India tamed a robust Namibia in the international football friendly at the Ambedkar Stadium in New Delhi on Wednesday night.

The 2-0 victory may have surprised even the die-hard fans of the home team, but then Namibia faltered where it mattered most even as India made the most of the few scoring opportunities.

An impressive Indian football team bounced back from back-to-back defeats as they blanked Namibia in their third international football friendly on the trot.

Having lost to Thailand in their earlier two matches on September 4 and 8 in Bangkok and in New Delhi respectively, India came up with a much improved show to beat their opponents ranked 44 places above them in the FIFA chart.

Ironically, the win came on a day when India dropped 22 places in the FIFA chart to 160th, one of the worst in the country's history.

Mehrajuddin Wadoo put India in the lead in the 28th minute when his shot landed into the Namibian goal after deflecting from a defender while Anthony Pereira doubled the lead in the 39th minute with a curling free-kick from 30 yards finding the back of the net.

The win would boost the morale of Bob Houghton's boys in their preparation for the 2011 AFC Asian Cup as they are set to play more matches against higher ranked sides in the coming months.

India were clearly the better side with more cohesion and solidity in the defence while the midfield and forward lines also did well in set pieces with tall striker and captain Abhishek Yadav making four attempts for the opposition.

The Namibian coach Tom Saintfiet had said that they have not played for four months as their premier league has remained dormant.

The Namibians, playing without eight of their professionals, lacked the accuracy to put the ball into the goal.

The Brave Warriors -- as Namibia national team is also known -- had an untried utility distributor in Quinton Jacobs and an innovative worker upfront in Roger Katjiteo but many of Namibia's moves failed to be penetrative.

Michael Pienaar displayed excellent anticipation in cutting back some brilliant runs but it was India's day at its favourite goal. It was difficult to differentiate between the two sides in the first half with both making some fine attacking moves though the goal-box shots were far and between.

India, which made three changes in the starting lineup of their last match against Thailand on September 8 as New Delhi, seemed to have started picking up the form after playing two international friendly matches as they built up attacking moves with neat passes against their physically fitter opponents.

They were also helped by the surface which was much better than their last game as it was not raining that day.

The back four of Sturkar Singh, Guraramang Singh, Arvinder Ali and Mahesh Gawli were impressive and they kept the attempts of their faster rivals at check.

Saintfiet was impressed at the right flank making his usual overlapping runs and sudden acceleration into the center of the park.

The Namibians came up with some threatening counters but ran into a tough defence and an agile Subrata Paul under the bar.

Coach Tom Saintfiet was quoted by the local print media lamenting that “We played much better football but India scored a lucky goal.”

“We have some very good natural players but they can’t score goals. I could have shot the ball myself hundred times into the goal,” said Saintfiet.

On the other hand, the delighted India coach Bob Houghton said “We showed good progress, worked hard, our passing looked improved. Overall, we were more organized.”

He also praised his defenders for being “the sort of person who has respect, one who has seen it and done it before,” he continued.

But Kuffour also identified other ex-players who he believes can do the job.

“Apart from Desailly, [we also have] C.K. Akumor or Mohammed Garbo who can do all or because they have been around and know what is going on.” (BBC Sport)

The ev-AC Milan and Chelsea defender has no coaching background but his glorious playing career has earned him his name has been in the mix every time the Ghana job has become vacant.

He came to the attention of Ghanaians when he played alongside Black Stars legend Abedi Pele in the 1993 Olympic Marseille Champions League winning team.

He then went on to win the title again with AC Milan before going for playing in Chelsea in the English Premier League.

He was also a World and European Cup winner with France in 1998 and 2000.

These credentials make him the favourite choice of many Ghanaians including Black Stars player Samuel Osei Kuffour.

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By Michael olde Adjei

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The 42-year-old who was born in Ghana to Ghanaian parents, feels he is now ready to take charge of the Black Stars following Mlsdow Rajevac’s exit.

Desailly was speaking on the local TV station VOA.

“I am now ready to coach the Black Stars,” said Desailly who had twice turned down approaches from the Ghana FA to take charge of the Black Stars.

But when asked on Wednesday evening by ex-Ghana international Tony Baffoe if he was up for it now, Desailly said he believes the time is right.

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