

August 2018

Greetings from Special Olympics Bharat

It is not a Competition, it is a celebration- **Khelo India National Games 2018**

Over 600 Athletes with intellectual disabilities, 150 Coaches, 50 Staff, 100 Volunteers and officials from 26 States of India participated in the inaugural Khelo India National Games held at the Gujarat National Law University Gandhinagar from 5-9 July 2018. The Khelo India National Games conducted 7 sport disciplines across 14 events and 85 divisions. Athletics, Swimming, Badminton, Bocce, Football, Table Tennis and Unified Football featured the event.



The Opening of the National Games was dedicated to Eunice Kennedy Shriver through a spectacle which was extraordinary in projection and profound in its message. **Commemoration of 50 yrs of the Special Olympics movement worldwide outlined the Opening Ceremony highlighting the Athletes- the Champions and the heart of the movement.** The decibels scaled high with the message and urgency of an inclusion revolution to over 6000 persons present at the venue. The Ceremony witnessed the gracious presence of senior Central and State Government representatives, with Dr Jagat Prakash Nadda, Hon'ble Union Minister of health & Family Welfare as Chief Guest, along with guest of honour, Shri Nitinbhai Patel, Hon'ble deputy CM, Govt of Gujarat.



“Khelo India” is the new scheme of the Government of India for the Promotion of Sports. SO Bharat has been recognized by the Government for implementation of the program for Persons with Disability. The new Scheme ensures the convergence of Disability leading to emotional integration and creating a common platform against discrimination. In this context, sports is not just a catalyst, but is deemed a major instrument of change. Glimpses of the Opening Ceremony [View](#)

Unity is Strength- Umang 2018 – Punjab



Earlier this year Special Olympics Bharat-Punjab in collaboration with the Ashadeep Welfare Society Hoshiarpur organized the 3rd State level Cultural Competition "UMANG 2018" at Distt. Hoshiarpur (Pb.) from 28-29 April 2018 highlighting 50 years of the Special Olympics movement.

About 500 participants/teachers/volunteers from 26 special schools of Punjab state including Sarva Shiksha Abhiyans Punjab were part of this competition.

The evening resonated the theme of the program, *Unity is strength*, with all the performances being

Inclusive. The evening gripped the audience with music , joy and memories of the abilities of the Athletes , also coming face to face with few of the previous world games medalists from the state

20 July in India – the Youth leading the way

Unified Sports Festivals & Fundraisers in Gurgaon & Mumbai while with the youth leaders taking the lead in planning the events. A Kick-a-Thon was organized in Mumbai (a charity 5-a-side Football tournament) at the Lions Municipal Sports Complex, Santacruz



At the Scottish High International School Gurgaon, 5 disciplines, namely, Aquatics, Basketball, Badminton, Football and Table Tennis were conducted in the Unified format as well as fundraisers. This segment was especially incorporated into the SHISMUN Sports Fiesta this year, the school's Annual festival, in commemoration of 50 yrs of the movement. The Special Wing of the St Joseph's Convent, Jalandhar, Punjab lit up its building and celebrated the occasion by conducting Unified Basketball friendly matches, flash mob and signature Campaign



Various other activities were conducted across St Joseph's School in Jalandhar, Punjab, Tagore International New Delhi and Amity University and Kothari International school in Noida UP spreading awareness through Creative activities conducted by the youth leaders. [Read more](#)

WWE Superstar visits Mumbai and Hyderabad

The WWE Superstar, Braun Strowman visited Mumbai & Hyderabad in July 2018 engaging with Athletes, youth leaders and Family members in each of the cities. 20 medallists from the past Special Olympics World Games and few probables preparing for the upcoming Special Olympics World Summer Games 2019 engaged exclusively with the WWE Superstar Braun Strowman at the ITC Maratha in Mumbai on 20 July 2018 and at the ITC Kakatiya in Hyderabad on 21 July 2018.

The tour of the superstar upheld the partnership of WWE with Special Olympics in support of Play Unified and in the Special Olympics' campaign focused on creating change through sports. The goal of this

partnership is to utilize WWE's global voice and platforms to raise awareness for Special Olympics and Play Unified



Ranveer clinches runners up at the Lufthansa Junior Golf Tour Tournament 2018



Ranveer Singh Saini the golfing SO Athlete from Gurgaon Haryana registered another hit in his upward journey through Golf. He won the Runners up Trophy at the Lufthansa Open Championship held at the DLF Golf and Country Club on 6th July 2018. This was a mainstream event, making him the only Special



Athlete playing alongside, and competing against all players without disability

The Tournament was held over 18 holes at the Arnold Palmer DLF Golf & Country Club witnessing participation of 45 golfers between the ages 0 & 18 yrs. Ranveer scored 6 over par in the individual stroke play and received the trophy from Mr Porus Neko Lufthansa Country head Sales. [More on Ranveer](#)

Herbalife Family Foundation Annual Charity Dinner



Eight representatives from SO Bharat including 4 Athletes attended the Herbalife Family Foundation (HFF) charity dinner, at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre, Bangalore on the 8th of June 2018

As the premier nutrition company, Herbalife Nutrition has been at the forefront of advocating good nutrition and a healthy, active lifestyle for overall well-being. Between the definitions of product manufacture, entrepreneurial development and retail, they also fulfill their commitment to the society by undertaking various community development initiatives. Herbalife Family Foundation (HFF) is a non-profit organization under which they run their flagship program – Casa Herbalife which aims to provide healthy nutrition, nutrition education through the support of community volunteers

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At India Extravaganza 2018, they conducted their annual fund raising program – the HFF Charity Dinner in an effort to raise funds for Casa Herbalife program. The charity dinner is an evening of togetherness of associates, employees and partners to show their commitment to make a meaningful difference to the lives of the marginalized people. Special Olympics Bharat was privileged to be part of this event.

Preparation for Abu Dhabi 2019- The Second Camp

Approx 450 Athletes, Coaches and Resource persons from 27 states of India participated in the second preparatory Camp for the Special Olympics World Summer Games 2019 . The Camp was held from 19-24 June 2018 at BITS Pilani (Birla Institute Technology & Science) Rajasthan





Early morning and evening training sessions were conducted across the 15 sports daily. Each day concluded with a Coaches Meeting. A team of sport specific selectors were present at the



venue. Alongside Sports practices, all the Athletes were screened across two medical disciplines- Fitfeet and Special Smiles. The Special Smiles discipline of Healthy Athletes provides comprehensive oral health care information, including offering free dental screenings and instructions on correct brushing and flossing techniques to participating Special Olympics athletes. Special Olympics Fit Feet offers podiatric screenings to evaluate ankles, feet, lower extremity biomechanics, and proper shoe and sock gear to participating athletes. Fit Feet helps Special Olympics athletes step lively on the playing field, and in everyday life.

Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates will host the 2019 Special Olympics World Summer Games to be held from 14-21 March 2019. Abu Dhabi is the first place in the Middle East-North Africa Region to be host to the Special Olympics World Games. The event is estimated to witness participation of 7000 Athletes from 170 nations featuring 24 Olympic-type sports conducted across 7 days. SO Bharat will be participating in 16/17 out of 24 Sports featuring the Games

In Conversation- K V Advait



It takes only a few seconds to strike a conversation with Advait. His confidence, curiosities, politeness can take anyone by surprise. In May 2018 when he participated at the first Preparatory Camp (for the Abu Dhabi games 2019) held in Haryana, he was identified by a group of Youth leaders. He attended the 2nd Prep camp held in Rajasthan in Aquatics. The calm demeanor hides the struggles he went through in his early childhood and those that he fights even now. Advait's mother was overwhelmed as she spoke about a difficult pregnancy, delayed milestones and an attack of Meningitis that shaped her son's early childhood. He was diagnosed with ADHD (Attention

deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) and Mild Mental Retardation. However, she guided Advait through his studies in a mainstream school where she herself is a teacher. He was educated in the 'Resource Room'. He could not write but was perfect with his orals. In 2016 Advait went for the first Special Olympics Camp which was held in Mumbai for Aquatics followed by attending an exclusive Aquatics training Camp in Goa in June 2017. [Read More](#)



IKEA Foundation- Lets Play for Change *Exclusive*

Young Athletes Train the Trainer Workshop @ the Amity University NOIDA UP

The Special Olympics Young Athletes Coaches training was held on 15th and 16th June 2018 at the Amity University NOIDA UP (F Block- F 3 Seminar Hall). 80 participants representing India as well as few of the neighbouring nations, namely, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka were in attendance. Mr Simon Koh, Regional President & Managing Director, Special Olympics Asia Pacific Region and Ms Rebecca Ralston Senior Manager Young Athletes, Special Olympics International, USA led the training assisted by the National Office Representatives and the Amity University Faculty. As India counts on the successes of implementing the program for over a year now, this program created a platform for expansion, reaching out to new coaches and districts in India and also to more nations to explore incorporation of the program in their respective areas.



Air Marshal Denzil Keelor , Founder & CEO SO Bharat : *“The Young Athletes Program is a well-established program in India, strengthening our endeavours of including as many persons with Intellectual disabilities, developing their mental and physical faculties to an optimum level. A unified generation seems a possibility in the foreseeable future as this program facilitates us to engage early with the population without ID. I am delighted to have members from the neighbouring nations to join us for the training and take this experience beyond national boundaries”*

Mr Simon Koh , President & Managing Director SOAP : *“The idea is to allow special children, between two and seven, to play together in a fun and inclusive environment, and to end discrimination against them. Young Athletes acts as a feeder programme for the Special Olympics sports training programmes teaching tolerance and acceptance to children along with their families, caregivers and their communities”*

[Read More](#)



SO Bharat Young Athletes [Facebook page](#)

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