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**Can we disagree to the fact that cricket overshadows other sports?**

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Certainly not. I firmly believe that cricket is that one, eternal and immortal soul, the god of sports that overshadows other sports, be it indoor or outdoor. When we open the sports section of any newspaper, what is the headlines we see? It is either about the controversies in cricket, the experts talks by cricketers, the latest record-breaking feats in cricket or the scoreboard of any on going test match. News and updates regarding sports like football, kabaddi, basketball, and even our national game hockey is either squeezed into the corner of the second last page, in relatively smaller font or it is not there at all. Even when our Indian hockey team playing in the under nineteenth world cup, achieved the feat of defeating Belgium in the finals, the headlines of the newspaper read ‘Cook’s captaincy under question’. This is the terrible condition of other sports.

Ask a five-year old regarding cricket, and he would spill out the entire team squad of India. Ask the same question to a ten-year old, and he would blabber out the possible strategy that the cricket team has employed to win the match. Such is the importance and value given to the cricket. There are people in India who believe that cricket is the national sport of India. Movies on cricketers receive much more viewership than movies on any other sport star, however good the movie may be.

The national sport or the indigenous sports of India like Chess, Kabbadi, Hockey, etc. are given consideration only after the god of sports – Cricket. Everyone knows the god of cricket – Sachin. Does anyone know that there are sports stars who are referred to as gods in their respective games? They wouldn’t even know the name of the sport.

According to a recent study, the viewership of the cricket is more than any other sport. Almost all schools in India, will not have a sports equipment room without a few stumps, bats and balls. No year, in a college goes without having their juniors and seniors playing a match of cricket. Not only this, but also the highest coming sport in the least possible time is cricket.

‘Cricket’ is the word which draws more participation than elections in a country. A person who does not watch TV also can be found, with his eyes glued onto the screen watching an one-day-international match or test match or T20. A robber may come and steal everything and go, a flood may engulf your neighboring city, the President of the United States may be assassinated, but all this is immaterial to the people when they are watching the sport of cricket.

The importance and value given to cricket cannot be matched by any sport, nor will it be unless a miracle takes place in nature, completely eradicating cricket off the minds of the souls that take rebirth again as humans, just to relish the taste and flavor of the sport. Unless, this happens, even a universe of sports cannot make people rethink about cricket, let alone change it.