



Special Olympics Bharat's Participation at the Unified Cup 2022 Detroit USA **A REPORT**



Special Olympics is dedicated to promoting social inclusion through shared sports training and competition experiences.

Unified Sports joins people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team. It was inspired by a simple principle: training together and playing together is a quick path to **friendship and understanding.**



Photo Courtesy : SOI Photoshelter



Special Olympics Athlete Oath

*Let me win ,but if I cannot win
let me be brave in the attempt*



INDEX

Preparatory Camps.....	5 - 11
<i>First, Second & Third Prep Camps</i>	
Send Off Ceremony.....	12
Unified Cup in Detroit	13-20
<i>Opening Ceremony</i>	
<i>Competitions played by India</i>	
<i>Closing Ceremony</i>	
<i>Meeting with Dr Tim Shriver</i>	
<i>Performance Station</i>	
<i>Healthy Athletes</i>	
<i>Recreational Engagements</i>	
Arrival back in India.....	21-23
Coverage – Media and social media.....	24 -25
Building-up on events.....	26-29



Executive Summary

The Special Olympics Unified Cup 2022 presented by Toyota, was held in Detroit, Michigan, USA from 31 July to 6 August 2022. Detroit welcomed 22 teams (12 female & 10 Male teams) and over 300 footballers from 21 nations to compete in football (soccer)—the world’s most popular sport. The event featured competition broadcast to hundreds of millions of viewers across the globe. Through the support of Sports Authority of India, SO Bharat was represented by a Unified female football team comprising of 6 Athletes and 5 Unified Partners from 9 states of India.



The Special Olympics Unified Cup presented by Toyota and modelled after the FIFA World Cup™, concluded a week-long international celebration of inclusion at Keyworth Stadium, awarding the championship trophy to the top male and female teams competing in the football (soccer) competition. A Celebrity Match kicked off before the

women’s and men’s Division 1 Finals that had Papiya Murmu, Athlete from SO Bharat playing with one of the teams.

Special Olympics Unified Sports® is what makes it uniquely inclusive: Teams are comprised of footballers with and without intellectual disabilities playing together. The week-long event showcased athletic performances on the pitch, highlighting stereotype-defying stories off the pitch—changing minds and opening hearts through transformational inclusion. The 2022 Detroit event was the second-ever tournament in this single-sport series. The first edition of the tournament was held in 2018 in Chicago.



The team from India, supported by the Sports Authority of India, attended a selection and two preparatory camps before departing from India on 30 July 2022. Team SO Bharat returned with a Bronze Medal after having played five matches in all. India played its first match against UAE winning 2:1 while lost to Burkina Faso and Mexico in Group C and in the semi-finals against Namibia. The final match between SO Bharat and Serendib concluded with India securing the third position in division three. The team returned to India on 8 August 2022 receiving a befitting welcome on 9 August 2022.

In the words of Dr Nadda: The Unified Cup once again amplified the message of Inclusion to a crescendo, unfolding over 20 teams coming from diametrically diverse cultures, making Detroit, home to the week-long event, an outstanding potboiler of sorts. Inclusion is for sure although, slow. Although the event has concluded, the attitude of Inclusion must go on. I

request the media to be our proactive partners in spreading the word to end discrimination and promote Inclusion of Persons with Intellectual Disability.

Preparatory Camps

Following a Selection Camp held in Gujarat in April 2022, two preparatory camps were held in Delhi in June and July 2022, before the contingent left for Detroit, the venue of the global event

First Preparatory camp at Gujarat

The first Preparatory camp was held at Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University Gandhinagar Gujarat from 19-28 April 2022. 8 Athletes, 5 Unified Partners, 3 Coaches ,1 Physiotherapist and 2 escorts participated from nine states, namely, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala, Pondicherry, Gujarat, Delhi and Haryana.



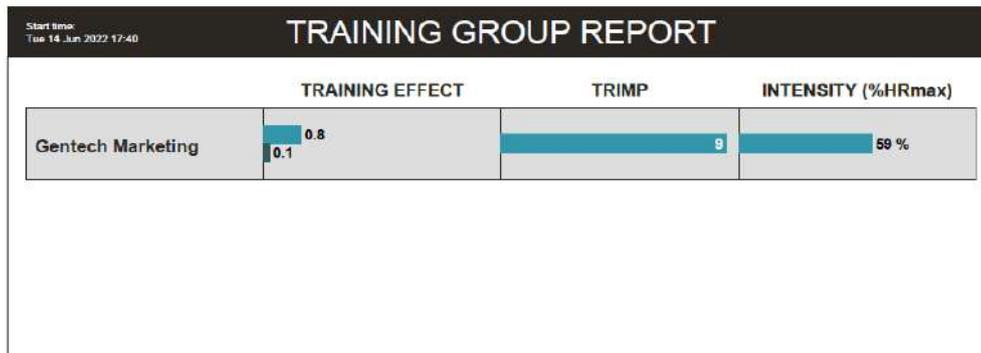
The Camp followed two selection trial camps held earlier, with the first one from 5-11 March 2022 and the other held exclusively for the Unified Partners from 18-20 March 2022, both having being held at the Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat

Second Preparatory Camp at Delhi

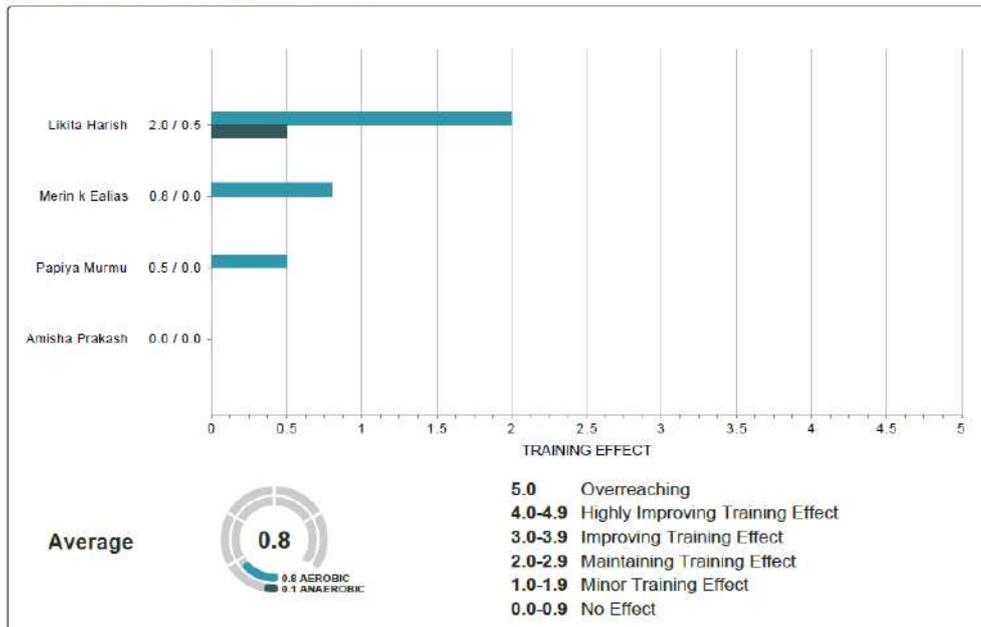
The second preparatory camp was held at the Maitreyi College, Chanakyapuri, Delhi from 10-19 June in 2022. 6 Athletes, 5 Unified Partners, 3 Coaches, 1 Physiotherapist and 2 escorts were present. The Camp held daily warm up and practise sessions in the morning honing individual skills across running, passing etc. while the evenings witnessed match practises. A Safeguarding session as well as Healthy Athletes screenings across oral care, fitness of the feet and general health awareness were conducted during the course of the camp as well



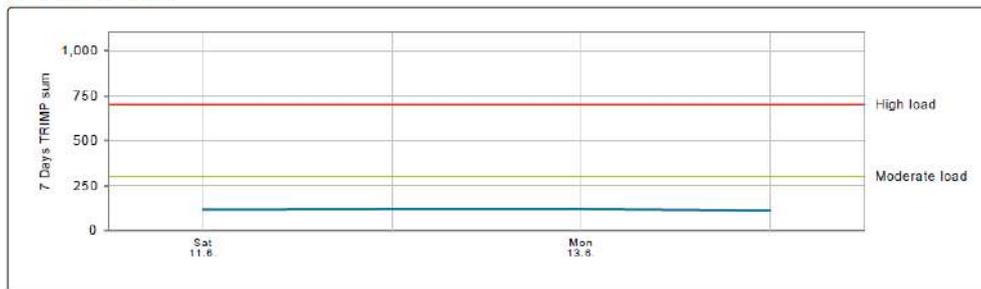
Training Group Report prepared by Firstbeat – 14 June 2022



TRAINING EFFECT DISTRIBUTION



TRAINING LOAD



Name	Duration	Time in training zones	Intensity (%HRmax)		Training Load		
			Avg.	Max.	EPOC	TRIMP	TRIMP (7 days)
Gentech Marketing	00:10:33	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 20%;"> <p>0% 1% 20% 44% 21%</p> </div> <div style="width: 60%;"> </div> <div style="width: 20%;"> <p>00:00:00 00:00:00 00:02:10 00:04:37 00:02:11</p> </div> </div>	59 %	70 %	11	9	112
Likita Harish	00:13:15	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 20%;"> <p>0% 4% 51% 20% 10%</p> </div> <div style="width: 60%;"> </div> <div style="width: 20%;"> <p>00:00:00 00:00:00 00:08:04 00:13:20 00:01:15</p> </div> </div>	70 %	80 %	26	17	113
Merin k Ealias	00:13:15	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 20%;"> <p>0% 0% 4% 74% 22%</p> </div> <div style="width: 60%;"> </div> <div style="width: 20%;"> <p>00:00:00 00:00:00 00:00:30 00:06:44 00:02:52</p> </div> </div>	63 %	72 %	10	11	79
Papiya Murmu	00:13:15	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 20%;"> <p>0% 0% 0% 41% 22%</p> </div> <div style="width: 60%;"> </div> <div style="width: 20%;"> <p>00:00:00 00:00:00 00:00:00 00:05:24 00:03:50</p> </div> </div>	55 %	71 %	6	6	67
Amisha Prakash	00:02:30	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 20%;"> <p>0% 0% 0% 28%</p> </div> <div style="width: 60%;"> </div> <div style="width: 20%;"> <p>00:00:00 00:00:00 00:00:00 00:01:00 00:00:42</p> </div> </div>	49 %	55 %	1	0	132



HA Screenings: Fit Feet, Special Smiles & General Health Check-up



Safeguarding Session



The 10-day football training camp of the out-bound Unified female football team culminated in an all-inclusive celebration, made possible with the support of The Lalit, on 18 June 2022 at the Maitreyi

College, Delhi. **Dr. Haritma Chopra, principal Maitreyi College**, said. "The vision of inclusive society can be realised when events of such stature are organised at international and national levels. I believe this is all we need, more events like this, because no one could tell them apart when they were playing together or dancing as the event came to a close". The finale held a 7-a-side Unified football demo match between two Unified teams that had the students of Maitreyi College, SO Bharat Youth leaders and the LGBTQI+ community members playing alongside the Athletes. Returning to the grounds after a long spell held everyone together in excitement and cheer, despite the unrelenting humidity. An indoor ceremony followed highlighting the amazing connections possible through sports.

The event coincided with the LGBT Pride Month celebrations made possible with the heart-warming support of The Lalit (Bharat Hotels), introduced to SO Bharat during the course of the National Health fest held in April 2022. "Inclusion is at the heart of all our endeavours at The Lalit Suri Hospitality Group," remarked Keshav Suri, Executive Director at the Lalit Suri Hospitality Group, present at the event. "We celebrate 'Pride' every day and take initiatives to embrace, empower and mainstream the communities at various intersections via various projects and initiatives throughout the year





Certificate awarded by Dr Jyotsna Suri to Patrick, Coach Asst, in the presence of Dr Mallika Nadda.



Celebrations enjoyed by the participating Athletes & the students of Maitreyi College

"The camp was fantastic. We learn a lot, and I'm excited to be a part of the India team. During the camp, we learnt a lot, improved our methods, and had a lot of fun during our training sessions," **Papiya, SO Bharat Athlete from West Bengal** said, before adding, "It was extremely wonderful, and now I'm going to practise everything I've learnt every single day to further better myself "

"Today was amazing, playing alongside all these players, LGBTQI+ community members, it was surreal. We also won the game, so, it was extra special. We are all very excited about our trip to the USA and we are defiantly going to return home with a gold," said **Nikita, a SO Bharat Unified Partner from Maharashtra**



#TOGETHERUNSTOPPABLE

Third & Final Preparatory camp at Haryana

From 20 -29 July, the final preparatory Camp was held at the Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies, Faridabad, Haryana. 6 Athletes, 5 Unified Partners and 2 Coaches and 1 physiotherapist were present. The last 10 days before the departure to Detroit focused on upgrading individual skills as well as practising competitions with various football teams to upscale team coordination and strategy.



The Unified Football Female team at Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies, Faridabad



Dr Mallika Nadda and Dr Amit Bhalla, mapping a path of Inclusion

Send Off Ceremony

SO Bharat hosted a Send-off ceremony for the Unified female football team at the India International Center, New Delhi today. The event was graced by **Shri Virender Kumar**, Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt of India, who presided as Chief guest wishing luck to the Special Athletes. He was joined by many other distinguished guests, including the SO Bharat officials.



A letter by the Hon'ble Minister wishing the team luck

Team SO Bharat just before leaving to take off for the Unified Cup 2022 Detroit **Top**: at the India International Center; **Below**: At the Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi



"The energy and bonding that I have observed within the team is striking and I would like to reach out to India and beyond, to open your hearts and accept people who are different. This is the underlying meaning of events such as this. Let us join hands to make Inclusion a reality and this world a better place"- Dr Mallika Nadda

Unified Cup 2022 - at the event in Detroit

The Head of the delegation reached Detroit on 28th July afternoon to understand logistics and the competition format etc. The Indian delegation arrived in Detroit on the 30 July. On 31st they had a training session to be acquainted with the ground and the environment. The divisional rounds were held on 1&2 August 2022.

Opening Ceremony

The 2022 Special Olympics Unified Cup, presented by Toyota and modelled after the FIFA World Cup™ officially kicks off at the Corner Ballpark, Detroit. In anticipation of the Opening Ceremony for the Unified Cup Detroit 2022, more than 100 Law Enforcement partners, Special Olympics athletes, and Unified partners took to the streets of Detroit as part of the Final Leg for the Law Enforcement Torch Run



The 2022 Special Olympics Unified Cup, officially kicks off at the Corner Ballpark, Detroit. In anticipation of the Opening Ceremony for the Unified Cup Detroit 2022, more than 100 Law Enforcement partners, Special Olympics athletes, and Unified partners took to the streets of Detroit as part of the Final Leg for the Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR). They participated in a 2.5 mile run through city, promoting the Inclusion Revolution by carrying the Flame of Hope. It was a chance that the SO Bharat officials, while walking through Downtown Detroit came face to face with the LETR runners.

Following the Final Leg, the Flame of Hope was escorted by Law Enforcement partners into The Corner Ballpark where the cauldron was lit by long-time Special Olympics Michigan LETR volunteer, Chief Joe Morin, from United States Customs and Border Protection and joined by Special Olympics athlete Anthony Kay of Southfield, Michigan. As the cauldron was lit, the Unified Cup was officially declared open by Special Olympics Michigan (SOMI) President & CEO, Tim Hileman and half-a-dozen Special Olympics Michigan Athletes. Special Olympics USA and Special Olympics Egypt took the field first today for the opening match of the women's competition.

SO Bharat Matches at the Tournament

Overall, 12 women's teams competed in the Unified Cup. SO Bharat was in Group C, alongside and playing the preliminary matches with UAE, Burkina Faso and Mexico. India defeated UAE but lost to the rest two. It is noteworthy that the Goal keeper Itteshama Khatun made more than 23 saves. Following the group stage of competition, the teams were placed in three divisions based on their performance. India played the semi-finals with SO Namibia and the 3rd place play-off with Sri Lanka, in Division 3.

SO UAE & SO Bharat – 1 August 2022



SO Burkino Faso & SO Bharat – 2 August 2022





A thrilling moment, preceded the match with SO Mexico where Dr Mallika Nadda did the coin toss and Mr Satish Pillai the celebratory kick-off!



The match between SO Bharat and SO Namibia closed at 1:3 in favour of Namibia.



While cheering for the team, Dr Mallika Nadda, appeared for an interview taken by the **Youth Activation Committee of SO Michigan**.

“It’s happening slowly, but we need more awareness. Every day there is more opportunity,” said Dr. Mallika Nadda. “We have come a long way.” “People with intellectual disabilities were the most marginalized group,” she reflected. “After Special Olympics was introduced in our country, things changed a lot. Now everyone is starting to believe in ability. Sports is one medium in which people with intellectual disabilities have a platform to showcase that ability.”



The complete article renders in the attached Unified Cup Communique dtd 4 August 2022. Special Olympics Bharat: Every Day there is More Opportunity; Reporter: Mathew Thomas, Special Olympics Michigan Unified partner; Written by: Lourin Sprenger

SO Bharat concluded the tournament with a victory against Serendib (Sri Lanka) and decided to celebrate it not without Serendib. Inclusion won and they all stood for it. #TOGETHERUNSTOPPABLE. Four Athletes and two partners scored an 11 for team India that brought cheer and unstoppable smiles on the faces of the champions. A Bronze for SO Bharat in Division 3 closed the competition that brought an end to several months of practise, anxiety and excitement.

Winning and losing will continue to be part of the sports journey but, at the Unified Cup 2022 Detroit, friendships triumphed



SO Serendib vs SO Bharat – 5 August 2022



INDIA WON THE BRONZE MEDAL



Closing Ceremony

The Curtains came down on a week-long international celebration of inclusion, awarding the championship trophy to the top male and female teams competing in the football competition, at the Keyworth Stadium on 6 August. While SO Jamaica won against SO Paraguay in the Men's Division 1 scoring 2-0, SO Guatemala beat SO USA in women's Division 1 scoring 5:1. The Golden Boot award is presented to the player scoring the most goals during the tournament. The Women's winner of the Golden Boot award was given to an athlete from Special Olympics Guatemala, who made 12 goals, and the Men's winner of the Golden Boot was awarded to a Special Olympics Jamaica Unified partner who made 7 goals. Womens' Football Competition Results:

Division	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Fourth Position
D1	SO Guatemala	SO USA	SO Burkina Faso	SO Mexico
D2	SO Slovakia	SO Costa Rica	SO Egypt	SO Caribbean
D3	SO Namibia	SO UAE	SO Bharat	SO Serendib

The Special Olympics Unified Cup 2022 Celebrity Match kicked off before the women's and men's Division 1 Finals. The Celebrity Match featured two teams (the red team and the black team) made up of celebrities and Special Olympics athletes. The Red Team won 4-1. Papiya Murmu, Athlete from West Bengal played in the Black team scoring the goal for the team



Papiya with Dr Tim Shriver, Chairman SOI & Ben Hack Athlete leader from Australia and member of the SOI board



Meeting with Dr Tim Shriver, Chairman, SOI

Running parallel to the excitement on the sports field strategic discussions between the leadership of SOI and SO Bharat were held.



A Meeting between Dr Tim Shriver, Ms Linda Shriver, Dr Mallika Nadda, Mr Satish Pillai and Dr Anjana Goswami

At a meeting held on 5 August 2022 at the Schoolcraft College, Detroit, Dr Nadda, Chairperson SO Bharat and Mr Satish Pillai, Board Member SOI, held discussions with Dr Tim Shriver, Chairman, SOI. Dr Shriver was apprised of the current transitions and progress within SO Bharat along with details about the landmark National Health Fest held all over India in April 2022. The preparedness of SO

Bharat to move ahead with the various Special Olympics initiatives focussing on sustained quality growth was discussed at the meeting.

Performance Station

The Indian team reached out to the Performance station to cool down after playing two matches on 2 August. Performance Stations support athletes competing at events in the areas of fitness. Stations are strategically placed in the flow of the competition from beginning to end, providing a unique experience that directly impacts performance, prevents on-site injuries and illness, and promotes healthy lifestyle choices.

The focus of the stations during the Unified Cup was on providing the services and support related to each station (i.e. warm-up activities, snack, water), rather than educating the athletes. This was planned to ensure that the athletes remained focused on their competitions.

The team at the Performance Station



Merin, Athlete from Kerala , enjoying the moment with Rebecca Ralston, SOI



Healthy Athletes Screenings

During the Unified Cup 2022 event, the Healthy Athletes screenings were conducted across FUNFitness, Opening Eyes, Health Promotion, Healthy Hearing and Special Smiles. The screenings were conducted from, August 3rd – 5th at the Schoolcraft College. Team India was examined on the 4th

Healthy Athletes is a Special Olympics program that provides free health screenings in a fun, welcoming environment

The Athletes getting dental and optical screenings



The Athletes with the SO Bharat officials



The Athletes enjoying a unique moment with the STARKEY officials



Recreational Programs

On 2 August, the team went for a boat cruise on the Detroit Princess that has been entertaining Detroit in its current location since 2005, docked downriver from Hart Plaza.



3 August was a rest day with no matches scheduled. All the teams were treated to the Detroit Cultural Day. SO Bharat enjoyed the day, warmly led by the volunteer, Sanjeev, while also celebrating the birthday of one of the Athletes- Amisha Prakash!



(L) Coach Meghana & (R) Dr Savarna with (Center) Amisha the birthday girl from Bihar



Arrival back in India

A warm welcome awaited the team as they stepped down from their flight in India at 9PM IST on 8 August 2022. The revelry echoed bringing cheer to the several passers-by at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi as it sent the SO Bharat team and officials into a foot-tapping celebration.



Welcome at the International Airport New Delhi

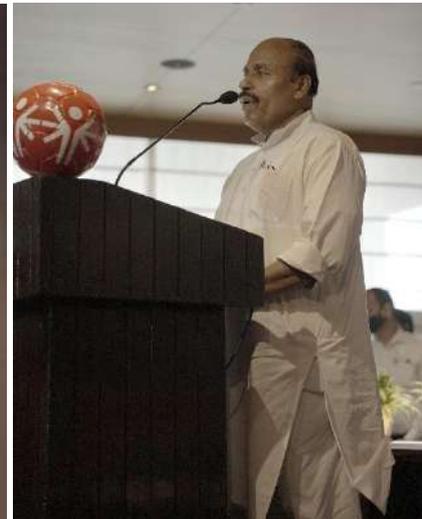
The Lalit, a chain of luxurious hotels, enhancing support to SO Bharat with each engagement, made special provisions to house the team in the heart of New Delhi. The team received a grand welcome at the hotel at 12:30 PM on 9 August at an event organised there. The event was graced by Shri Virender Kumarji, the hon'ble Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt of India. Joining the hon'ble minister were over 100 persons including Dr Jyotsna Suri, Chairperson and Managing Director, The Lalit; Dr. Amit Bhalla, Vice-President, Manav Rachna Educational Institutions and Ms Upasana Arora, Director, Yashoda Super Speciality Hospitals Kaushambi Ghaziabad, UP. The guests joined the National office team of SO Bharat led by, Dr Mallika Nadda, Chairperson and Air Cmde L K Sharma, Executive Director.



The team outside the Lalit, Barakhamba Road New Delhi



The Chief Guest applauded and blessed the football team and SO Bharat saying, "I would like to congratulate the SO Bharat Team, their coach and the players on winning the bronze medal at the 2022 Unified Cup. SO Bharat team's victorious campaign in Detroit has proved that girls in our country are talented and are capable of doing wonders if given the right opportunity. The girls in India are talented but they need our support and direction in fulfilling their potential, and they have our undying support."



Shri Virender Kumarji, the hon'ble Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt of India



A cheque of INR 1,50,000 (approx. USD 1900) was presented to SO Bharat by the Prime Volleyball League. Emphatically advised by the Chairperson, Dr Nadda, SO Bharat upheld the participation and the bronze medal win of the female footballing team, with a gift of INR 25000 (approx. USD 300) to each of them. Experiences were shared by the Co-captains, Papiya (Athlete) and

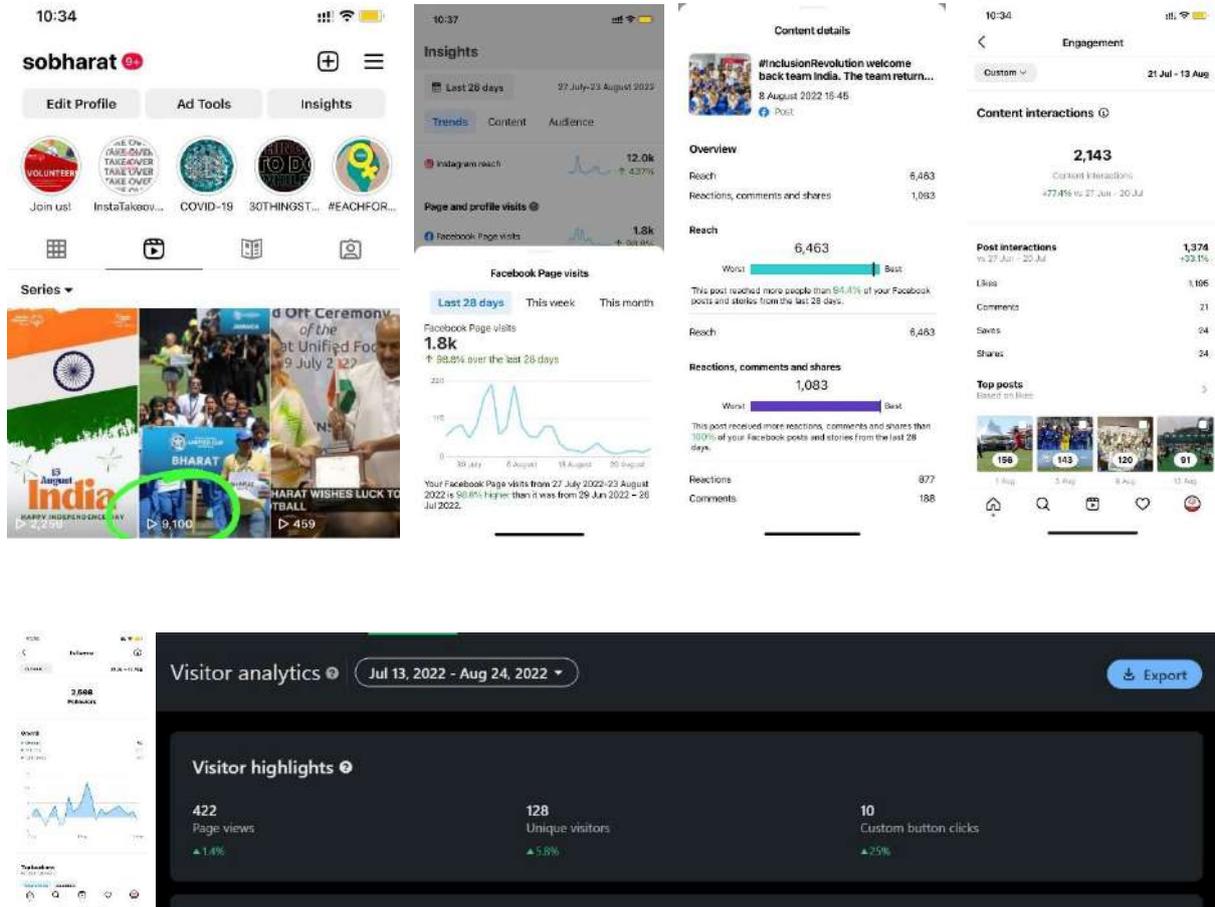
Dhanashri (Partner) at the event intriguing & overwhelming the audience



In the words of Dr Mallika Nadda, “The Unified Cup once again amplified the message of Inclusion to a crescendo, unfolding over 20 teams coming from diametrically diverse cultures, making Detroit, home to the week-long event, an outstanding potboiler of sorts. Inclusion maybe slow, but is for sure. I was overwhelmed to see the Indian team celebrate its final victory with the competing team, bringing out the essence of Inclusion and the spirit of India. Although the event has concluded, the attitude of Inclusion must go on. I request the media to be our proactive partners in spreading the word to end discrimination and promote Inclusion of Persons with Intellectual Disability”



Analytics across (L to R) Facebook Instagram and LinkedIn



Facebook

35,000+ accounts reached organically, almost a 92% increase
 1800+ page visits, i.e. number of unique profiles that stopped on our page and looked through it for a good time period, approx. 98% increase.
 89 new people liked our page (just like IG followers) - a 207% increase than the previous month.
 One of the best performing posts - When team Bharat was welcomed back in the country - reached almost 6500 people.
 THE best performing post - our winning match with Serendib - over 10,000 people reached and reacted to our post.

Instagram

Total number of followers - **increased 101 followers** from the day of starting posting for unified cup.
 Total number of unique followers/non-follower accounts reached via the explore page - **9,214 - 270% increase - all of which was organic, no ads were run.**
 Total number of accounts which engaged with us - liking/commenting and sharing our content - **720 - 120% increase**
 Content interaction - Total amount of likes/shares/saves/comments our content has received - **2143 - 77.4% increase**

IG Reel - Unified Cup reel has **crossed 9000+ views** on our IG Page

LinkedIn

1.4% Increase in Page views and got 128 new visitors on the page.

Building up on Events

Special Olympics Games and competitions at all levels create opportunities to showcase the talents of persons with Intellectual Disability. They provide a platform to build awareness, initiate partnerships and engage the society directly within and beyond the sports field with the Athletes. We often struggle to achieve significant external impact and awareness but manage to muster reasonable spotlight during events.

This event was no less. The media was engaged right through the preparatory camps, hoardings were put up at strategic points in the city of Delhi, to welcome the team back from Detroit, USA. The Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment graced both the ceremonies, Send-off and the welcome. Existing partnerships strengthened while new ones were initiated, with every camp and event related with Unified Cup 2022

Building Awareness



Hoardings welcoming the team were put up at various locations in the heart of the capital

Forging Partnerships

The Unified football event created an environment of Inclusion with its challenges and outcomes.



"Manav Rachna started with our visionary founder Dr. O P Bhatta'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."- Dr Amit Bhalla, Vice President, Manav Rachna Educational Institutions

Ms Upasna Arora, Dr Mallika Nadda, Dr Jyotsna Suri & Dr Amit Bhalla



On the way to Inclusion



“We could’ve done better. I wish we had more time to practise; our passing and speed could’ve been stronger; although defence was our strength”, said Papiya Murmu, Athlete Co-captain in candid feedback. Papiya is 18 yrs old and is an Athlete from West Bengal. She belongs to a family of passionate footballers. Interestingly, except her father, the rest in her family, which is her mother and sister, are footballers. Her confidence and communication substantiate her regular football regime with the mainstream players back home. The ground is close to her home and that helps her

play football nearly every day, since she was in grade five.

Interacting and planning strategy closely with her, was Dhanashri Sadanandh Kadam, the Partner Co-captain. She explained how language posed a barrier for her initially, but the close proximity made her work around that. “I learnt the sign language from Amisha, Athlete from Bihar, and felt proud that although from different parts of India and despite our individual differences we were one team. Speaking about Amisha specifically she said, “She wants to eat with everyone, be with everyone. Sharing and caring is what I have learnt from her”. “Overall, we played, fought, ate and had fun together. We are united and everyone knows each other well”



Dhanashri & Papiya

Amisha and Ittेशama, both have multiple disability, they are cheerful and intensely communicative. The event has



Champa & Amisha

made them great friends. When one doesn’t understand something, the other quickly jumps to explain. Boundaries fade as they reach out to each other, one from Bihar and the other from West Bengal. Jahira from West Bengal felt proud hearing her name as she made a goal and Likhita from Karnataka embraced a team member from Sri Lanka as the game ended

Merin, the Athlete from Kerala, made sure that all her teammates were in high spirits. She has been focusing on football for the past three years and has always dreamt to be a player and represent her country. Her dream has come true and she can’t stop smiling about that. Mishka, her partner from Gujarat explains how the event has trained her to adjust to differences and enjoy them. This is her first experience in engaging with persons with Intellectual Disability.



Merin & Nikita

“ Ittेशama has taught me sign language. Despite our differences, we all have learned to understand each other both emotionally and physically”, She believes that the lessons learnt during the event will make her a different person and map her onward journey. Endorsing her thoughts, Angelina, also a partner from Maharashtra and a regular player with the Learn to Play Football Academy in Thane (Maharashtra), said, “In sports we need to include everyone in the game because just a single person cannot play an entire team game” Champa too, a partner from Bihar and a regular teammate of Amisha, beamed and said that despite language differences the



Angelina & Jahira

team coordinated well with each other. says Mishka “Trust was the strength of our team; and that grew stronger as we practised together”, says Nikita Pereira, Unified partner from Maharashtra. She honestly admits that initially she had to adjust to more time required by the athletes to understand the game plan, in the bargain she learnt to be accepting and patient. “It is important to understand the other person’s point of view and accept everyone as different individuals”.

As the team mates expressed their thoughts at the calm and breezy riverside outside the hotel where the delegations stayed, the Coaches too added that the Special Olympics Athletes showed remarkable resilience and positivity, taking moments of victory and defeat in their stride



Likitha, Ittेशama & Mishka

and that may be the greatest lesson learnt from them.

The SO Bharat Unified Team in Detroit carry the small experiences with enormous learnings, be it moments with each other or the selfless and passionate support of the volunteers, Shashank Shrivastava, Manoj Chaube, Sanjeev, which will remain etched in the memory of Team India



Coaches & Support Staff: Dr Savarna, Meghana, Sulekha & Santhiya



Volunteers: Manoj, Shashank, Sanjeev, Shyam & Swapna



The team with Jon Paul – St Germain , Vice President, Sports Development, SOI



The team with Mr Satish Pillai, Dr Nadda, Dr Goswami

TEAMS

Womens' Teams	Men's Team
Burkina Faso Caribbean (Haiti, Aruba, Bahamas) Costa Rica Egypt Guatemala Bharat (India) Mexico Namibia Slovakia Serendib (Sri Lanka) UAE USA	Brazil Jamaica Korea Morocco Nigeria Paraguay Romania Saudi Arabia Singapore USA

SO Bharat Team

SR.	NAME	STATE	KIND
1	AMISHA PRAKASH	BIHAR	ATHLETE
2	LIKHITHA	KARNATAKA	ATHLETE
3	MERIN K EALIAS	KERALA	ATHLETE
4	ITTESAMA KHATUN	WEST BENGAL	ATHLETE
5	JAHIRA KHATUN	WEST BENGAL	ATHLETE
6	PAPIYA MURMU	WEST BENGAL	ATHLETE
7	CHAMPA KUMARI SINGH	BIHAR	ATHLETE PARTNER
8	MISHKA FERNANDEZ	GUJARAT	ATHLETE PARTNER
9	DHANASHRI	KARNATAKA	ATHLETE PARTNER
10	ANJELINA MASCARENHAS	MAHARASHTRA	ATHLETE PARTNER
11	NIKITA PARERA	MAHARASHTRA	ATHLETE PARTNER
12	PATEL MEGHANA	GUJARAT	COACH
13	C.SANTHIYA	PUDUCHERRY	COACH
14	DR. SAVARNA	HARYANA	PHYSIOTHERAPIST
15	SULEKHA RANA	DELHI	HOD

Honoured Guest

SR.	Name	Designation
1	Dr Mallika Nadda	Chairperson, SO Bharat
2	Mr Satish Pillai	Board Member, SOI & Former Chairman, SO Bharat
3	Dr Anjana Goswami	Board Member, SO Bharat
4	Ms Raman Rekhi (Media)	Joint National Director- Organisation Development, SO Bharat
5	Ms Richa Chauhan	Asst to Chairperson

We are grateful to our partners, without whom this journey would have been incomplete



Our Mission

Special Olympics provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community



Special Olympics Bharat is a National Sports Federation, recognised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt of India and, is accredited by Special Olympics Inc. to conduct sports and development programmes all over India.

Special Olympics is a global inclusion movement using sport, health, education and leadership programs every day around the world to end discrimination against and empower people with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities

Special Olympics and Paralympics are separate entities.

Paralympics encourages participation of Persons with physical challenges while Special Olympics provides opportunities to people with intellectual disability, cognitive delay or developmental disability

Special Olympics Bharat

J-47, Lower Ground Floor, Lajpat Nagar-III, New Delhi- 110024

Tel: +91 11 29841362/63 | **Fax:** +91 11 29841361

email: info@specialolympicsbharat.org

Website: www.specialolympicsbharat.org

Contact: Air Cmde Lalit Kumar Sharma