

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION**

Press Release

Chandigarh, 6th April, 2018: With an aim to promote Football among the youngsters of City Beautiful in particular and Northern Region in general, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of His Excellency, The Administrator, U.T. Chandigarh-cum-The Governor of Punjab, where Senior Officers of U.T. Administration and Punjab Government were present.

Also present in the meeting was guest of honour Lord Diljit Rana, MBE from United Kingdom who is patronising a budding Football Academy in Fatehgarh Sahib District of Punjab. Chandigarh Football Academy had played an important role in the recent past to promote Football and by producing some star players. The Administrator stressed upon the need to forge coalition with likeminded Clubs and Academies. The representatives of Cordia Football Academy wanted to collaborate with the Chandigarh Football Academy by holding joint training sessions as well as playing friendly matches.

Lord Diljit Rana, MBE said that it was his earnest desire that the game of Football should regain its past glory and if promoted in a planned manner, it will help to induct sports as a life style among the general public to keep them fit and mentally alert.

Sh. J.M. Balamurugan, IAS Secretary Sports & Youth Affairs, Government of Punjab and Secretary to the Governor of Punjab explained in detail the initiatives taken by the Punjab Government to promote Football in the State. He elaborated that apart from various private academies being run by NGO's and Clubs, 6 academies in the game of Football are being run by the Punjab Government, where specialized in-house training is provided to the young talent.

Secretary Sports, U.T. Chandigarh, Sh. B.L. Sharma, I.A.S. apprised the visiting guests that Chandigarh Football Academy is providing free boarding and lodging to the inmates of Chandigarh Football Academy where players are taken from all over India after rigorous trials to undergo specialized training under the close guidance of our well trained coaches. Chandigarh Football Academy has produced star players, who have been chosen by various prestigious clubs of the Country apart from playing at International level.

This initiative, taken under the special guidance and broad vision of His Excellency - The Administrator, will pave way for promoting Football in Chandigarh and its surrounding areas in a big way in the times to come.

Mr. Carlos Rodriguez, Football Coach and Agent of Real Spanish Federation expressed his confidence that India has got the talent to come upto the level of World Cup participation, provided some focused training atmosphere is created by collaboration of local Clubs and Academies with those in the Countries of Europe.

Also present in the meeting were Angel Campos Martin, Chairman of Las Rozas Football Club, Carlos Rodriguez, Football Coach, Charanjit Gill, Chairman of Southall Football Club and Sh. Sanjay Tandon, President BJP, Chandigarh.