

# SPORTS MINISTRY'S TOP SCHEME FUNDS WRESTLER VINESH PHOGAT'S HIGH ALTITUDE TRAINING CAMP IN BULGARIA

Relevant for: Developmental Issues | Topic: Human resources, Youth, Sports and related issues

## Key highlights

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) has approved wrestler Vinesh Phogat's proposal to train in Belmeken, Bulgaria, which is a High Altitude training area situated approximately 2600m above sea level.

Vinesh, who is accompanied by her physio Ashwini Patil, is training under former Olympic Silver medallist Serafim Barzakov at the camp which is going to last for 19 days (7-26 November 2022).

The international camp is also expected to have other top wrestlers such as Bilyana Dudova (2021 World Championship Gold medallist), Evelina Nikolova (2020 Olympic Bronze medallist) among many other prominent wrestlers.

Funding for the same is being provided under Sports Authority of India's (SAI) Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) and would cover Vinesh and her physio's flight, accommodation, local travel, and food costs among others. TOPS will also provide her an out-of-pocket allowance of \$50 per day for any other expense she might incur.

Meanwhile, TOPS is also set to financially assist Tokyo Olympic Bronze Medallist Bajrang Punia in taking part in the Bill Farrell International Wrestling Championship, which would be held in New York, USA from 18-19th November 2022.

The competition would give Bajrang a chance to compete against some of the prominent and upcoming wrestlers in the USA, who were one of the best Wrestling nations in Men's freestyle events at the recently concluded 2022 World Wrestling Championships.

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