

General Meeting of Indian Amateur Boxing Federation (IABF)

Venue: Sopan Heights Hotel, Karol Bagh, New Delhi

Date: 01.06.2025 (Sunday), 03:00 PM

Speechs: Dr. Rakesh Mishra

Respected Members, Distinguished Guests, Representatives from 38 State Sports Associations, Coaches, Technical Officials, and My Dear Friends,

Namaskar and a very warm welcome to you all.

At the outset, I extend my heartfelt welcome to our Chief Election Officer, Dr. Anupam Goyal ji. His impartiality and vast administrative experience have ensured that this election has been conducted with utmost transparency, fairness, and dignity.

I am deeply grateful to each one of you for electing me unopposed. The trust and confidence you have placed in me is a great responsibility, and I assure you that we will carry this forward with your active support and collaboration.

On this momentous occasion, I warmly welcome you all as the newly elected President of the Indian Amateur Boxing Federation. It is a matter of immense pride to be part of an organisation that was established in 1948 — the same historic year in which independent India began its journey on the world stage. Since then, this federation has served as a powerful platform for Indian boxers, enabling them to bring laurels to the nation both nationally and internationally.

The legacy of boxing in India is ancient and rich. Our heritage of *Mall Yuddha* and traditional physical training laid the groundwork for the sport we know today. As modern techniques and international standards evolved, Indian boxers embraced them and rose to prominence across global arenas.

Our athletes have made the nation proud by winning medals at prestigious events such as the Olympics, Asian Games, and Commonwealth Games. I pay my sincere tribute to all former and present boxers who have elevated the sport through their unwavering dedication, discipline, and relentless effort.

A Vision for the Future of Indian Boxing :

The time has come to give Indian boxing a new direction — one that is modern, professional, and far-reaching. Taking inspiration from cricket's Indian Premier League (IPL), we envision launching a similar league for boxing. This initiative will not only uncover and nurture young talent but also provide financial sustainability and significantly increase the sport's popularity across every corner of the country.

Our mission is not just to promote boxing, but to institutionalise and strengthen it. **We are actively pursuing permanent recognition from the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India.** Such recognition will enable us to systematically access resources and enhance the facilities available to our athletes.

We are also preparing with foresight for the **2036 Olympic Games**, which are likely to be hosted in India. We pledge that the Indian boxing team will be fully prepared, with world-class coaches and facilities, to dominate the medal tally. This is not merely an aspiration — it is our definitive goal. And we must dedicate ourselves, day and night, to achieving it.

Current Context and Challenges :

As sports become increasingly commercialised at the global level, with professional frameworks and socio-economic empowerment of athletes, we face several challenges:

- Increasing youth participation in sports
 - Providing technically advanced training
 - Creating stable career pathways for athletes
 - And most importantly, engaging the public meaningfully with sports
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“The IPL Model for Boxing: A New Vision” :

We believe that sports should not be confined to stadiums alone — boxing must reach the people.

In this spirit, the Indian Amateur Boxing Federation proposes to conceptualise a **National Boxing League**, modelled on the IPL, involving state associations, private sponsors, media partners, and public participation.

This league will be more than just a competition. It will:

- Offer financial security to boxers
- Provide rural and grassroots talent a national platform
- Attract and involve the public as enthusiastic spectators

With your support, we will begin structured work in this direction and develop the necessary policy framework and partnerships.

Goal-Based Planning for State Associations :

We are introducing an **annual goal-based framework** for all state associations to ensure consistent progress and accountability. Key elements include:

1. Organising at least three training camps annually
 2. Hosting competitions for junior and women's categories
 3. Ensuring a minimum of 25% female participation
 4. Conducting training workshops for coaches
 5. Submitting quarterly performance-based reports
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A Call to Collective Action

Friends, this is not just another meeting — it is a collective resolution. A shared vision to elevate Indian boxing to unprecedented heights.

I urge all member associations to embrace this innovative approach. Together, let us guide Indian boxing along the path of **popularity, transparency, and progressiveness**.

Thank you.

Bharat Mata Ki Jai Jai Hind !!