



# National Ability Association of India

## Annual Report

### Year 2008-09

The National Ability Association of India (NAAI) was formed in May 2001 at the behest of the Government of India with Amar Jyoti Charitable Trust as its coordinating agency. It was also to serve as a nodal agency to formulate, initiate and implement policies to propagate Abilitympics, the Olympics of vocational skills in the country. The broad objectives of NAAI are:

- **To provide facilities for enhancement of skills in different vocations to persons with disabilities.**
- **To promote and organize Regional, National and International meets and competitions in vocational skills.**
- **To involve Central and State Governments & NGOs in the activities of NAAI.**
- **To empower persons with disabilities for economic independence.**
- **To provide exposure and opportunity to persons with disabilities to share and learn latest technological developments in various vocational fields.**

To begin with, NAAI was headquartered at Amar Jyoti Rehabilitation & Research Centre, Delhi. The country was divided into five zones i.e. North, South, East, West & Central for ease of functioning. Three to four experienced heads and NGOs in the disability sector who had requisite infrastructure were appointed as Vice President in each Zone. This helped to spread the message of Abilitympics and provided a platform to persons with disability to showcase their abilities in different vocational skills.

After its inception in 2001, NAAI has enabled the participation of Indian Contingent in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> International Abilitympics. In addition, Sub-Regional, Regional, the First and Second Nationals and the 6<sup>th</sup> International Abilitympics were organized. Medal winners of the



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International Abilympics were given cash prizes. All this was possible with full support from the Government, NGOs, the private and public sectors as well as individuals.

The National Abilympic Association of India is in its 8<sup>th</sup> year of existence. During this period the Abilympic scene has changed and the movement has become quite popular and is gaining momentum across the country. A large cross-section of society has become aware of the abilities of the differently-abled. Increasingly, a larger number of institutions and persons with disability are showing interest and keenness to participate in the vocational as well as leisure and living skills competitions at District, State, Regional and National levels..

During the year under review, the Governing Body met three times and the following major decisions were taken:

- The second Inter-State Junior Abilympics would be organized by The Research Society for the Care, Treatment & Training of Children in Need of Special Care, Mumbai, during January 2009 under the aegis of NAAI. These were later postponed to April and, subsequently to October-November 2009 on the request of several participating organizations and the ensuing general elections. However, NAAI will not be supporting these financially.
- The amendments to the Memorandum of Association (MOA) suggested by the committee and as approved in principle by the Annual General Body meeting have been incorporated and revised MOA issued.
- The budget for National Headquarters and Regional Abilympics to be conducted during the year by all the zones was finalized to be sent to the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- All the Zonal Vice-Presidents were requested to plan to hold the Regional Abilympics in their respective zones before the end of the financial year. In addition to the events of the International Abilympics, the Regional Abilympics should also include additional events which enable persons with all types of disabilities to participate and generate employability for them.
- The Zonal Vice-Presidents should be informed that all participants be clearly made aware that all events of the regional contests may or may not be included in the



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National and International Abilympics. It was also felt that it has become necessary to have a fresh look at the objectives of the Abilympics keeping in view the experience and growth during the last few years and the desirability to de-link the National Abilympics from selection of contestants for International events.

- The need for paying greater attention to training and the duration of the training camp prior to participation in the International events was emphasized. It was also recommended that guidelines for the selection of the Indian contingent for participation in the 8<sup>th</sup> International Abilympics should be finalized and win ability, not exposure, should be the major criterion for selection.
- The proposal from Dr. Jamdar (Central Zone) to hold the Third National Abilympics in Jabalpur, during October-November 2010, was approved.

### **Progress Update: Participation in the Executive Committee Meeting of International Abilympic Federation (IAF)**

Dr. (Mrs.) Uma Tuli and Dr. A K Datta attended the 24<sup>th</sup> EC Meeting of IAF held in Quebec on August 22, 2008. Representative of Korea Employment Promotion Agency for the Disabled (KEPAD) presented their plans for the 8<sup>th</sup> International Abilympics to be held at Seoul under the theme “Beautiful Challenge”. The plans to increase participation from Europe, America and Africa as well as providing opportunities to persons with severe disabilities, were briefly outlined. They also informed that to promote exchange of information and sharing culture, an International Symposium, an International Assistive Technology Fair and International Cultural exchange will also be organized.

Various suggestions were made by the members including those from India to improve the methodology of conducting contests during the International event. After discussion, a sub-committee consisting of members from Austria, Japan and Korea was formed to make recommendations for the consideration of the Executive Committee. These recommendations have subsequently been approved.



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A presentation about the activities of NAAI was made. An application made by NAAI for membership of IAF was considered and recommended by the members of the Executive Committee. This has since been approved and NAAI is now a member of the IAF.

**Regional Abilympics:** The process of conducting Regional Abilympics has already begun. Regional Abilympics in the Central, North, East zone have already been completed and a large number of participants took part. Special efforts were made to ensure larger number of participants from persons with visual, speech and hearing impairment. Some events to encourage the participation of intellectually challenged persons were also considered. As a result of additional contest events included, thus a larger number of participants took part in these competitions. In the North Zone, a total of 410 participants (including 70 escorts and officials) from 7 states and 1 union territory took part in 31 events. In the Central Zone, 458 participants (including 75 escorts and officials) from 50 institutions and 5 states in 28 events participated. The skills demonstrated by the competitors were appreciated by the judges and in some of the competitions, there were joint winners. The Regional Abilympics in East Zone were held on 18-20 March 2009, where 266 participants (including 49 escorts and officials) from 24 organisations took part in 31 events. The Regional Abilympics in the West Zone are in progress at Shirdi wherein over 400 participants have taken part. The response in these two zones has also been overwhelming.

**Opportunities for Employment:** NAAI has been in touch with the Core Group on Disability of the Confederation of Indian Industry to explore various options for providing opportunities for employment of persons with disabilities. Discussions have also been held with representatives of the corporate sector to identify and, if possible provide, employment. The placement unit at Amar Jyoti Charitable Trust, the coordinating agency of NAAI, is also helping to arrange training for a large number of persons in different skills for possible employment. CVs of a number of individuals were forwarded to prospective employers and many have been employed.

**Membership:** The total membership of NAAI as on date is as under:

Institutional Members: 44



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Individual Members: 47

**Audit Report:** The unaudited Accounts have been compiled and will be audited by a firm of Chartered Accounts at the completion of the financial year. The office of Director General of Audit Central Revenues, have audited the accounts for the year 2007-08 and have found the same to be satisfactory.

**Conclusion:** The Abilympic have helped create awareness in the society about the abilities of the differently-abled. It is expected that with the support of Government of India, State Governments, private and public sector, NGOs and philanthropists. Abilympics in the country will grow further in the coming years. The Abilympic movement in the country is spreading. It will help create job opportunities including self employment. It will continue to provide an avenue to persons with disabilities to demonstrate their vocational skills and enable their socio-economic development. Persons with disabilities have demonstrated that they are second to none and given an opportunity can perform as well as able-bodied persons.