

Our ultimate goal is to have kabaddi included in Olympics: Kiren Rijju to coaches during SAI's online session

New Delhi, April 27, 2020: Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Shri. Kiren Rijju addressed over 700 kabaddi coaches from all over India and from other countries, including Korea and Malaysia at the Online Coaches Knowledge Enhancement session organised by the Sports Authority of India in 20 sporting disciplines. Speaking about the importance of the sport, the Sports Minister said that kabaddi has huge potential not just in India and Asia, but globally. "Kabaddi has already been included in the Asian Games and now, not just India, but all Asian countries must come together to ensure that the sport is included in the Olympics as well. That is our ultimate goal," he said, adding, "And to achieve that goal we must improve the standard of the game in India and also ensure that we propagate it across geographical locations in India and the rest of the world."

Applauding the success of the online workshops for coaches that SAI has been organising in association with National Sporting Federations, the Sports Minister said, "Everyday about 8000 coaches from 20 sporting disciplines are participating in these daily workshops and upgrading their knowledge about their sport. In the present times this is the largest exercise in the sporting world. I am very happy and proud that this could be achieved. This has been possible owing to the support from the federations because officials of SAI, Sports Ministry, NSFs and other stakeholders have a robust working relationship and the success of these workshops can be attributed to that co-operation. The co-operation between all stakeholders is the only way to truly improve the sports ecosystem in the country and to take Indian sport forward."

Speaking about the importance of the online workshops the Sports Minister said, "I am sure we will win this battle against Covid 19 we would soon be able to go back to the ground to train and play, but till that happens, we will take advantage of the technology available to us. It is very important to keep ourselves updated about national and global practices and rules of a sport. Rules and regulations keep changing and those who do not update themselves will be left behind. We often lose out to teams from the western world because they are far ahead in terms of their knowledge of rules. But with these sessions I am sure we will not be left behind."

The Sports Minister ended his address by saying, "I thank the sports federation for joining hands with the government and SAI. I also thank all the stakeholders. When we speak of kabaddi, we must mention the team at Star Sports. I am very happy with the way Star Sports has been promoting sports in the country, particularly kabaddi. I think things are on track and now is the time for India to strike. Indian sports has a bright future if we continue to work together like this."

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