



An Analytical Study of Participation Opportunities in Khel Maharan 1.0 in Assam

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Article Info

P-ISSN: 3051-3480

E-ISSN: 3051-3499

Impact Factor (RSIF): 8.56

Volume: 02

Issue: 01

Received: 08-01-2026

Accepted: 06-02-2026

Published: 04-03-2026

Page No: 09-13

Abstract

The Study was access to identify the promising and talent athletes of the state of Assam is the main fundamental of Khel Maharan 1.0. It has been prepared for further improvement of their Sports performance. The paper is based on descriptive method. To Exploring an Opportunities to participant on Khel Maharan 1.0 in Assam. To understand the Recent Trends on Khel Maharan 1.0 in Assam. To Understand the revolution of Sports in Assam. Khel Maharan 1.0, launched by the Sports & Youth Welfare Department, Government of Assam, is a large-scale grassroots sports initiative aimed at expanding participation opportunities and identifying sporting talent across Assam. Conducted through a four-tier competition structure—Gram Panchayat, LAC, District, and State levels—the program covered Athletics, Football, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, and Volleyball in Under-19 and Above-19 categories for both genders. The present study is based on three key objectives: (1) to assess participation opportunities in Khel Maharan 1.0, (2) to analyse district-wise participation, and (3) to evaluate district medal tally performance. Using descriptive research methodology and secondary data analysis, findings reveal mass-scale engagement broad district representation, balanced gender participation, and competitive distribution of medals among districts. The study concludes that Khel Maharan 1.0 has significantly strengthened grassroots sports development in Assam.

Keywords: Assam, Athletes, Khel Maharan, Sports, Exploring

Introduction

The Sports & Youth Welfare Department, Government of Assam launched Khel Maharan in 2023, presently recognized as Khel Maharan 1.0, as a landmark initiative aimed at strengthening the sports ecosystem of Assam. This large-scale sports movement was conceptualized to cultivate a strong grassroots sports culture across the state. Spearheaded by the Department of Sports and Youth Welfare, the program seeks to promote sports participation and youth development by providing a comprehensive platform for individuals from diverse backgrounds to demonstrate their athletic abilities.

Khel Maharan 1.0 encompasses a wide range of sports disciplines, including football, kabaddi, volleyball, track and field (athletics), kho-kho, and other competitive activities. The initiative places particular emphasis on outreach in rural areas and Gram Panchayats, thereby ensuring inclusive participation and encouraging community engagement at the grassroots level. The primary objective of Khel Maharan 1.0 is to identify outstanding sportspersons and provide them with structured developmental opportunities to achieve their maximum potential. The program focuses on delivering advanced coaching and systematic training, enhancing both physical and psychological attributes, refining technical skills, and imparting knowledge related to sports psychology and professionalism. Additionally, the initiative promotes personality development, physical fitness, mental resilience, and team-building competencies. With over 5 million registrations and more than 31 lakh participants, Khel Maharan achieved unprecedented success in its inaugural edition. The core mission of the program was to establish a unified competitive platform for sportspersons across Assam while systematically identifying and nurturing emerging talent.

Khel Maharan was organized as a multi-level, multi-disciplinary sports competition conducted across four tiers: Gram Panchayat Level, Legislative Assembly Constituency (LAC) Level, District Level, and State Level. Competitions were categorized for both male and female participants in Under-19 and Above-19 age groups, ensuring equitable opportunities for youth engagement and talent development. At the State Level, Kokrajhar hosted the Athletics Competition from 1st to 4th March 2024, inaugurated by Smt. Nandita Gorlosa, Hon'ble Minister of Sports and Youth Welfare, Assam, with participation from 1,320 athletes. The Under-19 Kho-Kho competition was held at DSA Stadium, Silchar, from 2nd to 5th March 2024, attracting 759 participants (378 males and 381 females) from 32 districts, supported by 64 staff members, reflecting a commendable gender balance. The Above-19 Football Competition took place in Sonitpur across multiple venues including Tezpur University Playground, Polo Field (Tezpur), Bhutpara Stadium (Dhekiajuli), and Nath Shankar Stadium (Sootea), with participation from 35 districts and 556 male players between 5th and 9th March 2024. The event commenced with a grand opening ceremony attended by Smt. Nandita Gorlosa. Similarly, the State-Level Kabaddi Competition was conducted at the KNCB Indoor Stadium, Guwahati, from 4th to 8th March 2024, drawing 1,636 participants from 34 districts across various age categories, highlighting the strong kabaddi culture within the state. The Under-19 and Above-19 Volleyball competitions were organized at Mancotta Tea Estate Playfield, Dibrugarh, from 5th to 9th March 2024. A total of 1,554 players (837 male and 717 female) participated, supported by 280 staff members, demonstrating high engagement and organizational efficiency.

The Under-19 Football competition was hosted at KASA Stadium, Diphu, and concluded at Hanjanglangso Outdoor Stadium, Bokajan, with participation from 35 districts and over 1,000 players. The event was attended by distinguished dignitaries including Smt. Nandita Gorlosa and Dr. Tuliram Ronghang. In terms of competitive performance, Dibrugarh emerged as the leading district in the overall medal tally, followed by Kamrup Metropolitan and Kamrup. Furthermore, Dibrugarh recorded the highest number of identified "Excellent Players" (46), followed by Kamrup (34) and Kamrup Metropolitan (31), reflecting consistent sporting excellence.

To ensure sustained athlete development, the Department has formulated a comprehensive post-competition training plan aimed at providing expert coaching, integrating sports science knowledge, and preparing state-level teams across various age categories. This structured approach underscores the long-term vision of strengthening Assam's sporting

potential through systematic talent development.

Objective of Paper

To assess an exploring & opportunities to participants on Khel Maharan 1.0.

To assess the district level participants on Khel Maharan.

To assess the District Medal Tally of Khel Mahran, Assam.

Methodology

The present study adopts a descriptive research design, as it seeks to systematically examine and interpret the participation opportunities, district representation, and medal performance under Khel Maharan 1.0 in Assam. The descriptive method is considered appropriate because the study primarily focuses on analysing existing data rather than conducting experimental or field-based investigations. The research is based entirely on secondary sources of data. Relevant information was collected from official reports and documents published by the Sports & Youth Welfare Department, Government of Assam, including the State-Level Summary Report of Khel Maharan 1.0. Additional data were obtained from Government publications of Assam, press releases, sports department notifications, research journals, newspaper articles, and credible online sources related to the event.

The collected data included:

Discipline-wise participation statistics

District-wise participation details

Medal tally records

Talent identification (Excellent Players) data

Event schedules and venue information

After compilation, the data were systematically organized into tables and categorized according to the objectives of the study. Statistical tools such as frequency distribution, percentage analysis, and ranking methods were employed to examine district participation patterns and medal distribution trends. Comparative analysis was also undertaken to evaluate performance differences among districts.

The analysed data were then interpreted in relation to the research objectives to assess the scope of participation opportunities provided by Khel Maharan 1.0 and to understand its contribution toward grassroots sports development in Assam.

Since the study is based on secondary data, it is limited to the accuracy and availability of official records. However, all efforts were made to ensure the reliability and authenticity of the information by cross-verifying multiple credible sources.

Table 1:

| Discipline | Total Participants |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Athletics | 1,320 |
| Kho-Kho | 759 |
| Kabaddi | 1,636 |
| Volleyball | 1,554 |
| Football (U-19) | 1,109 |
| Football (A-19) | 556 |

Table no. 1: The table indicates the discipline-wise participation at the State Level of Khel Maharan 1.0, highlighting varying levels of engagement across sports. Kabaddi recorded the highest participation with 1,636

athletes, reflecting its strong popularity and grassroots presence in Assam, followed closely by Volleyball with 1,554 participants, demonstrating significant interest in team sports. Athletics attracted 1,320 participants, indicating

substantial engagement in individual track and field events. Football in the Under-19 category registered 1,109 participants, showing strong youth involvement, whereas the Above-19 football category recorded comparatively lower participation with 556 athletes, possibly due to more selective team representation. Kho-Kho had 759 participants and

displayed balanced gender participation. Overall, the data suggest that Khel Maharan 1.0 successfully ensured wide participation across multiple disciplines, with team sports attracting the highest number of competitors and youth categories showing greater engagement than senior categories.

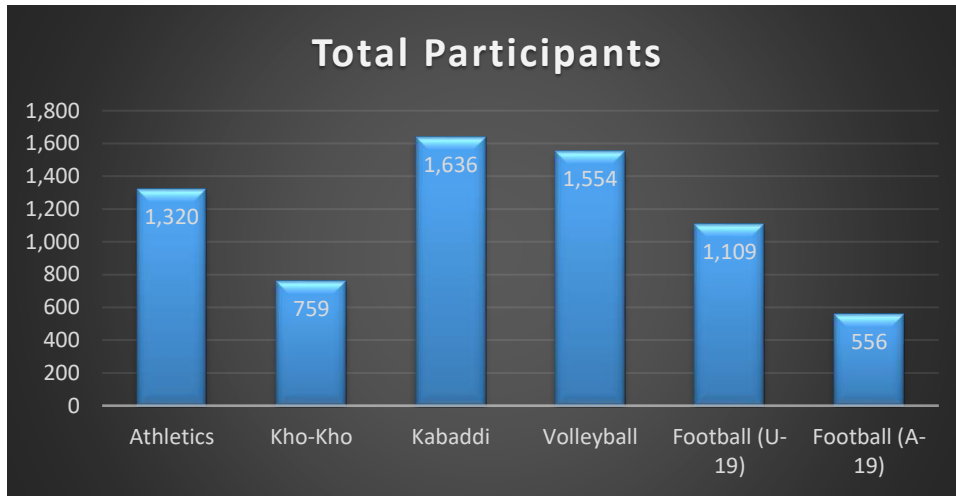


Fig 1: Graphical representation of total participants discipline wise

Table 2:

| District | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|---------------------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| Dibrugarh | 4 | 5 | 1 | 10 |
| Kamrup | 3 | 2 | 4 | 9 |
| Kamrup Metropolitan | 4 | 2 | 2 | 8 |
| Nagaon | 3 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| Sonitpur | 2 | 3 | — | 5 |

Table no 2: The table presents the district-wise medal tally of Khel Maharan 1.0, highlighting the competitive performance of leading districts. Dibrugarh emerged as the top-performing district with a total of 10 medals, including 4 gold, 5 silver, and 1 bronze, demonstrating consistent excellence across events. Kamrup secured the second position with 9 medals (3 gold, 2 silver, and 4 bronze), indicating balanced performance across categories. Kamrup

Metropolitan followed with 8 medals, including 4 gold medals, reflecting strong dominance in certain disciplines. Nagaon and Sonitpur each secured 5 medals; Nagaon earned 3 gold, 1 silver, and 1 bronze medal, while Sonitpur achieved 2 gold and 3 silver medals without any bronze. Overall, the table reflects competitive parity among districts, with Dibrugarh leading the medal tally and other districts showing commendable performance across various sports disciplines.

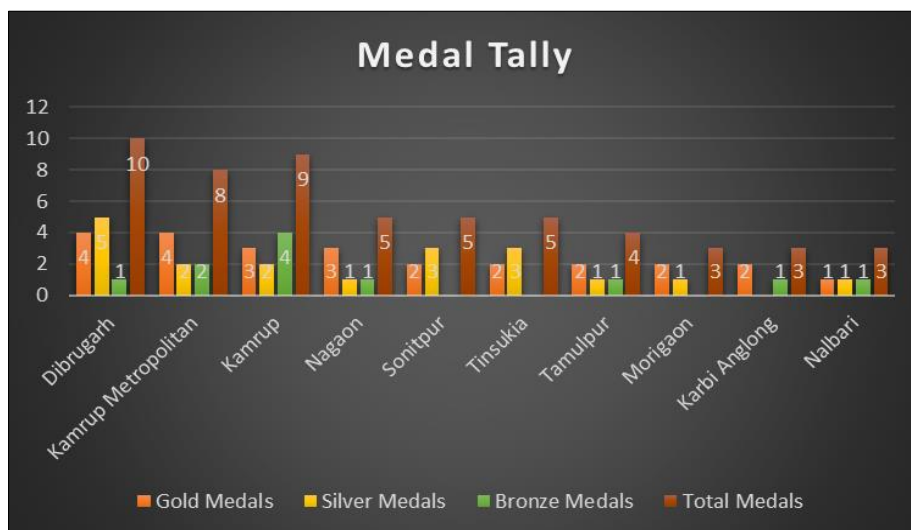


Fig 2: Graphical Representation of Medal Tally of 35 District of Assam in Khel Maharan 1.0

Table 3:

| Rank | District | Excellent Players |
|------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Dibrugarh | 46 |
| 2 | Kamrup | 34 |
| 3 | Kamrup Metropolitan | 31 |
| 4 | Tamulpur | 31 |
| 5 | Nagaon | 29 |
| 6 | Sonitpur | 27 |
| 7 | Karbi Anglong | 25 |
| 8 | Udalguri | 25 |
| 9 | Lakhimpur | 24 |
| 10 | Charaideo & Tinsukia | 23 |

Table No 3: The table presents the ranking of the top districts based on the number of “Excellent Players” identified during Khel Maharan 1.0, reflecting the strength of talent development across Assam. Dibrugarh secured the first rank with 46 excellent players, indicating its strong grassroots sports structure and consistent performance. Kamrup followed in second place with 34 players, while Kamrup Metropolitan and Tamulpur jointly held the third and fourth positions with 31 players each, demonstrating competitive

parity. Nagaon (29 players) and Sonitpur (27 players) also showed significant talent representation. Karbi Anglong and Udalguri were tied with 25 players each, followed by Lakhimpur with 24. Charaideo and Tinsukia jointly occupied the tenth position with 23 players each. Overall, the table highlights a balanced distribution of sporting talent across multiple districts, with Dibrugarh emerging as the most dominant district in terms of identified excellence.

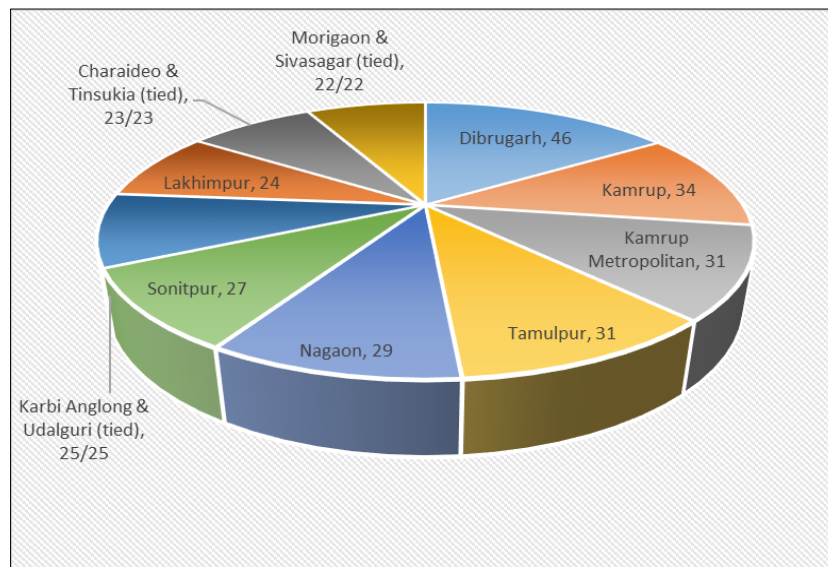


Fig 3: Graphical Representation of Top 10 Districts with most Excellent Players participated of Assam in Khel Maharan

Discussion

The findings indicate that Khel Maharan 1.0 has effectively facilitated decentralized talent development across Assam. The dominance of Dibrugarh in producing the highest number of excellent players suggests the presence of stronger sports infrastructure, coaching facilities, and competitive exposure in the district. However, the relatively close numbers among Kamrup, Kamrup Metropolitan, Tamulpur, and other districts demonstrate that opportunities were broadly accessible rather than limited to metropolitan regions. The balanced distribution across both urban and semi-urban districts highlights the success of the multi-tier competition structure in reaching grassroots levels. Furthermore, the identification of excellent players from diverse districts supports the objective of equitable sports promotion and indicates that Khel Maharan 1.0 has laid a strong foundation for long-term athlete development across the state.

Result of the Khel Maharan 1.0:

In the boys' category, Dibrugarh district emerged as champions, while Tamulpur secured the runner-up position. Conversely, in the girls' category, Tamulpur claimed the championship title, with Kamrup Metropolitan finishing second. In the Under-19 category, Nagaon and Chirang achieved victory in the boys' and girls' divisions respectively, whereas in the Above-19 category, Tinsukia and Tamulpur emerged as champions in the boys' and girls' sections.

In the Under-19 Boys' volleyball final, Morigaon defeated Sonitpur by 3–1, demonstrating effective tactical execution and match control. Similarly, in the Under-19 Girls' final, Bajali dominated Sonitpur with a decisive 3–0 win, reflecting strong team coordination and defensive strength. At the senior level, Sonitpur overcame Kamrup by 3–1 in the A-19 Men's final, showcasing competitive maturity and strategic

performance. In the A-19 Women's category, Kamrup Metropolitan secured a commanding 3–0 victory over Tinsukia, highlighting technical proficiency and cohesive teamwork.

In football, Karbi Anglong narrowly defeated Goalpara 2–1 in the Under-19 Boys' final, indicating a closely contested match. Karbi Anglong also captured the Under-19 Girls' title with a 1–0 win over Dibrugarh, demonstrating consistency and defensive discipline. In the A-19 Men's football final, Sonitpur triumphed over Udalguri in a penalty shootout (3–1), reflecting composure and psychological resilience under pressure.

Results

The analysis of district-wise identification of "Excellent Players" in Khel Maharan 1.0 reveals significant variation in talent representation across districts. Dibrugarh secured the highest position with 46 excellent players, indicating strong performance and effective grassroots sports development. Kamrup followed with 34 players, while Kamrup Metropolitan and Tamulpur each recorded 31 players, demonstrating comparable levels of sporting excellence. Nagaon (29) and Sonitpur (27) also showed substantial representation. Karbi Anglong and Udalguri were tied with 25 players each, followed by Lakhimpur (24) and Charaideo and Tinsukia with 23 players each. The distribution suggests that talent identification was not concentrated in a single region but spread across multiple districts, reflecting inclusive participation and competitive balance within the state.

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How to Cite This Article

Boro N, Brahma R, Sukladas R. An analytical study of participation opportunities in Khel Maharan 1.0 in Assam. *International Journal of Physical Education, Sports and Holistic Development.* 2026;2(1):9–13.

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