

March 2018

Greetings from Special Olympics Bharat

Youth Activation – Tagore International School New Delhi

“You all are friends right! What if all go for an outing leaving just one of you behind? How would that one person feel?” And Simran opened the session supported by a team of 8 youth leaders, leading a Youth Activation session at the Tagore International School New Delhi on 30 January 2018. Even though the school could accord only 4 hours for a Special Olympics orientation, the resource team successfully leveraged the opportunity to strengthen their brigade with a meaningful blend of Special Olympics orientation, importance and objectives of Youth engagement and empowerment, weaving through fun filled unified activities and a 30 minute Unified Bocce experience



The program brought 24 students of the 8th grade engaging them with 9 students from the Balwant Rai Mehta School New Delhi. The instant connect between the facilitators and participants left no room for monotony or boredom. “It was so interactive, they are like us. I had no hesitation to share my responses”, said Vaishnavi Pandey, SO Youth Leader. Shayan and Saburi Chopra volunteering to form a Youth club in

the school, promptly mentioned events where they could add the Special Olympics message and sports .
“A leader should respect ideas and thoughts of his/her team members; should have good communication skills” , were ready responses from the them.

Building Capacity- Reaching out to more Special Educators with the Rehabilitation Council of India

A series of Coaches trainings were held in the months of February and March 2018 with 30 participants in each of them, largely composing of Special Educators. From 2-4 February 2018 the training was held in Kolkata with participants from the North East Region; 12-17 February 2018 in Pondicherry with participants from South and West Region and from 27 Feb – 4 March 2018 in Assam witnessing participation from the East and North East Region. The trainings were held with specific focus on Volleyball, Cricket & Athletics and the participants will be granted CRE (Continuing Rehabilitation Education) status.They are expected to train 20 Community Coaches each. 9 more trainings according the CRE status by the RCI (Rehabilitation Council of India), are slated for the rest of the year



RCI is a statutory body under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities). Under the RCI Act the mandate given to RCI is to regulate and monitor services given to persons with disability, to standardise syllabi and to maintain a Central Rehabilitation Register of all qualified professionals and personnel working in the field of Rehabilitation and Special Education. It has the additional responsibility to ensure that professionals in these fields update and upgrade their knowledge and skills on a continuing basis.

“The Special Educators form the backbone of the Special Olympics Coach support system. This program will derive mutual benefit for both the Special educators as well as Special Olympics inasmuch as securing the valued CRE points in exchange of active participation in SO Bharat Camps for extending quality training regulated by RCI”, **Dr Amitav Mishra , Secretary & Treasurer SO Bharat**

Special Olympics Leading Change: 50 and beyond



The Special Olympics Asia Pacific Regional leadership conference was held in Singapore from 2-4 January 2018. The conference themed “**Leading Change: 50 years and beyond**” was attended by 28 countries and 5 SO East Asia Countries. It was a touchstone upon which we re-direct ourselves and renew our efforts. During the Conference an inaugural Youth Input Council and the Athlete Input Council were convened with representation from 9 National Programs

Dr Cmdr Kartikay Saini, Ms Bakhtawar Saini, Mr Victor R Vaz, Ms Mukta Narain Thind , Mr Harpreet Singh Gambhir, Ms Shrey Kadian and Ms Simran Sahni represented SO Bharat at the conference. The Youth Input and the Athlete Input Councils comprised of youth leaders from the region who have initiated innovative projects and activities to promote Inclusion. Simran Sahni and Shrey Kadian would be members of the Youth & Athlete Input Councils for a term of two years beginning January 2018. During the conference the Youth leaders moderated a panel on Unified schools. They shared their vision of Change in the next 50 years and beyond



Healthy Communities Workshop - Singapore



The Special Olympics Asia Pacific and East Asia Healthy Communities Workshop was held in Singapore from 29 January – 1 February 2018. Kristin Sour, Director, Global Community Health Program led the workshop explicating the vision of Healthy Communities. 11 National Programs from two regions participated. The workshop created a platform for an exchange of experiences in the field, by the participating National Programs and also highlighted guidelines for successful execution of the program. Ms Rochelle Arathoon, Manager Healthy Athletes, SO Bharat presented a

comprehensive scenario of the Healthy Athletes program in India, while also outlining its challenges and possible solution through the Healthy Communities implementation.

Wonder on Wheels- Neel Yadav



Neel Yadav, SO Bharat Athlete from Haryana cycles 6 days a week, for approx. 6 and a half hours daily, matching stamina of 40 mainstream cyclists. The early morning winter fog, a holiday, family guests, no one can break this routine. He wakes up at 3 AM to be at the stadium by 4AM. It is a part of him which gives him purpose, confidence and happiness, also fetching him the envy and admiration of so many. His routine



is fixed. He sleeps early at night and is regular with his warm up exercises and stretches.

It is hard to believe that Neel, who is 12 years now, was placed in the ICU (Intensive Care Unit) for two months following pre mature- birth in August 2005, due to an infection, with no/very low chances of survival. By the time he was 5-6 yrs it was established that he had a learning Disability [Read More](#)

Mumbai Pitches for BE FEARLESS BE KIND- supported by HASBRO Inc.



16 Feb 2018 celebrated the spirit of Inclusion on the sports field with Athletes and Unified Partners of a higher age group- 12-18 yrs

The Unified Sports Festival was held at the SAI Centre (Sports Authority of India)



Kandivali East, Mumbai from 9 AM -3pm on 16 February 2018. 75 volunteers and Youth leaders from St. Andrews College Bandra and the International Institute of Sports Management (IISM) supported the conduct of competitive models of Unified Athletics (100 mtr run) and Unified 5-a-side football. Three rounds of ability tests were conducted to ensure fair divisioning in football. Time trials were conducted in Athletics and the Athletes competed as per the ability grouping. It was heartening to witness an active lead by the youth leader, Kavita Singh, student of IISM who recently attended the Leadership Academy 1 held in

Kolkata West Bengal in January 2018. She with her team of 30, supported communications , wherein they captured videos instantly posting on Social Media and also taking feedback of the participants of their experience at the event. Along with the other volunteers they helped in the divisioning process and the overall conduct of the event.



The event was attended by a team of 9 from HASBRO Inc - India (Mumbai and Pune) who actively engaged with the Athletes on the sports field, enthusiastically familiarising themselves with the various aspects of conducting a Unified Sports Program

Ashish Dakhure, Hasbro Inc.- India *“Being a part of the Special Olympics was my one of best experiences. When I knew that some players have intellectual disability, I was nervous because I wasn’t*

sure of the right care in the right way. To understand this I thought I should attend & learn to appreciate life and hard work by all. When I met them, my ideas about them completely changed. Both athletes and unified partners ate, talked, played, laughed together. They helped each other through the game in such way that my words are not enough to express . I felt that they were not just players but friends . A One-day event was not enough! Trust me, you will not believe me until you will be a part of this enthusiastic moment. This event gave me warmth, and the best memory” [View More](#)

Unified Sports with Nirma University Gujarat

Special Athletes engaged for the second year in a row with the NSS unit of ITNU (Institute of Technology Nirma University) as part of the 'YOU NEED' program which encourages the youth to be pioneers of change. 72 Athletes and 90 Unified partners engaged across Bocce and Softball. People cheered and encouraged the participants whole-heartily. Energy drinks were served simultaneously to keep up the energy. When the music was played, the kids showed no hesitation and danced their hearts out. They demanded to play their favorite songs and showed some spectacular moves



Coaches Training Program– Bhutan

From 24-28 February 2018 a Resource team from SO Bharat led a Coaching Clinic at the Changlimithang Grounds Thimpu , Bhutan for the second time. The Resource team trained approx 50 participants from all over Bhutan



The 3-day program focused on orienting & equipping the teachers/ coaches in Special Olympics, Unified Sports specifically engaging with Athletes with ID. The training was conducted on 25, 26 and 27th with the Athletes joining the event on 26th and 27th. Approx 50 Athletes participated in the Session delivery while few participated in the 5-a-side Unified football match as well as Unified bocce conducted on both days

Ms Deki Zam, National Sports Director, SO Bhutan – “The 1st Coaching Clinic was held in May 2016 where almost 35 coaches/ teachers from special education schools, CSO's and other government agencies participated. The program was a success as SO Bhutan now has more number of trained Coaches who can deliver quality training to children and youth with disabilities” [View More](#)

National Coaching Camp- Futsal- Uttrakhand



127 Female Athletes and 28 Coaches from 13 States participated in the first Special Olympics NCC– Female 5-a-side Futsal held at the Shri Prem Nagar Ashram Haridwar Uttrakhand from 16-21 February 2018. The Athletes participated through 24 divisioning matches and 21 Competitive matches. Goa, Maharashtra, UP and Manipur emerged winners in their respective divisions-1, 2, 3 and 4. The event facilitated selection of probables for the Unified Cup to be held in Chicago, USA in July 2018 and the Special Olympics World Summer Games 2019 to be held in Abu Dhabi.

Dr Amitav Mishra , Treasurer & Secretary SO

Bharat: Where we are used to seeing more males participating in a camp, seeing so many female Athletes together was very encouraging. It was amazing to see the enthusiasm in the participants – they came from far off locations like the North East . [View More](#)



IKEA Foundation- Lets Play for Change *Exclusive*

Evaluation & Coaches Training



The month of February saw a spate of activities around the Young Athletes Program with support of the Amity University NOIDA team. To measure impact of the program a pre- evaluation was carried out in the states of Haryana, Rajasthan, Punjab, UP, Delhi and Chandigarh. Simultaneously Coaches trainings were conducted in Haryana, Punjab and Chandigarh with approx. 50 trainees in each program.

The State of Punjab leveraged the opportunity for strengthening ties with SSAs (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyans) which is actively participating in the program all over the state. It has also paved way for strengthening the Home Model, bringing together the parent community and presenting to them the drills as well as

equipments which can be created with resources available at home. The Lovely Professional University , Jalandhar has proposed to extend logistical support as well as involvement of the students through a structured Internship program.

SO Bharat Young Athletes [Facebook page](#)

The IDA Times continues to cover SO Bharat in its publications since June 2016



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