

Press Release

The 51st Governing Body Meeting of the Sports Authority of India was held on October 30, 2018. The meeting was chaired by Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore, and was attended by Secretary, Sports, Shri. Rahul Bhatnagar and Director General, SAI, Ms. Neelam Kapur. Eminent sportspersons who are members of the Governing Body, including Gagan Narang, Viren Rasquina, Shiny Wilson participated in the meeting. Supreme Court Advocate Sushil Dutt Salwan, other key stakeholders, representatives of industry bodies FICCI and PHD Chamber, officials of SAI and ministry of sports were also in attendance.

A number of important issues were placed before the Governing Body and two important decisions that emerged from the meeting are as follows:

1) CSR Policy:

The Governing Body has approved the CSR Policy of SAI. Several corporates have shown keen interest in partnering with the Sports Authority of India. To this end, it has been decided that funds, expertise, services from various interested corporate organisations under CSR, may be mobilised for different activities such as development of sports, infrastructure, training, expertise, sports science back-up, nutrition to sportspersons, design and implementation of athletes' education, kitting, equipment, travel expenses of athletes, medical expenses or any other areas for the development of sports under the sports promotional schemes of SAI, Khelo India or any other sports activity assigned to SAI by Government of India. While doing so, SAI will be inviting proposals from interested corporates. Selected corporate partners will also be members of the managing committee, so that there is greater involvement of corporates and more companies feel motivated to contribute to the changing sports scenario of the country. It emerged during the discussion that most corporate are only spending 1 percent of their total CSR budget on sports. The effort is to ensure that at least 2 per cent of the average net profit is contributed by corporates through CSR.

2) Improving Coaching Standards:

With an effort to attract and retain the best coaches in SAI facilities, it has been decided that a Comprehensive Coach Development Programme will be initiated by SAI at all levels of coaching. A professional agency will be employed to undertake a detailed study of the current coaching system and the findings will be used to improve the existing system. Coaches performing better than their counterparts will also be incentivized. Coaches are the backbone of the sports ecosystem of the country and it is imperative that for better performance of athletes and better medal hauls at international levels, the top coaches feel motivated to put in their best. This decision is in continuance of the decision taken in the last Governing Body meeting, when it was decided that the cap on salary for coaches in National Academies be increased from 1 lakh to Rs 2 lakh per month or above, depending on merit.