

### **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 on 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 were done for a fortnight in early Dec'14 under the 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. WK Loo from Malaysia, before the team went to Japan in Sept'15.
- ❖ In Dec '15, Elias Mastoras from Greece, a 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 the Kochi team emerged as the Champions.
- ❖ In Sept'16, SRVC undertook a road show and blind football camp to Kolkatta and 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 organization to promote blind football in the country, for giving focused attention to the game.
- ❖ IBFF conducted second tour of North East in Oct'16 which had Mr. WK 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.
- ❖ The latest awareness camp and demo was in March '17 in New Delhi
- ❖ Second Edition Of The All India Invitational Blind Football Tournament - 29th April To 6th May'17
- ❖ Blind Football Demo Session As A Part of Grassroots Day Event In Bengaluru'17
- ❖ First-Ever Blind Football Awareness Game In Goa On 3rd Sept'17

- ❖ Blind Football Training Camp, Workshop & Academy Inauguration 11-16 Sept 2017
- ❖ Blind Football Awareness Game At Ins Venduruthy On 27th Sep'17
- ❖ Blind Football Exhibition Game At Lulu Mall On 8th November 2017
- ❖ KBFC Blind Football Team Interaction - 2nd Dec 2017
- ❖ Blind Football Exhibition Game at Mumbai On 7th And 8th January 2018.
- ❖ The Second Edition Of The North East Blind Football Tournament At Tura, Meghalaya On 27th To 30th January 2018
- ❖ Conducted national team selection camp at Kochi on 23rd to 25th February'18
- ❖ Blind Football Demo Game and Blind Folded Walk at Decathlon, Kochi On 11th March'2018
- ❖ National Blind Football Camp for the Selected Members On 10th To 17th March'18 for the World Grand Prix, Japan development category games.
- ❖ Indian blind football team played World Grand Prix Development Games Tournament at Tokyo, Japan ( 21-25 March'18)
- ❖ IBFF conducted the Third National Blind Football Tournament 2018 at Kochi between April 27th to May 1st , the Kochi blind football academy team won the title
- ❖ IBFF organized the Thailand and India Blind Football Combined Training Sessions 23-26 July 2018, Kochi
- ❖ The Regional South & West Zone Blind Football Tournament concluded At Bengaluru(31st August to 2nd September '18) SRVC Kerala won the title of the first Southwest Zonal tournament
- ❖ The Australian Blind Football Team concluded its tour to India from 17th to 22nd Sept'18 which included a Friendly 2 match series & combined training sessions at Kochi, India. India won the series (2-0)
- ❖ Manjappada Official Fan Club of the Kerala Blasters honoured the members of India team while they were in Kochi last week for matches with Australia in September'18.
- ❖ The Blind Football Demo Game was held between the Delhi Blind Football Team and The NIVH Dehradun Team at The Adidas The Football Base Plaza Venue at Chattarpur, Delhi On 6th & 7th Oct'18
- ❖ IBFF conducted the First East Zone Blind Football Tournament And Training Session 3rd Nov To 4th Nov '18 Extra Time Ground, Kolkata. FABB Kolkata senior team won the title of the tournament
- ❖ Blind Football Demo and Exhibition Game, Irumbanam, Game Town Ground on 1st December'18
- ❖ Blind Football Demo and Interaction Session with Jamshedpur FC to mark The World Disability Day, West School Ground, Panampilly Nagar , Kochi on 3rd December'18
- ❖ Blind Football Goal Keeping Training Session with AIFF National Goal Keeper Coach Rogerio Ramos was held from 5th December to 7th December'18
- ❖ IBFF organized a Blind Football Demo Game at the SH College Lake View Ground, Thevara on 10th December as a part of the Disability Awareness Week to showcase the talents of the visually challenged Blind Footballers

- ❖ Sunil J Mathew, Sporting Director, Indian Blind Football Federation had a Meeting with the Indian National Team Coaches and AFC top Officials at Abu Dhabi to discuss possibilities of developing new Blind Football centres across India in January'19
- ❖ IBFF conducted the Third North East Blind Football Tournament from 23rd to 26th January 2019, Meghalaya. Bethany Society won the Third North East Blind Football Tournament after a hard fought final against NESBFC North East team.
- ❖ The Indian Blind Football Federation (IBFF) organized a First Time Ever Coaches and Players Training Sessions With The England Football Association Blind Football Coaches & Trainers At Kochi, India From 26th to 28th February'19
- ❖ Blind Football Training At Trivandrum Blind School on 8th March'18
- ❖ IBFF organized the Fourth IBFF National Blind Football Tournament at Fever pitch Ground, Yeshwantpur, Bengaluru From 12th April To 15th April'19. Bethany Society Shillong won the National Title.
- ❖ A Historic Moment as two women blind football teams played a demo game with female Goalkeepers, referees, coaches & guides for the very first time as IBFF hosted the First-Ever Women's B1 Game during the Nationals at Bengaluru on 15th April'19
- ❖ Indian Blind Football Federation organized an Interaction Session With AIFF officials and coaches on 17th July '19 at Ahmedabad. The National Team players got a chance for interaction with the Indian Football Team Head Coach Igor Stimac and the coaching staff.
- ❖ The IBSA Blind Football Asian Championship (Thailand, Pattaya'19) was held between 1st to 6th October'19. The Indian Blind Football Team secured its highest position, finishing 5th Overall Beating Higher Ranked Teams Like Malaysia(World Ranked 17th ) 2-0 for The 5th Place at the IBSA The Asian Blind Football Championship, Pattaya. The selection camp for this tournament was held for a month at the academy at Kochi
- ❖ The Indian Development Team(BTeam)beat the Japan Development Team(Bteam) 2-1 to win the three match series held at Kochi in Dec'19.Both teams had upcoming and new players featuring in the matches which were evenly contested, and was a great experience for the players.
- ❖ The First Blind Football in Nagaland was held at the Don Bosco School grounds Dimapur from 15th- 17th Feb'20. The camp which had more than 25 + participants featured a women's blind football demo event and training camp too, with coaches and referees too attending the camp with plans to develop a centre in Dimapur in the future.
- ❖ IBFF conducted webinar sessions with the international coaches and players during lock down period at the 20<sup>th</sup> of the each Month from July to December'20.
- ❖ IBFF National Academy at Kochi reopened from Feb'21 after a year break due to covid restrictions . A group of 6 players continue to get trained on a daily basis with vocational skills opportunities being offered to them.
- ❖ IBFF organized the first Blind Football Training camp and demo game for Women players at the Gamma Football Arena , Kadavanthara Kochi. Around 20 participants

including Women Players, coaches, goalkeepers and referees from Kerala, Pune, Bangalore and Chennai participated in the session which was from 26th to 28th February'21 with morning and evening on the ground training sessions.