



## **Press Release**

### **Prime Minister to inaugurate Khelo India Youth Games 2023 Tamil Nadu on Friday**

#### **(deck) Olympians Sharath Kamal, Subha Venkatesan to be torch bearers at opening ceremony**

**New Delhi, January 19, 2024:** The sixth edition of the Khelo India Youth Games is all set to kick off with Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurating the Games today (January 19, 2024) at Chennai's Jawaharlal Nehru Outdoor Stadium. The opening ceremony starts at 6 PM and will be live streamed on DD sports and Doordarshan's national channels. The Games, the heartbeat of the nation, conclude on January 31.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who will be the Chief Guest for the opening ceremony of Khelo India Youth Games, will be accompanied by esteemed dignitaries like the Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu Shri R. N. Ravi, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Shri M. K. Stalin, the Hon'ble Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports and Information & Broadcasting Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Home Affairs and Youth Affairs & Sports Shri Nisith Pramanik and Shri Udhayanidhi Stalin, the Hon'ble Minister for Youth Welfare & Sports Development of Tamil Nadu.

The grand event promises a cultural extravaganza, featuring folk & classical songs & dances, a dance performance on the Khelo India Tamil theme song, an evolution of Tamil Act, and more. The Hon'ble Prime Minister will also launch the DD Tamil Channel during the ceremony.

The Olympians Sharath Kamal and Subha Venkatesan will be the torch bearers of India's favourite youth Games being held in Tamil Nadu, with the torch relay culminating with the address of the Hon'ble Prime Minister declaring the Games open.

The Khelo India Youth Games are conducted under the aegis of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in collaboration with the Host State (Tamil Nadu for KIYG 2023). The technical conduct, production & broadcast, sports kits and travel grant to participating contingent, formulating SOPs and overall monitoring are the primary roles of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India.

The Khelo India Youth Games Tamil Nadu 2023 will see over 5,630 young athletes participating in 26 sports, including archery, athletics, and badminton. Notably, squash will make its debut, and

the ancient Tamil Nadu heritage sport, Silambam, a martial art originating in Tamil Nadu, will be a demonstration sport.

There will be a total of 278 competitive events played across 12 venues in Chennai and one each in Trichy, Madurai and Coimbatore, making this edition of the Games quite unique. The best athletes from 36 States and UTs will be represented.

Since 2018, five Khelo India Youth Games, three Khelo India University Games, three Khelo India Winter Games and one Khelo India Para Games have been held. In what has been a game changer for the nation, Khelo India, launched in 2016 to identify and nurture young sporting talent, provides a total annual scholarship of Rs. 6.28 lakhs to 3000 talented athletes for their training, coaching, diet, kitting, medical insurance, kits, and out of pocket allowance.

The Tamil Nadu edition, like all other iterations earlier, are expected to be a stepping stone to several athletes wanting to make it big in their respective disciplines.

The state is at its highest gear to make the Games successful. The mascot of the Khelo India Youth Games Tamil Nadu is 'Veeramangai'. It symbolises sportsmanship and valor. It also embodies bravery, determination and grit, essential virtues of sports. The pride of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvalluvar is the symbolic figurehead of the Khelo India Youth Games 2023.