



Khelo India University Games 2023

For Prelims: [Khelo India University Games \(KIUG\)](#), [Swamp Deer](#), [Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat](#), [National Educational Policy 2020](#).

For Mains: Khelo India Programme

Why in News?

Recently, the **Prime Minister** virtually inaugurated the **3rd edition of [Khelo India University Games \(KIUG\)](#)** in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, marking the beginning of a **new era for sports in India**.

What are Key Points about KIUG 2023?

- The **mascot of the 3rd edition of Khelo India University Games** is named **Jitu**, which represents [Swamp Deer \(Barasingha\)](#) - **the state animal of Uttar Pradesh**.
 - The first edition was Khelo India University Games held in **Odisha in 2020**, the second edition was held in **Bangalore, Karnataka in 2022** (shifted from 2021 to 2022 due to Covid-19 pandemic).
- The games will witness the participation of over **4750 athletes** from more than **200 Universities competing in 21 sports categories**. Competitions will take place in **Varanasi, Lucknow, Gautam Buddha Nagar, and Gorakhpur**.
- The Prime Minister also emphasised that this interaction fosters a sense of unity, promoting the spirit of '[Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat](#).'

What is the Khelo India Programme?

- **About:**
 - **Khelo India, which translates to 'Let's play India'**, was proposed by the government of India in **2017** to **revive India's sporting culture by engaging with children at the grassroots level**.
 - The initiative also focused on **building better sporting infrastructure** and academies across the country for various sports.
 - It is implemented by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**.
- **Competitions Under Khelo India:**
 - Under this movement, the **Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG)**, the **Khelo India University Games (KIUG)** and the **Khelo India Winter Games** were set up as annual national sports competitions where youngsters, **representing their states and universities, respectively, showcased their skills and competed for medals**.
- **Significance:**
 - **Reviving Traditional Sports:**
 - Khelo India has played a crucial role in **restoring the prestige of India's traditional sports**.
 - The government has provided scholarships to promote and encourage **indigenous sports such as Gatka, Mallakhamb, Thang-ta, Kalaripayattu**, and **Yogasan**.

This initiative has helped preserve and popularise these traditional sports among the youth.

- **Integration of Sports in Education:**

- Khelo India aligns with the proposal of the [National Educational Policy 2020](#) to incorporate sports as a subject within the curriculum and the construction of the country's first **National Sports University will further strengthen the cause.**

- **Empowering Women Athletes:**

- Khelo India has taken significant steps towards promoting women's participation in sports through initiatives like the **Khelo India Women's League.**
- Organised in several cities, this league has witnessed the active participation of approximately **23,000 women athletes.**

- **Centres of Excellence:**

- Khelo India also supports the establishment of state-of-the-art sports facilities across India, called **Khelo India State Centres of Excellence (KISCE).** These centres aim to provide basic facilities for sportspersons with potential and cater to three sporting disciplines each.
- Some of the **KISCEs** are
 - **Rajiv Gandhi Stadium, Aizawl**
 - **Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar**
 - **Khuman Lampak Sports Complex, Imphal**

KHELO INDIA PROGRAMME

AIM

- Mass participation and promotion of excellence in sports
- Revive the sports culture in India at the grass-root level

12 VERTICALS OF KHELO INDIA

1. Play Field Development
2. Community Coaching Development
3. State Level Khelo India Centres
4. Annual Sports Competitions
5. Talent Search and Development
6. Utilization and Creation of Sports Infrastructure
7. Support of National/Regional/State Sports Academies
8. Promotion of Women's Sports
9. Promotion of Youth Sports
10. Promotion of Sports amongst people with disabilities
11. Sports for Peace and Development
12. Promotion of Traditional Indian Games

GAMES UNDER KHELO INDIA

- **Khelo India Youth Games** (aka Khelo India School Games till 2019)
 - 1st edition - New Delhi (2018)
 - Age limit - 18
 - KIYG 2023 host - MP (Bhopal)
- **Khelo India University Games**
 - 1st edition - Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), Odisha (2020)
 - KIUG 2023 host - UP (Lucknow, Varanasi, G.Noida and Gorakhpur)
- **Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG)**
 - 3 editions held since 2020 (in Leh, Ladakh and Gulmarg (Kashmir))

SELECTION AND ASSISTANCE

- 1000 kids elected yearly for a scholarship program, trained to become medal winners
- Talented players identified in priority sports disciplines are provided Rs. 5 lakh p.a. for 8 years.

NODAL MINISTRY

- Ministry of Youth & Sports Affairs

HQ

- Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium (New Delhi)

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Source: PIB

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/khelo-india-university-games-2023>