

MINUTES OF THE 28th APEX COUNCIL MEETING (EMERGENT) OF BOARD OF CONTROL FOR CRICKET IN INDIA (BCCI) HELD ON SATURDAY, 14TH JUNE 2025 AT 4.00 P.M. (IST) VIA VIDEO-CONFERENCING

Present:

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| 1. Mr. Roger Binny | Honorary President, Chairperson |
| 2. Mr. Rajeev Shukla | Honorary Vice President |
| 3. Mr. Devajit Saikia | Honorary Secretary |
| 4. Mr. Prabhtej Singh Bhatia | Honorary Treasurer |
| 5. Mr. Khairul Jamal Majumdar | Councillor |
| 6. Ms. Shubhangi Kulkarni | ICA Representative (Female) |
| 7. Mr. C.M Sane | CAG Nominee |

BCCI staff members were invited to speak on specific agenda items, as and when required.

1. CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Roger Binny, the Honorary President, BCCI (the “**Chairperson**”) presided over the meeting. He greeted all the members present in the Apex Council and welcomed them to the 28th Apex Council Meeting of the BCCI. Mr. Binny stated that, he would, on behalf of the BCCI, like to convey condolences on the tragic plane crash that occurred in Ahmedabad and the loss of lives in Bengaluru during the stampede that occurred. Mr. Saikia and other members of the Apex Council also conveyed his condolences on both the tragic events which led to loss of valuable life.

2. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The Chairperson informed the members that Mr. Rohan Gauns Dessai, Honorary Joint Secretary, and Mr. Dilip Vengsarkar, ICA Representative (Male) were unable to attend the meeting due to personal reasons. Accordingly, leave of absence was granted to both members.

3. QUORUM

After ascertaining that the requisite quorum for the meeting was present, the meeting was called to order.

Thereafter, Mr. Devajit Saikia, the Honorary Secretary, BCCI, welcomed all the members. With the permission of all the members present, the notice convening the meeting, having already been circulated, was taken on record.

4. ITEM 1: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE 27TH APEX COUNCIL MEETING (EMERGENT).



Mr. Saikia took up the first item on the Agenda which was confirmation of the minutes of the 27th Apex Council Meeting (Emergent) held on March 22, 2025. The papers relating to the agenda point were already circulated to the members of the Apex Council.

A clarification raised by Ms. Shubhangi Kulkarni on Item 10 (regarding the zonal format for women) was duly addressed and resolved. Mr. Rajeev Shukla also sought a clarification regarding the appointment of a new member to the Internal Complaints Committee under the Prevention of Sexual Harassment Policy, which was duly clarified.

Thereafter, the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd March 2025 were confirmed and approved unanimously by the members.

5. ITEM 2: DISCUSSION ON THE ORDERS PASSED BY THE HON'BLE OMBUDSMAN IN THE COMPLAINT FILED BY MR. V. AGAM RAO

Mr. Saikia took up the next item on the Agenda, which pertained to the orders passed by the Hon'ble Ombudsman in the complaint filed by Mr. V. Agam Rao. The papers relating to this Agenda item had already been circulated to the members of the Apex Council.

Mr. Biswa Patnaik, General Counsel, BCCI apprised the members about the orders passed by the BCCI's Ombudsman on the complaint filed by Mr. V. Agam Rao under Rule 41(1)(b) of the BCCI Constitution.

The Ombudsman of the BCCI passed an order forwarding the matter to the BCCI's Apex Council to be dealt with as it deemed appropriate.

After deliberations, the members noted that the matter pertains to the functioning of the HCA and, therefore, falls within the jurisdiction of the HCA and its Ombudsman. Accordingly, the members unanimously decided that the appropriate forum for the complainant would be the Ombudsman of the HCA, and a communication be addressed to Mr. V. Agam Rao advising him to approach the HCA Ombudsman with his concerns.

6. ITEM 3: DISCUSSION REGARDING THE BCCI CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PLAYERS AND TEAM OFFICIALS' REGULATIONS

Mr. Saikia took up the next item on the Agenda, which pertained to the BCCI Code of Conduct for Players and Team Officials Regulations ("Code"). The papers relating to this Agenda item had already been circulated to the members of the Apex Council.

Mr. Abey Kuruvilla apprised the members that the earlier code had been framed nearly 15-20 years ago, and it was therefore decided to update them in line with the code followed in the IPL, which in turn are based on those of the International Cricket Council (ICC). The new Code have been framed to ensure that the game is played in the right spirit.



Mr. Patnaik then explained the key features of the Code, including the sanctions, and informed the members that the regulations are applicable to both players and team officials (i.e. entire support staff).

Mr. Saikia suggested changes in the quantum of appeal fees to differentiate between senior and junior players, while Ms. Kulkarni proposed that the appeal fees for women cricketers be reduced. Both suggestions were accepted by the members, and Mr. Saikia requested Mr. Patnaik that the Code be amended accordingly and upon such amendment, the Code be considered as approved.

7. ITEM 4: TOURNAMENT ALLOWANCE POLICY FOR BCCI EMPLOYEES

Mr. Saikia took up the next item on the Agenda, which pertained to the tournament allowance policy for BCCI employees. He informed the members about the existing allowance policy applicable to various tournaments and stated that a fresh policy was required to bring greater clarity on the allowances payable to personnel involved in hosting tournaments like IPL, WPL or any ICC World Cup, including the venue team, the central team, and the staff at the BCCI headquarters assisting in tournament operations.

Mr. Shukla raised certain queries regarding the current allowance policy, which were duly clarified by Mr. Saikia. Mr. Saikia also sought confirmation from Mr. Sane on the proposed policy, and Mr. Sane confirmed his support for the same.

After due deliberation, the quantum of the allowance amount for the current year was decided, and the new Tournament Allowance Policy was unanimously approved by the members.

8. ITEM 5: UPDATE ON BCCI DOMESTIC SEASON 2025-26

Mr. Saikia took up the next item on the Agenda and requested Mr. Kuruvilla to apprise the members of the Domestic Season 2025-26. Mr. Kuruvilla stated that all the relevant papers had already been circulated to the members, but he would once again take them through the details. He informed the members that the Duleep Trophy would commence on 28th August 2025 and conclude on 15th September 2025, to be played under the Zonal system, following which the junior and senior tournaments would begin. He further apprised the members of the other tournaments scheduled for the season.

Below are the key points for the BCCI Domestic Season 2025-26:

(i) Season Duration & Coverage:

The 2025-26 Domestic Season will begin with the Duleep Trophy (August 28, 2025) and conclude with the Senior Women's Inter-Zonal Multi-Day Trophy (April 3, 2026).

(ii) Key Changes:

The Duleep Trophy and Senior Women's Challenger tournaments will now be contested between six zonal teams selected by zonal selectors.



Plate Group restructuring has been introduced across age categories. The bottom 6 teams (based on the previous season's rankings) will be placed in the Plate Group for limited overs tournaments.

Promotion/relegation rules updated: Only one team will be promoted/relegated between Elite and Plate groups going forward.

(iii) Tournament Format Updates:

The Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy and Senior Women's T20 Trophy will now include a Super League stage instead of a traditional knockout.

(iv) New Grouping Formats:

Major tournaments such as Vijay Hazare Trophy, Senior Women's One Day Trophy, and Men's U23 State A Trophy will follow a 4 Elite Groups + 1 Plate Group model.

Most junior and women's tournaments (U16, U19, U23) have moved to a 5 Elite + 1 Plate group structure.

The members approved the schedule of BCCI Domestic Season 2025-26.

9. ITEM 6: CHANGE IN RULES REGARDING AVP TESTING

Mr. Saikia took up the next item on the Agenda and requested Mr. Kuruvilla to apprise the members of the change in rules regarding Age Verification Programme (AVP) testing. Mr. Kuruvilla provided the background of the TW3 testing system, i.e., bone testing for age verification of both boys and girls in age-related tournaments. He explained that, under the existing system, once a TW3 test result was obtained within the prescribed limit for a tournament, an additional '+1' year was automatically added to the player's testing age for the following year, without repeating the test. This sometimes resulted in situations where the '+1' adjustment pushed the player's testing age beyond the prescribed limit, even though the player remained eligible as per chronological age.

Mr. Kuruvilla informed that this practice had led to concerns being raised by parents and state associations, as players were losing opportunities despite being within the chronological age limit. To address this, it was proposed that, in cases where the automatic '+1' addition to the TW3 test result causes the player's age to exceed the prescribed limit but the player's chronological age remains within the limit, the player would be permitted to undergo the TW3 test again. Their eligibility would then be determined on the basis of the result of the subsequent bone test for that season/year.

After deliberations, the proposed change was unanimously approved by the members.

10. ITEM 7: DISCUSSION REGARDING UMPIRE AND MATCH REFEREE COACHES

Mr. Saikia took up the next item on the Agenda and requested Mr. Kuruvilla to apprise the members thereon. Mr. Kuruvilla emphasized the importance of umpire and match referee coaches, noting that structured coaching would help them perform better. He further

informed the members that a large number of umpires and match referees are required for the domestic structure, and a proper system is necessary to monitor their progress on a day-to-day basis, guide them with the latest technology, and provide continuous support. He added that having dedicated coaches would raise the overall standard of umpiring and refereeing.

After deliberations, the members agreed as follows:

The members approved the establishment of a Working Group comprising five (5) 'Umpire Coaches' to oversee the development of umpires and enhance their on-field performance. These Umpire Coaches must possess international umpiring experience and have previously served as umpires.

Additionally, the members decided to form a Working Group consisting of three (3) former Match Referees. This Working Group will be responsible for monitoring the development of match referees and providing them with opportunities to improve their performance in cricket matches.

11. ITEM 8: APPROVAL REGARDING FOLLOWING TENDERS

(a) RFQ FOR APPOINTMENT OF AN AGENCY FOR VERIFICATION OF REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS OF PLAYERS; AND

(b) RFQ FOR BROADCAST GRAPHICS SERVICES FOR BCCI DOMESTIC MATCHES

Mr. Saikia took up the next item on the agenda and requested Mr. Hemang Amin, CEO-Interim, to apprise the members regarding the Request for Quotation (RFQ)s. Mr. Amin explained the Request for Quotation (RFQ) for verification services of players, while Mr. Dev Shriyan presented the RFQ concerning broadcast graphics and highlighted the need for obtaining the proposed services. The members suggested that instead of issuing the RFQ to limited identified parties, the tender should be made open for all and made it into a Request for Proposal (RFP) process. It was also suggested that all eligibility criteria and related requirements be clearly set out in the tender documents to facilitate the selection of the best-suited entities. After deliberations, the members approved the tenders with the modifications suggested.

12. ITEM 9: VENUES FOR INDIA-NEW ZEALAND SERIES

Mr. Saikia took up the next item on the Agenda concerning the venues for the India-New Zealand Series and requested Mr. Amin to brief the members. Mr. Amin informed that the series would comprise three (3) ODIs and five (5) T20Is, and that the proposed schedule had already been circulated to the members. Upon review, the members unanimously approved the schedule for the India-New Zealand Series.

13. ITEM 10: DISCUSSION REGARDING IPL VICTORY CELEBRATION AND THE NEED OF FORMULATION OF NORMS



Mr. Saikia took up the next item on the Agenda regarding victory celebrations and the need for formulation of norms. He apprised the members that, following the IPL 2025 Final, the RCB team held victory celebrations in Bengaluru, which unfortunately resulted in deaths and injuries. In light of this incident, Mr. Saikia proposed that the BCCI frame comprehensive guidelines to regulate such celebrations and to prevent similar occurrences in the future.

After deliberations, the members resolved to constitute a Committee to formulate comprehensive guidelines preferably within 15 days, aimed at ensuring the safe conduct of victory celebrations. The Committee will consists of the following members:

- Mr. Devajit Saikia (Chairperson)
- Mr. Prabhtej Singh Bhatia; and
- Mr. Rajeev Shukla

14. ITEM 11: TO CONSIDER ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIRPERSON MAY CONSIDER NECESSARY TO BE INCLUDED IN THE AGENDA

Mr. Saikia took up the next item, being any other business which the Chairperson may consider necessary. Mr. Amin apprised the members regarding the development of the North East Cricket Academies, i.e., indoor academies at six venues, and provided an update on the same. He informed the members about the previously approved budget and the current requirement for procuring furniture for all six venues, for which approval of the members was sought. It was highlighted that the expenditure would be met from the overall approved cost of the project and would not have any additional financial impact.

Mr. Khairul Jamal Majumdar further apprised the members regarding the provision of electrical connections to these indoor academies, which will be routed through the respective state associations. The members took note of the same.

15. VOTE OF THANKS

The Chairperson thanked the Apex Council members and there being no other business, the meeting came to an end.


CHAIRPERSON
(HON. PRESIDENT, BCCI)