



WIDEN
INDIA

ALMANACK

2018



EDITED BY SURESH MENON

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WISDEN INDIA ALMANACK

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FILM AND TV REVIEWS

Playing on the drama of uncertainties

RAKESH RAMAMOORTHY

The game of glorious uncertainties takes many avatars, ranging from Pongal Tests to galli cricket, and each form holds its own charm for players and spectators. Last year's onscreen cricketing dramas transcend their shortcomings because of their ability to evoke the distinctive pleasures of the sport in its various incarnations. For millions of Indians, Sachin Tendulkar is both the guy next door and a national hero, and it is this unique bond that *Sachin: A Billion Dreams*, the authorised documentary on the legendary batsman's life and career, seeks to exploit. In the first season of *Inside Edge*, an Amazon Video original web series, a T20 cricket league is plagued by a match-fixing conspiracy, and the audience is treated to a cocktail of riveting cricketing action and a Bollywood crime thriller. The Malayalam film *Rakshadhikari Baiju, Oppu* ('Signed, Baiju, the patron') strikes a different note by celebrating the recreational cricket found in the rural playing fields.

Sachin: A Billion Dreams is a Bollywood romance masquerading as a documentary, as the film has very little of the investigative and analytical elements one expects in a documentary. Tendulkar's first-person narration has been neatly interspersed with television footage of his cricketing exploits and clippings from home videos, presenting in detail the familiar tale of the middle-class boy who stayed true to his roots while scaling the pinnacle of



Sachin - A Billion Dreams: The film is a Bollywood romance masquerading as a documentary.