



Sahara Launches state-of-the-art, hi-tech Cricket Academy in State Capital

- **Equipped to provide hi-tech technical performance assessment; world class 14 pitches to adapt to different cricketing conditions comprising covered indoor Astro-turf with center turf and cemented pitches, bowling machine, speed gun, video technical analysis**
- **Budding cricketers will be guided under the mentorship of Cricketing stalwarts Shri Kapil Dev, Shri Suresh Raina, Shri Balwinder Singh Sandhu, Shri R.P. Singh**

Lucknow: Sahara India Pariwar, the major Indian business conglomerate and the biggest patron of sports in India, today inaugurated first of its kind, hi-tech Cricket Academy with state-of-the-art facilities in Lucknow. In a grand opening ceremony '**Sahasri**' **Subrata Roy Sahara** officially launched the academy in presence of excited trainees, parents and other key stakeholders of the facility.

The Academy is designed to provide world class training to young boys and girls of the next generation who aspire for cricketing excellence; in sub-junior (09 to 12 years), junior (13 to 15 years) and senior (16 to 23 years) categories, under the guidance of cricketing stalwarts like Shri Kapil Dev, who will be the chief mentor along with current and former cricketers like Shri Suresh Raina, Shri Balwinder Singh Sandhu, Shri R.P. Singh, all as mentors along with experienced state level players, Level I and Level II renowned cricket coaches.

On the occasion, '**Sahasri**' **Subrata Roy Sahara, Managing Worker & Chairman of Sahara India Pariwar** said, "Sports represent the most spirited, healthy and energetic facet of a society. Sahara India Pariwar, since its inception, has always accorded priority to those activities, which generate positive emotions in a human being, and sport is one of them. There is no dearth of talent in our country the need is to harness it to the potential so that it can bring laurels at the national and international levels. I am glad that the academy will provide proper training and guidance to these budding and aspiring cricketers and make them our new cricketing superstars."

On the opening of the academy, legendary Cricketer **Shri Kapil Dev** said "Sahara India Pariwar has always stood for sports in India and with CSD Sahara Cricket Academy it will provide a platform to our upcoming cricketers. Cricket is now a game of mental calmness, physical strength, sharp skills and fine techniques and as a chief mentor I am happy to say that this academy is equipped with all the

modern training equipment and infrastructure. This is an Academy with a difference, one where every intricate detail is wrought to perfection and I am sure this effort of Sahara will provide a strong launch pad for the young talents to flourish and prosper up to the highest level.”

To give all round training, the academy has a combination of 14 pitches so that the trainees get hands on practice on various pitch conditions. These are comprised of 02 fully covered indoor Astro-turf pitches with box net, 03 center turf pitches and 09 practice pitches of which, 07 would be turf and 02 cemented. Special attention has been given to ensure that the training continues uninterrupted and unaffected by the vagaries of weather, 365 days a year. The academy is equipped with a pavilion with a sitting gallery; infirmary to handle emergency cases with the support of a physiotherapist, first-aid and ambulance; a conference room with audio visual facility; bowling machine and speed gun to create a simulated ambience of the actual field of play; video and technical analysis to assist the coach with his progress report; practice matches and all-India tournaments. The campus is under the round-the-clock security surveillance to safeguard against the threat of extraneous elements.

Academy is planned to have floodlight facility in future, select scholarships for the outstanding cricketing talents, trainee cricketers to be taken to foreign and domestic tours for adapting to various cricketing conditions across the world.

In the ceremony, Sahara India Pariwar felicitated, Ms. Shipra Giri, Ms. Sonam Yadav, Ms. Pratibha, Ms. Minu Yadav, Ms. Nargis Khan, Ms. Ayushi Srivastava, player of Uttar Pradesh under 19 team. A major attraction of the day was a friendly celebrity cricket match with huge fan following which was held after the inauguration. The academy will conduct regular matches and will also field squads in tournaments to enable trainees to gain vital match practice.