

Indian Blind Sports Association

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PRESS RELEASE

Indian Blind Sports Association (IBSA), a premier national-level sports organization working for the promotion of sports for the visually challenged is organizing in partnership with Usha International, a major sports event under the title "IBSA Sports Championships for the Blind" to be held in New Delhi from 6-11 January 2020. Established in 1986 the Association represents India in the International Blind Sports Federation, the apex world body, is also affiliated with Paralympic Committee of India.

The week long programme of sports events for the visually impaired organized by IBSA, will begin at 10.00 a.m. on Monday 6 January 2020 at the premises of the Blind Relief Association, Delhi adjacent to The Hotel Oberoi, New Delhi which is providing major logistic support. Over 400 participants, including 85 female blind sports persons from states, namely, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Tamilnadu, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana and Madhya Pradesh will be taking part in these events.

The events being held are:

1. 5th IBSA Kabaddi Championships For Men (6-11 January)
2. 2nd IBSA Kabaddi Championships For Women (6-11 January)
3. Coaching Camp and Seminar on Blind Sports (6-11 January)
4. 8th IBSA Powerlifting Championships (08 January)

The events will take place each day between 10.00 am and 5.30 pm. The competitions will be conducted in accordance with international norms for blind sports as stipulated by International Blind Sports Federation and International Paralympic Committee. To ensure highest level of professionalism and fair conduct of competitions services of professional and experienced referees/judges and technical officials are being taken.

The Association has been playing a leading role in promoting sports among the visually challenged at the national and international levels. It has so far organized 21 bi-annual National Sports Meets consisting of events like short and long distance races, long jump, shot put, javelin and discus throws swimming, chess and powerlifting. In the 21st Meet held in December 2018 in New Delhi 750 sportspersons from 18 states participated.

The Association has been regularly sending Indian athletes to top-level international championships held under the aegis of International Blind Sports Federation. The Association's athletes have won 5 medals (1 silver & 4 bronze) in the Antalya World Championships (2011), 17 medals (9 gold, 1 silver & 7 bronze) at the World Youth and Students Championships in 2009, 18 medals (5 gold, 5 silver & 8 bronze) at the same Championships in 2011 and 2 Bronze medals in the Seoul 2015 IBSA World Games.

The Association is constantly striving to provide access to the visually challenged in India to an increased variety of sports events like 5-a-Side Football, Powerlifting, Kabaddi and Judo. It is now going to introduce long tennis and goal ball in the country.

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