

Conducting 1st Edition of the Khelo India Tribal Games to be hosted in Chhatisgarh - regarding

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Date: Tuesday, 30 December 2025 at 11:42 am IST

Respected Sir/Madam,

Kindly find enclosed a DO letter dated 26th December, 2025, of Shri Hari Ranjan Rao, Secretary, Department of Sports, M/o Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, on the above mentioned subject.

Kind regards,
Office of Secretary (Sports)
Department of Sports
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi - 110001
Tel.: 011-23388623, 23388758



DO Letter to KITG.pdf
1.1 MB

हरि रंजन राव, भा.प्र.से
सचिव
Hari Ranjan Rao, IAS
Secretary



भारत सरकार
खेल विभाग
युवा कार्यक्रम और खेल मंत्रालय
Government of India
Department of Sports
Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
Dated: 26th December, 2025

D.O.No. 01-28003(01)/43/2025-HO – E&C-Part (1)

I am writing this with regard to conducting the 1st Khelo India Tribal Games in Chhattisgarh. The background of the Games and processes streamlined for conducting of the Games are in the succeeding paras.

2. Khelo India Scheme (KIS) is the flagship Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, under which the Khelo India Games are conducted. These Games provide the basic platform to showcase the sporting skills and, thus is a platform for talent spotting and providing development pathways for gifted and talented children to achieve excellence. So far, 7 editions of the Khelo India Youth Games, 5 editions of the Khelo India University Games, 5 editions of the Khelo India Winter Games, 2 editions of the Khelo India Para Games, 1 edition of Khelo India Beach Games and 1 edition of Khelo India Water Sports Festival have been successfully conducted with the participation of 36 States/UTs.

3. Considering that India has a sizable tribal population spread across the country where this stands to 8.6% of country's overall population (as per the 2011 census), it is essential that the potential of sports should be harnessed for empowering youth, promoting inclusion as well as fostering development for these communities. It is in this background that it has been decided to introduce a new initiative, namely the **Khelo India Tribal Games**. The initiative is envisaged to serve as a catalyst for grassroots talent identification by streamlining the competition format from district to national levels, the Games shall seek to provide a uniform and credible platform for young athletes.

4. The **1st edition Khelo India Tribal Games** is currently being launched which is going to be hosted in Chhattisgarh and will feature 7 Competitive Sports ie. **Archery, Athletics, Football, Hockey, Swimming, Weightlifting & Wrestling** and 2 Demo Sports.

5. As this is the inaugural edition of Khelo India Tribal Games, there is no existing national autonomous body such as NSF, SGFI or AIU which traditionally facilitate nominations for Khelo India Youth Games and Khelo India University Games. Hence for nominating tribal athletes, an athlete selection process is proposed where it is expected to be conducted in two phases; state / union territories level selection phase, and national sports federation selection phase. The details are given at **Annexure A**.

6. In view of the above, it is requested to conduct the Selection trials as per the provided timeline and nominate athlete for phase two on a merit basis by **20 January, 2026**.

Your proactive cooperation in this matter will go a long way in empowering tribal youth and integrating them into the national sporting framework.

Yours sincerely,
Sd/-

(Hari Ranjan Rao)

Encl: As above.

To: All Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary (Sports)/Secretary(Sports) of All State/UTs

Copy to

- (i) President/General Secretary, National Sports Federations of Tribal Games Sports
- (ii) All the Committee Members of KITG


(Hari Ranjan Rao)

Khelo India Tribal Games

India has a sizable tribal population spread across more than 30 States / UTs. According to 2011 census, the tribal population makes up to 8.6% of country's overall population. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) has identified 177 districts as high-priority districts on the account of significant tribal population. It is essential to note the potential of sports can be harnessed for empowering youth, promoting inclusion as well as fostering development for these communities. In this view, it is intended to develop this ecosystem and promote tribal sports into the mainstream following the success of the various Khelo India Games.

2. In the series of conducting Khelo India Games, it has been decided to introduce a new initiative, **Khelo India Tribal Games** aims at creating a unified, structured and government-supported competition framework for grass root untapped athletes across India. The initiative is aligned with the Khelo India scheme and is envisaged to serve as a catalyst for grassroots talent identification by streamlining the competition format from district to national levels, the Games shall seek to provide a uniform and credible platform for young athletes.

3. The Games will witness an approximate **2500 participants** from various States and UTs. The Games shall be completed in **7-10 days**. In order to start the Games, following competitive sports disciplines are proposed in the inaugural edition of Khelo India Tribal Games, along with demonstration sports to engage the local communities.

Sports:

- **Competitive:** Athletics, Archery, Swimming, Weightlifting, Wrestling, Hockey, Football (7)
- **Demo:** 2 (To be finalized by Host State)

4. Modalities for the Nomination of Athletes

A. Age Criteria

The Games will be conducted in age in open-age category.

B. Nomination of Athletes

As this is the inaugural edition of Khelo India Tribal Games, the existing national autonomous body such as NSF, SGFI, CBSE, AIU or others which traditionally facilitate nominations for Khelo India Youth Games and Khelo India University Games, are unable to provide nominations for tribal athletes.

Hence, for nominating tribal athletes, customized athlete selection process, it has been decided to conduct two phases, state / union territories selection phase and national sports federation selection phase.

Phase I

Under Phase I, all States and Union Territories (UTs) is required to conduct selection trials within their respective jurisdictions specifically for tribal athletes **by 10 Jan 2026**

The responsibility for organizing these trials rests with the respective State/UT Department of Sports. It must be ensured that all participating athletes are verified members of Scheduled Tribes, with their Certificates duly validated by the competent authority. The outcome of this process should be the selection and nomination of athletes, per sport and event, who will represent the State/UT in the next phase of the selection process.

The committee for the state level trials is as follows:

- a. One representative from State Sports Department.
- b. One representative from State Department for social justice/tribal affairs.
- c. One representative from State Sports Association of respective Sport (NSF).
- d. Any one of the members: Dronacharya Awardee/Arjuna Awardee/Eminent coach/eminent Athlete of respective sport.

Note: The State Sports Department will organize a selection trial and nominate athletes for **Phase II** after verifying their valid documents.

Team Sports (Hockey, & Football)

Each State may nominate **1 Team in Men and 1 Team in Women for Phase II** after conducting selection trials

Individual Sports (Archery, Athletics, Swimming, Weightlifting, Wrestling)

- **Athletics, Swimming, Weightlifting, & Wrestling:** Each State may nominate **Top 2 Athletes in Men and Top 2 Athletes in Women for Phase II** after conducting selection trials.
- **Archery:** Each State may nominate **Top 3 Athletes in Men and Top 3 Athletes in Women for Phase II** after conducting selection trials.

Note: for Relay events (Athletics & Swimming): 1 Team in Women and 1 Team in Men from Each State

Phase II

Following Phase I the shortlisted athletes from the State-level trials will participate in selection trials to be conducted by the National Sports Federations (NSFs), which will be **Phase II**. These trials are to be held **within 15 days following the conclusion of the State-level selection process**. The responsibility for organizing and executing the National Selection Trials lies with the NSFs, in coordination with the concerned Host State and Khelo India Events team. Based on this National selection trials the athletes per sport and event would then be nominated for participating in the inaugural Khelo India Tribal

Games. Further, sports and events of all sports along with norms will be finalized by Games Technical Conduct Committee as and when finalized.

Note: Selection trials will be organized by the NSF at one center. The athlete nominated by State Sports Departments will participate in the selection trials to be organized by NSFs. Subsequently, athletes who perform meritoriously in the selection trials will be nominated for KITG

Eligibility documents required to participate in Khelo India Tribal Games

The following two certificates are required by the States/UTs for participation of athletes in the Khelo India Tribal Games:

- i. ST certificate issued by competent authority of State.
- ii. Domicile certificate issued by competent authority of State.

C. Tentative Date

14th Feb 2026 onwards

D. Sports Wise Events

The tentative sports wise events along with number of athletes for Khelo India Tribal Games are as follows

Sports wise events				
FOOTBALL				
	MEN		WOMEN	
SN	Team	Events	Team	Events
1	Team	1	Team	1
HOCKEY				
	MEN		WOMEN	
SN	Ind/Team	Events	Ind/Team	Events
1	Team	Team	Team	Team
ARCHERY				
	MEN		WOMEN	
SN	Ind/Team	Events	Ind/Team	Events
1	Individual	Recurve	Individual	Recurve
2	Team	Recurve	Team	Recurve
1	Individual	Compound	Individual	Compound
2	Team	Compound	Team	Compound
MIXED (Recurve & Compound)				
<i>Archers participating in Individual will participate in Mixed events, no separate participation</i>				

ATHLETICS				
	MEN		WOMEN	
SN	Ind/Team	Events	Ind/Team	Events
1	Individual	100 Mtr Run	Individual	100 Mtr Run
2	Individual	200 Mtr Run	Individual	200 Mtr Run
3	Individual	400 Mtr Run	Individual	400 Mtr Run
4	Individual	800 Mtr Run	Individual	800 Mtr Run
5	Individual	1500 Mtr Run	Individual	1500 Mtr Run
6	Individual	5000 Mtr Run	Individual	5000 Mtr Run
7	Individual	10000 Mtr Run	Individual	10000 Mtr Run
8	Individual	Hurdles 110 Mts	Individual	Hurdles 100 Mts
9	Individual	Hurdles 400 Mts	Individual	Hurdles 400 Mts
10	Individual	Long Jump	Individual	Long Jump
11	Individual	High Jump	Individual	High Jump
12	Individual	Shot Put	Individual	Shot Put
13	Individual	Javelin Throw	Individual	Javelin Throw
14	Individual	Discus Throw	Individual	Discus Throw
15	Individual	10 KM Walk	Individual	10 KM Walk
16	Team: Relay	4x100M Relay	Team: Relay	4x100M Relay
17	Team: Relay	4x400 M Relay	Team: Relay	4x400 M Relay
SWIMMING				
	MEN		WOMEN	
SN	Ind/Team	Events	Ind/Team	Events
1	Individual	50m Free Style	Individual	50m Free Style
2	Individual	100m Free Style	Individual	100m Free Style
3	Individual	200m Free Style	Individual	200m Free Style
4	Individual	50m Back Stroke	Individual	50 m Back Stroke
5	Individual	100m Back Stroke	Individual	100m Back Stroke
6	Individual	50m Breaststroke	Individual	50m Breaststroke
7	Individual	100m Breaststroke	Individual	100m Breaststroke
8	Individual	50m Butterfly	Individual	50m Butterfly
9	Individual	100m Butterfly	Individual	100m Butterfly
10	Individual	200m Individual Medley	Individual	200m Individual Medley
11	Team	4x100 m Free Style Relay	Team	4x100 m Free Style Relay
12	Team	4x100m Medley Relay	Team	4x100m Medley Relay
		Total		
WEIGHTLIFTING				
	MEN		WOMEN	
SN	Ind/Team	Events	Ind/Team	Events
1	Individual	60 kg	Individual	48 kg
2	Individual	65 kg	Individual	53 kg
3	Individual	71 kg	Individual	58 kg
4	Individual	79 kg	Individual	63 kg
5	Individual	88 kg	Individual	69 kg
6	Individual	94 kg	Individual	77 kg
7	Individual	110 kg	Individual	86 kg
8	Individual	+110 kg	Individual	+86 kg

WRESTLING				
	MEN		WOMEN	
SN	Ind/Team	Events	Ind/Team	Events
1	Individual	57 Kg Freestyle	Individual	50 Kg Freestyle
2	Individual	65 Kg Freestyle	Individual	53 Kg Freestyle
3	Individual	74 Kg Freestyle	Individual	57 Kg Freestyle
4	Individual	86 Kg Freestyle	Individual	62 Kg Freestyle
5	Individual	97 Kg Freestyle	Individual	68 Kg Freestyle
6	Individual	125 Kg Freestyle	Individual	76 Kg Freestyle
7	Individual	60 Kg Greco-Roman	Individual	
8	Individual	67 Kg Greco-Roman	Individual	
9	Individual	77 Kg Greco-Roman	Individual	
10	Individual	87 Kg Greco-Roman	Individual	
11	Individual	97 Kg Greco-Roman		
12	Individual	130 Kg Greco-Roman		
	Total		Total	