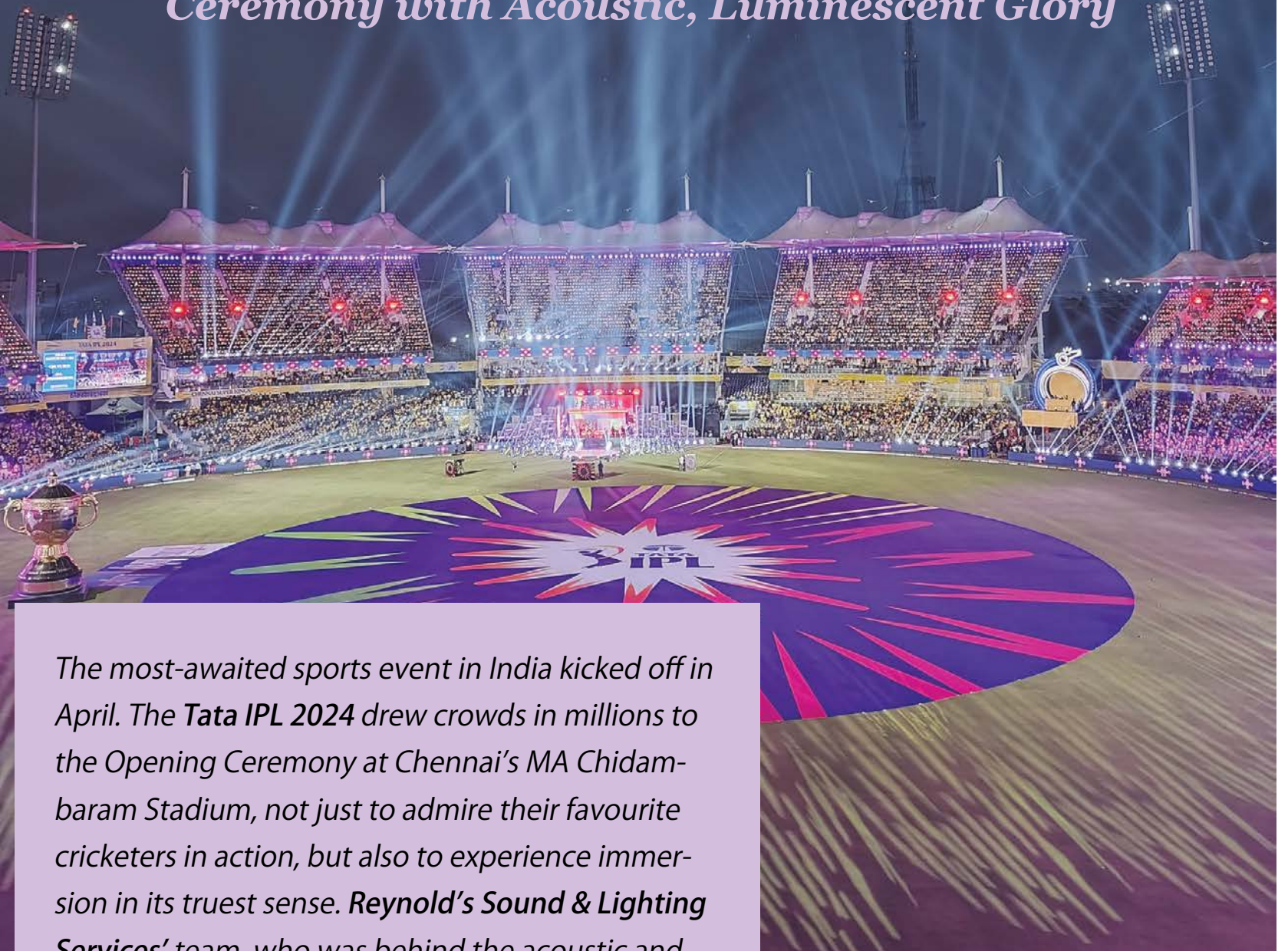


The Stage Is Set For A Dazzling, Resounding, & Grand Opening Ceremony

Reynold's Sound & Lighting Equips Tata IPL Opening Ceremony with Acoustic, Luminescent Glory



*The most-awaited sports event in India kicked off in April. The **Tata IPL 2024** drew crowds in millions to the Opening Ceremony at Chennai's MA Chidambaram Stadium, not just to admire their favourite cricketers in action, but also to experience immersion in its truest sense. **Reynold's Sound & Lighting Services'** team, who was behind the acoustic and lighting setup at Tata IPL 2024 Opening Ceremony, shares how they executed the project in the finest manner possible. **PALM Expo Magazine** reports.*

The **Tata IPL Opening Ceremony** took place at Chennai's MA Chidambaram Stadium on 22nd March, 2024. To say that the Indian Premier League is a much-awaited, extravagantly celebrated sports event in India would be an understatement. So, it comes as no surprise that the Tata IPL 2024's Opening Ceremony would be equally grandiose in nature. **Reynold's Sound**

& Lighting Services stepped up to the task of executing the Opening Ceremony's acoustic and visual ambience to perfection. PALM Expo Magazine, in a conversation with Reynold's Sound & Lighting Services' team, explores how India's biggest cricket league delivered an unforgettable opening ceremony.



Reynold's Sound & Lightig Services' team equipped the venue with audio equipment from d&b audiotechnik, Meyer Sound, Sennheiser, Shure, and DiGiCo

The Venue:

The venue for Tata IPL's Opening Ceremony is a cricket stadium with the Field of Play (FoP occupying a diameter of 76 meter). The seating for fans circumvented the FoP with the highest seat almost 40' (feet) from ground level.

Reynold's Sound & Lighting Services' Team elaborates on the client's - **ITW Playworkx Media & Entertainment** who managed the entire event management at Tata IPL Opening Ceremony - brief for audio and lighting deployment with respect to the venue, which demanded pristine audio for every seat and a lighting display that best suits the grandeur and scale of one of the world's premiere sporting events.

The team at Reynold's Sound & Light performed two recces weeks before the setup commenced. The team observed that the sheer enormity of the venue and catering to every seat in the stadium was the first challenge. Planning the deployment of cabling for the audio and lighting systems was the next challenge. We also had to rig lighting fixtures all around the venue without hindering sightlines and affecting the movement of fans to and from their seats. This also was the case for audio coverage for the stands behind the performance stage, for which the team used custom-designed stands for the point source speakers. These were placed on the galleries and firing up towards to highest seat.

The stage had to be compact and yet grand enough to accommodate artists of a high caliber like **AR Rahman, Sonu Nigam, Mohit Chauhan, Neeti Mohan, Akshay Kumar, Tiger Shroff,** and **DJ Axwell**, because it couldn't extend too much into the Field of Play (FoP). The team further decided that the stage will be multi-level with a ramp extending into the FoP.

The lights for Tata IPL's opening ceremony were designed by the Reynold's Team, led by Karthik, while **Rajesh Meiyathan** was the Mix Engineer and Amitesh was the Broadcast Engineer for the Tata IPL opening ceremony.



Reynold's team revealed that the subwoofer array and the controlled directivity of the d&b audiotechnik and Meyer Sound inventory deployed at the event ensured the fans got a great auditory experience. The deployment of the subwoofer array was such that low-frequency energy was steered away from the FoP and towards the galleries, ensuring the players weren't disturbed and the fans had a blast.

The Inventory:

For deploying audio at the Tata IPL opening ceremony, Reynold's Sound & Lighting Services' team used the following inventory:

- (a) **d&b Audiotechnik KSL** - Stadium Sound covering the galleries / audience seating. Deployed in stacks of 4-5 tops each
- (b) **d&b Audiotechnik XSL** - VIPs, Player dugouts, Madras Cricket Club
- (c) **d&b Audiotechnik SL**-Subs
- (d) **Meyer Sound 700 HP** - Both sets of subwoofers were designed to beam-steer sub frequencies into the stands and away from the pitch. It was a combination of using the cardioid SL-Subs coupled with an End-fired array of 700-HP
- (e) **Meyer Sound MSL4** - FoP fills, Sidefills, Backstage Gallery fills
- (f) **Meyer Sound MJF 212A** - Stage foldback
- (g) **Meyer Sound UPM-1P** and **UP-Junior** (For near-field monitoring) – Broadcast
- (i) **Sennheiser SR 2050 IEMs** for artists' monitoring
- (j) **Shure PSM900** for MC cue, stage management and tech

System alignment and control was achieved using an array of tools, likely the software and hardware that enabled wireless data and control to and from state-of-the-art DSP processors with numerous outputs and multiformat conversion possibilities.

All stage inputs and outputs were mixed using Digico SD5 and SD10 on Optocore.

For lighting, Reynold's Sound and Lighting Services installed a broad spectrum of around 2000 fixtures ranging from RGBW LED PARs, LED Battens, Moving Head Beams, Moving Head BSW, Moving Head Wash, Strobes RGBW, Moving Head LED Profiles (800w), Diamond Back Moving Battens, 2.5kW Follow Spot, Smoke & Haze Machines.

For system control and network, multiple instances of the following was used for control and signal distribution:

- a) **MA3 Full Size Console**
- b) **MA2 NPU**
- c) **MA3 Nodes**
- d) **MA Splitters**
- e) **Elation Artnet**
- f) **Cisco Switch**
- g) **NETGEAR ProAV SWITCH**
- h) **Fibre Optic Cables**

For lasers, the team used a mix of 60w and 40w RGB solid state lasers.

The Venue's Layout

Reynold's team revealed that the subwoofer array and the controlled directivity of the d&b audiotechnik and Meyer Sound inventory deployed at



The lighting for the performance stage was designed to have a combination of a floor package and only essential fixtures mounted on T-trusses

the event ensured the fans got a great auditory experience. The deployment of the subwoofer array was such that low-frequency energy was steered away from the FoP and towards the galleries, ensuring the players weren't disturbed and the fans had a blast.

Further, intelligent fixtures and powerful lasers were deployed strategically around the stadium to ensure the lighting display was nothing short of spectacular. To add to the visual experience, those who witnessed the televised broadcast were treated to a display of Augmented Reality, which added additional fixtures and virtual reality elements that elevated the opening ceremony experience to a whole new level.

For audio, PA positions and angles were determined using a combination of AutoCAD, SketchUp, d&b Array Calc and Meyer Sound MAPP XT.

Signal distribution to amplifiers and processors was achieved using the DANTE AoIP protocol. The team's custom-made HMA fiber breakouts (coined: DANTE Patch) allowed it to distribute signals over large distances that standard CAT6 cables would not be able to achieve. This also allowed for redundancy via a ring network topology.

Besides the performance stage, which had its own dedicated lighting inventory, the team had fixtures deployed in concentric rings as follows:

- Around the FoP i.e. along the circumference of the boundary on ground level
- Around the circumference of the first gallery which was at a height of about 30' from ground level
- Around the circumference and above the top row of seats, which was at a height of 50' from ground level

The lighting rig employed ArtNet via fiber for signal distribution. Cleverly positioned network switches equipped with 1G SFP modules, ArtNet Nodes and DMX splitters made signal distribution and commissioning the rig a breeze.

Heat, humidity, external noise, and the added challenge of ensuring that the system will sing over 30 thousand fans tooled with whistles, air horns, and

vocal cords that will not contain the excitement of a live IPL match had to be taken into consideration while deploying the sound and lighting at the site/venue.

To address these factors, setup schedules and work hours were carefully planned by the team. In addition, the team had four hours of curfew every evening during the team's practice sessions. No one was allowed to work on the FoP during this time, which really set the team back with meeting timelines. To combat this, they worked later into the night, besides it being cooler, the team was not constantly ducking for safety from flying projectiles in the form of cricket balls being smacked around the ground.

The brief given to the team was that the trusses, lighting, LED, the ramp and the entire performance stage had to be made invisible before the game. For this we had just 30 minutes. Meticulous planning was essential and it was imperative that all tech teams – audio, video, lighting, trussing and production teams worked as one cohesive unit.

The lighting for the performance stage was designed to have a combination of a floor package and only essential fixtures mounted on T-trusses. This enabled the team to tear down this rig very quickly. The production team did a great job of dismantling the stage ramp and draping the entire stage with black masking which was dropped from above at the height of the first gallery.

Final Feedback:

"We are extremely pleased with the exceptional work Reynolds did in providing the audio, lighting, and lasers for the grand opening ceremony of IPL 2024. The attention to detail and their ability to transform our vision into a stunning reality made the event truly spectacular. We look forward to collaborating with them on future projects and appreciate their dedication to excellence. Thank you, Reynolds, for helping make this a memorable event!", shared **Manish Puri**, Director of ITW Playworx Media & Entertainment Pvt. Ltd, praising Reynold's Sound & Lighting Services' successful completion of the audio and lighting deployment.

For the Reynold's Sound & Lighting Services too, working on Tata IPL's opening ceremony was a great collective experience. The team gained a lot from this experience and concluded that they look forward to adding greater value at many such collaborations in the near future. With strategic investments in technology and teamwork, the team is confident of helping bridge the gap between art, science, technology and entertainment in the industry.

Book your slot in PALM AV-ICN Annual Planner Calendar:

Why not to miss:

- **High-utility tool for pro audio and AV professionals, assisting with brand visibility.**
- **Grabs attention of studios, event companies, and AV consultants for noting important dates and global expos.**
- **Advertisers' backlinks are featured on the digital calendar, which will be available on our website for one year.**

Contact us to reserve your space now:

Smita Rai | smita.rai@hyve.group

Vartika Singh | vartika.singh@hyve.group