

SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

REPORT ON THE VISIT OF DIRECTOR GENERAL, SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA TO OOTY FROM 9TH TO 10TH OCTOBER, 2015

09.10.2015

1.1 Reached Coimbatore around 12.00 Noon and proceeded for Ooty by road. Reached Ooty around 2.30 PM. Visited Udthagamandalam, which is around 5 Kms from Ooty. This is one of the sites being explored for setting up of a High Altitude Training Centre (HATC). At present, SAI has one HATC at Shillaroo in Himachal Pradesh, but the problem with this site is that it cannot be used during winters due to excessively cold weather and snow. On the other hand, Ooty offers the advantage of High Altitude as well as good weather throughout the year, which makes it an ideal location for setting up a HATC, which is extremely important for training elite athletes, especially in sports disciplines where stamina matters a lot. The land in question is located in Theellukkal, which is 5 Kms away from Udthagai Town (Ooty). It is a large plot of land measuring 50 hectares. The altitude is around 2,400 Mtrs above sea level. The land belongs to Animal Husbandry Department of Government of Tamil Nadu. There are 02 large helipads on the top. The top portion is having enough flat land. I was informed that water and electricity connection would not cause much problem. The land is encroachment free. There is a good road access.

1.2 Thereafter, I visited the outdoor stadium at Ooty which belongs to the State Government. It is located in the heart of the town. The stadium is spread over 7-8 acres of land and has a large field of 400 Mtr cinder athletic track. The State Govt has requested for laying a synthetic track here. The request is under consideration of the MYAS under USIS.

1.3 I requested the State Govt authorities to allow us to use the stadium for running a national camp for archery (recurve) for 4-6 weeks which they have agreed in principle. ED(Teams) to work out the schedule and make necessary arrangements.

10.10.2015

2.1 Visited Madras Regimental Centre (MRC) Stadium where national campers (middle and long distance athletes) are training. There are 12 men and 04 women attached to this centre with Shri Bhatia and Shri Surinder as Coaches. At the time of the visit, only 07 male athletes were present. I was told that the remaining are participating in the World Military Games. The women athletes were expected to join in a day or two. After detailed discussions with the athletes, it was concluded that there is a requirement of additional spikes (shoes) and a physiotherapist. I discussed with the trainees and coaches regarding maintenance of daily training diary and coach diary. It was also emphasised that the training schedule should be carefully planned looking at the competitions. Shri Bhatia (Coach) was advised to submit a detailed note indicating target fixed with respect to Rio qualification. He indicated that around 04 athletes out of 16 athletes were expected to qualify for Rio. Shri Bhatia also indicated that the

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absence of a synthetic track was disadvantage, but the altitude advantage still makes Ooty a preferred location. The MRC has requested SAI for a synthetic athletic track for the Army Boys Sports Company. It may be useful to consider sanctioning a synthetic athletic track with NSDF assistance as the national athletes are regularly training here. We may send a proposal in this regard to MYAS. ED(TEAMS) may look into this.

2.2 Thereafter, visited the MRC Headquarters and had a detailed discussion with the Commandant for early commencement of the Army Boys Sports Centre. A detailed presentation was made in which it was indicated that the disciplines of athletes, boxing and shooting have been selected. The infrastructure available includes a 400 Mtr cinder track, a football field, boxing indoor and outdoor facilities and a 10 Mtr shooting range. After detailed discussion, it was considered appropriate to replace shooting discipline with volleyball, as shooting requires a lot of expensive infrastructure and equipment whereas volleyball is a very popular sport in the region and requires very little investment for creation of infrastructure.

2.3 I also visited the Anna Indoor Stadium which is being used for badminton (03 courts) and gymnastics.


2.4 Thereafter, visited Kotagiri which is an alternative site for the proposed HATC. This is at an altitude of 1750 Mtrs. The plot is around 22 hectares (about 55 acres) of which around 20 acres are encroached and 35 acres are free of encroachment. There is a good road access. In terms of weather condition, this may be better than Udagamiandalam site. However, it is necessary that an expert team is constituted as under, which can visit both the sites and highlight the pros & cons of each site for deciding on which of the two is more advantageous for setting up a High Altitude Training Centre:-

- i) SAI Officers
 - (a) Secretary (SAI)
 - (b) Executive Director (TEAMS & ES)
 - (c) Director (Infrastructure)
 - (d) Principal, LNCPE, Trivandrum
- ii) Government of Tamil Nadu
 - (a) Member Secretary, SDAT
- iii) Athletic Federation of India
 - (a) President, AFI
- iv) CPWD
 - (a) A Representative from CPWD
- v) Experts
 - (a) Dr Nikolai Snesarev, Foreign Coach
 - (b) Shri Sriram Singh, Ex-Olympian



The team may visit both the sites and submit its report along with recommendations within a month.

2.5 Finally, visited mini football stadium at Kotagiri. It is a beautiful football stadium, but a proper football pitch is required. I was told that football is the most popular sport in this area and a lot of talent is available. Accordingly, we could consider this for opening of a SAI Extension Centre. The Principal, LNCPE, Trivandrum may discuss this matter with the State Government.


13/10/15

(INJETI SRINIVAS)
DIRECTOR GENERAL, SAI

To,

1. Secretary (SAI)
2. ED (Finance)
3. ED (T&ES)
4. Principal, LNCPE, Trivandrum
5. RD(Ops)
6. Director (Pers. & Cg)
7. SE(Infra)