****

**Special Olympics Bharat appoints Mr. V.K. Mahendru as Executive Director**

***Special Olympics Bharat appoints Mr. V.K. Mahendru, earlier a part of ONGC, as Executive Director of the organisation***

**New Delhi, April 23, 2024:** Special Olympics Bharat, is honoured to announce the appointment of Mr. V.K. Mahendru as Executive Director.

In his new role, Mr. Mahendru will oversee all aspects of the organisation and management, while also serving as a mentor. With a B. Tech in Civil Engineering from PEC Chandigarh & subsequently acquiring a Diploma in Management, Mr. Mahendru began his career in ONGC as a Civil Engineer & held key positions such as Head, Corporate Sports, Head of Vigilance Department, Chief Corporate and Parliamentary affairs & finally as Executive Director, headed the regional office of Mumbai which is most prominent & profitable work Centre of ONGC. His strong administrative capabilities, communication skills, team building, and strict adherence to ethics and honesty, positions him considerably well in taking Special Olympics Bharat on the path of sustained quality growth

Reflecting on his recent appointment, **Mr. V.K. Mahendru** expressed his enthusiasm, saying, *"I am delighted to be appointed as the Executive Director of Special Olympics Bharat, an organisation extremely close to my heart. I am closely attached to sports and also to our Special Olympics athletes. I look forward to putting in my efforts, work, and efficiency that would lead towards the betterment and development of our organisation and our precious athletes.”*

Mr Mahendru comes with a background of considerable prowess in Table Tennis and Badminton during college education, carrying a strong passion for the development of sports. In his capacity as of Head, Corporate Sports Division at ONGC between 2009 and 2014, he managed 22 disciplines, recruiting and grooming sportspersons to achieve world-level accolades. He has managed 400 National and international sportspersons including some prominent names such as Virender Sehwag, Virat Kohli, Ishant Sharma, Gautam Gambhir, Pankaj Advani (Billiards & Snooker) and Ashwini Ponnappa (Badminton) to name a few, with 30 sportspersons having won national awards. He has many awards and recognition to his name.

Commenting on this significant appointment, **Dr. Mallika Nadda, President, Special Olympics Bharat**, said, *“Mr. V.K. Mahendru brings a great deal of experience and knowledge to our team. I am fully confident that his expertise, along with his capabilities and skills will further elevate the working of our organisation and the well-being of our athletes. We extend a warm welcome to him and greatly look forward to his upcoming contributions to Special Olympics Bharat.”*

**About Special Olympics Bharat**

Special Olympics Bharat is a National Sports Federation accredited by Special Olympics Inc. USA, to conduct sports and development programs all over India. Special Olympics is a global inclusion movement using sport, health, education, and leadership programs every day around the world to end discrimination against and empower people with intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics Bharat is recognized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India as a National Sports Federation for the development of Sports for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities. It is incumbent to inform that Special Olympics and Paralympics are separate entities wherein the former reaches out to Persons with Intellectual Disabilities and, the latter to those with physical challenges. SO Bharat has over 1.5 million Athletes registered across all the States and Union Territories of India.