



**Special
Olympics**
Bharat



A small body of determined spirits, fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission, can alter the course of history

- Mahatma Gandhi



Annual Report 2021

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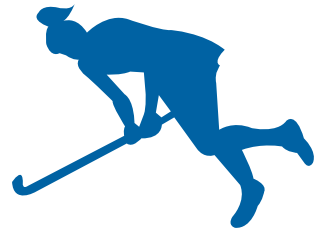
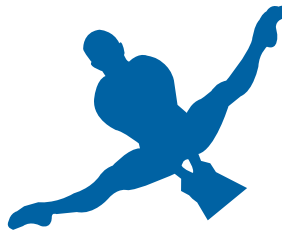
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Special Olympics serves athletes with intellectual disabilities

What are intellectual disabilities?

According to the definition by the American Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD), an individual is considered to have an intellectual disability based on the following three criteria:

1. Intellectual functioning level (IQ) is below 70-75;
2. Significant limitations exist in two or more adaptive skill areas; and
3. The condition manifests itself before the age of 18.

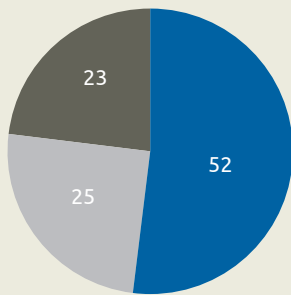
Adaptive skill areas are those daily living skills needed to live, work and play in the community. The definition includes 10 adaptive skills: communication, self-care, home living, social skills, leisure, health and safety, self-direction, functional academics, community use and work. Children with intellectual disabilities grow into adults with intellectual disabilities; they do not remain “eternal children.”

How prevalent are intellectual disabilities?

According to the World Health Organization, up to three percent - or nearly 200 million people - of the world’s population have intellectual disabilities. Intellectual disability is the largest developmental disability in the world.

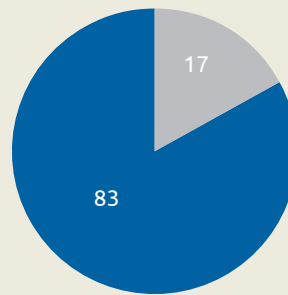


Global Impact



■ India ■ China ■ Others

Regional Impact Asia Pacific



■ India ■ Others

7
Regions



193
Countries



5,468,333
Athletes



837,606
Family
Members



106,300
Competitions



Message from an Athlete Leader

My name is Aparimita Singh. I am an Athlete Leader of Maharashtra State, and Athlete Input Council Member of Special Olympics Bharat. Born in 1999 in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, I came to Mumbai with my parents in the Year 2005.

Through the SPJ Sadhna School in Mumbai I got in touch with SO Bharat. Special Olympics Bharat has given me the opportunity to meet many fellow athletes in various activities. It has helped me to improve my confidence, communication skills and organizational abilities. I am very thankful to the Organization. Along with sports, I like to paint. I have also walked the ramp for famous Fashion Designer Krishna Mehta and Pallavi Goyal in Fashion Show.

My message to everyone is that there are many opportunities. Some take us in different directions. Every task you do helps you learn and gain confidence. So, get included. Do not step back. Stay fit and healthy. Be very active to get this Inclusion Revolution through.

Thank You!



Aparimita Singh,
Athlete Leader
SO Bharat Maharashtra



Message from the Chairperson

Special Olympics Bharat continues to demonstrate resilience and power despite the continuing challenges posed by the pandemic. It is a delight to see that the engagements are unfolding on ground, modified in content and approach.

Scaling up our focus on the urgency of optimum health of the Athletes, we plan the **National Health Fest for Divyangjan**, a mass scale health screening of 75000 Athletes across 75 cities that will be held on 7 April 2022, the World Health Day, leveraging the celebration of **Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav**, the flagship program of the Government of India. People with ID experience higher rates of chronic health conditions that also put them at higher risk of serious illness and poorer outcomes from COVID-19. People with intellectual disabilities experience worse health care and access to services than others in their communities. We will also launch 750 Sports centers in the next three years to promote regular sporting activities strengthening local programming. It is time that we join hands to address this challenge. Special Olympics Strategy 2021-24 as also with the UN (United Nations) SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) SO Bharat's participation in the Amrit Mahotsav is set to draw attention of the medical as well as the academic fraternity towards the health of the Athletes with Intellectual Disabilities. The initiative also expands sporting opportunities for them while embracing digital technology, which also are the areas of importance to the Government of India.

Through our programs, both sporting and non-sporting, let us all reach out to new partners from a cross-section of the society, including, Corporates, Industrialists, Educationist as well as the youth from Schools and Universities. With all the awards and honors bestowed by the Government of India and the State Governments we have been able to change the lives of many Special Athletes. Each one of us has the power to make a difference and collectively build communities of acceptance that respects Diversity & Inclusion.

Dr Mallika Nadda,
Chairperson, SO Bharat



"I am very fortunate to be a small agent in bringing joy and happiness in the lives of the Athletes and their families and pray that each one of us does this as our personal duty towards mankind"

Dr Mallika Nadda,
Chairperson,
SO Bharat



Diversity and inclusion are at the heart of Special Olympics as we strive to promote unity among all people. Greater diversity and inclusion will enable us to reach those parts of the global population who do not yet have the gift of Special Olympics. It will enable us to tap into the broadest possible base of talent and enrich our range of perspectives. It will model what we demand of other parts of society for our athletes and what our athletes can teach society



THE STRATEGIC PLAN AT A GLANCE



Special Olympics changes attitudes and behaviors through sport. We do it by showcasing the gifts and talents of people with ID, creating friendships and demonstrating the best of the human spirit. **This Plan has two goals:**

GOAL A Improve local sports participation and well-being to strengthen communities

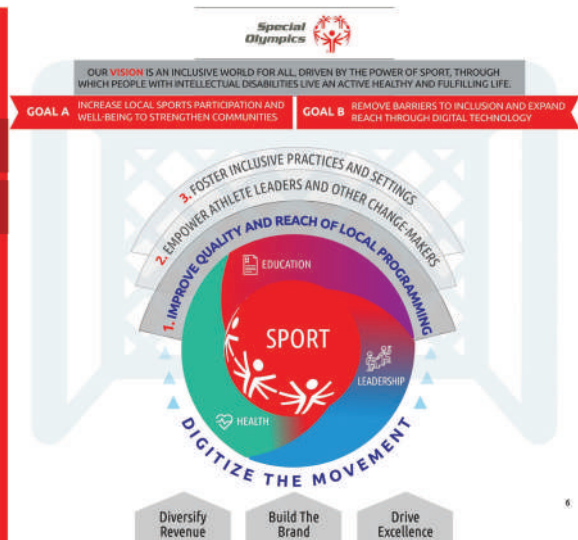
GOAL B Remove barriers to inclusion and expand reach through digital technology

Three strategies will lead to achievement of these goals:

- S1. Improve quality and reach of local programming
- S2. Empower athlete leaders and other change-makers
- S3. Foster inclusive practices and settings

All of this will be made possible through **four enablers:**

- E1. Digitize the Movement
- E2. Diversify Revenue
- E3. Build the Brand
- E4. Drive Excellence (People and Practices)



Special Olympics Bharat

Special Olympics Bharat was founded by **Air Marshal Denzil Keelor** PVSM, KC, AVSM, VrC, in 2001 with approx. 25000 Athletes at the time, a number that has grown to over 1.6 million Athletes across all the States and Union Territories of India. It was registered with the Indian Trusts Act 1882. The Special Olympics movement, although was founded in India in 1987 by the name 'Special Olympics India' functioning only in the Metro cities

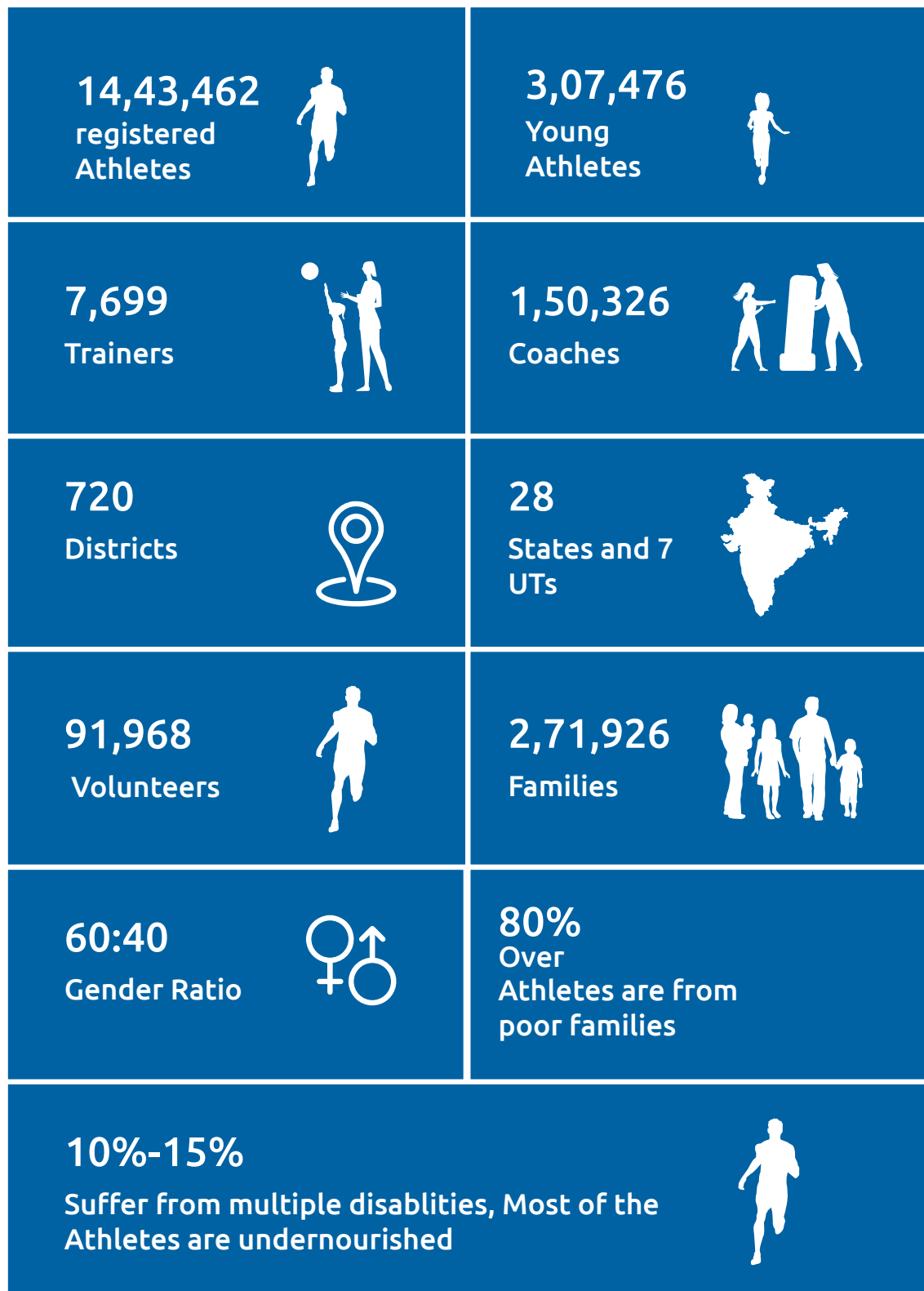


"At the time I joined the program I did not realize the power of the Athletes, the strongest force that took me through the toughest challenges emerging from multiple sectors. Having fought crucial wars in the past and having served the Indian Air force I was well-equipped with the determination to confront and fight. My resolve to make SO Bharat happen strengthened as I took a closer look at the Athletes. I recall noticing, at an event, the joy and the positivity with which they pushed themselves to reach the finish line, each having a look of a winner. All this in a way overpowered all other odds".

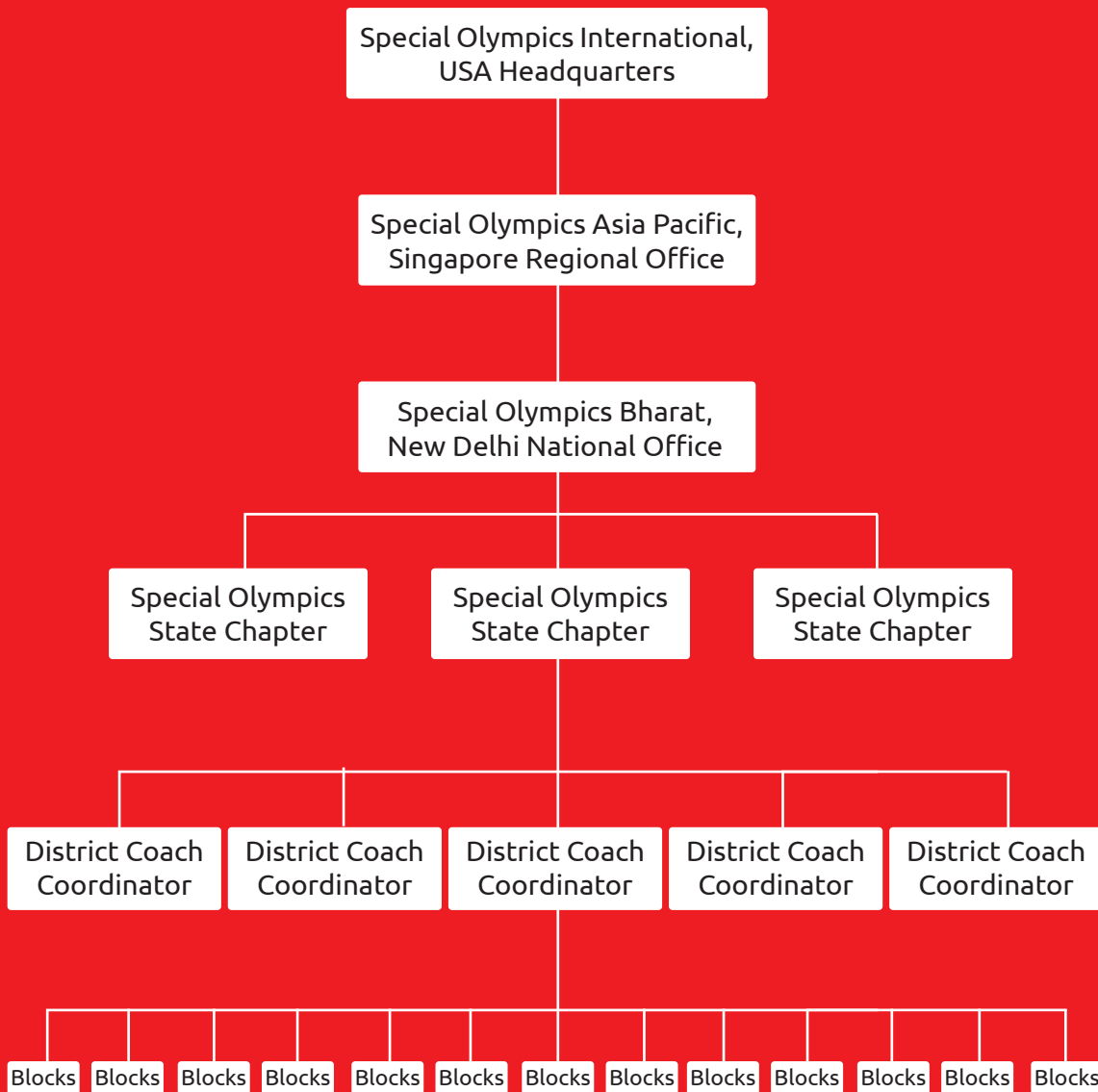
Expanse in India



The States remain the pivot of growth and development and must continue to strengthen local programming to be able to percolate to the grassroots with quality sports experience



Percolating from Global to Grassroot



Annual Cost of Admin (estimated)

Items	Athlete	Resource Persons	Total Camper	Budget Rs	Budget \$	Supported By
A) Administration Cost	18,70,686		18,70,686	₹ 29,94,40,000	\$40,46,486	SOI / SOB / VIK
B) Cost of Coaches		1,50,326	1,50,326	₹ 45,26,97,00,000	\$61,17,52,703	Value in Kind
D) LTDP (ACTC)	494	57	551	₹ 1,73,34,900	\$2,34,255	Govt. Of India
E) MYAS				₹ 4,85,00,000	\$6,55,405	Value in Kind
F) Strategic Growth	64,800	6,050	70,850	₹ 2,01,22,000	\$2,71,919	SOI
C) National/State/District/ Local Program			16,18,750	₹ 57,84,00,000	\$78,16,216	Value in Kind
Total				₹ 46,23,34,96,900	\$62,47,76,985	
	SOI Supported	\$2,71,919	GOI Supported	\$2,34,255	VIK	\$62,02,24,324



What's the difference?



Special Olympics

Founded: 1968

Athletes: People of all skill levels with an intellectual disability, cognitive delay, or developmental disability

Sports: 32 Offered

When: 365 days a year, with 108,800+ competitions in 172 Countries. World Games every other year



Paralympics

Founded: 1989

Athletes: People from 10 Categories of physical impairment

Sports: 28 Offered

When: Paralympics Games every other year



Olympics

Founded: 1894

Athletes: People Varying ability levels, Both able-bodied and athletes with disability have competed

Sports: 35 Offered

When: Olympics Games every other year

Alpine Skiing	Athletics	Badminton	Basket Ball	Bocce
Bowling	competitive cheer	Cricket	Cross Country Skiing	Cycling
Dancesport	Equestrian	Figure Skating	Floor Ball	Floor Hockey
Football	Golf	Gymnastics Artistic	Gymnastics Rhythmic	Handball
Judo	Kayaking	Kabaddi*	Kho-kho*	Motor Activity Training Program
Netball	Powerlifting	Roller Skating	Sailing	Short Track Speed Skating
Snow Boarding	Snow Shoeing	Softball	Swimming	Open Water Swimming
Table Tennis	Tennis	Triathlon	Volley Ball	
Unified Sports (All)				

*Local Sports



Sports

“We do even more than bring joy of sports to persons with intellectual disability: we provide life transforming experiences for Athletes, Coaches and Volunteers alike” - **Dr Tim Shriver**

Initiatives & Endeavours

Through the support of Sports Authority of India (SAI)/Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MYAS) the Athletes are trained at the National Coaching Camps (NCC) which enables them to face international competitions. In the Year 2021 SO Bharat held seven NCCs in all. Six were held in winter sports while one was held in Golf, which is a summer sport. The Winter Sports Camps featuring, Floorball, Figure, Speed Skating, Alpine Skiing, Snow shoeing, Snowboarding were held, preparing the Athletes for the Special Olympics World Winter Games to be held in Kazan, Russia in January 2023.

NCC-Snow Sports held in Manali (Himachal Pradesh) in February 2021



NCC-Floorball held in Bilaspur (Himachal Pradesh) in March 2021



We do even more than bring joy of sports to person with intellegectual Disability: we provide life transforming experience for Athletes, Coaches and Volunteers alike

- “Dr Tim Shriver”

Chief Guest Mr. Rakesh Pathania, Minister of Forest, Youth Services Sports Govt. of Himachal Pradesh with Dr Mallika Nadda, Chairperson SO Bharat



NCC-Figure & Speed Skating in Gurugram (Haryana) March 2021



The Closing Ceremony took place on the 27th of March in the presence of Chief Guest Dr. (Mrs.) Mallika Nadda, Chairperson, Special Olympics Bharat and the Guests of Honour Sh. O. P. Yadav, hon'ble Minister of State Social Justice and Empowerment and Smt. Kamlesh Dhanda, Hon'ble Minister of Woman and Child Welfare department, Haryana Government

NCC-Floorball in at YMCA New Delhi in July 2021



NCC-Floorball at the SAI Regional Center of Sports Excellence in Haryana in September 2021



The Chief Guest at the closing ceremony of the camp was Mr. Bajrang Punia, Bronze medalist in wrestling at the Tokyo Olympic, accompanied by Mr. Jitender Kumar, Silver medalist at the Asian Wrestlers Championship. The guest of honour was Ms. Lalita Sharma, Regional Director , SAI Northern Regional Center

With the pandemic continuing to impact daily activities, several engagements were planned on virtual platforms. With the pandemic continuing to impact daily activities, several engagements were planned on virtual platforms.

Baggo

BAGGO was launched on 27 January 2021. Baggo is a bean bag toss or Cornhole. SO Bharat Odisha executed the on-ground implementation that continued to screen live during the virtual session. Baggo is one of the sporting activity of Developmental Sports, a program supported by Herbalife Nutrition.

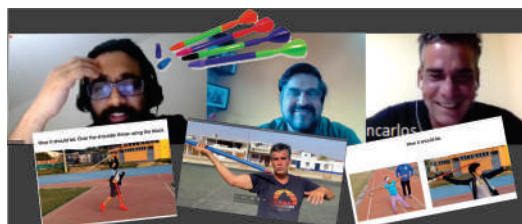
While BAGGO resembles Bocce, the differences between the two help them complement each other. Bocce is conducted on a flat surface and the Baggo on an inclined board. While Bocce makes the ball roll, Baggo is played with small bean bags actioning a throw that does not go over the shoulder level. The skills developed jointly, potentially, would enhance the confidence levels and readiness of the Athletes in this age -group for higher level sports participation.



Mini -Javelin

In a series of sessions held since last year, another session of Mini-Javelin led by Mr Michael, Aditya Bhargava and Siddharth Patil from Amentum Sports was held, attended by a group of Coaches who have been training theory and practical module while qualifying assessments at different levels.

Following the sessions, **Ravi Jain, Youth leader from the Achholi, dist.- Balod, Chattisgarh** marked an open field in his village as the sporting arena, prepared a few sticks to replicate mini-javelins, essentially keeping their length & weight adequate. He created a sporting arena that encouraged 10-12 children to practise the sport



Lawn-Tennis

Coaches are being trained to take Tennis to the grassroots. Tennis entered the SO Bharat arena with a first session held in India, last year that was led by Ms. Teresa Leitao, Director Sports & Unified Sports Special Olympics Brazil. A follow-up session on Tennis was held on 18 Feb 2021 traveling deeper into the Tennis Methodology, stages of introducing the sport with specific Tennis steps as well as the role of Coaches.

Mr. Victor R Vaz, National Sports Director SO Bharat along with Mr. Coen Van Putten, Regional Manager Sports, Special Olympics Asia Pacific, collaborated to introduce the sport in India, also aiming to prepare an Indian tennis team to debut at the Special Olympics World Summer Games to be held in Germany in 2023.



Virtual Sports Cricket supported by ESPN

A month-long Virtual Cricket Competition concluded on 19 June 2021, with SO Bharat Delhi securing the first position amongst the 15 participating states. 150 Athletes from 19 States participated. The event would replace the in-person competition that was originally slated to be held in Mysore in early 2020 but got deferred due to the pandemic. Each state has registered a team of 5-8 players to pitch a spot in the competition performing four skills, namely, Wall-toss Catch, hitting target (Bowling), Tapping the Ball and running between the wickets.



“The stories of Special Olympics Athletes are remarkable and it has been our endeavour to bring these inspiring stories out, driving meaningful growth in support of the Special Olympics movement. It is a matter of pride and honour for me to be here and be a small part of this beautiful journey of using sports to change lives. The relationship of ESPN and SOI has been built on a bedrock of shared belief in the power of sports to impact lives.”

**- said Mr Gaurav Thakur, Director
Marketing & Business Development, Cricinfo.com**

Virtual National Football Tournament supported by ESPN

The preliminary rounds of the 5-a-side Virtual football skill Competition concluded on 4 September. Four divisions in male and three in female will prepare the teams for competitions which are scheduled to begin on 20 September 2021. The Virtual National Football tournament, supported by ESPN, continues to engage 175 Athletes and approx. 30 Coaches from 16 States. The tournament was launched on 15 August with the preliminary rounds kick-starting on 20 August 2021, in the presence of Mr Deepak John Nayak, Consultant & Manager, Futsal and Baby leagues, All India Football Federation (AIFF)



Speaking on the occasion Mr Deepak John Nayak said:

From what I have witnessed in the past few years and more so now, Special Olympics leads the way in terms of recognising the changing situation and fitting into the new procedures, to continue to keep the Athletes and Coaches meaningfully involved. The planning of this event and the detailing to ensure smooth execution is very noteworthy and appreciated

Health

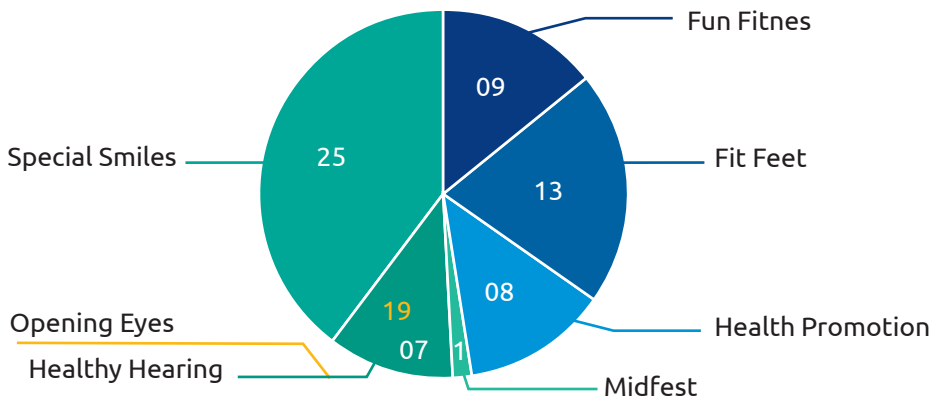
Inclusive health means people with ID are able to take full advantage of the same health programs and services available to who do not have the ID. Currently, they face significant challenges in accessing quality health care

Special Olympics' health programming focuses on improving the physical and social-emotional well-being of people with ID by increasing inclusion in health care, wellness and health systems for Special Olympics athletes and others with ID.

Examinations are offered in 8 different health areas

Med-Fest | Fit Feet | FUNfitness| Health Promotion | Healthy Hearing | Special Smiles| Lions Clubs International Opening Eyes | Strong Minds

The Healthy Athletes program also train health care professionals who return to their practices with increased knowledge and confidence about treating people with intellectual disabilities and influence improvements in health care for people with intellectual disabilities at the policy and systemic level.



In the year 2021 SO Bharat carried out 11 screenings covering 1318 Athletes and 7 Family Health forums with 370 family members. The year saw the emergence of virtual screenings with hybrid as a possible way forward.

Particulars	Opening Eyes	Special Smiles	Fun Fitness	Fit Feet	Healthy Hearing	Health Promotion	Med fest	Total
No. Of Screenings	2	4	NIL	2	NIL	3	NIL	11
No. Of Athletes Screened	222	244	NIL	630	NIL	222	NIL	1318

7 Family Health Forums were conducted, reaching out to 370 Parents to address the topics: Diet, Nutrition, Developmental Sports & Foot Hygiene

Special Olympics Healthy Communities



Healthy Communities is a community-integrated approach that takes the principles of the Healthy Athletes Program and expands them from a series of single events to a steady presence of health

and wellness in the lives of the Athletes and their families. The Asha Jyoti home for the Intellectually Challenged Delhi, is part of the Healthy Community program in India, has 120 residents. They are often seen calling out to visitors, asking them about their own family members who abandoned them years back. The residents want to engage, run, dance and enjoy.

A series of Healthy Athletes screenings were carried out at the Asha Jyoti home. There also, are a few more activities planned to create a holistic experience through, sports, fitness and youth engagement

SOAP held an HC Expo (Healthy Communities) on 29 & 30 October 2021. The virtual event was held to celebrate the success of Healthy Communities in the region and thank the HC partners for their contributions. SO Bharat was invited to share its best practises and experiences. Dr Rachna Bhardwaj, Superintendent, Asha Jyoti Home, New Delhi shared her experience on the platform.



Terminology: MedFest (history and physical exam); Special Olympics Lions Clubs International Opening Eyes (vision/eye health); Healthy Hearing (audiology); Special Smiles (dentistry); Health Promotion (prevention and nutrition); Strong Minds (emotional health); FUNfitness (physical therapy); Fit Feet (podiatry)

With the lockdown and subsequent reduction of Sporting and other physical activities, aggression amongst the residents was on the rise, with no release of the pent-up energies.

"Sports is where real Inclusion is. For our residents, it is not just what Sports holds for others, it goes beyond. Along with fitness, it gives them a direction, a schedule that makes each one feel - an achiever and that instills joy and confidence in them. Sports and fit5 are engagements that are sure to deliver them into a happier zone"

**- Dr Rachna Bhardwaj,
Superintendent, Asha Jyoti**

Golisano Award Felicitation

The year 2021 awarded Essilor Vision Foundation, SR Gopalrao and PID Ms Aruna Abhey Oswal Founder of the Aruna Abhey Oswal Trust with the prestigious Golisano Health Leadership Award. The Golisano Global Health Leadership Award was established to recognize the progress being made around the world to increase access to essential health care for people with intellectual disabilities. It is Special Olympics' highest honour for health partners.

Mr DharmaPrasada Rai, Senior Manager, Essilor Foundation, Bengaluru, Karnataka received the award at a ceremony held during a National Coaching Camp held earlier this year. S R Gopal Rao Opticians, offering services in optometry and opticianry since the late 19th century, joined hands with Essilor Vision Foundation to provide a complete eye screening. Since the past ten years they have provided lenses for the frames sent to them as a follow up to the eye screenings of the Athletes. SO Bharat and SR Gopalrao entered a Memorandum of Understanding in October 2020 inking their joint commitment towards eye care of Persons with intellectual Disability



Inclusive Youth Engagements

Young people are more open to inclusion – they understand and embrace it. They have the ability to bring creativity and energy aligned with our vision and goals. Special Olympics has created systems for engaging young people with and without Intellectual Disability together, reaching out to them in Schools and Colleges and encouraging them to lead the change.

Inclusive Youth & School Engagements

Central to the Special Olympics Global Strategy is engagement and empowerment of the youth, increasing leadership opportunities for students with and without intellectual disabilities, while creating communities of acceptance for all. The success of the program is rooted in seeding experiments among youth and flipping the power paradigm in instituting social change



Prominent funders like MBZ (Mohamed bin Zayed), SNF (Stavros Niarchos Foundation) and Hasbro have come forward in support of initiatives that encourage activation and empowerment of the Youth and seek to highlight the ways in which the engagement of young people at the local, national and global levels is enriching national and multilateral institutions and processes.

In April, two unified Pairs from the Unified Club of the Frank Anthony Public School and Deepalaya Special School, Delhi responded to a Unified 'Journalist' pair on queries around leadership, Inclusion, Special Olympics engagements in their Schools and more. The Session simulated an Inclusive media room that placed Unified pairs on both sides, with questions designed and answered by them.' Newsroom' has been created as part of the Unified Champion Schools Programming supported by a landmark collaboration between the Special Olympics International and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi.



Local Youth Leadership Summit



From March to July 2021 seven Local Youth leadership Summits were held across eight states engaging 752 youth with and without ID and reaching out to 145 schools, out of which 98 were introduced to this program.

The Summits triggered and substantiated the evolution of Youth Activation at state levels. The states of Rajasthan, Delhi, Gujarat, Assam, Chattisgarh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand reached out to the Youth to form core planning teams, with the leadership of whom, state level virtual and in-person summits were held inviting the school administrators, teachers, coaches, parents, media etc. These followed up to the three -day Virtual National Youth Summit held in October 2020

Jignesh Thakkar, Member of the State Board, SO Bharat Gujarat- "Most of the districts did not have the Youth involved. The local summit has activated the inactive zones, encouraging the Unified pairs to interact with each other. Our greatest achievement is that we managed to get on board high potential but inactive zones like Rajkot. This session will surely, strengthen our currently underway, Unified Champion Schooling program"

Rolling out a model of carrying Youth Activation at the community level Mr Prakash Rath, Area Director- SO Bharat Odisha said, *“The foremost visible development of the project was the tremendous improvement in the confidence and communication of both, the athlete and the partner. The other aspects were their own bonding and respect for each other. Creating mass awareness among the youth and spreading awareness about Special Olympics and inclusion through the Youth created a different environment and that was a major outcome of the project.”*

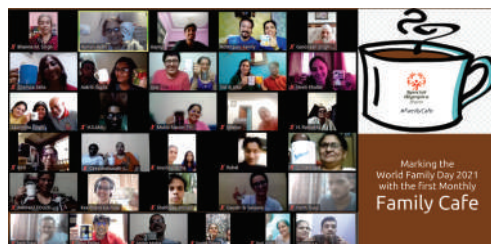
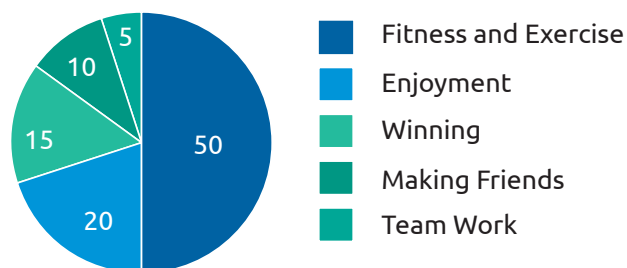
The projects covered multiple activities initiated by the youth some of which are there to carry on:

Typed Tales

The Typed Tales Website which is an e-learning platform facilitating socio-emotional learning for persons with and without Intellectual Disability through visual stories.

Research

You’re Wonderful Project (YWP), as part of a project undertaken by a Unified pair from Jaipur (Rajasthan) under the ‘Innovation Grant Cycle 4’, SO Bharat conducted a **Qualitative Study: Effect of Sport Participation on General Mental Health of Athletes with Intellectual Disabilities from Special Olympics Bharat**. The Research & Development team of YWP conducted in-depth interviews with 20 Athletes carrying out thematic data. Thematic analysis revealed seven themes which assessed the athlete’s perceptions related to their sport in various domains of mental health. The study renders in the International Journal of Indian Psychology



A Nine Week **Communication workshop** sensitized 30 Athletes across three batches , to the foundation of Social Communication & Leadership

The World Family Day 15 May 2021, marked the beginning of the Monthly **Family Cafe**. The virtual sessions have connected the family members

“Being parents of Special children, there are issues that we are not be able to speak about within our immediate families also. A group like this can be a good support”
(said a parent requesting anonymity)

Archana Jaivittal , the participant at the Special Olympics World Championship Dance Sport Graz (Austria)-2021

Archana Jaivittal, a person with an Intellectual Disability, an Aquatics Athlete from Karnataka, competed on 20 August 2021 alongside 80 participants securing a fifth position in the Special Olympics World Championship Dance Sport Graz (Austria)-2021. More than 900 spectators witnessed the event in person and the event was broadcasted live on multiple platforms for online viewers. DanceSport became an officially recognized Special Olympics Sport in March 2019 during the Special Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi 2019 where it premiered as a demonstration sport.



Archana is 36 yrs old and a resident of Manipal in the Sate of Karnataka. Archana is the inspiration behind ASARE which is a Joint project of the ARCHANA Trust & the MANIPAL ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, conceived to help the differently abled citizens across the country. Through her long journey within Special Olympics, Manipal Jaivittal Archana (called Archana) did India proud when she bagged a Bronze in Swimming at the SOAP Regional Games held in 2013 and a bronze at the Abu Dhabi World Games 2019

COVERAGE 2021

When design meets disability

NIFT students devise online platform to help children with intellectual disabilities cope with the pandemic

Written by **FE Bureau**

February 1, 2021 2:45:03 am



The lockdowns have had an adverse impact on children, with most being away from the classroom since March 2020.

A team of students from the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Mumbai, have launched an inclusive, e-learning tool that aims to help children with intellectual disabilities to adapt to the new normal using the power of stories. Developed with support from Special Olympics Bharat, the narrative platform provides social and emotional education to help children with learning challenges cope with social situations through customised animated stories.

The lockdowns have had an adverse impact on children, with most

Mary Kom supports Special Olympics Bharat on International Day of Persons with Disabilities

03-12-2021 | 5:47 pm | Share Now



FICCI and Special Olympics Bharat jointly observed the International Day of Persons with Disabilities today by launching the "National Health Fest for Divyangjan - We Care" at the FICCI Federation House in New Delhi.

FICCI and Special Olympics Bharat jointly observed the International Day of Persons with Disabilities today by launching the "National Health Fest for Divyangjan - We Care" at the FICCI Federation House in New Delhi. The Chief Guest of the event was Olympic medal-winning boxer MC Mary Kom. Along with launching the initiative, the boxing stalwart also interacted and facilitated athletes with intellectual disabilities who have won medals for India at the Special Olympics World Games in 2019.

Speaking at the event, the six-time world champion Mary Kom said, "It is a great privilege for me to be here to celebrate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities with the athletes of Special Olympics. These athletes are the true heroes of our country, and they are my inspiration. My unwavering support will always be with them, sending them strength and courage in their journey ahead. Never stop fighting and you will surely achieve all your goals!"

Launched under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav initiative by the Government of India, the health initiative will reach a record 75,000 athletes with intellectual disabilities in 75 cities of India marking 75 years of progressive India. The National Health Fest aims to set records for screening and training the highest number of athletes in a single day.

The initiative also aims to train 7500 medical and sports professionals to provide high-quality healthcare and training to athletes with intellectual and developmental disability. Moreover, 750 Special Olympics Bharat Centres will be activated to develop fitness and sports through a community-based approach. The entire program will be driven through Central and State partnerships with relevant stakeholders.

Speaking about the National Health Fest, Dr. Mallika Nadda, Chairperson of Special Olympics Bharat said, "Special Olympics Bharat is committed towards improving the health, well-being, and fitness of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Through this initiative, we aim to bring together changemakers from around the country to take a meaningful and transformative step towards ensuring quality healthcare for people with ID, benefiting not only them but also their families and communities. I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every person for their contribution towards the National Health Fest and its life-changing impact."

The event also featured a panel on inclusion in sports, followed by an impressive display of band and demo exercises by athletes with intellectual disabilities. Finally, an MOU for the National Health Fest was signed by FSCD (Federation of Special Care Dentistry) & AIFF (All India Football Federation) before the event concluded with a closing address by Dr Amit Bhalla, Co-Chair of Sports and Youth Affairs Committee of FICCI.

With an attendance of more than 90 people, the session brought together the special athletes, their family members and volunteers.

It opened with how the athletes felt happy being part of the Special Olympics Global family and later witnessed interactive discussions through break-out rooms and inclusive activities that demonstrated glimpses of a Unified generation.

"Special Olympics makes me happy and fit", said Sahil Singh, an Athlete leader from Lucknow, UP, who is a person with Down Syndrome.

The event was a part of the largest initiatives for inclusion in education for young people with and without intellectual disabilities -- made possible by a collaboration between the Special Olympics International and His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the United Arab Emirates Armed Forces.

Speaking about inclusion, Amitav Mishra, General Secretary of SO Bharat, said, "These sessions show signs of an enormous platform developing that will help us help ourselves and each other and learn from each other. Coming together as one big family we have the greatest power to create an impact in our lives as well as in the society." (ANI)



Special Olympics Bharat celebrates World Family Day.

Special Olympics Bharat launches 'Family Cafe', celebrates World Family Day

ANI | Updated: May 18, 2021 16:18 IST

New Delhi (India), May 18 (ANI): Special Olympics Bharat celebrated World Family Day by lauding the families of athletes with intellectual disabilities and launching 'Family Cafe' -- a self-run, support platform enabling families to connect and help each other in an engaging and meaningful way.

The first session of the Family Cafe kicked off on World Family Day on Sunday with subsequent sessions to be conducted monthly, hosted by the families themselves and discussing a wide range of relevant topics.

Commenting on the platform, one participating parent said, "Being parents of Special children, there are issues that we are not able to speak about within our immediate families also. A group like this can be a good support."

The special "World Family Day" weekend continued with a session conducted by the Special Olympics Bharat Youth Leaders.

Launch of the National Health Fest for Divyangjan on the occasion of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav

On 3 December 2021 Special Olympics Bharat launched the National Health Fest for Divyangjan. Medical screening of 75000 Special Athletes across 75 cities through 7500 medical professionals will be organised on 7 April 2022. The health and sports program received a massive set-back due to the COVID-19; primarily due to closure of schools. Return to Play is a SOI campaign that we are executing on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, to bring our athletes back to the sports field. The screening venues will also organise the Fit 5 physical activity, demonstrating the regimen and encouraging everyone to make it a part of their routine. 750 Special Olympic Bharat Centers will be launched in the next 3 years, in phases of 250 each year . Through this event SO Bharat will be attempting to enter the Guinness book of records, Asia book of records and the Limca Book of Records.



SO Bharat is in its second phase, the earlier one being its foundation and growth. Building & expanding communities of acceptance through quality growth is something that was in focus right from the beginning . I am glad to see it unfolding suitably with the upcoming mega-event promising to spread the impact of Special Olympics across the length & breadth of the country

- Air Marshal Denzil Keelor PVSM,
KC, AVSM, VrC



C) State/ District/ Local Program (Uncovered Expenditure)

Items	Camps	Amount	Athlete per camp	Total Campers	Budget Rs	Budget \$	Sponsor
State Games Big State	15	₹ 4,00,000	200	3,000	₹ 60,00,000	\$81,081	VIK
State Games Small State	11	₹ 1,20,000	110	1,210	₹ 13,20,000	\$17,838	VIK
State Event Big State	17	₹ 1,50,000	150	2,550	₹ 25,50,000	\$34,459	VIK
State Event Small State	12	₹ 1,00,000	100	1,200	₹ 12,00,000	\$16,216	VIK
District Games	200	₹ 1,50,000	250	50,000	₹ 3,00,00,000	\$4,05,405	VIK
District Events	300	₹ 95,000	115	34,500	₹ 2,85,00,000	\$3,85,135	VIK
Local Program 2 event per week	124	₹ 50,000	66	8,184	₹ 62,00,000	\$83,784	VIK
Total	679	₹ 10,65,000	991	1,00,644	₹ 7,57,70,000	\$10,23,919	

D) Annual Cost of Long Term Development Plan (supported by Govt of India)

LTDP	Camps	Athlete/ Trainee	Resource Persons	Total Camper	Budget Rs	Budget \$	Sponsor
NCC/NC	7	365	74	439	₹ 37,87,200	\$50,496	GOI
Total	7	365	74	439	₹ 37,87,200	\$50,496	

E) CSR Support to the program

Items	Camps	Athlete/ Trainee	Resource Persons	Total Camper	Budget Rs	Budget \$	Sponsor
Developmental Sports	22	3,100	200	3,300	₹ 37,26,250	\$49,683	Herbalife Nutrition
Total	22	3,100	200	3,300	₹ 37,26,250	\$49,683	



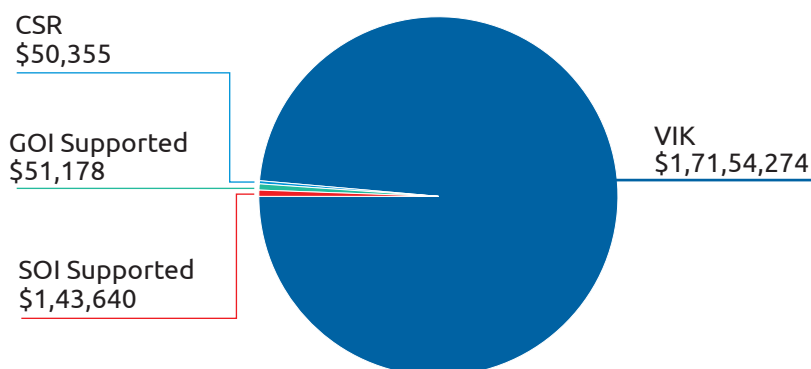
F) Strategic Growth Plan 2021 (SOI Grant Supported)

Initiative	Camps	Athlete	Resource Persons	Rate/Ath	Budget Rs	Budget \$	Sponsor
Young Athletes	25	3,000	2,000	\$19.84	₹ 44,64,375	\$59,525	SOI
Unified Sports	300	20,000	500	\$1.50	₹ 22,50,000	\$30,000	ESPN
Youth Leadership	10	700	25	\$74.57	₹ 39,15,000	\$52,200	SNF / LTI
Total	335	23,700	2,525		₹ 1,06,29,375	\$1,41,725	

G) Total Cost of SO Bharat Program

Items	Athlete / Coach	Resource Persons	Total Camper	Budget Rs	Budget \$	Supported By
A) Administration Cost	18,70,686		18,70,686	₹ 23,50,00,000	\$31,75,676	SOI / SOB / VIK
B) Cost of Coaches	4,020			₹ 1,20,60,00,000	\$1,60,80,000	Value in Kind
D) LTDP	365	74	439	₹ 37,87,200	\$51,178	Govt. Of India
E) CSR	3,100	200	3,300	₹ 37,26,250	\$50,355	CSR
F) Strategic Growth	23,700	2,525	26,225	₹ 1,06,29,375	\$1,43,640	SOI
C) National/ State/ District/ Local Program	1,00,644	4,020	1,04,664	₹ 7,57,70,000	\$10,23,919	Value in Kind
Total				₹ 1,53,49,12,825	\$2,05,24,768	

SOI Supported	\$1,43,640	GOI Supported	\$51,178	CSR	\$50,355	VIK	\$1,71,54,274
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WE ARE GRATEFUL TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Developmental Sports



Child & Maternal health supported by Gates Foundation



Healthy Athletes
Family Health Forum
Unified Sports Youth
Activation Digital
Development



Youth & School Engagement

Unified Sports





***Special
Olympics
Bharat***

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