

## **Blind Football in India – Timeline of Activities & Projects from '13 to date**

- The First Indian National Blind Football team was put together by SRVC (Society for Rehabilitation of the Visually Challenged) in 2013.
- The Indian Blind Football team, in their first ever International tournament in Bangkok in Aug 2013, entered the Semi-Finals and finished Fourth.
- The Indian Blind Football team played a Friendly Game in Malaysia with the host team, on its way to the International Five Nation Blind Football Tournament in Hong Kong in Dec '14. The preparations for the tour was done for a fortnight in early Dec'14 under International referee coordinator and trainer Mr. W K Loo from Malaysia.
- In Jan '15, India was ranked 28th in the world as per IBSA rankings.
- In Aug '15, the preparatory camp for Asian Championships at Japan (which was a Rio Paralympics qualifier) was held in Kochi by Mr. W K Loo from Malaysia, before the team went to Japan in Sept'15.
- In Dec '15, Elias Mastoras from Greece, referee coordinator for major internationals including last Paralympics, conducted a referee coaching clinic for potential blind football referee's in Kochi.
- In Jan '16, India moved up to 25th position as per IBSA world rankings.
- In Apr-May'16, All India Invitational Blind Football Tournament was held at Aluva Blind School with 86 Blind footballers, where Kochi team emerged as the Champions.
- In Sept '16, SRVC undertook a road show and blind football camp to Kolkatta and to the North East - Tura, Meghalaya, Guwahati , Shillong & Imphal.
- In Oct '16, The **Indian Blind Football Federation (IBFF)** promoted by SRVC got affiliated by the Paralympic Committee of India as the only recognized organisation to promote blind football in the country, for giving focused attention to the game.
- IBFF conducted a second tour of North East in Oct'16 which had Mr W K Loo from Malaysia conduct a training camp for over four days in Shillong.
- The First ever **India International Blind Football Championship** was held in Kochi from 1st to 4th Dec'16 which had Malaysia, Laos and hosts India participating, Malaysia won this tournament. Prior this, 18 players from across India were invited for the National Selection camp in Nov'16 conducted by Mr W K Loo
- In Jan '16, India's world ranking became 23<sup>rd</sup> based on international matches played.
- In Jan'17, a training camp was held in Aizawl followed by a mini North East Blind Football tournament at Shillong which had four teams. Bethany Society Shillong won.
- In Feb'17, Blind Football awareness camps were held at Kozhikode, followed by Mumbai and Olassa Blind School Kottayam.
- An awareness camp with ISL team Delhi Dynamos FC and the Football Link was conducted in Delhi on 9th & 10th March '17
- Second Edition Of The All India Invitational Blind Football Tournament was held at Kochi - 29th April To 6th May'17, with NIVH Dehradun emerging as winners.
- Blind Football Demo Session was conducted with Bengaluru FC as a part of the Grassroots Day Event of the club side on 14th May'17.
- The first Ever Blind Football Awareness Game in Goa was conducted with FC Goa and NAB Goa as partners on 3rd Sept'17
- A Blind Football Training Camp, Workshop was held with Ulrich Pfisterer, IBSA World Chairman & German National Coach coming to Kochi for a week from 11th to 16th

Sept'17.

- Inauguration of the first Blind Football Academy at Kochi on 15th Sept'17 with Central Minister Shri K J Aphons signing on the first academy trainee
- A Blind Football Awareness Game was held at INS Venduruthy on 27th Sep'17
- A Blind Football Exhibition Game At Lulu Mall On 8 th November 2017 ❖ The Kerala Blasters FC had an interaction with the Blind Football Team academy members on the eve of World Disability Day on 2nd Dec 2017
- Sporting Director Mr Sunil J Mathew was appointed to the World Blind Football Committee (2018-21) as Development Officer IT & Communications Asia
- Two Blind Football Exhibition Games were led in Mumbai On 7th and 8th January 2018 - at the K J Somaiya College of Engineering and at the private gathering at a junior Football game.
- The Second Edition Of The North East Blind Football Tournament was conducted At Tura, Meghalaya from 27 th To 30 th January 2018
- The Indian National #BlueDolphins team has been invited to play at the World Grand Prix Development Games category in Tokyo, Japan from 20th to 26th March'18 which involves Belgium and Japan B as other participants
- A selection and fitness camp was conducted by the AIFF Fitness Coach Danny Deigan at Kochi bringing in around 15 of the best blind footballers from around the country was conducted from 22 - 25 Feb'18
- The preparatory camp of the national team was conducted from 10th to 18th March'18 with overseas coach and trainer Mr Loo WK from Malaysia helping out
- The Indian Team participated in the Development Category at the World Grand Prix International Tournament at Tokyo Japan between 18 - 25 March'18. India performed very well beating Japan ( B) in the opening game 1-0 with a goal from Klingson Marak, and narrowly losing to Belgium 2-1 in the second game with an opening goal by Pankaj Rana. In the return fixtures, India played well but eventually lost to Belgium 0-2 and 0-2 to Japan B but the entire tournament provided a great experience for the players playing in tough wintery conditions.
- The Third National Blind Football Tournament was held at the Always Blind School grounds from 27th Apr to 1st May '18. The Academy Team, Kochi won the title beating KWAB Bengaluru 1-0 in the Finals which was played at the Jogo turf ground, Kochi
- Training Sessions were held in May & June'18 at the Academy ground for new players
- Sunil. J. Mathew was invited to the IBSA World Blind Football Sub Committee meeting at Madrid, Spain from 4 to 7 June'18 coinciding with the Blind Football World Cup where he got a chance to share experiences and ideas with a number of players and coaches
- IBFF invited the Thailand National team coaches and two B1 players for a Blind Football combined training session at Kochi from 23 - 26 July'18 at Kochi, the academy players got a chance to train and work with some of the best players in Asia over the 4 days which has immensely benefitted the team.
- The Australian National Blind Football Team visited Kochi, India for an International Friendly series and combined training between 17 - 22 Sept'18. The selection camp and training sessions for this series was conducted from 5th to 17th Sept with Mr Loo

W K helping with some of the sessions too.

- India beat Australia 2 - 0 and 5 - 0 in the two International friendly games played on 19th & 21st Sept'18 with Klingson Marak scoring a hat-trick for India and emerging as the Player of the Series with Falhan C S scoring three goals in the two games.
- A Blind Football Demo game and training session with the Delhi Dynamos FC ISL team is to be held in New Delhi on 6th & 7th Oct'18 at the Adidas Football The Plaza grounds, Chattarpur.



