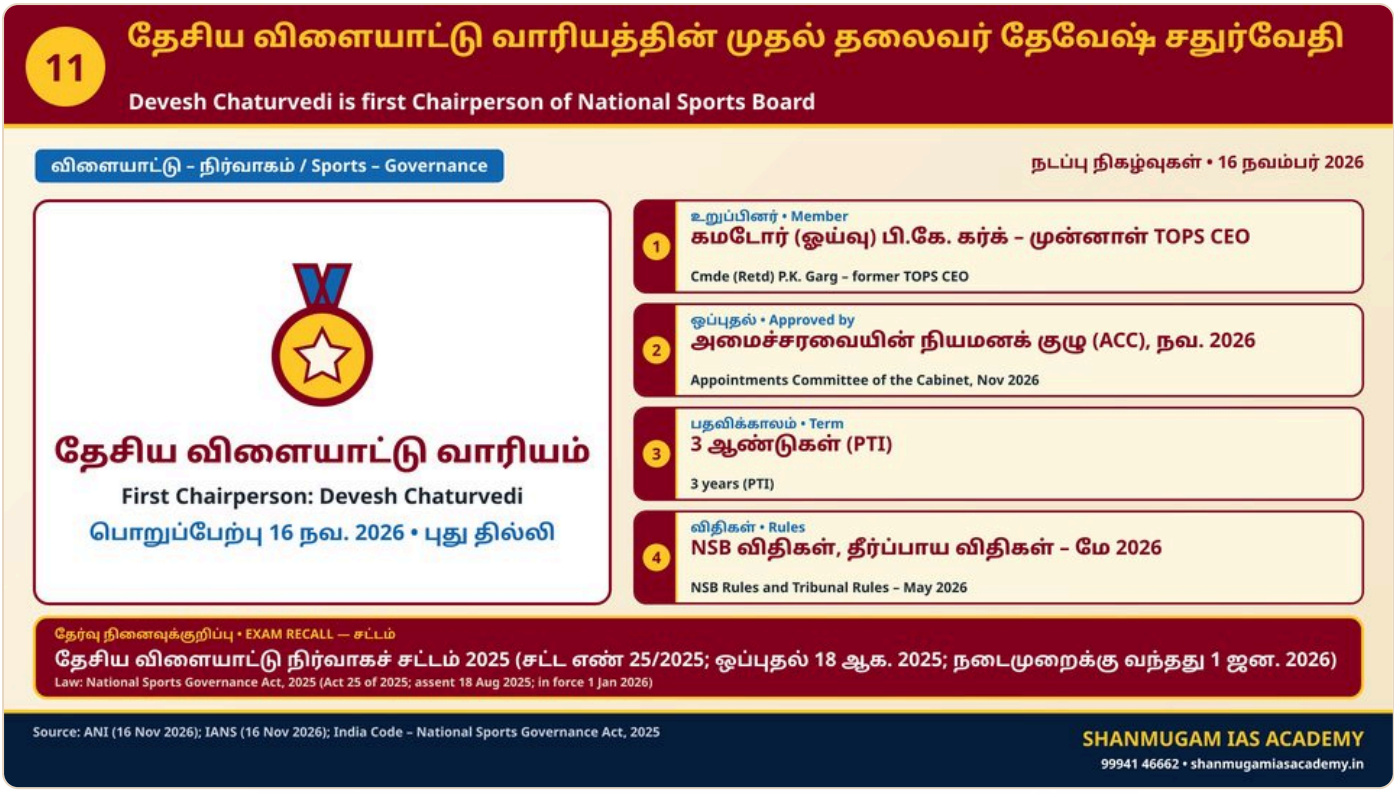
Devesh Chaturvedi is first Chairperson of National Sports Board

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News

Retired IAS officer Devesh Chaturvedi took charge in New Delhi on 16 November 2026 as Chairperson of the National Sports Board (NSB) set up under the National Sports Governance Act, 2025; he is its first Chairperson, as the Board is being set up for the first time under the Act (in force from 1 January 2026; Board rules notified in May 2026). Commodore (Retd) Pushpendra Kumar Garg, former CEO of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), took charge as a Member. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) had approved the appointments earlier in November; PTI reported the term as three years. A search-cum-selection committee headed by Cabinet Secretary T.V. Somanathan recommended them. Chaturvedi (60), a 1989-batch IAS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre, was Secretary of the Union Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare from August 2024 to February 2026; he studied mechanical engineering at IIT Kanpur and did his M.Tech at IIT Delhi. The Board's main tasks are granting and suspending recognition of National Sports Federations and monitoring their governance, financial and ethical standards.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Chairperson	Devesh Chaturvedi (retd IAS, 1989, UP cadre) – first chairperson
Member	Cmde (Retd) P.K. Garg – former TOPS CEO

Point	Details
Took charge	16 Nov 2026, New Delhi
Approved by	Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, Nov 2026
Term	3 years (PTI)
Law	National Sports Governance Act, 2025 (Act 25 of 2025; assent 18 Aug 2025; in force 1 Jan 2026)
Rules	NSB Rules and Tribunal Rules – May 2026
Previous post	Union Agriculture Secretary (Aug 2024 – Feb 2026)

Background

- National Sports Governance Act, 2025: introduced in the Lok Sabha on 23 July 2025, the Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on 11 August and the Rajya Sabha on 12 August, and received President Droupadi Murmu's assent on 18 August. It creates three bodies: (1) the National Sports Board – to recognise federations; (2) the National Sports Tribunal – for quick dispute resolution; (3) the National Sports Election Panel – made up of retired Election Commissioners or Chief Electoral Officers, to conduct federation elections.
- Key provisions: the Tribunal's chairperson must be a sitting or former Supreme Court judge or High Court Chief Justice; appeals against its orders lie only to the Supreme Court (or to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, Lausanne, where international charters provide). Candidates for federation posts must be 25–70; those aged 70–75 may contest if international charters allow. Recognised bodies that get government grants come under the RTI Act, 2005 only for the use of those funds; the BCCI, which takes no government funding, thus stays outside RTI.
- Constitution and administration: the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) is chaired by the Prime Minister, with the Home Minister as member; it approves top-level Central appointments. The Cabinet Secretary is the country's senior-most civil servant and heads the Civil Services Board. Under the Act, the Board's accounts are audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).
- Sports policy: on 1 July 2025 the Union Cabinet approved 'Khelo Bharat Niti 2025' (National Sports Policy 2025), replacing the National Sports Policy of 2001; its goals include India's bid to host the 2036 Olympics and becoming one of the world's top five sporting nations by 2047.

Tamil Nadu link: The FIH Men's Junior Hockey World Cup 2025 (28 Nov – 10 Dec 2025) was held in Tamil Nadu, in Chennai and Madurai; Germany beat Spain in a shoot-out for a record 8th title, and India, coached by P.R. Sreejesh, won bronze. National federations such as Hockey India, which stage such events, now need National Sports Board recognition to receive government funds. In Tamil Nadu, the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT) oversees sport at State level.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Chairperson: Devesh Chaturvedi (retd IAS, 1989, UP cadre) – first chairperson; Member: Cmde (Retd) P.K. Garg – former TOPS CEO; Took charge: 16 Nov 2026, New Delhi; Approved by: Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, Nov 2026.

What is the background to this news?

National Sports Governance Act, 2025: introduced in the Lok Sabha on 23 July 2025, the Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on 11 August and the Rajya Sabha on 12 August, and received President Droupadi Murmu's assent on 18 August.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Under the National Sports Governance Act, 2025, appeals against orders of the National Sports Tribunal lie to which forum?

A) Supreme Court

B) High Court

C) National Sports Board

D) Sports Ministry

Answer: A – Explanation: Only the Supreme Court (within 30 days); or the Court of Arbitration for Sport, Lausanne, where international charters provide.

2. Who chairs the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), which approved the Board chief's appointment?

A) President

B) Home Minister

C) Prime Minister

D) Cabinet Secretary

Answer: C – Explanation: The Prime Minister, with the Home Minister as member. Cabinet Secretary T.V. Somanathan headed the search-cum-selection committee.

3. Under this Act, what is the general upper age limit to contest for office in a National Sports Body?

A) 70 years

B) 65 years

C) 75 years

D) 60 years

Answer: A – Explanation: 70 (minimum 25). Those aged 70–75 may contest if international charters allow.

4. The 2025 FIH Men's Junior Hockey World Cup was held in Chennai and which other Tamil Nadu city?

A) Coimbatore

B) Madurai

C) Tiruchirappalli

D) Salem

Answer: B – Explanation: Madurai. Germany beat Spain for an 8th title; India, coached by P.R. Sreejesh, took bronze.

5. What is the new policy approved by the Union Cabinet in July 2025 to replace the National Sports Policy of 2001?

A) Fit India Niti

B) Khelo Bharat Niti

C) Rashtriya Khel Niti

D) Khelo India Niti

Answer: B – Explanation: Khelo Bharat Niti 2025 – aims include the 2036 Olympic bid and a top-five sporting rank by 2047.

Sources: ANI (16 Nov 2026, assumption of charge); IANS (16 Nov 2026); PTI via The Bridge (13 Nov 2026); India Code (National Sports Governance Act, 2025 – Act 25 of 2025); PRS (Bill text – CAG audit); News On AIR (Rules, 26 May 2026; Junior World Cup, 11 Dec 2025); PIB (Khelo Bharat Niti, 1 July 2025). © Shanmugam IAS Academy.