

SC appoints Vinod Rai, Ram Chandra Guha, Diana Edulji, Vikram Limaye as BCCI's new administrators



NEW DELHI, JAN 30 /--/ In a much-awaited move, the Supreme Court (SC) on Monday announced

the names new administrators in the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). The apex court appointed former CAG Vinod Rai to head the Indian board along with Ramachandra Guha, Vikram Limaye and Diana Edulji. While Vinod Rai is a former CAG himself, Ramachandra Guha is a

night-watchman, says cricketing body's new boss Vinod Rai

NEW DELHI, JAN 30 /--/ Former Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) Vinod Rai, who will head the Supreme Court appointed four-member panel of administrators, today called himself a "night-watchman" whose only job will be to ensure a "smooth transition" to an elected body in BCCI. The Supreme Court today appointed a four-member committee of administrators to run the affairs of the BCCI and implement the court-approved recommendations of the Justice R M Lodha panel. Asked Rai about his new role, he said, "Any such honour from the Supreme Court, one will have to accept and try to put in his best of abilities. I am a true lover of the game of cricket. My role is that of a night-watchman in a sense that we need to put in place good governance, good system and structure in place to ensure a smooth transition to an elected body which in future will bring about good administration in BCCI," he said.

"The game deserves it (good governance), the players deserve it and public at large, who are so fond of the game."

Besides Rai, other three members of the committee are famous historian and scholar Ramachandra Guha, Vikram Limaye, Managing Director of Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC) and former Indian women cricket captain Diana Edulji, who would interact with BCCI CEO Rahul Johri for supervision and smooth functioning of the cricket Board (BCCI). Widely considered as symbol of the anti-corruption movement in India, Rai, said cricket needs good governance but he will be in a position to comment anything on BCCI only after resuming his duties. "It's too early to comment on anything at the moment because I am not familiar and live no exposure to the functions of BCCI. But any intuition must conform to good governance. The game of cricket requires good governance so that we are able to deliver to the country at the public at large," Rai said. Asked how long it will take for him and his team to put BCCIs house in order and declare elections, Rai said: "I have no idea at all. I can only say something when I have some idea." (PTI)

Would try to do justice to my role as BCCI administrator: Diana Edulji is the only player part of the new administration



MUMBAI, JAN 30 /--/ Diana Edulji, who is a part of a four-member panel appointed by the Supreme Court to take charge of the administration of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), on Monday said she was honoured by adding that she would try to do justice to the responsibilities she has been entrusted upon.

"I am very happy and honoured to be nominated on BCCI administrative committee by the Supreme Court. It is a huge responsibility. It's surprising though that I am the only one player in the committee. I respect the judgment and believe it's a victory for women's cricket," Edulji told ANI. Edulji, who is the only player part of the new administration, added: "I

only hope that I would be able to do justice. I thank the Supreme Court for having entrusted me with this responsibility. "The 61-year-old, who represented India in 30 Tests and 94 One Day Internationals between 1976 and 1993, is administrator of the BCCI along with former Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) Vinod Rai, noted historian Ramachandra Guha and managing director of IDFC Limited Vikram Limaye. Meanwhile, the top court also declined Centre's request to appoint secretary of sports ministry as member of the committee. The Supreme Court had on January 2 removed Anurag Thakur and Ajay Shirke from their respective posts of BCCI president and board secretary for their failure to bring transparency and accountability to the Indian cricket board and their non-compliance of the court's July 19, 2016 order. Earlier in a landmark judgment on July 18, 2016, the apex court accepted major recommendations of Justice Lodha-led panel on structural reforms in the BCCI and had given six months deadline to the board implement the recommendations.

Center on a petition seeking to form a Lodha Panel-like committee, in order to look into the irregularities in other sports across the country. The petition, which was heard by a three-judge bench of the apex court headed by Chief Justice of India Jagdish Singh Khehar, sought the intervention of the Supreme Court for a direction to the Center to constitute a Lodha Panel-like committee. The new committee would look and probe if there is any kind of corruption and irregularities by anyone in any sport in the country. Following allegations of corruption, match fixing and betting scandals in cricket in the country, the Supreme Court appointed a three-panel member led by Justice R M Lodha in January 2016 to look into the functioning of the BCCI and suggest reforms.

Government announces 8-member task force for next 3 Olympics

Abhinav Bindra, Pullela Gopichand included

NEW DELHI, JAN 30 /--/ Government start preparation for next three Olympics by announcing the 8-member panel today India's lone Olympic gold-medallist Abhinav Bindra and national badminton coach Pullela Gopichand today found a place in an eight-member Task Force of the Sports Ministry to draw up an action plan for the next three Olympic Games.



Just days after the end of the Rio Olympics, where India won just two medals, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the setting up of a task force which will help plan for the "effective participation" of Indian sportspersons in the next three Olympics -- in 2020, 2024 and 2028. Bindra, Gopichand and former Indian hockey captain Viren Rasquinha were the only three former sportspersons named in the task force. The other five members of the task force are School Sports Promotion Board head Om Pathak, hockey coach S Baldev Singh, who runs an academy in Shahabad, G L Khanna (Professor and Dean

of Exercise and Physiology at Manav Rachna International University at Faridabad), journalist Rajesh Kalra and Sports Authority of Gujarat Director General Sandeep Pradhan. Announcing the task force here, Sports Minister Vijay Goel told reporters that "the tenure of the committee will be for three months or till the time it submits its report". He said the job of the chairman of the committee will be given on rotational basis while Pradhan will be the convener. The main job of the task force will be to suggest a comprehensive action plan including short-term, medium-term and long-term measures for effective participation of Indian sportspersons in the next three Olympic Games. Other points included in the terms of reference were to suggest effective methods to identify core probable medal prospects for 2020 Olympics, their coaches and support staff; to suggest effective talent identification system for 2024 and 2028 Olympics; to identify components of world class support system for elite sportspersons and ways to significantly improve standards of coaching; to suggest ways to create and upgrade sports infrastructure necessary to train top-level athletes and to make suggestion regarding foreign training and exposure of top-level athletes.

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