

INDIAN OLYMPIC ASSOCIATION

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER | JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH 2020



Dear IOA Members and Colleagues,

As you are all aware, an unprecedented situation confronts the world today due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These are testing times and we need to be brave and disciplined. In these challenging times, the safety and well-being of our athletes is of utmost importance and all support must be extended to ensure the same.

It is also heartening that a large number of IOA members have pledged support towards the PM Cares Fund for the cause of our nation's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. This truly magnanimous and generous response from our National Sports Federations, State Olympic Associations and Executive Council Members is extremely heartening in this time of need and I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you.

Due to the constantly changing environment and the resulting postponement of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, the new dates for the Games of the XXXII Olympiad have been announced and they are scheduled to be held from 23 July 2021 to 8 August 2021. I am sure that all Olympic NSFs have shared communication about the postponement with their qualified and probable athletes. I congratulate all athletes who have achieved Tokyo Olympic qualification in the last quarter. I hope you will work towards bettering your sporting performance in the run up to the Games. Further, in view of this postponement, I request the NSFs to start planning towards our Olympic goal once the remaining Olympic qualification events are announced and the prevailing situation due to COVID-19 normalises. I look forward to detailed discussions with you all in the upcoming IOA Preparation Committee Meeting which will be held at a suitable date to reassess the preparations for the Olympic Games.

The launch event of the 36th National Games Goa was held on 31 January 2020. I hope these Games which will be held from 20 October to 4 November 2020 will reinvigorate the entire Indian sporting community and provide the Tokyo bound athletes a high level of competition at home.





From the President's Desk

The IOC EB in its meeting held in early March 2020 decided to put forward Mumbai, India as the host for the IOC Session in 2023 to a vote. I am optimistic that the IOC Membership will view this landmark hosting proposal positively as the IOC Session to be held in 2023 will coincide with India's 75th year of Independence.

I am also happy to share that the Commonwealth Games Federation has sanctioned the Chandigarh 2022 Commonwealth Archery and Shooting Championships to be held in India. This is truly an exciting development for both the IOA/ CGI as well as the Commonwealth Sports Movement. I congratulate all stakeholders for coming together for this breakthrough initiative in the larger interest of the sport.

Lastly, I would like to conclude by extending my best wishes for your good health as well as your families. Together we can and Together we shall! Stay Safe. Jai Hind!

Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra
President



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Announcement of Rescheduling the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games

On 24 March 2020, IOC President Thomas Bach and Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe together made the official announcement of rescheduling the Games of the XXXII Olympiad in Tokyo to a date beyond 2020 but not later than summer 2021, in view of the unprecedented and unpredictable spread of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

President Bach and Prime Minister Abe were joined by the President of Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee, Olympic Minister of Japan, Governor of Tokyo, Chair of the IOC Coordination Committee, IOC Director General and the IOC Olympic Games Executive Director and together the leaders concurred on the decision to postpone the Olympic Games in Tokyo, to safeguard the health of the athletes, everybody involved in the Olympic Games and the international community.

The leaders also agreed that the Olympic Games in Tokyo could stand as a beacon of hope to the world during these troubled times and that the Olympic flame could become the light at the end of the tunnel in which the world finds itself at present. Therefore, it was agreed that the Olympic flame will stay in Japan. It was also agreed that the Games will keep the name Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020.

On 30 March 2020, after its Executive Board meeting, the IOC and the leadership of the key parties came together to agree on the new dates for the Games of the XXXII Olympiad and announced that the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games will be celebrated from 23 July to 8 August 2021.



Tokyo 2020 Olympic Qualifications

In view of the decision to reschedule the Games, IOC President Thomas Bach held a teleconference meeting with representatives of the International Federations and the National Olympic Committees and confirmed that athletes who have already secured Olympic Qualifications will remain qualified for the postponed Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

Team India made steady progress on the road to Tokyo, securing further qualifications for the Games of the XXXII Olympiad. Indian athletes secured 13 new Olympic Quotas in various Qualification tournaments held for Athletics, Boxing and Equestrian.

2018 Commonwealth and Asian Games Gold medallist and National record holding Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra marked his comeback after a prolonged injury, by successfully securing his maiden Olympic qualification, surpassing the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Qualifying Standard of 85m in Men's Javelin Throw. Neeraj Chopra earned his Individual Quota with a throw of 87.86m on 28 January 2020 at the ACNW League Meeting, a Pre-season Athletics meet held in Potchefstroom, South Africa.

Race walker Bhawna Jat became the third individual Team India Track and Road athlete to qualify for Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games after she raced past the Olympic Qualifying Standard of 1:31:00 in Women's 20km Race Walk at the 7th National Race Walking Championship held in Ranchi from 15 to 16 February 2020. The 24-year-old clocked a National Record timing of 1:29:54 to win Gold and secure her maiden Olympic Quota.



At another ACNW League Meeting held in Potchefstroom, South Africa in March, Shivpal Singh secured Team India's second entry in the Men's Javelin Throw event at Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. The 24-year-old secured his maiden Olympic Quota, as he breached past the Olympic Qualifying Standard of 85m, hurling the spear to a distance of 85.47m on his way to win Gold in the ACNW Meeting at the McArthur Stadium, South Africa on 10 March 2020.



Double Asian Games Silver medallist, Fouaad Mirza became only the third Indian equestrian set to represent Team India at the Olympic Games, as his Olympic Qualification was officially stamped after the International Federation for Equestrian Sports (FEI) released its rankings for the 2019 season. Fouaad was assured of an Olympic Quota in November 2019 when he topped the FEI Olympic Rankings for Group G - Southeast Asia and Oceania in the Individual Eventing category. Ending a wait spanning 20 years, Fouaad Mirza will be the third equestrian to represent Team India in Equestrian after Late Wing Commander I. J. Lamba at Atlanta 1996 and Imtiaz Anees at Sydney 2000. However, to be able to participate at Tokyo 2020, Fouaad Mirza is required to obtain the Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER), which he has for the short format, but is yet to obtain for the long format.



Team India enjoyed plenty of success at the Asian Olympic Boxing qualifiers held in Amman, Jordan from 3 to 11 March 2020, as nine Indian boxers secured Individual Olympic Quotas for Tokyo 2020, recording India's best ever representation in Boxing at the Olympic Games.

First among the boxers to earn Qualification for Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, reigning Asian Light Heavyweight Champion Pooja Rani was in complete control as she beat Pornnipa Chutee of Thailand in the quarterfinals, winning her maiden Olympic ticket.

A third appearance at the Olympic Games beckoned for veteran Indian boxer Vikas Krishan Yadav, who put in all his efforts to secure a quota place for Tokyo 2020. The only other Indian boxer after Beijing 2008 Bronze medallist Vijender Singh, set to make a third Olympic appearance, Vikas Krishan fought hard against Japan's Quincy Okazawa to earn his quarterfinal victory and his ticket to Tokyo.

The Olympic qualifiers in Amman witnessed the prowess of Lovlina Borgohain as she became the second woman to earn Qualification for Tokyo 2020. The 22-year-old Welterweight boxer and 2019 World Championships Bronze medallist booked her ticket to Tokyo with a win over Maftunakhon Melieva of Uzbekistan by unanimous decision in her quarterfinal bout.

Veteran Indian boxing legend and six-time World Champion, M. C. Mary Kom outplayed her Filipino rival Irish Magno in the quarterfinals, coming out on top in a closely contested bout of three rounds, ensuring her second appearance at the Olympic Games.



Fourth and the final Indian boxer among women to earn her debut Olympic appearance at Tokyo 2020 was Simranjit Kaur Baath. The 2019 Asian Championships Silver medallist took some time to get going in her quarterfinal bout against Mongolian Namuun Monkhor. However, once she got her rhythm going, Simranjit displayed good reflexes and fought intelligently to ensure that she hit the road to Tokyo.

Team India's biggest hope to emerge in the past couple of years, boxer Amit Panghal qualified for Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games and will make his debut Olympic appearance. The Asian Games Gold medallist went down in the first round of his quarterfinal bout against Carlo Paalam of the Philippines but made a fine comeback with superb counter punches to earn victory and with it, his ticket to Tokyo. He will be looking to emulate M. C. Mary Kom with an Olympic medal on his debut and undoubtedly possesses the skills to do so.

One of the most inspiring stories to come out of the Asian Boxing Olympic qualifiers was that of Ashish Kumar, who fulfilled the dreams of his late father by earning his maiden Olympic Quota. Ashish boasted of confidence and determination as he convincingly defeated Maikhel Muskita of Indonesia by unanimous decision in his quarterfinal bout to book his ticket to Tokyo 2020.

Satish Kumar became the first Indian boxer to qualify in the Super Heavyweight category event at Olympics, after he confirmed his participation at Tokyo 2020 with a convincing win over Daivii Otgonbayer of Mongolia at the Asian Boxing Olympic qualifiers.

2019 World Championship Bronze medallist, Manish Kaushik became the ninth and the final Indian boxer to qualify for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games after he edged past second seed Harry Garside of Australia by split decision in his box-off bout of the Men's Lightweight category at the Asian boxing Olympic qualifiers in Amman, Jordan.

So far, a total of 74 athletes have qualified to represent Team India at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games in as many as 35 events across 7 sports including Archery, Athletics, Boxing, Equestrian, Hockey, Shooting and Wrestling.

Preparations for Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games

IOA Preparation Committee for Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games convened its first meeting of the year under the chairmanship of Dr Lalit Bhanot on 28 January 2020 at the Olympic Bhawan in New Delhi.



Held in the presence of IOA President Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra, Secretary General Mr Rajeev Mehta and Vice-President and Team India Chef de Mission for Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games Mr B. P. Baishya, the house gathered to assess the preparations in the lead up to the Olympic Games. Representatives of Tokyo 2020 bound/ hopeful National Sports Federations including Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Boxing, Equestrian, Golf, Hockey, Shooting, Judo, Table Tennis, Wrestling, Weightlifting and Yachting attended the meeting along with representatives from the IOA Medical Commission, Sports Authority of India and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

The meeting focused on preparations undertaken by NSFs for the Games of the XXXII Olympiad and on the collective approach for an improved performance of Indian athletes at the Summer Games. Under the guidance of Preparation Committee Chairman Dr Lalit Bhanot and CDM Mr B. P. Baishya, IOA updated the members present about the preparations in place by the Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (Tokyo 2020), detailing important information and charting the timeline for formalities and documentation to be completed for Team India's participation at the Games. The house was also assured of IOA's commitment to help athletes on the road to Tokyo 2020.

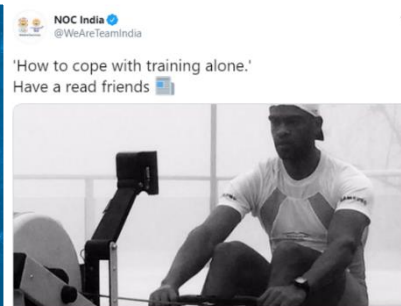


Meeting with NSFs in preparation for Tokyo 2020

To review progress of the National Sports Federations in preparation for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, IOA Secretary General, Mr Rajeev Mehta met with representatives of the Tokyo bound NSFs individually and received updates regarding their preparations for Tokyo 2020.

The meeting was convened at the Olympic Bhawan from 16 to 18 March 2020 and attended by IOA Vice President Mr V. D. Nanavati representing Swimming Federation of India, Wrestling Federation of India President Mr Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, Badminton Association of India General Secretary Mr Ajay Kumar Singhania, Archery Association of India Secretary General Mr Pramod Chandurkar, Indian Weightlifting Federation Secretary General Mr Sahdev Yadav, Table Tennis Federation of India Secretary General Mr M. P. Singh, All India Tennis Association CEO Mr Akhouri Bishwadeep, Boxing Federation of India Executive Director Mr Raj Kumar Sacheti, Judo Federation of India General Secretary Mr Man Mohan Jaiswal, Fencing Association of India Secretary General Mr Bashir Ahmed Khan and representatives from the Equestrian Federation of India, Yachting Association of India and Rowing Federation of India. NSFs discussed the progress in their preparations for the Games and various specifics regarding their athlete's participation at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games were decided.

Secretary General Mr Mehta assured the NSF delegates with complete support from IOA and agreed to fulfill the requisite procedures and documentation in time. He also assured extensive support in extending assistance and communication to all athletes regarding the Games updates and COVID-19 guidelines on a regular basis.



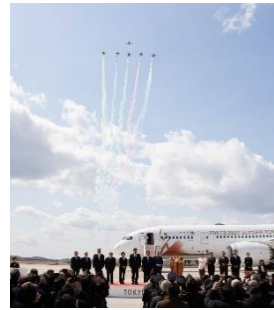
Hope Lights Our Way

Commencing celebrations for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games and the Olympic Torch Relay, the Olympic Flame was lit in Ancient Olympia, Greece on 12 March 2020 and was handed over to the host country Japan on 19 March 2020. The traditional ceremony, where the flame is lit by the sun's rays, saw Greece's Olympic Champion in Shooting Anna Korakaki become the first woman ever to start the Olympic Torch Relay. She then handed over the flame to Japan's Olympic Champion in Marathon Noguchi Mizuki.



A scaled-down ceremony in Athens amidst COVID-19 pandemic featured Olympic Champions, emotional addresses and a message of hope and solidarity, as the Olympic Flame further set its course for Japan.

The flame arrived in Japan at Matsushima Airbase in the Miyagi prefecture marking the beginning of its journey through Japan. The Olympic Flame was set to travel for a total of 121 days towards Tokyo, the host city of the Games of the XXXII Olympiad, conveying the message of Peace and Hope and promoting the Olympic values.



In addition to building excitement across Japan ahead of the Tokyo 2020 Games and promoting Olympic values, the Olympic Torch Relay aimed to show solidarity with the regions still recovering from the 2011 earthquake and tsunami with the concept of “Hope Lights Our Way.”

The flame, encased in a rose-gold lantern, was deplaned by the pair of three-time Olympic Champions from Japan, Yoshida Saori in Wrestling and Nomura Tadahiro in Judo, who were originally set to carry the torch in Athens in the handover ceremony before the plan had to be abandoned because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Using the torch, Yoshida and Nomura lit the cauldron on stage as the Blue Impulse aerobatic team streaked above in the sky with contrails of the Olympic colours of blue, yellow, black, green and red.

On 24 March, the International Olympic Committee and the Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (Tokyo 2020) announced the postponement of the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In light of this postponement, Tokyo 2020 decided to postpone the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Torch Relay, which was scheduled to start on 26 March 2020. The Organising Committee confirmed that the revised dates for the Olympic Torch Relay will be announced after the new schedule for the Tokyo 2020 Games will be fixed, and will renew its preparations for a vigorous grand start event that will bring people together again.

Tokyo 2020 will consider measures to allow torchbearers who were selected to run in the now postponed event to be given priority in the selection process for the new Olympic Torch Relay.

36th National Games, Goa

Festivities in the capital city of Panaji marked the beginning of the launch event for the 36th National Games in Goa. The carnival kicked-off on 31 January 2020 as 'Rubigula' representing the State Bird Bulbul, was unveiled as the official mascot of the National Games. Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Sports Mr Kiren Rijiju along with Chief Minister of Goa Mr Pramod Sawant formally unveiled the official mascot in presence of Union Minister Mr Shripad Y. Naik, IOA President Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra and Secretary General Mr Rajeev Mehta, Goa Olympic Association Secretary Mr Gurudutta Bhakta, former Team India Hockey captain and Sports Minister of Haryana Mr Sandeep Singh, IOA Athletes Commission Chairperson Mrs Anju Bobby George and two time Olympic medallist Mr Sushil Kumar amongst the others.

Former Goan sports stars were felicitated by IOA Secretary General Mr Rajeev Mehta at the event, which was also attended by IOA Senior Vice-President Mr R. K. Anand and Coordination and GTCC for the Goa National Games Chairman Mr Mukesh Kumar.

Goa will be hosting the 36th edition of the National Games in October-November 2020 and the event will see participation by 36 States and Union Territories.



Omotenashi

IOA Secretary General Mr Rajeev Mehta in presence of Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Sports Mr Kiren Rijiju delivered the opening address of the Japanese cultural sensitivity workshop Omotenashi held in New Delhi on 27 February 2020. Organised by Sports Authority of India and the Indian Olympic Association for Tokyo 2020 bound Team India athletes and officials, the main aim of the workshop was to intimate athletes with the intricacies of Japanese culture, when they'll be in Japan for the Games.

Omotenashi is a Japanese word that has recently come to mean anything and everything to do with the extraordinary customer experience one can observe all over Japan. Omotenashi more specifically describes the essence of Japan's unique approach to customer service.



A Japanese delegation comprising of Tsukuba International Academy for Sports Studies Chairman, Professor Hisashi Sanada and Ms Izumi Egami introduced athletes to Japanese etiquette including how to travel on the trains in Tokyo, wearing the kimono, chopsticks etiquette for dining, bowing culture and so on. Manners of daily life, from everyday greetings to public dealings and street manners to food culture, everything quintessentially Japanese was touched upon in the workshop.

The workshop was attended by shooters Manu Bhaker, Sanjeev Rajput, Deepak Kumar, Abhishek Verma, Yashaswini Singh Deswal, wrestlers Bajrang Punia, Deepak Punia, Ravi Kumar Dahiya, Divya Kakran and para-athletes Sandeep Chaudhary and Yogesh Kathuniya amongst others.

Meeting with Hon'ble Sports Minister

IOA President Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra met with the Union Minister of State for Sports Mr Kiren Rijiju on 2 January 2020 and updated the Hon'ble Minister about the decisions taken at the Indian Olympic Association Annual General Meeting held on 30 December 2019.

Dr Batra apprised the Hon'ble Minister about IOA/CGI's decision to participate in the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, the decision to send a proposal to the CGF from IOA/CGI regarding the offer to host Shooting and Archery Commonwealth Championships in India in 2022 along with the request that the medals won, be counted in the medal tally for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. He also informed the minister about IOA/CGI's 'Expression of Interest to host 2026/2030 Commonwealth Games in India' be sent to the CGF.



The Hon'ble Minister gave a very patient hearing and discussions were also held about preparations for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

Meeting with WFA and IWUF

IOA President Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra met with Wushu Federation of Asia Vice President and International Wushu Federation Executive Member Mr Julian Camacho, WFA Technical Chairman and IWUF Technical Member Mr Jian Xiaobing and Asian Wushu delegation along with Wushu India President Mr Bhupender Singh Bajwa and General Secretary Mr Suhel Ahmed in New Delhi on 16 January 2020.



The Asian delegation was in India to inspect the venue and preparations for the 10th Asian Wushu Championships to be held in New Delhi. The delegation called upon IOA President Dr Batra and briefed him about India hosting the 10th Asian Wushu Championship at the Indira Gandhi Stadium from 2 to 8 November 2020. Dr Batra assured the Wushu delegation with Indian Olympic Association's complete support for the success of the event in which more than 600 players from 32 countries will be participating.



Meeting with Sony Pictures Networks India

Sony Pictures Networks India, the rights holding broadcaster for Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games in India met IOA President Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra and Secretary General Mr Rajeev Mehta on 28 January 2020 in New Delhi to discuss the comprehensive coverage plan for the Summer Olympic Games across its broadcast network and digital platforms in the Indian subcontinent. SPN presented the Indian Olympic Association with a cricket bat autographed by the legendary Indian cricketer, Sachin Tendulkar.



Meeting with Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala

IOA President Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra on his visit to the state of Kerala to attend the 10th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2020, called upon the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala Mr Pinarayi Vijayan.

Dr Batra met the Hon'ble Chief Minister along with Kerala Olympic Association President Mr Sunil Kumar, Hockey India President Mr Mohd. Mushtaque Ahmad and Wrestling Federation of India Vice-President Mr Bholanath Singh on 2 February 2020 and had very positive discussions about holding of International Beach Games, other International tournaments and future National Games



editions in Kerala. Dr Batra also met with Hon'ble Sports Minister of Kerala Mr E. P. Jayarajan and senior bureaucrats and had fruitful discussions on the above.

Further, during his visit to Kerala, President Dr Batra also addressed the members of the Kerala Olympic Association and representatives of all State Associations, and held extensive discussions with the office bearers of KOA for the development of sports in the state.

Meeting with Hon'ble Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh

IOA President Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra met with the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Mr Bhupesh Baghel on 4 February 2020 in New Delhi, discussing with him



matters relating to the hosting of the 37th National Games in Chhattisgarh and the development of sports in the state.

Meeting with Hon'ble Sports Minister of West Bengal

IOA President Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra met with the Hon'ble Sports Minister of West Bengal Mr Aroop Biswas in Kolkata on 5 February 2020 accompanied by Bengal Olympic Association President Mr Ajit Banerjee, Secretary Mr Swapan Banerjee, Hockey India President Mr Mohd. Mushtaque Ahmad, IOA Joint Secretary Mr Namdev Shirgaonkar and IOA Associate Executive Member Mr Bholanath Singh.

In the meeting, discussions were held regarding hosting of future National Games editions, holding of International events etc. in West Bengal which were very positive and the West Bengal Government expressed their willingness to hold IOA National Games from 2022 and onwards.



The Government was also very positive regarding hosting of International events in the state, and in this regard the IOA NSF member units will have to share proposal and details with West Bengal government through Bengal Olympic Association.

The President had very positive discussions with the President and Secretary of the Bengal Olympic Association and thanked them for their warm welcome and their support.

Meeting with World Taekwondo

World Taekwondo President Dr Chungwon Choue visited India in February 2020 to attend the 2020 Indo-Korean Taekwondo Cultural Festival and International Awards in Kolkata. A one of its kind cultural festival dedicated to the sport of Taekwondo in India, it has been a regular biennial event since 2008. The event on 5 February 2020 at the Biswa Bangla Convention Centre in Kolkata marked the first time that the WT President and the famed WT Demonstration Team were attending an official Taekwondo event in India.

On the occasion of the cultural festival, WT President Dr Chungwon Choue met IOA President Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra and in his presence India Taekwondo President Mr Namdev Shirgaonkar was awarded the World Taekwondo certificate, recognizing India Taekwondo as a Member National Association/ National Sports Federation for Taekwondo in India.



GTCC Meeting for 38th National Games, Uttarakhand

A delegation of the Indian Olympic Association including members of the Coordination and GTCC for the Uttarakhand National Games 2021 Mr Onkar Singh, Mr Rajiv Bhatia, Mr D. K. Singh and Executive Director of IOA Ms Irene Koshy visited Dehradun on 11 February 2020 and held a meeting with the Uttarakhand National Games Organising Committee (NGOC). The Secretary of Sports, Government of Uttarakhand and CEO of NGOC Mr Brijesh Kumar Sant along with a delegation of NGOC officials and other senior authorities gave a brief overview of the preparations for the National Games. As mandated in the Host City Contract, the NGOC submitted the Master Plan of the Games for review of the IOA. Further, the NGOC also discussed the details and submitted plans of other functional areas including Accreditation, Medical, Volunteer, Safety and Security and Travel. Thereafter, a press conference was also jointly held by GTCC and NGOC to share information about the preparations for the Games. GTCC praised the planning of the NGOC and requested them to expedite implementation of the plans at a speedy pace in the coming months.



GTCC Meeting for 39th National Games, Meghalaya

A three-member delegation led by Chairman of the Coordination and GTCC for the Meghalaya National Games 2022 Mr Raj Kumar Sacheti visited Shillong.

The IOA delegation met with Hon'ble Sports Minister of Meghalaya Mr Banteidor Lyngdoh along with senior members of the Meghalaya Olympic Association. The delegation also visited the J N Sports Complex, an existing venue and other proposed sites.



AGM of Boxing Federation of India

IOA President Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra attended the 5th Annual General Meeting of Boxing Federation of India which was chaired by Boxing Federation of India President Mr Ajay Singh on 21 February 2020 in New Delhi. President Dr Batra said that it was a pleasure to meet with Government of India Secretary (Sports) Mr R. S. Julaniya, IAS, who was also present at the meeting.



Felicitation by Jammu and Kashmir Olympic Association

Jammu and Kashmir Olympic Association felicitated IOA President Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra in a function held on 24 February 2020 in Jammu which was well attended by JKOA office bearers, member federations and its affiliated units, representatives of the local government and a large number of sports lovers from the community.

As Dr Batra originally belongs to Jammu and Kashmir, JKOA President Mr Dushyant Sharma, General Secretary and veteran sports administrator Dr Ashutosh Sharma and Treasurer Mr Sidharth Daluja felicitated Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra as the 'Son of Soil',

recognising his achievements as a sports administrator.



In his address, Dr Batra advised the sports associations about the perils of long and prolonged disputes which impair the smooth functioning of sporting bodies and stressed that all issues should be solved amicably.

Further, Dr Batra encouraged JKOA to ensure maximum participation of J&K athletes in the upcoming 36th National Games in Goa and assured that all support will be extended in this regard.

Meeting with Hon'ble Lok Sabha Speaker

IOA President Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra met with Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha Mr Om Birla on 12 March 2020 and they discussed about Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, IOA, NSF's, identifying and training Athletes for Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

In the discussions, they also probed the idea of hosting games for Parliamentarians jointly with the Indian Olympic Association.



3rd State Olympic Games, Arunachal Pradesh

IOA Secretary General Mr Rajeev Mehta was welcomed by Arunachal Olympic Association Secretary General Mr Abraham K. Techu and other senior officials at the Itanagar airport on 12 March 2020 on his visit to Arunachal Pradesh for the 3rd State Olympic Games in the capital city from 13 to 16 March 2020.

The 3rd State Olympic Games in Arunachal witnessed over 1600 athletes taking part in the Games in as many as 15 sports. Each of the 25 districts of the state participated in the four-day long event. Together with the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh Mr Pema Khandu, Mr Rajeev Mehta opened the third edition of the Games in Itanagar. Addressing the meet, IOA Secretary General welcomed the participating athletes and encouraged them to pursue excellence in sports and work towards making the state a sporting powerhouse.



AGM of Table Tennis Federation of India

IOA President Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra, Secretary General Mr Rajeev Mehta and Preparation Committee Chairman Dr Lalit Bhanot attended the Annual General Meeting of the Table Tennis Federation of India held on 14 March 2020 in New Delhi under the leadership of TTFI President and Dy Chief Minister of Haryana Mr Dushyant Chautala, Secretary General Mr M. P. Singh and Advisor Mr D. R. Choudhary. IOA President Dr Batra held nice discussions and said it was pleasure meeting the Table Tennis fraternity.

Addressing the meeting, IOA Secretary General Mr Rajeev Mehta lauded the efforts of TTFI Executive Committee and wished the Table Tennis fraternity success for the Olympic Year 2020. The house later joined the TTFI management in felicitating Dr Batra, Mr Mehta and Dr Bhanot for their continuous support to the sport.



IOC World Conference, Monaco

IOA Medical Commission Chairman Dr Pawan Deep Singh Kohli attended the IOC World Conference on Prevention of Injury and Illness in Sport held in Monaco from 11 to 13 February 2020.



135th IOC Session, Lausanne

The 135th IOC Session convened in Lausanne, Switzerland on 10 January 2020 on the side-lines of the III Winter Youth Olympic Games Lausanne 2020. IOA President and IOC Member, Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra attended the session. In the 135th session, IOC President Thomas Bach said that the IOC has to connect with hundreds of millions of athletes worldwide if the Olympic body is to remain relevant with the younger generation.



IOC Session in 2023, Mumbai

The IOC Executive Board in its meeting decided upon proposing Mumbai to be put forward to a vote of the IOC Members to host the IOC Session in 2023. In its meeting convened in March 2020, the IOC EB heard the report of the IOC Session Evaluation Commission, which visited Mumbai in October 2019 to study the feasibility of hosting the IOC Session in Mumbai. In its report, the Evaluation Commission was impressed by the potential of India as a country and praised the quality of the facilities at the Jio World Centre in Mumbai, which was a potential venue for the IOC Session.

IOC President Thomas Bach stated, “We have chosen India because it is the second most

populous nation in the world, with a very young population and a huge potential for Olympic sport. We want to encourage and support the National Olympic Committee of India and all the National Federations to promote and strengthen Olympic sport in the country.” It is hoped that hosting the IOC Session in India will highlight the role of sport in India and celebrate the contribution of India to the Olympic Movement.

India hosted the last IOC session way back in 1983 in New Delhi. The year 2023 will be significant for India as it coincides with the 75th anniversary of Indian independence. Hosting the IOC Session in Mumbai would put the Olympic Movement at the heart of those celebrations. The decision will be ratified at the 136th IOC Session scheduled to be held in Tokyo.

Induction Programme for New IOC Members, Lausanne

Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra attended the Induction Programme for new IOC Members which was held in Lausanne, Switzerland.





IOC Coaches Lifetime Achievement Award

Former All England Open Badminton Champion and the Chief National Coach of the Indian Badminton team, Pullela Gopichand was awarded a certificate of honourable mention, on being recognised as runner-up for the third edition of the IOC Coaches Lifetime Achievement Awards.

IOA President Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra congratulated Mr P. Gopichand and felicitated him on the side-lines of an event held in New Delhi.

Khelo India University Games, Bhubaneswar

IOA President Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra attended the Closing Ceremony of the 1st Khelo India University Games 2020 on 1 March 2020 at KIIT University in Bhubaneswar, Odisha and was present on the dias along with Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha Mr Naveen Patnaik, Union Minister of State for Sports Mr Kiren Rijiju, Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dr Dharmendra Pradhan, SAI Director General Mr Sandip Pradhan IRS amongst other ministers and dignitaries.

The Games were held from 22 February to 1 March 2020 in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar, with more than 3400 athletes participating from 157 Universities across India in 17 sports disciplines.

Obituary - Balbir Singh Kullar

The Indian Olympic Association was deeply saddened to hear about the passing of Mexico 1968 Olympic medallist, Bangkok 1966 Asian Games Gold medallist and former Team India forward, Balbir Singh Kullar. The Hockey stalwart breathed his last on 28 February 2020 in Sansarpur, India. Balbir Singh Kullar was also a Padma Shri and an Arjuna awardee, recognised for his contribution to Indian Hockey.

Obituary – Joginder Singh Saini

Veteran Athletics coach and Dronacharya awardee, Joginder Singh Saini, who groomed some of India's finest track and field stars, left for holy abode on 1 March 2020 in Patiala, India. Joginder Singh Saini received the Dronacharya Award in 1997 for his contribution to Indian Athletics. He was the Chief Coach of the Indian Athletics team which won 18 medals, including eight Gold, at the 1978 Asian Games.



INDIAN OLYMPIC ASSOCIATION

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