



ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS UT SPORTS POLICY-2026

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION
DIRECTORATE OF SPORTS & YOUTH AFFAIRS
SRI VIJAYA PURAM



“Sports is a powerful tool for nation-building, character development, and social inclusion.”

— Narendra Modi

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ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS SPORTS POLICY -2026

1. PREAMBLE

Sports and Games have always been seen as an integral component in the all-round development of the human personality. Apart from being a means of entertainment and physical fitness, sports have also played a great role in encouraging the spirit of healthy competition and bonding within the community across A & N Islands. Needless to mention that achievements in sports at the international level have always been a source of pride for the nation.

In the present era of highly competitive sports, the use of modern infrastructure, equipment, and advanced scientific support has significantly transformed the sports scenario at the

international level. Keeping in view the growing demands for advanced infrastructure, sports equipment, and training support, the Department of Sports & Youth Affairs, A&N Administration, has taken several initiatives. These include providing necessary assistance to sportspersons through funding and exposure in national and international competitions, backed-up with modern sports equipment support.

2. VISION

The UT of A & N Islands is envisioned as one of the leading hubs where all residents can pursue sports to the extent of their abilities and interests, including performing at the highest competitive levels. Sports serves as a beacon for nurturing communities, improving health and well-being, and contributing to socio-economic outcomes. The vision reflects the importance of nurturing a culture that develops all aspects of sports participation, promotes high-performance athletes, and leverages sports for the benefit of youth and the enhancement of the community.

The vision of this policy underscores the UT Administration's commitment to strengthening the effectiveness of the sports ecosystem and positioning the A & N Islands at the forefront of national and international sporting excellence."

3. OBJECTIVES

1. To establish a comprehensive sports ecosystem promoting participation from grassroots to elite levels.
2. To organize structured sports competitions, leagues, and talent identification programs for athlete development.
3. To promote physical literacy, fitness, and mass participation in sports across all age groups.
4. To ensure equitable access to quality sports infrastructure and optimum utilization of facilities across the Islands.
5. To provide athlete-centric support through coaching, sports science, medicine, nutrition, and high-performance development systems.
6. To strengthen governance, institutional frameworks, ethics, and professionalism in the sports sector.
7. To ensure sustainable funding and encourage economic growth through sports-related activities and industries.
8. To promote social inclusion by encouraging participation of women, children, persons with disabilities, tribal communities, and other underrepresented groups.
9. To establish sports as a viable career option and create mechanisms for recognition and welfare of athletes.
10. To strengthen collaboration with educational institutions, sports associations, local bodies, and other stakeholders for overall sports development.

"Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire and unite people."

— Nelson Mandela

4. CONTOURS OF THE A & N SPORTS POLICY- 2026

4.1. Nation's Excellence on the Global Stage

The Andaman & Nicobar Islands aspire to nurture sporting excellence that achieves recognition at both National and International levels, while maintaining a strong grassroots foundation that feeds into elite performance. The Administration envisions establishing a comprehensive and systematic framework encompassing sports programs, infrastructure, institutional mechanisms, and athlete development pathways to build a sustainable and inclusive sporting ecosystem.

4.1.1. Sports Programs

Regular, structured, and inclusive sports programs shall be designed and implemented across all age groups to identify, nurture, and develop talent at an early stage. An Annual Sports Calendar will be prepared by the Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs in consultation with State Sports Associations, Regional Sports Councils, and the Directorate of Education to ensure continuous engagement through competitions, leagues, and talent identification initiatives throughout the year.

The Department of Sports & Youth Affairs' existing year-round coaching programs for school children shall be expanded to include colleges, universities, and community institutions. Coaching will be provided in key disciplines such as Football, Cycling, Badminton, Athletics, Water Sports, Chess, Hockey, Volleyball, Basketball, Swimming, Table Tennis, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Martial Arts and Archery. These existing coaching initiatives shall be further strengthened and transformed into a **Structured Sports Coaching Programme**, with technical and institutional support from National and State Sports Federations. This will ensure standardization, quality enhancement, and alignment with the objectives of **Khelo Bharat Niti-2025**.

To ensure equitable access to structured coaching opportunities, the Department of Sports & Youth Affairs may establish satellite coaching centres in remote islands through periodic coaching camps, mobile coaching units, and short-term deputation of coaches, based on local sporting potential and participation trends.

4.1.2. Sports Leagues & Competitions

District-level, zonal, and inter-island leagues shall be institutionalized to create structured competitive pathways for athletes. Island-specific leagues in disciplines such as Football, Athletics, Cycling, and Water Sports shall be prioritized to leverage local strengths and geographical advantages. To enhance professionalism, visibility, and financial sustainability, private sector participation shall be encouraged for organizing leagues in select disciplines, thereby attracting sponsorships and increasing spectator engagement.

Uniform criteria for conducting State-Level Tournaments shall be implemented annually. These tournaments shall ensure representation from the following nine regions of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands:

- Sri Vijaya Puram (Municipal Area)
- South Andaman
- Diglipur
- Mayabunder to Billiground
- Rangat (Swadesh Nagar to Baratang, including Long Island)
- Little Andaman
- Nancowry
- Campbell Bay
- Car Nicobar

Inter-school, inter-college, and inter-departmental tournaments and championships shall be organized annually across all age groups. State-Level Sports Associations shall be responsible for organizing these tournaments and conducting selection trials in accordance with the prescribed uniform criteria, ensuring fair representation from all nine regions of the Islands.

"Investing in youth through sports is investing in the future of the nation."

4.1.3 Physical Literacy:

Physical literacy will form the foundation of lifelong participation in sports. The UT shall integrate structured fitness and movement literacy modules into school curricula in alignment with NEP 2020. Teachers will be trained in age-appropriate fitness delivery, and community fitness programs will be launched to encourage family and citizen participation. Physical Education teachers in Government and Private schools shall promote awareness and understanding of sports and physical education through age-appropriate instructional methods, including demonstrations, interactive audio-visual tools, practical sessions, and participation in games and fitness activities.

4.1.4 Outreach & Awareness:

The UT Administration shall undertake comprehensive mass awareness campaigns to highlight the importance of sports and physical fitness in daily life. These initiatives will include fitness festivals, ferry-linked community sports events, indigenous games festivals, and sustained media campaigns promoting healthy lifestyles. Special emphasis will be placed on enhancing participation among women and tribal communities to ensure inclusivity and equitable access to sporting opportunities. Regular public engagement activities such as marathons, cycle rallies, open sea swimming competitions, and other sports events shall be organized, particularly on Sundays, to encourage community participation and promote a culture of fitness among the general public.

4.1.5 Major Sporting Events:

The UT shall strategically position itself as a preferred destination for hosting regional, National, and select International sporting events, particularly in water sports, beach games, and adventure sports. Annual flagship events such as Beach Volleyball Championships and Open-Water Swimming Festivals shall be institutionalized and included in the official sports calendar of the UT. A high-level committee under the chairmanship of the Secretary (Sports), comprising representatives from the Directorate of Sports & Youth Affairs and the Directorate of Education, recognized UT-level Sports Associations, and three eminent sportspersons (preferably from the mainland and representing diverse disciplines), shall be constituted.

This committee shall:

- Identify and prioritize key sports disciplines (excluding Cycling, Rowing, Kayaking, and Canoeing where applicable)
- Finalize long-term goals,
- Recommend major sporting events for sustained investment, and
- Guide strategic planning for athlete and sports development in the UT.

4.1.6 Recreational Beach Sports for Tourists:

The Department of Sports & Youth Affairs shall actively promote recreational beach sports across identified beaches of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands as a key tourist attraction, while fostering community engagement and healthy lifestyles among residents and visitors alike. These initiatives will encourage active participation by tourists as well as the general public. The range of activities shall include popular and indigenous beach sports such as Beach Soccer, Beach Volleyball, Beach Tug-of-War, Beach Kabaddi, Beach Tennikoit, Beach Sepak Takraw, Beach Pillow Fight, Coconut Tree Climbing, and other locally relevant games.

To facilitate these activities, the Department of Sports & Youth Affairs shall provide necessary sports infrastructure, equipment, and basic amenities in coordination with concerned Departments. All initiatives shall be implemented with due consideration to safety standards, environmental sustainability, and compliance with applicable Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) norms and other statutory guidelines. The following beaches are identified for the implementation of Recreational Beach Sports Activities

- Corbyn's Cove Beach, Wandoor Beach at Sri Vijaya Puram
- Radhanagar Beach at Swaraj Dweep
- Laxmanpur Beach at Shaheed Dweep
- Butler Bay Beach at Hut Bay
- Jayanti Beach, Malacca and Passa Beach at Car Nicobar
- Zero Point Beach at Campbell Bay

- Karmatang Beach at Mayabunder
- Ram Nagar Beach, Ross & Smith Beach at Diglipur
- Aamkunj Beach, Raman Bageecha, RRO Beach at Rangat
- Lalaji Bay Beach at Long Island

The Department shall ensure provision of essential sports equipment such as volleyball poles and nets, tug-of-war ropes, and other required materials at the identified locations to support regular conduct of these activities.

4.1.7 Island-Based Aquatic Sports Competitions

Aquatic sports shall be prioritized in the Union Territory, with a focused emphasis on disciplines such as Swimming, Rowing, Kayaking, Canoeing, and Surfing, considering their high potential and strategic relevance at both national and international levels. The Department shall promote these disciplines in collaboration with the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and other relevant stakeholders. Regular competitions shall be conducted at Block/Zonal, District, and Union Territory levels to ensure structured talent identification, athlete progression, and performance benchmarking among Island sportspersons. In partnership with SAI, the Department shall implement comprehensive capacity-building initiatives, including coaching programmes, specialized training camps, exposure visits, and systematic talent scouting, to establish a robust athlete development pathway.

The Department shall also endeavour to position the Andaman & Nicobar Islands as a preferred destination for hosting National-Level Aquatic Sports Events, with the objective of organizing at least one such event annually, thereby enhancing visibility, infrastructure utilization, and competitive exposure for local athletes.

4.1.8 Tribal-Centric Development of Archery

Archery shall be promoted as a priority sport through a focused tribal-centric development strategy. Tribal youth with aptitude for archery shall be systematically identified through community outreach programmes, school-based talent identification in tribal areas, and convergence with the Departments of Tribal Welfare and Education.

Identified talent shall be integrated into the formal sports development pathway through residential and non-residential coaching centres, bridge training programmes, and structured exposure to competitions at the district, State/UT, and national levels. Necessary support in the form of quality equipment, scientific coaching, sports science support, nutrition, and mentorship shall be provided to facilitate their holistic development and progression from grassroots participation to elite performance.

Talent identification and sports promotion initiatives in tribal areas shall be undertaken in consultation with the competent authorities and community representatives, ensuring that all interventions are implemented with due respect for tribal customs, cultural practices, and the applicable legal and policy framework governing the welfare and protection of tribal communities.

4.1.9 Strengthening Sports Promotion Institutions

Key sports institutions like the Directorate of Sports & Youth Affairs, Andaman Nicobar State Sports Council and the A&N Olympic Association, shall be strengthened through clearly defined roles, performance benchmarks, and accountability mechanisms. Adequate financial, technical, and human resources shall be ensured to enhance institutional effectiveness. Strategic partnerships with the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and National Sports Federations shall be deepened to facilitate access to high-quality coaching, advanced training methodologies, and competitive exposure at national and international levels.

"Where every child plays, every athlete grows, and every dream finds a pathway to success."

4.1.10 Athlete-Centric Sports Development

All sports development programmes shall adopt an athlete-first approach, ensuring comprehensive support systems encompassing coaching, nutrition, sports science, and psychosocial well-being. A clearly defined athlete progression pathway—from grassroots identification to elite performance—shall be institutionalized, with regular monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. Financial assistance, including scholarships, stipends, and performance-based incentives, shall be extended to support athletes at various stages of development, with special emphasis on high-performance and medal-potential athletes.

The Department shall establish an accessible grievance redressal mechanism enabling athletes to report concerns relating to selection processes, welfare support, safety, discrimination, harassment, or other sports-related matters. Appropriate timelines shall be prescribed for disposal of grievances.

4.1.11 Development of Sports Human Capital

Capacity building of sports personnel—including coaches, referees, technical officials, and administrators—shall be prioritized through structured training and certification programmes. Engagement of NIS-qualified coaches and nationally/internationally accredited trainers shall be expanded on a contractual basis to enhance the quality of coaching and technical expertise. Additionally, grassroots-level human resource development shall be promoted through certification of community coaches and volunteers. The Department of Sports & Youth Affairs shall also collaborate with recognized sports institutions and federations to facilitate knowledge exchange, exposure visits, and adoption of best practices in sports management and training.

4.1.12 Safety, Ethics & Professionalism

All competitions, training programmes, and sporting activities conducted under the aegis of the Department of Sports & Youth Affairs shall adhere to the highest standards of safety, integrity, and ethical conduct. Comprehensive Codes of Conduct for athletes, coaches, technical officials, support personnel, volunteers, and other stakeholders shall be formulated and strictly enforced to promote discipline, professionalism, and fair play.

The Department shall institutionalize a comprehensive **Safe Sport Framework** incorporating safeguarding of children and vulnerable persons, prevention of sexual harassment, anti-discrimination measures, athlete welfare, and mechanisms for reporting and addressing abuse, misconduct, bullying, or exploitation. These measures shall ensure a safe, inclusive, respectful, and harassment-free sporting environment across the Union Territory.

Coaches, trainers, support personnel, volunteers, and other individuals engaged in programmes involving minors shall be subjected to appropriate background verification and other due diligence procedures, as prescribed by the Administration from time to time, to ensure the safety and well-being of young athletes.

4.1.13 Sports Science, Medicine, Technology, Research & Innovation

The Union Territory shall establish Sports Science and Medicine Units at designated Centres of Excellence to provide integrated support services, including sports nutrition, physiotherapy, sports psychology, and biomechanics. Athlete performance data shall be systematically digitized and monitored to enable evidence-based training and performance enhancement.

The Department of Sports & Youth Affairs shall facilitate research collaborations with reputed national institutions in areas such as injury prevention, rehabilitation, and sports performance in tropical climatic conditions. Further, athlete data from the Union Territory shall be integrated into the National Sports Repository System (NSRS) under the Khelo India initiative to ensure a comprehensive digital ecosystem for athletes and stakeholders.

4.1.14 Rewards & Recognition for Champion Athletes

Sportspersons achieving excellence at national and international levels in Government of India recognized events shall be duly recognized through cash incentives, employment opportunities, and out-of-turn promotions, in alignment with national benchmarks with reference to the DoPT Guidelines for meritorious sportspersons. A structured Sports Award Ceremony shall be instituted to Honor Athletes, Coaches, and Sports Promoters, thereby enhancing the prestige and visibility of sporting achievements. The Administration shall continue to provide cash awards to medal winners at national and international championships in accordance with the existing Cash Award Rules. Under the prevailing provisions, cash incentives range from Rs. 20,000 for bronze medal winners at Sub-Junior National Championships to Rs. 10,00,000 for Olympic gold medalists, with corresponding awards for silver and bronze medal winners at various levels including National Games, Asian Championships, Asian Games, and Commonwealth Games. Team event medalists shall also be eligible for awards on par with individual event winners. These incentive slabs shall be reviewed and revised every five years to maintain parity with national standards and sustain athlete motivation. Former champion athletes from the Union Territory shall be engaged under relevant schemes such as Khelo India or through Short Service Contracts (SSC) to contribute as coaches, mentors, and talent developers within the local sports ecosystem.

4.1.15 Scholarships to Sportspersons

The Department of Sports & Youth Affairs shall provide scholarships to sportspersons demonstrating exceptional talent and performance at national and international levels. Scholarships shall be limited to recognized disciplines/events included in the Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, World Championships, National Games/Championships, and Khelo India Games. The scholarship shall be awarded for a period of two years to **eligible sportspersons below the age of 23 years**. However, in exceptional circumstances, the Administration may relax the upper age limit for athletes participating in disciplines where peak performance is generally attained at a later age, subject to the recommendations of the competent authority.

Sportspersons already availing financial assistance or scholarships from any Government or private institution, including the Sports Authority of India (SAI) or Khelo India, shall not be eligible under this scheme. The scholarship structure and financial provisions for eligible sportspersons shall be specified in Schedule-C.

4.1.16 Special Nutrition & Diet Support for Economically Weaker Sportspersons

The UT Administration shall introduce a *Special Sports Nutrition Support Scheme* to provide financial assistance towards scientifically prescribed diets for talented sportspersons from economically weaker sections. Under this scheme, eligible athletes shall receive a nutrition allowance of ₹3,000 per month (₹100 per day for 30 days) or be provided with structured diet support as recommended by qualified Sports Nutritionists. Beneficiaries shall include identified athletes from schools, colleges, sports academies, and Centres of Excellence. Priority shall be accorded to school-level athletes, rural and tribal youth, women sportspersons, and para-athletes. The scheme shall be funded through UT budgetary support, convergence with central schemes such as Khelo India (wherever applicable), and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contributions. A robust monitoring mechanism shall be established to ensure transparency, accountability, and measurable impact on athlete health and performance.

4.1.17 Educational Institutions in Sports Development

Schools and colleges shall serve as the primary nurseries for sports talent development by ensuring the compulsory integration of sports and physical education within the academic curriculum. Each school shall be mandated to maintain standard playfields and basic infrastructure for at least two sports disciplines, while colleges shall be encouraged to establish multi-sport complexes with adequate facilities. Educational institutions may permit community use of sports infrastructure beyond school hours, subject to safeguarding requirements, maintenance considerations, and institutional priorities. Strategic partnerships with the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and National Sports Federations (NSFs) shall be developed to introduce advanced coaching methodologies, structured training programmes, and talent development pathways within educational institutions.

4.1.18 Strengthening *Funding Mechanism for Sports Development*

A sustainable and diversified funding framework shall be established to support sports development across the UT. This shall include UT budget allocations, convergence with centrally sponsored schemes (such as Khelo India), CSR contributions, Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLAD) and support from local bodies. Innovative revenue-generation models, including Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) for stadium management, organization of professional leagues, and user-based facility management systems, shall be explored to ensure long-term financial sustainability and optimal utilization of sports infrastructure.

4.1.19 Talent Search & Development

Talent identification shall be institutionalized as a continuous and systematic process through annual competitions, school games, and structured scouting initiatives conducted in collaboration with State Sports Associations and relevant stakeholders. Identified talented athletes shall be inducted into Sports Academies and Centers of Excellence, where they will receive comprehensive support including coaching, education, nutrition, sports science, and athlete welfare services. Special emphasis shall be placed on leveraging the unique geographical strengths of the UT, particularly in water sports, cycling, and athletics, through targeted talent development programs. A comprehensive survey shall be undertaken to map all available sports infrastructure, including stadiums, multi-purpose indoor halls, swimming pools, velodrome, various playfields and courts. This exercise shall be carried out by the Sports Directorate in coordination with the District Administration, Department of Education, Rural Development Department, and SVPMD. Further, a dedicated provision shall be made for the digitization, computerization, and regular updating of all sports-related data and infrastructure records, in alignment with the guidelines of PM Gati Shakti, to enable data-driven planning and efficient resource utilization.

4.1.20 Sports Infrastructure

A phased infrastructure development plan shall be implemented to create modern, inclusive, and climate-resilient sports facilities across all districts of the A&N Islands through UT Budget support, the Khelo India Scheme, and PPP models. Universal accessibility for grassroots athletes, women, and para-athletes shall be ensured in all projects.

Key initiatives shall include:

- a. Development of standard playfields at Village, Block, and Ward levels through convergence of Government schemes.
- b. Establishment of basic Gym Facilities in every Panchayat and Municipal Ward with technical support from Department of Sports and the Sports Authority of India (SAI) subject to feasibility, availability of space, and demonstrated community demand.
- c. Construction of Multipurpose Indoor Stadiums at Block and District levels to support year-round sports activities during monsoon seasons.
- d. Development of standard swimming pools at Diglipur, Rangat, Mayabunder, Hut Bay, Car Nicobar, and Campbell Bay under the Khelo India Scheme.
- e. Renovation and modernization of the velodrome at Sri Vijaya Puram with support from the Cycling Federation of India and SAI.
- f. Up-gradation of the Modern Sports Complex at Car Nicobar.
- g. Phased up-gradation of existing stadiums and indoor halls with Floodlighting, Synthetic Tracks, Astro-Turf Fields, Fitness Centers, Modern Sports Flooring.

➤ Sports Facilities in Educational Institutions

Schools:

- Playfields shall be developed in all schools, subject to availability of the land.
- Minimum sports facilities shall include:
 - One game in Primary Schools
 - Two games in Secondary Schools
 - Three games in Senior Secondary Schools
 - Multipurpose indoor sports halls shall be established wherever feasible.

Colleges:

- Playfields shall be developed in all colleges.
- A minimum of five sports disciplines, including athletics, shall be provided.
- Multipurpose indoor sports halls shall be established wherever feasible.
- The football ground at JNRM shall be upgraded to FIFA standards on priority.

➤ **Safeguarding and Development of School & College Lands for Playgrounds**

Safeguarding of land allotted to schools and colleges in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands shall be undertaken in coordination with the Revenue Department through proper demarcation and fencing of boundaries to prevent encroachments. Simultaneously, these lands will be developed into playgrounds to promote sports and physical activities.

i) **Sports Infrastructure Development under MPLAD**

Under MPLAD, financial assistance may be provided for sports-based projects involving development and upgradation of sports infrastructure, playgrounds, indoor halls, open gyms, sports equipment and other basic facilities, with emphasis on grassroots sports, youth engagement and promotion of indigenous and emerging sports disciplines across the Islands.

ii) **Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Model**

PPP models shall be actively promoted to mobilize additional resources for sports infrastructure development and management. Private sector participation shall be encouraged in establishing sports academies, maintaining facilities, and supporting athlete development.

MoUs may be signed between Government Departments and private entities for:

- Infrastructure development and maintenance
- Equipment supply
- Operation of sports academies

Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), including ANIIDCO and banks, shall be encouraged to contribute through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. Selected PSUs may adopt specific sports disciplines and support team development within the Islands.

iii) **Support for Travel and Participation**

Financial assistance norms has been revised (F.No. No.86/Sports (rate enhancement)/EDN/2013 Order No. 933 dated 12.05.2026) to enhance support for sportspersons traveling between Islands and Mainland India for competitions. This shall include:

- Ship/air/train travel costs
- Meal charges
- Special Diet/Snacks for those participating in Sports and Cultural Events
- Accommodation charges in mainland
- Medical Treatment
- Site seeing charges including entry fees and parking/toll charges
- Transportation and miscellaneous expenditure

Special emphasis shall be placed on supporting school children and grassroots athletes to ensure wider participation in competitions and exposure events.

4.1.21 Districts & UT Coordination

a. District Level Sports Development Committees shall be constituted in each district consisting of the following members for necessary coordination with the Regional Sports Council.

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. Deputy Commissioner | - | Chairman |
| 2. Asst. Commissioner / SDM | - | Member |
| 3. Deputy Education Officer | - | Member |
| 4. Block Development Officer | - | Member |
| 5. A representative from SAI | - | Member |
| 6. Past Champion Athletes | - | 02 Members |
| 7. Pay & Accounts Officer | - | Treasurer |
| 8. Asst. Director (Sports) | - | Member Secretary |

b. Each District shall prepare an Annual District Sports Development Plan aligned with the UT Sports Strategy. District-level academies shall function as feeder units to the UT Centre of Excellence, ensuring a structured pathway for athlete development and progression.

c. A formal coordination mechanism between UT and District-level institutions shall be institutionalized through quarterly review meetings, performance monitoring, and outcome-based evaluations.

d. District Level Sports Development Committees shall undertake an annual review of district performance, infrastructure utilization, athlete progression, and implementation of district sports plans, and submit a report to the Directorate of Sports & Youth Affairs.

4.1.22 District Wise Sports Schools

The Administration shall endeavor to convert at least one existing educational institution in each district into a Residential Sports School, subject to availability of infrastructure, financial resources, and administrative feasibility with multi-disciplinary sports facilities, aimed at nurturing sporting talent through integrated academic education, professional coaching, sports science support, and structured long-term athlete development pathways. These schools will provide residential infrastructure, access to quality training equipment, qualified coaches, nutrition and medical support, and exposure to competitive platforms, thereby creating a robust feeder system for state and national-level sports participation.

4.1.23 Excellence in Para-Sports

The UT shall promote **para-sports on par with mainstream sports**, ensuring equal opportunities, recognition, and resource allocation.

Key interventions shall include:

- Development of **accessible and inclusive sports infrastructure** across all districts.
- Organization of **talent identification and classification camps** for para-athletes.
- Provision of **specialized coaching, training, and sports science support**.
- Extension of **cash awards, scholarships, and employment opportunities** equivalent to those available for able-bodied athletes.

Additional Measures:

- Engagement of certified classifiers in coordination with the **Paralympic Committee of India** for scientific classification and event suitability.
- Retrofitting and upgrading existing sports infrastructure in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands to ensure **universal accessibility standards**.
- Capacity building through **mentorship programs and specialized certification pathways for para-coaches**.

4.1.24 Direct Recruitment of Meritorious Sportspersons

The Department of Sports and Youth Affairs along with the Andaman and Nicobar Administration, shall adopt the provisions of the Government of India, Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) Office Memorandum No. F. No. 14034/01/2013-Estt.(D) dated 03.10.2013 and Office Memorandum No. DOPT-1720781414772 dated 04.03.2024 relating to the direct recruitment of Meritorious Sportspersons (MSPs) to Group 'C' posts. Accordingly, eligible Meritorious Sportspersons shall be considered for appointment against the 5% reservation in direct recruitment vacancies to Group 'C' posts available in various Departments of the Andaman and Nicobar Administration, based on their performance and achievements in International, National, and State-level sports competitions, including medal-winning performances, subject to the provisions contained in the aforesaid Office Memorandum and other instructions issued by the Government of India from time to time.

4.1.25 State-Level Sports Associations

The Department of Sports & Youth Affairs / Andaman Nicobar State Sports Council (ANSSC) shall function as the apex coordinating and affiliating body for all State-level Sports Associations of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, GoI, recognized sports disciplines. The Department of Sports & Youth Affairs / Andaman Nicobar State Sports Council (ANSSC) shall grant recognition and extend support to the State / UT Olympic Association and other State Sports Associations subject to compliance with governance, transparency, and performance norms.

Governance and Recognition

- All State-Level Sports Associations must be registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and affiliated with the respective National Sports Federations recognized by the Government of India and with Andaman Nicobar State Sports Council.
- Functioning of all the Sports Associations shall be aligned with the Andaman & Nicobar UT Sports Policy and the principles of Khelo Bharat Niti 2025, under the supervision of the UT Sports Department. Ensure transparent, athlete-centric governance with merit-based selections and public disclosures.

- Integrate grassroots to elite pathways in line with “Sports as a People’s Movement” approach.
- Link funding and recognition to performance, accountability, and governance compliance.
- Promote capacity building of officials, coaches, and administrators.
- Strengthen digital governance (athlete database, competitions, finance tracking).
- Ensure inclusivity (women, tribal, remote islands) and ethical practices as per World Anti-Doping Agency norms.
- State Sports Associations must mandatorily submit the following to the Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs / State Sports Council on an annual basis:
 - Audited Financial Statements and Annual Audit Report
 - Annual Activity Report
 - Approved Budget
 - Annual Sports Calendar

Non-compliance with the prescribed guidelines, directions, or reporting requirements issued by the Directorate of Sports & Youth Affairs shall result in the suspension or withdrawal of recognition, as deemed appropriate by the competent authority.

Eligibility & Compliance Requirements

All recognized Associations must:

- Be registered under the **Societies Registration Act, 1860**
- Be affiliated with:
 - The State Sports Council
 - The concerned National Sports Federation recognized by the Government of India
- Submit the following annually through the State Sports Council
 - **Audited Financial Statements**
 - **Annual Activity Report**
 - **Budget Proposals**
 - **Annual Competition Calendar**
 - **Timely submission of the Utilization Certificates against Grant-In-Aid**

Failure to comply shall result in **automatic withdrawal of recognition**.

Guidelines for State-Level Sports Associations

i) Transparent Selection Procedures

Selection of athletes shall strictly follow the norms of the respective National Sports Federations and be codified in the Association’s rules. Special focus shall be placed on identifying talent from **rural and tribal areas**.

ii) Advance Planning & Financial Proposals

Concerned Sports Associations shall prepare annual plans for team participation and submit budget requirements (TA/DA, logistics, boarding/lodging, etc.) well in advance one month prior to the competitions. Approved funds shall be disbursed directly to the Associations / sportspersons for participation in National Events.

iii) Mass Participation & Club Development

Efforts shall be made to broaden the sports base by promoting **grassroots participation** and establishing sports clubs across districts.

iv) Merit-Based Selection Panels

A pre-approved panel of selectors shall be constituted on merit. Associations may seek technical support from competent authorities such as SAI, concerned Federations and the UT Sports Department.

v) Regular Competitions

Associations shall conduct competitions at **Zonal, District, and UT levels** across junior and senior, all age categories, covering at least **60% of blocks and districts annually**. Long-term athlete development plans shall be submitted to the Department.

vi) Governance & Ethical Standards

- Associations must adhere strictly to their constitutional provisions.
- Office bearers must be **non-political and non-religious** in official functioning.
- Individuals with proven charges or pending disciplinary cases shall be ineligible.

- Government officials directly engaged in sports administration shall not hold office bearer positions.
- At least **25% representation of sportspersons** shall be ensured in Executive Committees.
- Key office bearers must have a **sports background** relevant to the discipline.

vii) **Democratic Elections**

Elections shall be conducted at regular intervals as per the Association's constitution. Observers from the Department of Sports & Youth Affairs shall be invited, in line with national sports governance guidelines.

viii) **Institutional Coordination**

A structured coordination framework shall be maintained between the State Sports Associations, and the Department to ensure effective collaboration and dispute resolution.

ix) **Transparency & Digital Governance**

Associations shall:

- Implement **transparent athlete selection systems**
- Maintain **digitized membership databases**
- Publish **annual development plans and performance reports**

4.1.26 Strengthening Human Resource

- The Department of Sports & Youth Affairs shall prioritize filling up vacant posts and creation of additional posts, wherever required, in coordination with the UT Administration and concerned Ministries of the Government of India, to strengthen institutional capacity. Recruitment Rules shall be framed or updated for appointment of qualified professionals in sports and allied fields, including Physiotherapists, Nutritionists, Sports Psychologists, Classifiers, and other technical support staff.
- Provision shall be made for regular appointment of Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and Primary Coaches. Until permanent arrangements are made, qualified personnel may be engaged on contractual basis. Preference shall be given to candidates possessing NIS or higher qualifications and those with participation or achievements in recognized national and international sporting events. Engagement may also be made through the State Sports Council, deputation, or other suitable administrative mechanisms.
- The Department shall also engage Past Champion Athletes under the Khelo India Scheme to strengthen coaching capacity. In case of delay or non-availability of scheme funds, the UT Administration shall ensure continuity of coaching programmes through its own resources.

4.1.27 Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons

The Department of Sports & Youth Affairs shall institute a pension scheme for meritorious sportspersons of the Union Territory in recognition of their outstanding achievements and to ensure social and financial security after retirement from active sports. The scheme shall cover sportspersons who have excelled at National and International levels, including medal winners and distinguished performers in events such as the Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, Deaflympic Games, World Championships, Asian Games, and Commonwealth Games. Detailed eligibility criteria, pension rates, age of commencement, and other terms and conditions shall be notified by the Administration from time to time in alignment with the guidelines of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India.

"Sport is not just about winning medals—it is about building healthy, confident, and resilient citizens."

4.1.28 Gap Funding for A&N Islands Athletes

The Directorate of Sports & Youth Affairs/Andaman & Nicobar State Sports Council shall provide **gap funding** to eligible athletes and contingents of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands to facilitate their participation in Union Territory, National, and International sports events. Such assistance shall bridge shortfalls in financial support and may cover travel, boarding, lodging, entry fees, equipment transportation, and other incidental expenses not supported under Government of India schemes or where assistance from sponsoring agencies is delayed or inadequate.

Wherever feasible, financial assistance under this provision shall be released **in advance** to eligible athletes and contingents to ensure that participation in recognized sporting events is not adversely affected due to financial constraints. The eligibility criteria, extent of assistance, and operational modalities shall be prescribed by the Administration from time to time.

4.1.29 Island Athlete Insurance and Risk Protection

Recognizing the unique geographical characteristics of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and the inherent risks associated with participation in aquatic, adventure, and inter-island sporting activities, the Union Territory Administration shall endeavour to provide a comprehensive health, accident insurance, and risk protection framework for eligible sportspersons of the Islands in Government of India recognised events.

The coverage may extend to sportspersons representing the Union Territory in recognized competitions, athletes undergoing training under approved programmes of the Directorate of Sports & Youth Affairs, trainees at recognized Sports Academies and High-Performance Centres, and such other categories of beneficiaries as may be notified by the Administration from time to time.

The insurance and risk protection framework may provide coverage for accidental death, permanent or partial disability arising from sports-related injuries, hospitalization and medical treatment, emergency medical assistance, injuries sustained during training, competitions, official travel, and such other welfare measures as may be considered necessary to safeguard the interests of sportspersons.

As a special welfare measure, the Union Territory Administration shall provide comprehensive health and accident insurance coverage of up to **₹20 lakh** for **International-Level Medallists** and up to **₹10 lakh** for **National-Level Medallists** to ensure their welfare and financial security.

The Administration may implement these measures directly or through suitable arrangements with insurance providers, Government welfare schemes, or other approved agencies. The detailed guidelines relating to eligibility, extent of coverage, operational modalities, claim procedures, and other terms and conditions shall be notified separately by the Administration from time to time.

The Directorate of Sports & Youth Affairs shall also ensure that adequate safety protocols, risk mitigation measures, and, wherever considered necessary, appropriate insurance safeguards are incorporated while organizing sporting events, competitions, training camps, and other sports-related activities under its aegis.

4.2 Sports for Economic Development

4.2.1 Sports Tourism through Major Sporting Events

- The UT shall promote sports tourism by leveraging its maritime and eco-tourism potential through an Annual Island Sports Calendar integrating sports and tourism activities such as Scuba Diving, Jet Skiing, Parasailing, Kite Surfing, Snorkeling, Canoeing & Kayaking, and Stand-Up Paddleboarding (SUP).
- Signature aquatic and adventure sports events including open-water swimming, triathlon, surfing, beach rowing, beach marathon, beach soccer, and other beach sports festivals shall be organized regularly.
- National and International tournaments in disciplines such as Cycling, Rowing, Kayaking, Canoeing, Athletics, and other beach sports shall be hosted to attract domestic and international tourists.
- A structured CSR and PPP investment framework shall be developed to encourage corporate sponsorships and partnerships for sports tourism initiatives.

4.2.2 Development of a Sports Equipment Manufacturing Ecosystem

Considering the geographical resources the A&N Administration shall encourage the development of a local sports equipment manufacturing and repair ecosystem through MSMEs, startups, ITIs, and Polytechnics. Special focus shall be given to utilization of locally available Cane raw material for sports such as Archery, with the potential for the Islands to emerge as a manufacturing and supply hub for archery equipment for domestic and international markets.

Emphasis shall also be placed on the production of age-specific, women-centric, and para-sports equipment, thereby promoting employment generation, skill development, entrepreneurship, and self-reliance in the Islands' sports sector.

4.2.3 Promotion of Sports Startups and Entrepreneurship

- An **Island Sports Innovation Hub** shall be established to incubate and support startups in sports technology, analytics, equipment innovation, and eco-sports tourism.
- Young entrepreneurs shall be encouraged to develop digital solutions such as **sports event management platforms, fitness tracking applications, athlete scouting systems, and sports logistics services**.
- **Women-led sports enterprises and Para-Sports Startups** shall be provided additional incentives, including priority access to funding, incubation, and mentorship support.

4.2.4 Operational and Financial Sustainability of Sports Assets

- **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)** and **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** models shall be leveraged to mobilize resources for development, operation, and maintenance of sports infrastructure and programmes.
- Public Sector Undertakings (such as ANIIDCO, banks, and other agencies) shall be encouraged to **adopt specific sports, teams, or facilities** to ensure long-term sustainability.
- A standardized **MoU framework** shall be developed to facilitate partnerships with private entities for operation of gyms, academies, and indoor facilities, ensuring priority access for local athletes.

4.2.5 Recognition for Innovation

- Local entrepreneurs, institutions, and innovators introducing **sustainable and climate-resilient sports solutions** (e.g., solar-powered facilities, water harvesting systems, cyclone-resilient infrastructure) shall be formally recognized and incentivized.
- An **Annual Sports Innovation Awards** programme shall be instituted to acknowledge excellence in sports technology, sustainability, and grassroots innovation.

4.2.6 Positioning as a Global Sports Destination

- By 2030, the A&N Islands shall be positioned as a **Global Sports Destination** for water and adventure sports, supported by international-standard infrastructure for sailing, rowing, surfing, open-water swimming, and cycling.
- Strategic collaborations with **international sports federations and organizations** shall be pursued to host world-class competitions, training camps, and certification programmes.

4.2.7 Sports Business Advisory Group (SBAG)

- A **Sports Business Advisory Group (SBAG)** shall be constituted under the Directorate of Sports & Youth Affairs, comprising representatives from industry, finance, tourism, academia, and sports bodies.
- SBAG shall provide strategic guidance on **investment promotion, policy reforms, sports commercialization, and entrepreneurship development** within the UT.
- The Sports Business Advisory Group shall meet at least once annually and submit recommendations to the Directorate of Sports & Youth Affairs regarding investment promotion, sports tourism, entrepreneurship, and commercialization opportunities.

"From playgrounds to podiums, a strong sporting culture creates a stronger nation."

4.3 Sports for Social Development

4.3.1 Reduced Barriers for Participation of Underrepresented Population Groups:

The UT will systematically remove barriers limiting participation by women, tribal communities, remote-island residents, persons with disabilities, and sportspersons belonging to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS). The Administration shall endeavor to progressively increase women's participation in sports programmes, with a target of achieving at least 40% participation across

suitable activities., universal accessibility standards in all new facilities (ramps, adapted restrooms, assistive equipment), and enforcement of Safe Sport and PoSH protocols. Fee waivers, equipment support, nutrition assistance, scholarships, and travel support shall be provided to deserving athletes from EWS families and remote blocks to ensure equitable access to sports opportunities. Para-athletes will receive equal access to training, competitions, and selection pathways, with annual provision for classification camps, travel, and career support. Panchayats and ULBs will earmark at least 5% of their annual budgets for Olympic and priority sports to expand local access and reduce cost barriers. Additional UT support will cover reimbursement of airfare, boarding/lodging, transportation, medical expenses, and other incidental costs for athletes participating in mainland events, as per revised norms detailed in Schedule-D. Special emphasis shall be placed on ensuring that financial constraints do not prevent talented athletes from pursuing training, competition, and long-term athlete development pathways.

4.3.2 Promotion of Indigenous Sports and Games:

The Administration will document, preserve, and promote traditional and indigenous games through an Annual Traditional & Indigenous Games Festival, school-based modules, and community events. Collaboration with SIE/DIET and cultural organizations will integrate these games into physical education curricula and community fitness initiatives. Standardized rulebooks and coaching manuals will be developed to ensure continuity, while media partnerships will enhance visibility and public engagement.

4.3.3 Underrepresented Population Talent Development Initiatives:

Targeted talent identification camps and coaching clusters will be organized for women, tribal youth, remote-island populations, and para-athletes, with pathways into district academies and Khelo India Centres of Excellence. Priority support will include scholarships, equipment grants, hostel facilities, and mentorship. Tribal talent development will receive focused attention, including sport-specific identification based on relevant physical and performance attributes.

4.3.4 Peace & International Cooperation through Sports:

Inter-island leagues, community competitions, and sports festivals will promote social cohesion and mutual respect. Subject to Government of India approvals, the UT will pursue sports exchange programmes, coaching clinics, and officiating workshops with national and international institutions, particularly in water and adventure sports, positioning the Islands as a regional hub for cooperation in the Bay of Bengal.

4.3.5 Promotion of Sports & Allied Services as Careers:

Sports will be promoted as a viable career across domains including athletics, coaching, officiating, sports science, event management, and entrepreneurship. Start-ups and MSMEs in sports equipment and technology will be encouraged through procurement preferences and facilitation support. Career counseling mechanisms will guide athletes toward sustainable post-competition opportunities.

4.3.6 Sports Volunteering Programmes:

A UT-wide volunteering framework will mobilize community coaches and student volunteers to support grassroots activities such as leagues, school competitions, and indigenous sports festivals. Linkages with NSS/NCC will be strengthened, and corporate volunteering will be encouraged. Volunteers will receive training in safeguarding, first aid, and event management, building a sustainable support ecosystem for sports development.

4.4 Sports – A People’s Movement

4.4.1 Fitness Ranking & Indexing:

The SYA, in coordination with UT departments, will develop a UT Fitness Index for schools, workplaces, and communities. Regular assessments, leaderboards, and public dashboards will drive participation. Weekend fitness leagues and ferry-linked island events will extend outreach to remote areas, making fitness a social norm.

4.4.2 National Sports Federations (NSFs):

NSFs, through their State units, will partner in expanding grassroots participation by standardizing competition pathways, certifying coaches and officials, and aligning annual calendars. Associations shall ensure transparent selection processes, digitized memberships, and compliance with the National Sports Code, while promoting mass formats such as mini-leagues, festivals, and school circuits.

4.4.3 Physical Education Framework:

In line with NEP 2020, sports will be integrated into academic curricula through structured timetables, age-appropriate physical literacy, and competency-based assessments. SIE and DIET will conduct regular capacity-building programs for teachers, while institutions will maintain monthly competition calendars and adequate sports infrastructure.

4.4.4 Access to Sporting Facilities:

Public sports infrastructure (DSYA, SAI, PRIs, ULBs, and educational institutions) will provide open-access windows with rationalized user charges and priority slots for training and competitions. Venue charges will be waived for events leading to national or international qualification under NSFs/IOA, as per UT norms.

4.4.5 Model Sports Programs and Events:

The Administration will institutionalize community leagues, school-to-state competition pathways, indigenous games festivals, and mass yoga initiatives (June 21). Annual flagship events in aquatic and adventure sports, including open-water swimming and beach games, will strengthen public engagement.

4.5 Integration of Sports with Education

4.5.1 Integration of Sports and Physical Education in School:

Sports and Physical Education shall be an integral component of the school education system in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. All schools shall provide structured physical education, physical literacy, fitness, and sports programmes as part of the regular curriculum, with dedicated time allocations in academic timetables. Schools shall ensure access to basic sports infrastructure, trained Physical Education Teachers (PETs)/Physical Training Instructors (PTIs), and regular intra-school and inter-school competitions to promote holistic development, physical fitness, teamwork, leadership, and lifelong participation in sports. Sports performance and participation may be integrated into student assessment frameworks, while talented athletes shall be provided structured pathways for advanced training, scholarships, and participation in district, state, and national competitions.

4.5.2 PE Teacher vacancy/Upgradation:

To effectively integrate sports with education in alignment with NEP-2020 and Khelo Bharat Niti-2025, all vacant posts of Physical Education Teachers (PETs) and Physical Training Instructors (PTIs) in Government schools shall be filled on priority. The Administration shall also undertake a phased upgradation of existing PET/PTI posts, strengthen recruitment of qualified physical education personnel, and provide regular capacity-building programmes. This supports the policy objective of integrating sports into the academic ecosystem and creating a strong foundation for lifelong fitness and sporting excellence.

“The strength of a nation lies not only in its economy, but also in the health, discipline, and aspirations of its youth.”

4.5.3 Development of Sports Facilities in schools:

To promote the seamless integration of sports with education, all schools in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands shall be equipped with adequate sports infrastructure, subject to the availability of land and resources. Playfields, basic sports facilities shall be developed in a phased manner to ensure that students have regular access to quality sporting opportunities. Schools will be encouraged to provide facilities for multiple sports disciplines appropriate to their level, thereby

fostering physical literacy, healthy lifestyles, talent identification, and holistic development of students.

4.5.4 Development of Sports Facilities in colleges:

To strengthen the integration of sports with higher education, all colleges in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands shall be encouraged to develop and maintain quality sports infrastructure, including playfields, courts, fitness facilities, and multipurpose indoor sports halls wherever feasible. Colleges shall provide facilities for a minimum of five sports disciplines, including athletics, to promote regular participation, talent development, and competitive sports. The enhancement of sports infrastructure within college campuses will support student well-being, foster sporting excellence, and create an enabling environment for balancing academic pursuits with athletic development.

4.5.5 Inter-University Competitions:

Inter-university sports competitions shall be organized regularly to provide students with structured opportunities for competitive participation, talent identification, and athletic development. Educational institutions shall collaborate with the Directorate of Sports & Youth Affairs, sports associations, and relevant national bodies to conduct tournaments across multiple disciplines in accordance with recognized standards. These competitions will strengthen the linkage between academics and sports, encourage a culture of excellence and healthy competition, and create pathways for students to progress from university-level participation to national and international sporting platforms. Colleges and higher educational institutions shall encourage and facilitate participation of eligible students in All India University competitions and other recognized inter-university sporting events through appropriate academic support and administrative facilitation.

4.6 Major Focus Areas to Harmonize Khelo Bharat Niti-2025 with NEP-2020

The UT Administration shall integrate sports with education by promoting physical literacy from the foundational stage, strengthening school sports infrastructure, and creating clear pathways for talent development from schools to Centres of Excellence. Inclusive access for girls, tribal communities, remote-island residents, and para-athletes shall be ensured through improved facilities, trained educators, scholarships, and harmonized academic and sports calendars.

In alignment with Khelo Bharat Niti-2025 and NEP-2020, special emphasis shall be placed on football development, particularly in the 12–15 years age group. The policy shall support dedicated football infrastructure, professional coaching, talent identification, regular inter-school and zonal competitions, and the implementation of the “Football for All” and Football for Schools (F4S) initiatives. District-level Island Football Academies with residential facilities shall be established as Centres of Excellence to nurture talented players and strengthen the football ecosystem across the Islands.

“Building Champions, Strengthening Communities, Transforming Lives.”

5. Framework for Achieving the Objectives of A&N Islands Sports Policy – 2026

5.1 Strong Professional Sports Governance, Implementation & Monitoring

- Adoption of Good Governance Code aligned with NSP 2025 & National Sports Code.
- Transparent athlete selection (digitized criteria, panels of selectors, observers from DSYA & SSC).

- Recognition of State Sports Associations only if registered under Societies Act & affiliated with NSF/IOA.
- Annual submission of audited accounts, activity reports & calendars as mandatory.
- 25% athlete representation in executive councils of associations.
- UT-level Ethics & Grievance Officer to oversee compliance, dispute resolution & safeguarding.
- Monitoring Framework with Key Performance Indicators (KPI) such as:
 - Medal performance at national/international levels.
 - Participation rates in school/college/community events.
 - Infrastructure readiness & utilization.
 - Coach-to-athlete ratios.
 - Para-sport & women's participation.
- Quarterly progress dashboards to be published online, linking budgets with outcomes.
- The implementation of the A&N Islands Sports Policy – 2026 shall be reviewed periodically by the Department of Sports & Youth Affairs. A comprehensive review of the Policy may be undertaken every **five years**, or earlier if necessitated by changes in national policies, emerging sporting priorities, or administrative requirements.

5.2 Technological Intervention

- Creation of Sports Science & Medicine Unit with physiotherapy, biomechanics, sports nutrition, injury rehab.
- Athlete Electronic Health Records (EHRs) for monitoring fitness & injuries.
- Integration of AI & data analytics for performance optimization.
- Online registration & athlete management portal (linking schools, DSYA, SSC & NSFs).
- Digital scoreboards, video analysis tools & GPS trackers to be introduced at Centers of Excellence.
- Live streaming & digital archiving of competitions to encourage transparency & engagement.

5.3 National Framework & Regulatory Bodies

- Alignment of UT policy with **National Sports Policy 2025**, **NEP 2020** and **National Sports Governance Bill (2025)**.
- Strict implementation of **NADA anti-doping protocols** with awareness workshops for athletes/coaches.
- Annual compliance reporting to Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MYAS).
- Collaboration with **Sports Authority of India (SAI)**, National Centres of Excellence, and NSF academies.
- Convergence with Khelo India Games, **All India University (AIU)**, **School Games Federation of India (SGFI)**, and CBSE/KVS/JNV Sports Calendars.

"Champions are not born in stadiums; they are nurtured in schools, communities, and playgrounds."

5.4 Private Sector Engagement

- Development of a PPP Model for construction & operation of stadiums, sports complexes, gyms & adventure sports facilities.
- CSR contributions from corporate houses to be directed to UT Sports Development Fund.

- Incentives for MSMEs/Startups in sports equipment manufacturing, water-sports gear, and fitness technology.
- Partnerships with private academies for athlete training & sports science support.
- Sponsorships & naming rights for UT-level leagues & events.
- Establishment of a Sports Business Advisory Group to promote investment in sports tourism & entrepreneurship.
- All Public-Private Partnership arrangements entered into under this Policy shall be governed by transparent procedures, clearly defining the roles, responsibilities, financial obligations, performance standards, and monitoring mechanisms applicable to the parties concerned.

6. Annual Calendar of Sports and Games Activities

The Directorate of Sports & Youth Affairs conducts a comprehensive Annual Calendar of Activities across the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, comprising Block/Zonal, District, and State-level competitions in various sports disciplines for different age groups of men and women. The calendar includes Football, Volleyball, Badminton, Table Tennis, Hockey, Basketball, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Athletics, Swimming, Billiards, Yoga, Chess, Rowing, Kayaking & Canoeing, Squash, Lawn Tennis, Cricket, and Cycling. In addition, various sports competitions and tournaments are organized in coordination with the respective State Sports Associations in accordance with their annual schedules. The Directorate also facilitates participation and conducts events based on invitations received from national sports bodies and organizations such as the School Games Federation of India (SGFI), Cycling Federation of India (CFI), All India Football Federation (AIFF), All India Civil Services (AICS), and the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India.

7. CONCLUSION

The Sports Policy of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands – 2026 has been carefully aligned with the National Sports Policy (Khelo Bharat Niti – 2025), while addressing the unique geographical, cultural, and socio-economic context of the Islands.

This Policy is anchored in two core objectives:

- **Mass participation** through inclusive, community-driven sports and fitness initiatives.
- **Excellence in performance** through structured athlete development pathways, modern infrastructure, and access to quality coaching.

The UT Administration reaffirms its commitment to:

- Establish transparent, accountable, and athlete-centric governance systems.
- Build a robust sports ecosystem driven by science, technology, and innovation.
- Promote social inclusion by strengthening participation of women, persons with disabilities, and indigenous communities.
- Leverage the Islands' natural strengths to develop water and adventure sports, integrating sports with tourism and economic growth.
- Foster strong partnerships with national institutions, private sector stakeholders, civil society, and media to expand reach, resources, and impact.

Through this Policy, the Andaman & Nicobar Islands aspire to evolve into a vibrant sporting ecosystem—where every child has the opportunity to play, every athlete is supported to excel, and every community experiences the unifying power of sports.

This Policy is not merely a framework, but a commitment—to empower youth, strengthen regional identity, and contribute meaningfully to India's emergence as a global sporting nation.

The successful implementation of this Policy shall require the collective efforts of Government Departments, educational institutions, sports associations, local bodies, athletes, parents, civil society organizations, volunteers, and the private sector. The Administration shall endeavor to foster an enabling environment where sports become an integral part of everyday life and community development across the Islands.

SCHEDULE-A

KHELO INDIA SPORTS CALENDAR – 2026

Month	Event	Tentative Host / Venue (Based on last edition or announcement)	Major Sports / Disciplines
January	Khelo India Winter Games	Leh (Ladakh) & Gulmarg (Jammu & Kashmir)	Ice Hockey, Ice Skating, Alpine Skiing, Snowboarding, Nordic Skiing, Ski Mountaineering
January	Khelo India Beach Games	Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	Beach Volleyball, Beach Soccer, Beach Kabaddi, Sepaktakraw, PencakSilat, Sea Swimming, Beach Mallakhamb, Tug of War
February	Khelo India Tribal Games	Chhattisgarh (Raipur / Bilaspur)	Archery, Athletics, Football, Hockey, Wrestling, Swimming, Weightlifting + Indigenous sports
February (onward)	Fit India Carnival / Khelo India Leagues	Pan-India (multiple cities)	Mass fitness events, leagues, community sports
March	Khelo India Para Games	New Delhi (last edition host)	Para Athletics, Para Archery, Para Badminton, Para Powerlifting, Para Shooting, Para Table Tennis
May	Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG)	Bihar - Delhi (last edition host cities)	Athletics, Swimming, Wrestling, Boxing, Football, Hockey, Shooting, Gymnastics, Cycling, etc.
May–June	Khelo India North-East Games	North-Eastern States (rotational host)	Multi-sport regional event
July–August	Khelo India Indigenous & Martial Arts Games	To be decided (traditionally rotational)	Kalaripayattu, Gatka, Thang-Ta, Mallakhamb, Yogasana, Silambam, etc.
August	Khelo India Water Sports Festival	Dal Lake, Srinagar (Jammu & Kashmir)	Rowing, Kayaking, Canoeing and other water disciplines
Sept–Dec	Khelo India School Games	Multiple States (zonal phases)	Multi-sport (school categories)
Nov–Dec	Khelo India University Games (KIUG)	Rajasthan (Jaipur, Udaipur, Jodhpur, Kota etc. – last host)	Athletics, Swimming, Wrestling, Weightlifting, Shooting, Archery, Badminton, etc.

SCHEDULE – B

Cash Award for Outstanding Performance in Sports & Games in Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Cash awards shall be provided to Sportspersons of Andaman & Nicobar Islands for securing Gold, Silver and Bronze medals / positions in recognized National and International Sports & Games Competitions, including Para Sports events.

The revised rates of cash incentives shall be applicable for achievements in the following categories:

1. Sub-Junior & Junior National Championships / National School Games
2. Senior National Championships
3. National Women Sports Festival
4. Khelo India and All India Inter University Competitions
5. Special Olympics and Para Sports Competitions
6. National Games / Para National Games
7. Asian Championships, South Asian Games and World University Games
8. Asian Games / Commonwealth Games / Para Asian & Para Commonwealth Games
9. Olympics / Paralympics / World Championships

Participation incentives may also be admissible for eligible sportspersons as notified by the Administration from time to time.

Note:

In Team Events, each team member shall be eligible for 75% of the cash incentive admissible for the corresponding Individual Event.

SCHEDULE-C

Scholarship for Island Sportsperson

Level	Gold	Silver	Bronze
International	Rs. 96,000 (Rs.8,000/month)	Rs. 72,000 (Rs.6,000/month)	Rs. 60,000 (Rs.5,000/month)
National	Rs. 60,000 (Rs.5,000/month)	Rs. 48,000 (Rs.4,000/month)	Rs. 36,000 (Rs.3,000/month)
Female sportspersons shall be given an additional amount of Rs.1,000/- per month			

Source: Referred from the Sports Policy of Ladakh.

Eligibility Criteria for Scholarship: The eligibility for grant of scholarship under this policy shall be governed by the following conditions, namely:

- a) The scholarship shall be admissible to Island sportspersons and school-going students who represent the Andaman & Nicobar Islands in International, National Games, National Championships and Khelo India Games, in disciplines recognized under this policy.
- b) Scholarships shall be awarded based on performance-linked and merit-based criteria, including:
 - Medal winners at International and National-level competitions;
 - Sportspersons achieving benchmark performances such as finishing position, time, distance, score or ranking prescribed by the Department from time to time, in line with schemes such as **TOPS** or similar performance-based models.
- c) In order to encourage high-performance athletes, sportspersons finishing within ± 5 positions (or equivalent ranking) in National-level competitions, even if not securing a medal, may also be considered eligible for scholarship, subject to recommendation of the Scholarship Committee.
- d) School/College students who have represented the UT at National-level competitions and who continue to actively pursue sports training and competition shall be eligible for scholarship support to ensure continuity of sports participation alongside education.
- e) The scholarship shall be granted strictly on the basis of achievement in the immediately preceding year and continuation beyond the first year shall be subject to satisfactory performance, discipline and continued participation in the identified sport.
- f) A Scholarship Eligibility Committee shall be constituted by the Administration to:
 - Prescribe detailed eligibility norms and performance benchmarks;
 - Scrutinize applications and verify credentials;
 - Recommend deserving sportspersons for grant or renewal of scholarship.
- g) The Committee may seek technical inputs from recognized Sports Associations while finalizing eligibility benchmarks; however, disclosure of the quantum of scholarship shall not be mandatory during such consultations.
- h) The total number of sportspersons and students receiving scholarship under this policy shall not exceed 100 beneficiaries in a financial year, and due representation of gender, age group, and priority sports disciplines shall be ensured.
- i) The scholarship shall not be admissible to sportspersons who are already in receipt of any scholarship, stipend, or sponsorship from any Government or private agency including SAI, Khelo India or similar schemes, during the same period.