



**Sports and Youth Services, Department  
Government of Odisha**

**State Level Selection Trials For National Junior Athletics Championship  
Guwahati 2021 To Start From Tomorrow At Kalinga Stadium**

**Bhubaneswar, 15 January, 2021:** Department of Sports and Youth Services and Odisha Athletics Association will jointly conduct a two-day state level Junior Athletics selection trials from tomorrow at the Kalinga Stadium to constitute the Odisha contingent for the upcoming National Junior Athletics Championship to be held in Guwahati, Assam from 6 -10 February, 2021.

A total number of 239 athletes (boys 127, girls 111) from 31 units which include RSP and KIIT University in the age group of U-14, U-16, U-18 and U-20 will be competing across track and field, jump and throw events during the trials. New events ball throw for U-14 boys and girls, 80 mts hurdle and 300 mts run for U-16 boys and girls have been included this year.

The trials will be conducted under strict adherence to COVID 19 protocols.

Some of the promising track and field athletes from Odisha including three from the Reliance Foundation Odisha Athletics High Performance Centre (HPC) and six athletes from the Monitoring Cohort (MC) of the high performance centre will be competing at the State Trials.

**Hon'ble Minister for Sports and Youth Services, Odisha, Shri Tusharkanti Behera** said, "We are happy to announce the selection trials for the Odisha junior athletics team who will go ahead and participate in the National Junior Athletics Championships in Guwahati next month. COVID 19 pandemic had unprecedented impact on sports stalling events and training activities for a significant period. This is the first such large scale trials, post resumption of sports, and we are confident it will benefit the athletes. Over the last few years our representation at different national games has increased, so also the performance of our athletes particularly in track and field and jump and throw events. This trial will be a good platform to screen some of our promising athletes from a very young age and who can be further groomed at our preparatory

camps prior to the National Junior Athletics Championships. For others, it will be yet another opportunity to excel at their sport in a national meet. I wish them all the very best.”

The selection committee members constituted by the Odisha Athletics Association and headed by Sri. Ashok Kumar Sahu, Joint Secretary, OAA and Chairman, selection committee will be present during the trials headed

**Odisha Athletics Association, Honorary Secretary, Shri Ashirbad Behera** said, “It’s a great opportunity for our future champions to compete at the world-class Kalinga Stadium and showcase their talent. They are eager to participate in the selection trials after the long lockdown period. I am thankful to the Sports & Youth Services Department, Odisha for extending all types of support for the conduct of the championships.”