

## Press Release

### The best and the brightest young sports person ready for KIYG 2019

**Pune, January 8:** The best and the brightest young talent from all over India will feature in the Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) which commences at Pune on Wednesday.

A slew of young Youth Olympic champions, World Cadet Wrestling gold medallists, Olympian athletes and medal-winning shooters will be among the stars in action over the next 11 days.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Union Minister of State for Sports Col Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore will attend a virtual torch ceremony for the Khelo India Youth Games at the Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex here on Wednesday evening.

The event will kick off the 12-day extravaganza for the over 6,000 Under-17 and Under-21 athletes who have gathered from all parts of the country. Seventeen disciplines are being contested in the next fortnight among them being athletics, badminton, boxing hockey, football and wrestling.

The list of 6,000-plus athletes includes World Cadet gold medal wrestlers in girls Anshu and Sonam; Olympian athlete Jisna Mathew, Mizoram's weightlifting prodigy Jeremy Lalrinnunga, who created history by winning India's first gold medal in Summer Youth Olympics and his fellow Mizo wrestler, Jacob Vanlalhtluanga, who had won a bronze medal in Asian Youth and Junior Championship, two-time National women's tennis champion, Mahak Jain, swimming star Srihari Nataraj and numerous other young stars.

It also includes three 10-year-old athletes including footballer Pratima Kumar from Jharkhand, hockey player Lalhlanchhungi from Mizoram and West Bengal's 10m air rifle shooter Abhinav Shaw.

The athletes will compete in 18 different disciplines, of which six are team sports. The agenda includes Kabaddi and Kho-Kho.

The young sportspersons will get a chance make their dreams come alive on a national platform, from where they can flower further. They are not only representing the urban and rural India but also span a wide range of 10-21 years.

The Balewadi Complex, which has hosted the National games and Commonwealth Youth Games in the past has been refurbished with funds from the Centre and the state governments, so the sports infrastructure has been upgraded with electronic and digital targets have been fitted at the shooting range.

Though Balewadi will be the main venue, archery will be held at the Army Sports Institute and Girls hockey matches will be at the NDA hockey ground in Pune. Football matches will be played at the Flame University ground and the police ground in Shivajinagar

Meanwhile hosts Maharashtra, who finished second in the inaugural Khelo India School Games 2018, are aiming to grab the top spot from Haryana. The boys hockey tournament is being held in Mumbai.

Maharashtra has close to 900 athletes and officials and coaches, which makes it by far the biggest contingent at the Games.

At the KISG 2018, Haryana picked 38 gold, 26 silver and 38 bronze, while Maharashtra finished with 36 gold, 32 silver and 42 bronze. Maharashtra, however, had the consolation of winning most medals, 110, as compared to Haryana's 102.