



# National Youth Leadership Summit

29 Nov- 2 Dec 2023

Venue: Amity University UP NOIDA



## Executive Summary

The National Youth Leadership Summit was held from 29 Nov to 2 December 2023 at the Amity University UP NOIDA, through the support of *His Highness Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE, Stavros Niarchos Foundation and Macquarie*. 107 youth leaders with and without IDD supported by 33 adult mentors participated from 21 states of India. 29 November was dedicated to the teams from 20 schools of the Delhi NCR while the state teams arrived at the venue parallelly. The Summit saw an overall attendance of number of 169 Youth with and without, Mentors, officials, guests and partners. Under the leadership and support of Dr Mallika Nadda, President, Dr DG Chaudhary, General Secretary and Air Cmde LK Sharma, Executive Director, the fifth edition of the annual summit ran a successful three-day course, promising to build a strong presence of youth of all abilities across the country. Ms Pam Rolink, Manager Youth Initiatives, Asia Pacific Regional Office (Singapore), Special Olympics travelled to India to support and lead sessions while interacting with the youth to comprehend the impact of their engagement in India.



The Summit organising team (SOT) combined 17 youth leaders with and without IDD who were engaged in the core activities since the first week of October 2023. The theme 'Diversity & Inclusion' was decided to reiterate attention of the youth and all other stakeholders on recognising, respecting & accepting diversities.

The Summit sessions were led by the National Youth leadership Council members & the National office staff. A session was held by the World Wildlife Federation (WWF), a step up

from their engagement at the youth summit in 2022 as well. The sessions were designed to be interactive, reflective, and encouraging the youth leaders to share their thoughts. Each day was anchored by a unified pair. As a precursor to the Summit, a National Youth Input Council meeting was held with the unified pairs, on 20 November 2023, discussing the agenda with the members and understanding their expectations. It concluded with encouraging them to discuss the PQS and the Annual Plan 2024 with their respective state area directors, to share at the Summit. The Summit held panel discussions and open interactions with distinguished guests and organizations, promising to open opportunities of meaningful partnerships.

## Day ONE – 29 November 2023

41 Youth with and without IDD from 20 schools of Delhi and the NCR participated on the first day. The Summit was opened by Air Cmde LK Sharma, followed by a summary of the engagement of schools and colleges in the program all round the year, in Delhi. Dr Himanshu Gupta, the then Director of the Directorate of Education & Sports, Delhi NCT graced the day with his keynote address. A Unified skit was performed by the students of Jaypee Public School Greater NOIDA.



A summary of youth & education carried out through the attending colleges and schools was highlighted, and the recently signed MoU between the Government of Delhi NCT and the Delhi Chapter was re-visited with much delight. The commitment with over 1000 schools in the region outlined the gravity with which the program will travel further on the mission of Special Olympics in the coming years.

Team Jaypee Public School, Gr NOIDA performing the Unified Skit





While delivering his address, Mr Himanshu said, *“We must identify children with special needs at an early age and introduce sports to them as it is very effective in their development and mainstreaming. We, as a society have an important role to play, especially the Government organisations and the NGOs. It is not only the parents who have the responsibility of taking care of their children with special needs. We all must join hands in doing so”* Following his address he also committed to open 15 sports centres in the Delhi NCT region

Defining the Sports centres and its aim of regularising sports access inclusively, developing Unified fitness clubs as another means of engaging the youth within schools and colleges were sessions that followed. The importance of Athlete development and an overview of the online and offline modules was presented.



## Day Two & Three – 30 November & 1 December 2023

The second and the third day of the Summit witnessed participation from different states of India combining a promising group of youth leaders and adult mentors. The performance summary of the states presented at the beginning of the day, provided the context while the panel discussion saw a powerful convergence of distinguished guests.

Before the Panel discussion started, a joyful and energetic fitness session was led by the siblings from Delhi, Krishna and Vaibhav Khullar, enthraling the audience that included Dr Mallika Nadda, Ms A Srija, Economic Advisor, Department of School Education & Literacy, Govt of India, and the Amity University senior officials and faculty members. The discussion was held on 30 November 2023, combining panellists from different fields, all converging in its goal of inclusion through education. The panellists included Ms A Srija, Ms Pam Rolink, Manager, Youth Initiatives, Asia Pacific Region, Special Olympics SOAP, Prof (Dr) Jayanti Pujari, Dean, Faculty of Rehabilitation Sciences, Professor & Director, Amity Institute of Rehabilitation Sciences and Ms Mala Arora, Consultant, Inclusion, joined by Dr Mallika Nadda, who assumed the pivotal role of defining the alignment of the discussions with the mission and vision of Special Olympics.

The discussion was co-moderated by the Unified Pair, Rithik Hukku, Youth leader with IDD and Smruti Sikta Mishra Youth leader without IDD





The sessions that followed, defined the vital role of the youth at events in spreading awareness and sensitising communities through sports, and through examples such as Pratishta, a youth initiative of community outreach. Inclusive Youth Mentorship had the participants engaged in drawing out impactful support of the adult mentor. The participants were quick in getting attracted to the idea of building unified fitness clubs in their schools and colleges. The sessions went into breaks of ice-breaking activities, most popularly, flash mobs



Enlightening the participants on the various Government schemes, Ms A Srija, Economic Advisor to the Education Ministry, encouraged the states to avail the provisions of the Government's Khelo India scheme and the residential schools run by the Govt and a few specifically by the Education ministry, dotting the country. These residential schools have playgrounds that can be accessed by the Special Olympics Athletes with Coaches training and mentor-mentee activities. These facilities have sports equipment which are replenished regularly. She emphasized that Special Olympics would be required, most essentially, to build human resource to inject & support Unified sports into the existing systems. Special Olympics would have to mobilise children residing in the surrounding areas. Ms Srija announced to the forum present that, they may explore these facilities in their neighbourhoods and states and reach back to the SO Bharat

National office if faced with any challenges in their outreach.



Sharing the perspective of Special Olympics, Dr Mallika Nadda, President SO Bharat said, "Unified Sports was a concept spoken about some ten years back, by Special Olympics International. Since then, inclusion is an important part of sports and all our activities." She is leading the endeavours of SO Bharat in reaching out to the education department to make unified sports a part of Inclusive education with importantly, having the youth to engage & lead

Dr DG Chaudhari, general secretary, SO Bharat graced the summit on the last day joined by other distinguished guests all of whom addressed the participants encouraging them to strengthen the revolution for Inclusion, with their support



## Highlighted Sessions

### World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

Mr Ashley Wilkinson, Senior Programme Officer - Youth & Citizen Engagement, WWF (World Wildlife Fund) led a session of sensitizing the youth towards single use plastic. The session drew attention of the youth to the problem that has reached alarming heights with everyone contributing, often unintentionally. The discussion also revealed how oblivious was everyone to its harmful effects on nature

“Under Tide Turners Plastic Challenge, WWF-India looks at building capacity of SO youth network and transform them as active contributors to fight against Single Use Plastics and similar initiatives. We believe that every individual has a role to play and can contribute to environment conservation”, said Ashley



### Safeguarding

Ms Mukta Narain Thind, National Director – OD SO Bharat, took a session of 'Safeguarding', drawing attention of the trainees towards the significance imparted by SO to the subject. The session was conducted through the participation of Yashika Mehta, Sidhant Nath and Smruti Misra



## Distinguished Guests

The last day held experience sharing by guests invited from different fields of expertise, engaged in endeavours that aim to promote inclusion in the society. **Ms Damini Gosh**, Senior Resident Fellow and Team Lead (Disability- Inclusion and Access) Vidhi Centre of legal policy

spoke about the role of youth in shaping policies in India. "Towards a society which is truly just, equal and inclusive, the youth of India (comprising over 27% of the total population i.e, over 34 crore individuals), represent a huge window of opportunity for transformation, where their participation in policies today will undoubtedly shape tomorrow. However, the potential of youth as a positive source of change is often overlooked and instead, they are bogged down with social, economic and institutional barriers, all leading to their lack of recognition and involvement. This is compounded further in case of young persons with disabilities. Per the 2011 Census, India has a population of over 2.68 crore persons with disabilities. To create a truly inclusive society, the potential of India's youth with disabilities must be harnessed.

To this end, Damini spoke about the rights guaranteed to persons with disabilities under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (RPWD 2016) and the legal and policy interventions undertaken by Vidhi specifically in the area of accessibility to urban spaces and inclusive education. The ability of our communities and society, as a whole, to identify and provide reasonable accommodations, to practise non-discrimination and include youth with disabilities from the very get-go is instrumental in furthering better representation and access to equal opportunities for persons with disabilities. Damini concluded the talk by emphasising on advocacy and capacity building, greater participation of youth through awareness of their rights, utilising social media and tech-based interventions, and promoting representation and participation at various levels of decision- making.

**Dr Kalpana Sharma**, DIRECTOR (Academics) NSNIS, Patiala, spoke of the phenomenal role of sports that can break barriers along with bringing about holistic development. She even touched about an old association of the institute with SO Bharat, the two organisations having participated jointly in several initiatives in the past few years.

**Mr Akshay Tyagi** Corporate Manager- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, The Lalit Suri Hospitality Group, spoke about the employment opportunities provided by them for the inclusion of the neglected populations of the society. Recently they embarked into a new initiative of employing persons with intellectual disabilities. Rithik Hukku, has been employed by the group in Jaipur, Rajasthan where he looks after one of the shops located within the

premises of the hotel. Rithik often shares his joy at being accepted and recognised for his services there.



Dr DG Chaudhari



Dr Kalpana Sharma

**Dr DG Chaudhari**, general secretary SO Bharat acknowledged the presence of the guests, appreciated the enthusiasm of the youth and the support extended by the seniors in making them ambassadors of change. He motivated them to continue with their engagements with the SO initiatives on returning to their respective states.



Ms Damini Gosh



Mr Akshay Tyagi



Ms Pam Rolink



Ms Mala Arora

According to **Ms Pam Rolink**, Manager Youth Initiatives, Asia Pacific Region, Special Olympics, “This summit aims to build the capacity of all youth leaders and their mentors to advocate for inclusion in their own respective communities. It is through their actions that we will be able to achieve a more inclusive society. Government entities and youth leaders are key stakeholders for Special Olympics in achieving its vision to build a more inclusive society, tackling injustice and inequality and creating more opportunities for people with ID. The group of youth leaders, mentors, Program staff, and external speakers were very inspiring. I do not doubt that they will advance Special Olympics Bharat’s move towards inclusion.”

“Inclusive institutions empower individuals to grow and thrive, not just as students during their time in educational systems, but in life beyond institutions as citizens in their communities and in the world. Fostering collaboration amongst stakeholders and teamwork amongst individuals is an effective way to promote inclusion in institutions” – **Ms Mala Arora**, Consultant, Inclusion

**Youth leaders, Mahi Dheri, Rithik Hukku and Shrey Kadian**, shared their experiences and plan from the SOAP- Regional Leadership Conference held in Jakarta, Indonesia in November 2023.



Mr Shrey Kadian



Ms Mahi Dheri & Ms Yashika Bhatt



Mr Rithik Hukku

## Conclusion

All three days of the Youth leadership Summit provided the youth with a unified sports experience across Baggo, Badminton and Football. The last day, 1 Dec 2023, saw a pleasing display of the diverse talent of the Athlete leaders. Ashutosh Panigarhi, athlete leader from Jharkhand took the mike, showcasing his talent in doing additions and multiplications extempore, speaking about winning an abacus championship held in October of this year and certainly wowing everyone. He carried on to give an impromptu classical vocal performance that had him sing flawlessly for nearly 10 mins! He repeatedly spoke about his passion for powerlifting as well. Aman, athlete and Arpit, his unified buddy from Odisha, performed a foot-tapping dance from the tribal regions of the state, immaculately donned in the befitting costume.



Rappers: Shivam Verma & Mohd Kaif



Team Jharkhand



Team Odisha



Certificates were awarded to the participants and to the Unified Champion Schools of the states. The ritualistic Unified Rap by our duo, Kaif and Shivam had the audience repeat 'SO Bharat' loudly and repeatedly. The National Youth Leadership Council members along with a few volunteers who proudly called themselves the SOT (Summit Organising Team) stepped forward after having worked furiously for the past two months.



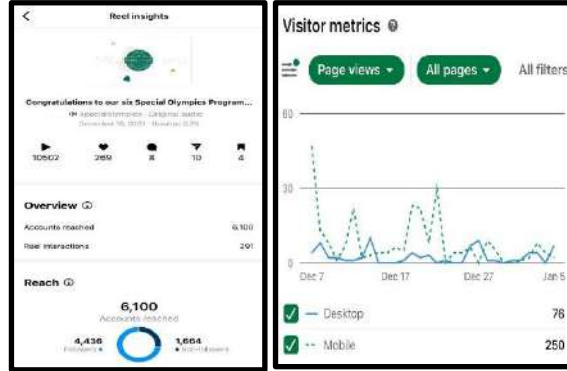
The fifth edition of the National Youth leadership Summit closed at an overwhelming note and a hope to carry youth engagement forward with an impact that speaks for itself



# Media Coverage

## Social Media

Handle	Followers	Reach	Likes
Instagram	5941	1315	156.7
Facebook	9.4K	2522	92
X	663	124.1	-
LinkedIn	1237	121.8	23.8



**DD India** @DDIndiaLive  
 President of SO Bharat @DrMallikaNadda, shared powerful insights at National Youth Leadership Summit Stressing on education and unified sports, she highlighted their role in nurturing leadership skills for everyone.  
 @Solympicsbharat  
 @Media\_SAI  
[youtu.be/QYuQqX-GeQ0](https://youtu.be/QYuQqX-GeQ0)



Exclusive Interaction with Special Olympics Bharat President Dr. Mallika Nadda

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## Media

### Special Olympics Bharat successfully conducts three-day National Youth Leadership Summit 2023

BY KHELTODAY | DECEMBER 4, 2023

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<https://iansnews.in/detail/special-olympics-bharat-conducts-three-day-national-youth-leadership-summit-2023--20231205120850>

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<https://glamsham.com/world/sports/special-olympics-bharat-conducts-three-day-national-youth-leadership-summit-2023>

[https://x.com/DDIndiaLive/status/1730192562512691395?t=nsv5sMqSq94th6\\_WbsifXg&s=08](https://x.com/DDIndiaLive/status/1730192562512691395?t=nsv5sMqSq94th6_WbsifXg&s=08)

<https://youtu.be/-J8d9sBDBao?si=Ld1kj50mAnawP4Vj>

<https://x.com/DDIndiaLive/status/1730955692671164796?t=YqvXeimmqP0BsQqXNQxGZA&s=08>

## Action Points

Athlete Leadership Training

Attendance of Unified pairs from the states at the NYIC held bi-monthly

Continuing engagement with the State Area Directors

## Comparison

Description	2022	2023
Summit Organising Team	15	15
Unified Champion School recognition	52	50
Schools Delhi NCR	14	20
States	17	21
Youth with ID (including SOT and Performers)	33	50
Youth without ID (including SOT and Performers)	32	57
Mentors -Schools & States	24	33
Panellists (and guest speakers)	10	7
Family Café Members	30 (In-person and Virtual)	NA
National Educator Advisory Committee	6	NA

## Acknowledgements

We are grateful to the Youth leaders and their adult mentors, the mainstream and special schools and colleges, Coaches, State Area Directors, the photographers and media persons, the panellists and guests, the leadership and program officials of Special Olympics Asia Pacific and SO Bharat.



**Annexures:** A- Agenda | B- Guest list

## Annexure A

Seminar Hall, F3, Amity University UP NOIDA

### AGENDA

#### Wednesday 29 Nov 9:30AM-5PM | Unified Anchors: Khushi Grover & Aditi Sabherwal Attendees: Schools & Colleges from Delhi NCR

Opening of the Summit
Flow of Sessions & Summary of Youth & Schools in Delhi NCR
Unified Skit – Jaypee Public School Gr NOIDA
Address on Inclusion in Schools - Mr Himanshu Gupta Director- Directorate of Education & Sports, Govt of Delhi NCT
Sports Centre- A model of sustained inclusive sports
Update on the Special Olympics activities
Youth engagement sharing from the recently held Asia Pacific Leadership Conference in Jakarta
Athlete Development – Briefing on the Module offline
Added youth engagements in schools/colleges– Unified Fitness Club & Young Athletes
Event planning – Model Pratishtha
Outdoor Unified Sports activity- Baggo
Inclusive Youth Leadership + Reflections of the day

#### Thursday 30 Nov 7:30AM-6PM | Unified Anchors: Nikhil Mayank & Siddhant Nath Attendees: State Teams

Unified Fitness Routine
Line up for the day & State Summary + Asia Pacific Regional Scenario and Musical performance by a sibling pair
Updates from the states
Panel Discussion Topic: Leveraging educational spaces in building communities of acceptance and inclusion
Sports Centre- A model of sustained inclusive sports
Event Plan
Inclusive Youth Leadership
Athlete Development Module – Online
Inclusive Youth Mentorship
Added youth engagements in schools/colleges– Unified Fitness Club & Young Athletes
Unified Sports Activity- Badminton

#### Friday 1 Dec 2023 7:30 AM-6PM | Unified Anchors: Omsri Bhardwaj & Yashika Bhatt Attendees: State Teams

<b>SESSION</b>
Unified Fitness Routine
Reflection – previous day
Role of Coaches in promoting inclusion of Persons with IDD - <i>Unified sports as a catalyst for Inclusion- Dr Sharma Guest Speaker</i>
Role of the youth in shaping policies – Ms Damini Ghosh Guest Speaker
Developing inclusive workplaces- Mr Akshay Tyagi
Safeguarding
Flash Mob
Power of Social-Media
Annual Plan/Event Plan- Activity
Taking up the Tide Turner Challenge- WWF
Youth Sharing- Asia Pacific Leadership Conference in Jakarta- Shrey Kadian & Rithik Hukku
Unified Football
Unified RAP- Kaif & Shivam
Certificate distribution - Closing remarks

## Annexure B

### Guest list / Session Lead/ Performers

Ms Pam Rolink, Manager Youth Initiatives ,SO Asia Pacific Region  
Mr Himanshu Gupta, Director- Directorate of Education & Sports, Govt of Delhi NCT  
Ms A Srija, Economic Advisor to Department of Education, GOI  
Ms Mala Arora, Consultant, Inclusion (29 Nov to 1 Dec 2023)  
Mr Abhishek (Fitness Coach 30 Nov and 1 Dec)  
Ms Damini Gosh, Senior Resident Fellow and Team Lead (Disability- Inclusion and Access)  
Vidhi Centre of legal policy  
Mr Ashley Wilkinson, Senior Programme Officer - Youth & Citizen Engagement, WWF  
(World Wildlife Fund)  
Dr Kalpana Sharma, DIRECTOR (Academics) NSNIS, Patiala  
Mr Akshay Tyagi Corporate Manager- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, The Lalit Suri  
Hospitality Group

### Performers of the Unified Skit from Jaypee Public School Gr NOIDA

#### Youth Leaders

1. Avni Bhardwaj
2. Poorva Gogna
3. Dakshita Srivastava
4. Utkarsh Bhati
5. Garima Gupta
6. Oishee Mitra
7. Ayanna Guha
8. Anushri Mehrotra
9. Manya
10. Prabhnoor Kaur
11. Manasvi Gupta

#### Athlete leaders

1. Ronit
2. Ansh Thakur
3. Jagan
4. Ishan
5. Kavin
6. Nabhya
7. Aman
8. Sagar
9. Saksham
10. Anshuman
11. Hridya

**Individuals:** Krishna & Vaibhav Khullar, Sibling Pair, Rhythmic Fitness performers

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