

Sports Authority of India

Press Release

Tarundeep Rai, Atanu Das, Pravin Jadhav and Atul Verma included in TOPS; Proposals worth 34 lakhs cleared at MOC

New Delhi, June 26, 2019: The Sports Authority of India's Mission Olympic Cell has included four archers, Tarundeep Rai, Atanu Das, Pravin Jadhav and Atul Verma as a part of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) for Olympic 2020.

Rai, Das and Jadhav were part of the Indian men's recurve team that won a silver medal at the World Archery Championships held in Hertogenbosch in June. The team has earned an Olympic quota along with India winning three single athlete quotas in men's recurve individual event. Atul Verma is a bronze medalist in boy's recurve archery from the 2014 Youth Olympics.

In a meeting held on Wednesday and chaired by Ms. Neelam Kapur, Director General, Sports Authority of India, the athletes were chosen after a detailed analysis on the following parameters:

- Global performance trends from most recent Olympic Games, Youth Olympic Games, World Cups and World Championships
- Performance of competing international counterparts (athletes) in the last three years
- High performance age of a typical Olympic medalist specific to each event
- Performance of Indian athletes in 2016, 2017 and 2018 and their progression chart

Besides, the selection, the following financial proposals amounting to Rs. 34 lakhs in six sports were also cleared

1. **Wrestling:** Financial support for training and participation in tournaments overseas were cleared for Pooja Dhanda, Bajrang Punia, Utkarsh Kale and Vinesh Phogat. The committee also sanctioned the purchase of sports gear for Pooja Dhanda.

2. **Para-Athletics:** The committee approved the proposal of Amit Saroha to hire a physiotherapist at SAI Sonapat, where he is currently training. The physiotherapist may be utilised for other para-athletes who are training at the centre.

3. **Athletics:** The committee approved the proposals of athletes Sreeshankar and Jinson Johnson to participate in competitions overseas. The committee has also cleared Tajinder Toor's proposal to hire a foreign coach, Ireneusz Bukowiecki, for a period of two months.

4. **Table Tennis:** The committee has sanctioned the purchase of sports kit for Manika Batra. It has approved Sharath Kamal's proposal to hire a physiotherapist HIRAK BAGCHI for a period of 12 days.

5. **Tennis:** The committee has sanctioned the cost of urgent medical treatment incurred by Rohan Bopanna owing to a knee injury he suffered during a tournament in June.

6. **Shooting:** The committee cleared proposals towards the training, participation and equipment requirements of Lakshay Sheoran, Angad Vir Singh Bajwa and Sanjeev Rajput.

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 Olympic probables.