

## Press Release

Kiren Rijju, Arjun Munda attend SAI's first-ever online knowledge enhancement workshop for coaches, 4700 coaches join in on Day 1

New Delhi, April 16, 2020: In an unprecedented move to upgrade the knowledge of coaches across the country in all leading disciplines, the Sports Authority of India in association with National Sporting Federations began a massive programme of online skill enhancement on April 16. SAI coaches, coaches of SAI accredited sports academies, coaches recommended by National Sports Federations and coaches of State governments from all over India will attend these sessions to be addressed by Dronacharya awardees, Arjuna awardees, Khel Ratna awardees, eminent Indian coaches and foreign experts.

On Day 1 of the session, more than 4700 coaches, including eminent ex-sportspersons who are now coaches, attended the sessions in archery, swimming, football, taekwondo, cycling, fencing, weightlifting, wrestling, judo, volleyball, gymnastics, table tennis, athletics, boxing and sports science. Shri. Kiren Rijju, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports and Shri. Arjun Munda, Union Minister of Tribal Affairs addressed coaches on Day 1. Speaking about the initiative Kiren Rijju said, "Skill upgradation is a very important aspect of coaching. This initiative will ensure that coaches learn from the best minds of their discipline and they can implement the learnings from these sessions for better results while training athletes. This workshop includes all important disciplines, especially those in which India has a chance in doing well in Olympics."

Adding to this view Arjun Munda said, "It is indeed a fantastic initiative to upgrade the knowledge of coaches during this period of lockdown when they cannot actively train athletes. This unique workshop being conducted by experts will surely benefit our coaches greatly."

Olympian Anju Bobby George who attended the session on athletics said, "SAI could not have chosen a better time for this workshop. Right now the coaches are relatively free and during this time they are getting a chance to brush up their skills and exchange ideas with each other. Just the sheer number of coaches attending the sessions provides a great platform for knowledge sharing and enhancement. It was also great to see the Sports Minister and Director General of SAI attending the sessions. It shows how serious the ministry and SAI is about empowering coaches."

The extensive online coach development programme that will span three weeks, called MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) is an intensive 21 day programme designed for coaches at all levels. The programme is open to 100 coaches at a time for any given session, allowing High Performance Directors to assess each participants individual needs and interests to create a customised learning experience. In the first round of the series coaches from athletics, archery, boxing, badminton, fencing, hockey, gymnastics, table tennis, swimming, weightlifting, wrestling, cycling, taekwondo, football, judo and volleyball will attend the sessions. Hockey sessions will start from April 20. On the first day eminent coaches including Sanjeeva Singh of archery, Kamlesh Mehta of Table Tennis and Partha Pratim Majumder of swimming conducted the sessions.

Each session will have three components, a 20-minutes lecture; 20-minutes demonstration with video link; 20-minutes interaction, with a view to generate more interest and to promote participation and empower coaches. External evaluators will monitor the sessions regularly and will provide constant feedback, analysis and suggestions for improvement.

This programme will also focus on raw talent identification at the grass root level along with performance assessment, application of sports sciences and importance of recovery & rehabilitation.

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