

# **SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA**

## **Press Release**

### **Mission Olympic Cell meeting charts Roadmap for Tokyo 2020**

The Mission Olympic Cell today held a meeting to discuss the roadmap for Tokyo 2020 Olympics in order to ensure that India's performance at the Olympics would be its best ever and the TOPS athletes will get all possible support to ensure this.

A presentation was made by the Secretariat of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) following the visit of a recce team to Tokyo in July, 2018. The recce team was led by SAI officials and comprised representatives from OGQ, JSW and GoSports. The team visited the Indian Embassy in Japan as well as the Tsukuba and Nippon University, which has international standard sports facilities and from where Japan has produced a number of Olympic medalists. Both universities were willing to arrange training for the Indian team ahead of the Olympics.

They interacted with the Indian diaspora to identify appropriate accommodation and food for the Indian athletes not only during the Tokyo Olympics in 2020 but also for any training and visits of the athletes to Tokyo before the Olympics. This will help in a seamless cultural assimilation of Indian athletes prior to the Olympics. The timing of the visit coincided with the period when the Olympics will be held which helped the team get an idea of the weather conditions that are likely to be prevalent during the Olympics. The team did a distance mapping of Tokyo and with a number of games venues being located a considerable distance away from the Games Village, the team looked at potential accommodation facilities which are in close proximity to the respective competition venues. The team met with Indian student volunteers who were willing to help the Indian contingent at the time of the Olympics.

The MOC deliberated on the strategy to provide the best possible support to TOPS athletes in their preparations. The major decisions taken were:-

- Creation of a transparent selection policy specific to each discipline in collaboration with the respective National Sporting Federations.
- Strengthening the relationship between all athletes and coaches and creating a friendly and professional association based on mutual trust.

- Charting a roadmap for each athlete (training, competition and support roadmap) in discussion with the athlete's coach, federation and leading sports scientists. Expert feedback will be sought from national sporting federation coaches. The national observer and two independent coaches before taking any course of action.
- The TOPS team also plans to develop a high-performance network of coaches, academies and sports science specialists in India and globally. The objective of this exercise will be to build a strong sport science support system.
- Software and technology will be used to record training, performance, injury and other similar aspects of an athlete which will be further monitored, researched and analysed before receiving intervention through a scientific process.
- The team will, over the ensuing period, look at sensitising and educating athletes through workshops on key relevant topics and lifeskills. The athletes who represent India on an international platform are ambassadors for the country and their conduct away from the playing arena is as important to their well-being as their performance on it. The focus will be on providing skills to deal with stress, media management and how to manage their finances. The coaches of the athletes will be an integral part of these workshops.

The MOC meeting ratified the following proposals-

**Para-Sport:**

An amount of Rs. 3.28 Lakhs for the 24 day training programme in Finland from 8th to 31st August for Para-Javelin Thrower Sundar Singh Gurjar as preparation for the upcoming Asian Para Games was approved by the committee.

The committee also approved an amount of Rs. 2.36 Lakhs for Sandeep Chaudhary for his training of 54 days at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi as part of his training ahead of the Asian Para Games.

**Judo:**

The committee approved a sum of Rs. 4.87 Lakhs for judoka Tulika Mann. This amount includes over seven months of her coach Ranbir Solanki's salary (December 2017 to July 2018) and six days of boarding expenses for the cadet and junior Judo championships that were held in Lebanon in May this year.

### **Weightlifting:**

Rs. 1.06 Lakhs was sanctioned for weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga for bringing his personal coach Sandip Kumar to the Youth Olympics being held in Argentina. This amount includes fees spent on visa and insurance.

### **Athletics:**

Rs. 88,040 was approved for Javelin Thrower Neeraj Chopra for a six day training programme in Czech Republic ahead of the IAAF Continental Cup that was held in the first week of September. This amount includes boarding, lodging and training facilities along with his visa fee. Chopra's airfare will be reimbursed by IAAF.

### **Boxing:**

Rs. 30,000 was approved for boxer Manoj Kumar for expenses related to doctor consultation fees as well as boarding and lodging in Mumbai along with his physiotherapist.

All expenses related to funding clearances are in addition to the amounts that will be spent on airfare, visa and medical insurance unless specified.

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.