

**MINUTES OF THE 4<sup>th</sup> APEX COUNCIL MEETING OF BOARD OF CONTROL FOR CRICKET IN INDIA (BCCI) HELD ON FRIDAY, 17<sup>th</sup> JULY 2020 AT 5 P.M. VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING**

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**Present:**

1. Mr. Sourav Ganguly – Honorary President, Chairperson
2. Mr. Jay Shah – Honorary Secretary
3. Mr. Arun Singh Dhumal – Honorary Treasurer
4. Mr. Jayesh George – Honorary Joint Secretary
5. Mr. Prabhtej Singh Bhatia – Councillor
6. Ms. Alka Rehani Bhardwaj – CAG Nominee
7. Ms. Shantha Rangaswamy – ICA Representative (Female)
8. Mr. Aunshuman Gaekwad – ICA Representative (Male)

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

**1. CHAIRPERSON**

Mr. Sourav Ganguly, 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 4<sup>th</sup> Apex Council Meeting of the BCCI. He explained that owing to the prevailing Covid-19 situation, the meeting was required to be held via video conferencing.

**2. QUORUM**

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

Thereafter, Mr. Jay Shah, the Honorary Secretary, BCCI, also 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.

**3. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> APEX COUNCIL MEETING.**

The Chairperson took up the first item on the agenda which was confirmation of the minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Apex Council Meeting held on February 16, 2020 and 3<sup>rd</sup> Apex Council Meeting held on May 6, 2020.

Ms. Bhardwaj pointed out some minor typographical errors which were corrected immediately.

After some deliberation, minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Apex Council Meeting of BCCI held on February 16, 2020 and May 6, 2020, were approved.

**4. RATIFICATION OF THE RESOLUTION PASSED BY CIRCULATION BY APEX COUNCIL OF BCCI ON 18TH MAY 2020.**

The Apex Council ratified the resolution it had passed by circulation on May 18, 2020 in relation to the “tax solution” for hosting the Men’s Cricket T20 World Cup 2021.

**5. DISCUSSION ON FINALIZING BCCI’S DOMESTIC CRICKET STRUCTURE FOR 2020-2021 SEASON**

The Chairperson apprised the Apex Council members about the tentative domestic fixtures for the 2020-21 season. A presentation with the tentative fixtures and dates was shared with all Apex Council members. The Chairperson explained that owing to the ongoing COVID-19 situation there might be a reduction in the number of matches for the 2020-2021 season as compared with the previous season. On a query by Ms. Bhardwaj regarding the increase in number of matches in the Vijay Merchant Trophy, the Chairperson mentioned that the increase is due to the increase in number of teams. Ms. Rangaswamy proposed that subject to the COVID-19 situation, BCCI should look at increasing the matches for Under-19 girls. The Apex Council took note of the suggestion.

Ms Bhardwaj observed that the Senior Tournament Committee (one of the Standing Committees, as per the Constitution) was yet to be constituted. She desired to know how the proposal of 2020-21 season was under the logo of SportsMechanics, what was the role of the company and fee involved. The Chairperson apprised that the company was helping BCCI in techno- analysis work in domestic cricket and the fee would be checked up and intimated.

After some deliberation, it was decided that the decision on the domestic structure should be taken by the Office Bearers of BCCI looking at the COVID-19 situation prevailing then. Hon. Secretary also suggested that the decision on the domestic structure should be taken after discussion with the general body. The members agreed with the same.

#### **6. DISCUSSION ON FINALIZING TEAM INDIA'S FUTURE TOUR PROGRAM (FTP)**

The Chairperson and the Hon. Secretary apprised the Apex Council members regarding the proposed FTP. A document with 3 options was presented to the members.

The various options were deliberated at length by the members including having a camp in India for the men's senior team. Ms Bhardwaj pointed out consultation with players for finalizing FTP is of paramount importance. Ms. Bhardwaj and Hon. Secretary mentioned that the 10 day gap between 2nd and 3rd Australia test in Option 3 could be, however, utilized better.

After some deliberation, it was agreed that option 3 looked the most viable, however, it will all depend on how the current pandemic situation and some other external factors pan out.

#### **7. DISCUSSION ON THE STRUCTURE FOR PAYMENT OF GRANTS TO THE NEWLY AFFILIATED UNITS OF BCCI**

Hon. Treasurer briefed the members regarding structure for payment of grants to the newly affiliated units of BCCI. It was mentioned that the newly affiliated members should be guided on how to spend the grants. It was noted that owing to current COVID 19 situation it was not possible for Office Bearers to visit the newly affiliated units and guide them. However, guidelines for new members for incurring expenditure will be put in place. It was suggested that an ad-hoc amount be paid to the newly affiliated members.

Ms. Bhardwaj pointed out that it would have been helpful if the details of the payment proposed to each new unit, along with the status of their earlier expenditure, utilization certificate, compliance with the Constitution etc. were shared with the Council members. She further mentioned that a policy should be created for making any payment including ad-hoc payments. The Chairperson agreed with that but also

mentioned that procedures are in place where utilization certificate is sought before money is granted.

**8. DISCUSSION ON TAX RELATED MATTERS OF ICC T20 WC 2021 IN INDIA**

The Chairperson apprised the Apex Council about the situation in relation to BCCI hosting the Men's Cricket T20 World Cup in 2021 in India and explained that ICC has given BCCI time till December 31, 2020 to obtain the "Tax Solution" under Clause 10.20 (c) of the Host Agreement.

The members noted this development.

**9. DISCUSSION ON ISSUES CONCERNING THE BIHAR CRICKET ASSOCIATION (BCA)**

The Chairperson briefed the house regarding the complaints it has received regarding the infighting in BCA and stating that it is an unregistered entity. Hon. Secretary mentioned to the members that he has received certain emails just before the commencement of the meeting from BCA throwing some light on the issue. It was decided that a decision on BCA after reviewing the contents of the email. It was also noted that infighting between the Office Bearers is an internal issue of BCA. The Treasurer also apprised that in the 3rd Apex Council meeting, members had agreed to form an ad-hoc committee subject to the opinion obtained from legal experts for management of DDCA. In view of legal opinion taken to manage the affairs through a Committee, DDCA was asked to conduct their own elections. The members noted this.

**10. DISCUSSION ON THE PROGRESS OF THE NEW NCA FACILITY AT BENGALURU**

Mr. KVP Rao joined the meeting and briefed the house regarding the status of the proposed New NCA Facility at Bengaluru. He mentioned that PwC team along with BCCI team have been working on the finalization of the tender documents for appointment of service provider to construct the new NCA. He mentioned that owing to the current pandemic there have been certain delays and some activities like soil testing have been stalled.

Mr. Rao also mentioned that BCCI will need to seek an extension from KIADB for submission of building plan owing to the pandemic. Ms. Bhardwaj pointed out that provisions for performance evaluation and safeguards in the event of poor performance

should be included in the construction RFP and Service Agreement documents. She also desired to know the particulars of payment made to PwC, the Project consultant and the estimated value of the NCA project. The Treasurer apprised that these clauses along with the provision for liquidated damages were there in agreement. The Hon. Secretary pointed out that no payment had been made till date to the Project consultant, as he will be guiding on the project throughout. Regarding the estimated value of the project, the Chairperson stated that it was not possible to work it out as of now and it could be shared with the members only by October- November 2020.

The members noted the update on the new NCA project.

#### **11. DISCUSSION ON APPOINTMENT OF NEW EMPLOYEES AT BCCI**

The Chairperson mentioned that there are few posts which are vacant, and they are required to be filled.

Ms. Bhardwaj mentioned that the job descriptions should be shared with the Apex Council members for their comments.

The same was noted and it was decided that the job descriptions be shared with members of the Apex Council after the meeting.

#### **12. DISCUSSION ON THE EXTENSION FOR DIGITAL SERVICES FOR BCCI AND IPL**

Mr. Hemang Amin, Interim CEO, BCCI briefed the members about the requirement of extending the contract for digital services for BCCI and IPL for a year. He mentioned that owing to the pandemic situation there will be issues faced by the prospective new service provider. Ms Bhardwaj pointed out if in case extension had to be given, calculations needed to be checked for arithmetic accuracy. The CEO-interim pointed out that each year was taken as a season and having a season of 12 or 10 months would not impact the fee value.

Ms. Bhardwaj also pointed out that the proposed server cost for the period of about one year was high at Rs.3.82 crore and involved foreign currency for both BCCI and IPL. A server could be considered for purchasing by BCCI for operating its website locally, which would be cheaper, could host content locally and avoid recurring foreign exchange outgo on this account. The CEO- Interim pointed out that they had the cheapest and best server services and cost depended only on the website traffic during the season. The members deliberated on the issues and it was decided to extend the

services for a year, however the Office Bearers will finalize subject to further discussions required, if any. The members also stated while the extension is granted, efforts should be made to have a service provider through a tender process before the expiry of the said extension.

**13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIRPERSON MAY CONSIDER NECESSARY INCLUDED IN THE AGENDA**

**a) Status of Accounts:**

Ms Bhardwaj raised the issue about the pending accounts of 2018-19 and 2019-20. Hon. Treasurer briefed the house about the status of finalization of the balance sheet for F.Y. 2018-19.

Mr. Nikhil Khanna joined the meeting and explained that as few matches of IPL 2019 tournament was held in F.Y 2018-19 hence proportionate Income and Expense will be booked in the same year. As per the audit procedure / protocols Statutory Auditors have to verify / scrutinize IPL 2019 Income & Expenditure – all contracts / agreements / vouchers in detail even to book provisional entry. Majorly all these documents / details are pertaining to F.Y. 2019-20.

A request was made to the members that Apex council may recommend for continuing the existing statutory auditors which shall help in effective and timely finalization of Account for F.Y.2019-20 including certification of IPL Season 2019 Income & Expenditure and Share of Net Central Rights payable to Franchisee as well. It was also informed that BCCI's statutory auditors - signing partner were changed 3 times in last 3-4 years including the working team members and location of the signing partner i.e. from Deloitte Chennai to Deloitte Bangalore and currently Deloitte Mumbai are the auditors of BCCI.

Members were fine with the recommendation and Hon. Secretary advised that appropriate directions from the general body may be taken in this regard.

**b) Confidentiality:**

Mr. Bhatia raised the issue of confidentiality and that issues relating to Apex Council meeting are being leaked to the media. The members agreed with Mr. Bhatia. Ms. Bhardwaj also took a strong view of the premature leakage of agenda and matters that had not even come up for discussion in the Apex Council. She emphasized that communication from Councillors on meetings and information

sought was to be kept confidential. There was also a need to lay down an information sharing policy, delineating who could issue authentic information on behalf of the BCCI, how and when (after final decision, etc.). The Chairperson mentioned that strict measures will be taken to control any breach of confidentiality.

**c) Tenure of Office Bearers-**

Ms. Bhardwaj apprised the members that consequent to her e-mail dated July 4, 2020, to the office bearers, regarding the ending/coming to end of tenures of Vice President/ Secretary/President BCCI, warranting the need to keep reconstitution of Apex Council as an Agenda item, BCCI had obtained and shared a legal opinion as per which the office bearers are eligible to continue.

**d) Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association:**

Hon. Treasurer briefed the members regarding the issues concerning J&K Cricket Association. He mentioned that the J&K Cricket Association is being currently managed by the Committee of Administrators and the CEO. He apprised the members that various complaints have been received regarding the way cricket is being managed in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Hon. Treasurer mentioned that there are various litigations which are currently in the Jammu and Kashmir High Court and he proposed BCCI should request the courts for formation of an ad-hoc committee of BCCI to look into the affairs of Jammu and Kashmir. The members agreed with the suggestion of the Hon. Treasurer and it was decided that BCCI request the court for formation of an ad-hoc committee.

**e) Gratis to former cricketers (Male and Female)**

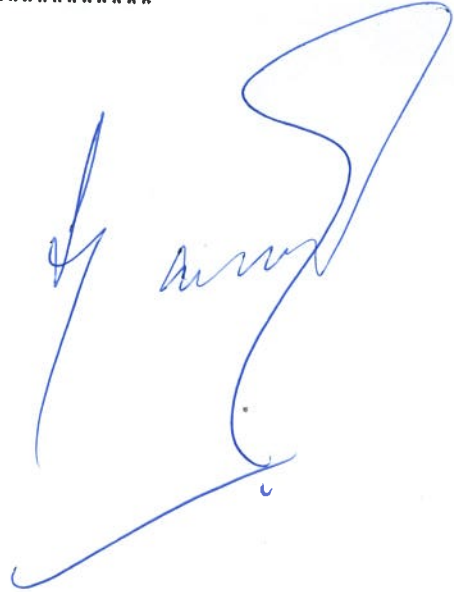
Mr. Gaekwad raised the issue of increase of gratis which is paid to former cricketers (both male and female). He proposed that Apex Council should form a committee to discuss and propose changes in the existing scheme of payment of gratis.

Hon. Secretary mentioned that this matter will need to be decided by the general body in an Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the BCCI. The members agreed with the suggestion of the Hon. Secretary and it was decided that this issue be taken up in the AGM of the BCCI.

**14. VOTE OF THANKS**

The Chairperson and the Honorary Secretary thanked the Apex Council members and there being no other business, the meeting was terminated.

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'S' followed by a name that is partially legible as 'S. Singh'.