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MINISTRY OF
YOUTH AFFAIRS
AND SPORTS

सत्यमेव जयते

THIRD PARTY EVALUATION OF CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEMES OF DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS, MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS 2026



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Third Party Evaluation of Central Sector Schemes of Department of Sports, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

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PREFACE

The Report titled "Third Party Evaluation of Central Sector Schemes of Department of Sports, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS)" has been carried out by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), New Delhi, with extensive support from the Ministry.

The study led by Dr. H. K. Amarnath, Dr. Aakanksha Shrawan and Dr. Gaidimlung K. Jacob assessed various schemes under the Department of Sports to determine whether their achievements are in line with their intended objectives. The Report also identifies existing gaps in the ongoing schemes and suggests several policy suggestions and recommendations in order to improve the efficiency of the schemes on the ground. The team undertook a national- and state-level assessment (five states) of the schemes using secondary data from the Ministry's Annual Reports, scheme guidelines and documents shared by MoYAS. The Team also conducted questionnaire-based primary surveys across three schemes – Khelo India, ANSF and HRDS. The analysis and investigations have enabled the authors to make a number of recommendations which I am confident will be extremely useful to the state governments and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in improving upon the design, structure and delivery mechanism of the schemes.

The views expressed in this report are those of the authors and the members of the governing body of the institute are in no way responsible for them.


(R. Kavita Rao)
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Officials from the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (Government of India), State Sports Departments, and the Sports Authority of India provided valuable inputs on the sports ecosystem and related schemes. However, responsibility for the analysis, findings, and any errors or omissions in the report rests solely with the team.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Third Party Evaluation of Central Sector Schemes of Department of Sports, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

Sponsored by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS)

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The Department of Sports has renewed its commitment to building India into a global sporting powerhouse. Aligning with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 and the National Education Policy 2020, the Government announced the Khelo Bharat Niti 2025, intending to leverage sports as a driver of economic growth and human development. This evaluation assesses the effectiveness of these schemes, as India transitions from building scale and access towards creating international competitiveness in alignment with national development priorities and the aspiration of excelling at the Olympic Games by 2036.

The main objectives of the study are:

- To assess each of the schemes (Khelo India, HRDS, ANSF) for its Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability, Impact, Coherence and Equity.
- To assess the impact of the schemes – studying the achievements versus objectives and the need for their continuation.
- Assess the qualitative and quantitative outputs and outcomes in respect of different schemes such as Khelo India, ANSF, HRDS etc. and suggest improvements, if any.
- To identify and analyse the Most Significant Change that schemes have been able to achieve.
- To identify and analyse the impact of the scheme on intended objectives.
- To study and suggest modifications in the design, structure and delivery mechanism of the schemes in meeting the developmental needs and aspirations of the people in the changing environment.

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- To determine the outreach and access of the schemes and suggest ways and means for improvement.
- Identify good practices in implementation of the schemes.
- Identify gaps in the on-going schemes and any other relevant issues and make recommendations accordingly.
- To identify whether there is any synergy and overlap with other schemes of Government of India/State Governments.
- Any additional parameters to be covered which may emerge during discussion / interaction in the course of above work.

The study framework comprised two components. First, a national- and state-level assessment of schemes was undertaken using MIS data, budget analyses (revised and actuals), and insights from Ministry Annual Reports, scheme guidelines, MoYAS documents, and the Khelo India dashboard to assess financial and physical progress. Second, KIIs and questionnaire-based primary surveys were conducted across Khelo India, ANSF, and HRDS with relevant stakeholders across five selected states, with field visit details provided in Appendix I. The following schemes are evaluated in detail in the Report:

The *Khelo India Scheme*, as outlined in **Section 2**, has established its status as the cornerstone of India's sporting ecosystem, with 67% approx. of the total budget for the Department of Sports with a ₹1,000 crore allocation for FY 2025–26. Secondary data reflects an impressive infrastructure, having completed 241 projects across 32 States and UTs—a 74% completion rate. There is an overall participation of over one lakh individuals across 21 Khelo India game editions. Suggestions include data-driven evidence-based fund allocation via the national GIS inventory, ensuring sustainability for the infrastructure projects, encouraging more convergence with the schemes like MPLAD/MLALAD and CSR Funds, engaging coaches and by adopting suitable measures for enhancing the technical skill requirement, India can augment and create its sports infrastructure for global excellence.

Primary survey findings validate the institutional success, as 100% of athletes report receiving regular, sport-specific coaching on a daily basis, and 63.8% identify enhanced coaching quality as the most significant positive outcome of their development. The scheme's developmental framework comprises 1,067 notified centres with 991 operational Khelo India Centres (KICs) and engaged 962 Past Champion Athletes (PCAs) as salaried mentors, while the Fit India Movement has achieved massive institutional penetration, engaged 1.4 million schools and reached 210 million citizens. Primary survey findings reveal that while medical coordination is strong at 86.1%, there is a scope to formalize nutritional and psychological support beyond the current 70.3% reliance on informal verbal advice. Additionally, the

scheme has also achieved high community mobilisation rates, including the engagement of 2.4 lakh women in ASMITA Leagues and the Fit India Movement's massive outreach to 210 million citizens.

The findings reveal that 57.97% of Khelo India Athletes (KIAs) perceive delays in their quarterly Out-of-Pocket Allowance due to limited understanding of the disbursement cycle, the findings underscore the need for greater awareness, as many athletes remain uninformed about their full ₹5,00,000 annual entitlement and nearly 40% lack clarity on the "weeding-out" performance criteria. 52.7% of athletes have not received any anti-doping education, while 68% of coaches and support staff reported not conducting anti-doping awareness sessions, highlighting the need for mandatory, structured anti-doping awareness across all centres. Nutrition plans can be tailored to individual athletes rather than following a single uniform template, taking into account sport type, training load, body composition, and age to optimize performance and health. Food allowances can also be provided for non-residential KIAs and the existing discrepancy of athletes at National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) based on their status as a KIA or non- KIA can also be removed. Considering the increasing cost of competition exposures, equipment and sports science support it is suggested to revise the existing talent identification cost norms.

The sports science support also can be extended to a larger pool of athletes. To further elevate this ecosystem toward Olympic Vision 2036, it is important to modernise the framework by incorporating emerging disciplines. For optimal utilisation of funds, accredited academies can be given budgetary flexibility to reallocate funds. There can also be an increase in the number of competitions held at state/district level to further ensure the talent development. For upskilling the coaches and support personnel it is essential to increase the scope and budget allocation for the community coaching development sub-component.

Suggestions for the Khelo India Centres and Sports Academies sub-component includes introducing conditional flexibility in GFR procurement rules for cases where specialized sports equipment is not available under the Make in India mandate, increasing the number of KISCES per state/UT and new KICs per district, increasing the number of Khelo India supported disciplines in the already efficiently functioning KISCES, adopting mechanisms to remove the glitches and increase the awareness of NSRS portal, addressing the lack of manpower, establishing State level PMUs and official Centre-SAI-State coordination mechanism can rectify the existing administrative and operational bottlenecks. The Viability Gap Funding (VGF) is proven to be outdated, so renewing the VGF can enhance the operational effectiveness of the Khelo India State Centre of Excellences (KISCES). Discipline-specific funding in the Khelo India Centres (KICs) and PFMS-based direct payroll

systems for Past Champion Athletes (PCAs), implementing a standardized monitoring system to track the distribution of sports kits, consumables, and athlete entitlements, allow conditional discipline reallocation to prevent centres from becoming inactive when coaches exit or when local sports preferences change can further improve the efficiency of KICs. The MoYAS can also envisage opening up the next round of KICs in residential schools with sufficient playfields and other required infrastructure across various districts in the country.

Addressing the digital platforms limitation for outreach, continuous data standardisation and increasing the institutional penetration and mobilisation can help in achieving the objectives for the Fit India component. To maximize inclusivity, it is recommended to ensure meaningful inclusion of para-athletes, the provision of sports kits and logistics can consider accessibility requirements for para-athletes.

The study evaluates the *Assistance to National Sports Federation Scheme (ANSF) scheme* in **Section 3**. This scheme has successfully established itself as the vital financial backbone of India's high-performance sports ecosystem, demonstrating administrative efficiency with fund utilization reaching 100% in 2024-25. The comprehensive 2025 revision further strengthens this foundation by introducing inflation-indexed dietary allowances, raising rates to ₹1,000 per day for senior athletes and mandating that federations earmark 20% of their annual budgets for grassroots development to ensure a sustainable talent pipeline. Primary survey data indicate that 68.2% of athletes report a significant improvement in their performance due to national camp support, while 60.3% of participants express high trust in the fairness and transparency of selection policies.

The scheme can update the categorization of sports disciplines to reflect current global achievements and medal potential. The revised guidelines have mandated the appointment of High Performance Directors (HPDs) for federations with budgets exceeding ₹10 crore, which needs to be accelerated since it will provide the technical leadership necessary to maximize athlete output. Suggestions include enforcing a 10% allocation specifically for hiring specialized support personnel like nutritionists and data analysts to enhance federation self-sufficiency and reduce dependence on centralized staff. Additionally, rationalizing the ₹2 crore ceiling for hosting international events, arranging training of athletes at Olympic Training Centres (OTCs), increasing the financial support from ANSF Scheme for National Games through IOA/SAI, spreading the global outreach of indigenous sports and providing scholarships and subsidised training to athletes from Global South will reposition India's global credibility. Addressing these minor operational frictions and modernizing infrastructure to meet full international standards, the ANSF

framework is well-positioned to serve as a reliable launchpad for producing consistent global champions.

The *Scheme of Human Resources Development in Sports (HRDS)*, evaluated in **Section 4**, has emerged as a cornerstone for building India's academic and intellectual foundation in sports. Since its significant revision in May 2023, the scheme has demonstrated a fiscal turnaround, with fund utilization surging from 44.75% in FY 2022-23 to 101.33% in FY 2023-24. Secondary data highlights a steady expansion of the professional pipeline, as the total number of individuals supported rose from 12 in FY 2022-23 to 37 in FY 2024-25, totalling 89 beneficiaries across five components. The "Exchange of Knowledge/Ideas" vertical has proven particularly effective, accounting for 66% of all beneficiaries and serving as the primary engine for professional networking and growth. Primary survey data further validates this success, with 90% of beneficiaries reporting significant improvements in their professional competence and 95% expressing high satisfaction with the equitable access provided by the scheme.

To further elevate the scheme, integrating the HRDS framework as a specialized chapter within the flagship Khelo India Scheme would significantly enhance its visibility and synchronize it with mainstream talent development. Disseminating scheme information actively at various institutional level can enhance the awareness and outreach of the scheme. Strategic refinements to the application process, such as implementing a unified digital platform and a live application tracking dashboard, simplifying the application process and streamlining the approval and evaluation mechanism would build upon the existing 74% ease-of-use rating reported by current applicants. Administrative efficiency can be further optimized by granting flexibility on the mandatory Zero Balance Savings Account (ZBSA) requirement in the HDFC Bank, which currently poses procedural challenges for 93% of institutional beneficiaries, and by updating cost norms to align with inflation and location-specific logistics. Expanding eligibility to include private sector stakeholders, removing restrictive bonds for fellowships and the bar on not funding a beneficiary again in the same year/consecutive year will ensure a more inclusive and high-calibre talent pool. These proactive enhancements will transform HRDS into an institutional mechanism that supports a more modern and evidence-based Indian sports ecosystem.

Section 5 of the Report assesses the *Scheme of Cash Incentive to Medal Winners in International Sports Events and their Coaches*. This Scheme has evolved into a high-impact, technologically advanced instrument of national pride, successfully institutionalizing outcome-based recognition with a disbursement of ₹71.83 crore to 1,110 beneficiaries in FY 2023-24 alone. A major structural advancement under the

scheme has been the transition to a Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)-based digital platform in 2022, which has significantly improved transparency, traceability, and administrative control. The framework's design is further demonstrated by the surge in coach beneficiaries to 160 in FY 2024–25, utilizing a distribution model that rewards identified mentors across an athlete's grassroots (30%), developmental (30%), and elite (40%) career stages. Findings indicate that these incentives serve as a behavioural catalyst, providing essential income stabilization for athletes outside mainstream commercial sports. Suggestions include transitioning towards full administrative automation by integrating the DBT and National Sports Repository System (NSRS) portals. This strategic evolution aims to facilitate suo-moto disbursal based on authenticated results, potentially eliminating manual application requirements and ensuring that rewards are delivered within an optimal three-month window, thereby maximizing the scheme's motivational element for India's long-term sporting ambitions.

The *National Sports Awards Scheme* (**Section 6**) serves as the apex recognition for sporting excellence in India, fostering a culture of meritocracy and integrity through its robust, data-driven selection framework. Secondary data underscores the system's operational flexibility, reflected in the calibrated relaxation of nominal award quotas. For instance, the Arjuna Award (Standard) has exceeded its prescribed ceiling of 15 awards, with 25–35 athletes recognized annually in response to India's performance gains at the Olympic, Paralympic, and Asian Games levels. This approach is further mirrored in the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy, where sustained institutional sporting capacity is evident from long-term concentration of titles, with two universities accounting for 28 of 33 championships, and in the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar (RKPP), which has acknowledged systemic contributions from institutions as well as major public and private stakeholders. Suggestions include transitioning towards an Integrated National Sports Award Scheme, combining the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna, Dronacharya and Arjuna Awards, with a unified Selection Committee to simplify administrative coordination and ensure a consistent guideline structure. Strategic refinements include establishing formal points matrices for non-Olympic disciplines (like cricket) to guide quantitative scoring, and the Ministry may examine the feasibility of a hybrid scoring model for the MAKA Trophy. The RKPP can be augmented with high-value non-monetary incentives like priority access to central sports facilities to further motivate private sector investment in talent development.

The *Pension Scheme for Meritorious Sportspersons* (**Section 7**) has successfully matured into a welfare intervention, providing life-time financial security to 119 new beneficiaries over the last five years and achieving a remarkable 99.1% budget utilization rate in 2023–24. Secondary data highlights an administrative stabilization,

with fiscal efficiency rising from 31.3% in FY 2022–23 to near-full utilization in recent years, reflecting stabilisation of the administrative pipeline and closer alignment between allocation and expected beneficiary volume. While the scheme has preserved the dignity of national heroes in traditional disciplines like wrestling, kabaddi and boxing and increasingly in Para-sports, there is an opportunity to further enhance national coverage by expanding proactive outreach to medal-producing regions like the North East. Strategic refinements include aligning the age-based eligibility threshold (currently 30 years) with the actual retirement patterns of diverse sports and introducing a structured review or indexation mechanism to preserve the real value of fixed pension rates against inflation. These enhancements will ensure the scheme remains a credible assurance to India's elite talent that their excellence is recognized and secured across the entirety of their post-competitive lives.

The *Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Program For Sportspersons (PDUNWPS) Scheme (Section 8)* stands as a micro-welfare instrument within India's sports ecosystem, providing a crucial safety net for elite athletes facing medical emergencies or indigent circumstances. Secondary data highlights the scheme's commitment to inclusivity, as it actively supports athletes from de-recognized or suspended federations and provides assistance to beneficiaries in diverse regions. While annual allocations have remained steady at ₹2 crore annually, the moderation of expenditure to ₹0.95 crore in 2024–25 reflects a welfare model that involves accurate targeting of genuinely vulnerable sportspersons. To build upon this fiscally disciplined foundation, it is suggested to transform towards an administrative optimization by simplifying guideline language and streamlining documentation requirements to better serve older or grassroots athletes. Suggestions include implementing standardized digital verification through integration with SAI and NSF databases and the delegation of approval authority to enhance responsiveness and reduce pendency. Furthermore, proactive outreach through State Sports Departments and regional centres will broaden the geographic reach, ensuring that the scheme remains a source of enduring security for all who have served the nation through sport.

As these four schemes are welfare-oriented in nature, it is proposed to merge the Cash Incentive Scheme, National Sports Awards, Pensions to Meritorious Sportspersons, and the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Program For Sportspersons under a single umbrella framework for welfare schemes.

The *National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) Scheme*, discussed in **Section 9**, has successfully transitioned from a supplementary financing mechanism into a financial engine that harmonizes government initiatives with private and corporate

philanthropy to drive India's high-performance sports ecosystem. Secondary data demonstrates a paradigm shift toward "tied" CSR funding, with cumulative contributions from major Public Sector Undertakings such as Coal India Limited and the REC Foundation reaching approximately ₹262.3 crore, signalling increasing donor confidence in NSDF's governance. This scheme serves as the primary backbone for the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), which has utilized over ₹30,000 lakh in combined untied and CSR-earmarked assistance since FY 2016-17 to provide uninterrupted, individualized support for elite athletes. Furthermore, the Fund has played a transformative role in infrastructure development, sanctioning over ₹248 crore for the high-capacity athlete hostels at SAI Bangalore and LNIPE Gwalior, while democratizing access through regional investments such as the ₹18.90 crore allocated for badminton halls in Arunachal Pradesh. To ensure long-term sustainability as India targets the 2036 Olympics, it is suggested to stabilise the NSDF corpus, which has witnessed depletion following the revision of the government's support to match CSR contributions on a one-to-one basis. Operational efficiency can be further enhanced by establishing component-specific financial ceilings, diversifying the donor base beyond the public sector, and implementing systematic outcome tracking to link expenditures directly to athlete progression within elite performance pathways.

The *National Centre of Sports Sciences and Research (NCSSR) Scheme (Section 10)* has successfully pioneered a paradigm shift in India's sporting landscape with a data-driven framework through its strategic Hub and Spoke model. Secondary data highlights a remarkable 10-fold increase in athlete testing sessions, rising from 221 in 2020-21 to 2,769 in 2024-25 and the robust creation of a domestic professional pipeline with 1,187 students enrolled in Master's Degree and PhD programs across partner universities. To maximize this momentum toward Olympic Vision 2036, it is suggested to upgrade the NCSSR into an autonomous National Institute of Sports Science & Research (NISSR), which would streamline decision-making and enable the establishment of a permanent, cadre-based scientific structure to replace the current high-attrition model of contractual staff and consultants. Restructuring the Spoke Model to ensure specialized research and talent development, ensuring equipment standardization across National centres and enhancing research autonomy and professional development for elite sports can further increase the efficiency of NCSSR. Strategic refinements include pivoting "Spoke" collaborations toward premier technical institutions like IITs and AIIMS to enhance research absorption, implementing ISO 17025 accreditation to ensure national equipment standardization, and the proposed launching of a dedicated Sports Science Promotion Grant Scheme to foster indigenous innovation in athlete health and recovery. These enhancements will solidify NCSSR's role as a world-class intellectual

hub, ensuring India's elite athletes are supported by the highest standards of evidence-based performance science.

Section 11 provides *Concluding Remarks* based on the scheme-wise observations and policy suggestions in the Report. Overall, the evaluation demonstrates that India's sports ecosystem has progressed from foundational capacity-building into a decisive phase where coherence, execution quality, and time-bound alignment will directly shape outcomes at the 2030 Commonwealth Games and the 2036 Olympic Games.

The Department of Sports has already established a comprehensive, multi-tiered architecture spanning grassroots participation, infrastructure creation, welfare assurance specifically through the welfare schemes, and elite scientific support. Khelo India's infrastructure and talent pipeline can be scaled and modernised to support a wider range of Olympic and emerging Olympic disciplines, forming the core physical and developmental base of the system. At the same time, HRDS and NCSSR can be strengthened to deliver coaching excellence and applied sports science, while ANSF and NSDF together can function as complementary financing pillars – ANSF ensuring federation-led preparation and NSDF mobilising sustained public and private investment for targeted medal outcomes.

By reducing operational frictions, enforcing mandatory anti-doping awareness, aligning infrastructure, human capital, sports science, and financing around clearly sequenced international milestones, India can consolidate its top-tier position at the 2030 Commonwealth Games and enter the 2036 Olympic cycle as a resilient and globally competitive sporting nation.

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Section 1



INTRODUCTION

In the recent years, the government has renewed its focus on the sporting culture of the country and announced several big-ticket schemes and policies that are aimed at establishing India's position in the global landscape as a global sporting powerhouse. Aligning with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 and National Education Policy 2020, the government announced the Khelo Bharat Niti 2025 this year with an aim to utilise sports as a means for economic growth and human development, along with promoting women's participation, sports-centric ventures/startups and greater involvement of the private sector in building an all-encompassing sports ecosystem. Launched in its first phase in 2016-17, *Khelo India* is a flagship scheme of the government that comprises several pillars, including sports infrastructure, organising competitions and talent identification, promoting inclusivity in sports and establishing Khelo India Centres (KICs) in every district and Khelo India State Centre of Excellence (KISCs) in all states, along with other academies. In addition to Khelo India, the Department of Sports has numerous schemes under its belt. These are *Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSF)*, *Human Resource Development Scheme (HRDS)*, *Cash Incentives*, *National Sports Awards*, *Pensions to Meritorious Sportspersons*, *Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons (PDUNWPS)*, *National Sports Development Fund (NSDF)*, and lastly, *National Centre of Sports Science and Research (NCSSR)*. In all, the schemes implemented by the Department of Sports have highlighted the sincere efforts of the government to revive the sports ecosystem in the country, along with aiming to integrate existing infrastructure with expert coaching and sports science support.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objectives of the study are:

- To assess each of the schemes (Khelo India, HRDS, ANSFs) for its Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability, Impact, Coherence and Equity.
- To assess the impact of the schemes – studying the achievements versus objectives and the need for their continuation.
- Assess the qualitative and quantitative outputs and outcomes in respect of different schemes such as Khelo India, ANSF, HRDS etc. and suggest improvements, if any.
- To identify and analyse the Most Significant Change that schemes have been able to achieve.
- To identify and analyse the impact of the scheme on intended objectives.
- To study and suggest modifications in the design, structure and delivery mechanism of the schemes in meeting the developmental needs and aspirations of the people in the changing environment.
- To determine the outreach and access of the schemes and suggest ways and means for improvement.
- Identify good practices in implementation of the schemes.
- Identify gaps in the on-going schemes and any other relevant issues and make recommendations accordingly.
- To identify whether there is any synergy and overlap with other schemes of Government of India/ State Governments.
- Any additional parameters to be covered which may emerge during discussion/ interaction in the course of above work.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The framework for this study comprises two components. First, the team undertook a national- and state-level assessment of the schemes using data available on the MIS for each scheme. Analysis of the Budget (revised as well as actuals) for each of the Schemes aided in assessing financial flows and the expenditure patterns in achieving the objectives. Additional insights were drawn from the Ministry's Annual Reports, scheme guidelines, documents shared by MoYAS, and data from the Khelo India dashboard, which captures both financial and physical progress.

Second, the team conducted Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and questionnaire-based primary surveys across three schemes – Khelo India, ANSF, and HRDS. For *Khelo India*, KIIs and primary surveys were conducted with grantees under the infrastructure component, sportspersons in KISCE, KI Games participants and medal

winners, KI Athletes, coaches and paramedical support staff in KISCE hired through VGF, as well as past champion athletes in KICs. For *ANSE*, interactions were held with National Sports Federations, sportspersons, coaches, and support staff associated with national camps. For *HRDS*, primary surveys were conducted with beneficiaries across each component of the scheme. The details of the field visits are provided in Appendix I.

Based on the team's analysis and consultations with the Ministry, the following states and districts mentioned in Table 1.1 were selected to represent each region.

Table 1.1. List of Selected States and Districts

Region	State	Districts
North	Haryana	Panchkula & Sonapat
South	Karnataka	Bangalore & Mysore
East	Odisha	Khordha & Cuttack
West	Rajasthan	Jaipur & Churu
Hilly Region	Tripura	West Tripura, Khowai & Dhalai



Section 2

KHELO INDIA SCHEME

2.1.1 Introduction: Khelo India – National Programme for Development of Sports is a comprehensive and structured national policy intervention formally notified on October 14, 2017, and currently operating under a revised phase (2021-22 to 2025-26). This scheme is centrally aimed at the dual objectives of infusing a robust sports culture across the country while simultaneously achieving sporting excellence on global platforms. The vision extends beyond competitive success, seeking to harness the "power of sports" through its cross-cutting influence to foster the holistic development of children and youth, facilitate social integration, promote gender equality, ensure healthy lifestyles, and build national pride.

The scheme is structured across five major components:

1. Creation and Upgradation of Sports Infrastructure
2. Sports Competitions and Talent Development
3. Khelo India Centres and Sports Academies
4. Fit India Movement
5. Promotion of Inclusiveness through Sports

This ambitious scheme of the government has been allocated ₹1,000 crores in FY 2025-26, a significant jump of ₹100 crores (11.11%) when compared to the budget allocation in FY 2024-25 (₹900 crores). Amongst all the major schemes of the Department of Sports, Khelo India alone constitutes 67% approx. of the total budget allocations in FY 2025-26.

2.1.2 Key Achievements of the Scheme: The Khelo India scheme has completed projects spanning a wide range of facilities, including multipurpose halls,

athletic tracks, football fields, hockey fields, swimming pools and several other sports infrastructures covering 32 States/UTs reflecting the efforts towards enhancing sports infrastructure development. These infrastructure facilities boast their presence not only in the general category states but also north-eastern regions, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The majority of states have at least one project in progress, highlighting ongoing efforts to expand sports facilities nationwide. Out of the overall projected financial outlay for the revised Khelo India Scheme (2021-22 to 2025-26) (₹3,790.50 crores), the Creation and Upgradation of Sports Infrastructure is the most heavily funded (₹2175.50 crores). With regard to the conduct of various competitions, KIG has conducted 21 editions of several games comprising KIYG, KIUG, KIPG, KIWG, KIWSF and KIBG in which almost one lakh athletes and support staff participated. The scheme supports 2898 Khelo India Athletes (KIAs). Under the component, 'Khelo India Centres (KICs) and Sports Academies', MoYAS aims to structure sports excellence from the grassroots level up to the elite level, along with providing comprehensive support, including coaching, specialized sports science services, and equipment to athletes. Presently, the Scheme covers 759 districts (out of 780 districts). There are totally 1067 notified KICs across the nation, out of which 1002 are new KICs and 65 converted KICs. Of these, 991 KICs are operational with 962 PCAs hired for them. One noteworthy point is the construction of more than one new KIC in special category states and UTs, which include Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Mizoram, Nagaland, etc.

2.1.3 Financial Overview of the Scheme: The scheme operates through five core components, with the majority of the planned resources dedicated to capital expenditure (Table 2.1). The overall projected financial outlay for the revised Khelo India Scheme (2021-22 to 2025-26) totals ₹3,790.50 crore. The most heavily funded vertical is Creation and Upgradation of Sports Infrastructure, planned to consume ₹2175.50 crore in predominantly non-recurring (NR) costs, demonstrating a focus on capital assets. This infrastructure funding is projected to peak significantly in 2023-24 at ₹765.00 crore, driven by large sub-components, including new sports infrastructure projects (₹947.00 crore total) and the Sports Complex at Nakamura, Ahmedabad (₹584.00 crore total). In comparison, Sports Competitions and Talent Development represent the second-largest financial commitment at ₹780.00 crore, comprising almost entirely recurring (R) costs, with allocations planned to increase steadily from ₹128.14 crore in 2021-22 to ₹175.10 crore in 2025-26. Similarly, funding for Khelo India Centres & Sports Academies (totalling ₹635.00 crore) shows a planned acceleration in support, rising sharply from annual totals of ₹82.57 crore in 2021-22 and ₹57.49 crore in 2022-23, and reaching a high of ₹170.00 crore in 2024-25

Table 2.1: Total Financial Outlay for KI Scheme (2021 -22 to 2025 -26)**(₹ in crore)**

Component	2021-22		2022 -23		2023 -24		2024 -25		2025 -26		Total
	R	NR	R	NR	R	NR	R	NR	R	NR	
1. Creation and Upgradation of Sports Infrastructure	-	539.91	-	389.18	-	765.00	-	363.00	-	118.41	2175.50
a) Committed liabilities	-	223.50	-	172.00	-	135.00	-	54.50	-	-	585.00
b) New sports infra projects	-	31.41	-	217.18	-	330.00	-	250.00	-	118.41	947.00
c) Playfield Development	-	-	-	-	-	10.00	-	9.00	-	-	19.50
d) Netaji Subhash Sports Initiative	-	-	-	-	-	40.00	-	-	-	-	40.00
e) Sports Complex at Naranpura, Ahmedabad	-	285.00	-	-	-	250.00	-	49.00	-	-	584.00
2. Sports Competitions and Talent Development	128.14	-	138.77	-	166.49	-	171.50	-	175.10	-	780.00
a) Khelo India Games	44.36	-	70.12	-	70.00	-	70.00	-	70.52	-	325.00
b) Talent Identification & Development	83.27	-	68.65	-	95.00	-	100.00	-	103.08	-	450.00
c) Coaching Community Development	0.51	-	1.49	-	1.49	-	1.50	-	1.50	-	5.00
3. Khelo India Centres & Sports Academies	59.79	22.78	30.88	26.61	50.00	100.00	70.00	100.00	69.89	105.05	635.00
a) Khelo India Centres	49.43	5.03	15.39	23.66	50.00	75.00	70.00	75.00	69.89	76.60	510.00
b) Sports Academies	10.36	17.75	15.49	2.95	-	25.00	-	25.00	-	28.45	125.00
4. Fit India	9.15	-	7.84	-	13.01	-	15.00	-	15.00	-	60.00
5. Promotion of Inclusiveness Through Sports	4.52	-	2.25	-	38.00	-	37.00	-	33.23	-	115.00
a) Sports for Peace & Development	2.21	-	-	-	6.00	-	6.00	-	5.79	-	20.00
b) Sports for rural/indigenous/tribal	2.02	-	0.62	-	3.00	-	3.00	-	1.36	-	10.00
c) Sports for disabled sportspersons	-	-	-	-	9.00	-	8.00	-	8.00	-	25.00
d) Sports for Women	0.29	-	1.63	-	20.00	-	20.00	-	18.08	-	60.00
Monitoring	-	-	0.86	-	7.64	-	8.25	-	8.25	-	25.00

Component	2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25		2025-26		Total
	R	NR	R	NR	R	NR	R	NR	R	NR	
Total	201.60	562.69	180.60	415.79	275.14	865.00	301.75	463.00	301.47	223.46	3790.50

Source: Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYAS)

Note: R: recurring; NR: Non-Recurring

Based on the utilization data (Table 2.2) for the Khelo India Scheme, an analysis of budget and utilization reveals significant fluctuations in annual allocation and expenditure. As seen in the Approved Allocation for 2022-23, which reached ₹974.00, but actual expenditure settled lower at ₹596.39 that year. This contrasts sharply with the following year, 2023-24, which recorded the highest Actual Expenditure at ₹872.20, demonstrating near-perfect utilization against the Revised Estimate of ₹880.00. However, this peak was preceded by significant adjustments in earlier periods; for instance, in 2020-21, the Approved Allocation of ₹890.42 was drastically revised down to a Budget Estimate of ₹328.77, resulting in an Actual Expenditure of only ₹338.06. In the latest reported year, 2024-25, Actual Expenditure stood at ₹620.75, falling below the Revised Estimate of ₹746.54, suggesting a post-peak reduction in total financial utilization.

Table 2.2: Budget Allocation and Utilisation under KI Scheme

(₹ in crore)

Year	Approved Allocation		Actual Expenditure
	Budget Estimate	Revised Estimate	
2016-17	140.00	118.10	118.10
2017-18	350.00	350.00	346.99
2018-19	520.09	500.09	342.24
2019-20	500.00	578.00	575.52
2020-21	890.42	328.77	338.06
2021-22	657.71	869.00	764.29
2022-23	974.00	600.00	596.39
2023-24	1000.00	880.00	872.20
2024-25	900.00	746.54	620.75
2025-26	1000.00	-	123.77 (as on 15.07.2025)

Source: Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYAS)

As per the component-wise details of the funds released under KI scheme (Table 2.3), the overall funding under the Khelo India Scheme demonstrated significant volatility in recent years, especially compared to the total of ₹1720.91 crore released during the aggregated period (2016-17 to 2020-21). The peak annual disbursement occurred in 2023-24 at ₹872.20 crore, surpassing the release figures of ₹764.29 crore in 2021-22 and the subsequent low of ₹596.39 crore in 2022-23, before settling at ₹620.75 crore in

2024-25. The largest financial vertical, Creation and Upgradation of Sports Infrastructure, primarily through the "Utilization and creation of Sports Infrastructure" sub-component, absorbed ₹899.9 crore during the initial aggregated period. Post-2021, funding for this core component experienced sharp fluctuations: releases dropped from ₹539.91 crore in 2021-22 to ₹389.18 crore in 2022-23, subsequently rebounding to ₹526.05 crore in 2023-24, but then saw a significant decline to ₹314.43 crore in 2024-25.

Funding for specialized components showed contrasting trends in annual commitment. The allocation for State Level Khelo India Centres showed an exceptional surge, jumping from a low of ₹39.05 crore in 2022-23 to an annual peak of ₹100.44 crore in 2023-24. Conversely, the Annual Sports Competitions sub-component, which had received ₹129.81 crore in 2023-24, highlights a potential strategic shift in yearly funding for major events. Meanwhile, the promotion of sports among women vertical consistently grew from a minor allocation of ₹0.29 crore in 2021-22 to ₹19.29 crore in 2024-25, demonstrating a significant and accelerating investment in gender inclusiveness through sports.

Table 2.3: Component-wise Details of Funds Released under KI scheme

(₹ in crore)

S. No.	Component of revised Khelo India Scheme	Vertical of revamped Khelo India Scheme	2016-17 to 2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
1	Creation and Upgradation of Sports Infrastructure	Play Fields Development	8.37	-	-	-	-
		Utilization and creation of Sports Infrastructure	899.90	539.91	389.18	526.05	314.43
2	Sports Competitions and Talent Development	Community Coaching Development	2.72	0.51	-	-	-
		Annual Sports Competitions	226.61	44.36	70.12	129.81	-
		Talent Search & Development	327.81	83.27	68.65	79.29	49.47
3	Khelo India Centers and Sports Academies	Support to National/Regional/ State Sports Academies	-	28.11	18.44	14.53	40.10
		State Level Khelo India Centers	91.71	54.46	39.05	100.44	61.14
4	Fit India Movement	Physical Fitness of School going Children	32.17	9.15	7.84	6.00	24.23
5	Promotion of Inclusiveness through Sports	Sports for Women	14.04	0.29	1.63	12.53	19.29
		Sports for Peace & Development	36.65	2.21	-	2.40	8.97
		Promotion of sports among persons with disabilities	15.96	-	-	-	10.00
		Promotion of rural and	25.19	2.02	0.62	0.04	6.00

S. No.	Component of revised Khelo India Scheme	Vertical of revamped Khelo India Scheme	2016-17 to 2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
		indigenous/tribal games					
		Total	1681.13	764.29	595.53	871.09	619.22
6	Monitoring	Technical Support and Capacity Building Services	39.78	-	0.86	1.11	1.53
		Grand Total	1720.91	764.29	596.39	872.20	620.75

Source: Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYAS)

Section 2.2

Component 1: Creation and Upgradation of Sports Infrastructure

2.2.1 Introduction: Creation and Upgradation of Sports Infrastructure is one of the five major components of the revised Khelo India Scheme (2021-22 to 2025-26). This component aims to establish and modernize sports facilities across the country by providing capital support to eligible entities.

The fundamental vision of the framework is to address infrastructure shortages and promote sports nationwide, thereby leveraging its power for social integration, gender equality, healthy lifestyles, national pride, and economic opportunities. Proposals are prioritized based on their potential for inclusiveness, ensuring facilities are user-friendly and enable participation by women and persons with disabilities, utilizing the Universal Design Principle to promote multi-use. Furthermore, the planning process prioritizes projects related to the 14 identified disciplines targeted as medal prospects for the upcoming Olympic Games.

2.2.2 Description of the Component – Governance and Guidelines: The scheme supports various types of infrastructure, including Synthetic Athletic Tracks to large Multipurpose Halls, providing clear maximum financial limits for specific categories. The framework also advocates for sustainable funding through the convergent use of various resources, including Central/State schemes, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Funds, and Public Private Partnerships (PPP). Specifically, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS) may provide a matching grant if a Member of Parliament contributes at least 50% of the project cost through MPLAD funds.

To receive funding, eligible entities must submit a comprehensive Detailed Project Report (DPR). The DPR must include detailed justification, land clearance confirmation, a clear maintenance plan, and a completion timeline represented via a PERT chart. All cost estimates must mandatorily be based on the Delhi Schedule of Rates (DSR) 2021, adjusted for the respective State/UT Cost Index, with non-schedule items validated against current market rates. New infrastructure projects must meet the level of the International Standard for the given sports discipline and must utilize CPWD specifications 2019. Designs must incorporate energy and resource-efficient mechanisms such as rainwater harvesting and solar panels, and construction must be disaster resilient as per the National Building Code 2016 and IS code 1893. The approval process is two-tiered: the Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) evaluates the administrative, financial, and utility aspects, while considering

the proponent's past performance and pending utilization certificates (UCs). The final sanction is provided by the Department Project Approval Committee (DPAC), which is chaired by the Secretary (Sports).

Post-sanction, grantees are required to uphold strict accountability measures to ensure optimum public benefit and asset preservation. Grantees must enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with MoYAS to ensure the Ministry is accorded priority usage for training, camps, and competitions when required. Furthermore, during free time, the facilities must be available for use by schools, colleges, neighbourhood communities, and sports associations, either free of cost or for a nominal amount. The grantee is solely responsible for the maintenance and repair of the capital asset generated from the grant. For a national inventory and improved monitoring, all sports infrastructure and playfields must be prepared and maintained on a Geographic Information System (GIS) platform. Punctuality is strictly enforced; projects not completed within 12–24 months, or those not started within six months of sanction, may result in the cancellation of the sanction or suspension of future grants. Finally, all sports infrastructure projects funded under the Scheme must prominently include "Khelo India" in the displayed signage, and the name of the facility should start with "Khelo India".

2.2.3 Progress of the Scheme – Secondary Data Analysis: A total of 328 projects has been sanctioned across all states under the scheme, reflecting considerable efforts toward enhancing sports infrastructure development. As per the data collected from the Khelo India Dashboard (as on 19 November 2025), Table 2.4 presents a comprehensive overview of the infrastructure of various disciplines across various States and UTs. These projects span a wide range of facilities, including Multipurpose halls, Athletic tracks, Football fields, Hockey fields, Swimming pools and several other sports infrastructures. Among these, Multipurpose infrastructures (120) and Athletic tracks (60) constitute the largest share, indicating a focused investment in versatile and foundational sports facilities that cater to multiple sporting disciplines and community usage. This aligns with the scheme's objective of expanding broad-based participation and improving access to sporting amenities. Several states, such as Rajasthan (48), Uttar Pradesh (31) and Karnataka (20) have demonstrated substantial progress. In Rajasthan, for example, it was observed that the coordination between the SAI Regional Centre and the State Sports Department is very strong, which may be one of the reasons behind the high number of infrastructure projects in the state. Smaller states and Union Territories like Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Punjab, and Delhi have also contributed significantly with diverse sports facilities. The table also highlights the concentration of sports infrastructure in certain States/UTs. For instance, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Karnataka constitute 36% of the total fully completed

infrastructure projects. Overall, the data highlights a strong advancement in sports infrastructure across India. The emphasis on multipurpose and basic athletic facilities ensures broader usability, increased community engagement, and enhanced opportunities for talent identification and nurturing. As the scheme continues to expand, it further reinforces India's sporting ecosystem and supports the long-term vision of developing a sports-centric society.

Table 2.4: Sports Infrastructure (Discipline-wise) (in Numbers)

State	Multipurpose Hall	Athletic Track	Football Field	Hockey Field	Swimming Pool	Others	Total
Rajasthan	15	4	0	2	0	27	48
Uttar Pradesh	25	2	0	1	0	3	31
Arunachal Pradesh	19	1	0	0	0	1	21
Karnataka	8	3	1	3	1	4	20
Madhya Pradesh	1	5	0	1	2	9	18
Maharashtra	3	1	0	2	1	7	14
Punjab	5	3	0	2	0	3	13
Nagaland	8	1	2	0	0	1	12
Haryana	3	3	0	2	1	2	11
Delhi	0	2	1	1	0	6	10
Andhra Pradesh	6	2	0	1	1	0	10
Manipur	1	0	3	0	1	3	8
Mizoram	2	0	5	1	0	0	8
Kerala	2	5	0	0	0	1	8
Chhattisgarh	3	3	1	1	0	0	8
Assam	1	2	0	2	0	3	8
Bihar	3	2	0	0	3	0	8
Sikkim	1	1	2	0	0	3	7
Tripura	0	2	3	1	1	0	7
Meghalaya	4	0	2	0	0	0	6
Himachal Pradesh	3	2	0	1	0	0	6
Telangana	0	4	0	0	1	1	6
Uttarakhand	2	1	1	1	0	0	5
Jammu and Kashmir	1	2	0	2	0	0	5
Odisha	3	0	0	0	1	1	5
Jharkhand	0	1	1	2	0	1	5
Tamil Nadu	0	4	0	0	1	0	5
Gujarat	1	1	0	1	1	1	5
West Bengal	0	2	1	0	0	1	4
Ladakh	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Puducherry	0	1	0	0	1	0	2

State	Multipurpose Hall	Athletic Track	Football Field	Hockey Field	Swimming Pool	Others	Total
Goa	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total	120	60	24	27	16	81	328

Source: Data (as on 19 November 2025) from Khelo India Dashboard, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

Table 2.5 presents the figures for completed sports infrastructure as a ratio of per 1,000 youth population in the respective state (aged between 15–29 years) using the Census data. The analysis provides insights into the equity of access for young people, the primary demographic participating in organised sports. This metric shows the actual availability of the sports infrastructure in a particular state. The data shows considerable variation across states in terms of youth-accessible infrastructure. Himachal Pradesh stands out prominently with a total access value of 3.38 per 1,000 youth population, driven primarily by higher availability of multipurpose and athletic facilities. Rajasthan (2.11) and Punjab (1.76) also reflect strong per 1000 youth infrastructure density. Urbanised regions such as Delhi (1.70) show high access. Meanwhile, states with larger youth populations, such as Bihar (0.21), Uttar Pradesh (0.46), and West Bengal (0.17), show lower access values despite having completed infrastructure, indicating the need for scaled-up investments to match demographic demands. Similarly, States like Gujarat (0.27), Tamil Nadu (0.30), and Jharkhand (0.43) demonstrate moderate to low youth-adjusted access, pointing to potential gaps between infrastructure creation and population needs. Overall, the youth-adjusted access metric offers a more enhanced understanding of equity and effectiveness in sports infrastructure deployment. It highlights not only where infrastructure exists, but where it is sufficient or insufficient relative to the number of young people likely to benefit from it. This insight improves future planning and ensures that resource allocation aligns effectively with demographic realities, thereby strengthening the inclusiveness and reach of the Khelo India initiative.

Table 2.5: Youth Adjusted Access using per 1,000 Youth 15–29 Age Group as an Indicator

State	Multipurpose	Athletic Track	Football Field	Hockey Field	Swimming Pool	Others	Total
Himachal Pradesh	1.69	1.13	0.00	0.56	0.00	0.00	3.38
Rajasthan	0.66	0.18	0.00	0.09	0.00	1.19	2.11
Punjab	0.68	0.41	0.00	0.27	0.00	0.41	1.76
Delhi	0.00	0.34	0.17	0.17	0.00	1.02	1.70
Haryana	0.37	0.37	0.00	0.25	0.12	0.25	1.36
Karnataka	0.49	0.18	0.06	0.18	0.06	0.25	1.23
Jammu and Kashmir	0.24	0.49	0.00	0.49	0.00	0.00	1.22
Kerala	0.26	0.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13	1.05

State	Multipurpose	Athletic Track	Football Field	Hockey Field	Swimming Pool	Others	Total
Chhattisgarh	0.37	0.37	0.12	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.98
Andhra Pradesh	0.49	0.16	0.00	0.08	0.08	0.00	0.82
Assam	0.10	0.20	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.30	0.81
Madhya Pradesh	0.04	0.21	0.00	0.04	0.09	0.38	0.77
Telangana	0.00	0.43	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.11	0.65
Uttar Pradesh	0.37	0.03	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.04	0.46
Maharashtra	0.09	0.03	0.00	0.06	0.03	0.22	0.44
Odisha	0.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.09	0.43
Jharkhand	0.00	0.09	0.09	0.17	0.00	0.09	0.43
Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.24	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.30
Gujarat	0.05	0.05	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.27
Bihar	0.08	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.21
West Bengal	0.00	0.08	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.17

Source: Data (as on 19 November 2025) from Khelo India Dashboard, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

Table 2.6: Sports Infrastructure - Work in Progress (in Numbers)

State/ UT	To be started	Under Progress	Completed	Total
Rajasthan	1	4	43	48
Uttar Pradesh	1	4	26	31
Arunachal Pradesh	0	2	19	21
Karnataka	0	5	15	20
Madhya Pradesh	0	1	17	18
Maharashtra	0	5	9	14
Punjab	0	3	10	13
Nagaland	0	6	6	12
Haryana	1	2	8	11
Andhra Pradesh	1	5	4	10
Delhi	0	3	7	10
Assam	0	2	6	8
Bihar	1	3	4	8
Chhattisgarh	1	3	4	8
Kerala	1	3	4	8
Manipur	0	4	4	8
Mizoram	0	2	6	8
Sikkim	0	2	5	7
Tripura	0	0	7	7
Himachal Pradesh	0	3	3	6
Meghalaya	0	5	1	6
Telangana	0	1	5	6

State/ UT	To be started	Under Progress	Completed	Total
Gujarat	0	1	4	5
Jammu and Kashmir	0	2	3	5
Jharkhand	0	3	2	5
Odisha	0	1	4	5
Tamil Nadu	0	0	5	5
Uttarakhand	0	0	5	5
West Bengal	2	2	0	4
Ladakh	0	1	2	3
Puducherry	0	0	2	2
Goa	0	0	1	1
Total	9	78	241	328

Source: Data (as on 19 November 2025) from Khelo India Dashboard, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

The status of sports infrastructure projects under the Khelo India Scheme reflects a dynamic implementation landscape across States and UTs. Based on the data from Khelo India Dashboard (as on 19th November 2025), a total of 328 projects is accounted for, of which 241 have been completed, while 78 are currently in progress, and 9 are yet to begin. This distribution indicates that nearly three-fourths of all sanctioned projects have reached completion, demonstrating steady advancement in infrastructure creation.

The majority of states have at least one project in progress, highlighting ongoing efforts to expand sports facilities nationwide. States with higher numbers of projects “under progress” include Nagaland (6), Karnataka (5), Meghalaya (5), and Maharashtra (5), suggesting active infrastructure development. States such as Rajasthan (43), Uttar Pradesh (26), Arunachal Pradesh (19) and Madhya Pradesh (17) stand out with the highest number of completed projects, showing their strong implementation capacity. A few regions, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep, currently show no sanctioned or ongoing projects, while West Bengal has two projects yet to be initiated, indicating potential administrative or planning delays.

The overall project status demonstrates that the scheme is progressing robustly, with a clear focus on completing existing works while continuing to lay the groundwork for future facilities. As the remaining projects move from planning to implementation, the scheme is to further strengthen the country’s sports infrastructure footprint and improve access for athletes and communities across diverse regions.

Table 2.7: Sports Infrastructure - Projects Progress (in Numbers)

State	Nil	1-25 %	26-50%	51-75%	76-99%	100%	Total
Rajasthan	1	0	0	1	3	43	48
Uttar Pradesh	1	1	0	1	2	26	31
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	1	0	1	19	21
Madhya Pradesh	0	1	0	0	0	17	18
Karnataka	0	1	0	3	1	15	20
Punjab	0	2	0	0	1	10	13
Maharashtra	0	1	0	2	2	9	14
Haryana	1	0	0	0	2	8	11
Delhi	0	0	0	0	3	7	10
Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	7	7
Assam	0	0	0	1	1	6	8
Mizoram	0	1	0	1	0	6	8
Nagaland	0	1	0	0	5	6	12
Sikkim	0	1	1	0	0	5	7
Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
Telangana	0	0	0	0	1	5	6
Uttarakhand	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
Andhra Pradesh	1	2	0	3	0	4	10
Bihar	1	1	0	0	2	4	8
Chhattisgarh	1	2	1	0	0	4	8
Gujarat	0	0	0	0	1	4	5
Kerala	1	2	0	0	1	4	8
Manipur	0	0	1	0	3	4	8
Odisha	0	0	0	0	1	4	5
Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	1	2	3	6
Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	1	1	3	5
Jharkhand	0	1	2	0	0	2	5
Ladakh	0	0	0	1	0	2	3
Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Goa	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Meghalaya	0	0	0	3	2	1	6
West Bengal	2	1	0	0	1	0	4
Total	9	18	6	18	36	241	328

Source: Data from Khelo India Dashboard, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

The progress status of sports infrastructure projects under the Khelo India Scheme provides a detailed picture of implementation efficiency across States and Union Territories. Out of a total of 328 sanctioned projects, 241 (74%) have been fully completed, indicating a strong overall completion rate. A further 36 projects are in

the advanced stage of 76–99%, and 18 projects each fall within the 51–75% and 1–25% progress bands. Only 6 projects are in the early 26–50% stage, while 9 projects remain at “Nil” progress.

Several states demonstrate exemplary implementation performance. Rajasthan leads with 43 completed projects, followed by Uttar Pradesh (26), Arunachal Pradesh (19), Madhya Pradesh (17), and Punjab (10). These States also show relatively few projects in lower progress categories, suggesting strong project management and execution capacity.

A number of states, including Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Kerala, and West Bengal, have projects spread across the early-stage progress categories, indicating ongoing efforts that require monitoring. West Bengal is particularly notable, with two projects at Nil progressing and one about to be completed. Some smaller states and UTs, such as Goa, Puducherry, Uttarakhand and Tripura, show all projects either completed or close to completion. Overall, this progress distribution highlights that while most states are advancing well, a subset of states requires targeted support to accelerate slower-moving projects. Strengthening administrative processes, performance monitoring, and timely fund utilisation may help ensure smoother completion trajectories across all regions.

2.2.4 Findings and Suggestions

A) Financial Management Constraints and Administrative Findings

- **Budget Adequacy and State Contribution:** Field visits show that while central grants form a strong financing base, project costs often exceed the admissible limit. In such cases, proactive supplementation by State governments—such as Odisha, Haryana and Karnataka—has enabled timely completion and higher-quality outcomes, reflecting strong Centre–State coordination in a State-subject sector. Additionally, there is a need to encourage more Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) and CSR funding as alternative financial models to cover costs exceeding the maximum admissible grant. Given the challenge of low project volume among diverse eligible entities, efforts can be made to leverage the convergence mandate. The scheme explicitly encourages convergence with schemes like MPLAD/MLALAD and CSR Funds. Mobilizing CSR contributions has proven a successful method for supplementing renovation and enhancement efforts at some central facilities. Targeted engagement and simplified application processes could boost participation from Central/State educational institutions and Defence/Paramilitary organisations.

- **Maintenance Funding Deficit:** As per the guidelines, the renovation and maintenance activities of the installed infrastructure facilities are supposed to be entirely financed and executed by the grantee. It was, however, noted at certain places that the grantee had not implemented anything for the maintenance of the structure, which, in turn, might affect the long-term sustainability of the scheme. It is suggested that the grantees can, therefore, ensure that all proposals include a comprehensive viability gap analysis demonstrating the optimal use of available funds, along with strict adherence to timelines to avoid time and cost overruns. Additionally, there can be a provision that, while submitting the proposal, grantees can clearly outline the long-term maintenance plan for the infrastructure to ensure the sustainability of the asset in the years ahead.

B) Technical Capacity Limitations and Implementation Issues

- **Ineffective Utilization and Coach Shortage:** The infrastructure created is mostly reported to be effectively utilized by athletes and local users through regular tournaments and training sessions. However, it was observed that in certain places (such as Rajasthan), there are instances where the creation of infrastructure (such as multipurpose halls) has happened in remote areas where there is limited utilization. Furthermore, the optimal functioning of these facilities is sometimes affected by the limited engagement of coaches and trainers. Despite government's schemes such as '*Khelo India Community Coach Development*' to promote and build a sports culture at the grass-roots level, there remains a significant shortage/vacancy of coaches. As per the Gazetteer's provision for creating a Sports Development Index, Fitness Index, and Utilization Index to grade States/UTs on sports development and infrastructure usage, these indices can be institutionalised as key parameters for the utilisation of the infrastructure. Grantees can be provided access to these mechanisms to transparently track their utilisation of their infrastructure, enabling data-driven monitoring. The development of infrastructure (along with the required manpower and supporting staff) in a particular State/UT can also be tied to the number of medals won by the sportsperson belonging to that particular State/UT in national and international competitions, in case the State/UT lacked the necessary arrangements leading, in turn, the athletes to practice in a different location.
- **Technical Skill Enhancement:** Field interactions indicate that several State Sports Departments currently rely on a limited technical pool, with the same engineers handling sports infrastructure along with other civil projects. This reflects both their commitment and a clear opportunity to strengthen

dedicated technical capacity. Building this specialised cadre within the grantee agencies would significantly improve planning, design and maintenance of high-performance facilities and ensure full compliance with international standards. Efforts can, therefore, be taken to address the technical gap in the limited availability of personnel with sports science expertise. This is essential for the sound planning, designing, and maintenance of specialized, high-performance infrastructure, ensuring facilities comply with the mandatory International Standards.

- **Manpower and Oversight Strain:** Internal constraints include the limited hiring of manpower at the grantee level needed for optimal oversight of the activities pertaining to the construction and maintenance of infrastructure facilities. This strain is often intensified by the management of multiple projects by limited manpower, happening simultaneously. The hiring of contractual staff can be addressed to improve oversight and management of multiple projects happening simultaneously since they do not have an incentive to ensure optimal utilization of funds and timely construction of the facilities since they do not plan to stay with the organization for a long period of time. Since multiple projects are managed by limited staff, State Level Monitors (SLMs) can prepare reports detailing immediate countermeasures required to rectify deficiencies identified.
- **Optimise Utilization Through Data-Driven Allocation:** To counter ineffective utilization in certain remote areas, the national inventory of playfields and sports infrastructure maintained on the Geographic Information System (GIS) platform shall be actively used for the allotment of funds. Furthermore, measures can be taken to address the limited engagement of coaches and trainers to ensure the optimal functioning of the facilities.
- **Broadening the Sports Coverage Framework:** Several Olympic and emerging sports are not included in the current framework, restricting opportunities for athletes in diverse disciplines. This limits opportunities for athletes across a broader spectrum of sports. Given that the Olympic programme now encompasses a diverse range of disciplines – from artistic gymnastics, equestrian, sailing, surfing, and sport climbing to skateboarding, triathlon, wushu, and many more – future planning under the Khelo India Schemes can also explore pathways to promote and support these additional sports. Doing so would help widen India’s talent pool, foster inclusivity and align national development efforts with the full breadth of global sporting opportunities.

- **Targeted Sports Infrastructure:** Discipline-wise, outcome-oriented sports infrastructure can be planned, sanctioned, and created/modernized with the explicit objective of improving India's medal prospects at international competitions (Olympics/Paralympic Games/Asian Games/World Championships). The disciplines and locations can be identified through evidence-based gap assessment covering existing training centres, competition calendars, athlete pipeline, coaching availability, sports science support, and regional strengths, so that resources are prioritised for high-impact sports and strategic hubs. The infrastructure development can be undertaken in collaboration with State Governments and other eligible entities through clearly defined roles for land/approvals, execution, operation and maintenance, and long-term access for national campers and elite athletes. The assets created can be integrated with high performance programmes and supported with essential allied facilities and a monitoring framework that tracks utilisation, athlete outcomes, and contribution to podium finishes.
- **Development of sports infrastructure assets of Central Government:** A new provision may be introduced to provide financial assistance for creation, upgradation, refurbishment and capacity expansion of sports infrastructure assets owned/managed by the Sports Authority of India (SAI), other autonomous bodies under the Department of Sports, and other Central Government bodies that are actively engaged in athlete development and promotion of sports. This provision may cover modernisation of existing stadia/centres, replacement of obsolete surfaces and equipment, safety and accessibility compliance, energy-efficient and sustainable retrofits, and addition of high-performance support facilities (sports science labs, rehabilitation units, athlete accommodation, training equipment, video/analytics rooms, etc.). Clear eligibility conditions, appraisal criteria, and funding norms may be prescribed, including linkage to measurable outcomes such as increased training days, number of national camps hosted, athlete throughput, and competition readiness, along with mandatory operation-and-maintenance planning to ensure asset longevity. The assistance mechanism may also specify transparent project preparation, technical vetting, phased release of funds, third-party quality checks, and post-completion evaluation to ensure timely delivery and effective utilisation of Central Government sports infrastructure.

Overall, this progress distribution highlights that while most states are advancing well, a subset of states requires targeted support to accelerate slower-moving projects. As pointed out by officials, monitoring systems such as the MIS remain

inadequate in certain cases, and gaps in coordination between the Centre and States can occasionally lead to delays in project completion. Strengthening administrative processes, performance monitoring and timely fund utilisation would therefore be critical to ensuring smoother and more uniform completion trajectories across regions. In this context, the establishment of a dedicated Project Management Unit (PMU) at the central level, along with a structured technical and administrative handholding of states, could play a catalytic role in improving project planning, procurement, execution, and reporting. Alternatively, provision of a limited additional administrative support grant for States facing capacity constraints may help address implementation bottlenecks without diluting accountability.

Overall, the creation of infrastructure under Khelo India has significantly expanded access to sports facilities, not only for elite athletes but also for grassroots talent in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities. The provision for creating sports facilities within existing institutions, schools, and colleges has further enhanced utilisation efficiency by leveraging and upgrading existing infrastructure assets.

Section 2.3

Component 2: Sports Competition and Talent Development

2.3.1 Introduction: Component 2 of the Khelo India scheme, titled Sports Competition and Talent Development (SCTD), establishes a structured pathway designed to foster sporting excellence from the grassroots level up to international performance, specifically targeting success in events like the Olympics. This component is divided into three sub-components: Sports Competitions, Talent Identification and Development, and Community Coaching Development. The central objective is achieved through a blend of coaching, proper nutrition and sports science support.

2.3.2 Description of the Component – Governance and Guidelines: The foundation of the SCTD framework lies in *Sports Competitions*, primarily anchored by the annual Khelo India Games. These events serve as the platform for showcasing skills and identifying talent. The technical conduct of these games is mandated to adhere strictly to International Standards. Governance of the events is entrusted to specialized bodies like the National Sports Federations (NSFs), the School Games Federation of India (SGFI), and the Association of Indian Universities (AIU). Oversight is provided by the Games Technical Conduct Committee (GTCC), responsible for setting criteria, venues, schedules, and ensuring the Field of Play (FOP) readiness meets Olympic standards. Furthermore, the scheme strongly encourages state and local level competitions to bolster participation and talent identification, with funding provided according to the Annual Calendar of Training and Competition (ACTC) rates.

Talent Identification and Development operate on a systematic, pyramidal structure that progresses talent from rudimentary stages to elite levels. Initial identification of "Potential Talent" at the grassroots level uses digital platforms like the Khelo India Mobile App and Fit India App. Identification of "Proven Talent" involves Talent Scouts nominated by Talent Identification Zonal Committees (TIZCs) during camps and competitions across 22 initially identified priority sports disciplines. Finally, "Elite Talent" is spotted during National-level competitions, screened by the Talent Screening Committee (TSC), and formally selected by the Talent Identification and Development Committee (TIDC). Selected athletes, known as Khelo India Athletes (KIAs) or Talent (KITs), receive holistic support for up to eight years, contingent upon continuous progress and adherence to the Long-Term Athlete Development (LTAD) Programme.

The backbone of athlete development is the Khelo India Accredited Academies (KIAA), which can be established by SAI, State/UT Governments, or private entities (including PPP mode). Accreditation of academies is a rigorous process, demanding high standards across multiple areas. Academies must demonstrate technical ability, ensuring their FOP matches standard training norms, and possess quality coaching staff evaluated based on experience and production of international players (with Olympic medallists yielding the highest marks). Comprehensive Sports Science Support is mandatory, requiring physiotherapists, masseurs, dieticians, doctors, and appropriate equipment. Academies must also facilitate the integration of education, preferably via tie-ups with institutes offering admission and fee waivers. Financial support is substantial: accredited academies receive an average of up to ₹5,00,000 per athlete per annum for recurring expenses covering coaching, diet (up to ₹480 per day), lodging/boarding, domestic travel, equipment/kitting, education, and medical expenses. Notably, KIAs choosing non-accredited academies receive an Out-of-Pocket Allowance (OPA) of ₹1,20,000 per annum. The process is overseen by the High Powered Committee (HPC), which conducts a bi-annual performance review (Gap Analysis) of the academies to ensure standards are met and continuous development occurs.

The third integral sub-component, *Community Coaching Development*, focuses on developing technical human resources via a cascading model for skill development and certification. This involves training Physical Education Teachers as Master Trainers who, in turn, train Regional Trainers.

2.3.3 Progress of the Scheme – Secondary Data Analysis

A) Sports Competitions: This analysis draws (Table 2.8) upon the data spanning 21 editions of the Khelo India Games (KI Games), encompassing the Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG), Khelo India University Games (KIUG), Khelo India Para Games (KIPG), Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG), Khelo India Beach Games (KIBG) and Khelo India Water Sports Festival (KIWSF). These 21 editions – seven of KIYG, five of KIUG, five of KIWG, two of KIPG, one of KIBG and one of KIWSF – collectively account for 60,814 athlete participations and a total budget outlay of ₹590.58 crores. The overall trend detailed across the 21 editions indicates a sustained effort to maximize total engagement, achieving a total recorded participation of 1,00,240 individuals (athletes, support staff, volunteers, and officials) across the listed events.

a) Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG): The KIYG represents the largest and most geographically widespread format of the Khelo India Games initiative, with seven editions listed between the 2018 and 2025 event. The inaugural event in 2018 was known as the Khelo India School Games (KISG). The KIYG

dominates in terms of scale, venue and overall financial investment, serving as the primary force for mass participation and sports development. KIYG consistently draws the highest number of participants across all formats. The highest recorded athlete participation was in the 2020 edition in Assam, with 6,130 athletes. In terms of the number of sports offered has significantly expanded, moving from 16 sports in 2018 to 27 sports in the 2022 and 2023 editions (hosted by Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, respectively). The 2025 event lists 28 sports. KIYG events frequently utilize multiple cities and venues within the host state/UT. The 2021 Haryana edition was spread across five venues (Ambala, New Delhi, Panchkula, Chandigarh, Shahabad), while the 2022 Madhya Pradesh edition used nine cities/venues.

When it comes to the budget aspect, the KIYG tend to be the highest among the categories, peaking at ₹47.38 crore for the 2022 edition and ₹47.18 crore for the 2020 edition. The 2022 edition in Madhya Pradesh shows a significant commitment to human resources, recording the highest number of volunteers listed in the KIYG series (2,306) and the second highest total participation (9,515).

b) Khelo India University Games (KIUG): The KIUG focuses on university-level sports, with four editions between 2020 and 2023. While smaller than KIYG, participation is robust, ranging from 3,166 athletes (2020) to 3,894 athletes (2021). A notable feature is the 2023 edition, which embraced a unique multi-state model, hosted across seven states and union territories in the North-Eastern region, including Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Nagaland, and Tripura. This distributed model managed 3,658 athletes within a budget of ₹46.66 crore.

The budget for the KIUG shows considerable variation, ranging from ₹25 crore for the 2022 edition in Uttar Pradesh to ₹46.66 crore for the multi-state 2023 event. The 2022 edition in Uttar Pradesh achieved the second-highest total participation (6,868) among KIUG events while utilizing the lowest budget in this category.

c) Khelo India Para Games (KIPG): The KIPG represents a focused effort toward inclusive sporting events, with two editions, both held in Delhi (2023 and 2025). The KIPG operates on a smaller scale, with 7 sports in 2023, reducing to 6 in the planned 2025 event. Athlete participation is significantly lower than KIYG or KIUG, ranging from 1,068 (2023) to 1,233. The KIPG 2023 had a budget of ₹29.31 crore, while the planned 2025 edition had a budget of ₹34.28 crore. The total participation numbers 2,046 in 2023 and 1,756 indicate

that the Support Staff, Volunteers, and Technical Officials comprise a substantial percentage of the total involvement in these games.

d) Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG): The KIWG is geographically specialized, with five editions listed between 2020 and 2025. The initial three editions (2020, 2021, 2023) were exclusively hosted in Gulmarg, Jammu & Kashmir. The 2024 and 2025 editions expanded their hosting to include Leh, Ladakh, in addition to Gulmarg, J&K. Athlete participation has grown from 955 in 2020 to 1,178 in 2023. The budgets for the expanded 2024 and 2025 editions are the lowest among the game formats, at ₹20.99 crore and ₹21.5 crore, respectively.

e) Khelo India Beach Games (KIBG): The KIBG is the newest format, with one edition in 2025. The inaugural KIBG is for Diu, hosted by the "Host State, DD & DNH". The planned budget of ₹12 crore is the lowest budget documented for any multi-sport event. The event plans for 8 sports and 811 athletes.

f) Khelo India Water Sports Festival (KIWSF): The KIWSF, held at Dal Lake in Jammu & Kashmir, marked its first edition with participation from 409 athletes across water sports disciplines. With a budget allocation of ₹5.39 crore, the event reflects a focused initiative to promote water sports culture.

Table 2.8: Khelo India Games

Sr. No.	State/UTs	Games Conducted	No. of Sports	No. of Athletes Participated	No. of Support Staff	No. of Volunteers	No. of Technical Officials	Total Participation	Budget (₹ in cr)
1	Delhi	KISG 2018	16	3507	1453	868	578	6406	42.15
2	Maharashtra	KIYG 2019	18	5923	1096	1021	893	8933	33.23
3	Assam	KIYG 2020	20	6130	1504	1347	1074	10055	47.18
4	Haryana	KIYG 2021	25	4684	1255	1566	960	8465	40.89
5	Madhya Pradesh	KIYG 2022	27	4783	1395	2306	1031	9515	47.38
6	Tamil Nadu	KIYG 2023	27	4454	1240	455	1020	7169	36.73
7	Bihar Host State	KIYG 2025	28	5071	1439	TBD	1065	7575	44.18
8	Odisha	KIUG 2020	17	3166	725	1055	740	5686	33.44
9	Karnataka	KIUG 2021	20	3894	869	1141	827	6731	34.97
10	Uttar Pradesh	KIUG 2022	21	3613	754	1617	884	6868	25.00
11	Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram,	KIUG 2023	20	3658	926	388	878	5850	46.66

Sr. No.	State/UTs	Games Conducted	No. of Sports	No. of Athletes Participated	No. of Support Staff	No. of Volunteers	No. of Technical Officials	Total Participation	Budget (₹ in cr)
	Sikkim, Nagaland, and Tripura								
12	Delhi	KIPG 2023	7	1068	291	458	229	2046	29.31
13	Delhi	KIPG 2025	6	1233	275	350 approx.	248	1756	34.28
14	Jammu & Kashmir	KIWG 2020	NA	955	NA	NA	NA	955	NA
15	Jammu & Kashmir	KIWG 2021	NA	976	NA	NA	NA	976	NA
16	Jammu & Kashmir	KIWG 2023	NA	1178	NA	NA	NA	1178	NA
17	Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh	KIWG 2024	6	650	96	250	109	1105	20.99
18	Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh	KIWG 2025	6	750	146	144	114	1154	21.50
19	Jammu & Kashmir, Dal Lake	KIWSF	2	409	82	55	65	613	5.39
20	Host State, DD & DNH	KIBG 2025	8	811	221		173	1205	12.00
21	Rajasthan	KIUG 2025	23	3901	767	431	902	6001	35.30
Total				60814	14534	13102	11790	100240	590.58

Source: Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYAS)

B) Olympic Priority and the Role of Khelo India Games: The comparative assessment of disciplines under the Olympic Games and the Khelo India Games (KIG) indicates that while Khelo India has been effective as a broad-based talent identification and participation platform, there remains significant scope to strengthen its alignment with Olympic disciplines, given that Olympic performance is the principal national priority.

Currently, Khelo India includes most core Olympic sports such as athletics, boxing, wrestling, weightlifting, badminton, hockey, shooting, swimming, judo, table tennis, and tennis. This alignment has enabled KIG to function as an important feeder system for elite pathways, supporting early exposure and competitive depth in medal-relevant disciplines. However, several Olympic sports with emerging global relevance such as sport climbing, skateboarding, surfing, modern pentathlon, trampoline, and select cycling and rowing formats remain outside the Khelo India competition structure.

**Table 2.9: Olympic Sports Currently Not Included in Khelo India Games
(Indicative)**

Category	Olympic Sports
Emerging / Youth-oriented	Sport Climbing, Skateboarding, Breaking, Surfing
Aquatic / Endurance	Diving, Open Water Swimming, Sailing, Water Polo
Multi-discipline / Technical	Modern Pentathlon, Trampoline, Rhythmic Gymnastics
Winter & Ice Sports	Alpine Skiing, Ice Hockey, Speed Skating, Figure Skating

Source: Author's Compilation

While the exclusion of winter and highly infrastructure-intensive sports is understandable, the absence of several summer and youth-centric Olympic disciplines suggest an opportunity for calibrated expansion of Khelo India to deepen participation in future-facing Olympic sports.

At the same time, Khelo India's inclusion of non-Olympic and indigenous disciplines such as Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Mallakhamb, Kalaripayattu, Gatka, and Yogasana has played a valuable role in expanding grassroots participation and mobilising talent from Tier-2 and Tier-3 regions.

**Table 2.10: Khelo India Disciplines Not Part of the Olympic Programme
(Indicative)**

Category	Disciplines
Indigenous / Traditional	Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Mallakhamb, Gatka, Kalaripayattu, Thang Ta, Yogasana
Regional / Continental	Sepaktakraw, Pencak Silat, Lawn Bowls
Para-Sports (Non-Olympic)	CP Football, Para Powerlifting

Source: Author's Compilation

While these sports enhance inclusion and participation, their continued presence within Khelo India can be viewed as complementary to Olympic preparation with future scope of inclusion in the Olympics. Given that Olympic performance remains the primary national objective, Khelo India can incorporate a wider set of Olympic disciplines, particularly those with lower infrastructure barriers and growing international prominence. A phased inclusion approach starting with pilot competitions and regional clusters would allow participation to expand without overstressing resources. Such recalibration would strengthen Khelo India's role as a mass-participation gateway into Olympic sport, ensuring that grassroots expansion directly feeds elite pathways. In parallel, indigenous and non-Olympic sports can continue to serve as entry points for broad talent discovery, while Olympic disciplines increasingly anchor the competitive structure of the Games.

C) Talent Development: As per the data in Table 2.11, Maharashtra reports the highest number of established centres, totalling 43 KIAAs. Following closely behind,

Karnataka stands out with 40 KIAAs. Several other states demonstrate substantial investment in institutional capacity. Punjab lists 26 KIAAs, while Haryana and Tamil Nadu report a count of 23 and 22 KIAAs respectively. Medium-level contributors include Kerala with 17 KIAAs, Madhya Pradesh also with 16 KIAAs, and Telangana and Uttar Pradesh each registering 14 KIAAs. In the Northeast region, Manipur reports the highest with 10 KIAAs.

Haryana accounts for the highest number of KIAs (512) in the country. Maharashtra follows with 313 KIAs. Other states with a strong representation include Uttar Pradesh (188), Tamil Nadu (186), Rajasthan (167), Karnataka (164), and Delhi, which supports 145 KIAs. However, a KIA's state affiliation reflects their domicile and not necessarily the location of their training centre/ academy.

Table 2.11: KIAAs and KIAs

SN	State/UT	No. of KIAA	No. of Khelo India Athlete (KIA)*
1	Andaman & Nicobar	0	6
2	Andhra Pradesh	0	61
3	Assam	5	52
4	Arunachal Pradesh	4	18
5	Bihar	0	17
6	Chandigarh	4	35
7	Chhattisgarh	6	31
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	0	2
9	Delhi	9	145
10	Gujarat	14	71
11	Goa	1	4
12	Haryana	23	512
13	Himachal Pradesh	11	33
14	Jharkhand	12	52
15	Jammu & Kashmir	3	17
16	Karnataka	40	164
17	Kerala	17	115
18	Ladakh	0	1
19	Lakshadweep	0	1
20	Madhya Pradesh	16	100
21	Maharashtra	43	313
22	Manipur	10	124
23	Meghalaya	0	5
24	Mizoram	0	15
25	Nagaland	0	1
26	Odisha	8	80

SN	State/UT	No. of KIAA	No. of Khelo India Athlete (KIA)*
27	Puducherry	0	8
28	Punjab	26	149
29	Rajasthan	6	167
30	Sikkim	0	0
31	Telangana	14	61
32	Tamil Nadu	22	186
33	Tripura	0	3
34	Uttar Pradesh	14	188
35	Uttarakhand	2	49
36	West Bengal	12	112
	Total	322	2898

**KIAs, hailing from different states, chose to train across the country in various facilities - KIAA (Pvt, State, NCOE), non-accredited academies, other facilities, etc.*

Source: Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYAS)

2.3.4 Findings and Suggestions

- At present, competitions are primarily confined to the national level. To ensure more platforms for early talent identification and development, competitions can be expanded to the state and district levels to create wider participation. In addition to multi-sport mega events, the introduction of sport-specific leagues would provide sustained competitive exposure to the athletes.
- Given that Olympic performance remains the primary national objective, Khelo India Games may incorporate a wider set of Olympic disciplines, particularly those with lower infrastructure barriers and growing international prominence.
- The maximum financial allocation provided to Khelo India Accredited Academies is established at up to ₹5,00,000 per athlete per annum. However, when caps are imposed on specific expenditure sub-components within this overall budget, it constrains optimal fund utilization. Academies in Karnataka reported that they often recover only a portion of the sanctioned support due to this issue. This challenge arises because the actual operational costs, such as those related to equipment or travel, inherently vary significantly based on the specific sport discipline, the geographic location (city), and the individual accredited academy.

For instance, the annual ceiling of ₹60,000 for domestic travel/competition-related expenses is considered insufficient for supporting international participation, which is for athletes targeting

excellence. Furthermore, for expensive sports like Badminton, the cap structure may prevent the optimum utilisation of funds required for necessary equipment. Allow KIAAs to reallocate funds with the approval from SAI RC across unutilized budget sub-components such as equipment, coaching, accommodation or travel within the overall annual allocation. This flexibility will enable optimal fund utilisation and prevent unspent resources due to rigid sub-component caps.

- No food allowance is provided for non-residential Khelo India Athletes (KIAs) under the current Khelo India norms. Consequently, non-residential KIAs can personally fund the necessary high-quality diet required for optimal performance. Non-residential KIAs can be provided with a food allowance. Since these athletes are responsible for funding their own nutrition, an allowance would ensure they can access a high-quality diet essential for optimal performance, aligning support for non-residential athletes with the nutritional needs for their training and competitive success.
- Currently, athletes training at the same facility, such as a National Centre of Excellence (NCoE), may face different financial norms depending on their status as a Khelo India Athlete (KIA) or a non-KIA. To maintain institutional integrity and morale, it is essential to rectify these discrepancies and implement a uniform financial norm for all athletes training within a similar facility.
- Many KIAs are unaware of their full entitlements under the scheme. Many KIAs reported being unaware of the ₹5,00,000 financial support. Additionally, KIAs are often not informed about the weeding-out criteria. To counter this, all KIAs can be provided with a comprehensive informational handbook detailing their full entitlements, including the scheme brief, ₹5,00,000 financial support and the criteria for weeding out. This will ensure athletes are fully aware of their benefits and the performance expectations under the scheme.
- Delays in the reimbursements have been reported for KIAs (Haryana). Additionally, an academy whose accreditation had expired (Oases Shooting Range, Jaipur) was unwilling to renew it due to delays in receiving reimbursements, affecting both athlete support and institutional continuity. Despite having six KIAAs and 167 KIAs originating from the state, Rajasthan faces a significant challenge as none of these athletes are currently training in its own KIAAs. For instance, in Urmila Sports

Academy, while some athletes have progressed to become KIAs, they have shifted to other academies after getting qualified as a KIA. As a result, the academy currently has no KIA enrolment, despite offering international-standard equipment and high-quality facilities, including infrastructure, food, and hostel accommodation. The academy's remote location poses additional challenges, such as hard and saline water, prompting the installation of systems that generate water from air and the use of solar power. Furthermore, wastewater is recycled through a drip system for irrigating plants, underscoring the academy's efforts toward sustainability even as it struggles to attract and retain KIAs.

- The amount in the current talent development framework may be suitably revised, since this support have remained unchanged since 2019. This shortfall is particularly evident when considering the costs of competition exposure, advanced sports equipment, and sports science support.
- To broaden the base of excellence, it is suggested that the sports science support be extended to a larger pool of athletes.
- The ceiling of 3000 athletes is abysmally low to maintain a steady pipeline of talent. Therefore, it is suggested to increase per sport intake – to ensure this, TIZC (Talent Identification Zonal Committee) needs to be made functional. They may also be supported by talent scouts to ensure coverage of district and state level competitions for talent identification.
- The Khelo India Rising Talent Identification (KIRTI) programme which was initially launched on a pilot basis and implemented in two phases, aimed to establish a nationwide, technology-enabled system for grassroots talent identification. Key learnings from the pilot study highlighted the need for robust digital solutions to enable large-scale, decentralised implementation across the country. This includes expanding training and development opportunities by creating additional vacancies to ensure meaningful outcomes at the grassroots level.

Schemes such as Gujarat District Level Sports School (DLSS) can serve as model cases. The Gujarat District Level Sports School (DLSS) model² managed under the Sports Authority of Gujarat (SAG), the scheme identifies "Young Talent" based on performance, such as securing first place at the Taluka/District/Corporation level in Khel Mahakumbh (in the Under-9 or Under-11 categories), for applicants under 14 years old. The

² District level sports school. (n.d.). <https://syecd.gujarat.gov.in/district-level-sports-school.htm>

comprehensive support offered, including intensive training by expert coaches, free education, accommodation, meals, and medical security (Mediclaim coverage up to ₹1,00,000/-) at an average expenditure of ₹2.25 lakh per player annually. This model can be replicated by directly identifying talent from schools, enabling selected students to secure admission into District Level Sports Schools, while other shortlisted athletes can be encouraged and guided to utilise the sports infrastructure developed under the scheme's infrastructure component. Physical Education teachers can also be incentivised to actively train and channel promising students toward these facilities. Such an approach not only broadens the talent pipeline but also ensures optimum utilisation of existing infrastructure. The Gujarat DLSS framework thus represents a strong best practice that can be replicated across districts nationwide to institutionalise grassroots talent identification and development.

- The Community Coaching Development sub-component has not yet realized its full potential. Expanding its scope and enhancing budgetary allocation are essential to strengthen the pipeline and upskilling of coaches and support personnel required for the effective implementation of talent development initiatives.

Section 2.4

Component 3: Khelo India Centres (KICs) and Sports Academies

2.4.1 Introduction: The component encompassing the Khelo India Centres (KICs) and Sports Academies represents a dual-pronged strategy within the Khelo India scheme, designed to structure sports excellence from the grassroots level up to elite competition. This component is crucial for maximizing the utilization of existing sports infrastructure and providing comprehensive support, including coaching, specialized sports science supports, and equipment to athletes. It is broadly divided into Khelo India Centres, focusing on grassroots development, and Khelo India State Centres of Excellence (KISCEs) and Sports Academies, aimed at high performance.

2.4.2 Description of the Component – Governance and Guidelines: The *Khelo India Centres (KICs)* are conceived as an effective, low-cost training mechanism established at the district/block level, primarily aimed at strengthening the sports ecosystem at the grassroots. A fundamental objective of the KIC model is to provide a sustainable source of livelihood for Past Champion Athletes (PCAs) by engaging them as coaches for young and budding athletes. KICs receive direct financial support structured as an annual recurring grant of a maximum of ₹5 lakhs per discipline, with ₹3 lakhs mandatorily earmarked for the remuneration of the PCA (at ₹25,000 per month). New KICs are also eligible for a one-time non-recurring grant of ₹5 lakhs per discipline for preparation/upgradation of sports fields, and procurement of sports equipment and kits. Operational compliance mandates that KICs must maintain a minimum of 30 regular trainees per discipline to be eligible for successive grants. Furthermore, capacity building has been prioritized, with the training of PCAs undertaken through SAI-NIS Patiala and NSSC Bangalore. Over 700 coaches from Khelo India Centres (KICs) have been trained through Six-Week Certificate Courses and Three-Week Refresher Courses, as per suitability, at no cost to the PCAs or States. In addition, capacity building of manpower engaged in Khelo India State Centres of Excellence (KISCEs) has been undertaken at NIS Patiala.

For elite athlete development, the *Khelo India State Centres of Excellence (KISCEs)* aim to scale up existing state-owned facilities to world standards for Olympic pursuits. Financial assistance for KISCEs operates on a Viability Gap Funding (VGF) model, determined through a comprehensive gap analysis of the existing centre's needs. The VGF is specifically directed towards crucial high-performance support, including Sports Science and technology backup, and bridging gaps in essential manpower like High Performance Managers (HPMs), Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and

equipment. Support for sports disciplines is highly selective, limited to a ceiling of three Olympic sports disciplines (from the 14 priority Olympic disciplines) per State/UT, although sports science support may be extended to other disciplines running within the premises. The establishment and operationalization of KISCEs require detailed planning, including the submission of a Technical Feasibility Report (TFR) and a Proforma Costing Sheet detailing manpower and equipment needs, necessitating state coordination with SAI Regional Centres for inspection and VGF analysis. Manpower norms detail specific remuneration ranges and job responsibilities for a wide range of specialized roles, recommending mandatory sanction of nutritionists for power sports (like weightlifting) and psychologists for aim-based sports (like archery and shooting).

The *Sports Academies* component focuses on supporting high-quality training institutions, including SAI National Centres of Excellence (NCoE) and Khelo India Accredited Academies, to nurture identified talent, aligning with the Long-Term Athlete Development (LTAD) programme. Athletes identified through the talent mechanism are offered options to join these accredited academies. Academies' training identified athletes may receive financial support up to ₹5,00,000 per athlete per annum, with norms finalized by the High-Powered Committee (HPC). The support is intended to fill financial gaps for both recurring and non-recurring items, such as coaches, sports science support, and infrastructure deficits.

Accountability and strategic oversight for both KICs and KISCEs are maintained through various monitoring mechanisms. Physical inspections of KICs must occur at least twice per year. All athlete and operational data, including performance tracking and training regularity (often monitored via CCTV streaming or facial recognition), must be uploaded to the National Sports Repository System (NSRS). Annual evaluation matrices for KICs and KISCEs assess performance across criteria such as the number of athletes trained, coach capacity, compliance (25% weightage), and achievements (50% weightage). Based on the scores, centres are tiered (Tier I for >75% points, Tier III for <50% points). This integrated system of funding, strategic manpower deployment, and objective performance monitoring illustrates the scheme's dedication to optimizing sports infrastructure and generating excellence from the grassroots to the elite level.

2.4.3 Progress of the Scheme - Secondary Data Analysis: As per the Khelo India dashboard, currently the Khelo India ecosystem spans over 41 disciplines, 28,214 athletes, 962 champion trainers, and 759 districts. This section presents an analysis of the progress of the sports development scheme under the Khelo India framework, utilizing secondary data across states and union territories. The analysis

focuses on two major operational indicators: deployment of manpower at KISCES and KICs and trainee participation (male vs. female enrolment).

A) Manpower Deployment: Manpower availability is a crucial determinant of the effectiveness of sports centres. The data (Table 2.12A) reveals a significant disparity in administrative efficiency across regions, with a national average hiring rate of 56% resulting from 242 personnel hired against 430 sanctioned posts. While states such as Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha, and Manipur demonstrate commitment by achieving a 100% recruitment rate, others exhibit gaps that may impede the delivery of the scheme's objectives. Particularly concerning is the performance of Bihar, which has filled only 12% of its 17 sanctioned positions, and Chhattisgarh, at 40%, as these low figures represent substantial bottlenecks in human resource capacity. To ensure the holistic development of youth and the creation of a sustainable sports ecosystem, it is vital that states with low engagement such as Tamil Nadu (43%) and Madhya Pradesh (50%) address these vacancies to align with the high-performing benchmarks set by states like Tripura (92%) and Goa (90%). Strengthening this workforce is essential for the effective monitoring and execution of infrastructure projects and the management of national-level competitions.

Table 2.12A: Manpower deployment (Sanctioned vs. Hired Manpower) - KISCES

State	Manpower Sanctioned	Manpower Hired	(Hired/Sanctioned Manpower) *100
Andaman & Nicobar	10	0	0.00
Andhra Pradesh	11	6	54.55
Arunachal Pradesh	12	12	100.00
Assam	11	8	72.73
Bihar	17	2	11.76
Chandigarh	11	9	81.82
Chhattisgarh	10	4	40.00
DNH & DD	11	6	54.55
Delhi	14	0	0.00
Goa	10	9	90.00
Gujarat	18	10	55.56
Haryana	14	11	78.57
Himachal Pradesh	10	9	90.00
Jammu & Kashmir	18	10	55.56

State	Manpower Sanctioned	Manpower Hired	(Hired/Sanctioned Manpower) *100
Jharkhand	18	10	55.56
Karnataka	11	8	72.73
Kerala	14	8	57.14
Ladakh	17	13	76.47
Madhya Pradesh	18	9	50.00
Maharashtra	13	8	61.54
Manipur	13	13	100.00
Meghalaya	11	9	81.82
Mizoram	11	9	81.82
Nagaland	10	9	90.00
Odisha	15	15	100.00
Puducherry	10	0	0.00
Punjab	13	0	0.00
Rajasthan	8	0	0.00
Sikkim	11	9	81.82
Tamil Nadu	14	6	42.86
Telangana	11	9	81.82
Tripura	12	11	91.67
Uttar Pradesh	13	0	0.00
Uttarakhand	10	0	0.00
Total	430	242	-

Source: Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

A similar analysis for the hiring of PCAs across various states was performed (Table 2.12B). Out of a total of 36 States/UTs, it was observed that only nine States/UTs (*Punjab, Odisha, Jharkhand, Sikkim, Meghalaya, West Bengal, Mizoram, Goa and Lakshadweep*) have completed the hiring process according to the sanctioned number of posts. In all, 30 States/UTs have completed at least 75% of the hiring in accordance with the sanctioned number of positions. This, in turn, depicts a fairly quick recruitment process since the scheme's start, and a timely availability of manpower will also assist the States/UTs in achieving the scheme's objectives efficiently. Looking at the gender-based distribution of hiring of PCAs across the states,

however, reveals a trend towards greater hiring of male PCAs in almost all the states, except a few (such as *Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Ladakh*, where hiring of female PCAs falls between 40% to 50%). On the other hand, States/UTs such as West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Goa, Lakshadweep and Dadra and Nagar Haveli have either hired a single female PCA or no PCA at all. Additionally, 17 States/UTs have less than 20% hiring for female PCAs.

Table 2.12B: PCA deployment (Sanctioned vs. Hired Manpower) - KICs

State/UTs	No. of PCAs (Sanctioned)	No. of PCAs hired (Male)	No. of PCAs hired (Female)	Total no. of PCAs hired	Share of hired PCAs (as % of sanctioned PCAs)	Share of female PCAs (as % of hired PCAs)
Jammu & Kashmir	100	57	23	80	80.00	28.75
Uttar Pradesh	84	64	15	79	94.05	18.99
Assam	68	45	19	64	94.12	29.69
Arunachal Pradesh	58	35	20	55	94.83	36.36
Maharashtra	52	38	4	42	80.77	9.52
Rajasthan	61	34	7	41	67.21	17.07
Madhya Pradesh	52	27	11	38	73.08	28.95
Tamil Nadu	39	19	18	37	94.87	48.65
Bihar	38	29	8	37	97.37	21.62
Manipur	35	22	12	34	97.14	35.29
Odisha	31	19	12	31	100.00	38.71
Chhattisgarh	33	26	5	31	93.94	16.13
Nagaland	34	27	4	31	91.18	12.90
Punjab	30	17	13	30	100.00	43.33
Telangana	33	27	3	30	90.91	10.00
Uttarakhand	30	20	9	29	96.67	31.03
Gujarat	34	20	9	29	85.29	31.03
Karnataka	32	21	5	26	81.25	19.23
Andhra Pradesh	28	22	4	26	92.86	15.39
Jharkhand	24	17	7	24	100.00	29.17
Meghalaya	24	18	6	24	100.00	25.00

State/UTs	No. of PCAs (Sanctioned)	No. of PCAs hired (Male)	No. of PCAs hired (Female)	Total no. of PCAs hired	Share of hired PCAs (as % of sanctioned PCAs)	Share of female PCAs (as % of hired PCAs)
Mizoram	23	22	1	23	100.00	4.35
Kerala	24	17	5	22	91.67	22.73
Haryana	26	17	4	21	80.77	19.05
Himachal Pradesh	18	13	1	14	77.78	7.14
Tripura	21	8	5	13	61.90	38.46
West Bengal	13	12	1	13	100.00	7.69
Sikkim	11	8	3	11	100.00	27.27
Delhi	14	7	1	8	57.14	12.50
Chandigarh	8	5	1	6	75.00	16.67
Ladakh	6	3	2	5	83.33	40.00
Lakshadweep	3	3	0	3	100.00	0.00
Dadra Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	4	3	0	3	75.00	0.00
Goa	2	2	0	2	100.00	0.00
Andaman & Nicobar	9	0	0	0	-	-
Puducherry	4	0	0	0	-	-
Total	1106	724	238	962	86.98	24.74

Source: Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

B) Trainee Participation - Total Participation: As per the data demonstrated in Table 2.13, the ecosystem supports a total of 2,458 trainees, comprising 1,296 males and 1,162 females, resulting in a national female-to-male ratio of 89.66%. This distribution highlights a successful institutional shift, particularly in states like Telangana (152.78%), Madhya Pradesh (131.21%), and Tripura (130.56%), where female participation significantly exceeds male enrolment. Furthermore, the achievement of perfect parity (100%) in diverse regions such as Manipur, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, and Maharashtra demonstrates a stabilised and inclusive recruitment model. The data also identifies geographical disparities that require targeted policy focus; for instance, ratios in Karnataka (35.90%), Bihar (49.09%), and Tamil Nadu (52.17%) fall well below the national average.

Table 2.13: Trainee Participation (Male and Female Enrolment)

State	Total Trainees Male	Total Trainees Female	(Female/Male Trainees) *100
Arunachal Pradesh	34	29	85.29
Tripura	36	47	130.56
Madhya Pradesh	157	206	131.21
Manipur	50	50	100.00
Mizoram	12	14	116.67
Himachal Pradesh	36	41	113.89
Chhattisgarh	59	63	106.78
Nagaland	40	37	92.50
Jammu & Kashmir	60	60	100.00
Jharkhand	32	32	100.00
Maharashtra	33	33	100.00
Gujarat	55	54	98.18
Kerala	89	82	92.13
Andhra Pradesh	45	29	64.44
Meghalaya	38	31	81.58
Telangana	36	55	152.78
Puducherry	18	15	83.33
Karnataka	39	14	35.90
Sikkim	29	18	62.07
Goa	52	34	65.38
Assam	45	39	86.67
Haryana	66	46	69.70
Chandigarh	35	20	57.14
Tamil Nadu	115	60	52.17
Bihar	55	27	49.09
DNH & DD	30	26	86.67
Total	1296	1162	89.66

Source: Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

2.4.4 Findings and Suggestions

The observations made during the field visits, along with interactions with coaches, athletes, and administrative officials, revealed several systemic and operational challenges in the implementation of the Khelo India Centres (KICs) and Khelo India State Centre of Excellence (KISCEs). While the scheme has achieved notable progress in establishing a decentralized sports ecosystem, gaps persist across policy guidelines, administrative coordination, financial management and functional operations.

A) General Operational and Administrative Bottlenecks

- The General Financial Rules (GFR) provide the legal and financial framework for government procurement and mandate preference for Make in India products. However, many specialized sports equipment items, particularly for some disciplines, are not manufactured domestically or lack BIS-certified suppliers within India. As a result, procurement through the Make in India clause becomes restrictive, delaying supply and forcing athletes to use sports equipment that is not used for practice internationally. As a result, conditional flexibility can be introduced in GFR procurement rules for cases where specialized sports equipment is not available under the Make in India mandate. Allowing exceptions in such situations will prevent procurement delays and reduce the risk of centres resorting to substandard, locally fabricated alternatives.
- The current distribution of 1 KIC per district and 1 KISCE per state/UTs is inadequate; therefore, the number of these centres and the number of disciplines in the existing efficiently functioning KISCEs may also be increased to facilitate training of a larger pool of athletes.
- The NSRS portal is widely viewed as glitch-prone due to the heavy load generated by mandatory registrations and continuous performance data uploads for all athletes and manpower across KICs and KISCEs. Lack of awareness of the portal exacerbates the issue. To address the persistent issues with the NSRS portal, two parallel solutions can be considered:
 - a) **Strengthen the Existing NSRS Portal:** Efforts may be undertaken to enhance server capacity, improve backend stability and resolve recurring technical glitches.
 - b) **Decentralised Portal System for KICs and KISCEs** (*If strengthening the existing NSRS portal proves to be time-consuming or operationally unfeasible in*

the short term): A practical solution is to develop centre-specific portals for each KIC and KISCE. This will reduce the load on the main NSRS system by distributing data entry and performance tracking across individual units. Once these portals are established, SAI Regional Centre (RC) may conduct training sessions for all relevant staff—particularly at centres where technical personnel or YPs are absent. A quarterly cross-check mechanism can also be instituted to verify system functionality, ensure continuity of the trained staff, and identify any operational difficulties they may be facing. This periodic review will help maintain responsiveness, improve data accuracy, and ensure that the system remains functional and user-friendly.

- Lack of technical knowledge—particularly difficulties in uploading data, submitting Utilisation Certificates, and interpreting procedural requirements—continues to contribute to financial and operational delays, especially in Khelo India Centres (KICs). While this challenge is partly mitigated in Khelo India State Centres of Excellence (KISCEs) where Young Professionals are in place, gaps remain in centres with vacant positions. Introducing centralised technical backstopping, supported either through a light Project Management Unit (PMU) or a small earmarked administrative grant for IT and compliance support, would enable States and centres to access trained assistance, standard operating guidance, and capacity-building inputs without duplicating effort.
- At the state level, Sports Departments often face manpower constraints and lack personnel exclusively dedicated to Khelo India operations. Frequent transfers at senior administrative levels further affect continuity in monitoring and follow-up, with direct implications for fund utilisation and programme timelines. Establishing a dedicated implementation layer—such as a State-level PMU or a funded nodal support unit— would help insulate programme delivery from personnel churn and ensure sustained oversight, reporting, and coordination with the Ministry and SAI.
- Officials from SAI Regional Centres have also highlighted that file movement delays and approval bottlenecks at the state level remain a primary impediment to timely project execution, compounded by the absence of a structured joint monitoring mechanism. A formal Centre–State–SAI coordination framework, anchored through periodic reviews, shared dashboards, and clearly defined escalation channels, would improve communication and enable faster resolution of implementation issues, complementing the administrative support structures suggested above.

- Although the Khelo India budget provides fixed expenditure heads, but certain crucial aspects are not uniformly covered or standardized, such as:
 - a) Travel insurance for athletes participating in foreign competitions.
 - b) Mandatory PFMS (Public Financial Management System) training for coaches and administrative staff, for better implementation of schemes across states.

It is essential to have dedicated financial provisions that can also be created to support coach travel, boarding, and lodging during competitions and camps. This will eliminate the current practice of athletes or coaches bearing these expenses personally and ensure equitable participation for athletes from all economic backgrounds.

- 52.7% of athletes have not received any anti-doping education, while 68% of coaches and support staff reported not conducting anti-doping awareness sessions, highlighting the need for mandatory, structured anti-doping awareness across all centres.

B) Khelo India State Centre of Excellence (KISCE)

i) Manpower and Sports Science Gaps: As per the Khelo India dashboard, the manpower deployment across KISCEs is extremely inefficient, demonstrating an all-India manpower utilization rate of only 56.27% (242 hired out of 430 sanctioned posts).

- Recruitment processes are significantly delayed, with some centres taking nearly a year to fill sanctioned positions. Due to the severe staffing gaps (e.g., absence of YPs), many centres resort to maintaining attendance manually, such as via Excel sheets in the Karnataka KISCE, rather than using the required NSRS system or digital tracking methods. This reliance on manual entry hinders the seamless upload of performance data and compromises the objective evaluation of KISCE performance. Vacancies for doctors, nutritionists, wardens and physiotherapists were consistently noted across centres. Given the importance of these roles in athlete development, their absence significantly impacts recovery, performance tracking, and nutrition planning.

The current staffing structure under KISCE is insufficient for managing residential and high-performance training environments. Sanctioned positions can be expanded to include wardens, hostel supervisors, housekeeping staff and data entry operators, ensuring smooth day-to-day


operations. States may also be granted flexibility to propose additional operational staff (such as wardens) based on the number of athletes, size of the centre, and local requirements. This will lead to more efficient management and improved athlete welfare.

- **Gaps in Sports Science and Medical Integration:** Most centres have only basic first-aid support available. In the event of minor injuries, athletes were required to visit nearby hospitals independently, as no designated medical officer or physiotherapist was appointed at the centres. The position of a doctor has been vacant at the KISCE in Panchkula because of a lack of clarity in the requirements for hiring a doctor. There was found to be, in general, a staff shortage (peons, wardens, etc.) at the KISCE. In order to strengthen athlete development, centres can recruit physiotherapists, nutritionists, medical officers, and sport science experts who are absent on an urgent basis. Their presence is crucial for injury management, performance monitoring, and nutrition planning. Additionally, in locations where medical or sports science experts are unavailable, telemedicine, tele-nutrition, and remote physiotherapy services can be introduced to ensure timely support and reduce the impact of staffing shortages.
- The current staffing structure under the VGF is rigid and insufficient for managing residential environments, as it lacks sanctions for essential support roles such as wardens, hostel supervisors, or cleaning personnel. This creates a gap in institutional oversight; in the Karnataka KISCE, residing specialized support staff (the physiologist and masseur) are informally managing the girls' hostel due to the lack of appointed wardens. This is exacerbated by noted infrastructure safety concerns, such as the absence of security or CCTV coverage in the hostel areas.

Therefore, states can also be granted flexibility to propose additional operational staff (such as wardens) based on the number of athletes, size of the centre, and local requirements. This will lead to more efficient management and improved athlete welfare. States can also be granted flexibility to propose additional operational staff based on their specific requirements, considering the size of the centre, the number of athletes, and local needs. Importantly, such staffing norms can be education- and child-safety sensitive, drawing from established best practices such as those followed at GV Raja Sports School, where minimum qualifications (including B.Ed. or equivalent training) are mandated even for wardens to ensure appropriate supervision, and safeguarding of young athletes. Further details on this model are provided in Box 2.1.

- Nutrition plans can be tailored to individual athletes rather than following a single uniform template, taking into account sport type, training load, body composition, and age to optimize performance and health. Figure 2.1 illustrates the athlete meal card implemented at the SAI Regional Centre, Bangalore. With a nutritionist hired under the VGF at the KISCE, this initiative at SAI RC, Bangalore, serves as a best practice that KISCEs can adopt, to ensure high-quality, standardised nutrition for their athletes.

Fig. 2.1: Athlete Meal Card



भारतीय खेल प्राधिकरण
नेताजी सुभाष दक्षिणी केन्द्र, मैसूर रोड, बेंगलूर - 560 056.
SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
Netaji Subhas Southern Centre, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 056.

खेल पोषण विभाग: खिलाड़ी आहार पत्रक
Department of Sports Nutrition : Athlete Meal Card

नाम/Name: [Redacted] दिनांक/Date: 05/05/2025

उम्र /Age: 19 yrs

खेल अनुशासन/Sport Discipline: Triple Jump

प्रशिक्षक / Coach: [Redacted]

भोजन अहिमान: शाकाहारी / मांसाहारी / अंडा आहारी
Food preference: Veg. / Non Veg. / Eggetarian

खाने से एलर्जी
Food Allergy: Nil

पोषण संबंधी लक्ष्य:
Nutritional Goals: Fat loss

सुबह का अभ्यास Morning Training	सुबह का नाश्ता Breakfast	प्रातः की अभ्यास Mid Morning	प्रातः का भोजन Lunch
Early Morning Water - 1 glass	INDIAN BREAKFAST ब्रेड / Bread 2 in no कॉर्न फ्लेक्स Corn Flakes	Fruit ↓ 1 in no	सलाद / Salad 10-12 pcs मिश्रित सलाद Mix Salad
PRE Dry fruits ↓ 1 Handful	जैम / शहद Jam / Honey		उबली हुई सब्जियां St. Veg.
	BUTTER / मक्खन Sambhar - 1 ladle मूंगफली का मक्खन Peanut Butter Seeds - 1 tsp		रोटी / Roti 1 in no
	दलीया / Daliya / RAGI / OATS		चावल/बाजरा Rice/Millet 1 Jadle
DURING Lemon juice ↓ 1 glass	पनीर / Paneer		दाल/सांभर Dal/Sambar 1 Jadle
	POST Fruit - 1 in no		चिकन / Chicken 2 pcs
	अंडे / Eggs दूध / Milk फल / Fruits 6 pcs फल का जूस Fruits Juice 2 glasses अंकुरित दालें Sprouts 1 Jadle		पनीर / Paneer 1 Jadle अंडा / Egg 2 in no (3/4) सब्जी / Sabzi 1 Jadle दही / Curd/BM/LASSI 1 glass चकंद का जूस Beetroot Juice 1 glass चटनी / Chutney

NOTE: PLEASE DO NOT CARRY THIS CARD WITH YOU KEEP IT IN THE DINING HALL ONLY.

शाम का अभ्यास Evening Training	रात का भोजन Dinner	सोने के समय Bedtime	टिप्पणियां (आर.पी.ई. पर आधारित) Remarks (Based on RPE)
PRE Fruit ↓ 1 in no	सलाद / Salad 10-12 pcs मिश्रित सलाद / Mix Salad 1/2 Jadle	MILK 1 glass	7 से ज्यादा More than 7
DURING	उबली हुई सब्जियां / St. Veg. 1/2 Jadle रोटी / Roti	TURMERIC a pinch JAGGERY 4 tsp	+ 1 Slice Bread + 1 Egg white 7-5
POST RECOVERY DRINK 1 glass (4/7)	चावल/बाजरा / Rice/Millet 3 Jaddles दाल/सांभर / Dal/Sambar 1 Jadle चिकन / Chicken 3 pcs with पनीर / Paneer अंडा भुरजी / Egg Bhurji		+ 1 Egg white 3-5 Same
	सब्जी / Sabzi 1 Jadle CURD / BM / LASSI मिठाई / Sweet 4 Jadle सूप / Soup / RASAM		3 से कम Less than 3 Same

दिनांक Date	वजन Body Weight	अन्य मापदंड Other parameters
10/07/25	56.2kg	
टिप्पणियां / Remarks * Have Nuts & Dry fruits after training in the morning as suggested. * Have either Egg whites (or) paneer. * Have Recovery drink after training in the evening.		

Source: SAI RC Bangalore, Karnataka

ii) Financial Bottlenecks and Obsolete Assessments

- The initial VGF assessment was carried out several years ago and is now considered outdated and does not reflect current requirements, given the significant changes in centre utilization and needs along with rising costs. It is, therefore, necessary to ensure that regional oversight entities (SAI RCs) expedite the process of conducting a fresh viability gap funding assessment to reflect current equipment and manpower needs.

Overall, G V Raja Sports School functions as a benchmark-setting KISCE, demonstrating effective utilisation of Khelo India support to strengthen systems across multiple disciplines. The primary gap identified at the centre relates to infrastructure constraints, which can be strategically addressed by incorporating an infrastructure component within the VGF framework. Further details on this model are provided in Box 2.1.

Box 2.1: G V Raja Sports School (KISCE-Kerala)

G V Raja Sports School underwent a key governance transition in 2017, with administrative control shifting from the Department of Education to the State Sports Department, while academic continuity was maintained through teachers deputed from the Department of Education. Education remains a core priority, reinforced through a fully residential, no-day scholar model (Classes VI-XII), education-sensitive staffing norms (minimum B.Ed. even for wardens), and consistently strong outcomes, reflected in a 100% Higher Secondary pass rate over the last five years.

As a KISCE, the school supports athletics, judo, and boxing, while also nurturing football, hockey, volleyball, and women's cricket. Sports science support existed prior to KISCE designation; however, KISCE VGF has significantly strengthened this ecosystem by enabling competitive remuneration and attracting higher-quality professionals. VGF-supported physiotherapy, nutrition, strength & conditioning, and services of masseur now benefit all disciplines, supported by access to medical and counselling services. The High Performance Manager oversees testing, admissions, coordination, and coach supervision across the entire school, serving as the reporting authority for both athletes and coaches and ensuring structured planning and accountability.

Talent identification follows a structured, multi-stage process involving district-level trials, an assessment camp, and periodic weeding out to ensure quality intake. The recently introduced Elite Scheme allows national medal-winning KISCE

athletes to continue training post-Class XII under the same coaching environment, addressing a critical transition gap and supporting long-term athlete development.

Overall, G V Raja Sports School functions as a benchmark-setting KISCE by optimally leveraging Khelo India support for systemic strengthening across disciplines. The key gap identified is in infrastructure, which could be addressed through the inclusion of an infrastructure component under VGF to support age-segregated hostels along with essential training facilities such as a mud track and other discipline-specific infrastructure, thereby enhancing athlete care, training quality, and long-term performance outcomes in line with Khelo India objectives.

- Delays are widespread: coaches reported delays exceeding three months in salary disbursement and travel reimbursements pending for up to two and a half years. Funds sanctioned for equipment often remain pending at the State level due to slow internal file approval processes. It is, therefore, essential to formalise and mandate Joint Monitoring Committees consisting of representatives from SAI Regional Centres (RCs) and the State Sports Department. This committee can meet regularly to address "file delays and approval bottlenecks at the state level", reported as a primary hindrance to project execution.
- Staff members at the KISCE hired due to the VGF were promised an annual increment at the time of recruitment, but no such increment has been provided to date.
- Coaches reported that funds requested for equipment procurement have not been released in several centres, directly affecting training quality and athlete preparedness.

C) District-level KIC

i) Financial and Operational Constraints

- As per the Khelo India Centre guidelines, the recurring grant of ₹2 lakhs per discipline can be utilised for sports equipment/kits for trainees, participation in events/competitions, other consumables, etc. However, during field visits, the above amount was found to be insufficient to meet sport-specific needs for certain disciplines. Coaches and athletes frequently saw shortages in sports kits, protective gear, and training equipment and were forced to compromise on the quality of the equipment that deteriorated within a few months of use. In some centres (Ch. Pratap Singh

Memorial Samiti (Khelo India Centre, Kharkhoda)), the available budget only permits basic replenishment rather than genuine equipment upgrades. While the ₹2,00,000 allocation for KICs is adequate for disciplines such as Yogasana (e.g., the KIC at Odisha for Yogasana), it is insufficient for equipment-intensive disciplines like boxing, badminton, shooting, and others, as explained below.

- **Discipline-Specific Cost Estimation:** This section presents an evidence-based estimation of costs for the Annual Recurring Grant for Khelo India Centres (KIC) based on the feedback from coaches, athletes, and administrative personnel during field visits to evaluate the quality of sports kits and consumables provided and understand the requirements for different sports. Cost estimations were prepared referencing current market prices and the quantity as mentioned by the centres at the prices they have purchased.

Table 2.14: Discipline-Specific (Boxing) Cost Estimation for 30 Students

Equipment	Cost per item (₹)	Quantity	Annual Aggregate cost (₹)
Punching pad	2500.00	15	37500.00
Punching bag	13000.00	2	26000.00
Dummies	30000.00	2	60000.00
Wall pads	4500.00	4	18000.00
Head Guard	1000.00	10	10000.00
Sports Kits (gloves, track suits, shoes)	7600.00	30	228000.00
Total	58600.00		379500.00

Source: NIPFP Estimation

Table 2.15: Discipline-Specific Cost Estimation

Sports Kits		
Equipment	Quantity	Cost per item (₹)
Glove	1	1000.00
Shoes	1	3500.00
track suits	1	2600.00
Bag	1	500.00
Total		7600.00

Source: NIPFP Estimation

The boxing centres had most of the essential equipment, but replacement cycles for each equipment are different. Punching bags and wall pads showed premature wear and tear of equipment, indicating the need for higher-quality materials. The sports kits, although distributed annually, lacked durability and quality.

- **Cost Estimation (Based on GeM Prices):** This cost estimation is prepared referencing the current prices as mentioned on the Government e-Marketplace - *GeM website* and the indicative quantity as shown in the circular on the list of inclusions and exclusions under One-time Grant and Annual Recurring Grant for Khelo India Centres (KICs)

Table 2.16: Discipline-Specific (Boxing) Cost Estimation (Based on GeM Prices)

Consumable Equipment	Indicative Quantity	Cost per item (₹)	Total Cost (₹)
Glove (Foam Size: 10oz)	1	1000.00	1000.00
Glove (Foam Size: 12oz)	2	1000.00	2000.00
Glove (Foam Size: 16oz)	3	1000.00	3000.00
Head-Guards	10	1000.00	10000.00
Punching Bag	1	20000.00	20000.00
Wall Pad	2	4500.00	9000.00
Punching Pads	1	2500.00	2500.00
Sports Kit	30	7600.00	228000.00
Total			275500.00

Source: NIPFP Estimation

Similarly, cost estimation for another sports discipline was performed; *judo*, where the cost estimation is prepared referencing current market prices and the quantity as mentioned by the centres at the prices they have purchased.

Table 2.17: Discipline-Specific (Judo) Cost Estimation (Based on GeM Prices) for 30 Students

Equipment	Cost per item (₹)	Quantity	Annual Aggregate Cost (₹)
Thera Band	8000.00	2	16000.00
Roop	65000.00	1	65000.00

Equipment	Cost per item (₹)	Quantity	Annual Aggregate Cost (₹)
Sports Kits (Bag, Track Suits, Judogi club)	3100.00	30	93000.00
Judo training accessories (Judo grip trainer*, skipping rope, jump rope, etc.)	2100.00	5	10500.00
Mat	2500.00	2	5000.00
Dummies for practice	30000.00	1	30000.00
Total	110700.00		219500.00

Source: NIPFP Estimation

Table 2.18: Discipline Specific Cost Estimation (Based on GeM Prices)

Sports Kit		
Equipment	Quantity	Cost per item (₹)
Judogi club*	1	
Bag	1	500.00
track suit	1	2600.00
Total		3100.00

Source: NIPFP Estimation

The judo centres were generally well equipped, though mats and grip trainers were reported as insufficient in number and in need of replacement. Several athletes indicated that judogis provided under the sports kit were not of competition-grade quality. The existing recurring grant does not adequately cover the cost of high-quality mats or dummies, both of which are essential for safe training and technical skill development. Given the cost estimations above, it is evident that the annual recurring grant for Khelo India Centres (KICs) which is for sports kits, consumable items, medical kits and general equipment common for all sports amount is insufficient to sustain annual replacement and maintenance of equipment and fund can be discipline-specific, as some disciplines require more equipment and also sports kits for each discipline is different, therefore, funds provided can be based on the sport.

A standardized monitoring system may also be implemented to track the distribution of sports kits, consumables, and athlete entitlements. Digital logs and periodic random audits will enhance transparency, minimize misuse, and strengthen accountability across centres.

- PCAs consistently report that the sanctioned salary of ₹25,000 per month is inadequate to sustain them as full-time employees, especially as they can cover their own accommodation and daily expenses. Furthermore, salary disbursements are subject to severe and frequent delays, often exceeding three months, and sometimes lasting nearly a year. This is intensified by the reported lack of differentiation in remuneration regardless of the PCA's experience level, contributing significantly to dissatisfaction and attrition. The lack of performance-linked incentives has further contributed to attrition. To ensure the timely disbursal of salary to coaches:
 - **Preferred Approach:** Ensuring timely salary disbursal through PFMS-based payroll systems directly into coach bank accounts is to avoid any delays.
 - **Alternative Approach (where State autonomy is a concern):** If implementing PFMS-based payroll may affect State autonomy, a phased release of funds can be adopted, releasing the salary component of ₹3 lakh per PCA annually in advance, every quarter to the state. Subsequent quarterly advances may only be released after the submission and verification of the previous quarter's UC, ensuring accountability while maintaining financial discipline.
- It is also essential to introduce salary differentiation based on qualifications and experience, ensuring that highly qualified or experienced PCAs are appropriately compensated.
- Since PCAs only conduct training sessions in the morning and evening, allowing them the option to take up supplementary employment could help them sustain themselves financially without compromising training quality.

ii) Administrative Bottlenecks and Support Gaps

- The mandate for physical UC submission adhering to GFR norms, combined with the practice of State Sports Departments batching all UCs from multiple KICs before forwarding them via physical post, causes substantial administrative delays. This administrative bottleneck is compounded by frequent transfers of District Sports Officers (DSOs), leading to discontinuity since new officers require time to integrate and understand UC formatting and compliance. As a solution, one can implement a digital portal or email-based system for UC submission starting at the DSO level. This will streamline the process, reduce delays and allow timely verification. Physical

copies can still be submitted subsequently within a stipulated timeline to comply with GFR requirements, ensuring both efficiency and regulatory adherence.

- The guidelines acknowledge situations where the PCAs fail to join the centre, in which case the State/UT proponent may evaluate changing the discipline after 4–6 weeks. However, this leads to immediate operational stalling; for instance, the KIC at Tau Devi Lal Stadium became non-functional because the Taekwondo PCA did not join, necessitating the lengthy process of seeking permission from the SAI Regional Centre to change the notified discipline. A national standby pool of qualified coaches can also be established to ensure continuity in training. This pool can be deployed immediately when a PCA resigns or relocates, preventing Khelo India Centres from becoming non-operational. To prevent centres from becoming inactive when coaches exit or when local sports preferences change, the scheme can allow conditional discipline reallocation. Such flexibility will ensure that infrastructure and sanctioned resources remain in productive use. It would also be beneficial for the scheme if qualified PE Teachers employed by the State government schools are trained by SAI RCs at their own costs and employed for training ground-level sportspersons for district- or below-district centres.
- Coaches of KICs accompanying athletes to competitions or training camps did not receive boarding or lodging support under the existing scheme norms of Khelo India Centres. In many instances, these expenses are borne by the athletes themselves, creating inequity and financial burden on young athletes from modest backgrounds. Otherwise, coaches often manage such arrangements informally, sometimes using personal contributions.
- The MoYAS can also envisage opening up the next round of KICs in residential schools with sufficient playfields and other required infrastructure across various districts in the country. This will not only assist in improving the utilisation of the existing infrastructure facilities of the schools but can also improve the overall participation of the athletes in KICs since even the talent from far-off places can be retained in these residential schools.

Section 2.5

Component 4: Fit India

2.5.1 Introduction: The Fit India Movement is designated as the fourth component of the revised Khelo India Scheme (2021-22 to 2025-26) and operates under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS). The foundational vision of the movement is to promote physical fitness by inculcating a habit of fitness among all citizens. Fundamentally, Fit India is envisioned as a people-centric movement operating on a voluntary basis, serving as a catalyst for behavioural change towards an active lifestyle. The core mission encourages every citizen to dedicate at least 30 minutes daily – encapsulated by the slogan "Fitness Ki Dose, Aadha Ghanta Roz" – to physical activities, which can include sports, games, walking, cycling, dancing, or yogasana. This component is structured around three primary areas of activity: the Physical Assessment of School Going Children, Fit India School Certification, and the Promotion of Fitness via Campaigns/Events/Mobile App.

2.5.2 Description of the Component – Governance and Guidelines: The *Physical Assessment of School Going Children* component is a major strategic mechanism, handled by the Fit India Mission (FIM) Cell. The implementation receives technical support from specialized institutions like the Lakshmibai National Institute of Physical Education (LNIPE) in Gwalior and LNCPE in Thiruvananthapuram, which assist in formulating physical fitness parameters and standardized tests for school children. This is designed to systematically track fitness levels and health indicators of children aged 5-18, corresponding to the Khelo India battery of tests for different age groups (Class 1-3 and Class 4-12). The physical fitness parameters addressed include Health-related components like cardiorespiratory endurance, muscular strength, flexibility, and body composition (BMI), as well as Skill-related components such as speed, agility, and balance. This structured, evidence-based approach is crucial for translating the national fitness movement into measurable outcomes at the grassroots level.

Fit India School Certification aims to integrate fitness as an essential element of school education, making fitness training and practice integral, similar to academics. To ensure adherence and accountability, certification is based on pre-decided simple parameters and requires thorough validation. Crucially, the final evaluation involves an inspection committee composed of the District Administrative Head, District Sports Officer, District Education Officer, and a prominent sportsperson. Furthermore, the evaluation process mandates the physical validation of school infrastructure and compliance by a third-party agency before certification is granted,

establishing a strong quality control layer against potential non-compliance. Certified schools may also receive financial assistance for the development or upgrade of sports facilities.

The third activity vertical, *Promotion of Fitness via Campaigns/Events*, focuses on broad outreach and technological integration to achieve "Fitness for All". This includes organizing a variety of recurring campaigns such as the Fit India Quiz (which features substantial prize money exceeding ₹3 Crore), Fit India School Week, Cyclothon, Freedom Run, and Fit India Games. From a constructive standpoint, the guideline emphasizes convergence with welfare schemes of other Ministries, particularly those focused on empowering women and promoting physical activity, optimizing resource use and amplifying impact. Moreover, the utilization of the Fit India Mobile Application modernizes the movement by offering citizens unique features like step tracking, customizable diet plans, and age-appropriate fitness protocols, enabling self-assessment and personalized fitness journeys. The strategic goal is to define national physical fitness parameters (age-specific) and provide easily implementable tool kits for evaluating all citizens. To ensure cultural relevance and broad appeal, the guidelines also provide for the production of videos showcasing indigenous games. Overall financial disbursement for the Fit India Movement is earmarked annually, requiring scrupulous adherence to timelines in all proposals to avoid cost and time overruns.

2.5.3 Progress of the Scheme – Secondary Data Analysis

A) Fit India Component - Participation: The Fit India Movement has actively promoted fitness across the country through multiple initiatives (Table 2.19).

Table 2.19: Fit India Initiatives

Initiative	Participation / Impact
Fit India Freedom Run	210 million approx. citizens participated in 3 editions
Sundays on Cycle	15.84Lakh+ citizens across 1,41,350+ locations
Fit India Mobile App	13+ Lakh+ FIT India Mobile App (FIMA) users
Fit India Icons & Influencers	272+ influencers
Fit India Week	14 + lakh schools participated
Fit India Quiz	1+ Lakh students from 36,780+ schools in 2022

Source: Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYAS)

B) Secondary Data Analysis - Fit India Week: Analysis of School Participation: The Fit India Week initiative (Table 2.20) is primarily dedicated to integrating fitness as an essential element within the formal education system. Activities such as the Fit India School Week are explicitly promoted under the component for the promotion

of fitness via campaigns/events. The involvement of schools is crucial, as schools are considered the first formal institution after home where physical fitness is taught and practised.

- Overall Institutional Penetration:** The cumulative participation of 1,426,727 schools indicates widespread acceptance and execution of the Fit India mandate within the education sector. This aligns with the mission of key stakeholders like the Ministry of Human Resource Development (now Ministry of Education), which actively promoted initiatives like the Fit India School Week.
- Annual Momentum:** The data shows a peak participation in 2022-23 (5,54,145 schools), followed by a decline in 2023-24 (4,16,171 schools). This fluctuation suggests that while the program achieved significant momentum, maintaining peak engagement requires ongoing impetus.
- Geographic Reach:** The movement successfully mobilized institutions in high-population states. For instance, Uttar Pradesh (2,35,534 schools), West Bengal (88,439 schools), and Bihar (77,968 schools) represent the highest cumulative participation over the last three reported years.
- Strategic Objective Fulfilment:** The institutional setting of the school environment is designed to deliver formalized fitness tracking. This activity supports the broader objective of the Fit India Movement to facilitate Physical Fitness Assessments in schools using the Khelo India battery of tests, allowing schools and parents to monitor and track the fitness and health indicators of each child.

Table 2.20: Fit India Week

Sr. No.	State/UTs	No. of Schools Participated (2021-22)	No. of Schools Participated (2022-23)	No. of Schools Participated (2023-24)	No. of Schools Participated (2024-25)	Total No. of Schools Participated in Last 3 Years
1	Andaman & Nicobar	117	151	114	10	392
2	Andhra Pradesh	17711	22819	17135	268	57933
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1130	1456	1094	9	3689
4	Assam	20056	25839	19403	98	65396
5	Bihar	23785	30643	23010	530	77968
6	Chandigarh	57	74	55	190	376
7	Chhattisgarh	15197	19580	14703	128	49608
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	140	180	135	4	459

Sr. No.	State/UTs	No. of Schools Participated (2021-22)	No. of Schools Participated (2022-23)	No. of Schools Participated (2023-24)	No. of Schools Participated (2024-25)	Total No. of Schools Participated in Last 3 Years
	and Daman and Diu					
9	Delhi	1639	2111	1585	630	5965
10	Goa	452	583	438	9	1482
11	Gujarat	14802	19070	14320	730	48922
12	Haryana	6300	8116	6095	496	21007
13	Himachal Pradesh	5085	6551	4919	171	16726
14	Jammu & Kashmir	8220	10591	7953	14823	41587
15	Jharkhand	13700	17651	13254	360	44965
16	Karnataka	21327	27477	20633	630	70067
17	Kerala	4831	6224	4673	238	15966
18	Ladakh	108	127	152	5	392
19	Lakshadweep	13	17	13	480	523
20	Madhya Pradesh	42654	54953	41265	480	139352
21	Maharashtra	30507	39305	29514	669	99995
22	Manipur	1413	1820	1367	15	4615
23	Meghalaya	4096	5277	3963	15	13351
24	Mizoram	1074	1383	1039	4	3500
25	Nagaland	791	1019	766	6	2582
26	Odisha	19858	25585	19212	560	65215
27	Puducherry	207	267	200	6	680
28	Punjab	8192	10554	7925	228	26899
29	Rajasthan	30507	39305	29514	875	100201
30	Sikkim	368	474	356	13	1211
31	Tamil Nadu	16271	20963	15741	1071	54046
32	Telangana	12034	15504	11642	536	39716
33	Tripura	1356	1747	1312	23	4438
34	Uttarakhand	6780	8735	6559	1456	23530
35	Uttar Pradesh	72313	93166	69959	96	235534
36	West Bengal	27033	34828	26153	425	88439
Total		430124	554145	416171	25287	1426727

Source: Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYAS)

C) Secondary Data Analysis - Fit India Sundays on Cycle (SoC): The 'Fit India Sundays on Cycle' initiative (Table 2.21) is a key example of promoting fitness via campaigns/events, emphasizing the adoption of physical activity like cycling. This campaign targets the wider population with the goal of fostering a behavioural change toward an active lifestyle.

- The cumulative data records 163356 events, involving a massive total of 2084780 participants. This reflects the success of the Fit India Mission in promoting community participation in physical activities, aiming to

achieve 30-60 minutes of Moderate-to-Vigorous Physical Activity (MVPA) daily for adults aged 18-65.

- Uttar Pradesh leads substantially in organising events (29,094) and attracting the highest number of participants (2,46,696). This suggests strong state-level implementation and grassroots outreach for the campaign.
- Cycling, as promoted by this event, is recognized as an activity that helps build strength and muscular endurance and significantly improves cardiovascular endurance. The concentration of activities around specific disciplines like cycling demonstrates the movement's strategic use of specific activities to target key health-related physical fitness components.

Table 2.21: FIT INDIA Sundays on Cycle

S.No.	State	No. of Event	No. of Participants
1	Andaman & Nicobar	1921	22623
2	Andhra Pradesh	2508	42560
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1887	19136
4	Assam	9378	85497
5	Bihar	3647	34741
6	Chandigarh	1761	28208
7	Chhattisgarh	14141	144185
8	Dadra Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	1369	17220
9	Delhi	2085	113595
10	Goa	1485	26104
11	Gujarat	7002	116434
12	Haryana	4061	97061
13	Himachal Pradesh	2612	18877
14	Jammu & Kashmir	7519	139335
15	Jharkhand	5235	73368
16	Karnataka	4470	78513
17	Kerala	2612	37257
18	Ladakh	1375	18476
19	Lakshadweep	1905	16886
20	Madhya Pradesh	3849	49531
21	Maharashtra	12917	171941
22	Manipur	2327	37167
23	Meghalaya	2473	17875
24	Mizoram	1761	16661
25	Nagaland	1783	17100
26	Odisha	5178	56366
27	Puducherry	1761	16801
28	Punjab	4890	68649
29	Rajasthan	3095	38751
30	Sikkim	2037	17523
31	Tamil Nadu	2686	35766
32	Telangana	4417	45305
33	Tripura	2583	30426
34	Uttar Pradesh	29094	246696
35	Uttarakhand	2577	33969
36	West Bengal	2957	54176

S.No.	State	No. of Event	No. of Participants
Total		163356	2084780

Source: Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYAS)

D) Best Practices

Box 2.2: Fit Rajasthan

The Fit Rajasthan campaign is implemented with an annual provision of ₹50.00 crore. The initiative aligns with the vision of Fit India and focuses on improving public health by encouraging citizens to adopt physically active and healthier lifestyles.

The campaign spreads awareness on fitness and promotes behavioural change across the state. Along with various outdoor physical activities, citizens are motivated to reduce the consumption of edible oil in their daily diet by at least 10 per cent as a step toward preventive healthcare.

Objectives of Fit Rajasthan:

The core objectives of the Fit Rajasthan campaign include:

- Making fitness simple, enjoyable and accessible for all.
- Spreading awareness about fitness and physical activities through statewide campaigns.
- Promoting regional and traditional sports.
- Taking fitness to every school, college/university, panchayat and village.
- Providing a platform for citizens of the state to share information and personal fitness journeys to inspire others.

Key Activities under the Fit Rajasthan Campaign:

The Rajasthan State Sports Council and the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of Rajasthan organise a wide range of programmes and events under this campaign, including:

- Freedom Rider Biker Rally
- Fit Rajasthan Week
- Cleanliness Freedom Run
- National Sports Day celebrations
- Formation of Fit Rajasthan Club
- Fit Rajasthan Carnival
- Promotion of sports at Anganwadi Centres, Schools, Colleges and Universities
- Fit Rajasthan Sunday on the Cycle
- Fit Rajasthan Mobile App

- Fit Rajasthan Yoga Session
- Fitness Walkathons / Marathons
- Fit Rajasthan Influencers initiative
- District-level sports and fitness activities
- Selection of specific sports and rotational competitions in districts within fixed time periods
- “Dose of Fitness - Half an Hour Daily” campaign for the general public, government employees and students
- Sports Week across the state every quarter
- Participation of NGOs and institutions, such as old age homes and orphanages, in fitness activities
- Sports festivals at district, divisional and state levels
- Involvement of citizens, philanthropists, public representatives and administrative officers in organising sports events
- Promotion of sports and fitness at every state event
- Encouraging all students, teachers and instructors to exercise for at least one hour daily using yoga, aerobics, Zumba, dance and traditional martial arts
- Fitness workshops with health and motivational speakers at Anganwadi Centres, Schools, Colleges and Universities
- Distribution of pamphlets, handouts and material on nutrition and lifelong health education
- Administration of daily Fit Rajasthan pledge across all Anganwadi Centres, Schools, Colleges and Universities.

2.5.4 Findings and Suggestions

- **Digital Platform Limitations for Outreach:** The registration and preliminary examination for the high-profile Fit India Quiz are conducted online through the National Testing Agency (NTA). This mobile application is not available on iOS and potentially creates a barrier to participation. The relevant authorities can, therefore, ensure that all digital components, such as the Fit India Quiz preliminary examination, are accessible across iOS as well. This modification would promote broader and more equitable participation among school children.
- **Need for Continuous Data Standardization:** While the movement seeks to collect and track fitness data across the vast population, reliance on continuous, and systematic gathering of results from school assessments (using the Khelo India battery of tests) and individual inputs (via the Fit India Mobile App) requires standardization of measurement and entry by all

stakeholders which can be a challenging task at times. Thus, it is recommended that the Fit India Mobile App be mandatorily adopted and integrated among citizens, leveraging its features such as the Steps Tracker, Sleep Tracker, Fitness Assessment, and customised diet plans, to collect longitudinal data and enable citizens to monitor their own improvements continuously.

- **Institutional Penetration and Mobilization:** Despite strong cumulative participation numbers (e.g., 1,426,727 schools participated in Fit India Week), regional performance varies significantly. For example, Uttar Pradesh recorded participation from 2,35,534 schools, demonstrating massive institutional reach, while other states/UTs show much smaller participation figures. This variation indicates that mobilization and grassroots support on the field are inconsistent, impacting the desired national reach of the movement. The lagging states can be encouraged to replicate the integrated approach demonstrated by Fit Rajasthan. This model successfully combines physical activities with crucial preventative health messaging (such as motivating citizens to reduce edible oil consumption) and ensures broad participation across schools, colleges, Anganwadi Centres, and other local institutions.

Section 2.6

Component 5: Promotion of Inclusiveness through Sports

2.6.1 Introduction: The component Promotion of Inclusiveness through Sports is one of the five major components of the Khelo India Scheme (2021-22 to 2025-26). This component recognizes the power of sports in promoting gender equity and social inclusiveness and outlines special measures needed to achieve these desired objectives.

2.6.2 Description of the Component – Governance and Guidelines: The promotion of inclusiveness is directly tackled through targeted initiatives focused on geographical areas, heritage sports, athletes with disabilities, and gender equity:

A) Sports for Peace and Development (SPD): The SPD component utilizes sports as a tool for social integration and peace-building in sensitive geographical areas. The vision centres on promoting confidence-building among the local populace in areas affected by terrorism, extremism, and regions along the international land border. To ensure widespread engagement, the guidelines mandate organizing village-level championships using sports popular in those locations. Furthermore, the scheme dovetails its activities with the special package provided by the Government of India for Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring "soft support" like coaches, equipment, and technical assistance to maximize the use of upgraded sports infrastructure there. Financial support is specifically allocated to State Governments and sporting clubs in disturbed areas, coordinated with Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) through the Ministry of Home Affairs' Civic Action Plan, ensuring structured implementation in complex environments.

B) Promotion of Rural and Indigenous/Tribal Games (PRITG): The PRITG component addresses cultural and geographical exclusion by aiming to popularize Rural, Indigenous, and Tribal Sports/Games and bring them into the mainstream. This is achieved by dovetailing the sports component with the Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat (EBSB) programme of the Ministry of Education, which seeks to promote national integration through cultural exchange. The guidelines are concrete, listing specific indigenous games like Mallakhamb, Kalaripayattu, Gatka, Thang-Ta, Yogasana, and Silambam for financial assistance, promotion, and encouragement. By making information about these games available both online and offline, the scheme intends to "ignite the curiosity of the present generation" and encourage youth to adopt them. Moreover, talented players identified in these indigenous games can receive support as Khelo India Athletes.

C) Promotion of Sports among Persons with Disabilities (PwD): The approach is to focus on providing scientific training at par with International Standards to nurture talent for national and international excellence. The framework involves coordination with recognized national sports bodies for the disabled, including the Para Olympics Committee of India (PCI), Special Olympics Bharat (SOB), and the All India Sports Council of Deaf (AISCD). Concrete measures include providing financial assistance for specialized sports infrastructure, classification of players, and equipment support.

D) Promotion of Sports among Women (PSW): The PSW component aims for a holistic approach toward health and fitness and achieving sporting excellence through the mass participation of women. While the overall Khelo India Scheme is gender-neutral, this component specifically focuses on women's competitions, leagues, and tournaments. Crucially, emphasis is placed on sports disciplines where women's participation is currently low to encourage greater involvement. The promotion mechanism includes encouraging and supporting the hosting of women's leagues for various team sports disciplines through recognized National Sports Federations (NSFs). Beyond athletics, the guidelines promote gender equity by encouraging women to take up leadership roles in sports, such as coaching and administration, potentially through scholarships for coaching courses. Furthermore, the guidelines mandate specific campaigns and workshops for gender sensitization and awareness regarding acts protecting women (The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013) and children (POCSO Act, 2012) among athletes, coaches, and support staff.

2.6.3 Progress of the Scheme – Secondary Data Analysis

A) Sports for Peace and Development

i) Khelo India Winter Games - 2020 (1st Edition): The first-ever Khelo India Winter Games were organized in 2020 at Gulmarg, Jammu & Kashmir. This marked a significant step toward promoting winter sports in India, showcasing the Government's initiative to widen the country's sporting landscape beyond traditional disciplines.

Table 2.22: Participation Breakdown

Category	Number of Participants
Men Participants	649
Women Participants	306
Officials	168
Total Participation	1123

Source: Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYAS)

The event witnessed participation from over 1,000 athletes, representing various states and Union Territories across the country. A total of 1123 individuals including, athletes and officials, took part in the event. This strong participation indicated the growing interest in winter sports and helped establish Gulmarg as a key destination for national-level winter competitions.

ii) Khelo India Winter Games - 2021 (2nd Edition): The second edition of the Khelo India Winter Games was also held at Gulmarg, J&K, in 2021, in collaboration with the Winter Games Association. Building upon the success of the first edition, the event saw expanded participation and improved organization.

Table 2.23: Participation Details

Category	Number of Participants
Men Participants	712
Women Participants	264
Officials	232
Total Participation	1208

Source: Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYAS)

Athletes from various states, Union Territories, and local teams took part. The increased participation from 1123 in 2020 to 1208 in 2021 reflected rising national interest in winter sports and a growing competitive environment for skiing, snowboarding, and other cold-weather disciplines.

B) Promotion of Rural and Indigenous/Tribal Games:

The Khelo India programme has expanded its reach and inclusivity through multiple initiatives targeting indigenous sports, para-athletes, and women's participation. To promote India's traditional sporting heritage, the Indigenous Games League was introduced in disciplines such as Mallakhamb, Kalaripayattu, Gatka, Thang-Ta, and Yogasana. The first league events were

conducted in Gatka and Thang-Ta at Patiala and Imphal, marking the start of structured competitive platforms for indigenous sports athletes. Scholarship coverage also expanded, with 283 athletes supported until June 2021, increasing to 350.

C) Promotion of Sports among Persons with Disabilities:

In para-sports (Table 2.24), currently, there are six disciplines - Para Archery, Para Athletics, Para Badminton, Para Table Tennis, Para Powerlifting, and Para Shooting have been integrated into the Khelo India framework. Currently, 80 Khelo India Athletes (KIAs) are identified in para-sports, receiving comprehensive support amounting to ₹6.28 lakh per Khelo India Athlete annually, including ₹10,000 monthly as out-of-pocket allowance for each KIA. Participation has risen steadily from 24 athletes in 2020–21 to 71 in 2025–26. Performance outcomes have also strengthened, with a total of 8 Khelo India athletes taking part in the Asian Para Games 2022 and out of this, 2 Medals were won by KIAs in the Asian Para Games 2022 and a total of 24 Khelo India athletes took part in the Paris Paralympics and out of this, 5 Medals were won by KIAs in the Paris Paralympics 2024.

Table 2.24: Details of Khelo India Athletes (Para Sports) Year-wise (in Numbers)

Discipline	2025 - 26	2024 - 25	2023 - 24	2022 - 23	2021 - 22	2020 - 21
Para - Sports	80	84	27	26	27	24

Source: Data from Khelo India Dashboard, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

D) Promotion of Sports among Women:

Women's participation has been significantly boosted through the ASMITA (Achieving Sports Milestones by Inspiring Women Through Action) Games, launched in 2021. The initiative promotes gender equity, empowerment, leadership development, and community engagement through sport. It has also contributed to the broader objectives of holistic development, social integration, healthier lifestyles, and expanding economic opportunities within the sports ecosystem. Increasing participation of female athletes in competitive events is helping counter gender biases, while women involved in sports and national leagues demonstrate higher levels of confidence, empowerment, and leadership.

Schools and colleges play a crucial role in sustaining this shift by organizing women-only tournaments and creating safe, supportive spaces for female students to participate in sports. These in-house competitions also enable both institutions and athletes to receive official recognition, encouraging further grassroots involvement.

The programme has shown consistent year-on-year growth. ASMITA events expanded from 1 discipline and 3 tournaments in 2021-22 to 18 disciplines and 502 tournaments in 2023-24. Participants increased from 840 in 2021-22 to over 58,180 in 2023-24, with beneficiaries rising from 5,665 in 2022-23 to 8,489 in 2023-24. Prize money disbursed in 2022-23 and 2023-24 alone totalled nearly ₹10 crore, demonstrating strong financial commitment to women's sports (Table 2.25).

Table 2.25: ASMITA Leagues

Year	No. of Sports Disciplines	Prize Money	Completed Tournament	Total No. of Participants	Total No. of Beneficiaries
2021-22	1	NA	3	840	NA
2022-23	13	58057000	251	25628	5665
2023-24	18	33637829	502	58180	8489

Source: Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

Table 2.26: State/UT-wise ASMITA League Implementation and Participation

S No	State/UTs	No. of Leagues (2021-22)	No. of Leagues (2022-23)	No. of Leagues (2023-24)	No. of Leagues (2024-25)	No. of Leagues (2025-26)	Total Leagues	Total Conduct Amount (₹ in crores)	Total Participation
1	Andaman & Nicobar	-	-	-	-	1	1	0.01	160
2	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	13	20	31	64	0.56	6757
3	Arunachal Pradesh	-	2	10	13	5	30	0.56	2256
4	Assam	-	14	24	25	33	96	2.13	8606
5	Bihar	-	7	19	13	41	80	1.22	7886
6	Chandigarh	-	4	6	2	7	19	0.22	2077
7	Chhattisgarh	-	1	8	48	49	106	1.21	11459
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	-	-	1	3	5	9	0.05	884
9	Delhi	1	13	23	18	10	65	3.29	9578
10	Goa	-	5	10	12	8	35	0.51	3629
11	Gujarat	-	19	19	31	35	104	2.00	10268
12	Haryana	-	18	30	15	43	106	2.41	11393
13	Himachal Pradesh	-	4	17	6	16	43	1.12	5143
14	Jammu & Kashmir	-	4	14	6	30	54	1.06	8216
15	Jharkhand	-	14	14	23	44	95	1.48	10062
16	Karnataka	-	11	15	19	51	96	1.56	9716
17	Kerala	-	21	31	20	45	117	2.71	11252

S No	State/UTs	No. of Leagues (2021-22)	No. of Leagues (2022-23)	No. of Leagues (2023-24)	No. of Leagues (2024-25)	No. of Leagues (2025-26)	Total Leagues	Total Conduct Amount (₹ in crores)	Total Participation
18	Ladakh	-	-	1	1	5	7	0.04	626
19	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	3	3	0.02	322
20	Madhya Pradesh	-	6	14	27	58	105	1.93	12781
21	Maharashtra	-	5	30	18	55	108	1.42	15811
22	Manipur	-	4	7	13	12	36	0.48	2809
23	Meghalaya	-	-	6	25	4	35	0.44	2682
24	Mizoram	-	1	1	12	7	21	0.23	1475
25	Nagaland	-	-	3	11	2	16	0.12	1278
26	Odisha	-	7	19	19	26	71	1.87	7035
27	Puducherry	-	1	5	1	12	19	0.26	1844
28	Punjab	-	26	31	21	34	112	2.16	10024
29	Rajasthan	-	13	20	21	66	120	1.99	9605
30	Sikkim	-	3	3	7	4	17	0.19	1337
31	Tamil Nadu	-	3	27	32	37	99	1.69	11789
32	Telangana	-	10	16	10	43	79	1.10	8044
33	Tripura	-	1	4	15	2	22	0.28	1456
34	Uttar Pradesh	2	15	30	28	83	158	3.80	17712
35	Uttarakhand	-	9	12	11	20	52	1.37	6878
36	West Bengal	-	10	19	11	45	85	1.96	7411
Total		3	251	502	557	972	2285	43.46	240261

Source: Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

Table 2.27: Year-wise ASMITA League Competitions and Participation by Discipline

F.Y.	Discipline	No. of competitions completed	No. of Participants
2021-22	Hockey	3	840
2022-23	Archery	18	1284
	Boxing	4	348
	Cycling	78	1807
	Fencing	9	1164
	Football	32	3992
	Hockey	6	1680
	Judo	40	5037
	Kho Kho	3	540
	Swimming	20	2912

F.Y.	Discipline	No. of competitions completed	No. of Participants
	Volleyball	2	168
	Weightlifting	12	916
	Wrestling	12	2850
	Wushu	15	2930
2023-24	Archery	15	827
	Athletics	25	3922
	Basketball	50	5938
	Boxing	20	2498
	Cycling	42	1207
	Fencing	3	429
	Football	87	8658
	Hockey	6	1300
	Judo	45	4826
	Kho Kho	13	1583
	Kickboxing	22	4474
	Pencak Silat	25	4376
	Rugby	30	3479
	Swimming	20	844
	Taekwondo	12	1112
	Weightlifting	37	1824
	Wushu	40	9482
Yogasana	10	1401	
2024-25	Archery	26	1452
	Athletics	6	336
	Badminton	20	487
	Basketball	24	2840
	Beach Volleyball	1	55
	Boxing	7	188
	Cycling	42	2355
	Fencing	10	2168

F.Y.	Discipline	No. of competitions completed	No. of Participants
	Football	82	7064
	Hockey	28	1885
	Ice Hockey	1	35
	Judo	55	5224
	Kabaddi	1	64
	Kayaking & Canoeing	1	60
	Kho Kho	16	1305
	Pencak Silat	18	2928
	Rowing	2	174
	Rugby	30	3364
	Sepak Takraw	2	96
	Shooting	2	62
	Swimming	22	2496
	Table Tennis	2	51
	Taekwondo	39	3926
	Weightlifting	16	862
	Wrestling	3	219
	Wushu	42	8176
	Yogasana	35	5091
	Other	24	2369
2025-26	Athletics	290	20000
	Badminton	29	1131
	Basketball	10	867
	Canoeing & Kayaking	10	661
	Cycling	46	2846
	Football	46	6169
	Hockey	22	918
	Judo	32	3200
	Kickboxing	126	24017
	Pencak Silat	25	5666

F.Y.	Discipline	No. of competitions completed	No. of Participants
	Roll Ball	1	28
	Rowing	3	64
	Rugby	54	6884
	Sepak Takraw	8	603
	Shooting Ball	12	408
	Soft Tennis	33	1144
	Taekwondo	29	5496
	Tennis Ball Cricket	19	678
	Weightlifting	92	4145
	Wushu	43	6600
	Yogasana	42	8756
Total		2285	240261

Source: Data from Khelo India Dashboard, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

Overall, the data (Table 2.26 & 2.27) indicate significant progress in promoting traditional sports, strengthening para-athlete support systems, and enhancing women's participation. The expanding scope, improved performance metrics, and increased financial investments highlight the growing maturity and inclusiveness of the Khelo India ecosystem.

2.6.4 Findings and Suggestions

- **Shortage of Specialised Equipment:** The “one-size-fits-all” approach results in athletes receiving standard equipment, which does not meet the technical and adaptive requirements of each para athlete. Para-athletes, especially in sports such as archery, often require customized equipment for training and competition. Delays in receiving these specialised items and the supply of standard-size equipment, not keeping in mind the athlete-specific requirements, make it impossible for para-athletes to train and perform effectively.
- **Limited Accessible Facilities:** Para-athletes, especially wheelchair users, often require the presence of a helper during both training and competitions to support movement and transport of equipment. Many sports facilities lack structural accessibility and appropriate assistance systems.

- **Inaccessible Accommodation and Transport:** Accommodation and travel arrangements are sometimes the same as those provided for able-bodied athletes. However, certain hotels, transportation options, and event venues may lack accessible rooms, ramps, elevators, and other essential disability-friendly features. This creates physical barriers and additional stress for athletes during travel for training and competitions.

To ensure meaningful inclusion of para-athletes, the provision of sports kits and logistics can consider accessibility requirements for para-athletes. For example, para-athletes with limited mobility or wheelchair users may find it extremely difficult to carry standard sports kit bags. Providing alternatives such as trolley bags or personalised bag formats based on an athlete's disability profile would reduce physical strain and allow them to independently manage their equipment during training and competition.

2.7 Progress of the Scheme - Primary Survey Data Analysis

2.7.1 Findings from the Primary Data Analysis - Perspective of Athletes

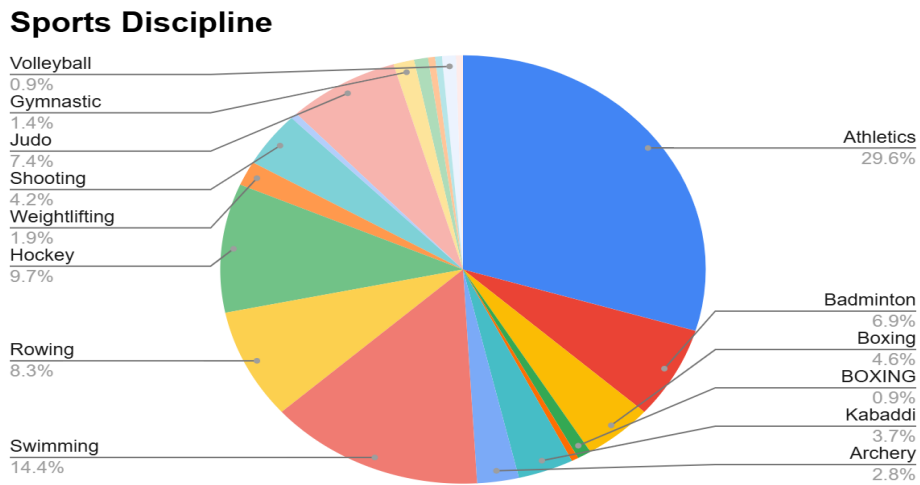
A. Profile of Respondents

The study draws on responses from a diverse sample of 225 athletes, the analysis focuses on assessing the overall welfare of athletes, training support, financial assistance, health and well-being, educational balance, and inclusivity within the sporting ecosystem.

In terms of sports discipline (Fig. 2.2), athletics constitutes the largest share of respondents (29.6%), followed by swimming (14.4%), hockey (9.7%), and rowing (8.3%). Moderate representation is observed in badminton (6.9%), boxing (4.6%), shooting (4.2%), and kabaddi (3.7%). Smaller proportions of athletes are from archery (2.8%), weightlifting (1.9%), gymnastics (1.4%), judo (0.9%), and volleyball (0.9%). Overall, the distribution reflects broad representation across individual and team sports, ensuring diversity in athlete perspectives. The presence of athletes from disciplines such as gymnastics, kabaddi, archery, weightlifting, volleyball, and other sports reflects a cross-section of Olympic, indigenous, and competitive sporting domains, enhancing the inclusiveness of the sample. Regarding the type of training centre (Fig. 2.3), nearly half of the respondents (48.0%) are enrolled in Khelo India State Centres of Excellence (KISCEs), followed by Khelo India Accredited Academies (KIAAs) at 33.8%. A smaller share is associated with Khelo India Centres (KICs) and other institutions, including High Performance Centres (HPC), NCoE and ABSC. All athletes under Khelo India State Centres of Excellence (KISCEs) within the study sample were included. For other types of centres, interviews were conducted only with athletes identified as Khelo India athletes or participants in Khelo India Games.

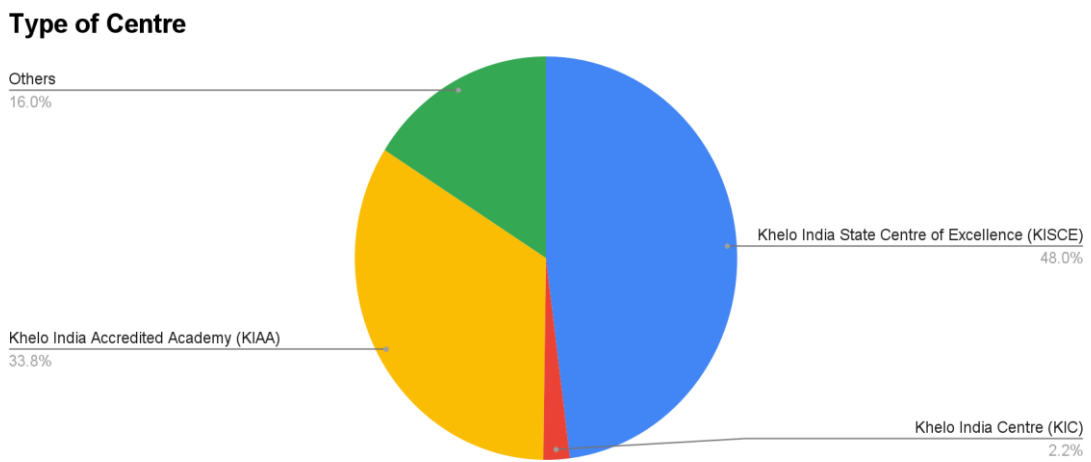
The gender distribution (Fig. 2.4) indicates a relatively balanced participation, with 58.1% male and 41.9% female athletes. A majority of athletes fall within the 15–18 years (43.4%) and 19–22 years (44.8%) age groups (Fig. 2.5).

Fig. 2.2: Distribution of Respondents by Sports Discipline



Source: Data collected through primary survey

Fig. 2.3: Distribution of Respondents by Type of Centre



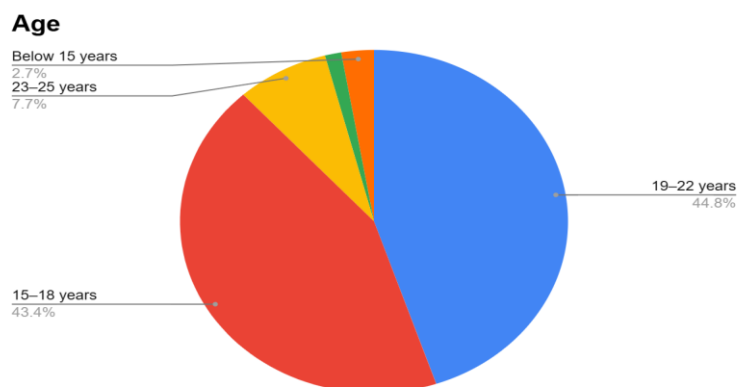
Source: Data collected through primary survey

Fig. 2.4: Distribution of Respondents by Gender



Source: Data collected through primary survey

Fig. 2.5: Distribution of Respondents by Age



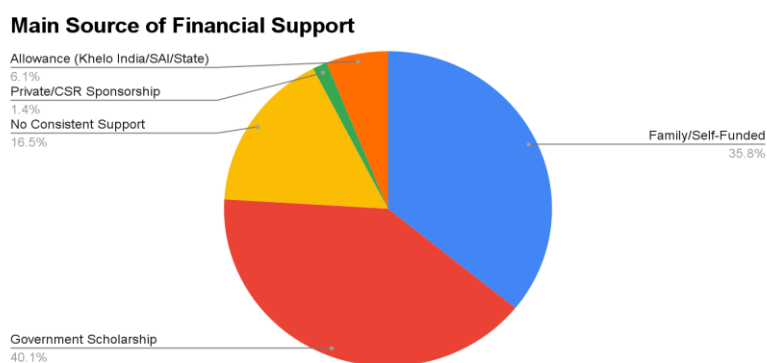
Source: Data collected through primary survey

B. Financial Support

Among the athletes who responded to this question (84.44% of the total sample), family or self-funding remains the most common source of financial support for athletes, accounting for 35.8% of respondents, highlighting the continued reliance on household resources to meet training and competition-related expenses. Government scholarships constitute a significant share (40.1%), reflecting the important role of public support in enabling athlete participation.

In comparison, allowances under Khelo India/SAI/State schemes account for 6.1%, while private or CSR sponsorships remain limited at 1.4%, indicating relatively low penetration of non-governmental funding channels. 16.5% of athletes reported having no consistent source of financial support, pointing to potential areas for enhanced convergence of support mechanisms. Overall, the distribution highlights both the role of government assistance and the continued need to diversify and strengthen financial support mechanisms for athletes. (Fig. 2.6).

Fig. 2.6: Primary Source of Financial Support for Athletes for Training &



Source: Data collected through primary survey

C. Training Facilities and Support System

i) Overall Quality of Training Facilities at KISCES: An analysis of the comprehensive availability of the training facilities and other supporting infrastructure at KISCES (Table 2.28) reveals that except a few facilities (which includes *locker facilities, availability of wi-fi, grievance redressal mechanism, competition exposure routes, mental health professionals and female changing rooms*), most of the facilities (10 out of 16) were found to be available in the respective institutions by at least 50% of the respondents. However, with regard to the operational availability of the same facilities, only six out of 16 facilities were found to be operational by at least 50% of the respondents. The proportion of respondents who consider the facilities comprehensive is found to be further declining. Only two out of 16 facilities were found to be comprehensive by 50% or more respondents. These sheds light on the limited operationalization and maintenance of the facilities at various centres, as highlighted by the respondents. This is further highlighted by the high number of facilities (14 out of 16) in which at least 50% of the respondents felt the facilities need an upgrade.

ii) Access to Facilities: In terms of the provision of opportunities (Table 2.29), almost 72% of the respondents at various institutes felt they got sufficient opportunities to participate in national-level competitions. While 42.9% of the respondents were of the opinion that they received ample opportunities to participate in both district- and state-level competitions. On the other hand, only 32.6% of the respondents received sufficient opportunities to participate in international competitions. Almost 46% of the respondents felt that inadequate funds for travel and participation in competitions prevented them from participating in higher levels of competition (Fig. 2.7).

Among the respondents interviewed (Fig. 2.8), approximately 33% had previously been trained at private academies, while 29% reported being self-trained or having no formal training before joining the programme. With respect to training fees at their earlier training centres, 60.2% of the athletes indicated that they were not required to pay any fees, whereas the remaining 39.8% reported having paid fees at their previous training centres.

Athletes reported multiple areas of improvement (Fig. 2.9) after joining the current centre compared to their previous training facilities. Better coaching quality emerged as the most significant improvement (23.3%), followed by improved sports-science support (20.8%) and hostel/accommodation

facilities (18.7%). Enhancements in equipment and infrastructure were noted by 16.8%, while 13.3% highlighted increased opportunities for competitions and exposure. Financial or scholarship support was mentioned by 6.9% of respondents, with other factors being negligible (0.2%).

Table 2.28: Status of Training Facilities and Support Services at KISCEs (%)

Facility / Support Service	Available	Operational	Comprehensive	Needs Upgrade
Playfield / Training ground	91.59	70.09	60.00	40.00
Indoor training hall	87.85	70.09	57.45	42.55
Court (e.g., Badminton / Basketball, etc.)	54.21	38.32	47.62	52.38
Gymnasium / Fitness Centre	89.72	71.96	49.12	50.88
Sports equipment (discipline-specific)	70.09	59.81	41.46	58.54
Food & Refreshment	91.67	71.96	41.07	58.93
Restroom	77.57	51.40	47.06	52.94
Female changing rooms / Availability of sanitary pads	27.10	15.89	30.00	70.00
Locker facilities	48.60	35.51	26.09	73.91
Adequate lighting	57.01	34.58	20.00	80.00
Physiotherapy / Recovery facilities / Emergency support	68.22	40.19	33.33	66.67
Mental health professionals	32.71	27.10	7.69	92.31
Filling online application forms for competition participation	57.01	33.64	36.36	63.64
Grievance redressal	33.64	19.63	23.08	76.92
Wi-Fi	41.12	30.84	15.79	84.21
Competition & Exposure	33.64	22.43	13.33	86.67

Source: Data collected through primary survey

Table 2.29: Access to Competitive Opportunities at Different Levels (%)

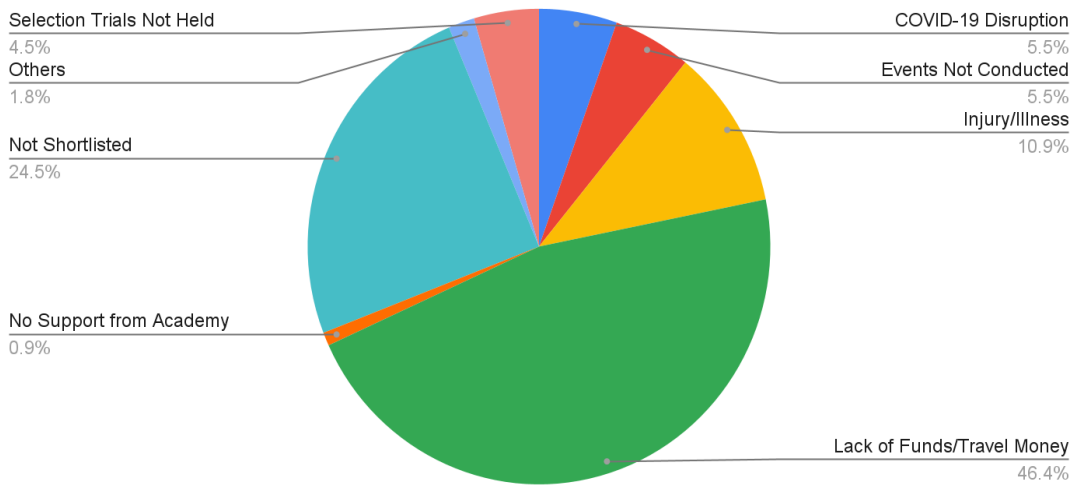
Opportunities at Different Levels	Yes	No
District Level	42.9	57.1
State Level	42.9	57.1
National Level	72.3	27.7

Opportunities at Different Levels	Yes	No
International Level	32.6	67.4

Source: Data collected through primary survey

Fig. 2.7: Reasons for Limited Opportunities at Different Levels

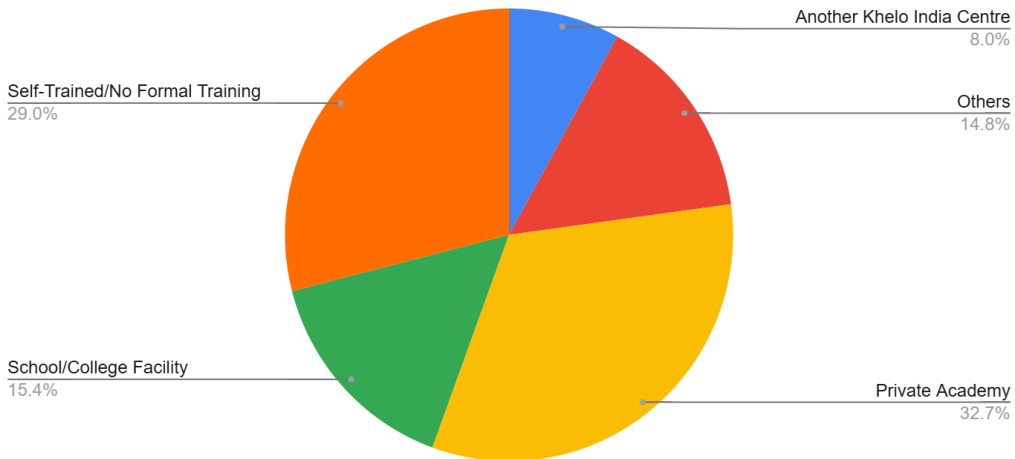
Reasons for Limited Opportunities



Source: Data collected through primary survey

Fig. 2.8: Athletes' Previous Training Centre

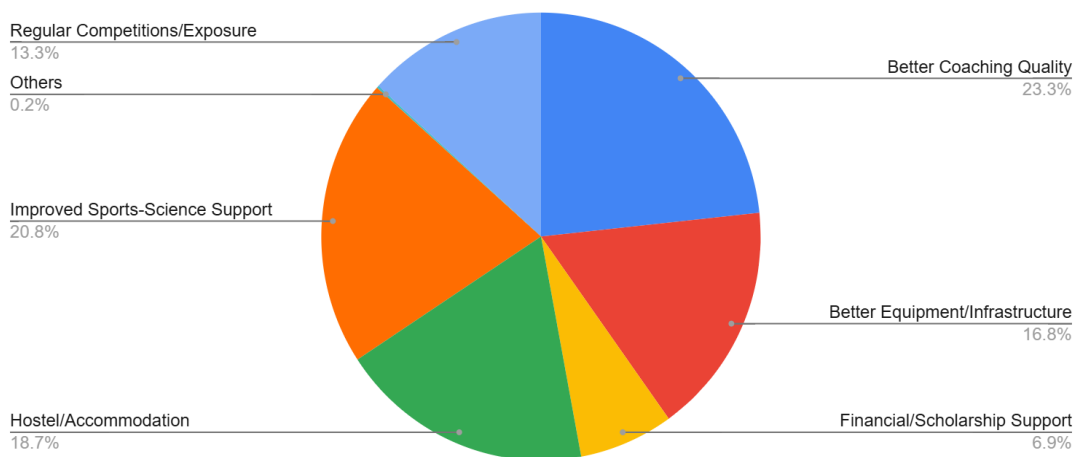
Previous Training Centre



Source: Data collected through primary survey

Fig. 2.9: Additional Facilities in the Current Training Centre

Additional Facilities in the Current Training Centre



Source: Data collected through primary survey

iii) Coaching and Support Staff and Coordination: All respondents (100%) reported receiving regular, sport-specific coaching on a daily basis at the centre, underscoring the strength of the institutional coaching framework (Fig. 2.10).

A significant share of the athletes (Table 2.30) reported a high level of coordination between coaches and support staff across key functional areas. Coordination was strongest in medical support, with 86.1% of respondents indicating that it was *always coordinated*, followed by mental health support (75.3%) and travel arrangements (74.5%). Academic coordination was also reported to be consistently managed, with 67.8% of athletes stating that it was *always coordinated*.

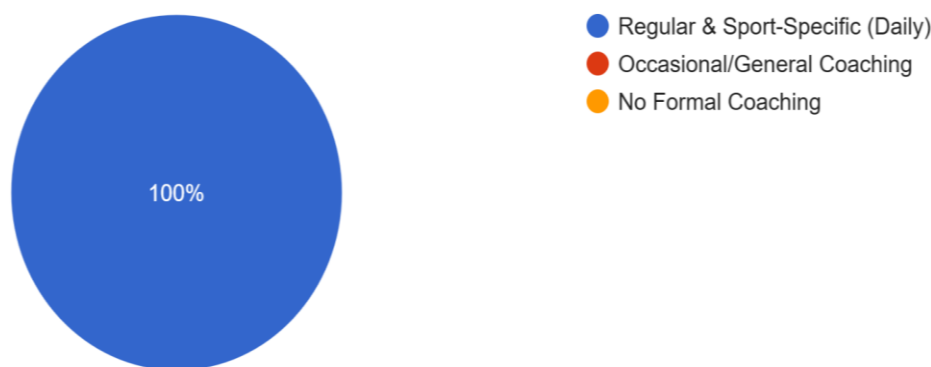
However, a small proportion of respondents experienced limited coordination in certain areas. Academic support recorded the highest proportion of athletes reporting rarely (19.8%) or never coordinated (12.4%) experiences. Similarly, mental health support showed some gaps, with 14% of respondents indicating that coordination was never in place. Therefore, the targeted strengthening particularly in academic and mental health support could further enhance athlete well-being and performance.

Table 2.30: Coordination among Coaches and Support Staff in the Centre (%)

Areas	Always coordinated	Rarely coordinated	Never coordinated
Academics	67.80	19.77	12.43
Travel	74.47	14.89	10.64
Medical Support	86.10	8.02	5.88
Mental Health	75.28	10.67	14.04

Source: Data collected through primary survey

Fig. 2.10: Availability of Coaching Facility

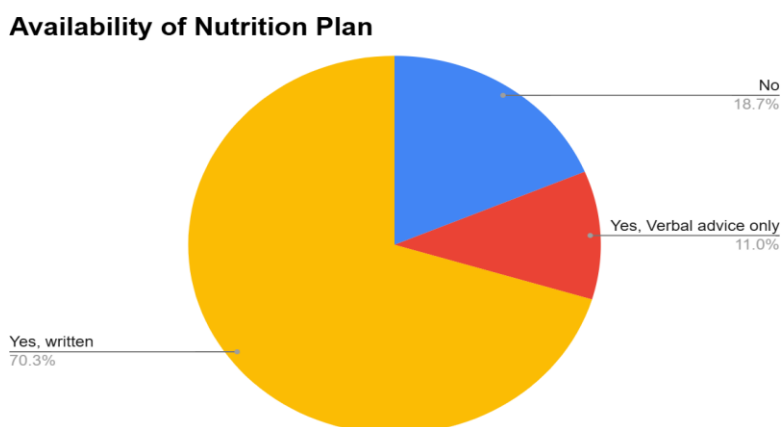


Source: Data collected through primary survey

D. Nutrition and Mental Well-being

i) Nutrition Support: The findings indicate a mixed but largely informal approach to nutritional support at the centre (Fig. 2.11). A proportion majority of respondents (11.0%) reported only receiving verbal nutrition advice, suggesting that while nutrition guidance is being communicated, it is informal and dependent on verbal interactions rather than structured documentation. A larger proportion (70.3%) confirmed receiving a written nutrition plan, reflecting limited availability of standardized, documented dietary guidance tailored to athletes’ needs. Notably, 18.7% reported not receiving any nutrition plan at all, highlighting a significant gap in nutrition support coverage. Overall, the results reveal the need for strengthening and standardizing nutrition services, with greater emphasis on providing written, personalized nutrition plans to ensure clarity and long-term adherence to optimal dietary practices for athletes.

Fig. 2.11: Availability of Nutrition Plan



Source: Data collected through primary survey

With respect to receipt of prescribed nutrition items (Table 2.31), 63.9% of respondents reported that they *receive* the items as per the plan, while 22.2% indicated their neutrality. A notable 13.9% stated that they *do not receive* the prescribed items, pointing to gap in consistent implementation.

In terms of sufficiency of the nutrition plan, perceptions vary across quantity and quality. Regarding quantity, just under half of the respondents (48.4%) felt the quantity was sufficient, while a slightly higher proportion (51.6%) expressed a *neutral* view, suggesting uncertainty or variability in meeting dietary needs; no respondents explicitly reported dissatisfaction with quantity. For quality, a majority (53.7%) rated the nutrition plan positively, 45.5% remained neutral, and only 0.8% expressed dissatisfaction, indicating broad acceptance of nutritional standards with minimal concern over quality.

In terms of the quantity and quality of the nutrition plan, the findings highlight the need to improve consistency in supply and to further align nutritional quantity with athletes’ expectations and training demands.

Table 2.31: Nutrition Support and Adequacy (%)

Availability of Items as per the Nutrition Plan			Quantity			Quality		
Yes	Neutral	No	Yes	Neutral	No	Yes	Neutral	No
63.90	22.20	13.90	48.40	51.60	-	53.70	45.50	0.80

Source: Data collected through primary survey

ii) Mental Health and Stress: In regard to facing mental health challenges in sports (Table 2.32), at the centre, athletes primarily rely on institutional and

interpersonal support, with 28.9% reporting that they talk to coaches or support staff, making it the most common approach. This is followed by seeking support from family or friends (21.2%) and discussions with fellow sportspersons (17.7%), indicating a balanced mix of professional guidance and peer support. A smaller proportion adopt self-coping strategies such as meditation or rest (13.2%), while very few ignore or avoid stress (2.1%), suggesting relatively healthy coping behaviours within the training environment.

At the competition venue, coping mechanisms shift noticeably toward personal and peer-based support systems. Athletes most frequently talk to fellow sportspersons (32.5%) or rely on family and friends (30.5%), reflecting the immediacy and accessibility of these networks during competitions. Self-coping strategies also increase (21.3%), whereas reliance on coaches or support staff declines to 14.7%, possibly due to time constraints or limited access during events. Avoidance remains minimal (1.0%).

However, the findings suggest that while centres provide a supportive environment with accessible coaching and staff, formal mental health support during competitions is relatively limited. Strengthening on-site psychological support and ensuring consistent access to mental health personnel during competitions could further enhance athletes' ability to manage stress effectively.

Table 2.32: Mental Stress Coping Mechanisms (%)

Mechanism Adopted	At the centre	At the competition venue
Ignore/Avoid	2.10	1.00
Rely on Family/Friends	21.20	30.50
Self-Coping (Meditation, Rest)	13.20	21.30
Talk to Coach/Support Staff	28.90	14.70
Talk to Fellow Sportsperson	17.70	32.50

Source: Data collected through primary survey

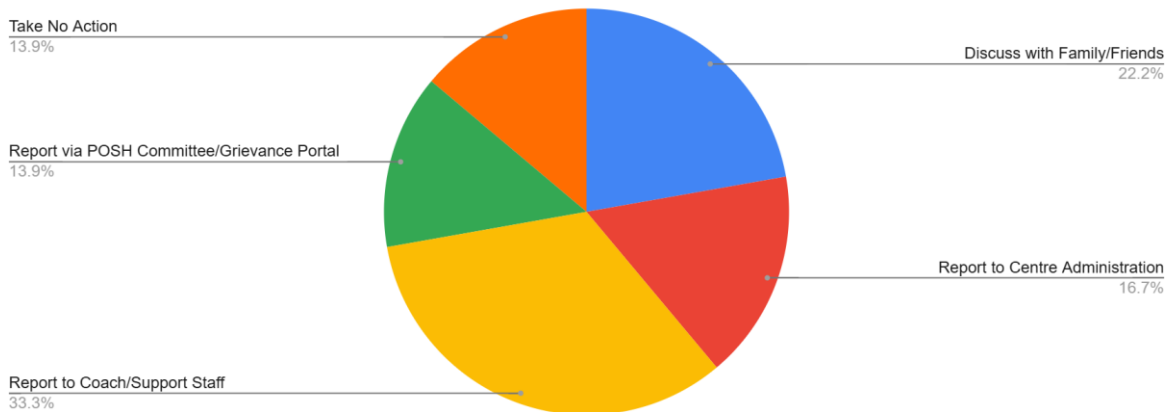
iii) Athlete Training Environment: The findings indicate that harassment is not widely reported, with a substantial majority of respondents (86.9%) stating that they have not experienced any form of harassment at the training centre or during competitions. However, a concerning 13.1% of respondents acknowledged having faced harassment – verbal, physical, sexual, or other forms – highlighting that while incidence is limited, it remains a serious issue that requires continued attention.

Among those who experienced or considered how they would respond to harassment (Fig. 2.12), the most common course of action was to report the matter to coaches or support staff (33.3%), underscoring the central role these personnel play as the first point of contact and trusted intermediaries. This was followed by discussing the issue with family or friends (22.2%), reflecting reliance on personal support systems. Reporting to centre administration or management (16.7%) and using formal mechanisms such as the POSH committee or grievance portal (13.9%) were less frequently cited, indicating moderate awareness or the requirement of institutional redressal systems. Notably, 13.9% indicated that they would take no action or ignore the issue, which signals potential barriers such as fear, stigma, or lack of confidence in reporting mechanisms.

Overall, while the low prevalence of reported harassment is encouraging, the response patterns suggest a need to strengthen awareness, accessibility, and trust in formal grievance redressal mechanisms, particularly POSH committees and grievance portals. Regular sessions, clear communication of reporting pathways, and assurance of confidentiality and non-retaliation could further empower athletes to report incidents promptly and safely.

Fig. 2.12: Actions Undertaken in case of Harassment

Action Undertaken



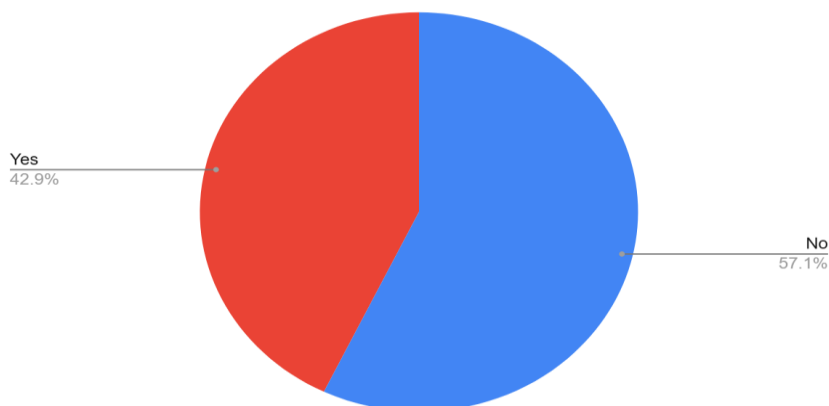
Source: Data collected through primary survey

iv) Doping Awareness : While 42.9% of respondents reported that they had received an anti-doping education workshop, a slightly higher proportion (52.7%) stated that they had not been provided with such training (Fig. 2.13). This suggests that anti-doping awareness initiatives are not being delivered uniformly to all athletes. Ensuring regular, mandatory sessions for athletes at

all levels (grassroot and elite level) – particularly at induction and at periodic intervals – would help build awareness, prevent violations, and promote a culture of clean and fair sports culture across the centre.

Fig. 2.13: Anti-doping Awareness

Anti-doping Awareness



Source: Data collected through primary survey

v) Education: Among the athletes who responded to this question (71.55% of the total sample), the findings indicate a high level of educational engagement among athletes at the centre, with 94.65% reporting that they are currently enrolled in an educational institution, while only 5.35% are not pursuing formal education. This reflects a strong linkage between sports training and continued academic participation.

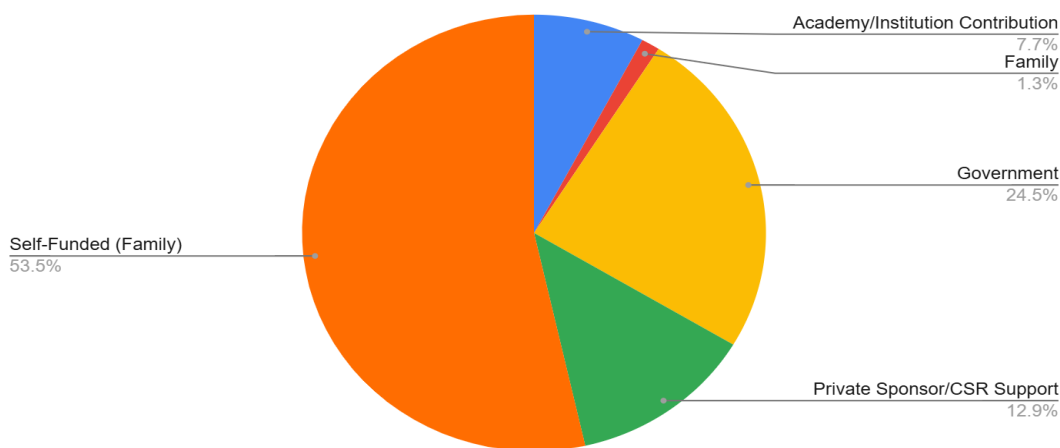
With respect to financing of education (Fig. 2.14), a majority of respondents (53.5%) reported that their education is self-funded by family, underscoring the significant financial responsibility borne by households. Government support accounts for 24.5%, followed by private sponsor/CSR support (12.9%) and academy or institutional contributions (7.7%), indicating a mixed but uneven distribution of financial assistance mechanisms.

In terms of class attendance (Table 2.33), regular academic participation remains a challenge. Only 28.6% of respondents reported attending classes regularly, while almost 46% attend irregularly, only when time permits, and 25.5% do not attend classes regularly at all. This pattern suggests ongoing difficulties in balancing academic commitments with intensive training and competition schedules. 62.7% reported facing difficulty in balancing sports and academics, compared to 37.35% who did not experience such challenges. Reflecting this strain, a substantial 77% expressed a preference for distance or

flexible modes of education, while 23% did not, indicating strong demand for adaptive academic models that accommodate sporting commitments.

Fig. 2.14: Source of Tuition Fee Payment

Who Pays Tuition Fees?



Source: Data collected through primary survey

Overall, while educational enrolment among athletes is commendably high, the findings point to systemic challenges in academic continuity, attendance, and balance. Strengthening institutional coordination, expanding flexible and distance-learning options and providing targeted academic support could play a critical role in ensuring that athletes can concentrate on their education along with focusing on their sports career.

Table 2.33: Education Participation and Academic Balance (%)

Attend classes regularly			Difficulty balancing training and studies		Prefer distance/ open education	
Yes	No	Irregular (only if time permits)	Yes	No	Yes	No
28.60	25.50	46.00	62.70	37.35	77.00	23.00

Source: Data collected through primary survey

E. Inclusivity and Equity:

The findings (Table 2.34) reflect encouraging perceptions of inclusivity and equity within the sporting ecosystem, particularly for women and rural athletes. Nearly half of the respondents strongly agreed that women athletes experience an inclusive environment (46.67%), with very few perceiving gaps (1.33%), indicating meaningful progress toward gender equity. Similarly, rural athletes received strong endorsement, with 44.00% strongly agreeing and only 3.11% noting gaps, suggesting that outreach and access initiatives are yielding visible outcomes

across rural areas. For tribal athletes, while the proportion of strong agreement is comparatively lower (24.44%), the limited perception of gaps (6.67%) alongside responses from athletes beyond this category indicates growing awareness and gradual improvement in inclusion efforts for tribal communities.

Perceptions related to para-athletes and indigenous games, though reflecting lower levels of strong agreement, can be viewed as areas of emerging focus rather than exclusion. Among the athletes who responded, perceptions of gaps remain relatively low, suggesting that existing initiatives for para sports and indigenous games are positively regarded by participants familiar with these domains.

The results highlight steady progress in inclusivity across mainstream categories, while also identifying opportunities to strengthen visibility, participation, and awareness for different categories. This presents a pathway for targeted policy attention and inclusive growth rather than systemic inequity.

Table 2.34: Perceptions of Inclusivity and Equity (%)

Category	Strongly Agree	Neutral	Gap exists	NA
Women	46.67	7.11	1.33	44.89
Rural	44.00	9.33	3.11	43.56
Tribal	24.44	3.56	6.67	65.33
Para Athletes	14.67	6.22	4.44	74.67
Indigenous Games	8.44	7.11	4.00	80.44

Source: Data collected through primary survey

F. Most Significant Change and Outcomes :

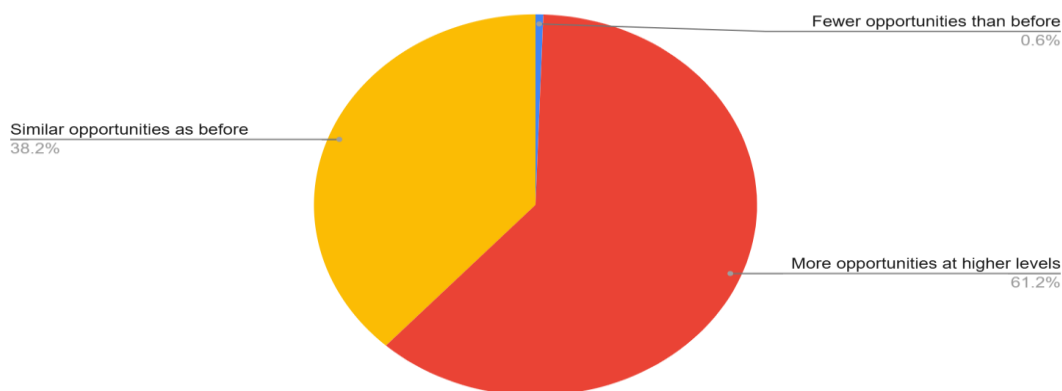
A majority of respondents (61.2%) reported increased opportunities at higher levels after joining the centre, indicating a strong positive impact on athlete progression. Only 38.2% observed similar opportunities as before, and only 0.6% perceived fewer opportunities, reflecting the overall effectiveness of the centres (Fig. 2.15).

The responses clearly indicate that improvements in coaching and training have been the most significant positive change experienced by athletes since joining the centre or receiving support under the scheme (Table 2.35). Nearly 63.83% of athletes identified enhanced coaching quality, training intensity, and sport-specific guidance as the primary benefit, underscoring the central role of structured coaching interventions in athlete development.

A substantial proportion of athletes also reported gains related to sport science and nutrition support (34.29%), reflecting the growing integration of scientific and performance-oriented services within the Khelo India ecosystem. Improvements in equipment and infrastructure (24.29%) further point to better training environments and access to modern facilities. Additionally, 23.57% of athletes cited enhanced overall performance and confidence, suggesting that the combined effects of coaching, scientific support, and infrastructure are translating into tangible performance outcomes.

Fig. 2.15: Opportunities After Joining the Centre

Opportunities



Source: Data collected through primary survey

While fewer athletes highlighted financial support (14.29%) and exposure and competitive opportunities (8.57%) as the most significant changes, these factors still play an important enabling role, particularly for athletes from resource-constrained backgrounds. Notably, only a small minority (4.29%) reported no change, indicating that the programme has had a broadly positive impact on the vast majority of beneficiaries.

Overall, the findings suggest that the Khelo India scheme's strongest contribution lies in strengthening core performance inputs—especially coaching and training—while complementary gains in sport science, infrastructure, and athlete confidence further reinforce career progression. Continued emphasis on holistic support could help translate these improvements into sustained competitive success.

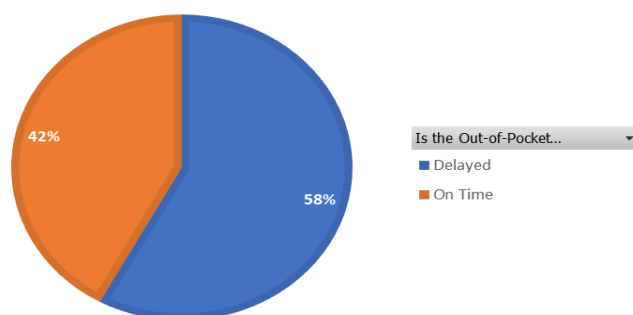
Table 2.35: Most Significant Changes Experienced by Athletes (%)

Outcome	Proportion of athletes citing the outcome
Coaching & Training	63.83
Sports Science & Nutrition	34.29
Overall Performance & Confidence	23.57
Equipment & Infrastructure	24.29
Exposure & Opportunities	8.57
Financial Support	14.29
No change	4.29

Source: Data collected through primary survey

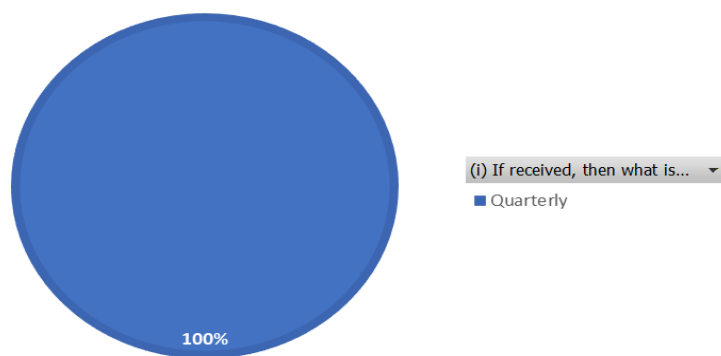
G. Khelo India Athletes: Specific Findings:

While 58% of athletes reported that the Out-of-Pocket Allowance (₹10,000 per month) was “delayed”, a closer examination of responses indicates that this perception is largely linked to limited awareness of the prescribed disbursement cycle (Fig. 2.16). Among athletes who reported delays, all indicated that the allowance was received on a quarterly basis (Fig. 2.17). This suggests that the reported delays do not reflect procedural lapses in fund release, but rather a mismatch between athlete expectations and the scheme’s quarterly payment structure. Athletes expecting monthly transfers may perceive the quarterly lump-sum disbursement as a delay, despite it being in line with operational guidelines. These finding highlights that the OPA is functioning as designed; however, it also underscores the need for clear and consistent communication to athletes regarding payment schedules. Strengthening orientation sessions, issuing simple explanatory advisories, and reinforcing information through coaches and centre administrators could significantly improve awareness, reduce misperceptions, and enhance overall satisfaction with financial support mechanisms.

Fig. 2.16: Athletes’ Perception of OPA Disbursement Timeliness

Source: Data collected through primary survey

Fig. 2.17: Payment Frequency of OPA

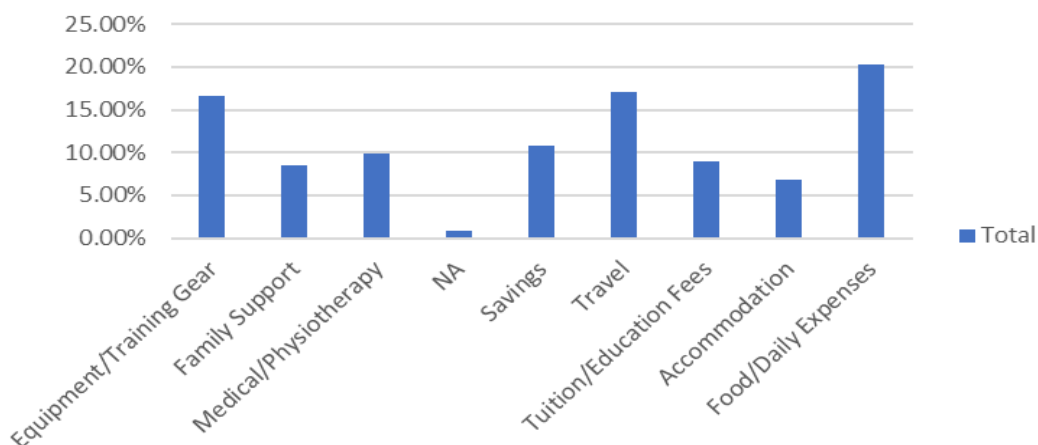


Source: Data collected through primary survey

Athletes primarily utilise the OPA to meet essential daily and training-related needs (Fig. 2.18). The largest share is spent on food and daily expenses (20.27%), followed by travel (17.12%) and equipment/training gear (16.67%), underscoring OPA’s role in sustaining routine training and competition readiness. Spending on medical and physiotherapy needs (9.91%), education/tuition fees (9.01%), and family support (8.56%) highlights the allowance’s broader welfare function, while savings (10.81%) reflects financial planning among athletes. Overall, the pattern indicates that OPA effectively supports both performance requirements and basic livelihood needs of athletes in a flexible and targeted manner.

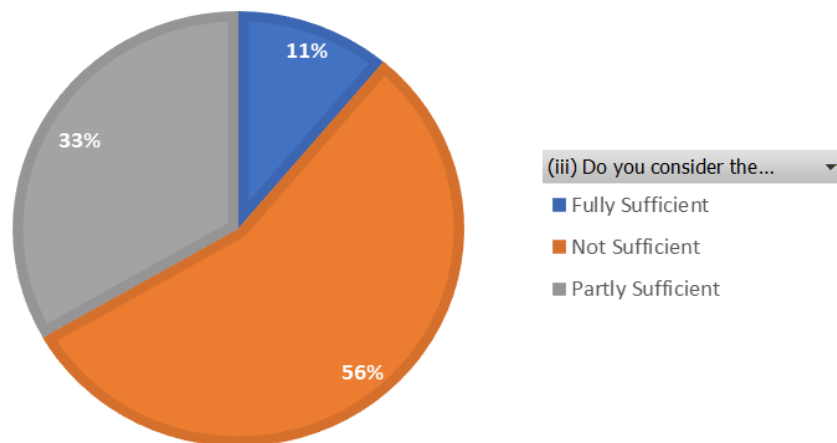
A majority of athletes (Fig. 2.19) feel the current OPA of ₹10,000 per month is insufficient (55.56%), while one-third (33.33%) find it partly sufficient. Only 11.11% consider it fully sufficient, indicating that although OPA provides essential support, it falls short of meeting overall training and living expenses for most athletes.

Fig. 2.18: Utilisation of OPA by Athletes



Source: Data collected through primary survey

Fig. 2.19: Athletes’ Perception of Adequacy of OPA

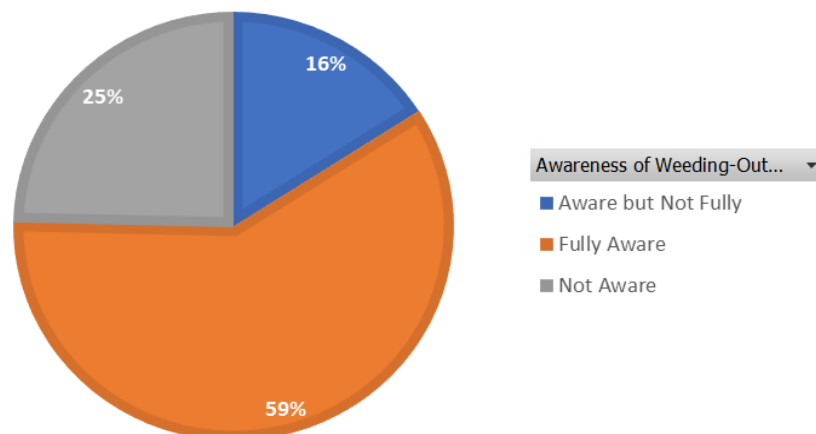


Source: Data collected through primary survey

A majority of athletes (59.42%) reported being fully aware of the performance standards required to remain within the scheme (Fig. 2.20). However, a notable proportion either remain not aware (24.64%) or are aware but not fully (15.94%) of these criteria. This indicates that nearly two-fifths of the athlete cohort lack a complete understanding of the performance benchmarks linked to continued support.

Strengthening structured sensitisation sessions for athletes and parents, along with clear communication of weeding-out thresholds and performance expectations, would help ensure greater transparency, reinforce accountability, and promote a culture of performance-oriented sporting excellence.

Fig. 2.20: Awareness of Weeding-Out Criteria



Source: Data collected through primary survey

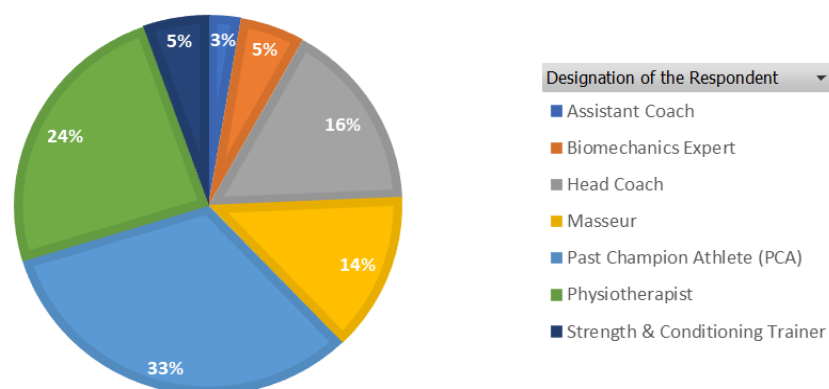
The data reveals a framework that has successfully established a high-performance culture, evidenced by 100% access to daily coaching and a significant 63.8% of athletes citing improved coaching quality as their most vital outcome. The scheme can enhance its impact by formalising nutritional and psychological support, moving beyond the current 70.3% reliance on informal verbal advice and bridging the 52.7% gap in anti-doping education. Furthermore, addressing the academic-sport balance, where 62.7% of athletes currently struggle, through flexible distance-learning models will ensure holistic development central to the scheme's mission. By synchronising these technical improvements with clearer communication regarding the quarterly OPA disbursement cycle, the programme can reduce financial stress and empower its diverse talent pool to focus entirely on achieving national pride and international excellence.

2.7.2 Findings from the Primary Data Analysis - Perspective of Coaches and Support Staff

A. Profile of Respondents:

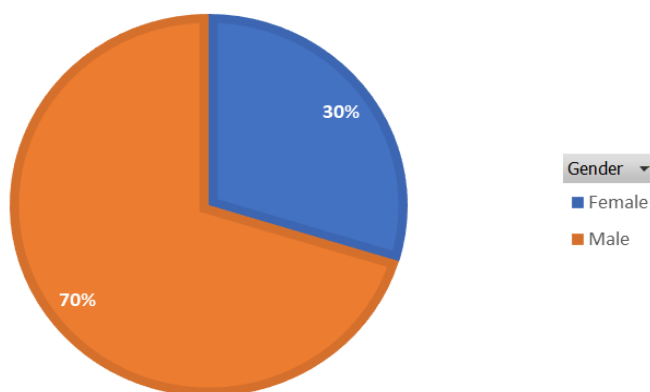
The primary survey was conducted among a diverse cohort of 37 coaches and support staff, including head coaches appointed under the viability gap funding (VGF) component of KISCE and Past Champion Athletes (PCAs) (Fig. 2.21). The respondent profile comprised 70% males and 30% females (Fig. 2.22). Past Champion Athletes formed the largest group of respondents, with 12 PCAs accounting for approximately 32% of the sample. The remaining respondents included 9 physiotherapists, 6 head coaches, 5 masseurs, and specialised personnel such as biomechanics experts (2) and strength and conditioning trainers (2), all engaged through KISCE's VGF support.

Fig. 2.21: Distribution of Respondents by their Designation



Source: Data collected through primary survey

Fig. 2.22: Distribution of Respondents by Gender

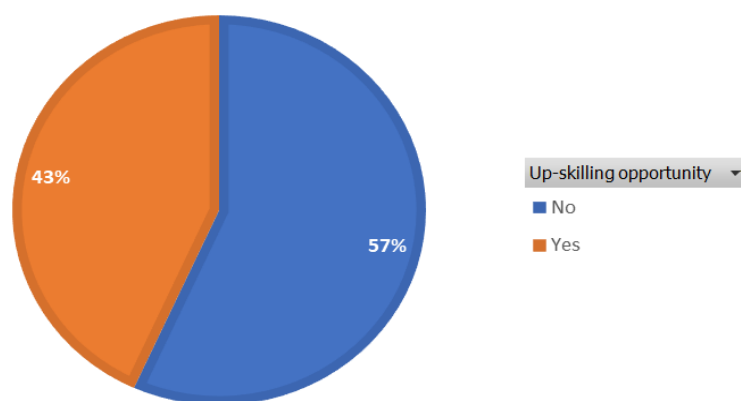


Source: Data collected through primary survey

B. Capacity Building and Up-Skilling Opportunities

i) Upskilling Opportunities: Less than half of the respondents (43%) reported being offered up-skilling opportunities during their association with the Khelo India scheme, while a majority (57%) indicated that they had not received any such opportunities (Fig. 2.23). Among the specific up-skilling opportunities, participation in NIS certification programmes and refresher courses was reported by 35.1% of respondents each. In contrast, exposure to international workshops was relatively limited, with only 8.1% of respondents having access to such opportunities (Table 2.36). These findings suggest that while some structured capacity-building initiatives exist within the scheme, their reach remains uneven, indicating scope for expanding and institutionalising up-skilling opportunities for a larger share of beneficiaries.

Fig. 2.23: Up-Skilling Opportunity



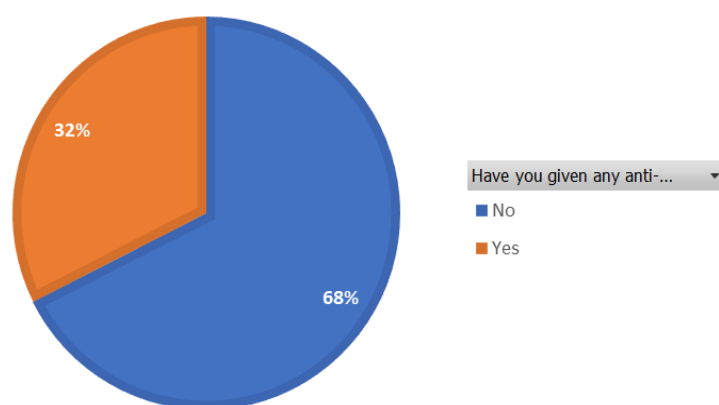
Source: Data collected through primary survey

Table 2.36: Availability of Up-Skilling Opportunities among Respondents (%)

Up-Skilling Opportunities	Yes	No
International workshops	8.11	91.89
NIS Certifications	35.14	64.86
Refresher Courses	35.14	64.86

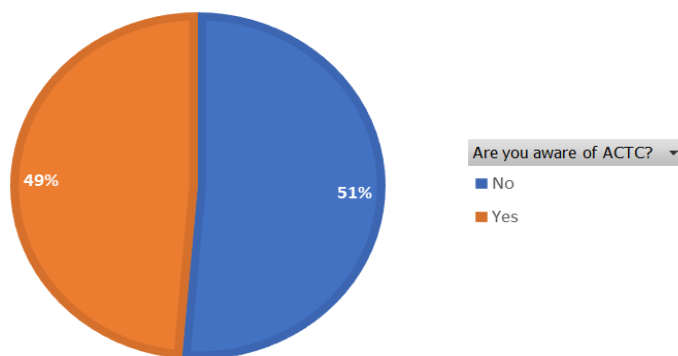
Source: Data collected through primary survey

ii) Anti-Doping Awareness : With regard to anti-doping education, only 32% of coaches and support staff reported that they had conducted anti-doping workshops or training sessions for their students, while a substantial majority (68%) indicated that they had not been provided any such training. This highlights a significant gap in systematic anti-doping awareness initiatives at the centre and underscores the need for regular, structured anti-doping education for athletes (Fig. 2.24).

Fig. 2.24: Anti-doping Awareness

Source: Data collected through primary survey

iii) Awareness about ACTC: The awareness of the Annual Training & Competition Calendar (ACTC), which is a strategic blueprint prepared by the respective sports federations to guide training phases and competition schedules, was found to be limited among coaches and support staff (Fig. 2.25). Only 49% of respondents reported being aware of the ACTC, while a slightly higher proportion (51%) indicated a lack of awareness. This gap suggests the need for better dissemination and orientation on ACTC frameworks to ensure effective alignment between training programmes, competition planning, and long-term athlete development objectives.

Fig. 2.25: ACTC Awareness

Source: Data collected through primary survey

C. Coordination and Support System:

Overall, the working environment at the KISCEs reflects a reasonably well-coordinated and functional ecosystem, particularly within the core coaching structure. Coordination among key coaching personnel such as the Head Coach, Assistant Coaches, and High Performance Director appears to be strong and consistent, enabling effective planning and day-to-day training delivery (Table 2.37).

The instances of poor or rare coordination are minimal. Overall, the KISCEs provides a stable and supportive working environment; however, strengthening structured collaboration between coaching staff and sports-science professionals could further enhance holistic athlete development, injury prevention, and performance optimisation.

Table 2.37: Coordination between Coaches and Support Staff (%)

Designation	Always coordinated	Not Applicable	Rarely coordinated
Assistant Coaches	37.84	62.16	0.00
Biomechanics Expert	18.92	81.08	0.00
Conditioning Expert	32.43	64.86	2.70
Doctor / Sports Injury Staff	27.03	72.97	0.00
Head Coach	57.58	36.36	6.06
High Performance Director	40.54	56.76	2.70
Masseur	40.54	56.76	2.70
Physiotherapist	29.73	70.27	0.00

Designation	Always coordinated	Not Applicable	Rarely coordinated
Strength & Conditioning Trainer	40.54	59.46	0.00
Technical Director	32.43	67.57	0.00
Yoga Instructor	24.32	75.68	0.00

Source: Data collected through primary survey

D. Inclusiveness and Equity:

The perceptions of coaches and support staff indicate a generally positive outlook towards inclusiveness across several social and demographic groups, though with variations (Table 2.38). Inclusiveness of women athletes was reported to be relatively strong, with 78.4% of respondents affirming inclusive practices, while only 5.4% perceived gaps in this area. Similarly, athletes from rural backgrounds were largely considered to be well included, as reported by 75.7% of respondents.

Inclusiveness of tribal athletes was also viewed positively by a majority (64.9%), although nearly one-third (32.4%) of respondents indicated a lack of awareness, suggesting limited engagement or visibility of targeted initiatives. In contrast, inclusiveness of para-athletes emerged as a weaker area, with only 40.5% reporting inclusive practices and a substantial 48.7% indicating unawareness. Inclusiveness related to indigenous games was perceived to be particularly limited, with just 27% of respondents acknowledging inclusive efforts and over two-thirds (67.6%) reporting unawareness. High levels of unawareness regarding para-athletes and indigenous games indicate limited exposure, engagement, or prioritisation of these segments within the existing system.

Table 2.38: Inclusiveness across Different Social and Demographic Groups (%)

Designation	Yes	No	Not Sure
Women	78.38	5.41	16.22
Rural	75.68	2.70	21.62
Para	40.54	10.81	48.65
Tribal	64.86	2.70	32.43
Indigenous Games	27.03	5.41	67.57

Source: Data collected through primary survey

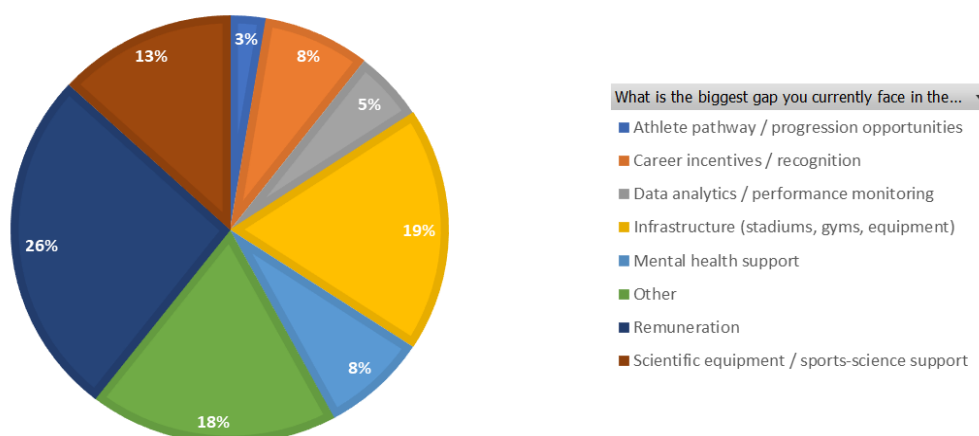
E. Challenges and Constraints:

Coaches and support staff identified remuneration as the most significant gap in the current coaching ecosystem (Fig. 2.26), cited by 26.3% of respondents,

highlighting concerns related to compensation and financial sustainability. This was followed by gaps in infrastructure, including access to adequate stadiums, gyms, and equipment (18.4%), and scientific equipment and sports-science support (13.2%), underscoring limitations in performance-enabling resources.

Issues related to career incentives and recognition (7.9%) and mental health support (7.9%) were also noted, indicating areas where institutional support systems could be strengthened. Gaps in data analytics and performance monitoring (5.3%) and athlete pathway and progression opportunities (2.6%) were reported by fewer respondents, suggesting relatively better clarity or availability in these domains. Overall, the findings point to a coaching ecosystem that would benefit from improved financial incentives, upgraded infrastructure, and enhanced sports-science integration to support both coach motivation and athlete performance outcomes.

Fig. 2.26: Biggest Challenge in the Ecosystem



Source: Data collected through primary survey

F. Most Significant Positive Change After Joining the Centre:

A majority of coaches and support staff (61.11%) identified improved institutional opportunities, infrastructure, and professional exposure as the most significant positive change after joining the centre. This was followed by perceived improvements in athlete performance (25%) and enhanced coaching practices and access to sports science support (27.78%). Overall, the findings indicate that strengthened institutional ecosystems and exposure play a more decisive role than individual performance outcomes in shaping positive staff experiences at the centre (Table 2.39).

Table 2.39: Most Significant Positive Change After Joining the Centre (%)

Most Significant Positive Change	Proportion of coaches and support staff citing the outcome
Institutional Opportunities, Infrastructure, and Exposure	61.11
Athlete Performance Improvement	25.00
Coaching and Sports Science	27.78

Source: Data collected through primary survey

G. About the Past Champion Athletes (PCAs):

The primary survey of 12 Past Champion Athletes (PCAs) reveals that while 60% found the transition from athlete to coach manageable despite some challenges, a significant 70% believe their current salary is inadequate to sustain a coaching career. This financial strain is compounded by administrative issues, as the remaining 30% who found their salary adequate still noted that payments were delayed. Regarding infrastructure, 70% of respondents reported that the ₹5 lakh annual recurring grant ceiling is insufficient, leading to the postponement of major equipment upgrades essential for maintaining high-performance standards. Furthermore, an awareness gap exists regarding the long-term viability of Khelo India Centres (KICs), with 80% of coaches being unaware of efforts to sustain these centres without recurring grants. Addressing these financial bottlenecks and improving role clarity is vital to ensuring that these mentors can effectively contribute to the scheme's mission of achieving national sporting excellence and creating a sustainable grassroots ecosystem.

The coaching and sports science ecosystem highlights a robust and well-coordinated operational foundation, with 61.11% of coaches and support staff identifying improved institutional opportunities and infrastructure as a significant positive outcome of the scheme. While the scheme successfully integrates Past Champion Athletes as mentor, there is a clear opportunity to elevate these centres by institutionalising up-skilling opportunities. Bridging the lack of awareness surrounding anti-doping and the Annual Training & Competition Calendar is essential to align training with modern global standards. Furthermore, while inclusiveness is strong for women and rural athletes, the high levels of unawareness regarding para-athletes and indigenous games signal a need for more visible, targeted initiatives. Integrating these will further empower this workforce to meet the scheme's vision of national pride and sporting excellence.

2.8 Conclusion: The Khelo India Scheme has emerged as a transformative national policy intervention, achieving a significant milestone with a budget allocation of INR 1,000 crore for FY 2025-26, representing approximately 67% approx. of the Department of Sports' total budget.

In the realm of *infrastructure*, the scheme has achieved the completion of 241 projects across 32 States and Union Territories. This component is the most heavily funded, with an outlay of INR 2,175.50 crore, demonstrating a clear prioritisation of capital assets even in remote regions like Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir. Observations suggest that while infrastructure creation is robust, long-term sustainability can be further enhanced by addressing the maintenance funding deficit through proactive state supplementation and the encouragement of Public-Private Partnerships (PPP). It is suggested that the national inventory of playfields on the Geographic Information System (GIS) platform be used for data-driven fund allocation to ensure optimal utilisation of these high-value assets.

The *sports competitions and talent development component* has successfully established a pyramidal structure, reaching a participation milestone of over one lakh individuals across 21 editions of various games. A significant achievement is that 63.8% of athletes identified improved coaching quality as the most positive change in their development. Nutrition plans can be tailored to individual athletes rather than following a single uniform template, taking into account sport type, training load, body composition, and age to optimize performance and health. Food allowances can also be provided for non-residential KIAs and the existing discrepancy of athletes at National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) based on their status as a KIA or non- KIA can also be removed. Considering the increasing cost of competition exposures, equipment and sports science support it is suggested to revise the existing talent identification cost norms. The sports science support also can be extended to a larger pool of athletes. To further elevate this ecosystem toward Olympic Vision 2036, it is important to modernise the framework by incorporating emerging disciplines. For optimal utilisation of funds, accredited academies can be given budgetary flexibility to reallocate funds. There can also be an increase in the number of competitions held at state/district level to further ensure the talent development. For upskilling the coaches and support personnel it is essential to increase the scope and budget allocation for the community coaching development sub-component.

Through *Khelo India Centres and Sports Academies*, the scheme has operationalised 1,067 notified centres, providing a sustainable livelihood for 962 PCAs who serve as grassroots mentors. This component has achieved a fairly quick recruitment process, with 30 States and UTs completing at least 75% of their sanctioned PCA hiring.

However, the current national average hiring rate for KISCE manpower stands at 56%, highlighting a need to address vacancies in specialised roles like nutritionists and physiotherapists. Suggestions includes introducing conditional flexibility in GFR procurement rules for cases where specialized sports equipment is not available under the Make in India mandate, increasing the number of KISCEs per state/UT and new KICs per district, increasing the number of Khelo India supported disciplines in the already efficiently functioning KISCEs, adopting mechanisms to remove the glitches and increase the awareness of NSRS portal, addressing the lack of manpower, establishing State level PMUs and official Centre-SAI-State coordination mechanism can rectify the existing administrative and operational bottlenecks. The Viability Gap Funding (VGF) is proven to be outdated, so renewing the VGF can enhance the operational effectiveness of the Khelo India State Centre of Excellences (KISCEs). Discipline-specific funding in the Khelo India Centres (KICs) and PFMS-based direct payroll systems for Past Champion Athletes (PCAs), implementing a standardized monitoring system to track the distribution of sports kits, consumables, and athlete entitlements, allow conditional discipline reallocation to prevent centres from becoming inactive when coaches exit or when local sports preferences change can further improve the efficiency of KICs. The MoYAS can also envisage opening up the next round of KICs in residential schools with sufficient playfields and other required infrastructure across various districts in the country.

The *Fit India Movement* has achieved massive institutional penetration, reaching approximately 210 million citizens through the Freedom Run and engaging 1.4 million schools in Fit India Week. This people-centric catalyst has successfully transitioned fitness from a competitive pursuit into a national lifestyle priority. To further strengthen this outreach, observations indicate that digital tools like the Fit India Quiz application can be made accessible on all mobile operating systems (including iOS) to ensure equitable participation. Additionally, standardising the collection of longitudinal fitness data through the mobile app will allow for scientifically backed health monitoring across the population.

Promoting inclusiveness through sports has yielded tangible results, particularly through the ASMITA Leagues, which expanded to 18 disciplines and engaged over 2.4 lakh women participants. While these achievements are commendable, observations show that para-athletes often face challenges with "one-size-fits-all" standard equipment. It is suggested that logistics be customised such as providing trolley bags for wheelchair users, and that structural accessibility in training venues be prioritised to ensure meaningful inclusion for athletes with disabilities.

In summary, the Khelo India Scheme has successfully established a high-performance culture and a decentralised ecosystem that empowers grassroots talent across diverse demographics.



Section 3

ASSISTANCE TO NATIONAL SPORTS FEDERATIONS (ANSF)

3.1 Introduction: National Sports Federations (NSFs) are autonomous bodies, recognised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS) for various disciplines. Since the various federations need to be recognised by the Government on an annual basis, the number of recognised federations keeps fluctuating every year. While there existed 53 recognised NSFs in the country in 2022, the number fell to 45 in the year 2024, and at present, 53 sports federations are recognised by the government. Since these recognised federations in India are also affiliated with the world or continent equivalent of these federations, they have an imperative role in promoting and developing their respective sports disciplines by emphasizing on enhancing the training and skill development of the Indian contingent. Besides promoting and developing their respective sports disciplines, NSFs must also generate their own sources of revenue to finance their day-to-day operations. The ANSF Scheme, formulated in 2001, has undergone multiple revisions and amendments with an aim to support NSFs and other sports organisations. This assistance encompasses organising national championships, hosting international tournaments within India, facilitating participation in international tournaments abroad, conducting coaching camps, procuring necessary sports equipment, and engaging the services of foreign coaches and other support staff to enhance training and skill development. The scheme was also revised in 2025, keeping in mind the inflationary pressures and the commencement of a new Olympic cycle. In the 2025 revised guidelines, the government has not only increased the per-day dietary needs for senior athletes (from ₹690 per day to ₹1000) and junior athletes (₹480 to ₹850), greater assistance for national championships, mandatory appointment of High

Performance Directors (HPDs) for NSFs having a budget of ₹10 crores or more, earmarking at least 20% of their budgets for grassroots development, etc. All other provisions under the Scheme, such as the category of sports disciplines, entitlement limits, etc. shall be governed by the instructions issued by the ministry from time to time with the availability of assistance depending on factors including its entitlement as per its category (*High Priority, Priority, General*), its current performance, availability of resources under the scheme, assessment of its functioning etc. All NSFs are required to submit a plan or proposal that aligns with the discipline's 4-year Olympic cycle, along with an annual financial statement, funding requirements on an annual basis and periodic milestones in the 4-year cycle.

3.2 Key Achievements of the Scheme: The ANSF Scheme, formulated in 2001, has undergone multiple revisions and amendments with an aim to support NSFs and other sports organisations in the form of financial support, which can be directed towards athletes' training, sports equipment and supporting infrastructure, coaches and supporting staff, etc., along with financial assistance for their participation in international competitions. The Ministry has continually revised and updated the guidelines in order to keep pace with the changing needs of the sports ecosystem of the country and in particular, the sportspersons of the country. Post the revised 2025 guidelines, the MoYAS has not only introduced the mandatory requirement for the NSFs to earmark at least 20% of their annual budgets for grassroots development of their sports discipline but also enhanced the diet charges for senior and junior athletes, increased the funding for hosting international events and national championships. These measures would not only aid in advancing India's position in the global sports ecosystem but also enhance the competitiveness of the Indian athletes when they participate in international competitions.

3.3 Methodology: The Ministry has categorised various sports disciplines into three major categories: *high priority (HP), priority (P) and general*, depending on the performance of the various sports disciplines in international events such as the Olympics, Commonwealth Games (CWG), World Championships and Asian Games. Additionally, '*high priority disciplines*' are also the disciplines that are played in the Olympics and have won medals in CWG, Asian Games, etc. and have a higher probability of winning medals in the Olympics. On the other hand, '*priority disciplines*' can include popular mass games in which India has won medals internationally (Olympics, Asian Games, CWG) and India ranks at least 6th and 8th places in individual and team events, respectively. The rest of the sports disciplines are categorised under the '*General*' category. The study aims to cover six sports disciplines in total, with two sports disciplines in each of the three categories (HP, P and G). The study conducted primary surveys with *Archery* and *Hockey* Federations

under High Priority category and *Paralympics* Federation and *Yogasana Bharat* Federation under Priority category, and *Netball* Federation and *Shooting Ball* Federation under General Category.

3.4 Progress of the Scheme – Secondary Data Analysis:

3.4.1 Funds Utilisation: Once we look at the utilisation of funds by the Ministry for the Scheme over the last two years, we find that the actual estimates were almost equal to the budget estimates (98.94% in 2023-24 and 100% in 2024-25). This, in turn, reflects the efficiency of the projection process and administrative efficiencies. Based on the data received from the Ministry, Table 3.1 provides a summary of the allocated budget for 38 sports federations for the years 2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25. Based on the total allocation for the three years, *athletics*, *shooting*, *badminton*, *hockey* and *boxing* are found to be the highest-funded federations among all. Except for football and Paralympics, all eight disciplines in the top ten funded federations are categorised as high-priority disciplines.

Table 3.1. Allocated Budget for National Sports Federations

(₹ in crore)

S. No.	Sports	Allocated			Total Allocation
		2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	
1	Athletics (HP)	30.00	24.00	26.00	80.00
2	Shooting (HP)	24.00	25.00	26.23	75.23
3	Badminton (HP)	24.00	24.00	26.00	74.00
4	Hockey (HP)	24.00	24.00	26.00	74.00
5	Boxing (HP)	24.00	24.00	22.00	70.00
6	Paralympics Committee of India	18.50	24.00	18.25	60.75
7	Archery (HP)	15.85	16.00	16.45	48.30
8	Wrestling (HP)	20.00	22.00	Case to Case basis	42.00
9	Table Tennis (HP)	8.00	11.00	12.00	31.00
10	Football	15.00	6.95	8.78	30.73
11	Weightlifting (HP)	11.00	9.00	9.00	29.00
12	Cycling	8.00	6.00	7.55	21.55
13	Rowing	5.00	5.93	8.13	19.06

S. No.	Sports	Allocated			Total Allocation
		2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	
14	Fencing	5.00	5.00	8.98	18.98
15	Sailing/Yachting	5.20	7.39	6.00	18.59
16	Judo	5.00	5.00	8.55	18.55
17	Tennis	5.50	6.50	6.50	18.50
18	Deaf	6.97	3.77	5.54	16.28
19	Special Olympics Bharat	5.00	8.82	2.26	16.08
20	Chess	5.50	4.18	5.20	14.88
21	Equestrian	6.00	8.00	0.12	14.12
22	Volleyball	3.00	3.80	4.28	11.08
23	Sepaktakraw	3.50	3.90	3.50	10.90
24	K&C	3.50	3.00	4.20	10.70
25	Squash	3.20	3.00	4.45	10.65
26	Kabaddi	2.10	4.50	4.00	10.60
27	Kho Kho	6.00	1.50	2.59	10.09
28	Gymnastics	3.00	3.00	3.56	9.56
29	Swimming	5.50	3.52	Case to Case basis	9.02
30	Basketball	3.50	3.80	1.63	8.93
31	Bridge	2.70	2.88	2.75	8.33
32	Yogasana Bharat	1.30	1.90	4.79	7.99
33	Handball	2.25	2.71	3.00	7.96
34	Rugby Football	2.00	3.43	2.33	7.76
35	Golf	2.20	0.85	4.47	7.52
36	Billiards & Snooker	2.00	2.10	1.85	5.95
37	Wushu	5.00	5.00	5.50	15.50
38	Others	0.00	0.00	3.45	3.45
Total		322.27	319.43	305.89	947.59

Source: Data provided by the Sports Authority India (SAI)

In Table 3.2 below, the allocation and expenditure of funds by 25 sports federations over the last three years (2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25), as reported in Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2225 answered on 07.08.2025, are presented. The final column reports the average expenditure share for these three years. The average utilisation of funds (*expenditure as a share of allocation*) for the three years (2022-23 to 2024-25) is also reported. Yogasana Bharat (NSF for Yogasana), formed recently in 2020, has spent a meagre 18% of the allocated funds under the ANSF Scheme over the last three years. Yogasana Bharat is followed by the Volleyball Federation (48.14%) and Billiards and Snooker Federation of India (64.20%). Out of the 25 National Sports Federations (NSFs) for which data is available, 13 NSFs have, on average, utilised less than 80% of the funds allocated during the period 2022-23 to 2024-25. This underutilisation is primarily attributable to restrictions on the release of approved budgets under the Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSF) Scheme, owing to an ongoing court case related to the scheme during that period. This necessitates that the MoYAS keep vigilance on the usage of funds that are allocated under the ANSF Scheme to various NSFs under various heads.

Table 3.2. Budget Allocation and Actual Expenditure -2022-23 to 2024-25

(₹ in crore)

S.No.	NSF/Discipline	2022-23		2023-24		2024-25		Average Expenditure as % of Allocation
		Allocated	Exp	Allocated	Exp	Allocated	Exp	
1	Yogasana Bharat	1.30	0.51	1.90	0.00	4.89	0.75	18.19
2	Volleyball	3.00	0.01	3.80	2.74	4.39	3.16	48.14
3	Billiards & Snooker Federation of India	2.00	1.99	2.10	1.12	2.49	0.99	64.20
4	Basketball Federation of India	3.50	3.49	3.80	2.74	4.75	1.24	65.97
5	Rowing Federation of India	5.00	4.75	5.93	4.45	8.13	2.37	66.40
6	Kho Kho Federation of India	6.00	4.17	1.50	0.74	2.59	2.32	69.47
7	Archery Association of India	15.85	11.32	16.00	13.50	16.45	9.27	70.72
8	Paralympics Committee of India	18.50	18.15	24.00	19.18	22.71	11.69	76.50
9	Squash Rackets Federation of India	3.20	3.20	3.00	2.21	4.45	2.52	76.77
10	All India Chess Federation	5.50	5.01	4.18	4.18	5.20	2.08	77.03

S.No.	NSF/Discipline	2022-23		2023-24		2024-25		Average Expenditure as % of Allocation
		Allocated	Exp	Allocated	Exp	Allocated	Exp	
11	Handball	2.25	1.25	2.71	2.20	1.24	1.24	78.91
12	All India Council of the Deaf	6.97	6.85	3.77	1.88	5.53	4.97	79.34
13	Wrestling Federation of India	20.00	19.69	22.00	13.39	Case to Case	13.79	79.66
14	Swimming Federation of India	5.50	3.50	3.52	3.40	Case to Case	1.26	80.11
15	Boxing Federation of India	24.00	22.98	24.00	21.00	22.00	12.95	80.70
16	All India Football Federation	15.00	14.49	6.95	6.65	8.78	4.38	80.72
17	Indian Rugby Football Union	2.00	1.78	3.43	3.00	3.00	2.08	81.93
18	Special Olympics Bharat	5.00	4.54	8.82	7.72	2.81	1.97	82.81
19	Indian Weightlifting Federation	11.00	11.00	9.00	7.50	9.00	6.50	85.19
20	Table Tennis Federation of India	8.00	8.00	11.00	9.50	12.00	10.04	90.01
21	Badminton Association of India	24.00	21.00	24.00	22.00	26.00	23.69	90.09
22	Athletics Federation of India	30.00	27.00	24.00	23.50	26.00	21.56	90.28
23	Hockey India	24.00	24.00	24.00	21.15	26.00	22.52	91.58
24	Bridge Federation of India	2.70	2.49	2.88	2.64	2.75	2.52	91.84
25	National Rifle Association of India	24.00	24.00	25.00	25.00	26.23	23.45	96.47

Source: Data provided by SAI

3.4.2 Component-Wise Expenditure: The expenditure data on various components of spending for all the NSFs combined for the years 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 were also collected. A look at the share of expenditure under each component reveals that for all three years, the share of expenditure on participating in international tournaments held abroad (including training and acclimatisation abroad) is the maximum. While in 2022-23, the NSFs spent 55% of the total grants on tournaments held abroad, the comparative figures for 2023-24 and 2024-25 were 66% and 50%. In 2022-23 and 2023-24, the component that witnessed the next highest expenditure share was organising international tournaments in India (4.16% in 2022-23 and 5.20% in 2023-24). In 2024-25, this share had fallen to a meagre 1.8%. On the other hand, in this year, the component

on 'Expenses to meet the infrastructure gaps in the National Coaching Camp, including augmentation of capacity of hostels and Modernisation' constituted almost 4.78% of the entire grants disbursed by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

One point to note is the minuscule share of grants utilised towards sports science, sports research and analysis in all three years for which data is obtained, though there is an uptick. For instance, in 2022-23, a meagre 0.014% of the grants were utilised for 'meeting the cost of sports science and sports medicine. In 2023-24, 0.143% of the grants were utilised towards 'sports science and sports medicine' and 'purchase of sports science equipment'. This low level of utilisation can be attributed to the absence of a dedicated budget head for Sports Science under the earlier norms. However, under the revised norms issued in 2025, an enhanced provision of ₹5,000 per athlete has been approved exclusively for testing under Sports Science and Sports Medicine for testing of athletes on quarterly basis, medical condition, fitness level and bio-mechanics in compliance with the defined protocols specially before proceeding for major events, representing an increase from the earlier approved amount of ₹2,500. In addition to this, under the revised norms issued in 2025, training of sports scientists has been brought under the scheme, contributing to added impetus towards a sports science-centric approach. Since, under the revised guidelines in 2025, the MoYAS aims to adopt a scientific approach to the training of participants that can aim to achieve optimum athlete health and performance, the NSFs can significantly increase their expenditure on the sports science component.

Table 3.3: Expenditure Details head code-wise in r/o ANSF Scheme (in ₹)

Particular	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Coaching Camps (Trainees)	48390031.00	149058103.00	109256180.00
Holding of National Tournaments	40073238.00	69736812.00	35787500.00
Holding of International Tournaments in India	96239676.00	164707364.00	45686740.00
Sports Kit for national campers	16048908.00	7076321.00	499731.00
Sports Development and outreach programmes	–	20250.00	27061889.00
Hosting of mega sports events	–	–	5223329.00
To meet the cost of sport science and sports medicine including research, analysis etc	323911.00	108726.00	15501865.00
Participation in International	1282266388.00	2114803935.00	1263560009.00

Particular	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Tournaments held abroad (including Training and acclimatization abroad)			
Implementation of Bilateral & Multilateral agreements and commitments relating to international co-operation & diplomatic relations	1126655.00	13575.69	1808745.00
Engagement of foreign coaches, high performance coaches, national coaches and other coaches	33204201.00	122478010.00	33486938.00
Engaging support personnel for the athletes, such as doctor, physio, psychologists, masseuse, video analysts, etc.	8788033.00	3115713.00	21220519.00
Training of sports scientists, coaches and support personnel	-	-	1106281.00
Professionalization of operation and functions of the NSFS	9860445.00	17762926.00	19780549.00
Supporting the bodies that might be in place for dispute resolution, election etc	-	1531973.00	4830.00
Executive support and secretarial assistance to the empowered Steering Committee constituted by the Government, recommended by the Government	3235019.00	3009168.00	2179411.00
Expenses to meet the critical infrastructure gaps in the National Coaching Camp including augmentation of capacity of hostels, modernisation	-	-	121515366.00
Advance to Various Federation	227000461.00	-172847574.26	531164535.00
Publicity & Advertisement		19616123.00	-
Special Cash Award for Sportsperson	114503.00	1000.00	-
Bank Charges	5911.80	164.00	-
Remittance to Unit/Centre	548393266.00	562345232.00	298279083.00
Purchase of Computers	892970.00	639402.00	-
Purchase of Furniture & Fixtures	-	37465.00	-
Purchase of Sports Equipment/Sports Science Equipment	-	107081710.00	10073024.00

Particular	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Grand Total	2315963617.00	3170296399.00	2543196524.00

Source: Data provided by the SAI

Finally, in 2024-25, the NSFs, in aggregate, spent 0.65% on 'meeting the cost of sports science and sports medicine' and 'training of sports scientists, coaches and support personnel'. At present, though the share of expenditure by NSFs on sports science is less than one percent, the numbers show an upward trend over the last few years. Additionally, there also seems to be prioritisation of funding on elite sports and sporting events rather than a significant focus on grassroots or developmental sporting events in the last few years. The revised norms focus on grassroots development through the mandated expenditure of at least 20% of the annual budgets of NSFs that, were recently announced in 2025. It remains to be seen the extent to which NSFs are able to spend on grassroots and developmental sports in the coming years.

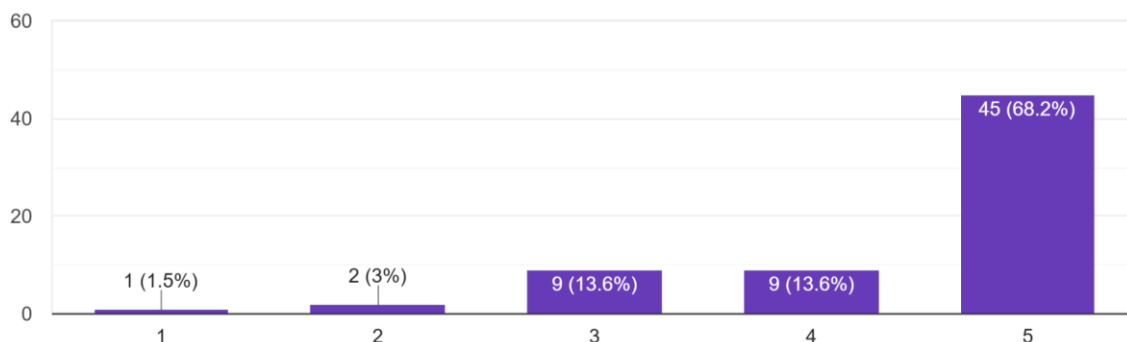
3.5 Progress of the Scheme - Primary Survey Data Analysis: The questionnaire and data collected from national camp participant sportspersons point to a strong and encouraging foundation in India's high-performance ecosystem, particularly with respect to human capital. Athletes report high levels of confidence in the quality of coaching, access to sports science support, and the fairness and transparency of selection and governance processes. These elements have translated into tangible outcomes, including measurable improvements in performance and rankings following participation in national camps, underscoring the effectiveness of the technical and scientific support framework currently in place.

At the same time, the findings indicate that operational systems are in a phase of transition, with scope for further strengthening to complement the gains achieved through high-quality coaching and training fully.

3.5.1. Coaching and Technical Development: The most resounding success of the current camp structure is the quality of technical training and mentorship. The survey data points (Fig. 3.1) to Impact on Performance as the program's strongest asset. A dominant 68.2% of athletes reported a "significant improvement" (rated 5/5) in their performance or ranking following the support, with another 13.6% rating it highly at 4/5.

Fig. 3.1: Contribution of Coaches and Support Staff to Performance Improvement

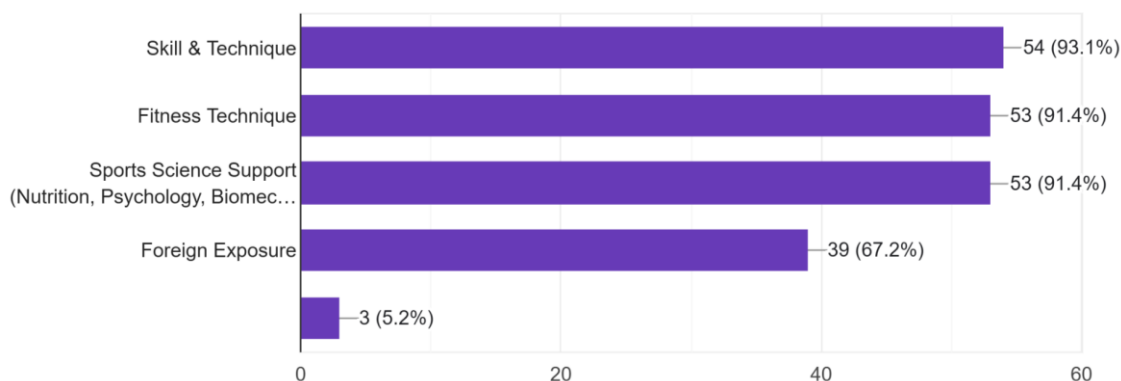
(Likert 1-5) 1=No improvement, 5=Significant improvement



Source: Data collected through primary survey

Qualitative feedback reinforces this, with athletes citing "world-class coaching" and improvements in "speed, technique, skill" as direct outcomes of the camps. The scope of training provided is remarkably comprehensive. High engagement rates were reported across three critical pillars: *Skill & Technique, Fitness Technique and Sports Science Support*. (Fig. 3.2)

Fig. 3.2: Type of Training Received under ANSF Camps



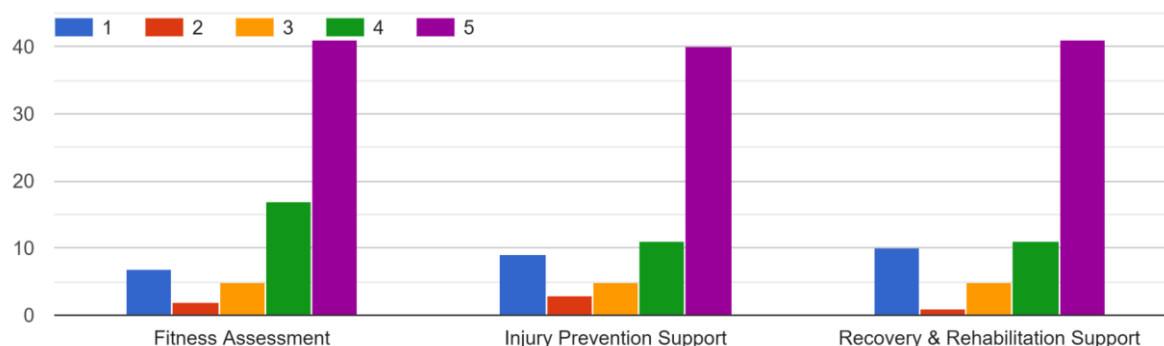
Source: Data collected through primary survey

While domestic training is rated highly, "Foreign Exposure/Training Abroad" was the least accessed training type, reaching only 67.2% of participants. Qualitative data reflects a strong demand for this to improve, with requests for "more foreign exposure", "international level facilities", and opportunities to train with international athletics teams to bridge the gap to the podium. As a large pool of athletes is enrolled under the National Coaching Camp, training abroad is not extended to all such athletes. The selection of athletes for foreign training camps and international competitions rests entirely with the respective National Sports

Federations (NSFs) and depends on various factors such as qualification of the athlete for the tournaments either individually or as per norms prescribed by MoYAS from time-to-time, positions secured in selection trials, selection policy of the NSFs, etc. The highest satisfaction metric across the entire dataset belongs to the coaching staff. 68.2% of athletes gave a perfect 5/5 rating to the coaches and support staff for their role in performance improvement.

3.5.2. Sports Science: Integrating Data with Development: Modern athletics is data-driven, and the camps have successfully integrated scientific rigor into daily training. Athletes rated the specific pillars (Fig. 3.3) of sports science, which include Fitness Assessment, Injury Prevention, and Recovery & Rehabilitation – overwhelmingly positively, with the "Excellent" (5/5) rating being the dominant response for all three categories.

Fig. 3.3: Quality of Sports Science Support Likert 1-5 (1=Not Received, 5=Excellent)

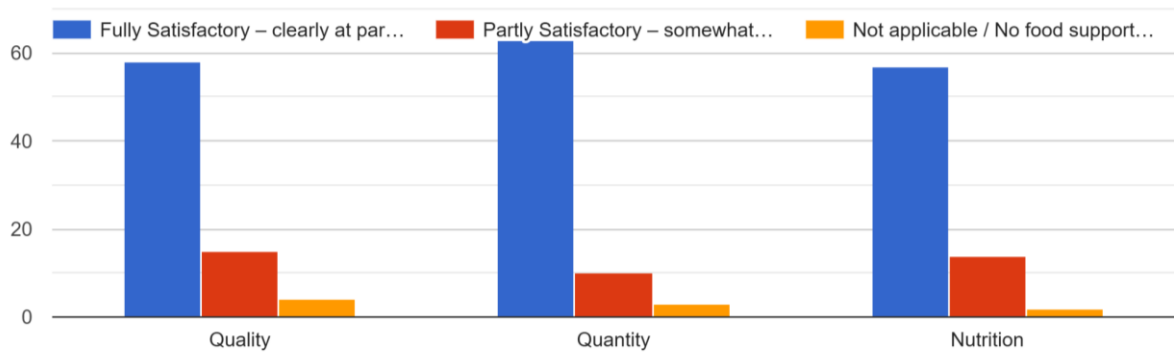


Source: Data collected through primary survey

Athletes noted that they were able to "adjust training plans according to test results," indicating a feedback loop between the scientific staff and the training ground. However, a small minority of athletes (indicated by the blue bars in the charts) reported not receiving these assessments, suggesting that while the service is excellent, universal coverage has not yet been achieved.

3.5.3. Infrastructure and Nutrition : Dietary provision is a standout success. When assessing Quality, Quantity, and Nutrition, the response was "Fully Satisfactory," way higher than all other responses. Athletes explicitly mentioned that "diet improved our skills," validating the focus on nutritional science (Fig. 3.4).

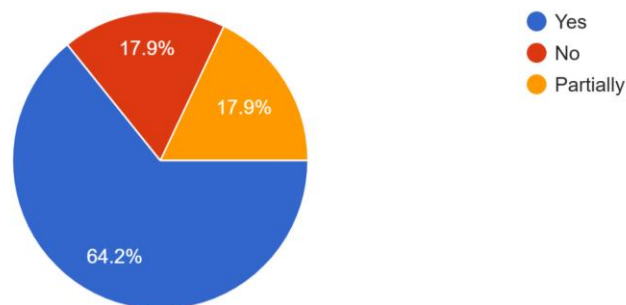
Fig. 3.4: Food & Nutrition Support during Camps



Source: Data collected through primary survey

While 64.2% of athletes felt training facilities met international standards, a concerning 35.8% felt they were only "partially" comparable (Fig. 3.5).

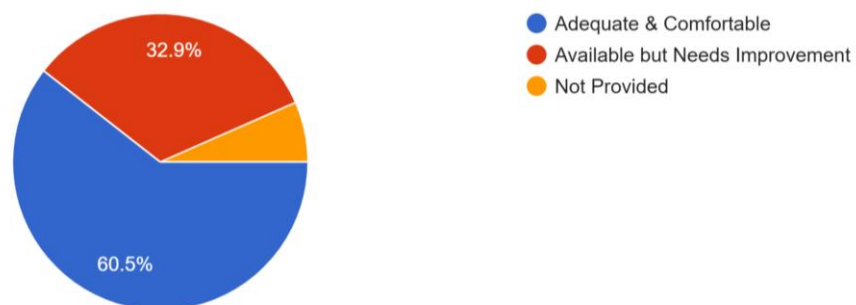
Fig. 3.5: Adequacy of Training Facilities vis-à-vis International Standards



Source: Data collected through primary survey

Similarly, regarding boarding and lodging, while 60.5% found it adequate, 32.9% reported that while available, it "needs improvement" (Fig. 3.6).

Fig. 3.6: Boarding and Lodging Adequacy during Competitions

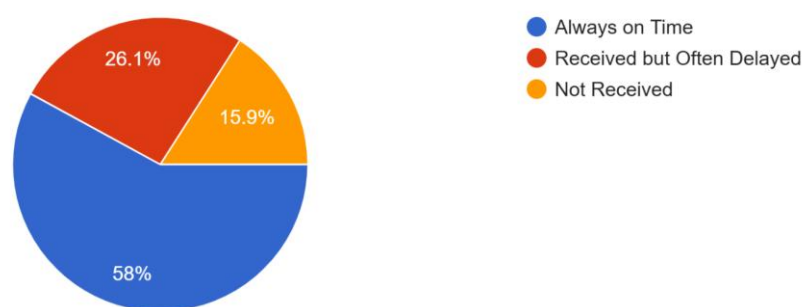


Source: Data collected through primary survey

This suggests that while the training *grounds* are often good, the athlete *housing* creates a gap in the recovery environment. As per the prescribed norms, boarding and lodging of athletes during National Coaching Camps conducted at any Sports Authority of India (SAI) centre are borne by the Government under the ANSF Scheme. However, provision of boarding & lodging during domestic competitions other than National Championship (as prescribed in the norms), to the participating athletes rests with the concerned NSF and is not covered under the ANSF scheme. As per the revised norms, a total of ₹ 2000 per person per day, along with diet charges of ₹1000 per person per day, is spent on athletes' boarding & lodging during the National Coaching camp.

3.5.4. Operational Friction: Equipment and Logistics: While the training is top class, the logistical support often struggles to keep pace. While studying the equipment supply chain, there is a notable inefficiency in the provisioning of sports kits (Fig. 3.7). Only 58% of athletes received their kits "always on time," while 26.1% faced delays and 15.9% received nothing at all. The Government provides one set of general sports training kits amounting to ₹20,000 per athlete per year to those enrolled under the National Coaching Camp. However, the responsibility for providing sport-specific kits rests entirely with the respective National Sports Federations (NSFs), in view of their technical expertise and to ensure compliance with the approved norms of the concerned international federations.

Fig. 3.7: Timeliness of Training Kits and Competition Equipment

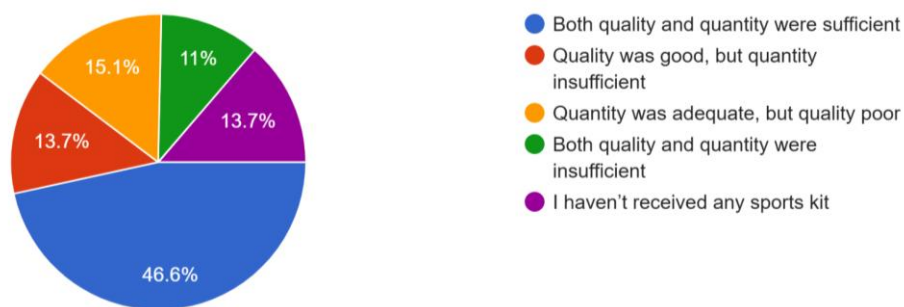


Source: Data collected through primary survey

Furthermore, the "Quality vs. Quantity" debate remains unresolved (Fig. 3.8). Less than half of the respondents (46.6%) were satisfied with both the quality and quantity of their gear. Specific feedback highlighted that "the quality of clothes & kits provided was not good," and others noted that while quality might be acceptable, the quantity was insufficient for the demands of elite training.

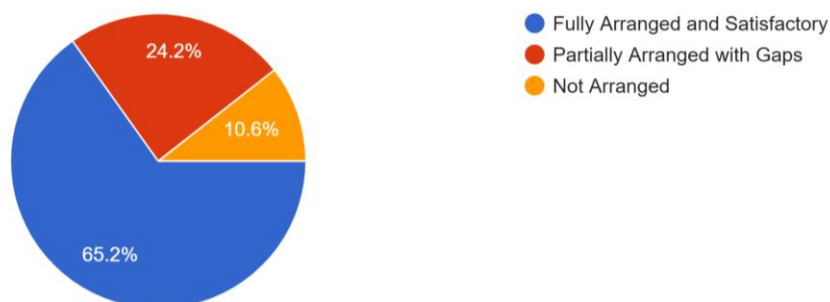
Travel Logistics Transportation arrangements for competitions show similar variations (Fig. 3.9).

Fig. 3.8: Adequacy of Sports Kits – Quality vs Quantity



Source: Data collected through primary survey

Fig. 3.9: Travel and Local Transport Arrangements for Competitions

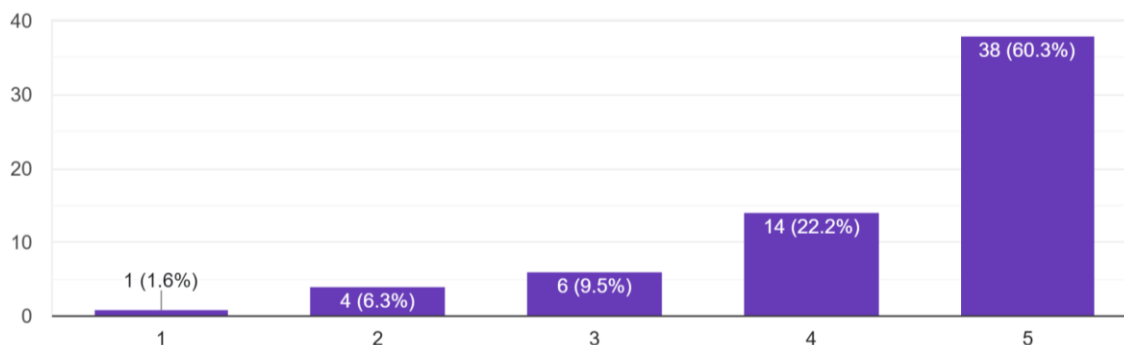


Source: Data collected through primary survey

While 65.2% reported satisfactory arrangements, over one-third of athletes experienced gaps or a total lack of travel support.

3.5.5. Governance and Future Aspirations: The athletes' trust in the system's fairness remains high, though their aspirations for global exposure are growing. Concerning transparency and trust, the selection policy (Fig. 3.10) is viewed largely as credible, with 60.3% of athletes rating it a 5/5 for fairness and transparency. This high level of trust is essential for maintaining morale and ensures that athletes believe their efforts will be rewarded on merit.

Fig. 3.10: Fairness and Transparency of Selection Policy for Camps and Competitions



Source: Data collected through primary survey

The data paints a picture of a "High-Performance Engine in a Standard Chassis." The core elements of athletic success—coaching, technique, physiology, and nutrition—are operating at an international standard. However, the supporting framework—specifically logistics and equipment procurements—needs development; but with the introduction of the revised new norms, this aspect is also likely to evolve in the near future.

For the ANSF scheme to fully unlock the potential of national campers, administrative responsiveness needs to progressively converge with the already high standards of technical support. Improving logistics planning for timely kit provision and systematically expanding international exposure opportunities would create a more seamless high-performance environment. Addressing these areas would ensure that the ecosystem surrounding national camps functions as a coherent training to prepare for international competition, enabling athletes to transition more effectively from national preparation platforms to sustained success at the international level.

Overall, the evidence suggests that the system has successfully built the core ingredients of elite performance and is now well-positioned to focus on fine-tuning delivery mechanisms. With targeted administrative refinements, the national camp framework under ANSF can serve not only as a preparatory stage but as a reliable launchpad for producing consistent global-level champions.

3.6 Findings and Suggestions

- **Delayed Appointment of High Performance Directors (HPD) or Foreign Coaches:** Though the revised 2025 revised guidelines mandate the appointment of an HPD and a foreign coach for the NSFs, the KIIs with Archery, Paralympics, and Hockey Federations revealed that they have still not appointed an HPD and are presently in the process of finalising the

eligibility criteria for the shortlisting of candidates. While the Hockey federation has appointed a foreign coach, the other two federations have still not appointed a foreign coach. Despite the guidelines being fairly recent, the NSFs can speed up the process of hiring of HPDs and foreign coaches as it will also ensure that they define and implement Key Result Areas (KRAs) for the HPDs to oversee technical development, coach development and athlete monitoring. MoYAS can enforce stricter deadlines to speed up the process of hiring HPDs and foreign coaches. Clear guidelines can be established for defining and implementing the Key Result Areas (KRAs) of the HPDs, ensuring timely technical development, coach development, and athlete monitoring, particularly for federations with a budget of ₹10 crores or more. Since the revised norms have been notified only recently, all NSFs are presently in the process of issuing advertisements and undertaking recruitment for the prescribed posts. In certain cases, international HPDs or coaches are bound by existing contractual obligations with their current organisations, which may result in delays in finalizing their engagement with the NSF.

- **Mandate Investment in Sports Science and Support Personnel:** As the Government has specifically made provision in the ANSF Scheme for Sports Science, NSFs can make full use of the Sports Science component. NSFs can be encouraged to utilize the funding allocated for support personnel and training, which can amount to at least 10% of the total allocation. Given the minuscule expenditure on sports science (0.65% in 2024-25), guidelines can be reinforced to ensure significant utilization of grants for hiring support staff such as doctors, physiotherapists, psychologists, data analysts, and masseurs, whose remuneration is provided for under the scheme norms. The above-mentioned personnel are attached to the SAI campuses where National Coaching Camps are conducted, and their services are generally utilized by the NSFs during such camps. However, the provision of a 10% allocation to NSFs is intended to enhance their capacity building and self-sufficiency in the domain of Sports Science, while also reducing dependence on SAI personnel, who are simultaneously responsible for supporting other athlete groups such as Khelo India athletes, National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) athletes, and others.
- **Rationalisation of Funding Limits for Mega International Sporting Events:** Recently, the sanction of ₹12 crore for hosting an International Para Athletics Championship, against the prescribed ceiling of ₹2 crore and through special Ministerial approval, demonstrates that the existing financial cap under ANSF is misaligned with the actual cost and scale of international-standard events. Norms of assistance for hosting international events, revised in May 2025, are

insufficient to support the organization of sporting events, and they are too meagre, as assistance up to ₹2 crore only can be given to an NSF for hosting an international event. Responsibility to bid and host the international events rests with IOA and concerned NSFs, but considering the conditions in the country with regard to arranging sponsors and generating revenues and resources for sports, NSFs find it difficult to raise adequate funds to host the sporting events effectively. The provision for hosting international championships may therefore be repositioned from a routine grant to a strategic instrument for strengthening India's global bidding credibility for mega sporting events. High-quality hosting signals organisational capacity, infrastructure readiness, governance standards, and athlete-centric delivery – key criteria assessed by bodies such as the International Olympic Committee and international federations. Accordingly, funding norms for mega international events can adopt a more liberal and strategic orientation, recognising these events as high-visibility national assets and can be enhanced significantly, keeping in view the type of international event, number of participating countries, number of participants and capabilities of NSFs in arranging sponsors. Adequate investment strengthens international reputation, sports tourism, and long-term sporting infrastructure, while persistent under-funding risks reputational dilution.

- **Training at Olympic Training Centres:** As the Government plans to set up Olympic Training Centres (OTCs) equipped with the latest Sports Science equipment dedicated to one sport, provision can be made in the ANSF Scheme for arranging training of athletes at OTCs so that the facilities at OTCs are fully utilised, and the athletes covered under ANSF Scheme get the opportunity of training at OTCs equipped with modern training facilities.
- **Assistance for National Games:** National Games are the most important domestic multi-sport event. National Games may be organised as per the same professional standards as of international sports events. This approach will equip National Sports Federations (NSFs) and hosting entities with the expertise needed to organize multi-sports international events in India, meeting the requirements and expectations of international sports bodies. Though IOA allots the National Games to States and the primary responsibility for organising the National Games is that of the concerned host States and IOA, it is recommended that considering the importance of the National Games, financial support from ANSF Scheme can be provided for National Games through IOA/SAI, particularly with regard to sports equipment, time scoring and result (TSR) services, technical conduct etc, which are the key areas for successful conduct of a major sporting event.

- **Need for spreading the global outreach of indigenous games:** India has a very rich legacy of traditional sports such as Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Mallakhamb, and Yogasana. But at the international level, it is seen that none of the indigenous sports are part of the Olympics and Commonwealth Games, and apart from Kabaddi, no other indigenous games are included in the Asian Games. NSFs alone cannot be expected to spread the indigenous and traditional sports across the countries and continents, to be in contention for inclusion in the Olympics, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games. The Government can, therefore, step in and help the NSFs financially as well as through Indian embassies for spreading the global outreach of indigenous sports.
- **Cultural Exchange and International Cooperation:** As there are significant improvements in sports facilities in the country and more being planned, and as India aspires to host the Olympics 2036, there is a need to capitalize on sports training facilities of international standards available in the country, for increasing India's role in the comity of sporting nations. Further, to support the training of athletes from the Global South, the Government can consider providing scholarships and subsidised training to athletes from these countries and earn their goodwill of these countries, which will eventually help Indian Sports Administrators in occupying leadership positions in international sports bodies.

3.7 Conclusion: The ANSF Scheme is the essential financial backbone for India's high-performance sports aspirations. Accordingly, continuation of the ANSF Scheme beyond 31.03.2026 is recommended. The 2025 revision introduced positive structural changes, including inflation-responsive increases in dietary allowances (e.g., senior athletes to ₹1000 per day), enhanced administrative oversight through mandatory High Performance Director (HPD) appointments for large federations, and the pivotal mandate that 20% of the budget can be earmarked for grassroots development. A key opportunity for growth lies in the dynamic re-categorization of sports disciplines, updating the standards to better reflect current international achievements and medal potential. By expediting the appointment of HPDs and fully utilizing the 10% allocation for specialized support personnel, federations can transition from general coaching to a data-driven training model that prioritizes sports science and medicine. Furthermore, rationalizing funding limits for hosting mega international events beyond the current ₹2 crore cap will strengthen India's global bidding credibility. Considering the establishment of Olympic Training Centres equipped with the latest sports science equipment and other facilities, athletes covered under the ANSF Scheme can also avail the training facilities of OTCs. As the National Games are the premier domestic multi-sport event, the

National Games also need to be supported for proper conduct of the games. For having India's footprint on the global stage, indigenous games outreach can be supported, and the athletes from the global south can be considered for subsidised training, etc.

These administrative refinements, combined with streamlined equipment delivery and logistics, will ensure the ANSF framework functions as a seamless and reliable launchpad for producing consistent global champions.



Section 4

SCHEME OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT IN SPORTS (HRDS)

4.1 Introduction: The Human Resources Development in Sports (HRDS) Scheme is aimed at enhancing India's sporting capabilities by developing a robust academic and intellectual foundation. This Central Sector Scheme, administered by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS) was originally launched in 2013-14 but underwent a significant revision on 31st May 2023, with the current iteration approved to run from the financial period 2022-23 to 2025-26. The scheme is currently being implemented in the Pilot Mode during the 15th Finance Commission Cycle. The foundational goal of the scheme is to ensure India invests significantly in specialized human resources – mirroring the efforts of global sporting powers like the US, UK, and Australia – to become a leading sporting nation. The scheme is constructed around five distinct components:

- a) Fellowship Programme
- b) Exchange of Knowledge/ Research/ Ideas
- c) Assistance to Match Officials, Coaches and Support Personnel
- d) Assistance for Research; and
- e) Publication of Outstanding Works on Sports related Subjects.

4.2 Description of the Scheme – Governance and Guidelines: The *Fellowship Programme* facilitates both short-term (3 to 6 months) and long-term (up to 2 years) specialized training in vital sports science disciplines such as Biomechanics, Sports Nutrition, Exercise Physiology, and Sports Law. Employees of autonomous government bodies considered for short-term fellowship must execute an indemnity bond to commit to not leaving the organization for at least two years.

The *Exchange of Knowledge* component further supports professionals by providing grants to attend or hold high-repute seminars, workshops, and conferences both domestically and abroad, provided they are presenting papers of practical importance or outstanding academic value. Under the component for *Assistance to Match Officials, Coaches and Support Personnel*, eligibility is contingent upon experience: Coaches must have a minimum of two years of State-level coaching experience, and Match Officials seeking specialized training abroad must have officiated in major international events (like the Olympics or World Championships) and hold an 'A' grade certificate from a recognized international body.

The *Assistance to Research* component focuses on addressing sports-specific challenges by encouraging Government Institutes and UGC-recognized Universities to undertake R&D studies. The financial support is substantial, providing grants as per UGC norms up to ₹10 lakh, with maximum assistance of ₹50.00 lakh available for specific "mega projects" deemed relevant to national sports improvement. The scheme dictates that the Department of Sports must assign the Copyright to all sanctioned research publications for future utilization, professionally safeguarding publicly funded intellectual property.

Furthermore, the component for *Publication of Outstanding Works on Sports related Subjects* promotes wider knowledge dissemination by supporting technical papers, doctoral dissertations, research journals, biographies, and literature in regional languages. The grant covers up to 50% of the publication costs, subject to a ceiling of ₹5.00 lakh per publication. The work must be published within one year from the date the grant is awarded, or the offer automatically lapses. Extending beyond traditional publishing, the guidelines also aim to develop online learning resources and encourage the use of technology in sports development, including providing initial seed money for start-ups dedicated to increasing the reach of sports among the masses.

All applications must be submitted online via the dedicated portal, *dbtyas-sports.gov.in*, by the 20th day of the preceding month of the scheduled Designated Committee meeting. The selection involves a two-stage review: the Appraisal Committee assesses technical aspects and eligibility, and the proposal is then forwarded to the Designated Committee (chaired by the Secretary, Sports) for final consideration. Financial control is a rigorous process: funds are disbursed through the PFMS portal to institutions/organizations (not individuals) in multiple instalments. Grantees are required to submit Utilization Certificates (UCs) as mandated by GFR 2017 (GFR-12A). The guidelines ensure stringent financial accountability by establishing penalties for non-compliance, such as failure to complete a course or furnishing false information, which results in the recovery of

the sanctioned amount plus 10% compound interest and potential blacklisting for future assistance.

4.3 Key Achievements of the Scheme: The Human Resources Development in Sports (HRDS) scheme serves as an intellectual and academic support system designed to modernize India's sports ecosystem by investing in specialized human capital. The Scheme has demonstrated a significant turnaround and scaling of impact following its revision on May 31, 2023. The scheme's most notable achievement is its rapid transition from financial underutilization where it spent only 44.75% of its Budget Estimate in FY 2022-23 to exceeding its planned expenditure at 101.33% in FY 2023-24. This surge in financial efficiency, when combined with a projected scale-up of funding from ₹400 lakh to ₹900 lakh by FY 2025-26, underscores a commitment to building the intellectual infrastructure necessary for India to compete with global sporting powers.

The beneficiary data reveals a steady expansion of the sports professional pipeline, with the total number of individuals supported rising from 12 in FY 2022-23 to 37 in FY 2024-25. The "*Exchange of Knowledge/Ideas*" component has emerged as the scheme's primary engine for professional growth, accounting for 59 of the total 89 beneficiaries and receiving the largest share of the total four-year financial outlay. Furthermore, the scheme has successfully activated high-value components; the "*Research*" component, which had zero beneficiaries in its first year, was successfully triggered in FY 2023-24 with 9 research projects, while the "*Fellowship Programme*" similarly saw its first participants in FY 2024-25.

Field observations reveal that the scheme is highly valued for offering meaningful opportunities for professional development that go beyond basic training, effectively expanding professional networks and acting as a powerful tool that encourages participants to explore deeper, specialized areas of sports. By specifically targeting the academic and intellectual dimensions of sports development, the scheme achieves a significant impact, empowering a specialised workforce of coaches, officials, and scientists to contribute to a more robust and modernised sports ecosystem.

4.4 Progress of the Scheme – Secondary Data Analysis

4.4.1 Component-wise Beneficiaries: HRDS supported a total of 89 beneficiaries across all five components between 2022–23 and 2024–25 (Table 4.1). Overall utilization showed an increase, rising from 12 beneficiaries in 2022–23 to 37 in 2024–25 with 2023-24 projecting the highest number of beneficiaries (40). The *Exchange of Knowledge/Ideas* component was the most utilized, accounting for 59 total beneficiaries, with the highest annual counts in 2023–24. Conversely, the *Publication* component recorded the lowest execution velocity, with only 1 beneficiary total (in 2023–24). The *Fellowship Programme* registered 0 beneficiaries in the first two years but recorded 2 in 2024–25, reaching a total of 2. The *Research* component was activated in 2023–24 with 9 beneficiaries, contributing to its total of 12, while *Match Officials* supported 15 individuals in total across the three years, with a high of 8 in 2024–25.

Table 4.1: Component-wise count of beneficiaries (in Numbers)

Component	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Total
Fellowship	0	0	2	2
Exchange of Knowledge	7	28	24	59
Match officials	5	2	8	15
Research	0	9	3	12
Publication	0	1	0	1
Total	12	40	37	89

Source: Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYAS)

4.4.2 Financial Overview: According to the revised guideline, the scheme planned a total allocation of ₹25 crore over the four-year cycle (FY 2022-23 to FY 2025-26). A total financial outlay of ₹21 crore is specifically proposed for the next three financial years from which the scheme was revised (FY 2023-24, FY 2024-25, and FY 2025-26). The budget plan demonstrates a consistent year-on-year scale-up of financial commitment, rising from ₹400 lakh in FY 2022-23 to ₹900 lakh in FY 2025-26 (Table 4.2).

Under the revised HRDS framework, the Designated Committee has been empowered with the flexibility to re-allocate the budget across scheme components, or to items not explicitly specified, in the interest of ensuring optimal utilisation of allocated funds. As per the data in Table 4.3, in the early cycle of 2021-22, expenditure exceeded a restricted Budget Estimate (BE) but only represented 21.5% of the intended ₹3.8 crore outlay. This was followed by under-

utilisation in 2022-23, where, despite an aligned BE and outlay of ₹4 crores, only 44.75% was spent because beneficiary engagement was minimal, with just 12 individuals participating and zero recorded in fellowship or research categories. However, the framework achieved peak fiscal efficiency in 2023-24, reaching 101.33% of its BE as the beneficiary count more than tripled to 40, driven by a surge in research and knowledge exchange professionals.

As the framework moved into 2024-25, the gap between the vision and actual budget widened, with a high proposed outlay of ₹7 crores against a moderated BE of ₹3.1 crores. Expenditure for this period settled at 85.48% of the BE, reflecting a marginal decline in total beneficiaries to 37; while the first fellowship recipients were introduced, a reduction in research projects reinforced the ongoing need for financial flexibility. For the 2025-26 period, the scheme's vision reaches a peak proposed outlay of ₹9 crores, though current expenditure as of November 2025 stands at only 15.5% of the ₹4 crore BE. The expenditure report tracks scheme utilization against the Budget Estimate (BE) and categorizes spending under two heads: (i) General Head, which covers all beneficiary-related financial assistance (component expenditure), and (ii) Other Revenue Expenditure, which covers administrative expenses.

Table 4.2: Budget Estimate and Expenditure

(₹ in Crore)

Financial Year	Financial Outlay (as per the revised guidelines of 31.05.2023)	Budget Estimates (BE)	General Head Exp.	Other Revenue Exp.	Total Expenditure (As % of BE)
2021-22	—	3.8	0.76	0.06	0.82 (21.5%)
2022-23	4.0	4.0	1.73	0.06	1.79 (44.75%)
2023-24	5.0	3.0	2.94	0.10	3.04 (101.33%)
2024-25	7.0	3.1	2.61	0.04	2.65 (85.48%)
2025-26	9.0	4.0	0.61	0.01	0.62 (15.5%) (As on 13/11/2025)

Source: Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYAS)

The component - wise financial outlay (Table 4.3) prioritizes capacity-building and knowledge enhancement in sports. Fellowship funding rose sixfold (₹16 lakh to ₹100 lakh) to develop specialists in high-demand fields. Over the four years, the Exchange of Knowledge/Ideas received the largest share (₹1100 lakh, 44%) to promote seminars and workshops nationally and abroad. This was followed by

‘Assistance to Match Officials, Coaches, and Support Personnel’ (₹735 lakh), which aimed to support advanced training, including overseas programs. The funding for ‘Assistance for Research’ more than tripled between FY 2022-23 to FY 2025-26 to encourage innovative studies. On the other hand, in aggregate, ‘Publication’, which is intended to aid the dissemination of best practices, received the least allocation.

Table 4.3: Component-wise Financial Allocation (₹ in lakh)

Sl. No.	Component	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	Total Allocation
1	Fellowship Programme	16	20	50	100	186
2	Exchange of Knowledge/Research/Ideas	200	250	300	350	1100
3	Assistance to Match Officials, Coaches, and Support Personnel	120	150	215	250	735
4	Assistance for Research	40	50	100	150	340
5	Publication of Outstanding Works	8	10	10	14	42
6	Administrative Purposes [up to 4% of total budget]	16	20	25	36	97
TOTAL		400	500	700	900	2500

Source: Revised HRDS guidelines (2023) - Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYAS)

It is recommended that the Scheme adopts a consolidated scheme-level budgeting approach in place of fixed component-wise allocations, allowing funds to be deployed flexibly across activities based on emerging demand and thereby ensuring optimal utilisation of resources.

4.5 Findings and Suggestions: In total, 20 beneficiaries were interviewed across five components – Fellowship (1), Exchange of Knowledge/Ideas (8), Match Officials (7), Research (3), and Publication (1). The interviews covered beneficiaries from universities, national sports federations, research organisations, and support staff (detailed profiles are provided in Appendix ID).

A) Enhancing Outreach and Awareness: Based on the primary survey, it was realized that the awareness about the HRDS Scheme is limited, particularly at state universities, regional sports centres and smaller colleges. Most respondents had learned about the scheme through their institutional or professional linkages with

the MoYAS/SAI, followed by information accessed via the MoYAS website. Institutional or employer-based communication played a minimal role, indicating that formal dissemination through organizations remains limited compared to direct networks (Fig. 4.1).

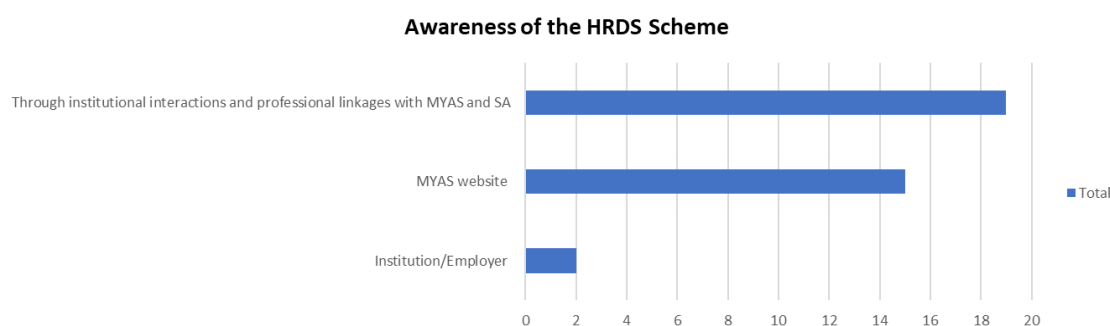
Respondents were asked to rate their level of satisfaction with key dimensions of HRDS implementation, and the responses are presented in Table 4.4. Communication and support from MoYAS are viewed positively, with over 85% of respondents reporting satisfaction or high satisfaction, suggesting that information flow and institutional support mechanisms are largely effective. Similarly, the responsiveness of selection and approval committees is rated very favourably, with more than three-fourths of respondents being very satisfied, reflecting efficiency and timely decision-making in the approval process. Perceptions are strongest with regard to equitable access and professional outcomes. An overwhelming majority (over 95%) express being very satisfied with equitable access to HRDS opportunities, indicating a high level of trust in fairness and inclusivity. Additionally, HRDS support in improving professional competence is well recognized, with 90% of respondents reporting satisfaction or high satisfaction, underscoring the scheme's effectiveness in capacity building and skill enhancement. Overall, the data reflects a robust and well-received implementation of HRDS among beneficiaries. The following key areas can be improved upon:

- **Strengthen Digital Dissemination:** It is suggested to ensure HRDS guidelines, application information and selection criteria are highly visible and easily accessible.
- **Expand Equitable Access:** To ensure a broader and more equitable pool of applicants, it is suggested to disseminate scheme information actively at regional sports academies, State universities, smaller institutions, and rural colleges.
- **Target Early-Career Professionals:** It is recommended to expand the outreach specifically to early-career professionals to build the talent pipeline from the ground up.
- **Institutional Integration with Khelo India Framework:** HRDS' reach in its current shape is limited. It can be merged with a flagship scheme like Khelo India to make it more visible and synced with the mainstream schemes. It is recommended that the HRDS scheme may be subsumed as a chapter within the Khelo India framework.

Table 4.4: Satisfaction Levels with HRDS Implementation and Support Services

Scale Value	Interpretation	Communication & support from MoYAS (%)	Responsiveness of selection and approval committees (%)	Equitable access to HRDS opportunities (%)	HRDS support in improving your professional competence (%)
1	Very Dissatisfied	—	—	—	—
2	Dissatisfied	5	—	—	—
3	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	10	10	—	10
4	Satisfied	20	10	5	40
5	Very Satisfied	65	80	95	50

Source: Data collected through primary survey

Fig. 4.1: Awareness of the Scheme of HRDS

Source: Data collected through primary survey

B) Streamlining Application and Selection Procedures: As per the Table 4.5 where the respondents were enquired about the ease of the HRDS application process, the majority of respondents find the HRDS application process relatively straightforward. About 74% of participants rated it as “Easy” (42.11%) or “Very Easy” (31.58%), reflecting that the application system is generally user-friendly and accessible. A smaller portion of respondents, around 15.79%, found the process “Difficult,” while 10.53% were neutral, indicating room for minor improvements in guidance or support. Overall, the process is perceived positively, suggesting that applicants can navigate it without significant barriers.

All respondents (100%) reported that, after submitting their applications on the portal and prior to sanction, they were able to track the status of their applications through direct communication from the scheme authorities via phone calls or

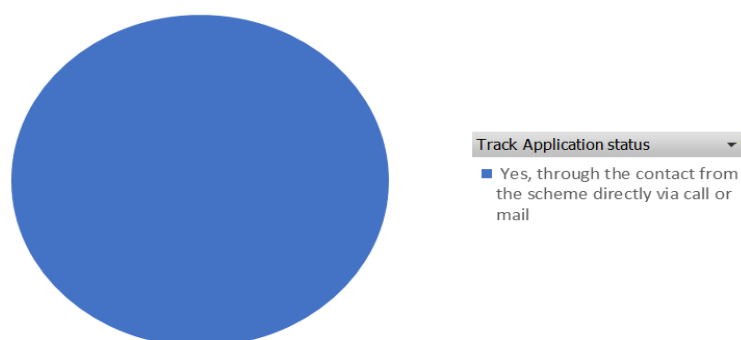
email (Fig. 4.2). Based on the interactions, the following policy suggestions can further improve upon the efficiency of the scheme:

- **Introduce a Unified Digital Platform:** The findings suggest establishing a unified online platform that integrates application submission, required document upload, and real-time status tracking for applicants.
- **Live Application Tracking Dashboard:** A live tracking dashboard can be provided on the official website, enabling applicants to view the total number of applications received under each category. This transparency is important because, given the stringent eligibility criteria, many potential applicants feel that their chances of receiving benefits are low, and access to real-time information would help reduce uncertainty and build confidence in the process.
- **Standardize and Simplify Documentation:** It is suggested to provide standardized, but simplified formats for documents like the No Objection Certificate (NOC).
- **Improve Transparency:** It is recommended to communicate the selection criteria, required documentation, and the complete application timeline to applicants upfront.
- **Streamlining the Approval and Evaluation Mechanism:** The dual-committee system needs revisiting. Overlapping of members in the Appraisal Committee and Designated Committee leads to unnecessary delays without any real benefit. May like to consider only the Designated Committee as the sole committee both for evaluation and for approval of the proposals to reduce delays.

Table 4.5: Ease of the HRDS Application Process

Scale Value	Interpretation	Ease of the application process (%)
1	Very Difficult	—
2	Difficult	15.79
3	Neither easy nor difficult	10.53
4	Easy	42.11
5	Very Easy	31.58

Source: Data collected through primary survey

Fig. 4.2: Tracking of HRDS Applications

Source: Data collected through primary survey

C) Revising Financial Norms and Fund Flow Mechanisms

- Flexibility in ZBSA Account Requirement:** When asked about the availability of a ZBSA account in the HDFC Bank, Table 4.6 shows that the majority of institutions (75%) had to open a ZBSA account in the HDFC Bank specifically to receive HRDS funds, while only 25% already had such an account. This indicates that the mandatory requirement of a ZBSA account in the HDFC Bank poses an additional administrative step for most beneficiaries. With regard to challenges in opening ZBSA accounts in HDFC Bank, among those who needed to open a ZBSA account in the HDFC Bank, 92.86% faced difficulties, highlighting procedural complications and delays. Only 7.14% reported no issues (Table 4.7).

Requiring institutions to open a ZBSA account in HDFC Bank solely for the purpose of receiving HRDS funds has created procedural complications and delays for many beneficiaries. Instead, the ZBSA account in the HDFC Bank can be kept as a non-mandatory option rather than an essential requirement. In cases where the institution does not have a ZBSA account in the HDFC Bank, the sanctioned amount may be released to an existing ZBSA Account in any public sector bank account of the institution to streamline the process and avoid unnecessary administrative burdens.

Table 4.6: ZBSA Account Availability among Institutions

ZBSA Account Status	Percentage of Respondents
Yes, our institution already had the ZBSA A/c	25
No, the institution had started it for getting the benefit	75

Source: Data collected through primary survey

Table 4.7: Challenges in Opening ZBSA Accounts in HDFC Bank

Difficulty in Opening the ZBSA A/c in HDFC Bank	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	92.86
No	7.14

Source: Data collected through primary survey

- **Scope for Direct Beneficiary Transfer:** Currently, funds under HRDS flow from the Ministry to the Central Nodal Agency (CNA), then to the institution, which can be tracked through the PFMS portal. Since the credibility and eligibility of the beneficiary are already verified during the approval stage, the disbursement process can be streamlined by directly crediting the sanctioned amount to the recipient's bank account. This would significantly reduce delays, minimize institutional bottlenecks, and ensure timely utilization of funds for training and research activities.
- **Tracking Fund Transfer Beyond the Institution Level:** Through the PFMS portal, the fund flow can be tracked only up to the institution's account, after which the transfer to the individual beneficiary's private account is not monitored. In cases where benefits are meant to be passed on to individuals, any delay occurring after the funds reach the institution remains invisible to the Ministry.

To address this gap, institutions can be mandated to report back to the Ministry confirming the date and status of the transfer from their ZBSA account to the beneficiary's private bank account. This will ensure accountability, improve transparency, and enable the timely resolution of fund flow delays at the last-mile level.

- **Update Cost Norms:** Update cost norms to reflect current scenario, including inflation and location-specific expenses. Specifically, it is suggested to revise the assistance provided for specialized or international training programmes to adequately cover the cost requirements for boarding, lodging, and local logistics.
- **Reorienting the Scheme towards Partial Assistance:** The focus of HRDS can be on assistance and not on full support, so that there is investment by the beneficiary or his organization also. In deserving cases, Govt. may provide full assistance.

D) Optimizing Program Design and Component Utility

- **Refine Fellowships:** While the bond requirement serves retention, methods may be explored to increase access for high-calibre applicants who may not be permanent employees, or better define pathways for temporary staff to fulfil service obligations without facing challenges. The indemnity bond and surety bond requirements under the fellowship may be removed. The admission requirement in a foreign institute for match officials may be omitted, since most training programmes abroad are short-term and do not require formal admission.
- **Address Research/Publication Bottlenecks:** It is suggested to address procedural friction that limits the output of high-value components like Assistance for Research and Publication of Outstanding Works. This may involve streamlining the review timeline or increasing administrative support for these highly detailed, complex applications. Vague term 'mega projects' may be removed and maximum financial assistance for research may be raised suitably from the current figure of Rs. 10 Lakhs. Percentage of assistance towards publication may be suitably enhanced.
- **Expansion of Eligibility to Private Sector Stakeholders:** The focus of HRDS till now was on Govt employees, whereas it is recommended that the ambit can be expanded to include people from the Private Sector as well, to increase the outreach of the scheme and to augment the sporting ecosystem in the country.
- **Rationalising Restrictions on Repeat Funding:** The bar on not funding a beneficiary again in the same year/consecutive year sometimes poses a challenge especially if it's an active organisation. Therefore, it is suggested that the same can be by way of prudence by the sanctioning authority rather than as a rule.

4.6 Conclusion: The Scheme of Human Resources Development in Sports (HRDS) is established as a Central Sector Scheme, providing a framework to support specialized human capital, essential for India to emerge as a leading sporting nation. Integrating HRDS within Khelo India would enhance scale and long-term impact. Post-revision in May 2023, the scheme demonstrated a critical surge in financial efficiency, moving from substantial underutilization (44.75% of the Budget Estimate in FY 2022-23) to exceeding Budget Estimate (101.33% in FY 2023-24). While the scheme successfully supported 84 beneficiaries across its five components (2022-25) – with the 'Exchange of Knowledge/Ideas' component being the most active – its overall impact is severely curtailed by concrete operational friction. Major challenges

include fund disbursement delays averaging approximately one year, procedural hurdles caused by the mandatory Zero Balance Savings Account (ZBSA) requirement, and financial support that is insufficient to cover essential costs for specialized training (e.g., boarding, lodging, and local logistics). Addressing these issues may require three interventions: implementing a unified online platform for application tracking and transparency, granting flexibility on the ZBSA mandate, and urgently updating cost norms to align assistance with the actual expenses of high-value specialized programs. By prioritizing these administrative and financial reforms, the HRDS Scheme can ensure timely and adequate support, maximizing the return on investment in specialized human resources.



SCHEME OF CASH INCENTIVE TO MEDAL WINNERS IN INTERNATIONAL SPORTS EVENTS AND THEIR COACHES

5.1 Introduction: The Scheme of Cash Incentives to Medal Winners in International Sports Events and their Coaches was initially established by the Government of India in 1986. The scheme's objectives are to reward outstanding sportspersons for their global achievements, to incentivize them for higher achievements, and to ensure medal winners act as inspiring role models to attract the younger generation to sports. The scheme has evolved significantly, notably through the inclusion of Para-Sports, Deaf Sports, Blind Sports, and Special Olympics in 2015 to enhance inclusivity. The most recent comprehensive revision was introduced on January 31, 2025 (effective from February 1, 2025). The stated aim of the 2025 amendment was to streamline the eligibility criteria and improve the disbursement process. The relevance of this scheme is underscored by the significant governmental commitment it represents.

5.2 Description of the Scheme – Governance and Guidelines: The governance of the scheme is anchored in a structured financial framework that categorizes incentives based on the level of the event and the medal achieved. The Department of Sports administers the scheme, with strict guidelines determining eligibility and disbursement protocols.

Financial Incentives for Athletes: The scheme offers substantial rewards for senior-level achievements in open category sports, para-sports, and diverse ability sports. The incentives are standardized for major multi-sport events to ensure equity. For instance, a Gold Medal at the Olympic or Paralympic Games commands a cash

incentive of ₹75 Lakhs, while a Silver earns ₹50 Lakhs, and a Bronze earns ₹30 Lakhs. Similarly, achievements in the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games are rewarded with ₹30 Lakhs, ₹20 Lakhs, and ₹10 Lakhs for Gold, Silver, and Bronze respectively. The scheme also ensures competitive integrity by stipulating that no incentive is provided if an event has fewer than four participating countries or teams. For team events, each member receives 75% of the reward applicable to the corresponding individual event.

Incentivizing the Coaching Ecosystem: One of the scheme's most significant design strengths is its recognition of coaches as co-beneficiaries. Secondary data indicate that a substantial share of total incentive outgo is now routed to coaches, reinforcing the principle that elite performance is a collective output rather than an individual achievement alone. The scheme mandates that coaches receive 50% of the cash incentive payable to the medal-winning sportsperson. To acknowledge the long-term development of an athlete, this amount is systematically distributed across the athlete's career trajectory:

- Grassroot-Level Coach: Receives 30% for identifying and grooming talent.
- Developmental-Level Coach: Receives 30% for nurturing the athlete.
- Elite-Level Coach: Receives 40% for providing advanced training at the elite level.

The 2025 amendment introduced flexibility by allowing sportspersons to nominate Akharas or Academies in lieu of individual coaches, ensuring that institutions contributing to success are also financially supported.

The application process underwent a digital transformation with the launch of the dedicated online DBT portal in 2022, allowing athletes to apply directly to the Department of Sports, thereby National Sports Federations (NSFs) and making the application status visible to the applicant. Administratively, the scheme can be in observation rigid regarding timing, requiring applications to be submitted "exclusively by the sportsperson(s) through the designated portal within six months from the conclusion of the respective events". This strict deadline, however, highlights an administrative challenge, as the analysis of the sanction data reveals a persistent lag, where the cash sanction year often lags the medal year by several years due to an inefficient cash award disbursement mechanism. Even post-digitalization, concerns remain regarding pending dues of sportspersons whose applications, submitted months ago, are still awaiting processing, indicating that even a digital system is only as efficient as its weakest manual process. A forward-looking measure aims to resolve this bottleneck through the integration of the DBT and NSRS portals

to facilitate suo-moto disbursal, which could eventually waive the six-month application requirement entirely for automatically verified cases.

5.3 Key Achievements of the Scheme: The Cash Incentive Scheme has demonstrated exceptional scalability and impact, disbursing a substantial ₹71.83 Crore to over 1,100 beneficiaries in 2023–24 alone, a surge that directly reflects India’s improved performance in global events like the Asian and Para Asian Games. A major structural milestone has been the successful transition to a Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) platform, which has modernized the application process and enabled the Ministry to aggressively clear historical backlogs. This is evidenced by the sanctioning of over 500 awards related to 2022 during the 2023–24 financial year, effectively reducing the processing pendency to a stabilized 3–4 month cycle.

Beyond speed, the scheme has achieved a broader ecosystem impact by institutionalizing the recognition of coaches. The number of coach beneficiaries rose significantly to 160 in 2024–25, ensuring that the "team behind the team" is financially rewarded. With the 2025 guidelines further streamlining eligibility to focus on elite pathways, the scheme has evolved into a transparent, high-efficiency mechanism that not only incentivizes current medal winners but also signals a robust commitment to future sporting generations.

5.4 Progress of the Scheme – Secondary Data Analysis: The progress of the Cash Incentive Scheme in recent years reflects a dynamic shift toward higher financial outlays and a concerted effort to resolve historical administrative bottlenecks. The analysis below utilizes secondary data to map the scheme's trajectory in terms of beneficiary outreach, financial impact, and processing efficiency. Secondary data on scheme implementation indicate a steady increase in both the number of beneficiaries and total financial outgo, particularly after India’s improved performance in multi-sport events such as the Asian Games and Paralympic Games. This expansion reflects not only better medal outcomes but also broader eligibility coverage, including para-sports and women’s events. The progress of the scheme highlights significant financial commitment and administrative modernization.

A) Digital Transformation: The launch of the dedicated online DBT portal in 2022 marked a digital transformation, moving the application process from offline to online mode. These changes improved transparency and offered applicants direct access to the Department, rather than routing through NSFs.

B) Financial Growth and Beneficiary Outreach: The scheme demonstrates rapid growth in expenditure and outreach in recent years. The table 5.1 below

reports the annual sanctioned amount of cash awards (in crores) and the corresponding count of beneficiaries (sportspersons/coaches) for the period 2020-21 to 2024-25.

Table 5.1: Count of Beneficiaries and Sanctioned Amount

Cash Awards	Amount (in Crore)	Beneficiaries (Sportsperson/Coach/Total)	Count
2020-21	15.44	Total Beneficiaries	436
		Coach	46
		Sportsperson	390
2021-22	41.51	Total Beneficiaries	512
		Coach	23
		Sportsperson	489
2022-23	38.27	Total Beneficiaries	458
		Coach	74
		Sportsperson	384
2023-24	71.83	Total Beneficiaries	1110
		Coach	123
		Sportsperson	987
2024-25	31.57	Total Beneficiaries	387
		Coach	160
		Sportsperson	227

Source: Data received from Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYAS)

The data indicates a massive scaling of operations in 2023-24, where ₹71.83 Crore was disbursed to 1,110 beneficiaries. This surge correlates with India's improved performance in international events like the Asian Games and the Commonwealth Games, necessitating higher payouts. The significant increase in coach beneficiaries (from 23 in 2021-22 to 160 in 2024-25) also highlights better compliance with the coach nomination protocols.

C) Future Automation Goals: The Ministry is actively working towards integrating the DBT portal with the National Sports Repository System (NSRS) portal. This integration aims to improve verification and facilitate the *Suo-moto* (automatic) disbursement of cash incentives to international medal winners, potentially waiving the need for a formal application where sufficient details

are available. The goal is to reduce the application processing pendency to three months.

5.5 Findings and Suggestions: Although the scheme operates ex post, its behavioural impact is largely ex ante. Interviews and performance analyses indicate that predictable, transparent incentive structures strengthen athlete motivation, particularly in mid-career stages where financial uncertainty can undermine training continuity. For athletes outside mainstream commercial sports, cash incentives function as both recognition and income stabilization. The scheme also plays an important signalling role. By publicly rewarding international success, the state reinforces the social value of sporting excellence, influencing younger cohorts and supporting talent retention within competitive pathways. When combined with media visibility and ceremonial recognition, cash incentives amplify reputational returns beyond their monetary value.

Historical and Current Sanction Lag: Current Processing Efficiency (2025) Recent data from April to July 2025 (Table 5.2) indicates the functioning of the current online mechanism. Out of 273 applications received in this four-month window, 59 were approved/sanctioned, while a significant portion (175) were rejected or deemed non-eligible, likely due to strict adherence to the new February 2025 guidelines. The Ministry has successfully reduced the pendency period to the last 3-4 months, showing a marked improvement over the multi-year delays of the past.

Table 5.2: Status of Applications Received under the Scheme (April–July 2025)

Application Month	Applications Received	Approved / Sanctioned	Non-Eligible / Rejected	Pending
April 2025	56	10	33	13
May 2025	95	20	74	1
June 2025	66	15	43	8
July 2025	56	14	25	17
Grand Total	273	59	175	39

Source: Data received from Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYAS)

Analysis of cash incentive sanctions during FY 2020–21 to FY 2023–24 shows a time lag between the year in which medals were won and the year in which corresponding cash awards were sanctioned. This lag is primarily attributable to systemic and procedural factors that existed prior to 2022, rather than delays in current processing. Before 2022, applications for cash incentives were submitted through a manual, offline process. This system involved physical submission and multi-layer verification, resulting in delayed processing and limited tracking capability.

Consequently, a large number of eligible sportspersons from earlier years had pending or unprocessed claims.

To address this, the Department introduced an online application system for cash incentive schemes and simultaneously opened a one-time special window for all international medal winners whose incentives were pending up to March 2022. During this special window, 3,244 applications were received, and all cases were processed and disposed of within defined timelines, ensuring that eligible sportspersons received their due incentives.

The effect of this backlog clearance is reflected in recent sanction data (Table 5.3). For example, in FY 2023–24, while 237 awards related to medals won in 2023, a higher number of sanctions pertained to earlier medal years, including 509 awards for 2022 and 92 awards for 2019, indicating a focused effort to clear historical arrears due to offline processes earlier. With the online system now fully operational, the sanctioning process has stabilized. As of 31 July 2025, pendency has been reduced to a 3–4-month cycle, with further efforts underway to limit processing time to within three months.

Table 5.3: Year-wise Count of Sanctioned Medal Awards in Each Financial Year

Medal Year / Cash Sanction Year	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
2008	4	0	0	0
2011	1	1	1	0
2012	2	0	6	0
2013	13	2	4	0
2014	4	11	4	2
2015	2	3	15	7
2016	60	14	23	14
2017	86	44	18	24
2018	10	66	37	23
2019	251	299	103	92
2020	3	49	9	7
2021	1	23	46	71
2022	0	0	192	509
2023	0	0	0	237

Medal Year / Cash Sanction Year	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Grand Total	437	513	459	989

Source: Data received from Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYAS)

Analysis of the sanctioning patterns reveals that the Ministry has been actively working to clear historical arrears. While there is a lag between the "Medal Year" and the "Cash Sanction Year," the data suggests a focused effort to close these gaps.

The evidence suggests that the Scheme of Cash Incentive to Medal Winners has been largely successful in achieving its core objectives. It has institutionalized outcome-based recognition, reinforced elite performance incentives, and acknowledged the role of coaches within the sporting ecosystem. Its alignment with the international event hierarchy ensures that public funds are directed toward achievements of the highest competitive significance.

5.6 Conclusion: The Cash Incentive Scheme represents a high-commitment, outcome-oriented intervention, underscored by a substantial disbursement of ₹71.83 crore in FY 2023–24, reflecting the Government’s continued priority on rewarding international sporting excellence and reinforcing performance incentives. A major structural advancement under the scheme has been the transition to a Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)-based digital platform in 2022, which has significantly improved transparency, traceability, and administrative control.

The sanctioning patterns observed during FY 2023–24 can be viewed in the context of a deliberate and time-bound effort to clear historical arrears accumulated under the earlier offline regime. The sanction of 509 awards relating to medals won in 2022 and 92 awards from 2019 reflects the Ministry’s proactive approach to ensuring that eligible sportspersons from previous years receive their due recognition. This corrective phase has substantially reduced legacy pendency and stabilized the system for future cycles.

The January 2025 rationalization of the scheme was undertaken with the objective of sharpening focus on senior international performance and improving administrative efficiency. While this involved discontinuation of incentives for Sub-Junior and Junior level events and certain titles such as IGM/IM in Chess, the revision aims to streamline coverage and align incentives more closely with Olympic and elite performance pathways. Going forward, this creates an opportunity to reassess incentive calibration across the athlete development continuum to ensure coherence between grassroots progression and elite outcomes.

The next phase of reform lies in further automation of the sanctioning process. Integration of the DBT portal with the National Sports Repository System (NSRS) would enable suo-moto (automatic) disbursal based on authenticated results, effectively eliminating manual processing lags. Achieving this integration would allow the scheme to consistently meet the target of disbursement within three months, thereby preserving the immediacy and motivational value of cash incentives. Overall, the scheme is on a strong reform trajectory, having transitioned from a manual, backlog-prone system to a largely digital and stabilized framework. With targeted technological integration and calibrated policy fine-tuning, the Cash Incentive Scheme is well positioned to deliver timely, credible, and motivational rewards aligned with India's long-term sporting ambitions.



Section 6

NATIONAL SPORTS AWARDS

6.1 Introduction: The suite of India's National Sports Awards (NSA) scheme represents the nation's highest formal structure for recognizing excellence across the entire sporting ecosystem. The following are the list of the National Sports Awards:

- a) Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award (MDCKRA)
- b) Arjuna Award (Standard & Lifetime)
- c) Dronacharya Award (Regular & Lifetime)
- d) Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy
- e) Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar (RKPP)

6.2 Description of the Scheme – Governance and Guidelines: The working mechanism for the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award (MDCKRA), Arjuna Award (Regular), and Dronacharya Award (Regular) is founded on a quantifiable and integrity-focused selection process, primarily assessing performance over the immediately preceding four years. All eligible applicants must self-apply via the dedicated online DBT-Portal, although the Government reserves the right to nominate a limited number of candidates. The initial operational phase involves comprehensive administrative verification: the Sports Authority of India (SAI) verifies all claimed achievements/ performances from official records within a month of application receipt. Crucially, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports seeks mandatory reports from the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) to confirm that the sportspersons or the athletes coached by the applicant are clear of any doping history. Furthermore, Government employees must submit clearance reports from their employers regarding vigilance/disciplinary angles and criminal or moral turpitude issues. All applications cleared from these integrity and disciplinary checks

proceed to the Screening Committee. Selection decisions for these awards are driven by a weighted scoring model, allocating 80% weightage to medals won in recognized international championships (including Olympic/Paralympic, Asian, and Commonwealth Games) and 20% weightage to qualitative factors such as leadership, sportsmanship, and discipline.

The mechanics diverge significantly for Lifetime and institutional awards, and the final selection protocol ensures impartiality and detailed oversight. For the Arjuna Award (Lifetime), eligibility requires both past international performance and sustained contributions to sports promotion *after* active retirement. For Dronacharya Award (Lifetime), the selection focuses entirely on the coach's contribution over a minimum period of 20 years or more in producing outstanding sportspersons, explicitly exempting the standardized marking criteria used for the regular Dronacharya Award. Institutional awards, like the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar (RKPP) and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy, operate based on verifiable institutional metrics. RKPP is assessed across four areas, such as the minimum requirement for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contributions, which demands entities contribute at least 5% of their gross profit or ₹2 crore toward sports promotion over the preceding three financial years. The MAKA Trophy is granted to the university with the top overall performance based on event results. Final selection across all categories is determined by dedicated, confidential Selection Committees composed of eminent sportspersons, experts, and ex-officio members, with conflict-of-interest and quorum rules strictly enforced. The Selection Committees make recommendations by consensus or majority decision, which are then placed before the Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports for the final decision.

6.3 Key Achievements of the Scheme: The National Sports Awards (NSA), including the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna (MDCKRA), Arjuna, and Dronacharya Awards, establish a formal structure by utilizing a weighted scoring model that balances 80% international medal performance with 20% qualitative leadership. The framework reinforces ethical standards for athletes and coaches by mandating NADA anti-doping clearances and employer vigilance reports, ensuring winners of the Arjuna and MDCKRA embody a hallmark of clean sportsmanship. Institutional excellence is driven by the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy and Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar (RKPP), which recognize high-performance university cultures and incentivize corporate CSR contributions toward talent identification. Finally, the inclusion of Arjuna (Lifetime) and Dronacharya (Lifetime) categories honors sustained professional dedication, ensuring that coaching excellence over 20 years and post-retirement contributions are formally integrated into the national sporting legacy.

6.4 Progress of the Scheme – Secondary Data Analysis

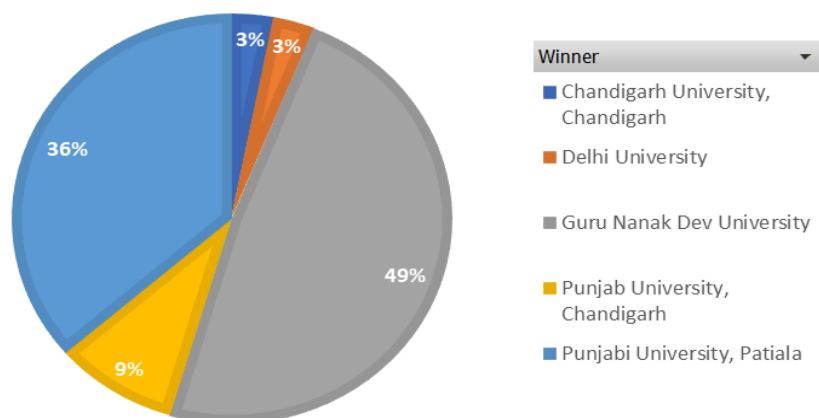
A) Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, Arjuna Award and Dronacharya Award: As per Table 6.2, for the MDCKRA, which is restricted to only one award every year, the high numbers recorded in 2020 (5), 2021 (11), and 2024 (4) confirm that this condition was relaxed in exceptional circumstances. Similarly, the Arjuna Award (Standard), which sets a maximum of normally not more than 15 awards, consistently surpassed this ceiling, with totals ranging from 25 to 35 recipients; this relaxation was explicitly permitted, keeping in view the performance of Indian sportspersons in major events like the Commonwealth, Asian and Olympic Games. Finally, the Dronacharya Award faced similar relaxation, as the combined total of Regular and Lifetime awards is ordinarily not more than 5 awards annually; the figures of 14 (5 Regular + 9 Lifetime) in 2020 and 10 (5 Regular + 5 Lifetime) in 2021 significantly exceeded this ordinary limit, necessitating the recording of exceptional circumstances. However, the Arjuna Award (Lifetime) figures (2 in 2020 and 2024) and the Dronacharya Award (Lifetime) figure (2 in 2024) remained at or below their respective maximum/earmarked quotas of three and two awards, indicating strict adherence to the nominal limits in those specific instances.

Table 6.1: Total no. of Recipients

Award	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
MDCKRA	5	11	1	1	4
Arjuna Award (Standard)	27	35	25	26	32
Arjuna Award (Lifetime)	-	-	-	-	2
Dronacharya (Regular)	5	5	4	5	3
Dronacharya (Lifetime)	9	5	3	3	2

Source: Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYAS)

B) MAKA Trophy: *Guru Nanak Dev University* and *Punjabi University, Patiala*, together claimed 28 of 33 MAKA Trophy championships, reflecting sustained sporting excellence. While the award methodology shifted in 2024 to recognize only the Khelo India University Games winner, this historical dominance highlights the high-performance standards universities can uphold to be considered top-performing institutions, indicating that future KIUG outcomes will rely on maintaining such competitive athletic culture.

Fig. 6.1: University wise list of Awardees

Source: Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYAS)

C) Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar (RKPP): Recognition under the scheme favours excellence in "Identification and Nurturing of Young Talent," with six recipients, including two in 2020, spanning private institutions (Jain Deemed University, Manav Rachna) and specialized institutes (Army Sports Institute, Lakshya Institute). Consistent acknowledgment is also given for "Encouragement Through CSR," honouring major public and private entities (e.g., Indian Oil, ONGC, Odisha Mining Corporation). The scheme further recognizes systemic support, with single awards for "Employment of Sportspersons and Sports Welfare" (Air Force Sports Control Board, 2020) and "Sports for Development" (Ladakh Ski & Snowboard Association, 2022). Although guidelines stipulate one award per year, multiple organizations were recognized in 2020 and 2022 across different categories, showing the limit applies to unique awards while allowing recognition in all eligible areas.

6.5 Findings and Suggestions

A) Integrated National Sports Award Scheme: The Integrated National Sports Award Scheme, combining the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna, Dronacharya and Arjuna Awards, is proposed to address existing complexities by creating a unified framework with consistent guidelines, simplified processes, efficient coordination, and a standardized selection procedure. All the above three awards follow a common set of initial procedures, beginning with an online application process where eligible sportspersons and coaches can self-apply and receive a unique registration number for future correspondence.

Selection Committee: The Unified Committee may adopt the largest numerical quota required for each category to ensure adequate scrutiny for all three awards:

Table 6.2: Selection Committee Composition for the Integrated NSA Scheme

Role/Category	Mandate for Unified Committee	Justification
Chairperson	A retired judge of the Supreme Court/High Court (or a Ministry nominee of equivalent stature).	To adopt the specific requirement of the Arjuna Awards Committee, which is the most restrictive leadership criterion.
Sportspersons of Eminence (Olympians/ MDCKRA/ Arjuna Awardees)	4 members.	To adopt the maximum requirement stipulated by the Arjuna and MDCKRA schemes.
Previous Dronacharya Awardees	3 members (from different disciplines).	To adopt the specific expertise mandated by the Dronacharya Awards to evaluate coaching contributions and careers.
Sports Journalists/Experts/Commentators	3 members.	To adopt the maximum quota required by the Arjuna and MDCKRA schemes.
Para Sports Expert	1 member.	To adopt the explicit requirement of the Arjuna and MDCKRA schemes to ensure representation for sports for the physically challenged.
Ex-Officio Members	3 members: CEO, TOP Scheme Secretariat; Executive Director (TEAMS)/Officer in-charge of TEAMS Division, SAI; and Joint Secretary (Sports) (Member Secretary).	These roles are already common across all three committees.

Source: Author's Compilation

The unified committee can adhere to the following procedural constraints common to all three existing schemes:

- a) **Discipline Bias:** Not more than one expert (sportsperson of eminence or previous Dronacharya Awardee) from a particular sports discipline shall be a member.
- b) **Conflict of Interest:** Any person directly or indirectly related to an applicant shall not be eligible to participate in deliberations concerning that applicant.
- c) **Service Gap:** There can be a minimum two-year gap before a non-ex-officio member is re-nominated as chairperson or member.

- d) **Quorum:** The quorum for the meeting shall be 75% of the members of the Committee and the Chairperson.

B) Common Suggestion for MDCKRA, Arjuna Award and Dronacharya Award

Old Provision / Structural Observation	Suggestion
Restrictive Nominal Quotas (MDCKRA: only one award; Arjuna: Normally not more than 15 awards; Dronacharya: ordinarily not more than 5 awards) are routinely overridden, diminishing the structural credibility of the prescribed limits, often relying on the "exceptional circumstances" clause.	Consider publishing indicative numbers in advance, enabling flexible yet transparent recognition aligned with the competitive context of each year.

C) Scheme-Specific Suggestions

Award	Old Provision / Structural Observation	Suggestion
MDCKRA	For disciplines like cricket and indigenous games, the quantitative scoring matrix (80% weightage) does not apply, relying entirely on the Selection Committee considering individual performances.	It is recommended to establish formal points matrices or performance benchmarks for non-Olympic disciplines (like cricket) to provide the Committee with an objective framework for guiding the 80% quantitative assessment.
Dronacharya Award	The Ministry reserves the right to seek an affidavit from the sportsperson if more than one coach is claiming credit for the same achievements. This indicates potential difficulty in objectively verifying the coaching period.	It is recommended to make it compulsory for coaches to submit official, dated documents (e.g., federation/SAI records) verifying the minimum coaching period before the athlete's achievement. While this reduces external attribution issues, the final determination still ultimately depends on the athlete's confirmation.
Dronacharya Award (Lifetime)	The marks criteria do not apply to Lifetime coaches; selection relies entirely on the Committee's assessment of contribution over 20 years or more.	It is suggested to institute a structured evaluation framework that assigns weighted scores or bands to key career milestones (e.g., number of high-level athletes produced, sustained duration of full-time coaching) to provide an objective basis for the Committee's judgment of the long-term contribution.
MAKA	Effective from 2024, the trophy is conferred only upon the winner of the Khelo India University Games (KIUG), making the selection 100% outcome-driven and neglecting objectives of promoting broad-basing and a dope-free sports culture.	Given the recent implementation of the revised framework, it is recommended that the Ministry undertake a structured review after a defined cycle (e.g., three years) to assess whether this model adequately advances broader Khelo India objectives. As part of this review, the feasibility of introducing—a hybrid scoring model that assigns the dominant weightage to KIUG results (e.g., 85%) but reserves a structural weightage (e.g., 15%) for verifiable institutional efforts toward broad-basing and a dope-free sports culture—may be examined.

Award	Old Provision / Structural Observation	Suggestion
	The sole reliance on winning the KIUG does not provide a mechanism to verify a university's adherence to the objectives of broad-basing, integrating sports and physical fitness, or ensuring a dope-free sports culture.	It is suggested to require universities to demonstrate sustained, verifiable institutional efforts (e.g., awareness campaigns, NADA collaboration records) related to dope-free culture as a mandatory prerequisite for KIUG results to count towards the MAKATrophy.
RKPP	The RKPP is a non-cash award, consisting only of a citation and a trophy. This lack of financial incentive may limit the motivation for smaller entities to pursue resource-intensive eligibility criteria (e.g., nurturing 50 sportspersons annually).	It is suggested to augment the award with valuable, non-monetary incentives such as official partnership status with SAI/Ministry, priority access to central sports facilities, or streamlined administrative benefits.

6.6 Conclusion: The National Sports Awards (NSA) scheme serves as the definitive pinnacle of recognition for sporting excellence in India, fostering a culture of meritocracy and integrity within the nation's athletic ecosystem. By employing a weighted scoring model—which balances 80% quantitative medal achievements with 20% qualitative factors such as leadership and sportsmanship—the scheme ensures a robust, transparent, and integrity-focused selection process. The system's inherent flexibility is demonstrated by its willingness to relax nominal quotas to honour the surge in Indian success at major events like the Olympic, Paralympic, and Asian Games, ensuring that no exceptional performance goes unrecognized. Furthermore, the mandatory NADA clearances and employer vigilance reports reinforce a high standard of professional conduct, making these awards a prestigious hallmark of clean and disciplined sportsmanship.

To further enhance this framework, the proposed transition toward an Integrated National Sports Award Scheme represents a strategic move to simplify administrative coordination through a unified and consistent guideline structure. Future refinements, such as establishing formal points matrices for non-Olympic disciplines and implementing a structured evaluation for lifetime coaching contributions, will provide the objective clarity needed to maintain the scheme's high credibility.



Section 7

SCHEME OF SPORTS FUND FOR PENSION TO MERITORIOUS SPORTSPERSONS

7.1 Introduction: The Scheme of Sports Fund for Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons is a flagship welfare intervention of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS). It was established as an important scheme to provide additional financial security to sportspersons post-retirement from their active sports careers in the form of a life-time pension. This scheme is intended to be distinct from the existing National Welfare Fund, which primarily assists sportspersons living in indigent circumstances. The scheme is based on the premise that sportspersons spend the prime of their youth in pursuit of intensive training, sacrificing other beneficial opportunities. The assured monthly income is designed as compensation for the opportunities spurned by them in pursuit of high ambition and achievement in sports. Its core mission, as stated in the 2018 amendment, is to provide financial security to meritorious sportspersons post-retirement. Its vision is to attract and retain the best sporting talent in the country to achieve excellence.

7.2 Description of the Scheme – Governance and Guidelines

A) Eligibility Criteria: To be eligible for the scheme, a sportsperson must be an Indian citizen and have won gold, silver, or bronze medals in specific international competitions.

- Eligible Events: Olympic Games / Para Olympic Games, Asian Games / Para Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, and World Cup/World Championship in Olympic and Asian Games disciplines, provided the latter is held once in four years only.

- Retirement Clause: Pension is payable upon the sportsperson attaining the age of 30 years or the date of retirement from active sports, whichever is later. Applicants must provide an undertaking that they have retired from an active sports career.
- Pension Limitation: Meritorious sportspersons are eligible for only one pension under the scheme, corresponding to their highest sports achievement.

B) Pension Rates: The monthly pension rate is fixed based on the highest medal achieved:

- ₹20,000 for Medallists at the Olympic Games / Para Olympic Games.
- ₹16,000 for Gold medallists at the quadrennial World Cup/World Championship.
- ₹14,000 for Silver and Bronze medallists at the quadrennial World Cup/World Championship, and for Gold medallists of the Asian/Commonwealth Games/Para Asian Games.
- ₹12,000 for Silver and Bronze medallists of the Asian/Commonwealth Games/Para Asian Games.

C) Application and Management Process: To receive benefits, eligible sportspersons must apply in a prescribed proforma. The application requires the date of birth proof and a retirement undertaking. A management requirement is that the application must be duly recommended by the concerned National Sports Federation or by the State Government's Sports Department. Additionally, applicants must furnish bank account details. Pension payments commence from the date the Scheme comes into force, with no arrears payable for the period prior to that date.

7.3 Key Achievements of the Scheme: The Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons scheme has matured into a flagship welfare intervention, providing life-time financial security to 119 new beneficiaries over the last five years. A testament to its administrative stabilization is the dramatic improvement in fiscal efficiency; the scheme progressed from under-utilization in previous years to achieving a 99.1% budget utilization rate in 2023–24. This reflects a highly effective alignment between allocation and the actual needs of retired athletes.

The scheme has also succeeded in preserving the dignity of national heroes across a wide spectrum of disciplines, from traditional strengths like Wrestling, Kabaddi, and Boxing to an increasing number of beneficiaries in Para-sports. Anchored by a secure annuity model managed by the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), the scheme

effectively converts a sportsperson's past sacrifices into assured monthly income, ensuring that those who dedicated their youth to the nation are supported well beyond their active careers.

7.4 Progress of the Scheme – Secondary Data Analysis

7.4.1 Financial Performance (Budget Utilisation): The scheme has demonstrated volatility in budgetary allocation and subsequent expenditure, particularly showing considerable under-utilisation in FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23, with effective utilization in recent years (see Table 7.1 below). The reasons for differences in allocation and expenditure are that it is a demand driven scheme.

Table 7.1: Budget Allocation and Expenditure

Financial Year	Allocation (₹ in crore)	Expenditure (₹ in crore)	Utilisation Rate (%)
2020-21	14.00	13.22	94.4
2021-22	13.00	6.72	51.7
2022-23	15.00	4.70	31.3
2023-24	5.50	5.45	99.1
2024-25	4.00	3.82	95.5

Source: Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYAS)

The sharp under-utilisation observed in FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23 coincides with periods of lower inflow of complete and eligible applications, while the near-full utilisation in recent years reflects stabilisation of the administrative pipeline and closer alignment between allocation and expected beneficiary volume. The subsequent rationalisation of budget allocations appears to reflect a data-informed shift toward realistic demand estimation.

7.4.2 Beneficiary and Distribution Trends: A total of 119 meritorious sportspersons were sanctioned pension cases across the five financial years reviewed (2020-21 to 2024-25).

- **Discipline Concentration:** The sanctioned lists reflect a concentration in disciplines with historically strong international performance such as Kabaddi, Wrestling, Boxing, Hockey, Athletics, and Weightlifting. Other disciplines like Para Chess, Para Badminton, Para Powerlifting, Shooting, and Judo are also represented.
- **Geographic Skew:** Geographically, beneficiaries are concentrated in a limited number of states—Haryana (31), Punjab (17), Maharashtra (17), and Kerala (14). While this concentration reflects the presence of

established sports ecosystems in these states, it also highlights the importance of strong institutional facilitation in enabling eligible athletes to access benefits. Lower representation from medal-producing regions such as the North East suggests that awareness and facilitation mechanisms play a decisive role in translating eligibility into actual pension sanction.

7.4.3 Approval and Rejection Rates: Over the three financial years (2022–23, 2023–24, and 2024–25), the scheme sanctioned 66 applications and rejected 37 (Table 7.2).

Table 7.2: Count of Approved and Rejected Applications

Financial Year	Approved	Rejected
2022-23	14	13
2023-24	29	10
2024-25	23	14
Total	66	37

Source: Data received from Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYAS)

The rejection rate of approximately 37% indicates that compliance and documentation requirements influence outcomes. This pattern suggests that administrative design is a determinant of access, particularly for athletes from regions or sports with weaker institutional support.

7.5 Findings and Suggestions: Scheme of Sports Fund for Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons is significant welfare intervention that has matured institutionally. The scheme has succeeded in establishing a credible post-retirement security framework for elite athletes, yet the analysis of financial utilisation, beneficiary distribution, and application outcomes highlights important insights into how administrative design and facilitation mechanisms shape real-world access to benefits.

From a beneficiary perspective, the scheme has effectively reached sportspersons from disciplines that have historically delivered sustained international performance, including wrestling, boxing, kabaddi, hockey, athletics, and weightlifting, alongside growing inclusion of para-sports. This concentration reflects the scheme’s merit-based design and its alignment with India’s international medal profile. At the same time, the geographic distribution of beneficiaries – dominated by a small group of states with strong sports administration ecosystems – underscores the decisive role of institutional facilitation in translating eligibility into

access. The comparatively lower representation from medal-producing regions such as the Northeast suggests that awareness, documentation support, and proactive identification at the state and regional level significantly influence outcomes. This observation does not point to exclusion by design but rather highlights the importance of strengthening outreach and facilitation mechanisms to ensure more uniform national coverage.

The analysis of approval and rejection trends provides further insight into the scheme's operational dynamics. An overall rejection rate of approximately 37 percent over the last three financial years is notably high for a scheme with a finite and internationally verified beneficiary pool. This indicates that compliance and documentation requirements are a major determinant of access, particularly for older retirees, athletes from earlier competitive eras, and those lacking sustained institutional backing. While these requirements serve an important role in safeguarding probity, the data suggest that simplification and greater reliance on existing official records could improve conversion rates without compromising integrity. In this context, the scheme's growing integration with digital records and centralized databases offers a clear pathway for improvement.

A particularly important policy insight relates to the interaction between scheme design and the realities of sporting careers. The age-based commencement condition, which links pension eligibility to attainment of 30 years, provides administrative uniformity but does not fully align with the retirement patterns of several sports where peak performance and exit from competition occur earlier. As the scheme's stated mission is to provide financial security post-retirement, closer alignment with actual retirement status is indicated.

The fixed pension rates, while meaningful at the time of revision in 2018, have gradually experienced erosion in real terms due to inflation. Given that the scheme is explicitly designed to provide long-term income security rather than symbolic recognition, periodic review of pension adequacy assumes growing importance. Introducing a structured review cycle or a modest indexation mechanism would preserve the real value of benefits and reinforce the scheme's credibility as a reliable social security instrument for retired athletes.

Since the administrative process has requirements ranging from documentary proof of achievement, a retirement declaration, and full bank information with verification, this places a compliance burden on the applicant. This is particularly difficult for the senior/older athletes who may lack historical documentation or for rural athletes with limited digital access.

From a governance perspective, the institutional framework of the scheme is stable and financially prudent, with LIC-managed annuities ensuring continuity of payments. Overall, the progress of the scheme demonstrates that its core architecture is sound, and its objectives are being met in principle. The emerging challenges are best understood as those of a mature welfare intervention operating within a diverse and evolving sports ecosystem. Addressing them through targeted administrative streamlining, enhanced outreach, and periodic policy calibration would significantly improve coverage, equity, and effectiveness. With these refinements, the scheme is well positioned to function not only as a pension mechanism, but as a credible assurance to current and future athletes that excellence in sport is recognized and secured across the full life cycle of their careers.

7.6 Conclusion: The Scheme of Sports Fund for Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons has successfully institutionalized long-term financial security for elite athletes, reinforcing the State's commitment to recognising sporting excellence beyond active competition. Its annuity-based design, clear eligibility framework, and improved budget stabilisation in recent years reflect growing administrative maturity and fiscal discipline. The current compliance and recommendation requirements have ensured high standards of financial probity. At the same time, implementation experience indicates that reliance on intermediary certifications and extensive documentation can unevenly affect senior athletes, rural sportspersons, and those from regions with weaker institutional capacity. These patterns highlight facilitation gaps rather than design exclusion. Overall, the scheme is fundamentally sound and impactful. With incremental refinements, particularly greater use of centralized verification and simplified access pathways, it is well-positioned to become a more inclusive, efficient, and athlete-centric pension mechanism, while preserving its core integrity and welfare objectives.

Section 8



PANDIT DEENDAYAL UPADHYAY NATIONAL WELFARE PROGRAM FOR SPORTSPERSONS (PDUNWPS)

8.1 Introduction: The Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Program for Sportspersons (PDUNWPS) stands at an unusual intersection of welfare, recognition and institutional responsibility. It is one of the oldest social-protection mechanisms for sportspersons in India, rooted in a 1982 Fund meant to support outstanding retired athletes in distress, later expanded in 2009, renamed in 2017, and finally converted into a formal scheme in 2023. Its evolution reflects an implicit acknowledgement of India's sports ecosystem, while increasingly performance-driven, lacks a comprehensive social security architecture for those who have spent years representing the country and often retire with limited savings, fragile health and uncertain livelihoods. The scheme fills this welfare gap by providing financial assistance for indigent circumstances, procurement of sports equipment, medical emergencies, injuries sustained during training or competition, assistance and even basic training and equipment support for athletes belonging to vulnerable households or federations without recognition.

8.2 Description of the Scheme – Governance and Guidelines: The guidelines establish a rigorous eligibility framework where *indigent* circumstances are defined as annual family income below ₹8 lakh, with complete exclusion of regular employees of the Central or State government, PSUs or autonomous bodies, thereby ensuring that only vulnerable or economically distressed sportspersons qualify for support. This is a far more stringent criterion than most central welfare schemes, and it shapes the scheme's entire beneficiary profile. The governance

architecture places the Secretary (Sports) as chairperson of the Executive Committee, supported by the Joint Secretary, Director, Financial Advisor and three eminent sportspersons. All suggestions must be approved by the Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, creating vertically stacked approval chains where even assistance of ₹2-10 lakh (up to 20 lakhs with minister approval) moves through senior-most decision makers. The application process demands verification by the SAI within 10 working days, based on a 15-point checklist covering achievements, injuries, indigent conditions, documentary proofs and cross-verification with NSFs, followed by final disposal within 45 working days by the Ministry. These procedural details demonstrate a welfare model that aspires to be thorough but inevitably incurs administrative friction.

8.3 Key Achievements of the Scheme: The PDUNWPS has successfully solidified its position as a micro-welfare instrument, functioning as a responsive safety net for athletes facing medical emergencies or indigent circumstances. A defining achievement of the program is its commitment to inclusivity; it actively supports athletes from de-recognized or suspended bodies – such as Wushu, Karate, and Para-sports federations – ensuring that the welfare of the individual sportsperson is prioritized over institutional status. Furthermore, the scheme has effectively bridged geographic and economic gaps, delivering essential support to beneficiaries in regions with rich sporting histories but limited infrastructure, such as Jharkhand, West Bengal, and the Northeast. By covering diverse traditional disciplines ranging from Football and Hockey to Archery, the program ensures that those who have historically carried the country’s sporting reputation are protected from financial distress, successfully fulfilling its mandate as a compassionate and demand-driven support system.

8.4 Progress of the Scheme – Secondary Data Analysis: Recent data reveals an important structural transition underway, while allocations have remained constant at ₹2 crore annually, expenditure has moderated over time, reaching ₹0.95 crore in 2024–25. Parallel application-level data clarifies this pattern. The PDUNWPS dataset shows that the scheme is explicitly demand-driven, and the number of eligible applications has declined in recent calendar years.

Table 8.1: Application Status under PDUNWPS (Year-wise) (in Numbers)

S. No.	Year	Total Applications	Approved	Rejected	Pending (SAI)
1	2023–24	71	36	33	2
2	2024–25	72	25	28	19
3	2025–26*	45	2	5	38

**2025–26 data is provisional*

Source: Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYAS)

In 2023–24, out of 71 applications received, 36 were approved; in 2024–25, approvals declined to 25 out of 72; and in 2025 (till date), only 2 applications have been approved out of 45 received, with a large number remaining under verification at the SAI level (Table 8.1).

Table 8.2: Allocation and Expenditure of PDUNWPS for 2020-21 to 2024-25

(₹ in Crore)			
S. No.	Financial Year	Allocation	Expenditure
1.	2020-21	2.00	2.00
2.	2021-22	2.00	1.57
3.	2022-23	2.00	1.07
4.	2023-24	2.00	1.07
5.	2024-25	2.00	0.95

Source: Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYAS)

Expenditure trends (Table 8.2) reinforce this interpretation. Beneficiary disbursements declined from ₹107 lakh in 2023–24 to ₹89 lakh in 2024–25, and to a minimal outlay in 2025 so far, corresponding closely with the pace of application disposal rather than a lack of fiscal commitment. Seen in this light, the gap between allocation and expenditure reflects a cautious, verification-intensive welfare model that prioritises correctness over speed. This approach, while temporarily constraining utilisation, strengthens the long-term integrity of the programme and reduces the risk of leakage or mistargeting.

The beneficiary dataset (Table 8.3) provides further insights. A large proportion of beneficiaries come from football, hockey, wrestling, athletics, archery and volleyball – disciplines with long histories of grassroots participation but limited institutional support for retired players. Many cases originate in states such as Haryana, Punjab, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur and Andhra Pradesh – regions with vibrant but often economically constrained sporting populations. The dataset includes multiple footballers from Jharkhand and West Bengal, wrestlers from Haryana, and archers and weightlifters from Assam and the Northeast, illustrating that the scheme tends to serve athletes who have historically carried the country’s sporting reputation without necessarily enjoying modern training or financial systems.

Table 8.3: Total beneficiaries under the PDNWPS (State-wise)

S.no.	States	Financial Year				
		2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
1	Delhi	7	5	7	4	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	2	0	1	0	3
3	Uttar Pradesh	5	7	7	6	7
4	Haryana	7	8	5	14	12
5	West Bengal	1	3	3	4	0
6	Rajasthan	2	0	0	2	2
7	Bihar	1	4	1	0	0
8	Manipur	2	4	0	0	0
9	Maharashtra	2	6	7	6	2
10	Jharkhand	2	2	1	0	0
11	Karnataka	2	6	2	0	1
12	Punjab	2	3	1	1	0
13	Jammu & Kashmir	1	1	4	2	1
14	Madhya Pradesh	1	1	1	0	2
15	Chhattisgarh	1	2	2	0	0
16	Assam	0	1	1	1	0
17	Gujarat	0	1	0	0	0
18	Tamil Nadu	0	1	3	3	5
19	Bangalore	0	0	1	0	0
20	Kerala	0	0	1	0	0
21	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	2	0	2
22	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	1	0	2
23	Uttarakhand	0	0	1	0	0
24	Pune	0	0	1	0	0
25	Chandigarh	0	0	1	0	0
26	Odisha	0	0	0	1	0
27	Telangana	0	0	0	1	0

S.no.	States	Financial Year				
		2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Total		38	55	54	45	39
Rejection Rate (in percentage)				51.25	47.83	52.83
Grand Total			231			

Source: Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYAS)

In past years, the presence of applicants from de-recognised or federations when they were not recognised, such as Wushu, Karate, Soft Tennis and several para-sports, shows that the provision in the guidelines for athletes from such federations is actively being used – validating the inclusive intent of clause 4(i)(e) of the scheme, which explicitly allows support where federation recognition is suspended or absent. The nature of assistance sanctioned – usually between ₹1-5 lakh for indigent circumstances or medical treatment, and up to ₹2.5 lakh for training/equipment support – confirms that PDUNWPS functions as a micro-welfare instrument – addressing acute distress, medical shocks, and basic continuity needs. The cases for medical treatment often involve serious injuries, chronic conditions or hospitalisation and some reach the maximum allowable ₹10 lakh assistance under the medical and injury categories, showing the welfare role the scheme plays.

8.5 Findings and Suggestions: Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Program for Sportspersons reveals a scheme that is fundamentally well-conceived, fiscally disciplined, and socially purposeful, while also highlighting clear opportunities for refinement as it matures. At its core, the programme has succeeded in establishing a tightly targeted micro-welfare architecture for distressed sportspersons, marked by stringent eligibility norms, careful scrutiny, and a strong emphasis on accountability. This design has ensured that assistance is directed toward genuinely vulnerable athletes rather than being diffused through loosely defined criteria – an achievement that distinguishes PDUNWPS from many broader welfare interventions.

At the same time, the very features that safeguard the scheme’s integrity have also introduced operational frictions. The formal and legalistic language of the guidelines, combined with extensive documentation requirements to establish indigent circumstances, can unintentionally disadvantage older, retired, or grassroots athletes with limited administrative capacity. Similarly, the current governance structure – where senior-most officials are involved in approving relatively small-value welfare disbursements – reflects a commendable emphasis on oversight but is not fully aligned with the urgency and volume characteristics of welfare support.

Importantly, these patterns can be interpreted not as a weakening of the scheme, but as evidence of a cautious and responsible administrative approach during a period of institutional transition. The declining utilisation observed in recent years coexists with sustained demand and widespread vulnerability among sportspersons, underscoring that the challenge lies in access pathways rather than intent or fiscal commitment. The geographical concentration of beneficiaries in traditional sporting states further reinforces this point: the scheme is clearly effective where awareness and institutional linkages are strong, while its limited reach in newer sports ecosystems, tribal regions, and hilly states points to untapped potential rather than exclusion by design. The relatively low participation of coaches and support personnel, despite their formal eligibility, similarly suggests communication gaps rather than policy neglect.

Viewed together, these observations point to a scheme that has already achieved credibility, inclusion of marginalised sporting communities, and protection against misuse, and is now ready for a phase of administrative optimisation. Incremental reforms—such as simplifying guideline language, introducing basic utilisation documentation for training and equipment support, and establishing a reasonable cooling-off period between repeat applications—would strengthen governance while preserving the scheme’s welfare character. Streamlining verification through standardised digital formats, better integration with NSF and SAI databases, and calibrated delegation of approval authority would reduce pendency without diluting accountability. Finally, proactive outreach through State Sports Departments, SAI regional centres, and district-level institutions would broaden geographic coverage and ensure that eligible athletes, coaches, and support staff across the country are aware of and able to access the scheme.

PDUNWPS has laid a strong foundation as a credible, need-based welfare mechanism for sportspersons. The next stage is administrative fine-tuning, transforming a carefully guarded welfare scheme into a more responsive and accessible one, while retaining the discipline and integrity that underpin its achievements.

8.6 Conclusion: The Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Program for Sportspersons (PDUNWPS) represents a carefully designed micro-welfare and social-protection instrument aimed at safeguarding economically distressed sportspersons—those with annual family income below ₹8 lakh—and individuals facing serious medical emergencies, with assistance extending up to ₹10 lakh. The financial and application data indicate that the scheme is currently operating below its sanctioned capacity, with utilisation moderating from ₹2.00 crore in 2020–21 to ₹0.95 crore in 2024–25. Importantly, this trend reflects not a withdrawal of policy

commitment, but the presence of administrative friction and heightened scrutiny within a demand-driven framework, as seen in the near-parity between approvals and rejections during FY 2022–23 to FY 2024–25. Such patterns underscore the scheme’s emphasis on targeting accuracy and fiscal discipline, even as they point to opportunities for procedural refinement.

PDUNWPS now stands at a stage where incremental administrative improvements can unlock substantial welfare gains without altering its core intent. Addressing identified gaps—such as introducing basic utilisation documentation, ensuring uniform application of indigent criteria across all assistance categories, simplifying legal language, and standardising digital verification through SAI—would enhance both efficiency and transparency. These reforms would allow the scheme to respond more swiftly to genuine distress while preserving the safeguards that protect it from misuse. In essence, PDUNWPS has already established itself as an essential and credible pillar within India’s sports ecosystem. Its foundational objective—ensuring that sportspersons who have served the nation are not left unsupported in moments of vulnerability—remains firmly intact.

Section 9



NATIONAL SPORTS DEVELOPMENT FUND (NSDF)

9.1 Introduction: The National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) represents a strategic intervention by the Government of India to mobilize non-budgetary resources for the promotion of sports. Established in 1998 under the Charitable Endowments Act, 1890, the Fund operates with the distinct mandate of harmonizing government initiatives with private and corporate philanthropy. Unlike standard budgetary allocations, the NSDF was conceived to provide the flexibility and financial agility required to support elite athletes, build world-class infrastructure, and foster research and development in sports science. Over the last two decades, the Fund has evolved from a repository of general donations into channelling Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds to be directed into India's Olympic ambitions, particularly through the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS). Conceived as a non-lapsable public fund, NSDF was designed to mobilize non-budgetary resources for the development of sports, complementing traditional government expenditure while enabling targeted investments in infrastructure, elite training, sports science, and international exposure. Over time, and particularly in the last decade, NSDF has evolved from a supplementary funding mechanism into a core pillar supporting India's high-performance and Olympic-oriented sports ecosystem.

While the scheme guidelines specify eligibility conditions, documentation requirements, and procedures, they intentionally preserve a degree of administrative discretion. This flexibility has allowed NSDF to respond to evolving needs of elite sport, especially in high-performance and Olympic-oriented interventions. However, as the scale and complexity of NSDF operations have expanded, the

governing structure has increasingly relied on case-by-case approvals, particularly for high-value sanctions. Sanctioning of amounts beyond thresholds (5 lakh for Infrastructure projects) typically requires approval at the level of the Secretary and, in certain cases, the Minister-in-Charge, thereby embedding financial prudence within the administrative process.

The relevance of NSDF has increased sharply with the policy shift toward outcome-driven sport, reflected in initiatives such as the TOPS, the expansion of high-performance centres, and growing Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contributions. This evaluation assesses NSDF's governance, funding structure, expenditure patterns, achievements, and systemic challenges, using secondary data drawn from official financial statements, sanction records, and scheme guidelines. The objective is to provide an assessment of how effectively NSDF has functioned as a financing instrument and how it can be strengthened for long-term sustainability and impact.

9.2 Description of the Scheme – Governance and Guidelines: The governance structure of the NSDF is designed to ensure accountability while maintaining the flexibility necessary for high-performance sports. NSDF is governed through a two-tier institutional arrangement designed to balance policy oversight with operational flexibility. At the apex is the Council of NSDF, constituted by the Central Government and chaired by the Union Minister in charge of Youth Affairs and Sports. The Council includes senior officers of the Department of Sports, Chairpersons and Managing Directors of public and private sector enterprises, and representatives of sports promotion bodies. The Council is responsible for determining overall policy direction, approving broad priorities, and ensuring alignment between NSDF interventions and national sports objectives.

Day-to-day operations are managed by the Executive Committee, headed by the Secretary (Sports). The Executive Committee meets periodically, preferably not less than four times a year, and is empowered to appraise and approve proposals for financial assistance. Proposals are processed through the NSDF Secretariat, with technical vetting by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and, where relevant, National Sports Federations. This structure embeds financial scrutiny, technical appraisal, and administrative accountability within the decision-making process.

A defining feature of NSDF governance is the distinction between *tied* and *untied* contributions. *Tied funds* are earmarked for specific purposes, such as construction of hostels, high-performance centres, or discipline-specific support under TOPS which come into existence often through Memoranda of Understanding with CSR donors or PSUs. *Untied funds*, by contrast, provide greater flexibility and can be allocated

across training, infrastructure or international exposure based on evolving priorities. Over time, NSDF has received more tied contributions, particularly from large PSUs like Coal India Limited, REC Foundation, NTPC Foundation, ONGC Foundation and Indian Oil Corporation.

Operational Guidelines and Beneficiaries: The scheme targets three primary verticals: individual athletes, infrastructure development and tournament organization.

- **Athlete Assistance:** The guidelines prioritize top-level sportspersons with medal prospects in Olympics, Asian Games, and Commonwealth Games. Assistance covers customized training (both domestic and international), equipment procurement, and coaching fees. Historically, the assistance cap was set at ₹50.00 Lakhs per year per athlete, intended to bridge the gap between standard government training and elite requirements.
- **Infrastructure Support:** The NSDF provides grants for the construction and maintenance of sports infrastructure to organizations and sports academies. A key eligibility criterion is that the applicant organization – often promoted by past Olympic or Asian Games medallists – must have a clear 20-year lease on the land and a dedicated wing for sports promotion. The standard maximum assistance for such projects is capped at ₹5.00 Crore, emphasizing the creation of state-of-the-art facilities.
- **Process of Selection:** The selection process is codified and rigorous. Athletes and academies must submit detailed performance reports, audited accounts, and invoices. Applications are vetted by SAI and National Sports Federations (NSFs) before being placed before the Executive Committee, ensuring that funds are directed solely toward genuine medal prospects and viable infrastructure projects.

The scheme guidelines clearly outline eligibility criteria, documentation requirements, and appraisal procedures, particularly for infrastructure projects. For infrastructure development, an explicit maximum assistance limit is prescribed, along with requirements for detailed project reports, time schedules, audited accounts, and milestone-based execution. For other components such as training, equipment, sports science, exposure and tournaments, the guidelines provide procedural clarity but do not specify explicit financial ceilings. In practice, an implicit ceiling has often been assumed across components, with proposals involving higher financial outlays requiring approval at the level of the Secretary or the Minister-in-Charge. This approval structure has ensured fiscal oversight while allowing flexibility to respond to evolving needs of elite sport.

From an administrative standpoint, NSDF functions as a non-lapsable public-purpose fund, distinct from annual budgetary schemes. Contributions may flow into NSDF from multiple sources, including CSR funds of PSUs and corporates, government contributions, financial institutions, state governments, and individuals. Funds are subsequently released to eligible implementing agencies – such as SAI, national sports federations, academic institutions, and sports academies – based on approved proposals.

9.3 Key Achievements of the Scheme: The National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) has successfully transitioned from a supplementary funding mechanism into a central pillar of India's high-performance sports ecosystem, specifically by bridging the gap between traditional budgetary allocations and the agile requirements of elite athletes. A primary achievement lies in its evolution into a sophisticated CSR aggregation platform, which has effectively harmonised corporate philanthropy with national Olympic ambitions. By 2023–24, the fund demonstrated its credibility by mobilising significant "tied" contributions from major Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) – such as Coal India Limited, REC Foundation, and NTPC Foundation – amounting to approximately ₹262.3 crore. This shift toward earmarked funding has provided a predictable, multi-year financial base that supports capital-intensive projects and reduces the fragmentation of sports philanthropy.

In terms of elite athlete support, the NSDF has become the financial backbone of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), providing a dual-stream financing architecture through both government grants and CSR channels. Between FY 2016–17 and FY 2025–26, the fund released over ₹15,853.38 lakh in untied grants to the Sports Authority of India (SAI) for TOPS, supplemented by ₹14,163.71 lakh in CSR-earmarked assistance. The scheme has also achieved transformative results in infrastructure development, addressing long-standing structural constraints through sanctioned projects exceeding ₹248 crore. Furthermore, the NSDF has ensured a geographically inclusive footprint by funding projects in the Northeast and peripheral regions, such as the construction of badminton halls in 15 locations across Arunachal Pradesh and the renovation of stadiums in Assam.

Beyond physical construction, the NSDF has acted as a catalyst for institutional modernisation by shifting the focus toward sports science. Recent expenditure patterns show an increasing emphasis on biomechanics, nutrition testing, and anti-doping laboratories, acknowledging that modern elite sport is a scientific endeavour. By funding specialised facilities like the High-Performance Centre at Sonapat and anti-doping centres at NFSU, the NSDF ensures that India's performance gains are sustainable and aligned with international standards.

9.4 Progress of the Scheme – Secondary Data Analysis: The evolution of the NSDF over the past decade reflects a clear transition from a supplementary financing mechanism to a central pillar of India's high-performance sports ecosystem as can be witnessed from Table 9.1. Secondary data on fund inflows, releases and sectoral allocation indicate that NSDF has progressively internalized the logic of targeted investment, long-horizon planning, and outcome-oriented expenditure. This shift becomes particularly evident after FY 2019-20, when the scale, composition, and functional direction of funding change decisively.

There has been an observed shift from General to "Tied" CSR Funding under the NSDF Scheme. In its initial years (1998-2008), the NSDF relied heavily on "Untied Contributions" (general donations). For instance, in 2008-09, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) contributed ₹35.00 Crore, and various state governments made contributions of ₹1.00 Crore each. However, recent data indicate a shift toward "Tied Contributions," where funds are donated by Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) for specific projects. In 2023-24 alone, Coal India Ltd contributed over ₹47.85 Crore, and the REC Foundation contributed ₹21.00 Crore. These funds are not discretionary; they are strictly tied to specific outcomes, such as the construction of hostels or support for specific sports like Archery and Boxing. A defining feature of this phase is the substantial expansion in tied contributions, which have cumulatively reached approximately ₹262.3 crore. The growing share of earmarked funding, primarily routed through CSR commitments of major public sector enterprises, signals increasing donor confidence in NSDF's governance architecture and implementation credibility. Rather than reflecting a constraint, the predominance of tied funds has enabled the Fund to undertake large, capital-intensive interventions that would have been difficult to sustain through annual budgetary support alone. The concentration of contributions from entities such as Coal India Limited, REC Foundation, NTPC Foundation, ONGC Foundation, and Indian Oil Corporation has also imparted predictability and continuity to NSDF's financing base, allowing for multi-year project planning.

A longitudinal analysis of the financial data reveals a significant paradigm shift in how the NSDF operates, moving from ad-hoc operational funding to targeted, high-value strategic investments. This transition is most visible after FY 2019-20, when CSR-linked inflows and PSU participation begin to dominate both the scale and direction of funding.

9.4.1 Evolution of Fund Mobilisation: Scale, Source, and Structure: NSDF's total tied contributions have reached ₹2,623.38 crore, dwarfed untied contributions and signalled a donor preference for outcome-visible investments. The concentration of inflows from PSUs—Coal India Ltd, REC Foundation,

NTPC Foundation, ONGC Foundation, Indian Oil Corporation, and HAL – has created sustainable funding streams but also increased thematic rigidity.

Table 9.1: Major Tied and Untied Contributions to NSDF

(₹ in lakh)

Year	Tied Contributions	Untied – non-Go	Untied – Gol	Total
1998-99	–	–	200.00	200.00
1999-00	–	11.60	11.60	23.20
2000-01	–	125.00	125.00	250.00
2001-02	–	25.00	25.00	50.00
2002-03	–	–	–	–
2003-04	–	19.46	19.46	38.92
2004-05	–	19.84	19.84	39.68
2005-06	–	28.78	28.79	57.57
2006-07	–	0.84	–	0.84
2007-08	–	1600.00	500.00	2100.00
2008-09	–	3500.00	1025.00	4525.00
2009-10	–	210.00	812.00	1022.00
2010-11	–	–	2000.00	2000.00
2011-12	–	1100.00	–	1100.00
2012-13	–	1000.00	500.00	1500.00
2013-14	–	1000.00	500.00	1500.00
2014-15	1000.00	–	–	1000.00
2015-16	–	130.83	500.00	630.83
2016-17	3725.00	503.22	1420.00	5648.22
2017-18	1200.00	92.05	200.00	1492.05
2018-19	400.00	384.71	200.00	984.71
2019-20	–	240.10	7715.00	7955.10
2020-21	–	705.11	238.10	943.21
2021-22	1500.00	13.09	500.00	2013.09
2022-23	3250.00	1138.69	1600.00	5988.69

Year	Tied Contributions	Untied – non-Go	Untied – GoI	Total
2023–24	8354.46	171.75	4600.00	13126.21
2024–25	6444.38	572.55	1371.00	8387.93
2025–26	359.97	–	–	359.97
Grand Total	26233.81	12592.62	24110.79	62937.22

Source: Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYAS)

This pattern demonstrates that NSDF has effectively become a CSR aggregation platform for sports, particularly for capital-intensive projects that donors prefer to visibly associate with.

9.4.2 NSDF Support to TOPS: Parallel to this structural deepening of fund mobilisation, NSDF has emerged as a principal financial backbone of the TOPS (Table 9.2A & 9.2B). Between FY 2016–17 and FY 2025–26, NSDF releases to SAI for TOPS amount to over ₹15,853.38 Lakh, supplemented by approximately ₹14,163.71 Lakh mobilised through CSR channels. This dual-stream financing architecture has significantly enhanced the scheme’s capacity to provide uninterrupted, individualized support to elite athletes across Olympic cycles. The data show a deliberate concentration of resources in disciplines such as athletics, boxing, badminton, and archery – sports where India has demonstrated competitive potential and where marginal performance gains yield high international returns. This prioritisation marks a clear departure from earlier dispersive funding approaches and reflects a maturing performance strategy.

Table 9.2A: NSDF Releases for TOPS and Grants to SAI

(₹ in lakhs)

S. No.	Year	Amount Released by NSDF
1	2016–17	2000.00
2	2017–18	1000.00
3	2018–19	1000.00
4	2019–20	850.00
5	2020–21	500.00
6	2021–22	2807.52
7	2022–23	2601.86
8	2023–24	2016.00
9	2024–25	2078.00

S. No.	Year	Amount Released by NSDF
10	2025–26	1000.00
Total		15853.38

Source: Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYAS)

Table 9.2B: NSDF Releases for TOPS and CSR Earmarked Assistance
(₹ in lakhs)

S. No.	Year of Release	CSR Source & Purpose (Tied)	Amount
1	2022–23	REC Foundation – TOPS (Boxing, Athletics, Badminton)	1500.00
2	2022–23	NTPC Foundation – TOPS (Archery)	750.00
3	2023–24	NTPC Foundation – TOPS (Archery)	500.00
4	2023–24	REC Foundation – TOPS (Boxing, Athletics, Badminton)	2500.00
5	2023–24	ONGC Foundation – TOPS (General)	584.00
6	2023–24	REC Foundation – TOPS (Boxing, Athletics, Badminton)	2100.00
7	2023–24 & 2024–25	General Insurance Corporation of India – TOPS	385.33
8	2024–25	ONGC Foundation – TOPS (General)	900.00
9	2024–25	REC Foundation – TOPS (Boxing, Athletics, Badminton)	3800.00
10	2024–25	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. – Female Mid & Long Distance	144.38
11	2024–25	NTPC Foundation – TOPS (Archery)	1000.00
Total			14163.71

Source: Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYAS)

Parallely, CSR funding routed through NSDF for TOPS totals ₹141.64 crore, concentrated in boxing, athletics, badminton, and archery – disciplines with measurable Olympic conversion probabilities

This dual funding stream (government + CSR) has allowed TOPS to finance:

- Foreign exposure and acclimatization camps
- International coaching and sparring
- Sports science, biomechanics, and nutrition support
- High-end equipment procurement

The predictability and continuity of TOPS financing mark a significant departure from earlier episodic athlete support models.

9.4.3 Infrastructure Development: Spatial Spread and Functional Focus: In addition to athlete-centric expenditure, NSDF has played a transformative role in sports infrastructure development across the country. Since 2005, infrastructure-related sanctions under the Fund exceed ₹248 crore, with releases of nearly ₹229.67 crore, indicating a relatively high aggregate release ratio but accompanied with project-level variations. Large-scale investments in athlete hostels, high-performance centres, synthetic tracks, and specialized facilities such as nutrition and anti-doping laboratories have expanded the physical and institutional capacity of India’s training ecosystem. Flagship projects – including the 400-bedded hostel at LNIPE Gwalior, the 330-bedded hostel at SAI Bangalore, and the High-Performance Centre at Sonapat – address long-standing structural constraints related to athlete accommodation, centralized training, and access to sports science. Importantly, these investments are geographically dispersed, extending benefits to the Northeast, hill states, and emerging sports regions, thereby reinforcing NSDF’s inclusive national footprint. (Table 9.3)

Table 9.3: Major Infrastructure Interventions Supported by NSDF

(₹ in crores)

Project	Implementing Agency	Sanctioned Amount
400-bedded hostel, LNIPE Gwalior	LNIPE / SAI	25.00
330-bedded hostel, SAI Bangalore	SAI	29.46
High Performance Centre, Sonapat	SAI	20.00
Synthetic athletic tracks (multiple states)	State bodies / Foundations	30.00
Anti-doping & nutrition testing centres	NFSU, NIPER	12.31

Source: Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYAS)

These investments have expanded training capacity, athlete accommodation, and access to sports science, particularly within SAI’s national ecosystem. The increasing preference for hostels and HPCs suggests recognition that athlete retention and centralized training environments are binding constraints in India’s performance pathway.

9.4.4 Functional Allocation: What NSDF Actually Funds: A review of expenditure categories shows NSDF resources clustered around four dominant functions (Table 9.4):

Table: 9.4: NSDF Expenditure by Category and Observed Pattern

Category	Nature of Support	Observed Pattern
Infrastructure	Hostels, stadia, HPCs	High value, long gestation
Training	Camps, foreign exposure	Faster disbursal
Equipment	Sports science, kits	High performance alignment
Tournaments	National & international	Limited long-term impact

Source: Author's Compilation

While infrastructure absorbs the largest quantum, training and equipment demonstrate better immediacy in translating expenditure into athlete readiness.

Beyond elite sports, the data shows NSDF's reach into grassroots and peripheral regions. Significant investments have been made in the Northeast, such as the construction of badminton halls in 15 locations in Arunachal Pradesh (₹18.90 Crore released in 2022) and the renovation of stadiums in Assam. This aligns with the national objective of democratizing access to sports infrastructure. The secondary data portrays NSDF as a scheme that has successfully scaled up in ambition, scope and institutional relevance. One of its most significant achievements lies in the formal integration of CSR and PSU resources into a coherent national sports financing framework. By positioning itself as a credible intermediary between donors and implementing agencies, NSDF has reduced fragmentation in sports philanthropy and aligned private contributions with public performance objectives. This alignment has been particularly effective in the context of TOPS, where sustained funding continuity has allowed athletes to plan training cycles, international exposure and recovery without financial uncertainty. Another notable outcome is the strengthening of India's high-performance training infrastructure. The expansion of hostel capacity and centralized training centres has improved athlete retention, reduced logistical frictions and enabled closer monitoring of performance and health indicators. Investments in anti-doping and nutrition testing facilities further reinforce systemic integrity, ensuring that performance gains are both sustainable and compliant with international standards. These achievements underscore NSDF's role not merely as a funding vehicle but as a catalyst for institutional modernization within the sports sector.

From a functional perspective, expenditure data indicate a balanced progression across infrastructure creation, training support, equipment procurement and tournament participation. While infrastructure absorbs the largest quantum of funds, training and equipment-related assistance demonstrate quicker translation into athlete readiness and competitive exposure. The increasing

emphasis on sports science equipment, biomechanics, nutrition testing, and high-end training aids signals an institutional recognition that modern elite sport is as much a scientific endeavour as a physical one. Collectively, these patterns suggest that NSDF financing has evolved from episodic support toward system-building investment, strengthening both the hardware and software of Indian sport.

9.5 Findings and Suggestions: The evidence suggests that NSDF has achieved substantial success in mobilizing resources, aligning CSR participation with national sports objectives, and strengthening elite training infrastructure. At the same time, the expansion in scope and financial scale has brought into focus certain design features that merit refinement to sustain long-term effectiveness.

One important observation relates to the absence of explicit component-wise financial ceilings within the NSDF guidelines, except in the case of infrastructure projects where a maximum assistance limit is specified. In practice, the same implicit ceiling has often been assumed for other components such as training, equipment, sports science, and exposure, despite their fundamentally different cost structures and impact horizons. As a result, proposals involving higher financial outlays for non-infrastructure components frequently require escalation for approval at the level of the Secretary or the Minister. While this mechanism has ensured fiscal prudence and oversight, the increasing volume of such cases suggests a need for clearer, component-specific financial norms. Establishing indicative ceilings or ranges for different categories of assistance would improve predictability, reduce administrative load, and accelerate decision-making without diluting accountability.

Another significant development concerns government contributions to NSDF. In the earlier phase of the Fund's operation, government support was structured to match CSR contributions on a one-to-one basis, effectively doubling the resource envelope and incentivizing private participation. In recent years, this contribution formula has been revised, with government funding capped at 25 percent of CSR receipts. While this shift reflects fiscal consolidation and greater reliance on non-budgetary resources, it has also altered the internal financial dynamics of NSDF. To bridge the gap between commitments and inflows, NSDF has increasingly drawn upon its accumulated corpus. Consequently, the corpus has witnessed substantial depletion, raising questions about long-term financial sustainability and shock-absorption capacity. This evolution indicates that NSDF has been actively deployed rather than passively preserved. However, from a medium-term perspective, stabilizing the corpus through either a revised government contribution formula, periodic corpus replenishment, or a calibrated ceiling on annual drawdowns would strengthen financial resilience. Such measures would ensure that NSDF retains the

flexibility to respond to emergent priorities without compromising its foundational capital.

Overall, the secondary data point to a scheme that is fundamentally sound, strategically aligned and institutionally credible. The challenges that remain are not structural deficiencies but features of scale and ambition. Addressing them through targeted governance enhancements would allow NSDF to consolidate its gains and further strengthen its contribution to India's long-term sporting aspirations. At the same time, the data suggest areas where incremental refinements could enhance impact without altering the scheme's fundamental design. The dominance of tied funding, while instrumental in enabling large projects, naturally introduces longer implementation horizons and higher coordination requirements. Infrastructure projects, by their nature, involve phased execution and multi-stakeholder processes, which can lead to staggered releases over time. Rather than indicating inefficiency, this pattern reflects the scale and complexity of the interventions being undertaken. Strengthening milestone-based monitoring and operational readiness benchmarks would further improve visibility on project outcomes and accelerate functional utilization. Similarly, as NSDF matures, there is scope to complement financial reporting with more systematic outcome tracking, particularly for training and athlete-support interventions. Linking expenditure data with indicators such as training days delivered, international exposure achieved, or progression within elite performance pathways would enrich the evidence base for future allocation decisions. Such refinements would deepen NSDF's transition from an expenditure-focused instrument to a fully outcome-oriented investment platform.

9.6 Conclusion: The National Sports Development Fund has evolved into a robust financial engine driving India's sporting aspirations. By successfully transitioning from a passive donation fund to a proactive manager of high-value CSR partnerships, the NSDF has enabled critical interventions ranging from the construction of massive hostels for athletes to the granular funding of Olympic archery equipment. The data confirms a symbiotic relationship where PSUs provide the capital, and NSDF provides the strategic direction through schemes like TOPS. **To sustain this momentum toward the 2036 Olympics, the Fund can now modernize its regulatory caps, diversify its donor base beyond the public sector, and deepen its investment in sports science.**



Section 10

NATIONAL CENTRE OF SPORTS SCIENCES AND RESEARCH (NCSSR)

10.1 Introduction: The National Centre of Sports Sciences and Research (NCSSR) represents a paradigm shift in the Indian sports ecosystem, moving from a purely coaching-centric approach to an evidence-based, data-driven framework. The scheme is a Central Sector Scheme under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYAS), implemented by the Sports Authority of India (SAI), and aims to integrate high-level research, education, and innovation directly into the training of elite athletes. With a total approved outlay of ₹260 crore allocated until the financial year 2025-26, the scheme operates on a strategic Hub and Spoke model. The “Hub” is the centralized National Centre of Sports Sciences & Research established at the Indira Gandhi Stadium in New Delhi, while the “Spokes” consist of 13 SAI-supported Spokes, comprising 11 National Centres of Excellence (NCOEs) and 2 High Performance Centres (HPCs), where funded Sports Science Departments in select universities and Sports Medicine Departments in medical colleges extend standardized, high-quality scientific and medical support to athletes across the country. This structure is designed to support the twin objectives of "Broad-basing of Sports" and "Achieving Excellence in Sports" by providing scientific backing to athletes preparing for major international events like the Olympics.

As India is working towards major targets like the 2030 Commonwealth Games and Olympic Vision 2036, this is the right time to upgrade NCSSR into an autonomous National Institute of Sports Science & Research (NISSR) to enable faster decision-making, better management, stronger accountability and more freedom for research and academic activities.

10.2 Description of the Scheme – Governance and Guidelines: The governance of the NCSSR is rooted in the application of scientific principles to enhance sporting performance, creating a bridge between the laboratory and the field of play. The scheme functions through specialized verticals, each governed by strict Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to ensure standardization across National Centres of Excellence (NCOEs).

Operational Verticals and Scientific Protocols: The scheme mandates the operation of specific scientific departments, each with defined roles. For instance, the Department of Sports Anthropometry utilizes International Society for the Advancement of Kinanthropometry (ISAK) protocols to measure body composition and proportionality, which is crucial for talent identification and monitoring growth in young athletes. The Department of Sports Physiology focuses on assessing aerobic and anaerobic capacities through VO₂ max testing and lactate threshold analysis using metabolic gas analyzers, providing data essential for tailoring training loads. Similarly, the Department of Sports Biomechanics employs 2D motion analysis, force plates, and electromyography (EMG) to analyse technique efficiency and minimize injury risks. Other critical verticals include Sports Psychology, which utilizes the Vienna Test System for cognitive and psychomotor assessment, and Sports Nutrition, which has implemented standardized "Athlete Meal Cards" to strictly monitor and optimize dietary intake.

Manpower and Academic Mandate: To operationalize these verticals, the scheme defines a multidisciplinary manpower structure comprising High Performance Directors, High-Performance Analysts (HPA) and Performance Analysts (PA), supported by Sports Medical Officers, masseurs, and a range of sports science and medicine professionals. These professionals are responsible for conducting assessments, managing the Athlete Monitoring System (AMS), and collaborating with coaches to interpret data for training interventions. Furthermore, the scheme has an educational component, funding M.Sc. and Ph.D. programs in sports sciences at partner universities, as well as Sports Medicine courses and research at associated medical institutions, to create a sustainable pipeline of indigenous experts, thereby reducing reliance on foreign consultants.

10.3 Key Achievements of the Scheme: The NCSSR scheme has successfully transitioned India's sports ecosystem from an intuition-led approach to a data-driven, evidence-based framework by operationalising a functional Hub and Spoke model. A primary achievement is the implementation of a 4-tier integrated facility, which standardises infrastructure requirements across all levels, from grassroots centres to high-performance hubs. The scheme has standardised high-performance training, Khelo India protocol and TOPS protocols across Olympic disciplines while

expanding national infrastructure and academic capacity through its integrated 'Hub and Spoke' framework.

Operationally, the scheme has achieved the codification of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) across eight scientific verticals, including Anthropometry (body composition and measurements), Exercise Physiology (cardiac and respiratory capacity), Biomechanics (movement analysis), Nutrition (dietary optimization), Psychology (mental preparation), Physiotherapy, Sports Medicine and Biochemistry. These SOPs are integrated into an athlete services model that utilises international diagnostic standards, such as International Society for the Advancement of Kinanthropometry (ISAK) for anthropometry and the Vienna Test System for cognitive assessment, to drive talent identification and training periodisation. The impact is evidenced by a ten-fold increase in athlete testing sessions, which rose from 221 in 2020–21 to 2,769 in 2024–25, alongside the deployment of an Athlete Monitoring System (AMS), with data collected by each centre to enable precise load and recovery tracking.

To ensure long-term sustainability and reduce reliance on foreign consultants, the NCSSR has created a pipeline of domestic expertise, enrolling 1,187 students in M.Sc. and PhD programmes across partner universities. This academic framework is bolstered by application-oriented research in fields such as wearable monitoring and biomechanical modelling, alongside the establishment of a National Return-to-Sport Protocol for injury management.

Multiple MoUs were signed with IIT Madras, IIT Delhi and Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY), alongside a Sports Science Conference held during Khelo India Games, Panchkula with the Government of Haryana. Draft/ongoing collaborations include Safdarjung Sports Injury Centre, NABH-QCI (in progress), and active research with IIT Madras on motion analysis and yoga pose scoring. To strengthen and improve the sports science ecosystem, NCSSR will propose to enter into MoUs with leading national and international institutions such as the Australian Institute of Sport, UK Sport Institute, Aspetar, and the US Olympic & Paralympic Committee, among others, to enable knowledge exchange, capacity building, and upgradation of sports science research and athlete support systems.

NCSSR has established a duly certified institutional Ethics Board and Scientific Committee to strengthen and standardise sports science and sports medicine approaches. These bodies are actively guiding ethical compliance, scientific rigour, and evidence-based practices, thereby enhancing the overall quality and credibility of sports science research and athlete support systems.

Sports science professionals were deployed for the Khelo India Para Games, New Delhi, and the National Sports Science Conclave on Para Sports was successfully conducted in December 2023. NCSSR's role in specialist engagement and implementation of the Central Athlete Injury Management System (CAIMS) was highlighted by the Hon'ble Union Sports Minister.

NCSSR has strengthened national sports science capacity through teaching support at NSNIS Patiala, faculty involvement in PGDSM, Exercise Physiology, Sports Psychology, Sports Nutrition, and Strength & Conditioning programmes, serving as internal and external examiners, participating in selection panels, and providing hands-on training for 168 PG Diploma Shooting Coaches. Faculty have also contributed as resource persons for the High-Performance Directors Orientation Programme. Additionally, NCSSR specialists supported the expansion of the Sports Injury Centre and delivered UGC-HRDC lectures at GNDU, Amritsar.

NCSSR has been making significant contributions to the formulation and institutionalisation of a structured internship policy in the field of sports science, aimed at strengthening the national sports science ecosystem. This initiative seeks to build a skilled talent pipeline by providing hands-on training, applied research exposure, and capacity-building opportunities for young professionals, thereby enhancing scientific support systems for athletes across various disciplines

Technical development initiatives were undertaken to strengthen sports science infrastructure at NCOE Varanasi through the preparation of standardized technical specifications and participation in bid evaluation processes. Structured training and testing plans were developed for LBSNAA trainees and U-13 AIFF football players, with a focus on systematic assessment and age-appropriate athlete development. Assessment frameworks under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) were streamlined and updated across disciplines—boxing, wrestling, hockey, shooting, rowing, and swimming—to support evidence-based athlete evaluation. In parallel, a Yoga-based psychological intervention proposal was developed for AIFF football athletes, integrating traditional practices with contemporary sports psychology. An online AI-based sports science programme and software (SPEED-2.0) was initiated in collaboration with IIT Madras to promote digital learning, applied research, and innovation in sports science. Contributions were also made to MPTL/SWAYAM through the development of sports nutrition content, along with responsibilities as Course Curator for Sports Science on NPTEL/SWAYAM to strengthen capacity building and knowledge dissemination.

Building on this expanded service delivery capacity, NCSSR's scientific expertise has been deployed to support major national and international sporting events,

including the Khelo India Games, National Games, Asian Championships, World Championships, Asian Games, and the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games. The establishment and operation of the Indian Recovery Centre at the Paris Olympics 2024, 2025 World Para Athletics Championships and other major competitions showcased India's growing global leadership in science-driven athlete recovery through integrated rehabilitation, nutrition, psychological support, and medical care for athletes. The scheme has also institutionalised evidence-based high performance by standardising scientific protocols and building a strategic multidisciplinary network of institutional collaborations to evolve into an autonomous national leader in world-class sports research.

10.4 Progress of the Scheme – Secondary Data Analysis: The implementation of the NCSSR scheme has transitioned from a conceptual framework to a functional "Hub and Spoke" model. The progress is characterized by the establishment of scientific protocols, financial deployment across partner institutions, and the operationalization of high-performance testing. Analysis of the financial and operational data reveals a scheme that has established foundational infrastructure and achieved significant quantitative growth in athlete testing and protocol standardization but faces qualitative stagnation in institutional expenditure and manpower stability.

10.4.1 Financial Performance and Institutional Utilisation: The financial performance of the NCSSR Scheme indicates an allocation-absorption mismatch (Table 10.1), with cumulative fund utilisation of 82.59 per cent during 2017-18 to 2025-26 against a sanctioned budget of ₹138.00 lakh, whereas the overall total budgetary allocation for the NCSSR Scheme is ₹260 crore. This expenditure pertains only to the funds sanctioned and released for the assessed components and period, whereas the overall total budgetary allocation for the NCSSR Scheme is ₹260 crore. There is a varying trend in year-wise utilisation rates, while utilisation fell to 59.43% in FY 2023-24, it improved to 92.64% in FY 2024-25. An outlier can also be observed in FY 2021-22, where expenditure exceeded allocations (149.11%).

A comparative assessment across institutions reveals stronger absorption capacity among universities and research institutions than medical colleges. The data indicates that Universities (Central University of Rajasthan (CURAJ), Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, Punjab (GNDU)) have demonstrated better absorption of funds compared to Medical Colleges. The exit of Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal, Manipur (RIMS) and zero expenditure by King George Medical University, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (KGMU) in the recent cycle suggest structural challenges in integrating high-performance sports medicine

departments within traditional medical education frameworks. These trends highlight the value of prioritising agile universities and autonomous research institutions to improve fund utilisation and strengthen the sports science ecosystem supporting India's long-term high-performance and Olympic goals.

Table 10.1: Total Expenditure and Budget Summary (NCSSR Scheme) (₹ in Lakhs)

	First Component														Second Component				
	KGMU	PGIMS	BMCRI	GMC	VMMC	RIMS	GNDU	NIN	CURAJ	AU	RGU	CU	LNIFE	Internship	SAI				
															Hub	Spoke	Total Released	Budget	Funds released (in %)
Allocation	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	-	12.50	15.00	9.50	12.50	10.00	14.00	10.00	-	2.80	46.00	77.70	-	-	-
2017-18	1.29	-	-	-	1.29	-	2.42	1.44	-	-	-	-	2.27	-	5.55	-	14.25	20.00	71.27
2018-19	1.54	2.50	2.50	-	-	2.55	2.23	-	3.00	3.00	-	3.00	-	-	-	-	20.32	28.00	72.57
2019-20	2.00	2.00	1.00	3.55	-	2.00	1.90	2.38	2.00	-	-	2.37	-	-	5.30	20.00	44.50	45.00	98.89
2020-21	0.22	0.06	-	-	-	0.47	0.18	0.89	1.12	-	1.75	-	-	-	-	-	4.69	6.00	78.24
2021-22	0.51	0.70	-	-	-	1.28	1.87	0.86	1.59	-	0.16	-	-	-	-	-	6.97	7.00	99.54
2022-23	0.43	0.16	-	-	-	1.53	1.28	0.73	1.25	-	0.11	-	-	-	1.50	-	6.98	7.00	99.72
2023-24	0.19	0.10	0.14	-	-	0.41	1.78	0.76	2.90	-	0.85	-	-	0.05	1.15	-	8.32	10.00	83.23
2024-25	0.44	0.08	-0.09	-	-	-	0.56	0.46	1.22	0.06	0.43	-	-	0.06	1.88	-	5.09	5.00	101.84
2025-26	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.21	0.20	0.33	-	-	-	-	-	2.10	-	2.84	10.00	28.40
Total Released	6.60	5.60	3.55	3.55	1.29	8.24	12.43	7.72	13.41	3.06	3.30	5.37	2.27	0.11	17.48	20.00	113.97	138.00	82.59
Component wise (Released)	28.83						47.55						0.11	37.48		113.97			

Source: Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYAS)

10.4.2 Academic and Manpower Output: The scheme's academic impact is heavily skewed towards general sports sciences, with sports medicine lagging. (Table 10.2)

Table 10.2: Academic Output and Student Enrolment (2018-2025)

Department Type	Total Students Enrolled	Observation
Sports Sciences	1187	Robust growth in M.Sc. programs (Physiology, Nutrition and others) across partner universities.
Sports Medicine	16	16 students enrolled across 5 medical colleges.

Source: Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYAS)

Achievement: Despite these gaps, the NCSSR successfully operationalized the "4-Tier Integrated Sports Science Facility Template," defining infrastructure standards for Grassroot Centres, Intermediate NCOEs, Elite NCOEs, and High-Performance Centres. Additionally, the scheme facilitated the release of the "Return-to-Sport Protocol," ensuring a standardized pathway for injured athletes to return to competition.

10.4.3 Athlete Assessment Growth: A positive trajectory is visible in service delivery, with athlete testing sessions conducted at individual SAI centres growing exponentially from 221 (2020-21) to 2,769 (2024-25). This 10-fold increase indicates a growing acceptance of scientific support among coaches and athletes, validating the need for the scheme.

10.4.4 Standardization of Scientific Protocols (SOPs): A significant achievement of the scheme is the codification of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) across six scientific verticals (Table 10.3). These SOPs have moved athlete training from "intuition-based" to "evidence-based."

Table 10.3: Operationalized Scientific Verticals and Testing Protocols

Scientific Vertical	Key Protocols & Equipment Deployed	Impact on Athlete Development
Sports Anthropometry	ISAK Protocols: Measurement of skinfolds (Harpender calipers), bone breadths, and somatotyping. Equipment: Digital Stadiometer, Large Bone Calipers.	Enables precise talent identification by correlating body composition with sport-specific requirements (e.g., limb length for rowing).
Sports Biomechanics	Motion Analysis: 2D/3D Video analysis, Force Plates (Kistler), and Isokinetic Dynamometry. Tests: Counter Movement Jump (CMJ), Drop Jump, Gait analysis.	Identifying asymmetry in movement to prevent ACL injuries and optimizing technique for power generation.

Scientific Vertical	Key Protocols & Equipment Deployed	Impact on Athlete Development
Sports Physiology	Metabolic Testing: VO2 Max testing using metabolic carts (Cosmed K5), Lactate Threshold analysis. Tests: Beep Test, Yo-Yo IR Tests.	Defines aerobic/anaerobic capacity, allowing coaches to tailor training intensity zones accurately.
Sports Psychology	Cognitive Testing: Vienna Test System for reaction time and peripheral perception. Assessment: CSAI-2R (Anxiety Inventory), Mental Toughness screening.	Enhances mental conditioning, reaction speed, and stress management during high-stakes competition.
Sports Nutrition	Dietary Intervention: 24-hour recall, hydration testing (urine specific gravity), and menu planning. Tools: Athlete Meal Cards.	Ensures fuel availability for training and recovery; "Athlete Meal Cards" standardize caloric intake.
Strength & Conditioning	Functional Screening: Functional Movement Screen (FMS) (Deep Squat, Hurdle Step). Tests: 1RM (Bench/Squat), Plank tests.	Identifies mobility restrictions and establishes strength baselines to prevent injury.

Source: Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYAS)

10.4.5 Academic and Research Output: The scheme has facilitated the launch of academic programs to build indigenous capacity.

- **Academic Courses:** Partner universities have initiated Master's Degree programs in Sports Biochemistry, Nutrition, Biomechanics and others. For instance, LNIPE Gwalior and GNDU Amritsar have operationalized Master's and PhD programs.
- **Knowledge Dissemination:** The NCSSR organized the "Sports Science Conclave on Para Sports" in December 2023, focusing on "Limitless Horizons: Sports Science for Peak Performance," bridging the gap between scientific theory and para-athlete application. A 3-day Hockey India-NCSSR Advanced Sports Science Workshop for hockey coaches at NCSSR, I.G. Stadium, focusing on evidence-based tools to enhance performance and athlete well-being, and a 4-day Advanced Sports Science Workshops for SAI coaches – Combat Games (6–9 Jan 2026) and Athletics (12–15 Jan 2026) – to strengthen applied sports science competencies was also organized by the NCSSR.
- **Publications:** Faculty at the National Sports University and other spokes have started contributing to indexed journals, with 11 journal publications reported in the 2022-23 cycle.

- **Research Programmes and Studies:** NCSSR has conducted and is currently planning multiple research projects and studies in collaboration with reputed universities, institutions, and research centres. These research initiatives are being undertaken in association with agencies such as ICMR, HRDS, and other relevant bodies, and will continue in the future. At the same time, NCSSR is also carrying out research aimed at developing indigenous sports equipment, with outputs aligned to international standards. The major focus areas include sports nutrition, exercise physiology, sports psychology, physiotherapy, yoga, and sports engineering.

Notable research studies include Effect of Combat vs. Intermittent Sports Training on Circadian Gene Expression, Chronotype, and Sleep Parameters; Smart Portable Cryotherapy System for Athletes; and Role of Yoga Protocol on Faster Recovery and Performance Enhancement in Elite Senior Hockey Athletes, among others.

10.5 Findings and Suggestions: The Scheme is at a crucial stage, wherein there is an increasing requirement for adequate physical infrastructure along with large-scale human resource management, which requires urgent intervention. At present, NCSSR is yet to come up with state-of-the-art infrastructure and requires necessary instruments and facilities to effectively implement the Scheme, with the ultimate objective of standing tall at existing international standards. While the NCSSR has successfully established the infrastructure and equipment of sports science, manpower, research culture, and administrative flexibility require calibration. To address these gaps, the proposal for the extension of the NCSSR scheme (2026–30) outlines a necessary shift from infrastructure creation to research output and capacity building, not limited to this period alone but aligned with a longer-term vision for 2047.

A. Manpower Gaps and the Need for a Permanent Scientific Cadre: There is a disconnect between the approved manpower framework and the ground reality. In 2018, the Standing Finance Committee (SFC) approved 102 scientific and administrative posts to establish a permanent cadre (Table 10.4). However, as of 2025, the Hub operates with only 2 Consultants filled on a contractual basis and 2 permanent administrative officers deployed by SAI. The scheme relies almost entirely on contractual High-Performance Analysts (HPAs), Performance Analysts, Masseurs, High Performance Director and limited permanent Scientific officer/HPD and other scientific supporting staff deployed by SAI. However, the

Sports Science Division still faces a shortage of skilled manpower, affecting the effective implementation of the Scheme.

Table 10.4: Manpower deployed by the Sports Authority of India (SAI)

Post	Category	Staff in Position	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancy
High Performance Directors (HPD)	Permanent Staff	11	23	9
	Contractual Staff	3		
Scientific Officers	Permanent Staff	02	02	0
High Performance Analyst (Physiotherapy, Psychology, Physiology, Biomechanics, Biochemistry, Nutrition, S&C)	Permanent Staff	03	139	56
	Contractual Staff	80		
Performance Analyst (Anthropometry, Physiotherapy, Psychology, Physiology, Biomechanics, Biochemistry, Nutrition, S&C)	Contractual Staff	53	93	39
	Permanent Staff	01		
Medical Officer	Contractual Staff	22	23	1
Massage Therapist	Contractual Staff	76	102	25
	Permanent Staff	1		

Source: Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYAS)

Note: The above manpower figures are subject to verification by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports / Sports Authority of India. The numbers may change based on updated recruitment status, contractual renewals, or administrative approvals.

The absence of a permanent scientific cadre results in NCSSR's reliance on contractual and ad-hoc staff arrangements. This situation weakens institutional continuity, undermines research stability, and increases the risk of losing high-quality scientific talent. Without career security and permanent positions, it becomes difficult for NCSSR to retain expertise or compete with global institutions for top talent, especially when international sports science centres offer career advancement and job stability.

This lack of tenure leads to high attrition rates, a loss of "institutional memory," and an inability to conduct the longitudinal research essential for multi-year Olympic cycles. The scheme can immediately be transitioned from a "Consultant" model to a "Cadre-Based" Scientific Structure. This involves the immediate sanctioning of the proposed 102 permanent posts or proposed posts

listed below, including Directors (Sports Science under the NCSSR scheme) and Heads of Disciplines. (Table 10.5)

Table 10.5: List of Proposed Posts under the NCSSR Scheme

S. No.	Location	Designation
1	Headquarters	Director General / Chief Executive Officer
2	Headquarters	Director – Sports Science
3	Headquarters	Performance Director
4	Headquarters	Heads of Sports Science Disciplines
5	Headquarters	Head – Research & Innovation
6	Headquarters	Lead Analyst
7	Headquarters	Physiologists
8	Headquarters	Anthropometrist
9	Headquarters	Nutritionists
10	Headquarters	Psychologists
11	Headquarters	Biomechanists
12	Headquarters	Yoga Expert
13	Headquarters	Performance Analysts
14	Headquarters	Strength & Conditioning Coaches
15	Headquarters	Sports Technology Manager
16	Headquarters	Director – Sports Medicine
17	Headquarters	Clinical Heads (Sports Medicine)
18	Headquarters	Sports Medicine Physicians
19	Headquarters	Physiotherapists
20	Headquarters	Massage Therapists
21	Headquarters	Nurses
22	Headquarters	Research Associates / Assistants
23	Headquarters	Data Analysts
24	Headquarters	Director – Administration
25	Headquarters	Managers (Admin/HR/Finance/IT/Legal)
26	Headquarters	Coordinators

S. No.	Location	Designation
27	Headquarters	Assistants
28	Headquarters	MTS / Support Staff
29	Headquarters	Consultant (requirement basis)
30	SSSM Centres	Anthropometrist
31	SSSM Centres	Physiologists
32	SSSM Centres	Nutritionists
33	SSSM Centres	Psychologists
34	SSSM Centres	Biomechanists
35	SSSM Centres	Yoga Expert
36	SSSM Centres	Performance Analysts
37	SSSM Centres	Strength & Conditioning Coaches
38	SSSM Centres	Sports Technology Managers
39	SSSM Centres	Sports Medicine Physicians
40	SSSM Centres	Physiotherapists
41	SSSM Centres	Massage Therapists
42	SSSM Centres	Nurses
43	SSSM Centres	Other Medical & Scientific Specialists (case-based / need-based)

Source: Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYAS)

The scheme may adopt a scientific hierarchy (e.g., Scientist 'B' through 'G') with UGC/ICMR/DST/7th CPC pay scales. This reform is necessary to attract global talent and ensure the stability required for long-term athlete development (LTAD) monitoring.

B. Administrative Bottlenecks: Administrative rigidity creates significant delays in functions including recruitment of scientific staff, procurement of specialized equipment, approval of institutional collaborations, and expansion of infrastructure. The centralization of procurement and decision-making has created severe operational bottlenecks. The review highlights "complex and lengthy procedures" for procuring high-end scientific equipment, which has slowed the modernization of laboratories. Additionally, delays in allocating approved space at the Hub have restricted the establishment of functional service units, despite the availability of funds. These delays are incompatible with the

dynamic and time-sensitive nature of elite sports performance, where even weeks of delay can impact athlete preparation cycles and competitive readiness.

To reduce administrative delays, the NCSSR can be upgraded into an autonomous National Institute of Sports Sciences and Research (NISSR), modelled after institutions like NIPER or AIIMS. This autonomy would streamline scientific recruitment and procurement while empowering the entity to govern critical national protocols, such as the "RULES AGAINST AGE FRAUD IN SPORTS, 2025" and "Return to Play" guidelines.

C. Restructuring the Spoke Model to Ensure Specialized Research and Talent Development: The assumption that existing medical colleges could seamlessly integrate high-performance sports medicine has proven flawed. Institutions like RIMS (Imphal) have opted out, and others like KGMU show erratic expenditure. The root cause is a cultural mismatch: traditional medical colleges prioritize general patient care and pathology, failing to accommodate the flexible, performance-enhancement focus required for elite sports medicine. The Ministry can restructure the "Spoke" model. If state medical colleges continue to underperform, the focus can pivot to establishing "dedicated sports science wings" within premier institutions like AIIMS or IITs, which are better equipped to handle specialized research. This ensures that funds are utilized for athlete-centric innovation rather than getting lost in general administrative voids.

Simultaneously, encouraging new courses in Performance Analysis and sports analytics is a prerequisite for building a "sustainable pipeline of indigenous experts" and reducing reliance on foreign consultants. By implementing certificate programs and learning models, the NCSSR can upskill working coaches and High-Performance Analysts (HPAs) thereby bridging the current skills gap. Ultimately, this strategic institutional and academic expansion is vital to transform the scheme to a dynamic intellectual hub.

D. Ensuring Equipment Standardization Across National Centres: While Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) exist, there is a lack of equipment uniformity across the 13 National Centres of Excellence (NCOEs). Different centres often use equipment with varying brands or calibration standards for identical tests (e.g., VO2 Max), rendering national-level data comparisons scientifically invalid. Implement a mandatory "Standardization Audit" for all NCSSR-funded laboratories. The roadmap can mandate ISO 17025 accreditation for all labs to ensure that physiological data collected in Patiala is statistically

comparable to data collected in Bangalore, thereby creating a reliable National Athlete Database.

E. Enhancing Research Autonomy and Professional Development for Elite Sports: The scheme structure limits NCSSR's capacity to function as a true research institution. It cannot independently generate and retain funds from research projects and service delivery, manage intellectual property effectively, attract international research grants as a principal institution, or enter into long-term industry partnerships without extended government approvals. These restrictions constrain its potential to become a national sports science research hub and limit innovation capacity.

While the physical hardware (infrastructure) is being established, there is a lack of indigenous, India-specific research data. Furthermore, the current academic structure does not cater to working professionals; coaches cannot afford to take multi-year sabbaticals to acquire Master's degrees, leading to a skills gap in the existing workforce.

Despite delivering high-value testing, rehabilitation, consultancy, and training services, NCSSR cannot currently generate and retain internal revenue. The institution depends almost entirely on annual government budget allocations, which constrain both expansion initiatives and modernization efforts. This financial model lacks flexibility and sustainability, particularly when facing unforeseen demands or opportunities.

Increased research funding is therefore a strategic prerequisite for the NCSSR's evolution for supporting India's vision of 2030 Commonwealth Games and Olympics 2036 and Vision 2047. This investment will not only attract global talent to the proposed scientific cadre but also ensure that the 1,187 students currently enrolled in sports science programmes have the resources to conduct application-oriented research that bridges the gap between the laboratory and the field of play.

- i. For Research: The "Sports Science Promotion Scheme" will be launched in the future, under which Minor support will be proposed for pilot studies and Major support for longitudinal studies. This will decentralize innovation and generate applied research on topics like indigenous recovery methods and female athlete health etc. Simultaneously, this will also provide opportunities for collaboration with medical institutions and universities in the field of sports science, with a vision to engage more than 30 universities, medical colleges, and other allied institutions.

- ii. For Academics: Introduce Executive Certificate Programs using a blended learning model (similar to IIT/IIM executive courses). This allows working coaches and High-Performance Directors to upskill in areas like "Sports Analytics" or "Injury Prevention" without leaving their active roles.

F. Infrastructure Development and Financial Bottlenecks in the Hub-and-Spoke Model: The development of infrastructure at the NCSSR Hub and Spoke locations remains functionally incomplete due to a profound allocation-absorption mismatch driven by administrative rigidity. At the centralised Hub within the Sports Authority of India (SAI), financial execution has lagged significantly behind intent. Infrastructure scaling is affected by procurement delays, budget dependencies, and limited discretionary financial authority. Under the current scheme model, the limited discretionary financial authority has stymied the rapid scaling of high-end rehabilitation units and advanced biomechanics laboratories, preventing the transition from basic testing to the sophisticated digital athlete analytics required for elite performance.

Development and upgrading of advanced biomechanics laboratories, high-end rehabilitation and return-to-play units and digital athlete analytics platforms proceed slowly under the current scheme model, leading to uneven facility development across the hub-and-spoke network.

Box 10.1. Rationale and Benefits of Granting NCSSR Autonomous Status

The transition of the National Centre of Sports Sciences and Research (NCSSR) into an autonomous National Institute of Sports Science & Research (NISSR) is a strategic imperative to meet India's goals for the 2030 Commonwealth Games and Olympic Vision 2036. According to the sources, the current framework under the Sports Authority of India (SAI) faces administrative constraints and a significant allocation-absorption mismatch, where centralized hubs struggle with complex procurement procedures that frequently delay laboratory modernization and athlete preparation. By adopting an autonomous model similar to AIIMS or NIPER, the institute will gain the organizational agility necessary for faster decision-making and specialized management, allowing it to pivot from traditional medical models toward high-performance collaborations with premier technical institutions like IITs.

A fundamental benefit of granting autonomous status is the ability to establish a permanent, cadre-based scientific structure to replace the current high-attrition

model of contractual staff and consultants. The sources emphasize that this professionalized hierarchy – ranging from Scientists ‘B’ through ‘G’ – is essential for preserving "institutional memory" and conducting the longitudinal research required for multi-year Olympic cycles and Long-Term Athlete Development (LTAD). This stability allows the institute to attract and retain global talent, compete with international science centres, and offer specialized Executive Certificate Programs to upskill national coaches and high-performance directors without requiring them to take extended sabbaticals.

Finally, autonomy transforms the institute into a national authority for governance and financial sustainability, empowered to generate and retain internal revenue through testing, rehabilitation, and consultancy services. As an autonomous entity, the NISSR will manage its own intellectual property and launch various projects and schemes to fund indigenous research on topics such as female athlete health and recovery methods. Crucially, it would possess the mandate to enforce national standards, such as the "National Code Against Age Fraud" and ISO 17025 accreditation for laboratories, ensuring that physiological data across the country is statistically comparable and integrated into a reliable National Athlete Database.

Future Roadmap for NCSSR Scheme: NCSSR is proposed to be expanded across 10 Olympic Training Centres and nearly 60 Centres of Excellence, with structured collaborations planned with over 30 universities, medical colleges, and technical and research institutions, alongside upgradation and standardisation of sports science infrastructure, equipment, and laboratories. The roadmap includes manpower strengthening, digital integration with AMS and HighPerformX, launch of coach education modules, internships, fellowships and conferences, expansion of multi-centre research and SOPs, rationalisation of service rates, year-wise athlete testing targets, improved fund utilisation , and the development of a self-sustainability model – collectively enabling the phased transition of NCSSR into NISSR as an autonomous apex institution aligned with Olympic and high-performance objectives.

10.6 Conclusion: The NCSSR Scheme has successfully introduced a culture of scientific measurement into Indian sports, moving beyond the traditional reliance on intuition. The establishment of labs and the definition of protocols for (Sports Sciences & Sports Medicine departments across the country) Anthropometry, Physiology, Biomechanics, Nutrition, Psychology, Physiotherapy, Sports Medicine and Biochemistry constitute a significant achievement. However, the scheme is currently constrained by financial underutilization and a critical manpower deficit. The reliance on contractual staff and the operational struggles of partner medical colleges highlight the need for a more robust administrative structure.

Aligned with the objectives of the Khelo Bharat Niti 2025, India's vision of becoming a top sporting nation by the 2036 Olympics and Viksit Bharat 2047, the NCSSR can evolve from a funding body into a dynamic intellectual hub. This requires the immediate creation of a permanent scientific cadre, upgradation into an autonomous national institute, the rigorous implementation of the proposed research grants to foster indigenous innovation, and a streamlined mechanism to ensure that partner institutions particularly medical colleges, can effectively utilize allocated funds to support athletes through evidence-based interventions.

Section 11



CONCLUDING REMARKS AND SUGGESTIONS

Concluding Remarks

There has been a renewed emphasis by the government on sports that is embodied in the various schemes that were discussed above and their importance for the youth, athletes and the nation overall. With structured support and good quality institutions such as SAI, these schemes by the MoYAS aim to support not only the elite athletes but also undertake grassroots talent identification and development, along with investing in long-term sports infrastructure. The awards and cash incentives schemes, increasing support to NSFs for conducting national and international championships, additional funding to support elite athletes under NSDF, developing human resources in the sports ecosystem under HRDS etc. show the commitment of the MoYAS in broadening the scope and impact of sports culture in the country. The study undertook a detailed review of the schemes under the Department of Sports using primary field surveys and secondary data available on the Ministry's website. Though *Khelo India* is a flagship scheme of the government, with the scheme alone constituting 67% approx. of the total budget allocations in FY 2025-26, a look at the data and field visits highlights the issues of limited convergence of KI with other schemes, manpower shortage, outdated VGF analysis, no discipline-specific funding for KICs, delays in disbursement of Khelo India awards to winners, pocket allowance to KIAs and salaries to PCAs, etc.

The *ANSF Scheme* is the essential financial backbone for India's high-performance sports federations. The 2025 revision introduced positive structural changes, including inflation-responsive increases in dietary allowances (e.g., increased the

dietary allowance for senior athletes to ₹1000 per day), enhanced administrative oversight through mandatory High Performance Director (HPDs) appointments for large federations, and the pivotal mandate that 20% of the budget can be earmarked for grassroots development. The primary challenges include the need for re-categorisation of sports discipline, administrative inaction leading to delayed appointments of high-performance staff, pervasive financial under-utilisation across numerous NSFs and a skewed expenditure pattern where funds are heavily directed towards international travel and competition (50% to 66%) while essential areas like sports science receive minuscule support (less than 1%).

The *HRDS Scheme* of the Department of Sports is plagued with the issue of substantial underutilization of funds compared to the Budget Estimates for most years. In conversation with several beneficiaries of the scheme, the team found limited awareness of the scheme at state universities, regional sports centres and smaller colleges with no proper communication channel through which the beneficiaries can track their application status. The beneficiaries were also dissatisfied with the requirement to open a Zero Balance Savings Account (ZBSA) in an HDFC Bank that posed procedural challenges, delays in account creation and verification, slowing the overall fund processing.

The Department of Sports also has a range of *national awards and cash incentives schemes* for athletes, coaches, corporates, NGOs that not only act as motivations but schemes such as *pensions to meritorious sportspersons* and *PDUNWP* also provide financial assistance for sportspersons living in indigent circumstances, medical emergencies and injuries sustained during training or competition, among other uses.

As these four schemes are welfare-oriented in nature, it is proposed to merge the Cash Incentive Scheme, National Sports Awards, Pension Scheme, and the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Program for Sportspersons (PDUNWPS) under a single umbrella framework for welfare schemes.

The *NSDF* has evolved into a core financing pillar for India's high-performance sports ecosystem by effectively leveraging CSR and public funding to support elite athletes under TOPS and strategic infrastructure development; however, stabilising its corpus, diversifying the donor base, and strengthening outcome-linked expenditure tracking will be critical for long-term sustainability. Similarly, the *NCSSR* has institutionalised a shift toward data-driven, sports science-led athlete preparation through its Hub-and-Spoke model, and its proposed transition into an

autonomous national institute would enhance operational efficiency, research integration, and scientific support as India advances toward Olympic Vision 2036.

While the schemes help maintain a holistic support system, the study found several challenges in the existing scheme framework. These include removal of awards at junior and sub-junior levels, elimination of incentives for chess titles, sanction lags, scope of subjectivity in awards, creation of a unified committee for awards disbursal, restrictions on age requirement in case of pensions, non-revision of pensions, and limited representation across states and disciplines.

Scheme-wise Findings and Suggestions

1) KHELO INDIA SCHEME

Component 1: Creation and Upgradation of Infrastructure:

A) Financial Management Constraints and Administrative Observations

- **Budget Adequacy and State Contribution:** Convergence can be encouraged with other Schemes and MPLAD/MLALAD and CSR Funds. Targeted engagement and simplified application processes could boost participation from Central/State educational institutions and Defence/Paramilitary organisations.
- **Maintenance Funding Deficit:** It is suggested that all proposals from the grantees can include a comprehensive viability gap analysis demonstrating the optimal use of available funds, along with strict adherence to timelines to avoid time and cost overruns. Additionally, while submitting the proposal, grantees can clearly outline the long-term maintenance plan for the infrastructure.

B) Technical Capacity Limitations & Implementation Issues

- **Ineffective Utilization and Coach Shortage:** Gazetteer-notified Sports Development, Fitness, and Utilisation Indices can be adopted as a grading framework for States/UTs, with real-time access for grantees to support transparent, data-driven monitoring. Future infrastructure and manpower support may be linked to medal performance of States/UTs, accounting for cases where athletes train outside their home State.
- **Technical Skill Enhancement:** A dedicated technical cadre can be built for sports infrastructure with grantee agencies.

- **Manpower & Oversight Strain:** Since multiple projects are managed by limited staff, State Level Monitors (SLMs) can prepare reports detailing immediate countermeasures required to rectify deficiencies identified.
- **Optimise Utilization Through Data-Driven Allocation:** To counter ineffective utilization in certain remote areas, the national inventory of playfields and sports infrastructure maintained on the Geographic Information System (GIS) platform shall be actively used for the allotment of funds.
- **Broadening the Sports Coverage Framework:** Given that the Olympic programme now encompasses a diverse range of disciplines—from artistic gymnastics, equestrian, sailing, surfing, and sport climbing to skateboarding, triathlon, wushu, and many more—future planning under the Khelo India Schemes can also explore pathways to promote and support these additional sports.
- **Targeted Sports Infrastructure:** Discipline-wise, outcome-oriented sports infrastructure can be planned, sanctioned, and created/modernized with the explicit objective of improving India’s medal prospects at international competitions(Olympics/Paralympics/Asian Games/World Championships). Collaboration with States and eligible entities with clearly defined roles (land, execution, operation and monitoring, access). Integration with high-performance programmes and monitoring of utilisation and athlete outcomes.
- **Development of sports infrastructure assets of Central Government:** The suggestion is to introduce a provision for financial assistance to create, upgrade, refurbish, and expand sports infrastructure assets under SAI, other autonomous bodies of the Department of Sports, and other Central Government bodies, covering modernisation, safety and accessibility compliance, sustainable retrofits, and high-performance support facilities, with funding linked to measurable outcomes and subject to mandatory O&M planning, technical vetting, phased fund release, third-party quality checks, and post-completion evaluation.

Component 2: Sports Competition and Talent Development

- To ensure more platforms for early talent identification and development, competitions can be expanded to the state and district levels to create wider participation. In addition to multi-sport mega events, the introduction of sport-specific leagues would provide sustained competitive exposure to the athletes.

- Given that Olympic performance remains the primary national objective, Khelo India Games can incorporate a wider set of Olympic disciplines, particularly those with lower infrastructure barriers and growing international prominence.
- It is suggested to allow the Khelo India Accredited Academies to reallocate funds across unutilized budget sub-components—such as equipment, coaching, accommodation or travel—within the overall annual allocation.
- Non-residential Khelo India Athletes (KIAs) can be provided with a food allowance.
- It is suggested to implement a uniform financial norm for KIAs and non-KIAs training at the NCoE.
- Suggestion is to provide all Khelo India Athletes (KIAs) with a comprehensive informational handbook detailing their full entitlements, including the scheme brief, ₹5,00,000 financial support and the criteria for weeding out.
- The amount in the current talent development framework may be suitably revised, since this support have remained unchanged since 2019, considering the costs of competition exposure, advanced sports equipment, and sports science support.
- To broaden the base of excellence, it is suggested that the sports science support be extended to a larger pool of athletes.
- The ceiling of 3000 athletes is abysmally low to maintain a steady pipeline of talent. Therefore, it is suggested to increase per sport intake—to ensure this, Talent Identification Zonal Committee (TIZC) needs to be made functional. They may also be supported by talent scouts to ensure coverage of district and state level competitions for talent identification.
- A school-linked, performance-based identification and support model—integrated with Khelo India infrastructure and incentivised Physical Education teachers—can strengthen the talent pipeline while ensuring optimal utilisation of existing facilities.
- Community Coaching Development Sub-component requires expanded scope and enhanced budgetary support to achieve its full potential.

Component 3: Khelo India Centres (KICs) and Sports Academies

A) General Operational and Administrative Bottlenecks

- Conditional flexibility can be introduced in GFR procurement rules for cases where specialized sports equipment is not available under the Make in India mandate.

- The number of KICs and KISCEs and the number of disciplines in the existing efficiently functioning KISCEs may also be increased to facilitate training of a larger pool of athletes.
- To address the persistent issues with the NSRS portal, two parallel solutions can be considered: (i) Strengthen the Existing NSRS Portal (ii) Decentralised Portal System for KICs and KISCEs (*If strengthening the existing NSRS portal proves to be time-consuming or operationally unfeasible in the short term*)
- Introducing centralised technical backstopping, supported either through a light Project Management Unit (PMU) or a small earmarked administrative grant for IT and compliance support, would enable States and centres to access trained assistance, standard operating guidance, and capacity-building inputs without duplicating effort.
- Establishing a dedicated implementation layer – such as a State-level PMU or a funded nodal support unit – would help insulate programme delivery from personnel churn and ensure sustained oversight, reporting, and coordination with the Ministry and SAI.
- A formal Centre-State-SAI coordination framework, anchored through periodic reviews, shared dashboards, and clearly defined escalation channels, would improve communication and enable faster resolution of implementation issues, complementing the administrative support structures.
- Mandatory PFMS (Public Financial Management System) training for coaches and administrative staff can be given, for better implementation of schemes across states.
- 52.7% of athletes have not received any anti-doping education, while 68% of coaches and support staff reported not conducting anti-doping awareness sessions, highlighting the need for mandatory, structured anti-doping awareness across all centres.

B) Khelo India State Centre of Excellence (KISCE)

a) Manpower and Sports Science Gaps

- Sanctioned positions can be expanded to include wardens, hostel supervisors, housekeeping staff and data entry operators, ensuring smooth day-to-day operations.
- States can also be granted flexibility to propose additional operational staff (such as wardens) based on the number of athletes, size of the centre, and local requirements.

- To strengthen athlete development, centres can recruit physiotherapists, nutritionists, medical officers, and sport science experts who are absent on an urgent basis.

b) Financial Bottlenecks and Obsolete Assessments

- The existing VGF assessment is outdated; therefore, there is a scope for a fresh VGF assessment to incorporate an infrastructure component to address emerging needs.
- It is suggested to formalise and mandate Joint Monitoring Committees consisting of representatives from SAI Regional Centres and the State Sports Department to address the file delay and approval bottlenecks.
- Staff members were promised an annual increment at the time of recruitment, but no such increment has been provided to date.
- Nutrition plans can be tailored to individual athletes rather than following a single uniform template, considering sport type, training load, body composition, and age to optimize performance and health.

C) District-level KIC

a) Financial and Operational Constraints

- Grants can be allocated based on the requirements of each discipline as for some disciplines the grants are proven to be insufficient.
- A standardized monitoring system can also be implemented to track the distribution of sports kits, consumables, and athlete entitlements.
- Ensuring timely salary disbursement for PCAs – 2 solutions can be taken into consideration: (i) Preferred Approach: Ensuring timely salary disbursement through PFMS-based payroll systems directly into coach bank accounts is to avoid any delays. (ii) Alternative Approach (*where State autonomy is a concern*): If implementing PFMS-based payroll may affect State autonomy, a phased release of funds can be adopted, releasing the salary component of ₹3 lakh per PCA annually in advance, every quarter to the state. Subsequent quarterly advances can only be released after the submission and verification of the previous quarter's UC, ensuring accountability while maintaining financial discipline.
- It is also essential to introduce salary differentiation based on qualifications and experience, ensuring that highly qualified or experienced PCAs are appropriately compensated.

- Since PCAs only conduct training sessions in the morning and evening, allowing them the option to take up supplementary employment could help them sustain themselves financially without compromising training quality.

b) Administrative Bottlenecks and Support Gaps

- It is suggested to implement a digital portal or email-based system for UC submission as physical UC submission requirements and administrative transfers create significant delays in fund processing.
- Delayed PCA Onboarding and Lengthy Discipline Change Processes Stall Centre Operations therefore it is suggested to establish a national standby pool of qualified coaches can ensure continuity in training.
- The MoYAS can also envisage opening up the next round of KICs in residential schools with sufficient playfields and other required infrastructure across various districts in the country.

Component 4: Fit India

- **Digital Platform Limitations for Outreach:** It is suggested that the relevant authorities ensure all digital components, such as the Fit India Quiz preliminary examination, are accessible across iOS as well.
- **Need for Continuous Data Standardization:** While the movement seeks to collect and track fitness data across the vast population, reliance on continuous, and systematic gathering of results from school assessments (using the Khelo India battery of tests) and individual inputs (via the Fit India Mobile App) requires standardization of measurement and entry by all stakeholders which can be a challenging task at times.
- **Institutional Penetration and Mobilization:** Mobilization and grassroots support on the field are inconsistent, impacting the desired national reach of the movement, therefore lagging states can be encouraged to participate in these initiatives.

Component 5: Promotion of Inclusiveness through Sports

- **Shortage of Specialised Equipment:** Para-athletes, especially in sports such as archery, often require customized equipment for training and competition. Delays in receiving these specialised items and the supply of standard-size equipment, not keeping in mind the athlete-specific requirements, make it impossible for para-athletes to train and perform effectively.

- **Limited Accessible Facilities:** Para-athletes, especially wheelchair users, often require the presence of a helper during both training and competitions to support movement and transport of equipment. Many sports facilities lack structural accessibility and appropriate assistance systems.
- **Inaccessible Accommodation and Transport:** Accommodation and travel arrangements are sometimes the same as those provided for able-bodied athletes. However, certain hotels, transportation options, and event venues may lack accessible rooms, ramps, elevators, and other essential disability-friendly features. This creates physical barriers and additional stress for athletes during travel for training and competitions.

2) ASSISTANCE TO NATIONAL SPORTS FEDERATIONS (ANSF)

- **Delayed Appointment of High Performance Directors (HPD) or Foreign Coaches:** NSFs can speed up the process of hiring of HPDs and foreign coaches. Since the revised norms have been notified only recently, all NSFs are presently in the process of issuing advertisements and undertaking recruitment for the prescribed posts.
- **Mandate Investment in Sports Science and Support Personnel:** It is suggested to encourage NSFs to utilize the funding allocated for support personnel and training, which can amount to at least 10% of the total allocation.
- **Rationalisation of Funding Limits for Mega International Sporting Events:** Responsibility to bid and host the international events rests with IOA and concerned NSFs, but NSFs find it difficult to raise adequate funds to host the sporting events effectively. The provision for hosting international championships can therefore be repositioned from a routine grant to a strategic instrument for strengthening India's global bidding credibility for mega sporting events.
- **Training at Olympic Training Centres (OTCs):** It is suggested to make provision in the ANSF Scheme for arranging training of athletes at OTCs so that the facilities at OTCs are fully utilised, and the athletes covered under ANSF Scheme get the opportunity of training at OTCs equipped with modern training facilities.
- **Assistance for National Games:** Considering the importance of the National Games, financial support from ANSF Scheme can be provided for National Games through IOA/SAI, particularly regarding sports equipment, time scoring and result (TSR) services, technical conduct etc, which are the key areas for successful conduct of a major sporting event.

- **Need for spreading the global outreach of indigenous games:** The Government can step in and help the NSFs financially as well as through Indian embassies for spreading the global outreach of indigenous sports.
- **Cultural Exchange and International Cooperation:** To support the training of athletes from the Global South, the Government can consider providing scholarships and subsidised training to athletes from these countries and earn their goodwill of these countries, which will eventually help Indian Sports Administrators in occupying leadership positions in international sports bodies.

3) SCHEME OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT IN SPORTS

A) Enhancing Outreach and Awareness:

- **Strengthen Digital Dissemination:** It is suggested to ensure HRDS guidelines, application information and selection criteria are highly visible and easily accessible.
- **Expand Equitable Access:** To ensure a broader and more equitable pool of applicants, it is suggested to disseminate scheme information actively at regional sports academies, State universities, smaller institutions, and rural colleges.
- **Target Early-Career Professionals:** It is recommended to expand the outreach specifically to early-career professionals to build the talent pipeline from the ground up.
- **Institutional Integration with Khelo India Framework:** HRDS' reach in its current shape is limited. It can be merged with a flagship scheme like Khelo India to make it more visible and synced with the mainstream schemes. It is recommended that the HRDS scheme may be subsumed as a chapter within the Khelo India framework.

B) Streamlining Application and Selection Procedures:

- **Introduce a Unified Digital Platform:** The findings suggest establishing a unified online platform that integrates application submission, required document upload, and real-time status tracking for applicants.
- **Live Application Tracking Dashboard:** A live tracking dashboard can be provided on the official website, enabling applicants to view the total number of applications received under each category.

- **Standardize and Simplify Documentation:** Evidence points to providing standardized, but simplified formats for documents like the No Objection Certificate (NOC).
- **Improve Transparency:** It is recommended to communicate the selection criteria, required documentation, and the complete application timeline to applicants upfront.
- **Streamlining the Approval and Evaluation Mechanism:** Overlapping of members in the Appraisal Committee and Designated Committee leads to unnecessary delays without any real benefit. May like to consider only the Designated Committee as the sole committee both for evaluation and for approval of the proposals to reduce delays.

C) Revising Financial Norms and Fund Flow Mechanisms

- **Flexibility in ZBSA Account Requirement:** In cases where the institution does not have a ZBSA account in the HDFC Bank, the sanctioned amount may be released to any existing public sector bank account of the institution to streamline the process and avoid unnecessary administrative burdens.
- **Scope for Direct Beneficiary Transfer:** Since the credibility and eligibility of the beneficiary are already verified during the approval stage, the disbursement process can be streamlined by directly crediting the sanctioned amount to the recipient's bank account.
- **Tracking Fund Transfer Beyond the Institution Level:** Institutions can be mandated to report back to the Ministry confirming the date and status of the transfer from their ZBSA account to the beneficiary's private bank account.
- **Update Cost Norms:** It is suggested to revise the assistance provided for specialized or international training programmes to adequately cover the cost requirements for boarding, lodging, and local logistics.
- **Reorienting the Scheme towards Partial Assistance:** HRDS can prioritise partial assistance to ensure co-investment by beneficiaries or their organisations, while allowing full Government support in genuinely deserving cases.

D) Optimizing Program Design and Component Utility

- **Refine Fellowships:** The indemnity bond and surety bond requirements under the fellowship may be removed. The admission requirement in a foreign institute for match officials may be omitted, since most training programmes abroad are short-term and do not require formal admission.

- **Address Research/Publication Bottlenecks:** Streamlining the review timeline or increasing administrative support for these highly detailed, complex applications. Vague term 'mega projects' may be removed and maximum financial assistance for research may be raised suitably from the current figure of Rs. 10 Lakhs. Percentage of assistance towards publication may be suitably enhanced.
- **Expansion of Eligibility to Private Sector Stakeholders:** The ambit of the scheme can be expanded to include people from the Private Sector to increase the outreach of the scheme and to augment the sporting ecosystem in the country.
- **Rationalising Restrictions on Repeat Funding:** The bar on not funding a beneficiary again in the same year/consecutive year sometimes poses a challenge, especially if it's an active organisation. Therefore, it is suggested that the same can be by way of prudence by the sanctioning authority rather than as a rule.

4) SCHEME OF CASH INCENTIVE TO MEDAL WINNERS IN INTERNATIONAL SPORTS EVENTS AND THEIR COACHES

- Although the scheme operates ex post, it has a strong ex ante behavioural impact by motivating athletes through predictable and transparent incentives, particularly for those facing financial uncertainty outside commercial sports.
- Legacy delays in cash incentive sanctions were primarily due to pre-2022 offline processes; the introduction of an online system and a one-time special window successfully cleared historical backlogs and reduced pendency to 3-4 months by mid-2025.
- Analysis of the sanctioning patterns reveals that the Ministry has been actively working to clear historical arrears. While there is a lag between the "Medal Year" and the "Cash Sanction Year," the data suggests a focused effort to close these gaps.
- Overall, the scheme has been effective in institutionalising outcome-based recognition, reinforcing elite performance incentives, and directing public funds toward internationally significant sporting achievements.

5) NATIONAL SPORTS AWARDS

A) Mandate for a Unified Selection Committee (MDCKRA, Arjuna & Dronacharya Award)

Role/Category	Mandate for Unified Committee	Justification
Chairperson	A retired judge of the Supreme Court/High Court (or a Ministry nominee of equivalent stature).	Adopts the specific requirement of the Arjuna Awards Committee, which is the most restrictive leadership criterion.
Sportspersons of Eminence (Olympians/ MDCKRA/ Arjuna Awardees)	4 members.	Adopts the maximum requirement stipulated by the Arjuna and MDCKRA schemes.
Previous Dronacharya Awardees	3 members (from different disciplines).	Adopts the specific expertise mandated by the Dronacharya Awards to evaluate coaching contributions and careers.
Sports Journalists/Experts/Commentators	3 members.	Adopts the maximum quota required by the Arjuna and MDCKRA schemes.
Para Sports Expert	1 member.	Adopts the explicit requirement of the Arjuna and MDCKRA schemes to ensure representation for sports for the physically challenged.
Ex-Officio Members	3 members: CEO, TOP Scheme Secretariat; Executive Director (TEAMS)/Officer in-charge of TEAMS Division, SAI; and Joint Secretary (Sports) (Member Secretary).	These roles are already common across all three committees.

B) Common Suggestion for MDCKRA, Arjuna Award and Dronacharya Award:

Consider publishing indicative numbers in advance, enabling flexible yet transparent recognition aligned with the competitive context of each year.

C) Scheme-Specific Suggestions

- **MDCKRA:** Formal points matrices or performance benchmarks for non-Olympic disciplines (like cricket) can be established to provide the Committee with an objective framework for guiding the 80% quantitative assessment.
- **Dronacharya Award:** It is suggested to make it compulsory for coaches to submit official, dated documents (e.g., federation/SAI records) verifying the minimum coaching period before the athlete's achievement. While this reduces external attribution issues, the final determination still ultimately depends on the athlete's confirmation.
- **Dronacharya Award (Lifetime):** A structured evaluation framework can be instituted, that assigns weighted scores or bands to key career milestones (e.g.,

number of high-level athletes produced, sustained duration of full-time coaching) to provide an objective basis for the Committee's judgment of the long-term contribution.

- **MAKA:** Given the recent implementation of the revised framework, it is recommended that the Ministry undertake a structured review after a defined cycle (e.g., three years) to assess whether this model adequately advances broader Khelo India objectives. As part of this review, the feasibility of introducing – a hybrid scoring model that assigns the dominant weightage to KIUG results (e.g., 85%) but reserves a structural weightage (e.g., 15%) for verifiable institutional efforts toward broad-basing and a dope-free sports culture – may be examined.
- **MAKA:** Require universities to demonstrate sustained, verifiable institutional efforts (e.g., awareness campaigns, NADA collaboration records) related to dope-free culture as a mandatory prerequisite for KIUG results to count towards the MAKA Trophy.
- **RKPP:** Augment the award with valuable, non-monetary incentives such as official partnership status with SAI/Ministry, priority access to central sports facilities, or streamlined administrative benefits.

6) SCHEME OF SPORTS FUND FOR PENSION TO MERITORIOUS SPORTSPERSONS

- The comparatively lower representation from medal-producing regions such as the Northeast suggests that awareness, documentation support, and proactive identification at the state and regional level significantly influence outcomes.
- Streamlining documentation and leveraging existing digital records and centralised databases can improve approval rates while maintaining probity.
- The age-based commencement condition, which links pension eligibility to attainment of 30 years, provides administrative uniformity but does not fully align with the retirement patterns of several sports where peak performance and exit from competition occur earlier. As the scheme's stated mission is to provide financial security post-retirement, closer alignment with actual retirement status.
- Introducing a structured review cycle or a modest indexation mechanism would preserve the real value of benefits and reinforce the scheme's credibility as a reliable social security instrument for retired athletes.

- The administrative process requires extensive documentation creating a compliance burden, particularly for senior athletes lacking historical records and rural athletes with limited digital access.

7) PANDIT DEENDAYAL UPADHYAY NATIONAL WELFARE PROGRAM FOR SPORTSPERSONS (PDUNWPS)

- Incremental reforms—such as simplifying guideline language, introducing basic utilisation documentation for training and equipment support, and establishing a reasonable cooling-off period between repeat applications—would strengthen governance while preserving the scheme’s welfare character.
- Streamlining verification through standardised digital formats, better integration with NSF and SAI databases, and calibrated delegation of approval authority would reduce pendency without diluting accountability.
- Finally, proactive outreach through State Sports Departments, SAI regional centres, and district-level institutions would broaden geographic coverage and ensure that eligible athletes, coaches, and support staff across the country are aware of and able to access the scheme.

As these four schemes are welfare-oriented in nature, it is proposed to merge the Cash Incentive Scheme, National Sports Awards, Pension Scheme, and the PDUNWPS under a single umbrella framework.

8) NATIONAL SPORTS DEVELOPMENT FUND (NSDF)

- The absence of explicit ceilings for non-infrastructure components has led to frequent escalations for higher-level approvals; introducing indicative, component-specific financial ranges would improve predictability, reduce administrative burden, and speed up decision-making.
- The shift from one-to-one government matching to a 25% cap on CSR contributions has increased reliance on the corpus, leading to depletion; a revised government contribution formula, periodic corpus replenishment, or a calibrated ceiling on annual drawdowns would strengthen financial resilience.
- There is scope to complement financial reporting with more systematic outcome tracking, particularly for training and athlete-support interventions. Linking expenditure data with indicators such as training days delivered, international exposure achieved, or progression within elite performance pathways would enrich the evidence base for future allocation decisions.

9) NATIONAL CENTRE OF SPORTS SCIENCES AND RESEARCH (NCSSR)

A) Manpower Gaps and the Need for a Permanent Scientific Cadre: The absence of a permanent scientific cadre results in NCSSR's reliance on contractual and ad-hoc staff arrangements. The scheme can transition from a consultant-driven model to a cadre-based scientific structure by sanctioning permanent posts across headquarters and SSSM centres, supported by a defined scientific hierarchy (Scientist 'B' to 'G') aligned with UGC/ICMR/DST and 7th CPC pay scales to ensure long-term sustainability and global competitiveness.

B) Administrative Bottlenecks: To reduce administrative delays, the NCSSR can be structurally upgraded into an autonomous National Institute of Sports Sciences and Research (NISSR), modelled after institutions like NIPER or AIIMS. This autonomy would streamline scientific recruitment and procurement while empowering the entity to govern critical national protocols, such as the "RULES AGAINST AGE FRAUD IN SPORTS, 2025" and "Return to Play" guidelines.

C) Restructuring the Spoke Model to Ensure Specialized Research and Talent Development: The Ministry can restructure the "Spoke" model. If state medical colleges continue to underperform, the focus can pivot to establishing "dedicated sports science wings" within premier institutions like AIIMS or IITs, which are better equipped to handle specialized research. This ensures that funds are utilized for athlete-centric innovation rather than getting lost in general administrative voids.

Encouraging new courses in Performance Analysis and sports analytics is a prerequisite for building a "sustainable pipeline of indigenous experts" and reducing reliance on foreign consultants. By implementing certificate programs and learning models, the NCSSR can upskill working coaches and High-Performance Analysts (HPAs) thereby bridging the current skills gap.

D) Ensuring Equipment Standardization Across National Centres: It is suggested to implement a mandatory "Standardization Audit" for all NCSSR-funded laboratories, since different centres often use equipment with varying brands or calibration standards for identical tests. The roadmap can mandate ISO 17025 accreditation for all labs to ensure that physiological data collected in Patiala is statistically comparable to data collected in Bangalore, thereby creating a reliable National Athlete Database.

E) Enhancing Research Autonomy and Professional Development for Elite Sports: NCSSR cannot currently generate and retain internal revenue, they depend

almost entirely on annual government budget allocations. This financial model lacks flexibility and sustainability. Increased research funding is therefore a strategic prerequisite for the NCSSR's evolution for supporting India's vision of 2030 Commonwealth Games and Olympics 2036 and Vision 2047. This investment will not only attract global talent to the proposed scientific cadre but also ensure that the 1,187 students currently enrolled in sports science programmes have the resources to conduct application-oriented research that bridges the gap between the laboratory and the field of play.

For Research and Academics: It is recommended to strengthen sports science capacity through the launch of a Sports Science Promotion Scheme supporting pilot and longitudinal studies, alongside the introduction of blended Executive Certificate Programmes.

F) Infrastructure Development and Financial Bottlenecks in the Hub-and-Spoke Model: Under the current scheme model, the limited discretionary financial authority has stymied the rapid scaling of high-end rehabilitation units and advanced biomechanics laboratories, preventing the transition from basic testing to the sophisticated digital athlete analytics required for elite performance. Development and upgrading of advanced biomechanics laboratories, high-end rehabilitation and return-to-play units and digital athlete analytics platforms proceed slowly under the current scheme model, leading to uneven facility development across the hub-and-spoke network.

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APPENDIX

APPENDIX IA: DETAILS OF FIELD VISITS

State/ UT	District	Type of the Institution/ Centre	Name of the Institution/ Centre	Respondents
Chandigarh (Pilot Study)		SAI RC	Sports Authority of India Regional Centre, Chandigarh	
		State Sports Dept.	Sports Department, Chandigarh Administration	
		KISCE	Hockey Stadium, Sector 42	1. Sportspersons 2. Coaches 3. Support Staff
		KIC	Sports Complex	Past Champion Athletes
			Panjab University, Chandigarh	
KIAA	New Public School	KIAs		
Haryana	Panchkula	State Sports Dept.	Tau Devi Sports Complex	1. Sportspersons 2. Coaches 3. Support Staff
		KISCE		
	Sonapat	SAI RC	NCoE, Sonapat	1. Sportspersons 2. Coaches 3. Support Staff
		NCoE		
		KIAA		
KIC	Ch. Pratap Singh Memorial Samiti, Kharkhoda	1. PCA 2. Sportspersons 3. Person in charge		
Odisha	Khordha (Bhubaneswar)	State Sports Council	Kalinga Stadium	1. Sportspersons 2. Coaches 3. Support Staff
		KISCE		
		KIAA	Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology	1. Person in charge 2. KIA
			Sports Hostel	
	Utkal Karathe School, Bhubaneswar			

State/ UT	District	Type of the Institution/ Centre	Name of the Institution/ Centre	Respondents
		KIC	K.C. Govt. High School, Tapang	1. PCA 2. Sportspersons 3. Person in charge
			Kalinga Institute of Technical Training (KITT), Bhubaneswar	
	Cuttack	KIAA	NCOE Jagatpur	1. Person in charge 2. KIA
			SAI Regional Academy	
		KIC	Ravenshaw Collegiate School, Cuttack	1. PCA 2. Sportspersons 3. Person in charge
	Rajasthan	Jaipur	State Sports Council	Sawai Man Singh Stadium, Jaipur
SAI Training Centre			STC, Jaipur	1. Sportspersons 2. Coaches 3. Person in charge
KIAA			OASES Academy	1. Shri. Sakeer Hussain (Person in Charge) 2. Sportsperson 3. Person in charge
KIC			Chaugan Stadium	1. PCA 2. Sportspersons 3. Person in charge
Churu		KIAA	Urmila Sports Academy	1. Person in Charge 2. Sportspersons 3. Coaches
			Dronacharya National Boxing Academy	
		KIC	District Sports Council	1. PCA 2. Person in charge
Karnataka		Bangalore	SAI RC	NCoE, Bangalore
	NCoE			
	State Sports Dept.		Directorate of Sports	Deputy Commissioner
	KIC		Sree Kanteerava stadium	1. PCA 2. Sportspersons

State/ UT	District	Type of the Institution/ Centre	Name of the Institution/ Centre	Respondents
				3. Person in charge
		KIAA	Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy	1. Person in Charge 2. KIAs
			Dolphin Aquatics Centre	1. Person in Charge 2. KIAs
			Akanksha Singh Basketball	Person in Charge
	KISCE	Sh. Jaiprakash Narayan National Youth Centre Bangalore	1. Sportspersons 2. Coaches 3. Support Staff	
Mysore	KIC	Chamundivihar Stadium Nazarbad	1. PCA 2. Sportspersons 3. Person in charge	
Tripura	West Tripura	State Sports Dept.		1. Director 2. DDO
		KISCE	Dasarath Dev State Sports Complex, Badharght, Agartala	1. Sportspersons 2. Coaches 3. Support Staff
		KIC	NSRCC Indoor Hall	1. District Officer 2. PCA
	Khawai		Sahid Bhagat Singh Gymnasium Hall	1. District Officer 2. PCA
	Dhalai		Ambassa District Sports Hall, Chandraichhara, Ambassa	PCA
		Kamalpur KC Girls HS School Swimming Pool		

APPENDIX IB: LIST OF KIIs FOR THE ANSF SCHEME

Categorisation of the NSF	Name of the NSF
High Priority	Athletics Federation of India
	Hockey India
Priority	Paralympics Committee of India
	Indian National Federation for Yogasana Sport
General	Shooting Ball Federation of India
	Netball Federation of India

APPENDIX IC: LIST OF FIELD VISITS FOR THE ANSF SCHEME (National Camp Participants)

State	District	Name of the Centre
Haryana	Sonepat	National Centre of Excellence (NCoE)
Karnataka	Bangalore	National Centre of Excellence (NCoE)
		Centre for Excellence
		Dolphin Aquatics Centre
		Khelo India State Centre of Excellence (KISCE)
Odisha	Khordha	Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology
		Sports Hostel
		Utkal Karathe School, Bhubaneswar
	Cuttack	NCOE Jagatpur
Rajasthan	Churu	Urmila Sports Academy
		Dhronacharya Boxing Academy

APPENDIX ID: DETAILED LIST OF PRIMARY SURVEYS FOR THE HRDS

Fellowship	Exchange of Knowledge/ Ideas	Match Officials	Research	Publication
Dr. Haish Kumar, Nagaland University	Physical Education Foundation of India (PEFI)	Mohd. Danish, High Performance Analyst (on contract in SAI)	Physical Education Foundation of India (PEFI)	Nilesh Dipakarao Joshi, Assistant Professor
	Hockey India	Hockey India	Dr. Shailendra Pratap Singh, Assistant Professor, Central University, Rajasthan	
	Dr. Deepshika Beniwal, IKCA	Dr. Deepshika Beniwal, IKCA	Divya Sanghi, Professor, Manav Rachna	
	Paralympic Committee of India	Shri Mrityunjaya, Performance Analyst (Physiotherapy) on contract in SAI		
	Yogasana Bharat	Yogasana Bharat		
	Sri Sri University	Sh. Abhisar Sharma, Massage Therapist, Sports Authority of India		
	SPORTSCOM Industry Confederation	Sh. Pawan Kumar Singh, Director and Cofounder, Gagan Narang Sports Promotion Foundation		
	Indian Weightlifting Federation			

APPENDIX II: OFFICIALS CONSULTED AT THE MINISTRY LEVEL

Scheme	Vertical	Name	Designation	Phone no./ E-mail
Khelo India	MoYAS (KI Infra)	Dr Sandeep R Rathod, IAS	Director - (Khelo India)	9436582755
		Shri. OP Chanchal	Under Secretary (Khelo India Directorate, KID)	9560716689
		Shri. Rajat	Assistant Section Officer	9560652536
	SAI (KI - Other 4 Components)	Shri. Sachin Wayal	Deputy Director SAI	9960730976
		Ms. Hima Bindu	Deputy Director SAI	9911411661
		Ms. Neha Viswakarma		9340964366
		Shri. Mayank		9910899228
		Shri. Jyothish		9717734187
ANSF	MoYAS	Shri. Bangararaju V.V.K.K. Thatavarthi (IOFS)	Director (SP-I)	9674158496
	MoYAS	Shri. Joginder Singh	Under Secretary	8860084743
	SAI	Shri. Shashank Bhardwaj	Deputy Director	9102249340
	SAI	Ms. Neethu	Assistant Director	8075682202
HRDS	MoYAS	Shri. S.K Sinha	Deputy Secretary	7042107720
	MoYAS	Shri. Deepak	Assistant Section Officer	9899734167
	MoYAS	Shri. Surendra Yadav	Under Secretary	9910521123
Welfare Schemes	MoYAS	Dr. Shobhit Jain	Joint Secretary (Policy)	9868837884
Data Admin (Welfare Schemes)	MoYAS - (DPT Portal)	Shri. Birender		9560965937
	MoYAS	Shri. Arun Kumar	Section Officer	9990408433
Cash Incentives	MoYAS	Shri. Manisha Mishra	Assistant Section Officer	8107450127
NSA	MoYAS	Ms. Muktika Razora	Assistant Section Officer	9873061326
Pension	MoYAS	Shri. Prabal Gupta	Assistant Section Officer	7991249972

Scheme	Vertical	Name	Designation	Phone no./ E-mail
PDUNWPS	MoYAS	Shri. Aviral Singh	Assistant Section Officer	9958236261
NSDF	MoYAS	Shri. Manoj Srivastav	PO NSDF	9911103233
NCSSR	SAI	Dr. Bibhu Kalyan Nayak	Director cum Head of NCSSR	ncssr.sai.gov.in
		Shri. Yogesh Kumar		8377889930 / 9560297732
		Shri. Arun		8085474901

APPENDIX III: OFFICIALS CONSULTED AT THE STATE LEVEL

Vertical	State	Name	Designation	Phone no./ E-mail
SAI RC	Bangalore	Shri. Vishnu Sudhakaran	Regional Director, In-charge	
		Shri. Harish Babu Pallepogu	Deputy Director	9912437932
		Ms. Arathi P	Deputy Director	9497322922
	Gandhinagar	Shri. Manikant Sharma	Regional Director, In-charge	
		Shri. Madhu Harsha	Assistant Director	7995961996
	Kolkata	Ms. Amar Jyoti	Regional Director, In-charge	
		Shri. Lakshman Dongari	Assistant Director	9966600899
	Sonepat	Dr. Shivam Sharma	Regional Director, In-charge	
Shri. Asheesh Sharma		Deputy Director	7018953574	
State Sports Dept.	Haryana	Shri. Ashwani Malik	Additional Director	
		Ms. Sandhu Bala	Deputy Director	9992062068
	Kerala	Dr. Pradeep C S	Additional Director	9400911251
	Karnataka	Shri. Thippeswamy	Deputy Director	9482455663
	Odisha	Shri. Dhiroj Kumar Pattanaik	OSD	7978403774
	Rajasthan	Shri. Narendra Bhuria	Sports Manager	9982235351
	Tripura	Shri. Lalneithuama Darlong	Director	
		Shri. Prabhal Kanti Dev	DDO	9612989644

ANNEXURES

ANNEXURE I: FIELD VISIT OBSERVATIONS FOR KHELO INDIA

The following field visit write-up compiles findings from Khelo India State Centres of Excellence (KISCE), Khelo India Centre (KIC), National Centres of Excellence (NCOE), Khelo India Accredited Academies (KIAA), and infrastructure projects across Haryana and Rajasthan, Odisha and Karnataka, detailing operational realities, systemic challenges, and strategic recommendations for each core component.

Component 1: Creation and Upgradation of Sports Infrastructure

This component focuses on capital support for establishing and modernizing sports facilities, prioritizing projects that address infrastructure gaps and promote multi-use and inclusiveness.

A. Operational Progress and Utilization

The field visit to Jaipur, Rajasthan, confirmed significant overall progress in infrastructure creation, with common projects sanctioned, including Hockey Fields, Athletic Tracks, and Multipurpose Indoor Halls, often proposed to upgrade existing facilities to meet national standards. These completed facilities are largely operational, with 90% of Khelo India infrastructure in Rajasthan reported to be utilized by athletes and local users through regular training and tournaments. In Haryana, the motivation for proposing new infrastructure projects stemmed partly from the absence of adequate facilities observed during the Khelo India Games. Furthermore, the State Sports Department of Karnataka noted that renovation and maintenance activities are often financed and executed entirely by the State Government.

In terms of inclusivity, facilities in Jaipur are partially accessible to differently-abled users via ramps, changing rooms, and locker facilities, although improvements are ongoing. Similarly, the infrastructure at SAI Regional Centre, Sonapat, is designed with inclusivity, featuring handrails and wheelchair access for para-athletes.

B. Financial and Administrative Bottlenecks

Despite notable progress, fund flow delays remain a key operational concern. The average delay in receiving funds from the Ministry in Rajasthan was reported to be at least one month, sometimes ranging from one to three months, primarily due to lengthy administrative procedures, pending DPR/technical approvals, and document verification. This protracted process, involving administrative bottlenecks and a lack of timely responses, affects implementation schedules.

Maintenance of the infrastructure primarily relies on institutional and State/UT Government funds, with limited support leveraged from external sources like CSR or PPP. Maintenance challenges are intensified by procedural delays in approving minor repairs and price escalation. Additionally, the sheer volume of simultaneous projects stretches available administrative manpower and oversight capacity at the grantee level.

C. Visit Suggestions

1. **Streamline Financial Procedures:** Simplify the fund release mechanism to mitigate procedural delays and rigidities, potentially addressing the one-to-three-month delays reported in fund transfer.
2. **Enhance Sustainability Planning:** Assign a dedicated maintenance agency and proactively encourage PPP/CSR involvement to ensure the long-term sustainability and upkeep of the assets.
3. **Mandate Pre-construction Verification:** Implement mandatory pre-construction site verification to address potential challenges at the initial planning stage.

Component 2: Sports Competitions and Talent Development

This component supports the organization of major sports competitions (like the Khelo India Games) and the identification and nurturing of talent (Khelo India Athletes or KIAs), providing financial support of up to ₹5,00,000 per athlete per annum for training.

A. Challenges in Athlete Financial Support and Awareness

A challenge faced by Khelo India Athletes (KIAs) in National Centres of Excellence (NCOE) is the financial instability related to allowances, with reports of the Out-of-Pocket Allowance (OPA) of ₹10,000 per month being delayed for around six months. Furthermore, many KIAs training at the Malik Badminton Academy (a KIAA in Sonapat) were unaware of their entitlement to the ₹5,00,000 annual financial support under the scheme. These athletes also lacked awareness of weeding-out criteria and had not attended workshops on doping-related issues.

KIAA operational funding also presents systemic issues:

- **Rigid Reimbursement Model:** The funding model for KIAAs is entirely reimbursement-based, and due to unclear guidelines and specific caps on sub-components (like equipment or travel), academies often recover only a portion of the sanctioned support.

- Inadequate Travel Cap: The annual ceiling of ₹60,000 for travel is insufficient for international participation, forcing the academy to suggest supporting at least three international tournaments per athlete.
- Attendance Penalty: Boarding and lodging incentives are strictly tied to attendance recorded on the NSRS portal, meaning athletes participating in national camps or competitions lose access to this support during those periods.

B. Gaps in Competition Incentives

While the introduction of a job quota linked to Khelo India Games (KIG) medals has positively increased participation, KIG medal winners are not entitled to any central cash awards under the scheme. Despite announcements by some state governments regarding cash rewards, many winners have not received the promised payments, resulting in delays and dissatisfaction.

C. Recommendations

1. Ensure Athlete Financial Flow and Awareness: Expedite the disbursement of the OPA (₹10,000 per month) to NCOE athletes. Mandate periodic induction sessions and provide a comprehensive informational handbook to ensure all KIAs are aware of their full entitlements (including the ₹5,00,000 support) and the criteria for selection or weeding out.
2. Flexible KIAA Funding: Allow Khelo India Accredited Academies (KIAAs) flexibility to reallocate funds across unutilized budget sub-components (equipment, travel, etc.) within the overall annual allocation to ensure optimal fund utilization, as the rigid caps currently constrain effectiveness, especially for expensive sports like Badminton.
3. Address Attendance Gaps: Revise the attendance-based incentive system to ensure athletes are not penalized by losing boarding and lodging support when they are away attending mandatory national camps or international competitions.

Component 3: Khelo India Centres (KICs) and Sports Academies (KISCE/KIC)

This component focuses on strengthening the sports ecosystem at the grassroots (KIC) and elite (KISCE) levels by optimizing existing infrastructure and providing structured support.

A. Khelo India State Centres of Excellence (KISCE) Challenges

Staffing and Welfare Deficits

The Haryana KISCE, which is sanctioned for boxing, athletics, and badminton, reported vacancies for essential roles such as doctor and nutritionist. This absence means only first aid is available for minor injuries, requiring students to visit nearby hospitals for further medical attention.

The scheme's rigid staffing norms do not permit hiring essential support roles like wardens, cleaning personnel, or hostel supervisors. Consequently, existing staff, such as the physiologist and masseur, who reside at the centre, are informally managing the girls' hostel in the absence of appointed wardens, creating a serious gap in institutional oversight and safety.

Financial and Operational Delays

Coaches, hired on a one-year contractual basis, face persistent financial insecurity, including:

- **Salary Delays:** Coaches reported delays in salary disbursement exceeding three months.
- **Reimbursement Issues:** One coach reported pending travel reimbursements for accompanying students to other states spanning two and a half years.
- **Unfulfilled Promises:** Promised annual increments have not been received by any coaches to date.

Furthermore, equipment procurement remains pending in Haryana due to internal file delays, despite funds being received by the State.

Infrastructure and Nutrition Gaps

Athlete infrastructure complaints at the Haryana KISCE included malfunctioning air conditioning, the absence of Wi-Fi in the boys' hostel (despite its availability in the girls' hostel), and badminton players reporting encountering snakes on their playing ground. Athletically, the nutrition provision had been unavailable for two weeks, and the nutrition plan provided was uniform for all students, lacking individual differentiation.

Status in Rajasthan

The KISCE in Rajasthan has signed the MoU but is not yet operational because the grant has not been received, though it is expected to function soon after SAI approval. Due to funding constraints, this centre will operate as a non-residential facility.

B. District-Level Khelo India Centre (KIC) Challenges

KICs face constraints related to funding, manpower, and governance:

- **PCA Remuneration and Delays:** The sanctioned PCA salary of ₹25,000 per month is consistently reported as inadequate for full-time employment, especially considering PCAs cover their own accommodation and daily expenses. Salary disbursements are subject to severe delays, sometimes lasting nearly a year, and the lack of differentiation in remuneration based on experience contributes to high dissatisfaction and attrition.
- **Inadequate Operational Grants:** The annual recurring grant of ₹2 lakhs per discipline is often insufficient to meet sport-specific needs, particularly for sports with high equipment demands like boxing and judo, forcing compromises on kit quality.
- **Administrative Friction:** The fund flow path is lengthy (Ministry → SAI HQ → SAI RC → State Sports Department → DSO → KIC/PCA). Delays are aggravated by the State Sports Department's practice of batching all physical Utilization Certificates (UCs) from multiple KICs before forwarding them, leading to substantial administrative delays. This is compounded by frequent turnover among District Sports Officers (DSOs).

C. Visit Suggestions

1. **Refine KISCE Staffing and Athlete Welfare:** Urgently fill vacant posts for doctors and nutritionists. Revise KISCE staffing norms to sanction essential support roles like wardens and hostel supervisors to improve institutional oversight. Implement the best practice of individualized diet cards (as seen in NCOE Bangalore) to replace the current uniform nutrition plan.
2. **Stabilize Coach Finances:** Ensure timely salary disbursement, potentially through PFMS-based payroll systems or quarterly advances. Introduce salary differentiation based on PCA qualifications and experience, and allow PCAs the option to take up supplementary employment given their morning/evening training schedules.

3. **Optimize KIC Fund Flow:** Increase the recurring grants for KICs and ensure they are allocated based on discipline-specific requirements rather than a uniform amount, as equipment costs vary significantly (e.g., boxing/judo). Implement a digital portal for UC submission at the DSO level to reduce batching delays, while physical copies can follow to adhere to GFR norms.
4. **Strengthen Contingency Planning:** Establish a national standby pool of qualified coaches for KICs to ensure continuity. Allow conditional discipline reallocation when a PCA fails to join, preventing sanctioned centres from becoming non-operational, as seen in Panchkula.

Component 4: Fit India Movement

The Fit India Movement aims to make fitness an integral part of daily life, encouraging physical activity and promoting behavioral change across all citizens.

A. Best Practice and Outreach Models

The Fit Rajasthan campaign stands out as a strong best practice, aligning with the Fit India vision through an annual provision of ₹50.00 crore. This state-level model focuses on promoting fitness across schools, colleges, and villages while actively campaigning on preventative healthcare messaging, such as motivating citizens to reduce edible oil consumption by 10 per cent. This holistic approach involves organizing events like the Fit Rajasthan Carnival, various Walkathons, and promoting the movement across Anganwadi Centres.

B. Challenges in Compliance and Accessibility

While the movement has achieved massive participation (e.g., 210 million approx.. citizens participated in the Fit India Freedom Run), two specific challenges were identified:

- **Digital Accessibility:** The online platform used for the preliminary examination of the high-profile Fit India Quiz is not available on iOS, creating an inequitable barrier to participation among school children.

C. Visit Suggestions

1. **Expand Digital Accessibility:** Ensure all digital components, including the Fit India Quiz examination platform, are accessible across iOS and other major platforms to promote broader and more equitable participation.

2. Replicate Holistic Models: Encourage other States/UTs to replicate the integrated approach of Fit Rajasthan, combining physical activities with crucial preventative health messaging to maximize community impact.

Component 5: Promotion of Inclusiveness through Sports

This component emphasizes social integration and gender equality, focusing on women, persons with disabilities, and the promotion of rural and indigenous/tribal games.

A. Gaps in Para-Athlete Support

While the scheme provides comprehensive support (₹6.28 lakh per athlete annually, plus ₹10,000 monthly OPA) for identified para-athletes, significant operational deficiencies impact their training.

- Equipment Shortage: Para-athletes, especially those in disciplines like archery, require customized equipment for effective training and competition. However, the current "one-size-fits-all" approach often results in standard equipment being supplied, which does not meet their technical and adaptive needs.
- Disparity in Allowances: Para-archers reported they do not receive the stipends or the ₹5,00,000 annual scholarship provided to athletes in other sports disciplines, despite filling the required forms.
- Logistical Inaccessibility: Accommodation and travel arrangements often mirror those for able-bodied athletes, lacking essential disability-friendly features like ramps, accessible rooms, and elevators, creating physical barriers and stress during competitions.
- Kit Management: Standard sports kit bags are difficult for para-athletes with limited mobility to carry; therefore, alternatives such as trolley bags are needed.
- Health Staff: Para-athletes highlighted the inadequacy of physiotherapy and health staff during national camps, preventing personalized and timely medical assistance.

B. Visit Suggestions

1. Customize Equipment Provision: Link equipment provision directly to athlete performance and ensure that all gear is customized to the athlete's specific requirements and made readily available to them.
2. Improve Health and Physiotherapy: Appoint a sufficient number of specialized physiotherapists and health science staff, assigning each

professional to a smaller group of players to ensure personalized and adequate care during camps.

3. Ensure Accessible Logistics: Mandate that accommodation and travel arrangements include disability-friendly features and specialized assistance for movement and equipment transport during training and competitions. For kit distribution, consider providing alternatives like trolley bags based on the athlete's disability profile.

The overall challenge faced by the Khelo India initiative is that robust infrastructure and strong talent potential are often undermined by a rigid and centralized administrative framework. The persistent delays in fund flow and salary disbursements (Components 1, 2, and 3), the difficulty in adapting scheme norms to ground realities (KIAA reimbursement, KISCE staffing, KIC grants), and the lack of awareness among beneficiaries act like a series of bureaucratic roadblocks. To realize the full potential of these investments, the system must shift towards decentralized decision-making, flexible financial models, and mandated administrative efficiency, ensuring resources reach the athletes and staff in a timely and tailored manner.

ANNEXURE II: FIELD VISIT OBSERVATIONS FOR THE HRDS

1. Key Observations and Challenges

Awareness and Outreach

- Beneficiaries primarily learned about the HRDS Scheme through informal networks, including colleagues, mentors, or affiliated institutions.
- Awareness at state universities, regional sports centres, and smaller colleges was found to be limited.

Application and Selection Process

- The online application portal was moderately user-friendly; however, beneficiaries faced confusion regarding correct NOC formats, required documents, and uploading procedures.
- Selection criteria, timelines, and updates were not clearly communicated. Applicants often had to independently follow up to check their application status.

Accounts and Financial Processing (ZBSA Requirement)

- Opening a Zero Balance Savings Account (ZBSA) for receiving HRDS funds posed procedural challenges.
- Institutions unfamiliar with ZBSA processes experienced delays in account creation and verification, slowing fund processing.
- Delays in fund transfer from institutions to beneficiaries were frequently reported.

Fund Disbursement and Delays

- Major delays averaging approximately one year were reported by most beneficiaries.
- Funds were sometimes released in instalments, forcing beneficiaries to self-finance travel, accommodation, and training expenses initially.
- Multiple approval layers and a lack of real-time tracking contributed

to inconsistent fund flow, affecting the timely execution of planned activities.

Adequacy of Financial Assistance

- A significant gap was observed between requested and approved funds, requiring beneficiaries to cover costs personally.
- Some participants found the financial support partially sufficient, while others reported insufficiency for out-of-state training, specialized courses, or international programmes.
- Boarding, lodging, and local logistics often demanded personal expenditure, highlighting a mismatch between sanctioned support and actual cost requirements.

Logistical and Administrative Barriers

- Institutional NOC requirements, bond processes, and multi-stage approvals caused delays.
- Coordination among MoYAS, SAI, and universities was inconsistent, leading to verification bottlenecks.
- Temporary or contractual staff faced additional challenges in fulfilling service obligations linked to training support.

Programme Design and Utility

- Beneficiaries appreciated the HRDS Scheme for providing exposure, enhancing technical competencies, and expanding professional networks.
- The scheme was found to be motivating and instrumental in encouraging participants to explore deeper areas of sports.

2. Suggestions from Beneficiaries

Strengthening Awareness

- Disseminate HRDS information at universities, SAI centres, and regional sports academies.
- Ensure HRDS guidelines and application information are updated,

visible, and easily accessible on MoYAS/SAI portals.

Simplifying Application Procedures

- Introduce a unified online platform integrating application submission, document upload, and status tracking.
- Provide standardized NOC formats and automate document verification wherever possible.

Improving Fund Flow

- Allow partial advance release of funds for time-sensitive training programmes.
- Establish dedicated PFMS technical support for applicants and institutions.

Revising Financial Norms

- Update cost norms based on inflation, location-specific expenses, and type of training.
- Provide higher assistance for specialized or international training programmes.

Enhancing Inclusivity

- Expand outreach to smaller institutions, rural colleges, and early-career professionals to ensure equitable access.

3. Conclusion

The field visit findings indicate that the HRDS Scheme provides meaningful opportunities for professional development in the sports sector and is highly valued by beneficiaries. However, administrative challenges – particularly related to ZBSA processes, delayed fund disbursement, and limited awareness – affect the scheme's efficiency. Strengthening operational processes, improving communication, and updating programme content to align with evolving sports science trends will enhance both the accessibility and impact of the HRDS Scheme.

ANNEXURE III: QUESTIONNAIRES

A) KHELO INDIA

QUESTIONNAIRE I: STATES SPORTS DEPT. (KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW - KII)

Investigator Name	
Date	
Place	

Respondent Information:

Name of the Respondent	
Respondent Designation	
State and priority discipline	
Share of Central funding in your total annual budget	
Major sources of non-govt funding (If any)	

1. How were your state's priority disciplines (under One State One Game) selected, and how effectively do they align with the region's athlete base and infrastructure availability?

- Data-backed and evidence-based (sport performance + participation analysis)
- Based on historical preference/local interest only
- Political/administrative decision with partial data input
- Yet to be rationalized or reviewed

2. Since implementation, has there been a review or revision of these priority disciplines based on actual participation or medal trends?

- Yes, data-driven revision conducted periodically
- Partial review done, awaiting formal approval
- Planned but not yet initiated
- No review mechanism exists

3. What mechanism does the Department use to ensure that State sports budgets complement (not duplicate) Khelo India allocations?

- Joint budget planning with SAI RC before annual cycle
- post-facto reconciliation after central release
- Separate budgeting without alignment
- No systematic mechanism exists

4. What has been the most recurring point of delay in fund release from SAI RC to field-level execution (KICs, infrastructure)?

- Delay in UC clearance or previous instalment reconciliation
- Slow administrative approval at State Finance Department

- Late DPR submission or technical sanction issues
- Coordination gaps between SAI RC and implementing agency

5. How often do you face a mismatch between sanctioned components (e.g., manpower, equipment, infrastructure) and actual ground needs?

- Frequently - allocations rarely match local realities
- Occasionally - adjustments managed via reallocation
- Rarely - scheme design fits well with local needs
- Never faced such mismatch

6. When utilization certificates (UCs) are delayed, what corrective step is most effective in your experience?

- Dedicated UC tracking cell or nodal officer
- Direct coordination with district offices for data reconciliation
- Use of digital PFMS dashboard alerts
- No dedicated mechanism, addressed case by case

7. How often do you face a mismatch between sanctioned components (e.g., manpower, equipment, infrastructure) and actual ground needs? Specify Reasons _____

- Frequently - allocations rarely match local realities
- Occasionally - adjustments managed via reallocation
- Rarely - scheme design fits well with local needs
- Never faced such mismatch

7a. When vacancies persist, what interim arrangement does your State adopt to prevent disruption of training activities?

- Contractual/temporary hires approved by State Govt.
- Reassignment of nearby KIC staff
- Engagement of retired coaches/ad-hoc support
- Activities temporarily paused until appointment

8. How are athlete performance and progression (KIC → KISCE → National) tracked at your level?

- Integrated via NSRS + State MIS dashboards
- Manual collation through district reports
- Dependent on coaches' manual reporting
- Not formally tracked yet

9. How consistently are biometric attendance and CCTV systems functional in your State's Khelo India centres?

- Over 80% functional with regular monitoring
- 50-80% functional with periodic maintenance
- Below 50% due to technical/maintenance gaps
- Systems mostly non-functional

10. What is the most frequent issue raised in third-party audits (TPQAs) of State sports projects?

- Delays in completion timelines
- Cost variations or procurement documentation gaps
- Incomplete utilization of sanctioned funds
- Quality deviations in construction/equipment
- Others, Specify _____

11. What is the single most effective initiative undertaken by your State to enhance participation from rural/tribal/aspirational districts?

- Dedicated talent hunt or mobile coaching camps
- District-level competitions under Khelo India banner
- Integration with school sports (Dept. of Education)
- No dedicated initiative
- Others, Specify _____

12. a) Is there any convergence between the sports and Other departments (such as health, education, and youth affairs)? Specify _____

b) How frequently are inter-departmental convergence meetings held to align sports, education, health, and youth affairs initiatives?

- Quarterly or more
- Biannual
- Annual only
- Not held regularly

13. After the central grant period ends, what is your State's most feasible plan to sustain Khelo India infrastructure and manpower?

- Full absorption into State Sports budget
- Public-private/CSR partnerships for operations
- Shared-use with schools/community institutions
- Currently dependent on central extension
- Others, Specify _____

14. What percentage of completed Khelo India infrastructure projects in your State are currently fully operational and maintained?

- 90-100%
- 70-89%
- 50-69%
- Below 50%

15 a) How do you assess the utilization of infrastructure projects? Is there any quantitative methodology? _____

15 b) When infrastructure is underutilized, what corrective action does your Department usually take?

- Reallocation of use (multi-sport or community use)
- Leasing under PPP/CSR models

- Review by SLPMC for repurposing
- No immediate corrective mechanism

16. In measurable terms, what has been the most visible impact of the Khelo India scheme in your State so far?

- Improved athlete progression and medal tally
- Strengthened grassroots participation base
- Enhanced infrastructure and visibility of sports
- Capacity development of coaches and staff

17. What single administrative or policy change by MoYAS or SAI would most improve the efficiency of scheme delivery in your State?

18. From your experience, what best practice from your State could be replicated nationally to improve scheme coherence?

QUESTIONNAIRE II: SAI RC (KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW - KII)

Investigator Name	
Date	
Place	

Respondent Information:

Name of the Respondent	
Respondent Designation	
Name and Address of your RC and states governed	
Discipline under the attached NCOE (if any)	

1. List the Khelo India components managed by your RC and indicate their operational status:

a) KICs	b) KISCEs	c) KIRTI	d) KIAAs	e) NCOEs
<input type="radio"/> Fully functional	<input type="radio"/> Fully functional	<input type="radio"/> Fully functional	<input type="radio"/> Fully functional	<input type="radio"/> Fully functional
<input type="radio"/> Partly functional	<input type="radio"/> Partly functional	<input type="radio"/> Partly functional	<input type="radio"/> Partly functional	<input type="radio"/> Partly functional
<input type="radio"/> Not functional	<input type="radio"/> Not functional	<input type="radio"/> Not functional	<input type="radio"/> Not functional	<input type="radio"/> Not functional

2. How are proposals for new KICs/KISCEs processed and evaluated by your RC before submission to HQ? Explain the process_____

- Field verification
- Based on State request only
- Joint evaluation with State
- Desk review only

3. Average time taken from proposal submission to approval of new KIC/KISCE?

- <3 months
- 3-6 months
- 6-12 months
- >12 months

4. Common reasons for proposal delays.

- Missing documents
- Technical feasibility not met
- State-level delays
- Funding constraints
- Others, Specify_____

5. Timeliness and adequacy of fund flow: a) From SAI HQ to RC b) From RC to implementing agencies

- Always timely
- Occasionally delayed
- Severely delayed

6. How would you describe the functioning of the Utilisation Certificate (UC) submission process from KICs/KISCES?

- Smooth and timely process
- Functional but often delayed due to documentation
- Inefficient and frequently pending
- Not applicable

7. Frequency and quality of physical inspections: a) KICs (twice yearly) b) KISCES (quarterly)

- As per schedule
- Irregular
- Not done

8. Are viability gap assessments for KISCES being completed before fund release?

- Always
- Often
- Never

9. What are the most common gaps found during KIC inspections?

- Incomplete training logs
- Infrastructure shortage
- Irregular sessions
- Weak coordination with States

10. Common operational challenges in KISCES.

- Staff shortages
- Delay in equipment supply
- Weak State coordination
- Fund utilisation issues

11. What is the current functionality status of digital monitoring systems (CCTV, facial recognition, NSRS data updates) at your centre?

- Fully functional and in regular use
- Partially functional (some components not working or irregular use)
- Installed but rarely used
- Not operational

12. How would you rate the current coordination level with State Sports Departments and District authorities for Khelo India delivery?

- Excellent
- Good
- Moderate
- Weak

13. Key achievements under each vertical (tick one that best applies):

a) KICs –

- Increased participation
- Better training quality
- Stronger athlete pipeline
- Other

b) KISCES –

- Infrastructure upgraded
- Athlete progression improved
- Coaching/science support strengthened
- Other

14. Common implementation challenges under Khelo India:

- a) Fund delays
- b) Staff shortage
- c) Coordination issues
- d) Monitoring difficulty
- e) Other

15. Effectiveness of Talent Identification Drives in your region:

a) Number conducted	b) Participation scale	c) Outcome (identified athletes progressing)
<input type="radio"/> Very effective <input type="radio"/> Moderately effective <input type="radio"/> Limited <input type="radio"/> Not conducted	<input type="radio"/> Very effective <input type="radio"/> Moderately effective <input type="radio"/> Limited <input type="radio"/> Not conducted	<input type="radio"/> Very effective <input type="radio"/> Moderately effective <input type="radio"/> Limited <input type="radio"/> Not conducted

16. Main constraints in conducting KIRTI drives.

- Low outreach
- Lack of trained assessors
- Equipment unavailability
- Fund delay

17. Inclusivity and outreach of Khelo India initiatives under your RC:

a) Representation of women	b) Inclusion of differently-abled athletes	c) Rural/remote access
<input type="radio"/> High (≥40%) <input type="radio"/> Moderate (20–39%) <input type="radio"/> Low (<20%) <input type="radio"/> Not tracked	<input type="radio"/> High (≥40%) <input type="radio"/> Moderate (20–39%) <input type="radio"/> Low (<20%) <input type="radio"/> Not tracked	<input type="radio"/> High (≥40%) <input type="radio"/> Moderate (20–39%) <input type="radio"/> Low (<20%) <input type="radio"/> Not tracked

18. Sustainability measures for KICs and KISCES once central funding phases out.

- State/CSR co-funding
- Public revenue model
- Institutional support planned
- None yet

19. Major impact observed due to Khelo India interventions in your region (choose up to two):

- Athlete performance improvement
- Better access to facilities
- Enhanced talent identification
- Improved administrative systems
- Stronger State coordination

20. Mention one good practice your RC has adopted under Khelo India implementation.

21. Mention one critical gap or challenge that needs policy attention.

22. Suggest one improvement to strengthen the Khelo India delivery mechanism at RC level

QUESTIONNAIRE III: GRANTEES (STATE GOVT., SAI, OTHER ELIGIBLE ENTITIES) (KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW - KII)

Investigator Name	
Date	
Place	

Respondent Information:

Name of the Respondent	
Respondent Designation	
Grantee Name	
No. of Infrastructure Projects	

Financial Assistance and Utilization Details

A. Financial Assistance Received:

Year: 2023 - '24

Name of the Infrastructure Project	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released	Amount Utilised

Year: 2024 - '25

Name of the Infrastructure Project	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released	Amount Utilised

B. Fund Request and Release Status:

(i) Was there any fund you requested but did not receive during either year? (ii) If yes for what purpose was the money for?	(i) <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No (ii) Open ended
Extent of delay, if any, in receiving funds.	<input type="radio"/> No delay <input type="radio"/> Less than 1 month <input type="radio"/> 1-3 months <input type="radio"/> More than 3 months
What were the problems, if any, in timely receiving and spending money?	Open ended

1. What are the most common types of infrastructure projects for which your organization seeks Central assistance?

- Athletic Track
- Hockey Field
- Football Field
- Multipurpose Indoor Hall
- Swimming Pool
- Others (specify)

2. What are the main reasons for proposing these projects?

- Absence of facilities in region
- Upgradation to meet standards
- OSOG/priority discipline requirements
- Strong institutional demand
- Others (specify) _____

3. Have you faced any difficulties in getting your infrastructure proposals approved under the Khelo India Scheme?

- No difficulties
- Minor difficulties, resolved easily
- Major difficulties, delayed or rejected

4. On average, how timely are the installments of Central funds released after sanction after the formalities are completed?

- Always released on time and aligned with project needs
- Mostly on time, minor delays
- Severely delayed, causing major disruption
- Not aware - Cannot comment

5. Is the fund allocated by the Ministry sufficient to complete the proposed sports infrastructure project?

- Yes, fully sufficient
- Mostly sufficient, minor gap covered by grantee
- No, insufficient, major gap remains
- Not sure / Not applicable

Specify other sources, if any _____

6. Does your centre receive any funding/support for maintenance, utilities, or minor repairs beyond government grants?

- Yes No

6a. If yes, what type of non-governmental support has been received?

7. After your organization receives funds under the scheme, how are they usually transferred to the executing agency?

8. Have there been any delays in transferring funds to executing agencies?

- No delays, funds transferred on time
- Minor delays (within 3 months)
- Moderate delays (3–6 months)
- Major delays (more than 6 months)
- Not applicable

8a. If delays were reported, what were the main reasons for these delays?

- Administrative/approval bottlenecks in our organization
- Issues with DPR/technical clearance
- Delay in land or site readiness
- Other (please specify)

9. How is the infrastructure maintained after completion?

- Own institutional funds
- State/UT Government budget
- User fee collection
- CSR/private partnership
- Other (please specify)_____

10. Do you monitor the project progress?

- Yes No

10a. If yes, how frequently do you monitor project progress across sites?

- Regular monthly/quarterly visits
- Occasional visits only
- Very limited monitoring

11. Does your organization engage coaches/trainers to ensure optimal utilization of the facility?

- Yes, full-time coaches/trainers
- Yes, part-time or visiting coaches
- No, not engaged

12. Are tournaments, competitions, or training programs conducted regularly to maximize the usage of the facility?

- Regularly (monthly or more)
- Occasionally (quarterly)
- Rarely/ Never

13. Does your organization levy any nominal fee for use of the sports facility to support maintenance?

- Yes, for all users
- Yes, for external users only
- No fees charged

14. Across the infrastructure projects your agency mediated, who were most commonly listed as the intended beneficiaries in the DPRs or MoUs?

- Students/athletes of the institution (school/college/university)
- Local community members (residents near the facility)
- Accredited sports academies/Khelo India athletes
- State-level athletes/teams
- National-level athletes/teams
- Women athletes/participants
- Persons with disabilities (differently-abled)
- Other (please specify)_____

15. Is the sports infrastructure created under the Khelo India Scheme accessible to all, including differently-abled and aged users?

- Fully accessible
- Partially accessible
- Not accessible
- Not sure

15a. *If yes, please describe how accessibility is ensured.*

16. Has your organization's project under the Khelo India Scheme converged with or leveraged support from other schemes or funding sources?

- Yes No

16a. *If yes, which of the following sources were involved in the convergence?*

- State Government/UT funds
- MPLADS (Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme)
- MLALADS (Members of Legislative Assembly Local Area Development Scheme)
- CSR funding
- PPP (Public-Private Partnership) contributions
- Other (please specify)_____

17. What challenges, if any, have you encountered in completing Khelo India infrastructure projects, ensuring quality standards, and submitting all mandatory documents?

- No challenges - fully compliant
- Minor challenges - resolved internally
- Major challenges - caused delays or procedural issues

18. What challenges, if any, does your organization face in maintaining the infrastructure effectively?

19. How satisfied are you with the current utilization of the infrastructure?

Likert 1-5 (1= Very dissatisfied, 5= Very satisfied)

1-----2-----3-----4-----5

20. Suggest improvements in scheme design or fund release/monitoring mechanisms.

QUESTIONNAIRE IV: SPORTSPERSONS (PRIMARY SURVEY)

Name of Investigator	
Date	
Centre/ Academy	
District	
State	

Section 1. For All Sportspersons**Respondent Information:**

Name of Respondent	
Sports Discipline	
Primary Role/ Status	<input type="radio"/> Khelo India Athlete (KIA) <input type="radio"/> Khelo India Games medal winner <input type="radio"/> Khelo India Games Participant <input type="radio"/> National Camp Participant <input type="radio"/> State / District Level Participants <input type="radio"/> Other (specify) _____
Gender	<input type="radio"/> Male <input type="radio"/> Female <input type="radio"/> Transgender
Age	<input type="radio"/> Below 15 years <input type="radio"/> 15 – 18 years <input type="radio"/> 19 – 22 years <input type="radio"/> 23 – 25 years <input type="radio"/> Above 25 years
Background Area Type	<input type="radio"/> Rural <input type="radio"/> Urban <input type="radio"/> Tribal
Type of centre	<input type="radio"/> Khelo India State Centre of Excellence (KISCE) <input type="radio"/> Khelo India Centre (KIC) <input type="radio"/> Khelo India Accredited Academy (KIAA) <input type="radio"/> National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) <input type="radio"/> SAI Training Centre (STC) <input type="radio"/> Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC) <input type="radio"/> CAPF Sports School <input type="radio"/> Other (specify) _____
Residential status	<input type="radio"/> Fully residential <input type="radio"/> Non-residential
Current training level/category	<input type="radio"/> Sub-junior (≤ 14 yr) <input type="radio"/> Junior (15-18 yr) <input type="radio"/> Senior level (18 yr+) <input type="radio"/> Other (specify) _____
Highest sporting achievement till date	Competition _____ Year ____ Position / Medal _____

Currently enrolled in any educational institution? If Yes, (i) Details of the institution (ii) Class / Course & Year of Study (iii) Who pays the tuition fees? (iv) Whether you attend the classes regularly?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No (i) Name: _____ Place: _____ (ii) _____ (iii) <input type="radio"/> Govt. <input type="radio"/> Private Sponsor / CSR Support <input type="radio"/> Academy / Institution Contribution <input type="radio"/> Self-funded (Family) <input type="radio"/> Other (specify): _____ (iv) <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Irregular, only if time permits
Due to shortage of time or difficulty balancing training and studies, were you unable to focus on your studies? (i) If yes, Would you prefer any other open/distance courses to help continue education?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No (i) <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

A. Financial Assistance and Utilization Details

Have you received any financial Assistance in Cash/ kind other than the assistance which you're currently receiving from your centre (Govt./CSR funds/Sponsorship) for the last 2 years (2023 - '24 and 2024 - '25)?

Yes No

(i) If yes, then specify the amount and the source (please mention whether the amount is per month or per year):

Year	Source 1 _____	Source 2 _____	Source 3 _____	Total Financial Assistance Received
2023 - '24				
2024 - '25				

B. Fund Request and Release Status:

(i) Was there any fund you requested pertaining to your sport training/participation etc. that were not received? (ii) If yes for what purpose was the money for?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No (ii) (Open ended) _____
Extent of delay, if any, in receiving funds.	<input type="radio"/> No delay <input type="radio"/> Less than 1 month <input type="radio"/> 1-3 months <input type="radio"/> More than 3 months
What were the problems, if any, in timely receiving money?	(Open ended) _____

C. Benefits received from the Academy/Centre:

Purpose / Area of Expenditure	Tick (✓) if Applicable	Remarks (if any): Example: Specify approximate amount (per year/month), and additional details such as challenges.
Tuition or Course Fees		
Travel for Competitions		
Accommodation		
Training or Coaching		
Purchase of Equipment/ Materials		
Boarding/ Lodging		
Nutrition/ Diet		
Sports Kit		
Miscellaneous / Other (please specify): _____		

Section 2. Only for sportspersons in KISCE, Khelo India Athletes and Khelo India Game Participants

1. How often do you get access to TRAINED / CERTIFIED COACHES for your sport in your centre?

- Regular & sport-specific coaching (daily)
 Occasional / general coaching
 No formal coaching available

2. After joining this centre did you get SUFFICIENT OPPORTUNITIES to participate/compete at:

- a) District level Yes No
 b) State level Yes No
 c) National level Yes No
 d) International level Yes No

(i) If "No" or "Very few", reasons (tick all that apply)

- Lack of Funds / travel money
 Events not conducted in my district / state
 Selection trials not held
 Injury / illness
 COVID-19 disruption

- Not Shortlisted
- Any other (specify) _____

3. What is your MAIN SOURCE of financial support for training & competition (travelling, lodging)?

- Govt. stipend (Khelo India / SAI / State)
- Government Scholarship
- Private / CSR sponsorship
- Family / self-funded
- No consistent support

4. How long have you been training here?

- Less than 6 months
- 6 months - 1 year
- 1 - 3 years
- More than 3 years

(i) Where were you training earlier?

- At another Khelo India Centre (KIC)
- At a private academy
- At a school/college facility
- Self-trained / No formal training earlier
- Other (please specify): _____

(ii) Did you have to pay any fees for training there?

- Yes, Specify amount (also specify per month/ year)_____ No

(iii) What additional facilities do you receive here compared to your previous training centre?

- Better coaching quality
- Improved sports-science support (physiotherapy, nutrition, psychology, etc.)
- Better equipment and infrastructure
- Hostel and accommodation facilities
- Regular competitions and exposure opportunities
- Financial or scholarship support
- Other (please specify): _____

5. Do you feel athletes of your category get FAIR OPPORTUNITIES under Khelo India?

Category	Yes, strongly agree	Neutral	No, gaps exist
Women	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rural	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tribal	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Para	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Category	Yes, strongly agree	Neutral	No, gaps exist
Indigenous Games ³	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. How do you usually handle mental stress and tension arising from a sports injury or competition stress?

Situation	Seek professional help (psychologist/mentor)	Talk to coach/support staff	Rely on family/friends	Talk to fellow sportserson	Self-coping (meditation, rest, etc.)	Ignore/avoid issue	Other (please specify)
While on centre	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
While at competition venue	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

7. (i) Have you ever faced harassment (verbal, physical, sexual, or any other form) while at your training centre or during competitions? Yes No

(ii) What actions would you take or have taken if faced harassment at your training centre or during competitions?

- Report to coach / support staff
 Report to centre administration / management
 Report through POSH committee / grievance portal
 Discuss with family / friends
 Take no action / ignore
 Other (please specify) _____

8. Did you receive a nutrition plan?

Yes, written Yes, Verbal advice only No

(i) If yes, are you receiving the prescribed nutrition items as per the plan?

Yes Rarely No

(ii) Do you consider the nutrition plan sufficient?

Particulars	Yes	Neutral	No
Quantity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

³ Indigenous Games: Mallakhamb, Kalaripayattu, Thang-Ta & Gatka

9. Did this centre provide you with an anti-doping education workshop? Yes No

10. How do coaches and support staff in this centre work in the following areas to help you?

Area	Always coordinated	Rarely coordinated	Never coordinated
Academics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Travel	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Medical Support	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mental Health	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Section 3. Only for Khelo India Athletes (KIAs)

11. How were you IDENTIFIED / SELECTED as a KIA?

12. Is the Out-of-Pocket Allowance (₹10,000/- per month) received on time?

On time Delayed Not received

(i) If received, then what is the frequency?

Monthly Quarterly Biannually Annually

(ii) How do you primarily use this monthly allowance?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accommodation | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical / Physiotherapy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food / Daily Expenses | <input type="checkbox"/> Savings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Travel | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equipment / Training Gear | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tuition / Education Fees | _____ |

(iii) Do you consider the current allowance amount (₹10,000/month) sufficient for your needs?

Yes, fully sufficient Partly sufficient Not sufficient

(iv) If not sufficient, please mention an approximate adequate amount (₹ per month): _____

13. Are you aware of the weeding-out⁴ criteria & performance benchmarks?

- Fully aware
 Aware but not fully
 Not aware at all

⁴ Weeding out of Khelo India Athletes will be done once in a year based on certain defined performance analysis

14. (For residential Khelo India athletes only) How do you rate RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES in your training centre?

Facility	Adequate	Inadequate	Not available / not enrolled
Hostel Rooms	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Diet/Nutrition	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Physiotherapy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Doctor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Psychologist/ Counsellor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Court (e.g Badminton / Basketball, etc)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gymnasium	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Laundry Facility	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Section 4. Only for Khelo India Games medal winners and participants

15. How did you first get identified for participation in Khelo India Games?

- School/College competitions
 District/Block/Panchayat competitions
 State-level competitions
 Talent scouting camps by sports authorities
 Other (please specify) _____

16. (Only for Khelo India Games Medal Winners) After winning, did you receive promised recognition?

Recognition Type	Yes, all received on time	Partially received	Promised but delayed	Not received at all
Cash award	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Scholarship	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Priority in academy entry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify) — -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

17. (Only for Khelo India Games Medal Winners) Has winning a KI medal led to career advancement opportunities?

Career Advancement Opportunity	Yes, multiple opportunities	Very limited impact	No impact
National camps	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Exposure tours (Foreign)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
University/ School admission	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Job quota	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify) -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

18. (Only for Khelo India Games Medal Winners) Do you feel support under Khelo India continues long enough after your medal to sustain career growth?

- Yes
 Support reduced gradually after the medal
 No continuation

Section 2 (Contd.). Only for sportspersons in KISCE, Khelo India Athletes and Khelo India Game Participants

19. Since joining this KI centre, how have your competition opportunities (district → state → national/international) changed?

- More opportunities at higher levels
 Similar opportunities as before
 Fewer opportunities than before

20. If you could highlight THREE MAJOR GAPS in the current support system (infrastructure, coaching, funding, competition exposure, equity) what would it be?

21. Since joining this KI centre / receiving support from the khelo india scheme, what has been the MOST SIGNIFICANT POSITIVE CHANGE in your sporting career?

22. Facilities available and operational in training centres (KIC/KISCE/KIAA/others) - Kindly tick

Facility Checklist Table for Training Facilities			
Facility / Support Service	Available?	Operational?	If Available and Operational, Adequacy / Quality
Playfield/training ground	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> Comprehensive & adequate <input type="radio"/> Needs upgrade
Indoor training hall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> Comprehensive & adequate <input type="radio"/> Needs upgrade

Facility Checklist Table for Training Facilities			
Facility / Support Service	Available?	Operational?	If Available and Operational, Adequacy / Quality
Court (e.g Badminton / Basketball, etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> Comprehensive & adequate <input type="radio"/> Needs upgrade
Gymnasium / Fitness Center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> Comprehensive & adequate <input type="radio"/> Needs upgrade
Sports equipment (discipline-specific)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> Comprehensive & adequate <input type="radio"/> Needs upgrade
Food & Refreshment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> Comprehensive & adequate <input type="radio"/> Needs upgrade
Restroom	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> Comprehensive & adequate <input type="radio"/> Needs upgrade
Female changing rooms/Availability of sanitary pads	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> Comprehensive & adequate <input type="radio"/> Needs upgrade
Locker facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> Comprehensive & adequate <input type="radio"/> Needs upgrade
Adequate lighting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> Comprehensive & adequate <input type="radio"/> Needs upgrade
Physiotherapy unit / Recovery facilities (ice bath, massage, hydrotherapy) / emergency support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> Comprehensive & adequate <input type="radio"/> Needs upgrade
Mental health professionals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> Comprehensive & adequate <input type="radio"/> Needs upgrade
Filling online application forms for competition participation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> Comprehensive & adequate <input type="radio"/> Needs upgrade
Grievance redressal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> Comprehensive & adequate <input type="radio"/> Needs upgrade
Wi-Fi	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> Comprehensive & adequate <input type="radio"/> Needs upgrade
Competition & Exposure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> Comprehensive & adequate <input type="radio"/> Needs upgrade
Other Support, Specify _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> Comprehensive & adequate <input type="radio"/> Needs upgrade

**QUESTIONNAIRE V: KHELO INDIA - COACHES AND SUPPORT STAFF
(Doctor, Physiotherapist, Psychologist, Nutritionist) (PRIMARY SURVEY)**

Name of the Investigator	
Date	
Centre/ Academy	
District	
State	

Respondent Information:

Name of the Respondent	
Designation of the Respondent	<input type="radio"/> Head Coach <input type="radio"/> Past Champion Athlete (PCA) <input type="radio"/> Assistant Coaches <input type="radio"/> Technical Director <input type="radio"/> High Performance Director <input type="radio"/> Masseur <input type="radio"/> Doctor / Sports Injury Management Staff <input type="radio"/> Yoga Instructor <input type="radio"/> Strength & Conditioning Trainer <input type="radio"/> Physiotherapist <input type="radio"/> Conditioning Expert <input type="radio"/> Biomechanics Expert <input type="radio"/> Other (please specify) _____
(Only for Coaches) Sports/ Discipline	
Current Training Centre	<input type="radio"/> KISCE <input type="radio"/> KIC <input type="radio"/> KIAA <input type="radio"/> Other _____
Education Details	
Years of Experience	<input type="radio"/> 0-5 <input type="radio"/> 6-10 <input type="radio"/> 11-15 <input type="radio"/> 16-20 <input type="radio"/> 21+
Remuneration (per month)	
Source of remuneration	
(Only for Coaches) No. of trainees in the centre for your discipline	Male: ____ Female: ____ Other: ____

Financial Assistance and Utilization Details

A. Have you received any financial Assistance in Cash/ kind other than remuneration (Govt./CSR funds/Sponsorship) for the last 2 years (2023 -'24 and 2024 -'25)?

Yes No

(i) If yes, then specify the amount and the source (please mention whether the amount is per month or per year):

Year	Source 1 _____	Source 2 _____	Source 3 _____	Total Financial
------	----------------	----------------	----------------	-----------------

				Assistance Received
2023 - '24				
2024 - '25				

B. Fund Request and Release Status:

(i) Was there any fund you requested but did not receive during either year? (ii) If yes for what purpose was the money for?	(i) <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No (ii) Open ended
Extent of delay, if any, in receiving funds.	<input type="radio"/> No delay <input type="radio"/> Less than 1 month <input type="radio"/> 1–3 months <input type="radio"/> More than 3 months
What were the problems, if any, in timely receiving money?	

C. Benefits received from the training centre:

Purpose / Area of Expenditure	Tick (✓) if Applicable	Remarks (if any): Example: Specify approximate amount, additional details if applicable.
Coaching Certification / Training Course Fees	<input type="radio"/>	
Travel (competition venue)	<input type="radio"/>	
Accommodation (During competitions)	<input type="radio"/>	
Accommodation (in centres)	<input type="radio"/>	
Purchase of Coaching Equipment	<input type="radio"/>	
Attendance at Workshops / Seminars / Conferences	<input type="radio"/>	
Subscription to Sports Journals / Online Courses / Learning Material	<input type="radio"/>	
Player Support Activities (e.g., nutrition, physiotherapy, analysis tools)	<input type="radio"/>	
Development of Training Modules / Content / Digital Resources	<input type="radio"/>	

Purpose / Area of Expenditure	Tick (✓) if Applicable	Remarks (if any): Example: Specify approximate amount, additional details if applicable.
Miscellaneous / Other (please specify):	<input type="radio"/>	

- Have you been offered up-skilling opportunities during your association with the Khelo India scheme? Yes No

(i) If yes, please specify:

Up-skilling Opportunity	Yes/ Not Applicable	Funding Source
Refresher courses	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Not Applicable	<input type="radio"/> Govt. <input type="radio"/> Private Sponsor / CSR Support <input type="radio"/> Academy / Institution Contribution <input type="radio"/> Self-funded <input type="radio"/> Other (specify): _____
NIS Certifications	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Not Applicable	<input type="radio"/> Govt. <input type="radio"/> Private Sponsor / CSR Support <input type="radio"/> Academy / Institution Contribution <input type="radio"/> Self-funded <input type="radio"/> Other (specify): _____
International workshops	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Not Applicable	<input type="radio"/> Govt. <input type="radio"/> Private Sponsor / CSR Support <input type="radio"/> Academy / Institution Contribution <input type="radio"/> Self-funded <input type="radio"/> Other (specify): _____
e-Khel Pathshala modules	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Not Applicable	<input type="radio"/> Govt. <input type="radio"/> Private Sponsor / CSR Support <input type="radio"/> Academy / Institution Contribution <input type="radio"/> Self-funded <input type="radio"/> Other (specify): _____
Others, if any please specify _____	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Not Applicable	<input type="radio"/> Govt. <input type="radio"/> Private Sponsor / CSR Support <input type="radio"/> Academy / Institution Contribution <input type="radio"/> Self-funded <input type="radio"/> Other (specify): _____

1. **Is your payment under Khelo India (or linked scheme) adequate & disbursed on time?**
 - Adequate & timely
 - Adequate but delayed (>30 days)
 - Inadequate amount
 - Not received / irregular
 - I am honorary (unpaid volunteer)
 - Not applicable - no salary received under the Khelo India scheme.

2. **How were the following coaches and sports-science support staff coordinated to assist you in your training?**

Designation	Always coordinated	Rarely coordinated	Not Applicable
Head Coach	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assistant Coaches	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Technical Director	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
High Performance Director	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Masseur	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Doctor / Sports Injury Staff	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Yoga Instructor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Strength & Conditioning Trainer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Physiotherapist	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Conditioning Expert	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Biomechanics Expert	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. **What kinds of improvements have athletes shown due to Khelo India support?**

Type of Improvement	Significant improvement	No change	Decline
Winning medals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Opportunities in State/National Selection	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
International exposure (competitions/training)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Type of Improvement	Significant improvement	No change	Decline
Adoption of scientific approach to training & participation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. Do you upload the performance details of athletes on your own?

Yes No, then specify who uploads the data _____

(i) How frequently do you upload/ you submit (if you're not directly entering the data) performance details of the athletes on the NSRS portal? -

- Always (regularly as required)
- Rarely
- Never

(ii) (If you're uploading the data on your own) Do you face any difficulties while uploading in the portal?

- Website glitches/technical errors
- Hectic workload
- Lack of clarity in process
- Limited internet/IT support
- Other (please specify): _____

5. Are you aware of the ACTC (Annual Training & Competition Calendar)⁵ schedule?

- Yes
- No

(i) How would you describe the ACTC schedule?

- Easy
- Sometimes difficult
- Very difficult

(ii) Whether your training plans are aligned with the approved ACTC issued by SAI/State?

- Fully aligned & effective (copy uploaded on NSRS)
- Mostly aligned, minor gaps
- Poorly aligned
- No ACTC provided

6. FACILITY & INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

Facility / Support Service	Available?	Operational?	If Available and Operational, Adequacy / Quality
Playfield / Training ground	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> Comprehensive & adequate <input type="radio"/> Needs upgrade

⁵ Strategic blueprint of competition schedules

Facility / Support Service	Available?	Operational?	If Available and Operational, Adequacy / Quality
Indoor training hall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> Comprehensive & adequate <input type="radio"/> Needs upgrade
Court (badminton, basketball, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> Comprehensive & adequate <input type="radio"/> Needs upgrade
Gymnasium / Fitness Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> Comprehensive & adequate <input type="radio"/> Needs upgrade
Discipline-specific sports equipment (per ACTC)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> Comprehensive & adequate <input type="radio"/> Needs upgrade
Recovery facilities (ice-bath, massage, hydro-therapy, physio, emergency)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> Comprehensive & adequate <input type="radio"/> Needs upgrade
Sports-science labs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> Comprehensive & adequate <input type="radio"/> Needs upgrade
Doctor / Mental health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> Comprehensive & adequate <input type="radio"/> Needs upgrade
Food & refreshment (nutritionally audited menu)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> Comprehensive & adequate <input type="radio"/> Needs upgrade
Washrooms (women, disabled-friendly, menstrual hygiene)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> Comprehensive & adequate <input type="radio"/> Needs upgrade
Adequate lighting (≥ 500 lux indoor, ≥ 200 lux outdoor)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> Comprehensive & adequate <input type="radio"/> Needs upgrade
Competition & exposure opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> Comprehensive & adequate <input type="radio"/> Needs upgrade
Other support (please specify): _	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	—

7. How is the support from SAI / State in coordinating the following areas?

Area of Support	Timely & Comprehensive	Often Delayed / Poorly Coordinated	Not Provided
Coaches (deployment, training, mentoring)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
International Exposure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
National camps	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Area of Support	Timely & Comprehensive	Often Delayed / Poorly Coordinated	Not Provided
Equipment Availability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Scientific approach to facilities (sports science, analytics, rehab, nutrition)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. Do you feel athletes of the following category get FAIR OPPORTUNITIES under Khelo India?

Category	Yes	Neutral	No
Women	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rural	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tribal	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Para	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Indigenous Games	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9. What is the BIGGEST GAP you currently face in the coaching ecosystem?

- Remuneration
- Infrastructure (stadiums, gyms, recovery units, equipment)
- Athlete pathway / progression opportunities
- Career incentives / recognition
- Gender-sensitivity training
- Scientific equipment / sports-science support
- Data analytics / performance monitoring
- NSRS uploading / IT support
- Mental-health support
- Other (please specify): _____

10. Since joining KI / receiving support, what has been the MOST SIGNIFICANT POSITIVE CHANGE in your sporting career?

11. Have you given any anti-doping workshops/training towards your students?

- Yes
- No

12. (Past Champion Athletes in KIC) How was your transition from athlete to coach (orientation, induction, role clarity)?

- Smooth and well-supported
 Manageable with some challenges
 Difficult due to lack of clarity or support
13. **(Past Champion Athletes in KIC)** Were the necessary infrastructure, guidance and technical expertise provided by the respective State governments and the SAI regional office in the setting up of the KICs?
- Fully provided and well-coordinated
 Partially provided, with some gaps
 Not adequately provided
14. **(Past Champion Athletes in KIC)** Is the stipend / salary under Khelo India Scheme sufficient & timely to sustain your coaching career?
- Adequate & timely
 Adequate but delayed
 Inadequate, *Specify your expectation* _____
 Not provided
15. **(Past Champion Athletes in KIC)** Given the annual recurring grant ceiling (₹ 5 lakh per discipline), how adequate is the remaining fund for annual replacement / upgrade of essential equipment?
- Fully adequate
 Inadequate - major items postponed
 Not applicable - new centre (< 1 yr)
 Not aware of any such ceiling
- If it's inadequate how do you manage, explain* _____
16. **(Past Champion Athletes in KIC)** Are inspections/visits being conducted at your centre by SAI RC?
- Yes
 No
 Unaware
- (i) If yes, how frequently are they conducted?⁶*
- Twice a year / Every 6 months
 Once a year
 Less than once a year
 Don't know
17. **(Past Champion Athletes in KIC)** Share of OTHER income sources (fees, private funding, ads, CSR) - % of total coaching income
- _____ % Sources: _____

⁶ Inspections are ideally done at least twice a year, i.e., every 6 months

_____ % Sources: _____

_____ % Sources: _____

18. **(Past Champion Athletes in KIC)** Are you making efforts to sustain KICs without recurring grants?

Yes

No

Unaware

(i) If yes, then how?

Coaching / Training fees

Alumni contributions

CSR funding

Sponsorships

Community donations

Other (please specify): _____

B) ANSF

QUESTIONNAIRE I: NATIONAL SPORTS FEDERATIONS (PRIMARY SURVEY)

Investigator Name	
Date	
Place	
Respondent Designation	
Name of your NSF and sports discipline governed	
Category of sports discipline	<input type="radio"/> High Priority <input type="radio"/> Priority <input type="radio"/> General
Share of ANSF funding in your total annual budget	
Major sources of non-govt funding	

Financial Assistance and Utilization Details

A. Financial Assistance Received:

Year	Source 1 _____	Source 2 _____	Source 3 _____	Total Financial Assistance Received
2023 - '24				
2024 - '25				

B. Fund Request and Release Status:

(i) Was there any fund you requested but did not receive during either year? (ii) If yes, for what purpose was the money for?	(i) <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No (ii) (Open ended) _____
Extent of delay, if any, in receiving funds.	<input type="radio"/> No delay <input type="radio"/> Less than 1 month <input type="radio"/> 1-3 months <input type="radio"/> More than 3 months
What were the problems, if any, in timely receiving and spending money?	(Open ended) _____

1. Has your federation hosted any international competitions/ events in India?

Yes No

1a. If yes, specify the event and the funding sources

2. Do you find the allocated funds for various categories (e.g., High Priority: Rs. 30 lakhs; Priority/ General: Rs. 25 lakhs; PCI, Para-sports: up to Rs. 20 lakhs) sufficient for conducting National/International Championships?

Yes, fully sufficient
 Mostly sufficient
 Not sufficient

2a. If not sufficient, please specify with reasons

3. Have you been able to allocate the mandatory 20% of ANSF funds for grassroots/junior development?

Yes No

3a. If yes/no, specify reason

4. [For High-Priority and Priority disciplines] Is your federation implementing a pathway program to identify talent hubs ('Birthplace effect') for high-priority and priority sports?

Yes No

4a. If yes, how are these hubs selected and what criteria are used?

5. Has your federation established a dedicated committee to design and oversee the National Junior Development Program for your sport?

Yes No

5a. If yes, how does the committee coordinate with other Ministry schemes or NSF funding sources to support the program?

6. Please tell us the status of Appointment of High-Performance Director (HPD)

Yes
 No
 In Process

6a. If yes, please explain the procedure and role

6b. How are the Key Result Areas (KRAs) defined and implemented to oversee technical development, selection policy, competition exposure, coach development, and athlete monitoring?

7. Please tell us the Number of Indian coaches attached per foreign coach during a national camp (Min. 5 required)

0-2
 3-4
 5 or more

Not Applicable

8 How does your federation ensure a clear and transparent athlete selection policy? elaborate:

9. Are you implementing sports science protocols (e.g., injury management, return to training) in consultation with NCSSR?

- Yes, consistently
- No, not implemented
- Not aware

10. Do you feel that the funds allocated to NSFs under the ANSF are sufficient to achieve the intended objectives?

- Yes
- No

10a. If not sufficient, which area of your training or development requires the most additional support from ANSF?

- Grassroots Development
- Athlete Welfare (diet, insurance)
- International Exposure
- Coaching & HPD Support
- Sports Science Integration
- Infrastructure/Equipment
- Other, specify _____

11. Are your federation plans aligned with the 4-year Olympic cycle?

- Yes
- No

11a. How do you ensure it?

12. To what extent has ANSF scheme support enabled your federation to become more self-reliant or attract additional non-government funding?

13. What is the most significant positive change or outcome your NSF has achieved due to ANSF support that might not have been possible otherwise?

QUESTIONNAIRE II: SPORTSPERSONS (Only for National Camp Participants)⁷ (PRIMARY SURVEY)

23. Are you aware of the Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSF) scheme benefits?

Well Aware Somewhat aware Unaware

24. Have you participated in ANSF supported national training camps?

Yes No Not Aware

24a. If Yes, please tell us the Type of training received during the camps:

Type of Training	Please Tick (✓)
Skill & Technique	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fitness Technique	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sports Science Support (Nutrition, Psychology, Biomechanics)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foreign Exposure	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify): _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

25. (only for athletes who have attended international competitions) Did you receive Out of Pocket Allowance (OPA) during your participation in international competitions?

Yes No Not Aware

25a. If yes, please specify the event(s) and the rate received (specify per day/month):

Event: _____ Amount Received: _____
--

26. Were your training facilities and support in the camp comparable to international standards?

Yes No Partially

27. (only for athletes who have attended international competitions) Were the boarding and lodging facilities provided during competitions sufficient for your needs?

Adequate & comfortable
 Available but requires basic needs improvement
 Not provided

28. To what extent were the food and diet provisions during camps satisfactory and comparable to international standards for your sport?

⁷ A National Camp is organised by the discipline specific federation before the athletes participating in an international championship

Aspect	Fully Satisfactory – clearly at par with international standards	Partly Satisfactory – somewhat below international standards	Not applicable / No food support provided
Quality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quantity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nutrition	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

29. (only for athletes who have attended international competitions) Were air/rail travel and local transport for competitions arranged properly?

- Fully arranged and satisfactory
 Partially arranged, with several gaps
 Not at all arranged

30. Did the support in the camp improve your performance or ranking in these events?
(Likert 1-5 (1=No improvement, 5=Significant improvement))

1----2----3----4----5

31. Did you receive training kits and competition-specific equipment on time?

- Yes, always on time
 Received, but often delayed
 Not received

32. Was the quality and quantity of sports kits sufficient?

- Both quality and quantity were sufficient
 Quality was good, but quantity insufficient
 Quantity was adequate, but quality poor
 Both quality and quantity were insufficient
 I haven't received any sports kit

33. Did the coaches and support staff provided in the national camps help improve your performance?

Likert 1-5 (1=No improvement, 5=Significant improvement)

1----2----3----4----5

34. Rate the sports science assessments you received during the national camp

Aspect	Likert 1-5 (1=Extremely poor, 5=Excellent)
Fitness Assessment	1----2----3----4----5
Injury Prevention Support	1----2----3----4----5
Recovery & Rehabilitation Support	1----2----3----4----5
Others, Please specify_____	1----2----3----4----5

35. Do you consider the selection policy for camps and competitions fair and transparent?

Likert 1-5 (1=Not fair and transparent, 5=Extremely fair and transparent)

1----2----3----4----5

36. What is the most significant positive change in your training/performance after attending national camps?

QUESTIONNAIRE III: COACHES (only National Camp Participants) (PRIMARY SURVEY)

Investigator Name	
Date	
Centre/ Academy	
District	
State	

Respondent Information:

Name of the Respondent	
Category	<input type="radio"/> Foreign Coach <input type="radio"/> Chief National Coach <input type="radio"/> Other National Coach
Sports Discipline	
Gender	<input type="radio"/> Male <input type="radio"/> Female <input type="radio"/> Other (Prefer not to ask/disclose)
Age	
Years of Coaching Experience	<input type="radio"/> 0-5 <input type="radio"/> 6-10 <input type="radio"/> 11-15 <input type="radio"/> 16-20 <input type="radio"/> 21+
(i) Are you employed with any private / govt department ? (ii) If yes, specify name	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No _____
(i) Have you received any remuneration during national camps other than your regular salary (ii) If yes, specify source	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No _____
Educational Qualification	

A. Financial Assistance and Utilization Details

Have you received any financial Assistance in Cash/ kind other than remuneration (Govt./CSR funds/Sponsorship) for the last 2 years (2023 -'24 and 2024 -'25)?

Yes No

(i) If yes, then specify the amount and the source:

Year	Source 1 _____	Source 2 _____	Source 3 _____	Total Financial Assistance Received
2023 - '24				
2024 - '25				

B. Fund Request and Release Status:

(i) Was there any fund you requested but did not receive during either year? (ii) If yes for what purpose was the money for?	(i) <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No (ii) (Open ended) _____
Extent of delay, if any, in receiving funds.	<input type="radio"/> No delay <input type="radio"/> Less than 1 month <input type="radio"/> 1–3 months <input type="radio"/> More than 3 months
What were the problems, if any, in timely receiving and spending money?	(Open ended) _____

C. Benefits received from the training centre:

Purpose / Area of Expenditure	Tick (✓) if Applicable	Remarks (if any): Example: Specify approximate amount, additional details if applicable.
Coaching Certification / Training Course Fees	<input type="radio"/>	
Travel (competition venue)	<input type="radio"/>	
Accommodation (During competitions)	<input type="radio"/>	
Accommodation (in centres)	<input type="radio"/>	
Purchase of Coaching Equipment	<input type="radio"/>	
Attendance at Workshops / Seminars / Conferences	<input type="radio"/>	
Subscription to Sports Journals / Online Courses / Learning Material	<input type="radio"/>	
Player Support Activities (e.g., nutrition, physiotherapy, analysis tools)	<input type="radio"/>	
Development of Training Modules / Content / Digital Resources	<input type="radio"/>	
Miscellaneous / Other (please specify):	<input type="radio"/>	

1. Are you aware of the Assistance to National Sports Federation (ANSF) scheme benefits?

Well Aware Somewhat aware Unaware

2. Have you received any support under ANSF (training camps, exposure, resources)?

Yes, fully Partially Not aware of any support

3. Is your remuneration aligned with international standards?

Yes, Fully Aligned Yes, Partially Aligned Not Aligned

4. Have you faced any challenges in receiving or claiming remuneration, insurance?

Type of Support	Faced Challenges (Yes/No)	If Yes, Please Specify the Challenge
Remuneration / Honorarium	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	_____
Insurance Claims	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Haven't Received Any	_____
Performance Linked Bonus	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Haven't Received Any	_____
Others, please specify_____		

5. Are you aware of Key Results Areas (KRAs) which were defined to you during national camps?

Yes No

5a. If yes, Which are the Key Result Areas (KRAs) defined to you?

<p>1.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3.</p>

5b. Are they clear, measurable, and monitored?

Yes fully Partially No

6. What are your views on introducing a performance-linked bonus system (up to 20% of annual salary) based on KRA reviews to recognize and motivate coaches?

7. Are you involved in shaping the selection policy and competition exposure calendar?

Fully Involved Partially Involved Not Involved

8. Is there any curriculum for coaching certification developed by your NSF?

Yes No

8a. If yes, how effective is the current coaching certification curriculum in enhancing coaching standards?

Likert 1-5 (1= Not effective, 5= Highly effective)

1-----2-----3-----4-----5

9. (Indian Coaches) Are opportunities sufficient for Indian coaches to work alongside foreign coaches?

Adequate Somewhat adequate Insufficient

9a. *How could these opportunities be improved?*

10. How satisfied are you with the facilities and support provided at national camps/academies?

Likert scale: 1 (Very dissatisfied) – 5 (Very satisfied)

1-----2-----3-----4-----5

11. Do you believe coach selection for national camps is fair and transparent?

Yes No Unsure

11a. *If not, what are the gaps or issues?*

12. What has been the most significant positive change in your sports career through support under the ANSF scheme?

13. Suggestions to improve ANSF support for coaches and athlete development

- | |
|----------------|
| 1.
2.
3. |
|----------------|

QUESTIONNAIRE IV: SUPPORT STAFF (Doctor, Physiotherapist, Psychologist, Nutritionist) (PRIMARY SURVEY)

Investigator Name	
Date	
Centre/ Academy	
District	
State	

Respondent Information:

Name of the Respondent	
Role	<input type="radio"/> Doctor <input type="radio"/> Physiotherapist <input type="radio"/> Psychologist <input type="radio"/> Nutritionist <input type="radio"/> Other (specify): _____
(i) Are you employed with any private / govt department ? (ii) If yes, specify name	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No _____
(i) Have you received any remuneration during national camps other than your regular salary? (ii) If yes, specify source	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No _____
Gender	<input type="radio"/> Male <input type="radio"/> Female <input type="radio"/> Other (Prefer not to ask/disclose)
Educational Qualification	
How long have you been associated with national-level teams/athletes?	<input type="radio"/> Less than 1 year <input type="radio"/> 1–3 years <input type="radio"/> 3–5 years <input type="radio"/> > 5 years

Financial Assistance and Utilization Details

A. Have you received any financial Assistance in Cash/ kind other than remuneration (Govt./CSR funds/Sponsorship) for the last 2 years (2023 -'24 and 2024 -'25)?

Yes No

If yes, then specify the amount and the source:

Year	Source 1 _____	Source 2 _____	Source 3 _____	Total Financial Assistance Received
2023 - '24				
2024 - '25				

B. Fund Request and Release Status:

(i) Was there any fund you requested but did not receive during either year? (ii) If yes for what purpose was the money for?	(i) <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No (ii) Open ended
Extent of delay, if any, in receiving funds.	<input type="radio"/> No delay <input type="radio"/> Less than 1 month <input type="radio"/> 1–3 months <input type="radio"/> More than 3 months
What were the problems, if any, in timely receiving and spending money?	

C. Benefits received from the training centre:

Purpose / Area of Expenditure	Tick (✓) if Applicable	Remarks (if any): Example: Specify approximate amount, additional details if applicable.
Travel (competition venue)	<input type="radio"/>	
Accommodation (During competitions)	<input type="radio"/>	
Accommodation (in centres)	<input type="radio"/>	
Purchase of Coaching Equipment	<input type="radio"/>	
Attendance at Workshops / Seminars / Conferences	<input type="radio"/>	
Subscription to Sports Journals / Online Courses / Learning Material	<input type="radio"/>	
Player Support Activities (e.g., nutrition, physiotherapy, analysis tools)	<input type="radio"/>	
Miscellaneous / Other (please specify):	<input type="radio"/>	

1. Were you aware that your engagement in the national camps was supported under the Assistance to National Sports Federation (ANSF) scheme?

Yes, fully Partially Not aware of any support

2. Have you received any ANSF scheme-funded training, workshops, or certifications for professional development?

- Yes, regularly Occasionally Rarely Never

3. How clear and fair was the appointment process for your role when you were appointed in the national camp?

- Very clear & fair Fair but with some gap Unclear/ Opaque (influenced)

4. How would you describe your average workload during national camps?

- Manageable Heavy but feasible Excessive (often unmanageable)

5. How do you consider your current pay and benefits in relation to your skills, responsibilities and workload?

- Very adequate Somewhat adequate Inadequate

6. Do you have the tools and infrastructure you need to perform your role effectively?

- Yes, fully available Partially available Not available

7. How would you rate the adequacy and effectiveness of the sports science infrastructure at training camps or academies?

- Excellent - fully adequate and effective
 Fair - partially adequate, needs improvement
 Poor - inadequate and ineffective

8. Are athlete health/injury/psychological assessments systematically recorded in the federation/SAI web portal?

- Always Rarely Never

9. What challenges have you faced in providing support to athletes?

- Lack of equipment
 Insufficient coordination with coaches
 Limited athlete access
 Inadequate remuneration
 Administrative delays
 Other (specify): _____

10. What is the most significant positive change in your career that you can directly attribute to the ANSF scheme?

11. What specific changes would you suggest in the scheme's design or implementation to enhance the effectiveness of the support?

C) HRDS

QUESTIONNAIRE: HRDS (PRIMARY SURVEY)

Investigator Name	
Date	
Mode of Interview	<input type="radio"/> Telephonic interview <input type="radio"/> Face-to-face interview

Respondent Information

Respondent Name	
Designation	
Organisation Name	
Years of Experience	<input type="radio"/> 0-5 <input type="radio"/> 6-10 <input type="radio"/> 11-15 <input type="radio"/> 16-20 <input type="radio"/> 21+
Age	
State	
Educational Qualification	

Section 1. All Beneficiaries

1a. How did you learn about the HRDS scheme?

- Institution/Employer
- MoYAS/SAI website
- Colleague/Peer network
- Social media/Advertisement
- National Sports Federation
- Through my network of connection with the officials at MoYAS/ SAI
- Others (specify)_____

b. How did you learn about the steps required to fill the application?

- MoYAS website - <https://dbtyas-sports.gov.in/>
- Scheme Guidelines
- Colleague/Peer network
- Social media/Advertisement
- National Sports Federation
- Through my network of connection with the officials at MoYAS/ SAI
- Others (specify)_____

2. Type of HRDS support received (Component)

- Fellowship
- Exchange of Knowledge: Training/Seminar/Workshop participation
- Research Projects

- Assistance to Match Officials, Coaches and Supporting Personnel
- Publication and Online Sources

3. What was the process of selection and how was the policy?

4. How do you rate the application process?
Likert Scale: 1 (Very Difficult) – 5 (Very Easy)
1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5

Section 2. Fellowship Programme

5. Kind of Support Received & Year:

A. Financial Assistance

6 a. Amount requested under the component? _____

b. Amount approved under the component? _____

c. If the amount requested is more when compared to the amount received then how did you manage the remaining expense?

d. Can you explain the entire process with the timeline from the time of application till the release of money (requested => approval => received) ?

e. Did you receive the amount as installments?

Yes No

f. Do you feel the amount was sufficient?

Yes No Partially Not sure

g. Do you have a ZBSA Account or you started it just for getting the benefit?

- Yes, our institution already had the ZBSA A/c
- No, I started it for getting the benefit
- Not Aware of the account

g (i). If not, have you faced any difficulty in opening the account?

Yes No Partially

B. About the Component

7. What type of fellowship did you receive?

- Short-term specialized training (≤ 3 months)
- Master's level programme (≤ 2 years)
- Doctorate-level

8. Discipline/field of study

- Sports Science Sports Medicine Sports Nutrition Coaching Science
 Sports Psychology Sports Management Sports Law Others (specify)_____

9. Were you able to manage the logistics through the fund approved?

- Yes Partially No

10. Key competencies improved through fellowship

- Research & analytical skills
 Technical knowledge
 Coaching methodology
 Sports science application
 Management/leadership
 Others (specify)_____

11. Administrative or procedural difficulties faced (bond, NOC, fund release)

- Yes, Specify _____ No

12. Long-term impact of fellowship on your career advancement

Section 3. Exchange of Knowledge: Seminars, Workshops, and Training

13. Kind of Support Received & year:

A. Financial Assistance

14 a. Amount requested under the component? _____

b. Amount approved under the component? _____

c. If the amount requested is more when compared to the amount received then how did you manage the remaining expense?

d. Can you explain the entire process with the timeline from the time of application till the release of money (requested => approval => received) ?

e. Did you receive the amount as installments?

- Yes No

f. Do you feel the amount was sufficient?

- Yes No Partially Not sure

g. Do you have a ZBSA Account or you started it just for getting the benefit?

- Yes, our institution already had the ZBSA A/c
 No, I started it for getting the benefit
 Not Aware of the account

g (i). If not, have you faced any difficulty in opening the account?

Yes No Partially

B. About the Component

15. What was your role in the event?

Participant Resource Person Organizer Others (specify)_____

16. Type of event attended/organized under HRDS

Seminar Workshop Training Program Conference
 Clinic Others (specify)_____

17. Duration of event

<3 Days 3-7 Days >7 Days

18. Were foreign experts attending the programme?

Yes No Not Aware

19. Were you able to manage the logistics through the fund approved?

Yes Partially No

20. Effectiveness of trainers/resource persons

Likert Scale: 1 (Very Dissatisfied) - 5 (Very Satisfied)

1-2-3-4-5

21. How useful were the learnings or outcomes from this event in your professional practice?

Likert Scale: 1 (Not useful) - 5 (Highly useful)

1-2-3-4-5

22. Area of professional improvement after event

Coaching
 Sports Science
 Research
 Event Management
 Policy Understanding
 Others (specify)_____

23. How have you applied the knowledge/skills gained?

Section 4. Research Projects

24. Kind of Support Received & Year:

A. Financial Assistance

25 a. Amount requested under the component? _____

b. Amount approved under the component? _____

c. If the amount requested is more when compared to the amount received then how did you manage the remaining expense?

d. Can you explain the entire process with the timeline from the time of application till the release of money (requested => approval => received) ?

e. Did you receive the amount as installments?

Yes No

f. Do you feel the amount was sufficient?

Yes No Partially Not sure

g. Do you have a ZBSA Account or you started it just for getting the benefit?

Yes, our institution already had the ZBSA A/c

No, I started it for getting the benefit

Not Aware of the account

g (i). If not, have you faced any difficulty in opening the account?

Yes No Partially

B. About the Component

26. Nature of project funded under HRDS

Individual research

Institutional project

Other, specify _____

27. What was the duration of your research project?

<1 Year 1-2 Years 2-3 Years >3 Years

28. Were you able to complete the research within the sanctioned period?

Yes Extended Ongoing Terminated

29. Were the reporting and documentation requirements (progress reports, UC, etc.) reasonable?

Yes, very reasonable Burdensome but manageable Excessive

30. Did the project include collaboration with any sports institution, athlete group, or academic partner?

Yes, specify _____ No

31. What was the primary focus area of your research?

- Sports science & medicine
- Sports psychology & performance
- Sports management/policy
- Injury prevention & rehabilitation
- Others (specify)_____

32. What were the main outputs produced?

- Published paper
- Book/report
- Policy note
- Database/tool
- Others (specify)_____

33. Mention key changes or policy influences resulting from your research.

Section 5. Assistance to Match Officials, Coaches and Supporting Personnel

34. Kind of Support Received & Year:

A. Financial Assistance

35 a. Amount requested under the component? _____

b. Amount approved under the component? _____

c. If the amount requested is more when compared to the amount received then how did you manage the remaining expense?

d. Can you explain the entire process with the timeline from the time of application till the release of money (requested => approval => received) ?

e. Did you receive the amount as installments?

- Yes No

f. Do you feel the amount was sufficient?

- Yes No Partially Not sure

g. Do you have a ZBSA Account or you started it just for getting the benefit?

- Yes, our institution already had the ZBSA A/c
- No, I started it for getting the benefit
- Not Aware of the account

g (i). If not, have you faced any difficulty in opening the account?

- Yes No Partially

B. About the Component

36. Role/Category

- Match Official
- Coach
- Doctor
- Physiotherapist
- Psychologist
- Nutritionist
- Others (specify)_____

37. Duration/type of training attended

- Short-term (≤ 3 months)
- Long-term (> 3 months)
- Online module
- Others (specify)_____

38. What kind of support did you receive under this component?

- Financial assistance for qualifying exam
- Domestic specialized training
- International specialized training
- Certification course
- Others (specify)_____

39. How did the HRDS training lead to higher certification or exposure?**40. Was the training content advanced and need based?**

- Yes, completely
- Partly
- Not at all

42. Were you able to manage the logistics through the fund approved?

- Yes
- Partially
- No

43. Did you face issues while fulfilling the mandatory bond/service clause?

- No issue
- Minor issue
- Major difficulty

44. Mention one key area where the training has improved your performance.

Section 6. Publication and Online Resources

45. Kind of Support Received & Year:

A. Financial Assistance

46 a. Amount requested under the component? _____

b. Amount approved under the component? _____

c. If the amount requested is more when compared to the amount received then how did you manage the remaining expense?

d. Can you explain the entire process with the timeline from the time of application till the release of money (requested => approval => received) ?

e. Did you receive the amount as installments?

Yes No

f. Do you feel the amount was sufficient?

Yes No Partially Not sure

g. Do you have a ZBSA Account or you started it just for getting the benefit?

Yes, our institution already had the ZBSA A/c

No, I started it for getting the benefit

Not Aware of the account

h. If not, have you faced any difficulty in opening the account?

Yes No Partially

B. About the Component

47. Type of publication supported

Journal Book/Monograph e Publication

Online course/module Others (specify)_____

48. Subject/discipline of publication

Coaching Sports Policy Nutrition/Medicine

Biographies Others (specify)_____

49. When was the publication completed?

Within 1 year Between 1 to 3 years More than 3 years Not applicable

50. What was the main theme or focus of your work?

Sports science or medicine

Coaching techniques

- Sports management or policy
- Grassroots/Community sports
- Others (specify)_____

51. Did you receive clarity on the Ministry's norms for publication (copyright, timelines, acknowledgments)?

- Yes, clear guidelines
- Yes but Confusing
- No guidelines provided

51a. If yes, What were the guidelines you received and how did you receive it?

52. How would you rate the technical/academic review and feedback received before final approval?

Likert Scale: 1 (Very Dissatisfied) - 5 (Very Satisfied)

1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5

53. Reach and dissemination of your publication

- Nationwide
- Institutional level only
- Not yet distributed

54. Encouragement to develop multilingual/digital content

- Yes, specify reason _____
- No, specify reason _____

55. Who was the primary target audience for your publication or online content?

- Coaches/trainers
- Athletes
- Students/researchers
- General public
- Multi-stakeholder (mixed)

56. Have your publication or online materials been used or cited by educational institutions or SAI/NSFs?

- Yes, specify _____
- Not yet used

57. How do you rate the accessibility of your material (public reach, language, cost, format)?

- Very accessible
- Limited
- Not accessible

Section 1 (Contd.) All Beneficiaries

58. After applying in the portal for availing the benefit and before it gets sanctioned, was there any mechanism in order to track the application status?

- Yes, through website
- Yes, through personal connection with the officials
- Yes, through the contact from the scheme directly via call or mail
- No

59. How do you rate the following aspects?

Aspect	Likert Scale
Communication and support from MoYAS/implementing agencies	1 (Very Dissatisfied) – 5 (Very Satisfied) 1—2—3—4—5
Selection and approval committees' responsiveness to queries and clarifications	1 (Not at all responsive) – 5 (Always responsive) 1—2—3—4—5
Equitable access to HRDS opportunities (gender, geography, institution type)	1 (Strongly disagree) – 5 (Strongly agree) 1—2—3—4—5
HRDS support in improving your professional competence	1 (Highly Ineffective) – 5 (Very Effective) 1—2—3—4—5

60. Main challenges faced while availing HRDS benefits

61. 'Most significant positive change' after receiving benefits from the HRDS scheme?

62. Any suggestions to improve the effectiveness of the scheme?



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