

Anup Narang

Honorary General Secretary
Badminton Association of India
Babu Banarasi Das Indoor Stadium
U.P Badminton Academy
Vipin Khand, Gamti Nagar
Lucknow 226010

13 April 2017

Re: Message of Condolence

Dear Honorary General Secretary Narang,

It is with regret that we at the Badminton World Federation receive this news of the sudden passing of Dr. Akhilesh Das Gupta. On behalf of the BWF Council and staff, I would like to extend condolences and sympathies to the staff and members of the Badminton Association of India (BAI). Please also convey our heartfelt condolences to Dr. Gupta's family.

Having been an international badminton player himself, Dr. Gupta's influence on badminton when he became President of BAI has seen positive results in the sport in India. Certainly, one of the highlights during his tenure as President has to be the unprecedented boom in the level of interest in badminton as a sport and the enhanced pathway for the development of India's most talented players. This was seen with the recent achievement at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games where India proved worthy of a place in the showpiece event when Pusarla V. Sindhu did her country proud, winning the silver medal in the Women's Singles final. It is noteworthy that, during the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, badminton recorded the highest television figures in India for an Olympic sport.

In addition, Dr. Gupta has also overseen the implementation of Shuttle Time and has facilitated India becoming part of the BWF World Superseries tour. It was also during his presidency that India hosted the BWF Annual General Meeting and the LI-NING BWF Thomas and Uber Cup Finals in 2014, giving the badminton family a glimpse of the badminton landscape in India.

I recall fondly our most recent meeting in Bilbao, Spain, and the signing of the host agreement for the BWF World Senior Championships 2017. When that event takes place later this year it will be another tribute to the stellar legacy of Dr. Gupta.

We trust that BAI will continue Dr. Gupta's visionary work of developing badminton to become a sport for all in India. He leaves behind a remarkable record of achievement.

Yours sincerely



Poul-Erik Høyer
President