

Illuri Ajay Kumar Reddy

Jury's Special recognition Award Sports - Male

The cricket field was and continues to be his world. At the tender age of four, an accidental fall at home after a power outage, turned into a tragedy of epic proportions. Little did he know that the darkness caused by the power cut would soon turn his world upside down. He became blind in one eye while the other suffered a serious infection causing partial impairment of vision.

Those around him felt defeated by the enormity of the situation, but the brave heart had unflinching faith in himself. Trusting his abilities, he forged ahead with the belief—where there is a will, there's a way!

After completing his 10th standard from Lutheran School for the Blind in Narasaopet of Guntur district, he pursued his passion in cricket, continuing his studies, all along. He took part in several regional and national cricket tournaments and made his debut in international cricket in 2010.

From being a top order batsman, right arm fast bowler and vice-captain of the Indian National blind cricket team, to donning the mantle of captaincy in 2016, he has been distinguishing himself each time he stepped out on to the cricket field.

He is Illuri Ajay Kumar Reddy who hails from a farmer's family in Gurajala of Guntur district. Ajay has faced the challenges thrown by life at him with grit and fortitude. While he has won Man of the Match award around 80 times, he has to his credit over 50 man of the series awards, as well. Ajay Kumar Reddy has single-handedly steered India to victory on several occasions. As captain of the Indian national blind cricket team, Ajay Kumar has demonstrated exceptional qualities of leadership by guiding India to victory in Asia Cup, 2nd T20 World Cup and 5th One day world cup. Sakshi takes pride in honouring Ajay Kumar Reddy with the Jury Special Recognition award in Men's sports category.