

City player selected for India's cricket team for physically challenged

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Indore: A specially-abled cricket player from the city has been selected for the Indian cricket team of physically challenged cricketers and will be playing against Bangladesh in his maiden international match from November 10 to 12.

Employed at IIT, Indore, 36-year-old Brajesh Dwivedi, has been selected for the first time after playing for Madhya Pradesh in many tournaments in the past. Dwivedi, who has been suffering from polio since birth, has kept his passion for cricket alive with his sheer dedication and also with the support of cricket society for spe-



Brajesh will play his first match against Bangladesh from Nov 10

cially-abled players. His interest towards cricket began at the age of six, and despite being affected by polio, Dwivedi has managed to hone his batting and bowling skills. "I have

always been very passionate and serious about cricket and have taken training from coaches, who taught me how to play despite my disability. It was really tough to learn how to bowl. But gradually I perfected my spin and took four wickets in my last match," Dwivedi said.

For batting, Dwivedi seeks help from runners and has perfected his strokes, which helped him secure 77 runs in his last tournament against Rajasthan team. For the upcoming tournament, Dwivedi will be playing in the T-20 format organised by the Physically Challenged Cricket Association of Bengal (PCCAB) along

with the Disabled Sporting Society.

His practice sessions are currently underway in full swing. "I practice regularly at IIT, GACC and Silver Springs grounds. At IIT's students help me in practicing," he added.

Another motivating factor for the player has been his brother, who also started playing with him, but due to financial constraints could not continue playing the sport. Dwivedi had to compromise on his passion when he was forced to take up employment at a private company after his job at the railways. However after joining IIT in 2014 when he came to Indore he started playing again.