

SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

TOUR NOTE OF SHRI INJETI SRINIVAS, DIRECTOR GENERAL, SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA TO GUWAHATI IN CONNECTION WITH SOUTH ASIAN GAMES (SAG). ON 7th Nov '15.

Shri Onkar Kedia, Joint Secretary (Sports), Lt Genl. (Retd) Rajiv Bhalla, Advisor (SAG) and Shri Vivek Narayan, Director (Sports) accompanied me to Guwahati for an interaction meeting with the State Associations in the presence of Secretary General (SAG) and CEO(SAG) and their staff.

2. We met with the State Associations of Assam and Meghalaya, belonging to the sports disciplines included in the SAG. The general complaint of all the Associations present was that they were not kept in the loop with respect to preparations for conduct of the Games. The Associations indicated that there was a lack of coordination between the OC Secretariat and them on the one hand, and between the GTCC and them, on the other. It was also indicated that there was no clarity on what exactly was expected of them and what would be their role and responsibilities in the successful conduct of the Games. In short, I found that a share vision and a sense of belongingness was lacking with respect to the Games among the State Associations.

3. I explained at length the importance of the forthcoming South Asian Games. I emphasized that it was not only a prestigious multi-sport event, but also an opportunity to showcase the country in general and the North-East Region, in particular. I impressed upon them that the State Associations would have to play a key role in the successful conduct of the games during the preparatory phase, Games phase and post-Games phase. The following aspects were underlined during interaction with the State Associations:-

- i) All State Associations whose sport events are included in SAG, should nominate two nodal officers each – one from administrative/management side and one from technical side. The OC Secretariat will have structured interaction with the nodal officers at regular intervals;
- ii) The GTCC, Competition Managers and State Associations should have structured interaction in order to ensure seamless communication in all matters relating to venue preparation and procurement of equipment, overlays, etc with respect to conduct of the Games;
- iii) The State Associations should take responsibility for preparing sports specific volunteers whose services would be used at the venue with respect to technical conduct of the games and venue management;
- iv) All the National Sports Federations should take adequate care to ensure full preparation of the Indian Team for participation in the South Asian Games. It was learnt that All India Football Federation has decided to field U-21 team instead of the National Team because of their involvement in the I-League. This is not at all acceptable. SAG will have to get the overriding priority, as it is a prestigious event and also involves national prestige.

4. I impressed upon the State Associations to immediately raise the indents for procurement of equipment for the Games. I emphasized that the indents should contain details with respect to required specifications as laid down by the International Federations; approved manufacturers and their authorized dealers in India; and estimated costs. It was seen that several indents did not contain specifications as well as estimated costs. It was clarified that without these details, it would not be possible for SAI to procure the equipment.

5. I also pointed out that SAI would only procure the sports specific equipment, including consumables. However, separate arrangements would have to be made with respect to procurement of other equipment such as timing, scoring and result management equipment and miscellaneous items such as lap top, computer, printer, team bench, garden umbrella, etc. OC Secretariat may look into these.

6. It was emphasized that all efforts should be made to create enthusiasm among the local people, especially in the educational institutions, about the SAG. It was also felt that the ticketing policy should be such that the tickets are affordable; if necessary, free tickets may be considered for students.

7. I requested the State Government to get in touch with their counterpart in Kerala for exploring the possibility of hiring TRS and other equipment to the extent possible.

8. It was made clear to all concerned that there was very little time left for issuing tenders for procuring equipment, as tendering is a time bound process and several equipment need to be imported for which LC has to be opened. Hence, it was made clear that there is no time to loose in this regard and everybody should hit the ground running.

9. Some of the specific issues that were raised by State Associations are detailed below:-

Sl No	Sports discipline	Association	Issue raised	Decision
1.	Wushu	Assam State Wushu Association	State President informed that the present venue in NEIGRIHMS for holding Wushu event was not suitable as the hall dimensions were not sufficient for holding the event. They suggested that the event should be shifted to either SAI campus at NEHU or Assam Rifles venue.	It was seen that SAI campus, NEHU has already been selected as the venue for Badminton and Taekwondo. Hence, it cannot accommodate Wushu for logistical reasons. It was indicated that the indoor hall of Assam Rifles was the State-of-the-art new hall, which could be used for this purpose. After detailed discussion, it was decided that Lt Genl. (Retd) Rajiv Bhalla, Advisor, SAG should take up the matter with Assam Rifles for allowing the conduct of Wushu event at their premises.

