

Blind Football in India – Timeline

- ❖ 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 23rd 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 8th 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 27th To 30th 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.
- ❖ 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