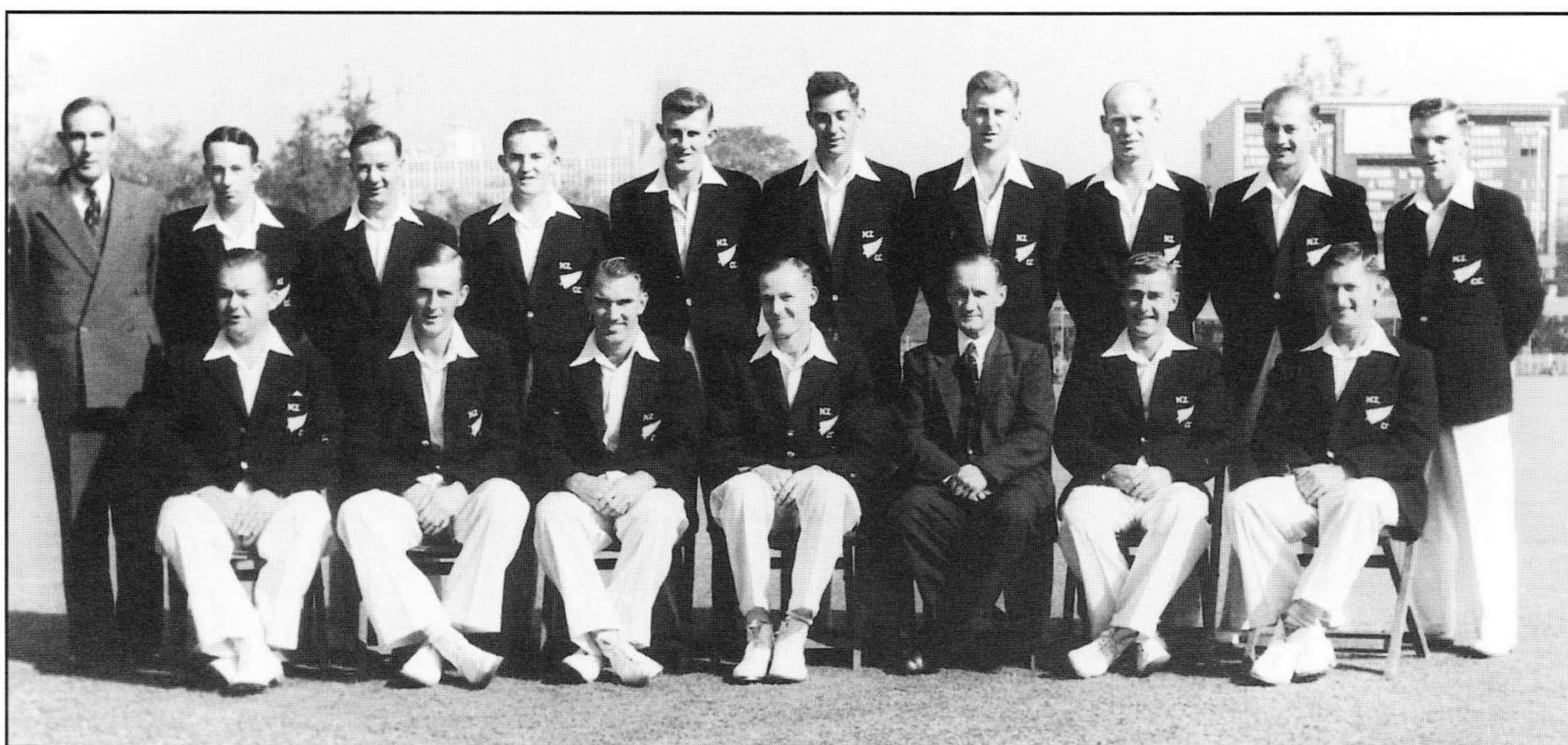
The Indo-New Zealand cricket relations were established in 1955 when the New Zealand team led by Henry B. Cave toured India to play a ten matches including a series of five tests. The test series indeed produced an engaging cricket with India emerging winner in the

first wicket world record of 413 runs created by M. H. Mankad and P. Roy in the Madras test.

The New Zealand teams have toured India in 1955-56, 1964-65, 69-70, 76-77, 88-89, 95-96 and 99-2000. It is interesting to note that out of 24 tests played in India,

The test series between India and New Zealand - both underdogs in the arena of cricket till the arrival the gifted players like Richard Hadlee and Kapil Dev in the 80's - have resulted in interesting records for the statisticians. India leads the table of

The 'New Zealand First' in India 1955-56



Back Row: I. W. Gallaway, (Radio & Press Representative), E. C. Petrie, A. M. Moir, T. G. McMahon, J. C. Alabaster, N.S. Harford, J.W. Guy, M. B. Poore, P. G. Z. Harris, S. N. McGregor.

Front Row: J. G. Leggat, A. R. MacGibbon, J. R. Reid, (Vice-Captain), H. B. Cave, (Captain), W. H. Cooper (Manager), B. Sutcliffe, J. A. Hayes

Bombay and Madras tests. On the Indian side, all-rounder Vinoo Mankad scored two double centuries followed by P. R. Umrigar (223), V. L. Manjrekar (3 centuries), G. S. Ramachand, and A. G. Kripal Singh (century on debut) also scoring centuries. The New Zealand opener Bert Sutcliffe scored an unbeaten double century in Delhi test while all rounder J. R. Reid had hit centuries in Calcutta and Delhi tests. The Indian spinner Subhash Gupte was the leading bowler with 34 wickets. The series is remembered for the

India has won 10 while New Zealand has been victorious in only two - the remaining 12 having been drawn. New Zealand has hosted Indian teams in 1967-68, 75-76, 80-81, 89-90, 93-94, and 98-99. Of the 16 tests played in New Zealand, the home side has won 5 tests while India has won 4 while the remaining 7 have been drawn. The total tally stands at India winner in 14, New Zealand 7 and 19 being drawn. India scored first ever victory abroad in the series in 1967-8 defeating New Zealand by 3-1 in 4 test series.

the run-feasts with 4 double centuries and 28 centuries. Messrs. V. L. Manjrekar, S. Tendulkar, R. Dravid have each scored 3 centuries. The prolific scorers from the New Zealand side include Bert Sutcliffe with a double century and two centuries; G. T. Dowling - a double century and two centuries; John Wright - three centuries; J. R. Reid and G. M. Turner - two centuries each. The trio of Indian spinners S. Venkatraghavan, E. S. Prasanna and A. Kumble have each taken more than 10 wickets in 1 test while this feat has been



achieved twice by R. J. Hadlee. In the realm of India-New Zealand tests, India has been bundled out 4 times for less than 100 runs. While the lowest totals from the New Zealand side have been 100 and 101. It was in Bangalore test on 12th November, 1988 that Richard Hadlee became the highest wicket taker in the world. S. Venkataraghavan holds a unique record for an Indian bowler to dismiss all the 12 New Zealand batsmen in Delhi test match in the

course of both innings in 1964-65. The distinction of being the youngest Indian bowler to claim 5 wickets in an innings belongs to Ravi Shastri, who at the age of 18 years and 290 days claimed 5 wickets in the Auckland test on 15th March, 1981.

The New Zealand summer of Indian cricket in 2002-3 for the 2 test matches is expected to be full of bright cricket. India boasts of formidable batting line while New Zealand has always been a

powerful adversary at the home grounds with new talent always restless to explode. India - New Zealand encounters would surely be a cricket bonanza in terms of the 7 One Day Internationals. The ODI's series would provide the most valuable opportunity to the two teams for sharpening their skills for the World Cup to be played in South Africa in February-March. The previous clashes of the ODI's kind between the two sides have been closely fought contests.

The 'India First' in New Zealand 1967-68



The statistics indicate that India has overwhelmingly won 15 out of 19 played in India while New Zealand asserted with equal vigour by winning 11 of the 17 ODI's played at home. Of the remaining 25 played at the neutral venues, New Zealand has won 12 against India's 11. The overall score is 27 victories for New Zealand against 31 by India with 3 games abandoned.

In terms of the 12 ODI 100's for India, both Sachin Tendulkar and Saurav Ganguly have scored 3 centuries each followed with 2 by Dravid. India holds the world record of 331 for the second wicket

partnership created by Tendulkar and Dravid in Hyderabad in 1999. Of the 11 centuries for New Zealand, N. J. Astle has scored 4; C. L. Cairns 3; and M. D. Crowe 2. A. C. Parore and K. R. Rutherford had a partnership of 181 runs for the third wicket - the highest for New Zealand - scored in Vadodara in 1994. New Zealand has thrice scored more than 300 runs including 349 for 9 at Rajkot in 1999; 348 for 8 in Nagpur in 1996; and 300 for 8 in Christchurch in 1998. India has twice surpassed a total of 300 runs - 376 for 2 at Hyderabad in 1999 and 306 at Rajkot in 1999.

The cricket lovers in New Zealand certainly hope to be served a full plate of the spicy and aromatic cuisine of Indian cricket. Tendulkar, Ganguly, Dravid, Sehwag, Laxman form the most gifted and awesome five-some in the history of world cricket. The Black Caps led by the astutest skipper Stephen Fleming and including the bravehearted Nathan Astle, Chris Cairns, Craig McMillan and Daniel Vittori should not be underestimated, more so when they are playing on the home turf.



*John Wright, A 'Kiwi Dronacharya' * for India*

Don Neely M.B.E.

For 14 seasons, I was a New Zealand selector and had a close opportunity to observe John playing a lot of test, first class and one day internationals. I, however, saw more of John with my involvement with the New Zealand Cricket annual for 20 years. During this time hundreds - no thousands of photographs and transparencies passed through my hands recording the vast career of one of New Zealand's finest batsmen. A handful of the photographs involving John stand out clearly in my mind.

The first was from the 1973-74 season and it was the under 21 Rothman's Tournament. A tall willowy John Wright is at the non-strikers end, curly shoulder length hair and a Canterbury cap. The bowler was Brian McKechnie (a current New Zealand selector) who was bowling to Paul M'Ewan. (Today the words "talent identification are bandied about as if they are the new cure for all our cricketing ills. The three players all aged 20, went on to play for New Zealand.

John's first test for New Zealand in 1978 coincided with New Zealand's first ever test win over England. To the long hair has been

added a poor mans Clark Gable moustache. The first day saw Wellington's weather at its worst with a howling northerly gale, intensely cold and a cantankerous pitch of uncertain bounce.

With the exception of the bowler, Bob Willis, the whole England team appealed for caught behind of the first ball of the test, bowled to John. The lack of deflection and the screeching of the gale combined to see John survive, as he did for the rest of the day.



Don Neely with Rt. Hon. Jonathan Hunt, Speaker of NZ Parliament, a keen cricket observer.

His eventual score of 55 was a major factor in New Zealand's most famous victory. During this innings, he displayed great character and the ability to concentrate. He showed that he was born to rescue. He was Horatius on the tottering bridge defying the odds. It was an innings he was to repeat many times in his 82 tests.

There is a photo taken in the 1982 test against Australia at Christchurch with John metres down the track driving through extra cover in the course of his 141 out of a total of 272.

At the start of the third day, New Zealand were 98-8 in their first innings. After the team had finished practice John asked me to stay behind and throw more balls at him. He confided to me that, he'd always played against the Aussies in survival mode but today he was

going to take the attack to them. (In the nets he played freely, using his feet, flowing through his shots.)

Following on, New Zealand ended the day 181-7 with John 91 not out. For the first time in the test cricket, he'd thoroughly enjoyed batting that day. He showed every shot in the game all played with grace

and power, and with an abandon which was new for the spectators.

In the most difficult position in test cricket - opening the innings, John has shown great strength to defend his team into a good position. The stringency of the occasion has reflected in a corresponding restriction of his art for the good of the team.

* *The legendary Guru in Mahabharata*



All too often he has apologized to the media at the press conference at the end of the day for playing “like an old spinster defending her honour.” None more so than the test against the West Indies at the Basin Reserve in 1987 when, in his two innings he occupied the crease for 828 minutes in scoring 75 and 138.

The photo shows the modern gladiator coming off the field. White helmet, batting gloves, thigh pad on both thighs, obviously a large chest protector under his shirt. His eyes are dead from hours of concentration and the 5 o’clock shadow is dark. Martin Crowe, his batting partner is patting him on the shoulder. It is an expression of “thanks” from a team made for a job “superbly done”.

During his career, John was always tinkering with his stance which at the end of his career was almost orthodox. His grip, by my estimation went through 33 variations. The most outrageous one was when he glued his batting gloves to the handle. Fortunately that only lasted about a week.

Throughout his career the photographs captured a style that was practical rather than beautiful, but which was strictly correct. He always excelled in hooking and cutting fast bowling and I can’t recall many other batsmen playing it more boldly or with such fierce, and violent relish.

What the photographs didn’t show were some of the mess-ups that have occurred with his calling, or lack of it, and running, or lack of it, between the wickets with various partners.

The photographs didn’t show

the general disaster area around Johns place in dressing rooms around the world.

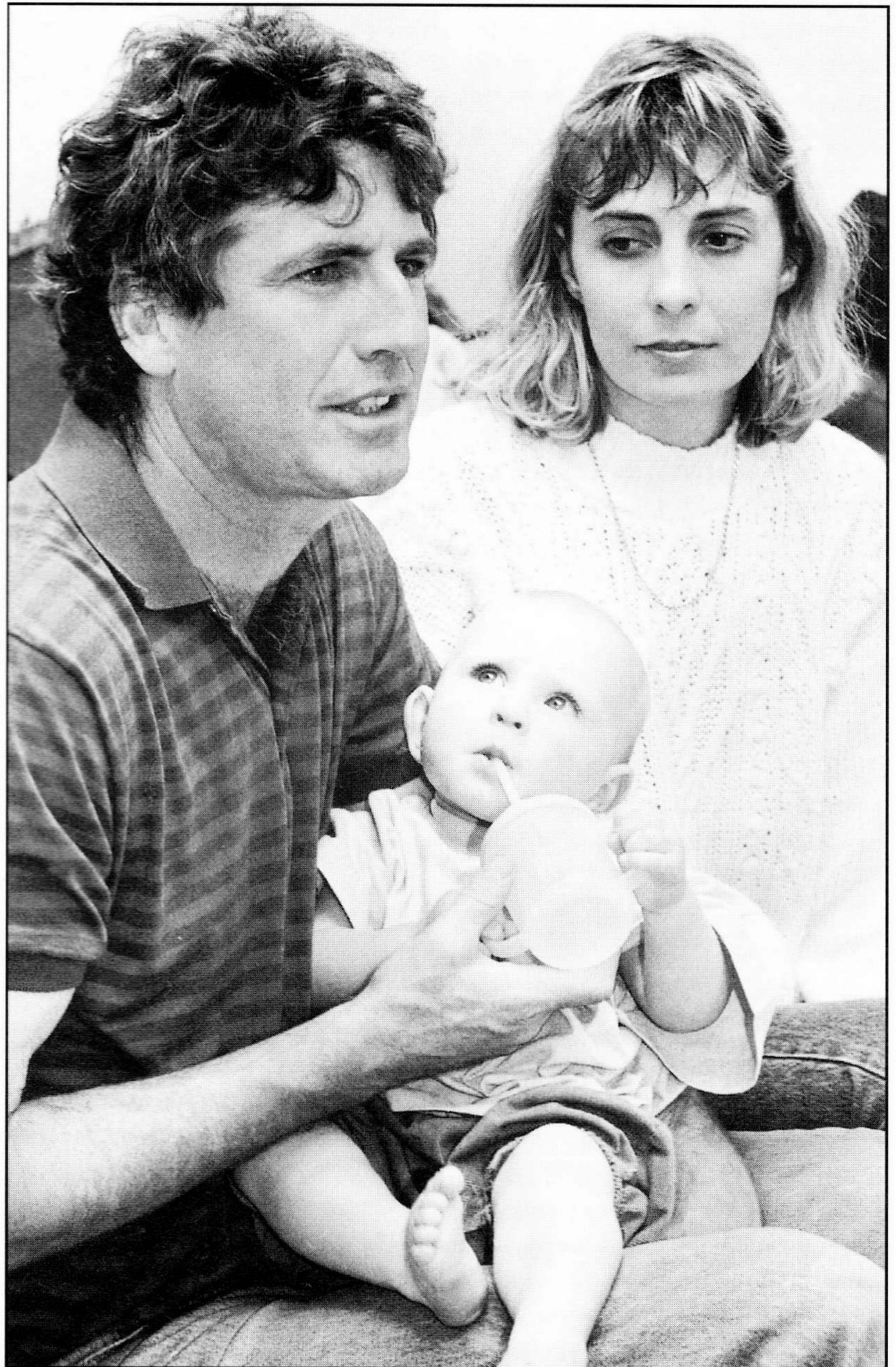
John Wright, during 82 tests, was always the servant of his art and his team and only secondarily the entertainer of the public.

He was the embodiment of all those qualities which cricket can

teach better than any game - self control, manners and endeavour.

His successful career as a coach came as no surprise to those who saw his game develop over the years.

Don Neely was a New Zealand Selector for 14 seasons of John Wright’s career of 16 seasons



The Man for ‘Nursing’ and ‘Nourishing’



Tales (Travails) of a Cricketer's Wife

Sukhi Turner, Mayor of Dunedin

I first met Glenn Turner in Bombay (as it was then called) in 1969, at a cricket function that the ICC put on for the New Zealand Cricket team at the popular high spot called the Bullock Cart. Four years later we were married after a "cloak and dagger" courtship straddling three continents. My family, particularly my father was dismayed when he found out that I was serious about a non-Sikh foreigner. He cautioned me about the fact that Europeans were not serious about marriage, given their divorce rate and also couldn't fathom out how someone could make money playing cricket. These days Glenn delights in telling him that he is 29 years "not out"!

I spent 10 years travelling around the world in a supportive role, washing and ironing cricket whites, hauling a couple of children under five years old and generally entertaining the cricketing fraternity to Indian banquets. These were heady days, full of international cricketing excitement and social interaction. This was especially true when Glenn and I visited my parents in Bombay. Every day while we were there, we were out for breakfast, lunch and dinner as my parent's friends and the Bombay cricket circles wanted to meet India's well-known cricketing "son-in-law".

In his first book "My Way" (1975), Glenn thanked me for my typing and being his "biggest distraction throughout..."! I must say this is a bit of an exaggeration as my memory of those times is that he was totally focussed on the game and it took a lot to distract him. In fact he now says he cannot remember me being a compliant housewife and ironing his cricket shirts for him!!

As far as the intricacies of the game

were concerned I was relatively ignorant. Although as a young girl growing up in India, I did remember playing backyard cricket with my sister and brothers and have clear memories



Glenn is fostering the Game of Cricket within his Son Shan. Photo April 1983

of the time when my father took us to watch the test match against the MCC in Delhi in the early 1960s.

After marriage, I did want to improve my knowledge of the game, so I got out Sir Don Bradman's "Art of playing Cricket" (please check the title) from the Worcester library and started reading it with great care. I asked Glenn to explain in simple terms as to how the faster bowlers managed to swing the ball and what was the difference between a leg-spinner and an off-spinner. My academic interest in the game became a great joke at the Shakespeare pub in Worcester. Apparently none of the other wives and girl friends took such an interest in the game.

On one occasion I tried to take part in a cricketing conversation, I think it was about how the limited-overs version of the game was getting more popular than the longer game. I piped in and said that I thought it would not be long before the one-day game would be more popular than Test cricket. I must have stunned the mainly male group into silence, because the next thing I heard was Duncan Fearnely, the cricket bat manufacturer saying in a loud Yorkshire accent, "Women know nothing about the game of cricket, they are there only to decorate the ground!" That was the end of my interest in coming to grips with the subtleties of the great game.

As we all know cricket like any other walk of life else is full of politics and intrigue. As a student of history and politics this aspect of the game has always fascinated me. There was one debate that I got personally involved in because I was irked about the fact there were certain no-go areas for women at cricket grounds in the U.K. The cricket ground at Worcester suffered from this blatant discrimination. I was quite forthright about this social injustice and made my views known in no uncertain terms. I am glad to say that the "Committee" soon changed their rules!

Glenn tells me now that he was quite thankful about the fact that I did not get too involved in cricket and concentrated on my own interests. He did not want me to talk shop with him when he came back after a hard day on the field, and thankfully did not give him a hard time if he had failed to make a century!

These days he is still devotedly involved in the game and I continue to be fascinated with its politics.

An 'Indian-Kiwi' Remembers

My first recollection of Indian Test Cricket was in England in the early 1970's. Watching the greats of Indian cricket at the time were the likes of Gavaskar, Viswanath, Chandrasekhar and Bedi. That alone was enough to wet ones appetite to follow in their footsteps in becoming an International cricketer of the future.

My parents were born and bred in a small village near Navsari (Dandi) in the state of Surat, Gujarat. They settled in Nairobi, Kenya the place of my birth and hastily left in 1968 to settle in England. Cricket was always in the family tradition as my three uncles represented Kenya and two brothers played high level cricket in England. It was in 1973 when I represented English Schools Eleven. That year I was spotted by several counties and eventually signed on for Worcester CCC in 1975.

Making my debut in 1976 and performing creditably that year, Bishen Bedi, the Indian Captain approached me to see if I would be interested in playing and representing India. However the lure of playing professional cricket seemed logical to pursue a long term career in England. During the early 1980's, Kapil Dev joined Worcestershire as an overseas player. We became very close friends, both on and off the field. After 12 successful years of playing county cricket, I announced my retirement from county cricket in 1986.

After making my debut in first class cricket in NZ in 1985, I was selected to play for NZ in 1987 against West Indies. My first trip to India as an international cricketer

was in 1987 Reliance World Cup. I was then to make several other trips with NZ Cricket and Invitational Tours.

It was during the 1992 World Cup and the venue was Carisbrook, Dunedin that we recorded a comprehensive win against India. Prior to the World Cup, our team had entered the world at long odds following early indifferent form against England. The transformation of our team to be undefeated leader of the table was to many quite astonishing. On a cold and bitterly windy day, India



felt the full power of the NZ team's resurgence. At first we restricted India to a modest 6 for 230. Martin Crowe, our captain, had repeatedly used me to open the bowling during the tournament. It was later in the tournament, having a casual conversation with Srikanth and Kapil who had mentioned that the team plan was to attack me out of the game. In this case, it was more pleasing for me to succeed as I only conceded 29 runs from 10 overs and picking up the wickets of Srikanth and the Indian captain Azharuddin. I also had the 'displeasure' of having Tendulkar dropped by Mark Greatbatch very early in his innings. He went on to make 84. Our opener Mark Greatbatch again was the fundamental weapon upon which

we built our undefeated record during the World Cup. Greatbatch smashed 73 from 77 balls and Andrew Jones contributed with 67 from 107 balls as we cruised to victory with nearly 3 overs to spare.

During my first trip in 1987 and all subsequent trips, I was astonished by the manner in which the Indian public embraced me by accepting me as one of their own. There have been many other memorable moments while playing against India but the ones that stand out the most are those of the camaraderie and friendship that I have built up over the many years. Long may it continue!

Having just retired as the Head Coach of the Central Districts first class cricket team for five seasons, I am presently running a private cricket academy in Howick Pakuranga in Auckland. I reside in Auckland with my family, my wife Vina and my three daughters Alisha, Priya and Nalika and I am enjoying my life after cricket with my family.

I must admit I am looking forward to the NZ and India Test and One Day series and catching up with 'Wrighty' - I am sure he has got some stories to tell over a beer!

The series will be contested by two even teams. The thought of watching Sachin and co bat again with my feet up not having to bowl to him is quite exciting.

I hope the kiwi public is as hospitable as the Indians are when we tour their country.

Good Luck to both teams.

Dipak Patel

A FAMOUS KIWI VICTORY

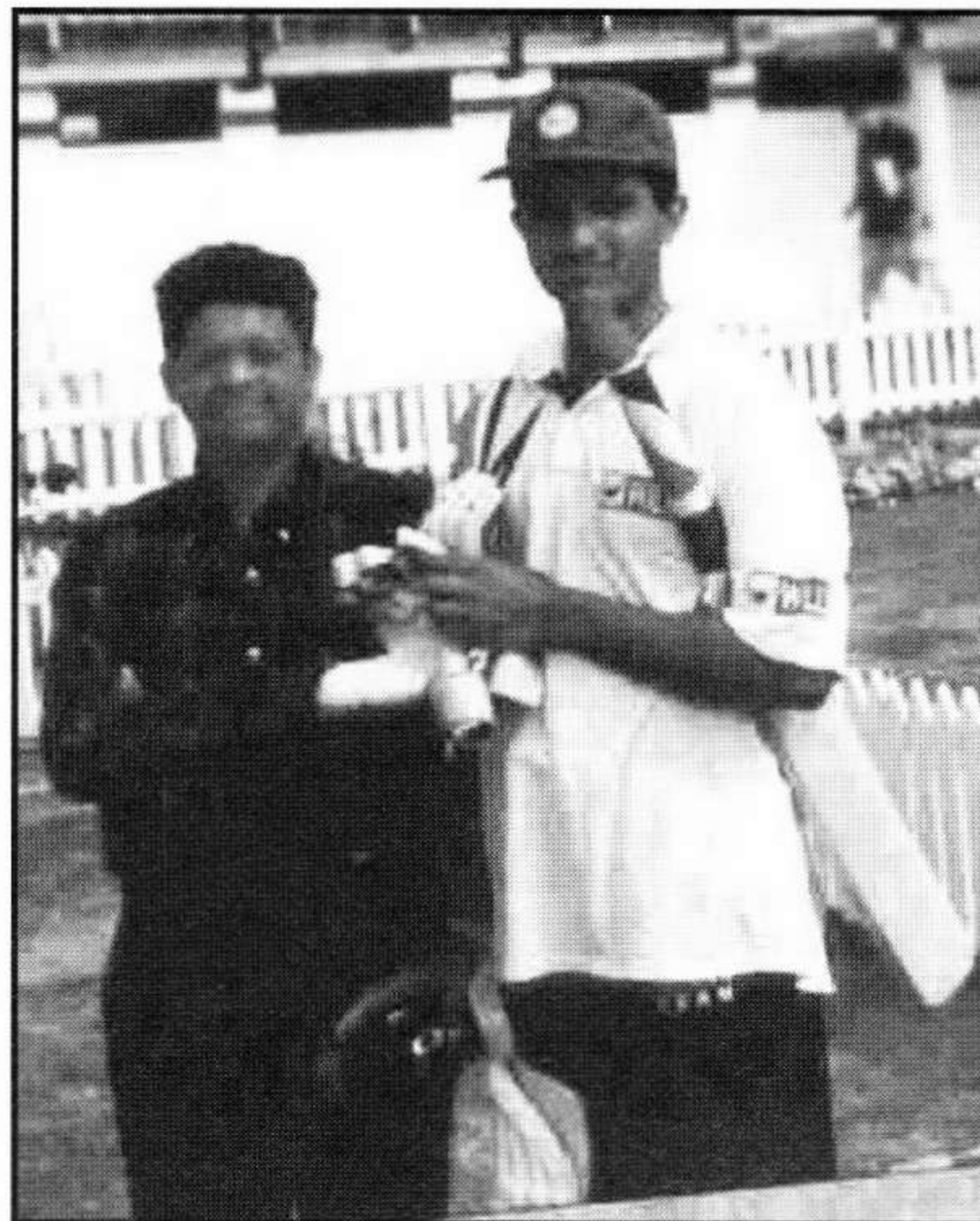
AMIT PALIWAL

The sound - strikingly similar to the high note on Tabla by an Indian Ustaad - of the ball on the bat regularly ringing in your ears; the Yogis' like concentration of the players in the game we love to call cricket - picture this sitting in a Kiwi summer day at a 20 degree celcius, with a group of your best friends around, cold drinks in one hand and 'four'/'six' banners... That was me in the December '98/ January '99, watching the 2nd cricket Test between India and New Zealand.

There was a big buzz in the crowd in Wellington at the Basin Reserve on that last Saturday of the year. New Zealand had found a hero - Simon Doull tore through India's batting line-up, walking away with 7 wickets for 65 runs. Captain Azharuddin had top scored - not out 103 - while master batsman Sachin Tendulkar had been caught by new cap, Matthew Bell off Doull's bowling for 47. Azharuddin had won the toss and elected to bat - a decision Kiwi captain Stephen Fleming would also have taken if he had the choice. The New Zealand openers were lucky to survive and looked comfortable at stumps with Fleming not-out at 27 and Matthew Horne at 16 - Prasad had claimed the only wicket to fall, that of Bell.

The 2nd Day witnessed an intense struggle waged by the New Zealand batsmen - the score card was 208 for 7 before Dion Nash and Daniel Vettori embarked upon the rescue mission adding 82 runs

without being separated. They received a standing ovation from the 6,000-strong crowd. The game appeared delicately poised, though Nash and Vettori had swung the advantage to New Zealand. The Indian Coach, Anshuman



Amit with Sourav Ganguly, Jan 1999

Gaekward was heard saying, "we still believe we can win, we just need to get 200-250 ahead on the final innings and then we are in with a chance".

New Zealand seemed to have got a scent of a rare Test victory against India on Monday but one man stood in their way - Sachin Tendulkar. India trailed by 144 on the first innings but the deficit was wiped out before stumps on the 3rd Day with Tendulkar and Saurav Ganguly feasting on the Kiwi slow bowlers. At stumps, India were 179 for 3 with Ganguly on 47 and Tendulkar stalking the crease on 42 not-out, including a 'six' and six 'fours'. Skipper Fleming was

conscious that a break-through was vital on Tuesday morning if New Zealand were to press for a victory.

The Test was indeed poised on a knife edge after Sachin Tendulkar's century boosted the tourists' total to 356 runs and the home-side lost 4 wickets for 73 as they chased 213 runs to win. Javagal Srinath and leg-spinner Anil Kumble had demonstrated fine bowling - Captain Stephen Fleming had been bowled by Kumble for 17. The Kiwi Coach, Steve Rixon said that the final session was disappointing but he was still confident that New Zealand could win, 'we wanted to occupy the crease but that didn't happen and now we have put ourselves under pressure'.

The final day... Chris Cairns and Craig McMillan steered New Zealand to a 4-wicket victory. The pair put on 137 runs adopting a flamboyant One-Day approach before Cairns was out just two runs short of the 213-run target. Dion Nash scored the winning runs with a boundary to put New Zealand one up in the 3-Test series.

It was a remarkable Test in which the initiative swapped several times. The seeds of the Kiwi victory were sown on the first day when Indian captain, Azharuddin won the toss, elected to bat but saw his side collapsed during the day. It was indeed a famous victory for the fighting spirit of the kiwi side.

A young Indian Kiwi, Amit plays regular first class cricket

INDIA'S BEST OF THE CENTURY

Best Batting Performance of the Century

*V.V.S. Laxman - 281 v. Australia
Calcutta, March 13,14 and 15,
2001*

India had lost the first Test cravenly in three-and-a-half days. History seemed to be repeating itself when, in the second Test, India followed on after falling short by 274 runs. Laxman walked in at 52 for 1 and played an incredible innings against the combination of fluid grace and clinical aggression. Laxman's innings not only won India the match but restored a nation's faith in its cricket team. In the process, he also notched up the highest Test score ever made by an Indian in Tests. Every Indian spine still tingles at the Calcutta memory.

Best Bowling Performance of the Century

*B.S. Chandrasekhar - 6 for 38 v.
England
The Oval, August 23, 1971*

England had led India by 71 runs in the first innings and seemed to be cruising towards easy victory when Ajit Wadekar handed Bhagwat Chandrasekhar the ball. What followed was a nearly mystical bowling spell that ripped through the heart of the English batting. One hundred and nine deliveries, six wickets, and England were all out for a mere 101, to set India up for its first Test and series

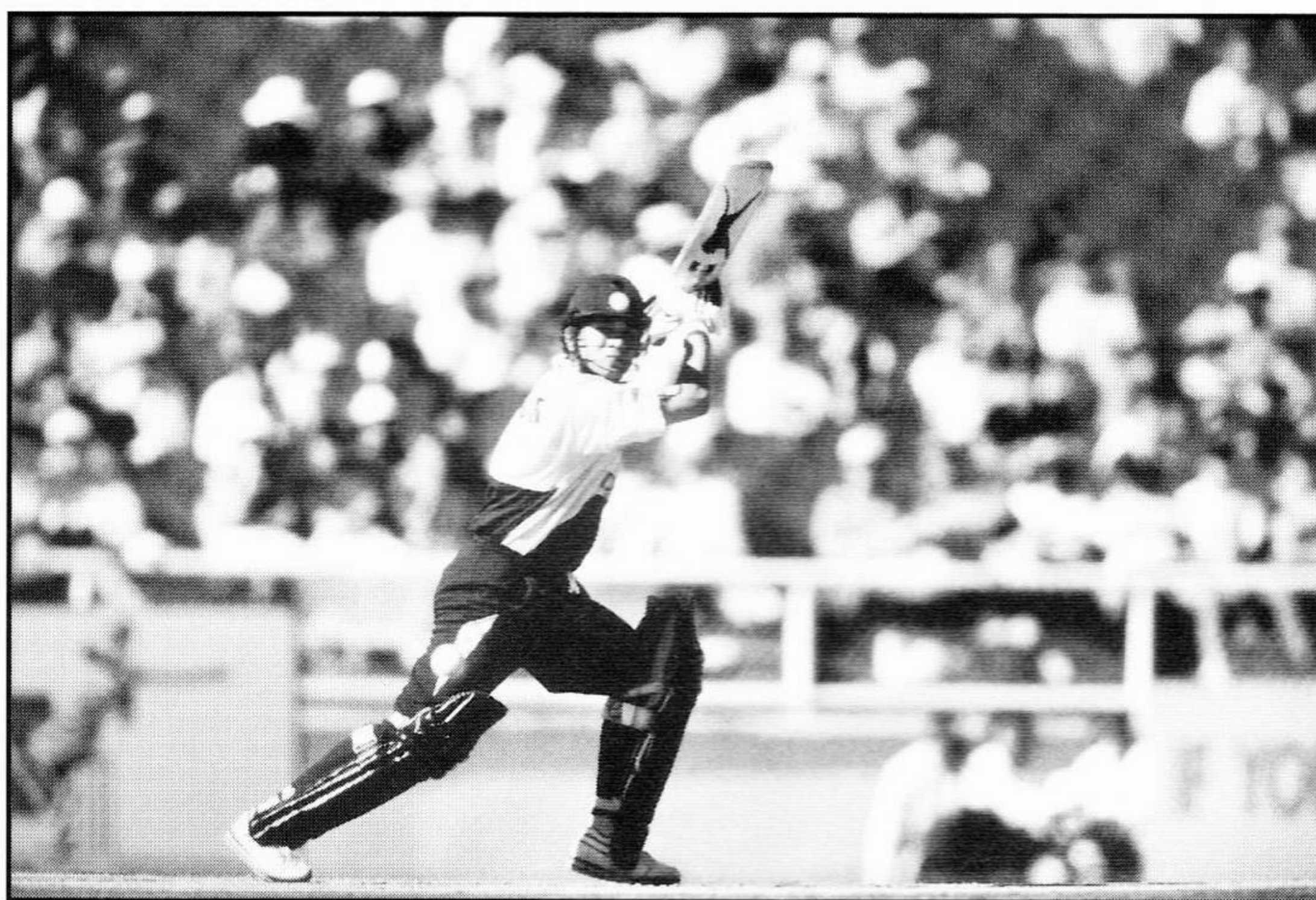
victory ever in rationalist believe in the supernatural.

The Indian Team of the Century

India at the World Cup Championship of Cricket, 1985

Srikkanth and Shastri to open,

Except when it was against Bob Taylor of England, and Vishy knew Taylor wasn't out. His recall of Taylor in the Bombay Test in 1980 was one of cricket's greatest of sportsmanship. India lost the Test, but the values enshrined in the game of cricket won.



Sachin Tendulkar - The People's choice

followed by Azhar, Gavaskar, Vengsarkar, Amarnath and Kapil Madan Lal, Binny and Chetan Sharma to share the new ball with Kapil. The magic of Sivaramakrishnan and the fiery Sadanand Vishwanath behind the stumps. In every match India played, it looked like the winner right from the word go, and they won every game with panache. In every game, except the final against Pakistan, India also managed to dismiss the rival team.

The Spirit of Cricket

Gundappa Vishwanath

When Vishy knew he was out, he walked, without waiting for the umpire to decide. He never questioned an umpire's decision.

Special Achievement Award

Syed Mushtaq Ali

Keith Miller once called him the Errol Flynn of cricket for his exhilarating style. A swashbuckling opener and half of the legendary Merchant-Mushtaq opening duo, Ali was the most popular Indian player of his day. In a career truncated by World War II and capricious

selectors who disliked his outspoken honesty (fans once gheraoed selection committee chairman Duleepsinhji and forced Mushtaq's recall to the Indian team), Ali played on 11 Test matches, and scored two memorable hundreds. But his name still brings a happy smile to the faces of any Indian who was fortunate to have watched him dancing down the crease to English fast bowlers and hoisting them over mid-on.

People's Choice Award

Sachin Tendulkar

Who else could it be?

Courtesy: Outlook, August 5, 2002

INDIA IN NEW ZEALAND

2002-03



India

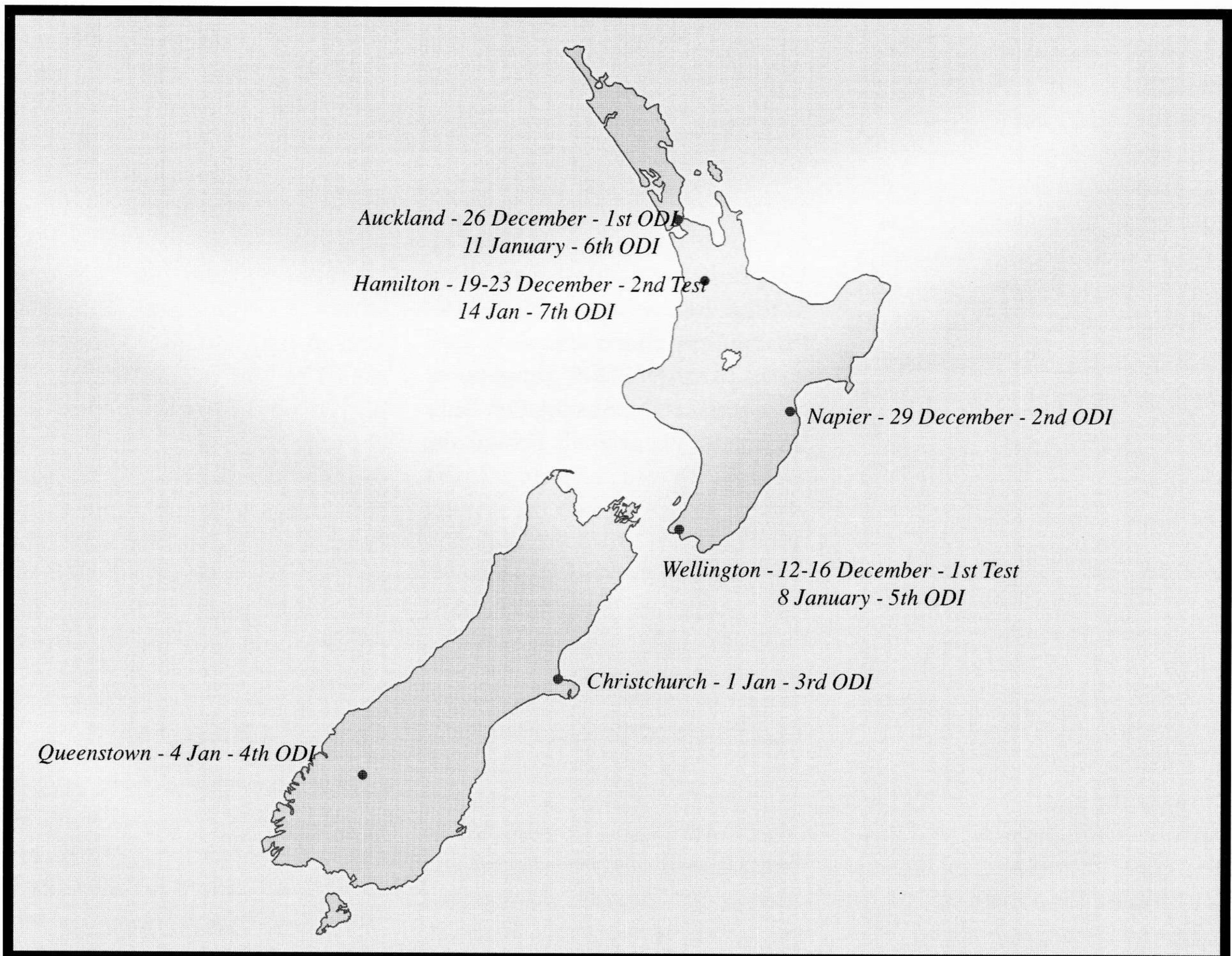
Sourav Ganguly (Captain)
 Virender Sehwag
 Sanjay Bangar
 Rahul Dravid
 Sachin Tendulkar
 VVS Laxman
 Parthiv Patel
 Ajit Agarkar
 Harbhajan Singh
 Zaheer Khan
 Ashish Nehra
 Murali Kartik
 Mohammad Kaif
 SS Das
 Ajay Ratra
 Tinu Yohannan

New Zealand

Stephen Fleming (Captain)
 Andre Adams
 Nathan Astle
 Shane Bond
 Ian Butler
 Chris Cairns
 Chris Harris
 Robbie Hart
 Craig McMillan
 Jacob Oram
 Mark Richardson
 Matthew Sinclair
 Scott Styris
 Daryl Tuffey
 Daniel Vettori
 Lou Vincent



Results		
	India	NZ
1st Test		
2nd Test		
1st ODI		
2nd ODI		
3rd ODI		
4th ODI		
5th ODI		
6th ODI		
7th ODI		



THE SUPER FIVE OF THE INDIAN XI

SACHIN TENDULKAR



RAHUL DRAVID



SOURAV
GANGULY



VIRENDER
SEHWAG

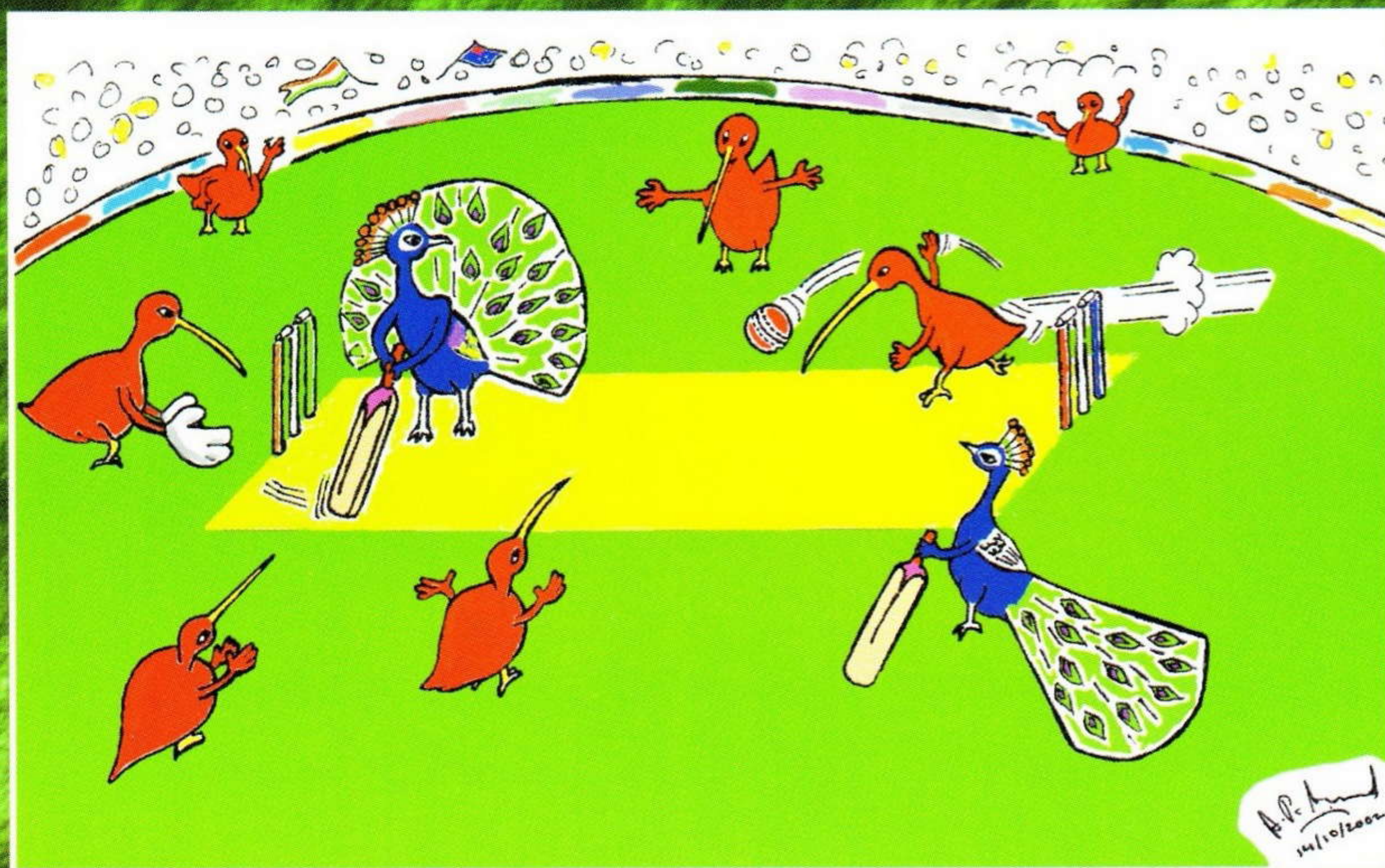


SINGH



SEHWAG

HARBHAJAN





Shivaji Park, Mumbai – India's Cricket Nursery



A Shivaji Park Eleven would be made up of Ajit Wadekar, Sachin Tendulkar, Sandip Patil, Vinod Kambli, R. Desai, R. Kulkarni, Balu Gupte... Described as Mumbai Cricket's spiritual home... in the sheer democracy of it's chaos and competitiveness, it is a metaphor for Indian cricket itself.

Bollywood 'Dream Eleven'



The film Lagaan, i.e., Land Levy, a story with the background of cricket during the heyday of the British Empire, became a super-hit movie having all the drama of India's uniquely long-drawn struggle for freedom.