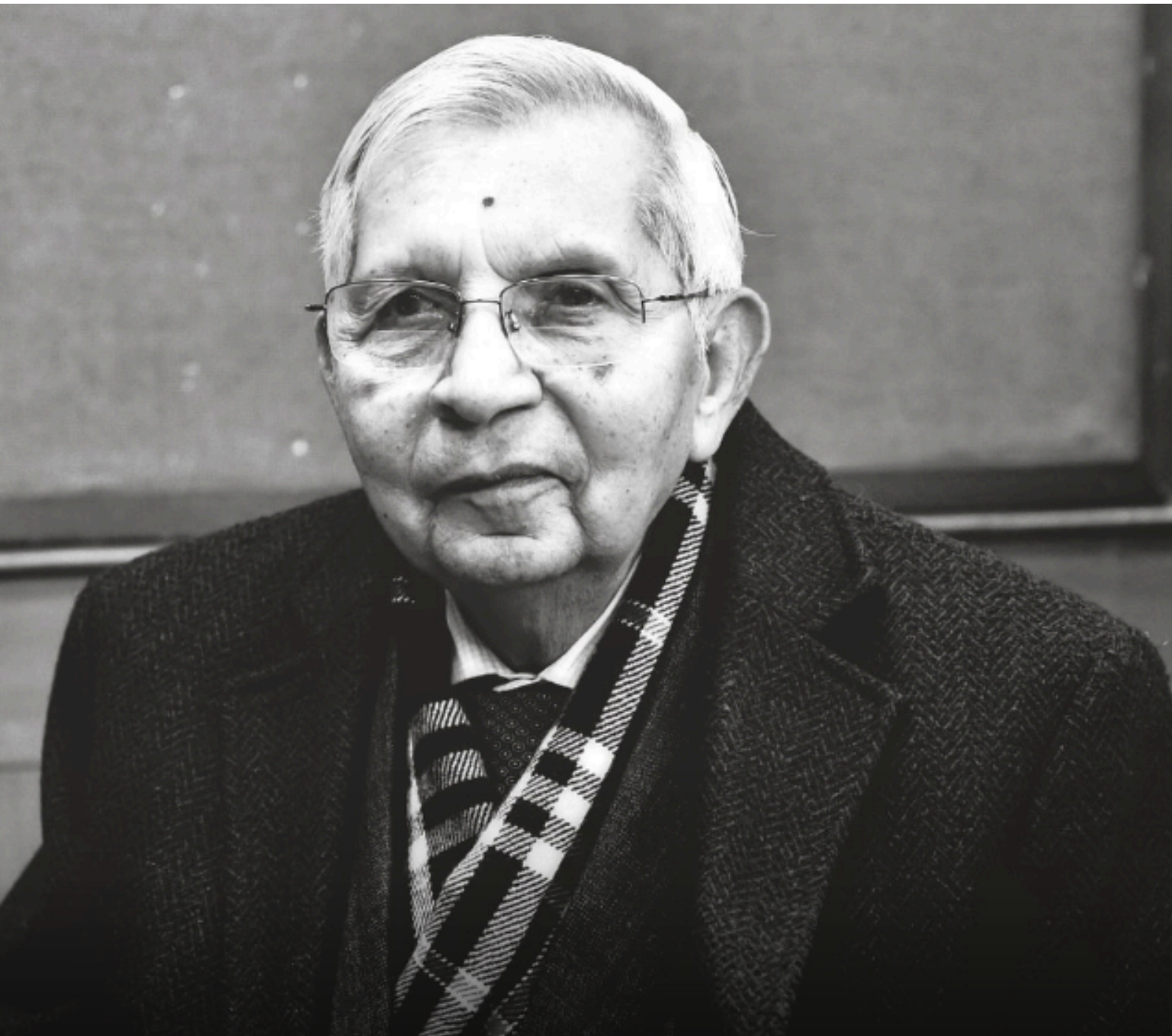


SPECIAL OLYMPICS BHARAT

BULLETIN

**Special
Olympics**
Bharat



A TRIBUTE TO OUR BELOVED FOUNDER PRESIDENT -
AIR MARSHAL DENZIL KEELOR

***"A Hero's Journey: Air Marshal Denzil Keelor's
Legacy in India's Skies and Hearts"***

(1933-2024)

MAY - AUGUST 2024



प्रधान मंत्री
Prime Minister

New Delhi
भाद्रपद 11, शक संवत् 1946
02nd September, 2024

Smt. Marie Keelor Ji,

I received the news of the demise of Air Marshal Denzil Keelor (Retd.) with a feeling of grief and sadness. Such a loss leaves a void that can never be filled.

An outstanding IAF fighter pilot, Air Marshal Keelor served the nation admirably. His contribution as an air warrior, particularly towards strengthening fighter bases, will continue to inspire younger generations.

Memories of the times spent with him will provide you solace and comfort in this difficult hour.

He will be missed by family, friends and well-wishers, but he will always continue to reside in hearts.

My heartfelt condolences and thoughts are with you. May you gather the strength and fortitude to endure this grievous loss.

Om Shanti.

(Narendra Modi)

Smt. Marie Keelor
J-1184, J Block
Palam Vihar, Gurugram
Haryana- 122017

Special Olympics

Dear Marie and Family,

On behalf of all of us at Special Olympics, I write to extend my condolences and sympathy for the loss of Air Marshal Keelor, a giant of the Special Olympics movement. I can imagine the great pain and sadness you are feeling. I wish it were not so and my prayers are with you all.

It is no exaggeration to say that the Air Marshal was a singular and indispensable force in the creation of the contemporary Special Olympics movement. I remember our countless meetings in Washington and in India. He was serious, thorough, relentless, and full of faith all at once. He believed in our athletes, and no one could stop him.

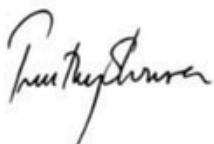
The Air Marshal was a beloved leader of his community who dedicated his life to serving others. Nothing can ever prepare us for the loss of a family member who has been a companion, friend, and a source of strength through all of life's challenges. I know your loss surely brings a level of sorrow that is beyond words. I'm terribly sorry.

Our work together at Special Olympics is an effort to continue bringing the best of humanity to life. I know that the legacy of Air Marshal Keelor will bring courage and bravery to many people around the world. His legacy for his country is great and also includes millions of Special Olympics athletes and their families around the world. I pray for all of those who loved him and share my sympathy for all who mourn.

Air Marshal Keelor was a man of love and action. We have all been so blessed by his life. May he rest easy in the arms of the God he so beautifully served.

With prayers and sympathy,

Tim





Jagat Prakash Nadda
@JPNadda



Deeply saddened by the passing of Air Marshal Denzil Keelor. His valor during the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965 stands as a testament to his unwavering courage and dedication to the nation.

His legacy extends far beyond the skies. As the founder of Special Olympics Bharat, he championed the cause of over 450,000 special children, fostering a movement of inclusivity, awareness, and empowerment through sports.

We bid farewell to Air Marshal Denzil Keelor, a hero who touched both the skies and our hearts. My deepest condolences to his family and friends during this time of grief. Om Shanti!

It is with a heavy heart that I write to inform you of the passing of our esteemed founder, Air Marshal Keelor Sir. His dedication, vision, and tireless efforts in the service of athletes with intellectual disabilities have left an indelible mark on our organization and on countless lives across the nation. Air Marshal Keelor Sir was not just a leader but a guiding light for all of us. His passion and commitment to the cause of Special Olympics Bharat were unparalleled. His legacy will continue to inspire us in the work we do every day. Let us remember Air Marshal Keelor Sir with the dignity and respect he so richly deserved, and let his spirit continue to guide us as we move forward in our mission.

Dr. Mallika Nadda
President
Special Olympics Bharat



Special Olympics Asia Pacific
30 Aug 2024 ·

We are deeply saddened to hear about the passing of Air Marshal Denzil Keelor, whose profound impact on the Special Olympics movement was keenly felt in India, the Asia Pacific region, as well as worldwide.

Air Marshal Keelor leaves behind a wonderful legacy, not only in his long list of achievements in service of his country, but in all the lives he profoundly changed for the better. He is deeply missed for his warmth, compassion, and for consistently going above and beyond to help those that have been forgotten and who have needed help, guidance and support.

Beyond public service, he has proved to be a wonderful friend, bringing light to those around him, and his legacy of kindness continues to inspire us all. Our hearts go out to Air Marshal Keelor's family, friends, and to all who have had the privilege of knowing him. We will continue to carry forward his vision and values, striving to honor his memory in all that we do.

Air Marshal Keelor's dedication, vision and tireless efforts in the service of the athletes have left an indelible mark on Special Olympics and on countless lives across the world. His leadership was more than we can ever imagine, it was a source of unwavering inspiration for all of us. His passion and commitment to the cause of Special Olympics Bharat were unparalleled, setting a standard of excellence that we all aspire to uphold.

His legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of everyone he touched. The athletes, coaches, families, the volunteers, and all those associated with Special Olympics will forever remember him not just as a leader, but as a guiding light who showed us the true meaning of hard work, passion and dedication.

I feel he will always be by our side, directing us, guiding us, inspiring us and reminding us that we have more to do every day in our work. His legacy will live on forever. May he rest peacefully.

Mary Davis
Chief Executive Officer
Special Olympics

"In Loving Memory of Late Air Marshal Keelor: A Legacy of Unyielding Dedication and Inspiring Leadership in the Pursuit of Excellence. His Vision Continues to Uplift Generations, Guiding Us to Soar Higher and Achieve the Extraordinary."

Air Marshal Denzil Keelor, born on December 7, 1933, in Lucknow, was a highly respected leader and a distinguished officer of the Indian Air Force. His exemplary career as a fighter pilot and leader spanned from 1953 until his retirement as Inspector General in 1991. Over the course of his service, he was awarded the highest honors, including the Param Vishist Seva Medal (PVSM), Kirti Chakra (KC), Ati Vishist Seva Medal (AVSM), Vir Chakra (VrC), and commendations from four consecutive Presidents of India, making him as the most decorated officer in the country. Following his military career, Air Marshal Keelor dedicated his life to serving others, founding Special Olympics Bharat, where his leadership expanded the program from 25,000 to 1.4 million athletes across India. His integrity, character, and unwavering commitment to the cause earned him international recognition, including the Special Spirit of China Award of Excellence in 2007, alongside figures like Nelson Mandela. He was deeply admired for his relentless efforts in advocating for people with intellectual disabilities and his profound impact on the Special Olympics movement worldwide.



Fond memories of our beloved founder Air Marshal Denzil Keelor sir with our athletes, our President, Dr. Mallika Nadda, our General Secretary, Dr. D.G. Chaudhary and our CEO, Air Cmde Lalit Sharma

Homage paid to our beloved founder **Air Marshal Denzil Keelor**

Special Olympics Bharat state chapters pay tribute to Air Marshal Denzil Keelor sir for his contribution to Special Olympics community as a whole.



Tripura state athletes pay homage to Air Marshal Denzil Keelor sir.



TamilNadu state athletes pay homage to Air Marshal Denzil Keelor sir.

Special Olympics Bharat Uttar Pradesh chapter dedicates a Sports Center to Air Marshal Denzil Keelor sir, pay a tribute for his contribution to Special Olympics Bharat



JP Public school, Greater Noida offer tribute to Air Marshal Denzil Keelor Sir. The prayer meet was attended by SO Bharat General Secretary, Dr. D.G. Chaudhary and SO Bharat Uttar Pradesh chapter President, Mr. Mukesh Shukla.

SPORTS CENTERS

New Sports Centers in Kerala



Special Olympics Bharat is excited to announce the opening of **15 new centers** across Kerala, spanning the districts of Kottayam, Thrissur, Ernakulam, Alappuzha, Idukki, and Thiruvananthapuram. These centers will offer both morning and evening sessions, providing comprehensive training for **383** dedicated athletes in sports such as Volleyball, Badminton, Basketball, Handball, Football, Swimming, Cycling, Floorball, Bocce, Athletics, Hockey, and Table Tennis. This expansion reflects the organization's commitment to inclusivity and empowerment through sports. Each athlete will have the chance to develop their skills, build confidence, and create a sense of community. These new centers are a testament to the power of sports to transform lives and bring people together.

District	No. of Centers	Athletes Trained
Alappuzha	1	25
Ernakulam	2	45
Idukki	1	20
kottayam	8	203
Pathanamthitta	1	30
Thiruvananthapuram	1	20
Thrissur	1	40

District wise data of Sports centers in Kerala

Additionally, Special Olympics Bharat is pleased to report that there are now 41 actively running centers across India. This milestone highlights their ongoing efforts to promote inclusivity and support athletes in their journey to greatness.

Rajasthan: New centers in Jodhpur, Jaipur & Sri Ganganagar



August 17 2024 marks a monumental day as we celebrated the grand opening of 3 Sports Center in Rajasthan, Jodhpur center was inaugurated by the esteemed C.P. Sancheti, Founder and President of Navjyoti Manovikas Kendra. This state-of-the-art facility is set to transform the sports landscape in Rajasthan, providing top-notch training to **250** aspiring athletes across 3 centers. With a vision to nurture talent and foster excellence, this center will be a beacon of hope and opportunity for many.

SPORTS

Jharkhand: Tata Football Academy Hosts Inclusive Football

On May 15, 2024, the Tata Football Academy unit of Jamshedpur FC (JFC) teamed up with Special Olympics Bharat **Jharkhand**, unifying for **Grassroots Football Day**. It was an unforgettable day of unified football and fun activities, with 75 Tata Football Academy cadets playing alongside fifty athletes, supported by enthusiastic parents and siblings. The event was a colorful celebration of inclusion and teamwork. Huge thanks to the ten SO Bharat Coaches and 40 JFC Coaches for making it all possible, showcasing the true spirit of unity through grassroots football.



In photo - Athletes being part of the grassroots football

Himachal Pradesh: Summer Camp at Yol Cantt



In photo - Games played during the adventure camp

SO Bharat celebrated inclusion and awareness in **Himachal Pradesh** with a two-day adventure Summer Camp in Yol Cantt, Dharamshala, where athletes shared unforgettable experiences with 201 army students. Held on the 1st and 2nd of June, the camp united participants through sports and cultural events, fostering an environment of inclusion. A special thanks to our inspiring youth leaders, Kanika and Deeya Chhetri, for enlightening everyone about the Youth Leadership Program. Together, we are building a more inclusive future, empowering young minds to embrace diversity and work toward a more unified society.

Chandigarh: Celebrating Unity on the Court

On July 10, 2024, Special Olympics Bharat **Chandigarh**, in collaboration with Vivek High School Sector 70 (Mohali), hosted an inspiring **unified basketball tournament**. The event was graced by Principal Mrs. Harbina Randhawa, Chief Guest, and Ms. Sheetal Negi, Area Director, was a great success. It was an honor to have board members Mr. Pradip Dogra and Ms. Priya, along with Programme Manager Mr. Sandy Rana, in attendance. SO Bharat's Chandigarh State Chapter President, Ms. Dilpreet Kaur Sekhon, expressed her sincere gratitude and announced plans for more such programs in the future. Gifts and appreciation certificates were distributed to the unified partners and staff, celebrating the spirit of inclusion and teamwork.



In photo - Athletes playing basketball in the tournament

Bowling & Bocce State Championship 2024

The Special Olympics Bharat (SO Bharat) State Championships have been a tremendous success across India, showcasing the dedication and enthusiasm of athletes and volunteers. **SOB Karnataka** hosted a vibrant event with participation from 22 schools, 44 coaches, and 150 volunteers. In **Kerala**, the championship held on July 26th saw the spirited participation of 20 athletes. **SOB Bihar** witnessed an impressive turnout with 200 athletes with intellectual disabilities competing in the championships. **SOB Assam** organized its Bowling State Selection on August 8th, and prior to that, on July 5th, held a Bocce event in Guwahati. **SOB Rajasthan** conducted the state championship on 28th July, in association with Rudraksh educational society. These events highlight the growing reach and impact of Special Olympics across the country, celebrating inclusivity and athleticism.



The states completed their State Championship / State trials by the month of August to get their state teams ready for the National Championship to be held in month of September from 1st to 5th at Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Centre of Disability Sports.

Andhra Pradesh: Mission Inclusion Bharat Unites



On May 15 2024, Special Olympics Bharat and Lions Club International Foundation united for a day of Unified Sports Development at RDT Bathalapalli, Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh. On May 15th, Special Olympics Bharat and Lions Club International Foundation united for a day of Unified Sports Development at RDT Bathalapalli, Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh. The event brought together over 110 athletes and partners who participated in exciting games of football, volleyball, and bocce. Through the spirit of sports, the day celebrated inclusion, unity, and empowerment, showcasing the power of teamwork and cooperation.

SO Bharat celebrates 10th International Yoga Day across the Nation

SO Bharat celebrates the 10th International Yoga Day with unity and inclusivity across India. In Delhi, 250 SOB-Delhi athletes joined the celebration organized by Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Institute for the Physically Handicapped. Meanwhile, in Madhya Pradesh, our Female Floorball athletes at the National Coaching Prep Camp 1 celebrated International Yoga Day at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Training Center for Disability Sports in Gwalior. Similar celebrations were also held in Sports Centers in Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, Assam and state of Uttar Pradesh.



Winter Games: National Female Floorball Preparatory Camp

Forty-eight campers, including 26 Athletes from 14 states of India participated in the floorball Camp held for the Special Olympics World Winter Games to be held in Turin, Italy in March 2025. SO Bharat Madhya Pradesh hosted the National Coaching camp at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Training Centre for Disability Sports, Gwalior (also referred as Centre for Disability Sports - CDS) from 20 - 29 June 2024.



Special Olympics Bharat winners of Gothia Cup Football Championship at Sweden.

The SO Bharat Champions scripted history at Gothenburg this year as they aced the tournament, lifting the Gothia Cup, unbeaten in all the matches leading to victory. Supported by SKF India, the Indian team, comprising of ten athletes with Intellectual and developmental delays from six states of India, namely, Delhi, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal, stamped its maiden entry with an extraordinary performance at the tournament. The send-off ceremony was graced by **Mr. Jan Thesleff, Sweden Ambassador to India**.



MR. JAN THESLEFF (SWEDEN AMBASSADOR)



SHRI RAKSHA KHADSE (MOS YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS)

SO Bharat won their opening group game against SO Finland 3-0, and then followed it up with a big win of 6-0 against SO Germany. The Indian contingent won over Hong Kong by 6-0 in Match 3, and then followed it up with another big win by 3-1 against SO Denmark to make it into the final. SO Bharat lifted the trophy after a nail-biting 4-3 win in the final clash with SO Denmark. Our athletes received a grand welcome and the event was graced by **Shri Raksha Khadse Ji, MOS Youth Affairs & Sports**.

Mukund Vasudevan, President of SKF India and Southeast Asia, said, "We extend our heartfelt congratulations to our incredible team of football players for their outstanding victory. This achievement is a testament to their unwavering dedication, resilience, and the power of inclusivity. We are immensely proud to have supported these talented individuals in showcasing their abilities on an international stage. I thank Special Olympics Bharat and the Sports Authority of India for their incredible support, training, and care. This success not only brings glory to our nation but also reinforces our commitment to fostering a diverse and inclusive environment. Welcome back, champions! It is your moment!"

Bowling National Coaches Training Program



Proud moment for SO Bharat as we stride into uncharted territory! For the first time in India, SO Bharat introduced Bowling into our roster, gearing up for our inaugural National Championship next month.

On 24 July 2024, **35** dedicated coaches from across the **19 states** of India gathered at R Cube Mall Bowling Alley for an intensive Coaches Training Program, setting the stage for our athletes' journey in this exciting sport. This milestone marks a significant step towards inclusivity and empowerment, embodying the spirit of Special Olympics. With the guidance of our passionate coaches and the unwavering support of our community, SO Bharat is ready to showcase the skills on the national stage.

Tamil Nadu: State Level Coaches Training Camp

SOB Tamil Nadu chapter successfully completed state level Coaches Training Camp at Madurai Vallaba Vidhyalaya CBSE School, Chennai. Over **100** dedicated coaches from **10 districts** came together for this transformative event. The event was graced by M. S. Sangeetha, IAS, District Collector, Madurai, and C. Dinesh Kumar, IAS, Corporation Commissioner



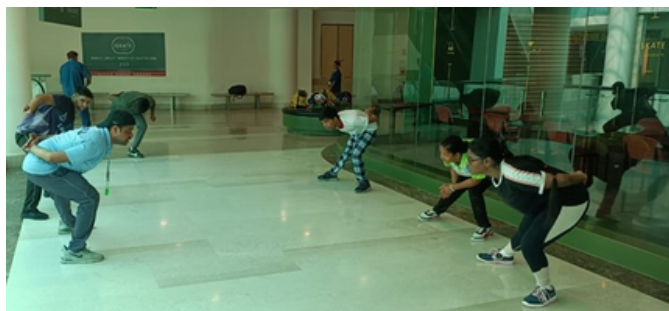
Kerala successfully conducts Coaches Training Program



Special Olympics Bharat celebrates the tremendous success of our recent **Coaches Training Program**, held by the Kerala chapter at **Nirmalasadan Special School in Muvattupuzha** from July 26th to 29th, 2024! This dynamic and thorough event highlighted the dedication and enthusiasm of our Kerala team, significantly boosting the skills and expertise of our coaches across a diverse range of sports and administrative areas. The program assembled **36** dedicated coaches who focused on honing their strategies for training special athletes. It was a privilege to have Sr. Rani Joe, Program Manager of SOB Kerala; Fr. Roy Kannanchira C.M.I., Area Director of SOB Kerala; and Sr. Jancy George, Principal of

Nirmalasadan Special School, who imparted their valuable wisdom. Coaches received rigorous training in various sports such as volleyball, basketball, handball, badminton, athletics, floorball, football, bocce, and bowling. This training camp has equipped our coaches with crucial techniques and strategies, ensuring they are ready to lead, inspire, and positively influence our special athletes.

World Winter Games: National Coaching Preparatory camp for Short-track Speed skating



The National Coaching Preparatory Camp 1 for Short-track Speed skating was held at iSkate rink, Ambience Mall in Gurugram, from August 18 to 27, 2024. The camp saw shortlisted participation of 05 athletes, 02 coaches, and 05 supporting staff. The camp aimed to assess and improve the skills of the athletes and prepare them for future competitions.

Shivani's Journey: From Overcoming Challenges to Achieving Employment Success

Shivani, born on October 12, 2001 in New Delhi, India has demonstrated unwavering determination in the face of challenges. Living with an intellectual disability, she faced difficulties that could have held her back, but her spirit propelled her forward. In 2021, at the age of 20, she joined Special Olympics Bharat, a pivotal step that would redefine her path and help her realize her true potential.

Shivani's initial years were marked by struggles in social interaction and personal development, but her time with Special Olympics Bharat catalyzed her transformation. Through specialized training in functional academics and skill-building domains such as prevocational skills, art & craft, home science and sports at NIEPID MSEC, she evolved not just as an athlete but as a confident individual ready to contribute to society. Special Olympics Bharat gave her a platform where she could channel her energy and overcome her earlier limitations.

At the age of 21, Shivani took a bold step into mainstream employment with the DS Group (Catch Masala Company) in Noida. This milestone was more than just a job—it was a turning point in her journey towards independence. Through her training at NIOS, Shivani had already gained vital work behavior and communication skills, which she further developed in this role. The opportunity allowed her to collaborate with others, contribute meaningfully to her team and prove her capability in a professional environment.



Athlete Shivani with President Dr. Mallika Nadda



In picture - Dr. Mallika Nadda with Dr. Jyotsna Suri, MD - The Lalit Group

Shivani's growth wasn't limited to the workplace. In 2023, she made history by competing in the International Cycling Competition at the Special Olympics World Games in Berlin, where she won three gold medals. Her record-breaking performance not only exemplified her athletic prowess but also showcased her determination to break barriers and set new benchmarks for athletes with intellectual disabilities.

Her inspiring journey culminated in an apprenticeship at The Lalit Hotel, a prestigious establishment led by Dr. Jyotsna Suri, Chairperson and Managing Director of The Lalit Suri Hospitality Group. Shivani extends her heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Suri for believing in her potential and supporting her journey. Her story is a testament to resilience and the transformative power of inclusive opportunities.

YOUTH & EDUCATION (NYLC)

National Youth Team Empowers Athletes with Vital Skills

On June 27 2024, the National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC) conducted its **inaugural Athlete leadership session in Madhya Pradesh**, focusing on equipping athletes with crucial skills. Held at the **Atal Bihari Vajpayee Training Centre** in Gwalior, the session covered a range of topics, including travel etiquette, effective public speaking, and heightened safety awareness. This event was part of Special Olympics Bharat MP's 'First Preparatory Female Floorball Camp', where 26 athletes gained vital knowledge and tools to excel both in their sports and their everyday lives.

In Photo - Athlete Leadership Training at CDS Gwalior



Celebrating 10 Years of Inclusive Leadership



Special Olympics Bharat joined the **Special Olympics Leadership Academy & Youth Summit in Singapore** from **June 5 - 11, 2024**. This event marked a decade of fostering inclusive leadership within the Special Olympics movement. Our team along with 40 participants from the Asia Pacific region engaged with expert facilitators to enhance their leadership skills and inclusive mindset. We're proud to be part of this journey towards greater inclusion and empowerment.

In photo - Our team at the Special Olympics Leadership Academy, Singapore

WWF National Youth Summit 2023

Special Olympics Bharat was honored at the WWF-India National Youth Summit for our significant contributions to the Tide Turner's Plastic Challenge. Our National Youth Leadership Council member, Khushi, participated in a Youth Panel Discussion sharing insights and experiences. The event was a remarkable showcase of impact champions, celebrating efforts toward environmental sustainability.

In Photo: Our athlete Yashika & athlete leader khushi with actress Dia Mirza



Unified Day Celebration at Apeejay School



Group picture: Mr. Virendra Mahendru (ED SO Bharat), Ms. Mukta Narain Thind (Director OD & International Relations), MS. Meena Goyal (Principal Apeejay School)

On 14 August 2024, Apeejay School Pitampura, in collaboration with Upasana Special School and Special Olympics Bharat, hosted Unified Day 2024. The event saw enthusiastic participation from youth leaders and athlete leaders from various Delhi NCR schools who engaged in friendly matches of Bocce and Baggo. The occasion was graced by Mr. VK Mahendru, Executive Director of Special Olympics Bharat, as the Guest of Honour, with support from the Special Olympics Bharat National Office. The School Principal Ms. Veena Goel shared her valuable insights on the importance of Inclusion and Diversity within the school and reaffirmed the commitment to a lasting partnership with Special Olympics Bharat. The day concluded on a high note with the distribution of medals and certificates to all participants, celebrating the spirit of unity and inclusivity."

Employee Engagement with AXA Global Services by Karnataka & Maharashtra

Special Olympics Bharat State Chapters from Karnataka and Maharashtra recently hosted unified sports events in collaboration with AXA Global Services. Athletes and employees came together for an exciting day of Table Tennis and Badminton, fostering teamwork and inclusivity. Held in both states, the events were a fantastic opportunity for employees to engage with athletes, sharing the joy of sports and building meaningful connections through friendly competition. The enthusiasm and camaraderie displayed by all participants highlighted the spirit of unity and collaboration between Special Olympics Bharat and AXA Global Services.

In photo - AXA Global Employees with Our Athletes



Unified Carnival celebrating the power of sports



Athlete leader Yashika, alongside Youth leader Mahi Dheri, led an inspiring 9-month project promoting inclusion in Delhi schools, culminating in a Unified Carnival on July 7, 2024, at Army Public School Delhi Cantt., supported by Special Olympics Bharat-Delhi. The event brought together over 300 participants from more than 15 schools for a day filled with sports, art, and fun, showcasing the power of inclusion. Activities included football, basketball, bocce, volleyball, cultural performances, and Unified Art & Craft, celebrating the spirit of unity and diversity.

Jharkhand: "Tata Football Academy Hosts Jharkhand's First Athlete Leadership Session for the #InclusionRevolution"

The inaugural Athlete Leadership session in Jharkhand, held at the Tata Football Academy in Jamshedpur, brought together a passionate group of athletes eager to take on greater roles. Having showcased their determination and skills at the Berlin Games last year, these athletes are now more motivated than ever to lead the #InclusionRevolution, driving change and making a lasting impact through their leadership and dedication.

H&M: United in Play, Driven by Purpose



In a recent partnership with H&M Move, we hosted a spectacular unified friendly match, bringing together players from both sides in an inspiring display of sportsmanship and teamwork. The excitement was palpable as athletes from Special Olympics Bharat and H&M Move took to the field, ready to showcase their skills and competitive spirit. The atmosphere was electric, with players giving their all and pushing each other to new heights. It was more than just a game; it was a celebration of unity, determination, and the joy of sports. The match was filled with rigorous competition, thrilling moments, and plenty of smiles, reminding us all of the incredible power of inclusivity and collaboration. A big shout out to H&M Move for joining us in this remarkable event and to all the athletes for their unwavering enthusiasm and dedication.

Karnataka: SO Bharat x Hockey India meet & greet



In picture: Sob karnataka athletes with indian hockey team players

Special Olympics Bharat Karnataka athletes had a golden opportunity to engage with the Indian Hockey Team, creating a memorable and inspiring experience. This unique interaction allowed our athletes to not only play alongside national champions but also exchange thoughts on the power of sports and determination. The encouragement and support from the Indian Hockey Team fueled the confidence and aspirations of our athletes, reinforcing their belief in their own potential.



Athlete Leadership Training

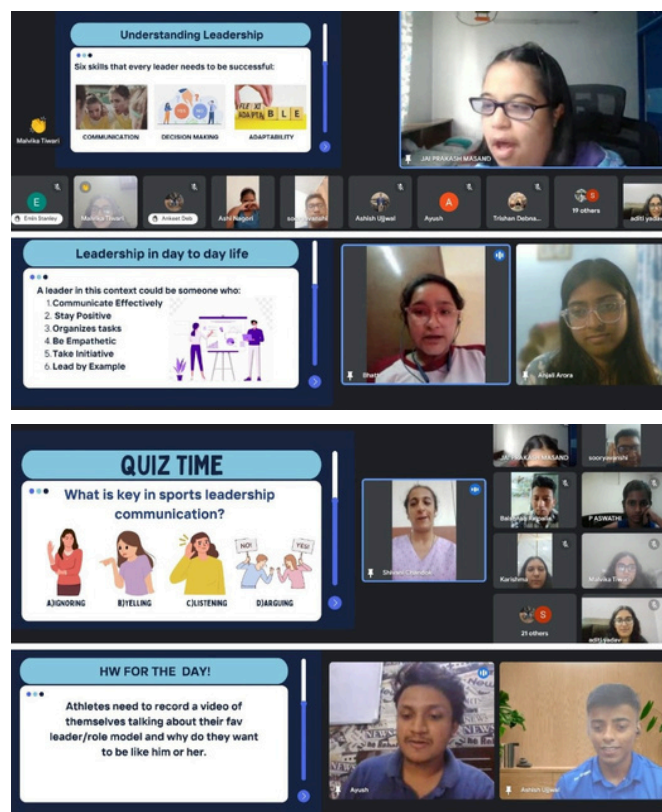
The final module of the **offline Athlete Leadership Session** in Delhi NCR concluded with a day of celebration and achievement. Dedicated athletes and mentors were recognized for their efforts and commitment with well-deserved certificates. The atmosphere was vibrant, as participants engaged in recreational activities that promoted joy and camaraderie. A key highlight of the day was an insightful session on risk management, expertly led by the MCQ team, whose practical knowledge and expertise helped prepare athletes and mentors for future challenges. This event was a testament to the collective efforts toward fostering a more inclusive and empowering environment.

All India Virtual Athlete Leadership Training

On 24th August 2024, our Athlete Leadership Training conducted session 2 which began with a fun icebreaker session designed to help athletes feel at ease. The participants showcased their music knowledge by guessing songs, setting a lively tone for the session. The focus then shifted to exploring the essence of leadership. Athletes learned about the key components that make an effective leader through an in-depth explanation, followed by an engaging quiz to reinforce these concepts.

To maintain the lively atmosphere, the group played "Simon Says" to avoid any monotony. We then highlighted how leadership skills can be applied to daily life, using practical examples and videos that illustrate how athletes can balance their sports and personal lives.

The session concluded with a homework assignment to help solidify the concepts, followed by a group photo to capture the day's happening and smiling faces of our athletes.



Rajasthan conducts Athlete Leadership program



On the joyous occasion of the 56th Foundation Day of Special Olympics, SO Bharat applauds SO Rajasthan on the success of the athlete development training program held on July 20th, 2024, at Nirmal Vivek Special School, Jaipur. The program saw enthusiastic participation from Disha Foundation, Sharda Special School, Milestone Special School, and Shree Nirmal Vivek Special School. A special shoutout to the B.Ed students from Nirmal Vivek and Milestone who attended the session. The session was conducted by Kamakshi Sharma for conducting the sessions, with invaluable mentorship from Shikha Sharma, and event planning support from Rithik Hukku.

NYLC: National Youth leadership Council 2024-25

On July 26, 2024, the National Youth Leadership Council held its in-person monthly meeting, welcoming a new batch of youth leaders with and without intellectual disabilities. Over 20 core members and volunteers came together to strategize for the upcoming year.



ORGANIZATION DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH

SO Bharat Leadership at Special Olympics Asia Pacific's Strategic Meeting

The two-day Strategic Meeting with Special Olympics Asia Pacific led to productive discussions on the Organizational Structure and Delivery Model for SO Bharat, SO Bangladesh, and SO Indonesia. The session was graced by key leaders, including Dr Mallika Nadda, President of SO Bharat, General Secretary Dr D.G. Chaudhary, Ms Mukta Narain Thind, Director of Organization Development & International Relations, and Ms Richa Chauhan, Manager of International Relations.



A comprehensive review of the existing organizational structure was conducted, highlighting key strengths and areas for improvement. A particular focus was placed on understanding how the national office framework extends to the state and district levels. Dr. Mallika Nadda presented SO Bharat's organizational structure, emphasizing the importance of a well-integrated approach from the grassroots to the national level. Additionally, the discussions delved into each program's delivery model, aiming to enhance the meaningful outreach, retention, and ongoing engagement of athletes. Strengthening these models across the three countries will ensure more impactful and sustained participation at every level of the organization.



The strategic planning meetings are organized to discuss the impact of Covid -19 on the Special Olympics Programs and its outreach. The region recorded a drop of 85% in athlete engagement. The discussion were held on developing sustainable structures to promote sustained outreach and engagement. All three countries discussed their models; SO Bharat focuses on School based model while developing centres of excellence through SO Bharat Sports Centres.

SO Bharat had reached out to **1.5 Million** athletes till the year 2019. The focus is to generate unique verifiable data through digital registrations on SO Bharat Portal. SO Bharat will focus on reaching out **1,207,601** young athletes and athletes by 2030 by registering new and registering the old athletes into the system



Health Screening supported by General Insurance of India (GIC)

MedFest, part of the Special Olympics Bharat (SO Bharat) health screening initiative, is an annual event dedicated to the well-being of athletes with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). This health festival is organised across various states, promoting holistic care and health awareness.

Date	Venue	No. of Athletes Screened	Discipline
04 May 2024	Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh	640	MedFest
11 May 2024	Sri GangaNagar, Rajasthan	489	MedFest
20 May 2024	Dehradun, Uttarakhand	91	MedFest
22 May 2024	Ram Nagar, Uttarakhand	57	MedFest
23 May 2024	Haldwani, Uttarakhand	55	MedFest
06 June 2024	Leh, Leh & Ladakh	139	MedFest
08 June 2024	Kargil, Leh & Ladakh	189	MedFest
08 June 2024	Baramulla, Kashmir	124	MedFest
10 June 2024	Kupwara, Kashmir	106	MedFest
12 June 2024	Srinagar, Kashmir	389	MedFest
28 June 2024	Parratu, Jharkhand	75	Special Smiles , Healthy Hearing, Health Promotion
15 June 2024	Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh	56	Medicine, Eyes, ENT, Dental & Physiotherapy
26-27 July 2024	Punjab	502	MedFest
		2,912	

In collaboration with GIC, MedFest was successfully conducted in Odisha, Assam (Guwahati), Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh (Hamirpur), Uttarakhand, Leh & Ladakh, Kashmir, Jharkhand, and Punjab.



Medical Camps at the Northern ends of India, Leh, Kargil, Baramulla & Kupwara

This year's MedFest has been a great success for SO Bharat in the areas of Kashmir and Ladakh, especially reaching the areas of Kargil, Baramulla and Kupwara approximately screening more than **900** athletes with IDD.

This is the first time that Special Olympics Bharat along with the support of the teams from Kashmir and Leh conducted such a massive Health screening in the areas of Kargil, Baramulla and Kupwara.





Health Screening at Sports Centers

National Hydroelectric Power Corporation has been a great supporter of Special Olympics Bharat, supporting the 20 sports centers across Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Jammu & Kashmir, Leh, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura. These 20 centers training more than 1200 plus athletes on regular basis.

Through the support of NHPC, SO Bharat has been able to conduct medical camps at the sports centers in the state of Himachal Pradesh and Assam. Through these medical camps, approximately **875 plus** athletes were health screened.

Date	Venue	No. of Athletes Screened	Discipline
29 May 2024	Una - Himachal Pradesh	116	Medicine, Eyes, ENT, Dental, Skin Specialist & Physiotherapy
29 May 2024	Shimla - Himachal Pradesh	42	Ayurvedic, Eyes, ENT, Dental & Physio Therapy
21 June 2024	Chamba - Himachal Pradesh	100	Eyes, ENT, Dental & Physio Therapy
22 June 2024	Kangra - Himachal Pradesh	78	Eyes, ENT, Dental & Physio Therapy
26 June 2024	Sirmour - Himachal Pradesh	50	Eyes, ENT, Dental & Physio Therapy
28 June 2024	Mandi - Himachal Pradesh	150	Eyes, ENT, Dental & Physio Therapy
5 July 2024	Kullu - Himachal Pradesh	60	Eyes, ENT, Dental & Physio Therapy
7 July 2024	Solan - Himachal Pradesh	65	Eyes, ENT, Dental & Physio Therapy
14 June 2024	Jorhat - Assam	38	Opening eyes
15 June 2024	Dibrugarh - Assam	35	Special smiles
22 June 2024	Goalpara - Assam	35	Opening eyes
28 June 2024	Guwahati - Assam	53	Opening eyes
07 June 2024	Morigaon - Assam	37	Opening eyes
13 July 2024	Darrang - Assam	37	Opening eyes
		876	

In collaboration with NHPC, MedFest was successfully conducted in both Himachal Pradesh and Assam, reinforcing our commitment to enhancing the health of IDD athletes nationwide.

This year's MedFest was not only for the enrolled athletes of the SOB sports centres but also for the larger community.



Health Screening supported by (GIC)



Health screening in the states of Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Rajasthan.



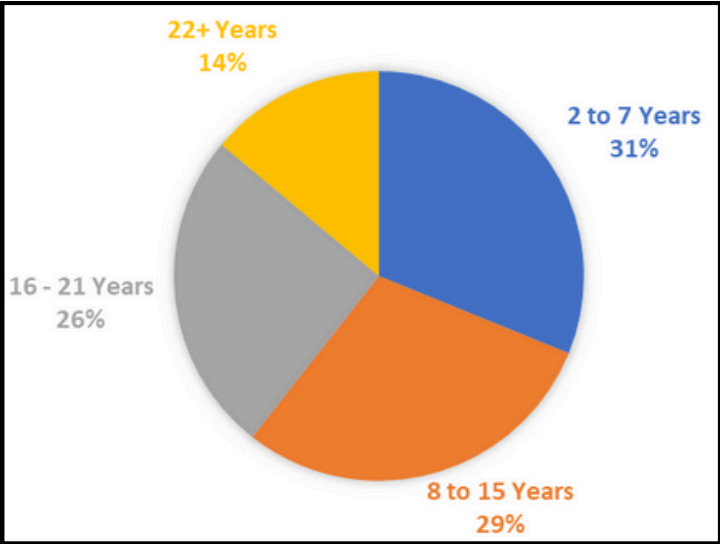
Health Screening at Sports Centers



Health screening in the states of Himachal Pradesh and Assam.

More Athletes join SO Bharat’s inclusive mission!

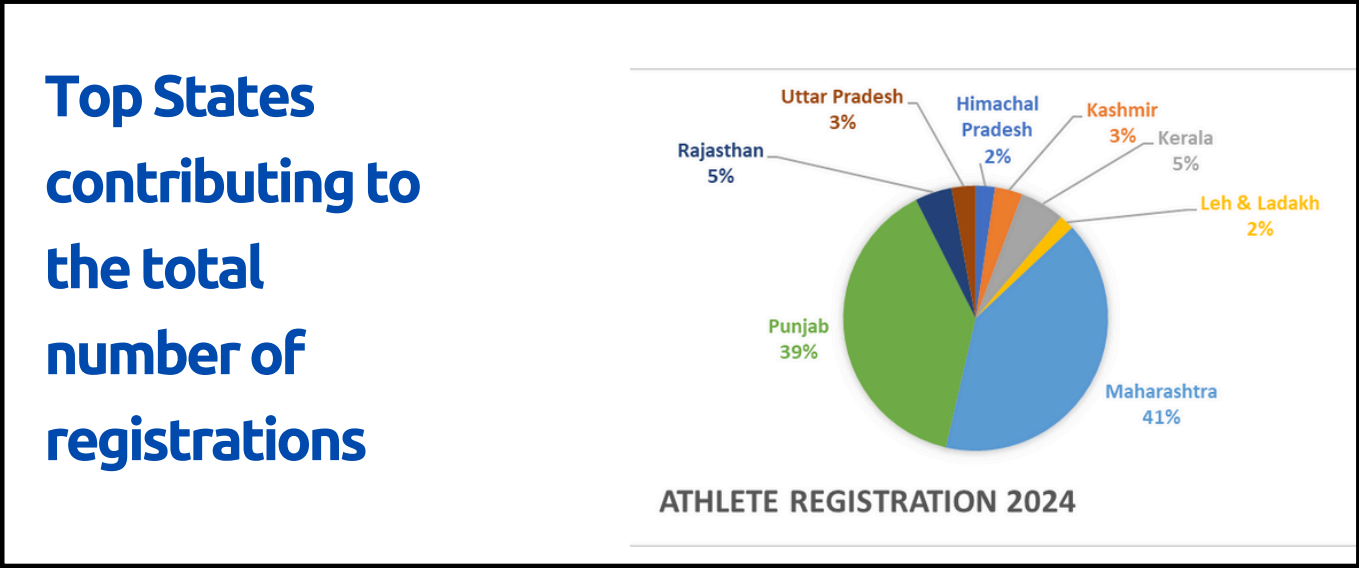
The data given below shows new athletes joining SO Bharat’s multiple state programs between January 2023 to August 2024



Percentages of athletes registered in different age categories from different states.

Age Groups	
2 to 7 Years	16992
8 to 15 Years	16039
16 - 21 Years	13902
22+ Years	7586

Number of athletes registered based on different age groups



PARTNERS IN INCLUSION

