

INDIAN BLIND SPORTS ASSOCIATION



ANNUAL REPORT

2022-23

The Indian Blind Sports Association (IBSA), established in 1986 as an initiative of the Blind Relief Association, Delhi, is a national-level body affiliated with the International Blind Sports Federation and nationally with the Paralympic Committee of India. Since its inception, IBSA has been working to popularize, promote, and enhance the level of sports among the visually challenged. The Association regularly organizes national-level training programs, sports meets, and competitions for athletes with visual impairment. IBSA also provides support and exposure to talented athletes, enabling them to participate in major international events. This report seeks to record the activities and growth of the Association during the year 2022-23.

Membership:

As of 31st March 2023, IBSA had a total of 264 affiliate institutional members from 28 states and union territories across the country.

New Membership in 2022-23:

1. Para Sports Association of Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh
2. Para Sports Association of Gujarat, Gujarat
3. Step up India Confederation, Gujarat
4. National Association for the Blind, Gujarat
5. National Association for the Blind (Anand District Branch), Gujarat
6. National Association for the Blind (Bharuch District Branch), Gujarat
7. Helen Keller School for the Visually Impaired, Haryana
8. Guide Runners India, Karnataka
9. Vinyasa Trust for Differently Challenged, Karnataka
10. Ashwani Angadi Trust (R), Karnataka
11. IIG Education and Development Trust, Maharashtra
12. Uttam Social Foundation, Maharashtra
13. Rashtriya Apang Kalyan Sanstha Karamshala, (The National Association for Welfare of the Physically Handicapped (NAWPH), Maharashtra
14. Paralympic Association for All Disabilities, Madhya Pradesh
15. Blind Sports Association (M.P.), Madhya Pradesh
16. Rajkiya Netraheen Chhatrawasit Sr Sec School, Rajasthan
17. Fortune Foundation, Chhattisgarh

During the course of last year, the Association and its affiliate organizations held several events and activities as recorded in this report.

Activities:

Eastern Region Coaching Camp

On 21 March 2022, an inauguration ceremony was organized by Voice of World, Kolkata at the Eastern Region Coaching Camp for the Visually Impaired Female Athletes at the Parnashree Govt. Housing Quarters Recreation Club Hall, Kolkata.

The dignitaries present on the occasion were the revered Khokon Maharaj of Bharat Sevashram Sangha, Smt. Sanchita Mitra - Local Councillor, Shri Subrata Shankar Ghosh - President of West Bengal Luxury Taxi Association, Ms. Gargi Gupta - Founder of 'Voice of World' and various others.

The visually challenged students of Voice of World showcased their musical talents in a small cultural program during the inauguration function.

The Coaching Camp was formally inaugurated by Smt. Sanchita Mitra through chanting of Sanskrit Shlokas after the dignitaries lighted the auspicious lamp.

After the Inauguration program, the dignitaries visited the ground where the coaches explained various techniques of one of the Track & Field disciplines (Shot Put Throwing) to the trainees. About 25 Visually Impaired Female Athletes from West Bengal, Jharkhand & Bihar enrolled themselves in the Residential Coaching Camp which was conducted from 21st to 25th March 2022.

At the closing ceremony of the Eastern Region Coaching Camp for Visually Impaired Female Athletes, Smt. Ratna Chatterjee, MLA, West Bengal; Smt. Sanchita Mitra, Councilor, Kolkata Municipal; Mr. Subrata Shanker Ghosh, President, Kolkata Luxury Taxi Association, Smt. Gargi Gupta, Founder Secretary Voice of World, and Mr. David, Hony. General Secretary IBSA & Chairman Asian Region International Blind Sports Federation were present.

Paralympic Committee of India- Sight Classification

The Indian Blind Sports Association helped with the sight classification of athletes for the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI). The Paralympic Committee of India is the body responsible for selecting athletes to represent India at the Paralympic Games and other international athletic meets and for managing the Indian teams at the events.

The organization was founded in 1992 as the Physically Handicapped Sports Federation of India.

The team from IBSA was invited by the Paralympic Committee of India to do the Sight Classification for the PCI National Para Athletics Championship held from 28 - 31 March 2022 in Bhubaneswar.

The classification was successfully completed by the team on 27 March 2022. This was the first time the Sight Classification done for the visually impaired category in the PCI national meet by the IPC/IBSA certified national classifiers.

State-level Kabaddi Championship at Tamil Nadu

On 26 April 2022, Hon. General Secretary of the Indian Blind Sports Association Mr. David attended the Closing Ceremony of the State Level Kabaddi Championship for the Blind 2022 conducted by the Tamil Nadu Blind Sports Association. Mr. David also encouraged the participants and addressed the media on awarding the winners and runners.

Sighted classification tests for para swimmers

The Indian Blind Sports Association (IBSA), on 29 August, conducted sight classification tests for para swimmers, who participated in the National Para-Swimming Championship organized by the Paralympic Committee of India.

International Blind Sports Federation - IBSA Asia Oceania Blind Football Championships

The 2022 International Blind Sports Federation- IBSA Blind Football Asia-Oceania Championships were held in Kochi, Kerala from 11-18 November.

This was the first time in India that a para-football event had 10 men's teams and 2 women's teams. The event was a qualifier for the World Championships Birmingham 2023 and Paris Paralympics 2024.

Officials and delegates from across the world attended the event including the Chairman of Blind Football Mr. Elias Mastoras from Greece, referee coordinator from Argentina, medical classifiers from the US, Brazil, UK, and referees from Asia-Oceania region.

The Japan Women's team won the 2022 title beating the India Women's team 1-0 in a closely fought contest on 12 November. With this both teams qualify for the first IBSA World Women's Championships'23 at Birmingham, UK.

In the men's event, the Chinese team won the championships beating Thailand on penalties in the final. Japan secured the third position after their victory against Iran. The hosts, India, finished in the 7th position.

The Championships was the biggest para-football event held in India and it helped spread awareness about the game. The matches were broadcasted online on digital platforms.

USHA 22nd National Athletics Championship for the Blind

The much-awaited 22nd USHA – IBSA National Athletics Championship for the Blind was organized from 14th December to 16th December 2022 at the Thyagraj Stadium, New Delhi. This event was organized by IBSA in collaboration with USHA (Title Sponsor).

At the Championships, there were 550 participants from 19 states including Tripura, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh and Chandigarh. A total of 59 (31 for men, 28 for women) international and indigenous events were organized under three categories- T11, T12, and T13.

On 13 December, the orientation was done for the managers of the teams participating in the Championship. Mr. K.C. Pande, Executive Secretary of the Blind Relief Association, Mr. C.P. Mohanan, Vice Chairperson IBSA, and Mr. David, Hony. General Secretary IBSA were present at the meeting.

The inaugural function was presided over by Chief Guest, Hon'ble Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi (Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture of India) and Dr. Deepa Malik, President - Paralympic Committee of India as the Guest of Honour.

Other dignitaries such as Rev. J.K. Manchanda, Treasurer - Sant Nirankari Charitable Mission; Prof. Sankar Kumar Sanyal, President - Harijan Sevak Sangh; Shri Sanjay Rai, Secretary - Harijan Sevak Sangh; Smt. Chhaya Shriram, Director – Usha International; Smt. Komal Mehra, Head of Sports Initiatives and Associations – Usha International; Ankur Dhama, Arjuna Awardee were also present.

In the inaugural ceremony, a coffee table book “The Play of Dots” was released by Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi. The first copy of the book was handed over to Ankur Dhama, the first Indian blind athlete to take part in the Rio Paralympics 2016, nurtured and trained by IBSA.

The book highlights the accomplishments of visually challenged athletes whose struggles are often overlooked. Despite congenital disabilities (since birth) or life-altering injuries caused by accidents or disorders later in life, the athletes have shown remarkable grit and self-belief to transform themselves into some of the most accomplished athletes.

Results:

Men (Institutional Championship)	
T11	Institute for the Blind, Chandigarh
T12	Netraheen Vikas Sansthan, Jodhpur
T13	All Tripura Blind Committee

Women (Institutional Championship)	
T11	Institute for the Blind, Chandigarh
T12	Para Sports Association of Gujarat
T13	Institute for the Blind, Chandigarh

Men (State Championship)	
T11	Karnataka Sports Association
T12	Karnataka Sports Association
T13	Blind Sports Association, Andhra Pradesh

Women (State Championship)	
-----------------------------------	--

T11	Karnataka Sports Association
T12	Karnataka Sports Association & Sports Association for the Blind, M.P.
T13	Karnataka Sports Association

Purple Fest

Mr. David Absalom, General Secretary of the Indian Blind Sports Association participated in the Purple Fest on 10 January 2023 as one of the panelists in a discussion on sports for persons with disabilities. The other panelists were

1. Dr. Deepa Malik, President PCI
2. Mr. George Abraham, CEO Score Foundation
3. Mr. Charudatta Jadhav, President - All India Chess Federation for the Blind
4. Mr. Victor R Vaz, National Sports Director of Special Olympics Bharat

The Purple Fest Goa was the first-ever inclusive festival for persons with disabilities hosted by the Goa State Commission for Persons with Disabilities.