

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 3040
ANSWERED ON-13/08/2026

PROMOTION OF FOOTBALL

3040 SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has formulated a long-term strategic blueprint to help India qualify for FIFA World Cup and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Ministry has conducted any assessment regarding the potential financial and macroeconomic benefits of a thriving football industry in India, particularly in terms of job creation, sports tourism and domestic manufacturing of sports goods;
- (c) the State-wise details of dedicated football academies currently recognised and funded by the Sports Authority of India (SAI); and
- (d) the concrete steps taken by Government to promote grassroots football development across the country, particularly in non-traditional States, during the last three years?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
(DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)

- (a) The primary responsibility for the development and promotion of a specific sports discipline rests with the concerned recognized National Sports Federation (NSF), which in the case of football is the All India Football Federation (AIFF). The Government supplements the efforts of the NSFs, including the AIFF through its various schemes. Further, participation of a country's football team in the FIFA World Cup is subject to qualification in accordance with the criteria prescribed by FIFA. AIFF on its website <https://www.the-aiff.com/> has published its Vision 2047 – The Indian Football Strategic Roadmap (2023–2047) outlining its long-term strategy for the development of football in India.
- (b) Football is one of the popular sports in the country and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, All India Football Federation and other concerned stakeholders recognize football not just

as a sporting discipline, but as a multi-faceted sector capable of generating employment, boosting tourism, and accelerating domestic sports goods manufacturing.

The transition from amateur/semi-professional football to structured leagues has increased demand for jobs across coaching, sports medicine, broadcast, venue management etc.

Football has emerged as a driver for both domestic inter-state travel and international sports travel. India's successful hosting of major events such as the FIFA U-17 Men's World Cup in 2017, FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in 2022, and the AFC Women's Asian Cup in (2022) have placed cities where the matches were played on the sports tourism map.

Further, taking note of importance of promotion indigenous manufacturing technology and services in the sports sector in alignment with the national "Make in India" initiative and the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat, the Ministry has asked all National Sports Federations including AIFF in January 2026 for constituting of a "Committees on Make in India in Sports" within their respective organisations. The Committee is, inter alia, entrusted with identifying areas in the respective sport where indigenous equipment, technology, apparel and support services can be adopted or scaled up, in conformity with international standards, to advance the objectives of "Make in India" initiative and the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

(c) Football is one of the priority disciplines supported under various sports promotional schemes of the Sports Authority of India (SAI), including National Centres of Excellence (NCOEs), SAI Training Centres (STCs), and Extension Centres of STCs, where football training is imparted to identified athletes. In addition, 25 Khelo India Accredited Academies (KIAAs) have been accredited under the Khelo India Scheme. Out of these, 5 academies are exclusively dedicated to football, while the remaining academies offer football as one of the disciplines along with other sports disciplines. The details of football academies recognized and funded under the SAI's sports promotion scheme and the Khelo India scheme are given at **Annexure**.

(d) Sports Authority of India (SAI) under Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports is implementing the following Sports Promotional Schemes across the country to identify talented sportspersons at grassroots levels in the various age groups and nurture them to excel at national and international levels:

- National Centres of Excellence (NCOE)
- SAI Training Centre (STC)
- Extension Centre of STC
- National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC)

(its Sub-Schemes - Regular Schools, IGMA & Akharas).

Further, AIFF which is primarily responsible for development and promotion of football in the country, is supported under the scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSF) towards conduct of national championships, hosting of international events, training and competitive exposure of athletes, engagement of foreign coaches and support personnel etc. The scheme ensures robust grassroots development, professional coaching, scientific support to athletes, and increased exposure through support to NSFs. It has been provisioned that at least 20% of their annual budget is earmarked for grassroots development through their affiliated units. Further, Under the Khelo India Scheme, a series of national level competitions are organised to identify sports talent at grassroots level. These competitions include the Khelo India Youth Games, Khelo India University Games, Khelo India Para Games and Khelo India Winter Games.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3040 TO BE ANSWERED ON 13/08/2026 REGARDING “PROMOTION OF FOOTBALL” ASKED BY SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA, HON’BLE MEMBER OF RAJYA SABHA.

The details of SAI Centres and Khelo India Accredited Academies (KIAAs) where football training is imparted:

Sr. No.	State/UT	No. of SAI Centres	No. of KIAA
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	2	-
2.	Assam	6	1
3.	Chandigarh	1	2
4.	Delhi	-	1
5.	Goa	-	1
6.	Gujarat	-	1
7.	Haryana	-	1
8.	Jharkhand	1	1
9.	Karnataka	-	2
10.	Kerala	2	3
11.	Lakshadweep	1	-
12.	Maharashtra	-	1
13.	Manipur	2	3
14.	Meghalaya	1	-
15.	Nagaland	1	-
16.	Odisha	3	-

Sr. No.	State/UT	No. of SAI Centres	No. of KIAA
17.	Punjab	-	1
18.	Rajasthan	3	-
19.	Sikkim	1	-
20.	Tamil Nadu	1	3
21.	Telangana	-	1
22.	Tripura	1	-
23.	Uttar Pradesh	1	-
24.	Uttarakhand	-	1
25.	West Bengal	4	2
Total		31	25
