



For Immediate Release

BCCI backs global roadmap to strengthen cricket for the blind

Bengaluru-Karnataka, February 20, 2026: The Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI) expresses its sincere appreciation to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for their historic commitment to the sport.

Over the past decade, India's visually impaired cricketers have established an extraordinary legacy on the global stage, winning multiple Men's World Cup titles since 2012 and securing a historic inaugural Women's World Cup triumph. The BCCI's formal backing now ensures that this success is not only celebrated, but sustained and elevated through structured support at the highest level.

This partnership helps CABI bridge the gap in support it receives through CSR grants, enabling it to more effectively promote cricket for the blind on the global stage, particularly by organizing tournaments and supporting participation in away series. This will further strengthen and expand the promotion of cricket for the blind worldwide. To further strengthen the journey of India's visually impaired cricketers, the BCCI has committed to support both the Men's and Women's National Teams, specifically focusing on:

- a) Provision of international travel and accommodation for two overseas tournaments annually for each team (Men & Women).
- b) Provision of accommodation for home and visiting teams during bilateral series in India.
- c) Exclusive access to BCCI-supported stadiums and grounds for domestic and international fixtures, ensuring world-class playing conditions and professional standards.

This significant milestone follows a series of constructive discussions led by Mr Jay Shah, Chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC), whose continued advocacy for inclusive growth in cricket has been instrumental in shaping this collaboration. Mr Shah engaged closely with CABI leadership, including Dr Mahantesh G. Kivadasannavar (Chairman) and Mr Shailender Yadav (General Secretary), to ensure that blind cricket receives the structural support it rightfully deserves.

Mr Jay Shah has consistently emphasised that cricket's growth must be inclusive and reflective of the spirit of the game. His guidance have helped translate that belief into tangible institutional support, reinforcing India's role not only as a global cricketing powerhouse, but as a leader in making the sport accessible to all.

"We are sincerely thankful to the BCCI and to Mr. Jay Shah for their collaboration and for valuing the journey of our cricketers," said Dr. Mahantesh G. Kivadasannavar. "To have the support of the BCCI is a moment of great pride for all of us at CABI and a true 'feather in the cap' for our players. Together, we can ensure that blind cricket in India continues to grow and inspire many more."

About CABI

CABI – Cricket Association for the Blind in India is the Apex Body Governing, Organizing and Developing Cricket for the Blind in India and has 30 State/UT Boards and over 30,000 Players affiliated at various domestic level tournaments in India. CABI is affiliated to World Blind Cricket Council (WBCC) and is the Cricketing Arm and Initiative of Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled. CABI strongly believes that visually challenged too have all the right to be a part of sporting glory. Cricket for the Blind is a magnificent display of how the visually challenged triumph over all challenges of life and channel it through cricket. All through the journey of taking cricket for the blind to greater heights.

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