



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Perunthalsivam Kamarajar"

Rise of sporting culture will boost India's soft power - PM

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Context

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said India's soft power will increase with the growth of a sporting culture in the country. He was addressing the inaugural ceremony of the seventh Khelo India Youth Games via videoconferencing.
- The **Khelo India Youth Games, 2025 is being organised in Bihar** for the first time from May 4 to 15 in five districts.
- Stressing that hosting the Olympics in India has been a long-cherished dream of every citizen, Mr. Modi underlined India's efforts **to bring the Olympics to the country in 2036**.
- He remarked that initiatives like **Khelo India and the Target Olympic Podium (TOP) scheme** have contributed to building a **robust sports ecosystem**, benefiting thousands of athletes across Bihar and the rest of the country.

Khelo India Initiative

- The Khelo India initiative, launched in **2018**, aims to **revive India's sports culture by encouraging youth participation and identifying potential Olympians**.
- It is a **national-level, multi-disciplinary sports competition for school and college students** in India.
- The games are held annually in January or February and are part of the government's Khelo India initiative.
- It aims **to promote sports culture and identify sporting talent at the grassroots level**.
- It is held in two categories, namely **under-17-year-old school students** and **under-21 college students**.

TOPS Scheme

- **To improve India's performance at Olympics and Paralympics**, the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS)** started the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) in September **2014**.
- This was revamped in April 2018 to establish a technical support team for managing the TOPS athletes and providing holistic support.
- **High Priority Sports: Archery, Badminton, Boxing, Hockey, Shooting and Wrestling.**

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