

# THE WORLD OF SPORT

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## ADULT RESOURCES

### CRICKET

Cricket is a sport that requires the use of a bat and ball. It is easily one of the most prevalent sports in the world. This game consists of two teams that include 11 players each. The main aim of the game is to score the highest number of runs. It is played on a pitch in a field that is well-maintained for the same purpose. Cricket is particularly famous in England and India. There is a lot of potential in Cricket which allows players to earn well. Cricket does not have one single format but various ones. Similarly, each format has a different set of rules and duration.

#### Formats of Cricket

As Cricket has various formats, it has a different fan base for each of them. Some people like watching test matches because of their intensity and authenticity. While some enjoy Twenty-20, that require minimum engagement and are highly entertaining. Test Match is a format of cricket that is quite traditional.

It lasts up to five days and two countries play against each other in this match. Next up, we have the National League Systems, also called counties in England. Their duration is for three to four days.

Limited Over Cricket is another type where the number of episodes decides the format and length of the game. Both the teams get to play a single inning and thus results are determined.

However, if it rains, they apply the Duck worth- Lewis Method to attain results. One of the most common formats is One Day International also known as ODI. Two countries play against each other for a total of fifty over's. Finally, this is probably the most entertaining format of cricket, the Twenty-20. It only has 20 overs to play and is quite exciting and engaging.

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### The Power of Cricket in India

Despite Hockey being the national sport of the country, it is cricket which rules over the hearts of the citizens. It creates a lot of excitement and frenzy amongst the fans of the game. Cricket is like a religion in India and the players are considered to be demi-gods. It is the most-watched sport in India and people even miss their schools and offices when any major international match is happening.

The undying passion for cricket has many a time proved dangerous for the cricket players. Moreover, fans risk everything to display their anger or affection. Cricket unites Indians like nothing else and from kids to adults; everyone keeps track of the cricket score whenever the Indian team is playing.

Cricket in various formats is enjoyed by people all over the world as well. Even business tycoons are now investing in the game to cash in on the popularity.

The board of cricket is taking various measures to make the games more interesting through organizing the Indian Premier League and more. In short, it is safe to say that cricket is not merely a sport but an emotion in our country. It makes people come together for good. It also strengthens our relationship with other countries and maintains the sportsman spirit.

**SOURCE:** [www.toppr.com](http://www.toppr.com)

**MS DHONI** Mahi', as Mahendra Singh Dhoni is popularly known, was born on 7th July, 1 981 to Pan Singh and Devaki Dev at Ranchi in Bihar (now Jharkhand). Dhoni's parents had moved to Ranchi from Uttarakhand where his father works in a junior management position in Mecon. He has a sister and a brother.

Dhoni is a fan of Adam Gilchrist and his childhood idols were teammate Sachin Tendulkar, the Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan and the melody queen Lata Mangeshkar.

Dhoni studied at DAV Jawahar Vidya Mandir School, Shyamali in Ranchi where he initially excelled in badminton and football, and was selected at district and club

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levels in these sports. For his football team, Dhoni was a goal keeper and was sent to play cricket for a local cricket club by his football coach.

Though he had not played cricket before, Dhoni impressed with his wicket keeping skills and became the regular wicket keeper of his cricket club. Dhoni started focussing completely on cricket after 10th standard. He was also good at studies in his school.

During 2000-03, he worked as a Train Ticket Examiner (TTE) in Midnapore district, West Bengal. He was honest and straightforward. But he also had a mischievous shade to him. He and his colleagues scared the night guards by acting as ghosts. This incident even made news the next day.

Dhoni was included in Bihar U-19 squad for the 1998-99 season and later made his Ranji Trophy debut for Bihar in the 1999-2000 season as an 18 year old. He made a half century at the time of his debut. In 2004, he became a serious contender for national selection with some stirring performances when the occasion demanded- a rapid 100 which helped East Zone clinch the Deodhar Trophy and an audacious 60 in the Duleep Trophy final.

Later, in his two centuries against Pakistan and in the triangular tournament in Kenya, he established himself as a clinical destroyer of the bowling attacks. Dhoni's talent was noticed through BCCI's small town talent spotting initiative. He was seen by PC Podar, the Captain of Bengal in the 1960s, while Dhoni was playing for Jharkhand. Podar immediately sent a report to National Cricket Academy.

In his fifth one-dayer against Pakistan, at Visakhapatnam, he cracked a dazzling 148, followed by a colossal 183 not out at Jaipur against Sri Lanka and in the process eclipsed the highest score by Adam Gilchrist. These innings had Dhoni's 10 sixes, the most by an Indian in an inning and the fifth highest in ODIs.

He and Mahela Jayawardene set a new world record for the sixth wicket partnership of 218 runs, during Afro-Asia Cup in 2007. In 2012, he became the only captain in ODIs to score a century while batting at number 7. He also became the fourth fastest batsman to complete 8,000 runs in One-Day cricket in 2014.

In test matches also, he was an instant hit, cracking 148 at Faisalabad against Pakistan in his fifth test, when India was struggling to avoid the follow on. He was elevated to the vice-captaincy of the one-day squad for the tour of England and Ireland in 2007. In 2008, defeating Australia, under Dhoni's captaincy, India registered the biggest ever win with 320 runs. In 2009, Dhoni created a record for most catches by an Indian player in 320 an inning. The ever-manipulating cricketing brain beneath the long locks knows how to get the best out of his team. He is a fountain head of positive energy and will continue to be the heartbeat of young India.

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