

Sports Authority of India

PRESS RELEASE

New Delhi-06th November, 2015: The 46th meeting of the Governing Body was held on 6.11.2015 at SAI Head Office in New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs & Sports. Some of the important proposals approved by the Governing Body are highlighted below:-

- i) National Hockey Academy to be established at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi. The Academy will be managed by a High Performance Technical Director and High Performance Coaches along with scientific and technical support staff. It will cater to 40 players each among boys and girls. The National Academy will be supported by designated satellite centres which will include the SAI Regional Centres at Sonapat, Kolkata, Bangalore, Gandhinagar and Bhopal. Other Centres belonging to State Governments or other entities will also be selected in traditional hockey playing state such as Jharkhand and Odisha. While the National Academy will look at 16-18 year age group. The lower age groups will be looked after by the satellite centres and different sports hostels run by State Governments as well as private academies.
- ii) A partnership between SAI and Glenmark Aquatic Foundation (GAF) (a Trust floated by M/s Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Limited) was approved. This marks the first partnership between SAI and a private corporate entity as the CSR partner. Under this arrangement, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals has committed to invest about Rs. 10 crore in running a talent identification and development programme for young swimmers over a period of 5 years. The programme will be run at Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Swimming Pool Complex (SPMSPC), Talkatora, New Delhi. A SAI National Swimming Academy (NSA) is already operating here since one year. Under the new arrangement, SAINSA and GAF will jointly run a new talent identification and development programme. It is expected that this will act as a role model for several other National Sports Academies to be partnered between SAI and prospective CSR partners from both Public and Private Sectors.
- iii) A new initiative to institute awards for excellence among SAI Coaches and Trainees for outstanding performance has been approved. Under this Scheme, every year 20 SAI coaches and 35 SAI trainees will be conferred with awards for outstanding performance at National / International level. The selection will be

done in an objective manner based on points system. The awardees will be given a small cash prize along with citation and ceremonial blazer. It is expected that this system of recognition will create a new enthusiasm among SAI coaches and trainees for achieving excellence. The awards will be conferred on SAI Foundation day.

- iv) Talent identification, retention and weeding out guidelines have been revised. The new guidelines take into account the new challenges. Some of the salient features include introduction of a tailor-made discipline specific battery of tests; greater flexibility in norms; and lateral entry throughout the year. The new guidelines are expected to further strengthen talent scouting in the country. This will go hand in hand with the SAI's new strategy of partnering with National Sports Federations and School Sports Promotion Foundation for National Talent Search.
- v) The tariff structure under the 'Come & Play' Scheme has been made very attractive for youngsters to avail themselves of the facilities in various SAI stadia. A new initiative for introduction of Volunteer Coaches has also been approved. This step is expected to strengthen community sports in the national capital.
- vi) Apart from the above, the Governing Body approved opening of a SAI centre at Vidyadhar Nagar Stadium, Jaipur; a Centre of Excellence in Archery (compound event) at SAI Regional Centre, Sonapat; and an Athletic Centre for Siddis in Karwar District in Karnataka. The Governing Body also took note of the in-principle approval of Coal India for setting up SAI Coal India National Table Tennis Academy in Kolkata. The project involves a onetime investment of Rs. 6 crore for infrastructure and annual recurring expenditure of Rs. 4 crore, which will be supported by Coal India.
