

WOMEN POWER

In the 45th Edition of V.K. Pahuja swimming statistical bulletin we celebrate, two dedicated Women Swimming Coaches of Sports Authority of India. These two remarkable women took swimming coaching in an era when women coaches were not common and accepted so easily. They worked hard not only make space for themselves but also ensured more women take up coaching as profession. We recognize and appreciate their achievements, contributions, and value they added to the Indian swimming over three decades. We take this opportunity to advocate women's rights and equality, as well as we highlight the ongoing efforts for gender parity in sports.

Ms Parampal Johal joined Sports Authority of India (SAI) 25th March 1985 in a short span of time she was given the responsibility of National swimming camp holder for Indian team in 2nd Asian age group championship from 14th Aug to 27th sept 1985 and was coach for 2nd Asian age group championship from 22nd to 26th sept 1985 at Bombay. She was the coach for the Indian team in the deaf Olympic at Melbourne Australia from 5th to 18th Jan 2005.



Ms Parampal Johal

She was also the coach for National camp holder of Indian team for commonwealth Games, which followed by being the coach for the Indian team in the world school games held at Herzliya Israel from 7th to 13th April 2013. She herself participated in masters swimming meet and won laurels.

She Joined SAI National Swimming Academy on 7th April 2015 as senior swimming coach and trained swimmers from different parts of India who achieved positions at national level & International levels. Ms Parampal Johal worked for NCOE, SGTIDM programme at Dr. SPMSPC Delhi retired as chief swimming coach SAI on 31st July 2020. During her sports career trained many national and International swimmers few of them are new record holders.



Ms. Chhanda Barua

Ms. Chhanda Barua came from Taldi, a small town in West Bengal. From a young age, she developed a deep interest in swimming, which began at the local sports club in my hometown. That early passion led me to pursue the sport seriously, and I was proud to represent West Bengal at the national level as a swimmer.

She completed my Bachelor's degree in Commerce from Calcutta University, and to strengthen my understanding of physical training, I earned a Diploma in Physical Education. Then she also completed the National Institute of Sports (NIS) course in

Swimming from the NSNIS Eastern Centre in Calcutta.

Driven by my love for swimming and a desire to see the sport grow in India, she decided to become a coach. In 1991, she joined the Sports Authority of India at the Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Swimming Pool Complex in New Delhi. Over the years, she had the privilege of training swimmers at various levels—state, national, and international. She was fortunate to coach Indian athletes who participated in major international events such as the World School Swimming Championship, the World University Championship, and the Asian Age Group Swimming Championship.

After more than three decades of dedicated service, she retired as Chief Coach from the Sports Authority of India on 31st January 2025. Chhanda Ma'am mentioned with immense pride, "Looking back, I feel proud of my journey and remain committed to promoting swimming in India, hoping to inspire the next generation to take up the sport with the same passion that guided my career".

After chhanda barua superannuation no women coach is appointed at prestigious SAI, SPM swimming pool. Let us hope sports authority of India take note of the existing gap and make women coaches' appointment at the earliest & promote gender parity.

I am sure Ms Parampal Johal and Ms. Chhanda Barua's efforts, contribution, hard work and devotion towards swimming will be remembered by one and all. On behalf of the entire swimming fraternity, we wish our sheroes better and best innings of life ahead.

MEENAKSHI PAHUJA

