

# MILESTONES

## Special Olympics Bharat



### 19 July 2001

'Special Olympics Bharat' was born under the leadership of Air Marshal Denzil Keelor *PVSM, KC, AVSM, Vrc*. It was registered with the Indian Trusts Act 1882. The Special Olympics movement, although founded in India in 1987 by the name 'Special Olympics India' functioning only in the Metro cities

### June 2003

Special Olympics **Bharat** participated for the first time in the Special Olympics World Summer Games held in Dublin Ireland wherein 103 Athletes and Coaches represented India

### February 2004

The Goa Agreement marked a turning point as SOI committed the Christmas Grant that enabled SO Bharat to leap forward to register 500,000 Athletes in the next five years. A vision was created and targets were set harnessing all the States and Union Territories of India

### Early 2005

Dr Tim Shriver, Chairman, Special Olympics International accompanied by Senior officials Mr Ray Lane and Mr Bart Cornor visited India. A meeting was held with Dr Abdul Kalam, President of India, Dr Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India, Mrs Sonia Gandhi, UPA Chairperson and Mr Sunil Dutt, Minister Of Youth Affairs & Sports

### 19 January 2006

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sport recognised SO Bharat as a National Sports Federation for the development of sports for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities, upgraded to the "Priority Category," in April 2006

### October 2006

A Torch Run was conducted as a precursor to the International Cricket Tournament, ICC Champions Trophy. The torch was handed over to Akshay Kumar, popular actor of India by Wasim Akram, popular cricketer of Pakistan, at the Wagah Border. The torch was then transported to Mumbai for the opening ceremony of the tournament.

### October 2007

Snow Games were initiated through the state of Himachal Pradesh. The first SO Bharat contingent composed of 137 Athletes and 48 Coaches, fully sponsored by the Govt of India went for the Special Olympics World Summer Games held in Shanghai, China

### April 2008

The Govt. introduced a program popularly called the MYAS SCHEME, declaring SO Bharat as the Nodal Agency for the conduct of sports for Persons With Disabilities. SO Bharat gained access to 1.4 Million schools falling under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)

The first National Games in Snow Sports were held in Shimla, following which India participated in Snow Games for the first time at the World Games held in Idaho in 2009

### December 2008

Sponsored by DHL, the International Law Enforcement Torch Run was held in Chandini Chowk, New Delhi, in the presence of Mrs Sheila Dixit, the then Chief minister of Delhi and Actor Akshay Kumar. Dr John Dow presided over the function

### 11 March 2013

SO Bharat's record of number of registered Athletes crossed the one million mark substantiating the dynamic contribution of the Area Directors and the Coaches in the movement. The momentum set by now, continued to move with

### Sustained Quality Growth

