# Game Changer For Sports Economy

## TOI's SFI Expo 2026: Three-Day Exhibition Brings Together Policymakers, Industry Leaders, Athletes & Innovators As Discussions Centre On Sports Infrastructure, Manufacturing, Fitness & Technology, Amdavad 2030 CWG & 2036 Olympic Games Hopes

TIMES NEWS NETWORK






Pix: Piyal Bhattacharjee

Delhi's sports minister Ashish Sood (from left), Union sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini, Haryana's youth empowerment and entrepreneurship minister Gaurav Gautam and Jalaj Dani, founder and sponsor, Asiana AIF and president, Sportscom participate in the ceremonial lamp lighting at **TOI's** SFI Expo 2026 on Thursday. Children (above) play blindfold chess at the event

**New Delhi:** The inaugural edition of the Times of India's Sports, Fitness and Infrastructure (SFI) Expo 2026 opened at Bharat Mandapam on Thursday, marking the launch of a first-of-its-kind business-to-business platform dedicated to India's growing sports economy. Supported by the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) and the Sports Authority of India (SAI), the three-day event has brought together govt representatives, sports administrators, industry leaders, investors, manufacturers, architects, technology companies and athletes to discuss the future of sports, fitness and infrastructure in the country.

The conference hall remained packed through the inaugural session as delegates listened to keynote addresses outlining the opportunities and challenges before India's rapidly expanding sports ecosystem. On the exhibition floor, visitors thronged stalls showcasing the latest products and services in sports infrastructure, fitness, rehabilitation, analytics, manufacturing, artificial intelligence and sports technology.

With more than 200 exhibitors from over 10 countries and 1,000-plus products and services on display, the Expo seeks to promote collaboration across govt, industry and sporting bodies while encouraging investment in infrastructure, innovation and athlete development. The event assumes added significance as India strengthens preparations for the 2030 Commonwealth Games and pursues its bid to host the 2036 Olympic Games.

The inaugural session featured Union sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Haryana chief minister Nayab Singh Saini, Delhi sports minister Ashish Sood, Bihar sports minister Shreyasi Singh and Jalaj Dani, founder and sponsor, Asiana AIF and president, Sportscom.

Delivering the keynote address, Mandaviya said India's sporting culture has undergone a significant transformation over the years. "For generations, our society was guided by the saying, *'Khelege koodoge toh hoge kharab, padhoge likhoge toh banoge nawab.'* Today, we have transformed that thinking into *'khelo bhi, padho bhi'*. We now recognise that athletic pursuit and physical well-being are just as important as academic learning," Mandaviya said.

Highlighting the govt's emphasis on fitness, he said initiatives such as Fit India and Sunday Cycling are helping integrate physical activity into everyday life. "A healthy population forms the backbone of a prosperous nation. Fit India and grassroots movements like Sunday Cycling reflect our commitment to making movement and wellness a part of daily life," he said.

Mandaviya also said the Centre is working on a dedicated sports goods manufacturing policy, backed by an initial Rs 500 crore commitment, to strengthen domestic manufacturing and reduce import dependence. He added that India has set long-term targets of becoming one of the world's top sporting nations while building capabilities required for hosting major international events.

"We have set clear milestones to position India among the top 10 sporting nations by 2036 — as we prepare our bid to host the 2036 Olympics — and among the top 5 by 2047, celebrating our nation's centenary of independence. Our athletes' impressive performances on international stages, such as the Glasgow CWG, prove that world-class talent is emerging across every discipline," he said.

Nayab Singh Saini described the Expo as more than an exhibition. "This is a festival of dreams and a celebration of the strength and potential of our youth," Saini said, adding that sports have evolved into an instrument of fitness, discipline and nation building.

The chief minister highlighted Haryana's sports ecosystem, including investments in infrastructure, sports nurseries, scholarships, academies, rehabilitation facilities and financial incentives for medal winners. He said the state's focus has been on providing athletes with coaching, infrastructure and career support from an early age.

"We don't just talk; we provide resources. When our athletes win a gold medal at the Olympics, Asian Games or CWG, the Haryana govt awards them cash prizes of up to Rs 6 crore. In the last 12 years, we have directly transferred Rs 730 crore into the bank accounts of 17,182 athletes.

"Our govt has also decided to support our youth right from the age of 8. Children aged 8 to 14 who train in our sports nurseries receive a monthly scholarship of Rs 1,500 and youth aged 15-19 receive Rs 2,000 per month," he said.

Speaking on Delhi's vision for sports development, Ashish Sood said sports must be viewed as a major economic sector. "When we talk about sports, the conversation usually revolves around medals and podium finishes. But we also need to focus on the architecture, economics, science and engineering behind those achievements. Sports is no longer just recreation; it is a powerful economic engine," Sood said.

He outlined Delhi's strategy around expanding grassroots infrastructure, integrating sports into education and developing sustainable, technology-driven sports venues capable of delivering long-term value. Shreyasi Singh, on her part, said sport should reach every household not only as a competitive pursuit but also as a means of promoting fitness and healthier lifestyles.

She highlighted Bihar's newly-launched sports policy and said the state is strengthening its sporting ecosystem through institutional reforms and infrastructure development. Drawing from her own experience as an Olympian, Shreyasi said Bihar aims to become a stronger contributor to India's sporting success in the years ahead while inviting industry stakeholders to invest in the state's sports and industrial sectors.

Calling for closer collaboration between industry and govt, Jalaj Dani said India must strengthen manufacturing quality and certification standards if domestically produced sports equipment is to gain wider international acceptance.

He urged corporates to invest in sports through CSR initiatives, support Centres of Excellence and encourage the adoption of sports science, quality testing and coach education. "Fit India is not just a slogan. It has to become a way of life," Dani said.

"The ministers here have many ideas for setting up centers of excellence, but if we as corporates can adopt a 'One Corporate, One Sport' philosophy and support such centres, it would make a difference. We have seen that investment is needed in coaching and there is a strong need for capacity building. There is a need to incorporate sports science and medicine into training programs so that injuries are reduced, and even if athletes get injured, they can recover faster. So, for all these initiatives, I request all the corporates present here to participate wholeheartedly, which will benefit everyone," he added. Over the next three days, the Expo will host discussions on sports infrastructure, manufacturing, investment, artificial intelligence, sports science, data analytics and innovation.




**To register,** please visit www.toisfiexpo.com

### EXPO AT A GLANCE

**Venue:** Hall 14, Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

**Dates:** July 30-August 1, 2026

**Organiser: The Times of India**

**Supported by:** Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MYAS) and Sports Authority of India (SAI)

**SCALE**

**200+** exhibitors

**10+** participating countries

**1,000+** products & services

3-day B2B exhibition and conference

**FOCUS AREAS**

Sports infrastructure, sports technology & AI, fitness & wellness, manufacturing sports science, analytics, sports services & athlete development.

> **Globally, average gym participation sits around 3.5%, with developed markets reaching 25% in the United States and 17% in the United Kingdom. In contrast, India's current fitness penetration stands at 0.8%. With our domestic sports and fitness market already valued at approximately Rs.1.3 lakh crore, this gap highlights the massive untapped potential."**
> **—Mansukh Mandaviya**

"Fitness, sports and infrastructure represent the vision of a New India. Sports do not just bring medals; they teach discipline, self-confidence, good health and national pride."
**—Nayab Singh Saini**

**"PLAYGROUNDS ARE THE MOST EFFECTIVE LABORATORIES FOR CHARACTER, DISCIPLINE AND RESILIENCE. THE GOVT OF DELHI WANTS TO BE AN ACTIVE CO-CREATOR IN THE SPORTS ECONOMY."**
**—Ashish Sood**

"Sports should reach every household, not only as a pathway to medals but also as a means of fitness. With Bihar's first sports policy now in place, the state is committed to becoming a stronger contributor to India's sporting future."
**—Shreyasi Singh**

# Hockey jersey goes from blue to saffron

Manuja.Veerappa
@timesofindia.com




India's new hockey jersey

**Bengaluru:** Indian hockey has changed its colours. Gone is our legacy blue, a norm since 1926, a shade instantly identified with the country's stickmen and women, now consigned to the dustbin of hockey. Instead, in its place, starting from the FIH World Cup in Belgium and the Netherlands in a fortnight's time, the teams will be seen in saffron-coloured jerseys. The changed kits began arriving at the national camps here last week.

It is a pass from the deep that has sparked outrage from former players, hockey lovers and people across society. As the visuals of the new jerseys were released earlier this week, it blew up social media. Hockey India (HI) scampered into damage control mode, claiming that the blue was being discarded since it clashed with the colour of the turf and hampered visibility. Blue-coloured turfs have been in practice for 14 years now.

"The decision was taken collectively by the players and coaches after we felt the blue jersey blended with the blue turf, making visibility difficult at times," men's team skipper Harmanpreet Singh told **TOI**.

Meanwhile, a few players **TOI** spoke to said there was no team meeting held to discuss the colour of the jersey, and they realised the colour change only when their kits arrived. Past masters who have donned the blue with pride are hurt by the decision.

Vasudevan Baskaran, the captain of the 1980 Moscow Olympics gold-winning team, said, "This entire generation has grown up playing on blue turf; have they suddenly gone colour blind? It is a colour we identify with when we say an India jersey. Why change it now? It is shameful." Former India captain Viren Rasquinha was among the first to react, posting, "This is embarrassing. The legacy and identity of the Indian team has always been blue. I wore the blue jersey with pride for many years. Fans want to see our Indian team in blue. What is the logic of orange?"

# Vini's Brazil to play India in Kol on Oct 3

Marcus.Mergulhao
@timesofindia.com

**Panaji:** After Pele and Lionel Messi, Kolkata will roll out the red carpet for Brazil as the five-time world champions arrive in India later this year for a friendly against the national football team. The friendly at the Vivekananda Yuva Bharati Krirangan on Oct 3 is part of Brazil's Asia Tour, their first in over two decades. As part of the tour, football's most decorated nation will play two games against Australia on Sept 25 and Sept 29, before they arrive in India.

India – now ranked a poor 138 — have in the past played powerhouses like France (1948 Olympics), Yugoslavia (1952 Olympics) and Argentina (1984 Nehru Cup). For the first time, however, the country will be up against a side that is currently ranked among the top five in the world and often referred to as *'O Pais do Futebol'* or the country of football. No wonder the organisers are keen to dub this as the biggest match in South Asian football history. "To welcome a team of Brazil's stature to our country is an extraordinary moment and one that will undoubtedly become a landmark chapter in the history of Indian football," said All India Football Federation (AIFF) deputy secretary general M Satyanarayan.

The Brazil football federation (CBF) has signed a letter of intent with the AIFF through Best11Group, an international sports consultancy firm.


**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

**See Section 82 Cr.P.C.**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused persons, **Vinay Vishal, S/o** Prem Nadan Shahi, **R/o** 307, Nipun Towers, Plot No-15, Community Center Karkardoma, Delhi, **Also At:** A-26, Sec-49, Noida, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **CC No: 2422/20, U/s: 138 NI Act,** registered at **P.S.: Prashant Vihar, Delhi,** and the warrant has been returned writing upon that the said accused person, **Vinay Vishal,** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person, **Vinay Vishal,** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person, **Vinay Vishal, CC No:2422/20, U/s: 138 NI Act,** registered at **P.S.: Prashant Vihar, Delhi,** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **10.09.2026.**

**By Order**
**Ms Divya Shree Raina**
**Judicial Magistrate First Class-04**
**Room No.14, North,**
**Rohini Court, Delhi**

DP/10505/RD/2026
(Court Matter)



**SEARCH FOR MISSING MALE**



K. Dhruv

General Public is hereby informed that one male (depicted in the photo) namely K. Dhruv **S/o** K. Ashok Rao **R/o** Flat No.9, 2nd Floor, Anil Lohiya Appartment, Ghitorni, New Delhi **Aged**-32 Years has been reported missing since 04.07.2026 at about 9:15 PM from Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi vide **DD No.46A Dated 05.07.2026** registered at Police Station Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

**Complexion:** Fair, **Height:** 5'11", **Face:** Oval, **Built:** Thin, **Clothing:** Black Coloured Pant and Gray Coloured Full Sleeves Shirt and Slipper in feet.

If anyone gets any information or clue about the missing male, please contact the below mentioned :-

SHO, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi
Tel.: 011-24106346, 24106345
7065036231

**E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in**
**Website: http://cbi.nic.in**
**Fax: 24368639**
**Tel.: 24368638/24368641**

DP/9563/SW/2026



**DIRECTORATE OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING, PUNJAB.**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is hereby notified for the Kashmiri Migrants and Kashmiri Pandit/Kashmiri Hindu Families (Non-Migrants) living in Kashmir valley that the Department of Technical Education and Industrial Training, Government of Punjab, after considering the guidelines issued by All India Council for Technical Education -and Ministry of Human Resources Development (Now Ministry of Education) has reserved one seat in each Engineering/MBA/MCA/Hotel Management and Catering Technology courses in Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology, Patiala, Punjabi University, Patiala, Engineering Colleges and Polytechnic Colleges of the State for admission of wards of Kashmiri Migrants and Kashmiri Pandit/Kashmiri Hindu Families (Non-Migrants) residing in Kashmir Valley for the academic session 2026-27.

The counselling of the candidates shall be held on 13.08.2026 at 11:00 A.M. in the Committee Room of Directorate of Technical Education and Industrial Training, Punjab, Plot no.1, Sector 36-A, Chandigarh. The complete application should reach the office of the Director, Technical Education and Industrial Training, Punjab, Room no. 208, Plot no. 1, Sector 36A, Chandigarh on or before 10.08.2026 by 5:00 PM. Further details regarding the courses admission - guidelines and the prescribed application proforma are available on the Directorate's website www.dte.punjab.gov.in

**-sd-**
**Director, Technical Education and Industrial Training, Punjab, Chandigarh**

DPR/Pb.:1047/12/2026-27/13838



**RENOVATION OF POWER HOUSE OF STPS**

WBPDCL Govt. & Co.
U40104WB1985SGC039154

**Notice Inviting E-Tender**
**Ref No. WBPDCL/Tend-Adv/26-27/STPS/CC-5882 Dtd: 28/07/26**
**NIT No: WBPDCL/STPS/NIT/E4437/26-27/713178**

E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtenders.gov.in by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for **"Renovation of Power House of STPS". Tender Document Download Start Date:** 27-07-2026, 03:00 PM., **Bid Submission End Date:** 19-08-2026, 03:00 PM. **Contact Person:** Mr. G. C. Maji, AGM (M&C), STPS. **Contact No.:** 8336903939. **E-mail:** gcmaji@wbpdcl.co.in.
For details please visit: **https://wbtenders.gov.in** ICA-T13833(3)/2026



**DIRECTORATE**
**Uttarakhand Agriculture Produce Marketing Board**
**Mandi Bhawan, Rudrapur (U.S.Nagar)**
Ph:05944-250056
Fax:05944-50099

U.K.A.P.M.B/2026-1051 Date: 29/07/2026

**Public Information**

Uttarakhand Agriculture Produce Marketing Board, Rudrapur is Inviting Land located in Ramnagar has Already Published information to be given on lease rent.

Applying process and other related information and conditions may be seen on https://www.procfox.com from 30.07.2026 on 12:00 noon to 13.08.2026 till 5:00 pm.

Interested persons and firms may visit at https://www.procfox.com for further necessary action.

**General Manager (Finance)**



**MANAPPURAM FINANCE LTD.**
CIN : L65910KL1992PLC006623
Registered Office: IV - 4/ 6364, Manappuram House, P.O. Valapad, Thrissur - 680 567, Kerala, India

**GOLD AUCTION NOTICE**

The pledges, in specific and the public, in general, are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted at the following branches on 17/08/2026 from 10.00 am onwards. We are auctioning gold ornaments defaulted customers who have failed to make payment of his/her loan amount despite being notified by registered letters. Unauctioned items shall be auctioned on any other days without further notice. Changes in venue or date (if any)will be displayed at auction centre and on website without any further notice.

List of pledges:-

HANUMANGARH, BABA SHYAM SINGH COLONY, 0117270700058262, 8312, 8491, 8725, 8995, 9977, 0170, 0482, 0578, 0759, 1078, 1079, 1140, 1145, 2742, 2743, 0117270730040138, 1511, 1742, 2450, 5241, 6284, 6522, 6587, 6665, 6666, 1203, 1377, 1384, 1385, 1386, 1422, 1593, 9229, BUS STAND GATE HANUMANGARH, 0117320700029485, 9868, 0269, 0300, 0402, 0417, 0437, 0696, 0863, 0879, 0117320730021128, 2076, 2447, 2819, 3809, 3990, 7098, 7099, NOHAR,RAJASTHAN, 0135640700027227, 7328, 7382, 7805, 7953, 8179, 8198, 8404, 8562, 8678, 8692, 8789, 9041, 9122, 9201, 9284, 9368, 9472, 9589, 9689, 9725, 0559, 0571, 0605, 0752, 0924, 0954, 1039, 1042, 2533, 0135640730050419, 1725, 1753, 1825, 2327, 2547, 2839, 3081, 3841, 4048, 4997, 5581, 6505, 7149, 7194, 7689, 7692, 7703, 9560, 0380, 0651, 0676, 0744, 0756, 0989, 1053, 1067, 1234, 1243, 1253, 1263, 1266, PILANI,RAJASTHAN, 0135490700015408, 5515, 5532, 5553, 5804, 5895, 6103, 6181, 6208, 6289, 6569, 6576, 6585, 6615, 6689, 6807, 6811, 6956, 6993, 7152, 7206, 7234, 7245, 0135490730046034, 7063, 8765, 8875, 8877, 8992, 9070, 9113, 9136, 9152, 9219, 9349, 9631, 9722, 9951, 0126, 0175, 0235, 0249, 0384, 0394, 0485, 0583, 0594, 0655, 0663, 1080, 1096, 1279, 1709, 2728, 2729, 2897, 2913, 2933, 0254, 0257, 0258, 0261, 0262, 0263, 0264, 0265, 0268, 0269, 0270, 0272, 0273, 0276, 0282, 0283, 0290,

Persons wishing to participate in the above auction shall comply with the following:- Interested Bidders should submit Rs. 10,000/- as EMD (refundable to unsuccessful bidders) by way of NEFT/RTGS on the same day of auction. Bidders should carry valid ID card/PAN card. For more details please contact 9072607147.

Authorised Officer
For Manappuram Finance Ltd



**SEARCH FOR MISSING**



General public is hereby informed that a male namely **Vicky, S/o: Parkash Shah, R/o: 15-B Gupta Niwas, Kewal Park Extn. Delhi has been missing since 27.07.2026 at 3:00 PM from his home.** In this regard **DD No. 99A, Dated 28.07.2026, has been registered at P.S. Adarsh Nagar, Delhi.** The description of missing male is as under:

**Name: Vicky, Age: 36 Years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing: Pink Colour T-Shirt & Green Colour Pant & Green Colour Slippers in his feet.**

If anyone have any information about this missing male please inform P.S. **Adarsh Nagar,** Delhi.

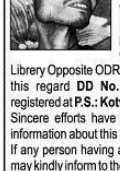
**Web: http://cbi.nic.in, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in**
**Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639**

**SHO**
**Police Station Adarsh Nagar, Delhi**
**Ph: 9211960835, 8750870229**

DP/10492/NW/2026



**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**



General public is hereby informed that this Person **Named:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 30-35 Year, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5 Feet 6 Inch, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Wearing :** Blue Colour Sando Baniyan & Black Colour Pant, **Place of Recovery:** The body of this person has found in front of Chandani Chowk Metro Gate No.2, Delhi Public Librery Opposite ODRS Shyama Prasad Mukherji Marg, Delhi. In this regard **DD No. 104A, Dated: 24.07.2026,** has been registered at **P.S.: Kotwali, Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. If any person having any information or clue about this person, may kindly inform to the following.

**SHO**
**P.S.: Kotwali, Delhi.**
**Ph.: 8750870121, 8076353716**

DP/10537/N/2026



# TENDER NOTICE

Delhi Pollution Control Committee invites open e-tenders for Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station (CAAQMS) 13 nos. with 10 Years of Operation and Maintenance. Details of the equipment, required specifications, Eligibility and Pre-Qualifications to bid and instructions are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from **http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in** and DPCC website **http://dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in.**

**Member Secretary**
**Delhi Pollution Control Committee**