

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 296 #
ANSWERED ON 19.03.2026

**IMPLEMENTATION OF KHELO BHARAT NITI AND NATIONAL SPORTS POLICY
IN NER**

296 # SHRI RAJIB BHATTACHARJEE:

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

- (a) the key objectives, priorities and implementation timeline for the North Eastern Region (NER) under the Khelo Bharat Niti and the proposed National Sports Policy, 2025;
- (b) the targets set for establishment of district-level sports centres, talent identification and training of coaches in the region;
- (c) the specific strategies envisaged for athletes from the region in preparation for 2036 Olympic Games; and
- (d) whether any monitoring and performance framework is in place to assess the impact of the policy?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
(DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 296# TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.03.2026 REGARDING “IMPLEMENTATION OF KHELO BHARAT NITI AND NATIONAL SPORTS POLICY IN NER” ASKED BY SHRI RAJIB BHATTACHARJEE HON’BLE MEMBER OF RAJYA SABHA.

(a): The Khelo Bharat Niti 2025 aims at building a strong, inclusive, and performance-driven sports ecosystem in India including in the North Eastern Region (NER). The vision of the Niti is "Sports for Nation Building - Harness the Power of Sports for Nation's Holistic Development". The key objectives of the policy, inter-alia, include ensuring equitable access to sports infrastructure across the country and establishing comprehensive sports programmes for all participation groups, from grassroots to elite levels, including Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, rural areas and women athletes from around the country, and promoting social development and inclusion through sports. The policy also includes provisions aimed at strengthening grassroots sports infrastructure and supporting early talent identification across urban and rural areas, with a focus on widening access to sporting opportunities. For detailed objectives and features, Khelo Bharat Niti-2025 may be referred, copy of which is readily available in the public domain on the website of this Ministry at https://yas.nic.in/sites/default/files/Khelo-Bharat-Niti-2025_0.pdf.

(b): Implementation of any policy is a continuous process. Further, ‘Sports’ being a State subject, the primary responsibility for promotion and development of sports rests primarily with the respective States/Union Territories. The Union Government supplements these efforts, in alignment with the National Sports Policy, through its ongoing schemes and programmes, which operate within defined guidelines and reporting frameworks, details of which are available on the website of the Ministry.

(c): The Policy aims to harness the potential of sports to drive excellence, economic growth and social progress while promoting the overall well-being of the nation’s citizens. Building upon the foundations laid by previous initiatives such as the National Sports Policy - 2001, the Khelo India Scheme and Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), the policy comprehensively seeks to create an inclusive and robust sporting ecosystem that nurtures talent from the grassroots to the Olympic podium including Olympics 2036. Preparation for the 2036 Olympic Games is envisaged through strengthening High-Performance Centres and focused support to priority Olympic disciplines.

(d): ‘Sports’ being a State subject, the primary responsibility for promotion and development of sports, rests primarily with the respective State/Union Territory Governments. The Union Government supplements these efforts, in alignment with the National Sports Policy, through its ongoing schemes and programmes, which operate within defined guidelines and reporting frameworks. Their performance including impact is assessed through third-party evaluations in accordance with the evaluation guidelines issued by the Department of Expenditure.
