

## **Brief reporting of 'Towards 2020: A Special Olympic Purvanchal (Eastern U.P.) INDIA**

*-Jointly organized by Saraswati Manovikas Kendra and Shraddha Special School for mentally handicapped children*

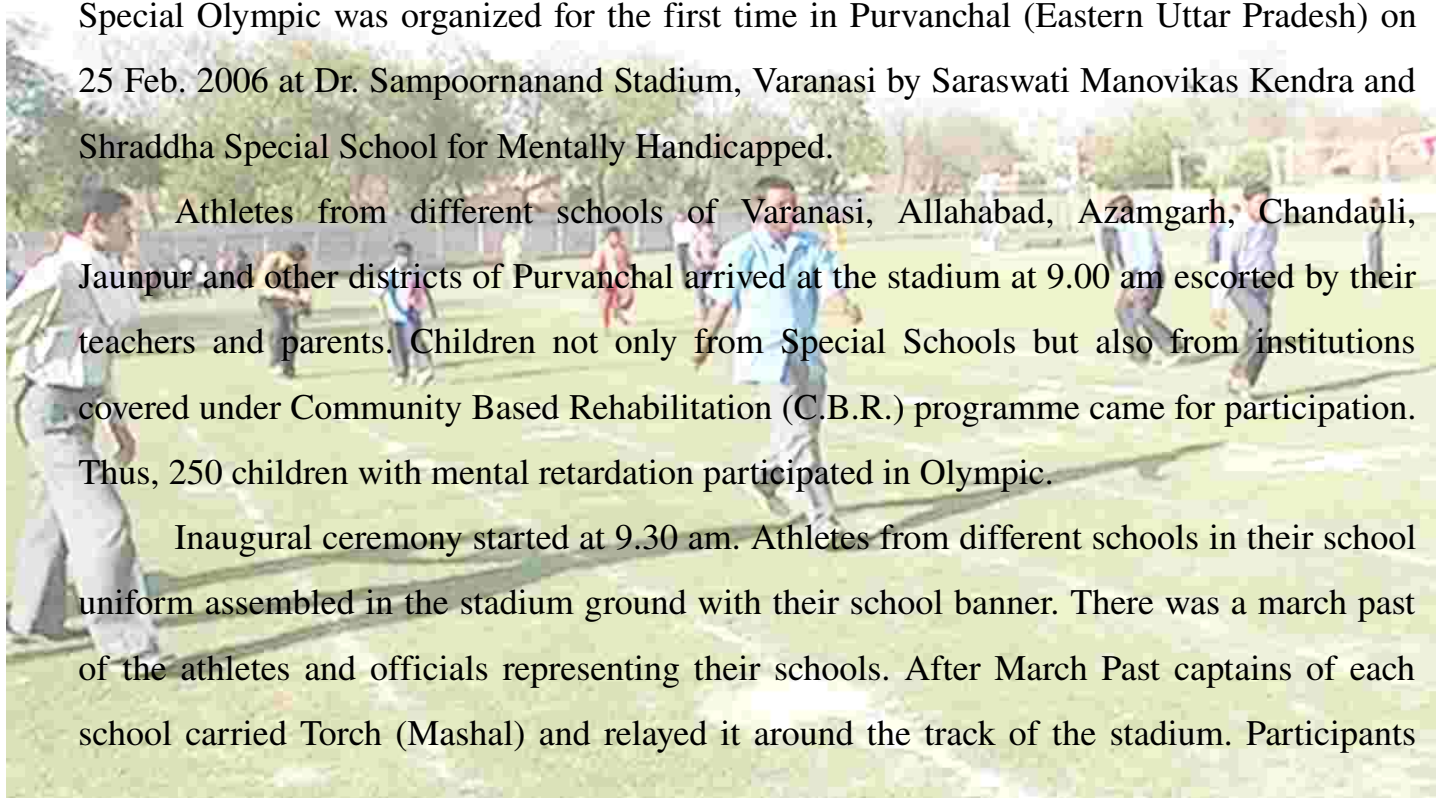


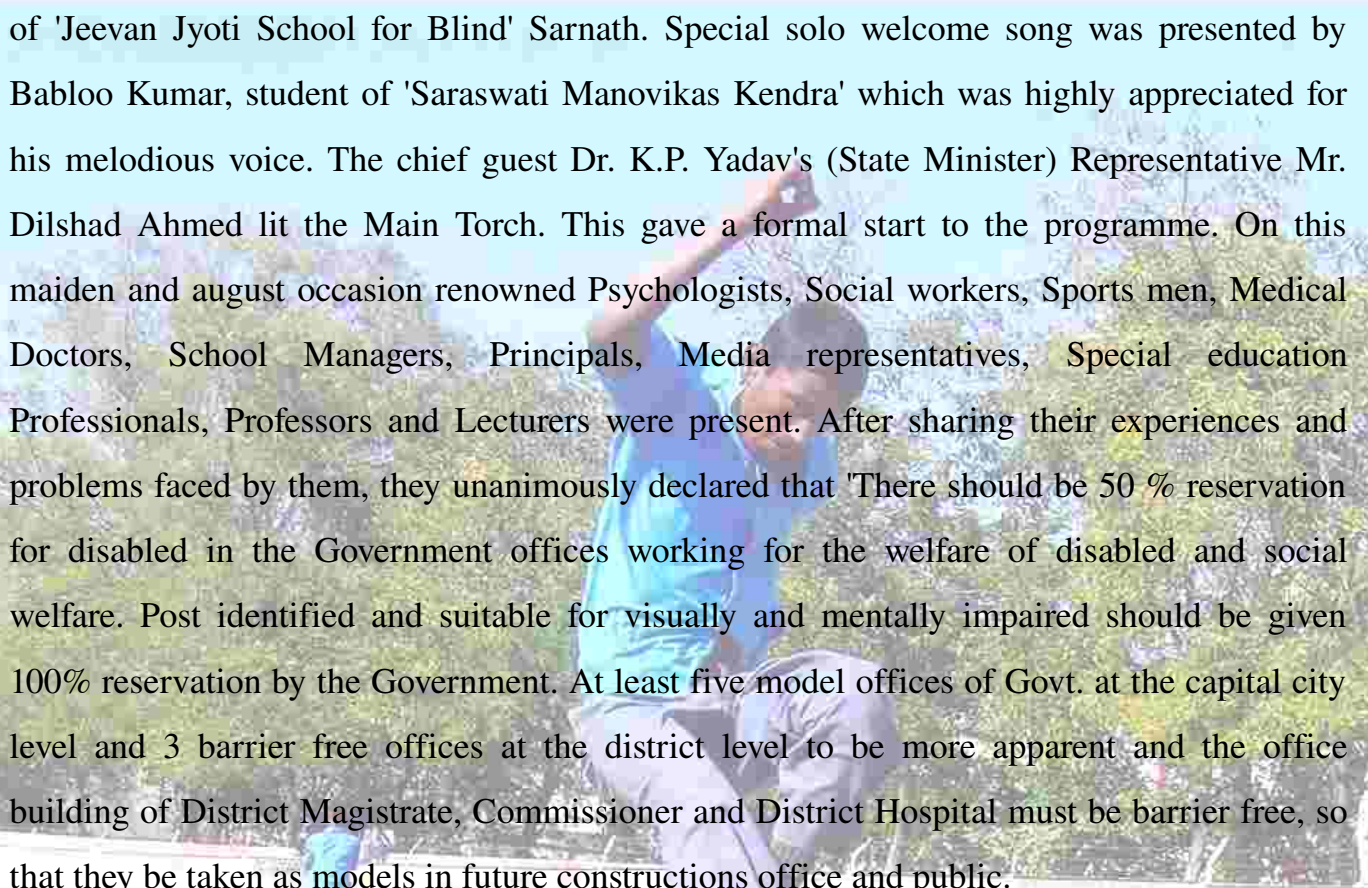
Mr. Rinku Pathak a mentally challenged child of Saraswati Manovikas Kendra is starting for Torch Run.

With the purpose to provide an opportunity to mentally disabled children to participate in a big athletic event and compete with their counterparts in other districts. Special Olympic was organized for the first time in Purvanchal (Eastern Uttar Pradesh) on 25 Feb. 2006 at Dr. Sampooranand Stadium, Varanasi by Saraswati Manovikas Kendra and Shraddha Special School for Mentally Handicapped.

Athletes from different schools of Varanasi, Allahabad, Azamgarh, Chandauli, Jaunpur and other districts of Purvanchal arrived at the stadium at 9.00 am escorted by their teachers and parents. Children not only from Special Schools but also from institutions covered under Community Based Rehabilitation (C.B.R.) programme came for participation. Thus, 250 children with mental retardation participated in Olympic.

Inaugural ceremony started at 9.30 am. Athletes from different schools in their school uniform assembled in the stadium ground with their school banner. There was a march past of the athletes and officials representing their schools. After March Past captains of each school carried Torch (Mashal) and relayed it around the track of the stadium. Participants





and guests were welcomed by group welcome song sung by visually impaired girls students of 'Jeevan Jyoti School for Blind' Sarnath. Special solo welcome song was presented by Babloo Kumar, student of 'Saraswati Manovikas Kendra' which was highly appreciated for his melodious voice. The chief guest Dr. K.P. Yadav's (State Minister) Representative Mr. Dilshad Ahmed lit the Main Torch. This gave a formal start to the programme. On this maiden and august occasion renowned Psychologists, Social workers, Sports men, Medical Doctors, School Managers, Principals, Media representatives, Special education Professionals, Professors and Lecturers were present. After sharing their experiences and problems faced by them, they unanimously declared that 'There should be 50 % reservation for disabled in the Government offices working for the welfare of disabled and social welfare. Post identified and suitable for visually and mentally impaired should be given 100% reservation by the Government. At least five model offices of Govt. at the capital city level and 3 barrier free offices at the district level to be more apparent and the office building of District Magistrate, Commissioner and District Hospital must be barrier free, so that they be taken as models in future constructions office and public.

Athletes (Boys and Girls) were categorized into three groups A, B and C according to age. Ability test was administered for formation of their right groups and similar potentials. Male athletes of age 18 years and above were put into Group 'A', and females of the same age into 'A' Girls group. Similarly, 14 years to 17 years old athletes were categorized into Group 'B' ofcourse events for male and female were separately held. Children below 13 years were kept into group 'C'. Since girls and boys of this age group were found to with equal caliber, they were kept into same category.

The competition were held as per following scheduled at 11 am, 200 meter race for Group 'A' Boys, 100 meter race for Group 'B' Boys, Shot put for Group 'A' and Group 'C', 200 meter race for Group 'A' Girls, 100 meter race for Group 'B' Girls, Shot put for Group 'B' Boys, Long jump for Boy and Girls Group 'C', 100 meter race for Boys 'A', Long jump for Girls 'A', 200 meter race for Boys 'B', Soft ball throw for Boys 'B', Long jump for Boys 'A', 100 meter race for Girls 'A', Soft ball throw for Boys 'B', 100 meter walk for Group 'C' were organized.

**Lunch was served at 1.30 p.m.**



In the post lunch session, Relay race 4 X 100 mtrs race for Boys 'A' Group, 100 meter walk for girls of 'A' group, 100 meter race for group 'C', Bouche game for boys 'A' and group 'C' were held. The Bouche game was a special attraction for children and parents because this game was first time organized in this region. Winners of every events were invited to victory stand and they were awarded Gold, Silver and Bronze medals as per their position.

It was a great event for the mentally disabled (Children) players, as they never had such an opportunity to participate in a big event of athletics where they could show their talent in sports. The Olympic ended with National Anthem and vow to meet at the second in the next year.

We feel that awareness and enthusiasm generated by this Olympic will certainly bring betterment for the handicapped population of Purvanchal with your special support and encourage in days to come.

**Contact us-**

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**Every Child Counts**



**Anil kumar -**

**Reporting for Special Olympic, Towards 2020: A Special Olympic Purvanchal**