

MYSORE RACE CLUB LIMITED

Race Course Road, Mysore – 570 010

Tel: 0821–2521675 | Email: secretary@mysoreraceclub.com

MYSORE (MONSOON) RACES 2026

**A Season of Quality Racing, Enhanced Stakes and Greater Sporting
Excellence**

In distinguished association with

Mr. Zavaray S. Poonawalla

Press Release by

**Mr K T Balakrishna, IPS (Retd), Chairman & Senior Steward, Mysore Race Club
Ltd**

On behalf of the Managing Committee and Stewards of the Mysore Race Club Ltd, it gives me immense pleasure to announce the commencement of the **Mysore (Monsoon) Races 2026**, with the season set to begin on **Thursday, 3rd September 2026**.

Spread across **sixteen race days**, the Monsoon Season promises an exciting programme of competitive racing, quality thoroughbreds, leading trainers and jockeys, and an attractive array of Sweepstakes, Classic and Graded races. The season will be conducted predominantly on Thursdays and Fridays and will culminate in the Zavaray S Poonawalla Indian Turf Invitation Cup & Mysore Derby weekend of racing on Saturday, 24th and Sunday, 25th October 2026.

The 2026 season is particularly significant as the Club continues its endeavour to strengthen the quality and stature of racing at Mysore, with an emphasis on enhanced prize money, competitive racing, improved facilities and greater participation from owners, trainers and racing professionals across the country.

The Club is also privileged to have the **distinguished association of Mr. Zavaray S. Poonawalla**, whose longstanding patronage of Indian horse racing and commitment to excellence will add further impetus to the season.

AN EXCITING SIXTEEN-DAY RACING PROGRAMME

The Mysore (Monsoon) Races 2026 will feature a carefully planned programme extending from **3rd September to 25th October 2026**, with the principal racing days as follows:

Race Day Date

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1st Day	Thursday, 3rd September 2026
2nd Day	Friday, 4th September 2026
3rd Day	Thursday, 10th September 2026
4th Day	Friday, 11th September 2026
5th Day	Thursday, 17th September 2026
6th Day	Friday, 18th September 2026
7th Day	Thursday, 24th September 2026
8th Day	Friday, 25th September 2026
9th Day	Wednesday, 30 th September 2026
10th Day	Thursday, 1st October 2026
11th Day	Thursday, 8 th October 2026
12th Day	Friday, 9th October 2026
13th Day	Thursday, 15th October 2026
14th Day	Friday, 16 th October 2026
15th Day	Saturday, 24 October 2026
16 th Day	Sunday, 25 th October 2026

A RICH ARRAY OF CLASSICS AND FEATURE RACES

The season offers an impressive line-up of important Classic, Sweepstakes and Graded races, ensuring that the Monsoon programme caters to horses of different age groups and racing categories.

Among the principal races for **three-year-old Indian horses** are:

- **The Srikantadatta Narasimharaja Wadiyar Memorial Million**
- **The F. K. Irani Memorial Million**
- **The Zavaray S. Poonawalla Mysore 1000 Guineas (Grade III)**
- **The Zavaray S. Poonawalla Mysore 2000 Guineas (Grade III)**
- **The Zavaray S. Poonawalla Mysore Derby (Grade I)**

For horses **three years old and above**, the programme includes:

- **The Zavaray S. Poonawalla Mysore Dasara Sprint Championship (Grade II)**
- **The Zavaray S. Poonawalla Mysore Race Club Anniversary Cup**

The four-year-old and over category will feature:

- **The H. H. Sri Krishnaraja Wadiyar Memorial Trophy (Grade III)**
- **The Maharaja's Cup (Grade II)**
- **The Governor's Cup**

This strong mix of age-group Classics, Sweepstakes and Graded races is designed to provide a competitive platform for horses at different stages of their careers and to enhance the overall quality of racing at Mysore.

SUBSTANTIAL STAKE MONEY

The Club has placed considerable emphasis on making the 2026 Monsoon Season attractive to owners and racing connections.

The **advertised stake money for the season is approximately ₹7 crores, including cups and trophies**, excluding the races conducted during the Invitation Cup Weekend.

The stake-money structure is expected to encourage greater participation and provide owners with stronger incentives to bring quality horses to Mysore.

MEANINGFUL SUPPORT FROM MR. ZAVARAY S. POONAWALLA

A notable feature of the 2026 season is the association with **Mr. Zavaray S. Poonawalla**, a distinguished patron of Indian racing.

The association reflects a philosophy that sponsorship should go beyond financial assistance and become a **collaborative endeavour between the sponsor and the racing institution**, with the objective of enhancing the value of races, raising the level of competition and contributing to the overall quality of racing.

As part of this association, **Mr. Poonawalla** has extended support towards the **guaranteed stake money** of a number of important Sweepstakes, Group and Classic races during the Monsoon Season.

The races benefiting from this initiative include the **Srikantadatta Narasimharaja Wadiyar Multi Million, Krishnaraja Wadiyar Cup, F. K. Irani Million, Maharaja's Cup, Mysore 1000 Guineas, Mysore 2000 Guineas, Dasara Sprint, Mysore Race Club Anniversary Cup and Governor's Cup**.

Where the guaranteed stake money is not fully covered by the Club's contribution and Sweepstakes collections, the shortfall will be **shared equally between Mr. Poonawalla and the Mysore Race Club Ltd.**

The initiative is particularly significant as it provides greater certainty of returns to owners and reflects a shared commitment towards making racing at Mysore more competitive and rewarding.

Looking ahead, the intention is to plan the closing of entries sufficiently early so that guaranteed amounts can be enhanced further, thereby creating an even stronger and more attractive racing programme in future seasons.

THE OCTOBER FINALE

While the focus of the season remains firmly on the comprehensive Monsoon racing programme, the October finale will provide an added highlight to the calendar.

During the special weekend, **Mr. Poonawalla** will support four prestigious **Grade I races — the Indian Turf Invitation Cup, the Sprinters' Cup, the Stayers' Cup and the Mysore Derby**. The support will result in enhanced values for these races, further elevating the quality of competition at the conclusion of the season.

The name “**Zavaray Poonawalla**” will be associated with these prestigious races, reflecting the importance of his contribution to the Club and to Indian racing.

The Mysore Derby, in particular, will carry enhanced value, adding further lustre to one of the most eagerly anticipated races of the season.

RACING INFRASTRUCTURE

The Mysore Race Club's racing infrastructure is fully prepared for the season.

The Club's excellent racing track has been prepared with **meticulous care**, and the underfoot condition is expected to remain conducive to good racing throughout the Monsoon Season.

With a combination of a well-maintained racing surface, established racing facilities and the experience of the Club's professional team, Mysore is well placed to host another successful season of racing.

STRONG PARTICIPATION

The season is expected to witness substantial participation from both local and outstation racing interests.

Approximately **460 horses are presently stabled at the Mysore Race Club Ltd.**, while around **400 outstation horses** are expected to participate during the season.

Around **33 local trainers and 50 trainers from other racing centres** are expected to have runners at Mysore.

The Club also expects over **100 jockeys**, including several of the leading riders on the Indian racing circuit, to ride during the season.

The strong participation is indicative of the continuing importance of Mysore as one of India's leading racing centres and is expected to ensure competitive fields and high-quality racing throughout the season.

TOTALISATOR FACILITIES

Adequate betting terminals will be made available to accommodate racegoers and to facilitate smoother and more efficient totalisator operations.

AN ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCE FOR THE PUBLIC

The Mysore Race Club continues to endeavour to make a day at the races an enjoyable experience for the public and racing enthusiasts.

The entrance fee for the public to witness the Mysore (Monsoon) Races 2026 has been fixed at **₹200**, while the admission charge on off-course days will be **₹100**.

The Club will also conduct a **Lucky Draw on every Mysore race day** based on the counterfoils of entrance tickets. The prizes will be:

- **First Prize – ₹3,000**
- **Second Prize – ₹2,000**
- **Third Prize – ₹1,000**

These initiatives are intended to add to the excitement and enjoyment of race days and encourage greater public participation.

DIGITAL AND SOCIAL MEDIA INITIATIVES

The Mysore Race Club Ltd. has an established presence on **Facebook** and proposes to significantly strengthen its social-media initiatives during the season.

The Club's website will also continue to provide information and facilitate greater engagement with racing enthusiasts. **Live racing can be viewed through the Club's website**, enabling racing followers beyond Mysore to remain connected with the action on the track.

A SEASON BUILT ON PARTNERSHIP AND EXCELLENCE

The Mysore (Monsoon) Races have long held a special place in the Indian racing calendar, and the 2026 season seeks to build further on that tradition.

The combination of a strong racing programme, substantial stake money, quality participation, well-prepared infrastructure and enhanced support from patrons of the sport provides a strong foundation for an exciting season.

The association with Mr. Zavaray S. Poonawalla is received with profound appreciation and esteem. His support transcends the bounds of mere sponsorship, embodying instead a shared commitment to fortifying the sport and fostering an environment where quality, competition, and excellence are duly rewarded.

The Mysore Race Club Ltd. places on record its heartfelt gratitude for this invaluable association. **Mr. Poonawalla's** patronage, far beyond financial contribution, reflects his abiding faith in the future of Indian racing and his vision of Mysore as a beacon of

distinction and quality. His involvement inspires confidence among stakeholders, draws enhanced participation, and strengthens our standing as custodians of excellence in the Turf.

The Mysore Race Club Ltd. places on record its sincere appreciation to its **Members, owners, trainers, jockeys, breeders, professionals and racing patrons** for their continued support and confidence in the Club.

The Club also expresses its gratitude to the **media**, whose sustained coverage and support have played an invaluable role in promoting horse racing and bringing the sport to a wider audience.

The Club looks forward to the wholehearted support and cooperation of the entire racing fraternity and the public in making the **Mysore (Monsoon) Races 2026** a memorable and successful season.

The Mysore Race Club Ltd. warmly invites racing enthusiasts and the public to come in large numbers, experience the thrill of thoroughbred racing and be part of another exciting Monsoon Season at Mysore.

Mysore: 1st September 2026