

## SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

### Sub: Visit of DG, SAI to Pune on 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2015.

I attended the closing ceremony of Glenmark National Aquatic Championships-2015 held on 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2015, at Balewadi Sports Complex, Pune. The championship covered both sub-junior and junior categories of boys and girls and around 1200 swimmers participated in the Championship. A number of new national records were set during the Championship .

2. I was happy to note that the trainees of the recently opened SAI National Swimming Academy performed quite well at the Championship by securing a total of 12 medals – 2 Gold, 5 Silver and 5 Bronze.

3. The tournament was conducted in a very professional manner. It is heartening to note that M/s Glen mark, which is a leading pharmaceutical company, has sponsored the tournament under CSR. During the visit, I had the opportunity of holding detailed discussion with Mr Digambar Kamat, President, Swimming Federation of India (SFI) as well as Mr Virender Nanavati, CEO, SFI regarding promotion of this sport. It was decided that SAI & SFI should enter into an MOU for technical collaboration in the areas of talent scouting and development, coaching development, organisation of more and more competitions (especially age group competitions) and infrastructure development. SAI has had a problem with the swimming pool constructed at SAI Regional Centre in Lucknow, which has taken almost 10 years to get it resolved. This problem would not have occurred, had we obtained technical inputs from the SFI. With a view to avoiding such a situation in the future, in all swimming pool projects of SAI, SFI should be an integral part of the technical and monitoring committees.

4. I also had discussion with Mr Glen Saldanha, Chairman of M/s Glenmark Pharmaceuticals regarding the proposed partnership with SAI to run the National Swimming Academy at Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Swimming Pool. M/s Glenmark Aquatic Foundation has agreed to provide financial and technical support

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for running the Academy. They have, in principle, agreed for a 5 year tie-up with an annual funding of Rs. 2 crore which would cover engagement of foreign coaches, scientific and technical staff and competition exposure of trainees. They would also lead the process of talent scouting and development. The agreement is expected to be concluded within August, 2015.

5. During my visit to Balewadi Sports Complex, I also visited the Shooting Range. The Govt of Maharashtra has permitted Mr Gagan Narang (Shooter and Olympic medallist) to run a Shooting Academy at the centre on very nominal charges. I visited the academy and was quite impressed with the curriculum developed by them as well as the training process and the methodology. I think that it is very important to optimise the benefit of sophisticated and high cost infrastructure for any sports discipline by running quality academies. It may be desirable to look at such options with respect to Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range, Delhi and other SAI ranges also. The academy of Gagan Narang runs alongside State Government Schemes. Hence, the Shooting Range is utilised optimally.

  
(INJETI SRINIVAS)  
Director General  
20/07/2015

To,

**All Divisional Heads in SAI HQ**