

November 2018

Greetings from Special Olympics Bharat

At the Special Olympics Andorra

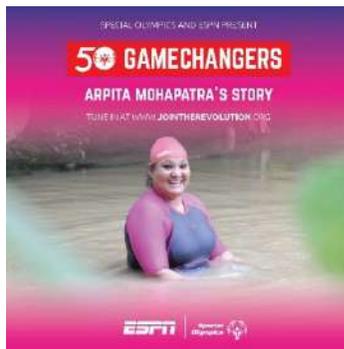


Balakrishna is 22 years old. He has intellectual disability and low hearing. His favorite sport is badminton and his first opportunity to go abroad was in 2013 when he traveled to Australia for the Inaugural Special Olympics Regional Games and bagged two medals. He was selected to participate in Los Angeles Special Olympics World Summer Games 2015 held in LA USA where he won two silver medals as well as in Spain in 2015 where he won 1 medal. "He plays better than his own coaches", according to Dasaratha Ramadu, Director, Community-Based Rehabilitation. At the Andorra Games this year he returned with a Gold Medal in Badminton (singles)

Balakrishna has been practicing badminton since he was 14 years old. "I have liked sports all my life. RDT came to my village one day and gave us an opportunity to play. After that I started studying in Motukupalli Inclusive School, a center that welcomes children with visual, hearing and intellectual disabilities"

The 2018 Special Olympics Games took place from 4th to 7th October in Andorra la Vella and La Seu d'Urgell. It is for the second time that Special Athletes from the RDT (AP India) have participated in Badminton at this event .1500 athletes with intellectual disabilities took part in the competitions in Andorra la Vella and La Seu d'Urgell. The 2018 edition was the 11th edition of the event which takes place every two years.15 nationalities participated with nearly 500 volunteers mobilized for the event featuring athletics, indoor football, swimming, gymnastics, badminton, table tennis, judo , handball, Basketball, cycling, hockey, and tennis

ESPN Covers Arpita Mohapatra – Coaching to transform and save lives



An ESPN film Crew arrived in Odisha, India on 4 September 2018 to film Arpita. Paul Molin, Peter Davis, Trent Kamerman and Nick Balough travelled to various locations of significance to Arpita's participation in the program and interviewed Athletes and parents/guardians and community level volunteers mentored by her. The reason for featuring Arpita in '50 Game Changers' was to highlight her extraordinary contribution to the movement as a Coach. She trains children and adults with and without Intellectual Disabilities in swimming not only to compete in events but also to equip them to save their lives in a flood situation which the state is very prone to. [Video](#)

Play Unified Learn Unified supported by SNF launches in Uttar Pradesh

The State of UP celebrated the ongoing auspicious season of festivities with the launch of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) project on 13 October 2018 demonstrating its commitment to Inclusion of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities. Mathura open doors to more Schools to expand Unified engagements holding a two day event at the Vastalyagram Sports Complex, Vrindaban



Mr. Shishu Pal, Education Director Samvid Gurukulam Senior Secondary School: *"I had never heard about such a wonderful game. It is very exciting to see special athletes being treated as equal and not with sympathy. They are viewed through their achievements and sports skills"*

In the presence of approx. 40 Unified Partners and 40 Athletes, friendly Unified Basketball matches were played by 4 teams each of 8 players.

Sushantho Bose – Power Lifting @ World Games Abu Dhabi 2019- Overcoming Odds



Always wearing a smile and speaking courteously is how Sushantho Bose, 23 yrs, appears to be. His IQ was assessed only two years back which put to rest speculation on his remote memory and inability to make simple calculations. He was assessed with a low IQ with mild to moderate Intellectual Challenges. Belonging to a middle class broken home, living with his grandparents in Bangalore, and his mother earning a living in Bahrain silenced him, gradually driving him towards unacceptable habits. That was his solution to rejection which he faced a multiple times through his childhood from a variety of schools. [Read More](#)

Building Capacity



A Regional (Asia- Pacific) Family and Sibling Workshop was held in Singapore from 28-30 September 2018 aiming to expand active involvement of more sections of the society in the Special Olympics movement. Along with siblings of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities, parents of persons without Intellectual Disabilities were invited to explore more potentials of igniting sensitivity and promoting Inclusion. Ms Uma Chopra, teacher of the Tagore International School

New Delhi and parent of a Special Olympics Youth leader without Intellectual Disabilities and Ms Rekha Das, sibling of a special Athlete from Assam represented SO Bharat at the workshop. Both returned having gained essential learnings and expertise to map onward action to spread awareness and acceptance of persons with Intellectual Disabilities



16 participants from 9 Programs, Bangladesh, Bharat, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Brunei, Singapore, and Taipei, participated at the **Special Olympics Asia Pacific Motor Activities Training Program (MATP)** held from 7-8 October 2018 in Singapore. Dr Eleni Rossides, MATP Advisor and SOI Board member led the sessions aimed to prepare Athletes -- including those with severe or profound intellectual disability and significant physical disabilities -- for sport-specific activities appropriate for their ability levels. Dr Sudeep Saxena, Physiotherapist, who attended the Introductory session held in September 2016, attended this workshop as well which provided an advanced training to the participants



Consequent to a partnership formalized between Special Olympics Asia Pacific and the Asian Football Confederation and Football Association of Singapore an **AFC C Certificate Course** was held from 22 – 26 October 2018 at Singapore. This was first of a 2-part course. 15 coaches from SO Bangladesh, Bharat, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Nepal, New Zealand, Fiji and New Papua Guinea participated. accredited as coaches and conduct Inclusive football development program from 2018 – 2021. Md. Khurram and Samantha D’Costa from Special Olympics Bharat attended the training

[View](#)



IKEA Foundation- Lets Play for Change *Exclusive*

Building Partnerships for sustainability- MoU with LPU Punjab



In a Memorandum of Understanding signed between SO Bharat and the Lovely Professional University Jalandhar Punjab, the University commits to strengthen Special Olympics endeavours to promote Inclusion through sports. They would provide support of their faculty and facilities to conduct programs including incorporating an Internship program wherein the students would actively participate in conducting Young Athletes activities. A team of students from the university will visit various special school twice a week for 1 year aiming to train young athletes

consistently .The MoU was entered on 25 October 2018 for a period of three years at the University Campus in the presence of officials of the University, of the SO Bharat Punjab State Chapter , the SO Bharat National office and Mr Dipak Natali , Vice President , Special Olympics Asia Pacific Region. The document was signed by Mr Victor R Vaz , National Sports Director and Dr Monica Gulati, Registrar ,Lovely Professional University

A memorable Day with the CFO IKEA Foundation- Hyderabad



Mr Stelios Kyriakakis , CFO , IKEA Foundation visited the Community Centre at Hyderabad along with three representatives of the IKEA Foundation in India on 15 October 2018. The team spent 3 hrs at the centre joining the Young athletes in the fun and drills [View more](#)

Happy to hear from you

Ms. Cyena Pegado, I/C Headmistress, Fairyland High School, Goa- We were introduced to Special



Olympics Bharat by one of the Schools for the Differently abled back in 2011. One of the aims of Fairyland School is inclusion, so we were skeptical to join the movement specialized only in training special athletes. However, on meeting the Area Director then, Mr. Victor Vaz we understood that we had much to learn and our Athletes would be the beneficiaries. Over the years, through continuous training of coaches and athletes, we have seen a transformation in our Athletes as their abilities and strengths were discovered. The Athletes are now, more confident, skilled and independent. This change motivated other parents of children with intellectual disabilities to enroll their children for sports activities.

With the recent introduction of Young Athletes Program, there is an overwhelming involvement of the parents to include these activities in their routines. The enthusiastic parents have prepared their very own kits using whatever resources available to them. This kind of involvement is a dream come true for us at Fairyland, as we aim to educate the parents and the community at large by conducting various workshops.

We are happy that Special Olympics Bharat is an inclusive organization and we are fortunate to be a part of it. We have successfully conducted Unified 5 a side football match for our Sports Day which was well received by the parents and well-wishers.

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