

SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD WINTER GAMES 2025 TURIN, ITALY, 8-15 MARCH 2025

REPORT



“

Our incredible Indian athletes with intellectual disabilities participating in the Special Olympics World Winter Games embody the spirit of determination, resilience and excellence. Your dedication and passion inspire the nation. Proving that true strength lies in the courage to push boundaries. The entire nation is extremely excited to witness you all in action. Fly the tricolor high with your success, the entire country is backing you.

”

Dr. Mansukh L. Mandaviya

Honourable Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports and Minister of Labour and Employment, Govt. of India.





“

Our athletes have once again proved that determination knows no barriers. Their performances in the World Winter Games serve as an inspiration to all. These athletes have broken all the boundaries and stereotypes to reach this pedestal and I couldn't be more proud of them. I assure you that we will keep taking steps to ensure that you get every possible opportunity to show the world what you are capable of.

”

Dr. Mallika Nadda

President, Special Olympics Bharat
Chairperson, Special Olympics Asia
Pacific Advisory Council

About Special Olympics Bharat



**Special
Olympics
Bharat**

Special Olympics Bharat is a National Sports Federation also registered under the Indian Trust Act 1882 in 2001 and is accredited by **Special Olympics International** to conduct Special Olympics Programs in India. It is recognized by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India**, as a National Sports Federation in the Priority Category for the development of Sports for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities. It is a designated Nodal Agency for all disabilities on account of its national presence and experience, especially in rural areas which account for nearly 75 per cent of the disabled population in India.

We aim to reach out to over 100,000 people with intellectual disabilities in India every year.



About World Winter Games 2025

The Special Olympics World Winter Games 2025 took place in **Turin, Italy, from 8 to 15 March 2025.**

The Games welcomed 1,500 athletes from 102 countries competing in 8 disciplines. In addition, more than 1,000 coaches, 2,000 volunteers, 1,000 accredited media and approximately 1,00,000 spectators took part in the event.



Sports Camp (2023-2025)

In the lead-up to the Special Olympics World Winter Games Turin 2025, a series of comprehensive **National Preparatory Coaching Camps** were conducted across three cities in India: **Gurgaon, Chandigarh, and Narkanda**, each carefully chosen to provide optimal training conditions for different winter sports disciplines.

Gurgaon played host to the Speed Skating and Figure Skating coaching camps. Equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and expert coaches, the camps in Gurgaon focused on refining the technical skills, agility and performance consistency of the athletes, ensuring they were competition-ready for the international stage.



Sports Camp (2023-2025)

Chandigarh served as the training ground for **Floorball**, a fast-paced indoor team sport. The camps here emphasised team coordination, strategy development and physical endurance, vital for success at the global level.

Narkanda, nestled in the snow-clad mountains of Himachal Pradesh, provided the perfect natural environment for **Snow Sports**. Athletes trained in **Alpine Skiing, Snowboarding, Snowshoeing and Cross-Country Skiing**, taking full advantage of the region's slopes and climate. These high-altitude camps not only improved athletic performance but also built resilience and acclimatisation to winter conditions similar to those in Italy.

Across all disciplines, multiple National Preparatory Coaching Camps were conducted for each sport. These camps were made possible through the support of the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** and the **Sports Authority of India (SAI)**, whose efforts played a critical role in providing quality coaching, nutritional support, sports science interventions and infrastructure.



Send-off Ceremony- 6th March 2025

A grand send-off ceremony was organised for the **49-member Indian contingent, comprising 30 athletes and 19 support staff members**, at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi. The ceremony was graced by Hon'ble Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**, President of Special Olympics Bharat, **Dr. Mallika Nadda**, Secretary of Special Olympics Bharat, Dr. D.G. Chaudhary and Executive Director of Special Olympics Bharat, Shri V.K. Mahendru.

Athletes were also honoured with garlands and were gifted traditional Himachali Woolen Camps as a symbol of good luck at the end of the ceremony.



BEST WISHES FROM THE AMBASSADOR OF INDIA TO ITALY & SAN MARINO - MS VANI RAO

As the **Indian contingent** arrived in Italy for the much-anticipated Special Olympics World Winter Games 2025, they were greeted with warmth, pride and encouragement by **Ms. Vani Rao, Ambassador of India to Italy and San Marino**.

In a gesture that underscored the deep significance of this global sporting event, Ambassador Rao extended a heartfelt welcome to Team India, acknowledging the dedication, perseverance and spirit of inclusion that each athlete embodies. Her words reflected the collective pride of a nation and the support of the Indian community abroad.

She also highlighted the growing global impact of the Special Olympics movement and reaffirmed India's commitment to fostering inclusion through sports.

The Ambassador's warm hospitality and gracious words set a celebratory tone for Team India's participation at the Games, reinforcing a message that transcends medals — the message of dignity, respect and opportunity for all.



The Indian contingent comprised a total of 49 members, including **30 athletes, 16 coaches and 3 officials**, representing Special Olympics Bharat across various events.

Athletes and coaches were selected through a **national-level qualification** process that ensured fair representation from **15 Indian states**.

The coach selection process included assessments of sport knowledge, practical demonstrations and athlete rapport.

A 3-member team participated in the **Global Youth Leadership Summit** and a team of 5 formed the media and communications team successfully cover the Games.

SO BHARAT AT



SPECIAL OLYMPICS
**WORLD
WINTER
GAMES**
TURIN 2025

30

Athletes

19

Support Staff

PARTICIPATING SPORTS



Alpine Skiing



Floorball



Snow Shoeing



Snowboarding



Short Track
Speed Skating



Cross Country
Skiing



Opening Ceremony- 8th March 2025

The Opening Ceremony of the Special Olympics World Winter Games 2025 was the first exciting element of the event, an intense experience that officially kicked off the Games and defined the atmosphere, leaving an indelible memory in the hearts of athletes and spectators.

The ceremony took place in an extraordinary setting with a breathtaking show that combined music, lights and performances by internationally renowned artists. The ceremony celebrated the values of inclusion, determination and sportsmanship. The most anticipated moment was undoubtedly the **Parade of Athletes with 102 delegations** that began an unforgettable experience in the name of inclusion and competition.

Among the most anticipated moments was the entrance of the torch that ended its journey with the lighting of the cauldron, officially starting the World Winter Games 2025.



HEALTHY ATHLETES SCREENING



Good health improves the lives of people with intellectual disabilities. It enhances each Special Olympics athlete's ability to train and compete in sports.

Worldwide, more than **36,000 health program volunteers**, including medical professionals and students, have chosen to contribute their expertise to Special Olympics, providing athletes with high-quality, free health screenings.

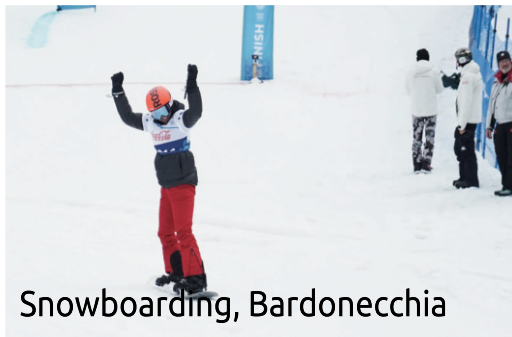
In a joyful and welcoming environment, athletes learnt to take care of themselves and make healthy choices. The initiative involved **250 specialist doctors from 7 programs**, covering:



1. Health Promotion – Nutritionists
2. Fit Feet – Podiatrists
3. Special Smiles – Dentists
4. Opening Eyes – Optometrists, Opticians, Ophthalmologists
5. Healthy Hearing – Audiologists
6. Strong Minds – Psychologists
7. Fun Fitness – Physiotherapists



Snowshoeing, Sestriere



Snowboarding, Bardonecchia



Floorball, Turin



Snowshoeing, Sestriere



Snowboarding, Bardonecchia



Floorball, Turin



Alpine Skiing, Sestriere



Speed Skating, Turin



Alpine Skiing, Sestriere



Speed Skating, Turin



Alpine Skiing, Sestriere

SO BHARAT MEDAL TALLY

AT THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD WINTER GAMES TURIN 2025

SPORTS					  
	SNOWSHOEING	02	06	02	10
	ALPINE SKIING	03	07	00	10
	SNOWBOARDING	03	02	01	06
	SHORT TRACK SPEED SKATING	00	03	01	04
	CROSS COUNTRY SKIING	00	00	02	02
	FLOORBALL (WOMEN'S TEAM)	00	00	01	01
TOTAL		08	18	07	33

MEDAL TALLY – ATHLETES

33 MEDALS

8 GOLD | 18 SILVER | 7 BRONZE

S.NO.	NAME	SPORT	EVENT	POSITION
1	ABHISHEK KUMAR	ALPINE SKIING	NOVICE GIANT SLALOM	Silver
			NOVICE SLALOM	Silver
			NOVICE SUPER G	Silver
2	DEEPAK THAKUR	ALPINE SKIING	INTERMEDIATE SUPER G	Gold
3	GIRIDHAR	ALPINE SKIING	INTERMEDIATE SUPER G	Gold
4	NIRMALA	ALPINE SKIING	INTERMEDIATE GIANT SLALOM	Gold
			INTERMEDIATE SLALOM	Silver
5	RADHA DEVI	ALPINE SKIING	INTERMEDIATE GIANT SLALOM	Silver
			INTERMEDIATE SLALOM	Silver
			INTERMEDIATE SUPER G	Silver
6	AKRITI	CROSS COUNTRY SKIING	100M-CLASICAL TEC	Bronze
			50M-CLASICAL TEC	Bronze
7	ZIARA PORTER	SHORT TRACK SPEED SKATING	111 M	Silver
			222 M	Silver
8	TANSHU	SHORT TRACK SPEED SKATING	500 M	Silver
			777 M	Bronze
9	BHARTI	SNOW BOARDING	NOVICE GIANT SLALOM	Gold
			NOVICE SLALOM	Gold
10	HARSHITA THAKUR	SNOW BOARDING	NOVICE GIANT SLALOM	Silver
			NOVICE SLALOM	Bronze
11	HEM CHAND	SNOW BOARDING	NOVICE GIANT SLALOM	Silver
12	SAMEER YADAV	SNOW BOARDING	NOVICE GIANT SLALOM	Gold
13	ANIL KUMAR	SNOW SHOEING	200 MTS RACE	Gold
14	HARLEEN KAUR	SNOW SHOEING	200 MTS RACE	Silver
15	JEHANGIR	SNOW SHOEING	25 MTS RACE	Bronze
			50 MTS RACE	Silver
16	SHALINI CHAUHAN	SNOW SHOEING	25 MTS RACE	Silver
			50 MTS RACE	Bronze
17	TANYA	SNOW SHOEING	25 MTS RACE	Silver
			50 MTS RACE	Silver
18	VASU TIWARI	SNOW SHOEING	50 MTS RACE	Gold
			25 MTS RACE	Silver
19	ANU KUMARI	FLOORBALL	COMPETITION MATCH	Bronze
20	ASHABEN RAMAJI THAKOR	FLOORBALL	TRADITIONAL WOMEN	Bronze
21	DIVYA WADKAR	FLOORBALL	TRADITIONAL WOMEN	Bronze
22	JANHAVI NARESH BAHADKAR	FLOORBALL	TRADITIONAL WOMEN	Bronze
23	NANDITA SHARMA	FLOORBALL	TRADITIONAL WOMEN	Bronze
24	PIKALBEN MUKESHBHAI CHAUHAN	FLOORBALL	TRADITIONAL WOMEN	Bronze
25	RIYA	FLOORBALL	TRADITIONAL WOMEN	Bronze
25	SIPRA PRIYADARSHINI	FLOORBALL	TRADITIONAL WOMEN	Bronze

GLOBAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

8 - 10TH MARCH

The Global Youth Leadership Summit held from 8th to 10th March 2025 in Turin brought together **75 leaders, including Unified pairs** – composed of a young leader with intellectual disabilities and a young leader without intellectual disabilities – and their respective adult mentors. The leaders, from 25 Special Olympics programs worldwide, demonstrated how young people are rising to the challenge as the next generation of inclusive leaders.



Under the leadership of their mentor, **Mrs Uttara Roy Chaudhury**, the unified pair of **Ashi Nagori** (athlete leader) and **Samriddhi** (youth leader) represented Bharat at this global platform. These leaders were not just part of the future; they were those who had the ability and power to shape it. During the three-day global conference, participants developed the skills needed to cultivate inclusive mindsets, challenge harmful stereotypes, and promote equity within their schools and communities.

CLOSING CEREMONY

15TH MARCH, ITALY



The Ceremony in Sestriere featured closing remarks from Turin 2025 LOC President **Patrizia Sandretto Re Rebaudengo**, Special Olympics CEO **Mary Davis**, Minister for Disabilities, **Alessandra Locatelli**, Minister for Sport and Youth, **Andrea Abodi** and the official closing of the Games by Special Olympics International Board Director and Athlete Leader **Emmanuelle Dutra Fernandes de Souza**.



The Ceremony also featured the official handover of the Special Olympics flag to the next host, Special Olympics Santiago 2027 and the exit of the Special Olympics Flame of Hope, followed by a dance party and celebration for the athletes.



The Ceremony in Turin, held at Pala Gianni Asti, was a celebration by the athletes for the athletes. Hosted and designed by the Special Olympics **Sargent Shriver Global Messengers**, the evening paid tribute to the accomplishments of the athletes, coaches, volunteers and families in a meaningful and fun-filled party.



“

The Special Olympics movement is about courage, determination and the unbreakable spirit of our athletes. Since our first participation in the Winter Games in 1993, Special Olympics Bharat has come a long way and is now a force to reckon with, bringing pride to the nation in seven World Winter Games so far. Our legacy is one of triumph—200 medals, including 81 gold, 66 silver and 53 bronze. We will continue to make history and create an inclusion revolution.

”

Mr Parikshat Mehdudia

Head of Delegation,
SO Bharat at World Winter Games,
Turin, Italy 2025

Welcome Ceremony- 17th March 2025

A grand welcome ceremony was organised for the Indian athletes who returned from Turin, Italy after a historic 2025 Special Olympics World Winter Games campaign. The ceremony held at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, was graced with the presence of the Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, **Smt. Raksha Khadse** and President of Special Olympics Bharat, **Dr. Mallika Nadda**. The dignitaries were accompanied on the stage by Special Olympics Bharat athlete **Bharti** who won two gold medals in the tournament.

Recognizing the achievements of the athletes, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports had earlier announced increase in cash prizes for the medal winners, with the gold medallists in the tournament receiving a cash prize of **Rs. 20 lakhs** and the silver and bronze medallists being awarded **Rs. 14 lakhs and Rs. 8 lakhs**, respectively.

The Indian athletes' performance in the Special Olympics World Winter Games 2025 highlights the country's commitment to fostering an inclusive sporting culture, providing opportunities for individuals with intellectual disabilities to shine on an international platform.



“

We are extremely proud of the athletes, who showed exceptional performance in Turin. This is a testament to their and resilience and the hard work they put in to achieve the results they got. I would also like to applaud Special Olympics Bharat for the steps taken by them to provide opportunities to individuals with intellectual disabilities so they can showcase their potential on the global stage and make the entire country proud.

”

Smt. Raksha Khadse

Honourable Union Minister of State for
Youth Affairs and Sports,
Govt. of India



NHPC Sports Centre Athletes' Performance at World Winter Games Turin 2025



NHPC's steadfast year-long support to the Special Olympics Bharat Sports Centres has been instrumental in nurturing and empowering our athletes. This impactful collaboration culminated in 15 athletes and 8 coaches from the NHPC Sports Centres in Himachal Pradesh proudly representing India at the Special Olympics World Winter Games, Turin 2025, held from 8th to 16th March and bagging a total of 21 medals (6 Gold, 10 Silver and 5 Bronze).

Bilaspur Centre

Kullu Centre

Shalini Chauhan

1 Silver & 1 Bronze Medal
in Snowshoeing

Shivanjali

4th Position
in Alpine Skiing

Shubham Sharma

4th Position
in Cross Country Skiing

Giridhar

1 Gold Medal
in Cross Country Skiing

Deepak Thakur

1 Gold Medal
in Alpine Skiing

Kalpna Kumari

Coach
Snow Shoeing

Anoop Kumar Sharma

Coach
Snow Boarding

Tharwan Lal

Coach
Alpine Skiing

Mandi Centre

Nirmala

1 Gold & 1 Silver Medal
in Alpine Skiing

Radha Devi

3 Silver Medals
in Alpine Skiing

Bharti

2 Gold Medals
in Snow Boarding

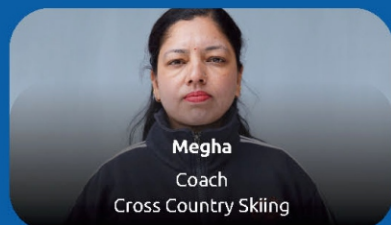
Jagtamba

Coach
Floorball

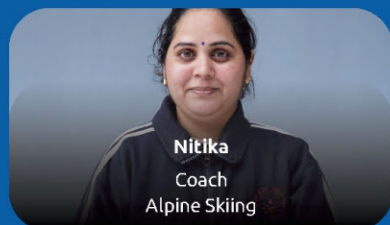
NHPC Sports Centre Athletes' Performance at World Winter Games Turin 2025



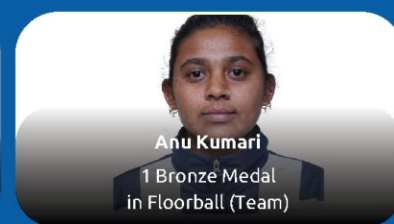
Sirmaur Centre



Chamba Centre



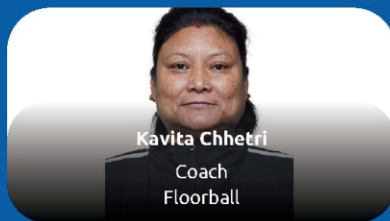
Kangra Centre



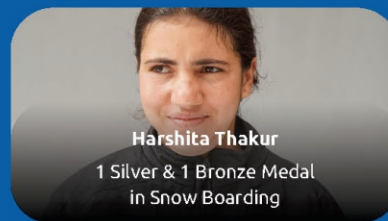
Solan Centre



Una Centre



Shimla Centre



MEDIA COVERAGE

Overview

The media campaign for the Special Olympics World Winter Games Turin 2025 achieved significant traction with **extensive outreach across multiple channels**, showcasing the competition's impact in promoting inclusion through sports and India's historic performance.

Media Coverage Breakdown

16 Lakhs (1.6m)

cumulative viewership on
social media

117

Print Media
Articles

660

Articles in Prominent
Online Media

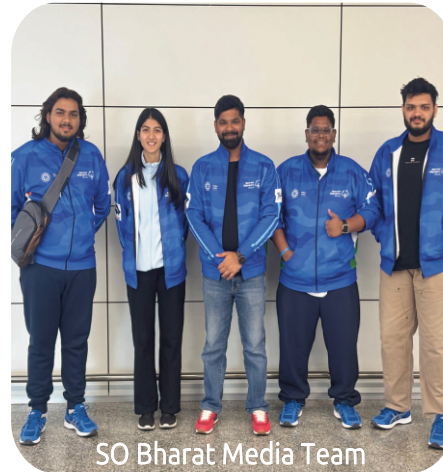
20

Segments across leading
Television Channels.

Campaign

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 all the athletes and their medal winning performances.

MEDIA COVERAGE



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.

OUR PARTNERS IN INCLUSION



सत्यमेव जयते

युवा कार्यक्रम
एवं खेल मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
**YOUTH AFFAIRS
AND SPORTS**



भारतीय खेल प्राधिकरण
SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA



सेल SAIL



A Navratna Company



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