

Thakur inaugurates police cluster meet

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NEW DELHI: Union sports minister Anurag Thakur inaugurated the 7th edition of the All India Police Judo Cluster 2022 at the Indira Gandhi Stadium Complex here on Monday. The event, which runs until September 24, has seven disciplines—judo, karate, taekwondo, wushu, gymnastics, fencing and pencak silat. More than 1,500 players from 41 teams are participating in the competition.

Thakur, who was the chief guest, began his address by praising the athletes who won medals at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham in July and August.

"I would like to use this opportunity to congratulate all those athletes who won medals at the Commonwealth Games. With your exemplary performance, you have made the country proud. I would like to congratulate **Central Industrial Security Force** for the inauguration of the 7th All India Police Judo Cluster and wish the participants all the best. This event for the police

forces has its own importance and will not only give police officers an opportunity to showcase their sporting skills but also strengthen the feeling of unity amongst them," Thakur said.

The 47-year-old, who took charge of the sports ministry in July 2021, also lauded the country's judokas for their recent performances.

At the Commonwealth Games, India won two silver medals and one bronze in judo. Teenager Linthoi Chanambam won gold at the world cadet judo championships in the girls' 57kg category.

"If we see recent judo events, our athletes are achieving new feats. I have full confidence that India will win medals in judo in the Asian Games, CWG and even in the Olympics going forward," he said.

Thakur believes that Indians have embraced Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Fit India Movement, which was launched in 2019. "Whether it is our youngsters, women or sportspersons, the whole country is moving towards becoming fitter," he added.