



# CONFEDERATION OF INDIAN PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

Host University



## REPORT

# NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE FOR UNIVERSITY SPORTS DIRECTORS

*on*

**"Strengthening University Sports Ecosystems:  
Talent Development, Infrastructure &  
Institutional Collaboration"**

 08<sup>th</sup> May 2026

 Sri Balaji University, Pune

 [cipuglobal.org](http://cipuglobal.org)



## INTRODUCTION

The National Roundtable for University Sports Directors was organised as a strategic initiative to bring together key stakeholders from higher education institutions to deliberate on strengthening sports ecosystems within universities.

With India progressing towards the vision of “Viksit Bharat 2047”, universities are increasingly recognising the importance of integrating sports, wellness, and holistic development into academic frameworks. The roundtable served as a collaborative platform for sports directors, academicians, policymakers, and administrators to discuss challenges, opportunities, and actionable strategies for improving university sports culture.

A strong emphasis was placed on shifting the perception of sports from an extracurricular activity to a core component of education, contributing to leadership, discipline, teamwork, and overall well-being.





## OBJECTIVES OF THE ROUNDTABLE

The key objectives of the roundtable were:

- To create a collaborative platform for dialogue among universities and stakeholders
- To assess the current state of sports infrastructure and participation
- To identify barriers to student engagement in sports and wellness activities
- To promote holistic student development through integration of sports and education
- To encourage inter-university collaboration and resource sharing
- To explore scientific and data-driven approaches to sports development
- To discuss policy frameworks and institutional support mechanisms
- To strengthen talent identification and athlete development systems
- To promote preventive healthcare and wellness initiatives in campuses





## INAUGURAL SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The inaugural session set the tone for the roundtable by emphasising collaboration, institutional responsibility, and holistic development.

- **Mr. R. Karthik** (Director General, CIPU) highlighted the role of CIPU in fostering collaboration among private universities and bridging the gap between academia and policy.

He outlined key initiatives such as the India-USA Higher Education Dialogue, Bharat Higher Education Summit, and Leadership Dialogues.

- **Prof. (Dr.) G. K. Shirude** (Vice-Chancellor, SBUP) emphasised three critical dimensions:

- Talent Development
- Infrastructure Development
- Institutional Development

He further highlighted the four pillars for a Viksit Bharat: Education, Skills, Sportsmanship, and Wisdom, stressing that sportsmanship is essential for balanced development and preventive healthcare.





## KEY DISCUSSIONS AND INSIGHTS

### Student Participation Challenges

- Despite modern infrastructure, student participation remains low
- Key reasons include academic pressure, placements, digital distractions, & lack of motivation
- Need to change student mindset towards sports engagement

### Collaboration and Resource Sharing

Strong recommendation for:

- Inter-university partnerships
- Infrastructure sharing
- Joint tournaments
- Policy frameworks under CIPU

### Infrastructure vs Utilisation Gap

- Many universities have developed quality sports infrastructure
- However, utilisation remains suboptimal
- Institutions must focus on engagement strategies, not just infrastructure development

### Grassroots Talent Development

Need to identify talent from:

- Rural and tribal areas
- Underserved communities

Suggested solutions:

- Scholarships
- CSR funding
- Outreach programs

### Scientific Approach to Sports Development

Emphasis on:

- Data-driven talent identification
- Sports science integration
- Fitness tracking and performance analytics
- Nutrition and sports psychology

### Wellness and Preventive Healthcare

Rising concerns:

- Stress
- Sedentary lifestyle
- Obesity and lifestyle diseases

Sports seen as a key tool for:

- Physical fitness
- Mental well-being
- Preventive healthcare

### Academic Flexibility & Incentives

Introduction of:

- Sports credits
- Flexible schedules
- “Free play” hours
- Nutrition and sports psychology

These measures significantly improve participation



## RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the discussions, the following recommendations emerged:

- Integrate sports as a core component of academic systems
- Introduce sports credits and structured participation frameworks
- Develop data-driven and scientific sports ecosystems
- Promote inter-university collaboration and shared infrastructure
- Establish policy frameworks under CIPU for standardisation
- Encourage public-private partnerships and CSR funding
- Conduct regular wellness, nutrition, and fitness awareness programs
- Create structured grassroots talent identification pipelines
- Strengthen the role of leadership and institutional commitment
- Promote student engagement through innovative formats (e.g., recreational sports, event roles)

## PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The roundtable witnessed active participation from:

- University Sports Directors
- Professors and Sports Science Experts
- Registrars and University Administrators
- Policy and institutional stakeholders

The session enabled open dialogue, knowledge sharing, and exchange of best practices across institutions.





## CONCLUSION

The National Roundtable successfully highlighted the urgent need to transform university sports ecosystems in India. A strong consensus emerged that sports must be integrated into mainstream education to promote holistic student development.

The discussions reinforced that **collaboration, scientific approaches, policy support, and institutional commitment** are key to building sustainable and inclusive sports ecosystems.

The roundtable concluded with a collective commitment to:

- Enhance student participation
- Strengthen institutional collaboration
- Promote wellness and healthy lifestyles
- Contribute towards the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047

## WAY FORWARD

The roundtable witnessed active participation from:

- Formation of working groups under CIPU
- Development of a national framework for university sports
- Regular roundtables and follow-up engagements
- Implementation of pilot initiatives across member universities





## CONTACT



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