

Sports Authority of India

PRESS RELEASE

Key funding and review of TOPS athletes taken at meeting

New Delhi, 27th 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). There were two Wrestlers including two-time Olympic medallist Sushil Kumar who were included while one received an extension, while 11 athletes in three sports Archery, Wrestling and Athletics were dropped primarily due to their non-selection for the upcoming Asian Games.

Wrestling:

35 year-old Sushil Kumar, one of the most decorated athletes in Indian sports history was included in the TOPS scheme. Sushil is a two-time medal winner in the Summer Olympics, the most by any Indian individual. He is also a three-time Commonwealth Games gold medalist.

Also included under the TOPS scheme is 24 year-old woman wrestler Pooja Dhanda who had won the silver medal in the 57 kg category at the 2018 Commonwealth Games. She has been included as she is considered a strong medal prospect for the Asian Games.

Sumit Malik, gold medal winner in the 125 kg category at the Commonwealth Games received an extension under TOPS having originally only been included till the CWG.

The committee has also taken the decision to drop the following wrestlers from the TOPS scheme as they will not be part of the Asian Games squad: Lalita, Sarita, Parveen Rana and Satyawart Kadian.

The committee also sanctioned the extension by one week of Bajrang Punia's training under TOPS in Georgia so that he can participate in the Tbilisi Grand Prix.

Archery:

The committee has decided to drop Recurve archers Jayanta Talukdar (Men) and Laishram Bombayla Devi (Women) from the TOPS scheme as neither is a part of the Asian Games squad.

Also excluded from the scheme for the same reason are Compound archers, Chinna Raju Srither (Men) and Lily Chanu Paonam, Parveena and Divya Dhayal (Women).

Tennis:

The committee has sanctioned a total of Rs. 30.7 Lakhs plus air fare for participating in competitions, engagement of support staff and equipment needs for Tennis players Divij Sharan and Sumit Nagal, both of whom are playing the Asian Games.

Para-Sports:

The committee has sanctioned Rs. 4.19 Lakhs for long-distance Para-sport runner Ankur Dhama to continue his ongoing coaching camp in Ooty for the 2018 Asian Para Games for a period of 44 days starting 18th June along with his coach and two guide runners.

A total of Rs. 5.22 Lakhs was also sanctioned for Para-Javelin Thrower and two-time Paralympic gold medal winner Devendra Jhalaria to continue

his coaching camp at SAI's Netaji Subhas Western Centre in Gandhinagar for a period of 124 days till August 3rd with his coach.

Weightlifting:

A total of Rs. 2.74 Lakhs has been sanctioned for purchase of training kit for four weightlifters, Mirabai Chanu, Jeremy, Rakhi Halder and Pardeep Singh.

Boxing:

A total of Rs. 4.59 Lakhs has been sanctioned for the engagement of strength and conditioning expert Rickard Mats Nilsson for a period of 10 days from July 6-15.

The committee has also sanctioned a total of Rs. 1.92 Lakhs (plus air fare, visa and insurance) for the services of Fabio Morbidini, strength and conditioning expert, who will work with the Indian elite women's boxing team for a period of 14 days in the build up to the Asian Games.

Gymnastics:

The committee approved the proposal for gymnasts Dipa Karmakar and Rakesh Patra for their participation at the FIG World Challenge Cup at Mersin, Turkey at a total cost of Rs. 2.99 Lakhs (plus air tickets and visa)

Athletics:

400 m relay runner Anilda Thomas has been dropped from the TOPS scheme largely due to her absence from training with the relay team.

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

