

December 2018

Greetings from Special Olympics Bharat

Wish You a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

UNICEF India partners with SO Bharat for the UNICEF World Children's Day 2018



A Unified 5-a-side Futsal exhibition match witnessed by approx. 850 persons including 700 Special Athletes shot up excitement levels during the UNICEF World Children's Day held on Tuesday 20 November 2018 at the Thyagraj Stadium New Delhi India. The two teams, Delhi Stars and Delhi Heroes played one match for a duration of 15 minutes, both mentored by Sachin Tendulkar while he also played with the Delhi Stars briefly.

UNICEF India celebrated the World Children's Day (WCD), with this year's theme focusing on 'Schools as a supportive environment for

Children'. Prior to the match a Panel discussion was held on the theme probing

This was SO Bharat's second participation at the UNICEF World Children's Day, the previous year having been a Unified cricket engagement with the two teams captained by Sachin Tendulkar and Justin Forsyth, UNICEF's Deputy Executive Director [Read More](#)



Global Athlete Congress – Leaders for Inclusion



Shrey Kadian, Member of the Regional Athlete Input Council (Special Olympics Asia Pacific) from India participated at the Congress. Starting with a musical ice breaker, truly the Santo Domingo style, the event allowed a tremendous exchange between the participants. Shrey returned with a plan of conducting Unified football and Unified cricket engagements in his school, Mata Bhagwanti Chadha Niketan, NOIDA, UP reaching out to the mainstream students to make the new experience memorable for them.

Special Olympics hosted a Global Athlete Congress in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic from November 10 to 17 2018 .More than 60 Athlete Leaders representing 56 nations came together to Stand Up for Inclusion and showcase to the world the power of Inclusive Leadership. The Global Athlete Congress created a platform encouraging and preparing the Special Olympics athletes to lead the way towards a more inclusive world. Representative athlete leaders from around the world congregated, sharing ideas and to develop their leadership skills, aiming to reach their fullest potential through leadership roles in Special Olympics, the community and the workplace. [Read More](#)

Educating & engaging families – Family Health Forum



“Community environment can be a reason for Intellectual Disability as well. High level of pollution causes diseases which could lead to a Disability. For eg: Using poisonous fertilizers in cultivating land can reduce protein from food grains and can be a cause for emerging diseases” – Mr Utpal Kumar Dasgupta, Environment Project Coordinator, Open Learning System Odisha. With talks held by experts from fields affecting multiple aspects of life, the Family

Health Forum held at the Nimapada block of the Puri district in Odisha became strongly relevant to about 107 persons who attended it.



Mr Bharat Majhi, Rehabilitation Professional for over 20 years stressed on 'Sports' as possibly the only source of motivating persons with Intellectual Disability, while explicating its differences with a mental illness, the two often being confused with the other. Mr Balakrushna Sabut, President of the Parent Association emphasized on the participants being a registered body who is in a position to affect adoption of Rights of the Persons With Disabilities. Athletes Pravat Baral and Purna Chandra who have participated at the Special Olympics International events shared their journey and learnings with the Parents who could see

change through sports right there! Assisting and encouraging them was none other than the SO Bharat National Trainer from Odisha- Ms Arpita Mohapatra

Lalita Mona Uarnw – Pacer from Chattisgarh



'The fact that she is preparing for a global level competition and travelling out of the country for it, has changed her parent's perspective. They were not particular about attending the Parent Teachers Meeting earlier but now attend it regularly. They ensure that she comes to the school regularly so that she doesn't fail her practises even a single day', Mr Dinesh Chauhan, Program Manager SO Bharat Chattisgarh (also a Special Educator with the Ankur Special School)

Lalita (16 yrs) was quite contented with her existence till she joined the Special Olympics program through the Ankur Special School, Korba, Chattisgarh, in 2012. Till then, for about 12 years her world was restricted to her hut which may not be noticeable, as it is a part of a cluster located deep inside the village. Her face which reflects different features decided that she should stay home, not play like the other children and not interact with people beyond her immediate family. Her parents and two siblings although understood her, stayed exhausted by

the daily fight for survival focussed on labouring for their daily meals. Lalita never knew a better world. [Read More](#)

Haryana strengthens ties with SSA to spread Unified Schools in the State



"I am very keen to introduce the concept of Unified schools in all the SSA schools in the district of Faridabad. We will be happy to conduct these programs within our premises and would like to take this forward" Ms Anita Sharma, District Coordinator Faridabad SSA Department- IED (Inclusive Education for Disabled) with approx. 140 SSA schools under her jurisdiction. The motivating presence of Ms Sharma hinted at a continuing presence of the program as well as its expansion.

With the support of Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) the state of Haryana reached out to 55 teachers, Volunteers and Coaches on 20 and 21 November 2018 at Tenderhearts Faridabad. The event created an opportunity to gear 17 new schools (7 SSA, 6 Special and 4 private) towards Inclusion through sports, introducing them to Unified Sports and encouraging them to motivate , activate and empower the Youth to take the lead. [Read more](#)

Stepping into a new Territory- Mini Javelin



For introducing Mini Javelin in Special Olympics Bharat, the first ever Coaches training Camp in the discipline was held in Bangalore Karnataka from 12-17 November 2018. 75 Coaches from 22 States of India received training along with demonstrating the same on the field engaging approx. 200 Athletes. Samarjeet Singh Malhi (Bronze Medallist in javelin at the 2013 Asian Athletics Championship) and Siddharth Patil constituted the Resource team from Amentum Sports which also sourced the equipment- the Turbojavs. In 2011 the Turbojav became an official event in Special Olympics Summer Games

worldwide. [View More](#)

National Coaching Camp - Floor hockey held at Punjab



The National Coaching Camp in Floor Hockey (Male) was held in Patiala, Punjab from 19-24 November 2018. The event saw participation of over 220 Athletes and 40 Coaches from 21 States. Sh. Rajender Singh, Chief National Hockey Coach, NIS Patiala (Dronacharya Awardee & Gold Medal winner in Hockey) [View Pics](#)



IKEA Foundation- Lets Play for Change *Exclusive*

Sports Transition - Raising the Bar



The two day residential workshop on unified sports was conducted at Frank Anthony public school New Delhi on 22nd & 23rd Nov 2018 for 61 Special Olympics Bharat Trainers from 21 states across India. Mr Scott Weaver Sr Manager Unified sports and sports education for Special Olympics North America led the training along with Mr Victor R Vaz, National Director Sports, SO Bharat. What made the training stand apart from other Unified sports trainings is the tasks given to the trainees to complete following the workshop. **Every participant would train 5 coaches and 15 athletes and partners in Unified Sports and would train 15 young athletes in transitional Sports when they return to their respective states**

Internship Program with Amity University NOIDA



Spread across the months of September, October and November 2018, 50 Amity Students set out to 18 schools to conduct the Young Athletes program with approx. 270 Young Athletes, following a roster created for the purpose. The pilot study concluded successfully paving way for a potential permanent Internship program with the students of the Amity University NOIDA UP



DR AJIT KUMAR, Asst Professor ASPESS & Sports, Amity University *It was a learning experience for Amity*

trainees to work with Special Olympics as interns. It's just a small step towards the larger goal of quality education and motor skill development program for children with special needs

SWEETY SINGH, Intern Amity University NOIDA

It's my first time with special children and I learned from them how to live life with confidence and honesty. They have so much capabilities. We only need to support them. My task was to teach them balance, walking jumping, running. It's a great opportunity that I got to do something for them and learn from them. Happy to work with them. At the end their one smile made my day making me feel so blessed.



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