

NATIONAL SPORTS POLICY 2025

NEWS: India, a country with immense talent and growing ambitions in the global sporting arena, is poised for a strategic transformation with the introduction of the **National Sports Policy 2025**.

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

About the Policy

- **Supersedes the 2001 Policy:**
The National Sports Policy (NSP) 2025 replaces the existing National Sports Policy, 2001, to reflect the evolving aspirations of India in the global sports ecosystem.
- **Vision for India as a Global Sporting Power:**
The policy lays out a strategic roadmap to transform India into a leading sporting nation and aims to position the country as a serious contender for hosting the **2036 Olympic Games**.

II. Five Key Pillars of NSP 2025

- **1. Excellence on the Global Stage:**
 - Focuses on strengthening the sports ecosystem from grassroots to elite levels.
 - Aims to build world-class systems for athlete training, coaching, talent identification, and holistic support including nutrition, psychology, and sports science.
- **2. Sports for Economic Development:**
 - Envisions sports as a catalyst for economic growth through **sports tourism**, hosting international sporting events, and boosting sports-related industries.
 - Encourages **private sector participation** in sports infrastructure, management, and sponsorship.
- **3. Sports for Social Development:**
 - Promotes inclusivity by ensuring participation from **women, tribal communities, economically weaker sections, and persons with disabilities**.
 - Implements targeted schemes and community engagement programs to reach marginalized groups.
- **4. Sports as a People's Movement:**
 - Aims to drive mass participation in sports and fitness activities through **nationwide awareness campaigns**, events, and competitions.
 - Seeks to instill a culture of fitness and active living as part of the national identity.
- **5. Integration with Education (NEP 2020 Alignment):**
 - Integrates sports into the school curriculum in alignment with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.

- Proposes development of structured sports education programs at school and college levels to foster early talent and physical well-being.

III. Strategic Framework of Implementation

- **Governance and Legal Reforms:**
Proposes the establishment of a strong **regulatory and legal framework** for sports governance to enhance transparency, accountability, and professionalism.
- **Private Sector Involvement and Funding:**
Aims to develop **innovative financing models**, including Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contributions, to scale up investment in sports.
- **Use of Technology and Innovation:**
Plans to leverage **emerging technologies** such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), data analytics, and wearable tech for performance monitoring, sports science research, and program delivery.
- **National Monitoring Framework:**
Establishes a national-level system with **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)**, time-bound milestones, and regular reporting to ensure accountability and outcomes.
- **Model Policy for States/UTs:**
NSP 2025 will act as a **reference model** for States and Union Territories to create or revise their own policies aligned with national goals and tailored to local needs.
- **Whole-of-Government Approach:**
Encourages integration of sports promotion across all **Ministries and Departments**, including health, education, tourism, rural development, and youth affairs, for cross-sectoral impact.

IV. Need for the New Policy

- **Underperformance in Global Sporting Events:**
India won only **6 medals** (1 silver, 5 bronze) in the recent Paris Olympics, ranking **71st**, far behind countries with smaller populations like Georgia and Kazakhstan.
- **Low Historical Performance:**
Since its Olympic debut in **1900**, India has secured only **41 Olympic medals**, all in Summer Games—highlighting a long-standing gap in high-performance sports.
- **Comparison with Other Nations:**
Countries like the **USA and China**, despite having smaller or comparable populations, dominate global sports due to robust systems and sporting culture.
- **Need for a Sporting Culture:**
The disappointing medal tally reignited public debate on the absence of a structured and widespread sporting culture in India.

V. Significance of the Policy

- **Structured Talent Development:**
Focuses on identifying, nurturing, and developing sports talent from an early age through scientifically designed training and competitive exposure pathways.
- **Support for PPP in Infrastructure:**
Encourages **Public-Private Partnerships** to boost sports infrastructure, academies, equipment manufacturing, and event hosting capabilities.
- **Economic Value of Sports:**
Recognizes the **economic potential** of sports in terms of **employment generation, tourism, retail, and infrastructure development**.
- **Integration of Sports Science and Medicine:**
Emphasizes the role of sports science, including **injury management, psychology, biomechanics, and nutrition**, in athlete performance and recovery.
- **Alignment with National Campaigns:**
The NSP 2025 aligns with flagship initiatives like **Fit India Movement, Khelo India Mission**, and the long-term development vision of **Viksit Bharat @2047**.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/union-cabinet-approves-national-sports-policy-2025/article69759327.ece>