



INDIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Press Release

Reforming Indian Sports

1st ICC Sports Lecture

“For anything to be sustainable in the long run, it has to be founded on the pillars of transparency and accountability.”

“We should ensure that every child gets fair opportunity for selection in the national cricket team.”

– Mr. Vinod Rai, Chairman of COA, BCCI

Kolkata, 27th January, 2018: Delivering the 1st ICC Sports Lecture on “**Reforming Indian Sport**”, organized by the **Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC)** at ITC Sonar Bangla, Kolkata, **Mr. Vinod Rai, Chairman, COA, BCCI** and the former CAG of India emphasized on setting up a transparent sports administrative system. While comparing the sports models of India with China and Russia, he stressed on the importance of setting up a good governance model for the industry. Rather than settling for mediocrity, he opined, India should strive for excellence and professionalism. Addressing the issue of corruption, he argued that as far as recognition and identification of the problem is concerned, Lodha Committee has done a fairly good job. However, it may take time to change the big system, for which he suggested some perseverance.

Mr. Rai mentioned that sports services, if properly utilized, can generate huge income for the country. In this regard, he stated that PPP model in all sports, especially in the regular maintenance of sports infrastructures, stadiums in particular can be highly beneficial. He argued that BCCI should become the role model of governance and administration in the country. Mr. Vinod Rai also spoke about developing blind cricket as well as promoting and improving facilities for women’s cricket in India.

Mr. Boria Majumdar, India’s leading Sports Scholar and Journalist mentioned that despite all controversies, BCCI is still the best sports governing body in India, especially when it comes to better treatment of players and promotion of the sport. However, he stated that the Indian sports

industry in general is still fraught with problems like gender disparity, poor maintenance of sports infrastructure, lack of funds, inspiration and motivation. Mr. Majumdar strongly emphasized the need to set up a strong, transparent and accountable sports administration system in India. While speaking on the cricket corruption controversies, he stressed that in order to deal with corruption there is a need for proper implementation of Supreme Court orders and pursuit of excellence in facilities, athlete support and competitions.

Mr. Indrajit Hazra, Editor, Views and Sports, The Economic Times stressed on developing professionalism in Indian cricket. Following the Lodha Committee recommendation, he called for a structural reform in Indian sports. He focused on developing the quality along with increasing the number of sporting events, on a strong foundation of good governance and stability. Mr. Hazra also highlighted the need to develop PPP models in Indian sports, combining excellent sports with excellent business.

Mr. Raghav Gupta, Chairman, National Expert Committee on Sports, ICC highlighted the need for reform, for a better sport administration in India, focusing on stability and accountability. According to him, India should also focus on maintaining its sports infrastructure like stadiums and allow PPP models in developing all sports.

Mr. Rudra Chatterjee, Senior Vice President, ICC congratulated Mr. Vinod Rai stating that on one hand while his administration has stood for transparency and professionalism, it has also shown social responsibility and stability. Mr. Chatterjee argued that sports can play a very important role in removing inequity and injustice in today's world. Also, sport as a sunrise sector has a great business potential in India. He called for developing the sports industry in India through transparency and efficient administration.

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