

# Bikram and the seven stalwarts

The actor-turned-director shares his experience of working with sports celebrities

PHOTO: MANOJ VERMA



(L-R) Bikramjeet Singh Saluja, Jeev Milkha Singh and Sushil Kumar

Minakshi Saini

minakshi.saini@hindustantimes.com

**M**odel-actor Bikramjeet Singh Saluja has added another feather to his cap by turning director with a seven-part documentary series called Travelling with the Pros. The documentary features seven sports stalwarts — golfer Jeev Milkha Singh, tennis player Mahesh Bhupathi, motor racer Narain Karthikeyan, shooter Abhinav Bindra, snooker player Pankaj Advani, badminton player Saina Nehwal and wrestler Sushil Kumar.

Revealing that tennis ace Mahesh Bhupathi was the inspiration behind the documentary, the

director said, "I used to play tennis. So I'm familiar with what goes into making a sports person. I'm friends with Mahesh. The idea was to make a documentary on him, but it expanded to include all who braved it, then made it big."

For Bikramjeet, getting permissions from the athletes, the global sporting body and the event broadcaster was a herculean task. "But I managed it somehow," he said.

Talking about the experience, wrestler Sushil Kumar said, "It used to be slightly weird when the camera followed us and other athletes used to stare. But the documentary will be beneficial for those who wish to venture in these sports."