

Event Report

Sports Networking Event – Kochi

Date: 21st February 2026

Venue: Kerala Management Association

Organised under: Confederation of Sports and Recreation Industries (CSRI)



Overview

On 21st February 2026, a Sports Networking Event was successfully conducted in Kochi under the leadership of CSRI. The event brought together aspiring sports professionals, industry stakeholders, and entrepreneurs with the objective of strengthening connections within the sports ecosystem and creating awareness about career opportunities in the industry.

The event was structured into two focused sessions:

1. **Career-Oriented Session (9:00 AM – 1:00 PM)**
2. **Industry Networking Session (3:00 PM – 6:00 PM)**

Session 1: Careers in Sports (9:00 AM – 1:00 PM)

The morning session was designed for individuals seeking to build a career in the sports industry. The session witnessed a participation of approximately **30–40 aspiring professionals**.

The session was handled by Paul, who delivered an insightful and eye-opening talk on the realities, opportunities, and pathways within the sports sector.

Key Highlights:

- Understanding diverse career opportunities in sports beyond playing.
- Insights into sports management, operations, event execution, and entrepreneurship.
- Practical guidance on skill development and industry readiness.
- Interactive discussions addressing participant queries.

The session provided clarity and direction to many aspiring professionals, helping them understand both the potential and responsibilities involved in building a career in sports.

Session 2: Industry Networking Meet (3:00 PM – 6:00 PM)

The afternoon session focused on structured networking among sports industry stakeholders and saw a strong participation of approximately **60–70 attendees** from across the sports ecosystem.

Participants included administrators, entrepreneurs, coaches, event organisers, sports service providers, and industry representatives.

Session Format:

- **Mini Introductions:**
Each participant was invited on stage for a 1–2 minute introduction to present themselves, their organisation, and their area of work. This ensured visibility and facilitated meaningful conversations.
- **Open Networking Floor:**
Following the introductions, the floor was opened for direct networking. Attendees actively engaged in discussions, exchanged ideas, explored collaborations, and built potential partnerships.
- **CSRI Briefing:**
A brief overview of CSRI’s vision, objectives, and future plans was presented by CSRI Kerala Head, R. Anil Kumar. The address highlighted CSRI’s mission to unite sports and recreation stakeholders under a common platform to strengthen the industry in Kerala and across India.



Outcomes

- Increased awareness about structured career pathways in sports.
- Active engagement from 90+ total participants across both sessions.
- Strong networking among sports professionals and entrepreneurs.
- Enhanced visibility and positioning of CSRI within Kerala’s sports ecosystem.
- Initiation of potential collaborations and partnerships.

Conclusion

The Sports Networking Event held on 21st February 2026 in Kochi was a significant step towards building a stronger and more connected sports industry community. With focused knowledge sharing in the morning and structured networking in the afternoon, the event successfully bridged the gap between aspiring professionals and established industry stakeholders.

The initiative reflects CSRI's continued commitment to fostering growth, collaboration, and professional development within the sports and recreation sector.