Greetings from Special Olympics Bharat!

Special Olympics Leadership Academy 2014

The first ever Special Olympics Leadership Academy was held in Haryana, India with a highly interactive group of leaders from 15 State programs of India and from Singapore, Philippines, Bhutan and Serendib (Srilanka). Promising to catalyze Special Olympics goal of improving support and training for its leaders, it focused on three important aspects of an emerging leader’s work within Special Olympics: leadership, governance and planning. The Academy was held from 1st-5th December 2014 at Scottish High International School, Gurgaon. “We’re doing a great job but we need to do better. We need the absolute best to lead our Athletes, their families around the world” were Opening remarks by Dr. John Dow Jr., Chief, Regional Growth, Acting President & Managing Director, Special Olympics Asia Pacific.

Denis Doolan, Vice President, Movement Leadership & Integration, Special Olympics International, who led the Academy, took the participants through brain-stimulating exercises, drawing attention to the leader as an individual, then as leading a team and finishing with leading the organization, whether that be a State or National Special Olympics Program.

Professor Iqbal S. Sachdeva, Communications Specialist, Author, Journalist and Cartoonist; Shaurav Sen, Executive Director, SHL Talent Measurement Southeast Asia, CEB ; Aparna Verma, Head of...
Professional Services (West) and Project Management Office, SHL Talent Measurement India, CEB and Megha Chawla, Principal, Bain & Company were the Guest speakers who strengthened the impact by sharing their expertise and advice.

The Academy concluded on 5th December with each participant making an Action plan clearly defining outcomes and setting deadlines to achieve them. ‘Make it Simple’ is what I’m taking away from this Academy, Air Marshal Denzil Keelor, ‘As a result of this interesting and fascinating program, we’ve made promises and commitments to deliver, which we must!’

“It pinpointed exactly what we wanted. We do have a vision, but through the guidance at the Academy, we would be more structured in moving towards realizing it. This just fits our requirement”, Dr. Anjana Goswami, Area Director, SO Bharat - Assam

I thought I knew but after this conference I realized that I still have a long way to go. I am very honored and proud to be here, Delia Ortega, President, SO Philippines

National Games 2013-14 supported by Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS)

“Abilities 2013-14”, fourth National Games for Persons with Disabilities, which is an annual event, supported by the Ministry of Youth affairs and Sports and conducted by Special Olympics Bharat. Special Olympics Bharat is recognized by the Government of India as a National Sports Federation in the Priority Category for the development of Sports for Persons with Intellectual Disability and has been designated as Nodal Agency by the Government for conduct of sports for all disabilities on account of its national presence, outreach and experience.

National Games 2014 were held from 1st-5th November 2014 at Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar. 518 Athletes and Coaches from 21 states participated across 6 sports, namely, Aquatics, Athletics, Badminton, Bocce, Football and Table Tennis.
The event started with 214 cyclists rallying from Infocity to Kalinga Stadium covering a distance of 6kms approximately, attracting the bystanders to participate in the rally as well. Students from Mainstream as well as special schools participated in the rally. Smt. Usha Devi, Minister, Women and Child Development graced the program as Chief Guest at the Opening Ceremony. All sport Competitions were held at the Kalinga Stadium, Shahid Nagar Indoor Hall and the Biju Patnaik Swimming Pool Complex. 403 persons from PCI (Paralympics Committee of India), AISCD (All India Sports Council for deaf) and Special Olympics won 150 Gold, 141 Silver and 112 Bronze medals.

"I feel very happy when I win, says Veer. "I will win a Gold medal here, says Jayjayita. Our Athletes have dreams, they have hopes. View here to get inspired

Know the ever smiling Athlete Palak

Display of Elegance on Ice- Figure Skating

Special Athletes gliding with beauty and grace create a spectacle, mesmerizing the audience while also leaving them envious. The event was a Figure Skating Camp conducted for preparing Athletes for participation at the Special Olympics World Winter Games 2017 to be held in Austria. With gracious support from the Bird Group, the program was held at ISKATE rink and Café, Ambience Mall, Gurgaon, Haryana from 25th-27th November 2014.

Rajkumar, the Athlete who won a gold (in singles) and a silver (in doubles) at the World Winter Games 2013 held in January in South Korea, was seen more confident and comfortable with his moves on ice. He continues to follow a strict regimen of practicing Figure skating at Iskate with full support from the Bird Group.

The sessions were held for three hours each day from 7:30am onwards, under the guidance of Coaches as well as iskate Marshals. Unified partners from DAV School, Gurgaon, including the head of their school, Mrs. Ruba Chakraborty, skated along with the Athletes raising their morale while, adding a Unified dimension to figure skating.
The Closing Ceremony took place at Iskate at 11:30AM on the 27\textsuperscript{th} of November in the presence of luminaries from the world of Ice skating. The inspiring presence of Mr. J. S. Sahney, former National Champion, Ice skating, Mr. Shinichi Nakamura, National Level Ice Skater from Japan and Ms. Simrita, National level Figure Skater generated excitement and instilled strong motivation for the Athletes to progress with all their might in the sport. The event resulted in 17 Athletes being short-listed as probables for the Special Olympics World Winter Games. View More

Snippets

Airtel Half Marathon 2014

150 Athletes, some of them with attendants, participated at the 4\textsuperscript{th} edition of the Airtel Half Marathon held in Delhi on 23\textsuperscript{rd} November, which saw an overall participation of over 30,000. Special Olympics Bharat ran the Champions with Disabilities category covering a distance of 4kms. The run flagged off from the Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium at 7:05 AM.

SO Bharat flag flies at Stok Kangri-Thanks to Marc

Our flag flies high! Thanks to Marc Gaulin, a friend from SO Canada who visited India earlier this year for trekking to Stok Kangri. On this maiden visit to India Marc visited the SO Bharat National office, taking the flag to string it at Stok Kangri. In 2003, he did the Everest Base Camp (Nepal side) with two wheelchair-bound persons.

Stok Kangri (elevation 6,153 m (20,182 feet) is the highest mountain in the Stok Range of the Himalayas in the Ladakh region of northwest India. The peak is located in the village of Stok and 24 km southwest of the Ladakhi capital of Leh.
Despite its altitude, Stok Kangri is a popular peak and is often climbed as an initial non-technical foray into high altitude mountaineering. Congratulations Marc!

President of India Felicitates Pranav, Athlete from Maharashtra

Pranav Divekar, 22yr old Athlete from Maharashtra, received the prestigious Role Model Award (in the Persons with Intellectual Disabilities category) by the President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee on 3rd December 2014 at the Presentation of National Awards Ceremony honoring the International Day of Persons with disabilities. Pranav needs no further authentication of his achievements, notwithstanding Down syndrome that he successfully circumvents in his progress. While all other recipients took support of volunteers, he walked upright confident and independent, every bit of what he has become now. Read More

Derozio Awards 2014

The Derozio Award function was held on November 26, 2014, at Ocean Plaza Retreat, New Delhi. It once again put spotlight on excellence achieved in education and remarkable work done in the area of Human enrichment. The award was conferred upon Rev. Fr. THOMAS FELIX of CIMR, Kerala and Mr. Vishubhai M. Chaudhary, Gujarat. Fr. Felix is a leading National and International authority in Intellectual disabilities who not only has researched and written books but his theories are being practised all over the world.

Mr. Vishubhai M. Chaudhary runs a school for children with special needs in Gujarat with his outreach program spreading well beyond the perimeters of his school

Professor Abhishek Mishra, State Minister of Vocational Education and Skill Development Mission, graced the function as Chief Guest, re-defining the meaning of excellence giving all distinguished educationists something to think of, through his inspiring speech. His educative and innovative talk left the people spell-bound!

The prestigious award is given across the General and Special categories. Special Olympics Bharat was instrumental in inclusion of the Special Schools category. The 'Derozio Awards' are instituted by the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations, the apex body for Schools, to honour and motivate
people to serve the nation in a manner that clearly defines leadership in an identified sphere. They celebrate and commemorate the life of Henry L.V.Derozio (1809 - 1830), a great revolutionary, the first Indian poet, freedom fighter and social reformer, fondly referred to as the "National Bard of Modern India."

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