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- Eunice Kennedy Shriver



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Greetings from Special Olympics Bharat

Detroit! WE ARE COMING



The final Camp is fast approaching its end as the teammates practise individual and competitive skills furiously. Says MM Khurram, *“There is a judicious balance between practises, rest and prep for a long travel ahead of the team. I am planning for them to play with different teams to enhance skill and confidence. None of all this can be compromised at this juncture. Journeying through the practises, a great off-the-field bonding is emerging within the team which will also impact their on-field performance. Needless to say we hope to see the friendships and Inclusion thrive beyond the event”*. MM Khurram is the SO Bharat National trainer who has trained the team right through all the levels, having specifically received unified football training through the Tottenham Hotspur Foundation (THF) amongst others. The camp is being held at Manav Rachna International Institute of Research & Studies, Faridabad, Haryana

The Special Olympics Unified Cup 2022 presented by Toyota will show the world how the power of sport builds and shapes a diverse community that unites and empowers people of all abilities, from all backgrounds. In July 2022, Detroit will welcome over 300 footballers from over 20 nations to compete in football (soccer)—the world’s most popular sport. The Special Olympics Unified Cup is slated for 31 July –



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6 August, 2022 and Special Olympics Unified Sports® is what makes it uniquely inclusive: Teams are comprised of footballers with and without intellectual disabilities playing together. The Special Olympics Unified Cup features competition broadcast to hundreds of millions of viewers across the globe. The week-long event will showcase athletic performances on the pitch, and highlight stereotype-defying stories off the pitch—changing minds and opening hearts through transformational inclusion.

SO Bharat has prepared a Unified female football team comprising of 11 Athletes and Unified Partners from 6 states of India. The Indian delegation is set to leave for the games venue in the early hours of 30 July 2022. The 2022 Detroit event will be the second-ever tournament in this single-sport series. The first edition of the tournament was held in 2018 in Chicago.

The resolution to Include firms as new partners join SO Bharat



Dr Nadda, Chairperson SO Bharat with Dr Amit Bhalla, Vice President, MREI & team



Dr Nadda with Dr Haritma Chopra , Principal Maitreyi College & team

The final preparatory Camp is underway at the Manav Rachna International Institute of Research & Studies that harbours comprehensive facilities of education matching global standards. **Dr. Amit Bhalla**, Vice-President MREI (Manav Rachna Educational Institutions) while addressing the dignitaries, guests and athletes said, “Manav Rachna started with our visionary founder Dr. O P Bhalla’s dream of creating better human beings who work towards nation building. Our learning for special needs started from schools, where we focus on creating a special environment for special children as every special child needs a special society which believes in inclusive education. Manav Rachna stands committed for collaborating with the government to support in every capacity at any hour for taking the next leap of inclusivity in the country”

Before this camp, a preparatory camp was also held at the Maitreyi College, New Delhi. “The vision of inclusive society can be realised when events of such stature are organised at international and national levels. I wish to congratulate the dedicated team of SO Bharat working under the dynamic leadership of Dr Mallika Nadda for undertaking initiatives to bring change in the society and make it a better place to live in for all. We at Maitreyi college, believe that this is what we need, more events like this, because no one could tell them apart when they were playing together or dancing together. They were all simply happy; they



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were all just children, and that is all that matters. And this is how we build an inclusive society that welcomes everyone. And believe me when I say, this is only the beginning. I Convey my best wishes to the team members representing India at Special Olympics , Unified Cup, Detroit 2022. I am sure they will bring laurels to our country”- **Dr. Haritma Chopra**, Officiating Principal, Maitreyi College Delhi

Firstbeat syncs with SO Bharat with a common understanding of the sports and health harmony



Kishan Kumar, Sales and Technical Incharge at the Gentech Marketing and Distribution Pvt. Ltd had his first experience with SO Bharat during the Preparatory camp held in Delhi in the month of June. The company introduced another dimension to sports technology as is known. Firstbeat is an organization that looks into Advanced performance analytics for stress, recovery and exercise. According to them the health of the athletes is as crucial as their performance, and there is no reason for the fact to be any different for those with special needs. At the Preparatory camp held at Maitreyi College, Firstbeat assessed training, recovery, and performance with comprehensive physiological analysis, of all the team members.



Engaging with the team walked Kishan through thoughts that often get drowned in the day-to-day transactions. The energy, zeal and the determination that unfolded on the football field exposed him to unknown abilities. Kishan shared, “ I will be happy to be part of an inclusive world where everyone is treated, honoured & respected equally regardless of their race, religion & gender. Our opinion about an inclusive world also involves people having a sense of belongingness, an affection

to embrace the cultural differences, diversities and growing together as a whole”. Firstbeat was delighted that the Athletes were supportive and responsive. “We didn’t have to put any extra effort, our camaraderie with them built on the very first day and later on they followed all the instructions given from our team to carry out all the procedures efficiently”- said Kishan.



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The Haryana State Government felicitates the Special Olympics Bharat Athletes along with others with the prestigious Bhim Award

SO Bharat Haryana Bhim Awardees



Isha Khasa



Rahul Kumar



Sube Singh

Isha Khasa, Rahul Kumar and Sube Singh, medalists from the Special Olympics World Summer Games 2015 and 2019 were amongst the 52 recipients of the Bhim Award presented by the Haryana State Government at a ceremony held on 23 June 2022 at the Indradhanush auditorium, Panchkula, Haryana. The ceremony took place after a long gap owing to the pandemic, felicitating all the awardees from the past two years as well. The Bhim award is the highest sports honor of the state comprising of cash, citation, blazer, tie and a scarf. It is an annual recognition felicitating eight mainstream athletes, two Paralympians, one Special Olympics Athlete and one from Deaflympics.

Since 2014 seven athletes from SO Bharat have received the honour that positions them at par with the mainstream athletes of the state. All seven will be paid lifetime pension as part of the recognition. The state Govt with several initiatives for persons with Intellectual Disabilities reflects the acceptance of differences by the various communities within the state.



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On the path of ‘Accepting’



We hear wedding bells as Ankush Saha, a Golfer and a silver medalist from the Abu Dhabi Games 2019 is prepping for a companionship of a lifetime. He recently got engaged to Alopa, also from the city of Bangalore “Ankush’s engagement is like a miracle for us. It’s very real, and yet almost unbelievable. We are thrilled to see the budding romance, the sense of growing closeness, anticipation and joy in Ankush. At the same time, we are aware of the challenges; the most significant being Ankush’s limited understanding of the multiple aspects of marriage. Thus, we are taking him through a counselling process with an experienced psychiatrist on one hand, and on the other slowly, in very small doses, talking to him about specific aspects of his forthcoming wedding” – Ms Champa Saha, Parent of Ankush.

SO Bharat signs the first MoU with the Central Coalfields Ltd



The Central Coalfields Limited, entered an MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with SO Bharat to support regular sports training of around 500 Athletes in June 2022. Two Sports centers will be supported by the Coal producer of India in Jharkhand for three years. The agreement follows the National Health fest held on the World



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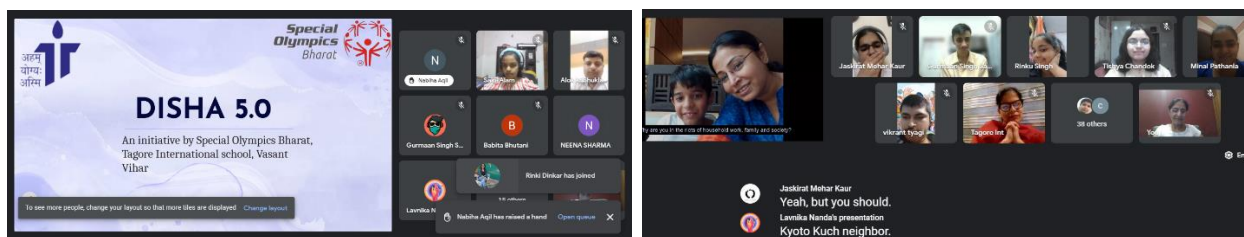
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Health Day 2022, as part of SO Bharat's participation in the nation's Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The MoU was inked by Sri Ladi Balakrishna, General Manager (SD & CSR), CCL and Air Cmde LK Sharma Executive Director, SO Bharat. The event bringing hope and joy, was followed by the National Coaching Camp – Badminton, also held in the city from 26 June to 1 July 2022. [News Coverage](#)

Disha 4.0 unfolds the continuing Inclusive journey of Tagore International School, Vasant Vihar, Delhi



'Nature' that was the theme of Disha 5.0, meant different things to different people. Revan Kaushal, 19 yrs, student of Tamanna Special School and Jivika Umesh, 13 yrs, a student of Tagore International School, Vasant Vihar (TIS-VV), New Delhi, both Unified Champion Schools, danced in perfect coordination. The unified performers met 7-8 times online and offline to practice in School. "It was a lot of fun" said Jivika who had never engaged with a person with an Intellectual Disability. While Jivika is a classical dancer, a passion for music and dance drives Revan to match step with step. Ms Malvika, dance teacher at Tagore, found little difference in training Revan and anyone else without an Intellectual Disability *"It is important to understand every trainee's ability and then plan the steps. I avoided as much as possible to change steps frequently, to ensure a smooth performance,"* said she.

Separately, Tishya, a Youth leader from TIS-VV, has attended the event earlier but this edition placed her on a lead role, offering an experience of team building and public speaking. *"Accepting people as they are is the way to go. It is not differences but unique abilities that we need to recognize and respect"*. Also, Jazz (Jaskirat Mehar Kaur), a Special Olympics Bharat Basketball Athlete and a professional photographer sat on the panel of judges to assess the photography entries at the event.

Disha is a fun packed event robust with unified competitions, organized by Team Saksham of TIS-VV. Ms Uma Chopra, their youth Coordinator from the school assured that Disha is here to stay, deepening the element of Inclusion with each passing year. The 3-day long annual event held virtually in June 2022, gravitated communities from all over India and beyond.



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Partnering for a better and inclusive health care



TATA MD who joined hands with SO Bharat during the National Health fest invited the SO Bharat team to familiarize with a project that resonates with the Gates foundation funded 'Child and Maternal health care'. The Digital Nerve Centre (DiNC), an initiative of TATA MD, is all about making health care accessible, available and affordable. Following the visit SO Bharat would like to explore the possibility of

training their pediatric consultants as clinical director. A data of beneficiaries across the two districts of Kolar and Tumkur will be identified to pilot a collaborative program, expanding to other districts thereafter.

Subject Matter Expert for the upcoming Berlin Games 2023, from India



Sulekha Rana, Director Sports, SO Bharat was invited by SOI to execute SO connect during the Berlin National Games (test games) held from 16th - 25th June 2022. This experience will equip her to provide suitable technical support and process management skill for smooth operations, competition and information management related with Equestrian, specifically. Her role as a SO Connect 'Subject Matter Expert' (SME) is to advise and support the upcoming 2023 Berlin World Games Local Organizing Committee, the Special

Olympics Technical Directors, and the volunteer SO Connect Operators in daily competition management operations. At this event she also assisted the game's Technical Delegates (TD) and Competition Managers with divisioning, scheduling, results in entry, and report generation throughout the course of the competition.

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