

**MRF**



**IMPACT ASSESSMENT ON CSR ACTIVITIES**

**FOR**

**MRF LTD.**

- 1. MRF Pace Foundation (Training to promote rural sports, nationally recognised sports, Paralympic sports and Olympic sports)**
- 2. MRF Institute of Driver Development (Promoting education, employability and livelihoods)**

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## **Background**

In terms of the provisions of Rule 8(3) (a) of the Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Rules 2014, every Company having average CSR obligations of Rs.10 Crore or more in pursuance of sub-section (5) of Section 135 of the Act, in the three immediately preceding Financial Years shall undertake impact assessment of their CSR projects having outlays of Rs.1 Crore or more which have been completed over a year ago. Accordingly, MRF Ltd. is required to undertake Impact Assessment of the CSR Projects taken up or completed on or after January 22, 2021. The said CSR projects have been taken up and completed by MRF Ltd. and MRF Foundation, its implementing agency.

Rules further specify, in order to maintain transparency, this study should be done by an independent agency. For this purpose, the Company has appointed SCA & Associates (Firm). The Firm was established in 1980 and carries out professional assignments in the sphere of audit/assurance and other related professional assignments. Firm is based out of Mumbai and has four senior partners and audit staff to carry out these assignments.

The study was done on two CSR projects that were completed over a year ago viz:

- **MRF Pace Foundation (Training to promote rural sports, nationally recognized sports, Paralympic sports and Olympic sports) and**
- **MRF Institute of Driver Development (Promoting education, employability and livelihoods).**

## **Impact Study Methodology**

The study/impact of the CSR initiatives by MRF Foundation has been done using different types of research methodology. While preparing this report, interview, group discussion, survey and interview were used as major research methodology. The methods used are as follows.

**Discussion:** In Depth discussions were held with CSR team about the Project, implementation and Desired Impact and the Final Impact.

**Personal Interview:** In order to get information about the impact of various dimensions the main research method of interview was mainly used. The main use of the interview research method was used to get the importance of impact achieved at the personal level as well as society in general.

**Observation:** Visited Pace Academy (both the venues ) and Institute for Driving,

## **Executive Summary**

**Pace Foundation:** Cricket is a religion and the most followed sport in India. MRF Pace Foundation was established by MRF Limited, as an Academy in 1988 to train pace bowlers, who eventually will get a chance to represent the country. This is the only exclusive pace academy in the world. Many trainees have represented the country or state. Mr. Glenn McGrath came to Pace Foundation as trainee (under exchange programme). Eventually now, he heads the academy as Director.

From the beginning of 2020-21, the Foundation's activities were impacted by Covid Pandemonium. Despite the same, the Foundation continued its training activities in a limited way by taking the support of digital platform to monitor training activities of wards, correcting, motivating and fine tuning their abilities for betterment. These initiatives helped to keep the bowling skills of the trainees honed and thereby helped them get back to pre-COVID levels of fitness and performance within a short time after COVID restrictions were eased and tournaments restarted.

Three trainees represented country in 2021 viz. Mr. Prasidh Krishna, Mr. Chetan Sakariya and Mr. Sandeep Warriar.

9 trainees represented various franchisees in the Indian Premier League in 2021 viz. Mr. K M Asif, Mr. Avesh Khan, Mr. Chetan Sakariya, Mr. Kaleel Ahmed, Mr. Prasidh Krishna, Mr. Akash Singh, Mr. Sandeep Warriar, Mr. Basil Thampi and Mr. Kamalesh Nagarkoti.

**Driver Development:** Having understood the risk of road driving and encouraging safe driving for commercial vehicles, MRF Ltd. started an institute MRF Institute of Driver Development ("MIDD") in 1988. The objective was to improve the driving skills especially of commercial vehicle drivers. They lacked basic awareness and etiquettes for safe driving despite having better road conditions and sophisticated vehicles.

From the beginning of 2020-21, MIDD could not conduct the regular courses due to lockdowns and Covid restrictions between March 2020 and October 2020. The new governmental regulations restricted the intake of students per course as all driving schools had to implement social distancing norms due to Covid.

During 2020-21, 9 courses were conducted and 69 trainees were imparted training. The trainees benefited in terms of improved driving skills and personal etiquette. The trainees displayed higher levels of confidence after the training. Their chances of employability also improved significantly.



## Impact of MRF Pace Foundation

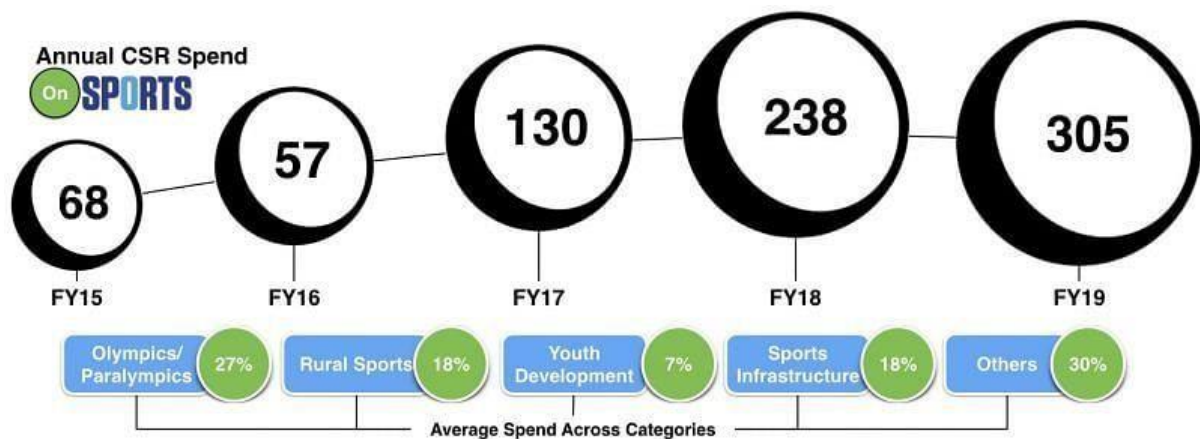
Sports is an under utilised tool to achieve development outcomes. Implementation of sports programmes as a part of any CSR intervention can result in low-cost, high-benefit social ventures to address key issues such as education, health and sanitation

### *It is said*

*"Sports has the power to build an immediate emotional connect with society and can help Corporate India establish credibility, loyalty and enhance reputation. The talent in this country is immense. We have to collectively find a way to provide this talent, an opportunity to develop and deliver to its full potential."*

**India's Demographic:** By 2030, India's population is projected to rise to 1.5 billion with about 600 million youth under the age of 25 years. This can prove to be a big competitive advantage for India, provided this category of people are educated & trained. Sports can be the lever used to prepare India's youth for newer challenges and channelize their energies to creative pursuit

Corporate India only spent INR 798 Crores out of INR 49,600 Crores towards Sports between FY 2014 and FY 2019. That amounts to a meagre 1.6% of the total CSR spend.



## **Objective:**

To Enable quality pace bowlers to play for the Country /State.

This is an ongoing project where it takes 3 to 5 years to graduate from the academy.

## **The Institute (MRF Pace Foundation)**

### **3 P's of Sports CSR**

There are 3 foundational areas where sports CSR can support in building a strong sporting culture in India from the ground-up.

- 1) **Playgrounds**: Only 60% of Indian schools have a playground, a figure that has not improved in the last decade. Sports CSR programmes in creating play spaces can ensure that our children access free play, every day.
- 2) **People**: India is short of 2 million coaches to hit its 2022 target. We are short of 40,000 teachers to instruct children in Physical Education (PE) classes. Training and incentivising the cadre of people who train children and sportspersons with potential, can grow the ecosystem.
- 3) **Platforms**: Sporting events, competitions, and sports facility infrastructure, provide a way to discover and groom talent across age groups and across rural and urban areas.

## **MRF Pace foundation in lines with above, has established the pace foundation**

- MRF Pace Foundation is a sports development initiative by MRF Ltd. This was established to serve the country in the field of cricket, by identifying and nurturing. In the past, India was known as the 'land of spinners', and lacked the pace bowling attack.
- Mr. Dennis Lillee, the legendary Australian fast bowler, has been spearheading the Academy for 25 years, as the Director of MRF Pace Foundation since 1987.
- In 2012, Mr. Glenn McGrath, another fast bowling legend from Australia, took over from Dennis Lillee, as the Director of MRF Pace Foundation.
- MRF Pace Foundation sends its trainees to England for special bio-mechanical testing and to Australia to play with the Junior Australian Cricket Team in the Emerging Players Tournament.

## **Selection Process**

- Intake of Trainees' are in the age group between 18 and 20.
- Letters to all the state associations to nominate 2 bowlers'.
- Chief Coach with Support Staff visit for Talent Scouting during the BCCI domestic tournaments.
- Pace Foundation conducts 3 days Selection Process.
- All the involved expenses during the selection process are met by the MRF Pace Foundation.

- Only the required number of trainees is inducted replacing the graduated trainees’.
- Glenn McGrath and Chief Coach will be at the Pace Foundation during Selection Process.

## Facilities

### 1. Two Training Grounds.

#### 1.1 Pachaiyaappa’s College “A ground”

- Full-fledged cricket ground for centre wicket practice. This is a full cricket ground where practice matches are held. Four wickets- two with grass wickets and two flat wickets so that the bowlers can be trained in any condition.
- This is hired and fully maintained by MRF Pace foundation since 2002
- This is a Practice ground, where matches with full 11 payers are practised. These bowlers are made to bowl to batsman to check their abilities.





## 1.2 Madras Christian College Higher Secondary School campus.

- Four turf wickets.
- One concrete wicket for Astro-turf.
- A State of Art Gymnasium.
- Swimming pool.
- Video analysis room.
- Full-fledged cricket ground for centre wicket practice.
- Comfortable accommodation for trainees, with a full-time caretaking official.
- Well-qualified support staff, Assistant Coaches, Sports Physician, Fitness Trainer, Physiotherapist, Yoga Instructor
- This is their main training Facility . It houses Gym ( Fully equipped) Swimming pool Video analysing room and four turf pitches. One concrete wicket. This is the main training centre.

All equipment to maintain the ground are in place









## **Collaborations**

- In 2014, MRF Pace Foundation and BCCI had entered into an agreement for training bowlers from BCCI.
- MRF Pace Foundation is the only coaching facility in the world which is dedicated to pace bowling.
- It is perhaps the only privately funded sport development initiative in India which has continued un-interrupted for more than 30 years.

## **Programme**

### **1. Physical Fitness**

- A fully equipped State of art Gym is provided, meets the best available standards.
- Some of the equipment are specifically meant for correcting the bowling action.
- International Size Swimming pool

### **2. Technical training**

- Training programme commences by end January or early February and goes till end September.
- Glenn McGrath, Director visits Pace Foundation thrice a year viz., January / February, June/July and August / September. This depends as per BCCI's Tournament schedule.
- Selection Trials for inducting new trainees' will be conducted coinciding Glenn's first visit.
- After selection process, Muscular Skeletal Tests is conducted for the newly absorbed trainees'.
- After Physio's Muscular Skeletal Test, fitness Level Tests is conducted.
- After these tests, regular Training programme will commence for existing and selected trainees'.
- Periodical Video Analysis of Technical Base using high definition cameras:

**- LIVE VIDEO FEEDBACK**

- 1) Live video analysis with LCD facility is made available at Pace Foundation Ground.
- 2) Coaches' shall give immediate necessary feedback with technical corrections at the ground itself.
- 3) Trainees' can monitor their technical work after every ball while going back to the run-up to correct the flaws during Nets Sessions.
- 4) Pictures of such analysis before and After below:



**Match Practice**



## Accolades

- The following 23 full-time trainees of MRF Pace Foundation have represented India:

1) Vivek Razdan	19) Basil Thampi
2) Javagal Srinath	20) Khaleel Ahmed
3) Subroto Banerjee	21) Prasidh Krishna
4) Venkatesh Prasad	22) Avesh Khan
5) David Johnson	23) Sandeep Warrier
6) Debashish Mohanty	
7) Harvinder Singh	
8) T Kumaran	
9) Zaheer Khan	
10) Iqbal Siddiqui	
11) Tinu Yohanan	
12) Irfan Pathan	
13) RP Singh	
14) S Sreesanth	
15) Munaf Patel	
16) Varun Aaron	
17) Ishwar Pandey	
18) Dhawal Kulkarni	

- The trainees from MRF Pace Foundation have collectively taken round 2000 international wickets for India.

• The trainees from MRF Pace Foundation have played a pivotal role in two of the greatest achievements of Indian Cricket in recent times, Victory in the world's first T-20 World Cup in 2007 when all three Strike Bowlers in the Winning Team, were from the MRF Pace Foundation. Once again, in 2011, when India won the 50-overs world cup where once again... All three Strike Bowlers in the Winning Team, were from the MRF Pace Foundation...

- Many other Indian bowlers (who are not full-time trainees of the MRF Pace Foundation) have also attended MRF Pace Foundation camps during the visits of Mr. Dennis Lillee, to correct their technique and sharpen their skills and thereby to extend their international career.

### **Indian Premier League (IPL)**

**IPL** Since introduction of IPL Tournament ( T / 20 ) in 2008 onwards, even though we have many bowlers' at the MRF Pace Foundation, the following prominent 11 bowlers' were viz.

1) K.M. Asif	4) Avesh Khan	7) Veer Pratap Singh	10) Nathu Singh
2) Aniket Choudhary	5) Prasidh Krishna	8) Kulwant Khejroliya	11) Sandeep Warrier
3) Ankit Rajpoot	6) Kamallesh Nagarkoti	9) Rahul Shukla	

Represented IPL in 2020- 2021

1) K.M. Asif	4) Avesh Khan	7) Arshdeep Singh	9) Chetan Sakariya
2) Khaleel Ahmed	5) Prasidh Krishna	8) Akash Singh	10) Sandeep Warrier
3) Basil Thampi	6) Kamalesh Nagarkoti		

Continue to represent different franchisees of IPL stream. Milestones in 2014

- Two boys from the Pace Foundation namely, Varun Aaron & Ishwar Pandey were selected for the Indian Cricket Team, which toured New Zealand & England in 2014. Basil Thampi represented India in 2017 Khaleel Ahmed represented India 2018 In The year 2021 Prasidh Krishna, Chetan Sakariya and Sandeep Warrier represented India

- MRF Pace Foundation and BCCI had entered into an agreement for training bowlers from BCCI.

### **Impact of MRF Pace Foundation**

- 1. Twenty Three Trainees represented the country.**
- 2. More than 90% have represented the state.**
- 3. 560 trainees up to date.**
- 4. Most sought after institute.**
- 5. Training Outcome**
  - a) During 2021, 9 trainees represented various franchises in IPL and 3 trainees represented the country.**
  - b) Endurance - to bowl long overs**
  - c) Technique - In/Out Swing, Reverse Swing, Yorker.**
  - d) Speed/Pace**
  - e) Mental Toughness/attitude**

**Amount Spent Rs. 278.33 lakhs (Includes amounts spent by MRF Foundation, the implementing agency)**

### **Center Wicket Practice**

Trainees will be taken to the centre wicket practice and will be given various match scenarios to prepare them for the future games like State matches, international games and IPL

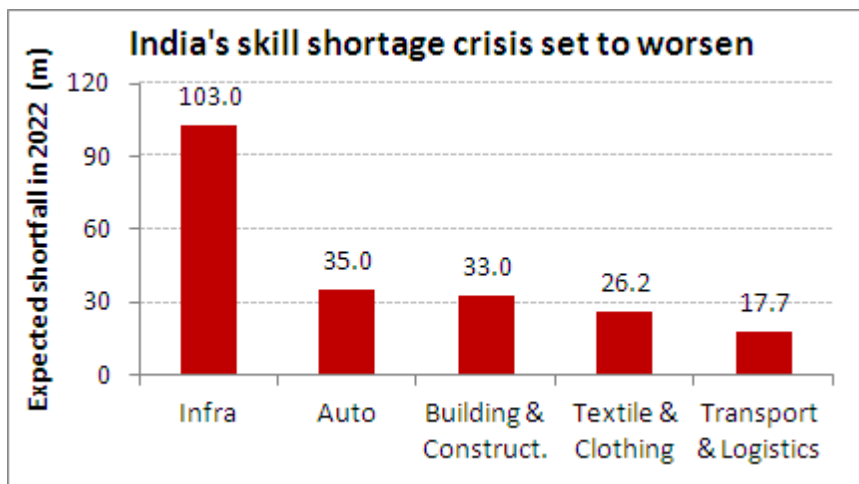




### Impact of MRF Institute of Driver Development (MIDD)

Road transport has a sizable share in the logistics chain of many business. The vital and important link of road transport is vehicle drivers.

Road transport is considered to be the most cost effective and preferred transportation mode for freight, keeping in view its level of penetration into populated areas, easy availability, adaptability to individual needs and cost savings. No wonder that road transport has emerged as the dominant segment in India's transportation sector and accounts for about 60 percent of freight traffic movement in the country. Road transport also acts as a secondary feeder service to goods transported by railways.



Remuneration to the truck drivers is one of most neglected areas of logistics operations in India. The average earning of a truck driver is around Rs 15,000 to 20,000 per month. Eight five percent of the road transport industry is from the unorganised sector, or small fleet operators, and the drivers do not have any fixed working hours, benefit of minimum wages, and a defined rest period. The truck drivers are deprived of benefits including leave. The majority of the drivers are uneducated and often learn driving on the job while working as a helper or cleaner and do not have any formal defensive driving training. Added to this is the larger problem of the typical driver having a "macho" attitude and a firm belief that all accidents are not preventable – "what has to happen, will happen". Hence, he may scorn away advice relating to speed limit or wearing of seat belt.

Very few young persons want to join this profession now. Unlike other developed countries, it is rare for an Indian truck driver's son aspiring to be a truck driver. Often this is due to the driver's children being better educated and hence exposed to more job opportunities which are better paying without the hardships faced by their father. Many young persons prefer employment in the industrial or service sectors or, in the rural areas, may even opt to earn a living under the Government's MNREGA scheme whilst searching for a regular job.

### **The Institute (MRF Institute of Driver Development)**

Road Transport Industry today seeks commercial goods drivers with a high degree of professional competence. MRF Institute of Driver Development (MIDD) was established by MRF Limited in 1988 to help meet this need. The institute has taken up the challenge of providing driver training of the highest quality, while instilling in its trainees the spirit of hardship and strength of character. Right from its inception, the institute has been turning out drivers who excel in their professional skills and are pioneering a new culture of idealism in the profession.



*Institute Building*

### **Training**

The training team comprises of one Administrator/ Principal ( Wing Commander) and four Instructor from Defence background.

The main objective of MIDD is to train Heavy Goods Vehicle drivers for the transport industry of our country. Training, however, is provided on Light Motor Vehicle (LMV) also, in a preparatory phase of 6 weeks. After completion of one year a trainee is admitted to the Heavy Motor Vehicle (HMV) phase of 3 months duration.



*Heavy and Light Vehicle 1*



*Trainees with Bus 1*

## **Selection Process**

Recruitment for LMV/HMV courses are announced through Tamil newspaper advertisements, which call for applications from young men in the age group of 20 to 28, who are at least 160cms tall, have no physical handicaps. Tamil, being the medium of instruction, only those who can read, write and speak the language are admitted. Eight LMV courses and 4 HMV courses are conducted every year. For HMV, the drivers should have completed one year after obtaining LMV Licence and should hold a valid badge endorsement.

## **Course content**

The curriculum is structured in a manner to inculcate a sense of responsibility and social consciousness, while the trainees learn about the automobile, its operation and maintenance along with the correct application of Traffic Regulations.

## **Methodology**

Driving practice under varying traffic and road conditions takes the lion's share of the training hours. These practices are effectively supported by classroom and garage work. Character building sessions, group discussions and audio-visual presentations form a unique part of the programme.

## **Faculty**

The Institute faculty consists of 5members who are experts in driving and driver training (four instructors and one Administrator), drawn from various training establishments of the Armed Forces. Apart from a team of highly qualified and experienced regular instructors, they also have a guest faculty who conducts spoken Hindi lessons (50hrs) for each HMV course which help them to operate on all India routes without facing any language problems.



*Trainees with Faculty*

### **Instructional aids**

The Institute has all the modern facilities of classrooms, automated models, audio-visual aids, etc. Adequate number of vehicles and driving range/garage facilities are catered for.



*Demo room*



*Engine Diesel*



*Engine Petrol*



*Ramp 1*



*Training room 1*



*Training room 2*

### **Programme**

Training is in a strictly academic style, with regular classes from 9.am to 5.pm daily, Monday through Saturday. They are also provided simulated on-the-job practices, when they are made to drive on hill sections, long distance driving, night driving etc. The trainees stay in the vehicle during such practices to get a feel of driver's life when they have to drive on PAN India routes.



*Trainees in Bus*



*On road Training*

### **Evaluation**

There is a continuous process of evaluation involving weekly and final tests.

### **Discipline**

Strict norms of discipline form the core of the training, and trainees are expected to observe them meticulously.

### **Licence**

Towards end of each course, the Institute will produce the trainees for tests at the RTO, and assist them in obtaining their driving licences. A trainee who graduates from MIDD as a Heavy Motor Vehicle drivers is awarded a certificate from the institute.



*Certificate Distribution ceremony 1*

### **Living Accommodation**

The Institute provides free living accommodation (without food) to its trainees (maximum for HMV and to a limited number for LMV) who merit such assistance.



*Accommodation*

### Quantitative Impact of MIDD

#### 1. No of Courses conducted

Vehicle	Courses in 2020-21	Courses up to 2019-20	Remarks
Heavy	2	108	
Light (Including one refresher course)	7	198	
	9	306	Covid Restrictions affected in 20-21. Also governmental Regulations restricted the intake

#### 2. No Of Trainees in 2021-22

Vehicle	Trainees in 2020-21	Trainees up to 2019-20	Remarks
Heavy	19	1294	
Light	29	3388	
Refresher Course	21	1222	
Total	69	5904	Covid Restrictions affected in 20-21. Also governmental Regulations restricted the intake

### Qualitative Impact of MIDD

1. Improved - driving skill.
2. Behavioural changes was noticed.
3. Improvement in Personal Etiquettes- Personal Hygiene, dressing etc.
4. Improved chances of employability.
5. Innumerable Accidents on roads are caused by fault of driver. This institute is a boon to driving community

Amount Spent Rs. 106.49 lakhs (Includes amounts spent by MRF Foundation, the implementing agency)

## ***Final Conclusion***

***This report has been prepared after extensive study based on discussion, visit and referring to documents maintained.***

***The impact of these initiatives is of immense help to the community.***

***MRF Pace foundation is instrumental in developing quality fast bowlers to Indian side, 23 of them have made to Indian team.***

***MIDD instrumental in Inculcating good driving practice. This has immensely helped the trainees, who attended the driving programme.***



## Gallery Paper Cuttings:

# McGrath impressed with Thampi's ability to bowl yorkers consistently

Vivek.Krishnan  
@timesgroup.com

**Chennai:** When Gujarat Lions picked Basil Thampi for Rs 85 lakh ahead of IPL-10, it seemed like a punt that could backfire. The Kerala pacer, however, repaid their faith as he scalped 11 wickets from 12 matches and was named the Emerging Player of the tournament. Thampi's stock rose further with his selection in the India 'A' squad for the upcoming tour of South Africa.

Now, Australian legend Glenn McGrath has joined in the praise for Thampi, lauding the 23-year-old's ability to execute yorkers. Speaking at an event celebrating the MRF Pace Foundation's completion of 25 years, he said: "If you look at the last IPL, Basil's success was brilliant for him. I think he has worked hard at the foundation and his success in the IPL was because of the consistency and hard work he put in. Most people can bowl length but few can bowl yorkers on a consistent basis. If you can get the yorker right, that's what most teams are looking for."

The 47-year-old, who replaced Dennis Lillee as di-



**PICTURE PERFECT:** Troy Cooley (extreme l), Glenn McGrath, Ryan Harris and MRF chairman KM Mammen pose with a memento at the silver jubilee celebrations of the MRF Pace Foundation on Monday

rector of the MRF Pace Foundation in 2012, however felt that bowlers had been left behind by batsmen when it came to developing new skills in the shorter formats.

"The three formats are quite different. As bowlers, you need different plans for each format. We have seen skills of batsmen in the shorter formats improve. I don't think the skill level of the bowlers has improved at the same pace," he added, steering clear of the ongoing pay dispute between the Australian players and Cricket Australia.

What he had no complaints about, though, was the quality of the current Australian pace bowling quartet comprising Mitchell Starc, Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and James Pattinson. "If all four of them are fit and bowling well, it's very exciting. I don't think many batsmen in the world would want to face them."

Heaping lavish praise on Starc, he added: "When Starc is on song, he is as good as anyone in the world. The thing I like about Starc is that he takes the pitch and the conditions totally out of the equation because of the

lengths that he bowls. He looks to swing the new ball. And when the ball is reversing, there are few better. He is No. 1 in the world when he is bowling well."

While McGrath picked out Starc as the standout, former Australian fast bowler Ryan Harris waxed lyrical about Cummins' ability.

"For me, Cummins in particular stands out. The way Cummins bowled against India, coming back after such a long gap, was brilliant. It's just so easy for him to bowl fast," Harris, who had played alongside all these four pacers, observed.

Harris was also generous in praise for Australian skipper Steven Smith, who has gone from strength to strength since the former's retirement in 2015. "Smith has been unbelievable in the past couple of years. His batting has become even better since getting the captaincy. I think he learned a lot from Michael Clarke about leading the team. Despite having all the responsibility, he hasn't changed his approach around the team. He seems to thrive on the extra pressure and it's great to see him play the way he is doing."

## Pace Foundation-CA partnership completes 25 years

Published: Jul 18, 2017 05:30 AM

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*"I made it to the foundation as a trainee in the first batch of this programme. Life has come full circle, where today I am still with the foundation, not as a trainee but as its director," Glenn McGrath, director, MRF Pace Foundation said on Monday at a function to mark the 25th year of its tieup with Cricket Australia.*



Glenn McGrath and Ryan Harris (centre) with Rahul Mammen, Arun Mammen and KM Mammen of MRF

**Chennai:** The partnership has benefited trainees from both Australia and India. The collaboration started in 1992 with Dennis Lillee as the director of MRF Pace Foundation. The arrangement has enabled trainees from Australia to visit the foundation every year and, similarly, trainees from MRF Pace Foundation get to visit the Australian Academy. As part of this exchange programme, when the Australian trainees visit the pace foundation, they get to play in different climatic conditions and learn to bowl on Indian pitches that are generally dry and with low bounce.

SPORTS (/SPORTS), CRICKET (/SPORTS/CRICKET)

## Everyone can't master yorker: Glenn McGrath

DECCAN CHRONICLE.

Published  
Updated

Jul 18, 2017, 12:58 am IST  
Jul 18, 2017, 12:58 am IST

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*McGrath said the coaching methods at the pace foundation has been evolving with time.*



Troy Cooley (from left), Glenn McGrath, Ryan Harris and MRF chairman and CMD K. M. Mammen at an event on Monday.

**Chennai:** Glenn McGrath was part of the first batch of trainees to visit Chennai when MRF Pace Foundation signed an agreement with Cricket Australia (CA) 25 years ago. Now, the legendary bowler is the director of the academy as MRF and CA celebrated their association's silver jubilee on Monday.

Apart from McGrath, the most successful fast bowler in Test cricket, Mitchell Johnson, Josh Hazlewood, Zaheer Khan and Brett Lee are some of the trainees who made it big from the MRF stable.

McGrath said the coaching methods at the pace foundation has been evolving with time. "Technology plays a big role in training. Analysing the videos of bowling action in those days was time consuming. Now with the advent of high definition cameras, it has become a lot easier," he added.

The Australian said there is so much demand for a bowler who is capable of unleashing yorkers consistently and improving this aspect is one of the focus areas of the academy. "Most people can bowl good length but a few can bowl yorkers on a consistent basis. If you can get the yorker right, you can be lethal in all formats," said McGrath adding that his trainee Badil Thampi was impressive in the last IPL.

CHENNAI

## Tendulkar discovers himself in Chennai



1

**S. Dinakar**

AUGUST 21, 2015 22:47 IST

UPDATED: MARCH 29, 2016 16:40 IST

### It's in this city that the maestro's career took a decisive turn towards greatness

Sachin Tendulkar's relationship with **Chennai** is a symbiotic one. It was in this city that the maestro's career took a decisive turn towards greatness and beyond.

Fast bowling captivated him and Tendulkar journeyed to the MRF Pace Foundation in 1987 to learn the art from the incomparable Dennis Lillee. He was just 14 then.

10/4/2017

Tendulkar discovers himself in Chennai - The Hindu

THE HINDU

---

to be a pace-bowling all-rounder.”

Tendulkar revealed, “Even as I was packing my bags, my elder brother Ajit asked me to carry a bat along just in case....” As it turned out, it was a wise move.

The legend-in-the-making arrived in the city and was soon bowling under the eagle gaze of Lillee. After finishing his bowling stint, Tendulkar walked up to the nets, picked his willow, and started batting. Lillee saw the teenager toying with the bowlers and then said to him, “I think you should stick to batting.”

Looking back, that was a pivotal moment in Tendulkar’s career. The path was laid out before him. He went on to conquer countless batting peaks, breaking records and raising the bar.

And he relished the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium, conjuring up some immortal Test innings at the iconic venue. In 10 Tests at Chepauk, Tendulkar notched up 970 runs at an average of 88.18 with five centuries. The crowd chanted, “Sachin! Sachin!” and he responded.

Chennai, indeed, was the city of Tendulkar’s destiny.

# MRF PACE FOUNDATION

delivers the 21<sup>st</sup> Pace Bowler  
to the Indian Cricket Team.

*Prasidh Krishna  
on his debut creates a record  
by taking 4 wickets.*

The MRF Pace Foundation congratulates Prasidh Krishna on becoming the first Indian pace bowler to take four wickets on his ODI debut and joining the illustrious list of Indian pace bowlers who have played for the country. The MRF Pace Foundation has been training many more such pace bowlers across India and the world over the last 33 years, and creating cricketing history in the process.



Visit us: [www.mrfpacefoundation.com](http://www.mrfpacefoundation.com)  
Facebook: /MRFpaceFoundation | Instagram: /MRFpace

## MRF PACE BOWLERS SANDEEP WARRIER AND CHETAN SAKARIYA WERE SELECTED TO PLAY AGAINST SRI LANKA

- a DUAL DEBUT FROM

**MRF PACE FOUNDATION!**

MRF Pace Foundation congratulates Sandeep Warrier and Chetan Sakariya who join the illustrious list of pace bowlers who have played for India. The MRF Pace Foundation has been training many more such pace bowlers across India and the world for the last 33 years, creating cricketing history in the process.



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# A NEW GIFT TO INDIAN CRICKET FROM THE **MRF PACE FOUNDATION**

**KHALEEL AHMED** joins the Indian Cricket Team for the Asia Cup - the 20<sup>th</sup> fast bowler from MRF Pace Foundation in the last 30 years.

MRF Pace Foundation congratulates **KHALEEL AHMED** who joins the illustrious list of Indian pace bowlers who have played for the country.

The Pace Foundation is training many more such pacers across India and the world, and creating cricketing history in the process.



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# AS AVESH KHAN JOINS THE INDIAN CRICKET TEAM FOR THE T20 SERIES AGAINST NEW ZEALAND, **MRF PACE FOUNDATION**



## TAKES PRIDE IN ITS NEW STAR.

**Avesh Khan** joins the Indian Cricket team for the T20 series against New Zealand in India - the 24<sup>th</sup> pace bowler from the **MRF Pace Foundation** to represent the country. MRF Pace Foundation - the Pace Academy of the World, has trained many more such pace bowlers across India and the world over the last 34 years, creating cricketing history in the process.



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Pages

# Prasidh Krishna Shares Anecdotes From His Stint At MRF Pace Foundation Under Glenn McGrath

By Anshuman Roy - March 25, 2021 0



Prasidh Krishna had a dream ODI debut in the first ODI match against England in Pune. The KKR pacer took 4/54 which included wickets of Jason Roy and Ben Stokes. Meanwhile, legendary Australian pacer Glenn McGrath was impressed by the youngster's performance and congratulated him for the same on Twitter. India won the first match by 66 runs courtesy of Prasidh's exploits with the ball.

**"Congratulations Prasidh @skiddyy on taking 4/54 & breaking the Indian record for most wickets taken by a bowler on ODI debut. Well done mate #cricket #mrfpacefoundation #fbc,"** McGrath wrote in his Twitter post.



# McGrath full of praise for fast-rising Prasidh

Back in the city after more than two-and-a-half years, McGrath spoke on a variety of topics.



Glenn McGrath (left) interacts Kith trainees at the MRF pace foundation in Chennai

## Shrivathsan S

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Chennai: Legendary Australia fast bowler and MRF Pace Foundation director Glenn McGrath was full of praise for India and Rajasthan Royals speedster Prasidh Krishna, who has been enjoying a purple patch with the white ball. Back in the city after more than two-and-a-half years, McGrath spoke on a variety of topics.

### EXCERPTS

#### On Prasidh Krishna's rise in recent times

[Rajasthan Royals pacer] Prasidh bowling a wicket maiden in the second last over [against Delhi Capitals in Mumbai on Friday] goes to show how he handles pressure and the mental strength he has. I have always liked Prasidh's attitude. He is always keen to bowl in the nets and work hard. It is one thing to bowl well in the nets, but you have got to do it in the middle. That shows the quality of the bowler he is. He knows his game really well. All these things are important for becoming a good fast bowler.

On India and Sunrisers Hyderabad pacer Thangarasu Natarajan's comeback after missing a major chunk of last year with injuries

He came from obscurity, did he not? When you play at this level, your body has to get used to it. It is fine to play the matches, but you have got to take care of yourself off the field. When you have an unnatural action, there are going to be injuries. When you move up the level (ladder) and play more intense cricket, the chances of getting injured are more.

### **On SRH quick Umran Malik**

I think pace is important, but it is not everything. It is about control. In the series against England in Australia (in 2013-14), Mitchell Johnson combined sheer pace with control. Pace is very important; it is natural. But, you do not want somebody bowling 150 kmph and spraying it (the ball) wide. If you have got a guy who can bowl with such pace, you keep an eye on him. It (bowling fast) is unique; you cannot train someone to bowl fast. I am sure they (the Indian selectors) will be interested in him.

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### **On India's pace-bowling revolution**

Firstly, it is great. From what I heard, the [Indian] pitches are a little different now. There is a little bit more on the pitches for bowling quick. It is a combination of a different attitude and different conditions. For quite a few years now, India has got a quality fast-bowling attack. When you have got a strong fast-bowling attack in your national team, it filters down.

### **On MRF Pace Foundation's role in producing India internationals**

Last year (referring to the last 12 months), we had four of our guys go on and play (make their debut) for India - Prasad, Avesh Khan, Chetan [Sakariya] and Sandeep Warrier. That is brilliant; that is what we are all about. Eighteen players who have worked with us are part of the [ongoing] IPL and are doing well.

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## 'Proud of you both' - Glenn McGrath reacts after Chetan Sakariya, Sandeep Warrier make their India debut

Cricket



TN Sports Desk

Updated Aug 01, 2021 | 07:03 IST



Aussie legend Glenn Maxwell reacted after young pacers Chetan Sakariya and Sandeep Warrier made their T20I debuts for India in the recently-concluded Sri Lanka series.



Glenn McGrath congratulated Chetan Sakariya and Sandeep Warrier for making their India debut. | Photo - AP/Instagram |

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Aussie legend Glenn McGrath reacted after Chetan Sakariya and Sandeep Warrier made their T20I debut for India
- Both Sakariya and Warrier featured in the recently-concluded T20I series against Sri Lanka
- Sakariya and Warrier were part of the MRF Pace Foundation where they were mentored by Glenn McGrath

Australian legend Glenn McGrath said he is 'proud of' Indian pacers Chetan Sakariya and Sandeep Warrier after the duo made their T20I debut for India in the recently-concluded series against Sri Lanka. India handed debuts to a number of young players throughout the ODI and T20I series with both Sakariya and Warrier also making the cut. Both the pacers have been mentored by McGrath at the MRF Pace Academy in the past.

On the other hand, Warrier made his T20I debut in the final T20I against Sri Lanka which the Shikhar Dhawan-led side lost by seven wickets. Warrier bowled three over in the game and remained wicketless. McGrath took to Twitter to congratulate both the youngsters and said he was proud of them.

"A huge congratulations to both @sakariya.chetan & Sandeep Warrier for making their debut for India @\_official\_bcci\_ So proud of you both," McGrath tweeted.

A huge congratulations to both @sakariya.chetan & Sandeep Warrier for making their debut for India @\_official\_bcci\_ So proud of you both. #mrfpacefoundation #fastbowlers #indvsl <https://t.co/OUeMsnlFEz>

— Glenn McGrath (@glennmcgrath11) July 31, 2021

CRICKET

## MRF Pace Foundation on a fast lane

MRF Pace Foundation head coach M. Senthilnathan analyses promising pacers emerging from its ranks.

S. DINAKAR

CHENNAI 12 JUNE, 2021 19:57 IST



Chetan Sakariya has made it to the India squad for Sri Lanka tour. | Photo Credit: BCCI/IPL

**SPORTSTAR**

**T**hese are busy days at the [MRF Pace Foundation](#) with several promising pacemen emerging from its ranks.

A few have played for India, others have been selected in the National team and some have found a place as net bowlers.

MRF Pace Foundation head coach M. Senthilnathan analysed them with *Sportstar*.

**Chetan Sakariya:** Liked the look of him. Lean and mean. Saw him first in 2017, had the left-armer's ball shaping away across the right-hander. We worked on his fitness, in bringing the ball into the right-hander and on yorkers and pace variations. Has good control.

**Prasidh Krishna:** Has already played for the country. Tall, high-arm action and extra bounce. Consistently over 140-kmph. A telling yorker-short ball combine.

**READ: [Meet the five new faces in Team India](#)**

**Avesh Khan:** Sends down a 'heavy' ball. A strong, tall lad with good lift. Can move the ball both ways. Excellent bowler in the slog overs with variations.

**Sandeep Warrier:** Strength is new ball and outswing. Deceptively sharp. Consistent with his line and length over long spells. Has experience.

**Arshdeep Singh:** A tall left-arm bowler with an excellent wide yorker in the end overs. A calm head in stressful situations. Has been working on his slower ball.

**Arzan Nagwaswalla:** Tremendous performance in domestic circuit. A sharp, nippy left-armer with good control. He can bring the ball into the right-hander and can surprise him with pace. Has a compelling yorker.

# Great to see Umran bowl yorkers at such a pace, says McGrath

PRASAD RS / Apr 24, 2022, 03:08 IST



## ARTICLES

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Chennai: Sunrisers Hyderabad pacer Umran Malik has been the stand-out pacer of this IPL so far. The 22-year-old from Jammu & Kashmir has clocked speeds in excess of 150 kph on a regular basis and topped that with yorkers that have tested the batters.

Former Australian pace legend Glenn [McGrath](#) — currently in India in his capacity as director of the MRF Pace Foundation — felt that the selectors will be tracking the youngster closely. Umran had trained at the pace foundation during the 2018-19 season. “I am sure the selectors will be very interested in him. They would love to have someone bowling at that pace for your country. Bowling a yorker is a lot tougher and the fact that he is able to bowl one at that pace makes him very dangerous,” McGrath said.

However, McGrath has a word of caution. “Pace is important but it’s not everything. You don’t want someone bowling 150 kmph and spraying it down the leg side or bowling wide. So, you have got to have that control. [Mitchell Johnson](#) was an example of someone who had sheer pace with control and he became such a dangerous bowler,” McGrath said.

While Umran has been hogging the limelight, India's premier pacer --- [Jasprit Bumrah](#) --- hasn't had the best of times with [Mumbai Indians](#). Bumrah has managed just 4 wickets from 7 games. McGrath doesn't want to read too much into it.

"I think, batsmen are a lot more watchful against him these days and not letting him take wickets. But as a bowler, you want to take wickets, so it's more of a mental game now. He is a quality bowler and very intelligent. I expect him to bounce back strongly," he said.

McGrath, who has been with the pace foundation for the last 10 years, is pleased with the progress India has made with its fast bowling resources. "It's always been good batting conditions and bowling conditions for spinners here.

But what I have heard is that the pitches (in India) are little different now and there is more in it for the pacers which is great. It's a combination of different attitudes and different conditions which have helped fast bowlers. When you have a strong bowling line-up in your national team, it filters down with more people wanting to become fast bowlers as well," the 52-year-old said.