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Government Initiatives for Sports — Comprehensive Guide

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Government Initiatives for Sports — Comprehensive Guide

 **Kurukshetra** Chapter 4 · 3 min read ·

1. Khelo India Programme

PARAMETER	DETAIL
Allocation FY 2025-26	~ ₹1,000 crore
Khelo India Athletes (KIAs)	Nearly 3,000 receiving long-term support
Annual scholarship per athlete	₹6.28 lakh
Monthly out-of-pocket allowance	₹10,000
Khelo India Centres (KICs)	Over 1,045 established
State Centres of Excellence	34
Function	Bridges rural talent with professional training infrastructure

2. Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)

PARAMETER	DETAIL
Launch year	2014
Funding source	National Sports Development Fund (NSDF)
Support	International training, specialised equipment, elite coaching
Core Group	₹50,000/month out-of-pocket allowance
Development Group (juniors)	₹25,000/month
Athletes supported annually	250–350

3. National Sports Development Fund (NSDF)

PARAMETER	DETAIL
Established	1998 (under Charitable Endowments Act, 1890)
Funding sources	Government, PSUs, private companies, individual donations
Government role	Provides matching grants to donations
Model	Public-Private Partnership approach
Utilisation	Customised elite athlete training, specialised infrastructure

4. Fit India Movement

PARAMETER	DETAIL
Launch	August 2019
Objective	Promote fitness lifestyle, address NCDs and obesity
Data point	NFHS-5: 24% of Indian adults are overweight
Initiatives	Mass campaigns, Fit India Mobile App, “ Sundays on Cycle ”
School participation	23 lakh children assessed in school fitness assessments

5. KIRTI — Khelo India Rising Talent Identification

PARAMETER	DETAIL
Target age group	9–18 years
Technology	AI and data analytics for talent identification
Platform	MyBharat portal
Sports disciplines	11
FY 2024-25 target	20 lakh physical assessments
National goal	Top-10 sporting nation by 2036

6. National Sports Awards

PARAMETER	DETAIL
Conferred by	President of India
Date	National Sports Day — 29 August (birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand)
Categories	Sportspersons, coaches, institutions
Key awards	Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna, Arjuna Award, Dronacharya Award, Dhyan Chand Award

7. Pension for Meritorious Sportspersons

PARAMETER	DETAIL
Eligibility	Retired international medal-winning athletes, 30+ years old
Monthly pension	₹12,000–₹20,000 (lifelong)
Basis	Achievement level
Purpose	Post-retirement security and dignity

8. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Programme for Sportspersons

PARAMETER	DETAIL
Financial assistance	Up to ₹10 lakh
Coverage	Financial hardship, medical emergencies
Uses	Medical treatment, event participation, equipment purchase

9. National Centre of Sports Sciences and Research (NCSSR)

PARAMETER	DETAIL
Launch	2017
Budget allocation	~₹260 crore (through 2025-26)
Structure	Central hub + 6 university-based Sports Science Departments + 5 Sports Medicine Departments
Focus	Injury prevention, rehabilitation, performance enhancement, advanced research

UPSC Angle

- **GS2:** Government schemes for sports development, welfare of athletes
- **GS3:** Employment generation through sports, economic growth via sports ecosystem
- **Interview:** “India spent ~₹1,000 crore on Khelo India but won only 6 medals at Paris 2024. Is the spend justified?”

KEY TERMS FOR QUICK REVISION

TERM	FULL FORM / MEANING
Khelo Bharat Niti 2025	National Sports Policy (5 pillars, replaces 2011 policy)
NSG Act 2025	National Sports Governance Act (first statutory framework)
TOPS	Target Olympic Podium Scheme (est. 2014, NSDF-funded)
KIRTI	Khelo India Rising Talent Identification (AI-powered, ages 9–18)
NSDF	National Sports Development Fund (est. 1998)
NCSSR	National Centre of Sports Sciences and Research (est. 2017)
SAI	Sports Authority of India (est. 1984)
IOA	Indian Olympic Association (est. 1927)
NSFs	National Sports Federations (50+ in India)
SOMs	Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit (10-tier system under NSG Act)
KICs	Khelo India Centres (1,045+ established)
MYAS	Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports

UPSC MAINS PRACTICE QUESTIONS

- GS2 (250 words):** “The National Sports Governance Act 2025 brings statutory accountability to India’s sports bodies for the first time. Evaluate its key provisions and potential impact on sports governance.”
- GS2 (250 words):** “Examine the role of Khelo India, TOPS, NSDF, and NCSSR in creating a comprehensive sports ecosystem — addressing grassroots participation, elite performance, and financial sustainability.”

- 3 **GS1 (250 words):** “Gender disparity remains a critical challenge in Indian sports — 49% of girls drop out of sports (6x higher than boys). Analyse the structural reasons and suggest policy interventions.”
- 4 **Essay (1000-1200 words):** “From village playgrounds to Olympic podiums — can India’s sports policy bridge the gap between demographic potential and athletic achievement?”

Source: [NextIAS Kurukshetra February 2026 Summary](#)



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