

*Turf 2015-16, 7<sup>th</sup> Global Sports Summit gets under way*  
**Sports Infrastructure to get ‘industry’ status; will boost corporate interest in building sporting facilities: Sports Secretary**  
**Kapil Dev calls for earmarking 40% of school land for play grounds**

**NEW DELHI, February 22, 2016.** In a bid to scale up the availability and accessibility of sporting facilities in the country, the Government has decided to confer ‘industry’ status to sports infrastructure. The move has been hailed by sporting community and administrators as it will enable corporates to avail of concessional finance for creation of sports infrastructure on a par with international standards.

This was disclosed here on Monday by **Mr. Rajiv Yadav, Secretary, Sports, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports**, while addressing ‘*Turf 2015-16*’, the seventh edition *Global Sports Summit*, organized by the **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) with the support of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India**.

Mr. Yadav said that there was a dire need to increase the budgetary support to the Sports Ministry to enable it to enhance the allocation of funds to upgrade up sports development in the country, especially in small towns and district level towns. The Union Government’s budget for sports was a measly Rs 835 crore, he said, adding that the Government of Gujarat alone had a budget of Rs 350 crore.

He urged the FICCI Sports Committee to make a strong pitch to the Finance Minister to raise the allocation for sports in the ensuing budget.

Mr. Yadav said that planning for sports required enlargement of the catchment area for spotting and grooming talent. In this context, he said that his ministry was inspired by the sports ‘*khel mahakumbh*’ organized annually by the Government of Gujarat. It had therefore decided to scale up the National School Games beginning from the fiscal year 2016-17.

**Mr. Kapil Dev, former Captain of the Indian cricket team**, pointed out that the onus of providing playgrounds in schools rested with the Government and recommended at 40% of the land for schools should be earmarked for play grounds. He also underlined to need to reduce customs duties on sporting equipment to enable import and provide top quality sporting gear to sports persons.

**Mr. Nitin Kukreja, Chairman, FICCI Sports Committee and President & Head-Sports, Star India**, said there is a need to first recognize the importance of sport for our country, second, nurture the economic opportunity that the various leagues and events have thrown up and finally, get India to play through providing access to facilities that we already have and by making sport a compulsory part of school curriculum – and match all of this with an ambition.

**Dr. Arbind Prasad, Director General, FICCI**, said that for making India a sporting nation, there is a need for parallel sports both for excellence and grassroots development. FICCI, he said has been proactive in suggesting policy formulation and was working closely with the Sports Ministry and the Sports Authority of India on policy interventions to achieve sports objectives.

“We should compare the sports budget of our country with other countries which are leading in sports and give financial security to sports persons to bring about a visible change,” he said.

**Mr. Bhupesh Kumar, Co-Chairman, FICCI Sports Committee and Senior Vice-President, Aon Global,** delivered a vote of thanks.

## **FICCI MEDIA DIVISION**