

**“Celebrating Life .... With Inclusivity” -**  
**NATIONAL TALENT OLYMPIAD for Students with Special Needs**  
**(Sports & Games, Performing & Fine Arts and Literary Activities)**  
**15<sup>th</sup> February 2018, Apeejay School, Sheikh Sarai, New Delhi**

**‘Every Child Matters for the Nation’**

A unique NATIONAL TALENT OLYMPIAD for Students with Special Needs was an initiative by *Expressions India* - The National Life Skills Education & School Wellness Program in collaboration with *The Apeejay School Group*. The Talent Olympiad was a prestigious event that provided the school students from the NCR regions a platform to showcase their potentials and celebrate inclusivity and diversity. More than 200 ebullient students from 30 schools across the country actively participated in the festival. Various events/ activities were going on simultaneously like sports and fun games, fine arts, literary activities and performing arts.

**This unique NATIONAL TALENT OLYMPIAD for Students with Special Needs was partly sponsored by Punjab & Sind Bank. Also, as our honourable guest of honor Dr. Manju Srivastava, Zonal Manager, Punjab & Sind Bank, Delhi-1 initiated the distribution of Prizes, Medals & School Citations followed by Group Photographs with the schools and our other dignitaries. The National Talent Olympiad was a pioneering and prestigious event that provided the special needs children with the platform to showcase their abilities and talent.**

*The hono'able dignitaries Shri. V S Garg, Educational Advisor, Apeejay Education Society, Shri. Malay Mukherjee Former - CEO & MD , Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) , Ms. Ritu Choudhary, Block Education Officer, Gurugram and Ms. Sarita Pandey, Prinicipal, Apeejay School, Sheik Sarai graced the occasion with their learned and gracious presence.*

Education holds the power to transform young minds within the human lifespan. While Schools have an unprecedented opportunity to improve the lives of young people, progressively it is becoming important for a school to provide services for overall child development including psychosocial wellbeing. Efforts to encourage co-curricular participation for the special needs students as an integral part of the learning at school helps to unlock the infinite potentials and empower the their self-esteem and higher pursuits.

The plethora of events provided each and every child the platform to showcase their abilities and talent. A brief mention of all the events which were hosted:

- ➡ **Sports and fun games** included 60-80 mts. race, obstacle race, lemon race and one leg race which benefited the balance in all aspects of their life: social, physical, and mental. They became informed about all the adaptive sports and adaptive physical activities for children with special needs.
- ➡ **Fine arts** such as on the spot painting and canvas painting, Students were asked to make paintings on the topic “*Swachh Bharat*”. Before commencing the competition, the resource faculty clarified on the given phrase which helped school going children to showcase their potential to the fullest.
- ➡ Dance and singing were the activities for **performing arts**. They were fun, and gave children a way to express themselves. Dance and Singing also helped with confidence and social skills. Interacting with others of like needs, in a non-judgmental setting, with a trained patient instructor, enhanced and encouraged both social integration and inclusivity.
- ➡ **Literary activities** encouraged them to showcase their cognitive abilities to understand, memorize and comprehend concepts such as in Poem Recitation, Calligraphy, Jingle and Elocution. On a more artistic note, such activities allowed creative expression, both individually and in a group setting, encouraged exercise, and promoted health and wellbeing.

During the Talent Olympiad, eminent professionals from the disciplines of Education, Behavioral Sciences, Fine Arts and Culture also joined hands. The festival ended to the deep gratitude and vote of thanks to the honorable dignitaries from the NCERT, Ms Saroj Yadv, Prof J L Pandey and Ms. Usha Anand, The advisory Academics, Expressions India. **The National Talent Olympiad for Special Needs Children was indeed a grand success.**



