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Role of khelo-India scheme in upliftment of judo in India

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Abstract

Judo, a modern martial art established by Jigoro Kano in 1882, serves as a method of physical, intellectual, and moral education. Its international proliferation began in the late 19th century, with Kano introducing the discipline to Europe in 1889. The sport gained global recognition through its inclusion in the Olympic Games, with men's judo debuting in 1964 and women's judo in 1992. Today, judo enjoys widespread popularity, with countries like France, Cuba, and India developing notable talent and achieving success.

In India, the Khelo India program, launched in 2018, has revitalized the sports culture by promoting grassroots participation, talent identification, and infrastructure development. States like Haryana, Punjab, and Kerala have established training centers and academies under the program, focusing on nurturing judo talent. Initiatives such as Kerala's JUDOKA program and specialized training centers in Delhi exemplify efforts to develop the sport scientifically and inclusively.

National and regional tournaments under Khelo India have provided platforms for athletes to showcase their skills, with states like Haryana, Delhi, and Manipur achieving notable successes. Haryana's Preeti Gulia and Delhi's Jatin Tokas clinched gold medals in the Khelo India University Games, while Kerala and Manipur have consistently excelled in women's judo leagues. States like Rajasthan and Assam have also made significant strides, highlighting the growing prominence of judo in India.

The Khelo India program has been instrumental in fostering judo talent, enabling athletes to excel at national and international levels, and strengthening India's presence in the global judo community.

Keywords: Judo, Khelo India, grassroots, talent, training, tournaments, development

Introduction

Judo, a modern martial art and Olympic sport, was established in 1882 by Jigoro Kano in Japan. Kano, inspired by traditional forms of combat, sought to create a method of physical, intellectual, and moral education, which he named judo ^[1]. Where he developed and taught this new discipline ^[2] Judo's international proliferation began in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Kano's efforts to introduce judo outside Japan included a visit to Europe in 1889 ^[3] The sport's inclusion in the Olympic Games further elevated its global status, with men's judo debuting as an official event in 1964 and women's judo following in 1992 ^[4] Today, judo is practiced worldwide, with significant popularity in countries such as France, Cuba, Azerbaijan, and Israel, each developing unique styles and achieving international success.

In India, the Khelo India program was launched in 2018 by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to revitalize the sports culture at the grassroots level ^[5]. The program aims to build a robust framework for all sports in India, promoting them as tools for individual development, community building, and national progress. It focuses on creating sustainable sports infrastructure, encouraging mass participation, and fostering talent identification and development ^[6] Under the Khelo India scheme, talent identification is a crucial component, involving scientific evaluation to identify and nurture sporting talent across various disciplines, including judo. Under the Khelo India scheme, talent identification is a crucial component, involving scientific evaluation to identify and nurture sporting talent across various disciplines, including judo ^[7] The program has established Khelo India Centres and Sports Academies across

different states to provide training and support to identified athletes. These initiatives have led to the development of judo in various regions, contributing to the overall growth of the sport in the country.

The Khelo India program's emphasis on talent identification and development has been instrumental in discovering and nurturing judo talent across India. By providing access to quality training facilities and coaching, the program has enabled athletes to achieve success at national and international levels, thereby enhancing India's presence in the global judo community.

Training and Development

Under Khelo India Scheme all the state has been working for the development of sports and building good infrastructure. If we see the initiatives and step towards growth of judo by different States and Union territories of Nation. Let's have look for major growth in Judo by various state government academies and Khelo India Centres located at various state of India.

The Sports Department of Haryana is dedicated to fostering personal and social development through sports, offering athletes the necessary facilities and support to excel^[8]. Under the Khelo India scheme, Punjab has established training centers dedicated to various sports, including judo. These centers aim to identify and nurture young talent, providing them with the necessary facilities and coaching to excel at national and international levels. The Sports Authority of India (SAI), in collaboration with the Delhi government, has established state-of-the-art facilities and training centers dedicated to judo. These centers provide athletes with access to experienced coaches, modern equipment, and regular competitions to hone their skills. For instance, the East Vinod Nagar Sports Complex in East Delhi offers specialized training programs for judokas, contributing to the development of young talent in the region^[15]. While KIC in Rampur has been instrumental in training athletes who have excelled in state-level competitions^[18]. The Judo Academy at Poloview, Srinagar, is actively training children to achieve excellence in the sport^[29]. While Kerala has actively engaged in promoting judo through the Khelo India initiative, focusing on grassroots training and achieving notable successes. The JUDOKA program, a state-wide grassroots training initiative, targets school students aged 8 to 11 years. Each center trains 40 children, selected through trials, with sessions conducted three times a week. The program provides necessary equipment and follows a structured curriculum to ensure scientific training methods. Kerala secured eight medals in judo, comprising two silver and six bronze, underscoring the state's growing prominence in the sport. ("Khelo India Youth Games," 2019)^[23] Judo Academy at Poloview, Srinagar, is actively training children to achieve excellence in the sport.

Organization / Conducting Tournaments

- Karnataka - KIC in Udipi organized the 18th National Youth Athletics Championship from March 10 to 12, 2023, providing a platform for athletes to showcase their skills
- Khelo India West Zone Women's League Judo Championship: In August 2024, Maharashtra judokas participated in the 4th Khelo India West Zone Women's League Judo Championship held in Nashik, showcasing the state's (Maharashtra) commitment to women's judo development^[33].
- 3rd Khelo India Judo Championship 2023: Held in

Ahmedabad from April 4 to 6, 2023, this championship featured participants from Gujarat, highlighting the state's commitment to fostering judo talent^[37].

- Khelo India Youth Games: In the 2022 edition held in Pune, Maharashtra,
- All India Inter Judo Tournament 2024 held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- 3rd Khelo India Women's League Judo (2023): Held in Imphal, Manipur
- In March 2023, the Nagaland Judo Association (NJA) organized the first state-level judo tournament exclusively for women in Mokokchung. This event was part of the Khelo India 'Dus Ka Dum' series, which focuses on empowering women through sports^[48].
- 4th Khelo India Women's League Judo 2024-2025 held at Meghalaya's SAI Nehu Sports Complex

Achievements

Achievements in Judo by State of India in various national level tournament is important to highlights to analysed Status of Judo in Natio. Let's see the major achievements of Judo of Various states.

During the 2019 Khelo India Youth Games, Haryana's athletes contributed significantly to the state's medal tally, showcasing their prowess in disciplines like wrestling and judo. Preeti Gulia, a judoka from Rohtak, clinched the gold medal in the 63 kg category at the Khelo India University Games, highlighting the state's talent in the sport ()

In the same platform Punjab secured four gold medals in judo, showcasing the state's prowess in the sport. Additionally, young athletes from Punjab have made their mark in sub-junior categories. For example, Meharpreet Kaur, a Grade 7 student, secured the 2nd Runner-Up Trophy in the Under-+57 kg category at the Khelo India sub-junior Judo competition. (School, 2024)^[14].

In Khelo India India Youth games 2019 Delhi judokas clinched 12 gold, 3 silver, and 6 bronze medals, topping the judo medal chart. Jatin Tokas, representing Delhi, won the gold medal in the 60 kg category at the Khelo India University Games, showcasing the depth of talent nurtured through the state's training programs. (Sharma, 2023)^[17]

Khelo India Women's Judo League witnessed remarkable participation from Uttar Pradesh. The team from Lucknow clinched the first position, earning 12 gold, 5 silver, and 22 bronze medals, underscoring the state's commitment to promoting women's participation in judo^[19].

Kerala has hosted significant judo events under the Khelo India banner. The Asmita Khelo India National Women's League/Ranking Judo Tournament was held from September 23 to 27, 2024, at the VKN Menon Indoor Stadium in Thrissur, Kerala. This event provided a competitive platform for female judokas nationwide, highlighting Kerala's commitment to promoting women's participation in sports^[21].

Khelo India National South Zone Women Judo League: In September 2022, Andhra Pradesh's girls and women's team secured 2 gold, 2 silver, and 3 bronze medals in the Sub-Junior and Cadet categories at the Khelo India National South Zone Women Judo League held in Thrissur, Kerala. The team stood third in the National Overall Championship, reflecting the state's growing prominence in judo^[27]. While In September 2022, Telangana's girls' team secured a bronze medal at the Khelo India National South Zone Women Judo League held in Thrissur, Kerala^[29].

Khelo India Youth Games: In the 2022 edition held in Pune, Maharashtra judokas secured two gold medals, underscoring

the state's growing prominence in the sport ^[31]. At the Khelo India Youth Games, Maharashtra's Dev secured a gold medal in the Under-17 boys' below-66kg category, highlighting the state's nurturing of young judo talent ^[33].

Rajasthan also mark in Khelo India National-Level Judo Competition: In 2023, a trainee from the Sports Authority of India (SAI) center in Rajasthan secured a silver medal in the under-17, below 50 kg weight category at the Khelo India National-Level Judo Competition, highlighting the state's commitment to nurturing young talent ^[34]. In 67th National Judo Championship 2023, judo players from Udaipur, Rajasthan, delivered an outstanding performance by clinching both a gold and a silver medal at the 67th National Judo Championship. While In “Khelo India Youth Games,” 2019 Gujarat judokas secured two gold medals, underscoring the state's growing prominence in the sport ^[37]. In Khelo India Youth Games 2022 edition held in Pune, Maharashtra, Goa judokas secured two gold medals.

Performance of Manipur in 3rd Khelo India Women's League Judo 2023: Held in Imphal, Manipur emerged as the champion by winning a total of 65 medals-18 gold, 16 silver, and 31 bronze ^[39] At Khelo India Youth Games (2024):- Manipur's judo team showcased resilience by securing a total of seven medals-two gold, one silver, and four bronze. (40)

When National Sub-Junior Judo Championship in Patna, Bihar, held from October 13 to 16, 2016, athletes from Mizoram secured multiple meda. Zonunsangi won a silver medal in the 48 kg category. Maranatha and Isak Rochanmawia each secured bronze medals in the 35 kg and 50 kg categories, respectively ^[42] Chinglungmawii secured a gold medal in the 48 kg category. Laltlankimi, R. Vanrammawii, and Lalnunsiami each earned bronze medals in their respective weight categories ^[42].

In Khelo India Women's Judo National League: In 2023, Assam judokas delivered commendable performances at the Khelo India Women's Judo National League. The state secured a total of four medals: one gold, one silver, and two bronze. Notably, Beauty Das clinched the gold medal in the below 26 kg category, highlighting Assam's growing prominence in women's judo ^[45].

4th Khelo India Women's League Judo 2024-2025- athletes from Arunachal Pradesh secured one silver and six bronze medals ^[50] Jachun Pansa, a young judoka from Arunachal Pradesh, clinched a gold medal in the U-17 Boys Judo category at the 68th National School Games ^[51].

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