



## Union Budget 2023: Allocation for sports

### New Initiatives for Sports

There has been a growing buzz around sports like Khelo India, National Games, Women League, last but not least Commonwealth Games. With the Asian Games around the corner and the very important Paris Olympics in July next year, the 2023-24 Budget has once again seen a continuous increase.

While CSRI appreciates the increase in various sub-sectors, overall budget is nowhere near the budget of what a country that aspires to become a sporting nation should have. To achieve our mission to come in the top 10 by 2028 Olympics as announced by the then Sports Minister Shri Kiren Rijju Ji, the Sports Budget should be compared and fixed as percentage of the overall GDP.

Below we have shared some of our views along with the main highlights of the budget. We would be happy if you could highlight some of our views in the coverage of the budget in your publication.

#### CSRI View:

“While welcoming the overall increase in budget in sports as requested by CSRI in our representation to the Finance Ministry in January. While Confederation of Sports and Recreation Industry (CSRI) attracted attention towards the long-term development programs like Industry status to sports and updation of exemption list 145, they are yet to see the light of the day.”

Declare and Grant **Industry Status** to Sports Sector and **Inclusion of Sports Industry in the Harmonized Master List of Infrastructure sub-sectors** so that the sports sector becomes eligible for obtaining long term financial support from banks and other financial institutions.

“The Sports Budget still remains a very miniscule percentage of the total GDP, we should strive to make it at least two percent starting with one of the total GDP, if we aspire to become a top sporting nation.”

CSRI also welcome the two important initiatives announced by the Hon’ble Minister regarding first-time mention in budget regarding National Centre for Sports Science and Research and National Sports University which are very important for creating overall sports ecosystem in the country.

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**During the Finance Minister's speech, while there was no particular mention of the sports sector, it has emerged that:**

**↑ 1. Total Budget Allocated**

- a. The total budget allocated for sports - ₹3397.32 cr. as compare to ₹3062.60 cr (actual ₹2673.35 cr.) of the previous fiscal year 2022-23
- b. There has been an increase of ₹335. crore in the sports budget.

**↑ 2. Khelo India budget**

- a. The Khelo India budget has also been increased this time to ₹1000 crores from ₹974 cr (actual ₹600 cr).

**↑ 3. National Sports Federations (NSFs)**

- a. The allocation towards National Sports Federations (NSFs) increased to ₹325 crores from ₹280 crore, which was not increased last year.

**↑ 4. Sports Authority of India's Budget**

- a. The Sports Authority of India's budget has been increased to ₹785.52 crores from ₹653 crore (actual ₹ 749.43cr).
- b. The SAI is the nodal organisation to manage national camps, provide infrastructure, equipment, and other logistics to the country's sportspersons.

**↑ 5. National Service Scheme**

- a. The National service scheme has witnessed a whopping jump of Rs 42 crore from ₹283.50 crore (actual ₹ 214.12cr) to ₹325cr.

**↑ 6. National Youth Empowerment Program**

- a. The government has also decided to increase the budget for the National Youth Empowerment Program from ₹138 crores to ₹140cr in this fiscal year.

**↑ 7. National Centre of Sports Science and Research - ₹13 cr**

- a. Under National Centre of Sports Science & Research, financial assistance is given to Medical colleges and Universities for developing centre of Sports Science and Research for the overall development of sports and games in the country. A National Sports Science Centre in New Delhi having branches in the other parts of the country under hub and spoke model are being developed.

**↑ 8. National Sports University ₹107.84cr**

- a. National Sports University will be the first full fledged Sports University in India with its exclusive focus on creation of high standard infrastructure for the development of sports sciences and training of athletes.

**↑ 9. Lakshmbai National University of Physical Education increased from ₹56 crores (actual ₹61 cr) to ₹75 cr**

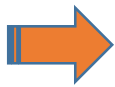


## ↓ 10. Incentives for Sportspersons

- a. As far as incentives for sportspersons are concerned, the budget has proposed a decrease to ₹45 crore from ₹55 cr last year.

## ↓ 11. National Sports Development Fund

- a. The allocation towards National Sports Development Fund has been reduced by ₹ 1 crore to ₹ 15 crore from ₹16 crore. It is a continues decrease year on year basis. In 2021-22 it was ₹25 cr.



## Unmet Demand of the Sports Industry

### Unmet Demand of the Sports and Recreation Industry / organisation for Long Term Development: CSRI

1. Declare and Grant **Industry Status** to Sports Sector.
2. **Inclusion of Sports Industry in the Harmonized Master List of Infrastructure sub-sectors** so that the sports sector becomes eligible for obtaining long term financial support from banks and other financial institutions.
3. Allocation of **separate budget for Promotion to Make in India** (Atam Nirbhar Bharat) in Sports: Supports to Domestic Manufacturing / Services.
4. Import Duty Concessions for equipment not manufactured in India as per International standard:
  - Need urgent updating List of Sports Goods and equipment mentioned in GENERAL EXEMPTION NO. 145 Skills Development in Sports:
    - Incentivise Skills development in Sports and allied Skills to bridge the huge skills gap.
5. Rationalisation of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in Sports.
6. Regulate and recognise sports betting and lottery in India
  - Should also set up a National Sports Lottery exclusively to cater to Grassroots Development Grants across all communities in the country.

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