

June 2018

Greetings from Special Olympics Bharat

Prepping top notch for Chicago



The grueling temperature did nothing less than pushing adrenalin of the unified football female team at the Amity University grounds in NOIDA UP . As the whistle blew action intensified. Practise drills happened, goal keeping was practised with the Coaches taking on the Athletes. While action spread across the field the fitness Coaches evaluated fitness of the team and the head Coach observed individual skills. Following soon was a match testing all the skills learnt along with team coordination.

This is a glimpse into the third training camp conducted for buidling up stamina and skill for the Unified Cup 2018 Chicago. To experience a game on a different ground the team even pratcised at another school-

The Alchon School, Mayur Vihar, New Delhi . The Day's session concluded with three 7-a-side competitions played with the footballers of the school who had also played at the National level. Although the score was 2-0 in favour of the school, the Unified team players left with a stronger grit to learn and practise more.

The constant action and the determination to win unites all the players, with and without Intellectual disabilities at a level that transcends barriers, negativity and exclusion. The team stands united as they take the Oath: **LET ME WIN, BUT IF I CANNOT WIN, LET ME BE, BRAVE IN THE EVENT** [View](#)



## Expanding Boundaries- Reaching out to the Medical fraternity to 'INCLUDE'



The Global Strategy 2016-20 makes it urgent to ensure health and physical fitness of the Special Athletes to enhance sports performance. The responsibility of the Medical fraternity deepens as it takes on to include as well as spread the word to more doctors to join in.

In conjunction with the above and at the behest of Dr Reena Kumar, Regional Clinical advisor- Special Smiles, since 2014 four MoUs have been inked and actioned, and more

underway. An advisory to principals of all the Dental Colleges and Institutes in India was issued by the DCI (Dental Council Of India) in May 2016 to provide basic Oral care and dental treatment free of charge

The parties collectively recognize the paucity and therefore the urgency of extending quality Oral health Care services to persons with Intellectual disabilities, which impacts their general health status. The services include developing research, educating health –care workers, parents and care- givers, holding training programs for the medical personnel, activate industries and alliances to overcome challenges, facilitate advocacy to spread awareness and affect sensitization.

[Directive DCI](#)

[MoUs](#)

### Reminiscing message by Dr Tim Shriver, Chairman SOI on his visit to India in October 2017:

*Don't stop until every doctor, every medical institution accepts our Athletes. It is not acceptable for injustice in healthcare in the world; it is not acceptable for persons with Intellectual Disabilities to be excluded from care; it is not acceptable to tell the mothers that their children don't deserve care; and yet it happens in every country in the world. So I ask you Clinical directors to continue to fight. You can do so much more in your institutions and Universities in your clinical settings to ensure that health justice is reality*

### Champion and Achievers- Niren Mahendra Bhai Patel Gujarat

In 2002 Niren , 14 yrs, came to the Mitra Rehabilitation centre Mogri as shy, under confident and not willing to talk to strangers. Niren was diagnosed with mild mental retardation but managed to study in a mainstream school till the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Circumstances had not much to offer to him as he had lost his mother while his father having mild ID was unable to take care of him. His brother took the responsibility to do so.

Niren has journeyed through odds in his life having overcome most and is now well positioned to call himself nothing less than an achiever. He is also a member of the district board of SO Bharat Gujarat- Anand and plays a proactive role in planning events together with the rest of the members. [Details](#)



**Announcing the exclusive YA Newsletter**



The Month of June (2018) opens a new chapter as it launches a bi annual circulation of an exclusive Newsletter by and about the SO Bharat Youth Leaders. The Editorial team comprises of the Youth leaders with and without Intellectual Disabilities compiling activities of the past and informing action in the offing following an annual action plan



**IKEA Foundation- Lets Play for Change *Exclusive***

**Iwitness Program- May 2018**



The Iwitness team from Taiwan arrived in India on Sunday 29 April 2018. The trip commenced with a meeting at the SO Bharat Delhi Office on Monday 30 April 2018 wrapping up on 4 May 2018. An introduction to the Special Olympics program was presented to the team by Ms Jennifer Hansen, Manager Young Athletes SOI, focusing on the Special Olympics Young Athletes Program, while an overview of its implementation in SO Bharat was presented by Ms Mukta Narain Thind. All members of the Iwitness team visited India as well as witnessed a program of an inclusive developmental nature for the first time.

They toured The Little Angels School, The Chetanalaya Society, Balmiki Anganwadi, Village Karondha and the Kulachi Hansraj Nursery School across the states of Haryana and New Delhi

*“They looked dull but as they struck a board with a toy, or moved through a ring, or, even got to hold a soft toy, they broke into a smile and easily connected , played, hi fived and laughed with us”- Vi Vi Chen, Coordinator, Iwitness Team , Taiwan*

## The Cheerful host- Ankit@ Village Karondha



**Ankit** stood right outside his village, as the bus arrived to personally greet his guests, shaking hands with each and every one with a calm smile which never left his face throughout their visit. It is he and his family which the Ikea Iwitness team from



Taiwan planned to visit and interact with

Ankit, 7yrs, stays in a 10x10ft room with his two elder siblings and parents in the Village Karondha, Rohtak, Haryana. His mother is physically challenged, having folded legs while his father has Intellectual disabilities.

While his two older siblings do not have Intellectual Challenges, Ankit manifested setbacks in his milestones, observed by his mother when he was around three years. He did not speak and later could not study. His concentration was limited. His mother got him examined by a doctor who told her, 'he will not be able to study like other children', although Ankit does speak now [Read More](#)

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