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MAGAZINE NOTES

Khelo Bharat Niti 2025 — National Sports Policy

15 February 2026 ·

SOCIAL ISSUES

POLITY

ECONOMY

GS1

GS2

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Khelo Bharat Niti 2025 — National Sports Policy

 **Kurukshetra** Chapter 1 · 2 min read ·

India has nearly **65% of its population below 35 years** — a massive demographic dividend that requires conversion into productive capacity. The **Khelo Bharat Niti 2025** is India's latest comprehensive sports policy, replacing the earlier National Sports Policy of 2011.

Vision and Core Objectives

- ❶ **Universal Access and Mass Participation** — sports for all, not just elite athletes
- ❷ **Excellence and Career Development** — grassroots-to-elite pathways
- ❸ **Inclusive and Integrated Development** — gender, disability, tribal, regional inclusion
- ❹ **Economic Growth and Ecosystem Expansion** — sports as an economic sector

Strategic Framework Components

- **Governance Reforms** — accountability, transparency, term limits for sports bodies
- **Private Sector Participation** — PPPs, CSR funding, sports tourism
- **Technology and Innovation** — AI, data analytics for talent identification and performance
- **Monitoring and Evaluation** — KPIs, time-bound targets for NSFs and states
- **Model Policy for States** — template for state-level adoption

Five Pillars

PILLAR	FOCUS AREAS
1. Excellence on Global Stage	Strengthen NSFs; establish high-performance centres; grassroots-to-elite pathways; promote para-sports; bid to host global events
2. Sports for Economic Development	Make in India sports manufacturing; sports-tech startups; PPP and asset monetisation; develop India as a sports tourism hub
3. Sports for Social Development & Inclusion	Women, EWS, SC/STs, tribals, PwDs participation; promote indigenous/traditional games; district leagues; strengthen anti-doping
4. Sports as People's Movement	National Fitness Ranking System; Fit India integration; sports under NEP 2020 (curriculum integration); workplace wellness; district-level sports hubs
5. Governance, Technology & Institutional Reforms	KPIs for NSFs; data-driven monitoring; digital talent tracking; Centre-State-private sector coordination; sports tribunals

Alignment with National Initiatives

INITIATIVE	SPORTS CONNECTION
NEP 2020	Sports integrated into school curriculum; physical education as academic credit
Fit India Movement	Physical literacy and fitness campaigns
Skill India	Coaching development, sports management training
Make in India	Sports equipment manufacturing — India currently imports ~60% of sports goods
Digital India	Technology-enabled athlete monitoring and talent scouting

Key Challenges

- **Sports is a State Subject** (Entry 33, State List) — coordination gaps between Centre, states, and NSFs
- Uneven regional infrastructure — rural areas and backward regions severely underserved
- NSFs lack transparency and internal democracy — politicisation of sports bodies
- Commercialisation risks neglecting grassroots athletes
- Post-retirement security gaps for athletes beyond top medalists
- **Cricket dominates 87% of India's sports market** (2023) — all other sports share just 13%

UPSC Angle

- **GS2:** Government policies, sports governance, Centre-State relations (State List vs Central schemes)
- **GS1:** Society, youth, demographic dividend, gender in sports
- **Interview:** “Should sports be moved from the State List to the Concurrent List for better national coordination?”

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



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