All swimming pools must have lifeguards

B.S. SATISH KUMAR

Safety norms to be spelt out in youth policy

Following a spate of accidental deaths in swimming pools due to lack of safety measures, the State government has decided to make it mandatory for all pools, including those in apartments, to have a lifeguard.

Announcing this at a press conference in Bengaluru on Friday, Minister of State for Sports and Youth Services Abhaychandra said details regarding safety norms to be adopted would be clearly spelt out in the State’s youth policy, which is expected to be ready in two months.

He said the task of preparing the youth policy had been entrusted to the Karnataka Knowledge Commission. Sports personalities Anil Kumble, Prakash Padukone and Rahul Dravid were involved in the process of preparation of the policy, he added. Meanwhile the government yielded to the demand by protesting fishermen in the coastal region to withdraw the 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.

Mr. Abhaychandra announced that 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, he said.