National Sports and Cultural Competition 2016
To commemorate Universal Children’s Day on 20th November, SOS India hosted a series of regional and zonal competitions for SOS children from across the country. These culminate into the National Sports and Culture Competition, SOS Tarang, to be hosted in New Delhi from 23-25th November 2016. This annual event helps establish our mission to give once parentless and abandoned children the right tools to realize their full potential and a platform to showcase their musical, dancing and athletic talents. Moreover it also gives them the joy of travelling, making new friends and having fun.

Gurvinder Kaur was brought in to the SOS Children’s Village in Rajpura on 28 December 1999 through the Aggarsen Hospital. Her mother had a mental disability. Once Gurvinder was born her mother could not be traced and there was no one to look after the child, she was then referred to SOS Children’s Village.

Gurvinder is very fond of her SOS mother and is close to her family. She feels responsible for the family and enjoys spending quality time with her them. Gurvinder is an excellent student and completed her class 10th exams from Jasper Public School with a 7 CGPA. Currently she is studying Commerce in class 11th at Patel Public School.

Gurvinder is also a very talented musician, she loves singing and plays the harmonium. She is particularly adept at Punjabi folk music. She participates in all the cultural programmes organised in the Village, her school as well as events held on Independence Day and Republic Day. She has won many accolades across different cultural events.

This year she participated in the Zonal Level Singing Competition (North Zone) and stood first in her age group (14-18 years). Gurvinder will now represent the North Zone at the national level at SOS Tarang this month.
THE INDIAN ‘NEYMAR’ FROM KOLKATA

Babusona Mandi came to the SOS Children’s Village in Kolkata at the age of 6. He was placed under the affectionate care of SOS mother Ms. Sonali Kulavi. He was always a very active child and inclined towards sports. As a child he started playing football on the village ground. His talent and passion helped him win many prizes for the same. Soon his talent shone through and he was given coaching to enhance his skill in the sport.

Babusona has always been motivated and supported by his family as well as the coworkers at the Village so that he can concentrate on and perform well in all sporting events. In many of the football tournaments he played exceedingly well and was declared the “Man of the Match”. He participated in the inter school football tournament, Subrata Cup, Sub – division level football tournament and many other tournaments. Last year he played the National Level Football tournament organized by SOS India. In the month of August 2016 he was selected to represent his zone in the sport of football at the National Level in New Delhi. Babusona will be playing for the East Zone. Amongst his family, friends and teammates he is fondly referred to as “Neymar”.

KAJAL SHAH IS DANCING ALL THE WAY TO THE FINALS

Kajal Shah aged 13 came to SOS Children’s Village in Begusarai in 2009. The last 7 years have been the most transformative for Kajal. When she initially came to the Village, her temperament was shy, introverted and very reserved. However, with time, regular intervention and support Kajal explored her strengths and talent, becoming one of the most popular students in the Village.

Kajal is a phenomenal dancer and has trained in the classical dance form of Kathak. She has completed her 5th year of training from the Prayag Kala Kendra, Allahabad. She has performed many classical and other forms of dance at the school, village and district levels. She also performed 125 rounds in Kathak Dance at the district level cultural programme held at Begusarai. Kajal’s hardwork and perseverance have paid off, making her one of best dancers amongst her peers. She has been selected as part of her team to represent the East Zone in the National Folk Dance competition to be held in New Delhi as part of SOS Tarang this November.
Mansi Limbapure was brought to the SOS Children’s Village in Latur with her twin sister Sakshi when they were a mere 14 days old. Mansi has now grown into a confident and able young adult.

She is a very active girl and is involved in many extra curricular activities like dancing, singing, sports as well as arts and crafts. She has also excelled and has shown great interest in her academics. While earlier she was in a State Board School, her exceptional performance in academics convinced the Village Director and her mother to shift her to Gold Crest High School which is one of the most reputed school’s in Latur.

Mansi has always displayed great leadership qualities, she voluntarily takes extra responsibility and is the captain of the basketball team for the West Zone. Mansi has a long list of accolades these include her serving as the captain of the State Under 19 Basketball team when she was just 12 years old. Mansi was also the captain of the winning team of SOS National Sports Competition last year in 2015. This year she will be representing her zone at the semi-finals to be held in New Delhi as part of SOS Tarang.
DOUBLE TROUBLE! RAJESH AND KARUNA BRING SERIOUS COMPETITION TO THE NATIONALS

Rajesh Hota was brought to SOS Children’s Village, Rourkela at the age of six along with his elder sister Babita Hota on 24th April 2006. He was placed in the family house Sampurna under the loving care of his SOS mother, Ms. Jayanti Nayak. Right from the start he was a very talented boy, excelling both in academics and co-curricular activities. This year he passed his Class X exams with 86.33% marks and is now studying science in Class XI in the Government College of Rourkela. Rajesh has been interested in singing, debate, essay and sports ever since he was a very young child. He has participated and has been the recipient of various awards across varied athletic and artistic disciplines.

Rajesh’s latent singing talent was discovered by his mother and village coworkers during late night singing games of ‘Antakshari’ and during prayer meets. Keeping this in view he was given a chance to participate in the screening test for SOS Tarang at the Village level and was subsequently selected to participate at the Zonal level.

In the run up to the qualifying round, special Music Classes were organized for him at Village level under the guidance of an expert Music teacher namely Mrs. Pravasini Das. He was encouraged to learn the folk song ‘Rangabati’ and by working hard and with the proper guidance of his mother and co-workers (Education), the Village Director and his music teacher he performed very well. Rajesh competed in Begusarai and amongst 12 participants stood 1st in the category of Duet Singing for those aged between 15 and 18 years.

In the duet singing competition Rajesh partnered with Karuna. Karuna Jena was brought to SOS Children’s Village, Rourkela on 8th November 2003 at the age of 2 years and placed in the loving care of mother Sanjukta Jena. She is currently studying in Class VIII in Gyana Jyoti Public School, Rourkela. Karuna has always been a jovial and active child and is particularly interested in sports, dancing and singing. Last year she showed keen interest in singing and joined training classes organized at Children’s Village. She too learnt singing under the expert guidance of the village music teacher Mrs. Pravasini Das.

Karuna would lead the Evening Prayer held at the Village as well as group performances organized during Mother’s Day and SOS Day. This time she participated in the competition in the Village and was then selected to participate in the Zonal level competition.

For the Zonals, Karuna and Rajesh teamed up and performed together at Begusarai wherein they won the competition and were selected to represent their Zone at the National Level as part of SOS Tarang.
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