



Reactions on Budget

SPORTS & Youth Affairs 2014-15

Main Announcements:

The Plan and Non-Plan outlay budget allocations to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports are INR 1643.00 crore and INR 126 Crore respectively which saw a rise of INR 561 crore a 46.5% hike.

- Proposed to set up National Sports Academy for different sports.
- Announcement of Rs.200 cr set aside for up gradation of indoor and outdoor stadium in Jammu and Kashmir to international standards
- Sports University to be set up in Manipur; Rs.100 cr provided in current financial year
- Sum of Rs 100 crore to train women and men in the forthcoming CWG and Asian games
- National sports foundations to be set up for disciplines like shooting, wrestling and boxing.
- Propose to set up the Centre for Disability Sports.
- Academies with international level facilities for training of accomplished athletes and for nurturing best talent in the country at junior and sub-junior level will also be set up for Shooting, Archery, Boxing, Wrestling, Weightlifting and various Track and field events.
- Propose to prescribe a concessional excise duty of 2 percent without Cenvat benefit and 6 percent with Cenvat benefit on sports gloves.
- Propose to start an annual event to promote Unique sports traditions in the Himalayan region and would invite countries such as Nepal and Bhutan also to participate in addition to the Indian states such as J&K, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and the North Eastern States.
- Budget allocation for the Sports Authority of India (SAI), which is the nodal agency for sports in the country. SAI has been allocated INR 400 crore
- Allocation for anti-doping activities is INR 11.6 Crore Out of this, National Dope Test Laboratory will get INR 9 crore.
- Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan - has been massively slashed from INR 100 crore to Rs20 crore for this year.
- A “Young Leaders Programme” with an initial allocation of ` 100 crore to be set up

- Fund of Funds with a corpus of 10,000 crore for providing equity through venture capital funds, quasi equity, soft loans and other risk capital specially to encourage new startups by youth to be set up.

FICCI's View:

FICCI welcomes the setting up of national sports academy which will help in excellence in sports and especially elite sports. These academies will not only focus on the senior's team but also train juniors and sub-juniors team for the long term development.

Special focus in Manipur opens the gateway to north-east in sports and will further help in creating Sports and Physical Education expertise. Manipur has been scouting ground for the Indian sports especially in Martial arts, Archery and Boxing. It may be recall that Manipur was ranked no. 2 state in the overall performance in the sports by the FICCI study report in 2012.

Similarly, proposal to set up the world class art sports infrastructure in Jammu & Kashmir will cover the untapped areas for sports performance in Himalayan region. These infrastructures would also help in making our Winter Sports team.

Budgeting for the training of CWG and Asian Games athlete may not be as helpful at these moments as the time is very short.

Unmet demands and any further demand related to the sector/ Reactions

- Our demands and expectations were not met, unfortunately, we did not hear anything about these critical issues:
 - **Industry status to Sports Sector.**
 - Government had set up a high power committee last year under chairmanship of DG, Sports Authority of India for granting Industry status to the sports sector. We were looking forward to this. Unfortunately it has not been granted when it is the need of the hour. Corporate India want to invest in sports provided it gets loan benefits and subsidies like other priority sectors. It is important to define sports as an industry coupled with Infrastructure/ FDI policy for defining private sector participation which is absent as of now.

- **Rationalization of Custom Duties.**
 - Besides, we were also expecting rationalization of custom duties for sports goods manufacturers and retailers. This could have given impetus to sports manufacturing industry. We again demand a clear cut definition for sports goods and equipments as the import of most sports equipment, although distinct, is usually confused with machinery imports making it financially unviable to sustain for businesses.
- **Priority Sector**
 - Sports should be declared as one of the priority sector for its positive benefits in making a country a healthier and fitter nation and for its role in promoting economic growth.
- **Separate Fund allocations of budget for OPEX games.**
 - However, Specialize academies and Sports foundation have been announced by the Govt. but to enlarge scope of sports performance in other sports, Separate fund allocation required for OPEX games.
- **Unfortunately overall Grassroots Development in Sports has been totally ignored.**

FICCI Wish list for the Sector/ Expectations

Allocations

- Budget allocation on youth affairs and sports should be increased to at least 2% of GDP which is not even 1% as of now.
- Separate allocation of budget for OPEX and Martial Arts Sports like Wrestling, Boxing, Archery and Judo where chances of excellence at international level are higher.

Macro level announcements

- Industry and infrastructure status to sports and physical education industry including clear definition of sports industry.
- Sports should be brought to concurrent list.
- An autonomous All India level Sports and Physical Education Council should be setup on the lines of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, Medical Council of India and Bar Council of India.

Tax issues

- There should be rationalisation of Service Tax, customs and excise duties for sports goods manufacturers and retailers and academicians.