

## Press Release

### All set for the Opening of KIYG 2019 in Pune

**Pune, January 8:** Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Union Minister of State for Sports Col Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore will attend a virtual torch ceremony as the Khelo India Youth Games gets off to formal start at the Shree Shiv Chatrapati 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. As many as 18 disciplines are being contested in the next fortnight among them being athletics, badminton, boxing hockey, football and wrestling.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the event in a video message during the programme.

A large number of performers have been drafted to present eight acts that will be held on either side of the taking of the Khelo India pledge by the Chief Minister and the Union Minister of State for Sports, Col Rathore. They include children as young as five and six years of age in a well-choreographed KIYG-themed dance.

Among the items to be staged in the two-hour extravaganza are a cultural pre-show by the Maharashtra Government, a Maharashtra Rudragarjanas act followed by a Shivaji skit, presentation of the Games theme song and aerial KIYG act, an athletes display, virtual torch ceremony and taking of the Games pledge.

Though some of the action has already started, the main medals race will begin from Wednesday.