

## **SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA**

### **Press Release**

#### **SAI and AIFF join hands for football excellence**

**New Delhi, 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2015:** Sports Authority of India (SAI) and All India Football Federation (AIFF) signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding in the presence of the Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports, Sh. Sarbananda Sonowal on June 11, 2015.

The MOU creates a detailed roadmap for close partnership between the AIFF and the Government of India, whilst working for the development of Football and extending the outreach of the sport in India. It outlines the basic framework of cooperation which spreading across the strands of coach education, talent identification, talent development and optimal utilization of infrastructure.

The Union Minister of State-Independent Charge for Youth Affairs & Sports, Sh. Sarbananda Sonowal pronounced the signing of the agreement as a significant step in the development of Football. “It is an important occasion for Indian Football and it is a matter of great pride that the SAI is entering into collaboration with the AIFF”, he said.

The collaboration will be mutually beneficial for both parties, as it focuses on Coach Education, talent development and talent identification, which will be an optimal progression for Indian Football in the coming future.

“The relationship between SAI and AIFF goes beyond giving grants. And will focus on the development of Football from the Grassroots”, expressed Injeti Srinivas, DG Sports Authority of India.

“It is imperative to develop quality infrastructure and quality training and coaching methods for the rapid progress of the National Team. And for this the inception of training centers will be witnessed shortly”, he opined.

Speaking on the occasion, The AIFF General Secretary, Sh. Kushal Das said that is was imperative for the government and federations to work in partnerships to fully develop sport in the country.

One SAI stadium and a few SAI training sites have already been provisionally approved for use during the FIFA U-17 World Cup to be held in India in 2017.

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