

News flash

Bulgaria

The Bulgarian Olympic Committee, presided by Ivan Slavkov, also an IOC member, organized the First National Olympic Convention last year under the motto 'The Olympic Ideals and Principles in the New Millennium' in the town of Stara Zagora. More than 400 people - members of the NOC, representatives of the Bulgarian sports federations, of the Olympic clubs, sports schools teachers, cultural and sports personalities - attended this Convention where the guest of honour was IOC Executive Board member and President of the IOC Cultural Commission

Zhenliang He. The main focus of the programme was on Bulgaria's contribution to the Olympic Movement, the Olympic Ideals in the third millennium, Olympic education, anti-doping controls, sport

and environment, sport and media, the role of the local authorities and the local Olympic clubs in the promotion and development of Olympism. The participants adopted a Declaration addressing the state author-

ities responsible for sport in the country and pointing out the major problems in Bulgarian sport.

Furthermore, during a visit of a delegation from the Russian Olympic Committee, headed by IOC member and NOC president Vitaly Smirnov, a cooperation agreement between the two NOCs was signed for a period until the year 2004. One of the main clauses regards the cooperation in the preparation of the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad in Athens in 2004 and the use of Bulgarian sports facilities by Russian athletes for their acclimatization.



Ivan Slavkov and Zhenliang He at the opening ceremony of the Convention.

India

To celebrate the new millennium, the Hyderabad Athletics Institute organized a race on 1 January, which is also the birthday of Baron Pierre de Coubertin. Nearly

1,000 children up to the age of 12 and divided into three categories, as well as adults, set off at 6.30 a.m. All the participants received a certificate for their efforts.



The start of the under six race.

Belarus

The NOC, under its president Alexander Lukashenko, who is also President of the Republic of Belarus, held its annual Olympic assembly at the end of 1999. The agenda included the results of the past year, and preparing athletes for the forthcoming Games of the XXVII Olympiad and Paralympic Games in Sydney. One of the decisions taken was to reduce the number of NOC members from 125 to 95, and to halve the number of executive board members from 18 to 9. Guennadi Alexeenko, Deputy Minister for Sport and Tourism, was elected as NOC Vice-president. For the last three years the NOC has cooperated

closely with Olympic sponsor McDonald to promote the Olympic Movement. Since the XVIII Olympic Winter Games, the 'McDonald' Olympic press centre located in the capital Minsk, has been a meeting place for sports journalists with national athletes and coaches.



The President of Belarus and of the Belarus NOC Alexander Lukashenko (standing) giving his speech, and Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Zametalin.