



Mysore Race Club Limited

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PRESS RELEASE

MYSORE RACE CLUB SET TO HOST A LANDMARK INDIAN TURF INVITATION CUP & MYSORE DERBY WEEKEND 2026

Five Group 1 races, one Group 2 contest, ten additional Million races and an exciting Contest of Skill promise an extraordinary celebration of Indian racing

MYSORE, 22 OCTOBER 2026: Twelve years ago, Mysore Race Club Ltd. was inducted as Indian racing's youngest independent Turf Authority. In October 2026, it will host its second Indian Turf Invitation Weekend, marking yet another significant milestone in a remarkable journey. The Club's history stretches back 136 years, having celebrated its centenary in 1991.

The last Saturday of February and the first Sunday of March 2020 heralded a new epoch in the annals of racing at Mysore. It was, quite literally, a baptism by fire. Six years later, in October 2026, the Club is all set to once again showcase Indian racing at its very best. What makes this occasion even more special is the inclusion of the **Mysore Derby – Group 1** in the Invitation Weekend programme. For the first time in its history, the Weekend will feature **FIVE GROUP 1 RACES AND ONE GROUP 2 RACE**, together with ten additional Million races—a truly extraordinary line-up that promises to place Mysore firmly in the national racing spotlight.

AN EXTRAORDINARY WEEKEND OF CHAMPIONSHIP RACING

Saturday, 24th October, will see the first three of the five Group 1 contests take centre stage.

The **Zavaray S. Poonawalla Mysore Derby – Group 1**, the Blue Riband of the Mysore season, will test the finest classic contenders. The **Zavaray S. Poonawalla Sprinters' Cup – Group 1** promises a breathtaking exhibition of speed, while the **Zavaray S. Poonawalla Stayers' Cup – Group 1** will demand the ultimate test of stamina.

The action continues on Sunday, 25th October, with two more prestigious Group 1 contests. The **Zavaray S. Poonawalla Indian Turf Invitation Cup – Group 1** will seek to crown the champion over a classic distance, while the **Major P. K. Mehra Memorial Super Mile Cup – Group 1** will bring together the country's finest specialist milers.



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Adding further depth to an already exceptional programme will be the **Suresh Mahindra Multi-Million – Group 2**, a fiercely competitive 1400-metre contest expected to provide one of the highlights of the Weekend. The ten additional Million races will further enrich the programme, promising two days of spirited competition and outstanding racing.

A YEAR OF VISION, DEDICATION AND METICULOUS PREPARATION

Behind an event of this magnitude lies a tremendous undertaking that extends far beyond the two days of racing. The **Chairman and the Members of the Managing Committee of Mysore Race Club Ltd.** have been working tirelessly for more than a year to plan, develop and bring this prestigious Weekend to fruition. Their efforts have encompassed securing sponsors, coordinating with participating Turf Authorities and other stakeholders, planning the racing programme, organising hospitality and entertainment, enhancing facilities for patrons, and attending to the countless organisational details essential to the successful conduct of an event of this stature. Organising a national racing occasion of this scale is no small achievement. It calls for sustained leadership, considerable foresight, the ability to bring diverse interests together and the resolve to translate an ambitious vision into reality. Every major attraction, hospitality arrangement and operational detail demands careful thought, persistent follow-up and close coordination. Much of this work takes place behind the scenes, long before the first horse enters the track, yet it is this painstaking preparation that ultimately determines the quality and success of the occasion.

The Chairman and Members of the Managing Committee have devoted considerable time and energy in ensuring that the Weekend reflects the stature of the Club and the importance of the Indian Turf Invitation Cup. Their sustained engagement with sponsors, racing authorities, service providers and other partners has been instrumental in assembling a programme of exceptional sporting significance, supported by an equally ambitious range of hospitality and visitor facilities.

Equally deserving of recognition are the **Officials and staff of the Club**, whose hard work, commitment and attention to detail have been central to the preparations.

All these efforts reflect the Club's determination to uphold its proud heritage, strengthen Mysore's standing in Indian racing and deliver an Invitation Weekend worthy of the sport's finest traditions.



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GENEROUS PATRONAGE THAT HAS MADE THE WEEKEND POSSIBLE

This extraordinary programme would not have been possible without the exceptional support of **Mr. Zavaray S. Poonawalla**, who has generously undertaken to sponsor four of the five Group 1 races being run over the Weekend.

Dr. Ameeta Mehra, Mr. Marthand Singh Mahindra, Mr. Chaduranga Kantharaj Urs, Mr. Arun Alagappan, the Karnataka Racehorse Owners Association and the participating Turf Authorities have also come forward to ensure that the Weekend will go down as one of the richest in Indian racing history.

The Club gratefully acknowledges the support of the **Royal Calcutta Turf Club, the Royal Western India Turf Club Ltd., the Madras Race Club, the Bangalore Turf Club Ltd. and the Hyderabad Race Club**, whose participation and sponsorship reflect the solidarity of the Indian racing fraternity.

Mysore Race Club places on record its sincere appreciation and gratitude to every sponsor and partner whose generosity, encouragement and commitment have contributed to the stature of this prestigious occasion.

AN EXCITING CONTEST OF SKILL FOR RACING PATRONS

In association with **Mr. Zavaray S. Poonawalla**, the Club will organise a special Contest of Skill on Sunday, 25th October 2026, offering a **Renault Kiger 1.0 L car as the First Prize, two Mobikes as the Second Prizes, and five smartwatches as consolation prizes**. The initiative will add an extra dimension of excitement and engagement for racing patrons, complementing the championship action on the track.

CARRIED-FORWARD JACKPOT POOL

An amount of almost **₹4 lakhs**, representing the unsolved Jackpot Pool from a previous race day, will be added to the Jackpot Pool on Saturday, 24th October 2026.

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE AND HONOURING THE LEGENDS OF INDIAN RACING

The Weekend will also celebrate the achievements and enduring contributions of those who have shaped Indian horse racing. The **Turf Authorities of India Racing Excellence Awards 2024-25** will recognise the Champion Owner, Champion Trainer, Champion Jockey, Champion Stud Farm and Champion Horse. The prestigious **Legend of Indian Horse Racing Award and Hall of Fame Award** will honour distinguished personalities whose contributions have left a lasting imprint on the sport.



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The programme will also recognise the prestigious **IFHA Outstanding Contribution Award**, honour a former jockey and a former trainer for their contributions to racing, and feature a presentation of the **Japan Cup** by representatives of the Japan Racing Association. Together, these honours will celebrate excellence, heritage and the international connections that enrich Indian racing.

ENHANCED SEATING, HOSPITALITY AND COMPLIMENTARY SNACK BOXES

In anticipation of the considerable interest in the Weekend, Mysore Race Club has created **additional seating facilities for racing patrons**, enabling more visitors to enjoy the championship races in greater comfort.

Further enhancing the experience, **Mr. Zavaray S. Poonawalla has generously agreed to provide complimentary snack boxes to racing patrons on both Saturday, 24th October, and Sunday, 25th October 2026.** This thoughtful gesture will add to the hospitality extended to visitors attending the two-day racing spectacle.

Additional viewing and hospitality galleries have also been arranged, including a specially created gallery on the opposite side of the Grand Stand. Admission to this gallery is priced at **₹999 per person per day**, inclusive of a lunch box and a complimentary beer or non-alcoholic beverage. Tickets will be available online and at designated box offices.

The Club is making every effort to ensure that the Weekend combines first-class racing with comfortable seating, enhanced viewing and a memorable hospitality experience for members, guests and racing enthusiasts travelling to Mysore from across India.

A WEEKEND OF RACING, HOSPITALITY AND FELLOWSHIP

The Zavaray S. Poonawalla Indian Turf Invitation Cup & Mysore Derby Weekend will bring together leading owners, trainers, jockeys, racing administrators and enthusiasts from across the country for two memorable days of world-class racing and camaraderie.

The festivities will commence on Friday, 23rd October, with meetings of the Officials of the Turf Authorities of India and the Indian Turf Invitation Cup Golf Tournament. **Mr. Arjun Ranga and Mr. Harsha Nandana T.A.** have been kind enough to extend their generous support and contribution towards this tournament.



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On Saturday, the opening ceremony will mark the commencement of the principal racing programme, followed by lunch and racing at the Club. The evening will culminate in the Turf Authorities of India Racing Excellence Awards at 7.30 p.m., followed by entertainment, cocktails and dinner. **Mr. Chaduranga Kantharaj Urs** generously hosts the Saturday evening dinner.

Sunday will feature the remaining championship races, including the much-anticipated Indian Turf Invitation Cup and the Major P. K. Mehra Memorial Super Mile Cup, together with the Contest of Skill, bringing the Weekend to a fitting sporting and celebratory climax.

MYSORE LEADS FROM THE FRONT ONCE AGAIN

The 2026 Invitation Weekend represents a significant milestone for Mysore Race Club and a powerful demonstration of what can be achieved through vision, commitment and collective support.

From the Club's historic beginnings to its emergence as an independent Turf Authority, Mysore has continued to play an important role in the development of Indian racing. The inclusion of the Mysore Derby in this exceptional Invitation Weekend programme further strengthens that legacy.

The extraordinary line-up of championship races, generous patronage of sponsors, participation of Turf Authorities from across the country, recognition of racing excellence, the Contest of Skill, enhanced seating and hospitality, and the international dimension of the celebrations combine to make this an occasion of exceptional importance.

The Weekend also stands as a testament to the year-long dedication of the Chairman and Members of the Managing Committee, the Officials and staff of Mysore Race Club, whose vision, hard work and collective commitment have helped bring this ambitious undertaking to fruition.

With its rich heritage, outstanding sporting programme and commitment to excellence, Mysore Race Club is preparing to welcome the Indian racing fraternity for a Weekend that promises to be remembered for years to come.

Mysore Race Club is leading from the front once again. And in October 2026, Indian racing will be watching.
