ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE DOES MATTER ON THE CRICKET FIELD

Three of the four top-ranked teams in the ICC World Cup are also the leading performers on the five parameters of socio-economic progress shown here. Although there is great variation in the level and pace of progress across countries, improvement in socio-economic conditions by and large correlates with better cricket. A good example is the contrasting performances of Bangladesh (improving) and Pakistan (deteriorating) in recent years, which broadly track the state of their economies.

Note: West Indian figures are weighted averages for the countries - Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica,Trinidad & Tobago, St Vincent & the Grenadines, and the Dutch Antilles. The ICC Rankings for the WI are taken for England.

Life Expectancy at Birth (%)

India: 73.2
England: 82.1
New Zealand: 84.2
Australia: 84.2
South Africa: 73.6
Pakistan: 72.2
Bangladesh: 69.3
Sri Lanka: 67
West Indies: 64.3
Afghanistan: 63.6

GDP Per Capita ($)

India: 2,872
England: 55,421
New Zealand: 42,319
Australia: 41,909
South Africa: 8,770
Pakistan: 7,089
Bangladesh: 2,159
Sri Lanka: 1,809
West Indies: 468
Afghanistan: 55

Literacy Rate (%)

India: 99
England: 99
New Zealand: 99
Australia: 99
South Africa: 94.4
Pakistan: 93.9
Bangladesh: 91.3
Sri Lanka: 74
West Indies: 57
Afghanistan: 33.7

Human Development Index 2017

India: 0.7
England: 0.93
New Zealand: 0.89
Australia: 0.88
South Africa: 0.76
Pakistan: 0.3
Bangladesh: 0.33
Sri Lanka: 0.35
West Indies: 0.35
Afghanistan: 0.24

Pakistan's cricketing rank may be low, but it's still better than its socio-economic indicators.

**Source:** World Bank, Human Development Reports.