14-member panel to build a sustainable sports league ecosystem

Topics: Sports · UPSC Prelims · TNPSC · SSC · Current Affairs



News

The Department of Sports, Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, has set up a 14-member high-level committee to build a sustainable sports league ecosystem in India (News On AIR, 18 Nov 2026). Joint Secretary (Governance) Kunal is its Convener; Khelo India Joint Secretary Vineel Krishna and Indian Olympic Association CEO Raghuram Iyer are members. Others include Hemang Amin of the BCCI, representatives of Reliance, GMR, Adani and JSW sports ventures, broadcasters JioStar, Sony, DD Sports and Zee, and advocate Nandan Kamath. The panel will examine why some leagues have succeeded more than others, prioritise Olympic, women's, youth, indigenous and emerging sports, and recommend an operating model suited to each sport. It will also look at ways to attract corporate capital, franchise ownership, sponsorships, broadcasting and digital rights and CSR funding, and at government support such as Viability Gap Funding. It must submit its recommendations to the Ministry within eight weeks.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Set up by	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
Reported	18 November 2026
Members	14
Convener	Kunal, Joint Secretary (Governance)

Point	Details
Other members	IOA, BCCI, corporates, broadcasters, a legal expert
Priority	Olympic, women's, youth, indigenous, emerging sports
Funding routes	Franchises, sponsorship, media rights, CSR, VGF
Deadline	Recommendations within 8 weeks

Background

- Indian sports leagues: the Indian Premier League (IPL), launched in 2008, became a huge commercial success. Leagues followed in kabaddi (Pro Kabaddi League), football (Indian Super League), hockey (Hockey India League), badminton, wrestling and kho-kho. But many leagues stalled for lack of money; myKhel notes that the revived Hockey India League still faces questions about long-term viability.
- Economic background: Viability Gap Funding is a government grant that makes infrastructure projects – usually public–private partnerships (PPP) – that are economically worthwhile but not commercially profitable, viable. Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013 allows CSR money to be spent on training to promote rural, nationally recognised, Paralympic and Olympic sports.
- Legal background: the BCCI is a society registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975; its headquarters is at Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai. Under the Sports Broadcasting Signals (Mandatory Sharing with Prasar Bharati) Act, 2007, private broadcasters must share the live feed of sporting events of national importance with Prasar Bharati.
- Indigenous sports: 'indigenous sports' are one of the panel's priority categories (no specific sports were named). Mallakhamb, Kalaripayattu, Gatka, Thang-ta and Tamil Nadu's Silambam are examples of India's traditional sports. Madhya Pradesh declared Mallakhamb its State sport in April 2013.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu is a major hub of league sport: Chennai Super Kings (IPL) and Tamil Thalaivas (Pro Kabaddi League) are Tamil Nadu teams. The BCCI, which runs the IPL, is itself a society registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

The Department of Sports, Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, has set up a 14-member high-level committee to build a sustainable sports league ecosystem in India (News On AIR, 18 Nov 2026).

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Set up by: Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports; Reported: 18 November 2026; Members: 14; Convener: Kunal, Joint Secretary (Governance).

What is the background to this news?

Indian sports leagues: the Indian Premier League (IPL), launched in 2008, became a huge commercial success. Leagues followed in kabaddi (Pro Kabaddi League), football (Indian Super League), hockey (Hockey India League), badminton, wrestling and kho-kho.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. The Tamil Nadu team 'Tamil Thalaivas' plays in which professional sports league?

A) Pro Kabaddi League

B) Indian Super League

C) Hockey India League

D) Ultimate Kho Kho

Answer: A – Explanation: Pro Kabaddi League (began 2014) – Tamil Thalaivas since 2017. Kabaddi is Tamil Nadu's traditional 'sadugudu'.

2. The BCCI, represented on the panel, is a society registered under the Societies Registration Act of which State?

A) Maharashtra

B) West Bengal

C) Delhi

D) Tamil Nadu

Answer: D – Explanation: The Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975; headquarters at Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai. It is a private society, not a government body.

3. 'Viability Gap Funding', listed in the panel's terms of reference, is mainly given for what purpose?

A) Farm loan waivers

B) Low-return PPP projects

C) Export subsidies

D) Income-tax relief

Answer: B – Explanation: A government grant that makes economically useful but commercially weak public–private partnership (PPP) infrastructure projects viable.

4. Which State declared the indigenous sport 'Mallakhamb' its State sport in 2013?

A) Maharashtra

B) Madhya Pradesh

C) Rajasthan

D) Gujarat

Answer: B – Explanation: Madhya Pradesh (April 2013) – a traditional sport of yoga and wrestling moves performed on a vertical pole or rope.

5. Under a 2007 law, with whom must broadcasters share the live feed of sporting events of national importance?

A) TRAI

B) Sports Auth. of India

C) Prasar Bharati

D) I&B Ministry

Answer: C – Explanation: The Sports Broadcasting Signals (Mandatory Sharing with Prasar Bharati) Act, 2007 – lets people watch such events on Doordarshan's free-to-air network.

Sources: News On AIR (18.11.2026) – newsonair.gov.in; India Code (Sports Broadcasting Signals Act, 2007) – indiacode.nic.in; Business Standard/PTI (09.04.2013, Mallakhamb) – business-standard.com; Business Standard/PTI (20.06.2017, Tamil Thalaivas) – business-standard.com; Income Tax Appellate Tribunal – BCCI v. ACIT (registration Act); Supreme Court – Zee Telefilms v. Union of India (2005). © Shanmugam IAS Academy.