

Target Olympic Podium (TOP) Scheme

November 27, 2019

Source: PIB

Target Olympic Podium (TOP) Scheme was formulated in July 2014 under overall ambit of National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) with the **aim to identify, groom and prepare potential medal prospects for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.**

About the scheme

- The Target Olympic Podium Scheme is **a flagship program of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** which is an attempt **to provide assistance to India's top athletes.**
- The Scheme looks to add a premium to the **preparations of these athletes so that they can win Olympic medals in 2020 and 2024 Olympics.**
- Under the Scheme, the Department of Sports shall identify athletes who are potential medal winners in 2020 / 2024 Olympics.
- The idea of the **Scheme is to also keep an eye on the future and fund a Developmental Group of Athletes who are medal prospects for the Olympic Games in Paris in 2024 and Los Angeles Games in 2028.**

Mission Olympic Cell (MOC)

The Mission Olympic Cell is a dedicated body created to assist the athletes who are selected under the TOP Scheme. The MOC is under the Chairmanship of the Director General, Sports Authority (DG, SAI). The Committee meetings are attended by representatives of the respective National Sports Federations (NSFs) and Project Officers of the SAI besides other members. The idea of the MOC is to debate, discuss and decide the processes and methods so that the athlete receives the best

assistance. The MOC also focuses on selection, exclusion and retention of athletes, coaches, training institutes that can receive TOPS assistance.

High priority sports categorized under the scheme

(i) Athletics, (ii) Badminton (iii) Hockey (iv) Shooting (v) Tennis (vi) Weightlifting (vii) Wrestling, (viii) Archery and (ix) Boxing

Scheme of Assistance

The main objective of the Scheme is to provide added impetus towards the athlete's preparations, over and above what is planned under the Annual Calendar of Training and Competition (ACTC). **The selected athletes can seek assistance under the Scheme for the following :**

- Customized training under reputed coaches at institutes having world-class facilities.
- Participation in international competition.
- Purchase of equipment.
- Services of support staff/personnel like Physical Trainer, Sports Psychologist, Mental Trainer and Physiotherapist etc.
- Any other support specific to the sport discipline.
- Out-of-pocket allowance of Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees fifty thousand only) a month to the athletes as an incentive