



**FROM THE DESK OF**  
**RANINDER SINGH**

*Chairman, Organising Committee, ISSF World Cup (Rifle & Pistol), New Delhi 21st to 28th February 2019*  
*President, NRAI & Vice President, ISSF*

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New Delhi,  
15th February, 2019

Dear All,

We all have our hearts and minds with the families of the victims of this heinous terrorist crime, now referred to as the 'Pulwama massacre'. In this hour of their bereavement, both the NRAI and the ISSF, unitedly stand by the side of the bereaved families in spirit and prayer.

I should like to state that any functions or events planned on the sidelines of the World Cup by the Organising Committee, including a small informal dinner by invitation in honour of the President & Secretary General, ISSF on the 20th, or any other activity subsequently; are humble and simple efforts undertaken by the OC, wherein in doing so, it sincerely hopes to provide a platform through which we may all gather and meet one on one with our guests including the President ISSF, Sec.Gen. ISSF, the Presidents & Secretary Generals of the NF's of Mexico, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Russia, Iran & Bangladesh amongst respected EXCO members of the ISSF, and last but not least officials & Athletes visiting us.

Equally importantly, the dinner on the 20th is also a requisite opportunity to thank and honour our sponsors in a informal setting.

As the son & grandson of an ex army officer I share the sentiments expressed and the outrage it has generated in all of us in India and abroad. We however cannot shy away from the fact that we are (admittedly at an extremely poignant & sad time) hosts of an Olympic qualifying ISSF World Cup.



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While nothing can take away from our remorse & anger as a nation, I humbly believe that those who have had their heroic lives cut short in such a condemnable manner would never wish that our proud nation in its remorse withdraws into its self and not honour its international commitment in the slightest manner that such a World Cup truly is, & thus deserves in support from us, both in letter & more importantly in keeping with the ideals of the Olympic spirit.

Each visiting athlete & official is an ambassador of his/her nation guaranteed the benefit of all the provisions that the Olympic charter holds to their benefit. We must show them that the swine who perpetrate such acts will not succeed in changing our cultural ethos and psyche of being warm hosts and secular to the core.

Join the NRAI & the ISSF in paying its humble tribute to these and countless such service personal who have been martyred in the service of our great nation in giving their all to protect our oneness, secularity, & above all else; protecting through their act of performing the supreme sacrifice by laying down their very lives to protect the honour of the nation that we all love - India.

We must not allow these swine to change our way of life, go back on our commitments or in any way dampen the image of our nation by being subdued or down beat.

To the contrary, the greatest honour we can in our own little humble manner afford our martyrs is to produce the best World Cup possible, excel in the field, and receive with warmth that is our national custom all our guests by putting up a united front of defiance to the only logical purpose of such a dastardly action, that of scaring & depressing us into focusing on them and in doing so the terrorist achieves his purpose; that of attracting attention to his warped madness & logic that is bereft of even an iota of humanity.

We have seen this decades ago in Munich & other places - No we will not bow to them by focusing on them, we are Indian, we are our own



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masters, and I am sure you shall join me in showing solidarity with our nations executive in their endeavor and perseverance to wholeheartedly root out these perverse animals from their burrows and deal with them as it deems fit per established norms in dealing with such outrages.

Meanwhile, we must do our bit of national service too by holding the baton steadfastly & proudly as a host nation in line with the Olympic charter & our nations commitment to it.

On behalf of the Organising Committee, I therefore urge you all to be present at the opening ceremony of the World Cup on the 21st at 17.30 hours IST, so that in unitedly doing so, we begin to show the ambassadors of 58 nations visiting us, what it truly means to be a proud Indian who holds his or her head high at all times, specially at such times of national remorse & adversity.

‘Jai Hind Aur Hamare Shahid Jawan Amar Rahen!’

Thanking You,

I remain yours truly,

**Raninder Singh**  
Chairman, OC, ISSF WC, New Delhi, 2019.  
President, NRAI  
Vice President, ISSF