

25 YEARS OF SPORTS SAGA

FOR THE BLIND

INDIAN BLIND SPORTS ASSOCIATION



(Registered under Societies Registration Act XXI, 1860)

Donations to the Association are exempt under Section 80 G of Income Tax Act-1961

C/o. The Blind Relief Association, Delhi

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INDIAN BLIND SPORTS ASSOCIATION
MOTTO "ACHIEVE, EXCEL, INSPIRE"



Inaugural 1st Meet 1982



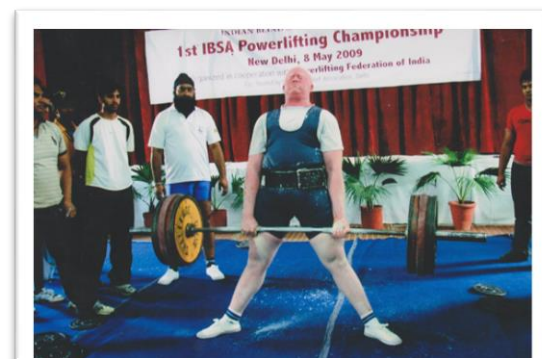
Inaugural 18th Meet 2012



President PCI kicking off Football Tournament



1st National Kabaddi Tournament 2012



Powerlifting Championship



Kapil Dev addressing Participants -1983 meet



Prakash Singh Badal, Punjab Chief Minister inaugurating 2008 Meet, Ludhiana



Jagannath Pahadia, Haryana Governor inaugurating – 2010 Meet, Panchkula

*Dedicated
To
Late. Mrs. Manju Bharat Ram
Founder Chairperson
Indian Blind Sports Association*

*For her abiding support & guidance
&
Her pioneering role in the field of blind sports*

*On behalf of:
Indian Blind Sports Fraternity*



Late. Mrs. Manju Bharat



**Manju Bharat Ram with Medal
Winners**

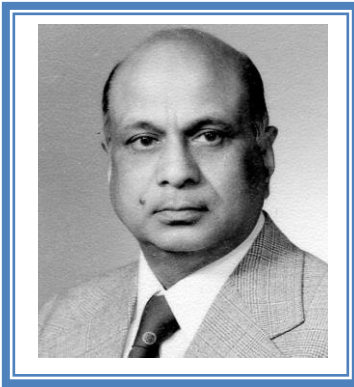


**Manju Bharat Ram with Vinod
Khanna, Sports Minister**

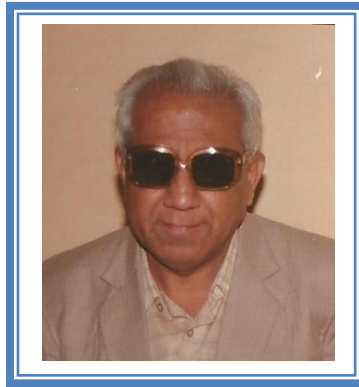


**Manju Bharat Ram with Lt.
Governor, H. L. Kapoor**

Other Founders



Late Mr. R. N. Bhargava



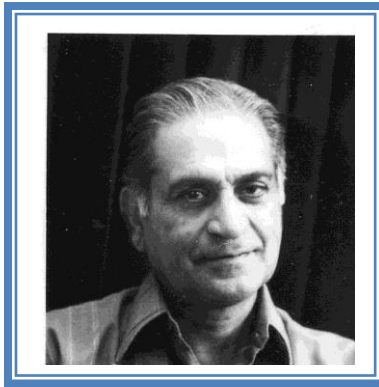
Late Mr. R. N. Kriplani



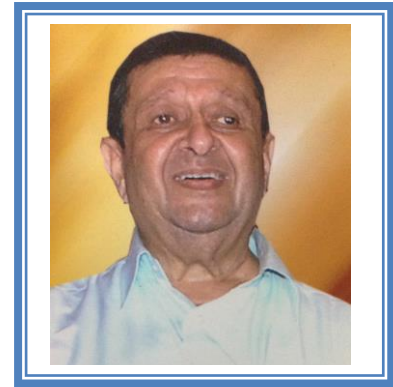
Late Mr. O. P. Nagar



Late Mr. K. N. Nayar



Late Mr. Pran Nath



Late Mr. C. D. Tamboli



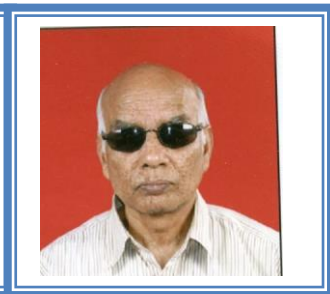
Mr. R. S. Bansal



Mr. B. L. Bhardwaj



Mr. C. V. Narayanan



Mr. P. D. Sharma

FOR THEIR
CONTRIBUTION TO PROMOTING SPORTS FOR THE
BLIND
&
JOINING THE INITIATIVE OF FOUNDING
INDIAN BLIND SPORTS ASSOCIATION

ORIGIN AND EVOLUTION

As we undertake to chronicle the details about the Indian Blind Sports Association (hereinafter referred to as the "Association"), we deem it only natural to begin from the beginning-how the Association came into being in the first place and how it evolved through the years.

The Blind Relief Association had taken the lead in organising sports competitions/meets for the blind at the local and national levels. By 1985, the Association had conducted three National Meets. One of the important impressions emerging from these meets was that **it was becoming necessary to provide blind sports in the country a stable foundation**. Increasingly, the participating institutions were veering round to the view that the **best way to provide such a reliable foundation was to have a separate national organization devoted exclusively to development of sports for the blind in the country**.

It was in this background that the management of the Blind Relief Association took the lead and, after due consultations with like-minded institutions/ organizations, submitted necessary documents to the Registrar of Societies for establishing a separate blind sports organization at the national level. Thus came into existence the concept of this new organization which was named Indian Blind Sports Association.

The formal application for Registration was filed on 30th October 1985. It carried the signatures of the following eleven founder members:

1. Mrs. Manju Bharat Ram (Chairman)
2. Mr. R. N. Bhargava (Vice Chairman)
3. Mr. Pran Nath (Vice Chairman)
4. Mr. C. V. Narayanan (General Secretary)
5. Mr. R. S. Bansal (Joint Secretary)
6. Mr. B. L. Bhardawaj (Joint Secretary)
7. Mr. K. N. Nayar (Treasurer)
8. Mr. O. P. Nagar (Member)
9. Mr. C. D. Tamboli (Member)
10. Mr. Prem Dutt Sharma (Member)
11. Mr. R. N. Kripalani (Member).

The Association was registered on 8th April 1986 and thus Indian Blind Sports Association was formally born, which has since risen to become the premier national blind sports body in India.

The first meeting of the Association's Executive Committee took place within the premises of The Blind Relief Association, Delhi on 17th July 1986 at 3.30 P.M. In addition to essential operational matters regarding handling of bank account, the Committee noted that 15 institutions have applied for affiliation and it was also decided that the first National Meet under the banner of the Association be held in 1986/87. The office bearers were requested to make necessary arrangements for the Meet, including raising of requisite funds for the event. Accordingly, the Association conducted the National Blind Sports Meet in December, 1986 in collaboration with the Blind Relief Association.

The organization has come a long way since then. **The number of its affiliated institutions/organizations now, stands at 161 from 24 States/Union Territories**. It received international recognition in 1997. Several of its activities have received support from the Union Ministry for Youth Affairs and Sports/Sports Authority of India, bearing testimony to the faith of these Government bodies in the working of the Association. It got associated with the Paralympic Committee of India on 23rd July, 2004.

The Association has, over the years, taken a number of innovative initiatives for the development and promotion of blindsports in the **country-organizing national level sports meets annually/biennially, sponsoring Indian athletes to participate in top international championships and games, striving to raise the standards of sports through the conduct of coaching camps, introducing new and challenging sports disciplines for the blind at the national level.** One of its athletes and its Chief Coach have received the highest Sports honour from the Government of India.

It must be recognized, here, that the Blind Relief Association, Delhi, has been playing a sterling role in enabling the Association to give practical shape to its development plans and initiatives. It has been extending valuable financial support to augment the Association's resources, providing accommodation and transportation for the conduct of sports activities. Also, the Blind Relief Association has been sparing, most willingly, the services of its staff to organize the Association's varied events. Thus, the Association owes a debt of deep gratitude to the Management and staff of the Blind Relief Association for their invaluable support and co-operation.

It is a matter of profound regret that the Association lost several of its founding members with the passage of time and we deem it our bounden duty to remember them and pay homage to them as we do this narrative.

Mr. K. N. Nayar, the guiding hand behind the establishment and development of the Association, passed away in 1994, Mr. Pran Nath in 2007, Mr. R.N. Bhargava 1988, Mr. R.N. Kripalani in 2011, Mr. C.D. Tamboli in 2011, Dr. O.P. Nagar in 2011, and the Founding Chairperson, Mrs. Manju Bharatram on 12th December, 2012. All these pioneers willingly and cheerfully gave of their time and resources in a purely voluntary capacity for taking the Association to new heights.

Indian Blind Sports Association is the **oldest blindsports organisation in India** and one of the earliest organisations established for promoting sports in the entire disability sector in the country. Even such apex organisation/bodies as the Paralympic Committee of India has come into being much later.

National Sports Meets

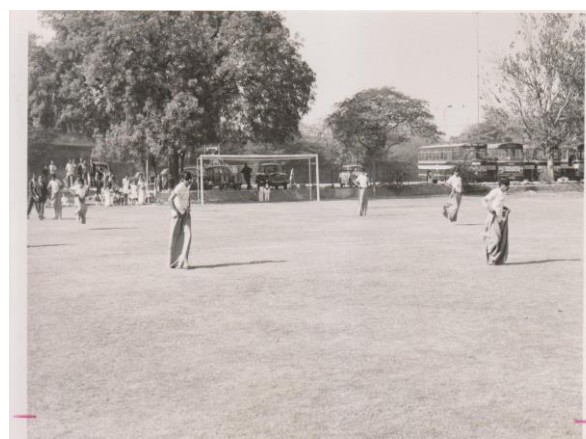
It is to the credit of the Blind Relief Association, Delhi (B.R.A. for short) that boisterous out-door sports activities for the blind started receiving some attention in this part of the country from early 70's. These activities were introduced, to a limited extent, by B.R.A. for its own students and trainees and then extended to the local institutions in Delhi. The efforts gained further momentum when B.R.A. was assigned by National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun, (NIVH) the responsibility of holding an extended meet to coincide with Helen Keller's Birth Centennial.



Khursheed Alam Khan meeting Participants -1982

Thus, B.R.A. conducted the Meet called "**The Helen Keller Memorial Sports Meet**" in collaboration with NIVH on **28th December 1980** at the Grounds of Delhi Public School, Mathura Road. About 40 boys and girls from 14 schools for the blind participated.

Then came the year of **1982**. The air was filled with the fervour and excitement of the upcoming **IXth Asian Games** in Delhi. Almost everyone seemed to be talking about this momentous event. Around that time, some students of the School run by the Blind Relief Association, Delhi, wondered how they could partake of the joys and thrill of a sports extravaganza of this nature. Could they, too, not have some outdoor sports activity of their own, for themselves?



Sack Race -1982 Meet

So, the Management of The Blind Relief Association, Delhi, was left with something challenging, something quite different, to ponder on.

The Association did have some experience of organizing limited outdoor activities for the blind children at the local level. Could this not be taken as the spring board for more wide-ranging sports activities with expanded geographic coverage? Could the blind also have their own sports competitions at an extended level?

Thus emerged the concept of having the first systematic and truly representative national sports meet for the blind.

With a view to providing blind youngsters the thrill and excitement of competitive sports, B.R.A. organized the **first of its kind national meet named "All India Sports Meet for the Blind"** at Delhi Public School, Mathura Road Grounds on **18-19 December 1982**. The Meet was inaugurated by the then Union Minister for Tourism, Mr. Khursheed Alam Khan. The Meet had 175 participants, including athletes and support staff, from 17 Institutions belonging to 10 States and had the following events:

100 M Race, Chess, Shot Put, Sack Race and Standing Long Jump.

B.R.A. conducted the next two meets on the same Grounds - December 3-4, 1983 and December 14-15, 1985. The meet



*Margret Alva, Sports Minister
Inaugurating 1986 Meet*

could not be held in 1984 winter due to the disturbed law and order conditions then.

After the **formation of the Indian Blind Sports Association** (the Association for short) the mantle of conducting these meets was passed on to it and the **fourth Meet in the series took place under its banner at the same grounds on 22-23 December, 1986.**

The 18 Meets held so far since 1982, can be divided into two phases - 1st to 9th meet (1982-1994) and subsequent Meets (1996 to date).



100 M Race with Blind Fold – 1986 Meet



Walking on Stilts – 1986 Meet



Skipping Race – 1987 Meet



Swimming- 1988 Meet

During the first phase, most of the Meets had Delhi Public School, National Stadium, Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium and towards the latter part, Thyagaraja Stadium apart from Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium, as their venues. The Meets had boys and girls in two groups-Juniors (up to 15 years) and Seniors (15 to 20 years) while an Open Group (18 years plus) was also added in the 1994 Meet. **The competitions were conducted purely as per indigenously recognized rules/norms** which were always communicated well in advance to the institutions. There were no separate visual categories. Athletes were all required to participate blind-folded. In track events, they ran towards a sounding source-a drum or a gong-to give them a sense of direction towards the finishing line where they were stopped by a group of sighted volunteers. The events included in these Meets were:

50M, 100M, Sack Race, Shot Put, Standing Long Jump/Long Jump, Three-Legged Race, Walking on Stilts, Skipping Race, Weight Lifting, Javelin and, intermittently, Swimming and Chess.

Barring 1985, the Meets, in this phase, were held annually till 1990. Thereafter, it was decided to hold the Meets every two years, because of various financial constraints and logistical considerations. So, that is the sequence in which the Meets have since been held, save in 1992, when it could not take place for unavoidable reasons.

By 1994-95, the Association had gained detailed information and procedures about international blind sports norms. Accordingly, the Meets from **1996 onwards were conducted as per established international rules** as available with the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA).

Thus, for the **10th Meet (December 1996) international Sight-Classification** norm was used and the **competitors were placed under two visual categories: B1 (totally blind) and B2 (limited sight)**. The following Paralympic events were held in the Meet:

100m, 200m, Shot Put, Discus, Javelin; Long Jump.

The Meet was organized for Open Group (20 years and above) for men and women.

*Some of the **important features of the Meets from 1996 onwards** are as follows:*

1998: (NSM XI) 400M added to the list of events.

2000: (NSM XII) 800M also included.

2002: (NSM XIII) 1500M included.

2004 (NSM (XIV):

- (a) B-3 Visual Category (partially blind) introduced.**
- (b) Sports Judges from Athletics Federation of India started conducting the events;**
- (c) 5000M event introduced; and**
- (d) Participation of a team from Nepal - The first International Representation.**

2006 (NSM XV):

- (a) New Group added - Boys and Girls (Intermediate) 14-17 yrs.**
- (b) Increase in event days from 3 to 4 to accommodate larger number of competitors; and**
- (c) Computerization of Entries/Records etc.**

2008: (NSM XVI):

- (a) For the first time, the Meet was held outside Delhi - at Guru Nanak Sports Stadium, Ludhiana in collaboration with the Punjab Sports Association of the Blind; and**
- (b) Participation of a team from Mauritius and Observers from Pakistan.**

2010: (NSM XVII):

- (a) Meet held again outside Delhi, this time at Tau Devi Lal Sports Stadium, Panchkula, Haryana;**
- (b) Photo Finish System introduced; and**
- (c) Relay Races introduced.**

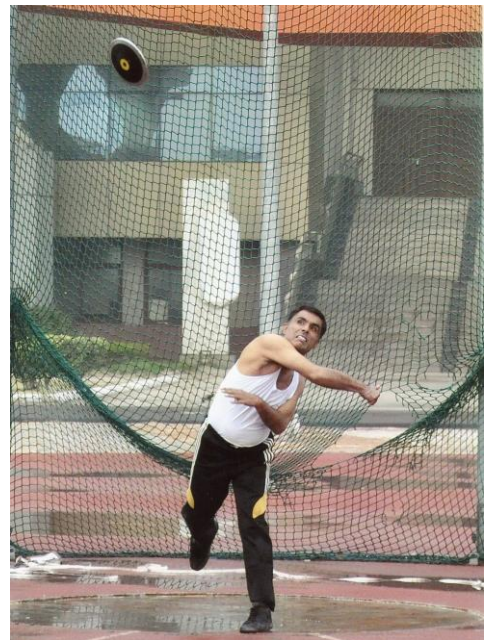
Chess was included in the Meets intermittently and as per the demand of the Affiliates. Swimming competition could be conducted as per the availability of the All Weather Swimming Pool in Delhi.

From time to time, a number of important dignitaries-Lt. Governors/Governors/Chief Ministers, Union/State Ministers, prominent sports persons, etc. graced the Meets on various ceremonial occasions with their presence.

Table containing basic information about the Meets is appended at the end of this volume.



Relay Race



Discus Throw



Relay Race



B-1 in action



Chess



Long Jump



Javelin



Shot Put

International Participation - Madrid To Colorado Springs

The genesis of the Association's efforts to seek international affiliation can be traced back to a meeting of its leading office-bearers on April 9, 1990. At this meeting, it was decided to approach the world blindsports body, the International Blind Sports Federation (hereinafter referred to as IBSA) for according the Association affiliation as the representative from India. The task was not easy. There was a protracted period of correspondence with different related authorities-the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee and, of course, the IBSA secretariat. No favourable response was forthcoming and so the matter was reported to the Association's Annual General Meeting held in New Delhi on December 9, 1996. The meeting advised that the efforts be continued vigorously.

May 1, 1997, proved an important milestone in these endeavours. At about 2 p.m., that day, the then Secretary-General of IBSA, **Mr. Michel Berthezene, who happened to be in Delhi, visited the Association.** He was shown all related records including photographs of the Association's activities-national sports meets, coaching camps etc. Monsieur Berthezene seemed impressed and promised to take up the Association's request for affiliation on his return to Paris where IBSA's office was then located.

In early July 1997, to the great joy of all of us, the Association received a letter dated 28th June 1997 from Mr. Berthezene stating that the General Assembly of IBSA at its meeting on 12th June, has agreed to grant affiliation to our Association. The affiliation paved the way for the Association to sponsor blind athletes from India to various international events.

First IBSA World Championships & Games

In July, 1997 the Association received an invitation from IBSA for participation in the 1st World Championships and Games for the Blind scheduled for next July. The conditions were two; the sponsoring organization must meet the cost of entry fees (\$350 per person) and return air fare for each person and that the athletes must fulfil the prescribed minimum qualifying standards.

The matter was considered by the Association's Executive in September and it was unanimously felt that Indian athletes must be provided an opportunity of participating in this prestigious international event and that suitable competitors fulfilling the prescribed qualifying standards be located, though the size of the contingent be kept small, because of the heavy expenditure involved and that efforts be made to raise necessary funds.

Accordingly, National Trials were held at the Warm-Up Grounds of Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi in December followed by two camps in April and May, 1998. Only 3 athletes-two men and one woman, all from the same institution, Vivekananda Mission Ashram School, Haldia, West Bengal, were found complying with the required minimum standards and were selected for participation in athletics.

Event-wise break-up of selected athletes is as below:

Sl. No.	Event	Category	No. of participants
1	100 Metre sprint for Men	B1	1
2	100 Metre sprint for Women	B1	1
3	100 Metre sprint for Men	B2	1

As regards finances, in response to request from the Association, apart from the Blind Relief Association, Delhi the following four petroleum organizations provided support by way of useful contributions:

- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd;
- Indian Oil Corporation Ltd;

- Oil And Natural Gas Corporation Ltd;
- Oil India Ltd.

In addition, a grant covering the entry fees of the 3 athletes was received from IBSA and the institution in Haldia contributed a small amount for a part of their athletes' expenditure.

The selected athletes assembled in New Delhi on 4th July for a final coaching camp. The Association arranged for Visa and other documents as well as the necessary sports gear for each participant. A minimum required team of accompanying staff-runner-guide, female escort, coach and officials-were also identified. Thus, the Indian contingent of 8 persons left for Madrid in the early hours of 16th July reaching there about noon the same day.

After a glittering opening ceremony on the evening of 17th July, the competitions commenced on 18th July and continued till 25th July.

As regards the Indian team's performance, two of the 3 athletes could not progress very far, with a male competitor sustaining a slight injury in his event. However, a female athlete, Durga Midya, finished among the seven fastest runners in her event, 100 metre sprint (B1). The sprint was, later, included as a demonstration event in the mainstream World Athletics Meet of the International Amateur Athletics Federation held in Seville, Spain, in August 1999. Durga was invited to participate in the event, the only athlete from Asia to be accorded this distinction.



1st IBSA World Championships & Games, Madrid (Spain)-1998

Second IBSA World Championships and Games:

The Association received an invitation from the Canadian Blind Sports Association, the organizers of the aforesaid Championships, to send a team to participate in the event scheduled to take place in Quebec, Canada, from 1st to 12th August, 2003. The Association was required to pay an entry fee of \$750 per person as also to meet the cost of return air passage. As a result, the process of fund raising and selection was set in motion.

The following organizations/groups, besides some of the participating institutions, responded positively to the Association's requests for financial help with their valuable contributions:

- The Blind Relief Association, Delhi,
- Canara Bank;
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation;
- National Thermal Power Corporation;
- Oil India Corporation;
- Haldia Refinery, IOC; and
- Philanthropic individuals.

The 40 odd top athletes who secured first and second positions in their respective athletic events at the 13th National Sports Meet-2002 along with an outstanding woman athlete, were invited to appear for National Trials on 20th February 2003. On the basis of their performance, 8 athletes, (4 men and 4 women of B1 to B3 visual categories) whose performance satisfied the IBSA qualifying

standards, were identified to represent the country in various athletic events.

To suitably prepare these athletes for the World Meet, two training camps were organized with the cooperation and support of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and Sports Authority of India. The first camp (one-week duration) was held in April, after which the participants were handed out a detailed work-out schedule. The second camp of two weeks' duration, took place in July, just before the team's departure.

In addition to the 8 athletes, 6 support staff-guide runners, escorts, coach and officials were also selected to accompany the team.

During the second camp, arrangements for Visa etc., were also pursued. However, despite the organizers intimating the Canadian High Commission about the participation of the Indian team, Visas were first denied and were only issued on the intervention, of the Ministry for External Affairs, at almost the 11th hour at the request of the Association's Founding Chairperson, Mrs. Manju Bharatram. This delay forced the Association to make last-minute change in the team's travel-plans and fresh air-tickets had to be arranged at such short notice with great difficulty.

The group arrived in Quebec in the afternoon of 2nd August. On the 3rd, the team got a great morale boost, when the Indian High Commissioner to Canada, Mrs. Sashi U. Tripathi, came all the way to Quebec and met our athletes. The Championships opened the same evening with a colourful inaugural ceremony with the competitions getting underway the next day. The Indian athletes gave a reasonably good account of themselves. Five athletes reached the finals of seven events. Particularly notable was the performance of Ravinder Singh Nagar (B3) who missed the bronze medal by just a whisker in 800 metre run. The 15-year-old diminutive Sulekha Das, (B1), perhaps the youngest athlete in the Meet, reached the finals of both the 100 and 200 metre races and surprised everyone with her impressive run, leaving behind some of the stronger built and more experienced runners.



Second IBSA World Championships & Games, Quebec (Canada)-2003

Third IBSA World Championships and Games, 2007:

On an invitation from IBSA and the Brazilian Blind Sports Confederation, an eleven-member Indian team comprising 6 visually impaired athletes accompanied by 5 support staff and officials, was sponsored by this Association to participate in the aforesaid Championships held in Sao Paulo, Brazil from 28th July to 8th August 2007.

An entry fee of Euro 725 per athlete and Euro 700 per staff member was required to be remitted for participation in the event apart from managing return air fare. Participation fee for 9 members (athletes and technical staff) was met through the funds provided to the Association by the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

Initially, 14 visually impaired athletes were short-listed by the Association on the basis of their performances in the 15th National Sports Meet for the Blind and in 9th FESPIC Games held in Kuala Lumpur in November 2006. Subsequently six eligible athletes (5 Men and 1 Woman in B1 to B3 categories) were selected on the basis of their performance at two coaching camps held in April-May and June, 2007 for participation in short and middle distance races, Long Jump, Javelin and Shot-put.

To further fine tune the skills of these athletes, a pre-departure coaching camp was held in New Delhi from 10 to 25 July 2007. This period was also utilized for completing the logistical arrangements for travel, Visa, dope test etc. The team was also provided by the Association the requisite sports gear and apparel along with a small pocket allowance for the Championship period.

Prior to their departure, the team called on H.E. Mr. Jose Vicente Pimental, Ambassador of Brazil who gave some very useful information on Brazil and Sao Paulo and wished the team success.

The team arrived in Sao Paulo on 27 July evening. Unfortunately, all the 12 checked-in baggage did not arrive in Sao Paulo. The baggage could be delivered to the team only in the morning of 29th August. The staff of Indian Consul General in Sao Paulo were very helpful in getting compensation from the South African Airways for the delayed baggage.

The Championships got off to an exhilarating opening ceremony in the evening of 29th July. While our athletes could not match the skill, stamina and experience of their counterparts from other countries, they found their participation quite a useful experience.



Third IBSA World Championships & Games, Sao Paulo, Brazil, 2007

Fourth IBSA World Sports Championships and Games 2011:

The Association was invited by IBSA and the Turkish Blind Sports Federation to send a team to the above Championships to be held in Antalya, Turkey, from 1st to 10th April 2011. Apart from meeting return air fare, the entry/participation fee payable this time was Euro 1025 for each sportsperson and Euro 1000 per staff member. The Association received assistance, on its proposal forwarded through the Paralympic Committee of India, from the Union Ministry for Youth Affairs and Sports to meet participation fees for 14 of the 18 team members.

As before, performance at the Association's preceding National Sports Meet held in 2010, formed the basis of selection. Thus, ten sportspersons including two women (B1 to B3 categories) were selected. In addition, 8 accompanying staff-one chief coach, two guide-runners, one male and one female escort, three officials including one for swimming, the venue of which was about 250 Km. from the main location, were also identified.

A notable feature on this occasion was that the **Association entered for the first time, sportspersons for 3 additional disciplines apart from athletics (track and field)**. These new disciplines were: Powerlifting, Swimming, and Chess.

A special coaching camp was organized by the Association at Thyagaraja Stadium, New Delhi from 25th February to 30th March 2011. The camp was attended by nine of the selected sportspersons, the only exception being the lady swimmer who preferred to have training in her hometown. During the camp, random dope test was arranged. Visas were obtained with the Turkish Embassy very kindly waiving the Visa Fees. The team members, as usual, were provided the required sportswear and kit along with a small daily pocket allowance for the Championship duration by the Association.

The team reached Antalya in the evening of 1st April. The second day was devoted to detailed sight-classification and orientation activities. The Championships had the opening ceremony in the evening of 3rd April.

The performance of the Association's team was most creditable. **For the first time since the inception of IBSA World Championships, our athletes won a medal-not one, but five**, one silver and four bronze.

	Name	Gender	Category	Events	Medal Won
1	Rishi Kant Sharma	Male	B-1	Javelin	Silver
2	Ramkaran Singh	Male	B-3	5000 M (Asian Record) 10000 M	Bronze Bronze
3	Jedikere Mohammed Shavaad	Male	B-1	800 M	Bronze
4	Manisha Deoram Kadukar	Female	B-2	Long Jump	Bronze

In addition, **Triptpal Singh (B-3), Age-22 years (from Punjab) created two Junior World Records in Squat (250 Kg) and Dead Lift (255 Kg) in Powerlifting.**

It may be relevant to mention here that these IBSA World Championships have great significance and are, virtually, equivalent to the Olympics for the Visually Impaired.



Glimpses of Fourth IBSA World Championships & Games, Antalya (Turkey)-2011

World Youth and Student Championships 2009 and 2011:

In addition to the afore-mentioned four IBSA World Championships, the Association has also sponsored young visually impaired athletes to the above Youth Championships in 2009 and 2011.

These Championships organized by the United States Association of Blind Athletes in conjunction with Pan American Games, are the largest blind sports event for under-19 blind and visually impaired athletes. Held in Colorado Springs, the Championships are the officially sanctioned event of both IBSA as well as International Paralympic Committee (IPC). The athletic track and field events took place at high altitude in the back ground of the Rockies Mountains. The expenses on the Indian team's (barring the officials) participation in the two editions were borne by the concerned institutions. The teams were provided sports wear, kit and daily pocket allowance by the Association which also arranged Visas for the team. Pre-departure Coaching Camps were also arranged by the Association.

The 2009 Championships were held on 17-18 July. The team of young athletes from India comprised 4 girls and 4 boys, three of them participating in junior section (between the age of 12 and 15 years) and five in intermediate section (between 16 and 19 years). The Indian team gave commendable performance and **bagged 9 gold, 1 silver and 7 bronze medals** in different track and field events. It was the first medal haul for Indian athletes in a major world athletic event.

The Gold Medal winners were:

	Name	Age (yrs)	Gender	Category	Section	Events
1	Amar Singh Nishad	19	M	B2	Intermediate	800 M, 1500 M
2	Gaurav Singh	17	M	B2	Intermediate	Javelin
3	Ankur Dharma	15	M	B1	Junior	400 M, 800 M
4	Sanjay Kumar	14	M	B3	Junior	100 M, 200 M Long Jump
5	Harmanpreet Kaur	14	F	B3	Junior	Shot put

Again in 2011 the Association sponsored a team of 9 athletes (2 girls and 7 boys in B1 to B3 in Intermediate Division, 14-19 years) to the next addition of World Youth and Students Championships in Colorado Springs held from 12-17 July. They were accompanied by 4 staff.

The team arrived in Colorado Springs on 12th July and remained busy in sight-classification-related work the next day. The Championships were inaugurated in the evening of 14th July.

The athletes once again performed most creditably, winning **5 gold, 5 silver and 7 bronze medals**. The Gold Medal winners were:

	Name	Gender	Category	Section	Events
1	Sujit Munda	M	B1	Intermediate	Shot Put Javelin
2	Mohammad Shavaad Jedikere	M	B1	Intermediate	400 M 800 M
3	Ankur Dhama	M	B1	Intermediate	1500 M



Glimpses of World Youth & Student Championships 2009 & 2011

Participation in IBSA General Assemblies/ Conferences

Mr. Kailash Chandra Pande, the then General Secretary and currently Vice Chairperson of Indian Blind Sports Association, represented the organization at the 7th IBSA General Assembly held at Beijing (China) from 9-12 June, 2005. He also attended Blind Sports Technical Conference held in conjunction with the General Assembly in Beijing on 8-9 June, 2005. The events were hosted jointly by China Sports Association for Disabled Persons and China Paralympic Committee. Mr. Pande also participated in the 8th General Assembly of IBSA held at Antalya, Turkey on 2-4 April, 2009.

On the side lines he also participated in the Asia Region Meeting and acted as the Returning Officer for the election of Asia Regional Delegate. It was following his close interaction with Mr. Marc Lucas, Executive Director, USABA during the General Assembly in 2009 that the idea of participation in IBSA World Youth & Student Championships took concrete shape.

Asia Oceania Strategic Planning Conference in Manila

Invited by the IBSA Continental Delegate Mr. Michael I. Barredo, the Indian Blind Sports Association deputed Mr. K. C. Pande, the then General Secretary to participate in the Asia Oceania Strategic Planning Conference in Manila, the Philippines from 19-21 February 2004. The Conference provided a valuable opportunity to improve contacts with the representatives from across the region and with the Executive Committee members of International Blind Sports Federation. The interactions and sharing of experiences, programmes and strategies with counterparts and participating in seminars and strategic planning workshops for developing blind sports was indeed a most enriching experience which subsequently helped the Association in working out new ideas and plans for developing blind sports in India.



Coaching Camps and Seminars

With a view to enhancing the standards of blind sports in the country, the Association has conducted a number of coaching camps on a regular basis. In these camps, services of reputed coaches and experts are utilized to transmit knowledge and practices of scientific training, sports medicine, health, diet etc. to the participants from across the country to help them upgrade their skills in sports.



Seminar in progress

Seminars constitute an important part of these coaching camps, where the participants discuss and exchange views on appropriate strategies to popularize and promote blind sports in the country.



Athletic Coaching

Beginning May 1987, the **Association has so far conducted 12 coaching camps**. For the first three coaching camps held on 18-30 May, 1987, 20-31 May 1988 and 1-10 May, 1989, only athletes, both boys and girls, were given training on various aspects of athletics. During the first two camps, the athletes also got a feel of table tennis and were given training on walking on stilts. However, beginning 1990 (fourth coaching camp) sports instructors/teachers, both Men and Women, are being called for training on scientific lines by reputed coaches and other sports experts.

The basic rationale for calling the sports instructors/teachers was that they would be in a better position to transmit the knowledge thus gained to their wards/students on return to their respective institutes.

During the initial stages of coaching camps, i.e from 1st to 3rd camps, Sports Authority of India very kindly met part of the expenses.

However, since the 4th coaching camp, major expenses including board, lodging and transportation are being borne jointly by B.R.A. and Indian Blind Sports Association.

Till 1990, the coaching camps were held every year. However, for the next more than a decade and a half, the camps could not be held due to paucity of funds etc. From June 2004 camps are being held on a regular basis.



COACHING

Details of IBSA coaching camps held so far are given in the following table.

DETAILS OF IBSA COACHING CAMP

Srl. No.	Date from-to	Participants	States	Events
1	18-30 May 1987	Athletes – 13, T.T.-15	Delhi	Athletic, T. Tennis, 50M, 100M, Long Jump, Shotput, Walking on the stilts
2	20-31 May 1988	Athletes – 22, T.T. – 08	Chandigarh, Delhi, Jharkhand (Bihar)	Athletic, T. Tennis, 50M, 100M, Long Jump, Shotput, Walking on the stilts
3	01-10 May 1989	Athletes – 17, Boys – 12 Girls-05	Delhi, Madhya Pradesh. Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, West Bengal	Athletics
4	23-05 May 1990	Sports Instructors – 15 (Sports Teachers/ Instructors)	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Gujrat, Karnataka Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Ranchi, Tamil nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal	Athletics
5	21-26 June 2004	Participants – 14 (Sports Teachers/ Instructors)	Delhi, Gujrat, Karnataka, Kerala Maharashtra, Manipur, Rajasthan, West Bengal	Athletics and Football
6	22-25 June 2005	Participants – 16 (Sports Teachers/ Instructors)	Delhi, Gujrat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal	Athletics
7	01-06 May 2006	Participants – 11 (Sports Teachers/ Instructors)	Delhi, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, West Bengal	Athletics
8	06-12 May 2007	Participants – 16 (Sports Teachers/ Instructors)	Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal	Athletics
9	05-10 May 2008	Participants – 18 (Sports Teachers/ Instructors)	Chandigarh, Delhi, Gujrat, Punjab, Rajasthan	Athletics
10	04-09 May 2009	Participants – 21 (Sports Teachers/ Instructors)	Delhi, Karnataka, Punjab Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, West Bengal	Athletics & Kabaddi
11	26-30 Dec 2009	Participants – 17 (Sports Teachers/ Instructors)	Delhi, Gujrat, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu Uttarakhand, West Bengal	Athletics & Kabaddi
12	04-10 Jan 2012	Participants – 23 (Sports Teachers/ Instructors)	Chandigarh, Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, West Bengal	Athletics

Introducing New Sports Disciplines

It has been the consistent endeavor of the Indian Blind Sports Association (the Association, in short) to enable visually impaired youngsters in the country to have access to a much wider range of sports disciplines. While the Association was in its formative years, it paid attention to several boisterous out-door activities like Three-Legged Race, Walking on Stilts, Skipping for school-going children. Rudiments of Table Tennis were introduced during the first four years of its existence.



Football



Football in action

However, **Football** was the first Paralympic sport to receive the Association's systematic attention on a sustained note. It was during the Second IBSA World Championships at Quebec, Canada, in 2003 that the head of the Indian delegation, Mr. Kailash Chandra Pande, was presented five Soccer balls (special footballs) along with recognized rules of the game by the then IBSA Asia Continental Delegate, Mr. Michael Barredo. This marked the beginning of the introduction of Football for the blind (technically known as `Futsal5`) in India. On IBSA's recommendation, the Brazilian Ministry of Sports presented a gift of 20 special footballs to our Association in early 2004. A demonstration game of football was held between teams of BRA students and trainees during the Association's coaching camp held from 21st to 26th June, 2004. Many of the gifted footballs were given free of cost to the institutions participating in the camp along with copies of rules. Because of its large size, the country needed many more footballs to popularize the game and extend its reach far and wide. So, the Association on its own initiative got fifty special footballs fabricated locally. Another demonstration on football was organized during the Association's 14th National Sports Meet in December 2004 in front of the athletes and officials from 45 institutions attending the Meet. The locally fabricated footballs were given as gifts to each of these institutions.

With this background and preparation, the Association organized the first National Football Tournament for the Blind at BRA, New Delhi on June 22-25, 2005. Six teams from Delhi, Gujarat, Rajasthan and West Bengal Participated. Encouraged by the success of this first ever football event for the blind in the country, the Association conducted the second such National Tournament at the same venue on May 1 to 6, 2006, which was inaugurated by the Ambassador of Brazil in India, H. E. Mr. Jose De Sa Pimente. On 11th may, 2006, the association received a second gift of fifty special footballs from the Sports Ministry, Government of Brazil, on the recommendation of IBSA through Mr. David Costa, Football Development Incharge, IBSA. The Third National Tournament organized by the Association, held on May 6 to 12 2007, was inaugurated by the then President, All India Football Federation, Mr. Priyaranjan Dashmunshi.

Beginning with the 5th Tournament in May 2009, the Association introduced an innovative practice of arranging a sponsor for each of the participating teams. The sponsors were either public sector undertakings or well-known corporate entities. This helped in providing greater visibility to the events, created awareness about the sports prowess of the blind and also contributed towards sharing expenditure to some extent. The seventh Tournament was organized on 4-10, January 2012 as a part of the Association's Silver Jubilee celebrations and was kicked off by the President, Paralympic Committee of India.

It is relevant to speak here, briefly about the features of the game. The football must be spherical, made of leather or some other suitable material; have a circumference of 60 to 62 cms; be not less than 510 grams and not more than 540 grams in weight at the start of the match. The sound

system employed must be located inside the ball to enable it to run, roll and bounce in a regular manner. In order to guarantee the safety of the players at all times, the system used must ensure that the ball makes a noise when it is spinning on its own axis or spinning through the air. The team consists of five players, four of whom must be totally blind (B1), while the goal keeper may be fully sighted or partially sighted (B2 or B3).

The Association has, so far, conducted seven National Tournaments. Some important details of these seven tournaments are given in the following table:

Tournament	Date & Year	Number of Participating Teams	States	Winner
1 st	22-25 June 2005	6	4 (Delhi, Gujrat, Rajasthan & West Bengal)	Technical Training Centre, B.R.A. New Delhi.
2 nd	1-6 May 2006	8	3 (Delhi, Uttarakhand & West Bengal)	National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun
3 rd	6-12 May 2007	6	2 (Delhi & West Bengal)	Voice of World, Kolkata
4 th	5-10 May 2008	10	4 (Delhi, Punjab, Rajasthan & West Bengal)	National Federation of the Blind, New Delhi
5 th	4-9 May 2009	8	4 (Delhi, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand & West Bengal)	Voice of World, Kolkatta
6 th	26-30 December 2009	9	6 (Delhi, Gujrat, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand & West Bengal)	Equal Opportunity Cell, University of Delhi, Delhi.
7 th	4-10 January 2012	12	7 (Delhi, Goa, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu & West Bengal)	Equal Opportunity Cell, University of Delhi, Delhi.



Football in Action

Another new sport included in the Association's activities is **Powerlifting**. In 2007-08, the Association came into contact with Mr. Subrata Dutta, General Secretary, Asian and Indian Powerlifting Federation through Mr. Nazam Dodsai, IBSA Powerlifting Sub-Committee Chairman. We were assured of full technical support from the side of the Federation. Thus, at the 16th National Sports Meet in Ludhiana, a team of trained sighted lifters from Punjab State Unit of Powerlifting Federation of India gave a demonstration performance and explained the rules and apparatus requirements. This laid the foundation for the



Powerlifting-2010

Association's National Powerlifting Championships. The first such National Championship was organized at BRA on May 8, 2009 with 11 participants from Delhi, Punjab, Rajasthan and West Bengal. They participated in all the three disciplines – Squat, bench-press and deadlift. Each competitor was given three attempts in each discipline and the best attempt was counted for final scores as per international rules.

The second Powerlifting championship took place at The Blind Relief Association on 29th December, 2009 with 28 participants from Delhi, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

The 3rd championship was organized on 27th December, 2010 as a part of the Association's 17th National Sports Meet at Weightlifting Training Hall, Sector- 42, Chandigarh with the Cooperation of Chandigarh Powerlifting Association. A total of 34 competitors participated in 9 Weight classes ranging from 52 Kg to 100+ Kg.

The 4th Championship was conducted on 8th January, 2012 at The Blind Relief Association in conjunction with the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Association. 20 Competitors from Chandigarh, Delhi, Himachal, Maharashtra, Manipur, Punjab, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu took part in the Championships.



Kabaddi

The Association has also taken the initiative of standardizing rules of **Kabaddi** which was being played in many parts of the country but lacked uniformity. As a result, divergent rules were being followed by the institutions in conducting the event. Thus during the Athletics coaching camp and seminar held in May 2009, the Association arranged a special session on Kabaddi conducted under the supervision of veteran International Kabaddi Coach, Mr. Charan Singh. An important outcome of the session was the constitution of a committee to frame standard rules for the game. The draft rules thus formulated were circulated amongst the affiliates on 3rd November 2009 with a request for comments/ inputs within the next four weeks.

During the Coaching Camp held on 26–30 December 2009, a Kabaddi Clinic was conducted under the supervision of Mr. Charan Singh. On a specially created Kabaddi field at The Blind Relief Association's ground, Mr. Singh demonstrated various Kabaddi techniques. With a view to standardize rules, a seminar was held to discuss the draft rules circulated earlier.

The rules were finalized as per inputs received during the demonstration and seminar.

Based on these rules the Association organized first National Kabaddi championship for the Blind on 4-10 January 2012 as a part of its silver jubilee celebrations. 9 teams representing 8 states participated. Indian Association for the Blind, Madurai emerged as winners and Punjab Sports Association for the Blind, Ludhiana were the Runners-up.



Kabaddi

Silver Jubilee Celebrations

The Association celebrated completion of 25 years of its establishment in January, 2012. The occasion (silver jubilee year) carried more than just symbolic significance for the Association. It provided an opportunity to celebrate not just the multifarious activities of the Association but also the prowess and talents of a large number of enthusiastic blind sportspersons.

The Association, thus, organized a week-long programme of events to commemorate this important occasion. The programme was inaugurated at a function held at 11 A.M on January 4, 2012 (the birth anniversary of Louis Braille) in the Gandhi Memorial Hall, Blind Relief Association, Delhi. Mr. Sultan Ahmad, the then Union Minister of State for Tourism and President, Paralympic Committee of India, was the Chief Guest and declared the celebrations open.

Sports Events

A number of sports activities which are, usually, not covered in the Association's National Sports Meets, were organized during the week within the Blind Relief Association premises. These included:

- 1. National coaching Camp/Clinic for Sports Instructors.**
- 2. National Football Tournament.**
- 3. Kabaddi Championships.**
- 4. Powerlifting Championships.**

About 300 blind sports persons, their escorts/team managers and special invitees were present and attended the events.

Closing Function and Awards

The celebrations concluded with a closing function at the Blind Relief Association, Delhi in the afternoon of January 10, 2012. Justice Dr. A.S. Anand, Former Chief Justice of India and ex-Chairman, National Human Rights Commission presided. Mr. Gurbachan Singh Randhawa, the noted athlete was the Chief Guest.

The Association honoured on this occasion the contributions of various founders, supporters and blind sports persons by suitably recognizing their valued support and services. Thus, Special Indian Blind Sports Association Silver Jubilee Awards were presented to the following at the closing function of the celebrations on January 10, 2012:-

- (i) **Founder Members:** The Association's Founder Chairperson and 8 other pioneer founders were honoured with special mementos on the occasion, including 3 persons who were awarded posthumously.
- (ii) **Blind Sports persons:** 18 blind sports persons from 6 states were presented medallions for their outstanding achievements in the field of international blind sports competitions. These enthusiastic young persons had won medals at international events organised by the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA)/International Paralympic Committee (IPC). In addition, another sportsperson, a weight-lifter from Punjab was also honoured for creating two junior world records in Squat and Dead Lift in Powerlifting competitions held at the 4th IBSA World Championships & Games in Antalya in 2011.
- (iii) **Outstanding Sports Coaches:** Three sports coaches were honoured on the occasion for the services rendered by them in preparing the Association's teams for participation in different international sports events beginning from 1998. In addition, a special award was also presented to a highly committed and qualified visually impaired coach.
- (iv) **AFFILIATES:** (a) Awards were given away to one affiliate each winning the largest

number of Championships in boys/men's and girls/women's categories.

(b) Also, five affiliates from Karnataka, Manipur and Tamil Nadu were awarded for taking part consistently in more than ten of the Association's National Sports Meets travelling distances exceeding 1500 Kms.

GLIMPSES OF SILVER JUBILEE- 2012



PCI President Inaugurating Silver Jubilee



Kartikeya Bharat Ram receiving distinguished service award for Manju Bhart Ram from Justice Dr. A. S. Anand



Silver Jubilee Closing Ceremony



IBSA Honoring Ravinder Singh Nagar, Blind Coach



Kabaddi-2012



G. S. Randhawah honouring Manisha



Football-2012



Kartikeya Bharat Ram honouring awardees

List giving details of all awardees is appended at the end of this documents.

Indian Blind Sports Association
List of Awardees

FOUNDER MEMEBRS

1. Mrs. Manju Bharat Ram, Founder Chairperson.
2. Late Shri Pran Nath
3. Mr. Chittur Venketeswaran Narayanan
4. Late Shri R.N. Bhargava
5. Mr. Banwari Lal Bhardwaj
6. Mr. Raghunandan Saran Bansal
7. Mr. Prem Dutt Sharma
8. Late Dr. O.P. Nagar
9. Late Mr. R.N. Kripalani

EMINENT COACHES FOR THE BLIND

1. Mr. Banwari Lal Bhardwaj
2. Shri Santokh Singh Rai
3. Dr. Satyapal Singh
4. Mr. Ravinder Singh Nagar

CONSISTENT PARTICIPATION FROM LONG DISTANCE IN THE IBSA NATIOAL SPORTS MEETS

1. Shree Ramana Maharishi Academy for the Blind, Bangalore, Karnataka
2. Govt. Higher Secondary School for the Blind, Poonamallee, Tamil Nadu
3. Govt. School for the Blind Children, Mysore, Karnataka
4. Govt. Ideal Blind School, Imphal, Manipur
5. Students Welfare Association for the Blind, Imphal, Manipur

AFFILIATE WINNING MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CHAMPIONSHIPS AT THE NATIONAL SPORTS MEETS

1. J.P.M. Sr. Sec. School for the Blind, Delhi
2. Vivekananda Mission Ashram, Haldia, West Bengal

OUTSTANDING SPORTS PERSONS

1. Mr. Sanjay Kumar-NIVH, Dehradun
2. Mr. Gaurav Singh-NIVH, Dehradun
3. Ms. Gulshan-NIVH, Dehradun
4. Mr. Ankur Dhama-J.P.M. School, New Delhi.
5. Mr. Amar Singh Nishad-Delhi
6. Ms. Harmanpreet Kaur-PSAB, Ludhiana, Punjab
7. Ms. Manisha Deoram Kadukar-Nagpur, Maharashtra.
8. Ms. Mamta Vinayakrao Kolamkar-Amravati, Maharashtra.
9. Mr. Rishi Kant Sharma-NBYA, Delhi
10. Mr. Ram Karan Singh-Delhi.
11. Mr. Jedikere Mohammed Ali Shavaad-Chikmagalur, Karnataka.
12. Mr. Sujit Munda-Ranchi, Jharkhand.
13. Ms. Namita Kumari -Ranchi, Jharkhand.
14. Mr. Yogesh Kumar -J.P.M. School, New Delhi.
15. Mr. Virender Kumar Kushwaha-Delhi.
16. Mr. Avnil Kumar-NIVH, Dehradun.
17. Ms. Kanchanmala Dnyaneshwar Pande-Amravati, Maharashtra
18. Mr. Joginder Singh-NBYA, Delhi
19. Mr. Triptpal Singh-PSAB, Ludhiana, Punjab

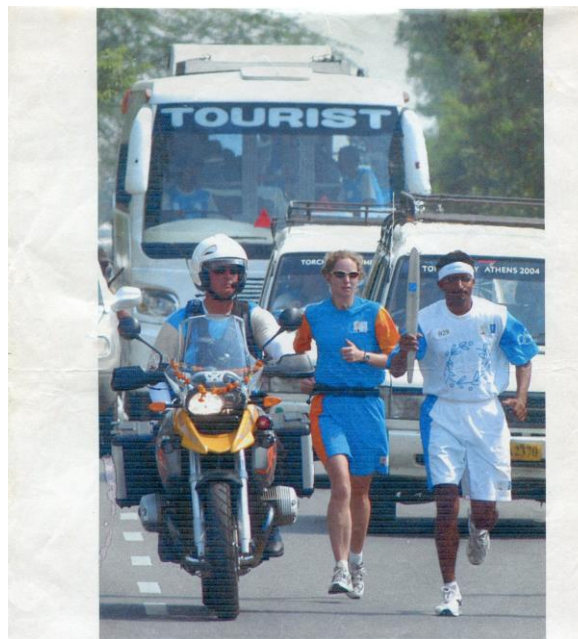
DISTINCTIONS AND AWARDS

An Athlete nominated by the Association, Ravinder Singh Nagar, was selected by the Indian Olympic Association along with other sports luminaries and star personalities to take part in the Athens Olympic Torch Run in New Delhi on 10th June 2004.

As stated elsewhere in this document, the Association's Athletes won 5 medals at the 4th IBSA World Championships and Games in Antalya, Turkey, in 2011 and a total of 34 medals at the two editions of the World Youth and Student games held in 2009 and 2011 in Colorado Springs, U.S.A.

It was an occasion of immense pride and jubilation for the Association when one of its Athletes, Ram Karan Singh, was presented the prestigious Arjuna Award in 2012 for his outstanding achievements in various international events. Similarly, the Association's Chief Coach, Dr. Satyapal Singh, was conferred the coveted Dronacharya award the same year.

The Association had the privilege of being entrusted by the Sports Authority of India through Paralympic Committee of India, the onerous responsibility of conducting a coaching camp for the visually impaired probables for 2012 London Paralympics. The camp had seven outstanding blind athletes from Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Uttarakhand and was held from 5th February 2012 to 25th July 2012. Unfortunately, due to procedural reasons, visually impaired athletes from India could not get representation at the Games.



Ravinder Nagar participating in Athens Olympic Torch Run-10th June, 2004

**PRESENT OFFICE BEARERS AND
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF
INDIAN BLIND SPORTS ASSOCIATION**

S.NO.	NAME AND ADDRESS	DESIGNATION	OCCUPATION
01	Mr. Kartikeya Bharat Ram 1, Silver Oak Avenue, Westend Green Farms, Rajokri, New Delhi-110038.	Chairman	Industrialist
02	Mr. S.K. Misra 7-A, Jangpura-B, New Delhi-110014	Vice Chairman	Social Worker
03	Mr. K.C. Pande Y-81, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110 016.	Vice Chairman	Social Worker
04	Mr. P.C. Mehta D-41 (First Floor) UPPAL's SOUTH END Sohna Road, GURGAON	General Secretary	Service
05	Mr. A.K. Mittal 80-A, Pocket-I, Mayur Vihar phase-I, Delhi-110091	Joint Secretary	Social Worker
06	Mr. B.L. Bhardwaj 26/795, D.D.A. Janta Flats, Madangir, New Delhi-110062.	Joint Secretary	Social Worker
07	Mr. C.P. Mohanan 204-C, Pocket-C, Mayur Vihar Phase-II, Delhi-110091	Treasurer	Service
08	Mr. D.P. Pathak, Institute for the Blind, Sector-26, Chandigarh-160019.	Member	Service
09	Thokchom Dorendro Singh, The Students' Welfare Association for the Blind, Takyel, Imphal, Manipur-795001.	Member	Service
10	Mr. C.M. Muhammad Nasrullah Shariff, Hony. Secretary General, Ashakiran Residential School for the Blind Children, M/s. Abu Ali Associates, 131 M.G. Road, Chikmagalur – 577 101, Karnataka.	Member	Businessman & Social Activist
11.	Mr. Gurpreet Singh, Punjab Sports Association for the Blind, 2627/1, Guru Nanak Colony, Opp. G.N.E. Street No 2, Gill Road, LUDHIANA, Punjab	Member	Service