



March 2016 saw TISB host a special event, a truly one of its kind, the TISB Swimathon. It was the debut event of a student 'run and done' fund-raiser for the intellectually challenged athletes being trained with Special Olympics Bharat <http://www.specialolympicsbharat.org/> an Indian affiliate of Special Olympics headquartered at Washington.

The event was conceptualised and created by five 11th graders: Hridey Sahgal as the Founder & Team Leader along with Abhishek Bollapragada as Funds & Event Manager, Rishi Rangarajan as Social Media Manager, Amit Ramesh as Digital & IT manager and Nikhil Khongbantabam as Design & Graphics Manager.



Before the Grade 11-12 Swimathon Session



Inauguration with the Special Olympics Bharat Swimmers and their Area Director, Karnataka

They were accompanied by the Area Director of SO Bharat Karnataka, Mrs Thankam, the vice-president of Special Olympics Bharat, Mr Jaya Chandran, their parents and coaches. An encouraging report appeared on website of Special Olympics Bharat. <http://specialolympicsbharat.org/the-more-you-swim-the-more-lives-you-transform-hridey-sahgal/>

The participants swam in their stipulated times according to a date wise schedule. The more they swam the more funds they could collect from their sponsors who had pledged money per length of the pool swum by the participant. It was not only challenging but also fulfilling for the participating students to push themselves for the

“We have chosen Special Olympics because as athletes, we believe that every human should have the right to compete in sports, regardless of their age, gender, race, religion or disability: physical or intellectual. That is why we, as athletes, are helping other athletes be athletes.”
– The Team

Hridey and team had planned it as a three day event on 10, 16 and 18 March 2016 but due to its success extended by another day by the Principal, Mr Peter Armstrong to add a category of the school staff swimming on the 20th.

The event was inaugurated by three SO Bharat swimmers, by swimming the inaugural 4 lengths each.

cause. The event brought the whole school together either by participation as a swimmer or as a sponsor of the swimmer raising funds. Over 50 students from grades 6 to 12 participated, along with several staff members, including the Principal, Mr Peter Armstrong and Vice Principal, Mr John Power, swimming on the last day.

A total of 5435 lengths, or 136 km were swum in five hours over the course of 4 days. That's 15 times the height of Mt Everest!



Left to Right: Hridey Sahgal, Mr Peter Armstrong, Ms Leena Hatkar, Ms Kavita Giri, Mr John Power, Mr James Roriston, Abhishek Bollapragada, Rishi Rangarajan, Nikhil Khongbantabam.



Swimathon Session in Action

TISB is proud to be able to make a difference in the lives of aspiring athletes with intellectual disabilities and help strengthen them mentally physically and emotionally for a better acceptance and respect in the society.

For more information and pictures please visit the TISB Swimathon Facebook page created by the organising team. <https://www.facebook.com/tisbSwimathon/>

The event raised **Rs 16,79,122** in total. These funds will be used to propel the careers of the athletes at Special Olympics Bharat by helping to cover a lot of their costs such as equipment, dietary supplements, access to facilities, travel costs, etc.



After the Staff Swimathon



The TISB Swimathon Organising Team(Left to Right): Amit Ramesh, Rishi Rangarajan, Hridey Sahgal, Abhishek Bollapragda, Nikhil Khongbantabam