

## **SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA**

### **States to host Khelo India Games**

The Sports Authority of India held presentations and discussions with the State Governments of Assam, Jharkhand and Maharashtra to explore the possibilities of holding the Khelo India Youth Games in January, 2019 in their respective State capitals. This move by SAI aims to take forward the agenda of sports development at the grassroots level which is the core of the Khelo India Scheme. By holding the Games outside Delhi, the states will have an opportunity to conduct an event of international standards thereby creating a legacy of sports infrastructure as well as an environment to encourage sportspersons.

Many of the medal winners of the Khelo India School Games, held in January, 2018 have been incorporated in the Khelo India Talent Identification Scheme in which 734 children have been provided with training, education allowance as well as monthly allowance of Rs.10,000. Many of the Khelo India School Games participants also went on to break national records in the country as well as outside. In view of this, there has been considerable interest amongst the State Governments to host this event in January, 2019.

The States of Assam, Jharkhand and Maharashtra were invited for discussions as they have experience of holding the South Asian Games in Assam, National Games in Jharkhand as well as Commonwealth Youth Games in Pune, Maharashtra.

The States made presentations on the infrastructure available in the State, upgradation, if any, required as well as the contribution that the States would make in this regard.

All proposals would be evaluated by SAI and the Ministry of Sports for taking a final decision by the Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports, Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore in this regard.

The following representatives of the State Government of Assam, Jharkhand and Maharashtra attended the meeting:-

1. Lt. Commander Vikrant Malhan, Member of Sports Promotion Society, Government of Jharkhand
2. Shri Ashutosh Agnihotri, Commissioner & Secretary, Department of Sports & Youth Affairs, Government of Assam
3. Shri Sunil Kendrekar, Commissioner of Sports Maharashtra and Shri Narender Sopal, Joint Director, Government of Maharashtra.

