

PRESS RELEASE

New Delhi: 24th November, 2015: SAI and Pullela Gopichand Badminton Foundation (PGBF) have joined hands today to establish a **SAI Gopichand National Badminton Academy** at Gachibowli, Hyderabad. A Memorandum of Understanding for this purpose has been signed today in the presence of Director General, SAI.

The Academy is being established for optional utilization of the facilities being developed with National Sports Development Fund assistance at PGBF. SAI shall also utilise the facilities at the Academy for national training camps, competitions, etc.

The Academy will select 50 players in a nation-wide talent search scheme for induction in the age group of 11 to 14 years. SAI will depute Coaches from SAI and other Government Organisations like Railways, Oil & Natural Gas (ONGC) and other Central Government or State PSUs.

Shri Injeti Srinivas, Director General, SAI, welcomed this joint initiative and stated that it would serve as a role model to professionalize sports coaching in the country. Shri Pullela Gopichand expressed great satisfaction that this could help in institutionalizing the present collaboration between SAI and his own efforts as a promoter of the sport. The BAI will be closely involved in the academy.
