



Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya lauds young sporting talents on the eve of Khelo India University Games, Rajasthan 2025

KIUG, a powerful celebration of India's emerging sporting talent, will shape global champions: Dr Mansukh Mandaviya

Olympian swimmer Srihari Nataraj, archer Bhajan Kaur among top athletes in KIUG 2025 in seven Rajasthan cities starting tomorrow

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Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya extended his felicitations to young sporting talents on the eve of the fifth edition Khelo India University Games 2025 (KIUG), scheduled to commence in Rajasthan tomorrow.

“The Khelo India University Games stand as a powerful celebration of India's emerging sporting talent. This platform brings together the finest young athletes who exemplify dedication, discipline and the spirit of excellence. As India advances with renewed ambition towards the Asian Games 2026 and the Commonwealth Games ahead, these Games will play a pivotal role in shaping champions for the global stage,” said Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya.

Commending the athletes for their perseverance and commitment, he expressed confidence that the event would further strengthen India's sporting ecosystem and inspire excellence across universities nationwide.

“The Khelo India pathway ensures that every athlete with potential receives the opportunity and support to rise to greatness. We are committed to nurturing their aspirations and proud to witness the future of Indian sport unfold here,” Dr Mandaviya further added.

KIUG 2025 is organised by the Sports Authority of India (SAI), in association with the Government of Rajasthan and the Rajasthan State Sports Council (RSSC), will be held across seven cities — Jaipur, Udaipur, Jodhpur, Kota, Ajmer, Bharatpur and Bikaner.

This marks the first time Rajasthan will host the Khelo India University Games, a flagship event of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports that showcases India's finest university athletes.

The Games are also held in association with the Association of Indian Universities and National Sports Federations. Poornima University is the host University in Rajasthan.

Close to 5000 athletes from over 230 universities will compete in 24 disciplines, including 23 medal sports and one demonstration event.

New inclusions this year are canoeing, kayaking, cycling, and beach volleyball — reflecting the growing diversity and ambition of Indian university sport.

Several top athletes including Olympic participants are taking part in the Khelo India University Games in Rajasthan.

Prominent among them are double Olympian swimmer Srihari Nataraj and a clutch of international archers like Olympian Bhajan Kaur, Parneet Kaur, an Asian Games gold medallist and world champion compound archer Aditi Gopichand Swami.

Nataraj of Jain University will be taking part in six swimming events and this will be his second Khelo India University Games after the 2022 edition.

“KIUG is a great platform for upcoming swimmers. There are quite a few who have been swimming at the Asian level and I am looking forward to competing with them. I reckon events like KIUG and the Khelo India Youth Games are extremely good programmes run by the sports ministry and athletes should take full advantage of them,” he said.

Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports, Rajasthan and 2004 Athens Olympics silver medallist in rifle shooting, said: “Every young person has some talent in him or her. It is our PM Narendra Modi's vision to provide opportunities for such youngsters to excel in their craft. This KIUG is exactly that platform for 5000 athletes to compete in an environment where skills are paramount. Having said that, winning medals is not everything. Sports also helps in making good citizens.”

In the last edition of the Khelo India University Games, Chandigarh University topped with 66 medals (28 gold). Lovely Professional University and Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar finished No. 2 and 3. Eight Games records were created and all in athletics.

About the Khelo India University Games

The Khelo India University Games, organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and the Sports Authority of India, are the country's largest university-level multi-sport event. They aim to identify and nurture young sporting talent, offering a national platform to compete and excel. The fifth edition, hosted by Rajasthan, continues to build on this legacy by expanding opportunities and elevating standards in university sport.

ABOUT KHELO INDIA

The Khelo India Scheme is the flagship Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports. Khelo India Games are the basic platform to showcase sporting skills and, accordingly, become a platform for talent spotting and providing development pathways for gifted and talented children to achieve excellence.

These National-level competitions are being organized in the true spirit of the Olympic Movement by associating various stakeholders like concerned NSFs, SGFI, AIU, etc. Under this programme so far, 20 editions of Khelo India Games have been conducted across the country with 7 editions of Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG), 4 editions of Khelo India University Games, 5 editions of Khelo India Winter Games, and 2 editions of Khelo India Para Games, 1 edition of Khelo India Beach Games, 1 edition of Khelo India Water Sports Festival.

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