



THE ASSAM GAZETTE

অসাধাৰণ

EXTRAORDINARY

প্ৰাপ্ত কৰ্তৃত্ব দ্বাৰা প্ৰকাশিত

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GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR

SPORTS & YOUTH WELFARE DEPARTMENT

NOTIFICATION

The 6th February, 2018

No. SYW.418/2017/52.- The Governor of Assam is pleased to enunciate the Integrated Sports Policy of Assam, 2017-18 with effect from 01-01-2018.

This Policy would be valid for 5 years i.e. upto 31-12-2022.

1. PREAMBLE

Excellence in sports brings pride to a nation and its citizens and helps build a healthier and happier society. Sports unites the nation by bridging the social and cultural boundaries and promotes nationalism and integration. For an individual, Sports enhances self-esteem, improves confidence and helps deal with stress effectively. The three Cs of Sports that characterize sports are – Character, Community and Country. Sports is one of the key building blocks in all around character development of youth and nation building on a whole.

India has a rich history of respecting the body and sports as a means to achieve spiritual wisdom too. Dehvada or the body-way is defined as "one of the ways to full realization". In the day and age of the Rig-Veda, Ramayana and Mahabharata men were expected to be competent in chariot-racing, archery, horsemanship, military tactics, wrestling, weight-lifting, swimming and hunting. In Villas Mani Majra, Tiruvedacharya describes many fascinating games, namely, archery, equitation, hammer-throwing and chariot-racing. In Manas Olhas (1135 A.D.), Someshwar writes about bhrashram (weight-lifting), bhramanshram (walking) and also about Mall-Stambha (wrestling). It is noticeable that many of today's Olympic disciplines are sophisticated versions of the games of strength and speed that flourished in ancient India and Greece. Chess, wrestling, polo, archery and hockey (possibly a fall-out from polo) are some of the games believed to have originated in India. Since ancient times, the relationship between the Guru (teacher) and the student (hisyo) has always been considered as an integral part of Indian sport.

In Assam too traditional games have been famous since the time of Ahom rule. The great Ahom King Swargadeo Pramatta Singha built the first Amphitheater in Assam in AD 1746 which is known as Rang Ghar. The Ahom kings encouraged games like- Wrestling, Sword fighting, Horse riding, Buffalo fight etc. Amongst the common people, they also organized competition in those games and enjoyed the same from the pavilion of Rang Ghar. It may be understood that games and sports have been very popular amongst the people of Assam since ages.

During contemporary times, many sportspersons have been able to bring laurels to the state and held its name high not just at the national but also at the international arena. Of late we have seen that many athletes in the different disciplines like Archery, Athletics, Boxing, Badminton, Table Tennis, Taekwondo, Wushu, Weightlifting etc. from Assam have been showing their talents in the National and International Sports Competitions.

On the other hand Football is the most popular sport in the State. It is played in each and every village and town. A number of footballers (both male and female) of the state have represented the Indian National Football team in the past.

Given this rich tradition and history there is an urgent need to bring about a systemic transformation in the entire Sports ecosystem in the country. In order to achieve excellence in sports, both at National and International levels, there is a need to streamline the functioning of the department, adopt a uniform policy so that sports is broad based, sports activities in the state are well spread over the year; the competitions are held regularly; people of different strata in the society get a fair chance to show their mettle; harness talent at grass root level besides providing beneficial recreation and fostering of social harmony and discipline.

2. VISION

- 2.1 To position and develop Guwahati as the emerging Sports Capital of the country.
- 2.2 To create world-class infrastructure, broad-base sports, synergise the activities of sports and education and harness talent at the grassroots level to establish Assam as a feeder state for quality and budding sports persons for the county.
- 2.3 To identify and nurture sporting talent in Assam and give them the opportunity to shine and excel in the global sports arena by creating a sports-centric, incentivized ecosystem for all stake holders.
- 2.4 To bring about social transformation by promoting sports and Spread awareness of sports across different sections of society, resulting in character building and inclusive development.

3. MISSION

To develop health, happiness and prosperity in the state by:

- i. Promote a healthy life style and physical activity among the people for overall physical and mental well-being.
- ii. Promote the importance of Sports and Physical activity in countering Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) like obesity, hyper tension, diabetes and enhancing quality of life and longevity.
- iii. Nurturing early childhood, to ensure every child has the means for healthy existence prior to age of five which is critical for the future.

- iv. Promote Competitive Sports and provide the youth of Assam with the platform and infrastructure to compete and win in the National and International arena.

4. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 4.1 To ensure autonomy in sports, a close coordination with Assam Olympic Association (AOA) and the other state level sports associations, so that the spirit of Olympic Games is respected, safeguarded and developed.
- 4.2 To take all steps to bring more transparency in the working of sports associations.
- 4.3 To ensure sustainable financial support to AOA and other state level sports associations with Olympic Games chapters for systemic development and preparedness and at the same time encourage them to create their own sources of revenue to obviate total dependence on the state.
- 4.4 To formulate a self-contained transparent policy for providing financial assistance to State level associations.
- 4.5 To provide technical manpower to state sports associations and academic institutes.
- 4.6 To take appropriate steps to encourage involvement of Private and Corporate sector in the development of the sports ecosystem and promotion of sports and physical activity in the state.

5. OBJECTIVES

- 5.1 To develop sports culture in the state by promoting the importance of sports and physical fitness and enabling improved sports facilities and infrastructure at all levels.
- 5.2 To develop state-of-the-art facilities for various disciplines of sports. To lay emphasis on improving the existing sports infrastructure and develop latest state-of-the-art sports infrastructure in the state at each District headquarter with pro-active support of Municipal Corporations/ Councils and Private/ Corporate sector.
- 5.3 To foster Sports and Fitness as a Way of Life in the state:
- i) Strengthen the sports wings in schools and colleges.
 - ii) To encourage sports & youth clubs to conduct sports activities and take effective steps to patronize and promote local games like Kabaddi, Tug of War etc.

- iii) To develop community centres to promote health, fitness and sports among all age groups of the community.
 - iv) To adopt a focused approach to promote sports among girls and women.
 - v) To promote sports for specially-abled individuals and enable to re-integrate in society. To develop a senior citizen fitness ecosystem.
- 5.4 To create, develop and nurture competitive sports capability in the state to establish Assam as a feeder state for providing sporting talent to compete nationally and internationally.
- i) Broad base of Sports into a three tier system i.e. State level, District level and Village level. To create sports infrastructure and sports facilities at village and block level through Khelo India and other state level schemes.
 - ii) To set up Regional Training Centres and enable them with modern expertise such as sports medicine, sports testing, exercise science, sports conditioning, etc.
 - iii) To provide sports equipment to all coaching centres, sports wings and coaching camps for selected competitions.
 - iv) To establish a Scientific Evaluation and Monitoring Lab for assessing and developing the capability of youth and sports persons.
 - v) To organize international level seminars/ clinics for coaches/players to keep them abreast with the latest events and developments of the sports world.
 - vi) To organize sports competitions at block, district, state, national and international levels.
 - vii) To provide cash incentives, awards and employment opportunities to outstanding sportspersons.
- 5.5 To establish linkage with other departments like Education, Health, Tourism etc. and work in sync with these agencies for overall development of sports in the State.

6. MECHANISM TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES

SPORT & FITNESS A WAY OF LIFE (Fitness for all, Sports for All)

All round physical fitness is the foundation for a healthy and happy society and a prerequisite for achieving sporting excellence at a sustainable level. Improving the physical fitness of youth is a rewarding strategy, which not only reduces mortality and morbidity, but also nurtures their sporting and athletic potential.

‘Sports for all’ is the sequel to ‘health for all’. Key steps towards sports and fitness for all would involve the following:

1. To provide access to sports for all classes of citizens in all segments of society by the following:
 - i) To organise general health awareness, lectures, awareness drives, marathons, cycling rallies, cross country races etc. to educate senior citizens about self-care and understanding their physique through traditional fitness methods.
 - ii) To take specific steps to improve walking tracks, cycling tracks and provide basic fitness apparatus at public places. Walking tracks and cycling tracks will be developed at pilgrim places, tourist centres and forest areas.
 - iii) Traditional and Indigenous Games: Sports & Youth Welfare Department will promote traditional and indigenous games in a befitting manner by organizing workshops and events at District and State level with a view to showcase the rich heritage of indigenous games of Assam.
 - iv) The Government to formulate incentive schemes for creating fitness awareness through sports and traditional methods, and also assist in the creation of basic infrastructure at public places, parks etc.
 - v) Provision of funds to create basic sports infrastructure and development of playfields in all the villages and blocks of the state, during the next ten years. Annual acquisition and operational grants would be provided to purchase sports equipment and running of sports activities by the trained sports volunteers.
 - vi) Assist educational institutions, boards, corporations & private undertakings to organize sports competitions and to patronize specific games by creating their own teams.
 - vii) Encourage Sports fitness centre in Industrial / Commercial Park.
 - viii) Competitions at block, district, state and national level to be encouraged and Annual League Format in selected sports disciplines, to be introduced.
 - ix) To encourage girls and women participation in sports and organizing tournaments at all levels, exclusively for girls.
 - x) To make sports infrastructure specially-abled friendly and promote sports among specially-abled persons.

- a. The Department of Sports & Youth Welfare, Government of Assam shall develop affirmative programmes for specially abled to enable them to take to sports with confidence, realise their potential without inhibition and attain glory. Due care shall be taken to ensure that there are sufficient infrastructure, training facilities and competitive events to enable them to participate fully in sports. Tournaments from district level to state level shall be organized.
 - b. Conscious efforts shall be made for adapting different sports disciplines to meet the needs of specially-abled persons and state sports associations shall take all steps to attain this goal.
2. To create state MIS on fitness, accessible to all so that assessments can be carried out in schools at regular intervals.
3. The appraisal system of Government and semi Government employees will also include fitness level checks. Private corporations will also be encouraged to follow suit.

7. THRUST TO COMPETITIVE SPORTS

- 7.1 Government of Assam in Sports & Youth Welfare Department commits itself to provide financial assistance / grants in aid to the tune of Rs. 1.00 crore for organizing international level sports competitions/ world championships in Olympic disciplines, where there is participation of 10 or more countries with a minimum of 100 players.

Out of this Rs. 1.00 crore an amount of Rs. 20.00 lakh shall be earmarked by the concerned Association / Organization for arranging visits of the international players and teams to places of tourist attraction within the State of Assam such as Kaziranga Wildlife Sanctuary, Manas National Park etc.

Further, Government of Assam will also provide Rs. 20.00 lakh to State Sports Associations for holding national level sports competitions in the Olympic disciplines.

- 7.2 To make optimal use of Government of India's funds to create sports infrastructure and running of sports activities.
- 7.3 To give competition exposure to the players, competitions at block, district, state and national level would be organized. The Government also intends to organize competitions of international level in selected sports disciplines on annual basis to provide international exposure to our

national teams and facilitate people of the state to witness international matches live.

- 7.4 To broad-base sports by creating 3 tier system of Block Level, District Level and State Level in priority games. In order to grant recognition to top players in each discipline, Prize Incentives would be introduced both for male and female players at district and state level. Prominent sportspersons would be honoured at district /state level functions, every year.
- 7.5 To accord the highest priority to development of sports and regular conduct of sporting events at Block, District and State levels. Mass participation will be ensured by involving institutions of Panchayati Raj, local bodies of towns and cities, schools and colleges, sports associations, youth clubs, corporate houses and semi/ autonomous bodies of the Government. Earnest efforts shall be made to promote club culture to ensure autonomy.
- 7.6 Grants in Aid to Sports Associations: Over the years Government has been providing financial assistance to State Sports Associations and District Sports Associations (Olympic Affiliated) for carrying out a slew of activities, such as :
- i. Organizing State Level Competitions
 - ii. Organizing National Level Competitions
 - iii. Conducting Coaching Programmes
 - iv. Identification and Scouting of Talents at grass-root level in various disciplines.

Sports & Youth Welfare Department would provide grants to State Sports Associations (Olympic Games) for all the aforesaid activities. The amount of grant will be reviewed on a yearly basis and may be increased on the basis of the performance and activities of State and District Sports Associations. Government will also endeavour to hold frequent interactions with the State and District Sports Associations for developing the right synergy between them and the Government. The State Government will also facilitate and extend all necessary support to the Associations in their pursuit of identification, development and nurturing of budding sports talents.

- 7.7 Sports Science / Human Performance Laboratory: Government will accord top priority to establishment of Sports Science Centre which would cater to the present needs of the athletes in respect of Sports Medicine, Sports Psychology (Mind Coaching), Sports Nutrition, Fitness, Bio – Mechanics

etc., which are critical for enhancement of sports performance in contemporary scenario.

- 7.8 Coaching & Establishment of Academy / Sports School: The establishment of modern Sports Academy in various priority Olympic sports disciplines is the need of the hour for achieving ultimate goal of excellence in the respective discipline and for development of potential Olympians. So, Government will take all necessary steps to establish Sports Schools, Sports Academies at suitable places to provide intensive training to the aspiring and most promising players and necessary budget provision will also be made for the same. The Department of Sports & Youth Welfare would take steps of skill development of Coaches, Players, Referees, and Umpires etc. for enhancement of their skills and techniques.
- 7.9 Appointment of Coaches: Adequate number of coaches will be provided in all districts. Besides the regular appointees the shortfall of coaches, if any, will be met by appointing coaches on contract basis.
- 7.10 Women Sports Festival: To provide equal opportunities to women in the field of sports. Women Sports Festival is being organized at block, district and state level. Women teams also participate in various games in national level Women Sports Festival.
- 7.11 Specially-Abled Competitive Sporting Events: The recognition given to the special Games Federation and growing popularity of Paralympics events provide the appropriate opportunity to focus on sports for the differently abled as an essential component of the sports policy. The state sports association representing sports for specially-abled will be treated at par with other associations. In addition it is intended to formulate a separate scheme to meet their specialized needs in the area of specialized training infrastructure, training equipment and coaching. The Department of Sports & Youth Welfare in association with the state associations shall prepare the annual sports calendar. Apart from this they will also be considered eligible for cash awards at par with other athletes as recommended in this policy.
- 7.12 National Sports Day Celebration: To commemorate birthday of Hockey Legend Major Dhyan Chand every year, 29th August would be celebrated as National Sports Day at each district headquarter. The District Olympic Associations shall organise popular sports events like Cycle race, Marathon, Tug of War, Circle Kabaddi, and other games on this occasion. It would be ensured that the awards to the winning teams are distributed on this occasion.

8. FOCUS ON SPORTS ACADEMIES, SCHOOLS AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS : BUILDING BLOCKS OF SPORTS CAPABILITY

- 8.1 Government of Assam in Sports & Youth Welfare Department commits itself to facilitate the setting up of Sports Academies in Olympic sports disciplines, by private partners such as reputed Corporate Houses and PSUs, renowned Coaches and sports persons (Dronacharya Awardees and Arjuna Awardees), leading Sports Clubs and Associations.

Towards this Government will allot required land to the willing partners to set up various Academies. Sports & Youth Welfare Department will float necessary Expression of Interest (EoI) for inviting proposals in this regard and the selection of the concerned organization / entity will be done through a Committee to be duly constituted by the Department for the purpose.

The definition of what would constitute an Academy and other eligibility criteria would be decided by the aforesaid Committee.

Further, Government will also reimburse 50% of the cost of the project, subject to a cap of Rs. 5.00 crore.

- 8.2 In order to develop sports standards in schools and colleges, which have adequate sports infrastructure and show keen interest in organizing specific sports, their needs of technical support and of basic equipment, trained personnel shall be met by the state to some extent. The Government would encourage the opening up of new sports wings and strengthen the existing ones, to create ideal feeding centres. The selected players would be provided boarding/lodging, insurance and medical cover, sports infrastructure, equipment, kitting and training by the expert coaches. These sports wings would serve as feeding grounds for the Centres of Excellence. The diet charges of the players would be revised from time to time, keeping in view the prevailing prices.
- 8.3 In tune with the adage 'catch them young', a robust school sports system is imperative for identification and nurturing of sports talent across the State. About 50% of our population is school and college going students. Competitive sports at school, district and national level will be organized regularly to give the students a platform to exhibit their sporting talents. The talented and budding sports persons may be spotted and groomed in

the sports academies and sports training centres, so that they can show their inherent talents in national and international competitions.

- 8.4 The Sports & Youth Welfare Department would provide necessary budgetary support for all round promotion of school sports.

9. DEVELOP SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE

- 9.1 Sports & Youth Welfare Department will develop 500 playfields in rural areas covering all blocks of the State under Chief Ministers Samagra Gramya Unnayan Yojana (CMSGUY).

Further Government of Assam will also develop multidisciplinary sports infrastructure at Block level as per local requirement for which an amount of Rs. 50.00 lakh will be allocated for each Block. Similarly an amount of Rs. 5.00 crore will be allocated for developing multidisciplinary sports infrastructure at District level. The funds for this purpose may be earmarked under CMSGUY or under State Own Priority Development Scheme in a phase manner in the next three years.

- 9.2 The Government is committed to provide funds for development of playgrounds in all the villages and blocks of the state, in the next ten years.
- 9.3 Latest sports infrastructure for different games would be developed in the state and efforts shall be made to provide synthetic surfaces in the games of hockey, athletics, badminton, lawn tennis, handball, basketball, etc. in identified geographic pockets.
- 9.4 Modern state-of-the art, multispecialty sports complex would be developed at various places of the State.
- 9.5 New stadiums meeting the modern requirements and standards would be developed and the existing ones would be upgraded at par with International Standards. Sports & Youth Welfare Department would make necessary budgetary provision for the same. Special focus would be on Football, Cricket and Hockey.
- 9.6 To set up Centres of Excellence (CoE) in sports at various locations in the State such as the proposed Bhogeswar Baruah Sports Academy to extend world-class facilities across the state. These CoEs with modern state-of-the-art sports infrastructure, nutritious diet, modern sports equipment and training on scientific lines by eminent coaches, would help the state identify, train and nurture sporting talent from the state.
- 9.7 The stadiums shall be made self-sustaining and financially independent by properly exploiting their commercial potential.

- 9.8 To make optimal use of sports stadiums and sports infrastructure existing in universities and other educational institutions, a suitable institutional frame work shall be evolved so that they could be used by different organisations and sportsmen of the state.
- 9.9 The usage of Sports Stadiums for the purpose other than sports would be strictly prohibited. Prior permission from the competent authority would be required to be taken for making any departure from this policy.

9.10 Setting up of Assam Sports Development Fund

Sports & Youth Welfare Department will set-up Assam Sports Development Fund for promotion and development of Sports in the State of Assam in line with the National Sports Development Fund.

Sports being a State subject, the budgetary provision for development and up-lift of Sports is not sufficient to cover all aspects.

To support development of Sports and to meet the aspirations of the Sports Persons, Sports Administrators, Sports Organizers, additional fund needs to be pumped in. As the budgetary provision is insufficient to cover the requirements for financial assistance to Sports Persons to participate in various competitions at International Level and Coach themselves at high level, it has become essential for the Government to supports the Sports Organizers, Clubs and Associations with financial assistance for their growth and to create sports infrastructure, standard sports equipments, so as to get desired results of International standard. To do scientific study and research to develop sports service and sports stadium.

It has also become essential to do scientific research and coach the coaches to update them in the modern techniques to support the Sports persons and related matters.

Objectives of Assam Sports Development Fund:

- a) For Development of Sports Infrastructure and Maintenance,
- b) Construction / Development of Play Fields,
- c) Procurement of Standard Sports Equipments,
- d) Sports Coaching / Training by Expert (National / International),
- e) Exposure Programme of the Sports Persons,
- f) Financial Support for International / National Sports Competition,
- g) Financial Support for Yesteryear Players for Medical Treatment etc.
- h) Scientific Research for development of Sports.
- i) Coach the Coaches.

Funding

The Assam Sports Development Fund will be sourced from :

- a) Corpus Fund to be provided by Government
- b) Public Sector Companies.
- c) Private Sector Companies,
- d) Donation from the Public.
- e) Through Sports & Cultural Events.

The fund may be expended only for development of sports and related activities.

10. INTEGRATION OF SPORTS WITH OTHER DEPARTMENTS**10.1 Sports & Education**

The Departments of Sports & Youth Welfare and Education shall ensure that the annual sports calendar is prepared in synchronisation with the academic calendar in such a manner that it allows the students to take active part in sports competitions.

Department of Education would create basic sports facilities in schools/colleges and to make sports an integral part of curriculum of schools. Special focus will be laid on Physical Fitness at School Level and at least one hour's time would be devoted exclusively for physical fitness and sports activities in the school Time Table, for all classes. Special Curriculum and trained facilitators would be developed for a fresh perspective on Physical Education and Motor Development programmes for Schools.

- i. Fitness Testing for Every Child – motor ability testing, detailed individual testing reports, etc.
- ii. Daily Scientific Training – Age related motor development, daily fun activities, games, etc.
- iii. Sport Talent Identification & Sport Skill Development – Advanced talent determination, engagement of professional coaches for specific sports, etc.

Physical Education would be made compulsory in all schools upto 12th standard. Further, the expertise and infrastructure available in the colleges and schools would be optimally utilized.

Sports & Youth Welfare Department will train at least one of the existing teachers of each school as Physical Instructor and upscale his / her skills through its expert personnel.

10.2 Sports & Health

- Sports and Health are interlinked entities and the two enable each other. With respect to health, sport and physical activity has the ability to develop not only a fit body but also a vibrant mind thereby enabling mental and spiritual well-being. At the same time it also helps countering the widespread damage done by Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) or lifestyle diseases like cardio-vascular diseases, obesity, hyper tension, diabetes, etc.

Towards this the Department of Health & Family Welfare would conduct IEC driven extensive public awareness campaigns at village, block and district levels to promote the importance of sports and physical activity in physical and mental well-being.

- All employers will provide required facilities to the employees of their respective offices for enabling them to undertake at least half an hour of physical activity every day with a view to mitigate the ill effects of a sedentary life style.
- With respect to Sports, for all round development of athletes and budding talent in various disciplines, sustained intervention of sports science is the need of the hour. This intervention would also include expertise in exercise science including strength conditioning, exercise anatomy, exercise physiology, etc. The Department of Sports & Youth Welfare would closely liaise with the Department of Health & Family Welfare for providing the necessary requisite support in the aforesaid area.
- Sports & Youth Welfare Department will also explore the option of entering into MoU with private agencies / consultancy firms for providing necessary support in the area of sports science for the budding talents and medal winners of the State.
- The Department of Sports & Youth Welfare will closely liaise with the Department of Health & Family Welfare for establishing the Department of Sports Medicine in Guwahati Medical College Hospital and other Medical Colleges of the State.

Sports Science Department will be set-up in Dibrugarh University for catering to the needs of budding and medal winning athletes of the State.

10.3 Sports & Tourism

Special emphasis will be given for promoting sports tourism in consultation with the Department of Tourism, Government of Assam. To this effect the Department of Sports & Youth Welfare will take necessary steps for tie-ups with various agencies in the private sector, who are willing to extend their support and services for organizing various events / summits which would indirectly give a fillip to tourism in general.

The Department will host major national and international sports events on a regular basis which would attract both domestic and international tourists and also boost the hospitality sector in the State.

The Tourism Department will extent support as may be necessary to investors in Sports Tourism Projects subject to such projects coming within the ambit of the State Tourism Policy.

11. INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION

- 11.1 To disseminate information to the general public, the Sports Department will make use of all available information technology tools. The website of the department shall contain up to date information of sportspersons, sports infrastructure, different schemes of the department, and records of different level of the competitions.
- 11.2 The Sports Department will strengthen the existing libraries in the offices of Districts Sports Officers. A state level sports library will also be established in the Office of the Director of Sports and Youth Welfare, Assam.

12. EXCELLENCE IN SPORTS; SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR SPORTSPERSONS

12.1 SCHEME & AWARDS FOR MEDAL WINNERS

- i. Government of Assam commits itself to make necessary provision for direct entry into the following Class – I posts / services for any permanent resident of Assam who is a medal winner in the Olympics irrespective of their educational qualifications, minimum qualifying age etc. :
 - a. Assam Civil Service

- b. Assam Police Service
- c. Superintendent of Taxes
- d. Superintendent of Excise
- e. Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies
- f. District Transport Officer.

Further, Government will also provide for direct entry into the following Class – II posts / services for any permanent resident of Assam who is a medal winners in Asian Games / Commonwealth Games / World Championships (Senior) in respect of Olympic Sports disciplines recognized by IOA, irrespective of their educational qualifications, minimum qualifying age etc. :

- a. Inspector of Labour
 - b. Inspector of Taxes
 - c. Inspector of Excise
 - d. Assistant Employment Officer.
- ii. Under the New Sports Policy, the Assam Government commits itself to provide necessary financial and other assistance to outstanding sportspersons to pursue the goal of winning medals in world class competitions. To achieve this goal, Government intends to focus on those Olympic recognized sports disciplines where athletes from the State have continuously been obtaining large numbers of medals in national and international competitions. This would go a long way for realizing the ultimate vision of participation and winning medals in the Olympics. The following are the identified and focused sports disciplines:
- a. Archery
 - b. Athletics,
 - c. Boxing,
 - d. Badminton
 - e. Football,
 - f. Taekwondo and
 - g. Table Tennis
 - h. Weight Lifting.

The aforesaid disciplines have been identified on the basis of the available pool of budding talents and medal winners (present and potential).

In addition to the above priority sports, other games / disciplines will also be encouraged to create a sporting environment in the State.

- iii. The Department of Sports & Youth Welfare will launch a special scheme to be funded by the State Government of Assam for catering to the specific needs of medal winners and potential medal winners in national and international competitions. This support would include international level coaching, world-class equipment, access to state-of-the-art infrastructure for training and extending all ancillary support to the players / athletes in the form of all major components of sports science and medicine.
- iv. Government of Assam will award 10 scholarships to outstanding sportspersons / athletes for preparation and training who gain selection into Olympic Games / Asian Games / World Championship / Commonwealth Games.

Under the above scheme the identified sportspersons and potential medal winners will be given a grant of Rs. 5.00 lakh every year for 3 (three) years. Further, the proposed amount may be directly given to the Academy where the selected athletes undergo training.

The aforesaid scheme will also apply to specially abled sports persons "Divyangjan", in respect of Paralympic Games.

- v. **State Cash Awards & Incentives:** The state Government is fully alive to its responsibilities to nurture, facilitate and encourage sportspersons. It will institute awards and incentives for the sportspersons who bring laurels and glory to the state and country by winning medals at national and international level. The Government has formulated the Cash Award Policy for outstanding sportspersons of the state. The quantum of money of cash awards would be enhanced from time to time, keeping in view the high status of these awards.

Suitable Awards and incentives will be provided to players to compensate for the expenses incurred on diet, training, preparation and for deprivations suffered by them due to their devotion and service to sports. The purpose is also to mitigate the sufferings

caused due to hardships encountered during training and preparation. Another purpose of the award and incentives is to encourage and motivate the outstanding sportspersons for even higher achievements and to attract the younger generation to adopt sports as a career. These awards are also the expression of appreciation and gratitude of the state / nation to the medal winners. The scope of awards and incentives shall be increased/modified by the State Government from time to time.

Further as an incentive to high performing student players, Government will enhance the quantum of sports quota for admission into various educational/technical/medical/agriculture institutions.

AWARDS

Sports & Youth Welfare Department will give awards to outstanding sportspersons every year, who represent the state of Assam in the National Championships and medal winners in National/ International Competitions in the preceding 5 years. The awardees shall be selected from those who participate in Olympic and other recognised international/ national sports competitions in Olympic disciplines. These awards shall be given away on the occasion of State Sports Day (i.e. 17th October birth day of Radha Govinda Baruah the doyen of sports in Assam).

CASH INCENTIVES TO SPORTSPERSONS

Cash incentives shall be given to the sportspersons of Assam who win First, Second and Third positions in National and International competitions conducted by recognised/authorised sports bodies as per details given below:-

Sl. No.	Tournament / Championship	Medal	Amount of Cash Award (Amt. in lakh)
1	Olympic Games	Gold	100.00
		Silver	75.00
		Bronze	50.00
2	Asian Games	Gold	50.00
		Silver	30.00
		Bronze	20.00
3	Common Wealth Games	Gold	50.00
		Silver	30.00
		Bronze	20.00
4.	<u>World Championship (Senior) in Olympic disciplines recongnized by IOA</u>	Gold	50.00
		Silver	30.00
		Bronze	20.00
5	Asian Championship / Common Wealth Championship / Sr. National Championship	Gold	05.00
		Silver	03.00
		Bronze	02.00
6	Paralympics Games	Gold	100.00
		Silver	75.00
		Bronze	50.00
7	International Tournaments for Specially abled Category	Gold	50.00
		Silver	30.00
		Bronze	20.00
8	National Tournaments for Specially abled Category	Gold	10.00
		Silver	05.00
		Bronze	03.00

Eligibility Criteria for Cash Award:

- 1) The Cash Award shall be presented to the players who represent Assam State in the National Championships. The applications on a prescribed Proforma for cash award will be invited by the Department of Sports once in a year. The application must carry the attested copies of the certificates of winning/medals/positions/titles given by the official International Sports Body or Indian Olympic Association. Applications for the consideration of award would be received in the Directorate of Sports directly through District Sports officers and from Assam Olympic Association.
- 2) In team events the amount of cash award for each member will be equivalent to the amount to be given to position holder of individual events.
- 3) In junior category, players will get 50% of the above amount.
- 4) Cash awards shall be given only to the medal winners and not just for breaking the existing records in the competitions mentioned above.
 - a. The Government intends to institute some more state awards in future for further encouragement of sports-persons/ sports officials/ sports administrators and sports promoters.
 - b. The cash awards are introduced primarily to compensate the medal winners of national/ international sports events for the expenses incurred on diet, training, preparations and for the deprivations suffered by them due to their devotion and service to sports. The objective is also to mitigate the sufferings caused due to hardships encountered during preparation. Another purpose of the cash awards is to encourage and motivate the outstanding sportspersons for even higher achievements and to attract the younger generation to pursue sports as a career. These cash awards definitely help to rehabilitate the medal winners with honour, dignity and comfort after the conclusion of their active sports career which is generally of a very short duration. The cash awards are also the expression of appreciation and gratitude of the state to the medal winners for winning laurels for the state and country.

- c. The games covered under Cash Award Policy shall be reviewed periodically.
- d. Coaches who have trained and produced International medalists (Olympic / Asian Games / Commonwealth Games / World Championship) would be provided Cash Awards as per rates below:-

Competition	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Olympic / Official World Cup (held every 4 years)	10.00 lac	5.00 lac	3.00 lac
Asian/ Common Wealth Games	2.00 lac	1.00 lac	0.50 lac

- e. I) Government of Assam will provide free travel concession for life along with spouse to medalists of Olympics, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, World Championships and Arjuna Awardees in all categories of Assam State Transport Corporation Buses.
- II) Bus concession upto 75% will be provided to players participating in National and State level Sports competitions.
- f. The Government in cooperation with Assam Olympic Association (AOA), as well as State Sports Associations will work for zero tolerance on doping in sports. Any sportsperson ever found guilty of doping would be stripped of all State Honours/ Awards ever given to him or her either by the State Government or any of its agencies.

12.2 PENSION TO EMINENT SPORTSPERSONS

The Government of Assam in Sports & Youth Welfare Department has been providing yearly Sports Pension to eminent sportspersons / sports organizers / technical officials since 1983, as a compensation for the

opportunities spurned by sportsmen at the altar of growing commercialization of sports to win laurels for the country.

The eligibility criteria for the Pension Scheme and its rates shall be reviewed periodically to neutralize the impact of inflation.

Sports & Youth Welfare Department shall also take necessary steps for providing regular monthly pension to sports pensioners in place of the existing yearly pension.

This policy will be modified / revised from time to time as and when required.

ASHUTOSH AGNIHOTRI,

Commissinoer & Secretary to the Govt. of Assam,
Sports & Youth Welfare Department.