



## Chapter - 29 Youth Affairs & Sports

India has the world's largest youth population, representing a dynamic and vibrant segment. The Department of Youth Affairs focuses on personality development and nation-building, recognizing adolescents as crucial.

### National Youth Policy 2014

- Aims to empower youth for India's holistic development.
- Objectives include:
  - Creating a productive workforce through education, employment, and entrepreneurship.
  - Developing a healthy generation through health, sports, and lifestyle.
  - Promoting social values and community service.
  - Facilitating participation in governance.
  - Supporting disadvantaged and marginalised youth for inclusive growth.

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S. No.	Names of Old Schemes	Names of New Schemes
1.	Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS)	Merged into a new 'umbrella' Scheme called "Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram (RYSK)".
2.	National Youth Corps (NYC)	
3.	National Programme for Youth & Adolescent Development (NPYAD)	
4.	International Cooperation	
5.	Youth Hostels (YH)	
6.	Assistance to Scouting & Guiding Organisations	
7.	National Discipline Scheme (NDS)	
8.	National Young Leaders Programme (NYLP)	
9.	National Service Scheme (NSS)	National Service Scheme (NSS)
10.	Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD)	Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD)

### Sports Initiatives in India

- **Government Support:**
  - Government provides assistance to sportspersons through training, exposure in international competitions, and scientific and equipment support.
- **India at the Commonwealth Games (held in Birmingham, UK):**
  - In 2022, India won 22 gold, 16 silver, and 23 bronze medals, finishing fourth with 215 athletes across 19 sporting disciplines.
- **Sports Authority of India (SAI):**
  - Established in 1984 to maintain and utilise sports infrastructure, now the nodal agency for sports training and excellence.

- Introduced "Come and Play Scheme" to optimise renovated stadiums post-Commonwealth Games 2010.
- **Khelo India:**
  - Central Sector Scheme launched in 2016-17, merging previous schemes to broaden sports base and achieve excellence.
  - Has twelve components focusing on play field development, community coaching, talent search, and state-level centres, aiming for holistic development, gender equity, and national pride.
- **Target Olympic Podium Scheme:**
  - **About:** Started by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in September 2014 to enhance India's performance at Olympics and Paralympics.
    - Revamped in April 2018 for better management and holistic support for athletes.
  - **High Priority Sports:** Emphasis on 'High-Priority' sports like Archery, Badminton, Boxing, Hockey, Shooting, and Wrestling.
    - Members appointed by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports to ensure representation from these sports.
  - **Mission Olympic Cell:** Dedicated body under TOP Scheme to assist selected athletes, chaired by the Director General of Sports Authority of India (SAI).
  - **National Sports Development Fund (NSDF):** Established in Nov 1998 to promote sports in India under the Charitable Endowments Act, 1890.

## Asian Games

- **About:**
  - Biggest sports competition in Asia, held every four years, organised by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA).
  - Recognized by the International Olympic Committee, symbol - the rising sun with interlocking rings.
- **Background and Inauguration:**
  - Proposed by Guru Dutt Sondhi after WWII for Asian nations' representation.
  - **Inaugural games held in New Delhi in 1951.**
  - Regulated by the Asian Games Federation until 1978, then by the Olympic Council of Asia since 1982.
- **India's Role:**
  - **Founder member and host of the first Asian Games in New Delhi in 1951.**
  - Hosted the 9th edition in New Delhi in 1982, featuring mascot Appu, an Indian elephant.
- **19th Asian Games, Hangzhou, China:**
  - Held from September 23rd to October 8th, 2023, with 40 sports and 61 disciplines across 54 venues.
  - Includes Olympic qualifier competitions in archery, boxing, hockey, sailing, tennis, etc.
  - **Mascots: Chenchen, Congcong, Lianlaian (robots).**
  - **Torch named "Eternal Flame," inspired by Liangzhu Culture.**
  - Features inaugural appearances of Esports and Breaking (Breakdance) as recognized sports.
- **Asian Para Games:**
  - Also known as the Para Asia, a multi-sport event regulated by the Asian Paralympic Committee.
  - Held every four years after each Asian Games for athletes with physical disabilities.
  - Recognized by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and is the second largest multi-sport event after the Paralympic Games.
  - Latest Asian Para Games held in Hangzhou, China.
  - Ankur Dhama won the gold medal in the 5000 metres (about 3.11 mi) race in the Games.

## Khelo India Youth Games

- **About:**
  - National-level, multi-disciplinary sports competition for school and college students in India.
  - Held annually as part of the government's Khelo India initiative to promote sports culture

and identify grassroots talent.

- Previous editions held in Delhi, Pune, Guwahati, Panchkula, and Bhopal.

▪ **Format:**

- **Two categories:** under-17 school students and under-21 college students.
- Operates in a team championship format where medals contribute to the overall tally of the respective state or Union Territory.
- **Maharashtra and Haryana are the only states to win the KIYG title so far.**

▪ **6th Edition:**

- Held in Jan 2024, across four cities in Tamil Nadu - Chennai, Trichy, Madurai, and Coimbatore.
- Total 933 medals (278 gold, 278 silver, 377 bronze) across 26 sports.
- **Debuts squash**, while featuring Silambam as a demonstration sport.
- **Mascot: Veera Mangai**, inspired by Indian queen Rani Velu Nachiyar.
- **Logo incorporates the figure of poet Thiruvalluvar.**

## Incentive Schemes for Sportspersons

▪ **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award:**

- Formerly **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, highest sporting honour** for outstanding performance over four years.
- Cash prize of **Rs 25 lakh**, medal, and scroll of honour.
- Instituted in 1991-1992, with Chess legend **Viswanathan Anand as the first recipient.**

▪ **Arjuna Award:**

- Recognizes outstanding achievement in national sports events.
- Awarded for performance over the previous four years, along with leadership and sportsmanship qualities.
- **Cash prize of Rs 15 lakh**, bronze statue of Arjuna, and scroll of honour.

▪ **Dronacharya Award:**

- Recognises excellence in sports coaching, enabling sportspersons to excel internationally.
- **Cash prize of Rs 15 lakh**, bronze statue of Dronacharya, and scroll of honour.

▪ **Dhyan Chand Award:**

- Honours sports persons contributing to sports post-retirement.
- Includes Dhyan Chand statuette, **cash prize of Rs 10 lakh, certificate, and ceremonial dress.**

▪ **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy:**

- Recognises university-level sports performances.
- Awarded to the top-performing university in inter-university tournaments.

▪ **Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar:**

- Acknowledges **corporate entities, sports control boards, NGOs** for promoting sports development.
- **No cash prize**, includes a citation and trophy.

▪ **Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards:**

- Recognises achievements in adventure sports to encourage youth participation and development.
- Encourages endurance, risk-taking, teamwork, and quick reflexes.
- Provides incentive for exposure to adventure activities.

▪ **Special Awards to winners in International Sports Events and their Coaches:**

- Introduced in 1986 to encourage outstanding sports achievements and attract youth to sports careers.