



IDCA Inaugurates 3rd Test National Cricket Championship for Deaf 2024 in association with Serum Institute of India, Cyrus Poonawalla Group

- *Four hearing impaired men's cricket teams from Kerala, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir are participating in this six-day tournament.*
- *Mr. Jaswinder Narang, CEO, Villoo Poonawalla Foundation, represented IDCA's Principal Sponsor— Serum Institute of India, Cyrus Poonawalla Group.*

New Delhi, 13th February 2024: Indian Deaf Cricket Association (IDCA) 3rd Test National Cricket Championship for Deaf 2024, organised in association with Serum Institute of India (a part of Cyrus Poonawalla Group), was formally inaugurated in a glittering ceremony by the Chief Guest Sh. Santosh Kumar Rai, District Magistrate South-East, Delhi.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by a galaxy of dignitaries from the cricket and corporate world, supporting this IDCA 3rd Test National Cricket Championship for Deaf 2024. Mr. Dev Dutt, BCCI Certified Coach also joined the event.

Guests of Honour

1. *Mr. Jaswinder Narang, CEO, Villoo Poonawalla Foundation, representing Serum Institute of India, Cyrus Poonawalla Group, principal partner*
2. *Shri B P Sharma, Director – Central Vigilance Commission, New Delhi*
3. *Shri Rajesh Gehlot, BJP - Delhi*
4. *Shri Shailendra Solanki, Chairman – Venkateshwara International School, Dwarka, New Delhi.*
5. *Dr. Nirav Patel, Assistant Commission of Police, Delhi Police*
6. *Shri Rajesh Dogra, ACP – Delhi Police*

Dedicated to nurturing upcoming sports talent among specially-abled youth, Serum Institute of India, a part of Cyrus Poonawalla Group, has joined hands with IDCA as the Principal Partner. In this role, the group will extend full support to IDCA for the hearing-impaired men's tournament as they compete to win the coveted cup.

Addressing the gathering at the inaugural ceremony, former cricketer and Chief Guest, Mr. Santosh Kumar Rai, District Magistrate South East, Delhi said, "It is a proud moment for me to be associated with 3rd IDCA National Cricket Championship. This league provides a platform for specially-abled men to showcase their talent. They have worked really hard towards it, and I am truly glad to be associated with them. I am also thankful to all partners who are supporting this cause, and I look forward to being a part of it for the years to come. This is indeed a proud moment for me, and together by doing our bit, we can make a big impact



for specially-abled men. Let's help them dream and believe that they too can achieve great heights."

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, Mr. Sumit Jain, President, IDCA, said, *"Today is an important tournament as it signals IDCA's focus on promoting not only world-class cricket, but emphasis on nurturing diversity and inclusion. All our partners share our vision and are committed to helping hearing-impaired cricketing talent and join the 'DaretoDream' movement to mainstream these players who have won many accolades for India. This is also a very special tournament as it is the 3rd National Cricket Championship in 2024."*

Roma Balwani, CEO, IDCA, commented, *"We are truly honoured by the presence of dignitaries who have come today to celebrate and motivate these hearing-impaired men of substance, who will demonstrate their prowess on the cricket field. Our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Modiji has been championing the cause of disability sports in a significant way. He has also promoted the universal usage of sign language which will create more awareness and help break barriers for the hearing-impaired members of communities at large"*.

Reena Jain Malhotra, Patron, IDCA, welcoming the chief guest and guest of honour at the inaugural ceremony, said, *"It is a special moment for us at IDCA to see four different states coming together to play the prestigious 3rd IDCA National Cricket Championship. We are very thankful to all our support partners for their belief in the cause of hearing-impaired cricket. We hope to nurture and make it bigger and better in the years to come"*.

In support are IDCA's long term partners, KFC India, Hero Moto Corp, Nykaa, Impact Research, Cognito & Kaizzen.

About the tournament

The tournament kicked off with a face-off between Punjab Lions and Delhi Bulls on February 12, 2024, at Essex Farms Cricket Club & Haryana Cricket Academy, Chhawla, New Delhi. Punjab Lions won toss and decided to bowl. The finale is scheduled for February 17, 2024.

For more information follow IDCA on Twitter: @indian_deaf, Linked In & Instagram. Watch the tournament live on YouTube channel, IDCA.TV.

About IDCA:

IDCA was formed in 2020 by Mr. Sumit Jain, Vice President & member of DCCI (Differently-Abled Cricket Committee, BCCI) registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860 with the sole aim of promoting the game of Cricket amongst the deaf athletes of the country and to provide them the platform to showcase their talent and to represent their respective states at national level and country at international level.



Indian Deaf Cricket Association (IDCA) is a governing body for deaf cricket in India and a member of DICC (Deaf International Cricket Council) which closely works with ICC to promote Cricket amongst Deaf Cricketers globally. (Equal opportunities, protection of rights & full participation). It is solely dedicated to serving the cause of persons with disabilities.



Prior to forming IDCA, Deaf Cricket Society was established in 2012 and has nurtured & trained thousands of hearing-impaired cricketers over a decade to participate in state, national & international tournaments.

For media queries, please contact:

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