

October 2018

Greetings from Special Olympics Bharat

International Unified Girls Netball Tournament - Puducherry

Supported by the Lions Clubs International and the Aruna Abhey Oswal Trust, Special Olympics Puducherry hosted the first International Unified Girls Netball Tournament on 1st and 2nd September 2018 at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium. The Triangular series witnessed participation of SO Serendib with two teams from SO Bharat following the double round robin league format. Each team had 5 Athletes with Intellectual disabilities and 4 athletes without Intellectual Disabilities. Team SO Bharat included players from the states of Maharashtra, Delhi, Chandigarh, Punjab and Puducherry.



Ms. Ratchana Singh, Superintendent of Police, and Ms. Narmatha, Indian volleyball player from Puducherry led the torch run that started from the Gandhi Statue on Goubert Avenue on the beach culminating at the Opening Ceremony of the Games. On reaching the venue, it was handed over to the Chief Guest Professor Shree.Gurmeet Singh, Vice Chancellor of the Pondicherry University, who lit the cauldron with the dignitaries and athletes declaring the games open



Prior to the Competitions a Train the Trainer workshop was held for approx. 50 Coaches from all over India from 29-31 August 2018. Mr Coen Van Putten ,Manager Sports, Special Olympics Asia Pacific Region led the sessions along with Mr Victor R Vaz- National Sports Director, SO Bharat and Dr P V Shelvam- Professor Physical Education Annamalai University. The training rolled out the updated rules and regulations of Special Olympics Unified Netball to create a specialized Cadre of Coaches equipped with enhanced knowledge about the sport



The Honorable Minister for Social Welfare, Puducherry, Mr. Kandasamy, announced the Games closed on 2 September 2018 before a crowd of 1500 at the Rajiv Gandhi Indoor stadium. The ceremony was witnessed by Mr Dipak Natali, Vice President Special Olympics Asia Pacific and Mr Coen Van Putten amongst other distinguished guests and passionate supporters of Special Olympics
Conquering the hills



A Unified team of 9 bikers including 5 Special Athletes and 4 Unified partners from SO Bharat – Himachal Pradesh participated in the prologue race of the 14th EDITION OF Hero Cycles MTB Himalaya 2018 challenge organized by the HASTPA. The event was held on 27 September 2018 at the Ridge, Shimla.

The Athletes had the rare honour of leading the cyclists at the start of the event, flagged off by the Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sri Jai Ram Thakur. Out of the 5 participating Athletes, two, namely, Shubham and Raghunath are preparing for Cycling at the Special Olympics World Summer Games to be held in Abu Dhabi in March 2019

Termed as Asia's biggest cycling race as many as 81 riders from 14 countries participated in the 10-day and 640-km cycling challenge which ended in Dharamshala, in HP, on October 6 [More](#)

It may be recalled that Himachal Adventure Sports & Tourism Promotion Association (HASTPA) and SO Bharat Himachal Pradesh entered an MoU in June 2018 in the presence of His Excellency Acharya Dev Vrat Governor of the State.



Spreading Joy and fun through Sports- Tamil Nadu Regional Sports Festival



Supported by the Rotary Club, Special Olympics Bharat- Tamil Nadu organized the Southern Region games at the SCMS Girls higher Secondary School, Sivakasi , Virudhunagar on 24 and 25 August 2018. Nearly 600 Special Athletes from the districts of Virudunagar, Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli, Tutucorin ,Sivagangai and Ramanathapuram participated in Athletics ,Bocce ,Throw ball and Kabaddi.

The Youth leaders step up in Gujarat

The Anand District Local Level Special Olympics Committee and the Youth Club of Pintos' High School organized the R-Word Campaign on 25 September 2018 in honour of EKS day. The students from Class 6 to Class 10 of the school as well as the students from Gurukrupa Residential Special School participated in the event. To orient & engage the authorities of the School the Managing Trustee of Pintos' High School, Mrs Maria Pinto was invited as the Chief Guest.



In this Campaign, at the beginning the youth leaders of Pintos' School gave an introduction about Special Olympics and sensitized the students to the right language. The youth coordinator of Gurukrupa School

shared true life stories of the Special Athletes, followed by few Athletes sharing their experiences with Special Olympics. They even spoke about their creative abilities like making Rakhis, Bracelets, Decorative Clay Lamps, computer knowhow etc. Furthermore the students made posters to spread the message of Respect, Inclusion, Friendship, and Unity for all

Reinforcing the Youth for higher roles

The month of September took the youth leaders (Unified pairs) from multiple SO National Programs through enriching experiences through multinational and multi-cultural exchanges, at workshops and a forum held in Shanghai, China and Baku, Azerbaijan. While Simran Sahni (Amity University NOIDA) and Shrey Kadian (Mata Bhagwanti Chadha Niketan NOIDA) represented India in Shanghai, Mahi Dheri (Apeejay School Pitampura) and Rithik Hukku participated in the Global Youth Forum in Baku.



The Special Olympics Global Youth Leadership Forum was held from 24-28 September 2018 at Baku, Azerbaijan witnessing participation of 120 youth leaders with and without Intellectual Disabilities along with 100 Educators, mentors and Program representatives from 45 countries. The Forum created a platform for the youth leaders to develop and expand their understanding of how they can drive social inclusion in their country, using the Unified Sports and the Unified School Models where students lead to create a school environment conducive to Inclusion

Dr Timothy Shriver, Chairman Special Olympics, *“Our job is to listen to them (the youth) and trust them. The one danger that exists in the world is the danger of attitudes of ‘Mass destruction’ and the one solution to overcoming it is to listen to the young people, the generation that wants a Unified future. Empower them to lead their respective nations in the 50 years ahead”*



Earlier in the month Special Olympics East Asia organized a Youth Summit in Shanghai around the theme “*Choose to include, Choose to Lead*”. Youth Leaders from all the SO East Asia Region (SO Macau, SO Chinese Taipei, SO Mongolia SO China, SO Macau and SO Hong Kong), SO Asia Pacific (SO Bharat) SO North America (SO Colorado and SO Rhode Island) got an opportunity to interact and collectively take part in sessions and activities held during the workshop

Changing the Game- Neha Kumari- SO Bharat Jharkhand



Neha Kumari Razak's favourite colour is pink. She dreams of possessing a Mobile phone and a pink dress. She cannot afford either but believes that the day is not far when she would. At 16 yrs (Year of Birth- 2002) her age pushes her to dream big and small. Neha continues to be part of the family struggle with a total monthly income of INR 9000. Her father is a daily wager (250per day), working at a laundry shop and her mother is a domestic help on a monthly salary of INR 2500. They stay in a one-room rented accommodation, having access to a community toilet

Neha was an overweight child, extremely lethargic and inactive, never listening to anyone. Her parents approached a doctor who informed them that she would need special attention owing to a low IQ, diagnosing her with learning disabilities. [Read More](#)



IKEA Foundation- Lets Play for Change *Exclusive*

Taking development to the tribal terrains - Chattisgarh



Placing the Young Athletes Program in a regular schedule, preceded by multiple efforts to establish the importance of the program has not been a task free of challenges. Being essentially a tribal area with dearth of the basic amenities and most of the elders not being educated themselves, introducing the Young Athletes Program took time to gather momentum.

Today, however, it is seen as a great accomplishment across the Chattisgarh districts of Janjgir Champa, Balod, Bemetra, Sarguja and Mungeli. The Young Athletes Program has become a regularized activity across multiple Aanganwadis, play schools, pre-primary and primary schools. The program has injected energy and

meaning into the activities designed for children with its vibrancy and profundity. More schools have expressed the desire to add this program in their schedule as well.

I witness – at West Bengal



The success of the Special Olympics Young Athletes Program supported by the IKEA Foundation has grown from strength to strength in recent times, and to witness the work that goes into the Program, representatives from IKEA Canada and Japan visited West Bengal in the month of September 2018 led by Ms Rebecca Ralston (Director – Young Athletes, SOI). The team visited the Noble Mission School, Manovikas Kendra, Vishwa Bharti University along with visiting the family of Anirban, an athlete with Autism and few more.



The visit to the Village Nupur, 7 KMs from Santiniketan, was of special interest. This was a community (then a village) adopted by Shri Rabindranath Tagore (the first non-European to win the Nobel prize in Literature in 1913) for overall development. The community welcomed the team in a traditional style and demonstrated Yoga by elderly womenfolk of the community. They were then escorted to the playground where some children who had received training by the students of Viswa Bharati University gathered

Interacting with the students of the Physical Education Department and Special Educators provided a hands on scenario of how grassroot implementation. A meeting with the District Administration explained the networking that helps Special Olympics be the strongest link in promoting sports for the special abled [Watch Video](#)

www.specialolympicsbharat.org | [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), SO Bharat Young Athletes
[Facebook page](#) and [You tube](#)