

KHELO BHARAT NITI - 2025*

UNDERSTANDING INDIA'S NATIONAL SPORTS POLICY, 2025

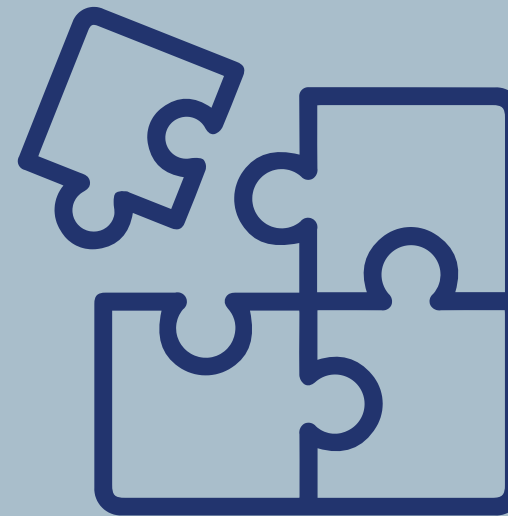
Policy vs. Bill vs. Act – A Quick 101



What is a Government Policy

A policy is a formal vision or framework by the government, which sets goals and direction, but is not legally binding. Specific interventions may be created or updated under a policy.

Policy = Roadmap



What is a Bill

A bill is a draft law proposed to be tabled before the Parliament. Once tabled and passed by both Houses, it becomes an Act.

Bill = Draft Law



What is an Act

An Act is a law passed by Parliament. It is enforceable by courts.

Act = Enforceable Law

Timeline of the National Sports Policy



National Sports Policy 2025 in a Nutshell

The National Sports Policy 2025 (**NSP 2025**) is the Government of India's vision to make sports:

- A tool for nation-building.
- A means to drive economic and social progress.
- A daily habit for every Indian.

It replaces the older 2001 policy and builds on schemes like Khelo India and TOPS. Targets include:

- Winning more medals.
- Building grassroots infrastructure.
- Creating careers through sport.
- Integrating sports with education and well-being.

The progress made in implementation of the National Sports Policy must ideally be reviewed every 5 years to determine future course of action (as laid out in NSP 1984)*.

What does it cover?

- **Grassroots to elite athlete support** – structured talent identification, coaching, and holistic training systems.
- **Sports infrastructure & science** – improved facilities, integration of sports science, medicine, and technology.
- **Start-up & CSR models** – encourage innovation through sports-tech start-ups and mobilize CSR funding for development, training, and inclusion.
- **Inclusion & careers in sport** – promote participation across all groups and build pathways for coaches, officials, and support staff.
- **A roadmap for Olympics 2036** – long-term vision to position India as a global sporting powerhouse.

What makes it different?

- **Athlete-centric & performance-driven:** Focuses on supporting athletes at every stage, from grassroots to elite, with structured coaching, sports science, and high-performance systems.
- **Integrated with education & health:** Aligns with NEP 2020 and national health goals to embed sports in schools, promote fitness, and support dual-career pathways.
- **Market Amplification:** Opens the ecosystem to start-ups, public-private partnerships, CSR funding, and technology-led solutions in sports.
- **Mass movement beyond elite sport:** Aims to make sports a national habit through community participation, inclusion, indigenous games, and fitness campaigns.

*5 Pillars of the NSP 2025**

- Strengthen sports development from grassroots to elite levels.
- Promote leagues and expand infrastructure across rural and urban areas.
- Establish world-class training, coaching & athlete support systems.
- Improve governance and capacity of NSFs.
- Integrate sports science, medicine, and technology to enhance performance.
- Train and upskill coaches, technical officials & support staff.

Excellence on the Global Stage

- Boost sports tourism and international events
- Promote sports manufacturing & entrepreneurship
- Enable PPP, CSR, and innovative funding models

Sports for Economic Development

- Drive inclusion for women, tribals, PwDs, EWS groups
- Revive indigenous & traditional games
- Position sports as a career through education & volunteering
- Involve the Indian diaspora via sporting ties

Sports for Social Development

- Drive mass participation and a culture of fitness through nationwide campaigns and community-based events.
- Launch fitness indices for schools, colleges, and workplaces etc.
- Enhance universal access to sports facilities.

Sports – A People's Movement

- Integrate sports into school curricula.
- Equip educators and physical education teachers with specialized training to promote sports education and awareness.

Aligning Sports with NEP 2020

What NSP 2025 Means for Key Stakeholders

Students & Schools

- Sports becomes an academic subject.
- PE teacher training upgraded.
- Fitness indices for benchmarking.
- Schools act as talent feeders.

Athletes

- Support to all athletes from grassroots to elite
- Access to science, coaching, mental health.
- Clear post-retirement & job pathways.
- Simplified funding & redressal.

Sports Professionals & Support Staff

- Certification for coaches, referees, analysts.
- More roles in sports science, analytics, media.
- Boost in training & upskilling opportunities.

Corporates & Startups

- Models like One Corp–One Sport, Adopt-a-Venue.
- Incubators, hackathons, CSR integration.
- Encourage participation in sports-tech, infrastructure development, and public-private partnerships (PPPs) to unlock new markets.

States & Local Govts

- Align state and district-level initiatives with NSP 2025 objectives.
- Launch Model Sports District/State programs focused on developing block-level infrastructure, promoting inclusivity, and supporting local talent.
- Establish dedicated sports departments to improve execution, monitoring, and outreach.

Sports Federations

- Run age-group & district competitions.
- Work with schools & promote indigenous games.
- Ensure transparent governance, performance-based funding, and athlete-focused program delivery.

Gaps in NSP 2025

Even as a progressive and ambitious framework, NSP 2025 leaves key areas that warrant further attention:

1. **No Legal Binding:** NSP 2025 is a policy, not a law — implementation is subject to administrative discretion. For true implementation of initiatives, elements like anti-doping, grievance redressal, and athlete protection need to be backed by legislation - the National Sports Governance Bill, 2024, if promulgated, will bolster the movement.
2. **Ambiguity in Measurable Outcomes:** NSP 2025 outlines broad goals , however the objectives lack specific quantifiable metrics. In contrast, UK Sport sets specific targets like securing top-five finish in the Summer Olympics and Paralympic Games or for that matter China has clear benchmarks, such as increasing the percentage of citizens participating in regular physical activity to 38.5%. Similarly, Australia's Sports 2030 plan mentions measurable targets like increasing physical activity by 15% by 2030.
3. **LGBTQ+ Inclusion Dropped:** The 2024 draft* explicitly recognized the LGBTQ+ community as an underrepresented group. The final policy omits the mention, potentially diluting inclusivity goals.
4. **State-Level Execution:** Implementation depends on whether states align their own policies and budgets. Without state buy-in, a uniform national execution may be a challenge.

Bottom Line: NSP 2025 is a visionary document — a clear and bold intent of the Union Government towards elevating sport, but it needs supporting legislation, regulations, a clear set of roles and responsibilities for various stakeholders, and state cooperation to become transformative.

Road Ahead

July 1st, 2025 is a watershed moment for sports in India. The National Sports Policy, 2025 isn't just about medals or infrastructure - it is about redefining how India thinks about sport as education, economy, diplomacy and daily life.

Whether you're a lawyer helping shape governance and regulatory frameworks, an educator building the next generation of student-athletes, an investor or corporate leader exploring CSR opportunities or innovations in sports-tech, an athlete or federation official working to strengthen performance pathways, or a policy professional or bureaucrat driving program rollouts, the National Sports Policy 2025 offers a clear role for you in reshaping India's sporting ecosystem.

Engage early. Influence meaningfully. Shape what comes next.



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