

Odisha aims to shine at the Khelo India Youth Games 2024 with a strong contingent of 138 athletes

Bhubaneswar, 17 January 2024: The contingent from Odisha will begin to depart from Odisha from the 18th of January to compete in the Khelo India Youth Games 2024, scheduled to take place in Tamil Nadu from the 19th of January. As many as 138 athletes will make up Odisha's contingent at the National competition where Odisha will be competing in Athletics, Football (Boys and Girls), Judo, Weightlifting, Cycling (Track and Road), Swimming, Hockey, Badminton, Gymnastics, Tennis, Mallakhamb and Kho-kho. With Odisha promoting women in sports, the contingent will comprise 76 female athletes.

Speaking ahead of the contingent's departure, Secretary, Sports & Youth Services Department, Shri Vineel Krishna conveyed his best wishes to athletes and said, "The Khelo India Youth Games are a tremendous opportunity for our young athletes to get national exposure and for Odisha to exhibit its talent in sports. The development of our young athletes is an integral part of our vision, and we are looking forward to the competition. I would also like to wish all the competing athletes the best of luck."

The Khelo India Youth Games functions as a team championship, where the medals achieved by individual athletes or teams add to the overall medal count of their respective State or Union Territory (UT).

With access to top-notch infrastructure, state-of-the-art facilities in sports science and under the adept guidance of expert coaches, the team has been preparing for the KIYG 2024. Odisha contingent will build on their momentum from the previous edition, where Odisha finished with the ninth highest medal tally of 30 medals, including 11 gold, eight silver, and 11 bronze medals. Odisha's registered impressive performances included the disciplines of Kayaking & Canoeing, Hockey, Tennis and Athletics.