

Press Statement

Sports Authority of India

New Delhi, May 20, 2020: On May 18, 2020 a cook employed in the Sports Authority of India's Bangalore center passed away due to a sudden cardiac arrest at BGS hospital. The person was also given a Covid test, as per protocol, and test reports received on May 19, 2020, post death, revealed that he was also Covid Positive.

The person, who was staying outside the SAI campus during the period of lockdown (March 10, 2020 onwards), came to SAI Bangalore on May 15 to attend a brief meeting to discuss the resumption of kitchen activities at the center. The person went through all necessary screenings, including thermal screening, before entering the SAI center and was found to be absolutely fit. He was wearing mask and given hand sanitizer at the gate.

The meeting was attended by 16 members, including the deceased, at the auditorium (Seating capacity of 300) near the administrative block of the center. Social distancing norms, as per government guidelines, were followed during the meeting.

The deceased left soon after the meeting and did not interact with any of the players or other staff members housed in the center.

The situation has been reviewed, and the four other officials, who were present at the meeting and live inside the campus, have been quarantined, as per the Government guidelines. The others, who live outside the center, have been home quarantined.

The Senior Director in charge of the center has also been directed to take all necessary precautions as per the health guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, to ensure that all players and staff housed inside the campus are safe.

The issue has been reported to the local administration on May 19, 2020 and all necessary preventive steps are being taken.

Commenting on the issue, Dr. Narinder Dhruv Batra, President, Indian Olympic Association said, "I have been in touch with Hockey India and I am fully satisfied with the way SAI Bangalore center has been kept safe and sanitised. SAI administration is doing its best to handle the issue at hand and there is no reason to panic. We have spoken to officials and players staying in SAI Bangalore, it is clear that none of them have interacted with the person who tested Covid positive. Any report suggesting that they did, is incorrect."

EOM