

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

January 5, 2023

Dear Members and friends,

At the outset it gives me great pleasure to wish you all a very happy, healthy, wealthy and successful 2023.

It is wonderful that ICA has come into existence giving all ex-cricketers a forum through which they can voice their concerns and be heard. This came about thanks to the Supreme Court and the subsequent follow up by the BCCI. All us ICA members should understand the value and importance of this recognition given to us and together not miss out on this opportunity for our own fellow cricketers.

We at ICA very much understand and appreciate the feelings of our members and the expectations of some of them but all should also appreciate that despite losing two crucial years to COVID, we still managed to get a few important issues approved and implemented. I am referring to the increase in Medical Reimbursement (from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh) and Pension (doubled in many cases), as also bringing the match remuneration of women cricketers on par with that of the Men cricketers.

This was mainly due to help from the Hon. Sec (Jay Shah) of the BCCI. Moreover, ICA with their own contacts, collected donations and helped over sixty ex Women/Men member cricketers financially for medical or other reasons during the difficult COVID times.

Well, some more welfare issues are in the pipeline for consideration. Friends, this is a new establishment and neither us or BCCI could work in tandem immediately. It took some time to come to terms and understand each other for favourable, mutual benefit.

Friends, believe me it's time to stay together and have patience. Three years back no one thought that they would get what they are getting today. "It's justice delayed but not denied." We at the helm of ICA along with our representatives in BCCI/IPL Governing Council, will waste no opportunity to help our members' welfare.

Last but not the least, ICA has been working on the Medical Insurance for members who are not covered by the BCCI's Medical Reimbursement Scheme since the last year and more. This year as well we at ICA we are trying our best to get an appropriate Insurance cover for the eligible members. We need to first ensure that the premium payment can be sustained over the years as with limited financial assistance from BCCI, we need to be pragmatic.

I am quite hopeful that some scheme could be worked out for the benefit of our members with least burden on them. We have received several proposals which are under scrutiny. The one important aspect is the sustainability as we don't want to extend any such important measure as a one-time one. We need to be a position to renew the Insurance cover year after year.

Well, rest assured we will leave no stone unturned for the welfare of the members but request your patience and support.

May God bless you always. Have a super, super 2023.

With all my best wishes to you and all at home.

Aunshuman Gaekwad