

DR. S.M.Bobde, IAS

President,



A strong, visionary leadership to revive the lost glory of Kung fu and take it to even higher levels were the need of the hour when the Kung fu Federation of India (KFI) came into existence in September 2004.

When I took charge of the office, my priority was to ensure that Indian Kung fu not only excels in the domestic circuit but can stamp its authority globally as well. Tireless efforts on the part of the players and coaches, relentless efforts by my colleagues at UPKA and coordinated efforts at all levels resulted in creating a new chapter for KFI in the last fourteen years.

With India's population being 1.3 billion, 60% of whom are under 25 years of age, we have always had the potential to nurture multiple international medallists. This encouraged us to set a goal of winning multiple world level medals and re-establish ourselves as a Kung Fu powerhouse.

I feel proud to say that, since the inception of KFI, four years down the line, India has not only achieved recognition internationally as a federation but Indian players too are followed the world over. The Kung fu sport has taken giant leaps across the country too as the Kung Fu sports gets promoted far and wide which gives me immense satisfaction.

When KFI was formed, its mission was to immediately reorganize and re-establish the Nationals and reinstate the faith in Kung Fu lovers. Not only it was approach to Ministry of Sports and Indian Olympic Association but it was even surpassed by incorporating age-group Nationals year on year with KFI and state Associations working in tandem. Today Sub-Junior, Junior & Nationals with around 9300 trainees across Sub-Junior, Junior and Youth categories have also been set up, keeping the future in mind.

Our Kung fu Sanda fighters are now world-beaters and history-makers as the Indian contingent has shown remarkable consistency to clock seven best-ever performances in major international Kung fu competitions in the past five years.

The Kung fu sport continued to make more firsts with the staging of the first-ever Big Combat event 8th World Kung fu championship in Lucknow year 2022 that not only showcased the biggest stars but also gave platform to promising talents. It has also given a sense of commercial viability and financial security on all levels.

We are delighted to say that Indian Taolu players are now regularly featured in top-10 of world rankings with as many as 12 pugilists finding a place **inside the top 10 of the world rankings released in July 2020.**

Consistent exposure tours too are being organised to develop the quality not only for elite players but also for youth which have reaped rich dividends. KFI looks at holistic development of Indian Kung fu and a series of technical officials and coaches' training in association with Beijing Shaolin Kung fu School China, and **Sports Authority of India (SAI) has not only resulted in the betterment of Kung fu quality but has also developed and enhanced the eco-system of fighting.**

The number of KFI star coaches have gone up by many folds as has the number of quality judges and technical officials. While there were only 5 R&Js in 2016, that the number has grown exponentially over the years with KFI extensively conducting several certification courses for R&Js, coaches, cut man besides other technical certification courses as well. Today we have succeeded in adding 10 more R&Js out of which 3 belong to the KFI 3 star level.

In these tough times when the world is battling the COVID-19 pandemic, KFI has started online classes and has become the first federation to do so in India. KFI believes not only in establishing vision but also leading by example in an all-round manner. As we are all reeling in these unprecedented circumstances, I hope all the Players and everybody in KFI and state federations will come together and continue contributing to the greater interests and development of Indian Kung fuArt and Sports.

Dr.S.M.Bobde IAS

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Kung fu Federation of India