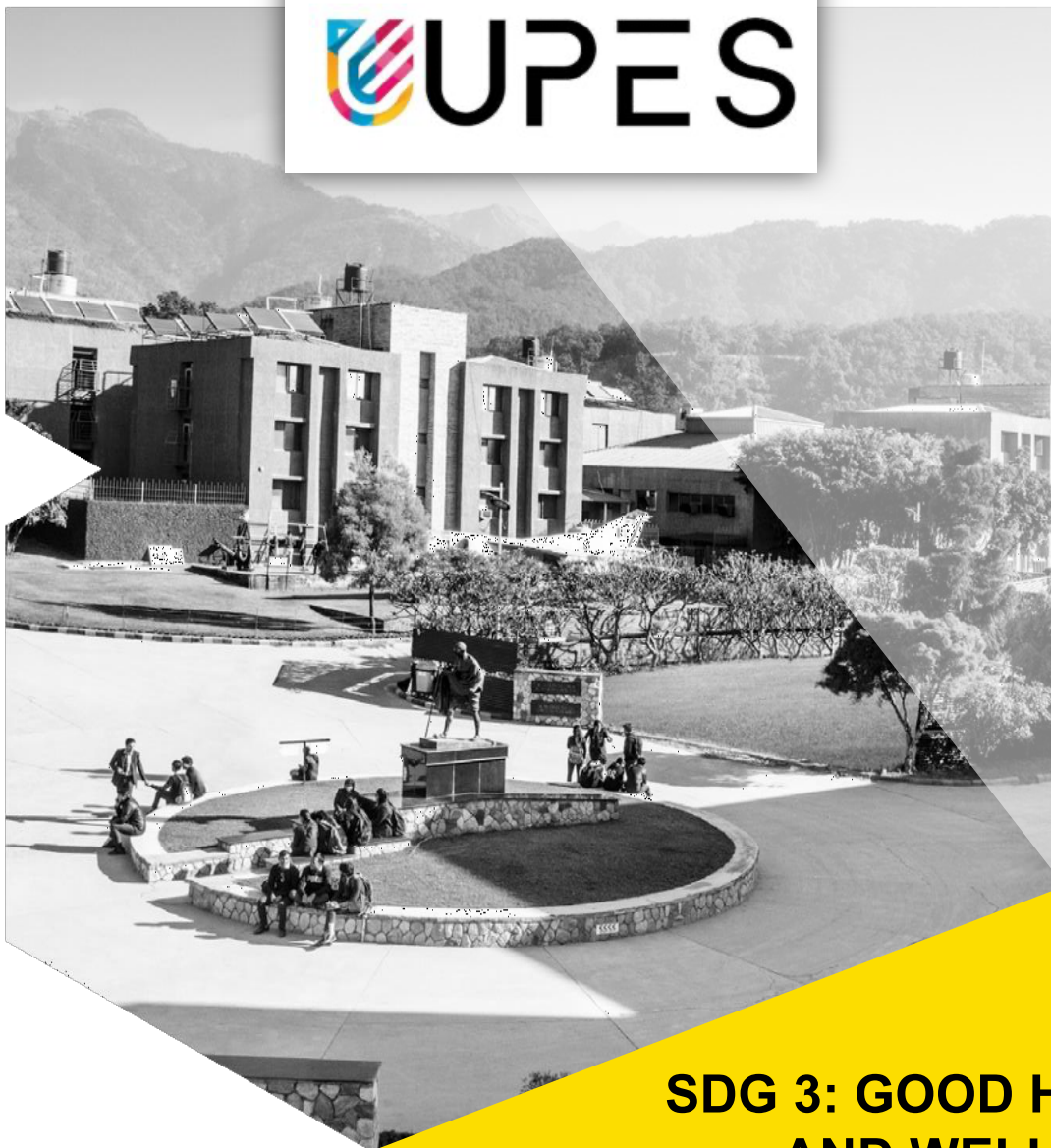




SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



**SDG 3: GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING**

2025

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Community Access to UPES Sports Facilities

Shared Use of Sports Infrastructure

The University of Petroleum and Energy Studies (UPES) in Dehradun has made its sports infrastructure available for use by groups outside the student body through various events and partnerships. UPES's campus features a state-of-the-art sports complex – including a floodlit cricket ground, football field, courts for basketball, volleyball, badminton, and indoor facilities – which the university explicitly notes are used to host **regional tournaments**, providing a “competitive platform” for athletes beyond the campus upes.ac.in. For example, the UPES cricket ground has served as a venue for regional cricket tournaments under lights, and the football ground is likewise equipped for night matches and **regional competitions** upes.ac.in. These indications from the official site suggest that UPES opens its fields and courts to external teams for competitions.

In practice, UPES **regularly shares its sports facilities with local schools and organizations** by hosting inter-school and inter-agency tournaments. In recent years, the university has organized several **interschool sports meets** on campus (and sometimes at local stadiums), inviting teams from local schools and even other regions to compete. For instance, UPES has hosted inter-school tournaments in sports like basketball, football, futsal, chess, and athletics, drawing participation from numerous schools. One such event was an inter-school basketball tournament (the second edition as of 2025), which “brought together talented teams from across the country,” according to university social media updates [instagram.com](https://www.instagram.com). Similarly, an inter-school football and futsal tournament in 2025 saw student teams from various schools compete at a local sports complex in Dehradun. These events demonstrate UPES's willingness to extend its sports infrastructure to **young athletes in the community**.

UPES also engages with local **organizations and clubs** by allowing them to use its facilities through organized events. A prominent example is the annual **Shaheed Memorial Cricket Tournament**, which is held at the UPES Bidholi campus cricket ground. This tournament features teams from outside the university – including local government departments and public sector organizations – competing on UPES's turf. In 2025, the 11th edition of this tournament included eight teams such as *UPCL Roorkee*, *PWD*, *Irrigation Haridwar*, *MDDA*, and other regional agencies, alongside the UPES staff team upes.ac.in. Earlier editions were even larger; for instance, around 20 teams from various government and public-sector units participated in the 2020 tournament upes.ac.in. By hosting these teams, UPES clearly opens its sports grounds to the **wider local community** (e.g. government workers, local clubs) for meaningful competitive play.

Notably, UPES's sports outreach goes beyond just competitive tournaments. The university's CSR and community engagement wing has initiated sports programs for youth in the surrounding community. In January 2025, for example, UPES (in collaboration with its student chapters) organized a “**Gram Utsav**” **sports meet** aimed at young athletes from nearby government schools. This event provided a platform for schoolchildren in local villages to showcase their talent and embrace sportsmanship in a supportive environment. Such initiatives indicate that UPES uses its sports infrastructure and expertise to benefit **local school students** as part of its community outreach. (According to a UPES CSR statement, “*Gram Utsav*” was a specially organized sports competition for government school children, reflecting the

university's goal of making sports accessible to the community.) These kinds of programs help integrate the general public – especially youth – into campus sports activities, fostering goodwill and development through sport.

Structured Events and External Participation

UPES has instituted **structured programs and events** to involve external participants in campus sports. Many of these are recurring or formally organized under university initiatives:

- **Interschool Championships:**

Starting around 2024, UPES began hosting inter-school competitions. By 2025, multiple such events were on the calendar – e.g. an Inter-School Athletics Meet (track-and-field) and separate tournaments for sports like basketball and chess. These meets invite **local schools** (and sometimes schools from other cities) to compete at UPES. They are typically organized by the university's sports committee (often branded as “Sphurit”) and promoted as part of UPES's effort to engage with the youth community. They serve as outreach to improve school-level sports and allow UPES to share facilities and expertise with younger students. For example, the 2025 inter-school basketball and chess tournaments were held on the UPES campus with many schools participating, and the event was billed as an “action-packed” competition for the community's youth [instagram.com](#). These structured competitions not only use UPES venues but also involve university staff and students in coaching, refereeing, and event management, thereby strengthening school–university ties.

- **Inter-University Sports Fest (OJAS):**

UPES launched **OJAS**, an annual inter-university sports festival, to invite universities from across India to its campus for a multi-sport competition. OJAS 2024 was the inaugural edition, and OJAS 2.0 took place in March 2025 [scribd.com](#). During OJAS, teams from various colleges compete in a range of sports (cricket, basketball, volleyball, football, badminton, table tennis, chess, powerlifting, etc.), making use of UPES's facilities over several days. This event is essentially a collegiate sports meet but also an outreach endeavor – it positions UPES as a regional sports hub by welcoming **external university teams**. Uniquely, OJAS also included UPES alumni teams in 2025, effectively extending participation to non-students and strengthening the sense of sports community [linkedin.com](#). As Dr. Amrish Tony (Director of Sports at UPES) noted, *“This year at OJAS, our annual inter-university sports fest, we had the privilege of welcoming back our alumni teams...watching them compete with passion and grit was truly special”* [linkedin.com](#). The inclusion of outside universities and former students means UPES facilities serve a wider community during OJAS. The festival is a **structured, recurring program** that underlines UPES's commitment to sharing its sports culture beyond campus borders.

- **Community and CSR Sports Initiatives:**

UPES's Department of Social Impact incorporates sports into its community programs. The **Shaheed Memorial Cricket Tournament** (discussed above) is one such initiative under “Project Naman,” intended as a tribute to fallen soldiers and a fundraiser for their families [thecsriverse.com](#) [thecsriverse.com](#). It is organized on a **no-profit, charitable basis** and largely funded by the university and its staff, with any voluntary donations from teams going

to the cause upes.ac.in. The tournament not only honors local military heroes but also brings together community members (employees of civic bodies, etc.) on the field, effectively turning the UPES cricket ground into a community sports venue each year. According to UPES, this tradition – now more than a decade old – reflects the university’s “*purpose-driven*” philosophy and creates “*meaningful impact in the community by honouring the sacrifices of India’s bravehearts*” thecsr.universe.com. Another outreach example is *Gram Utsav* (mentioned earlier), a sports day for local school children, which shows UPES’s focus on **youth engagement through sports** as part of its social responsibility. These programs are often **free for participants** and driven by a spirit of service rather than commercial intent.

In addition to these, UPES has occasionally partnered with other institutions on sports endeavors. In 2022, UPES announced it had “**signed collaborations with two universities for a year-long Sports League**”, indicating a joint program where teams regularly compete over the year upes.ac.in. This kind of league would entail home-and-away matches, some of which presumably occur at UPES facilities, thereby sharing access with the partner universities. Such collaborations blur campus boundaries and integrate athletic communities – again showing that UPES’s sports venues are not walled off strictly for its own students, but are used in cooperative, organized sports activities with others.

Access Policies and Fees

Access for the community is generally structured and often subsidized or free. UPES does not appear to simply open its gym or fields to the general public on a daily drop-in basis; instead, access is granted via the organized events and partnerships described above. In those contexts, the **usage is typically free of charge** or on a cost-sharing basis, rather than a commercial rental. For example, the Shaheed Memorial T20 cricket tournament is explicitly “**organised on a no-profit basis**”, primarily sponsored by UPES and its employees, with any contributions from participating teams being voluntary donations toward the cause (not fees) upes.ac.in. This implies that community teams do not pay a ground rental fee – the university bears most costs as part of its CSR commitment. Similarly, inter-school tournaments hosted by UPES are part of its student outreach and branding efforts; these school teams are normally **invited without any participation fee** (in line with common practice for such school competitions). The focus is on providing opportunity and fostering goodwill, rather than revenue.

In cases of collaborative leagues or sports fests (like OJAS or the inter-university league), any costs would likely be shared between institutions or covered by sponsors/organizers. There is no indication that UPES charges the public for tickets or facility use in these events – in fact, many of these tournaments are open for spectators (students and local sports enthusiasts) to watch **free of charge** as well. The university’s description of its sports facilities and initiatives does not mention facility rental programs or paid community memberships, reinforcing that public access is primarily through **university-sponsored events** rather than casual individual use.

It’s worth noting that while **informal public use** (such as local residents jogging on the track or using gyms) is not explicitly advertised, the **organized sharing** of facilities demonstrates an open policy within structured limits. On certain days (especially during events or on weekends), UPES’s sports grounds effectively become community sports hubs. For instance, local club cricket or football matches hosted on Sundays indicate scheduled community use (anecdotally, the UPES football field has been listed among Dehradun’s available mini-football venues,

suggesting external groups utilize it at allotted times). However, any such use would be **with permission and scheduling**; UPES likely requires outside groups to coordinate with the sports department for access, rather than allowing walk-in usage. No public document was found that lays out a formal “open to public” policy or rental guideline for the sports complex, which implies the sharing is managed case-by-case through university initiatives and partnerships rather than through a general open-door policy.

Institutional Support and Guidelines

UPES’s approach to sharing sports facilities aligns with its broader mission of community engagement and holistic education. While there may not be a standalone public policy document titled “community use of sports facilities,” the university’s actions and statements embed this principle. UPES often highlights these sports outreach activities in its official communications, indicating administrative support at the highest levels:

- The university’s **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) reports and webpages** explicitly mention sports outreach. The Shaheed Memorial Cricket Tournament, for example, is featured as a key social impact initiative on the UPES website, under Project Naman [upes.ac.in](https://www.upes.ac.in). By institutionalizing this event (now in its second decade) and publicizing its impact – *honoring martyrs and supporting their families through a sports event* – UPES signals that using sports for community good is part of its ethos. The Vice Chancellor of UPES has described such initiatives as “*small steps from our side to honour [heroes] and help their dependents live better lives*”, emphasizing education and community care [upes.ac.in](https://www.upes.ac.in). This philosophy indirectly functions as a guideline: sports facilities are leveraged to serve societal purposes, not just student recreation.
- **Statements from UPES leadership** also reinforce the idea of community inclusion in sports. In an interview about UPES’s social impact vision (2025), Vice Chancellor Dr. Ram Sharma noted that the university’s various CSR activities directed at schools and communities aim to lay “the foundation for a resilient, empowered, and sustainable society” theCSRUniverse.com. Although this was a general comment, the spirit carries into sports initiatives like Gram Utsav and inter-school events, which educate and empower youth through athletics. Moreover, UPES’s Director of Sports has celebrated how sports create a binding community: “*nothing binds a community stronger than sports*,” he remarked while discussing alumni and external participation in UPES sports fests [linkedin.com](https://www.linkedin.com). Such remarks show that the administration views the sports program as a tool for building community connections beyond campus.
- On the policy front, if UPES participates in international rankings or accreditation (e.g. the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings for SDG 3 – Good Health & Well-being), it likely documents its provision of sports facilities to the public. Many universities formally attest whether local residents can access their sports amenities. While UPES’s specific submission isn’t public, the **evidence of hosting local residents and external groups** in sports would satisfy those criteria. In effect, the “guideline” is that UPES encourages shared use through organized channels. The absence of any prohibitive notices about outsiders and the routine inclusion of external events on campus indicate that UPES actively **promotes community use** rather than restricting its facilities to students only. Any rules (such as scheduling, supervision by university coaches, safety protocols, etc.) are handled internally for each event to ensure proper use of the facilities.

In summary, **from 2020 through 2025, UPES has consistently expanded community access to its sports infrastructure.** Key efforts during this period include the ongoing annual Shaheed Memorial Cricket Tournament (which has run through the late 2010s and into the 2020s) upes.ac.in upes.ac.in, the introduction of inter-school tournaments and sports meets (notably growing in 2024–2025), and the launch of the OJAS inter-college sports festival in 2024 with an even larger edition in 2025 scribd.com linkedin.com. All these initiatives illustrate a trend of **opening UPES’s sports facilities to the broader community** under structured, purpose-driven programs. The access is generally **free of cost or nominal** (focused on social impact rather than profit), and often tied to **community development goals**. Through official press releases, blogs, and CSR reports, UPES affirms these activities as part of its commitment to social responsibility and inclusive growth. In essence, UPES does *share its sports facilities* with the local community – be it schoolchildren, government employees, or other college athletes – and does so in a managed way that emphasizes collaboration, outreach, and the upliftment of sports in the region.