



Special Olympics Bharat



Special Olympics World Summer Games 2015, Los Angeles, USA

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
Department of Sports

भारतीय खेल प्राधिकरण
sports authority of India





Executive Summary

275 Athletes, Coaches and Officials from India participated at the 14th Special Olympics World Summer Games held at Los Angeles, USA from 25 July-2 August 2015.





With 6500 athletes and 3,000 coaches representing 177 countries, along with 30,000 volunteers and an approximately 500,000 spectators, the 2015 Special Olympics World Games was the largest sports and humanitarian event anywhere in the world in 2015, and the single biggest event in Los Angeles since the 1984 Olympic Games. It featured 25 Olympic-style sports in venues throughout the Los Angeles region.

Selection Process

The selection process was conducted strictly as per the “Sports Authority of India Guidelines for Federation” by a Selection Committee headed by Air Marshal Malik and assisted by the National Coach and a team of Specialists.

Details of Participants

| S. NO | SPORT | No of Participant | No of Coaches | HOD's/Asst. HOD's | Totals |
|-------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|------------|
| 1 | Aquatics | 7 | 2 | 1 | 10 |
| 2 | Athletics | 40 | 8 | 2 | 50 |
| 3 | Badminton | 4 | 1 | | 5 |
| 4 | Basketball | 20 | 5 | | 25 |
| 5 | Cycling | 16 | 4 | 1 | 21 |
| 6 | Football(11 a side) | 26 | 7 | | 33 |
| 7 | Golf | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| 8 | Handball | 24 | 5 | | 29 |
| 9 | Softball | 15 | 4 | | 19 |
| 10 | Powerlifting | 15 | 4 | | 19 |
| 11 | Roller-skating | 19 | 5 | | 24 |
| 12 | Table tennis | 2 | 1 | | 3 |
| 13 | Volleyball | 24 | 6 | | 30 |
| | TOTAL | 214 | 53 | 5 | 272 |
| | Psychologists | | | | 3 |
| | GRAND TOTAL | 214 | 53 | 5 | 275 |

In almost 24 hours, 6500 athletes from 165 countries came down this red carpet during the Opening Ceremony of the Special Olympics World Games. Watch live on ESPN starting at 7:30 pm ET with a 30 for 30 about Eunice Kennedy Shriver, followed by a countdown special by Robin Roberts and then **the Opening Ceremony. It has been remarkable working with the ESPN team to make this happen.**



The Opening Ceremony was held in the historic Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, site of the 1932 and 1984 Olympic Games, attracting nearly 80,000 spectators. On April 30, 2014, LA2015 and ESPN announced a global programming deal that saw ESPN take the World Games to millions of fans around the world. Honorary Chairs of the Games are President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama, with Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and California Governor Jerry Brown serving as Honorary Hosts



Having practiced through four Camps held exclusively for stepping up preparations for the World Games, Special Athletes from India braced themselves to face the world in complete action. Sport competitions started on 26 July 2015 with India participating in 13 out of 25 sports featuring the Games, namely, Aquatics, Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Cycling, Football, Power lifting, Roller skating, Golf, Table Tennis, Softball, Volleyball, Handball. After 9 days of tireless confrontations with competing Athletes and teams, the Athletes returned with a rich haul of 173 Medals including 47 Gold, 54 Silver and 72 Bronze



Medal Tally

| Sport | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Aquatics | 2 | 2 | 3 | 7 |
| Athletics | 17 | 14 | 16 | 47 |
| Badminton | 5 | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| Cycling | 6 | 9 | 8 | 23 |
| Golf | 2 | | | 2 |
| Power lifting | 2 | 6 | 24 | 32 |
| Roller-skating | 10 | 17 | 12 | 39 |
| Table Tennis | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| | 46 | 53 | 67 | 166 |
| Team Events | | | | |
| Basketball (M&F) | | | 20 | 20 |
| Football (Unified 7 a side) | | | 10 | 10 |
| Softball | 15 | | | 15 |
| Volleyball | | | 24 | 24 |
| Handball | | 12 | | 12 |
| Total | 15 | 12 | 54 | 81 |

Grand Total

| Sport | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|-------------------------|------|--------|--------|------------|
| Individual +Team | 61 | 65 | 121 | 247 |

The Flame of Hope ignited in Athens

On Thursday, **14May** the Special Olympics *Flame of Hope* for the Special Olympics World Games Los Angeles 2015 (LA2015) was lit during a formal torch lighting ceremony. The torch was lit by the sun's rays at the Sacred Site of Pnyx, opposite the Acropolis in Athens, Greece. Present at the ceremony were H.E. President of the Hellenic Republic Prokopios Pavlopoulos, Special Olympics CEO Janet Froetscher, Special Olympics World Games Los Angeles 2015 (LA2015) President and CEO Patrick McClenahan, Special Olympics Hellas President Joanna Despotopoulou, Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Final Leg Team members, Team Special Olympics Hellas and hundreds more dignitaries and guests. In 73 days it completed its historic journey igniting the cauldron in the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum



As the *Flame of Hope* arrived in Washington, D.C., members of law enforcement continued their role as the *Guardians of the Flame* and lit three torches which were taken across the United States in three simultaneous routes in Augusta, Maine; Miami, Florida; and Washington, D.C. A Unified Relay across America invited people to run, walk and bike with the *Flame of Hope* in a hand-to-hand exchange relay. Along each route, welcoming ceremonies and community celebrations took place nightly with musical performances, celebrity



guests and Unified Sports Experiences. The Flame Of Hope was delivered to Chairman Tim Shriver at the headquarters

The relay culminated at the Opening Ceremony of the 2015 Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles on 25 July.

Preparation for the World Games

As the torch traversed the length and breadth of USA, its flame ignited hope and determination in the hearts of the Athletes and Coaches all over the world. India conducted four preparatory Camps to conduct Skill Training, Develop Team Spirit and build up the confidence of the Athletes and Coaches. The Camps were conducted under the direct supervision of the National Sports Director / National Coach.

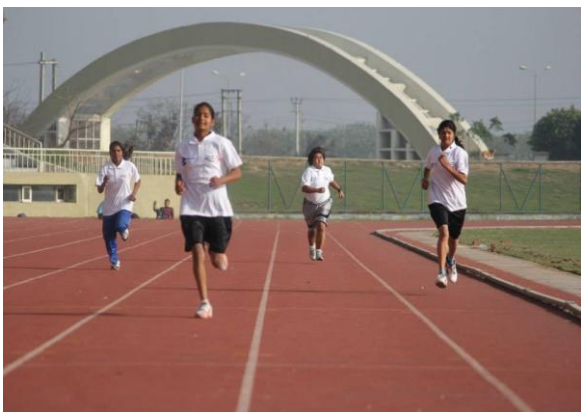
| Program | Date | Location | Athletes(approx) |
|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| Preparatory Camp-1 | 4-9 Sept 2014 | Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh | 513 |
| Preparatory Camp-2 | 27 Oct-1 Nov 2014 | Bareilly, UP | 397 |
| Preparatory Camp-3 | 8-13 March 2015 | Rohtak, Haryana | 351 |
| Preparatory Camp-4 | 20-29 May 2015 | Chennai, Tamil Nadu | 296 |





























The fourth Camp held in Chennai concluded with a grand valedictory ceremony presided by **His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Dr. K. Rosaiah** as Chief Guest. The College management presented all the Athletes and Coaches with a travel brief case each. Out of these 10 Athletes were presented with a travel brief case by the Governor himself.



Send Off Ceremony

With the successful completion of four Preparatory Camps the stage was set to bid farewell to the participating delegates and wishing them luck.

WWE announced its partnership with Special Olympics Bharat for the 2015 Special Olympics World Games. The announcement was made in **Mumbai** by Victor R. Vaz, National Sports Director, Special Olympics Bharat and Rukn Kizilbash, General Manager, WWE India. Ashish Shelar, MLA & President of BJP Mumbai, was the Guest of Honor and was joined by Special Olympics Bharat participating athletes, The athletes wore their new Team India uniforms, which were also unveiled at the event.



Assam - Deputy Commissioner at his office



Chennai – Mr. Sundaraj Hon Min, Sports and Youth welfare; Mr. Valarmathi Hon Min Social welfare



Goa - honourable Deputy Chief Minister of Goa, Mr. Francis D' Souza



Jharkhand – TATA Steel



Haryana – Shri Kanwar Pal hon'ble Speaker Haryana Legislative Assembly





(Left)
Karnataka
(Below Left)
Odisha
(Below right)
Gujarat

A VERY SPECIAL TRIP
Special athletes with their coaching team pose for a photograph during a farewell meet before they embark to Los Angeles USA to take part in Special Olympics Summer games 2015 to be held from 25th July to 2nd August 2015.



Leaving for USA

Over 300 strong SO Bharat delegation departed from four separate locations, namely, Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata between 20 & 21 July 2015 for USA.





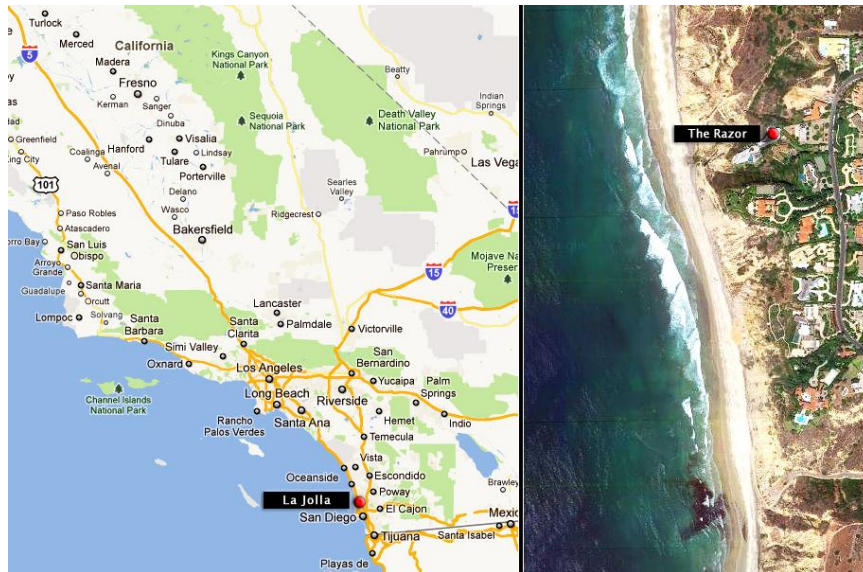


India embarked on this delightful odyssey with the Host Town Program at La Jolla . La Jolla is an affluent neighbourhood in San Diego, California. It is a hilly seaside community, occupying 7 miles of curving coastline along the Pacific Ocean within the northern city limits.

The Host Town program is a very special 3-day program that takes place prior to the Opening Ceremony of the Special Olympics World Games. It took place from July 21-24, 2015, during which athletes from 177 countries will be introduced to Southern California culture. Before a single one of the 7,000 Special Olympics athletes competes at the 2015 World Games, Special Olympics delegations from around the world will be treated to three memorable days of recreation, entertainment, and cultural exchange at their Host Towns. 100 Host Towns will play a very vital part in welcoming the World Games delegations to Southern California. Following its arrival at the Los Angeles Airport, SO Bharat left for La Jolla, its host town.



At La Jolla

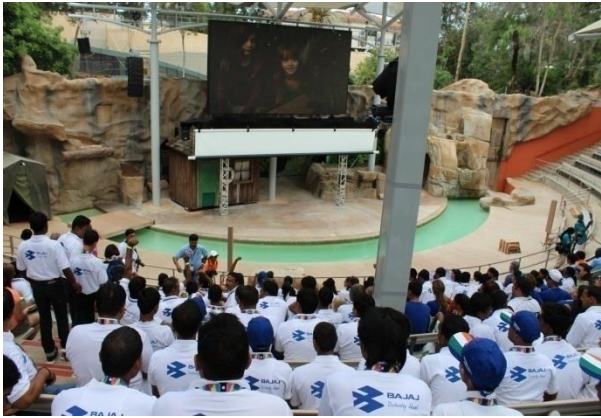


Tenaya Halls, Muir College Campus is where the Indian delegation stayed at La Jolla from 21-24 August 2015. The campus is located on the western edge of UC San Diego along North Torrey Pines Road and is the closest of the UC San Diego colleges to the beach.

The stay at La Jolla was highlighted with visits to the San Diego Zoo, the Water front and Petco Park (Baseball Stadium).

San Diego Zoo





Athletes Taranjeet (Punjab) and Dolly (Madhya Pradesh) with the Manager, Auditorium Zoo



Bus Tour through the Zoo





Water Front, San Diego





Petco Park (Baseball Stadium)

The Baseball match between San Diego Padres and Miami Marlins ended in 4-0 in favour of Marlins. The appearance of the Mascots of the teams generated much excitement within the Indian delegation and also with the rest of the audience.





Warm Up Session

Before starting the day at La Jolla early each morning, the Athletes and Coaches went through a Warm up Session.







Plaque Presentation to Delegation Liaisons





On 24 July the delegation prepared for its journey back to Los Angeles for the World Games. The delegation was accommodated at the University Of Southern California (USC) and the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)



Opening Ceremony- City of Angels alive with celebration

Sixty thousand fans came together at a sold-out Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum to celebrate the 6,500 Special Olympics athletes who arrived to share with the world their ability, bravery, and joy. Oversized billboards across the city celebrated their accomplishments and star-studded events highlighted the Special Olympics World Games as the hottest ticket in town.

Preparing for the Celebration





LA2015, the Organizing Committee for the 2015 Special Olympics World Games, chose FiveCurrents after a competitive process to be the Executive Producer for their Ceremonies, given their experience working on 12 Olympic Games, four Paralympic Games and nine major multi-sport events during the last 25 years.



The games kicked off on Saturday, 25 July 2015 at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum with a rousing opening ceremony featuring music, inspirational messages and lots of celebrity appearances.





Michelle Obama welcomed the Athletes from 165 countries at the eventful celebration of the World Games, “My husband and I, we are so proud of you, so incredibly proud of you, and we love you all from the bottom of our hearts”. Earlier, President Barack Obama welcomed the athletes by video. The first lady’s opening message was followed by musical performances by Avril Lavigne, Stevie Wonder, Colombian reggaeton artist J Balvin and others. The three hour long program was broadcasted live by ESPN







The real stars of the show, however, were the 6,500 athletes. They came from all parts of the world to participate in 25 sports events over nine days.







Coverage by Guardian dtd 26 July 2015

Michelle Obama opens Special Olympics World Games with heartfelt Message



About 6,500 athletes from 165 countries streamed into the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum during opening ceremony for nine-day competition. Associated Press in Los Angeles Sunday 26 July 2015 08:46 EDT Last modified on Sunday 26 July 2015 11:06 EDT

Michelle Obama welcomed thousands of athletes with intellectual disabilities to the Special Olympic World Games on Saturday during a festive opening ceremony filled with cheers, songs and praise for their courage and determination.

"My husband and I, we are so proud of you, so incredibly proud of you, and we love you all from the bottom of our hearts," the first lady said. She said the athletes were an example to the millions of people watching the event on television.

She was introduced by Special Olympian Tim Harris, who owns a restaurant in New Mexico that he said serves "breakfast, lunch and hugs." Mrs Obama "knows the power of a hug," he said, and shared one with the first lady.

Earlier, President Barack Obama welcomed the athletes by video.

About 6,500 athletes from 165 countries streamed into the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum to cheer and roar. The athletes will participate in 25 sports over nine days, ranging from weightlifting to the triathlon. LA also hosted the Special Olympics in 1972.

Applause greeted the athletes, from some 400 in the United States contingent to a handful each from smaller countries. It was the largest gathering of athletes in Los Angeles since the 1984 Summer Olympics. The groups wore distinctive colors but carried no national flags. However, Special Olympics athletes and Olympic gold medalists including swimmer Michael Phelps, diver Greg Louganis and skater Michelle Kwan together carried in the Special Olympics flag.

A flaming torch carried from Greece was used to light the coliseum's Olympic beacon.



Sports Competitions 26 July-1 August 2015

History

The first Special Olympics hosted 1,000 athletes from the U.S. and Canada on July 20, 1968 in Chicago. In the years that followed, the event achieved greater recognition from the Olympic Committee and from athletes and advocates around the world, and it expanded to include winter events as well. "Mummy's legacy started in the backyard. It really started in her own home, in her own heart, in her own relationship with her sister, and her parents and



her siblings," says Maria Shriver. "Then it went to the yard, then it went to a stadium, and then it went to another country and then it just dominoed." Photos

It was in 1987 that India sent its first delegation of 14 Athletes and Coaches at the Special Olympics World Summer Games held at Indiana, USA . World Games 2015 were the 8th Summer Games witnessing India's participation The first Indian participation at the Special Olympics World Winter Games was in 1993 when the games were held in Austria.

Sports Competitions

Sport competitions started on 26 July 2015 with India participating in 13 out of 25 sports featuring the Games, namely, Aquatics, Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Cycling, Football, Power lifting, Roller skating, Golf, Table Tennis, Softball, Volleyball, Handball. The games were an exciting amalgamation of Sport and non-sport events.

Sports

Athletics USC | Loker Stadium/Cromwell Field

The sport of athletics encourages athletes of all abilities and ages to compete at their optimum level. Through the track-and-field-based athletics training program, participants can develop total fitness to compete in any sport. As with all Special Olympics sports, athletics offers athletes the opportunity to learn through skill development and competitive settings and to be involved in large social settings.

Established at Special Olympics: 1968. India won 47 Medals across participated in:

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Track Events (in meters) | 50, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1500, 3000; Walk (in Meters): 100,400,800 |
| Field Events (in Meters) | Shotput, Softball throw, Running Long Jump; Relay (in Meters): 4x 100; 4x400 |







Aquatics

USC | Uytengsu Aquatics Center

Swimming is one of the most popular sports in the world. Unlike other sports, swimming is a life skill that is taught, first, to ensure safety and, secondly, for sports and competition purposes. Aquatics covers a great variety of swimming skills, from short sprints to longer events and relays. India won 7 Medals across participated in:

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 25 Mtr Breast stroke | 25 Mtr Back Stroke | 25 Mtr Free Style | 50 Mtr Backstroke |
| 50 Mtr Freestyle | 100 Mtr Freestyle | Relay 4 x 50 Mtr | |





Badminton

Downtown | Los Angeles Convention Center

Badminton is a sport that is enjoyed all around the world by millions of people of a wide range of ages. It is a sport that explores speed changes, reaction time demands, muscular strength and endurance challenges, and is heartpumping fun.

Established at Special Olympics: 1995

India won 12 medals in Badminton with participation across Singles, Doubles and Mixed doubles.





Basketball **USC | Galen Center**

Players take it up at all ages and at all abilities, from young players learning to handle the ball and keep it under control while dribbling to older, more experienced players who have the moves and know the strategies to play challenging ball.

Established at Special Olympics: 1968

Special Olympics Basketball offers a series of adaptations of FIBA rules that are optional when conducting team competitions. Some of these adaptations include adjusting the length of the game, allowing a player to take two steps beyond what is ruled by FIBA as traveling, allowing the free throw shooter 10 seconds to release the ball, enforcing a rule that allows only five seconds of closely guarded play in front court, and rewarding two free throws beginning with the seventh team foul in each half.

Both the Male and Female teams won a Bronze each. The team palyed against:

Female- Costa Rica; Nippon;

Male : Hungary, Indonesia, Chinese Taipei





Cycling Long Beach | Alamitos Beach

Cycling is a fascinating sport that requires good physical condition, balance, endurance and tactics. Special Olympics include time trial and road race events in different distances.

Established at Special Olympics: 1987

India won 23 Medals participating across:

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Time Trials | 500 mtrs, 1km, 5km, 10km |
| Road Race | 5 km, 10km, 15 km |





Football

UCLA | Drake Stadium

Played in just about every country, the sport’s success is due to the fact that it can be played by boys, girls, men and women of just about any physical build and ability. Football requires little in the way of specialized equipment and is organized using simple, intuitive rules.

Established at Special Olympics: 1986

Special Olympics Football during traditional 11-A-Side and Unified Football matches follow FIFA rules. However, the length of halves, substitution and overtime rules are defined by each Special Olympics Program organization. In 5-A-Side and 7-A-Side Football matches, some rule variations are: kick-ins from the touch line, throw-ins by the goalie, throw-ins by goalies cannot touch the other side of the half field until touched by a player first, and there are no off-sides. **Established at Special Olympics: 1986**

India won a Bronze Medal in Unified Football 7 a side. Team India played against:

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Unified Football (7 a side) | Cayman Islands, Great Britain, Austria |
| Football (11 a side) | Great Britain, Bangladesh, Ireland, Iceland |





Handball

Downtown | Los Angeles Convention Center

Handball is a physical and fast sport of intense physical contact, with shots being thrown at speeds approaching 100km per hour. It is **played** indoors on a 40m X 20m court with seven players (one goalkeeper + six court), which speeds up the game even more. The object is to score more goals than the opponents by throwing the ball into a D-shaped net. Handball athletes are known for their speed, agility, physical strength and stamina.

Established at Special Olympics: 1991

Special Olympics offers a series of optional modifications to team competitions of Handball. First, the length of the Handball court may be modified to no less than the length of a regulation basketball court. Second, beginner and lower ability players have to option to use a foam, air-filled ball for competitions. For beginning players, youth and lower ability players, referees have to option to limit player contact to what is allowed in a basketball game. There are no individual foul limits, but warnings, suspensions, and disqualifications are applied to athletes behaving in misconduct.

The SO Bharat Handball Male Team won a Silver Medal. The teams played against:

Male: Egypt, Netherlands, UAE

Female: Cote D'Ivoire, Uruguay, Denmark





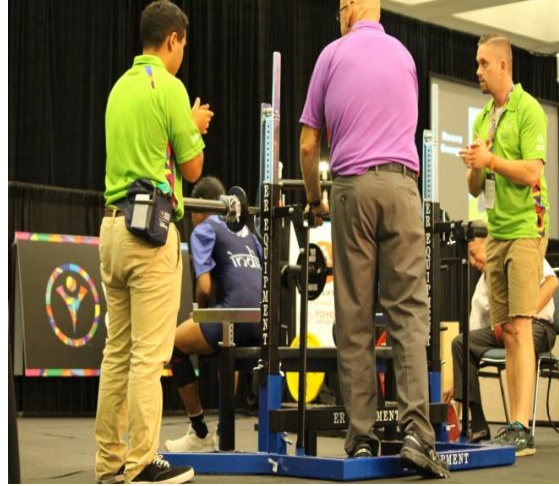
Power Lifting **Downtown | Los Angeles Convention Center**

Every athlete aims in lifting more weights than the opponent using specific moves. In Special Olympics Powerlifting is much more than deadlift, squat or bench press. It is effort, persistence and loyalty. Training, determination and attitude, are the key facts that define the balance between a successful or a failed attempt.

Established at Special Olympics: 1983

Special Olympics allows for athletes with physical disabilities to wear a two-piece outfit with both upper and lower pieces being form fitting; either snug-fitting track trousers or snug-fitting shorts may be worn. A full-length aerobic suit may be worn while performing the bench press.

India won a total of 32 Medals in Powerlifting





Roller Skating
Downtown | Los Angeles Convention Center

Roller Skating is a lifetime fitness sport, well-suited for both children and adults. In addition to building cardiovascular fitness, it contributes to the development of balance and coordination. Another major benefit is the sport's potential for social integration as a recreational activity.

Established at Special Olympics: 1987

India won 39 Medals in Roller Skating across 100 Mtr race, 300 Mtr, 500Mtr ,1000Mtr and 2 X 100 Relay





Softball
UCLA | Easton Stadium

Softball is a bat-and-ball sport played between two teams of 10 to 14 players. Every team aims in scoring as many runs possible, against the opponents by striking the ball with a specific bat. It is a direct descendant of baseball although there are some key differences: softballs are larger than

baseballs, and the pitches are thrown underhand rather than overhand. The game is played on a smaller diamond than in baseball and despite the game's name, the standard softball is not soft; in fact, it is harder than a baseball.

Established at Special Olympics: 1983

Special Olympics Softball has some modifications to the rules of the International Softball Federation. All batters and runners must wear a helmet with a chinstrap at all times. The catcher also wears a helmet with a mask and a chest protector. At first base, a safety orange bag is attached. There are also two home plates used. The runner will tag the outside plate, where the catcher receives throws at the original home plate. All outs at home are forced outs for safety reasons. Pitching distances will range for each pitcher, rather than just one distance.

India played against Costa Rica, Australia

India debuted in Softball at the Special Olympics World Summer Games 2015, LA, USA and won against Australia bagging a Gold Medal.





Table Tennis
Downtown | Los Angeles Convention Center

Every athlete aims in passing the ball to the opponent side of the table over the net, striking it with a Table Tennis bat. Table Tennis is a fast sport that requires excellent coordination of hands and eyes. Special Olympics athletes share the essential elements of force and ability so that they can play Table Tennis. Apart from the traditional events, Special Olympics competition includes individual skill events that allow the athletes to work and compete in basic skills of table tennis. The development of these basic skills is necessary for the athletes to take part in the events. These skills include bounce of the ball with the bat, volley and backhand.

Established at Special Olympics: 1987

India won 4 Medals in table tennis through participation across Singles and Mixed Doubles



Volley Ball
UCLA | Pauley Pavilion

Established at Special Olympics: 1983

Special Olympics offers 5 variations of volleyball: Standard Indoor, Modified Indoor, Unified Indoor, Unified Beach Volleyball, and Skills Competition. Competitions follow FIVB rules with minor modifications, which include changes to court size, net height, and volleyball weight and size. Additionally, once a server has scored three consecutive points, his/her team shall rotate to the next server and continue to serve.

Both, the Male and female teams from SO Bharat won a Bronze medal each

Female: Russia, Croatia, Trinidad & Tobago, Jamaica

Male: Kazakhstan, Nippon, Korea, USA, Uruguay



RANVEER'S JOURNEY TO TRIUMPH

There is no mould for a hero. They come in most unlikely forms and sizes and this young teenager is the living example... A walking inspiration. His refusal to give into the monstrous hurdles of his disability by turning his life around, his story is a reminder to the world that 'if you really want it, no wall can keep you from it'.

Not long ago anybody would have thought that a boy battling intellectual disorder would conquer the world. **And today Ranveer has.**

How and where it all began?

Ranveer Singh Saini, diagnosed with autism at the age of 2 years has been a fighter, as all children with special needs are, **DEFYING THE ODDS AND BATTLING THROUGH THE CHALLENGES...**

Over the years there have been numerous interventions, therapies, special education, occupational therapy, speech stimulation, sensory diet, calming medicines, Ranveer's childhood was a summary of a report chart that indicated slow progress. His world was limited to his parents and caretakers as his only circle of friends.

But not for long when Ranveer's journey took the twist of a lifetime when he was introduced to Golf. As some would say, Golf is a game of precision and focus, Ranveer took this as a challenge. An opportunity that would push him beyond boundaries and help him confront the limits posed by intellectual disability and the insupportable social frontiers.

Golf, being a game of concentration, accuracy, body & mind control, it seemed to be the last game which Ranveer's therapists and special educators suggested. All stumbling blocks mastered, Ranveer struggled to make his mark on the greens. As the seed of Golf was taking its roots, he started training with his coaches, getting his grip on golf with a professional angle.

Special Olympics - The catalyst

Until one day, that turned a new page of his life as he was introduced to Special Olympics, an experience that would unleash a champion and lay the foundation of a new entity.

A promising endeavour for all athletes the Special Olympics became the stimulant for Ranveer as he went on a winning streak by unleashing his hidden golfing prowess. Ranveer created news all across the country and the globe. Raising the trophies of victory against all difficulties, he became the centre of attraction as the world cheered him for his breakthroughs at Special Olympics. It is worth mention that Special Olympics sowed the seed of passion in Ranveer where other things failed to do so. Since then there has been no looking back!





Ranveer now is on a winning spree. His name and his feats at the Special Olympics Golf Masters figured as a record in the Limca book of Records for two consecutive years – 2014 & 2015.

A passionate golfer, the champion to give golfing stalwarts a run for their money, Ranveer's laurels keep him going. His calendar is packed with specific training programmes, divided in days, weeks and months; sessions that are full of golf at the bunker, putting green, driving range and actual play on the course... Every single day!

Ranveer's achievements are plenty and the leading ones are worth the special mention as he is the First Indian to win Gold Medal at the World Special Olympics 2015 at Los Angeles on 31st July, 2015. He is one of the youngest golfers to participate in the Special Olympics World Games, LA 2015. Ranveer played against 22 countries over 4 rounds of golf at the Wilson Golf Course at Griffith Park, Los Angeles. He was on the leader board for 3 consecutive days and sealed a spectacular victory with a huge 9 stroke margin on the 4th and final day.

This outlines Ranveer and his enormity in Golf but there is more that keeps him ahead of the game and the rest! Trailing with him are so many attributes that make him the cynosure far and wide. To pick some of them would be:

1. Pianist qualified Initial & Level 1 with the Trinity College of London. Has performed publicly at the Epicentre, India Islamic Centre & other platforms.
2. Received the Lifetime Honorary membership at the Avondale Golf Club, Sydney.
3. Outstanding cook at 14 years of age.

4. Perfect pitch talent in music.
5. Mathematical genius in calculation of future calendar dates.
6. A certified Scuba Diver by PADI

Ranveer's accomplishments have defined his social habits, giving a boost not only to his golf or career but also to his individuality and independence. Special Olympics turned a new leaf in Ranveer's life. It proved to be the catalyst what medicines, therapies, diets and interventions could not do!! It raised his self esteem beyond measure, giving him the confidence that exudes beyond words and focus that speaks volumes of his aim to overcome the hurdles.

With his historic victory at the Special Olympics World Games, LA 2015, Ranveer has once again cut out a place for himself on the world map. His invincible prowess in golf has raised the bars for those eyeing for international titles. His making it to the world games at LA was itself a page turner in history but he capitalized this platform not only to become the first Indian at the world games but also creating ripples by his record breaking victory.

“Ranveer’s accomplishments would not have been possible without the Special Olympics. Special thanks to the Special Olympics that gave him a purpose and brought out the champion in him.”

As his mentors always say “Let me win; But if I cannot win, let me brave in the attempt.” Keeping this in mind, Ranveer continues to create history while inspiring others to move mountains and carve their unique path through their unique gifts.



Coach Meeting

Every day concluded with a Coaches Meeting led by the Head of the Delegation. Proceedings of the day were discussed along with a plan for the next. A daily update on the Medal tally was taken from the Head Coaches, to be relayed soon after.



Award Ceremonies

As the sports competitions took place the Athletes were presented medals and participation ribbons. In recognition of each Athlete's efforts, first three positions were awarded Gold Silver and Bronze medals whereas ribbons were presented to fourth through eight places. Honored Guests and Local dignitaries were invited to present awards to the Athletes at the sporting venues.







State Wise Games Tally

| State | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|-------------------------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| ANDHRA PRADESH | 4 | 5 | 10 | 19 |
| ASSAM | 2 | 1 | Nil | 3 |
| BIHAR | Nil | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| CHANDIGARH | 1 | Nil | Nil | 1 |
| DELHI | 7 | 2 | 17 | 26 |
| GOA | 6 | 3 | 10 | 19 |
| GUJARAT | 4 | 11 | 10 | 25 |
| HARYANA | 4 | 3 | 7 | 14 |
| HIMACHAL PRADESH | 1 | 4 | Nil | 5 |
| JHARKHAND | 5 | Nil | 4 | 9 |
| KARNATAKA | 1 | 3 | 5 | 9 |
| KERALA | 6 | 4 | 15 | 25 |
| MADHYA PRADESH | Nil | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| MAHARASHTRA | 6 | 8 | 13 | 27 |
| MIZORAM | Nil | Nil | 3 | 3 |

| | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| ODISHA | 1 | 1 | Nil | 2 |
| PUNJAB | 3 | 2 | 5 | 10 |
| RAJASTHAN | Nil | Nil | 3 | 3 |
| TAMILNADU | 3 | 6 | 8 | 17 |
| UTTAR PRADESH | 3 | 2 | 2 | 7 |
| UTTRAKHAND | 1 | 2 | 5 | 8 |
| WEST BENGAL | 3 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| Total | 61 | 65 | 121 | 247 |

Media Coverage



शिक्षक दी। 16 साल की सिरियामों ने फाइनल में हनुमन नटरकर को 5-2 से मात देकर खिताब अपने नाम कर लिया।

महिला मुक्केबाजों के लिए शिविर
गोवा में जारी दस दिवसीय प्रशिक्षण कैंप में देश भर की 55 महिला वीकरर भाग ले रही हैं। गोवा में भारतीय खेल प्राधिकरण (साई) के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने बताया कि यह शिविर 20 जुलाई को शुरू हुआ जिसमें आंध्र प्रदेश, तेलंगाना, मध्य प्रदेश, दिल्ली और गोवा की मुक्केबाज भाग ले रही हैं। पूर्व राष्ट्रीय कोच ई सिरजीवी की देखरेख में यह शिविर चल रहा है।

शेषाल ओलंपिक में पहला पदक
नई दिल्ली : अमेरिका के लॉस एंजेलिस में सोमवार से शुरू हुए शेषाल ओलंपिक वर्ल्ड समर गेम्स में दिल्ली के तेराक वस सिंह ने भारत को पहला पदक दिलाया। 13 साल के वस ने 25 मीटर बैकस्ट्रोक सेतू में कांस्य पदक जीता। उन्होंने यह दूरी 19.23 सेकेंड में तय की, जबकि रणम पदक जिता ने यह दूरी 16.85 और दूसर स्वामन हंसिल करने वाले तेराक ने 19.13 सेकेंड में तय की। भारत का 242 सस्तीय दल इन खेलों में भाग ले रहा है। जेन मंत्री जे फिने अटिलन नार्म



Throughout nine days of sports competitions the World games offered many festive, educational and engaging programs for athletes, guests, families and fans.

Healthy Athlete Program

During the World Games Voluntary Healthy Athletes medical professionals offered free health examinations to all the athletes in seven disciplines: Fit Feet (podiatry), FUNfitness (physical

therapy), Health Promotion (better health and well-being), Healthy Hearing (audiology), MedFest (sports physical exam), Opening Eyes (vision) and Special Smiles (dentistry) on the USC Campus.



GenUin Social Impact Summit

Special Olympics GenUin Social Impact Summit was conducted in Los Angeles between the 23rd and 27th July 2015 in conjunction with this year's World Summer Games. With 'Youth and Unified' as the theme, it created a platform for the youth from across the globe, to lead Generation Unified. It was an extension opportunity to invite mature Youth leaders to take activation to the next level.



Rithik Hukku, Parinaaz Saini and Monica Kathuria were India's Youth leaders at the Summit. They were amongst the 120 Youth leaders. Each of them got an opportunity to discuss their project around budget and time management. They even discussed the same individually with their mentors, who represented various corporates. The Youth leaders carry back home the task of implementing their projects with intensive involvement of the youth.



Entertainment Festival

UCLA | Wilson Plaza

USC | Alumni Park

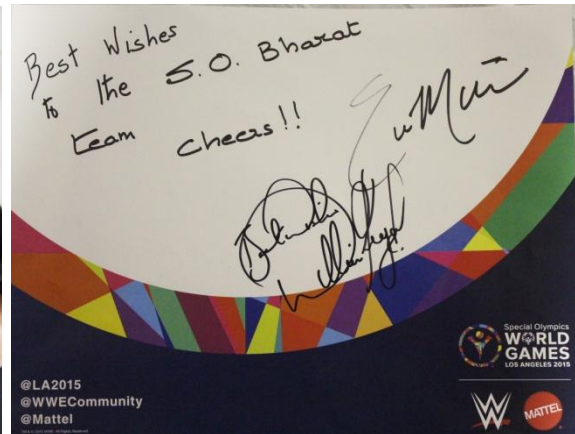
Hosted on the campuses of UCLA and USC the entertainment festivals offered an interactive and festive environments to the Athletes, Family Members and Spectators that included live musical performances, cultural education and demonstrations, interactive technology and gaming, sponsor activations, great food and family-friendly activities. Enthusiastic fans met Special Olympics Athletes from an array of cultural and sporting backgrounds while also participating in fan engagement opportunities that send messages of support and encouragement to the competing athletes. Art installations and activities as diverse as the cultural landscape of Los Angeles ensure that there is something for everyone. The festivals were free and open to the public, daily.

The seven day cultural connections program represented each of the seven Special Olympics Global Regions each day, with their own dedicated day of authentic cultural performances, programming, food and other educational offerings.



Photo ops with Guests and Celebrities

WWE partnered with Special Olympics World Games 2015 to promote the event, utilizing all its platforms including WWE network, Live events, Social Media etc. **On 29 July the Indian delegation enjoyed a photo session with WWE stars Eva Marie and William Regal** at the entertainment at the Alumni Park, USC.



The delegates were also delighted to meet the Global Messenger Marco Martinez.



Mr. Onkarmal Kedia, Joint Secretary (Sports), Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, visited all the Games venues with Mr. Satish Pillai, Chairman, S O Bharat. Mr. Kedia took this opportunity to interact with families of the Athletes. He attempted to receive their feedback on what further sports facilities would work towards the welfare of the Athletes and discussed job opportunities for them.



Coach Recognition Dinner

On 30 July a dinner was hosted by the Gemini group again inviting the Regional Sports Directors and 25 coaches representing 7 Regions. A Coach from each of the 25 LA World Games sports was invited.



Through random selection Ms. Vilcy, power lifting coach from SO Bharat was invited to represent the SOAP Region.

Meeting-Global Strategy led by Denis Doolan- JW Marriot, LA Live



Closing Ceremony

After eight days of competition mthe 6,500 athletes and their coaches paraded into the crowded stadium, waving flags and snapping selfies along the route to their seats.

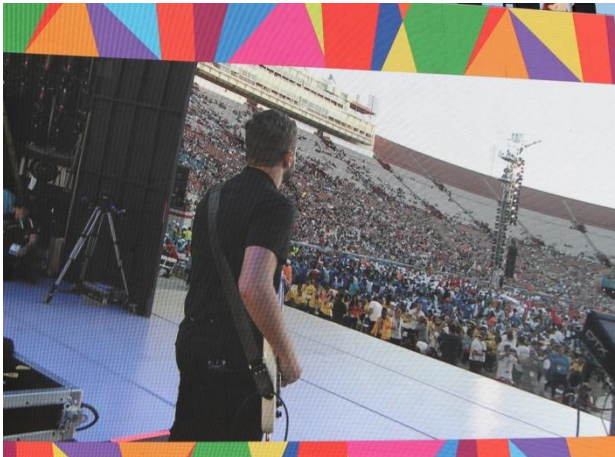
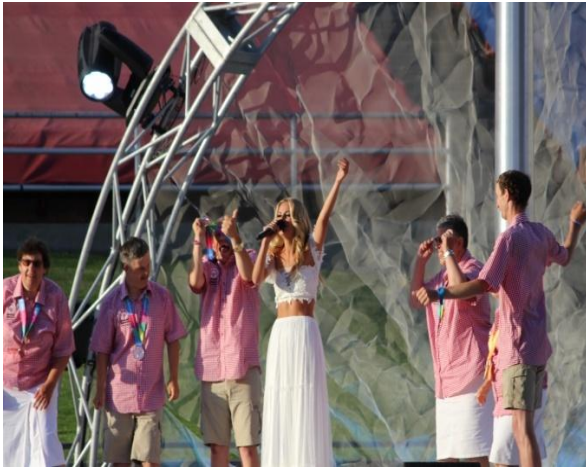


Janet Froetscher, CEO, Special Olympics International, declared the Games closed on 2 August in a grand ceremony held at the LA Memorial Coliseum. Ranveer Saini , Golfer, shared stage space with Ms. Froetscher , during her address, along with a few selected Athletes. The Closing Ceremony also featured the Games flag being presented to Austria, which is where the Special Olympics World Winter Games will be held in March 2017.

One "game-changer" this year, Special Olympics Chief Executive Janet Froetscher said, was the extensive coverage by sports broadcasting giant ESPN







Homecoming

Excitement awaited return of the Indian delegation. The complete SO Bharat delegation was back in India by 5 August 2015.





Felicitations

The State program representatives, family and Media everyone upheld the achievements of the Athletes. Every state felicitated its Athletes.

Herbalife

Herbalife International India Pvt Ltd felicitated Athletes and Coaches for their stellar performance at the World Games 2015. Mary Kom, boxing Champion, graced the occasion with her inspiring presence. Herbalife, the official sponsors of the World Summer Games, connected with SO Bharat inviting Mary Kom at the function hosted by them. Mary Kom, boxing Champion graced the occasion presenting kits to each Athlete individually. Her message to the Athletes was clear – “continue on the path of victory”.



WWE

Athletes spent an exciting session with Mark Henry, WWE star who spared time from his schedule to recognise and applaud their achievements at the World Summer Games. The Athletes enjoyed a friendly session with him with each getting a chance to speak with him. Air Marshal Keelor was presented an autographed WWE Championship Replica by the star who also gave each Athlete his autographed photo.



States



सम्मानित हुए निःशक्त खिलाड़ी



पटना. बिहार सरकार के सम्मान समारोह से पहले शुक्रवार को स्पेशल ओलंपिक बिहार ने पटना के स्काडा बिजनेस सेंटर में सम्मान समारोह आयोजित किया। इसमें अंतरराष्ट्रीय, राष्ट्रीय और राज्य स्तर पर उन्दा प्रदर्शन करने वाले बिहार के खिलाड़ियों को सम्मानित किया गया। समारोह में 24 वर्गों में कुल 68 खिलाड़ियों को सम्मानित किया गया। डॉ (प्रो.) शिवजन्तन ठाकुर को लार्डफ टाइटम एचिवमेंट पुरस्कार दिया गया। अंतरराष्ट्रीय वर्ग में मिनहाज अहमद, मानसी, धीरज कुमार, अक्ताला कुमार अवि, मोहम्मद शमीम और मोहम्मद हार्मिद को सम्मानित किया गया। खिलाड़ियों को मुख्य अतिथि अशोक चौधरी ने सम्मानित किया।

प्रभात खबर Sat, 29 August 2015
epaper.prabhatkhabar.





Truly 'Special' Moment For These Athletes

When she crosses across the finish line, it is a moment that she will never forget. The 20-year-old Lydia Colapinto is special not because she is an athlete, but because she is an athlete who has won a medal at the global stage.

The Special Olympics held its 45th Anniversary in Los Angeles, California. Lydia Colapinto was part of the Indian women's basketball team that won a silver medal. All the Indian athletes received a total of 277 medals, including 129 gold and 148 silver.

Lydia Colapinto had a truly special moment when she won a silver medal. She is a good athlete and has a good amount of talent. Lydia Colapinto has a passion for basketball. It was good to see her win a medal and to see her smiling, adding credibility to the team.

Lydia Colapinto, an athlete from the Special Olympics, said that it was a special moment for her. She said that she had never won a medal before and that she was very happy to win. She said that she had worked hard for this and that she was proud to represent her country.

Lydia Colapinto said that she was very happy to win a medal and that she was proud to represent her country. She said that she had worked hard for this and that she was proud to represent her country.

स्पेशल ओलंपिक में फूलन को स्वर्ण

माता-पिता से परित्यक्त | दिल्ली के आशा किरण केंद्र में रहती है

बन्दी दिल्ली, 8 अगस्त (वार्ता)

सपनों को पूंख लगाने की कुवत हो तो कोई भी कमी कामयाबी को राह में आड़े नहीं आ सकती। अमेरिका के लॉस एंजेलिस में विशेष ओलंपिक में भारत के लिए पहला स्वर्ण पदक जीतकर 17 वर्षीय फूलन देवी ने इसे सच कर दिखाया है।

दिल्ली के रोहिणो रिश्त आशा किरण केंद्र में रहने वाली मानसिक रूप से विकलंग फूलन देवी ने पहला पदक जीतकर अमेरिका के लॉस एंजेलिस में विशेष ओलंपिक में भारत के लिए पहला स्वर्ण पदक जीतकर 17 वर्षीय फूलन देवी ने इसे सच कर दिखाया है।



जगन्नाथी में विशेष ओलंपिक गेम्स में मैट्रन लेंचर आर्षा शिखाड़ियों के साथ किशाबरामा स्पोर्ट्स क्लब, राज्य मंत्री जयशंकर सिंह लौटे, सांसद सतबलान कटारिया आदि। फोटो

रूप से विकलंग फूलन देवी ने पहला पदक जीतकर अमेरिका के लॉस एंजेलिस में विशेष ओलंपिक में भारत के लिए पहला स्वर्ण पदक जीतकर 17 वर्षीय फूलन देवी ने इसे सच कर दिखाया है।

स्पेशल ओलंपिक से पदक जीतकर लौटे खिलाड़ियों का किया स्वागत

शहर में निकाली विजय रैली, सांसद, विस अध्यक्ष व मुख्य संसदीय सचिव ने किया सम्मानित

अनुराधा कश्यप

मुंबई: अमेरिका में हुए स्पेशल ओलंपिक में 17 वरस की उमर की शिवांगी का स्वर्ण पदक जीतने का स्वागत शहर में किया गया। शिवांगी को अमेरिका में खेलने के लिए भेजा गया था। शिवांगी को अमेरिका में खेलने के लिए भेजा गया था। शिवांगी को अमेरिका में खेलने के लिए भेजा गया था।



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Gurgaon boy wins Special Oly gold

Autistic Golfer Youngest To Win His Event

Robit Bhardwaj & Sharad Kohli | TOI

Mumbai/Gurgaon: Autistic golfer Ranveer Singh Saini became the first Indian to win a gold medal at the Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles on Friday. He is also the youngest participant, at 14 years, to win the competition.

The Gurgaon-based amateur won the golf Level 2 alternate shot team play event with 'unified' partner and sister Monica Jajoo by an emphatic nine strokes. The Class 9 student at Scottish High School in Gurgaon, who was diagnosed with autism when he was a year and 11 months old, defeated special golfers from 21 countries along with Monica.

Ranveer and Monica took who finished joint second.

"I feel I am on top of the world. I am super happy. Dad has promised me that he will take me to Disneyland and also gift me a big dial watch as reward"

—RANVEER SAINI

The teen and his partner Monica Jajoo show off their medals in Los Angeles.

"Dad has promised to take me to Disneyland and also gift me a big dial watch as reward," added Ranveer, who has already won gold twice in the Special Olympics Asia Pacific International Level & 2 events in 2013 and 2014.

► Continued on P 6

Knowing our Champions

Anyatam -SO Bharat-Assam - Aquatics

Anyatam Rajkumar (15yrs), bagged India's first gold in Aquatics 25 m breaststroke bringing Assam on the map. Having joined Special Olympics Bharat 5-6 years back never shook focus from swimming with enthusiastic support of his parents. After having participated at the Asia Pacific Regional Games in December 2013 he stepped up his regimen under close supervision of his Coach Abhijeet Tambe. The path to this victory did not come easy. Every 15 days his father got him to Mumbai (from Assam) where his Coach was based, to design a regimen ideal for Anyatam. His Coach not only guided him during his visits to Pune for 15 days each time, but also drew out a strict time table to monitor his diet and his swimming practices dedicating 15 days to any one stroke.



It may be recalled that Anyatam, early last year (2014), stirred a near stampede situation in his school, as the students there had never met a person with Down's syndrome before. Seeing him they all ran in a frenzy. The situation was controlled later through the State program intervention and conduct of a skit to spread awareness. Shocked himself at the incident Anyatam took a while to get over it.

It is heartening to see Anyatam on a forward move, having circumvented tribulations that fell his way. Yes! Cheers to you Anyatam!!

Pallav Mehrotra- SO Bharat- UP – Softball



“We salute him!”, says Pallav's family. A Gold Medal was overwhelming for them and made them feel proud of Pallav's success despite trials and tribulations. It is inspiring to see him so cheerful and

affable at all times. As his family says that his experiences and exposure through the Special Olympics program has contributed hugely to his confidence and happiness.

Pallav Mehrotra(now 21 yrs) had jaundice shortly after his birth. That left him with Hearing and Speech defect along with slow growth. His parents made every effort to make him independent choosing sports for him, observing his interest in it. Tragically he lost both his parents by the age of 16. He was placed under care of his maternal uncle and aunt who he is very fond of. He has a sister who he loves immensely.

Having joined SO Bharat in 2008, he has shown interest and capabilities in a quite a few sport disciplines like Cricket, Volleyball and Softball. He has also Played Unified Cricket. He has represented India in International events earlier as well. But winning Gold in an event like the World Games was unmatched for him and his family.

Prasad Ramu- SO Bharat-Karnataka Handball

‘Prasad Ramu saved quite a few goals’ , commented Surender, his Coach.His performance was spot on.The team won Silver Medal in handball. The excitement overwhelmed Prasad.But, he missed having his father around to share the euphoria. His father is his caretaker and mentor and has guided him through sports as well. His father was constantly in touch with him encouraging Prasad to play to his maximum ability during the World Games

Mr. Ramu, Prasad’s father, just about manages to make ends meet with his job as a night security guard at a Call Center and a small time retailer during the day, toiling on his cycle through the streets of Bangalore. Prasad’s mother has taken ill. Following Prasad’s accident at the tender age of 5, Mr Ramu came to terms with his son’s inability to learn at a normal pace. Nevertheless he recognized his inclination towards sports and geared his attention to hone that. He tutored his son to, , Grow through life and not just go through it’ and Prasad has imbibed that.

Prasad is 34 years and started his journey through SO Bharat over 15 years back. He has participated in 9 State and National Competitions and also in all World Marathon Runs in the Champions with Disability segment in Bangalore. In 2014, he participated in a cycling Race in Bangalore and won the first place.

He has gained work experience too, having worked in a studio as a helper for 4 years along with receiving training in the vocational centre at the Association of Mentally Challenged (AMC), in Bangalore. But, Sports remains his priority.



Rajan Jha- SO Bharat Delhi. Athletics

Rajan Jha beams as he feels he's stepped closer to his dream of being a Coach. His victory at the World Summer Games brought in two bronze medals for him along with an unmeasurable feeling of achievement and joy. He won a bronze each in 1500mtr run and the 4X400 Relay.

His mother could barely hold back her tears as she recalled tribulations faced by the whole family to reach this moment of success. Being a contract worker in a Private firm, it was a luxury for his father to provide Rajan with sport shoes or even ensure a balanced diet, but support from the school where his mother works and from a few well wishers helped overcome them. Rajan's determination to win ran him through unpredictable weather, be it rain or storm. His foot injury nursed by indigenous treatment too failed to dampen his resolve



Rajan, 21 yrs, joined SO Bharat 6 years back being unable to study beyond class 8 at Mata Bhagwanti Chadha Niketan. Rohit Minchinhampton his Coach nurtured this inclination towards Athletics. He likes Table Tennis too. Diagnosed as a Slow Learner with Speech impairment, he underwent Speech Therapy for many years. Speaking with fair amount of clarity he said that America was very good and that he enjoyed the experience.

Ranveer Saini- SO Bharat Haryana- Golf



14 year old, Ranveer Singh Saini, along with his Unified partner-Monica Jajoo, created history for our country by standing first on the victory stand to get a gold medal in Golf (Level 2) at the World Special Olympics 2015 at Los Angeles on 31st July, 2015. Ranveer and Monica played against 21 countries over 4 rounds of golf at the Wilson Golf Course at Griffith Park, Los Angeles. They were on the leader board for 3 consecutive days and sealed their victory with a huge 9 stroke margin from joint second placed teams from Hong Kong and Nippon, on the 4th and final day. It is for the first time that India was represented in the World Games in Golf. His coach and mentor, Mr. Anitya Chand, along with Mr. Mukesh have spear-headed his training into victory despite his intellectual disability.

Ranveer as we know is one of the youngest golfers of Special Olympics in the world and is autistic by birth. He was the first athlete from SO Bharat to participate in Golf, winning two Gold Medals and a trophy in his first representation at the Golf Masters Macau 2013. Standing alone and determined to face competition with fourteen teams of the best Special Olympics Golfers from twelve regions no more than 12 years of age, at that time. His achievements placed him in the Limca book of records for two consecutive years, 2014 and 2015.

Determined and focused towards pursuing his interests Ranveer has never let autism come on way of progress. His various stage performances, be it a song sung in front of his friends in school or before a huge audience, the recital of shlokas of Bhagavad-Gita at the Chinmaya Mission, playing the Piano, all stand testimony to a level of confidence that would inspire people all over.



Sachin Sharma- SO Bharat-Maharashtra Badminton Having bagged a Gold, Silver and Bronze in Badminton Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles respectively Sachin substantiated his determination and focus to achieve. He, however, attributes this victory to his role models, Sachin Tendulkar and Sania Nehwal. “ Their photos which are always in my bag got me this moment”, says he. Also standing strong behind him was his Coach, Vishal Dixit, to constantly motivate him and prevent him from giving up

Sachin’s medals were a trophy for his father who has been unrelenting in guiding his son’s talent even if it meant dividing his time between the states of Haryana and Maharashtra. His father works with a transport Company, but is unable to do full justice to his job as he has two sons to look after. At the age of 5 the tragic death of Sachin’s mother caused trauma that impacted his life and also that of others closely related to him. Sachin, now 16 yrs of age, was unable to study at a normal pace and was directed to sports. Being part of SO Bharat for past two years strengthened his sport regimen and showed direction to his father. Following his selection, he stepped up his regular practise as well as physical fitness. He skips regularly and takes the count to over 1000 at any given point of time.

The trials and tribulations continued as he had to undergo an operation as a result of a bad fall during his practises. Overriding suggestions coming from his well wishers he participated at the last preparatory camp and surprised all of them with his astounding victory at the World Games. Sachin is happy with his medals and deeply passionate about Badminton. He is already preparing himself for the next Badminton match!

Sandeep Dubey- SO Bharat-Madhya Pradesh

In the prime of youth Sandeep grappled with the aftermath of an accident that left him with a rod in his right thigh attached with 18 nuts and plates. With all his siblings moving on with their career he found himself stuck to the bed for months together. He is fortunate to belong to a strongly supportive family. His father is a retired army personnel. Sandeep was looking for more from life.

Through an NGO, Viklang Seva Bharti, that imparts education and vocational training to persons with Special Needs he was introduced to Special Olympics Bharat in 2005. Always having being under the care of his elder brother, he liked his freedom. SO Bharat enabled him to explore his forte for cycling. Following medical advice his Coach, Rakesh kumar motivated and guided him through his progress in the sport. Having being able to challenge an injury with sport gave a boost to his morale and there was no looking back. On being selected for the World Games his training schedule was notched up. He



was additionally put under expert guidance of a Coach from the Cycling Association, Jabalpur. His chart included a strict regimen of practise and diet.

Sandeep returned with a Silver Medal and two ribbons of participation (7th and 8th position) in cycling from the Special Olympics World Summer Games 2015. As soon as he stepped down from the victory stand he called Rakesh in India to break the news and also to tell him, ‘ I will give you a party Rakesh Sir !’ Along with the medal he came back with experiences of a lifetime. His leg injury is nearly forgotten as he cycles and dances along. He specially reminisces a joyous moment where he danced with Ms. Janet Froetscher, CEO, Special Olympics International.

Sandeep is 36 yrs of age and has been earning for the past 6 years. He often goes for making purchases which has made him confident about handling small transactions and also understand value of money. Apart from sports he is part of the vocational program which trains him to make products of art and craft. It is noteworthy that at the Camps he was observed to be overall responsible and also concerned about his co-Athletes.

Dolly- SO Bharat-Punjab Powerlifting



Dolly lost her father at the age of 10 with no trace of her mother. A hyperactive child with special needs suffering from Epilepsy, frequently resorting to violent behaviour were all pointing towards unfortunate circumstances. She joined an orphanage which placed her under appropriate care. The home even assisted her through Yoga and Meditation with regular counselling sessions with a psychologist.

Tough and well built, Dolly seemed an appropriate choice for power lifting when she joined SO Bharat in 2014. She proved her mettle at the Nationals and got selected for the World Games. At the World Games she bagged two Bronze medals , one each in Squat and dead lift. The victory makes her beam even now!

“ I have noticed a sea change in Dolly’, said Vilcy, her Coach. Dolly’s behaviour caused much anxiety to her Coach. But having attended quite a few sports Camps has brought about an unbelievable transformation in her. Be it hygiene, discipline or even telling others to maintain a clean room or even helping them in any manner, all stirs an excited reaction form Vilcy as she recounts the same.

Dolly is happy to be back at her home and is extremely excited to share her joy with everyone there.

Singamsetti Vani - SO Bharat-Andhra Pradesh Volley ball

“The minute she rolled her sleeves up we knew we were sure to get that point”, says Vani’s Coach Samantha D Costa. Before every service she would look towards the Coach to know what kind of



service to be delivered whether under arm or tennis. In fact her service and game gave her teammates the confidence to perform just the way she did. At a reseeding match in a nerve-racking situation she saved the team from losing to Jamaica. Another match for bronze Medal against Trinidad and Tobago proved she was truly a Star. “Her Tennis service went over the net as bullets making it difficult for the opponents to receive the ball”, says her Coach.

Vani’s parents are daily wagers never having dreamt of a moment like now and that too through Vani who at the age of 4 was pronounced ‘not normal’. Vani 21 yrs, received special education from the very outset. She exhibited behavioural deviations which seem to have faded over a period of time. She was even sent back from her school once as the authorities were unable to control the situation. Having stayed in sports camps her focus was re directed towards achieving common goals since she joined Special olympics in 2011. She is fun loving but is sensitive but sometimes had to be cheered during the course of the game. Her parents who were always supportive of her participation in sports, are now even more excited with her victory of a Bronze in Volly Ball at the World Summer games 2015.

Shrey Kadian -SO Bharat-Delhi Soft ball

“It was a World Cup for me, a dream come true!”, said Shrey (20yrs). “We danced as we won against Australia”. Shrey, the Vice Captain of the team, took the last run that concluded the match in favour of



India. He went through tensed moments on the field. Excitedly Shrey recounted his game even advising that team work is important. Catcher, Out field, batting, pitching should be accurate!, says he. He kept recalling tips by his Head Coach, Sanjay, of not misfielding, running fast and most important, staying cool

This and more. Shrey went on making it impossible to believe that a difficult birth had deprived him of speech in the early few years of his life. He gained academic experience through Special schools and was often reported as being restless and aggressive. Against this background it is heartening to see a very confident, focussed Shrey as he acknowledges his luck for having gained an experience as the World Cup, which very few get. Having joined SO Bharat in 2008, his mother said that her efforts of making Shrey Self-reliant were bolstered by sports that has brought about a transformation in him. He is confident and has a goal in life. He wants to teach other people. He wants to make Softball a popular

sport in India. He wants his own stand. Shrey on his own went online to search for any club associated with Softball and even tracked down one that he has joined.

India debuted in Softball at the Special Olympics World Summer Games 2015, LA, USA and won against Australia bagging a Gold Medal.



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SO Bharat Sports Department