

Sports Authority of India

PRESS RELEASE

Key decisions taken at MOC meeting

New Delhi, 13th June 2018: The Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) met earlier today to clear funding proposals regarding training, competition and equipment needs. The MOC also reviewed the performance of athletes included under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS). 1 new athlete in Tennis was included while one Tennis player and one weightlifter were dropped.

Tennis:

32 year-old Men's doubles specialist Divij Sharan has been included under the TOPS scheme till the Asian Games. He is currently ranked 43 in Men's doubles on the ATP tour and has improved his ranking from 59 a year ago. He has won three doubles titles since 2013.

A total of Rs. 26.03 Lakhs has been sanctioned by the committee to Rohan Bopanna for the use of a coach and physio for a period of 12 weeks starting 7th May. Bopanna who is a part of India's 2018 Asian Games squad is a prolific doubles player and reached the semifinals of the Mixed Doubles event in the 2016 Olympics.

The Committee has also decided to exclude Men's singles player Yuki Bhambri from the TOPS scheme as he will not be playing in the Asian Games.

Shooting:

A total of Rs. 48.87 Lakhs and other costs (Air ticket, visa) has been sanctioned to trap shooters Shreyasi Singh, Seema Tomar , Manavjit Singh Sandhu and Ankur Mittal for their training and participating in international competition in Italy ahead of the Asian Games.

A total of Rs. 16.55 Lakhs was ratified for the approval given to cover the 26-day training expenses in Italy of Shardul Vihan.

A total of Rs. 1.43 Lakhs has been approved for the purchase of ammunition for CWG 2018 gold medal winner Anish Bhanwala.

Para-Sports:

A total of Rs. 3.16 Lakhs and other expenses (Air ticket, visa, insurance) has been sanctioned to Para-Javelin thrower Sundar Singh Gurjar for a 18-day training programme in Finland along with his personal coach Mahavir Prasad Saini.

At the meeting, it was also decided to sanction the entry fee (all inclusive with boarding, lodging and travel) of Euro 700 (Rs. 56,000 + air tickets) for the IPC Grand Prix in Tunisia for each Para-athlete; Rohit Kumar , Vinay Kumar Lal, Aamit Kumar, Amit Kumar Saroha (with escort) and Rampal Chahar.

Weightlifting:

The committee has decided to hire the services of physio Shrikant Iyengar for four weightlifters Mirabai Chanu, Rakhi Halder, Jeremy and Pardeep Singh, for a period of five and a half months starting 15th June. He will be paid Rs. 1,76,000 for 11 visits.

It was also decided to drop Ms. Sanjita Chanu from the TOPS scheme as she stands suspended by the International Weightlifting Federation on doping charges.

Squash:

The committee also ratified the approval of Rs. 4.91 lakhs given to squash player Joshna Chinappa for a month's training in Bristol, United Kingdom ahead of the Asian Games.

Archery:

The committee ratified the approval of a total of Rs. 9.53 Lakhs given to five Indian archers Abhishek Verma, V Jyothi Surekha, Atanu Das, Deepika Kumari and Bombayla Devi along with their coach Jiwanjot Singh Teja for participation in the World Cup Stage 3 Archery in USA from June 16-25.

Fencing:

The committee approved the sanction of Rs. 3.23 Lakhs along with airfare to fencer Bhavani Devi for her training and competition expenses from 17th June till 15th August 2018.

The Target Olympic Podium Scheme is a flagship program of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports which is an attempt to provide assistance to India's top athletes.