Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)

Syllabus subtopic: Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections

News: 352 athletes have received assistance under TOP Scheme in the various sports disciplines.

Prelims and Mains focus: about TOP scheme and its significance

About TOPS
- The ‘Target Olympic Podium Scheme’ is a flagship program of the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**.
- The Scheme was formulated in 2014 under overall ambit of **National Sports Development Fund** (NSDF).
- The idea of the Scheme is to fund a Group of Athletes who are **medal prospects for the Olympic Games (and Paralympics games) in Paris in 2024 and Los Angeles Games in 2028**.
- Under TOPs, **High priority category** has been created to incentivize those sports in which India has won medals in the last Asian Games as well as Commonwealth Games or in which India has good chance of winning medals.
Evolution of TOPS

- In order to realize India’s Olympic medal dream, at the 2016 (Rio) and 2020 (Tokyo) Olympics, TOPS was established in 2014.
- The first committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Anurag Thakur and comprised of eminent athletes – Pulella Gopichand, Rahul Dravid, Abhinav Bindra, and Manisha Malhotra.

Achievements

- TOPS sponsored P V Sindhu and Sakshi Malik captured silver and bronze in Badminton and Wrestling respectively at the 2016 Rio Olympics.
- In the 2016 Paralympic Games, the TOPS Athletes won 2 Gold, 1 Silver and 1 Bronze medal.
- Out of the 70 athletes who won medals at the Commonwealth Games (CWG), 47 of them were supported under the TOP Scheme.
Mission Olympic Cell

- The Mission Olympic Cell is created to assist the athletes who are selected under the TOP Scheme.
- MOC is headed by Director General, Sports Authority of India (SAI).
- The idea of the MOC is to debate, discuss and decide the methods so that the athlete receives best assistance.