



## NATIONAL SPORTS POLICY – POLITY

**NEWS:** The ministry of youth affairs and sports has unveiled the draft National Sports Policy 2024 for public feedback.

### WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

#### Key Points of the Policy

- Some of the key features of the NSP are;
  - Implementing **physical literacy initiatives**,
  - Developing a robust **talent identification** and development system,
  - To develop sports and physical literacy as major subjects in educational institutions in alignment with **National Education Policy 2020**.
- A **National Sports Education Board** to enhance the recognition and attractiveness of sports as a career option will be founded.
- It calls for policies and schemes to actively encourage extensive **participation from the private sector** in sports development.

#### Need for new policy

- **The existing NSP was issued in 2001** and it is imperative to formulate a new NSP that encompasses the latest developments in the field of Sports and presents a roadmap to address the present and future challenges.
- **Limited Infrastructure:** The majority of India's population, especially in rural areas, has minimal access to sports facilities, coaches, and competitive opportunities.
- **Poor Talent Identification:** Unlike countries with strong sports systems like the U.S. or China, India lacks an organized, nationwide talent identification program that scouts and nurtures young athletes.
- **Political Interference:** Political influence in the functioning of sports bodies leads to favoritism, affecting the merit-based selection of athletes and coaches.
- **Cost of Training:** Many talented athletes from economically weaker sections find it difficult to afford the high costs of professional training and equipment, leading to early dropouts.

#### Scheme for Promotion of Sports Culture

- **Khelo India Scheme:** Launched in 2018, it aims to create a robust sports ecosystem at the grassroots level. It provides financial support for training and development, identifying and nurturing talent across different sports.
- **The National Sports Talent Search Scheme (NSTSS)** is a program by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to identify and nurture sports talent in children aged 8–12 years.



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- **Sports Infrastructure:** India now boasts approximately 100 sports facilities that meet international standards.
  - **The National Investment Pipeline (NIP) and the National Monetization Pipeline (NMP)** are two key initiatives to further enhance sports infrastructure.
- **Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS):** It was launched in 2014 with a mission to identify, groom, and prepare potential medal prospects for the Olympics, and to elevate India's medal prospects. It includes;
  - Elite Athlete Identification
  - Financial Support.





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## Way Ahead

- **Sporting Culture:** Cultivating a sporting culture from an early age is crucial. Schools, colleges, and local communities must actively promote sports beyond academics.
- **Diverse Sports:** Diversifying media coverage and sponsorship to include sports beyond cricket will help build a balanced sports culture.
- **Infrastructure Maintenance:** Developing infrastructure is essential, but maintaining and upgrading existing facilities is equally important.
- **Gender Equality:** Ensuring equal access and support for female athletes, along with addressing societal barriers, is vital for improving India's overall sports performance.

**Source:** <https://www.hindustantimes.com/sports/football/sports-minister-announces-draft-national-sports-policy-101727977663444.html>

