



23rd Usha National Athletics Championship for the Blind commences in Nadiad, Gujarat
This year, Indian Blind Sports Association (IBSA) collaborates with Para Sports Association of Gujarat and Blind Sports Association of Gujarat

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For more photographs and Videos of the event: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1gic9phW7Ydm1pm5g7tegNBwSzncGb4St>; <https://ibsaindia.org/IBSA2024/>

Event Highlights

- 175 Participants from 19 States
- 50 Team Officials & Managers
- 53 (29 for men, 24 for women) International and Indigenous events in T11/F11, T12/F12, and T13/F13.
- The participation from entire states for a more inclusive and equitable opportunity for all

Nadiad, 14th December 2024: The 23rd edition of Usha National Athletics Championship for the Blind, the largest sports event for the visually challenged in the country, commenced at Sports Complex, in Nadiad, Gujarat today. Organised by Indian Blind Sports Association (IBSA) bi-annually, the championships will be celebrating the true spirit of athletes in the country with over 246 prizes to be won across disciplines over the next three days. This year, the event organized by the Indian Blind Sports Association in collaboration with the Para Sports Association of Gujarat and Blind Sports Association of Gujarat held from 14 – 16 December.

This year's Championship is especially significant as it marks a historic shift in its organization. For the first time, the event will feature participation from entire states rather than affiliates, ensuring a more inclusive and equitable opportunity for all. This change reflects our ongoing commitment to promoting fairness and expanding the reach of blind sports in India. On successful selection trials, 19 state bodies have identified the best athletes for the championship.

Inaugurated by the chief guest, **Mr. Vipul Patel, Chairperson of Amul Dairy**, the tremendous energy at the Sports Complex, Nadiad was palpable as 175 participants from all over the country gathered to kick-start the event comprising sporting disciplines such as field and track sports, and relay race competitions in both men's and women's open categories for visually impaired athletes (T-11 & F-11) and those with low vision (T-12, T-13 & F-12, F-13).

While declaring the 23rd Usha National Athletics Championship for the Blind 2023 open, **Chief Guest Mr. Vipul Patel** said, *We feel proud to host the 23rd National Athletics Championship in Gujarat for “Acknowledging the tremendous untapped potential among these talented athletes .the first time Amul Dairy is committed to promoting inclusivity for all by supporting the initiatives of the Indian .blind the for particularly sports ,sports-We extend our full backing to para .Blind Sports Association”*

Mr. Kapil Parmar who clinched the bronze medal at the 2024 Paralympics and made history by winning India's first Paralympic medal in judo and Mr. Ashwin Makwana, bronze medalist in the 2022 Asian Para Games were felicitated.

Shri Amit Prakash Yadav IAS, Collector & DM, Kheda - Nadiad Gujarat and Shree Santram Mandir's Swami Rameshwar Das graced the occasion as the Guests of Honour. Other dignitaries' such as Mr. Kantilal Parmar – President, Para Sports Association of Gujarat; Mr. Chandulal Bhati – Secretary, Para Sports Association of Gujarat & Executive Committee Member, Paralympic Committee of India; Ms. Dipali Rathi – President, Blind Sports Association of Gujarat Ms. Sudha K Patel, Committee Member – Blind Sports Association of Gujarat were also present.

About IBSA:

Established in 1986 Indian Blind Sports Association is a national level sports federation affiliated to the International Blind Sports Federation – the apex world sports body for the visually challenged as well as to the Paralympics Committee of India. The Association has affiliation of 20 state bodies and 4 sports-specific federations: Football, Goalball, Kabaddi and Judo. As an affiliate of the world body, IBSA selects, trains and sends blind sportspersons from India to participate in international events including the World Championships and Games for the Blind.

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