

# CHOLA'S GOT T★ALENT

**FEROZ MOHAMED**

A Swimming phenom  
eyeing for the  
World Aquatics  
Championship 2024



Meet Mr. Feroz Mohamed. He works as a Credit & Operations Executive in the Vehicle Finance Team. He is an excellent swimmer who already proved his mettle in various stages across India and continues to do so. Feroz is based out of Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu and his recent heroics at the National Masters Aquatic Championship caught our eye and we decided to have a conversation with him.

Here's how our delightful chat went.

## How did your love for Swimming begin?

I grew up in Kenya with my parents during my childhood days. Back there Swimming was an extra-curricular activity for me. I started swimming at the tender age of 3 and since then my passion for it only grew stronger and stronger. I really enjoyed being in the water and found my calling in it. After a few years, I came to Kanyakumari, the southern tip of the Indian mainland. That's when a swimming coach saw something in me and requested my father to allow me to join his team. I was in my 7th grade at that time and was all set to start my professional voyage in Swimming.

## From Kenya to Kanyakumari: How did you cope with the new set of challenges that awaited?

Tricky times to be honest. I did my practice in Kanyakumari for 3 years. Even though I did well in the southern regions of India, I couldn't



compete in the northern parts of India where temperatures could go down to 2 degrees. Also, there was a lot of room for improvement in my physique. While I was in the 10th grade, I was approached by a school in Chennai that offered me a seat with a sports scholarship. So, I joined them for my higher secondary education. I was also made the captain of my school team.

## You must have some memorable victories under your belt. What do you think is the most memorable of all?

Since my high school days, I have seen myself grow as an athlete. It is hard to handpick one. But I would say my performance at the National Masters Aquatic Championship is something I'm proud of. I won 2 Golds, a Silver, and a Bronze medal.

## What do you think is your biggest learning so far?



I always think sports has something to teach us every day. As a swimmer, I learned the value of discipline and work ethic and how it can do wonders. I embrace every opportunity to learn, keeping an open mind to gain wisdom from unexpected sources. You never know who can teach you what.

## What is something most people don't know about Swimming?

Every sport has its own set of difficulties. Swimming isn't an exception. It may look easy and chill from the outside but it involves so much physical strain on the body. At times, a swimmer's heartbeat can go up to 160 beats per minute. And then, there are skin issues and ear infections which are part and parcel of the sport.

Apart from the physical hardships, there is also a lack of infrastructure problem in many parts of our country. As a country of 1.4 billion people, we surely can do better. I would love to see more people taking up swimming as their hobby or career.

## Who inspires you the most?

My swimming coach Mr. Aazhivasan is my biggest inspiration. His selflessness is awe-inspiring and his encouragement fuels me to push ahead and explore newer boundaries. My parents and friends are also a vital part of my journey so far. They were always there when needed and supported me through my hardest phases.

## Would you like to share with us your future aspirations?

Yes, absolutely. Right now, my immediate focus is to perform well at the World Aquatics



Championship that is happening in Qatar coming February. I'm proud that I've been selected to represent India and looking to perform at my best. Apart from this, my long-term goal would be to open my own swimming club and support talented swimmers who are less fortunate economically.

As Feroz Mohamed embarks on his further aquatic adventures, Chola stands by him and supports him in every way possible.

**Keep up the good work. Chola is proud of you!**

