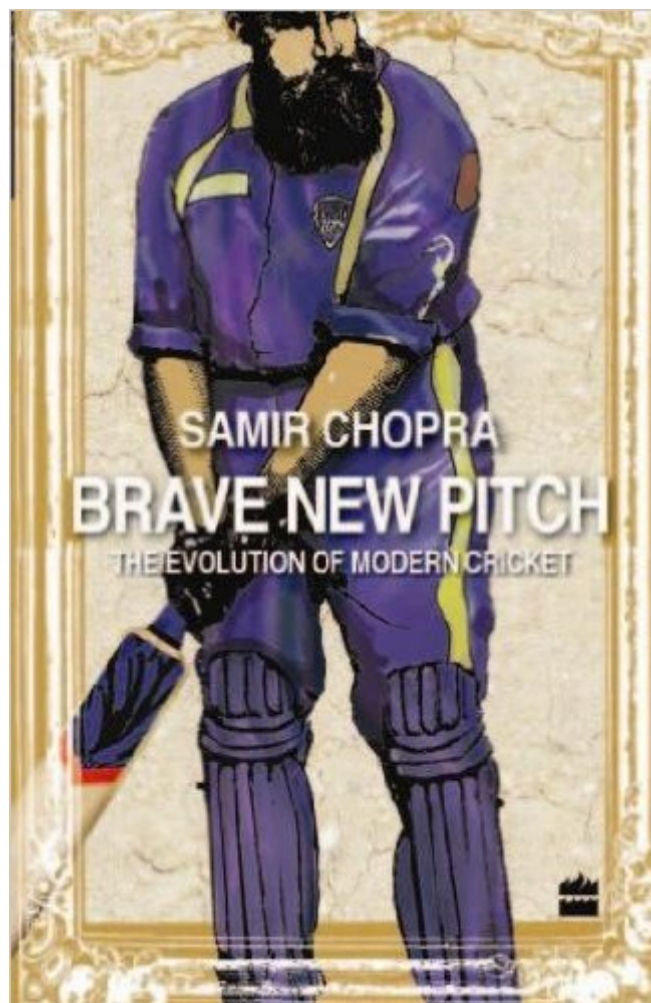


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# Brave New Pitch-The Evolution Of Modern Cricket



## Synopsis

Cricket as we know it may soon be no more. Thanks to Twenty20, technology, media, and the sheer financial power of Indian cricket, the gentleman's game is on the brink of radical changes.

Nation-based cups might give way to T20 professional leagues; umpires might be replaced by technology; and professional franchises, not national boards, might call the shots. Could cricket go the way of professional football? Will Test cricket survive in an entertainment-driven field? Will television rights deals determine the nature of the game? This upheaval has been accompanied by conflict between the old guard England and Australia and the new boss, India. If the spirit of cricket is to survive these changes, it requires the balancing of economic, political and sporting imperatives. The game must find a way to remain a financially solvent global sport that caters to the changing tastes of its fans and players by creatively using new media and limited-overs cricket. In 'Brave New Pitch', Samir Chopra takes a hard look at cricket's tumultuous present, and considers what could and should lie ahead.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Inside baseball" is an American idiom for a discussion that assumes so much specialized baseball knowledge (or, by analogy, knowledge of some other domain) that it is unintelligible to outsiders. Brave New Pitch can fairly be described as "inside cricket" in the same sense. If you don't already know a great deal about cricket--about it's current controversies and challenges--you're probably better off reading something else. I suggest The Great Tamasha by James Astill. I was looking forward to this book a great deal because I already have (from Astill and others) a smattering of knowledge about the peculiar culture, governance, and modern issues surrounding cricket, and was

eager to learn more. It only slowly dawned on me that this book wasn't going to bother to explain any of these things. It assumes that you know all about them, and need only to be told what to think about them. For example, the book refers to the scandal surrounding the third season of the Indian Premier League. Now, I vaguely remember something about this, but I'd be hard pressed to tell you exactly what constituted the scandal. Mr. Chopra is glad to tell me what he considers the significance of the scandal to be, but can't be bothered to remind me in what it consisted. Perhaps this information could be inferred from a close reading of the whole book, but about a third of the way through I gave up the effort--it was just too hard. There's an art, in serious non-fiction, to weaving enough background information into your text to make it intelligible to a general audience without boring your more sophisticated readers. Mr. Chopra does not possess this art. From the glowing praise for the book that I find here and there, I gather that many cricket mavens find Mr. Chopra's assessment refreshingly sensible and well balanced.

Samir Chopra's book, *Brave New Pitch: The Evolution of Modern Cricket*, falls into a category of its own altogether. It is literature coming not from a player or a journalist or even an academic or a commentator; but from a fan. It presents multiple issues that fans all over the cricketing world are grappling with in their minds. The author writes, much as a fan would dissect the proceedings of a game, albeit with some delay, with introspection, poise and attempting to understand the nuance behind the obvious. It's not just the simple writing style of Chopra that makes this book readable but also his construct of arguments that does not present any clear cut judgments and lets the reader appreciate the insight of his viewpoint and then formulate his own opinion on what is presented. [He] manages to cross the artificial lines created in the world of cricket and speaks to all those through this book who quite literally possess, *the love for the game*.

Plenty of cricket fans take a good measure of satisfaction in watching the Indian Premier League's problems. In its short life, the IPL has upended the game from its time-honored traditions. Samir Chopra is among those who lament some of the changes that the IPL and T20 have brought to the sport. But he also recognizes that the Indian Premier League offers a model, with its turn toward franchises, that can potentially improve cricket around the world. Samir is alert to the profound identity crisis in which world cricket finds itself, and he looks at cricket in comparison to other sports (you'll find informed references to the NBA, NFL, and EPL in his book). For a cricket novice like myself, it offered a thoughtful and eloquent analysis of the sport today--and major professional

sports in general.

An important contribution in the debate about the future of the sport from a passionate fan, long-time blogger, and knowledgeable historian. This, in the mould of James Astill's *The Great Tamasha* and Mike Jakeman's *Saving the Test*, pulls strands from across the game and utilizes several genres (memoir, history, philosophy, politics) to analyze cricket in the IPL era. This is not the book to buy your relative who quite likes cricket. Its subject matter will appeal only to people whose lives are drenched in the sport but for those of us whose fit that criteria it is a must read.

Finally got to Samir Chopra's brilliant "Brave New Pitch" after working through a giant Kindle backlog -- if I'd known how good it was I'd have skipped the damn backlog. Thoughtful, insightful, even-handed, and above all (for me) prescriptive, because just plain vanilla commentary is not good enough. Modern cricket is incredibly confusing, with three different formats and with the bizarre and unlooked-for rise of India upturning the established order -- not always for the better. Samir deconstructs it all for the layman and the aficionado, and has predictions and recommendations for the future. I hope cricket administrators read this and reflect...

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