



# भारतीय ओलम्पिक संघ Indian Olympic Association

**VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA**  
Acting President

## PRESS RELEASE

### IOA conveys its concern to IOC regarding Dow Chemical's sponsorship

**NEW DELHI; 20 DECEMBER, 2011:** Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has strongly urged the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to reconsider Dow Chemical's sponsorship of the 2012 London Games.

IOA General Body, at its meeting on last Thursday, had lodged a strong protest with IOC over this controversial sponsorship.

In a letter to IOC President Jacques Rogge, copy of which has also been sent to London Olympic Games Chairman Sebastian Coe, IOA Acting President Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra has said that a false campaign has been launched by the Dow Chemical's that the matter has been settled. It is not correct. The case is still pending in the court and no final compensation has been made.

Prof. Malhotra said it is IOA's considered opinion Dow Chemical's should be removed as the sponsors of the Game.

He urged the IOC to urgently take this matter up with organizers of the London Games and convey our concerns to them.

He said there are media reports that Dow has agreed to remove its logo from London Olympic stadium. It has waived its sponsorship rights to place its brand on a controversial wrap for the stadium which was considered objectionable.

However IOA has so far not received any communique from London Organizing Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) in this regard. 'We are trying to ascertain the facts' Prof Malhotra added.

He hoped that matter will be sorted out amicably keeping in view the sentiments of the millions of people.

Meanwhile IOA has informed Sports Minister Ajay Maken about the letter sent to the IOC and LOCOG.

Prof. Malhotra has also sought Government's views on this subject "We will like to hear from you about the Government's stand on this issue. It will be in the interest of the Indian sports if Government and IOA are on the same page and speak in one voice on this sensitive matter."

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Following is the text of the letter sent by Prof Malhotra to IOC and LOCOG chiefs:  
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Dear Mr Jacques Rogge,

Greetings

I am writing you this letter on behalf of Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to convey the deep feeling of hurt of millions of people not only in India but all over the world regarding Dow Chemical's being sponsors of the London Games.

IOA has received representations from several former Olympians, hundreds of suffering people, NGO's and agencies working among the thousands of Gas victims, protesting the London Games Organisers link with Dow Chemicals.

Dow has bought US chemical firm Union Carbide, whose plant was responsible for gas tragedy that took place in Bhopal in 1984 killing and disabling thousands in one of worst Industrial disasters in recent history.

A false campaign has been launched by the DOW Chemical's saying that matter has been settled. It is not correct. "The case is still pending in the court and no final compensation has been made".

It is IOA's considered opinion that Dow Chemical's should be removed as the sponsors of the Games. Because the very presence of this company is against the spirit of the Olympic ideals" Even Britain's Shadow minister for Olympics Tessa Jowell, who was in Delhi last week had asked the Games organizers to drop DOW Chemical's as the sponsors.

IOA urges the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to urgently take this matter up with the organizers of the London Games and also convey our concerns to them and ensure matter is sorted out amicably keeping in view the sentiments of the millions of people.

Hoping to hear from you at the earliest.

With warm regards

Yours sincerely,

(VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA)

Copy for information and necessary action to:

Mr Sebastian Coe

Chairman

London Organizing Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games

London.