

BJYM

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MODI ERA: TRANSFORMING SPORTS IN INDIA



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Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's remarks at Sports Ministers' Chintan Shivir in Manipur

P

articipating in the program are my cabinet colleague Anurag Thakur ji, youth affairs and sports ministers of all the states, other dignitaries, ladies and gentlemen,

I am happy that the conference of sports ministers of the country, this 'Chintan Shivir', is being held on the land of Manipur this year. Many sportspersons from the North East have glorified the Tricolor and won medals for the country. The North East and Manipur have contributed significantly in taking forward the sports tradition of the country. The indigenous games such as Sagol Kangjei, Thang-ta, Yubi Lakpi, Mukna and Hiyang Tannaba are very attractive in their own right. For example, there is a glimpse of Kabaddi in Oolaobi of Manipur. The Hiyang Tannaba reminds one of Kerala's boat races. And Manipur also has a historical association with polo. Just as the North East adds new colours to the country's cultural diversity, it also gives new dimensions to the country's sports diversity. I hope that the sports ministers from all over the country will learn a lot from Manipur. And I am

sure the warmth and hospitality of the people of Manipur will make your stay more enjoyable. I welcome and congratulate all the sports ministers and other dignitaries participating in this 'Chintan Shivir'.

Friends,

Any 'Chintan Shivir' begins with meditation, proceeds with contemplation and ends with implementation. In other words, it starts with reflection, then realization and then implementation and action. So, you have to discuss the future goals and also review the previous conferences in this 'Chintan Shivir'. You will recall that when we met in Kevadia in 2022, many important issues were discussed. We had agreed to prepare a roadmap keeping in mind the future and create an ecosystem for the betterment of sports. We had talked about increasing the participation between the central government and the states in the sports sector. You must take note of how far we have progressed in Imphal in that direction. And I would also like to tell you that this review should not be done at the level of policies and programs only. Rather, you should review infrastructure development,

the sports achievements of the last one year, as well.

Friends,

It is true that Indian athletes and sportspersons have performed phenomenally in many international sports events in the last one year. While we celebrate these achievements, we also have to think about how we can help our players even more. In the times to come, the preparations of your ministry and departments will be tested in events such as Squash World Cup, Hockey Asian Champions Trophy, and Asian Youth & Junior Weightlifting Championships etc. The players are preparing at their level, but now our ministries will also have to work with a different approach regarding sports tournaments. Just like there is man to man marking in sports like football and hockey, similarly, all of you will have to do match to match marking. Different strategies have to be made for each tournament. You have to focus on sports infrastructure and sports training according to each tournament. You will also have to decide short term, medium term and long term goals.

Friends,

Games have one more specialty. A player alone can achieve fitness by practicing continuously, but it is also

Any 'Chintan Shivir' begins with meditation, proceeds with contemplation and ends with implementation. In other words, it starts with reflection, then realization and then implementation and action.

necessary to play continuously for the best performance. Therefore, it is also necessary that there should be more competitions and sports tournaments at the local level. As a result, players will also get to learn a lot. As the sports ministers, you will have to ensure that no sporting talent is overlooked.

Friends,

It is the responsibility of all of us to provide quality sports infrastructure to every talented player of our country. For this, the central government and the state government will have to work together. The Khelo India scheme has definitely improved the sports infrastructure at the district level. But now we have to take this initiative to the block level. The participation of all the stakeholders, including the private sector, is important. There is also an issue with regard to the National Youth Festival. To make it more effective, it requires a new way of thinking. It must be ensured that such programs, which are held in the states, should not become just a formality. When such all-round efforts are made, only then India will be able to establish itself as a leading sports country.

Friends,

The ongoing initiatives regarding sports in the North East are also a big inspiration for you. Projects related to sports infrastructure worth more than 400 crore rupees are giving a new direction to the development of the North East today. The National Sports University of Imphal will provide new opportunities to the youth of the country in the near future. The Khelo India Scheme and TOPS have played an important role in this regard. At least two Khelo India Centres in every district of the North East and Khelo India State Centre of Excellence are

being set up in every state. These efforts will become the foundation of a new India in the sports world and will give a new identity to the country. You have to speed up such efforts in your respective states as well. I am sure that this 'Chintan Shivir' will play an important role in this direction. With this belief, many thanks to all of you!

Source: "PM addresses 'Chintan Shivir' of Ministers of Youth Affairs & Sports of States/UTs in Imphal, Manipur" www.narendramodi.in





प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी ने खिलाड़ियों को

विश्वस्तरीय ट्रेनिंग, कोचिंग, खेल उपकरण, स्वास्थ्य संबंधी सुविधाएं

तथा विभिन्न अवसरों पर उनसे आत्मीय संवाद कर उनका मनोबल बढ़ाया है। यही कारण है कि खेल जगत में भारत नित नई उपलब्धियों को हासिल करते हुए शिखर की ओर बढ़ रहा है।



Message from the BJYM President Shri Tejasvi Surya

Namaskar!

As we stand today at the threshold of a new era, we acknowledge how the Modi Government has been instrumental in promoting sports, nurturing a dynamic sports culture, and strengthening sports infrastructure in our great nation.

T

he 'Khelo India' campaign, one of the government's flagship initiatives, encapsulates the spirit of our endeavours. In a short span, it has galvanised sports at the grassroots level, proving that the flame of sportsmanship burns bright in every corner of our country. Our youth have responded enthusiastically and are embracing sports more passionately than ever.

But nurturing a sports culture is not only about participation. It requires a holistic infrastructure that empowers athletes to reach their potential. The 'Target Olympic Podium Scheme' (TOPS) is an eloquent example of our commitment towards our athletes. This scheme provides our promising sportsmen and sportswomen with financial assistance, access to top-tier coaching, and world-class training facilities, enabling them to compete with the world's best.

We have also devoted substantial efforts to improving sports infrastructure across India. Numerous modern sports complexes and stadiums stand tall in our cities and towns. Our government believes infrastructure should not be a bottleneck in pursuing sporting excellence.

The government's 'Fit India Movement' has also made tremendous strides in inculcating a fitness culture among our citizens. This movement has successfully tapped into the transformative power of sports, promoting discipline, resilience, and a healthy lifestyle. 'Sansad Khel

Mahakumbh' was launched in 2021 by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The goal of the event is to promote sports and physical fitness among the youth of India, and has completed two successful editions.

Additionally, we have put a strong emphasis on inclusivity in sports. The 'Mission Paralympic 2028' has been announced to empower our para-athletes, ensuring they receive the same opportunities as any other athlete. We stand steadfast in our belief that sports are for everyone.

Prime Minister Modi's visionary leadership has made sports an integral part of India's developmental narrative. We have strived to create a sporting ecosystem that is robust and all-encompassing, nurturing talent from the grassroots to the global stage.

It is not just about winning medals or international accolades. It is about weaving sports into the social fabric of our country, enabling it to foster unity, instill national pride, and facilitate individual growth. As we continue on this journey, we stand committed to transforming India into a global sporting powerhouse.

Let us celebrate the power of sports and continue to stride forward with unwavering determination and boundless spirit.

Tejasvi Surya

National President
Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha

Editorial

P rime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership has fostered a unique environment that encourages sportsmanship and nurtures athletic prowess in India. His government's policies and campaigns reflect a broad commitment to revitalizing the sports sector, marking a good change of pace for India's sporting fraternity.

One of the most prominent initiatives has been the 'Khelo India' campaign, launched in 2018, focusing on popularising sports at the grassroots level. This innovative project, built on inclusivity, infrastructure, and talent identification pillars, is instrumental in shaping a sports culture among India's youth.

Under the Khelo India scheme, a National Programme for Development of Sports, also known as the 'Sports for All' initiative, was created. It aims to identify promising talent, provide robust support, nurture their skills, and prepare them for international competitions.

This progressive program exhibits the government's commitment to creating a robust sporting ecosystem that nurtures world-class athletes.

The 'Target Olympic Podium Scheme' (TOPS) is another stellar initiative by the Modi government that has significantly changed how India prepares its athletes for international events. The scheme provides financial aid to athletes and ensures access to world-class training facilities and expert coaching. This dedication has already started bearing fruit, as evidenced by the improved performances of Indian athletes at international sporting events.

Another significant policy by the Modi government is the 'Fit India Movement'. Launched in 2019, this campaign seeks to make physical fitness an integral part of every citizen's life. It aims to harness the power of sports to inculcate discipline, teamwork, and a spirit of healthy competition. It's not just about nurturing athletes; it's about creating a fitter, healthier nation.

One cannot overlook the efforts in infrastructural development for sports as well. The government has invested heavily in developing modern sports facilities and stadiums across the country. The focus on infrastructure and strategic efforts to democratize access to these facilities means that no talented athlete is denied the opportunity to shine due to a lack of resources.

In line with the government's vision to empower athletes, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has also been actively revising policies and regulations related to sports and sports bodies. The introduction of the National Sports Education Board, which aims to integrate sports and education, is another testament to the commitment of the government towards holistic athlete development.

It is also worth noting the government's efforts in promoting para-sports and providing equal opportunities to differently-abled athletes. The recently announced 'Mission Paralympic 2028' intends to prepare Indian athletes for the Paralympics, underlining the government's inclusive approach towards sports development.

What sets the Modi government apart is their all-encompassing vision for sports - one that considers every stakeholder, from aspiring athletes at the grassroots to elite athletes competing on the global stage. By creating a comprehensive sports infrastructure and fostering a culture that values fitness, the Modi government is helping transform India into a formidable sporting nation. Under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, sports in India have moved from the periphery to the centre of national discourse.



'Sports for All' initiative, was created. It aims to identify promising talent, provide robust support, nurture their skills, and prepare them for international competition

मोदी सरकार की खेल नीतियां: एक नई क्रांति

देवेन्द्र प्रताप सिंह तोमर
एसोसिएट वाईस प्रेजिडेंट,
हॉकी इण्डिया

भा

रत में साल 2014 में जबसे केंद्र में श्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी की सरकार बनी, तब से खेल का माहौल पूरी तरह बदला और खिलाड़ियों को बेहतर सुविधाएं मिलने लगी है। केंद्र सरकार ने खेल बजट में जबरदस्त वृद्धि की, जिसकी

वजह से खेल अधोसंरचना का विकास हुआ है। खेल संस्कृति को पुनर्जीवित करने तथा उत्कृष्टता को बढ़ावा देने के साथ-साथ फिटनेस पर जोर दिया गया है, जिससे ओलंपिक से लेकर लगभग हर बड़े स्पोर्टिंग इवेंट्स में बेहतर परिणाम मिलने लगे हैं।

भारत में पहले खेलों पर इतना ज्यादा ध्यान नहीं दिया जाता था, लेकिन मोदी सरकार ने खेलों के महत्व को समझा और इसके चलते ही 2014 से लेकर अभी तक केंद्रीय खेल बजट में करीब तीन गुना वृद्धि की जा चुकी है। सरकार ने खेल अधोसंरचना के विकास के साथ-साथ खेलों में लोगों की भागीदारी को बढ़ाया है। केंद्र सरकार अब जिला और स्थानीय स्तर पर खेल अधोसंरचना बना रही है, जिससे देश के सैकड़ों जिलों में लाखों युवाओं को खेल सुविधाएं मिल सकें। खेलो इंडिया और फिट इंडिया जैसे अभियानों पर प्रमुख ध्यान दिया जा रहा है। साल 2024 तक देश में 1000 खेलो इंडिया केंद्र और 25 उत्कृष्टता केंद्र स्थापित करने का लक्ष्य रखा गया है। 750 से ज्यादा खेलो इंडिया केंद्र तैयार हो चुके हैं, जबकि 2500 से ज्यादा खिलाड़ियों को इस स्कीम के तहत 5 लाख रुपये की सालाना मदद प्रदान की जा रही



है। इसी तरह, टारगेट ओलंपिक पोडियम स्कीम के तहत ओलंपिक और बड़े इवेंट्स में पदक के दावेदारों की ट्रेनिंग पर करोड़ों रुपए खर्च किए जा रहे हैं। भारत सरकार का प्रयास अपने खिलाड़ियों को अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर की सुविधा प्रदान करने के साथ ही उच्च स्तर का प्रशिक्षण दिलाना है। इसी के साथ उसका फोकस चयन में पारदर्शिता के साथ ही खिलाड़ियों को अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर की तकनीकी मदद उपलब्ध कराने पर है, ताकि वे दुनिया के दिग्गज खिलाड़ियों के सामने कमजोर साबित न हो।

देश की नई शिक्षा नीति में खेलों को भी अन्य विषयों के समान महत्व दिया गया है। प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने हर व्यक्ति से अपने जीवन में योग को शामिल करने का आह्वान किया। उनका मानना है कि यदि व्यक्ति का शरीर स्वस्थ और मन जागृत रहेगा तो उसे इसका लाभ खेल ही नहीं, बल्कि जीवन के हर क्षेत्र में मिलेगा।

खेल बजट में वृद्धि :

मोदी सरकार साल 2013-14 के बाद से अमूमन हर साल खेल बजट में वृद्धि कर रही है। साल 2023-24 के लिए खेल बजट 33.97.32 करोड़ रुपए है, जिसमें पिछले साल की तुलना में 723.97 करोड़ रुपए की बढ़ोतरी की गई है। 2013-14 से तुलना की जाए तो यह बजट करीब तीन गुना बढ़ चुका है। खेलो इंडिया मूवमेंट के बजट को 1000 करोड़ रु. किया गया है। भारतीय खेल प्राधिकरण (साई) का बजट 785.52 करोड़ रु., तो राष्ट्रीय खेल महासंघों का बजट 325 करोड़ रुपए है।

खेलो इंडिया मूवमेंट :

केंद्र सरकार ने साल 2017 में भारत की खेल संस्कृति को पुनर्जीवित करने तथा उत्कृष्टता को बढ़ावा देने के लिए बच्चों के साथ जमीनी स्तर पर जुड़ते हुए खेलो इंडिया अभियान की शुरुआत की थी। इस अभियान का उद्देश्य संगठित प्रतिभा की पहचान कर संरचित खेल प्रतियोगिताओं और बुनियादी ढांचे के विकास

के माध्यम से जमीनी स्तर पर भारत की खेल संस्कृति में सुधार करना है। इस योजना का लक्ष्य सभी के लिए खेल और उत्कृष्टता के लिए खेल को बढ़ावा देते हुए एक स्वस्थ और सक्रिय राष्ट्र का निर्माण करना है। नई दिल्ली में वर्ष 2018 में पहले खेलो इंडिया स्कूल गेम्स आयोजित किए गए थे। इसके बाद भारतीय ओलंपिक संघ (आईओए) इससे जुड़ा और 2019 से इसका नाम बदलकर खेलो इंडिया यूथ गेम्स कर दिया गया।



इस योजना के तहत विभिन्न स्तरों पर प्राथमिकता वाली खेल विधाओं में प्रतिभाशाली खिलाड़ियों को 8 वर्षों के लिए सालाना 5 लाख रुपए की वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान की जाती है। इसके तहत 10 से 18 आयु वर्ग के 2 करोड़ बच्चे शारीरिक स्वास्थ्य अभियान में भाग लेंगे। यह कार्यक्रम बच्चों की शारीरिक फिटनेस पर केंद्रित है।

फिट इंडिया मूवमेंट :

एक खिलाड़ी की सफलता में फिटनेस की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका होती है। फिटनेस सिर्फ खेल मैदान ही नहीं, बल्कि जीवन के हर क्षेत्र में जरूरी होती है। इसी के चलते भारत में फिट इंडिया मूवमेंट की शुरुआत की गई। प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने 29 अगस्त 2019 को इस मूवमेंट की शुरुआत की। यह मूवमेंट देश के कई मंत्रालयों का सामूहिक प्रयास है। इसके तहत खेल, मानव संसाधन विकास, पंचायती राज और ग्रामीण विकास आदि मंत्रालयों का उद्देश्य व्यवहार परिवर्तन लाना और भारतीयों के दैनिक जीवन में बुनियादी फिटनेस प्रथाओं को पेश करना है। व्यक्ति की फिटनेस में बहुत बड़ी भूमिका उसके खान-पान और पोषण की होती है। भारत के प्रस्ताव पर संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ (यूएनओ) वर्ष 2023 को इंटरनेशनल मिलेट ईयर के रूप में मना रहा है। भारत में मिलेट्स यानि मोटे अनाजों की समृद्ध परंपरा है।

खेल पुरस्कारों की इनामी राशि में वृद्धि :

केंद्र सरकार ने 2020 में राष्ट्रीय खेल पुरस्कारों की इनामी राशि में भारी बढ़ोतरी की। अब खेल रत्न पुरस्कार से सम्मानित होने वाले खिलाड़ी को 25 लाख रुपए प्रदान किए जाते हैं, जबकि पहले यह राशि 7.5 लाख रुपए होती थी। इसी तरह, अर्जुन पुरस्कार पाने वाले खिलाड़ियों को अब 15 लाख रुपए दिए जाते हैं, जबकि पहले उन्हें 5 लाख रुपए मिलते थे। इसी तरह, द्रोणाचार्य पुरस्कार (लाइफटाइम) पाने वाले को अब 5 लाख की बजाए 15 लाख रुपए प्रदान किए जाते हैं। द्रोणाचार्य पुरस्कार (नियमित) विजेता को 5 लाख की बजाए 10 लाख रुपए दिए जाते हैं। ध्यानचंद अवॉर्ड विजेता को भी 5 लाख की बजाए 10 लाख रुपए दिए जाते हैं।

प्रधानमंत्री मोदी का खेलों से लगाव :

ओलंपिक या एशियाड जैसे बड़े खेल इवेंट में हिस्सा लेने वाले खिलाड़ियों से देश के प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा सीधे संवाद स्थापित करना कितना महत्वपूर्ण हो सकता है, यह कोई वर्तमान भारतीय खिलाड़ियों से पूछे। जबसे

श्री नरेंद्र मोदी प्रधानमंत्री बने, उन्होंने बड़े खेल इवेंट्स में जाने से पहले व्यक्तिगत तौर पर खिलाड़ियों से सीधे संवाद कर उनकी तैयारियों को जाना। उन्होंने खिलाड़ियों का उत्साहवर्धन किया और तैयारियों के दौरान आने वाली समस्याओं को भी जाना। उन्होंने न केवल बड़े इवेंट्स के दौरान विजेता खिलाड़ियों से बात की, बल्कि करीबी मैच हारने वाले खिलाड़ियों का मनोबल भी बढ़ाया। पहले बड़े इवेंट्स के बाद देश लौटने पर खिलाड़ियों की आगवानी के लिए मंत्रालय का अधिकारी बमुश्किल जाता था, लेकिन अब तो प्रधानमंत्री अपने निवास पर स्वयं खिलाड़ियों की मेजबानी करते हैं। यह उनकी पहल का ही नतीजा है कि अब खिलाड़ियों को भारत में कुछ समस्या होने पर ट्रेनिंग के लिए विदेश भेजने में भी सरकार देरी नहीं करती है।

टारगेट ओलंपिक पोडियम स्कीम (टॉप्स) :

टारगेट ओलंपिक पोडियम स्कीम (टॉप्स) खेल मंत्रालय द्वारा सितंबर 2014 में शुरू की गई। इस स्कीम का उद्देश्य भारत के प्रमुख खिलाड़ियों को सहायता प्रदान करना है ताकि वे अपने प्रशिक्षण में सुधार कर ओलंपिक तथा अन्य प्रमुख इंटरनेशनल स्पर्धाओं में पदक हासिल कर सकें। सरकार इस स्कीम में

खिलाड़ियों की ट्रेनिंग की पूरी व्यवस्था करती है और उनके फिजियो, ट्रेनर और व्यक्तिगत कोच का भी पूरा ध्यान रखती है। भाला फेंक एथलीट नीरज चोपड़ा, पहलवानों विनेश फोगाट, बजरंग पूनिया, बैडमिंटन स्टार पीवी सिंधु जैसे कई प्रमुख खिलाड़ियों पर सरकार इस योजना के तहत करोड़ों रुपए खर्च कर चुकी है।

पिछले कुछ सालों की भारत की प्रमुख खेल उपलब्धियां :

भारत ने 2020 टोक्यो ओलंपिक खेलों में अपना अभी तक का सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रदर्शन किया है। भारत ने इससे पहले यदि पदकों के लिहाज से देखा जाए तो 2012 के लंदन ओलंपिक खेलों में कुल 6 पदक (2 रजत और 4 कांस्य पदक) हासिल किए थे, लेकिन 2020 के टोक्यो ओलंपिक खेलों में भारत ने इससे एक कदम आगे बढ़ाते हुए 1 स्वर्ण समेत कुल 7 पदक हासिल किए। भारत 2012 के लंदन पैरालिंपिक में मात्र 1 पदक जीतकर 67वें स्थान पर था, लेकिन उसने 2020 के टोक्यो पैरालिंपिक में धमाकेदार प्रदर्शन कर 5 स्वर्ण समेत 19 पदक हासिल कर 24वां स्थान हासिल किया है। भारत ने साल 2022 में हुए डीफलिंपिक्स में अपना अभी तक का सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रदर्शन करते हुए 8 स्वर्ण, 1 रजत और 7

कांस्य पदक हासिल किए। कई प्रमुख खेलों की अनुपस्थिति के बावजूद भारत ने 2022 के बर्मिंघम कॉमनवेल्थ गेम्स में 22 स्वर्ण समेत कुल 61 पदक प्राप्त करते हुए चौथा स्थान हासिल किया। बैडमिंटन में पीवी सिंधु 2019 में वर्ल्ड चैंपियन बनीं तो साल 2022 में भारतीय पुरुष बैडमिंटन टीम ने इतिहास रचते हुए पहली बार थॉमस कप पर कब्जा जमाया। अब भारत की निगाहें चीन में इस साल 22 सितंबर से 7 अक्टूबर तक होने वाले एशियाई खेलों में धमाकेदार प्रदर्शन करने पर टिकी हुई है।

खेल अब करियर भी :

केंद्र सरकार का प्रयास है कि बच्चे अब खेल को करियर के रूप में अपनाएं। इसके लिए स्पोर्ट्स मैनेजमेंट और स्पोर्ट्स टेक्नोलॉजी से जुड़ी हर विद्या को सीखने का माहौल बनाया जा रहा है। पिछले कुछ सालों में भारतीय खिलाड़ियों द्वारा कई खेलों में हासिल की जा रही उपलब्धियों और देश में विभिन्न खेलों की प्रोफेशनल लीग शुरू होने के बाद से खेलों के प्रति माहौल में सकारात्मक बदलाव आया है। सरकार का प्रयास है कि भारत अब खेलों में भी सुपर पॉवर बनकर सामने आए, इसके लिए वह हर तरह की मदद करने के लिए संकल्पित नजर आती है।



From Pitch to Podium: How PM Modi is Igniting a Sports Revolution in India

- Shreyasi Singh, Arjuna Awardee and MLA, Jamui

Earlier this year, in January, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi voiced his concern over the image of sports as a mere extra-curricular activity in the country. “This perception has caused severe damage to the future of sporting capabilities and talent in the country,” he said while addressing the Saansad Khel Mahakumbh. Under the leadership of PM Modi, the national government has given due importance to sports, emphasising its role in fitness levels, teamwork, and personal and professional growth.

The flagship scheme for sports, Khelo India, was initiated in 2016 and focused on promoting sports culture in India at the grass-root level. It includes organising annual competitions in different fields, talent hunts, and especially developing the talent of women, persons with disabilities and those from tribal/rural areas. So far, the scheme has conducted five Khelo India Youth Games in Maharashtra, Assam, and Haryana and two Khelo India University Games in Odisha and Karnataka. The games have witnessed participation by more than 18,744 sportspersons in over 25 sports disciplines.

Khelo India scheme also includes a vertical called “Promotion of Sports Among Persons with Disabilities” that supports athletes with disabilities, including sportspersons for Para-athletics. For the promotion of sports among persons with disabilities, Ministry for Youth Affairs and Sports (Ministry) has recognised three National Sports Federations (NSFs), namely All India Sports Council of the Deaf (AISCD), Paralympic Committee of India (PCI), and Special Olympic Bharat (SOB). The approximate expenditure for this vertical for 2018-19 and 2019-20 was Rs.15 crore each year. The last Paralympics in 2020 was India's most successful season, with 5 golds, 8 silvers, and 6 bronzes, totalling 19 medals. Before this edition,



India had won 12 medals (4 of each colour) in all previous Paralympics appearances.

Taking the talent search vertical of the Khelo India scheme to the next level, the government has launched the National Sports Talent Search Portal. The portal is an online platform that allows a budding sportsperson to apply for various schemes encompassing 30 sports disciplines by the Sports Authority of India (SAI). The portal centralises and eases the application to these schemes and provides information on all the training centres by SAI, including facilities like hostels, gyms, pools etc. A portal such as this is an excellent resource for parents, coaches and sportspersons in smaller towns and rural areas where such information can be difficult to access and removes mental barriers for those from non-sports backgrounds to enter the sports field.

As for the Olympics, the Ministry launched the successful 'Target Olympic Podium Scheme', TOPS, in 2014 under the National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) to support sportspersons preparing for the renowned Olympic games. The TOPS scheme focuses on aiding top Indian athletes in athletics, badminton, boxing, archery, wrestling, and shooting. Under the scheme, the TOPS Elite Athletes'



Finally, recognition of merit is just as important as training and support. The government consistently acknowledges and dignifies sports personalities with national sports awards such as the Arjuna Award, Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, Dhyanchand Award, and Dronacharya Award for their achievements and commitments as sportspersons and coaches.

For the larger Indian population, FIT India Movement was launched in 2019 by the Honourable Prime Minister to make fitness an integral part of our daily lives. The objective of this programme is to promote fitness as part of one's daily life and make it fun and accessible to all. It also encourages indigenous sports that may not otherwise be recognised in the international arenas, such as kho kho, gilli danda, mallakhamb etc. The scheme encourages the citizens to adopt a fitter lifestyle through yoga, a fitness tracking app, quizzes, diet plans, school fitness weeks, and certification of youth clubs fulfilling these goals.

Under the aegis of PM Modi, the government continues to focus on sports not only as a means to maintain health, fitness and personal development but also to strive for human excellence on the global stage. Indian presence at international sports events has steadily risen in the past decade, as has the medal tally at these events. A holistic approach by the government to the overall well-being of the sportspersons and the focus on marginalised players, such as women, persons with disabilities and rural sports, continues to be at the core of the promotion of sports in the country, and this has ensured that Indian sports are thriving not only at the domestic level but also in all categories in the international arena.

Identification Committee comprises eminent athletes and sports administrators to identify potential Indian medal winners for the Olympics. The scheme supports 98 TOPS Core Group athletes across 13 sports disciplines & Hockey (Men & Women) teams, and 165 TOPS Development Group athletes across 12 sports disciplines. In the last Commonwealth Games, out of the 70 athletes who won medals, 47 were supported under the TOP Scheme.

Apart from identification, funding and training of the sportspersons, the government has strived to create a strong infrastructure to ensure that the sportspersons receive holistic support in developing and pursuing their sports discipline. SAI boasts 189 centres across the country, of which 23 are National Centres of Excellence (NCOE), 67 are official SAI training centres and 50 arenas are dedicated to akharas and Indigenous Games & Martial Arts. NCOEs, across the country have been established to impart specialised training to promising athletes by providing state-of-the-art training facilities, sports science backup, individualised diet prescribed by trained nutritionists and overall supervision under the best coaches, and qualified support staff under the supervision of high-performance directors.



खिलाड़ियों को मिला सम्मान, पूरे हुए उनके अरमान

बबीता फोगाट: अर्जुन पुरस्कार विजेता, सदस्य,
राष्ट्रीय कार्यकारिणी भाजयुमो

मा

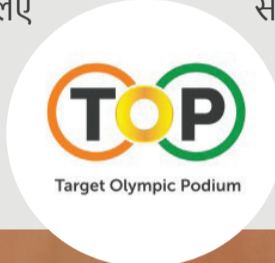
नव जीवन में खेलों का महत्वपूर्ण स्थान है। यह छात्रों एवं युवाओं की प्रतिभा उभारने में उन्हें सशक्त बनाने का माध्यम है। 2014 में प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी के नेतृत्व में भारतीय जनता पार्टी की सरकार बनने के बाद

खेल की अहमियत को समझा गया। खेल प्रतिभाओं को उभारने के लिए कई योजनाओं एवं कार्यक्रमों को लाया। इसके माध्यम से जहां छिपी हुई प्रतिभाओं को आगे आने का अवसर मिला, वहीं खिलाड़ियों को भी सम्मान मिला। मोदी सरकार ने भारत में विभिन्न खेलों का समर्थन करने का महत्व प्राधान किया है और इसे बढ़ावा देने के लिए कई पहल की हैं।

2018 में सरकार ने

'खेलो इंडिया' कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत की है, जिसका मुख्य उद्देश्य भारतीय खेल प्रतिभाओं की पहचान, प्रोत्साहन, और उनकी विकास प्रणाली का संचालन करना है। इस कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत प्रतिभाशाली खिलाड़ियों को वित्तीय सहायता, प्रशिक्षण, और खेल की बुनियादी ढांचा प्रदान किया जाता है। यह कार्यक्रम न केवल शहरी क्षेत्रों में बल्कि ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में भी खेल प्रतिभाओं को पहचानने का अवसर प्रदान करता है। इससे ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में छिपी प्रतिभाओं को आगे आने का अवसर मिला।

भा.ज.पा सरकार ने प्रतिभाशाली खिलाड़ियों की समर्थन के लिए **टॉप्स (टारगेट ओलंपिक पोडियम स्कीम) योजना** की शुरुआत की जो विभिन्न खेल प्रतियोगिताओं में अंतरराष्ट्रीय मेडल जीतने की क्षमता रखने वाले खिलाड़ियों को वित्तीय सहायता, प्रशिक्षण और अन्य सुविधाएं प्रदान करती है। टॉप्स योजना द्वारा खिलाड़ियों को उनकी खेल के लिए आवश्यक वित्तीय और शैक्षणिक सहायता मिलती है ताकि वे पूरी तरह से अपनी प्रतियोगिता पर



संघ (आईओए) में खिलाड़ियों की नियुक्ति को बढ़ावा दिया। अब खिलाड़ियों को अधिक मात्रा में संघ के निर्णय लेने में सहायता मिलेगी और वे अपने समर्थकों के साथ मिलकर खेल की प्रशासनिक और नीतियों में सक्रिय भूमिका निभा सकेंगे।

सरकार ने विभिन्न खेलों के लिए खासगी सेफ (खासगी हॉकी ईवेंट की समीक्षा फेडरेशन) की नियुक्ति की है। यह शेफ की भूमिका खेल के क्षेत्र में महत्वपूर्ण

है, जो नीतियों, प्रशासनिक मुद्दों, और खिलाड़ियों की सुविधा का समीक्षण करता है और उनके उन्नति और विकास के लिए सुझाव देता है। इसके कारण खेल के क्षेत्र में सकारात्मक बदलाव आया है।

सरकार ने भारतीय खेल अधिकारियों की नियुक्ति में **खिलाड़ियों की**

ध्यान केंद्रित कर सकें। इसका परिणाम हुआ कि पूर्वोत्तर भारत के खिलाड़ियों ने मेडल जीतने में कामयाबी हासिल कर देश का नाम रौशन किया।

खेल के क्षेत्र में खिलाड़ियों की 25% भागीदारी देशीय खेल संघों में रखने के निर्णय से खिलाड़ियों को संघों में सही स्थान और महत्व मिला। उनके मतदान, निर्वाचन, और नीतियों में सीधी भागीदारी सुनिश्चित हुई। मोदी सरकार ने खिलाड़ियों के प्रतिनिधित्व को मजबूत करने के लिए भारतीय ओलंपिक

25% भागीदारी योजना की शुरुआत की। इसके अंतर्गत, खिलाड़ियों को संघों और मंडलों में उच्च स्तर की पदों पर नियुक्ति मिलती है, जिससे उनकी आवाज़ सीधी रूप से सुनी जा सकती है और उनके हितों की सुरक्षा की जा सकती है।

खेलों को प्रबंधित करने और खिलाड़ियों की प्रशिक्षण, विकास, और समर्थन की व्यवस्था करने के लिए भारतीय स्पोर्ट्स अथॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया (एसएआई) ने महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है। एसएआई सरकारी संगठन है



जो खिलाड़ियों को विभिन्न प्रशिक्षण केंद्रों में प्रशिक्षित करने, संगठन की मेजबानी करने, और उन्हें वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान करने का कार्य करता है। यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कि खिलाड़ियों को उच्च स्तर की प्रशिक्षण सुविधाएं मिलती हैं और उनकी विकास में संघ और मंडलों की सहायता उपलब्ध होती है।

इस तरह स्पष्ट होता है मोदी सरकार खेलों के सजग रही है। अपने कार्यक्रमों एवं योजनाओं के माध्यम से खेलों के क्षेत्र में प्रतिभाशाली खिलाड़ियों को हरसंभव सहयोग, समर्थन देते हुए उनकी उन्नति को प्रोत्साहित करने का संकल्प दिखाया है। यह सरकारी नीतियां खेल के क्षेत्र में एक सकारात्मक परिवर्तन का प्रमाण हैं और देशीय और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर भारतीय खिलाड़ियों को एक मजबूत पहचान प्रदान करने में सहायता कर रही हैं।

इन उपक्रमों के माध्यम से, भारत में खेल के क्षेत्र में सकारात्मक परिवर्तन आया है और खिलाड़ियों को उनके खेले जाने वाले क्षेत्रों में अधिक सम्मान मिल रहा। यह सभी उपक्रम साथ मिलकर भारतीय खिलाड़ियों के उच्चतम स्तर पर प्रतिस्पर्धा करने और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मंच पर उन्नति करने की संभावनाओं को बढ़ावा देंगे।

भाजपा सरकार द्वारा खेल को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए राजीव गांधी खेल रत्न पुरस्कार को ध्यानचंद पुरस्कार में परिवर्तित करने, खेल के

लिए पेंशन योजना और पुरस्कार विजेताओं के लिए पुरस्कार देने जैसे ऐतिहासिक कार्य हुए हैं।

मोदी सरकार ने खेल के महान खिलाड़ियों को सम्मानित करने के लिए राजीव गांधी खेल रत्न पुरस्कार को ध्यानचंद पुरस्कार में परिवर्तित किया है। यह पुरस्कार राष्ट्रीय और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर महान खिलाड़ियों को प्रदान किया जाता है जो अपने खेले गई उत्कृष्टता के लिए प्रसिद्ध हैं। ध्यानचंद पुरस्कार खिलाड़ियों को स्वार्थपरता से पार करने, मनोबल बढ़ाने और और खेल क्षेत्र में प्रेरित करने का एक प्रमुख स्रोत है।

खेल के प्रतिभाशाली खिलाड़ियों के लिए एक पेंशन योजना के तहत, वरिष्ठ खिलाड़ियों और पदक विजेताओं को खेल के बाद भी आर्थिक सहायता प्रदान की जाती है। यह खिलाड़ियों को खेल के बाद आरामदायक और आत्मनिर्भर जीवन जीने में मदद करता है और उन्हें खेल में अधिक महत्वपूर्ण बनाता है।

सरकार के ये कार्य खेल क्षेत्र में प्रतिभाशाली खिलाड़ियों को प्रोत्साहित करने और उनके भविष्य को बेहतर बनाने के लिए हैं। ये कदम न केवल खेल क्षेत्र में उत्कृष्टता को प्रोत्साहित करने में मदद करेंगे, बल्कि देश को भी गर्व महसूस कराएंगे जब हमारे खिलाड़ियों द्वारा ओलंपिक में मेडल प्राप्त होंगे।

PM Modi's Sporting Legacy: A New Chapter in Indian Athletics

-Rohan Saigal, National Executive Member, BJYM, ex-cricketer (Vijay Hazare Trophy camp)

The role of sports in society, in cultures is immense. For the longest time, Indian parents, teachers, and children treated sports as merely an extracurricular activity. But I believe that the power of sports in making a country a global power is enormous. The number of medals a country wins in the Olympics says a lot about it on more fronts than one. We are finally awakening to this idea.

The commitment of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to sports can be seen right at the start of the budget allocated to the Sports Ministry. There is an increase of about Rs 335 crores compared to the previous budget. The budget in the year 2023 is three times what it was in 2014. The Modi Govt allocated Rs 3062.60 crores to this ministry, the highest ever in the history of India.

It is a good time to be a sportsperson in India. Think of everything happening around us in the country's sporting universe. The Indian Premier League is going on, which alone rakes in billions of dollars for the BCCI and further consolidates its position as the most potent cricketing body in the world and, if I dare say, one of the most powerful sporting bodies in the world. The IPL brand beats the NBA, NFL or the other global biggies regarding money and viewership.

One season of IPL is enough to change the fortunes of any player, coach, support staff, etc. The BCCI has ensured a significant pay raise even for those playing domestic cricket compared to the previous years. One significant



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change brought in by BCCI recently was the equal pay of match fees for women players.

A Football League, Kabaddi League, Wrestling league, Badminton League, Table Tennis League is happening on the Lines of IPL, revolutionising the sports arena in India. These leagues are turning around the fortunes of the players. Desi Sports like Kabbadi and Kushti are getting the money, fanfare and recognition one wouldn't have dreamt of 10 years back.

The Last couple of years has seen many firsts for Indian Sports. India had its most successful Olympic outing in 4 decades in the Tokyo Olympics 2020. We stood at the 43rd spot in the medal Tally with seven medals, our highest to date. The Indian contingent was our biggest yet, with 124 athletes participating in different events, and who can forget Neeraj Chopra's heroics at the Olympics?

The Indian Men's Maiden Thomas Cup Badminton win last year, beating the 14 times Champion Indonesia, was sensational. The Indian athletes rose to the occasion in the Common Wealth Games, Birmingham, with 61 medals, including 22 golds, 16 silvers, and 23 bronzes. Nikhat Zareen became the World Champion in boxing when she won the Gold Medal at the World Championship held in Turkey last year. Mirabai Chanu scripted history when she secured the silver medal at the World Weightlifting Championship in the 49 kg category. The list could go on and on with medals and achievements for our Indian Athletes in track and field, Table Tennis, Shooting, Wrestling, Hockey etc.

Key Initiatives by the Modi Govt:

Khelo India

Launched by the Govt in 2018, Khelo India remains the biggest grassroots-level sports talent identification and nurturing scheme running in India today. Every year, 1,000 talented athletes nationwide are offered scholarships for their training, coaching, diet, kit, medical insurance and out-of-pocket expenses.

The 5th edition of the Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) was held at 23 venues in 8 cities of Madhya Pradesh, in which nearly 6,000 athletes participated in 27 different sports. One can only imagine the push it must have given to the athletes and the overall sporting infrastructure of the state. Games like Fencing, Canoeing, and Kayaking which have always been a part of the Olympics, were included for the first time in the history of Indian sports.

Broadcasting is one crucial reason cricket is what it is in India. Khelo India games have been broadly broadcasted on Star Sports and other channels, just like cricket. This event prompted a huge section of youths to come forward and believe that games apart from cricket can also build them a bright future. Truly monumental, isn't it?!

Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)

This flagship scheme of the Sports Ministry provides personalised support to the potential medal winners for the country in the Olympics, World Championships, Commonwealth Games etc. TOPS covers sports like Athletics, Badminton, Boxing, Archery, Wrestling, and Shooting.

There is a lot that goes into making a World Champion. From International exposure, state of the art equipment to injury-related hospital expenditures. Everything is taken care of by

the Govt through this scheme. Neeraj Chopra, Lakshya Sen, and Mirabai Channu have all been beneficiaries of this scheme.

Fit India Movement

Launched on 29th August 2019 on National Sports Day by PM Modi to make Fitness and Sports an integral part of every Indian. PM Modi has successfully made this a movement of the masses.

The Road Ahead

The dialogue from the movie Chak De India, “Kya Karegi ladkiyaan world cup mein jaake”, was enough to summarise the sentiment of the sports & sportspersons' situation in the country before 2014.

In a country where no other sports apart from cricket have truly been recognised, lifting the spirits of other games was essential. And PM Modi's gestures gave thousands of sportspersons their due respect and recognition pending through the years! Chirag Shetty, The Badminton star, said he has never seen a Prime Minister call a sports team after a victory. He added that the call motivated the entire team to a new level.

PM Modi fulfilling his promise of having ice cream with PV Sindhu on the Olympian's return from the Tokyo Olympics are the moment that makes monumental changes! A Prime Minister consoling the teary-eyed Hockey team caught the imagination of every sportsperson in the nation and made them believe that this government genuinely cares. This kind of conscious efforts to mainstream sports as a career brings about Changes.

Yes, we are still far away from sporting powerhouses like China or the U.S. it will take much more to reach there, but the wheels have been set in motion, and that time isn't far.



From the Hills to the Olympics: Sports Renaissance in the North-East

- Kishore Kumar Das, NEC BJYM

India is known to be a diverse country with a plethora of cultures and traditions. Each state has its unique identity, and it is essential to provide equal opportunities in all regions of the country. With the government's continuous effort towards developing sports in the Northeastern states, the region has started producing some extraordinary athletes.

During the reign of previous governments in the Centre, the North-East region was shut off from the mainstream development agenda when terrorism, civil war, and rebellions dominated the news. Development was just a dream, and government schemes were mostly on paper. In the nine years of the Shri Narendra Modi's government, the double-engine model of the BJP ruling both the Centre and states succeeded in bringing "Governemnt to the doorstep of the Northeast" region. Every officer and minister was asked to visit the (Northeast) region and serve the people as per their local needs. Initiatives like 'Go to Hills' and

'Go to Village' in several states further strengthened the governance at the grassroots level. Further, the region has many important faces in key portfolios in the Union Council of Ministers. While a new work culture of change, peace, and development prevails in the North East, minimal extremism is reported during the BJP-led government rule. With investments and developmental projects ushered in, the North East region is on a path of rapid development.

The sport-related discourses across various formal and informal forums in India revolve around the absence of sporting culture in the country, especially at the grassroots. North East India is exceptional in this context. Strong sporting culture is a tradition in the northeastern region. Each clan, village, and tribe have been organising structural sports for participation and competition, independent of government organisation. Community-based activities centring on a win or loss of a game have been providing fabric for the cohesive building of the society in this region.

Native's isolation of population has imparted a passion for sports for entertainment. The traditional matrilineal societies

The landmass that comprises about 8 per cent of India and 3.8 per cent of the population is famous for producing some of the finest sportspersons who have contributed to India's tally in prestigious tournaments like the Olympics and Commonwealth & Asian Games for years.



in the North East have allowed girls to go out and pursue sports life and livelihood. The weather and terrain make North East states perfect for sports. Geographically isolated and culturally distant, the eight states of North-East India, namely Assam, Sikkim, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, and Tripura, make fables turn regarding sports. Jhandi Munda, Andar Bahar, Luka Vaku, Rummy, Ghila, Dhup Khel, and Kochn are some of the popular traditional sports in this region.

The landmass that comprises about 8 per cent of India and 3.8 per cent of the population is famous for producing some of the finest sportspersons who have contributed to India's tally in prestigious tournaments like the Olympics and Commonwealth & Asian Games for years. The North East has been producing some of the most acclaimed international players. The most notable among them is Mary Kom, who hails from Manipur and is a six-time world boxing champion and an Olympic bronze medalist. Another regional Olympic medalist is Dipa Karmakar, a gymnast from Tripura and the first Indian female gymnast to compete in the Olympics.

The Tokyo Olympics in 2021 was India's most successful Olympics ever. There was euphoria all around the Indian contingent when the players returned home. Before leaving for Tokyo, they met Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He motivated them to give their best. At the 2021 Tokyo Olympics, India won seven medals - one Gold, two Silver, and four Bronze medals. Neeraj Chopra went on to win a Gold medal in men's Javelin throw, Mirabai Chanu won a Silver medal in women's 49 kg weightlifting, Ravi Kumar Dahiya won a Silver medal in men's 57kg freestyle wrestling, Lovlina Borgohain won Bronze in women's welterweight boxing. The famous women badminton player P.V Sindhu won a Bronze medal in women's singles badminton. And Indian Men's hockey team went on to win a bronze in men's hockey for the country. All these athletes made the country proud with their outstanding performances at the 2021 Olympics.

The vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji and the mission mode in which his government is working to promote sports and support sportspersons reflects in his unique schemes and programmes. For instance, the 'Target Olympic Podium Scheme' (TOPS), which

was introduced in 2015, is a path-breaking scheme that has been instrumental in ensuring that a "core group of athletes" have all the necessary personalised support in terms of foreign exposure, hiring of specific coaches, training, and competition abroad. TOPS, which supports a "core group" of athletes and sportspersons besides younger athletes training for the Olympics in 2024 and 2028 in the "development group", has significantly propelled the results athletes produce today. It has led to India's best-ever Olympics and Paralympics performance in 2020, a victory in the Thomas Cup after 73 years, and many such sporting achievements.

Narendra Modi Ji has also been instrumental in promoting Yoga as a sport and has launched International Yoga Day to raise awareness about the benefits of performing Yoga. He also encouraged the development of traditional sports like - Kabaddi and Kho-Kho, which have gained popularity in recent years.

One of the critical initiatives of the able Narendra Modi government towards the development of sports has been the 'Khelo India' program. Under this scheme, several activities such as talent identification, coaching, and infrastructure development have been started, which has significantly impacted the state of sports in the Northeastern states.

Several initiatives have been undertaken to boost the sporting potential of the Northeastern states, including setting up state-of-the-art sports facilities, establishing sports academies, and organising various tournaments. Tripura, in particular, has witnessed a considerable change in the last few years. The state has been home to many famed gymnasts, but a significant portion of the infrastructure was not adequately conditioned. Thanks to the Modi government, Tripura today has India's most extensive indoor sports complex housed in Agartala, featuring state-of-the-art amenities such as the gymnastics hall, shooting range, indoor stadium, and many more.

The Northeastern states and Tripura have an enormous pool of raw talent. With the right support and policies, we can become the next sporting powerhouse of India. Sports in Northeast India & Tripura have undoubtedly undergone a tremendous change, primarily under the leadership of PM Modi. The government's focus on developing infrastructure, talent identification, and financial support towards promoting the region's traditional sports has placed the Northeast on the national and international map.





Khelo India Scheme: Promoting National Integration and Engaging Youth Through Sports

Prof. Ravinder Kumar: Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Jamia Millia Islamia University
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The Khelo India Scheme has played a significant role in promoting national integration by fostering a sense of unity, camaraderie, and shared identity among diverse communities across India. It serves as a platform for cultural exchange and celebrating India's diversity. Athletes representing different states and regions come together, each with unique traditions, customs, and identities. The sports events organised under Khelo India provide a melting pot for cultures, allowing athletes and spectators to experience and appreciate the rich heritage of various communities. This exchange promotes cultural understanding and strengthens the bonds that unite us as a nation.

Khelo India scheme engages the youth of India

The Khelo India Scheme has been instrumental in engaging the youth of India and promoting their active participation in sports. The scheme aims to create a sports culture in India by encouraging youth to actively participate in various sports disciplines. It provides a platform for young athletes to showcase their talent, receive training, and compete nationally and internationally. By promoting a sports culture, the scheme inspires the youth to adopt a healthy and active lifestyle, instilling values of discipline, determination, and teamwork.

The scheme focuses on talent identification and nurturing the potential of young athletes across the country. It provides opportunities for talented youth to receive specialised

training, coaching, and exposure to competitions. It facilitates the discovery of hidden sporting talent and provides a pathway for youth to pursue their passion and excel in their chosen sports. By providing financial support, the scheme ensures that deserving youth are not deprived of opportunities due to financial constraints.

The scheme emphasises the development of sports infrastructure across the country. It includes construction and upgradation of playgrounds, training centres, and sports facilities at various levels. The availability of quality infrastructure encourages youth to participate in sports activities and provides the necessary facilities to hone their skills and improve their performance. It provides opportunities for youth athletes to participate in national

and international competitions. This exposure allows them to showcase their talent on a larger stage and provides valuable experience and learning opportunities. Competing against the best in the country and internationally enhances their skills, boosts their confidence, and broadens their horizons.

Promoting Inclusive Participation

The Khelo India Scheme encourages inclusive participation from athletes representing various states, regions, and communities nationwide. The scheme fosters a spirit of inclusivity and unity by providing a platform for athletes from different backgrounds to compete together. Athletes from different states and communities come together to showcase their talent, learn from each other, and build bonds that transcend regional and cultural boundaries.

Manu Bhaker, a young shooting prodigy, is one of the athletes who has benefited from the Khelo India Scheme. She received financial support, training, and competition exposure, which helped her excel in the sport. Manu Bhaker has achieved several accolades, including multiple gold medals in international shooting events, and she has represented India in prestigious competitions



such as the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games.

Enhancing Cultural Exchange

The Khelo India Games, organised under the scheme, serve as a platform for cultural exchange and celebration of diversity. Athletes and spectators from different states and regions get the opportunity to experience and appreciate the cultural richness of various communities through their traditional attire, music, food, and customs. This exchange of cultures promotes understanding, respect, and unity among participants and spectators, strengthening the fabric of national integration.

Fostering National Pride and Identity

The Khelo India Scheme instils national pride and identity among athletes. Representing their respective states and competing at the national level fosters a sense of belonging to a larger collective, the Indian nation. Athletes proudly wear their state colors and emblems, showcasing their unique identities while being part of a unified Indian team. This shared experience enhances national integration by emphasising the commonality and shared aspirations among diverse communities. The Khelo India Scheme facilitates the exchange of sporting ideas, techniques, and strategies among athletes from different regions. Athletes learn from each other's strengths, training methods, and tactical approaches, leading to the exchange and assimilation of knowledge. This exchange enhances the overall sporting standard and promotes collaboration, mutual respect, and unity among athletes from diverse backgrounds.

Building National Networking and Exposure

The Khelo India Scheme provides

a platform for athletes, coaches, and officials from various states and regions to network, collaborate, and learn from each other. The scheme brings together sports stakeholders, including experts, trainers, and administrators, fostering dialogue and cooperation that transcends geographical boundaries. This networking and exposure contribute to national integration by promoting a collective approach toward developing sports in the country.

Saurabh Chaudhary, a talented shooter, has benefited from the Khelo India Scheme. The scheme provided him with the necessary support

sports. It has empowered women by providing a platform to showcase their talent, fostering a sense of pride, and encouraging them to pursue sports as a viable career option.

Dutee Chand, an accomplished sprinter, benefited from the Khelo India Scheme. The scheme provided her with financial support, training, and infrastructure to improve her athletic abilities. Dutee Chand has represented India in multiple international athletics events, including the Olympic Games and Asian Games, and has won numerous medals in national and international competitions.



Indian shooting ace Saurabh Chaudhary

and infrastructure to hone his skills. Saurabh Chaudhary has achieved remarkable success in his shooting career, including winning a gold medal at the 2018 Asian Games and setting multiple world records in the men's 10-meter air pistol event.

Changing Perceptions and Empowerment of Women

The Khelo India Scheme has contributed to changing societal perceptions about women in sports. By highlighting the achievements and potential of female athletes, the scheme has challenged traditional gender stereotypes and inspired other women and girls to take up

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's contribution to the Khelo India Scheme has been instrumental in building national integration, engaging the youth, and empowering women through sports. Under his leadership, the Khelo India Scheme has gained significant momentum, creating a platform that fosters unity, inclusivity, and a shared sense of identity among athletes from diverse backgrounds. Prime

Minister Narendra Modi has effectively engaged the youth, inspiring them to participate in sports and adopt a healthy lifestyle by prioritising the development of sports infrastructure, talent identification, and training programs. The scheme's emphasis on inclusivity and equal opportunities has enabled talented individuals, including women, to excel in their respective sports and break gender barriers.



Transforming the Game How Modi's Vision is Shaping Indian Sports

- Lakshit Mittal: Track Chair - 'Health Wellbeing and Sports', Y20 and member BJYM PRT Team

We all had seen that video when Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi travelled in the metro during its inauguration and talked to a group of young people. The PM asked, “How much time will the metro save for you daily?”. He got varied responses from 15 minutes to 1 hour, but his recommendation was singular and exemplary. He suggested that people should use the additional time doing yoga or playing a game they prefer. This incident touched millions of hearts not just because of the humbleness of the leader of 1.4 billion Indians but also because of his deep focus on sports and the importance he attaches to sports for individual fitness.

Sports, an integral part of a nation's identity and pride, has witnessed a remarkable transformation under the visionary leadership of the Prime Minister. The Modi government's unwavering commitment to promoting sports at various levels has yielded extraordinary achievements, propelling India to new heights globally.

One of the cornerstones of the Modi government's sports agenda has been the emphasis on grassroots development and talent identification. Under schemes like the Khelo India initiative, the government has provided a platform for young athletes from remote corners of the country to showcase their skills. By organizing grassroots-level competitions and talent scouting programs, the government has unearthed hidden gems who have gone on to achieve great heights in their respective sports. The increased focus on nurturing talent at a young age has laid a solid foundation for India's future sporting success.

Infrastructure was another critical pillar of sports that lacked proper attention in India. Recognizing the critical role of infrastructure in sports development, the Modi government has invested substantially in upgrading existing facilities and constructing state-of-the-art sporting venues. The Khelo India School Games have spurred the development of sports infrastructure in schools across the country, ensuring that talented youngsters have access to world-class facilities. The government's flagship project, the National Sports University in Manipur, stands as a testament to its commitment to providing top-notch facilities for training and research. Moreover, initiatives like the Fit India Movement have encouraged the establishment of sports centres and gyms in rural areas, making sports more accessible to the masses.

Under the Modi government's leadership, India has witnessed unparalleled success at the Olympic Games and other international sporting events. The “Target Olympic Podium Scheme” (TOPS) launch has provided elite athletes with comprehensive support, including

financial assistance, specialized training, and exposure to international competitions. The result of these concerted efforts was evident in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, where India recorded its best-ever medal tally. The government's unwavering support for sports like wrestling, boxing, badminton, and shooting has resulted in Indian athletes consistently competing at the highest level and clinching podium finishes.

The Modi government has also leveraged the advances in sports in the diplomatic arena to enhance India's global standing. By hosting major international events like the FIFA U-17 World Cup and the Hockey World Cup, India has not only showcased its organizational capabilities but has also demonstrated its passion for sports. These events have fostered international goodwill, attracting attention from sports enthusiasts around the globe. The success of these tournaments has further solidified India's bid to host future sporting extravaganzas, including the Olympics and the Commonwealth Games.

In the spirit of the G20 theme for this year, Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, India, is determined to push for sports uptake across the globe. The 'one world, one family, one earth' that India imagines must be mentally and physically healthy. Sports can play a critical role here, and India recognizes this fact. At Y20, India is discussing with all G20 members and invitee countries about frameworks that can help in promoting indigenous sports around the globe. Beyond sports adoption, indigenous sports will also provide opportunities for cultural exchange, local business

creation, fuller personality development, and youth engagement in healthy competition. Thus, G20 countries will benefit greatly from this leadership direction India gave to the G20 forum this year.

In conclusion, the Modi government's tireless efforts to revolutionize sports in India have borne fruit, catapulting the nation onto the world sporting map. The various efforts



and achievements of the present government in the sports arena are truly commendable. As India continues to excel in various sporting disciplines, it is evident that the Modi government's relentless pursuit of excellence has set the stage for a sporting revolution, inspiring millions.





The New Era of Indian Sports: A Civilisational and Collaborative Journey

- Devansh Shah: BJYM PRT National Team Member & Track Chair, Y20 India

It was a windy day in Assam when 15-year-old Hima decided to switch to athletics and started running. Little did she know that just a few years later, she would be representing India in the prestigious U20 World Championships, thanks to the transformative policies of the Modi government.

The rise of Hima as a successful athlete is a testament to the impact of India's recent policy changes in the realm of sports and fitness. These changes reflect a concerted effort by the Modi government to build a more robust and inclusive sports culture in India. By blending traditional wisdom with modern techniques, the government has created a more comprehensive and sustainable approach to sports development.

Integrating Ancient Wisdom: Insights from the Six Indian Philosophical Systems

The Modi government has formulated policies that focus on physical development and mental and spiritual growth,



which seems very similar to our six philosophical systems - the 'Shad Darshanas'. This civilisational wisdom has helped create India's more inclusive and balanced sporting culture.

The Rise of Grassroots Programs: Khelo India

The Khelo India program recognises the importance of nurturing talent from the grassroots level. Launched in 2017, it provides opportunities for young athletes to showcase their skills in a competitive environment. It supports them through scholarships, world-class coaching, and access to state-of-the-art infrastructure.

Supporting Elite Athletes: Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)

The Target Olympic Podium Scheme aims to provide financial and logistical support to potential Olympic and Paralympic medal winners. This scheme has played a crucial role in India's recent international success, including a record-breaking performance at the 2021 Tokyo Olympics.

Collaborating with Smart Cities and Private Players

The Modi government has taken several steps to boost the sports sector in India, especially by collaborating with smart cities and private players. Under the Smart City Mission, cities are encouraged to organise mega sports events to improve their infrastructure and telecommunication systems serving the designated sports facilities. This collaboration has successfully organised events like Sansad Khel Spardha and Khelo India Youth Games.

Private Players Enhancing the Sports Ecosystem

The involvement of private players in providing training and coaching facilities, sponsoring athletes, and organising leagues and tournaments has helped create a vibrant sports



ecosystem in India. Initiatives like Reliance Foundation Youth Sports and leagues such as the Indian Super League, Pro Kabaddi League, Indian Premier League, and Ultimate Table Tennis have revolutionised various sports in the country.

A Leap in Infrastructure Development: The Yoga of Sports

Drawing parallels with yoga, where yoga practice prepares the body and mind for meditation, the Modi government has made significant strides in building and upgrading sports facilities nationwide to prepare the country to compete



with the best in the world. This focus on infrastructure development has enabled athletes like Hima to hone their skills and compete with the best in the country.

Promoting Indigenous Sports and Local Talent: The Nyaya of Recognition

The government's focus on promoting traditional Indian sports has opened doors for athletes who excel in disciplines like kabaddi, kalaripayattu, and mallakhamb. By incorporating these sports into the Khelo India program, the government has ensured that local talent receives national recognition and support.

Empowering Women in Sports: The Sankhya of Balance

Sankhya philosophy teaches us that the universe was born from the union of Prakriti and Purusha. The Modi government has encouraged and supported women in sports by creating policies and targeted programs that provide equal opportunities for female athletes. Indian sportswomen like PV Sindhu, Hima Das, and Manu Bhaker have emerged as global icons, inspiring millions of girls across the nation.

Hima's journey is a testament to the transformative power of the progressive and participative policies introduced by the Modi government, which are deeply rooted in our civilisational wisdom. Collaboration with smart cities and private players has further enhanced India's sports culture

and ecosystem by creating more opportunities, incentives, and infrastructure for athletes and sports lovers. This holistic and collaborative approach has not only improved the health and happiness of Indians but also boosted their confidence and pride on the global stage. The dedication of the government to invest in and develop sports in India has set the stage for a brighter future, where Indian athletes can consistently make their mark on the global stage while staying connected to their cultural heritage.



खेलेगा भारत, जीतेगा भारत

सौरभ कुमार पाण्डेय 'शौर्य': लेखक, पत्रकार, BJYM
मैगज़ीन एडिटोरियल बोर्ड के मेम्बर हैं



कि

सी भी राष्ट्र की वैश्विक स्तर पर जिन मानकों पर गणना की जाती है उनमें एक महत्वपूर्ण मानक है खेल भी होता है। खेल और खिलाड़ियों को मिलने वाली सुविधाएं, विश्व स्तर पर खिलाड़ियों का प्रदर्शन, ओलंपिक एवं अन्य बहुराष्ट्रीय प्रतिस्पर्धाओं में खिलाड़ियों द्वारा जीते गए मेडल किसी भी राष्ट्र का मान सम्मान बढ़ाते हैं। जब बात भारत जैसे राष्ट्र की हो जो चौतरफा प्रगति के मानक गढ़ रहा है तो ये बात विशेष रूप से लागू होती है, कि हमारे देश में खेल के क्षेत्र में क्या बदलाव हुए और आज हम कहां खड़े हैं? भारत जैसा विशाल राष्ट्र आज पीएम मोदी के नेतृत्व में खेलों के क्षेत्र में इसी गौरव को फिर से हासिल करने के लिए जी जान से जुटा है। 2014 में प्रधानमंत्री पद का कार्यकाल पहली बार संभालने के बाद से ही पीएम मोदी ने भारत में खेल सुविधाओं का विस्तार और खिलाड़ियों का मनोबल बढ़ाने वाले कई कामों पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया।

अगर एक उदाहरण से हम समझने का प्रयास करें तो सबसे पहले प्रधानमंत्री जी ने ओलंपिक खेलों के लिए कार्ययोजना बनाने और हर ओलंपिक में भारत की सशक्त भागीदारी

को सुनिश्चित करने के उद्देश्य से एक कमेटी का गठन किया। जिसमें खेलों से जुड़े एक्सपर्ट्स और अन्य विभाग जो खेलों में सहायक होते हैं, उनसे जुड़े एक्सपर्ट्स शामिल होते हैं, जो खिलाड़ियों के प्रशिक्षण, स्वास्थ्य, प्रदर्शन, चयन, और अन्य मूलभूत सुविधाओं जो कि खिलाड़ियों के लिए आवश्यक होती हैं को बेहतर बनाने और उनकी निगरानी करने का कार्य करती है। एवं समय समय पर समीक्षा करके सरकार को सुझाव भी देती है। खिलाड़ियों को विश्वस्तरीय बनाने के लिए मोदी सरकार ने आते ही कमर कस चुकी थी। खिलाड़ियों की बेहतरी के लिए किसी भी सरकार द्वारा उठाया गया अब तक का सबसे बड़ा कदम था ये जो शायद भारतीय खेल इतिहास में मील का पत्थर साबित हुआ।

इसका परिणाम आप इस तरह से देख सकते हैं कि 2014 से पहले तक भारत के खिलाड़ी, सौ से भी कम अंतराष्ट्रीय इवेंट्स में हिस्सा लेते थे। इसके विपरीत, अब भारत के खिलाड़ी 300 से भी ज्यादा अंतराष्ट्रीय इवेंट्स में शामिल होते हैं। पहले भारत के खिलाड़ी 20-25 खेलों को खेलने ही जाते थे। अब परिवर्तन ये हुआ कि भारत के खिलाड़ी करीब 40 अलग-अलग खेलों में हिस्सा लेने जाते हैं। पदकों की संख्या के साथ-साथ भारत का मान और खेलों में

जब बात भारत जैसे राष्ट्र की हो जो चौतरफा प्रगति के मानक गढ़ रहा है तो ये बात विशेष रूप से लागू होती है, कि हमारे देश में खेल के क्षेत्र में क्या बदलाव हुए और आज हम कहां खड़े हैं?

भारत की उम्मीदें अब और बढ़ रही हैं। ये सब यूँ ही अनायास नहीं हुआ है, भारत का खेल बजट भी पहले से लगभग 70 प्रतिशत बढ़ा है।

टोक्यो ओलंपिक में भारत ने कुल 7 पदक अपने नाम किए। भारत 1900 से ओलंपिक में हिस्सा ले रहा है और भारतीय खिलाड़ियों का अब तक का यह सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रदर्शन था। इससे पहले भारत ने 2012 के लंदन ओलंपिक में 6 पदक जीते थे। भारत की पुरुष हॉकी टीम ने कांस्य पदक अपने नाम किया। 41 साल बाद ओलंपिक में भारतीय हॉकी टीम ने कोई पदक जीता। इससे पहले भारत ने 1980 में स्वर्ण पदक जीता था। वहीं नीरज चोपड़ा ने भारत को 121 साल के ओलंपिक इतिहास में पहली बार एथलेटिक्स में स्वर्ण पदक दिलाया। इससे पहले किसी भारतीय ने ट्रैक एंड फील्ड स्पर्धा में पदक नहीं जीता था। 1900 में नॉर्मन प्रिटचार्ड ने एथलेटिक्स में दो रजत पदक जीते थे। हालांकि, वे भारतीय नहीं, बल्कि भारत ने जन्मे अंग्रेज थे। टोक्यो पैरालंपिक 2020 में भारतीय खिलाड़ियों ने कुल 19 पदक जीते

और पदक तालिका में देश 24वें स्थान पर रहा। रियो पैरालंपिक में महज चार पदक जीतने वाले भारत ने टोक्यो में 19 पदक जीते। यह भारत का पैरालंपिक में अबतक का सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रदर्शन है। भारतीय खिलाड़ियों ने कुल पांच गोल्ड, आठ सिल्वर और छह ब्रांज मेडल जीते। भारत ने 1972 में पहली बार पैरालंपिक में हिस्सा लिया था, उसके बाद से लेकर 2016 तक भारतीय खिलाड़ी कुल मिलाकर 12 ही पदक जीत पाए थे।

पीएम मोदी ने ना सिर्फ खिलाड़ियों और उनकी जुड़ी आवश्यकताओं पर खास ध्यान दिया बल्कि कई ऐसे कदम भी उठाए जिसने खिलाड़ियों का उत्साह बढ़ाने में अहम भूमिका निभाई। इसमें हर बड़ी खेल प्रतियोगिता में जाने से पहले और विजय के बाद व्यक्तिगत रूप से खिलाड़ियों को बधाई देना, अपने

निवास स्थान पर खिलाड़ियों से मुलाकात और बातचीत कर उनका लगातार उत्साहवर्धन करना शामिल है। इसके साथ प्रधानमंत्री ने प्रतियोगिता में हारने वाले खिलाड़ियों का भी व्यक्तिगत रूप से उत्साहवर्धन किया। हमारे पुराने खेल जगत के महानायकों का भी सम्मान किया। देश का सबसे बड़ा खेल रत्न पुरस्कार मेजर ध्यानचंद के नाम पर रखकर ये एहसास दिलाया कि खेल चाहे जो भी हो सम्मान सबका किया जाएगा। देखने में बड़ी मामूली सी बात लगती है लेकिन देश के इतिहास में खेल के लिए इतना संवेदनशील और इतना सकारात्मक पहल किसी अन्य प्रधानमंत्री ने नहीं की।

आप इसकी एक बानगी ऐसे भी समझ सकते हैं, भारत ने अभी से वर्ष 2024 और 2028 के ओलंपिक के लिए तैयारियों को अंजाम

देना शुरू कर दिया है। हाल ही में भारतीय खेल प्राधिकरण 21 खेलों के लिए 398 कोच की तैनाती कर दी है। इन कोच में कई पूर्व अंतर्राष्ट्रीय एथलीट और अर्जुन पुरस्कार विजेता हैं, जिन्होंने विश्व चैंपियनशिप और ओलंपिक जैसी विशिष्ट प्रतियोगिताओं में पदक जीते हैं या इसमें भाग लिया है।

ये सब हमारे देश के प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी के कुशल मार्गदर्शन और प्रेरणा से सम्भव हुआ है। कल तक जहाँ ऐसे मुहावरे आम थे 'खेलोगे कूदोगे तो बनोगे खराब, पढ़ोगे लिखोगे तो बनोगे नवाब'। अब नए भारत की सोच को एक नई दिशा दिखाते हुए प्रधानमंत्री जी ने एक नई रीति चलाई 'पढ़ेगा भी भारत, खेलेगा भी भारत और आगे बढ़ेगा भी भारत। मैदान कोई भी हो जीतेगा भारत।



प्रधानमंत्री ने प्रतियोगिता में हारने वाले खिलाड़ियों का भी व्यक्तिगत रूप से उत्साहवर्धन किया।

Fostering a Sporting Nation

- Dhananjay Sharma: Law Student & Member of BJYM Magazine Team



The Khelo India scheme is the government's flagship initiative to promote sports at the grassroots level and identify talented athletes for further training and development.

Sports have always been an integral part of Indian culture, with the nation having a rich history of sports in various disciplines. The importance of sports in India has only grown in recent years, and the government has recognized the need to invest in this sector. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the government has implemented various policies aimed at promoting sports in India and developing the infrastructure required to produce world-class athletes.

One of the primary objectives of the Modi government has been to develop sports infrastructure across

the country. The government has launched several schemes to achieve this objective, including the Khelo India scheme, the National Sports Development Fund, and the Target Olympic Podium Scheme.

The Khelo India scheme is the government's flagship initiative to promote sports at the grassroots level and identify talented athletes for further training and development. The scheme has two components, the Khelo India School Games and the Khelo India Youth Games. The former targets school-level athletes while the latter targets athletes in the 18-21 age group. The scheme provides financial assistance to athletes for their training, equipment, and travel expenses. The government

has allocated INR 1,756 crore for the scheme for 2020-2021.

The National Sports Development Fund was set up in 1998 with the objective of providing financial assistance to sports organizations and individual athletes. The fund supports sports infrastructure development, training of athletes, and participation in international events. The Modi government has increased the allocation for the fund from INR 50 crore in 2014 to INR 350 crore in 2021.

The Target Olympic Podium Scheme was launched in 2014 to provide financial assistance to potential medal winners in the Olympics. The scheme provides financial assistance for training, equipment, and



participation in international events. The government has allocated INR 50 crore for the scheme in 2021.

The Modi government has also taken several initiatives to promote a sports culture in India. The government has launched several programs to achieve this objective, including the Fit India Movement, the Sports Authority of India, and the National Youth Sports Festival.

The Fit India Movement is a nationwide initiative launched in 2019 aimed at promoting fitness and sports among Indians. The

The Modi government has increased the allocation for the authority from INR 400 crore in 2014 to INR 900 crore in 2021.

movement has several components, including the Fit India School Week, the Fit India Freedom Run, and the Fit India Cyclothon. The movement encourages people to adopt an active lifestyle and participate in sports and fitness activities.

The Sports Authority of India was set up in 1982 to promote sports in India. The authority provides training and infrastructure support to athletes and organizes national and international events. The Modi government has increased the allocation for the

authority from INR 400 crore in 2014 to INR 900 crore in 2021.

The National Youth Sports Festival was launched in 2018 to promote sports among the youth. The festival provides a platform for young athletes



to showcase their talent and compete with others. The festival covers several sports, including athletics, football, volleyball, and kabaddi.

In conclusion, the Modi government's initiatives in sports have significantly contributed to promoting sports culture and developing sports infrastructure in India. Through schemes like Khelo India and the support for athletes, the government has shown its commitment to nurturing talent and encouraging active participation in sports. These efforts have laid a strong foundation for India's growth in the sporting arena, fostering a brighter future for the nation.





डबल इंजन सरकार की खेल नीतियाँ: हरियाणा के खिलाड़ी जीत रहे सोना

एडवोकेट नेहा धवन: प्रदेश मंत्री, भाजपा युवा मोर्चा हरियाणा

वै

श्विक स्तर पर आज भारत की साख निरंतर बढ़ी है ये हम सब आज मानते हैं। किसी भी राष्ट्र की विश्वस्तर पर रैंकिंग होती है तो कई पैमानों पर गणना की जाती है। उसमें एक प्रमुख मापदंड है, खेल। किस तरह से उस देश में खेल और खिलाड़ियों को सुविधाएं मिल रही हैं, खिलाड़ियों को दी जाने वाली सुविधाओं का विकास एक अहम पैमाना होता है। खेल भी राष्ट्र की प्रगति का मार्ग प्रशस्त करता है। भारत जैसा विशाल राष्ट्र आज पीएम मोदी के नेतृत्व में खेलों के क्षेत्र में हर क्षेत्र में गौरव हासिल करने के लिए जी जान से जुटा है। 2014 में प्रधानमंत्री पद का कार्यकाल पहली बार संभालने के बाद से ही प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने भारत में खेल सुविधाओं में बढ़ौतरी और खिलाड़ियों का मनोबल बढ़ाने वाले कई कामों पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया। केंद्र की भाजपा सरकार ने खेलों में विश्व स्तर पर परचम लहराने के लिए खिलाड़ियों की चार आवश्यकताओं को दी प्राथमिकता।

- खेल संसाधन मुहैया कराए
- ट्रेनिंग की आधुनिक सुविधाएं प्रदान की
- अंतरराष्ट्रीय एक्सपोजर प्रदान करना
- चयन में पारदर्शिता लाई गई

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने हमेशा यह जोर दिया कि देश के युवाओं में खेलों को लेकर विश्वास पैदा हो कि चाहे कितनी विषम से विषम परिस्थिति हो, कितनी भी गरीबी हो, कम संसाधन हो पर अपनी मेहनत पर हर युवा को भरोसा हो। इसी विश्वास के बदौलत आज देश में दिव्यांग जन भी खेलों में भाग रहे हैं और देश के लिए विभिन्न खेलों में जीत हासिल कर देश का नाम ऊंचा उठा रहे हैं। मोदी जी ने हमेशा इस भाव पर बल दिया कि युवा खेल को भी अपना प्रोफेशन बनाए। केंद्र सरकार की सही खेल नीति आज "लक्ष्य ओलंपिक पोटियम (टॉप्स)" जैसी योजनाएं से शीर्ष के खिलाड़ियों को उच्चतम स्तर पर प्रतिस्पर्धा करने के लिए सभी सहायता प्रदान कर रही हैं। "खेलो इंडिया अभियान" नए प्रतिभावन खिलाड़ी आगे आ रहे हैं। ऐसे खिलाड़ियों को राज्य व राष्ट्रीय स्तर से आगे बढ़ाने के लिए, उन्हें अंतरराष्ट्रीय

स्तर पर तैयार करने के लिए सभी प्रकार से समर्थन दिया जा रहा है। ओलंपिक और पैरा-ओलंपिक में भारत का हालिया प्रदर्शन, खेल के मैदान में एक नए भारत के उदय का प्रमाण है। गांवों और छोटे शहरों में खेल के बुनियादी ढांचे की सुधार कर ज़िला स्तर पर ही नहीं बल्कि ब्लॉक व गांव स्तर और 'खेल परिसर' व स्टेडियमों का निर्माण करवाया जा रहा है, जिससे खिलाड़ियों की संख्या बढ़ रही है साथ में युवा खेल के प्रति मोटीवेट हो रहे हैं।

नेशनल एजुकेशन पॉलिसी में भी खेल को प्राथमिकता दी गई है। नई शिक्षा नीति में खेल को साइंस, कॉमर्स, आर्ट आदि की तरह मुख्य सब्जेक्ट के तौर पर रखा गया है। केंद्र की खेलों को बढ़ावा देने के इस विचार के साथ अब कॉलेज, यूनिवर्सिटी में खेल को एक्स्ट्रा करीकुलर एक्टिविटी ना मान कर एक विषय की तरह पढ़ाया जाएगा। जिससे स्पोर्टिंग इको-सिस्टम में नए विषय स्पोर्ट्स, स्पोर्ट्स प्रबंधन, खेल लेखन, खेल मनोविज्ञान आदि की संभावनाएं पैदा होंगी और इन विषयों पर गहन अध्ययन के साथ शोध के कार्य भी हो सकेंगे।

मोदी सरकार से पहले भारत के खिलाड़ी, सौ से भी कम इंटरनेशनल इवेंट्स में हिस्सा लेते थे। अब भारत के खिलाड़ी 300 से भी ज्यादा इंटरनेशनल इवेंट्स में शामिल होते हैं। 2014 से पहले भारत के खिलाड़ी 20-25 खेलों को खेलने ही जाते थे। अब भारत के खिलाड़ी करीब 40 अलग-अलग खेलों में हिस्सा लेते हैं। पदकों की संख्या के साथ-साथ भारत की आभा भी आज बढ़ रही है। आज देश का खेल बजट पहले की अपेक्षा करीब 70 प्रतिशत बढ़ा है। नरेंद्र मोदी से पहले ऐसा कम ही देखा गया कि देश का प्रधानमंत्री स्वयं हर बड़ी खेल प्रतियोगिता में जाने से पहले और विजय के बाद व्यक्तिगत रूप से खिलाड़ियों को बधाई दे कर उनका उत्साह बढ़ाते हों। मोदी जी ने अपने निवास स्थान पर खिलाड़ियों से मुलाकात और बातचीत कर उनका लगातार उत्साहवर्धन किया है। इसके साथ ही प्रधानमंत्री ने प्रतियोगिता में हारने वाले खिलाड़ियों का भी व्यक्तिगत रूप से उत्साहवर्धन किया।

खेल को लेकर मोदी सरकार कितना सकारात्मक दृष्टिकोण रख रही है यह बजट को देखकर पता लगाया जा सकता है। केंद्र सरकार ने युवा और खेल मामलों के मंत्रालय के लिए 2023 में 3397.32 करोड़ रुपये का बजट पेश किया है। जो पिछले साल के बजट से 723.97 करोड़ रुपये ज्यादा है। पिछले कुछ वर्षों में भारतीय खिलाड़ियों ने पूरी दुनिया में अपनी चमक बिखेरी है। चाहे वह ओलंपिक हो या राष्ट्रमंडल खेल, भारत के पदकों की संख्या में बढ़ोतरी हुई है। केंद्र सरकार द्वारा खेल और खिलाड़ियों पर किए जा रहे खर्च का इसमें अहम योगदान है। खेल बजट की बात करें तो साल 2015-16 में खेलो इंडिया खेलो का बजट 97.52 करोड़ रुपये, भारतीय खेल प्राधिकरण (SAI) का बजट 407.96 करोड़, नेशनल स्पोर्ट्स फेडरेशन के बजट 350 करोड़ रुपए रहा।

- 2016-17 में खेलो इंडिया खेलो का बजट 118.9 करोड़ रुपये, भारतीय खेल प्राधिकरण (SAI) का बजट 438.2 करोड़, नेशनल स्पोर्ट्स फेडरेशन के बजट 359.4 करोड़ रुपए रहा।
- 2017-18 में खेलो इंडिया खेलो का बजट 346.99 करोड़ रुपये, भारतीय खेल प्राधिकरण (SAI) का बजट 495.73 करोड़, नेशनल स्पोर्ट्स फेडरेशन के बजट 277.68 करोड़ रुपए रहा।

- 2018-19 में खेलो इंडिया खेलो का बजट 342.24 करोड़ रुपये, भारतीय खेल प्राधिकरण (SAI) का बजट 395 करोड़, नेशनल स्पोर्ट्स फेडरेशन के बजट 243.63 करोड़ रुपए रहा।
- 2019-20 में खेलो इंडिया खेलो का बजट 500 करोड़ रुपये, भारतीय खेल प्राधिकरण (SAI) का बजट 450 करोड़, नेशनल स्पोर्ट्स फेडरेशन के बजट 245 करोड़ रुपए रहा।
- 2020-21 में खेलो इंडिया खेलो का बजट 890.42 करोड़ रुपये, भारतीय खेल प्राधिकरण (SAI) का बजट 500 करोड़, नेशनल स्पोर्ट्स फेडरेशन के बजट 245 करोड़ रुपए रहा।
- 2021-22 में खेलो इंडिया खेलो का बजट 657.71 करोड़ रुपये, भारतीय खेल प्राधिकरण (SAI) का बजट 660.41 करोड़, नेशनल स्पोर्ट्स फेडरेशन के बजट 280 करोड़ रुपए रहा।
- 2022-23 में खेलो इंडिया खेलो का बजट 974 करोड़ रुपये, भारतीय खेल प्राधिकरण (SAI) का बजट 749.43 करोड़, नेशनल स्पोर्ट्स फेडरेशन के बजट 280 करोड़ रुपए रहा।
- 2023-24 में खेलो इंडिया खेलो का बजट 1000 करोड़ रुपये, भारतीय खेल प्राधिकरण (SAI) का बजट 785.52 करोड़, नेशनल स्पोर्ट्स फेडरेशन के बजट 345 करोड़ रुपए है।

नरेंद्र मोदी के नेतृत्व वाली भाजपा सरकार ने अब तक अपने कार्यकाल में भारतीय युवाओं को खेलों के पटल पर तराशने के लिए 12435.74 करोड़ रुपये खर्च किये हैं। भारत सरकार के ये कदम सफल भी रहे, जिसका परिणाम यह रहा कि भारत ने 2021 में टोक्यो ओलंपिक में कुल सात पदक जीते। इसके बाद 2022 में बर्मिंघम राष्ट्रमंडल खेलों में भारतीय एथलीट्स का प्रदर्शन शानदार रहा था। भारत ने कुल 61 पदक जीते थे। केंद्र सरकार की उन्नत खेल नीति का लाभ उठा ओलंपिक में हरियाणा के खिलाड़ियों का दिखा दम।

पिछले करीब डेढ़ दशक से खेलों की बात करें तो हरियाणा के बगैर अधूरी है। हरियाणा के खिलाड़ियों ने दुनियाभर में अपना लोहा मनवाकर देश का नाम रोशन किया है। ओलंपिक गेम्स में अब तक भारत कुल मिलकर 35 मेडल जीते हैं, इनमें सबसे ज्यादा 12 मेडल भारतीय हॉकी टीम ने जीते हैं। इनमें से 6 लगातार ओलंपिक गोल्ड के साथ कुल 8 गोल्ड भारतीय हॉकी टीम ने जीते हैं। जबकि एक बार सिल्वर और 3 बार ब्रान्ज मेडल हासिल किए हैं। 35 में से 23 मेडल भारतीय खिलाड़ियों ने एकल इवेंट में जीते हैं। हरियाणा के ओलंपिक पदक विजेता की सूची पर नजर डालें तो इन 23 मेडल में से 7 मेडल अकेले हरियाणा के खिलाड़ियों ने जीते हैं। खास बात ये है कि ये सातों मेडल पिछले 4 ओलंपिक गेम्स में आए हैं। आजादी के 75 साल में ये हरियाणा के लिए बड़ी उपलब्धि है। क्योंकि देश के अन्य किसी भी राज्य से इतने ओलंपिक पदक विजेता खिलाड़ी नहीं निकले।

भारत ने अभी से वर्ष 2024 और 2028 के ओलंपिक के लिए तैयारियां शुरू कर दी हैं। हाल ही में भारतीय खेल प्राधिकरण ने 21 खेलों के लिए 398 कोच की तैनाती की है। इन कोच में कई पूर्व अंतर्राष्ट्रीय एथलीट और अर्जुन पुरस्कार विजेता हैं। जिन्होंने विश्व चैंपियनशिप और ओलंपिक जैसी विशिष्ट प्रतियोगिताओं में पदक जीते हैं या इसमें भाग लिया है। यह है भारत की केंद्र की खेल रणनीति, जिसके बल पर खेल जगत में भारतीय युवा देश का झंडा लहराने में कामयाबी हासिल कर रहे हैं।

Rising to the Podium: Indian Sports under PM Modi

- Gautam Sharma: Vice-President, BJYM Assam

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi's goal of giving Indian sports and its athlete global competence and keeping the tricolour flying high at all international events is evident in the government's policies and initiatives to promote and develop sports in the country.

The government intends to create a thriving environment and support system so that Indian athletes never feel unprepared to compete with the best in the world. The government has invested in sports infrastructure development across the country. India's sports infrastructure will soon be world-class not only in Tier 1 but also in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. The essential requirement for developing a great athlete is to provide them with the best training and practice facilities, which the Modi government has done by renovating and building stadiums, sports complexes, and training facilities across the country. Notable examples include the Sardar-Vallabhbhai Patel





Sports Complex in Gujarat and the Kalinga Stadium in Odisha. In 2018, the government established the National Sports University in Manipur. The university aims to promote sports education, research, and training. It offers several undergraduate degree programmes.

The Khelo India initiative was launched in 2018 to promote sports at the grassroots level and identify and nurture talent. It provides young athletes with financial support, infrastructure development, and training opportunities. The program includes the Khelo India Youth Games,

which brings together athletes from across the country to compete in various sports. Similarly, the National Sports Talent Search Portal was launched to identify and support talented athletes from a young age. It provides a platform for young athletes to showcase their abilities and connects them with sports academies, coaches, and government schemes. The Narendra Modi government launched the Target Olympic Podium Scheme to assist elite athletes who have the potential to win medals at the Olympic Games. The scheme provides financial support for training, coaching, and equipment to athletes in their preparation for major international events. The Modi government provides financial incentives to medal-winning athletes through the Sports Ministry's cash reward scheme. The scheme provides cash rewards to athletes who win medals at major international events such as the Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, and Asian Games.

The infrastructure of international standards has helped India to successfully host various international sporting events under the Modi government, including the FIFA U-17 World Cup in 2017, the Hockey World Cup in 2018, and the Men's Cricket World Cup in 2023 (upcoming). These events have showcased India's sporting capabilities and boosted tourism and infrastructure development.

The government has taken various other initiatives to promote sports in India. While these policies and achievements have made significant contributions to sports development in India, it's important to note that sports development is an ongoing process involving multiple stakeholders, including state governments, sports bodies, and individual athletes. Overall, the Modi government's initiatives have significantly contributed to sports development in India. These efforts aim to create a strong sporting culture in the country and support athletes to help them succeed internationally.



मोदी सरकार के 'खेलो इंडिया' से जीतेगा भारत

चुंदा काल्हेर, प्रांत कार्यकारिणी सदस्य, भाजयुमो हरियाणा



पढ़ोगे लिखोगे, बनोगे नवाब, खेलोगे कूदोगे, होंगे खराब"- अक्सर घर में बड़े बुजुर्गों से इस वाक्य को आपने कई बार सुना होगा, क्योंकि अंग्रेजों की बनाई शिक्षा पद्धति का उद्देश्य सिर्फ बाबू

और मानसिक गुलाम तैयार करना था।। इसी धारणा के कारण माता-पिता अपने बच्चों को खेल कूद से दूर रखते थे, लेकिन फिर समय बदला, भारत आजाद हुआ और खेलों को लेकर विभिन्न सरकारों ने समय-समय पर महत्वपूर्ण फैसले लिए। ताकि युवाओं में खेल के गुणों का विकास कर एक बेहतर देश बनाने में सहायक हो। और साथ ही वैश्विक मंच पर राष्ट्र को गौरवान्वित करने वाले क्षण मिल सकें, जिससे ऊर्जावान हो भारतीय नए आयामों को हासिल कर सकें। खेलों के विकास में भारतीय सरकारों के प्रयासों का यह क्रम इस प्रकार है: 1950 के दशक की शुरुआत में केंद्र सरकार ने देश में खेलों के गिरते मानकों को समझने के लिये अखिल भारतीय खेल परिषद का गठन किया।

वर्ष 1982 में एशियाई खेलों (Asian games) के आयोजन बाद खेल विभाग (Department of Sports) को युवा कार्यक्रम और खेल विभाग (Department of Youth Affairs and Sports) में रूपांतरित कर दिया गया।

वर्ष 1984 में राष्ट्रीय खेल नीति (National Sports Policy) का निर्माण हुआ।

1. वर्ष 2000 में विभाग को युवा कार्यक्रम और खेल मंत्रालय (Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports-MYAS) में रूपांतरित कर दिया गया।

2. वर्ष 2011 में युवा कार्यक्रम और खेल मंत्रालय ने भारतीय राष्ट्रीय खेल विकास संहिता, 2011 (National Sports Development Code of India 2011) को अधिसूचित किया।

3. वर्ष 2022 में नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय द्वारा एरोबेटिक्स, एरो-मॉडलिंग, बैलूनिंग, ड्रोन, हैंग ग्लाइडिंग और पावर्ड हैंग ग्लाइडिंग, पैराशूटिंग आदि के लिये राष्ट्रीय वायु खेल नीति 2022 (NASP 2022) लॉन्च की गई। लेकिन इन सब प्रयासों के बावजूद बहुत सी चुनौतियां भी रहीं, जिनसे पार पाना सदैव बेहद कठिन रहा। जैसे कि:

- **खेलों के प्रति पारिवारिक रुझान की कमी:** भारत में अधिकांश परिवार अपने बच्चों पर शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में आगे बढ़ने और इंजीनियर, डॉक्टर या सफल उद्यमी बनने के लिये कड़ी मेहनत करने का दबाव रखते हैं। इसमें अंतर्निहित भावना यह है कि खेलों में योग्य आजीविका अवसरों का अभाव है और ये एक संपन्न/समृद्ध जीवन के संचालन में मदद नहीं कर सकते। पुरानी शिक्षा पद्धति ने सदैव अंग्रेजों की नीति को पोषित करते हुए, खेलों के प्रति नकारात्मक रवैये की धारणा को बल दिया है, लेकिन मोदी सरकार की नई शिक्षा नीति भविष्य में मील का पत्थर साबित होगी।
- **सामाजिक और आर्थिक असमानता-एँ:** सामाजिक और आर्थिक असमानताओं का भारतीय खेलों पर नकारात्मक प्रभाव रहा है। गरीबी के कारण आधा-रभूत खेल अवसंरचना तक पहुँच की कमी, स्टेडियमों तथा अन्य खेल अवसंरचनाओं एवं अवसरों का शहरों में

केंद्रित होना, बालिकाओं के लिये खेलों में भाग लेने हेतु प्रोत्साहन की कमी आदि ने देश में एक सकारात्मक खेल संस्कृति के विकास को बाधित किया है।

- **नीतिगत कमियाँ:** किसी भी क्षेत्र के विकास के लिये एक प्रभावी नीति का निर्माण और क्रियान्वयन एक अनिवार्य शर्त है। खेलों के मामले में भी यही बात लागू होती है। अभी तक की स्थिति यह है कि संसाधनों की कमी के कारण देश में खेल नीति नियोजन एवं कार्यान्वयन केंद्रीकृत है, जो आईपीएल स्पोर्ट फिक्सिंग, ओलंपिक खेलों में बिडिंग स्कैम, महिला हॉकी टीम में यौन उत्पीड़न जैसी कई घटनाओं का कारण बना है।

- **भ्रष्टाचार और खेल प्राधिकरणों का कुप्रबंधन:** भ्रष्टाचार तो भारत में खेल प्रशासन का पर्याय ही बन गया था। चाहे वह सबसे लोकप्रिय क्रिकेट हो या हॉकी अथवा भारोत्तोलन, भारत में अधिकांश खेल प्राधिकरण भ्रष्टाचार के आरोपों के कारण निशाने पर रहे हैं।

- इसके अलावा, लंबे समय तह खेल निकायों के प्रबंधन से राजनीतिक व्यक्तियों की संलग्नता और 'राष्ट्रमंडल खेल 2010' से जुड़े विवादों ने भारत में खेल प्रशासकों की छवि को पर्याप्त धूमिल किया।

- **प्रदर्शन बढ़ाने वाली दवाओं का उपयोग:** खेल क्षेत्र में प्रदर्शन बढ़ाने वाली दवाओं का उपयोग अभी भी एक बड़ी समस्या है। एंटी-डोपिंग नियम के उल्लंघनों या वर्ल्ड एंटी-डोपिंग एजेंसी के प्रतिकूल विश्लेषणात्मक निष्कर्षों में भारत पहले स्थान पर रहा है। देश में एंटी-डोपिंग एजेंसी के गठन के बावजूद अभी भी इस समस्या को प्रभावी ढंग से संबोधित किया जाना शेष है।

- **खाली मैदान:** आधुनिक प्रौद्योगिकी और वीडियो गेम्स ने बच्चों को शारीरिक खेल में संलग्न होने से दूसरी दिशा में मोड़ दिया है। बच्चे खेल के मैदान में अपने मित्रों के साथ खेलने के बजाय मोबाइल फोन पर अधिक व्यस्त रहते हैं। जो कि मानसिक और शारीरिक,

दोनों तरह से नुकसानदायक है।

4. इन सब चुनौतियों व कठिनाईयों के बावजूद मोदी सरकार देश की युवा ऊर्जा को खेल के मैदान में तपाकर कुंदन बनाने के लिए द्रढ संकल्पित रही है। इसी उद्देश्य से व उपरोक्त सभी चुनौतियों से पार पाने हेतु मोदी सरकार ने बहुत से सकारात्मक प्रयोग किए हैं। जिनके परिणाम आने प्रारम्भ हो भी चुके हैं व भविष्य में इन ईमानदार प्रयासों के फलस्वरूप भारत का युवा खेलों के क्षेत्र में भी दुनिया का नेतृत्व करेगा। मोदी सरकार द्वारा खेलों के क्षेत्र में लिए गए कुछ महत्वपूर्ण व सराहनीय कदम:

- फिट इंडिया मूवमेंट
- खेलो इंडिया
- SAI प्रशिक्षण केंद्र योजना
- खेल प्रतिभा खोज पोर्टल
- राष्ट्रीय खेल पुरस्कार योजना
- टारगेट ओलंपिक पोटेंशियल योजना

बुलंदी का नींव का पत्थर साबित होगा। उसी सोच को प्रदर्शित करते हुए प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी ने खेलो इंडिया की शुरुआत करते हुए कहा कि जब हम कहते हैं कि भारत का स्थान दुनिया के मंच पर बढ़ रहा है, इसका केवल यह अर्थ नहीं है कि सिर्फ हमारी सेना मजबूत हो रही है या अर्थव्यवस्था सुदृढ़ हो रही है। प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि इसमें भारत के ऐसे लोग भी शामिल हैं, जिन्होंने विशिष्ट पहचान बनाई है। इनमें वैज्ञानिक, कलाकार, खिलाड़ी शामिल हैं।

उन्होंने कहा कि मुझे विश्वास है कि भारत ऊंचाइयों को छुएगा। मुझे अपने युवाओं पर भरोसा है। 'खेलो इंडिया' का मतलब केवल पदक जीतना नहीं है। यह और अधिक खेलने के जन आंदोलन को मजबूत बनाने की दिशा में प्रयास है। हम उस हर आयाम पर ध्यान देना चाहते हैं जो देश को खेल के क्षेत्र में दुनिया में लोकप्रिय बनाए। उन्होंने कहा कि जब भारतीय खिलाड़ी जीतते हैं और उनके हाथों में तिरंगा होता है, यह विशेष अनुभूति का क्षण होता है और यह पूरे राष्ट्र में ऊर्जा



इन सभी योजनाओं से निश्चित ही एक बेहतर कल की तस्वीर उभर कर सामने आती है। और इनसे मोदी सरकार का खेलों को लेकर दृष्टिकोण स्पष्ट होता है, जो कि युवा भारत की

भरने का काम करता है। और उसी ऊर्जा को जन जन में भरने के लिए मोदी सरकार खेल के क्षेत्र में अथक प्रयासरत है।



New Approach and Evolving Attitudes Towards Sports

- Karan Ambardar: former Sports Anchor with Star Sports and Sony Sports

‘Padhoge Likhoge, Banogay Nawab, Khelogay Kudogay, Hogay Kharab’

Words in the title are not alien to any of us. Words that have been passed on for generations, like an heirloom. Words that acted as filters for an individual to be judged & shaped the entire society's mindset. Because of this mentality, generation after generation was told that sports are unimportant. That it cannot be a career option for the future. This mindset caused a big loss to the country, as unaccountable talent remained away from the field due to the lack of a sporting culture & the intent to develop one.

Modern-day terminology changed, but the attitude towards

sports didn't. It is still termed an extracurricular activity. India can become a great power if it excels on three fronts - Economy, Defence/Foreign Affairs & Sports. While efforts were being made towards the former two, the sport was a front that continued to remain neglected and ignored. 2014 is when India decided to turn a new leaf. Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, had a new vision for sports. He wanted India to become a sporting superpower and develop a sporting culture across the country where people would feel pride in being associated with sports. Since 2014 a holistic approach by the government towards sports is changing how India takes sports from being an 'extracurricular activity' to a 'career option'.

One of the key initiatives taken by the Modi government has been the launch of The Khelo India program. Launched in 2018, the program aims to develop a sports framework in India where talented individuals can be identified and nurtured at a young age to develop a talent pipeline. This grassroots-level program provides financial assistance and support to young athletes to prepare them for national and international competitions. Jeremey Lalrinnunga (Weightlifting), Manu Bhakara (Shooting), and Anshu Malik (Wrestling) are some of the success stories of Khelo India games, who, at a very young age, have won laurels for India at the international level.

Another smart initiative of the government is the 'Target Olympic Podium Scheme' (TOPS) program. The scheme is a flagship program of the Ministry of Youth Affairs &

Sports in an attempt to provide the necessary assistance to India's top athletes. The path-breaking scheme was first introduced in 2014. It had been extending all the necessary personalised support in terms of foreign exposure, hiring of specific coaches, training, and competitions abroad et al., to a core group of athletes who have been identified as potential medal winners at the Olympics, Paralympics or other world events like the Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and so on. TOPS has significantly propelled the level of results that athletes are producing today. It led to India's best-ever Olympics and Paralympics performance in 2020, a Thomas Cup wins after 73 years, and many such sporting achievements internationally.

Another feather in the cap of this government has been the creation of India's first National Sports University in Manipur, with an expenditure of Rs800 crore. Similarly, Major Dhyan Chand Sports University is under the works in Uttar Pradesh for the ones who want to take up sports as a profession. PM Modi's government is encouraging youngsters to pursue a career in sports, which, in my opinion, is an innovative way to develop sports and expand the scope of employment opportunities in this sector. It is evident from the fact that the Indian government has increased the sports budget of the country by 300% since taking office in 2014.

The government initiated the Fit India Movement to get the whole country involved in this culture change, which emphasised the importance of physical fitness and encouraged citizens to adopt an active lifestyle.

Additionally, a concerted effort has been made to upgrade and construct world-class stadiums and training facilities nationwide. Projects like the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

Sports Complex in Gujarat are a prime example of the government's commitment to providing athletes with state-of-the-art facilities and developing India into a multi-sports nation.

Sports play a vital role in a nation's development and identity. It can unite people, instil national pride, and cut across societal lines to help national integration. We learn sportsmanship from sports, which acts as a foundation in our social life. It gives us the maturity and discipline to deal with the highs and lows of life by teaching us the importance of winning and losing. I'm convinced that sports can shape the youth of our country and inculcate values of self-discipline, sportsmanship, team spirit, leadership, and integrity, as well as promote a healthy lifestyle.

It is essential to acknowledge that the current leadership is ensuring that people's perspective toward sports is changing for the better. A great example is the viewership numbers of the Japanese Olympics - staggering, never before seen numbers were recorded from India.

Being a former sports anchor, I used to love sharing fun facts at the end of my shows. We all know that India is the 5th largest economy in the world, but did you know that India is the only country amongst the top 10 economies that never hosted the Olympics, be it the summer or winter edition? The rising love and passion for sports, complemented by concerted government efforts, has ensured that India is getting ready to bid for the 2036 Olympic Games. As someone deeply connected with the sports industry, I look forward to and hope to contribute to the dream of 1.3 billion people.



Game Changer: The Modi Era and the Resurgence of Sports in India

- Rachit Singh: National PRT Team, BJYM



The “Khelo India” initiative launched in 2018 has been instrumental in this regard. It aims to identify and nurture young sporting talent from all parts of the country.

This sight, this ambience cannot be described in words. In the world's biggest stadium, one of the world's youngest countries is witnessing India's biggest sports festival” said PM Modi at the opening ceremony of the National Games 2022 in Ahmedabad.

Sports have always been an integral part of India's culture, and the country has a long history of producing world-class athletes who have represented their nation to the best of their abilities. However, despite its athletes' enormous talent and potential, India has struggled to translate that

into international success due to a lack of adequate infrastructure, government support, and policies in sports. However, significant efforts have been made in recent years to promote sports and physical fitness at a national level. Recognising the importance of sports, the Modi government in India has implemented several policies and initiatives to uplift the sports ecosystem in the country.

This essay will explore the policies and achievements in sports under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, highlighting the efforts made to promote sports at various levels, infrastructure development, grassroots initiatives, the development of Olympic sports,

encouragement of traditional sports, investments in sports education and skill development, and the empowerment of women in sports.

One of the key objectives of the Modi government has been to nurture talent at the grassroots level. The “Khelo India” initiative launched in 2018 has been instrumental in this regard. It aims to identify and nurture young sporting talent from all parts of the country. This scheme encourages schools and colleges to promote sports through various activities, training programs, and competitions. Financial incentives are also provided to talented athletes to support their training and development, ensuring that promising athletes

receive the necessary resources and encouragement to pursue their sporting dreams.

The Modi government has emphasised infrastructure development to create world-class sporting facilities across the nation. The “Khelo India” initiative has also allocated substantial funds for constructing and upgrading sports infrastructure at the grassroots level. In addition, various stadiums and sports complexes have been constructed or renovated, enabling the hosting of major national and international sporting events. These infrastructure investments have improved the training and competition facilities for athletes and attracted global sporting events to India, promoting tourism and boosting the economy.

The Modi government has actively promoted Olympic sports and prepared athletes for international competitions. The “Target Olympic Podium Scheme” (TOPS) was launched to identify and support potential medal prospects for the Olympic Games. This scheme provides financial assistance for athletes' training, exposure trips, coaching, and other requirements to ensure optimal preparation. The success of TOPS was evident during the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, where India achieved its best-ever medal haul, including a historic gold in the men's javelin throw by Neeraj Chopra. The focus on Olympic sports has not only resulted in increased medal counts but has also inspired a new generation of athletes to pursue excellence in sports.

Recognising the importance of traditional sports in India's cultural heritage, the Modi government has taken steps to promote and revive indigenous games. The “Fit India Movement” aims to popularise

traditional sports and activities such as kho-kho, kabaddi, gilli-danda, and yoga. The government has organised events and competitions to provide a platform for these sports to thrive and gain recognition. These efforts have revived interest in traditional sports and resulted in India excelling in events like kabaddi at international competitions. By promoting traditional sports, the government is preserving cultural heritage while providing opportunities for athletes to showcase their talents on a global stage.



The Modi government has recognised the need for specialised education and skill development in sports. The “National Sports University” was established in Manipur in 2018 to address this. This university offers sports sciences, coaching, and sports management courses, providing a comprehensive platform for aspiring athletes and professionals in the field. The university aims to produce well-trained coaches, sports scientists, and administrators who can contribute to developing sports in the country. Additionally, the government has introduced sports as a subject in school curricula,

ensuring that students have access to proper training and exposure from an early age. These initiatives aim to nurture a strong sporting culture and provide the necessary infrastructure and expertise to produce world-class athletes.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, significant strides have been made in promoting women's participation in sports. The government has also focused on providing better facilities and infrastructure for women's sports, creating an environment where women can excel and represent the country at international events. The success of women athletes such as PV Sindhu, Hima Das, Mary Kom, and the Indian women's cricket team is a testament to the government's efforts. These role models inspire young girls across the country to pursue their sporting aspirations, breaking stereotypes and empowering women in sports.

The policies and achievements in sports under the Modi government have transformed the sports landscape in India. The focus on promoting sports at the grassroots level, infrastructure development, boosting Olympic sports, encouraging traditional sports, investing in sports education and skill development, and empowering women in sports have contributed to India's rise as a sporting nation. The remarkable success of Indian athletes in various international competitions, including the Olympics, is a testament to the government's efforts. With continued focus and support, India is poised to become a force to be reckoned with in the world of sports, inspiring future generations and elevating the country's sporting prowess on the global stage.

From Grassroots to Greatness: Transformation of Sports Infrastructure under PM Modi

- Amarjeet Verma, Policy Co In-charge, BJYM, Bihar



Sport plays a key role in fostering national pride, fostering talent and inspiring the youth. The government under Prime Minister Modi has been actively working to promote the country's sporting performance, both nationally and internationally. The Shri Narendra Modi-led government that took power in India in 2014 has made significant efforts to transform the country's sports infrastructure. Recognising the importance of sports in nation-building, the government has taken various initiatives to improve the quality of facilities, promote mass sports and nurture sports talent. The Modi government's undivided focus on grassroots sports development has yielded visible and transformative results. Through initiatives such as Khelo India, investment in sports infrastructure, scholarships, community participation and promotion of sports role models, the government has created an ecosystem that nurtures young talent and provides the necessary resources and opportunities to excel. The impact of these efforts is evident in the growing number of young athletes representing India at the national and international levels. As the Modi government continues its commitment to the development of

sports, the nation can look forward to a bright future filled with top athletes who will make India proud on the world sporting stage.

One of the flagship programs of the Modi government is the Khelo India initiative, which aims to identify and nurture sports talent from the grassroots level. The program provides a platform for young athletes to showcase their skills and receive financial assistance for training, equipment and exposure. This initiative led to the establishment of many sports academies, training centres and competitions, which boosted the overall sports culture in India.

Under the leadership of PM Modi, there has been a significant focus on the modernisation and development of sports infrastructure across the country. Several international standard stadiums, multi-purpose indoor arenas and training centres have been built or remodelled. The emphasis on improving facilities has created an environment conducive to training and hosting national and international sporting events. In 2018, the government announced the establishment of a National Sports University in Manipur. This university aims to provide specialised education in sports science, sports management and coaching.

The Modi government has set up the

Mission Olympic Cell and the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) to provide targeted support to elite athletes. These initiatives identify potential medal prospects and provide them with world-class coaching, sports science support and financial assistance to train and participate in international competitions. The Modi government recognises the importance of sports science in optimising performance and has emphasised integrating technology and scientific knowledge into sports training. Initiatives such as data analytics, biometric assessments, and sports medicine have improved athlete preparation, injury prevention and recovery. This scientific approach has helped improve overall performance and reduce the gap between Indian athletes and their international counterparts.

Launched in 2019, the Fit India movement promotes physical fitness and encourages citizens to incorporate sports and physical activities into their daily lives. This initiative raised awareness of the importance of a healthy lifestyle and supported the development of sports infrastructure in schools, colleges and public spaces. The campaign inspired millions of people to participate in sporting activities, leading to increased demand for improved facilities at the local level.

The Modi government's tenure has seen Indian athletes reach new heights in the Olympics and Paralympics. At the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, India won its all-time best medal tally as athletes won seven historic medals. Government efforts in providing better infrastructure, financial support and specialised

training programs have played a key role in nurturing talented athletes and facilitating their participation in international events. The government has also emphasised promoting and supporting traditional sports and indigenous games. Recognising the cultural importance of games like Kho-Kho, Kabaddi and Yoga, the government has provided institutional support, financial assistance and platforms for players to showcase their skills. This recognition has helped these sports gain popularity, increasing participation nationally and internationally.

Under the Modi government, India

2023. These events necessitated developing and modernising stadiums and training facilities to meet international standards. The successful organisation of these events showcased India's capabilities and contributed to the growth of sports infrastructure in the host cities.

These efforts have not only created better opportunities for sportspersons but also raised India's status as a sporting nation on the global stage. With sustained commitment and continuous investment, the Modi government's initiatives are poised to shape the bright future of Indian sports and promote a healthier and more



has hosted various major international sporting events, including the Men's Hockey World Cup 2023, FIFA U-17 World Cup, the Badminton World Cup and the Ice Hockey World Cup, alongside getting ready to host the Men's Cricket World Cup

competitive society. With continued government support and sustained efforts, India is poised to achieve even greater sporting achievements, inspire future generations and cement its position as a sporting powerhouse.

Game, Set, Match: The Transformation of Indian Sports Under PM Modi

- Reem Talukdar: SEC (Invitee),
BJYM Assam

There is something about sports that unites people and brings them together in their most unpropitious moments. Be it India's heroics at the Tokyo Olympics, the Thomas Cup win, or Nikhat Zareen scripting history in the boxing ring, sports have the power to cut across political, religious and geographical boundaries. The Modi government has put in tremendous efforts to uplift the country's sporting culture and be there for the athletes in good and bad times. Here, we decode the pathbreaking steps the Modi government took that helped bring a boom to the sports industry.

The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is vital in encouraging sports in India. The Sports Authority of India (SAI), which supports the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, is credited for advancing Sports and Games in the country. On various occasions, PM Shri Narendra Modi has encouraged individuals to give importance to sports and games in their everyday life and introduced several schemes supporting athletes and sports in the country.

Fit India Movement:

Fit India Movement is a nationwide movement in India to encourage people to remain healthy and fit by including physical activities and sports in their daily lives. The campaign started with a fitness pledge: "I promise to myself that I will devote time for physical activity and sports every day, and I will encourage my family members and neighbours to be physically fit and make India a fit nation". The movement was launched by Narendra Modi at Indira Gandhi in New Delhi on 29



"I promise to myself that I will devote time for physical activity and sports every day, and I will encourage my family members and neighbours to be physically fit and make India a fit nation".

August 2019, i.e., National Sports Day.

Khelo India Scheme:

The Khelo India programme has been introduced to revive the sports culture in India at the grass-root level by building a solid framework for all sports played in our country and establishing India as a great sporting nation. The scheme was initiated in 2016 and focussed on increasing the mass participation of youth in annual sports games and competitions. Khelo India (National Program for Development of Sports Scheme) aims to achieve the twin goals of mass participation and advancement of greatness in sports. The plan endeavours to advance 'Sports for All'.

Sports Talent Search Portal:

The National Sports Talent Search Scheme (NSTSS)

implemented by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has been formulated for talent identification and nurturing of identified talented sports persons. Identifying talented sportspersons in the age group of 8 – 12 years in schools all over the country through several tests and nurturing identified talented sportspersons in sports schools will help broaden the pool of sportspersons in the country. The scheme will ease the development of Indian sports, mainly rural sports. Any success in National/International sports events will bring honour to the country and to the respective states that the sportspersons represent.

Committee to address complaints and issues of women sportspersons:

On the occasion of International Women's Day in 2017, the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports composed a committee to address and solve the complaints and grievances of women sportspersons. The focus is on spaces for girls athletes and women coaches, zero tolerance towards sexual harassment in the sports complex, the inclusion of gender sensitization modules in coach training modules, women's representation in sports institutions, federations and other sports bodies and gender parity in terms of support to women athletes; encouraging more women to take up sports.

National Sports Awards Scheme :

The government consistently acknowledges and respects sports personalities with the Arjuna Award, Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, Dhyana Chand Khel Ratna, Dhyana Chand Award, Dronacharya Award, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy and Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar for their achievements and commitments as sportspersons and coaches in the field of sports. It inspires the youth to come forward with their talent in sports.

Sports and Games for Persons with Disabilities Scheme :

The Scheme of Sports & Games for the Disabled introduced by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports with the scheme's objective is broad-basing participative sports among the disabled. Under this plan, differently-abled sportspersons are trained to conduct sports competitions and assist schools and institutes with differently-abled sportspersons.

Target Olympic Podium Scheme :

The Sports Ministry released the 'Target Olympic Podium (TOP)' Scheme in May 2015 under the National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) to establish a technical support

team for managing the TOPS athletes, i.e., athletes who are potential medal winners at the Olympics by providing them holistic support. The main centre is given to Athletics, Badminton, Boxing, Archery, Wrestling, and Shooting sports. The scheme covers training, equipment, and other expenses for athletes.

This Ministry also implemented the 'Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons' scheme to provide lifelong monthly pensions to medal winners of the Olympic Games, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, etc., after they retire from active sports. And the Scheme of 'Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons' (PDUNWFS) for providing financial assistance to sportspersons of yesteryears now living in disadvantaged circumstances. The Modi Government has done its fair share to promote and encourage sports in India. PM Modi himself is the epitome of fitness and leads by example and suggests that fellow citizens adopt a healthy lifestyle. Yes, we are still far away from sporting powerhouses like China or the U.S., and it will take much more to reach there, but the wheels have been set in motion, and that time is not far.





Playing to Win: Policies and Achievements in Sports under Modi Government

- Parsha Jyoti Bora: District President, BJYM Jorhat, Assam

In recent years, India has made significant strides in athletics and sports. The Modi government has been instrumental in this growth, with several policies and initiatives to support athletes and promote sports at all levels. From grassroots development to international competitions, the government has taken several steps to ensure that India becomes a force to be reckoned with in the world of sports.

The Khelo India Program

Launched in 2018, the program aims to promote sports at the grassroots level by identifying and nurturing young talent across the country. The program has two main components: the Khelo India School Games and the Khelo India Youth Games.

The Khelo India School Games is an annual event that brings together school-level athletes nationwide to compete in various sports. The event provides a platform for young athletes to showcase their talent and serves as a talent identification tool for various national sports federations. On the other hand, the Khelo India Youth Games is a national-level multi-sport event for athletes in the age group of 10-21 years. The event is held annually and provides a platform for young athletes to compete nationally and gain exposure to higher levels of competition.

Under the Khelo India program, the government has also established Khelo India Centers of Excellence (KICs) across the country. These centres are aimed at providing world-class training facilities and coaching to athletes in various sports. The KICs

are being set up in partnership with various national sports federations and are expected to play a crucial role in identifying and nurturing young talent in the country.

Sports Infrastructure Development

The Modi government has also taken several steps to develop sports infrastructure across the country. One of the key initiatives in this regard has been the establishment of the National Sports University in Manipur. The university, which was established in 2018, aims to provide world-class education and training in sports and related fields. The university offers sports management, sports science, and physical education courses, among others.

The government has also set up several sports academies across the country to provide training and

coaching to young athletes. These academies are being established in partnership with various national sports federations and are aimed at providing world-class facilities and coaching to athletes in various sports.

In addition to these initiatives, the government has also taken steps to upgrade existing sports infrastructure across the country. Several stadiums and sports complexes have been renovated and upgraded, focusing on rural areas. It has provided better facilities for athletes and generated employment opportunities in the construction and maintenance of sports infrastructure.

Support for Athletes

The Modi government has also taken



several steps to support athletes. One of the key initiatives in this regard has been the establishment of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS). The scheme aims to identify and support potential medal-winning athletes for the Olympic Games. Under the scheme, athletes are provided with financial assistance for training, equipment, and other expenses. The scheme has provided much-needed support to athletes preparing for the Olympics.

The government has also taken steps to support retired athletes from active competition. In 2020, the government launched the National Centre of Excellence for Para Sports in Gandhinagar. The centre provides world-class training facilities and coaching to retired para-athletes, intending to develop them into world-class coaches and mentors.

In addition to these initiatives, the

government has also taken steps to provide better medical facilities to athletes. The government has established sports medicine centres across the country to provide specialized medical care to athletes. These centres are equipped with state-of-the-art equipment and provide specialized physiotherapy, rehabilitation, and injury management services.

International Achievements

The policies and initiatives of the Modi government have also led to significant achievements in international competitions. In recent years, Indian athletes have performed exceptionally well in various sports, including athletics, badminton, wrestling, and boxing.

At the 2016 Rio Olympics, India won two medals, a silver in badminton and a bronze in wrestling. India won seven medals in the 2021 Tokyo Olympics,

including one gold, two silver, and four bronze. It was India's best-ever performance in the Olympics, and it was achieved despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Apart from the Olympics, Indian athletes have also been performing well in other international competitions. In 2018, Indian athlete Hima Das won a gold medal in the 400 meters event at the World U20 Championships in Finland. These achievements are a testament to the hard work and dedication of Indian athletes and the support provided to them by the government.

Challenges and the Way Forward

While the policies and initiatives of the Modi government have led to significant achievements in sports, several challenges still need to be addressed. One of the key challenges is the lack of sports culture in the country. Despite the growing

popularity of sports, many parents and educators still view sports as a distraction from academics. This mindset needs to change if India is to become a truly sports-loving nation.

Another challenge is the lack of adequate funding for sports. While the government has taken steps to assist athletes financially, more needs to be done. The private sector also needs to step up and contribute to sports development in the country. With continued support and collaboration from all stakeholders, India can achieve even greater success in sports in the years to come.



Catalyst on the Field: Modi's Impetus to the Evolution of Indian Sports

- Padmini Sahu: Vice President, BJYM Hojai District, Assam

Before 2014 cricket was the dominating game of Indian sports. No matter how much other athletes tried, they couldn't get the support they deserved from the government. But the post-Modi era is entirely different. All the players or athletes from any region and level are given the respect they deserve, the required support and the facilities they need. The government of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has always followed the concept of gender equality. To increase women's participation in sports, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) formed a special committee to solve their grievances.

Nobody can forget how PM Modi comforted the heartbroken Indian women's hockey team after they had lost the bronze medal in the Tokyo Olympics. His call to Neeraj Chopra is still a fresh memory for every Indian. Similarly, when the Indian women's cricket team lost the gold medal in the commonwealth games, PM Modi motivated the team members and praised their performance.

After the Tokyo Olympics, PM Modi hosted a breakfast party at his residence for the returning Indian athletes. For the very first time in Indian history, the Indian Olympians were invited as guests at the Independence Day celebration. During his historic tenure as the Chief Minister of Gujarat, PM Modi successfully organised Khel Mahakumbh in the state. As the Prime Minister of our country, he has introduced many unique schemes to support sportspersons and athletes.

In 2015 the MYAS introduced 'Target Olympic Podium Schemes' (TOPS), which supported a core group of athletes and sportspersons to have all the necessary personalised support in terms of foreign exposure, hiring of specific coaches and training abroad. It has led to India's best Olympic and Paralympic performance in 2020. After 73 years, India won the Thomas Cup, paving the way for a new generation of shuttlers. In the Tokyo Olympics, most athletes were part of TOPS. The budget for the TOPS has increased from Rs. 200 Crore in 2014 -15 to Rs. 750 Crore in 2022-2023.



The total budget for MYAS has increased from Rs. 1,328 crore in 2013-2014 to Rs. 2123 crore in 2022-23. The budget for SAI has increased from Rs. 749 crore in 2013-2014 to Rs. 1,045 crore in 2022-23. In 2017 an empowered steering committee was formed to make an action plan for India's success in future international tournaments.

In 2018, the government introduced the 'Khelo

India Youth Games (KIYG)', an initiative to find out young fit talents from India's villages and small towns. The Modi government has created several 'Khelo India' kendras to identify future talents. The first edition of KIYG was held in Delhi in 2018. KIYG had 16 sports in the first edition, and in the 2nd edition, 18 games were played. In 2020, four indigenous games were added, Gatka, Kalaripayattu, Thang-ta and Mallakhamba.

In its 5th edition, KIYG added 2 more games, Kayaking and canoeing. Lakshya Sen, one of the heroes of the Thomas Cup, is a prime example and beneficiary of KIYG. He was identified through KIYG. Mehuli Ghosh, Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Choudhary are just a few of the many names that too came forth and shined due to this initiative.

In 2018, PM Modi gave Indian sportspersons and athletes the best gift, i.e., India's first Central Sports University in Imphal, Manipur, with an expenditure of Rs 800 Crore. After that, PM Modi laid the 'Major Dhyan Chand Sports University' foundation in Meerut. The estimated cost of the university was about Rs. 700 Crore. The university will be able to train 1080 sportspersons, including 540 female and 540 male sportspersons.

Sports Talent Search Portal, National Sports Award schemes and other initiatives were launched to find talent nationwide. Under the National sports policy 2014, MYAS promoted the development of sporting infrastructure in the country. Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme and Panchayati Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan schemes were laid out on local levels.

When we talk about the role of PM Modi in sports, we cannot ignore the Fit India Movement. The PM launched this movement in 2019 to promote a culture of fitness. This movement has been endorsed by many celebrities, sportsmen and other public figures, raising awareness about the importance of exercise and healthy living.

MYAS has also encouraged and provided tax breaks to corporations sponsoring sports team events. For example, in 2020, the IPL cricket tournament generated a record \$ 6.2 billion in sponsorship revenue from corporate houses



such as Coca-Cola, Pepsi, Vivo and Amazon, and the exciting part is that the sponsorship revenue is used to support the young cricketers for their training and to build new cricket stadiums.

Nowadays, athletes are given all the facilities they need by the MYAS. The Modi government always ensures that athletes can focus on their game instead of worrying about the fund or training. Not only the 21st century belongs to us, but under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, we will reclaim our glory which will last for centuries ahead. 'Bharat has just arrived'



Shaping India's Sports Glory: The Transformative Role of Narendra Modi

Isha Sharma: Student, Lakshmibai College, Delhi University

In India, sports are significant because they promote physical health, mental health, social, cultural and economic growth, and pride in one's country. They dismantle boundaries of caste, religion, and gender while encouraging physical exercise, social engagement, and collaboration. Traditional Indian sports like kabaddi and Kho-Kho heavily influence Indian culture. In addition, the Indian sports industry contributes significantly to the economy by creating jobs. Sports promote national identity and cohesion as well as representing India abroad.

The Rise of India's Sports Sector Over Time

Since the country's independence in 1947, the sports industry in India has witnessed substantial growth and change. Here is a quick rundown of the changes in India's sports industry from 1947 to 2023:

1947-1980

The Indian government did not place a high focus on sports during the early years of independence. But in 1948, hockey gave India its first Olympic gold medal. In 1984, the government founded the Sports Authority of India to promote sports.

1980-2000

India won several medals at international competitions in sports like shooting, athletics, and weightlifting between 1980-2000. In addition to introducing the National Games in 1985,

the government also created the National Sports Policy in 1984. Delhi also hosted the Asian Games in 1982.

2000-2014

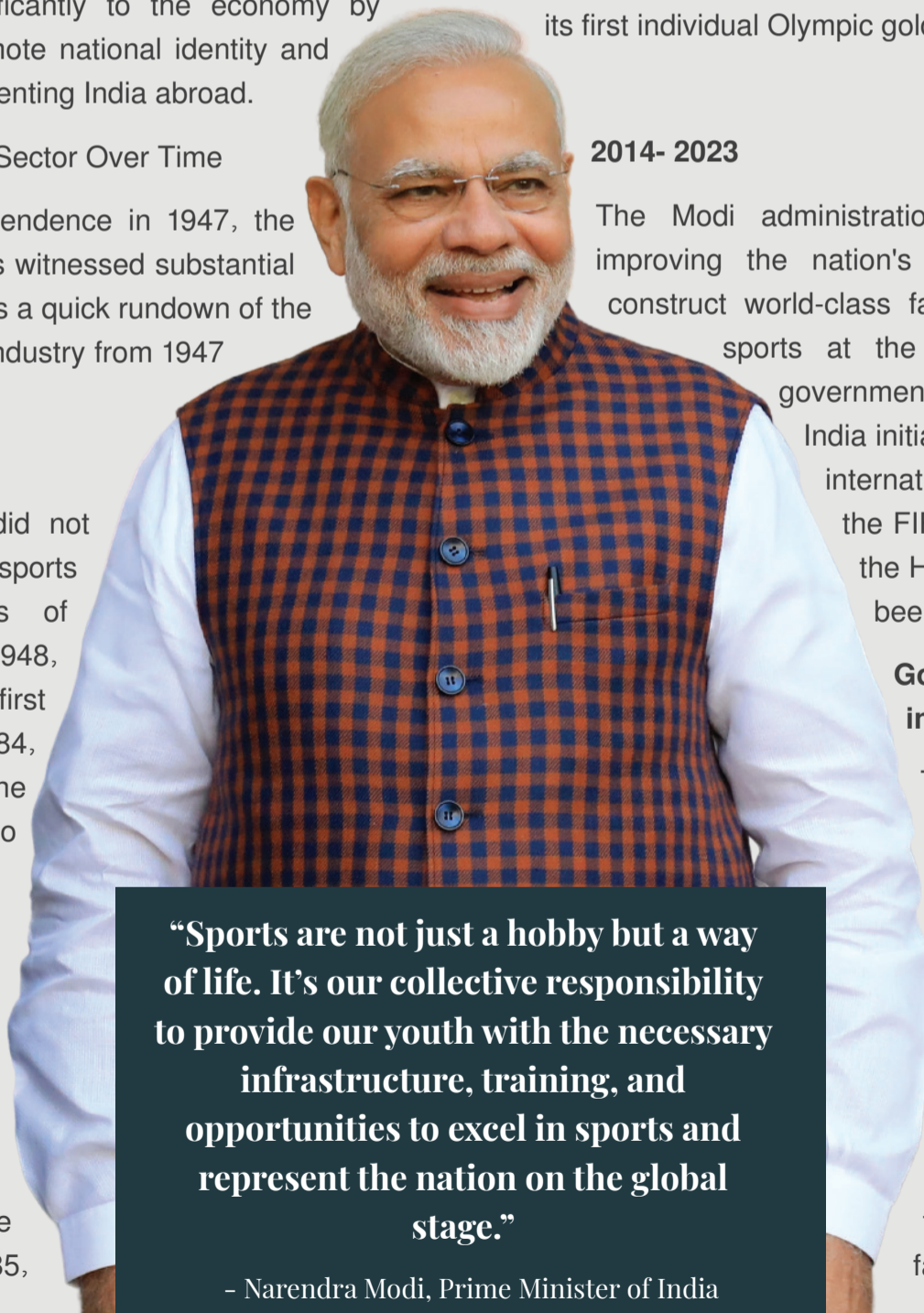
From 2000 to 2014, India's government launched many projects, including the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan and the National Rural Sports Talent Scheme, to put a new emphasis on sports. Additionally, India served as the host nation for the 2010 Commonwealth Games and captured its first individual Olympic gold in shooting in 2008.

2014- 2023

The Modi administration started significantly improving the nation's sporting facilities. To construct world-class facilities and encourage sports at the grassroots level, the government introduced the Khelo India initiative in 2018. Numerous international competitions, like the FIFA U-17 World Cup and the Hockey World Cup, have been held in India.

Government Initiatives in the Sports Sector

The government's Khelo India project is a significant effort to construct world-class facilities and encourage sports at the grassroots level. The program offers grants to states and union territories so they may build sports facilities, organize



“Sports are not just a hobby but a way of life. It’s our collective responsibility to provide our youth with the necessary infrastructure, training, and opportunities to excel in sports and represent the nation on the global stage.”

- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India

sporting events, and discover new sports talent.

The National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) is a government-sponsored organization that funds sports federations, trainers, and players to cover competition, training, and other related expenses. The Sports Authority of India (SAI) is a governmental organization in charge of overseeing the growth of sports in the nation. The SAI manages several facilities and training centres for athletes and offers assistance with their development.

The Indian government has provided space for several international athletic events, including the Asian Games, the Commonwealth Games, and the FIFA U-17 World Cup. The country's sports culture has benefited from these events' promotion, and they have given Indian athletes a stage on which to display their abilities.

A National Sports University formed by the government in Imphal, Manipur, it provides undergraduate and graduate

Corporation and Rs. 2,216 crore for the construction of sports infrastructure in the Union Budget for 2021-22.

The federal government has also provided funding to assist the nation's National Sports Federations (NSFs). The government allotted Rs. 259.92 crore towards the NSFs in the Union Budget for 2021-22.

The government has also set aside money for the well-being of athletes. The government allotted Rs. 259.92 crores for the advancement of sports sciences and medicine, as well as Rs. 50 crore for the National Anti-Doping Agency in the Union Budget for 2021-22.

The government has also set aside money to help the nation host major international athletic events. The government included Rs. 50 crore in the Union Budget for 2021-2022 for the Khelo India Winter Games in Jammu and Kashmir and Rs. 100 crore for constructing sporting facilities in the Union Territory of Ladakh.



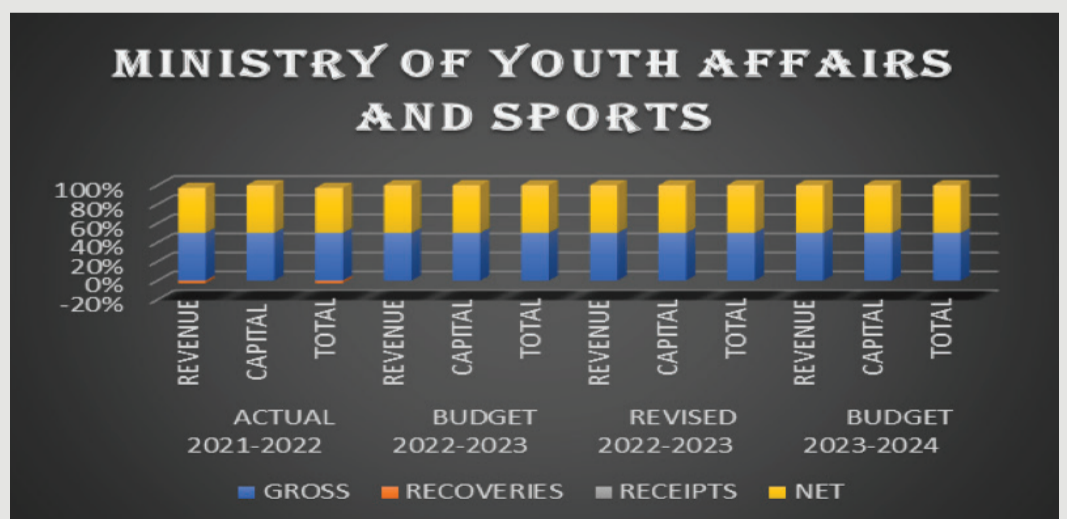
The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has a budgetary allotment of Rs. 3397.32 crore for FY 2023-24, an increase of 11% from the budgetary allocation for the prior fiscal year. It demonstrates the government's dedication to fostering sports in the nation and creating top-notch facilities. The Khelo India initiative has received a considerable boost in budget funding. The government's emphasis on identifying potential at the grassroots level, developing facilities, and supporting top athletes is a step in the right direction toward fostering a national sports culture.

The Modi administration has made several commitments in sports and has made substantial progress towards delivering on them. In recent years, the government has increased the cash allotted for sports, which has prompted the creation of top-notch infrastructure and the promotion of sports culture.

sports science, sports management, and coaching programs.

The Indian sports industry has received many budgetary grants from the Modi administration. The Khelo India program, which aims to promote sports at the grassroots level and provide world-class infrastructure, has received funding from the government. The Khelo India program received a budgetary allocation from the government of Rs. 2596.14 crores for the fiscal year 2021-2022.

The government has also provided money to help build the nation's sports infrastructure. The government set out Rs. 4,500 crore for the National Highways Infrastructure Establishment



From Amateur to Ace: Changing Gears in Indian Sports Under PM Modi

Pankaj Jagannath Jayswal: Columnist

In recent years, attitudes regarding sports other than cricket have shifted positively. The central government and sports authorities have set the tone to make it qualitatively and quantitatively more effective. We are already witnessing significant changes in the coming years.

The Khelo India Scheme was launched in 2016 following the merger of three previous programmes. This initiative was focused on encouraging youth participation in yearly sports activities and contests. Khelo India (National Program for Development of Sports Scheme) aims to achieve two goals: popular involvement and advancing enormity in sports. The initiative promotes “Sports for All” and “Sports for Excellence.”

Khelo India, particularly the updated version, is a significant changer for Indian sports. It strives to address all elements of society and make them part of India's sports culture through twelve verticals geared at diverse target groups such as women, children, and rural regions. The plan was revised in 2017 to mainstream sports as a tool for individual and community development, economic development, and national

development.

In May 2015, the Sports Ministry launched the 'Target Olympic Podium (TOP)' Scheme under the National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) to assist prospective medalists for the Olympic Games in 2016, 2020, and currently, 2024. Athletics, Badminton, Boxing, Archery, Wrestling, and Shooting are the sports that will be highlighted. Its goal is to discover possible medal winners at the Olympics in 2020 and 2024. These athletes will receive training and a scholarship of five lakh rupees per year for the next eight years. Furthermore, this program will add 1000 new athletes each year over eight years. As a result, this program predicts a high number of champion athletes ready in each focus sport by the conclusion of 15 years.

Furthermore, by providing scholarships to young athletes, the government hopes to address the issue of financial stability for them. They want athletics to be a legitimate professional option. Financial security was one of the key concerns for most athletes, schools, and parents, therefore, participation was minimal, even though many children possessed the essential talent, skill, and dedication. We've seen how a national or international athlete deals with life after sports in the past, so

this government's commitment to strengthen financially is a good and much-needed move. In this sense, the government has increased its support for TOPS athletes and anybody interested in pursuing a career in sports in India. This is why the government decided to make our TOPS-covered athletes eligible for 50,000 rupees per month in out-of-pocket expenses. It's a modest but significant step toward making sports a financially feasible career option. By the way, this payment is in addition to the nutritional and other allowances that our athletes already get.

“Athletes today have all the facilities they need, and the facilities are extended seamlessly by the government through the Sports Ministry and Sports Authority of India. This constant support ensures that athletes do not have to take stress regarding the funds needed for their training, and can concentrate on their game instead” - PV Sindhu.

Former Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu launched the Sports Talent Search Portal in August 2017 to uncover the best potential among India's youngsters. The platform allows children to upload their achievements. Those who are shortlisted are then invited to trials, and qualified applicants participate

in the Sports Authority of India (SAI) initiatives.

On International Women's Day in 2017, the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports formed a committee chaired by AS and FA to discuss and resolve issues and grievances of female athletes. It has given female athletes a significant boost in their performance.

Scheme for Sports and Games for People with Disabilities

Under this concept, differently-abled athletes are taught in their field to organize sports contests and support schools and institutes that have differently-abled athletes. The concentration resulted in a fantastic performance by our para athletes in Tokyo.

PM Modi and his government have contributed significantly to promoting and encouraging sports in India. PM Modi is an embodiment of fitness,

someone who leads by example and encourages fellow people to live a healthy lifestyle.

National sports development strategy to hold national level games in the U-14 and U-17 age groups includes the development of Indigenous sports such as Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, and Kalariyapattu under the umbrella of Indigenous Games and Martial Arts (IGMA). This design includes creating a synthetic athletic track, a hockey field, a swimming pool, and a hall.

Mission Eleven Million (MXIM)

Under this Scheme, some of the special initiatives by the Modi Government have been listed below:

Oorja: U-19 Football talent hunt initiated by CAPF(Central Armed Police Force) and Assam Rifles.

Others: National Sports Talent Contest Scheme (NSTC), Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC), SAI

Training Centre (STC), Special Area Games (SAG), Extension Centre of STC/SAG, Centre of Excellence (CoE), National Sports Academies (NSA).

The initiatives listed above are by SAI (Sports Authority of India) to identify noteworthy athletes aged 8 to 25 in various sports.

Discrimination between cricket and other sports has been evident for many decades and has harmed athletes' confidence. Now, when the Prime Minister of a nation is cheering for every sport and athlete, personally monitoring, motivating, assisting, and informing the achievement of an athlete or a team via social media platform, the nation begins to cheer for the athletes who made a significant difference.

Bharat will undoubtedly finish in the top three at the Olympics in the near future.



Cultivating Champions: The Role of Khelo India in Nurturing Sports Talent

- Rangin Halder: Student, NUJS Kolkata

With such a huge and young population, India is highly focused on cricket, and other sports like football, volleyball, etc., are rarely watched and get the attention of sponsorship. One of the main reasons behind the cricket-centric sports culture in India is less awareness regarding other sports and the lack of incentives from sports other than cricket. The problem can be solved by promoting sports other than cricket by creating awareness among the youth and providing adequate incentives to the players playing the game by providing a good amount of prizes and proper training facilities.

Our visionary Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, recognised India's potential through sports. The incumbent NDA government, which our Prime Minister Narendra Modi leads, started Khelo India in 2018. Prime Minister Narendra Modi first proposed the idea of Khelo India in 2016 during his address at the first edition of the Indian Sports Awards. He emphasised the need to create a sports culture in the country and provide opportunities for young athletes to showcase their talent. The programme was launched in 2018 to identify and nurture talent in various sports disciplines. Khelo India is a national programme for developing sports in India, launched by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in 2018. The programme aims to promote the sports culture and nurture talent among young athletes in the country.

The Government of India's innovative programme, Khelo India, is revolutionising the country's sports scene. The programme seeks to cultivate young talent and foster a sporting culture focusing on grassroots development. The government works to offer chances, resources, and assistance to ambitious athletes all around India through Khelo India. This article examines Khelo India's relevance, goals, major activities, and effects on the Indian athletic community.

Under Khelo India, young athletes can demonstrate their abilities and participate at the national level at the yearly multidisciplinary Khelo India Youth Games. The Khelo India School Games competitions feature a variety of sporting categories and draw athletes from all states and union territories. The Khelo India School Games initiative seeks to recognise potential at the school level through organised training programmes. Young athletes might use it as a stepping stone to advance their athletic careers.

Since its inception, Khelo India has significantly impacted Indian sports. It has led to the identification of young talent across various disciplines and provided them with the necessary support and guidance. The program has played a crucial role in improving the overall performance of Indian athletes at national and international levels. Moreover, Khelo India has contributed to developing sports infrastructure across the country. The construction of new sports facilities and the upgradation of existing ones have created a conducive environment for athletes to train and compete.



The financial support provided by Khelo India has alleviated the burden of training expenses for promising athletes, enabling them to focus on their sporting pursuits without financial constraints. Prizes in the Khelo India events are not only in cash, but other incentives are also provided. Scholarships were made available to exceptional athletes to help with their training and academic costs. These scholarships pay for a range of things, such as tuition costs, coaching fees, and specialised training courses. Talented athletes were given the chance to work with renowned trainers and experts to acquire advanced training. With this assistance, they were to improve their abilities and get ready for tournaments at a higher level. Sports clothing and equipment were provided to athletes to help with their practice and competition. It includes athletic footwear, apparel, practice sets, and equipment designed specifically for each sport discipline.

The winners of the Khelo India Youth Games received recognition and exposure at a national level. The media highlighted their achievements and gained visibility among sports enthusiasts, potential sponsors, and sporting authorities. The prize in terms of cash in the first edition of Khelo India Youth Games, which was held in 2018, where the gold medal winners received Rs. 5 lakhs, silver medal winners received Rs. 3 lakhs, and bronze medal winners received Rs. 2 lakhs.

Khelo India is the brainchild of our visionary Prime Minister,

Shri Narendra Modi, and through this initiative, his effort to uplift the sports culture is visible. This initiative ensured proper incentives for the sportspersons and included sports that don't get that much limelight. Events Khelo India Winter



Games had its first edition at Leh and Gulmarg in 2020 and had its third edition in 2023 in Jammu Kashmir. Jammu Kashmir, which has long seen disturbances, now hosts events like Khelo India Winter Games under the incumbent central government. The presence of India in the Winter Olympic Games was mere, but due to the advent of events like the Khelo India Winter Games, not only will there be the presence of India in such games, but the country will also excel in such events.



Khelega India, Tabhi Toh Badhega India

- Yash Kalbhor: Advocate, Pune

Sports play a crucial role in the development of a nation, as it not only promotes physical fitness and mental well-being but also create a sense of national pride and unity. In recent years, the government of India has recognised the importance of sports and has made efforts to promote it at the grassroots level. The Modi government has introduced several schemes and initiatives to promote sports and encourage young talent.

The Modi government has introduced several schemes and initiatives to promote sports at the grassroots level. One of the most significant initiatives is the Khelo India scheme, launched in 2018. The scheme aims to develop a sports culture in the country by providing financial assistance to talented athletes and creating sports infrastructure at the grassroots level. Under this scheme, talented athletes are identified and provided with financial assistance of up to Rs. 5 lakhs annually for eight years. The scheme also provides funding for developing sports infrastructure and organising sports events at the district and state levels.

Another significant initiative introduced by the Modi government is the National Sports Talent Search Scheme (NSTSS). The scheme aims to identify and nurture talented athletes at the grassroots level and provide them with specialised training and coaching. The scheme covers athletes aged 8-12 years and provides them with a scholarship of Rs. 5,000 per month for eight years. The scheme has helped identify and nurture young talent, resulting in several promising athletes representing India at the international level.

The government has also introduced several initiatives to promote women's sports. The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme, launched in 2015, aims to promote the education and empowerment of girls. The scheme also includes a component for the promotion of sports among girls. The



government has also launched the National Programme for Development of Sports for Women (NPDSW) to promote the development of women's sports in the country. The scheme provides financial assistance for the development of sports infrastructure, the organisation of sports events, and the training of women athletes.

The Modi government's efforts to promote sports have yielded positive results, as seen in India's performance in international sports events. In recent years, India has performed well in several international events, such as the Commonwealth Games, the Asian Games, and the Olympics. In the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, India won seven medals, including a gold medal in athletics. The success of Indian athletes in international events has created a sense of national pride and encouraged young talent to take up sports as a career.

The effects of the Modi government's policies in promoting sports are not limited to developing sports infrastructure and identifying young talent. Sports also positively impact

the economy, as it creates employment opportunities and promotes tourism. Developing sports infrastructure, such as stadiums and training facilities, creates job opportunities in the construction and maintenance sectors. Sports events like the IPL and the Pro-Kabaddi League have also created job opportunities in the hospitality and entertainment sectors. Promoting sports tourism can also contribute to the growth of the tourism sector in the country.

However, there is still a long way to go in creating a sports culture in the country. The government, sports organisations, and society must work together toward creating an ecosystem that fosters sports and encourages young talent. One area where the government can focus its efforts is providing more sports funding. While the government has introduced several schemes and initiatives to promote sports, funding remains challenging. More funding can help develop sports infrastructure, training facilities, and coaching programs. It, in turn, can help identify and nurture young talent.

Another area where more efforts are needed is promoting sports among girls and women. While the government has introduced several initiatives to promote women's sports, the participation of women in sports is still low. Societal norms and prejudices often discourage girls and women from taking up sports, and there is a need to change this mindset. The government and sports organisations must work towards creating a safe and welcoming environment for girls and women to participate in sports.

The government can also focus on creating a more robust sports ecosystem at the grassroots level. While the Khelo India scheme has helped develop sports infrastructure and identify young talent, there is a need for more organised and structured coaching programs. The government can collaborate with sports organisations and experts to create a comprehensive coaching program covering all sports aspects, including physical training, mental conditioning, and nutrition.

Another area where more efforts are needed is promoting traditional sports and games. India has a rich history of traditional sports and games, such as kabaddi, kho-kho, and gilli-danda, played for centuries. These sports promote physical fitness and showcase India's cultural heritage. The government can introduce initiatives to promote these traditional sports and games and financially assist athletes and organisers.

In conclusion, the Modi government's policies and initiatives in promoting sports have yielded positive results and

contributed to developing a sports culture in the country. The government's focus on identifying and nurturing young talent, promoting women's sports, and developing sports infrastructure has resulted in India's improved performance in international events.

However, there is still a long way to go in creating a sports ecosystem that fosters and encourages young talent. The government, sports organisations, and society must work together to create a safe and welcoming environment for all participating in sports. More funding, promoting traditional sports, and creating more organised coaching programs can help develop a comprehensive sports ecosystem in the country. The development of a robust sports ecosystem not only promotes physical fitness and mental well-being but also contributes to the growth of the economy and the promotion of national pride and unity.



Paris 24 Olympics: Towards Crossing the Rubicon

- Rajarshi Roychowdhury, BJYM, West Bengal

The power of women is an experience of transformation; she is the source of wealth and prosperity. Women who show the way, Bring happiness and nectar to the entire society.

'Mission Shakti' is a government initiative to empower women in India and promote gender equality. The initiative focuses on several areas: education, healthcare, employment, safety, and security.

The government has taken several steps to support women's empowerment in India, including allocating significant resources towards programs to improve their well-being and address the challenges they face. For example, the government has launched various schemes to provide women with education, healthcare, and employment opportunities. It has also taken steps to address gender-



based violence and discrimination issues.

To begin with, prioritizing rural income growth and financial independence, the Union budget 2023 has enabled women's self-help groups (SHGs) to reach the next stage of economic empowerment by providing them with raw material supply, branding, marketing of products, etc.

It is an extremely important step because SHGs have the potential to play a transformative role in engaging women, as it has already been exemplified during the COVID-19 pandemic and can, therefore, further help in widening women's labour force participation in the near future. We will enable these groups to reach the next stage of economic empowerment by forming large producer enterprises or collectives, each with several thousand members.

The budget allocated to the Women and Child Development Ministry, the nodal department of the government for the welfare of women and children, stood at Rs 25,448.75 crore in 2023-24. The most significant announcement for women in Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's proposal for the 'Mahila Samman Saving Certificate' with a fixed interest rate of 7.5 per cent for two years, economic empowerment of women under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana National Rural Livelihood Mission, 81 lakh self-help groups have been created by mobilizing rural women.

The income tax slabs announced under the new tax regime are also likely to benefit salaried women and those engaged in formal employment-particularly from the middle-class background-enhancing their capacity to save and take better investment decisions. As per the new tax regime, earnings up to 7 lakhs will not be required to pay a tax compared to those earning 5 lakhs who were exempted from paying taxes under the old tax regime. It will benefit a large number of women who are breadwinners for their families.

Inferring from these pointers, one can clearly say that this year's budget has made a convincing attempt to strengthen financial independence and facilitate women's economic empowerment by providing them with greater resources and access.





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