

Odisha Sports Minister Recognizes Odisha's Rising Athletes Across Multiple Disciplines

Bhubaneswar 22 February 2024: In a felicitation ceremony held today in Bhubaneswar, Sports Minister Shri Tusharkanti Behera honored the exemplary achievements of young athletes from Odisha for their respective triumphs in Hockey, Rugby, Kayaking and Canoeing with cash awards. Furthermore, the winners of the Digital Competitions contests as part of the Nua O initiative were also recognised with cash awards at the ceremony. The Sports Minister Shri Tusharkanti Behera was accompanied by Sports Director, Shri Siddhartha Das, and Jt. Secretary, Shri Sailendra Kumar Jena

In total, 59 athletes were felicitated, receiving a cash prize of Rs 9,00,500 in recognition of their outstanding achievements.

In Kayaking and Canoeing, Odisha athletes showcased their prowess at the 34th Sub-Junior and Junior National Canoe Sprint Championship, 2024 held in Bhopal. A total of 19 athletes won medals, securing a total of 40 medals across Sub-Junior and Junior categories. The athletes were recognised with a total cash prize of Rs 7,40,500.

Additionally, in Rugby, both the Girls and Boys Rugby Teams emerged victorious to win silver medals at the National Sub-Junior U-14 Rugby Championship, 2024 held in Gujarat. A total of Rs 1,20,000 was divided amongst the Boys and Girls teams with each player receiving a total of Rs. 5,000 each.

The U-14 Grassroots team of the Odisha Hockey High-Performance Centre showcased their skill and determination by securing the 2nd Runners position in the KD Singh Babu U-14 Boy's hockey tournament. To recognize their efforts, cash prize of Rs 2,500 was granted to all 16 participants, totaling Rs 40,000.

Meanwhile, 27 awardees of the Nua O Digital competitions received prizes in categories such as reel making, photography and film making. Cash prizes of Rs 50,000, Rs 40,000, and Rs 30,000 were awarded for first, second, and third place, respectively.