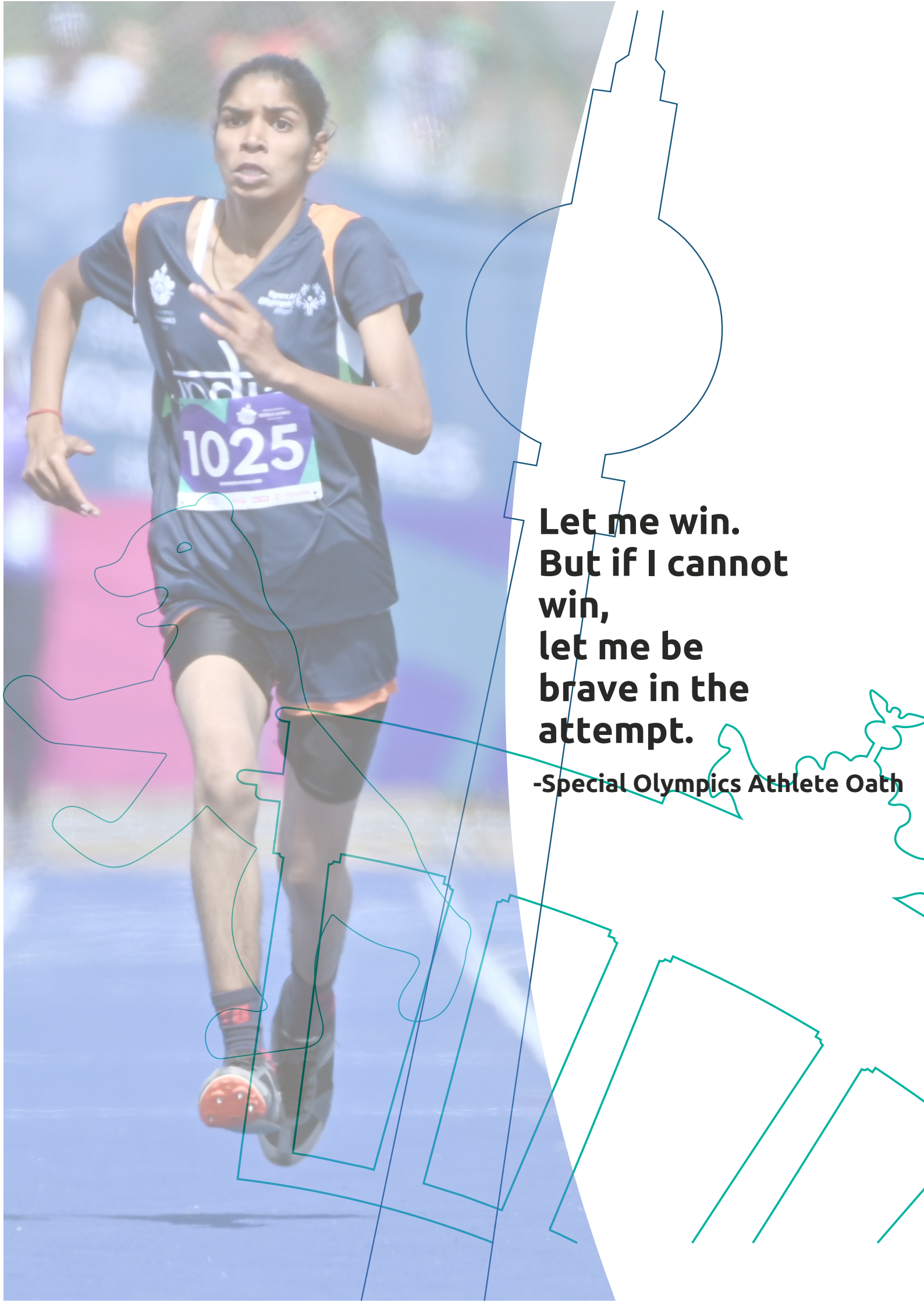




Special Olympics Bharat
at the
Special Olympics
World Summer Games 2023
Report





**Let me win.
But if I cannot
win,
let me be
brave in the
attempt.**

-Special Olympics Athlete Oath



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Executive Summary

Supported by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt of India, 193 Athletes and Unified Partners and 57 Coaches from India participated in 16 sports at the Special Olympics World Summer Games held in Berlin Germany from 17 to 25 June 2023. While 3 AHODs assisted the Head of the Delegation, Dr DG Chaudhari, General Secretary, SO Bharat, 19 Additional staff supported the team and a medical expert, making 274 as the total strength of the delegation. Additionally, 59 honoured guests and 7 media persons supported SO Bharat through their participation as well. Three days prior to the Opening ceremony held on 17 June, the Indian contingent enjoyed the warm hospitality of Frankfurt at the Host Town Program arranged in the city for SO Bharat

With 9 days full of sports and emotions, the SO World Summer Games 2023 witnessed participation of 6500 Special Olympics athletes and Unified partners from 176 delegations competing in 26 sports. The athletes were supported by more than 3,000 coaches, 9000 family members and 18,000 volunteers. The Games were spread across eight venues located in and around Berlin. India's total Medal Tally reached 199 including 77 Gold, 71 Silver and 51 Bronze



15,000 Healthy Athletes screenings across seven disciplines were executed during the Games. All the participating Athletes were examined across certain key health parameters.

The first ever **Global Leadership Coalition for Inclusion**, held on the side-lines of the World Summer Games, brought together the international community to collectively address this critical issue of building a more inclusive and equitable society, partnering with Special Olympics. Two Athlete leaders (leaders with Intellectual Disabilities) from India participated at the **Global Athlete Congress** actively participating in discussions and making



presentations for Athlete leaders, officials & representatives of several national programs. The **Global Youth Leadership Congress** too had two teams from India participating, with each team consisting of a Youth with and without Intellectual Disability and an adult mentor.

SO Germany was the largest delegation with 573 persons. At the games, the age range was between 12 and 70 yrs with Loretta Claiborne (USA) being the oldest athlete and Valery Vella (Paraguay) being the youngest. 48% of the Athletes were women. 220 scientists gathered data on sustainability indicators while more than 10 academic studies were conducted during the games- more than ever before.

The Indian contingent left for Germany on 12 June 2023. Following a successful participation at the World Games, returned to India on 27 June 2023





Team India

India had the highest participation in Roller skating followed by Power lifting, Individual Sports. It debuted in Unified Beach Volleyball and Lawn Tennis

Sports Discipline	Athlete			Partner			Coach			Support Staff		Grand Total	
	F	M	T	F	M	T	F	M	T	F	M		T
Athletics	8	8	16				2	2	4		1	1	21
Badminton	2	2	4				1	1	2		1	1	7
Basketball 3v3	5		5				1		1	1		1	7
Basketball 5v5	10	10	20				3	3	6				26
Cycling	4	4	8				1	1	2		2	2	12
Football Traditional	8	11	19				3	3	6		2	2	27
Football Unified	6		6	4		4	2		2	1		1	13
Futsal		9	9					3	3		1	1	13
Golf		2	2		1	1		1	1		1	1	5
Handball Traditional	12		12				3		3	1		1	16
Handball Unified		6	6		5	5		3	3		1	1	15
Hod											1	1	1
Judo	2	2	4				1	1	2		1	1	7
Medical Staff											1	1	1
Powerlifting	4	4	8				1	1	2		1	1	11
Roller Skating	8	8	16				2	2	4		1	1	21
Swimming	6	6	12				2	2	4	1	1	2	18
Table Tennis	3	3	6				1	1	2	1		1	9
Tennis	2	2	4				1	1	2		1	1	7
Volleyball Beach	3		3	3		3	2		2	1		1	9
Volleyball Unified	6	5	11	4	5	9	3	3	6		2	2	28
Grand Total	89	82	171	11	11	22	29	28	57	6	18	24	274



Pre- World Games 2023

Preparatory Camps

Four preparatory camps were held in India since September 2023 across Gujarat, Jharkhand, Haryana, and Delhi NCR training, assessing, and finally selecting the participants in 16 sports for the World Games

While training the Athletes, the preparatory camps highlighted partnerships between SO Bharat and the various Universities that offered their facilities and volunteers for executing the camps. The last two Camps held a month or so apart essentially looked into the logistical arrangements to place all travelling procedures in order.

Preparatory Camps		
	When	Where
Prep Camp 1	4-9 Sept 2022	IIT Gandhinagar & PDU University, Gujarat
	26 Sept – 1 Oct 2022	Bokaro Steel Sports Complex, Jharkhand
	9-14 October 2022	Manav Rachna & DLF Golf Course, Baliavali Roller Skating rink, Gurugram
	11-16 October 2022	Daulatabad Roller Skating Rink, DLF Golf Course, Gurugram
Prep Camp 2	4-9 December 2022	Daulatabad Roller Skating Rink, DLF Golf Course, Gurugram
	9-14 December 2022	Bokaro Steel Sports Complex, Jharkhand
	12- 17 December 2022	IIT Gandhi Nagar & Gujarat Vidyapeeth Ahmedabad
Prep Camp 3	24 – 29 April 2023	Amity University UP, NOIDA & NOIDA Golf Course, Delhi NCR
Prep Camp 4	7-12 June 2023	Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Talkatora Stadium & NOIDA Golf Course, Delhi NCR





Parallel Events in Berlin



Berlin is the city that breaks down walls and overcomes borders and the city shares this experience with Special Olympics. Throughout Berlin, athletes competed for joy, success and for more social participation.

As India prepared for the Games several moments to cherish developed in Germany building the momentum



The **official games song** was released on 23 May 2023, following a **stamp**, designed from logo elements of #Berlin2023, that was ceremoniously presented to the public on 10 May. The Games Song "Are You Ready" was composed by Madcon. The **Special Olympics Flame of Hope™** was lit by a high priestess in Athens, Greece on 7 June 2023. It journeyed around Germany before arriving at the Opening Ceremony at Olympiastadion on 17 June. The Flame of Hope™ is one of the most important symbols of the World Games and stands above all for peace, unity and hope.



Already since 1981, a tradition has grown in the USA, the country of origin of the Special Olympic movements. The LETR was founded there by six police officers and until today employees of local police authorities contribute to the torch run as well as collect donations. Police officers carried the flame together with athletes to the Opening Ceremony. The LETR® Final Leg was a 4-day event in Berlin and Brandenburg.



Sending Off the Contingent

States

Between 27 May and 6 June 2023, the states organised send-offs for their respective teams. Invitations were extended to the State Government, authorities, celebrities, and other distinguished guests to uphold their abilities and wish them luck

Gujarat



Puducherry



Odisha



Haryana



Punjab



West Bengal



Bihar



Uttar Pradesh



Goa



Karnataka



Uttarakhand



Rajasthan



Jharkhand





Chandigarh



Delhi



Maharashtra



Madhya Pradesh



National

Special Olympics Bharat on Thursday organised a Torch Run and a National Send-Off Ceremony at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi, for the Indian contingent. The ceremony was graced by Hon'ble Union Minister Shri Anurag Thakur, Department of Youth Affairs and Sports and Department of Information and Broadcasting as the Chief Guest for the Torch Run. In India the Torch run was organised across four cities including, Bhopal, Bangalore, Gurgaon and Delhi with the final leg had the torch handed over by the Haryana Athletes to the nation's capital, New Delhi. The Torch was received by the Guest of Honour, President, Indian Olympic Association, Ms. PT Usha and officials of Special Olympics Bharat.

Hon'ble Union Minister Smt. Smriti Irani, Department of Women and Child Development and Department of Minority Affairs as the Chief Guest for the Send-Off Ceremony, among other distinguished guests.

On 12 June 2023 the Indian contingent left for Germany in five flights, reaching Frankfurt their Host Town, before proceeding for the World Games to Berlin







SO Bharat at the World Summer Games 2023

The Host Town Program- Frankfurt

The Host Town Program provides the Special Olympics athletes to acclimate to a new location before their World Games competitions begin. The athletes get a chance to rest after their long journeys to the world games venue, so that they perform to the best of their ability during competition. Daily fitness sessions are followed during the Host town. The program also provides the athletes with the opportunity to experience the local culture of the host country and raise awareness for people with ID throughout the country through interaction with its citizens.



Between 13 and 16 June 2023, 216 *municipalities dotted all over Germany hosted 170 delegations, from 6 to 300 members. *Municipalities are the lowest level of official territorial division in Germany. India was hosted in Frankfurt

The Scandic Hotel at Frankfurt welcomed Team India sparking the Host Town Program with much warmth and joy. While the daily fitness regime & sports practises kept the Athletes focussed on their respective sports, the Torch Run, City Hall gathering, Museum visit, Tuesday Night Skating and the farewell dinner delightfully added a cultural memory that would last forever.

Sports Practises







Torch Run

Germany initiated the "Inclusion Day powered by Special Olympics" as an additional program to the traditional LETR® Final Leg. The goal was to create awareness for the Special Olympics movement throughout the country. 100 Torch runs occurred across Host Towns on 13 June 2023.



India participated in the Torch Run at Frankfurt that started from Hafenpark, covering about 2-2.5 km and, concluding at a ceremony held at the Kaisersaal, Frankfurter Römer. The ceremony included an official welcome of the Indian team by the lord Mayor Mr Mike Josef, Ms Sylvia Ruppel President SO Hessen and Dr Amit Telang, Consul General, Republic of India.

Weekly Roller Skating





The Roller-Skating Athletes from India were overjoyed to join the 'Tuesday Night Skaters' in the sports city of Frankfurt. The experience took them through 5kms of the 30-35 km stretch covered by the regular skaters, supported by an impressive infrastructure besides the emergency services, including the traffic signals designed specifically for the purpose.

For the Roller-Skaters who won the maximum medals at the World Games, the experience of skating through the city of Frankfurt would match up, if not get higher, to the achievement on the victory stand.

Get-Together & Farewell Party

The farewell dinner became a celebration of gathering invaluable experiences along with a hope of successfully achieving the purpose of travelling to Germany.





The Games Venue- Berlin



SO Bharat reached Berlin on 16 June 2023 for the Special Olympics World Summer Games, world's largest sporting and humanitarian event in 2023. The official mascot of the world games was called 'Unity', a name chosen by Special Olympics athletes from around the world and whose heart shape was inspired by the official logo of the World Games symbolizing togetherness and affection. The spirit of the motto of the World Games, "unbeatable together," was infused in the mascot.

Over 3,30,000 visitors attended the World Games that exhibited 800 hours of competitions across 1334 competitions and the same number of award ceremonies, awarding 4002 medals. The event enjoyed more than 400 hours of live programming



For anyone wondering if we can overcome the division in the world, look to the champion athletes of Berlin who showed themselves to be the world's experts at transforming division into healing. For anyone feeling lonely and anxious, look to the welcoming athletes of Berlin and their tireless invitation: "Come join us. We welcome everyone. We are leading an inclusion revolution. No judgement. Just dignity for all"

– Dr Tim Shriver, Chairman, Special Olympics International



Opening Ceremony

Cheered by a loud and enthusiastic crowd at the iconic Olympia stadion Berlin — a stage that has hosted the 2006 FIFA World Cup final and currently serves as the home of Hertha Berlin SC, a 274-member strong Indian contingent paraded into the arena. India's delegation was led by roller skater Aryan Nagalli, one of the most promising athletes, for the World Games 2023. He was flanked by three more athletes from three different parts of the country— handball player Ankush Kumar, from Delhi, athlete Geetanjali Nagvelar from Goa and cyclist Kalpana Jena from Odisha.





As the “Flame of Hope” was lit in the Olympiastadion, 6,500 Special Olympics athletes and Unified partners (those athletes without intellectual disabilities) from 176 delegations united to participate at the mega event. After the flame was lit, the President of Germany Frank-Walter Steinmeier declared the Special Olympics World Games Berlin 2023 open in front of 50,000 spectators including 3,000 coaches and officials and 18,000 volunteers.



The star-studded spectacle and pageantry of the Ceremony was broadcast on ABC Network, for three hours, in the US and distributed worldwide to 190 countries. The excitement culminated with the performance of the official Games song, “Are You Ready” by the Norwegian duo Madcon. The final leg of the Law Enforcement Torch Run was staged by a team of 85 international Torch runners including 77 law enforcement volunteers and eight Special Olympics athletes representing their home countries.

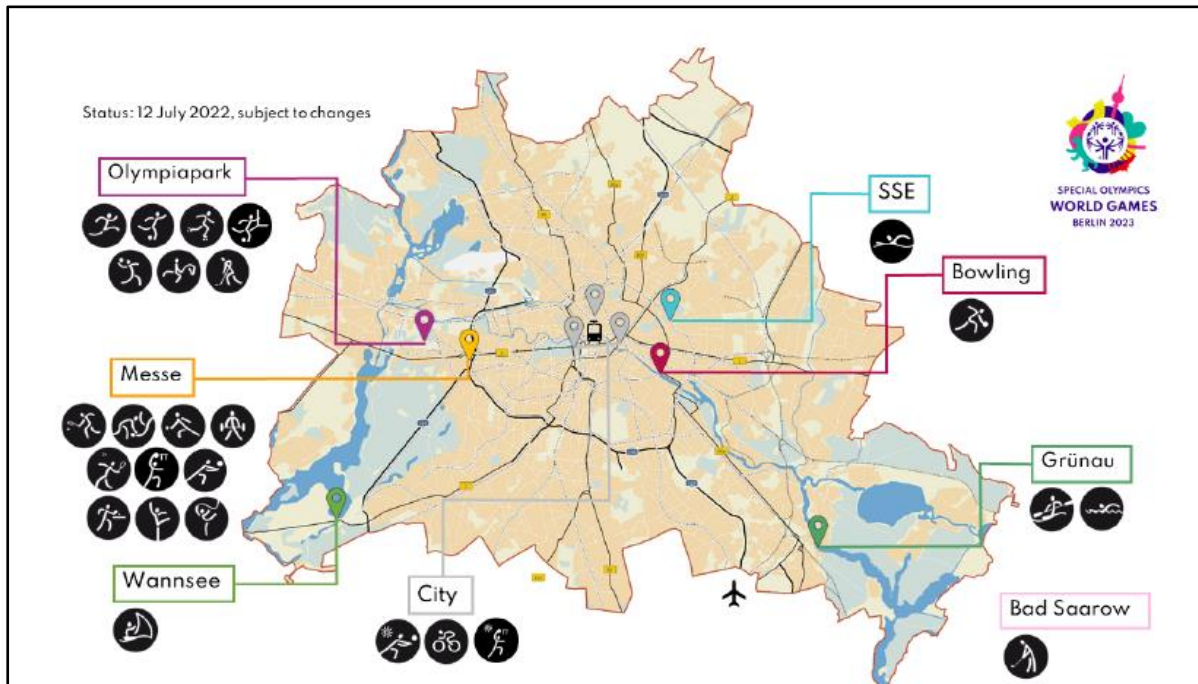
One of the highlights of the Opening Ceremony was the Parade of Athletes, which weaved its way through the Marathon Gate into the stadium. Each delegation was asked to bring water from their home country. Like Kalpana Jena, Cyclist from Odisha India, one member from each delegation then broke away from their team to pour this water into a watercourse, forming an Olympic River, standing as a symbol for the unity of all of those participating at the Special Olympics World Games Berlin 2023.



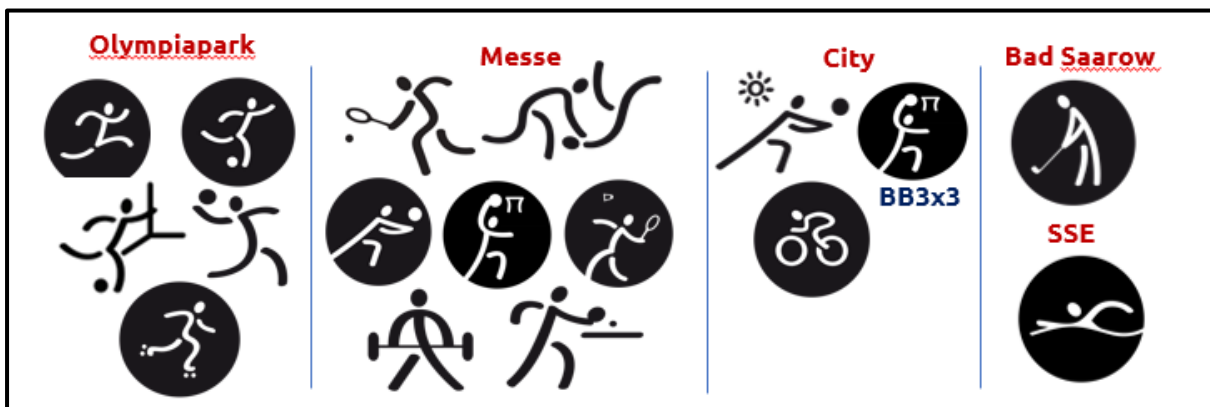


Sports Competitions

193 Athletes and Unified Partners from SO Bharat participated in 16 sports. Outside the home team that stood at 573, India was the largest contingent. Athletics and Roller Skating attracted maximum participation from India. Out of the eight sports venues dotting the city, India's presence was spread across five, namely, Messe, Olympia Park, SSE, City & Bad Saarow. India participated in Beach Volleyball and Lawn Tennis for the first time at the World Games.



SO Bharat played at five venues



Nyasha Derera, Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger, spoke on the need of inclusion in sport, "Inclusion in sport is important because it gives me the confidence to network and interact while being a part of something that allows me to express my confidence and not be afraid to be looked down on. It is because of sport I have a sense of belonging."



Athletics

16 Athletes participated in various track and field events winning 13 Medals. Athletics kick started the gold rush for India.



Basketball

25 Athletes participated in Basketball, 5v5 and 3v3. 5v5 was played by a male and a female team. The male team (5x5) played competition rounds with Portugal and Estonia before playing the final with Portugal for Gold and winning it. The female team 5v5 played competition rounds with Sweden and China.



In 3v3 India played quarter finals with Cote D'Ivoire after playing competition rounds with Tunisia, Albania, Mauritius & Germany





Badminton

4 Athletes participated winning a Gold each in Men's and Women's doubles and a gold, silver and bronze in singles. In Male singles Lithuania, Peru, Korea, Germany, Hellas losing to Indonesia in the Gold Medal match. In Female singles India played with Belgium, Indonesia, Thailand and Lithuania and finally settling with a Bronze. Mens doubles were played against Libya and Kenya winning a Gold against Libya. Female doubles were played against Chinese Taipei and Kenya winning against Kenya



Beach Volleyball (Unified)

A team of Beach Volleyball was a new entry for India as well. The team intriguingly demonstrated the essence of Inclusive sports. The partners overwhelmingly continued to motivate and cheer the Athletes in the playing area as well as outside. Following divisioning rounds with Costa Rica , Kenya, Italy , Saudi Arabia, India clashed with Saudi Arabia in the quarter final and Kenya in Semi-final, finally winning a Bronze in the match against Costa Rica.



With the rules being like those of regular Volleyball, the difference in the surface impacts performance. Safira Steffi D' Costa, the Coach of the team, having played Volleyball herself, several months preceding the World Games, played on the beach to experience the difference. She often visited the beach to witness mainstream National level matches to observe the players and the Coach. Over the traditional cousin, beach volleyball requires a higher strength and stamina, according to Safira. She recalled the inspiring spirit of her team when they continued to play despite rainfall, as also when they kept motivating each other after losing 3 matches. She delightfully shared that the playful, free & joyful ambience, generally, on the beach impacts the Athletes mentally. She added, *"We need to increase*

opportunities of providing the athletes to play on a beach. However much they play Volleyball, the change of the surface comes with its own elements that require special focus”

Cycling

11 medals including 6 Gold, 4 Silver and 1 Bronze, were won by 8 Athletes in Time Trials and Road Race. The cyclists enjoyed using the cycles gifted by Gina Vanderloop and Tracy Lea (through SOI)



Football Traditional & Unified (7-a-side)

19 Athletes participated in Football (Traditional) and 6 Athletes and 4 Unified Partners played Unified football. The Male traditional team won a Gold against Saint Lucia, the first ever Gold won in Football at a ‘World Games’. The team played with S.Africa, Germany and Hong Kong on its journey to the finals. The unified female team won a Bronze having played with Hungary, UAE, Spain, Chinese Taipei and France





Futsal

9 Athletes participated in Futsal (Male) , having played with Portugal, Costa Rica, Germany, Slovenia, Iran, finally losing the Bronze Medal Match to Mauritius



Golf

2 Athletes and 1 Partner represented India. Ranvir and Rahul played four rounds of golf (alternate shot team play) in Level 2 of Unified, over four days at the Arnold Parmer Course in Berlin and were on the top of the Leaderboard on all the four days. They won the gold in D01 by a record-breaking margin of 18 shots. Ankush Saha won a Gold in Level 1 of Div 1



Handball

12 female Athletes played traditional while 7 male Athletes and 5 Unified Partners played Unified. The Unified Male team played competition rounds with Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia Spain Kenya and finally losing to Bangladesh. The female team won a Silver after having played competition rounds with Germany, Azerbaijan with whom they even played the final round



Judo

Four Athletes participated with each winning a medal. Judo upped tally by four



Powerlifting

8 Athletes won the second largest medal haul of 23 in the total of India. The sport opened India's tally on 19 June 2023 with 4 Silvers by T Vishal, from Puducherry





Roller Skating

31 Medals were won by a team of 16 Roller Skaters, which constituted the largest share of India's medal haul



Swimming

12 Athletes participated in Swimming that pushed India's tally up by 16 Medals





Table Tennis

6 Gold medals and 1 Silver through the participation of six Athletes



Tennis

The entry of SO Bharat into the discipline began during the pandemic that locked people in their homes with little hope. In retrospect, when the virtual world had no alternative back then, a new path was taking shape marking the entry of SO Bharat into Lawn Tennis. In 2020, a tennis training Webinar opened a new chapter, training Coaches from 22 States of India and was led by Ms. Teresa Leitao, Director Sports & Unified Sports Special Olympics Brazil.

With the aim of participating in the sport at the Berlin Games 2023 athletes were trained. Four Athletes represented India in Lawn Tennis in Berlin, winning three medals (1 Silver and 2 Bronze)





Unified Volleyball

Unified Volleyball, Female and Male teams of 10 players each, fetched a Gold and a Bronze respectively for India. Men's Unified team played competition rounds with Korea, Bangladesh & Serbia, with whom they played semi-finals as well, finally having played the Bronze Medal match with Korea and winning it.

The Unified female team played competition rounds with Kenya, Tanzania, and UAE, playing the semi-final with Kenya before its final clash with UAE for a Gold.





MEDALS

Total: 199



Sport Discipline	Gold	Silver	Bronze
ATHLETICS	3	6	4
BADMINTON	5	1	1
BASKETBALL 3V3			
BASKETBALL 5V5	10	10	
CYCLING	6	4	1
FOOTBALL TRADITIONAL	11		
FOOTBALL UNIFIED			10
FUTSAL			
GOLF	3		
HANDBALL TRADITIONAL		12	
HANDBALL UNIFIED			
JUDO	1	2	1
POWERLIFTING	8	12	5
ROLLER SKATING	10	12	9
SWIMMING	4	10	2
TABLE TENNIS	6	1	
TENNIS		1	2
VOLLEYBALL BEACH			6
VOLLEYBALL UNIFIED	10		10
Total	77	71	51

Please Note: The Medal tally reflects one medal for each team member in team events







BEYOND SPORTS

Running parallel to the sports competitions several events and programs were held. The city also celebrated Special Olympics festivals that exhibited much joy and splendour enjoyed by all the visitors and participants as they moved from one venue to the other.

Healthy Athletes

During the Special Olympics World Games Berlin 2023 Healthy Athletes® was conducted at Messe Berlin from 17 to 24 June 2023. Nearly all the Athletes of SO Bharat were screened at the Games. 15,353 screenings were conducted at 7 stations. Approx 5000 Athletes were screened by approx. 100 doctors, 70 dentists and 715 student volunteers from 59 countries. Starkey Cares gave nearly 300 hearing aids while Lion's Clubs International Foundation Opening Eyes, issued nearly **1,400** glasses.



SPORTS – Specs Prescribed

- Cycling
- Unified Football
- Traditional Football-M&F
- Futsal
- Judo
- Powerlifting
- Swimming
- Table Tennis

SPORTS – Hearing Aid

- Badminton
- Basketball
- Traditional Football-M
- Futsal
- Judo
- Swimming
- Table Tennis
- Tennis
- Unified Volleyball-M

15 Athletes from India received hearing aids and 18 were prescribed glasses out of which 11 received them. Healthy Athletes® is the world's largest inclusive health program focused on the needs of people with intellectual disabilities. The program provides participants with free health screenings, education, and referrals for continued treatment in an accessible environment.



Congresses

Global Forum on Inclusion 17-18 June 2023



Special Olympics announced the formation of the Global Leadership Coalition for Inclusion, a pioneering multilateral effort to support people with intellectual disabilities. 720 international representatives from politics, NGOs, academia & participants at the 2-day Global Forum on Inclusion (GF), adopted the Berlin Declaration. For the first time, governments, industry, philanthropy, and the development community came together with a shared global commitment to increase inclusive practices in education and sport and create more inclusive schools and communities. Over the next three years, Coalition members have committed to expanding inclusive sports and education opportunities to over 2,000,000 young people in more than 150,000 schools.

Alongside Special Olympics athletes and families, senior leaders of countries, corporations and civil society committed to investing in inclusive programs that better serve learners with intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics will provide Coalition partners with data and technical assistance to help them design public-private partnerships to advance social inclusion in education through sport. **H.E. Ásmundur Einar Daðason**, Minister of Education and Children, Iceland: “We want to use this Global Leadership Coalition for Inclusion to make us become more progressive, to learn from each other. We want to see a more inclusive society, and we want to bring equal rights to everyone.”

Dr. Timothy Shriver, Chairman, Special Olympics International: “Our presence here today marks an historic moment not only for our movement, but also for the larger movement of social justice and inclusion worldwide – as we launch our Global Leadership Coalition for Inclusion that brings together **14 countries spanning four continents**, and six major partner organizations – who, over the next three years, commit to helping Special Olympics to expand inclusive sports and education opportunities to millions of young people around the globe. This commitment to invest in the lives of youth of all abilities – in schools, in sports clubs, in community centers; in coaches, teachers and mentors – will create the inclusive mindsets so vital to ensuring resilience amidst polarization, economic dislocation and the uncertainties and anxieties that afflict all countries.”





Global Athlete Congress 15-19 June 2023



At the Global Athletes Congress (GAC), the athletes' representatives from the various Special Olympics regions of the world met to discuss existing projects and those in the planning phase, as well as the concerns of athletes in general

Two Athlete leaders (leaders with Intellectual Disabilities) from India participated at the Global Athlete Congress actively participating in discussions and making presentations for Athlete leaders, officials &

representatives of several national programs. Shrey Kadian and his Mentor Jignesh Thakkar along with Rithik Hukku and his mentor Dr DC Gupta participated from India. 128 participants from 50 nations gathered at the GAC, electing a female chairperson of the congress for the first time.

Global Youth Leadership Congress 16-20 June 2023



over 150 people with and without intellectual disabilities come together, creating the first ever Youth Leadership Summit that was planned and lead by a Global Youth Council. The Global Youth Leadership Congress (GYLS) had two teams from India, with each team consisting of a Youth with and without Intellectual Disability and an adult mentor. Both teams have submitted project applications of expanding unified schools and increasing youth leaders in a span of 9 months.

Ms Neeraj Singh, Shashwat Agarwal, Sagar Kapoor from Jaypee Public School, Delhi NCR and Ms Mala Arora, Mahi Dheri and Yashika Bhatt, independent members of the National Youth leadership Council and the National Educator Advisory Committee formed the two teams.

Partnership with the International Table Tennis Federation Foundation

Special Olympics and the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Saturday June 17 at the Special Olympics World Games Berlin 2023, in an effort to better athletes all around the world through table tennis. Special Olympics CEO, Mary Davis, shared her encouragement of the newly penned agreement, *"We're thrilled to be formalizing a partnership with the International Table Tennis Federation Foundation. Table Tennis is a lifetime sport enjoyed by thousands of Special Olympics athletes of all ages and abilities around the world, and we are excited to celebrate this inclusive sport, and continue to elevate the quality of training and competition for Special Olympics table tennis athletes around the world."*



Special Olympics Receptions & Festivals

Inclusive stage programs with music, shows and dance and recreational activities characterized the festivals. Neptunbrunnen (next to Alexanderplatz), Sommergarten (Messe Berlin) and Brandenburger Tor hosted them, providing an experience that combined sports with culture.



An Asia Pacific & East Asia Regional Reception was held on 19 June, bringing together participants from both the regions. The event was graced by Dr Tim Shriver, Chairman SOI who was accompanied by several key officials responsible for having driven the movement across its varied verticals, globally. The

evening held a cultural show that featured Steven Liu, the piano prodigy from SO China, Alex Soriano, Singer & Guitarist from SO Philippines. Yashika Bhat and Mahi Dheri, youth with and without ID from India performed a dance.





Closing Ceremony

The Special Olympics World Games 2023 came to close, after an evocative, emotional, and triumphant closing ceremony at the Brandenburg gate in the centre of the city. The gate had served as a restricted zone when the city was divided by the Wall, and has, ever since been a beacon of unity — a fitting parable for a sporting event that celebrates unity, diversity, and special skills.

Members of every contingent invited up on a stage to represent the spirit of unity and bring to the fore the importance of the Special Olympics movement.



“I feel very humbled to be in this city. The city of Berlin has welcomed us,” said Hanna Joy Atkinson, Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger. “This was my first World Games ever and I had the chance to do so many things as an athlete leader. I don't want it to end! The mascot was ‘Unity’ – uniting countries everywhere and Berlin knocked it out of the park and the next country hosting should do that too!”



Special Olympics World Winter Games 2025:
Turin, Italy



SO Bharat delegation returns to India

National Welcome

The World Games medallists were honoured at a grand ceremony held in the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi on 27 June 2023. The event took place in the presence of Chief Guest Hon'ble 14th President of India, Shri Ramnath Kovind Ji and Guest of Honours Hon'ble Minister of Ports, Waterways & Shipping and Minister of AYUSH Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Hon'ble Member of Parliaments Shri Manoj Tiwari and Shri Gautam Gambhir, and Leader of Opposition, Legislative Assembly, Delhi Shri Ramvir Singh Bidhuri.

The event started with a colourful and vibrant cultural show, which was followed by words of inspiration from the present dignitaries.



Member of Parliament and former Indian cricketer Shri Gautam Gambhir said, "I want to congratulate all the 202 medallists who made the nation proud at the Special Olympics World Summer Games 2023 in Berlin. At the same time, I also congratulate those athletes who did not win, as they represented a population of 140 crore people. In sports, we always talk about statistics and numbers. But as a sportsperson, I know how much effort and dedication is needed to represent a country. All athletes, whether they win or not, put in equal hardwork behind the scenes"



Motivating the athletes, **Hon'ble 14th President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind Ji** said, " *As we move forward, I hope you all remember that your journey does not end here. Special Olympics World Summer Games 2023 Berlin was a platform to showcase your talents and sheer determination. I am sure your victory here will motivate you to achieve more each day. Remember your nation stands behind you and you are never alone. We are proud of all our Special Athletes and their achievements will remain in our hearts and minds forever. Dream big, keep your targets high and never forget the unimaginable power inside you.*"

After the encouraging words from the dignitaries, the athletes, along with Unified Partners and Coaches were presented with a token of appreciation on stage and were given a huge round of applause from the gathering. As the teams returned to their respective home-towns, they received a rousing welcome there as well



Welcome in the States







World Games – a transforming experience

T Vishal, Powerlifter- *bringing the first four medals won by India*



A silver lining for India, could not be defined better on 19 June 2023 when T Vishal bagged four silver medals giving India not one but, four medals in a stroke. The 16-year-old from Puducherry, won a silver in the Men's squat (122.50kg), deadlift (155 kg), bench press (85 kg) and the combined to put India on the board at the Special Olympics World Games in Berlin. Encouraged by his parents to participate in extracurriculars and sports, Vishal only really took to sport when watching the Paralympics

Games. Immediately he asked his parents to find him a coach who could teach him the techniques and the essentials of the sport. Almost obsessed with it, he even scoured the Internet to find videos that would help him get better — to the point where his parents even wondered if this had become a dangerous obsession.

His mother, a school teacher pressured by her own family was unable to accept the condition of her son right until the send-off ceremony. Her being a teacher made the reality even harder to accept. But on the day Vishal won the medals, Ms Chitra Shah, Area Director, SO Bharat Puducherry, spoke with her. Vishal's mother wept and the moment pushed her into some deeper thinking

Vishal has delayed development and playing sports has hugely uplifted his own sense of identity, his coaches and Ms Chitra, say. Lifting massive weights — far beyond the abilities of most of the population — pushing the boundaries of his physical abilities has been key to helping him work with the world around him.

Geetanjali Nagvekar, Athletics, *bringing the first Gold medal for India*



India registered their first gold medals with Geetanjali Nagvekar winning gold in the 800m Level C, running a time of 4:31:40, almost eight seconds ahead of her competitor in second place to put India on the board.

Geetanjali Nagvekar, 20yrs, the sprinter from Goa aced the 800 mtr race this morning, winning India's first gold medal at the world games. The intensive training for scaling her endurance reaped fruit, positioning her abilities from 100 mtr to 800. The intensive regimen of running on the beach back home in the scorching sun placed her in a powerful position.

Noteworthy is that the rest of the athletes, practicing in North Goa, irrespective of their sport discipline, ran with her to motivate her. Samantha D'souza, her Coach, and many others, left no opportunity that would improve her performance.



Her father is an auto driver and ensured that he travelled 15 kms , one way, everyday for her to practice. Doing so Geetanjali learnt to find her way to the practice grounds and back home through a bus and ferry. According to Samantha the Gold medal is a celebration and matter of pride, but a greater achievement is the noticeable and very pleasing change in Geetanjali in her behaviour and her confidence levels.

Muskaan, Judo- *from being shunted to being celebrated*



Muskaan belongs to Rohtak, a quaint town in Haryana. A town satisfied with age old customs of keeping girls safe by marrying them as soon as possible. The life of Muskaan has not been any different. She often heard her family talk about her marriage. Her mother frequently heard her daughter being called 'Pagal' (Mad). Silently her mother would weep and then move on with the daily errands; although her heart ached as she saw her daughter support her in all home chores silently and never talking ill about others.

Muskan's father is a vegetable vendor who struggles to make ends meet but both her parents have been very supportive of sports training. A mid-wife had assisted her mother during delivery when Muskaan was born. At the age of 1 ½ Muskaan got severely ill and had to be admitted in the hospital. Her family believes that this may have been the cause of her disability. She was blessed to have joined Chetanalaya , a special school in Rohtak and now Gurukul, under the mentorship of Mr Satish and Ms Sunita , her mentors.

Having played several other sports, floor hockey, football & powerlifting, her Coach, Mr Sukhveer observed her to be a good candidate for Judo. On the finals, giving nail biting moments to her Coach, Muskaan pinned down her opponent from SO Turkmenistan to win a Gold. She was prompt to call her mother and realised as she spoke with her that, that was a moment that would change their lives. Muskan received a hero's welcome in Rohtak, wearing a garland of flowers and INR 50,000 gifted to her by local authorities. As the attendees looked at her with awe her mother said that, the Berlin Games broke down a wall that had brutally isolated her caring and loving daughter from everyone else.

Siya, Powerlifter –*determination of an athlete as much as of the state*



Siya Sarode maintained a calm visage, successfully concealing the turmoil that swirled within, as team India left for the World Games on 12 June 2023. Unable to understand why she was denied the travel while all others left for Berlin, she continued to stay calm but keep her hopes alive. On 14th of June Siya was granted the visa, being the only one confirmed, out of others who were re-considered. Adept at winning battles, Siya won this one too. 17 yrs and in need of a consent letter to be able to get a chance to compete at the world games, revealed her story. Siya has a faint memory of her mother who she lost when 9 years of age. Before that she had already been abandoned



by her father, who could not accept the diagnosis that spelt her disability. Siya was introduced to sports when she joined the Sanjay Center for Special Education, Curchorem, Goa, mentored by her Coach Gautami Dessai.

Siya's achievements may have been deferred had it not been for the timely and heart-warming support extended by the authorities of the state. Due to being under age she was required to produce a guardian consent certificate, which at the first go was not accepted. The legal document required authentication of the state authorities, bringing together the Hon,ble Chief Minister Mr Pramod Sawant, Social Welfare minister Mr Subhash Phal Desai and the state commissioner for PWD , Mr Guruprasad Pawaskar. The documentation having been expedited through the authorities, Siya's journey was ensured and, the opportunity stamped. She travelled to Berlin

While her medals announce her victory over the odds she is surrounded with, they clearly substantiate the importance & honor that the state dedicates to sports, as a platform for development and a catalyst for Inclusion

Football gets a glitter- the first ever Gold in football at the World Games

24 June 2023 marked a first of a kind victory for India, where India grabbed a first ever gold in the sport at a world games. The scorching heat empowered the team to prove their



mettle in a neck and neck gripping engagement between the India and Saint Lucia. As the team won gold, the players could be seen falling to their knees and screaming in overwhelming joy. The game drew the audience on the edge, unfolding the mesmerizing saves by Aman Nadaf and two goals by Abdul Kader and Venson

Paes, a match that we finally won 2:1 against St. Lucia. *"I can recall each moment of the match vividly and with pride. Every Athlete in the team gave his 100%. The Divisioning matches played earlier familiarised the playing style of the opponents, something that was leveraged meticulously. For me the push that each Athlete gave to himself was the 'Wow' moment,"* says MM Khurram

The match concluded amplifying the message of the world games enabling every athlete, no matter which country, to push to the limit.

Media & Social-Media

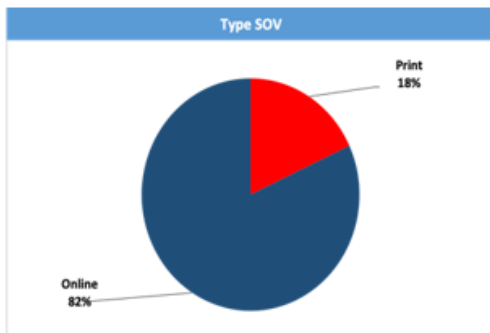
1800 members of the Media from 90 countries attended the games. India's performance at the World Games received 483 print and 2186 online coverage, adding to 2670. Athlete profiles, events and interviews were published, telling India's story. Two media representatives, Mr Narayan and Mr Omprakash from Doordarshan (DD) travelling with the team to Berlin, having covered India's performance daily. Jagran New Media created a landing page dedicated to SO Bharat at the Special Olympics World Summer Games 2023.

Jagran New Media landing page

<https://www.jagran.com/special-olympics-bharat>

DD Coverage

29 July	https://twitter.com/DDNewslive/status/1685486892316327936
21 July	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fUH7OahOb38
30 June	https://youtu.be/T56YjBifAWU https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wQW5br-nh78 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=guBAXsbhQ1g https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3sdelYEMmCA
6 June 2023	https://youtu.be/Q9UJ9AVKE4c



Media Type	SPECIAL OLYMPICS BHARAT
Print	483
Online	2187
Grand Total	2670

Key Coverage



The collage features three main newspaper clippings:

- The Hindu:** "How silver-medal winning Dinesh found his calling" - A story about a swimmer with a spinal cord injury who found his calling in swimming.
- Telangana:** "Vishal bags silver on opening day" - A report on a 16-year-old Paralympic athlete winning silver on the opening day of the Special Olympics World Games in Berlin.
- The Times of India:** "From inflicting injuries on self to emerging a triple gold medalist, Anurag's story of transformation" - A profile of a Paralympic athlete who overcame self-inflicted injuries to become a triple gold medalist.



विश्व ओलंपिक महोत्सव 380 विशेष एथलीट्स हुए इस कैम्प में शामिल, स्पेशल ओलंपिक वर्ल्ड समर गैम की तैयारी में शामिल

नेशनल कोचिंग कैंप का सांस्कृतिक समारोह के साथ समापन

नई दिल्ली, (एनएस) - विश्व में प्रथम बार स्पेशल ओलंपिक वर्ल्ड समर गैम की तैयारी के लिए विशेष कोचिंग कैंप का समापन कार्यक्रम के रूप में नेशनल कोचिंग कैंप का सांस्कृतिक समारोह के साथ हुआ। इस समारोह में लगभग 400 एथलीट्स और कोचों ने अपने अतिरिक्त प्रशिक्षण का प्रदर्शन किया। एथलीट्स और विचारधारा के साथ इस कार्यक्रम का प्रदर्शन एक प्रमुख प्रदर्शन में समापन के दौरान किया गया। इस समारोह के दौरान एथलीट्स को प्रशिक्षण और सहयोग प्रदान किया गया।



एथलीट्स और कोचों का समूह नेशनल कोचिंग कैंप के समापन समारोह में।

इस कार्यक्रम में 380 विशेष एथलीट्स और कोचों का प्रदर्शन किया गया। इस कार्यक्रम का प्रदर्शन एक प्रमुख प्रदर्शन में समापन के दौरान किया गया। इस समारोह के दौरान एथलीट्स को प्रशिक्षण और सहयोग प्रदान किया गया।

नेशनल कोचिंग कैंप का समापन समारोह के दौरान एथलीट्स को प्रशिक्षण और सहयोग प्रदान किया गया। इस समारोह के दौरान एथलीट्स को प्रशिक्षण और सहयोग प्रदान किया गया।

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TRAINING CAMP

SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETES GEAR UP FOR BERLIN GAMES 2023



The National Coaching Camp, sponsored by the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, Government of India, is the first of its kind. It is a unique opportunity for athletes to receive specialized training and support. The camp is designed to help athletes prepare for the Berlin Games 2023. It includes various training sessions, workshops, and seminars. The camp is held in a state-of-the-art facility with all the necessary amenities. The athletes are being trained by experienced coaches and experts. The camp is a great opportunity for athletes to learn from the best and improve their skills. It is a great opportunity for athletes to receive specialized training and support. The camp is designed to help athletes prepare for the Berlin Games 2023. It includes various training sessions, workshops, and seminars. The camp is held in a state-of-the-art facility with all the necessary amenities. The athletes are being trained by experienced coaches and experts. The camp is a great opportunity for athletes to learn from the best and improve their skills.

स्पेशल ओलंपिक खेलों के लिए 380 सदस्यीय भारतीय दल की घोषणा

नई दिल्ली (एनएस) - 17 से 25 जून तक जर्मनी के बर्लिन में आयोजित होने वाले स्पेशल ओलंपिक विश्व शीर्षक प्रतियोगिताओं के लिए 380 सदस्यीय भारतीय दल की घोषणा की गई। इस दल में 380 एथलीट्स और कोचों का समावेश है। इस दल को स्पेशल ओलंपिक इंडिया के अध्यक्ष डॉ. अशोक कुमार ने घोषणा किया। इस दल में 380 एथलीट्स और कोचों का समावेश है। इस दल को स्पेशल ओलंपिक इंडिया के अध्यक्ष डॉ. अशोक कुमार ने घोषणा किया।

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17 से 25 जून, 2023 बर्लिन, जर्मनी में आयोजित होने वाले विश्व शीर्षक प्रतियोगिताओं में स्पेशल ओलंपिक भारत की भागीदारी



विश्व ओलंपिक खेलों में भागीदारी के लिए एथलीट्स और कोचों का समूह।

अपनी शक्ति को पहचानें, आगे बढ़ें



विश्व ओलंपिक खेलों में भागीदारी के लिए एथलीट्स और कोचों का समूह।

india.com

Home | Sports | Rani Rampal Exclusive: 'Injuries Made Me Strong And I Learned A Lot'

Rani Rampal Exclusive: 'Injuries Made Me Strong And I Learned A Lot'

Rani Rampal, who led India to historic fourth-place finish at Tokyo Olympics, was awarded the prestigious Khel Ratna and Padma Shri, both in 2020.

Updated: April 28, 2023 6:03 PM IST

By Sunny Deka | Edited by Sunny Deka

Special Olympics Bharat and the Ministry of Education & Sports, Government of India

SAI, asianpaints, talit

क्षमता, आत्मविश्वास को प्रदर्शित करने का अवसर - मल्लिका नड्डा

जयपुर, नौदशा : स्पेशल ओलंपिक के लिए, एथलीट्स की क्षमताओं को प्रदर्शित करने का अवसर है। इस अवसर पर एथलीट्स को अपनी क्षमताओं को प्रदर्शित करने का अवसर है। इस अवसर पर एथलीट्स को अपनी क्षमताओं को प्रदर्शित करने का अवसर है।

Special Olympic World Games: India end with whopping 202 medals, including 76 gold

India secured 76 gold, 75 silver and 51 bronze medals in the global multi-sport spectacle that celebrates unity, diversity and special skills among people with intellectual disabilities.

Press Trust of India | Last Updated: June 27, 2023 01:02:19 IST

The Economic Times

Special Olympics World Games: Indian contingent finish strong with 202 medals

Special Olympics World Games: Indian contingent finish strong with 202 medals

India end Special Olympics World Games campaign with whopping 202 medals, including 76 gold

India secured 76 gold, 75 silver and 51 bronze medals in the global multi-sport spectacle that celebrates unity, diversity and special skills among people with intellectual disabilities.

June 27, 2023 03:09 am | Updated 03:09 am IST - Berlin



Flames of celebration, fervour of sports

Hindustan Times

खेल मंत्री अनुराग ठाकुर ने खिलाड़ियों से कहा 'देशन लेना नहीं, देना है'

Punjab Kesari

स्पेशल ओलंपिक वर्ल्ड समर गेम्स: खिलाड़ियों को शुभकामनाएं

Dainik Bhaskar

Off to Berlin

The Hindu

Athletes bring home 13 gold, 2 silver medals from spl Olympics

The Pioneer

स्पेशल ओलंपिक में भारत ने जीते अब तक 157 पदक

Dainik Jagran

भारत ने रिकॉर्ड 202 पदकों से साथ बर्लिन को कहा अलविदा

Rashtriya Sahara

Indian contingent cross 50-medal mark at Special Olympics World Summer Games

The Pioneer

On penultimate day in Berlin, Indian contingent cross 150-medal mark

The Statesman

भारत को स्पेशल ओलंपिक विश्व खेलों में 202 पदक मिले

Jansatta

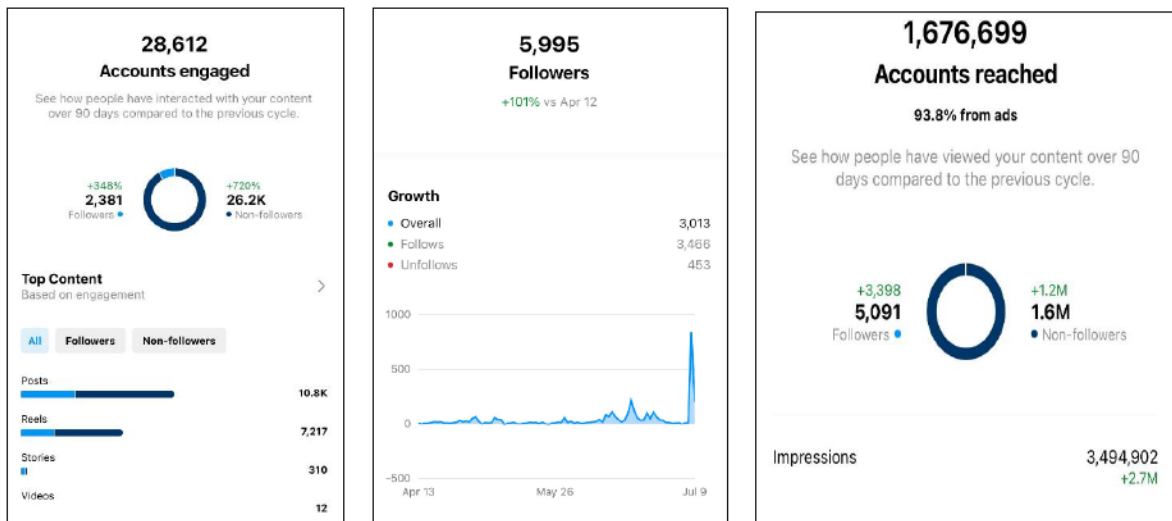
Social Media Insights

- Social Media activation for the World games included mainly four social media handles namely, Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. The activities were enhanced from thrice a week to 2 posts daily to 4-5 daily, during the games.
- The report covers activities recorded between 12 April & 10 July 2023
- The team for social media was increased to seven persons as well as the NYLC members in supportive activities
- Around April-end Framefox media joined the team in creating video content and the games jingle.



- The frequency of posting was substantially increased to support the mega-event and leverage its potential to amplify awareness
- All the influencers / brand ambassadors / celebrities played an important role in enhancing the reach of SO Bharat
- The Facebook page jumped from 7.6K to 9.1K followers, an increase of 52% while Instagram recorded an increase of overall followers by 101%, reaching 5.9K.
- LinkedIn, despite being a professional platform used mainly for networking purposes, reflects a 63% increase in followers
- Between 12 June and 10 July 2023 Twitter reflected a significant growth in our reach as impressions have been around 190k which is 462.2% increase. The profile visits also increased to around 20.6k

INSTAGRAM

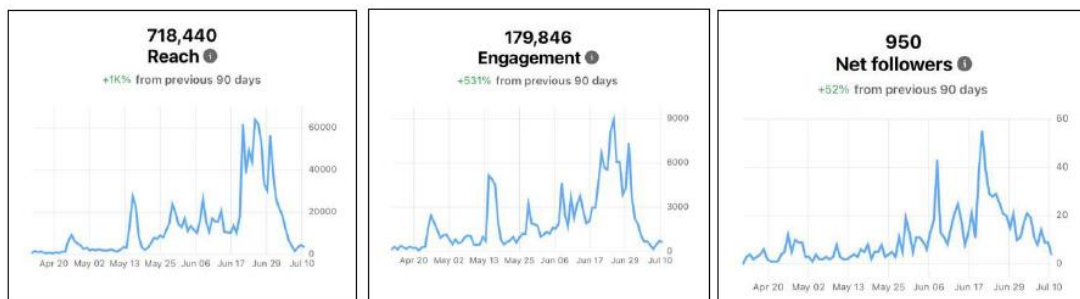


1,068 %
Increase in Accounts Reached

101 %
Increase in Overall Followers

+2.7M
Increase in Impressions on account.

FACEBOOK



1,000 %
Increase in Accounts Reached

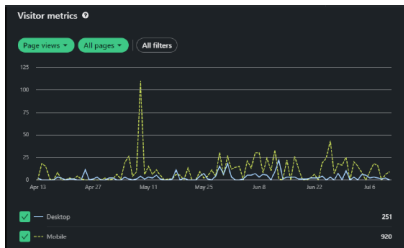
537 %
Increase in Engagement rate.

52 %
Increase in followers.



LINKEDIN

Visitors Metrics



1,171 - Page views -
Increase by **109.9%**

370 - Unique visitors -
Increase by **87.8%**

33 - Custom button
clicks - Increase by **200%**

Impression & Engagement Metrics



27,170 - Organic
Impressions

1,684 - Reactions -
Increase by **305.8%**

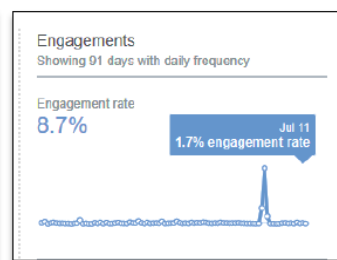
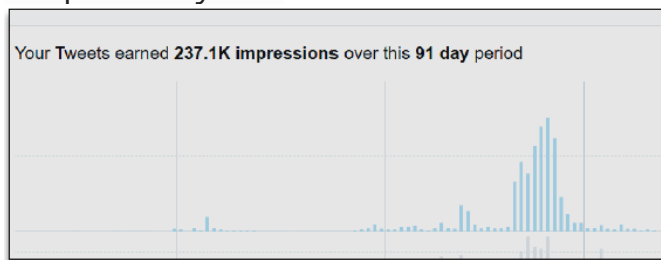
39 - Repost - Increase
by **333.3%**

TWITTER

12 June to 10 July 2023



10 April -10July 2023



Celebrity Posts

Thirty celebrities, influencers, supporters and distinguished luminaries liked, shared and posted SO Bharat posts gravitating huge numbers of viewers to the existing diversities & abilities of the Athletes.

<p>Padma Shri Rani Rampal</p> <p>Instagram Reach: 32,387 Facebook Reach: 59,693 Date: 6th May 2023</p>	<p>Mr Ayushman Khurana (Goodwill Ambassador)</p> <p>Instagram Reach: 699K Date: 11th May 2023</p>	<p>Padma Vibhushan Amitabh Bachchan</p> <p>Instagram Reach: 6,714 Facebook Reach: 14,976 Twitter Impressions: 2,039 Date: 28th May 2023</p>	<p>Abhi & Niyu (Goodwill Ambassadors - Influencers Category)</p> <p>Instagram Reach: 1.1 Million Date: 29th May 2023</p>
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Few Key Posts

<p>Instagram Reach: 4,93,602 Facebook Reach: 24,092 Twitter Impressions: 6,410 Date: 26th June 2023</p>	<p>Instagram Reach: 1,48,708 Facebook Reach: 10,912 Twitter Impressions: 3,817 Date: 19th June 2023</p>	<p>Instagram Reach: 1,42,748 Facebook Reach: 4,315 Twitter Impressions: 6,465 Date: 12th June 2023</p>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS AT THE SEND OFF CEREMONY – National & States

City/State	Chief Guest /Guests of Honour
Bihar	DG SAI -State; Samir Kumar mahaseth (minister department of Industries Govt. Of Bihar)
Chandigarh	Ms Kiron Kher, Actor and MLA
Delhi	Lt Gov, Mr V K Saxena ; Ministers of State – Mr Pramanik & Ms Bhaumik
Goa	Mr Govind Gaude, Min Sports; Mr Subhash Phal Desai, Min Social Welfare
Gujarat	Dr. Arjun Singh Rana, Vice Chancellor Swarnim Sports University and OSD, Sports Authority of Gujarat, Mr. Jerry Chairman World Federation of Chess School
Haryana	Torch Run and Send Off
Himachal Pradesh	Governor, His Excellency Sh. Shiv Pratap Shukla
Jharkhand	Mr Chanakya Choudhary, Vice President (Corporate Services) Tata Steel
Karnataka	Chief Guest: Shri AshwathNarayan –Member of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly
Kerala	Sri Hybi Eden (Ernakulum MP); Advocate Anil kumar (mayor of cochin)
Madhya Pradesh	Hon'ble Chief Minister Mr Shivraj Patel; Hon'ble state ministers, Smt. Yashodhara Raje Scindia, Department of Sports and Youth Welfare, Shri Kamal Patel, Farmers Welfare and Agriculture Development and Shri Prem Singh Patel, Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment.
Maharashtra	Governor of Maharashtra, His Excellency Mr Ramesh Bais
Punjab	Mr Gurpreet Singh Gogi MLA Ludhiana west
Rajasthan	Dr. Arun Chaturvedi, former state president BJP and -cabinet minister Govt. of Rajasthan
Uttrakhand	Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttrakhand, Shri Pushkar Singh Dhama
Uttar Pradesh	Shri Raju Rana, District Inspector of Schools (DIOS); Shri Shailesh Kumar, Basic Shiksha Adhikari(BSA);Ms. Archana Sinha; District Coordinator (SSA)
West Bengal	Shilton Paul, Indian Footballer, Sri. Tushar Chatterjee (Vice Chairman - Kamarhati Municipality), Sri.Tapan Chanda (Secretary - Handball Association), Sri. Tapan Das Gupta (councillor), Sri. Kalyan Majumdar (General Secretary - East Bengal Football Club)
NATIONAL	Hon'ble Union Ministers- Shri Anurag Thakur, Department of Youth Affairs and Sports and Department of Information and Broadcasting, Ms Smriti Irani, Department of Women and Child Development and Department of Minority Affairs; Indian Athlete & President, Indian Olympic Association, Ms. PT Ms PT Usha, Indian Cricketer Mr. Yuvraj Singh and Singer Mr. Sonu Nigam



DISTINGUISHED GUESTS AT THE WELCOME CEREMONY – National & States

City/State	Chief Guest /Guests of Honour
Goa	Dr Pramod Sawant, Chief Minister; Mr Subhash Phal Desai, Social Welfare Minister; Mr Guruprasad Pawaskar, Commissioner for PWD
Himachal Pradesh	Sh. Rakesh Jamwal MLA Sundernagar
Kerala	Mr Benny Behanan, MP Chalakudy
Maharashtra	Mr Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport and Highways of India; Mr Ameet Bhaskar Satam, MLA
Odisha	Mrs. Minati Mohapatra, 9 times National Cycling Champion and the 1st Arjuna Awardee of Odisha
Puducherry	Tamilarasai Soundarajan, Lieutenant Governor; Mr Rangasamy , Chief Minister
Uttar Pradesh	Shri Anil Chaudhary Principal Assistant Directorate of Sports Lucknow
Uttarakhand	Shri Premchand Agarwal, Cabinet Minister
NATIONAL	Former President of India, Shri Ramnath Kovind Ji , Hon'ble Minister of Ports, Waterways & Shipping and Minister of AYUSH Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Hon'ble Member of Parliaments Shri Manoj Tiwari and Shri Gautam Gambhir, and Leader of Opposition, Legislative Assembly, Delhi Shri Ramvir Singh Bidhuri.

COVERAGE BY TOP PUBLICATIONS

Publication Type	Top Publication	Coverage
Financial	Mint	7
	Financial Express	1
Mainline	The Hindu	64
	The Statesman	23
	The Free Press Journal	17
	The Daily Guardian	11
	Deccan Chronicle	8
Regional	Dainik Jagran (Hindi)	13
	Dainik Jagran (Rashtriya) (Hindi)	12
	Punjab Kesri (Hindi)	12
	Rashtriya Sahara (Hindi)	12
	Amar Ujala (Hindi)	11
Online	Janta Se Rishta	47
	Latest LY	46
	New Kerala	33
	Daily Hunt (Mobile)	31
	Devdiscourse	31
	The Times of India	31
	Lokmat Times	27
	West Bengal Khabar	25
	Maharashtra Samachar	25
Delhi Live News	25	



INFLUENCERS AND CELEBRITIES ON SOCIAL-MEDIA

	Name	Date of Posting	Activity
1	Shri Narendra Modi Ji (Hon'ble Prime Minister of India)	18 June 2023	Wished his best to Team India
		28 June 2023	Congratulated Team India on their achievements
2	Padma Shri Rani Rampal	6 May 2023	Helped to grab media attention during the third NCC held at Amity University UP, NOIDA
3	Mr Ayushman Khurana (Goodwill Ambassador)	11th May 2023	First celebrity to post Best of Luck message
4	Vinai Kumar Saxena (Lt Gov. Delhi)	27 th May 2023	Posted on his Twitter account
5	Shri. Manoj Tiwari (Member of Lok Sabha)	27 th May 2023	Posted on his Twitter account
6	Padma Vibhushan Amitabh Bachchan	28th May 2023	The video was shared by Mr. Tim Shriver and SOI Official account on Facebook
7	Abhi & Niyu (Goodwill Ambassadors – Influencers Category)	29th May 2023	First ever video on SO Bharat to cross 1 million reach.
		13th June 2023	Collaborative post
		8th July 2023	First video to cross 1.5 million reaches. Within 2 days of this video our followers increased by 1500
8	Shri. Ramesh Bais (Governor – Maharashtra)	2 nd June 2023	Posted on his Twitter account
9	Mrs Kirron Kher	3rd June 2023	Wished the Athletes her best through a video message
10	Shri Devendra Fadnavis (Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra)	3rd June 2023	Posted on his Twitter account
11	Mr. Manmeet Pem (Movie actor)	6th June 2023	Collaborative Video post
12	Shri. Anurag Thakur (Union Minister for I&B and Youth Affairs & Sports)	8 th June 2023	Posted on his Twitter account
13	Mr Arunoday Sharma (Child Prodigy from KBC Show)	9th June 2023	Wished the Athletes his best through a video message
14	Mr. Yuvraj Singh (Indian Cricketer & Goodwill Ambassador)	9th June 2023	Posted on his account.
15	Mr Virender Sehwag (Star Indian Cricketer)	11th June 2023	collaborative post that helped us get many followers.
16	Mr Sohrab (Celebrity Fitness Trainer)	11th June 2023	Collaborative post
17	Mr Sunil Shetty (Bollywood Actor)	12th June 2023	Wished the Athletes his best through a video message
18	Ms. Sriti Jha (India Television Actress)	12th June 2023	Shared the Video with us and shared the video on story on her account.



19	Mr. Akshay Kumar (Bollywood Actor)	12th June 2023	Shared the Video with us and shared the video on story on his account.
20	Mr Dalip Singh Rana – The Great Khali (Professional Wrestler)	13th June 2023	Wished the Athletes his best through a video message
21	Shriyanka Sadangi (Indian National Rifle Shooter)	15th June 2023	Collaborative post
22	Ahmedabad Defenders (Franchise Prime Volleyball League)	14th June 2023	Collaborative post
23	Anjum Moudgil (Olympian Shooter)	15th June 2023	Collaborative post
24	Dr Vinay Sahasrabudhe President of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations	20 June 2023	Posted on his Twitter account
25	Shri Amar Prasad Reddy (State President, Sports, and Skill Development Cell)	26 June 2023	Posted on his Twitter account
26	Shri Ram Nath Kovind (14th President of India)	27 June 2023	Posted on his Twitter account
27	Shri Nisith Pramanik (MOS - Ministry of Home Affairs & Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports)	28 June 2023	Posted on his Twitter account
28	Shikhar Dhawan (Indian Cricketer)	28 June 2023	Posted on his Twitter account
29	NBA & NBA India	1 July 2023	Posted on their accounts
30	Mr Sathiyant G. (Olympian Table Tennis Player)	15th July 2023	Posted a Story with SO Bharat

Concluding thoughts by the Chairperson



Speaking about the Indian contingent's performance at the Berlin Games, **Chairperson Special Olympics Bharat, Dr. Mallika Nada** was keen to highlight not just their performance but also the need for their inclusion and acceptance. *"A huge number of our athletes have faced social discrimination of various forms, and are regarded as non-functioning members of society in various quarters. It is an obsolete thought, and an inaccurate one too. Their performance in the*

sporting arena prove that they are capable of great feats, or strength, speed, concentration, and discipline. And I hope this opens the eyes of those on the outside and proves that we need to expand this movement further."

According to Dr Nadda, we talk about the great achievements of our Special Athletes, but their day-to-day struggle lies hidden from others. Things that we take for granted pose a challenge to them and their families. **Accessibility** must be our goal to make our lives truly inclusive:

- Financial management of the Cash awards becomes urgent as, many Athletes belong to under-privileged backgrounds. They need guidance to convert the cash award into an investment for future. World Games is a golden opportunity for our Athletes to stabilise financially.
- Their sporting schedules must not finish with the end of the World Games. We need every reader to join us in developing an inclusive sporting culture all over the country
- Employment is largely denied to Athletes with Intellectual Disabilities. It requires a complete gamut of making the work environment receptive to differences, while assessing the Athletes to flex into a profile that matches their individual abilities and preference.
- Awareness is the first step to acceptance. Each one of us must exit this beautiful place as an ambassador of abilities of persons with Intellectual Disabilities



WE ARE GRATEFUL TO ALL OUR PARTNERS

Partners with Passion

SAIL

Title Sponsors

TATA

Supporting SO Bharat for over 10 years



HERBALIFE

Supporting SO Bharat since 2015



VFS (VISA FACILITATION SERVICE)

Setting up the Center at the Prep Camp held in Amity University to smoothen the process





BANK OF AMERICA

Playing Unified with the Athletes at a Prep Camp and joining the Torch Run at the Send Off



MACQUARIE

Playing Unified with the Athletes at the final Preparatory Camp held at the JLN Stadium



THE LALIT

Hosting the guests of SO Bharat and employing the first Athlete with IDD, Rithik Hukku, in Jaipur





SOHFIT (Sohrab Khushrushahi)

Fitness Session conducted for the contingent during the Final Preparatory Camp



DD Sports



Team DD travelled with SO Bharat to Berlin, dedicated to covering the event every day

We thank Ms Gina and Ms Tracy once again for gifting bikes to SO Bharat

Special Thanks





References:

Release Coalition

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SOI Post Games 'Facts & Figures'

Social Media Report

Wordswork Report

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Send-off & Welcome ceremonies event management & Ideation of BOL (Best of Luck)

Campaign: Refuge

Social Media edits & post management: Karmenpreet Kaur Vasant, Kalash Kaushal, Shubham Gautam, Kedar Sane, Cintu Yadav

Social Media lead & Report: Jay Kapoor

Media Coverage Report: Wordswork



The Special Olympics World Games offer the opportunity to unite the world like no other event can. Here people with and without disabilities, people of different nations, cultures, political views and religions meet and can overcome existing prejudices with the power of sport.

Gold 77



Silver 71



Bronze 51



#Accept
#Recognize
#Respect
#Include



Special Olympics Bharat is a National Sports Federation for the Development of Sports for Persons with Intellectual/ Developmental Disabilities, recognized by the Ministry of Sports & Youth Affairs, Government of India and the nationally accredited program of Special Olympics International.