



Vision:

Our VISION is an inclusive world for all, driven by the power of sport, through which people with intellectual disabilities live active, healthy, and fulfilling lives.

Mission:

To provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for Children and adults with an intellectual disability, giving them continuing opportunities to develop Physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and Friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

Intellectual Disability

Intellectual disability (or ID) is a term used when a person has certain limitations in cognitive functioning and skills, including communication, social and self-care skills. According to the American Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, an individual has intellectual disability if he or she meets three criteria: 1. IQ is below 70-75 2. There are significant limitations in two or more adaptive areas (skills that are needed to live, work, and play in the community, such as communication or self-care) 3. The condition manifests itself before the age of 18

Accreditations:

Registered in 2001 under the Indian Trust Act, 1882, with 21,671 registered athletes, Special Olympics Programs are recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for Olympic type Athletics and Sports Programmes.

Special Olympics Bharat is accredited by Special Olympics Inc, USA to conduct Special Olympics Programs in India.

Special Olympics Bharat has been recognized by the Govt. of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in 2006, as the National Sports Federation for the development of Sports for persons with Intellectual Disabilities.

Prevalence:

The most recent WHO numbers (2011) put the prevalence of Intellectual Disability at 1% of the population. This marks a change from the previous (2001) WHO estimate which puts the prevalence of ID between 1% and 3%. Using this estimate the population of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities in India is calculated at over 36 million.

Scope:

Special Olympics Bharat provides sports training and competition opportunities covering 34 States/ Union Territories and nearly all districts in India. Using Sports as a catalyst for change we offer a range of Special Initiatives that help in the overall development of the athlete and in building communities.

Category	As on 2019	(2021-23)
<i>Athletes (8 yrs and above)</i>	1,304,639	202,949
<i>Young Athletes (2-8yrs)</i>	329,812	14,807
<i>Coaches</i>	1,50,326	15,644
<i>Volunteers</i>	59,211	51,251
<i>Families</i>	2,71,926	15,007



Our Programs:

"We believe there should be universal access to sports throughout life; our athletes are powerful evidence of why that's important, and they're pioneers in showcasing the value of sport as a vehicle for individual development and social change" Dr Tim Shriver, Chairman, Special Olympics Inc.

Special Olympics organizes sports and competitions at various levels- local, district, state, national and international and based on abilities and performance athletes cross each level to participate at higher consecutive levels. Special Olympics Bharat has a large pool of coaches and trainers that it draws on, for training Athletes. Coaches also undergo training to equip them to cater to our growing number of athletes as standalone coaches and trainers and as physical educators at local levels and special schools.

In conjunction with the SO Strategy 2021-24 Special Olympics strives to be an Athlete-led movement, reaching out to key influencers and communities to help create positive attitudes and bring about permanent change towards inclusion of people with ID. Athlete Leadership is one of the most powerful ways of developing and demonstrating their abilities in leadership roles both inside and outside the sports field and the organization. Youth from schools, colleges etc are directly engaged in Unified leadership where people without intellectual disabilities can learn from and empower people with intellectual disabilities. Several Athlete leadership and Unified leadership initiatives, including workshops & meetings are held at the local, state, national and international levels, to build the capacity of the SO Bharat youth leaders

Sports Offered: 19 Summer Games, 7 Winter Games and 2 local Games

Summer Games	Aquatics; Athletics; Badminton; Basketball; Bocce; Cricket; Cycling; Dancesport; Football; Golf; Handball; Judo; Netball; Power lifting; Roller Skating; Softball; Table Tennis; Tennis ; Volleyball
Winter Games	Alpine Skiing; Floor Hockey; Figure Skating; Speed Skating; Snow Boarding; Snow Shoeing; Floor ball
Local Games	Kabaddi; Kho-Kho

With the support of Sports Authority of India (SAI)/Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MYAS) under Annual Calendar for trainings & competitions (ACTC) the Athletes are trained at the National Coaching camps (NCC) enabling them to face international competitions. To train our coaches Advance Coaches Training Programs (ACTP) are organized all-round the year.

Central Government Cash Awards for the SO Bharat Medalists

In January 2015, the Central Government Institutionalized Cash Awards for the SO Bharat Medalists at the Special Olympics World Games. The initiative has gone a long way in empowering the Athletes and granting recognition to their abilities. [Govt Doc Online](#).

Many State level authorities have joined the Inclusion movement by recognizing the SO Bharat Medalists in their respective States, districts and local regions. Alongside enhancing participation of the Athletes at the World Games, the initiative has opened doors of mainstreaming the Athletes by offering job placements to them. The state of Haryana, has inducted Athletes with Intellectual Disabilities in the State Government posts. The State has also extended the 'Bhim Award' scheme to the Special Olympics Athletes, an award that felicitated mainstream and Paralympics Athletes only, earlier.



While sports remain the mainstay of the Special Olympics Program the capacity of the Athletes is constantly developed through regular trainings and **additional initiatives**



Special Olympics Athlete Leadership | Inclusive Youth Leadership

If we want a more inclusive organization and accepting world, Special Olympics athletes must be allowed to contribute in ways beyond the sports field. One of the most powerful ways we do this is through Athlete Leadership, which creates opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities to develop and demonstrate their abilities in leadership roles.

A Unified Leadership approach, activates young people to develop school/college communities where all youth with and without Intellectual Disabilities engage together as agents of change – fostering respect, dignity and advocacy for people with intellectual disabilities



Young Athletes Program & Developmental Sports

The Young Athletes program (YAP) is designed to introduce children ages two through seven to the benefits of sports involvement, and to prepare them for competitions when they are 8 years of age.

While children can participate in Young Athletes through age seven, as children get older, they are often ready for more sport-specific coaching and instruction. **Developmental Sports** activities can provide an age-appropriate introduction to sports for children with and without intellectual disabilities, ages 6-12 years old.



Motor Activity Training Program (MATP)

The Motor Activity Training Program is designed to prepare athletes—including those with severe or profound intellectual disability and significant physical disabilities—for sport-specific activities appropriate for their ability levels. It is designed for athletes who are unable to participate in official Special Olympics sport competitions because of their skill and/or functional abilities.



Family Forum

Families form the support system for our Special Olympics athletes giving them love, support and encouragement every step of the way. This program was added to focus on family outreach and support- the Family Support Network (FSN) to reach out to other families and to welcome them into the community



Healthy Athletes

The SO Healthy Athletes program helps athletes to improve their training and competition by focusing on overall health and fitness. This is achieved through basic health screenings, provision of preventative and some treatment services, educational information, and referrals for follow-up care. Healthy Athletes currently offers health screenings in seven areas: Fit Feet (podiatry), FUNfitness (physical therapy), Health Promotion (better health and well-being), Healthy Hearing (audiology), MedFest (sports physical exam), Opening Eyes (vision) and Special Smiles (dentistry).



National & International Sports Events

2024	Two Unified teams from India, one male and one female, participated in the Special Olympics South Asia 7-a-side Unified Football Tournament held in Dhaka Bangladesh from 16-20 April 2024. 5 SO programs participated in the tournament. The SO Bharat Female Football team secured a third position while the male team a fifth.
2023	193 Athletes represented India at the Special Olympics World Summer Games held in Berlin , Germany from 17-25 June 2023 across 16 disciplines returning with 77 Gold, 71 Silver and 52 Bronze medals.
2022	A Unified female football team participated in the 7-a-side Unified football at the Unified Cup held in Detroit from 31 July-6 August 2022, winning a Bronze Medal
2021	One athlete from Karnataka secured a fifth position in the first ever Special Olympics World Championship Dance Sport held in Graz Austria in August 2021
2020	The Special Olympics Sweden Invitational Games invited Athletes from 19 countries from 1-4 February 2020. Two Speed skating Athletes represented SO Bharat, winning 2 Gold and 2 Silver Medals
2019	Four Unified teams– two male and two female joined more than 150 delegates from 14 countries who took part in the inaugural Special Olympics Asia Pacific Unified Badminton Championship held in Bangkok, from 13 - 16 November 2019. India won 2 Gold and a Silver Medal 281 Athletes represented India at the Special Olympics World Summer Games held in Abu Dhabi , UAE from 14-21 March 2019 across 14 disciplines returning with 85 Gold, 155 Silver and 129 Bronze medals
2018	Special Olympics celebrated the organization's 50th anniversary , holding the Unified Cup in Chicago USA from 17-21 July 2018 . The event witnessed participation of 8 female and 16 Male teams from all over the world. Special Olympics Bharat sent a Unified Football female team which played the preliminary matches clashing with SO Mexico, SO Egypt & SO Korea
2017	The 3rd South Asia Unified Cricket Tournament was held from 1-4 December 2017 at RDT Ananthapur Andhra Pradesh India. The tournament witnessed teams from SO Bangladesh , SO Serendib and SO Bharat participating in Unified Cricket held on the 2 nd and 3 rd of December 2017. SO Bangladesh won the series defeating both the countries The Special Olympics Golf Masters Macau Tournament , was held from 16th April to 22nd April 2017. The 3 Golfing Athletes played 2 rounds of Golf at Level 5, the highest level, in a 36-hole tournament. While Ranveer won a gold medal Kushagra and Ankush won a bronze medal each



	<p>89 Athletes represented India at the Special Olympics World Winter Games held in Austria from 14-25 March 2017 across 7 disciplines returning with 37 Gold, 10 Silver and 26 Bronze medals</p>
2016	<p>Special Olympics Bharat-Odisha, in collaboration with Lions Club International & the KIIT University, Bhubaneswar hosted the Special Olympics Inter-Regional Unified 11-a-side Football Tournament. Teams from Thailand, Bangladesh, Korea and India played league matches resulting in Thailand as winner, Korea 1st runner up followed by India the second runner up. The Competitions were preceded by a Special Olympics Coach Development program and a Unified Football Referee Training Program.</p> <p>With support from the lions Club International, a first ever Multi-disciplinary Unified Sports Nationals was held at the Rayat Bahra Institute, Hoshiarpur, Punjab from 12-16 November 2016. Alongside sports, a Healthy Athlete Train the Trainer Program was held inviting Clinical Regional Advisors from Slovenia, Malaysia, Germany and India to lead the sessions</p> <p>6 Unified teams, 2 each from India and Bangladesh as well as one each from Pakistan and Serendib participated at the SO 2nd South Asian Unified Cricket 2016, Dhaka, Bangladesh held at the Fatullah Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Cricket Stadium, Dhaka, Bangladesh in November 2016. SO Bharat won gold in group B.</p>
2015	<p>At the Special Olympics Asia Pacific FIFA 5 a Side Football Tournament held in Nepal from 27th to 29th December 2015 India won the Trophy. Matches were played between Nepal, Pakistan and India. Team from India included 8 athletes and 2 Coaches</p> <p>214 Athletes represented India at the Special Olympics World Summer Games 2015, Los Angeles, USA across thirteen disciplines returning with 61 Gold, 65 Silver and 121 Bronze medals with them.</p> <p>3 Athletes from India participated at the 4th edition of Special Olympics Golf Masters 2015 held at Macao, China. Team India debuted participation at Level 5 this year. India bagged two trophies, one in Level 1 and the other in Level 5</p>
2014	<p>36 State and National Program leaders from Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Philippines and India participated at the inaugural Special Olympics Leadership Academy 2014. The course was held in Gurgaon, Haryana, India and was led by Denis Doolan, Vice President, Movement Leadership & Integration, Special Olympics International</p>



	<p>775 persons with disabilities from all over India participated at the 4th MYAS National Games for persons with all Disabilities held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha in November.</p> <p>4 Athletes competed in Badminton and Table Tennis at the Invitational JOCS Special Olympics Barcelona – Calella 2014. They returned with Gold Silver and Bronze medals in badminton league matches and a bronze in Table Tennis</p> <p>30 Coaches with a few Athletes participated at the SOI Training for Sports Performance held in Chennai in 6 sport disciplines, led by 6 trainers from SOI</p> <p>Two teams (Team A&B) of 18 Athletes and 11 Unified Partners participated at the first South Asian Special Olympics Unified Cricket tournament, held in Bangladesh. Team B won the Championship.</p> <p>Three Athletes represented SO Bharat at the third edition of Special Olympics Golf Masters Macau 2014, having won a team trophy and one Gold medal each.</p>
2013	<p>Over 700 persons with disabilities from all over India participated at the 3rd MYAS National Games for persons with all Disabilities held in Ajmer, Rajasthan in December.</p> <p>383 Athletes participate at the inaugural Special Olympics Asia Pacific Regional Games 2013, Newcastle, Australia in 8 disciplines, returning with 111 Gold, 136 Silver and 140 Bronze medals</p> <p>An Athlete represented SO Bharat for the first time at the Special Olympics Asia Pacific Master's Cup 2013 held in Macau, bringing back two Gold medals and a trophy.</p> <p>57 Athletes represented India in the Special Olympics World Winter Games 2013, PyeongChang, South Korea across six disciplines bringing back with them 13 Gold, 16 Silver and 16 Bronze medals with them.</p>
2012	<p>3 Aquatics Athletes participated in World Aquatics Invitational Games held in Puerto Rico, USA and came back with 3 Silvers, 2 Bronze and 2 Fourth Place Ribbons</p> <p>Two teams participated in the 1st South Asian 5-a-side Football Tournament, Dhaka. The Champion Trophy was won by the Senior team and a Silver Medal by the junior team.</p> <p>305 athletes participated in the National Championship for Softball organized in Alwar, Rajasthan in November.</p> <p>973 athletes participated in 1st MYAS National Games for persons with all Disabilities held in Chennai, February this year.</p>



	In December, 658 athletes participated in 2nd MYAS National Games for persons with all Disabilities held in Bhopal.
2011	183 Athletes represented India in 12 disciplines in Special Olympics World Summer Games , Athens, Greece .The Athletes came back with 78 Gold, 79 Silver and 92 Bronze medals. Special Khel Mahakhumb was held in Gujarat in November presided over by the Chief minister of Gujarat, Mr. Narendra Modi. This event saw participation of 16 lakh athletes out of which 44,000 were Special athletes.
2010	National Championship for World Winter Games in 6 Disciplines at Bishop Cotton School, Shimla and in Narkhanda. Be a fan of Dignity 2010 , the signature campaign to ban the 'R' word, was held totaling an overwhelming 11.25 million signatures. A unified fashion show was part of the event that was held in Bangalore. Special Olympics Bharat athletes walked the ramp along with models and actors.
2009	45 Athletes participated in 4 disciplines in Special Olympics World Winter Games , Idaho, USA. Indian Girls Floor Hockey team played for the first time bringing back a silver medal in this event. To enhance cross border relationships a Cricket Exhibition Match was held between India and Bangladesh at Eden Gardens in November. International Cricket Carnival was held in Delhi. 8 teams from the Asia Pacific region participated. India Boys Cricket Team participated in Invitational Cup at Shanghai to introduce Cricket discipline to the Chinese and came back with gold medals
2008	A Torch Run was organized in December at Red Fort, Delhi, spreading awareness about the World Winter Games to be held in Idaho, USA A four-tier system of Special Olympics coaches training was established through International Inspiration paving way for high standards of coaches training in India The first ever National Games in Winter Sports were held in Shimla witnessing participation of nearly 900 Athletes
2007	Through the initiative of the State of Himachal Pradesh, Snow Sports namely Alpine Skiing, Snowshoeing and Snowboarding were introduced in India 137 Athletes participated in 12 disciplines in the Special Olympics World Summer Games held in Shanghai. They came back with 36 Gold, 45 Silver and 67 Bronze.
2006	The Torch run started as a precursor to the Special Olympics International Cricket Cup . The torch was handed over to actor Akshay Kumar, Brand Ambassador, SO Bharat by Mr. Wasim Akram, the Brand Ambassador for SO Pakistan at the Wagah Border. It was then transported to Mumbai for the opening ceremony of the tournament.
2005	16 Athletes participated in the World Winter Games held at Nagano, Japan.



	National Championship (Summer) was held in Delhi where nearly 1500 athletes participated.
2004	Special Olympics Bharat organized Asia Pacific International Cricket at Ahmedabad, Gujarat
2003	81 Athletes participated in the 11 th Special Olympics World Summer Games held in Dublin, Ireland winning 34 Gold, 36 Silver and 40 Bronze
2002	The first National Games (Summer) were held in New Delhi with over 1200 athletes participating in it in Athletics and Bocce.

Sports Centres – local programming for regularising sports

As a lasting legacy to the National Health Fest held in April 2022 all over India, Sports centres have opened in 5-6 states of India offering Special Olympics sports and non-sport activities within a community. The Centres provide a platform for the Special Athletes to continuously practise and upgrade sporting skills. The year-round training and competitions, aim to strengthen their chances of participating at local, district, state, national or international levels, inculcating a feeling of confidence & empowerment. With the centres located within close proximity, it is convenient for the escorts of the Athletes to accompany them, which may be required across a high percentage.

A Sports Centre is a fully equipped training center with trained sports professionals to provide sports and fitness training to children and adults with IDD, in an inclusive format. Stadiums, Schools, Universities, Sports Academies, Community Centers are spaces that can be Sports Centers

The Centres will go a long way in strengthening local sports programming that would promote Inclusion and enable the Athletes to contribute meaningfully in the society. SO Bharat is on the path of multiplying sports Centres, with a vision of having at least one in every district of India.

Between September 2022 and December 2023, 21 Sports Centres were established in seven states offering regular sports opportunities to 992 Athletes residing in the nearby locations. Nine Centres were launched in 2023 reaching out to three new districts in Assam and to five new states/UTs, namely, Jammu & Kashmir (2), Tripura (1), Arunachal Pradesh (1), Leh(1) and Delhi (1). Himachal Pradesh was the first state to launch the Sports Centres across nine districts.



Partners in Inclusion

Supported by **Macquarie** Inclusive Youth Leadership is developing across the country to train and engage the youth with and without Intellectual Disability alongside state leadership. The Youth are encouraged to take the lead in activating educational institutions in unified sports and expanded inclusive activities , creating an environment of Inclusion which is led by the youth

NHPC (National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd) supports a new initiative of SO Bharat that aims to establish Sports Centers all over India to develop a sports culture. The Sports Centers would enable development of local programs to provide year-round training for athletes with IDD and create expanded inclusive opportunities. Through the Sports Centers SO Bharat looks forward to strengthening the existing partnerships and developing new collaborations with the State governments , Sports Federations, Corporates, Clubs etc

Special Olympics Bharat is one of the eleven National programs to receive the support of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin **Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the United Arab Emirates Armed Forces** for one of the largest initiatives for Inclusion in education for young people with and without intellectual disabilities. The UCS program for schools Pre-K through university promotes meaningful social inclusion by bringing together young people with and without ID to lead in the creation of accepting school environments

In June 2018, Special Olympics announced a landmark collaboration with the **Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF)** to support the global social inclusion movement's goal of forging stronger youth engagement worldwide and to transform educational systems through inclusive sport.

The announcement happened on the 7th Annual International Stavros Niarchos Foundation International Conference on Philanthropy. Focus countries for the partnership include Brazil, Chile, China, Egypt, Greece, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Russia, Serbia, Chinese Taipei and Tanzania. Beginning August 2018 the program continues to activate and engage the youth from schools , colleges and universities in sports and beyond, in India as across the world

The Walt Disney Company, **ESPN** and Special Olympics announced a two-year global initiative, starting September 2013, to leverage the power of sports to promote an environment of social inclusion and acceptance, by uniting people with and without intellectual disabilities through the Special Olympics Unified Sports Program. Unified Sports activities in India assumed a position of central importance through this partnership, making it part of Strategy Growth

H&M Hennes & Mauritz GBC AB (H&M) is industry partner to Special Olympics Global Leadership Coalition for Inclusion. Through this grant H&M aims to support Special Olympics Bharat to work with the governments to achieve policy commitments by implementing inclusive sports to catalyse more inclusive schools and communities



Our Leadership

Air Marshal Denzil Keelor PVSM, KC, AVSM, VrC
Founder Trustee & CEO



Air Marshal Keelor is the founder Trustee of Special Olympics Bharat, having being the Chairman for 12 years. He is highly respected and revered for his experience, result-oriented performance and professional leadership. He is a man of integrity and character and is forthright in his convictions.

In 2004, he received an award from Special Olympics International for his leadership and efforts to reach out to over 450,000 Special Children. In October 2007, at the World Summer Games in Shanghai, a special ceremony was held where he received the "Special Spirit of China Award of Excellence", along with world leaders Nelson Mandela, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Vanessa Williams, Quincy Jones, Nadia Comaneci and other distinguished personalities, in recognition of his outstanding commitment and unique contribution to the Special Olympics Movement.

Air Marshal Denzil Keelor born on 7th December 1933 in Lucknow, studied in St. George's College, Mussoree and La Martiniere College, Lucknow before joining the Indian Air Force in 1953 as a fighter pilot having served as the Inspector General before retiring in 1991. He has had a brilliant career during which he distinguished himself as an exceptional Fighter pilot and leader and held key Operational and Staff assignments. He earned recognition for gallantry and distinguished service of an exceptional order, receiving four Presidential awards from four consecutive Presidents of India, Param Vishist Seva Medal (PVSM), Kirti Chakra (KC), Ati Vishist Seva Medal (AVSM) and Vir Chakra (VrC) and four commendations from of the Chief of Air Staff, thus making him the highest decorated officer in the country.

In the words of Air Marshal Denzil Keelor (Retd.), PVSM, KC, AVSM, VrC: *"We have maintained our policy and record of 'sustained, quality growth. We are an ISO 9001 certified by TUV Germany and committed to customer satisfactions and constant improvement. We are no longer a program but a movement and are now encompassing not only sports but building communities through promoting awareness and a series of new initiatives in which we are engaging the youth and the society outside the parameters of sports. This is not only transformative for athletes and their families but goes beyond, reaching out to the society at large. We continue to extend our program to the rural areas covering 688 districts. The morale of our Program is high!"*



Dr. Mallika Nadda **President**



Dr. Mallika Nadda is the President of Special Olympics Bharat and the Chairperson of the Special Olympics Asia Pacific Advisory Committee (APAC). She 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 academician with a doctorate in history and special interest in urban studies she is associated with the Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla.

Born in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, Dr. Mallika Nadda inherited true values of selfless service from her parents, who were prominent social and political figures of their time.

She drew inspiration from her mother who was a member of the Parliament, and who was instrumental in garnering appropriate support for SO Bharat in its formative stage. As a student activist, Dr Nadda was an elected president of the Jabalpur College and University. She also became active in the field of social service early in life and is a founder member of Viklang Sewa Bharti, Jabalpur an organization working for the equality and dignity of differently-abled and integrating them in the mainstream.

Dr Nadda re-located to Himachal Pradesh after her marriage in 1991 with Sh. Jagat Prakash Nadda, who has also been a member of the Board of SO Bharat. Consistent with her passion Dr Nadda founded 'CHETNA'– a civil society initiative with a vision to integrate Persons with Physical and Mental challenges into the mainstream society through capacity building, in Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh. She set up the Himachal Pradesh Chapter of Special Olympics Bharat in 2002, also taking the lead in organizing Snow Sports and Winter Games, enabling the Athletes to participate in the Special Olympics World Winter Games in high numbers, thereafter.

She has been felicitated with prestigious accolades including the Rajiv Gandhi Manav Sewa Puraskar awarded in 2010, by the Ministry of Women and Child, Government Of India for exemplary work in the field of Child development, the Derozio Award in 2011 in the field of Education and Human Enrichment and the "Rotary Shreyas Award" in 2015-16 for exemplary Social Services.



We joyfully acknowledge the support of our sponsors & partners



Let me win, but if I cannot win let me be brave in the attempt
-Special Olympics Athlete Oath