

**INNOVATIVE INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN BY THE
YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS DEPARTMENT**

One of the major innovative initiatives undertaken by the Youth Affairs & Sports Department is the launch of the Rural Sports Scheme.

The erstwhile Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA) Scheme was replaced by the Khelo India Scheme. Under the Khelo India Scheme, Annual Sports Competitions are conducted from District Level upwards. This leaves the Gram Panchayats/Village Councils, Blocks and Sub-Divisions uncovered. The Rural Sports Scheme was introduced by the Government of Tripura in 2016 for holding Sports Competitions right from the grass-root level (Panchayat Level) up to the State Level. In 2016, overall participation in Rural Sports, 2016 is given below:

Sl. No.	Level	Participation					Spectators	Total
		Boys	Girls	Men	Women	Total		
1	GP/VC/Ward	93612	68148	59114	60595	281469	307511	588980
2	Block/MC/NP /AMC	48186	32800	10184	10035	101205	109395	210600
3	Sub-Division	5759	4392	1204	1220	12575	35646	48221
4	District	1234	922	247	253	2656	16700	19356
5	State	465	335	88	88	976	6143	7119
Total		149256	106597	70837	72191	398881	475395	874276

An amount of Rs. 5.00 crores was spent by the State Government in conducting Rural Sports 2016. The Rural Sports was organized jointly by the Tripura School Sports Board (under YAS Department) and the Tripura Sports Council. The following games were organized:

1. Cock Fight
2. T T Ball Throw
3. Tennis Ball Throw
4. Musical Ball
5. Pot Breaking
6. Football
7. Volleyball
8. Kho-Kho
9. Kabaddi
10. Athletics
11. Tug-of-war

A Rural Sports Database was created to keep records of participants, winners etc. This database will be useful for identifying talent. This year also, Rural Sports 2017 is likely to be conducted in the month of November.