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Justice K. G. Balakrishnan Former Chief Justice of India and Former Chairman NHRC India



# INDEPENDANT DIRECTOR CHAIRMAN ETHICS COMMITTEE

Justice Gyan Sudha Misra Former Judge, Supreme Court of India

# <u>Press Release</u> For Immediate Release

# SOG Federation Announces India's First Online Games Olympiad

**New Delhi, 10th June 2024** – After the announcement of India's first Online Games Olympiad at National Economic Conclave, New Delhi in the presence of the then Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports & Information and Broadcasting, Shri Anurag Thakur, Dr. Sandip Chatterjee (Senior Director, MeitY, Govt. of India), Shri Sanjay Pathak (Secretary General, FICCI), along with the top-notch leaders of the Online gaming industry, the Skillhub Online Games Federation (SOG FEDERATION) is thrilled to launch, the SOG Olympiad.

The SOG Olympiad is a pioneering initiative aimed at fostering competitiveness, discovering skilled players, and building career platforms for the existing and potential gamers across India. This groundbreaking event will set new standards in the burgeoning online gaming sector, reflecting SOG Federation's commitment to regulating and developing this dynamic sports-economy landscape.

As an industry body, the SOG Federation's primary goal behind the Olympiad is to inculcate a spirit of competitiveness among all esports and online skill games. By organizing structured and layered tournaments, SOG Federation aims to identify the top gamers who will represent India globally. This initiative also seeks to provide gamers with a robust career platform, enabling them to pursue their passion professionally with identifying the first mover advantage of recognizing the hidden talent of India in the online gaming industry.

# The Games and Structure of the Olympiad

In the first stage of the Olympiad, SOG Federation has selected five games: Rummy, Chess, Bridge, Poker, and Ludo. Among these, Rummy has been chosen for the inaugural event of the sub-zonal online-gaming competitions. The Rummy Olympiad will follow a two-tier structure: the **Zonal Olympiad** and the **National Olympiad**.

# Zonal Olympiad: The Beginning of the Journey

The Zonal Olympiad will be conducted across six zones in India: Northern, Central, Southern, Western, Eastern, and North-Eastern Zones. The Western Zone, comprising Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Goa, has been selected for the first Zonal Olympiad. SOG FEDERATION will conduct online qualifiers for the SOG FEDERATION Rummy Olympiad on a leading rummy platform, which will serve as the technology partner for the event.

Top players from the online qualifiers will advance to physical events hosted by SOG FEDERATION within their respective zones. These events will feature multiple rounds, culminating in the emergence of a Zonal Rummy Champion. This process will be replicated across all six zones, resulting in six Zonal Rummy Champions.

# (A Govt. of India Recognised 80G, 12A, Compliant non- profitable organization) SKILLHUB ONLINE GAMES FEDERATION (Gaming not Gambling)

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## PRESIDENT

#### Shankar Aggarwal (Retd. IAS)

Former Secretary, Ministry of WCD, UD, Labour, Former Jt Secretary, MEIT, Govt of India.

### SECRETARY GENERAL

### **Gursharan Singh**

Former Secretary General ,Paralympic Committee of India, Member Asian Paralympic Committee.

### CHAIRMAN CYBER COMMITTEE

### Dr. Gulshan Rai

Former National Cyber Security Coordinator, Chief, CERT-IN and Chief Information Security Officer, PMO, Govt of India.

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### Adv. Debi Prasad Dash

Chair, UN Security Council's Panel of Experts & International Tax Expert, UNDP, Former DG, DRI & GST Intelligence, Govt. of India.

### Adv. Nandan Jha

Secretary General Gandhi Mandela Foundation, Chairman IFIE & Partner Dash & Jha Law.

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# National Rummy Olympiad: The Grand Finale

Following the Zonal Olympiads, the National Rummy Olympiad will bring together the top players from each zone. These players will compete through the same rigorous process, with one exceptional gamer ultimately being crowned the National Rummy Olympiad Champion.

# **Investing in the Future of Indian Gamers**

SOG FEDERATION is dedicated to investing significant time, money, and manpower into nurturing Indian gamers. Our vision is to help them compete at the highest levels globally, ensuring that Indian talent is recognized and celebrated on the world stage.

# Social Responsibility

The online gaming industry has been thriving, offering numerous rewards to individuals, and with India poised to become a global leader, the SOG Federation aims to harness and integrate industry's potential as a boon for the economy and national growth, bringing the young and bright minds of India to the forefront of global gaming leadership.

## A Message from the SOG FEDERATION Board

"The SOG FEDERATION Board strongly believes that together, we will change the face of the online gaming sector in India. By creating structured pathways and competitive opportunities, we are paving the way for a brighter future for Indian gamers. This Olympiad is just the beginning, and we are excited to see the incredible talent that will emerge from this initiative." For more information about the SOG Federation and the upcoming Esports and Online Games Olympiad, please visit our website at [www.SOGFederation.com] or contact us at [Contact@sogfederation.com].

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