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**SPORTS**

## Suma Shirur named high performance coach of junior Indian team

*Shirur, who in 2004 set a joint world record of scoring the maximum 400 points at the Asian meet in Kuala Lumpur*




**G Krishnan** Updated: Mar 08, 2018, 06:05 AM IST
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Former Olympic 10m air rifle shooter and Commonwealth Games gold medallist Suma Shirur has been appointed as a high performance coach for the junior Indian team (rifle). She has also been roped in by Madhya Pradesh shooting academy as its technical coach for rifle shooting.

Shirur, who in 2004 set a joint world record of scoring the maximum 400 points at the Asian meet in Kuala Lumpur told DNA that she spends 10 days in a month in Bhopal, 10 days in New Delhi and the rest of the days in Panvel, Navi Mumbai, where she has been coaching at her own academy, Lakshya Shooting Club.

"I started working with the MP shooting academy in February. It is run by the MP government and the contract is for four years," Shirur told this paper. Funded by the MP government, the coaching role is really challenging as the talent search starts from zero. We have to start from scratch. It is exciting," said the 43-year-old.

"With so many years of experience with Lakshya Shooting Club, I will be able to make a difference to the shooters in these two assignments," Shirur said.

The length of coaching assignment with the junior Indian team is not specified but Shirur said it will start now, with the Indian team to Sydney for the ISSF junior World Cup (March 19-29). "It is too short a time and the role will be mainly observation. The technical work will start after Australia," Shirur said.

With Shirur spending about two-thirds of the month away coaching in New Delhi and Bhopal, she said that her team of coaches will keep the Lakshya club running. Shirur also has worked with Ayonika Paul as her personal coach for the 2016 Rio Olympics.

- Suma Shirur
- Former Olympic
- Commonwealth Games
- shooter
- Madhya Pradesh
- Lakshya Shooting Club
- Madhya Pradesh Government
- ISSF Junior World Cup