

Sports Authority of India

PRESS RELEASE

Shooting, Boxing champions to be included under TOPS

New Delhi, 25th April 2018: The recently concluded Commonwealth Games that were held in Gold Coast, Australia were one of India's most successful ever. With 26 gold medals, 20 silver and bronze medals each, India finished in the third position. A number of youngsters were at the heart of India's terrific campaign. Keeping their potential and ability to deliver India medal glory in the future including the all-important Tokyo 2020 Olympics in mind, we have decided to include a few select athletes in the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS).

16 year-old Manu Bhaker first shot to national attention after winning the 10 metre air pistol event in the Khelo India School Games (KISG). By winning the gold medal at the Shooting World Cup in Mexico, she showed that her Khelo India win was no flash in the pan. The icing on the cake for Bhaker was winning the gold medal at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games with millions of Indians following the action on their television sets.

15 year-old Anish Bhanwala became India's youngest ever gold medal winner at the Commonwealth Games as he finished victorious in the 25 metre rapid fire pistol event. Interestingly Anish's Class X CBSE examinations were rescheduled so that he could participate at the CWG.

18 year-old Mehuli Ghosh won a silver medal in the 10 metre air rifle event at the recently concluded Gold Coast CWG. She had earlier broken through at the 2018 Shooting World Cup in Mexico where she won two bronze medals.

22 year-old Om Prakash Mitharwal won the gold medal at in the 10 metre air pistol mixed team at the Shooting World Cup in Mexico. He won two bronze medals at the Gold Coast CWG.

Rounding off the shooters selected under TOPS is 23 year-old shooter Shahzar Rizvi, who has delivered some impressive recent displays which includes winning the silver medal in the 10 metre air pistol event at the ongoing Shooting World Cup in Changwon, South Korea. He had earlier won the gold medal, setting a world record in the process, at the World Cup in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Alongside these five shooters, two Indian boxers have also been included in the scheme. 21 year-old Gaurav Solanki who won a gold medal in the 52 kg Flyweight category at the Gold Coast CWG. Also included under the scheme is 24 year-old Hussamuddin Mohammad who won a bronze medal in the 56 kg Bantamweight category.

TOPS is a scheme under National Sports Development Fund of Department of Sports under Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. Under the scheme, the department of Sports shall identify athletes who are potential medal winners in the Olympics and other major international meets such as the Asian Games.