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Date: 11.05.2026

Minutes of the Meeting

A Senior Officers' Meeting (SOM) concerning Operations and Khelo India -2 was held on 05.05.2026 under the Chairmanship of the Director General, Sports Authority of India. The meeting was attended by Divisional Heads from the SAI Head Office, along with Regional Heads who were present virtually.

- The meeting commenced with the review of TLs with the Divisional Heads at the Head Office. The Director General (DG), SAI issued specific directions for each pending item and emphasized the need to expedite all processes in a time-bound manner.

Action by:- All Divisional Heads, SAI HQ

- The DG informed that the Hon'ble Minister is scheduled to visit Shillong in connection with preparatory assessments for the National Games 2027. All concerned officers were instructed to be fully prepared. During the discussion, DDG (Operations) highlighted that the State Government has sought financial assistance requested by the state government. The DG clarified that funding support will be facilitated through the National Stock Exchange, subject to preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR).

Action by:- Ops Division & RC Guwahati

- The DG further informed that in the run-up to the Commonwealth Games 2030, the Media Division will coordinate with all divisions. Divisional Heads were instructed to proactively share achievements and success stories for wider circulation through social media platforms.

Action by:- All Divisional Heads, SAI HQ

- Additionally, all divisions were directed to prepare Annual Action Plans and encouraged to adopt a progressive and solution-oriented approach in planning and subsequent meaningful implementation.

Action by:- All Divisional Heads, SAI HQ

1. Operations Division

- Operations Division presented a PPT on Performance of NCoEs and STCs for the month of April, 2026.
- CEO, TOPS recommended that data relating to able-bodied and para athletes should be compiled and presented separately to ensure clarity and better analysis. The suggestion was noted.

Action by:- Ops Division

- DG, SAI sought clarification on the initiation of proposals for foreign exposure in disciplines where High Performance Directors (HPDs)/High Performance Managers (HPMs) are not available. Director (Ops) informed that in such cases, Lead RDs/Coaches often take the initiative and submit to Operations Division. It was also discussed to explore the mechanism of foreign exposure for NCoE/STC athletes be supported through ANSF funding.

Action by:- Ops and Khelo India Divisions

- Director Ops mentioned that it is important that KITD completes the induction process at the earliest. DD, Khelo India-2 informed that inductions for all disciplines have been completed except for Kayaking and Canoeing which shall be completed shortly

Action by:- KITD

- DG, SAI expressed concern over athletes being weeded out from one NCOE and inducted in other, stressing that performance evaluation should be standardized and monitored across all Regional Centres through sharing of data, rather than within individual centres alone. Hence, the role of HPDs/HPMs is extremely significant.

Action by:- Ops Division, KITD & Concerned Regional Heads

- DG SAI also directed to draw a timeline framework for filling the vacancy in the NCOE and desired initiation of vacancy-related processes within 30 days. SOP to be made by KITD in consultation with Operations Division.

Action by:- KITD

- Status of PNG connections in Regional Centres was reviewed, and necessary follow-up actions were directed.

Action by:- Concerned Regional Heads

- Regarding the Internship Policy, the DG suggested to do away with the interview processes while ensuring transparency and fairness. DDG Ops informed that the process of interview of interns at SAI is not a part of selection process and its purely based on academic score which has been clearly defined.

Action by:- Ops Division

- The DG highlighted the need for a robust grievance redressal mechanism for NCoE / STC, as athletes often approach higher authorities directly after being weeded out.

Action by:- IT Division, Ops Division& KITD

- New centres under consideration were discussed, and inclusion of Singrauli was suggested. Infrastructure-related developments in Hyderabad and possible relocation options in Warangal were also deliberated.

Action by:- Ops Division& Concerned RCs

- While reviewing the anti-doping measures, DG SAI informed that a communication has been addressed to DoPT to consider applicability of CCS Conduct Rules in cases where employees appointed under sports quota are found dope positive. It was further directed that in SAI; Show Cause Notices may be issued to coaches whose athletes are found involved in doping cases. DDG Ops informed that a note has been sent to HRD-I regarding this matter. Further, it was desired that RD concerned may be authorized to issue showcause in such cases. HRD to issue the instructions.

Action by:- HRD-I

2. KITD

- A presentation was made by KITD in which it was briefed about the broad plan in the context of Khelo India Mission and areas of interventions were listed and discussed, which include:
 - a. Preparation of new Protocols and Benchmarks – by respective TIDCs (Review by HPAC)
 - b. Implementation of sports science protocols – Convergence in training, performance monitoring, enhancement etc in coordination with sports science division and HPAC
 - c. Arriving at new funding norms incorporating holistic requirements of athletes – by KITD in coordination with concerned stakeholders
 - d. Revamp of TIDC, Identification of members for TIZC, Talent scouts
 - e. Identifying Gaps in facilities through concerned stakeholders
 - f. Identifying talent Clusters
 - g. Onboarding of HPDs, HPMs for Khelo India in convergence with ANSF
 - h. Grading of facilities
 - i. Sports wise planning
 - j. Refining of Induction Process
 - k. Refining of Weed out/Exclusion process
 - l. Athlete facility, athlete coach mapping
 - m. Integration of AMS with assessments with the support of IT, HPAC, Sports Science division

n. Improving Assessment Camps

- i. Planning in advance
- ii. Utilizing them as Athlete – stakeholder interaction
- iii. Counseling on KPIs, performance levels, sports science results vis a vis its applicability
- iv. Awareness sessions on Doping, POSH, POCSO
- v. Mentor Mentee sessions

- DG SAI instructed that the process of TIDC to be completely digitized and to have an objective criterion.

Action by:- KITD

- Weightage of sports science assessments to be part of induction/weeding out protocols/benchmarks

Action by:- KITD, NCSSR& Concerned Regional Heads

- DG SAI directed that adequate foreign exposure to be ensured for all age categories.

Action by:- Concerned Lead RDs

- Performance Assessment of athletes to be done through HPD / HPM, KITD as KITD plans and monitors athletes across RCs in each sports.

Action by:- KITD

- The sports science assessment parameters may be reviewed considering the scaling up of numbers planned vis a vis availability of sports science manpower.

Action by:- NCSSR & KITD

- It was directed that the assessments be aligned with competition calendar

Action by:- KITD

- Open selection trials may be allowed more frequently in centres/regions where athletes are not inclined to join, especially in far flung areas such as Manipur, Ladakh etc.

Action by:- KITD& Concerned Regional Heads

3. Discussions with Regional Heads: Deliberations were held with each RC on the following subjects:

- RC Mumbai requested discontinuation of Hockey at NCoE due to inadequate infrastructure; discussions regarding MoU with Goa was also deliberated. DG, SAI advised pursuing a long-term agreement (approximately 30 years).

Action by:- Ops Division & RC Mumbai

- RD Mumbai further requested the strength of weightlifting athletes to be increased.

Action by:- Ops Division

- RC Bhopal sought clarity regarding budget heads for STC athlete scientific assessments. The Operations Division was directed to issue necessary guidelines.

Action by:- Ops Division

- Additionally, it was suggested that HPDs be evaluated based on discipline-specific performance, which was noted.
- RD Gandhinagar informed that an interim arrangement has been proposed for managing the centres in the absence of adequate number of Officers.

Action by:- Ops Division& HRD

- RC Bengaluru recommended reducing the frequency of athlete assessments (currently biannual). An alternative suggestion was to conduct assessments through accredited academies with standardized norms.

Action by:- Ops Division & KITD

- Proposal for a third hockey turf at Bengaluru is pending inspection by the Engineering Division. Concerned division was requested to expedite.

Action by:- Engineering Division

- The Specification for container accommodation for the Asian Games is to be shared by TOPS Division.

Action by:- TOPS Division

- RD Trivandrum raised the issue on the reimbursement for para-taekwondo athletes who participated in the Foreign Exposure Competition (as the SOP was not followed). The matter was noted.
- RC Trivandrum highlighted absence of a formal MoU with the State Government for STC Thrissur; facilities are currently operating on informal arrangements. DG directed exploration of alternative facilities.

Action by:- RC Trivandrum

- DDG Ops highlighted the issue of water-logging at STC Calicut and the University of Calicut is willing to extend FoPs and residential facilities so that the STC could be shifted to the University. The proposal to be taken forward.

Action by:- RC Trivandrum

- DG raised concerns about dilapidated old building at NCoE Alleppey, and directed that the building needs to be brought down and replaced with a new building with adequate space for Sports Science facilities.

Action by:- Engineering Division & RD Trivandrum

- Sr.ED, NS NIS Patiala highlighted discrepancies between coaches' recommendations and TIDC decisions regarding athlete retention, causing operational challenges. It was noted.

Action by:- KITD

- The need for a separate academic stream for sports scientists was emphasized. It was informed that matter is currently under consideration in cadre restructuring.

Action by:- NCSSR & HRD II

- Urgent repair of a deteriorating overhead water tank at Patiala was highlighted. Engineering Division was directed to urgently address the issue.

Action by:- Engineering Division

- RC Zirakpur raised the concern about urgent requirement of Boxing and Handball coaches in STC Ludhiana and NCoE Hamirpur. The matter was noted.

Action by:- HRD

- ED Sonapat also suggested proposal to provide incentives to high-performing academies lacking adequate infrastructure. The same was noted.

Action by:- Ops Division & KITD

- ED Sonepat also highlighted that the existing medical insurance policy is nearing expiry; timely finalization of a new agency was requested to ensure seamless coverage for newly inducted athletes. DDG Ops informed that the list has been finalized by the Operations Division and the file has been sent to TOPS Division for the needful to be done.

Action by:- Ops Division &GAPD

- ED Sonepat informed that the infrastructure of STC Bawana is extremely dilapidated, hence, a meeting was held with the State Government Authorities. Should the State Government not offer better infrastructure, the athletes of Judo and Sepak Takraw would need to be shifted to Indira Gandhi Stadium, New Delhi.

Action by:- RC Sonepat

- The status on preparedness for launching of NCOE Sigra was detailed by the RD. The only pendency is regarding identification of athletes which needs to be done on immediate basis.

Action by:- KITD

- Regarding STC Bhiwani, ED Sonepat informed that State Government has offered improved hostel facilities; DG SAI suggested feasibility of shifting and development of additional sports infrastructure to be explored.

Action by:- RC Sonepat

- RD Kolkata stated that he is urgently looking into the matter regarding shifting of STC from Patna to Rajgir. He also informed that he is actively working on the MoU for STC Port Blair.

Action by:- RC Kolkata

- RD Imphal requested the approval to allow the office to process medical claims of the employees of NERC Imphal and STCs under them which was undertaken in Private Hospitals/ Clinics located in Imphal, Dimapur and Aizwal citing rare availability or in the absence of CGHS empanelled hospitals or NABH accredited hospitals. The same was noted.

Action by:- HRD-I

- RD Imphal suggested provision of additional funds to lead RDs for procurement of sports kits during camps. The same was noted.

Action by:- Finance Division

- Concern was raised regarding non-disclosure of doping cases involving minor athletes. The DG directed coordination with National Anti-Doping Agency to

obtain relevant information and ensure timely dissemination to concerned Regional Centres. The Nodal officer was advised to source the details of the doping athletes for necessary action by RCs. The copy of the same should be shared with Operations Division.

Action by:- Nodal Officer & Ops Division

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



(Ravi Kalra)
Deputy Director (Ops)

To

- 1. All Divisional Heads of SAI Head Office**
- 2. All Heads of Regional Centres/Academic Institutions/Stadia, SAI**

Copy to: -

1. PA to DDG (Ops)
2. Concerned file
3. Master folder