

All SAI facilities to remain closed till April 15. Olympic bound athletes will train, follow all health guidelines: Kiren Rijiju

New Delhi, 19 March: In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic which has led to sports events being stalled across the globe and in India. It has been directed that all sports organizations and their affiliate units are advised against holding any sports events, including competitions or selection trials till April 15th 2020. However for athletes preparing for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, they may be exempt from this, subject to the following restrictions:

- i) No exposure to athlete be allowed from outside in the campus where training is underway
- ii) No coach, technical/support staff, athlete etc. presently in the training camp and not staying in the training campus be allowed to interact or mingle with trainee athletes without following the quarantine protocols.

Sports Minister Shri Kiren Rijiju addressing the media today, said any athlete arriving from outside India, having visited a country that is in a high-risk zone for the Coronavirus, will have to stay in quarantine as per provisions. An athlete coming from abroad outside this zone will have to self-isolate themselves.

Speaking on how the current situation has affected Olympic preparation, the Sports Minister said, "Nobody should raise a question about the Olympics at the moment, nobody knows what the situation will be in three months time. However we have to respond to an emerging situation as per the directions of the international bodies and respective sovereign governments." He added by saying that at the present moment nothing is more important than the sportsperson's health.