

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 3358
ANSWERED ON- 21/08/2025

EXPANSION OF SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE

3358. SHRI HARSH VARDHAN SHRINGLA:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether Government has undertaken a national strategy to address regional disparities and infrastructural gaps in youth development and sports;
- (b) the number of Khelo India Centres of Excellence, Sports Science Centres, and Talent Identification Hubs set up so far, and whether these ensure balanced regional representation;
- (c) the steps taken to promote youth leadership, social entrepreneurship, and sports participation among women, differently-abled youth, and those from aspirational districts; and
- (d) whether any specific initiatives have been undertaken in West Bengal, particularly Darjeeling district, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS

(DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)

(a) to (d) 'Sports' being a State subject, the responsibility of development of sports, including addressing regional disparities and infrastructural gaps in youth development and sports, rests primarily with the State/Union Territory Governments. The Union Government supplements their efforts by bridging critical gaps. The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports implements the following schemes to promote sports in the country, including in the State of West Bengal:

- i) Khelo India - National Programme for Development of Sports;
- ii) Assistance to National Sports Federations;
- iii) Cash Incentive to Medal Winners in International Sports Events and their Coaches;
- iv) National Sports Awards;
- v) Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons;
- vi) Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Program for Sportspersons;
- vii) National Sports Development Fund (NSDF); and
- viii) Running Sports Training Centres through Sports Authority of India (SAI).

Details of the above schemes are available in the public domain on the websites of this Ministry and the SAI.

Further, the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports implements the following schemes to promote youth empowerment in the country, including in the State of West Bengal:

- i) Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat);
- ii) Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS); and
- iii) National Service Scheme (NSS)

As of now, 1,057 Khelo India Centres (KICs) and 34 Khelo India State Centres of Excellence (KISCES) have been notified across the country. Furthermore, one National Centre for Sports Science and Research (NCSSR) is operational in New Delhi. These initiatives collectively aim to ensure balanced regional representation and promote excellence in sports across the country.

The Government, through various Ministries and affiliated organizations, has undertaken several initiatives to promote youth leadership, social entrepreneurship, and sports participation, particularly among women, differently-abled youth, and those from aspirational districts. The Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) platform and Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) have implemented youth-focused programmes such as the Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme, MY Bharat Viksit Bharat @2047 Declamation Contest, and the National Youth Parliament Festival to nurture leadership and encourage civic engagement among young people. To support entrepreneurship, especially among women and youth from tribal and aspirational districts, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) is implementing programmes through its autonomous bodies such as National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) and the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE). These include the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN), Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA), and the Swavalambini Programme, with a strong focus on women-led enterprises. The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) has taken several initiatives to promote disability sports in India. A major step is the establishment of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Training Centre for Disability Sports (ABV-TCDS) in Gwalior, inaugurated by the Prime Minister in October 2023. This world-class Centre of Excellence offers accessible training and modern facilities for various indoor and outdoor para sports. It has gender-sensitive, barrier-free infrastructure, including wheelchair-friendly hostels and courts. The Centre supports talent identification through district and state-level screening and provides high-performance residential training. Financial assistance is also provided under the National Fund for Persons with Disabilities, created under Section 86 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, to support sportspersons with benchmark disabilities in national and international events. All efforts are aligned with the Khelo Bharat Neeti 2025 and aim to promote inclusive sports development and participation in global events like the Paralympics, Deaflympics, and Special Olympics. In the sports sector, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, through its autonomous body, Sports Authority of India (SAI) is running schemes such as the SAI Training Centres (STC), National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC), and the National Centres of Excellence (NCOE). Special provisions are made for women and differently-abled athletes, with exclusive girls' centres and a dedicated Para Sports facility at SAI's Regional Centre in Gandhinagar. Under the Khelo India scheme, initiatives like the Khelo India Para Games and ASMITA League (Achieving Sports Milestone by Inspiring Women Through Action) promote inclusiveness and enhance participation of women, persons with disabilities, and youth from rural and aspirational districts.
