

INDIAN BLIND SPORTS ASSOCIATION

Annual Report for the year 2014-15

1. This was another busy year for the Indian Blind Sports Association (IBSA). Conduct of a variety of national sports events, preparation of the Indian Contingent for participation in leading international events, increase in the number of the Association's affiliates, election of the new team of office bearers, enhanced representation of women athletes in the Association's events, are some of the major highlights of the Association's activities during the year. Details are presented in the following paragraphs:

2. New Affiliates:

As many as twenty-one (21) institutions/organisations joined the IBSA family as affiliates during the year. This raised the number of IBSA affiliates to 184 from 25 States. These are:

1. Blind Persons' Association, C/o National Association for the Blind, Mumbai.
2. Rajasthan Netraheen Kalyan Sangh, Jaipur-302002, Rajasthan.
3. Institution for the Blind, Panchkuian Road, New Delhi-110001.
4. Niwasi Andh Vidyalaya, Chikhaldara, Amravati, Maharashtra-444807.
5. EnAble India, 12 KBH Colony, 8th Block, Koramangala, Bangalore-560095.
6. The Blind Welfare Industrial Institute, K-Block, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019.
7. Employees State Insurance Corporation, Binnypet, Bangalore-560023.
8. The Director of Physical Education, University of Madras, Chennai-600031.
9. Equal Opportunity Office (EOO), Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.
10. Andh Maha Vidyalaya, Panchkuian Road, New Delhi-110001.
11. Hansraj College, University of Delhi, Malkaganj, Delhi-110007.
12. Satyawati Collge, University of Delhi, Ashok Vihar Phase-III, Delhi-110052.
13. Divine Vision, 208, 2nd Floor, Vivek Vihar, Delhi-11009.
14. Child Old Blind Home Welfare Society, Nangloi, Delhi-110041.
15. Prajwalit Foundation, E/50, Street No. 2, East Vinod Nagar, Delhi-110091.
16. Paschimbanga Rajya Pratibandhi Sammilani, Pratibandhi Village, 147 Barakhola, Mukundapur, Kolkata-700099.
17. Association for the Blind Persons, Sarai Kalekhan, New Delhi-110013.
18. Blind Persons Association (Himachal Pradesh Branch), Solan-173211.
19. Bengal Blind Cricket & Sports Association, Kolkata-700008.
20. National Association for the Blind, Worli Seaface, Mumbai-400030.
21. Xavier's Resource Centre for the Visually Challenged, Mumbai-400001.

We welcome all these new partners.

3. 19th IBSA National Sports Meet for the Blind, New Delhi, 13-16 December 2014

Introduction:

The National Sports Meet for the Blind organized every alternate year by Indian Blind Sports Association is the largest and the most prestigious sports event for the visually challenged athletes in the country. Being held regularly since 1982, the National Sports

Meet has immensely helped in generating interest in and spreading sports culture amongst institutions and visually challenged youth all over the country.

This year, it was the turn of the 19th such Meet. The event had added significance this time. It was taking place just a few months prior to the 5th World Championships & Games for the Blind scheduled in May 2015 in Seoul, Korea and could act as a stepping stone for a probable chance to compete at the IPC (International Paralympics Committee) World Championships. The event thus provided the most appropriate opportunity to spot talented visually challenged sportspersons, who could be considered for representing the country at the forthcoming 5th World Championships in 2015. So, the excitement was high, the expectation immense.

Organization and Participation:

The 19th IBSA National Sports Meet was held at the Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium as per the given dates--13th to 16th December 2014. Around 600 athletes and officials from 60 institutions/organizations belonging to 16 States/Union Territories attended the Meet. The Participating States/UTs were Chandigarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh & West Bengal.

A unique feature of the Meet, this year, had been the record number of entries from the women athletes.

Another unique feature of the Meet was presentation of medals each evening by renowned sports personalities.

Inauguration and Closing:





Shri Sarbanand Sonowal, Hon'ble Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India inaugurated the Meet at the beautiful Jawahar Lal Nehru Athletic Stadium on 13th December, 2014. Lauding the spirit of the blind sportspersons Shri Sonowal assured all help for promotion of the sports for the blind. Mrs. Meenakshi Lekhi, Hon'ble Member of Parliament was the Guest of Honour at the opening ceremony.

The Meet concluded with the valedictory ceremony held in the evening of 16th December when Mr. Ajit Mohan Sharan, Secretary (Sports) Government of India, formally declared the Meet closed and awarded the Championship Trophies to the winning teams. He lauded the efforts of IBSA in promoting sports amongst the blind.



Categories of Participation and Events:

The athletic competitions were held separately for Intermediate (14-17 yrs) and Open (not below 14 yrs of age as on 31.12.2014) categories. They were divided into male and female groups.

The athletes were placed in three sections as per their visual status –

B1 (No light perception in either eye up to light perception but inability to recognize the shape of a hand at any distance or in any direction);

B2 (From ability to recognize the shape of a hand up to visual acuity of 2/60 and/or visual field of less than 5 degrees); and

B3 (From visual acuity of above 2/60 up to visual acuity of 6/60 and/or visual field of more than 5 degree and less than 20 degrees).

The Athletics Competition had the Following Track and Field Events:

Intermediate Category:

Girls – 100M, 400M, 800M, 1500M, Shot Put (4 kg), Long Jump, Discus (1 kg), javelin (600 gm), Relay (4 x100 M)



Boys - 100M, 400M, 800M, 1500M, Shot Put (5 kg), Long Jump, Discus (1.5 kg), javelin (600 gm), Relay (4x 100 M)



Open Category:

Women - 100M, 200 M, 400M, 800M, 1500M, Shot Put (4 kg), Long Jump, Discus (1 Kg), javelin (600 gm), Relay (4x100M), (4x 400M)



Men - 100M, 200M, 400M, 800M, 1500M, Shot Put(7.26 kg), Long Jump, Discus (2 kg), javelin(800 gm), Relay (4x100M), (4x 400M).



In addition, the Chess competition took place at the premises of the Blind Relief Association. Players from 42 Institutions/organizations affiliated to IBSA participated. The competition was conducted according to the Swiss League Round System. A total of 7 (seven) rounds were played, with the winner securing 1 point, the loser nil and half point being awarded for drawn games.

Technical Officials:

The Meet was conducted under the watchful eye of qualified and competent sports officials. A team of technical officials from the Athletic Federation of India (AFI), Delhi acted as line judges, track umpires, starters etc. Their services were complemented by a team of competent officials from Indira Gandhi Institute of Physical Education, Delhi University. The Chess competition was conducted by two officials from Delhi Chess Association, one of whom is an international arbiter with experience of 3 Chess Olympiad along with one visually impaired official.

Team Championships:

Overall Team Championship Trophies were awarded separately for male and female groups according to different categories and sections. The Trophies were worked out on the basis of the medals won by the teams, with 5, 3 and 1 point respectively awarded for Gold, Silver and Bronze medals.

Results are as follows:

Intermediate

Category	Organization	Points
B1 Boys	J.P.M. Sr. Sec. School for the Blind, Delhi	17
B2 Boys	Institute for the Blind, Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi	17
B3 Boys	Ashakiran Residential School for the Blind Children, Chickmangalur, Karnataka	15
B1 Girls	Sri Sharda Devi Andhra Vasthisala, Shimoga, Karnataka	12

B2 Girls	Ashakiran Residential School for the Blind Children, Chickmanglur, Karnataka	15
B3 Girls	Sri Sharda Devi Andhra Vasthisala, Shimoga, Karnataka	15

Open Category

Category	Organization	Points
B1 Women	Ashakiran Residential School for the Blind Children, Chickmanglur, Karnataka	15
B2 Women	Ashakiran Residential School for the Blind Children, Chickmanglur, Karnataka	15
B3 Women	Ashakiran Residential School for the Blind Children, Chickmanglur, Karnataka	15
B3 Women	Samarthanam Trust, Bangalore, Karnataka	15
B1 Men	National Blind Youth Association, New Delhi	15
B1 Men	Divine Vision Trust, New Delhi	15
B2 Men	Prajwalit Foundation Trust, Delhi	23
B3 Men	Prajwalit Foundation Trust, Delhi	15

Chess: In the Chess event Mr. Shashidara K.M., from Karnataka, rated Chess Player, won the Gold Medal with 5.5 points.

Logistics:

The stay arrangements of the participants were made at the premises of the Blind Relief Association.

Waterproof tents ensuring protection from chilly winter, were pitched in the Association's premises to accommodate a large number of participants, as well as for dining facilities and recreation programmes.



Some Highlights of the Meet:

1. The Meet had a total of 60 teams, whereas the preceding meet had 49.
2. The Meet had two sports disciplines--athletics and chess.
3. 160 girls and women took part in the Meet in different capacities, accounting for around 27% of the total participants in the Meet as against 25% in the 2012 Meet.
4. A total of 30 new records were set during this 4-day Meet, including national records out of which 11 new records were created by women.
5. The following athletes emerged as the fastest totally blind (B-1) runners, winning Gold Medals in the 100 mtrs. Sprint:

Category	Name of athlete	Institution	Timing
Girls	Sanju Bai	Asha Kiran Residential School for the Blind, Chickmanglur	16.78
Boys	Shabnam Kumar	Institute for the Blind, Chandigarh	13.41
Men	Ramanjee	National Blind Youth Association, Delhi	12.90
Women	Soumiya M.N.	Asha Kiran Residential School for the Blind, Chickmanglur	15.32

4. IBSA General Body Meeting

The biennial meeting of the Association's General Body was held at the Blind Relief Association's premises on 15th December, 2014, coinciding with the 19th National Sports Meet. At the meeting, as per rules, the following office bearers and members of the Executive Committee were elected for the ensuing 4-year term:

Executive Committee

1	Mrs. Radhika Bharat Ram	Chairperson
2	Mr. K.C. Pande	Vice Chairman
3	Mr. A.K. Mittal	Vice Chairman
4	Mr. P.C. Mehta	General Secretary
5	Mr. B.L. Bhardwaj	Joint Secretary
6	Mr. A. David	Joint Secretary
7	Mr. C.P. Mohanan	Treasurer
8	Mr. D.P. Pathak,	Member
9	Dr. Satyapal Singh	Member
10	Mr. Vivek Monga	Member
11	Mr. Utpal Roy	Member

Taking into account their immense contribution for the promotion of blindsports, the General Body unanimously decided to designate the following as Patrons of Indian Blind Sports Association:

1. Mrs. Meenakshi Lekhi, Hon'ble Member of Lok Sabha.
2. Mr. Kartikeya Bharat Ram, Jt. Managing Director, SRF Limited and immediate past President of IBSA.
3. Mr. S.K. Misra, Hony. Treasurer & Trustee of the Blind Relief Association, Delhi

An important feature of the deliberations was that on the persistent demand for inclusion of a representative of women and one from non-represented region, the following were co-opted as members with no voting rights:

1. Ms. Neha Nalin Pawaskar, All India Andh Stri Hitt Association, Mumbai.
2. Mr. N. Suresh, Sri Sharada Devi Andhara Viasathi Sala, Karnataka.

5. National Sports Championships of Football, Judo, Kabaddi, Powerlifting & Coaching Camp.

A week-long programme of sports events for the blind organised by Indian Blind Sports Association (IBSA) and hosted by the Blind Relief Association was held in the B.R.A. premises in New Delhi from 5-10 January 2015. The events comprised:

- 9th IBSA National Football Tournament for the Blind,
- 3rd IBSA National Kabaddi Tournament for the Blind,
- 6th IBSA Powerlifting Championships (10 January only),
- 1st National Judo Championships and Athletics Coaching Camp and Seminar on Blind Sports.

Around 300 sportspersons and support officials from 9 States, from Kerala to Himachal Pradesh enthusiastically took part in these events.

The sports events were inaugurated by Mrs. Meenakshi Lekhi, Hon'ble Member of Parliament. Mrs. Lekhi explained the need for making existing sports facilities easily accessible to visually impaired athletes. She also highlighted the importance of having a Para Sports Centre in Delhi.



As always the **Football Tournament** turned out be highly exciting event. 10 teams from 5 States contested for the championship. The skill, strategy, determination and passion of the blind footballers was to be seen to be believed . The final match was played between Anand Singh Smarak Khel Evam Sanskritik Samiti, Delhi and the Society for Rehabilitation of Visually Challenged team from Kochi, Kerala. In this exciting match Ananad Singh Smarak won by 1 goal to nil.



Similarly, the 3rd **Kabaddi Championships**, played according to the rules prepared by Indian Blind Sports Association was also full of excitement. 9 teams from 6 States took part in the Championships. J.P.M. Sr. Sec. School team by their sheer determination and skilful play once again successfully claimed the Championship.



The Powerlifting Championship took place on 10th



January 2015. The event was conducted under the care of officials provided by Powerlifting Federation of India. Eleven (11) blind powerlifters from 6 States took part in different weight categories. The enthusiastic participation underscored the growing attraction of blind youth towards this new sport being promoted by IBSA in the country. Triptpal Singh from Punjab was once again the star powerlifter of the Championships.

The 1st IBSA National Judo Championship was held on 6-7 January, 2015 and 14 Judokas participated from 10 States. The Championship was inaugurated by Shri Awanish K. Awasthi, Joint Secretary, Department of Disability Affairs, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.



The following players won Gold Medals at the event:

No.	Name	Organizaiton	Weight Category
1	Rajat Bidhuri	J.P.M. School for the Blind, New Delhi	50 Kg
2	Nadeem Khan	J.P.M. School for the Blind, New Delhi	55 Kg
3	Karampal	Haryana Blind & Para Judo Association	60 Kg
4	Jaideep	Indian Blind & Para Judo Association,	66 Kg

		Lucknow	
5	J. Manoharan	Tamil Nadu Blind & Para Judo Association, Chennai	73 Kg
6	Sadhanshu Kumar Rath	All India Andh Stri Hitt Association, Maharashtra	81 Kg

Simultaneously, over this six-day period the **Athletics Coaching Camp and Seminar** on Blind Sports was held. The participants were blind athletes, their trainers, and sports managers. IBSA's athletics coach Dr. Satypal Singh, a Dronacharya awardee, conducted intense practical training and theory sessions on different aspects of track and field events. He was assisted by Mr. B.L. Bhardwaj and Mr. Ravinder Singh Nagar.



The Closing Ceremony was held in the evening of Saturday 10th January, 2015. Mr. Rajesh Tomar, President of Parlympic Committee of India was the Chief Guest. The Chief Guest gave away the Championship trophies to the winners and runner up teams of Kabaddi as well as Football Tournament.

6. Selection & Preparation for Seoul 2015 IBSA World Games for the Blind

The Association was invited by the International Blind Sports Federation/Korean Blind Sports Federation to participate in the prestigious Seoul 2015 IBSA World Games scheduled in May, 2015. The team members were shortlisted on the basis of their performance in the 19th National Sports Meet, Para Asian Games 2014, National Championships held in January 2015 and National Para Swimming championships -- 2014. The final Indian Contingent was selected on the basis of trials held on 1st and 2nd March 2015 and thus a 26-member Indian Contingent was registered with organisers in March 2015 in four sports disciplines -- Athletics, Judo, Powerlifting and Swimming. It was decided to organise a pre-departure coaching camp from 13th April to 6th May 2015. It was further decided to approach Ministry of Sports/Sports Authority of India for financial assistance for the team's participation in the event.

7. First Sight Classifier from India

On the invitation from International Paralympic Committee/International Blind Sports Federation, the Association sponsored a qualified Ophthalmologist, Dr. Tania Jain to undergo V.I. Classifier training in Athens (Greece) from 28-30 March, 2015. The Ministry of Sports provided the Association partial grant for her training. Thus, Dr. Jain is now the first IPC/IBSA approved V.I. Classifier from India.

8. Acknowledgement

IBSA would like to acknowledge with gratitude the support received from various donors, who lent financial and/or logistic support for organising various events.

- Department of Sports, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India
- Sports Authority of India
- Department of Disability Affairs, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India
- Delhi Development Authority
- Athletic Federation of India,
- Powerlifting Federation, Delhi
- Delhi Chess Federation
- Delhi Kabaddi Federation
- Indian Blind and Para Judo Association, Lucknow
- Dr. Satyapal Singh, Chief Coach
- Mr. Deepak, Life Count Now
- M/s. SRF Limited
- M/s. Subros Limited
- United Colors of Benetton
- Lalit Suri Hospitality Group
- M/s. Pioneer Publicity Corporation
- Mr. Nitin Goyal, M/s. Amravati Group, Chandigarh
- Kamla Devi Devendra Kumar Jain Foundation
- Mr. Rajesh Tomar
- Kaycee Digital Pvt. Ltd.
- Potato and Onion Merchants Association, Azadpur, Delhi
- Fruit Merchants Association, Azadpur, Delhi
- Vegetable Traders Association, Azadpur, Delhi.

IBSA would also like to place on record its sincere gratitude to the Blind Relief Association, Delhi for its most valuable support in terms of both financial, logistical and equally importantly placing the services of its staff at the disposal of this Association for conduct of Sports events. But for the Blind Relief Association's unstinting support since the inception of IBSA, this Association would not have achieved its goal of promoting blind sports in the country.

Last but not the least, IBSA would like to place on record its sincere gratitude to the staff members of Blind Relief Association, Delhi and the office bearers of Indian Blind Sports Association for their unstinting support and cooperation.