

SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

PRESS RELEASE

Key decisions taken at MOC meeting

New Delhi, 11th July 2018: The Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) which met today decided to approve the Indian Men's Hockey team, comprising 18 players selected for the Asian Games, as part of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS). Under this scheme, the hockey team will receive a monthly allowance of Rs.50,000/- per team member. Support for training, equipment and coaches is already being provided to the hockey team through the Annual Calendar for Training and Competitions (ACTC). This decision was taken in view of the recent improvement in the performance of the men's hockey team under the newly appointed coach Harendra Singh. In the recent Champions Trophy, the team won a silver medal.

It was also decided that the Women's Hockey team would be considered for inclusion under the TOPS after review of their performance in the ensuing World Cup in July, 2018 and the Asian Games in August – September, 2018.

The MOC also reviewed the performance of athletes included under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS). One boxer, Sarjubala Devi received an extension in the scheme while four athletes, three from wushu and one from judo were dropped due to below par performance and non-inclusion in India's Asian Games squad. At the MOC, decisions to clear funding proposals regarding training, competition and equipment needs were also taken.

Gymnastics:

Rs. 7.76 lakhs has been sanctioned for the month-long training program of Pranati Nayak, member of India's Asian Games squad for her training in Uzbekistan.

Rs. 14 Lakhs (approximate) has been sanctioned for the training camp in Belgium of two gymnasts, Ashish Kumar and Aruna Budda Reddy, both selected in the Asian Games squad for a 32-day program.

In all, Rs. 21.76 lakhs (approximate) has been sanctioned for three Indian gymnasts for their training programs ahead of the Asian Games.

Tennis:

Rs. 12.57 lakhs has been sanctioned for Ramkumar Ramanathan, India's number 2 men's singles player for his training (under coach Angel Gimenez Alonso), competition and equipment expenses leading up to the Asian Games.

Archery:

Rs. 11.48 Lakhs has been sanctioned for the purchase of archery equipment for three Compound archers Trisha Deb, Rajat Chauhan and Jyothi Surekha Vennam and one Recurve archer Promila Daimary, all four being members of India's Asian Games squad.

Further, Rs. 4.04 Lakhs has been sanctioned for the engagement of Sergio Pagni to train India's compound archers for a period of 10 days at the SAI Sonapat centre ahead of the Asian Games. The four compound archers who will be trained by Mr. Pagni are Abhishek Verma, Rajat Chauhan, Trisha Deb and Jyothi Surekha Vennam.

In all, Rs. 15.52 lakhs has been sanctioned for Indian archery for training and equipment expenses.

Wrestling:

Sushil Kumar, a two-time Olympic medalist was inducted into the TOPS scheme recently. He is presently training in Georgia ahead of the Asian Games. Rs. 6.62 lakhs has been sanctioned for this training program which will also include two sparring partners and one physiotherapist.

Rs.3.22 Lakhs has been sanctioned for Bajrang Punia and Sumit for a 14 day training camp and participation in a Wrestling tournament in Turkey.

In all, Rs. 9.84 lakhs has been sanctioned to all these three Wrestlers for their training and competition expenses.

Judo:

Rs. 3.55 Lakhs has been sanctioned for Indian judokas Avtar Singh and Vijay Kumar Yadav for their training, competition (to be accompanied by coach Yashpal Solanki) and equipment expenses ahead of the Asian Games.

The committee also decided to exclude Tulika Mann from the TOPS scheme due to her recent below-par performances.

Boxing:

Sarjubala Devi from the 48 kg category, has received an extension under the TOPS scheme till the Asian Games, having originally been included till the Commonwealth Games.

Wushu:

Three Indian Wushu athletes Uchit Sharma, Arupama Devi and Budha Chandra have been excluded from the TOPS scheme due to below par performance and non-inclusion in the Asian Games squad.

All proposals for travel abroad also include airfare, visa fees and medical insurance.

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 top athletes.
