

## Satwik-Chirag discuss Olympic plans in virtual press conference organised by SAI

New Delhi, April 16: As we head closer to the Tokyo Olympics, Sports Authority of India will be facilitating a series of virtual interactions with our elite athletes with the media . In the first of these interactions, the men's Badminton doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty interacted with members of the press over a half hour long session and discussed where they stand vis-a-vis their preparations for the Tokyo Olympics especially in the context of them being delayed by a year.

The doubles duo who are supported by the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) are ranked 10th in the world and more pertinently 8th in the Race to the Tokyo Olympics. Having made considerable progress over the past three years where they beat several higher-ranked pairs including a remarkable run in 2019, Satwik asserted that to consistently beat the best teams, a plan B is important, "It is not possible to keep attacking all the time, we know we need to have a Plan B and we are working towards it, " Satwik told the media. He also added that to beat a top five pair, the duo needs to play at their best, because they are relatively inexperienced compared to them.

The duo who recently brought former Olympic silver medalist Mathias Boe on board as their coach through TOPS, told the media about the positive impact the Dane has had on their game and how the tactical changes brought about will help in their journey especially with the Olympics only three and a half months away.

Their next playing assignment will be the India Open in May which is an Olympic ranking tournament and will give them the opportunity to accumulate crucial points to enable them to not only put them on the path to qualify but also secure a top 8 seeding in Tokyo.