

SPECIAL OLYMPICS ASIA PACIFIC BOCCE & BOWLING COMPETITION 2024

REPORT

**Special
Olympics**
Bharat



Special Olympics Bharat hosted the Special Olympics Asia Pacific Bocce and Bowling Competition from November 18th to 23rd, 2024 in New Delhi, marking a historic moment for the city and the Special Olympics movement. The event was officially inaugurated by the Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar in the presence of Smt. Sudesh Dhankar, Dr. Mansukh L. Mandaviya, Hon'ble Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports & Minister of Labour and Employment, Government of India, Shri Naveen Jindal, Hon'ble Member of Parliament; and Shri Asim Arun, Hon'ble Minister of State I/C for Social Welfare and SC/ST Welfare, Government of Uttar Pradesh, welcomed by Dr. Mallika Nadda, President of Special Olympics Bharat and Chairperson of the Special Olympics Asia Pacific Advisory Council and Mr. Dipak Natali, Regional President and Managing Director Special Olympics Asia Pacific.

This competition which focused on older athletes with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) aged 22 and above, was the first of its kind on a global scale to be held in India. It offered unique opportunities for this often-underserved age group, whose participation in sports typically declines as they get older.

The Special Olympics Asia Pacific Bocce & Bowling Competition 2024 celebrated athletes with intellectual disabilities through:

- sporting competitions
- free health screenings
- key health initiatives, including the Inclusive Health Summit which unveiled fresh research (Rosemary Collaboratory).



SPECIAL OLYMPICS
**ASIA PACIFIC
BOCCE & BOWLING
COMPETITION**
NEW DELHI, INDIA 2024

About

100 Athletes from

12 Special Olympics Programs
participated in the competition.

The countries that participated were Australia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Hong Kong, Thailand, Macau, Uzbekistan, Singapore and India. They hailed from 3 different regions, namely, East Asia, Europe Eurasia, and Asia Pacific.

Special Olympics Bharat focused on reducing sports and health disparities for people with intellectual disabilities by promoting inclusive sports and inclusive healthcare systems. It also marked a historic first for Special Olympics Bharat (SO Bharat) as it introduced bowling as a competitive sport in partnership with the Tenpin Federation of India. The partnership aims to empower older athletes aged 22 and above through a ground-breaking initiative designed around a dedicated development program.





“

This momentous occasion redefines what is achievable by us as a country. Our special athletes are living examples of human potential, demonstrating that with determination and perseverance, nothing is beyond reach. You inspire us all with your courage and commitment. Today, India stands proud to host marquee global events like the Asia Pacific Bocce and Bowling Competition. Building on this foundation, we have boldly taken steps to bid for the 2036 Summer Olympics, aiming to place India at the centre stage of global sports. We are confident in our vision and hopeful that this will set a new benchmark for generations to come.” He concluded by delivering a simple message, ‘किताब भी जरूरी, खेल भी जरूरी, दोनों के बिना जिंदगी अधूरी (Khitab bhi zaroori hain, khel bhi zaroori hain, dono ke bina zindagi adoori hain)

”

Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar
Hon'ble Vice President of India



Shri Hardeep Singh Puri

Hon'ble Union Minister of Petroleum
and Natural Gas, Govt. of India

We express our sincere thanks to Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Hon'ble Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Govt. of India for his gracious support at the Special Olympics Asia Pacific Bocce and Bowling Competition 2024 New Delhi. Your encouragement and commitment to inclusion through sports has played a pivotal role in the success of this event. By standing with our athletes, you have championed the values of dignity, respect and empowerment, inspiring a more inclusive and compassionate society. We are truly grateful for your partnership in this transformative journey.





Shri Manohar Lal Khattar

Hon'ble Union Minister of Power and
Energy & Union Minister of Housing
and Urban Affairs, Govt. of India

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Shri Manohar Lal Khattar, Hon'ble Union Minister of Power and Energy & Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Govt. of India for his generous support and encouragement towards the Special Olympics Asia Pacific Bocce and Bowling Competition 2024 New Delhi. Your kind association has not only empowered this landmark event but has also illuminated the path of inclusion, dignity and opportunity for our athletes. Your commitment to creating a more inclusive society through sports is truly commendable and we are deeply thankful for your invaluable contribution in making this event a resounding success.





OPENING CEREMONY - 19 NOV 2024



The Special Olympics Asia Pacific Bocce & Bowling Competition had started with a grand Opening Ceremony at the Thyagaraj Sports Complex. The event was officially declared open by Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri. Jagdeep Dhankar who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest along with Dr. Mansukh L. Mandaviya, Hon'ble Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports and Labour and Employment, Government of India who was the Guest of Honour.

Dr. Mansukh L. Mandaviya, Hon'ble Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports & Minister of Labour and Employment, Government of India, addressing the audience said, *"It is an inspiring day for us all and it is a privilege to join you in celebrating the passion, talent and determination of the remarkable athletes present here. I am pleased to announce that the Government under the leadership of Shri. Narendra Modi is fully committed to support Special Olympics Bharat and ensuring that our nation provides an inclusive sports environment for athletes of all abilities. I am proud to say that the Government have strengthened the partnership with Special Olympics Bharat to provide enhanced resources, improved facilities and comprehensive training programs to improve the Special Olympic movement. I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Mallika Nadda for her outstanding leadership and dedication for advancing the mission of Special Olympics Bharat across the Asia Pacific region."*



Dr. Mansukh L. Mandaviya, Hon'ble Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports and Labour and Employment



Shri Naveen Jindal, Hon'ble Member of Parliament and Chairman, Jindal Steel & Power Ltd.





OPENING CEREMONY - 19 NOV 2024



Special Guests included **Shri Naveen Jindal, Hon'ble Member of Parliament;** and **Shri Asim Arun, Hon'ble Minister of State I/C for Social Welfare and SC/ST Welfare, Government of Uttar Pradesh,** along with ; Dr. Mallika Nadda, President of SO Bharat and Chairperson of the SOAP Advisory Council, Dr. D.G. Chaudhary, General Secretary of Special Olympics Bharat, Mr. Dipak Natali, Regional President and Managing Director, Special Olympics Asia Pacific and Ms. Shivani, Athlete Ambassador for Special Olympics Bharat. Each dignitary's presence highlighted the importance of advancing the mission of Special Olympics and supporting athletes with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

The audience was captivated by a variety of cultural performances representing India's rich heritage, welcoming the athletes and guests. The march-past was a special highlight, with the teams from each participating nation greeted with enthusiastic applause and standing ovations, underscoring the unifying message of the event.



With our participating countries Australia, Bangladesh, Bharat, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Macau, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pilipinas, Singapore, Thailand and Uzbekistan



COMPETITION - 19 TO 22 NOV



OVERVIEW - BOCCE GAME

A total 44 athletes 22 Male & 22 Female from 12 countries had participated from Asia Pacific region including SO Australia, SO Bangladesh, SO Bharat, SO Hong Kong, SO Indonesia, SO Macau, SO Malaysia, SO Myanmar SO Pilippines, SO Singapore, & SO Thailand.

OVERVIEW - BOWLING GAME

The bowling events witnessed participation from 9 countries, with 35 athletes and 17 coaches. The events were supported by 37 technical officials, 25 technical volunteers, and 10 venue staff. The competition featured three events: mix-team, doubles, and singles. The mix-team event had three divisions, the doubles event had five divisions, and the singles event had nine divisions. A total of 91 matches were played during the competition.







CLOSING CEREMONY - 22ND NOV



From (L to R) Shri. Pabitra Margherita, Shri. Brajesh Pathak, Dr. Mallika Nadda

The Competition concluded with a memorable Closing Ceremony at the Thyagaraj Sports Complex, celebrating the spirit of resilience, determination, and friendship among athletes from across Asia Pacific, East Asia, and Europe Eurasia. The event, which ran from November 18 to 22, saw inspiring performances and sportsmanship, bringing together participants, supporters, and families in a powerful display of unity to celebrate achievements and reiterate commitment to promote opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) across India.

India finished the competition with an impressive haul of 25 medals in which the bowling contingent contributed 14 medals including four gold, six silver and four bronze medals while the bocce team hauled 11 medals which included one gold, four silver and six bronze medals.

The closing ceremony was graced by **Shri. Brajesh Pathak, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh** as the **Chief Guest** and **Shri. Pabitra Margherita, Hon'ble Minister of State of External Affairs** as the **Guest of Honour** along with **Shri. Gaurav Gautham, Hon'ble Minister of State for Youth Empowerment & Entrepreneurship (IC), Sports (IC), Law & Legislative, Government of Haryana** and **Dr. Mallika Nadda, President Special Olympics Bharat**.



Shri. Brajesh Pathak, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh



Shri. Pabitra Margherita, Hon'ble Minister of State of External Affairs



The **Chief Guest, Shri. Brajesh Pathak, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh**, expressed his pride in witnessing the exceptional talent and enthusiasm on display throughout the competition. He remarked, *"It has been an honor to witness the incredible determination and spirit displayed by all the athletes throughout this competition. This event is a powerful reminder that sport has the ability to unite us, break down barriers, and showcase the immense potential within every individual. Today, we celebrate not just the victories on the field, but the shared commitment to inclusion, respect, and empowerment. I commend all the participants for their resilience, and I hope that we will be part of more such transformative events that highlights the strength of human spirit."*

MEDAL CEREMONY & MEDAL TALLY CHART



	Countries	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	SO Australia	3	7	3	13
2	SO Bangladesh	3	5	2	10
3	SO Bharat	5	10	10	25
4	SO Hongkong	1	3	1	5
5	SO Indonesia	3	3	3	9
6	SO Macau	3	0	4	7
7	SO Malaysia	3	3	5	11
8	SO Myanmar	7	0	2	9
9	SO Pilipinas	3	3	0	6
10	SO Singapore	1	0	2	3
11	SO Thailand	3	2	0	5
12	SO Uzbekistan	3	3	3	9



INCLUSIVE HEALTH SUMMIT - 18 NOV 2024

Special Olympics Inclusive Health Summit was held on 18th November 2024 at The Lalit, New Delhi. The event was inaugurated by Ms. Anupriya Patel, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

The Summit was attended by Dr. Dimitri Christakis, Chief of Health, Special Olympics International, Ms. Annemarie Hill, Chief of Health Operations, Special Olympics International, Ms. Angela Jenkins, Director, & Dr. Upasana Arora, MD Yashoda Hospitals Global Inclusive Health attended the program



Panel Discussion on Inclusive Health Systems:



Moderator: Ms Anjela Nicole Jenkins- Senior Director, Global Inclusive Health Advocacy

Panelists: Dr Dimitri Christakis - Chief of Health, SOI, Dipak Natali- Regional President & Managing Director, SOAP, Yashika Bhatt - Silver Medallist 2019 Abu Dhabi Games, Asst Manager - Youth Initiatives & Communications - SO Bharat, Vivek Virendra Singh (Chief of Health, UNICEF), Dr B Mohammed Asheel (WHO), Ms. Meera Srivastava, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health, Mr. Rajeev Sharma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of SJE.



Ms Anupriya Patel.
Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; and Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Govt. of India.

“Accessibility of specific data on intellectual disabilities is an area where further strides must be taken. Through enhanced data visibility, we can promote targeted research, enable better advocacy for change and deliver tailored healthcare interventions. The support of all stakeholders—government bodies, research institutions, advocacy groups and most importantly, the individuals and communities we serve—is important in achieving this.”





SPECIAL OLYMPICS HEALTHY ATHLETES - 20 & 21 NOV



Special Olympics Healthy Athletes Program was inaugurated by Shri JP Nadda, Minister for Health & Family Welfare and Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers, Government of India. Honourable Minister met the officials from SOI & SOAP and discussed the health initiatives of Special Olympics and the possible synergies with current government Schemes.



"Health is a fundamental right, and it is our collective responsibility to ensure that every individual, regardless of their background or ability, has access to resources necessary for a healthy life. The Government of India is tirelessly working towards this goal through various schemes and programs. To provide adequate medical care for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD), it is essential to enhance the skills of healthcare professionals. They must be trained not only to recognize physical symptoms but also to address the unique needs of those with IDD."

Shri. Jagat Prakash Nadda

Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers, Government of India

HEALTHY ATHLETES CLINICAL DIRECTOR TRAINING

The Health Screenings began with Clinical Directors and Clinical Volunteers Training. The training was inaugurated by Dr Patti Hill, Chairperson, Lions Club International Foundation, Mr. Dipak Natali, Regional President & Managing Director, Special Olympics Asia Pacific, Dr. Dimitri Christakis, Chief of Health, Special Olympics International & Ms. Annemarie Hill, Chief of Health Operations. **49 Clinical Directors** from all over India were trained in **7 disciplines** by Regional Clinical Advisors. **250 Medical students** were engaged from Manav Rachna University, Amity University, Gurugram, SGT University, Santosh Medical College, Listening Ears & Visual Eyez .



Ms Patti Hill, Chairperson, Lions Club International Foundation

THE SEVEN DISCIPLINES OF HEALTHY

ATHLETE SCREENING



Opening Eyes: Program was led by Dr. Usman Memon, Clinical Director. 8 Clinical Directors were trained in India. Students from Amity University, Gurugram and Vision Eyes supported the program. Of the 186 athletes screened, 12 athletes required spectacles which were provided free of cost.

Healthy Hearing: Program was led by Dr. Ahmed Abdelkhalek Attia Radwan, Regional Clinical Advisor, Special Olympics – MENA Region Healthy hearing, from Egypt. 13 Clinical Directors were trained in India. Students from SGT University and listening ears supported the program

Special Smiles: Program was led by Dr. Reena Kumar, Regional Clinical Advisor, Special Olympics – Asia Pacific Region. 13 Clinical Directors were trained in India. Students from Manav Rachna University and Divya Jyoti Medical College supported the program.

Health Promotion: Program was led by Dr. Veenu Seth, Regional Clinical Advisor, Special Olympics – Asia Pacific Region and Dr. Manisha Vyas. 4 Clinical Directors were trained in India. Students from Manav Rachna University supported the program

Fun Fitness: Program was led by Dr. Liaw Yun Haw, Regional Clinical Advisor, Special Olympics – Asia Pacific Region from Malaysia and Dr. Sudeep Saxena. 7 Clinical Directors were trained in India. Students from Manav Rachna University supported the program.

Fit Fit: Program was led by Dr. Govind Bisht, Regional Clinical Advisor, Special Olympics – Asia Pacific Region. 2 Clinical Directors were trained in India. Students from Santosh Medical College supported the program

Strong Minds: Program was led by Dr Khaled Mohamed Nabil Ahmed G Kadry, Regional Clinical Advisor, Special Olympics – Europe Eurasia Region. 11 Clinical Directors were trained in India and one from Singapore. Students from Manav Rachna University supported the program.







CARNIVAL



The Carnival at the Special Olympics Asia Pacific Bocce and Bowling Competition 2024 was a vibrant celebration of inclusion, featuring cultural performances, interactive games and engaging activities for athletes, families and spectators. It created a joyful and festive atmosphere, bringing communities together to honour the spirit of Special Olympics.





HONoured GUEST DINNER



The Honoured Guest Dinner for the Special Olympics Asia Pacific Bocce & Bowling Competition 2024 was held at the Taj, New Delhi, bringing together dignitaries from various states and countries. The evening served as a platform for meaningful dialogue, networking and collaboration, reinforcing a shared commitment to an inclusive future. Leaders, policymakers and changemakers engaged in discussions on advancing opportunities for individuals with intellectual disabilities, celebrating the spirit of unity and sportsmanship that defines the Special Olympics movement.





RUN FOR INCLUSION



The Run for Inclusion, organised by Special Olympics Bharat, took place on 9th November 2024 at the Central Civil Service Ground, Nehru Park, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi. The event saw an overwhelming participation of over 7,000 runners across India. More than just a race, the event symbolised a powerful movement advocating for inclusion, accessibility, and the empowerment of individuals with intellectual disabilities.

The event was graced by Chief Guest Shri Harsh Malhotra, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Corporate Affairs & Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways, Government of India. The presence of Smt. Bansuri Swaraj, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), and Shri Manoj Tiwari, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), as Guests of Honour, further strengthened the commitment towards fostering an inclusive society. Their speeches and engagement with participants highlighted the government's support for Special Olympics initiatives and the importance of accessible opportunities for all. Adding to the excitement, renowned former cricketers Nikhil Chopra, Atul Wassan, Bhaskar Pillai and Robin Singh Jr. joined the run as Champions of Inclusion. The Run for Inclusion was not just an event but a movement through sport with participation from national and local media, supporters, and advocates of inclusion.



Shri Manoj Tiwari, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha)



Shri Harsh Malhotra, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Corporate Affairs & Ministry of Road, Transport, and Highway, Govt. of India



Smt. Bansuri Swaraj, Guest of Honour and esteemed Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha)





PRINCIPAL'S MEET 2024



Special Olympics Bharat conducted a Principals Meet on September 12th, 2024. Around 100 principals and educators from Delhi NCR gathered at The Lalit, New Delhi, to champion inclusion in sports for our talented athletes. We shared inspiring stories, engaged in dynamic discussions, and united in our mission to foster environments where every student can thrive. The energy was palpable as we explored ways to empower our athletes, and the athletes demonstrated their exceptional skills on stage





AREA DIRECTORS MEET 2024



In fond memory of Air Marshal Denzil Keelor, a prayer meeting was held to honour his extraordinary life and enduring legacy. Family, friends, colleagues, and well-wishers gathered during the Area Director's Meet to pay tribute to a man who lived with unwavering dedication, courage, and compassion. The solemn gathering was filled with heartfelt reflections on his remarkable journey—from his distinguished service in the Indian Air Force to his transformative work with Special Olympics Bharat.



MEDIA SUMMARY

Overview

The media campaign for the Special Olympics Asia Pacific Bocce and Bowling Competition 2024 achieved significant traction with extensive outreach across multiple channels, showcasing the competition's impact in promoting inclusion through sports.

Media Coverage Breakdown

90 Lakhs+

cumulative viewership on
social media

511

Articles

48

Articles in Prominent
Newspapers and Magazines

20

Segments across leading
Television Channels.

Campaign

Momentum The campaign gathered a significant pace closer to the event, driven by strategic influencer collaborations and consistent daily coverage. This approach enhanced public interest and visibility for the competition.

Key Impact Areas

1. Awareness Building: The campaign effectively highlighted the competition's pivotal role in fostering inclusion and empowering athletes with intellectual disabilities through sports. It underscored the transformative impact of sports as a medium for societal change.

2. Engagement: Community participation was achieved through engaging content and collaborations, garnering widespread support for the athletes. The public's engagement reflected a shared commitment to the values of inclusion and empowerment.

3. Brand Strengthening: The campaign reinforced Special Olympics Bharat's position as a leading advocate for inclusivity. Through targeted messaging and widespread media coverage, the movement's vision and mission gained substantial recognition.

Conclusion

The comprehensive media strategy successfully amplified the event's message of inclusion and empowerment. By leveraging diverse platforms and consistent coverage, the campaign not only elevated the competition's profile but also strengthened the identity of Special Olympics Bharat as a champion of inclusivity and community engagement.



THANK YOU FOR THE MEDIA SUPPORT





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