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## NATIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR THE SPORTS DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

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### ABSTRACT

The social role of sport is based on the scientific evidence on the implication of sport for health such as physical, mental and social issues on socialisation and on financial system. Sport has also been recognised as having an vital role in the encouragement of voluntary work and active participation in society, in raising solidarity, tolerance and responsibility, in contribution to sustainable development and other positive social values<sup>3</sup> and national identity. Due to all those influences sport is of public interest and thus co-financed from public funds, and therefore an appropriate systematic environment is established for its development. Sport augments the excellence of peoples' lives and has a significant control on society through its impacts. Sport has outstanding potential to bring people together and to touch each person regardless his/her age or social origin. People contribute in the vast majority of sports activities as amateurs, however, for some people sports is their profession. People participate in sport in an unorganised way or they can unite themselves into clubs and associations or other sports organizations.

### INTRODUCTION

Sport, as any other community activity, has its own deficiencies: inhumane treatment of athletes, spectator violence, doping, no-transparent operation of sports organisations, manipulation with sports results, and adverse impact on the environment, violation of human rights, etc. one of the objectives of the National Programmes of Sport, is to prevent or reduce the negative sides of sport. The network of sport's social functions results in its transversal connections with other social areas: health, education, economy, environment, tourism, culture, finances, traffic, etc. The development of sport thus cannot solely depend on sports organisations as well as the state and local authorities supporting sport. From the same reason particular areas of sport cannot be separated from each other in orientation to the organisations implementing and providing sports programmes. National Programme of Sport therefore provides strategic actions which are in certain aspects connected with other social areas, since this is the only way actions can create conditions for the development of sport in the entire society. From the aspect of its implementation the National Programme of Sport has to be followed by the action plan defining the roles and responsibilities of individual mandatory organisations and transversal cooperation. National Programme of Sport is therefore dedicated primarily to the public, state and local institutions and is of principle, orientation and political character. It particularly focuses on regulating professional, organisational and managerial tasks being closely related to sport. These tasks are determined by the annual programme of sport co-financed each year by the state and local budgets as well as from the financial resources of the Foundation for Sport. In the part where sports intertwined with other social sectors it determines the basis for the positioning of sport into the strategies and policies of those sectors and thus ties to promote their mutual action for the common public good. While doing that it benefits from the rich experiences of the National Programme of Sport.

## **DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTS IN INDIA**

India has a tradition of sports and physical fitness. In recognition of the importance of sports, a separate department was set up in 1982, prior to the commencement of the 9th Asian Games. Subsequently, the first ever National Sports Policy was announced in 1984. The Ministry of Human Resource Development was set up in 1985, with the objective of integrating efforts for development of human potential in the areas of Education, Women & Child Development, Arts and culture, Youth Affairs & Sports through its constituent departments. The Sports Authority of India (SAI) was established in 1984 as a registered society in pursuance of a Government of India resolution. Its main objectives include the effective and optimum utilisation of various sports facilities and all matters pertaining to sports promotion and sports management. The Sports Authority of India is contributing towards development of sports through its various programmes.

Sport is a fundamental right of every citizen, every child, youngster, adult, senior citizen and within those groups also all people with special needs. Sport activity is vital for the wellbeing of all the citizens of our country. Due to its influence on the development of young people and consequently on the formation of their healthy lifestyles, as well as on their acquisition of social competencies, sport activity of children and young people represents a first priority content of the National Programme of Sport. However, regular sports recreational activity of adults is equally exceptionally important and it should not become a victim of discrimination based on socio-economic status.

## **PRESENT ISSUES AND CHALLENGES**

The “reality check” reveals several areas of continuing concern regarding current trends in PE and sports. These areas embrace: physical education not being delivered or delivered without quality, insufficient time allocation, lack of competent qualified and/or inadequately trained teachers, inadequate provision of facilities and equipment and teaching materials, large class sizes. It is noted that the amount of time dedicated to physical education has been diminished in the school curriculum throughout the world. The responsibility rests directly on the shoulders of physical educators to ensure that the importance of their subject matter is understood and embraced as a part of their schools’ overall curriculum. Today, more than ever, the physical education curriculum needs to be linked to the overall well-being of children and youth as they matriculate through the curriculum. As has been noted, lessons learned at an early age carry into adult life. Furthermore, the importance of physical activity as a way of creating greater attentiveness in the classroom has not been recognized.

## **Objectives of the Sports in India**

- Mass participation of youth in annual sports competitions through a structured competition and identification of talent
- Guidance and nurturing of the talent through existing sports academies and new set up either by the central Government or State Government or in PPP mode.
- Creation of Sports Infrastructure at mofussil, Tehsil, District, State levels, etc.
- Each athlete selected under the scheme shall receive an annual scholarship worth Rs. 5.00 lakh for 8 consecutive years

## IMPLEMENTING “KHELO INDIA”: A NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTS

Ministry of Finance vide their D.O. No.32/PSO/FS/2015 dated 28th October, 2015, had advised this Department to suitably restructure the Centrally Sponsored Scheme into a Central Sector Scheme. On receipt of this advice from the Ministry of Finance, wide ranging consultations were held with State Governments throughout India by dividing the states into six zones, i.e., Northern, Central, Eastern, and North Eastern, Southern and Western zones. After these consultations, consensus emerged that the above three schemes should be merged into one scheme –“Khelo India” - National Programme for Development of Sports, which also draws inspiration in respect of organization of competitions from Khel Mahakumbh which is organized annually by Government of Gujarat. The programme takes care to develop sports infrastructure in both rural and urban areas and provides for not only identification of talent but guiding and nurturing of the talent through assistance to SAI Training Centers and Academies and State Government training centers/academies and setting up of new academies both in public and PPP Mode. “Khelo India Scheme, launched in October 2017, has created awareness for sports as an integral part of wellness throughout the country. “The government is committed to expand Khelo India scheme and provide all necessary financial support. To popularise sports at all levels, a National Sports Education Board for development of sportspersons will be set up under Khelo India Scheme.”

With a view to achieving the double objectives of mass participation and encouragement of excellence in sports, the Cabinet at its meeting held on 20109/2017 approved the revamp of "Khelo India- National Programme for Development of Sports." The revamped Khelo India programme aims at strengthening the entire sports ecosystem to promote the above mentioned twin national objectives of sports development, which includes playfield development; community coaching development; promotion of community sports; establishment of a strong sports competition structure at both school and university level as also for rural native sports, sports for persons with disability and women sports; filling up of critical gaps in sports infrastructure, including creation of hubs of sports excellence in select universities; talent identification and development; support to sports academies; implementation of a national physical fitness drive for school children; and sports for peace and development.

The scheme provides for a Project Appraisal Committee (PAC), which shall appraise all proposals received under the scheme and place them before a Departmental Project Approval Committee (DAPC) for approval. The approved projects will be subject to strict monitoring, including third party monitoring, for which State level monitors shall be engaged. The entire programme shall be steered by a General Council (GC) chaired by the Minister in charge. Which will function as the highest policy making body for the purpose of implementation of the scheme. The General Council will be supported by a National Level Executive Committee (NLEC) headed by Union Secretary of Sports. The scheme shall have a Corpus Fund for the purpose of technical support and capacity building, which will be utilized for engagement of professionals and national international consultant, carrying out national campaigns, publicity and awareness activities etc. The scheme has adequate flexibility, including need-based re-appropriation of allocations across components.

### Present Scheme for Sports

- **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan** – To provide infrastructure in rural areas and to encourage sporting culture in the country through competitions.

- **Urban Infrastructure Scheme** – To provide quality sports infrastructure in urban areas so as to provide facilities for talent to hone their skills.
- **National Sports Talent Search** – To identify young talent.

### Findings and Conclusion

The National competitions involving schools, colleges, Universities and NSFs under Khelo India Scheme, National Championships, and National Sports Talent Search Portal of SAI, will provide a platform for identification of talented sports persons in priority Sports disciplines in which the country has potential/advantage. To encourage sports all over the country thus allowing the population to harness the power of sports through its cross-cutting influence, namely, holistic development of children & youth, community development, social integration, gender equality, healthy lifestyle, national pride and economic opportunities related to sports development. The Khelo India Scheme aims to encourage sports all over the country, thus allowing the population to harness the power of sports through its cross-cutting influence, namely, holistic development of children & youth, community development, social integration, gender equality, healthy lifestyle, national pride and economic opportunities related to sports development. Khelo India programme identify and nurture sporting talent, encourage mass participation of youth in annual sports competitions, and create of sports infrastructure. The future challenges will mainly be the appropriate curriculum to be made and followed and to make available adequate funds from various organisations in order to support the needy but intelligent children so that they can only focus on their game without worrying about the funds. The technology will also play an important role in expanding and creating the interest in physical activities. The importance of physical education and sports activities are being identified in today's world and efforts are being made to improve the situations so that more and more talent can be recognised.

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