



Draft National Air Sports Policy

For Prelims: Initiatives related to Sports in India, About ASFI and FAI.

For Mains: Sports Development Policies in India, Significance of National Air Sports Policy.

Why in News

The **Ministry of Civil Aviation** has released a **draft National Air Sports Policy (NASP)** that will require entities providing these services and their equipment to be registered, as well as be liable for penalties.

Key Points

▪ About:

- The policy proposes a **two-tier governance structure for air sports in the country**, which will include an apex governing body called the **Air Sports Federation of India (ASFI)** and associations for each air sport.
 - The ASFI will be an autonomous body under the Ministry of Civil Aviation and will represent India at the **Lausanne** (Switzerland)-**headquartered Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI)** and other global platforms related to air sports.
 - It will provide governance over various aspects of air sports, including regulation, certification, competitions, awards and penalties, etc.
- Each air sports association **will lay down its safety standards** for equipment, infrastructure, personnel and training, and specify the disciplinary actions to be taken in case of non-compliance. Inability to do so **may lead to penal action by the ASFI**.
- It is proposed that **popular air sports attractions** in the country such as Bir Billing in Himachal Pradesh, Gangtok in Sikkim, Hadapsar in Maharashtra and Vagamon in Kerala **can be declared as a “control zone” for air sports** in order to ensure the safety of other manned aircraft.

▪ Activities Covered:

- It will cover activities like aerobatics, aeromodelling, amateur-built and experimental aircraft, ballooning, drones, gliding, hang gliding, paragliding, microlighting, paramotoring, skydiving, and vintage aircraft.

▪ Objectives:

- The vision of the policy is to make India one of the **top air sports nations by 2030**.
- It envisages to promote the country's air sports sector, **by way of making it safe, affordable, accessible, enjoyable and sustainable**.
- The policy seeks to **leverage India's potential for air sports** and places a strong focus on ensuring international best practices in safety.
- It aims to promote domestic design, development and manufacturing of air sports equipment under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan; waive import duty on equipment for a few years; as well as request the GST Council to consider rationalising the GST rate on air sports equipment to 5% or less.

▪ **Significance:**

- Schools and colleges **will be encouraged to include air sports in their curriculum** and their students will have the opportunity to participate in the FAI's international competitions.
- India has the potential to be among the leading nations in the world of air sports. It has a large geographical expanse, diverse topography and fair weather conditions.
- It has a large population, especially the youth. It has a **growing culture for adventure sports and aviation.**
- Other than the direct revenue from air sports activities, the multiplier benefits in terms of **growth of travel, tourism, infrastructure and local employment, especially in hilly areas** of the country, are several times greater.
- Creation of air sports hubs across the country will also bring in air sports professionals and tourists from across the world.

Government Initiatives for Sports Development

- **[Khelo India Scheme.](#)**
- **[National Sports Development Fund.](#)**
- The National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC) Scheme.
- Sports Authority of India Training Centres Scheme (STC).
- Special Area Games (SAG) Scheme.
- **[Target Olympic Podium Scheme \(TOPS\)](#)**
- **[Khelo India Youth Games](#)**

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