8th Khelo India Youth Games in Telangana from 11 December 2026

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News

Union Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya and Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy unveiled the logo and mascot of the 8th Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) in Delhi on 15 November 2026. The Games will be held from 11 to 22 December 2026 in six cities – Hyderabad, Khammam, Karimnagar, Hanumakonda, Mahabubnagar and Nizamabad. About 8,000 athletes and participants are expected, and there will be 29 disciplines – 27 competitive sports and 2 demonstration events. Softball debuts as a competitive sport, while Sailing and Karra Samu feature as demonstration sports for the first time. The mascot is 'Neelamani', a bird with blue and turquoise feathers. The logo carries the Kakatiya Kala Thoranam, the Buddha statue at Hussain Sagar, the Tangedu flower and the Gandhi Tower. The Chief Minister said such events advance the goal of a 'Nasha Mukt Yuva' (drug-free youth).

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Edition	8th Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG 2026)
Dates	11–22 December 2026
Host cities	Hyderabad, Khammam, Karimnagar, Hanumakonda, Mahabubnagar, Nizamabad
Disciplines	29 (27 competitive + 2 demonstration)

Point	Details
New	Softball (competitive); Sailing, Karra Samu (demonstration)
Mascot	'Neelamani' – blue-and-turquoise feathered bird
Logo elements	Kakatiya Kala Thoranam, Hussain Sagar Buddha, Tangedu flower, Gandhi Tower
Tagline	'Khel Ka Junoon, Telangana Ki Jaan Aur Pehchaan'
Participants	About 8,000 athletes and participants

Background

- History: the KIYG began in New Delhi in 2018 as the 'Khelo India School Games'; from 2019 (Pune) it was renamed the 'Youth Games'. Guwahati (2020), Panchkula (2021 edition, held June 2022), Madhya Pradesh (2022 edition, held 2023), Tamil Nadu ('KIYG 2023', held January 2024) and Bihar (2025) followed; Telangana hosts the 8th edition. Khelo India also runs University, Winter (first edition – Gulmarg, Jammu and Kashmir, 2020), Beach, Tribal and Para Games.
- Constitution: in the Seventh Schedule, 'sports' is in the State List (Entry 33 – theatres, cinemas, sports, entertainments and amusements). So States hold primary responsibility, while the Centre supports them with funds and infrastructure through schemes such as Khelo India and the Sports Authority of India (SAI).
- Telangana: formed on 2 June 2014 under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014; capital Hyderabad. State symbols announced in 2014 – flower: Tangedu (Senna/Cassia auriculata; Avarai in Tamil), tree: Jammi (Prosopis cineraria), bird: Palapitta (Indian roller), animal: Jinka (deer). The Tangedu flower is central to 'Bathukamma', the floral festival women celebrate during Navaratri. The Kakatiya Kala Thoranam at Warangal (Orugallu) Fort, the Kakatiya capital, also featured in the Telangana State emblem adopted in 2014.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu hosted the 6th Khelo India Youth Games in January 2024 at Chennai, Tiruchirappalli, Madurai and Coimbatore. Telangana's State flower Tangedu is 'Avarai' (Avaram flower) in Tamil – the proverb 'Avarai poothirukka chavaraik kandathundo' praises its medicinal value; Tamil Nadu's own State flower is the Gloriosa lily (Senkanthal). A Tamil Nadu contingent will also compete in December.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

Union Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya and Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy unveiled the logo and mascot of the 8th Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) in Delhi on 15 November 2026.

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Edition: 8th Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG 2026); Dates: 11–22 December 2026; Host cities: Hyderabad, Khammam, Karimnagar, Hanumakonda, Mahabubnagar, Nizamabad; Disciplines: 29 (27 competitive + 2 demonstration).

What is the background to this news?

History: the KIYG began in New Delhi in 2018 as the 'Khelo India School Games'; from 2019 (Pune) it was renamed the 'Youth Games'.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. The 'Kakatiya Kala Thoranam', a Kakatiya-era gateway seen in the KIYG 2026 logo, stands at which fort?

A) Golconda

B) Warangal

C) Bhongir

D) Medak

Answer: B – Explanation: Warangal (Orugallu) – the Kakatiya capital. Golconda, near Hyderabad, was the Qutb Shahi stronghold.

2. Telangana's State flower 'Tangedu', shown in the KIYG logo, is known by what name in Tamil?

A) Senkanthal (Gloriosa)

B) Vengai (Kino)

C) Thamarai (Lotus)

D) Avaram (Tanner's cassia)

Answer: D – Explanation: Avarai (Senna auriculata) – a key Bathukamma flower. Senkanthal (Gloriosa lily) is Tamil Nadu's State flower.

3. Telangana's State bird 'Palapitta' is which bird?

A) Indian roller

B) Indian pitta

C) Common kingfisher

D) Asian koel

Answer: A – Explanation: The Indian roller – also the State bird of Karnataka and Odisha. Tamil Nadu's State bird is the emerald dove.

4. The first Khelo India Youth Games (2018, then called the 'School Games') were held in which city?

A) Pune

B) Guwahati

C) Panchkula

D) New Delhi

Answer: D – Explanation: New Delhi (2018). It became the 'Youth Games' from the 2019 Pune edition; Guwahati hosted in 2020.

5. In the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, 'sports' figures in which list?

A) Union List

B) Concurrent List

C) State List

D) Residuary powers

Answer: C – Explanation: State List, Entry 33. States hold primary responsibility; the Centre helps through Khelo India and SAI.

Sources: PIB Chennai (Release 2336609); PIB Delhi (Release 2336512); News On AIR; PIB Youth Affairs & Sports releases for edition history; Telangana Tourism; The Hans India. © Shanmugam IAS Academy.