

Exhibition eSports Tournament Coming To Pragati Maidan

The event will run from February 2-5, 2017 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

- The event is free for all.
- The exhibition tournament will feature individual as well as team games.
- Games to be played include CS:GO, DOTA 2, Clash Royale, Street Fighter 6 and FIFA 17.
- Several popular teams and players are invited to take part in this 4-day event.

This February, the magnificent Pragati Maidan, will for the first time, witness an unconventional expo of sorts. Christened as the Indian Gaming Show (IGS) 2017, it is organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and is supported by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India. This exhibition is set to take place in the first week of February and aims at taking the Indian video game scene to the next level. This event not only serves as a platform for video game developers and console manufacturers but will also throw the spotlight on the other niches present within the video game realm. Of these, one is eSports. Competitive gaming, also known popularly as eSports is steadily changing the concept of modern entertainment globally.

Until now, eSports in India has been a hush-hush affair, but this year aims to be different as the Indian Gaming Show will host an exhibition eSports tournament. This is a multi-platform event and will feature both teams as well as individual games, thereby giving the audience an opportunity to experience the different flavours of competitive gaming at one venue. This token competition will feature the popular games namely Counter-Strike: Global Offensive (CS:GO), DOTA 2, Clash Royale, FIFA 17 and Street Fighter 6. To ensure that this event is a memorable one for both the enthusiasts as well as newcomers, some of the best teams and players in India are invited to participate in this 4-day event.

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Counter-Strike: Global Offensive and DOTA 2 are the team games to be played. CS:GO is the most popular online First Person Shooter (FPS) game. In this 5v5 player game, the teams play as either Counter-Terrorists or Terrorists. A typical game of competitive CS:GO lasts 30 rounds and the team's objective is to eliminate everyone from the rival team. For the first edition of IGS, some of the best names in Indian CS:GO are invited to participate. Of them, Team Brutality is the oldest and recognised team in India. Entity Esports and Invisible Wings are relatively new but stellar teams, who boast of highly skilled and young players such as Simar "-psy" Sethi, Tejas "Ace" Sawant, Anuj "Amaterasu" Sawant amongst others. On the other hand, Destructive 5 is a renegade team led by Ishpreet "Hunter" Singh Chada and is a feared dark horse at many events.

Similarly, DOTA 2 is another prominent 5v5 massive online battle arena (MOBA) game. In this game, a team selects a draft of 5 playable heroes from a vast pool of characters. Each hero has a unique ability and teams have to strategize accordingly. The objective of this game is to destroy the opposite team's main building also known as the Ancient. Entity Esports' DOTA 2 team is the major contender attending this event and they are a formidable team not only in the country but also the Indian subcontinent. Wipeout, XRG and Standin 5 are the other teams arriving, they have etched their names at different distinguished events around the country.

Moving on, the individual game category boasts of three games, namely Clash Royale, FIFA 17 and Street Fighter 6. Clash Royale is the card game spin-off of the popular SuperCell game, Clash of Clans. For this game arrives Mrinmoy "MRIN" Lakhar from Assam, who is coincidentally also the reigning champion of the recently concluded 2016 Masters of the ESL India Premiership. To contest his legacy comes Hari "THEROCKER1212" Santosh from Chennai, Aditya "Cipher" Kandele who hails from Delhi and Vivek "Acrid" Gore from Mumbai.

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FIFA 17 is a well-known football game developed by Electronic Arts. The players arriving for this category are the best of the best. Sujay S, Sitanshu Gala, Sudin Dinesh and Rohan Ranjan are the top 4 players from the Electronic Sports World Championship (ESWC), a globally recognised competition which is considered the video game equivalent of the Olympic Games.

Finally, Street Fighter 6 is the console fighting game developed by CAPCOM. As the name suggests, the objective of this game is to defeat the competitor in a fist fight! Adhitya Mahesh, Bharat Mahtani, Mayank Prajapati and Bhagwan Bhag will arrive at Delhi. These 4 are the well-known names in the Street Fighter circuit and some of them have secured top spots in the Indian Fighting Game Championship series.

This exhibition tournament aims to familiarise the visiting crowd with the concept of eSports. The games will be a Best of One, with the finale occurring on the last day of the event. However, eSports is not the only highlight at this expo, visitors can witness and experience events such as cosplay, product launches, exhibitions and multiple conferences over the first week of February. The Indian Gaming Show 2017 is scheduled to take place from February 2-5 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. Unlike other mainstream events, the Indian Gaming Show 2017 will not feature any entry ticket and this expo is open for all. So don't forget to mark up your calendars and not miss the opportunity to become a part of India's momentous step in revolutionising video games.

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