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'Children should play sports instead of video games'

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Ahmedabad: Addressing a gathering of sportspersons, school and college students and other youth at an event, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that children should be playing sports instead of video games. He was here to inaugurate the newly built sports stadium at Kankaria in Maninagar, while kick-starting the state government's annual sports festival - Khel Mahakumbh 2017, on the occasion.

Modi said, "When I meet small children, I ask them how many times do they perspire in a day? How many sports do you play? The usual reply which I get is not even once a day. I am of the opinion that children should play outdoor sports as much as they can and until they perspire. They should quit playing video games and get out of



(L-R) Modi presses the button launching the TransStadia & Khel Mahakumbh 2017 banner; Modi greets the crowd from atop the stadium; children perform gymnastics and karate, while BSF women officers demonstrate rifle spinning; the latter cannot hold their excitement upon meeting cricketer Irfan Pathan —HANIF SINDHI & DHAVAL BHARWAD/DNA



their houses. Sports are essential for character building."

The PM also stated that drawing inspiration from Khel Mahakumbh, the central government is also planning to hold a nation-

wide annual sports event - Khelo India. He also advocated a culture where sports and sportspersons get recognition in society, while urging families to motivate their children to play one sport at least.

PM Modi inaugurated the newly built TransStadia stadium here, which houses facilities for all major sports, along with a sports academy and a sports performance and rehab center. Spread

over 32,000 square feet, the stadium has a seating capacity of 20,000 people. Stadium developers claim that the arena will be in use for 300 days in a year, more than any other stadium in the world.