Karnataka ropes in champs to prepare sports policy

Anil Urs

Former cricketer Rahul Dravid

Kasturirangan panel to tour districts, gather field-level data on facilities

Bengaluru, April 19:
The Karnataka Knowledge Commission, which has been entrusted to prepare a sports policy, is to tour the state shortly.

For developing the sports policy, the Commission, headed by K Kasturirangan, has roped in prominent sports personalities like Anil Kumble, Prakash Padukone and Rahul Dravid, said Abhayachandra Jain, Karnataka Minister of State for Sports and Youth Services.

“So far, the Commission has met thrice and has held consultations with all stakeholders as part of policy preparation. Now, it’s planning to tour the districts to gather district-level (field-level) information on sports facilities available and what kind of intervention is needed,” he added. The draft of the policy is likely to be submitted to the government in about two months. The policy, when approved, will come into effect in three to four months and will give more emphasis on safety guidelines in all the sporting arenas.

“This special care has taken due to several deaths in many swimming pools in the state, both in private and public pools, due to lack of safety measures. Through the policy, the state government is planning to make it mandatory for all swimming pools to have a lifeguard,” he said.

Federation cup

The National Federation Cup athletics meet will be held in Mangaluru from April 30 to May 3.

This is for the first-time a coastal town in Karnataka is hosting the sporting event, said Jain. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will inaugurate the sports meet, which is expected to see more than 700 athletes from all the states participate in 47 disciplines.

“This year’s event will see a section of athletes to represent at various international events,” said Jain. Talking about improving sporting facilities, Jain said shortly the department will take up renovation of Kanteerava stadium in Bengaluru.

“There is a problem of underground drainage (UGD), this will be set right in three months,” he said.

The State for Sports and Youth Services department has extended financial assistance of ₹25 lakh to Praveen,
mountaineer from Bengaluru.

**Fisheries subsidy**

The minister, who also holds the fisheries portfolio, said the state government has yielded to the demands of protesting fishermen in the districts of Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Uttara Kannada in the coastal region.

Fishermen were protesting the government’s decision to directly transfer the subsidy for diesel used in fishing boats to their bank accounts on the grounds that most of them are yet to open bank accounts.

Jain said the direct transfer system, which was supposed to have come into force from April 1, would be temporarily suspended, and instead, the old system of providing access to subsidised diesel would be continued.

However, the direct transfer of subsidy would be resumed from August.

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