

Sports Authority of India

Press Release

Over Rs. one crore allocated on training and preparation of athletes in the last six months

New Delhi, 4th October: In what has been a very successful year for Indian sport with strong performances at both the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games, the focus now turns to the 3rd Asian Para Games beginning on 6th October in Jakarta.

Para-Sport has been an area of strong priority for the Sports Authority of India and has received continuous support since the inception of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS). In the last six months over one crore through TOPS funding has been allocated to the Indian para-athletes for expenses related to their training (India and abroad), competition, boarding and lodging, equipment, engagement of support staff and other miscellaneous expenses. Rs. 19.5 Lakhs has been given to seven Indian para-archers participating in the Asian Para Games to procure equipment through the National Sports Development Fund (NSDF). This is in addition to the money that has been spent on training, competition and other expenses under the Annual Calendar for Competition and Training (ACTC).

India's Asian Para Games contingent has 25 athletes who are supported by the TOPS scheme largely in the sports of track and field, powerlifting and shooting. There are in all a total of 26 para-athletes who are supported by the TOPS scheme.

Some of the prominent para-athletes supported by the TOPS Scheme are Deepa Malik, Ankur Dhama and Devendra Jhajharia (details available on Annexure 1).

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.

Annexure 1

Athlete	Amount	Venue and duration
Farman Basha, Sakina Khatun, Sachin Chaudhary (All Para Powerlifting)	Approximately Rs. 28 Lakhs	Malaysia June 1-July 31
Sandeep Chaudhary (Para Javelin) and Virender Dhankar (Para Shot Put)	Rs. 19.49 Lakhs	Four months Delhi, Bengaluru and Finland
Ankur Dhama (800m, 1500m, 5000m)	Rs. 11.96 Lakhs	4 months New Delhi and Ooty
Sharad Kumar (Para High Jump)	Rs. 9.05 Lakhs	Nearly four months (June to October) Ukraine
Deepa Malik (Para Shot Put and Para Javelin)	Rs. 9.36 lakhs	Six months April to October
Avani Lekhara (Para Shooting)	Rs. 6.11 Lakhs	6 months
Ram Pal Chahar (Para High Jump)	Rs. 5.95 Lakhs	Ukraine 16 July-October 5
Devendra Jhajharia (Para Javelin)	Rs. 5.22 Lakhs	SAI Gandhinagar 2 nd April-3 rd August
Sundar Singh Gurjar (Para Javelin)	Rs. 3.85 Lakhs	Finland 22 days