



National Abilympic Association of India

Annual Report

Year 2014 – 2015

Abilympics are vocational skill competitions for persons with disability and enable them to showcase and enhance their talents. Abilympics empowers the contestants and helps to create public awareness about their abilities. It also helps to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities by showcasing and promoting their vocational skills.

The skills are grouped in two broad categories (i) vocational skills and (ii) leisure and living skills. The vocational skills category has events like PC assembly, computer programming, pottery, dress making, jewellery making, furniture making etc. The leisure and living skills category includes hand knitting, embroidery, crochet work etc. The contests are judged based on the quality of the finished product and not on the measure of disability of the contestant.

With the initiative of Amar Jyoti Charitable Trust, India started participating in Abilympics right from the beginning of the first International Abilympics held in Japan in 1981. A humble beginning made in 1981 has now become an institutionalised activity and is becoming popular across the country.

The National Abilympic Association of India (NAAI) was formed in May 2001 at the behest of Ministries of Human Resource Development and Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India with Amar Jyoti as its nodal agency to inter alia serve as a nodal agency to formulate, initiate and implement policies to propagate Abilympics in the country. The main aims and objective of NAAI are:

- To formulate, initiate and implement policies to propagate Abilympics – the Olympics of Abilities - in the country.
- To discover and nurture the talents of persons with disabilities and promote their economic self-reliance.



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- To promote and organize State, District, Regional, National and International meets and competitions in vocational and leisure and living skills.
- To sensitize and create awareness about the productive skills of persons with disabilities
- To promote international friendship through exchange of knowledge.
- To encourage exposure to advanced technologies to enhance abilities and skills of persons with disabilities.
- To create opportunities for employment.

The National Head Quarter of NAAI is located at Amar Jyoti Rehabilitation & Research Centre, Delhi. A Governing Body plans and guides its activities. Zonal Vice-President in each of the five zones namely North, South, East, West & Central are associated with a local NGO with requisite infrastructure in the disability sector or with disability sector. This helps to spread Abilympics across the country, increase awareness about Abilympics and to improve the quality of life of persons with disability.

Since its inception, NAAI has been organizing district, state, regional and national abilympics in different parts of the country. It has also facilitated participation of an Indian Contingent in the International Abilympics. All this was possible with full support from the Government, NGOs, the private and public sectors as well as individuals.

The Department of Disability Affairs, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment supports Regional, National & International Abilympics and provides 75% financial support for participation in the events at all levels. In addition, corporates, philanthropists and other donors provide financial support.

During the year 2013-14 Regional Abilympics were conducted in all the five zones in the country at Ahmedabad, Bhubaneshwar, Chennai, Delhi and Gwalior. Over 2000 participants including officials and escorts took part in the Regional Abilympics. The medal winners of the Regional Abilympics along with some lateral entries participated in the 4th National Abilympics held at National institute of Technical Teachers' Training & Research (NITTTR), Chandigarh from November 3-5, 2014.



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A total of 579 participants (including contestants, officials and escorts) from 22 states took part in 34 vocational and leisure and living skills contests. The event was inaugurated by Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot, Hon'ble Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India. Mrs. Stuti Kacker, Secretary, and Mrs. Awanish Kumar Awasthi, Joint Secretary, Department of Disability Affairs, Dr. K K Talwar, Chairman, Board of Governors, Dr. M P Poonia, Director, NITTTR and a large number of dignitaries guest and members of the public were present on this occasion. The Hon'ble Minister assured full support of the government for spread of Abilympics and for participation in the forthcoming 9th International Abilympics to be held in France during March 2016. He announced cash awards of Rs. 21,000/-, Rs. 15,000/- & Rs. 11,000/- for the gold, silver and bronze medal winners respectively in the 4th National Abilympics.



The election of members of GB and office bearers was then taken up. It was emphasized that to spread and strengthen the movement across the country it is necessary to induct new members from different regions. The members were further informed that Air Mshl Inamdar has expressed a desire that a new President be elected since he has completed his tenure. The new President will be able to give his inputs and vision to further spread the Abilympics movement in the country. The members were informed that the G.B. has suggested that Dr. Bhushan Punani be appointed as President in place of Air Mshl. Inamdar. It was also suggested that Dr. Komal Kamra be made as a National Vice President. Since Ms. Minetta Paatil has been very active in Pune she made a member of the GB in place of Dr. Rita Malhotra and National Secretary in place of Dr. Bhushan Punani.



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The members appreciated the efforts made by Air Mshl S G Inamdar as President for the growth of Abilitympics during his tenure. They commended his efforts to shift the emphasis of the movement which is at present event oriented to spread it to the rural landscape. During his tenure a number of improvements have been made in the conduct of events. The members unanimously decided that in view of the contributions made by him and to continue to get the benefit of his experience he be made a Patron of the Society.

Keeping in view the contribution of Dr. Rita Malhotra and her long association with NAAI it was recommended to appoint her as a Patron. It was also recommended that since Ms. Ranu Banerjee has retired from IICP, Kolkata, Ms. Reena from IICP be included as a member as her replacement. Ms. Teresa Francis has also retired from Vidya Sagar. It was proposed that Ms. Rajul Padmanabhan from Vidya Sagar be included as a member of GB.

In order to spread the movement and reach the yet unreached the GB has recommended the following changes and induct some more Vice Presidents to let Abilitympics grow at the grass root level.

- **Prof. J S Saini, Vice President, North Zone in place of Ms. Sunita Singh who has since resigned from Amar Jyoti.**
- **Ms. Madhur Bhandari, Akshay Pratishthan as additional Vice President, North Zone.**
- **Ms. Manjula Kalyan, Founder Director Swayamkrushi, Hyderabad be included as a Vice President, South Zone.**
- **Ms. Jayshree Raveendran, Ability Foundation Chennai be included as Vice President, South Zone in place of Mr. Vijay Kant who has not been attending meetings of NAAI during the last few years.**
- **Mr. S Ramakrishnan, Amar Sewa Sangam as additional Vice President, South Zone.**
- **Mrs. Sarla Ram Kamal from Ckakashumati, Thiruvanthapuram, Kerala as additional Vice President, South Zone. Mr. Dipendra Manocha agreed to speak to him.**
- **Mr. Anand Girija from Ranchi as additional Vice President, Central Zone**



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- **Ms. Hena Basu from Society for the Visually Handicapped, Kolkata as Vice President East Zone in place of Mr. M B Chhetri.**
- **Mr. Carmo Noronha or his nominee from Bethany Society, Shillong, Meghalaya as an additional Vice President, East Zone.**
- **Ms. Tejal Shah Vice President, West Zone in place of Mr. Harish Panchal.**
- **Ms. Naseema Hurzuk, President Helpers of the Handicapped, as Vice President, West Zone in place Ms. Usha Mahajan who will continue to be member of GB.**

All the above proposals were unanimously approved.

Rules & Regulations: Contestants in the age group of 15+ as on 1st October 2014 were allowed to take part in the contests. Each contestant was allowed to participate in a maximum of two contests, provided the date and time of the contests did not clash. In addition to the winners from the Regional Abilitympics, a limited number of lateral entries were allowed based on the skill assessment and recommendation of the Zonal Vice Presidents. No participant who had participated in the Regionals but had not been awarded a medal was eligible to participate in the Nationals. Events where less than 5 contestants were actually present were treated as skill evaluation.

Kit: A kit consisting of a jacket and a cap was given to each participant. The jacket for the contestants was sponsored by Tech Mahindra Foundation and by NAAI for officials and escorts.

Events: The skills were grouped in two broad categories as (i) vocational skills and (ii) leisure and living skills. Out of a total of 34 skills, 29 vocational skills and 5 leisure and living skills contests were organised.

The task for each event was formulated in consultation with experts and circulated to the contestants in advance. A programme for daily contest schedule was finalised and venue for each contest identified. List of raw materials and equipment for each event was prepared and made available at the contest site. JAWS was installed in the computers for visually impaired contestants. If an event needed a central facility, like buffing machine for jewellery making, it was provided for use by all the contestants.



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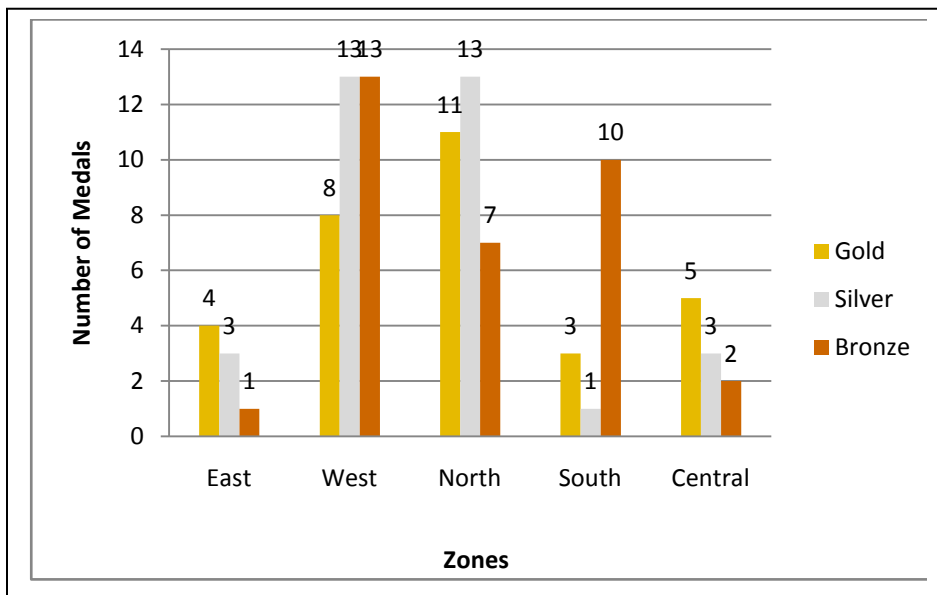
Orientation sessions were organised to brief the judges, convenors and volunteers and guidelines to conduct the event. The judges were specifically advised to assess the contestants based purely on their professional skills and not to give any concession for the degree of disability. The abilities displayed by the participants in all the contestants were of a high order. The level of competition in events like computer programming, wood carving, pottery, crochet, floral arrangement was impressive. Painting water colours, English text processing, PC assembly, electronic assembly and testing and photography outdoor had the maximum number of participants. Artificial limb making, jewellery making (silver) and data processing advance had less than 5 contestants and were therefore conducted as skill assessment events. List of events and the number of contestants is attached as Annexure 'A'.



Zone wise distribution of the medals is given below :



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A gala cultural evening was organised in the evening on November 4, 2014 in which students from a number of local organizations and participants displayed their talent. The programme was appreciated by all the participants. The award distribution ceremony was held on November 4 and 5, 2014. The awards were presented by Shrimati Rajwant Sandhu, Member Central Administrative Tribunal, Chandigarh, Prof. Phalguni Gupta, Director NITTTR, Kolkata, Lt. Gen. S P Kochar, CEO Telecommunication Sector Skill Council, Air Mshl S G Inamdar and some other dignitaries. A list of medal winners of different events is attached as Annexure 'B'.

Media Support: Local media gave wide coverage to the events. A team from Hunnarbaaz visited Chandigarh to make a short film on Abilympics. The film has since been telecast on the DD National TV Channel. The help of print and electronic media highlighted the role of Abilympics as a major event for showcasing and enhancing the skills and mainstreaming of persons with disabilities.

Budget: The Department of Disability Affairs, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has been a major source of support for Abilympics since inception by providing 75% of the budget for the Regionals, National and International events. The remaining 25% is raised by the organizers. A copy of the independent auditor's report as on March 31, 2015 including the Income & Expenditure and the Receipt & Payment for the year is attached.



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The membership of NAAI is open to all individuals and institutions interested in and working for the disability sector.

National Abilympic Association of India is in its 15th year of existence. During this period the abilympic movement has spread in different parts of the country and has helped in creating awareness about the abilities of the persons with disabilities in the society. Abilympic helps to foster friendship amongst the participants from the different parts of the country and act as a motivating factor for them to improve their skills.

It is hoped that through Abilympics we will be able to inculcate confidence, develop skills and facilitate employment / self-employment for persons with disabilities.