

Dr Mallika Nadda, President, Special Olympics Bharat



Dr. Mallika Nadda, President, Special Olympics Bharat is one of the leading social activists with a keen sense of social responsibility, dedicated to serving the cause of the differently-abled, under-privileged and women empowerment for over 30 years. An academian with a doctorate in history and special interest in urban studies she has been long associated as an educationist with the Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla. In May 2024 she was appointed the **Chairperson of the Asia Pacific Advisory Council (APAC)** that positions her as cohesive voice of the Special Olympics Asia Pacific region that covers 34 countries.

Born in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, Dr. Mallika Nadda inherited the true values of selfless service from her parents, who were prominent social and political personalities in their time. Her father was the spokesperson of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and her mother served successful terms as member of the Lok Sabha, Legislative assembly, and the Jan Sangh. Drawing inspiration from many more persons including a former minister of the ABVP (Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad), Shri Sadashivrao Deodhar, Dr Nadda, resolved to work in the social service sector. As an elected student union president, she played an active role in her college and the Rani Durgavati University.

Dr. Mallika Nadda, after her marriage with Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda in 1991, established Chetna Sanstha in Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh which is working towards the development of disabled people, women empowerment and personality development of youth. She is a founding member of the Viklang Seva Bharti, Jabalpur, working relentlessly for the respect and equality of persons with disabilities.

She is responsible for setting up the Himachal Pradesh Chapter of Special Olympics Bharat in 2002, taking the lead in organizing Snow Sports and Winter Games at a national level. Under her aegis SO Bharat got positioned adequately to provide expanded opportunities to the Athletes to participate in the Special Olympics World Winter Games

Amongst her several accolades, Dr. Mallika Nadda received the Rajiv Gandhi Manav Seva Award in the year 2010 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India for her exemplary work in the field of child development. She received the Derozio Award in the year 2011 in the field of education and human enrichment. In 2015-16 for her exemplary work in social service, she was honoured with the Rotary Shreyas Award.

She assumed the role of President of Special Olympics Bharat in 2021. In her endeavours of reclaiming the reach lost to the Covid pandemic, she initiated the first of a kind National Health Fest for Divyangjan on the occasion of the World Health Day on 7 April 2022, across 139 locations in India in which more than 75000 athletes were digitally registered and medically screened. For this remarkable feat, Special Olympics Bharat's name entered the Guinness Book of World Records, Asia Book of Records and World Talent Organization



Dr. Mallika Nadda receiving the Rajiv Gandhi Manav Seva Award in 2010



Dr. Mallika Nadda receiving the Derozio Award in 2011