

SOS MESSENGER

March 2019



**CREATING
A LASTING
CHANGE**

Creating a lasting change

Spring is here; bringing with it new hopes and cheer! It's a time to start afresh, a time to forge ahead, and a time to surpass our best. The feeling is no less for our children growing up in SOS Children's Villages. With renewed spirit and enthusiasm, our children are poised to scale greater heights in their journey for a better future. This issue of SOS Messenger celebrates their hopes and dreams, and wishes that this season of change brings a lasting change in their lives too.

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SECRETARY GENERAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Friend,

Spring is the season of new beginnings and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very happy Indian New Year. The start of a new year is both a time of reflection and a chance to look forward. I am grateful for the progress that we are able to make with your whole-hearted support. It is only through the generosity of our loyal supporters that SOS India has been able to impact the lives of over 35,000 vulnerable children in a sustainable manner.

I would like to take a moment to share a few milestones from the last two quarters, which have in particular marked proud moments for us. Two of our **specially abled girls, cyclists Manimeghlai and Shruti** made India proud by **winning gold and silver medals** respectively at the recently concluded **Special Olympics World Summer Games in Abu Dhabi**. Another proud moment was when **SOS Children's Village Hojai** was awarded '**Best Child Care Institution**' by the Hojai district administration, as part of their 70th Republic Day celebrations. This edition of SOS Messenger brings out many such inspiring, heart-warming and impactful stories.

All of this is only possible because of your continued unstinted support and generosity. The year ahead will bring its own challenges, but I'm sure that by way of collaborations, staying focused on our priorities and putting the wellbeing of our children above everything else, our efforts and initiatives will certainly enable us to maximise our impact, and transform as many lives as possible.

It is our honour to have you as part of the SOS India family. Thank YOU. We can do so much more because of you.

Warm regards,

Anuja Bansal

Anuja Bansal

Secretary General

SOS Children's Villages of India



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friend,

I wish you all fantastic new beginnings as the season turns and a New Year begins! From witnessing improvements in the academic records of our children to seeing them excel in diverse professions or getting married, every tiny achievement is a celebration for the SOS India family. It is a proof that we are progressing along the right path.

In this issue of SOS Messenger, we present to you stories of resilience, courage and excellence. Over the last few months, there have been significant developments and SOS India has made great strides in many spheres. Your generosity and whole-hearted support has facilitated countless miracles in the lives of thousands of children under the care and protection of SOS India.

On behalf of the entire SOS Family, I would like to profusely thank all our donors and enthusiastic supporters for your kind, generous and continued support to this cause. Your contribution goes a long way in changing the lives of thousands and I do hope it gives you as much satisfaction as it does to us, if not more. We look forward to your continued support and benevolence.

Warm regards,

S. Sandilya

S. Sandilya

President

SOS Children's Villages of India

DIFFERENTLY ABLE GIRLS FROM SOS INDIA WIN SPECIAL OLYMPICS MEDALS

Cyclists Shruti and Manimeghlai have done the country and SOS India proud by winning silver and gold medals respectively at the recently concluded Special Olympics World Summer Games in Abu Dhabi. But what made their achievements even more remarkable is the fact that both girls are specially abled. While 19-year-old Shruti has impaired speech and hearing, 16-year-old Mani is intellectually challenged. Yet, at no point of their journey to the Olympic podium have they allowed their disabilities to come in the way of their hard work and determination.

Shruti was barely eight years old and

Mani had just turned three when they became a part of the SOS India family. Today, both are growing up at SOS Children's Village Khajuri Kalan – a specialised, family-like care environment for the differently able. Recognising their athletic abilities, SOS India provided the girls with opportunity and training to excel in sports, and especially in cycling. The efforts paid off when Shruti and Mani started winning district and state level competitions. Now, they have added a world championship to their kitty.

“Our two special daughters have made the nation proud. Their achievement showcases the passion

they carry irrespective of their inabilities. They are a true inspiration,” said Anuja Bansal, Secretary General, SOS India.



ADITYA IS COMMITTED TO SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND WELLBEING

Aditya has no recollection of his biological parents or where he was born. He has a vague memory of the adoption centre from where he was brought to SOS Children's Village Pune, at the age of four years. An affable child, Aditya soon made many friends at the Village and grew close to his SOS Mother and siblings. The love and stability of growing up in a family gave him the freedom to pursue his goals and interests. Aditya initially attended Hermann Gmeiner School, where he excelled in studies and extra-curricular activities. After Class VII, he was shifted to another SOS India project at Balgram. Here too Aditya fared well and secured a first division in his Class X SSC examinations. He completed Class XI and XII from a school in Nanded.

From a young age, Aditya had a desire to help vulnerable children and young people to live better and succeed in life. His passion for promoting social change led him to complete his bachelor's, master's and M.Phil programmes in social work. Over the course of his study, Aditya submitted several research papers, some of which focused on strengthening capacity of child care institutions as well as the education system for disadvantaged children. Currently, he is pursuing a PhD from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai.

Aditya is an acclaimed social worker. “I am passionate about securing the rights of vulnerable children and youth across the country,”

says Aditya with pride and affection. His knowledge and experience of advancing child rights and implementing child welfare schemes are much sought after by State Governments and NGOs alike.



Aditya Charegaonkar

Settled Youth, SOS Children's Village Pune



SOS INDIA HELPS RAJAMMA REGAIN HER LIFE

Unable to fulfill the constant demand for dowry, Rajamma's husband not only deserted her but also sent her back to her parents home. The trauma of the whole incident left her depressed for five years. The birth of her daughter compounded to Rajamma's despair as she had no means of raising the child alone. Fortunately for her, she was enrolled with SOS India's Family Strengthening Programme (FSP) – an initiative that helps vulnerable families become self-reliant and provide better care to children.

Given Rajamma's educational background (she was pursuing LLB

before her marriage), the FSP team provided her training on entrepreneurship and supported her in starting a data processing centre in 2011. The venture not only helped Rajamma sustain her family with a steady income but also brought her out of depression. She could now support her daughter's education and give her family a better life.

Soon after, Rajamma was awarded a franchise for making ration cards online. Her customers, mostly from disadvantaged families, would share their concerns with her. This prompted Rajamma to help them within her capacity. Little did she

know then that her efforts would transform the lives of thousands of people. Over the years, Rajamma has helped vulnerable families, widows and specially-able persons leverage government schemes, avail subsidised loans, information on right to education (RTE) and scholarships, and even access to quality healthcare.

"SOS India has not only given my life back but also enabled me to live with respect and dignity. I will continue to help as many people as I can," says a grateful Rajamma. She is currently working as a member of the Board of Director of Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation.

SOS INDIA BAAL PANCHAYAT

Enabling children to participate in decision-making processes

A recent collective action by children of Kokta, Bhopal, forced the closure of a liquor vend in their village. In the past, these children also rallied for prevention of child marriages, and submitted applications to government authorities for better healthcare

facilities and installation of streetlights, among others. The children are members of Baal Panchayat – an SOS India initiative that enable young people to voice their concerns and participate in decision-making processes.



SOS INDIA STRENGTHENS RAJNI'S RESOLVE FOR A BETTER FUTURE

After the demise of her husband, the responsibility of bringing up her three children and an aged mother-in-law fell upon Rajni's shoulders. With no income whatsoever, her family fell on hard times. Thankfully, SOS India's Family Strengthening Programme gave her the training and support to

open a petty shop. Three years ago, she started the venture with Rs 300 worth of goods. Today, she stocks items worth over Rs 60,000 – enabling her to earn enough to meet household expenses and support her children's education.



YOUR SUPPORT HELPS OUR CHILDREN TO REALISE THEIR DREAMS

Puspa Muduli and **Aarti Soren** bagged the first position in debate and high jump competitions, respectively at Hausla 2018, a state-level sports and cultural event organised by the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Chhattisgarh. Additionally, **Puspa** along with **Adysha Patra** won the first and second prizes, respectively, in another state-level debate competition, Mahak.



SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE BEGUSARAI

Reena Kumari won a gold medal in Shot-put Championship organised in Begusarai.

Pankaj was part of the Bihar handball team that won bronze at the 64th National School Games in Haryana. The team was also felicitated by the State Handball Association on Republic Day in Patna.



SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE CHENNAI

Veeravimin was awarded a medal and certificate in recognition of his selection to the Chennai state-level team in kho-kho.

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE HYDERABAD

Lova Prasad represented Telengana in floorball at the national competition held in Delhi.

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE BHOPAL

Dribblers **Anita**, **Shraddha** and **Shilpi** were felicitated by Madhya Pradesh Sports Minister, Mr Jiu Patwari, for representing the state in football.



Sanjay Sonare came third in the 24th Asian International WFSKO Open Karate Championship organised by World Funakoshi Shotokan Karate Organisation in Mumbai.

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE GREENFIELDS

As part of Girl Child Day celebrations, **Komal** and **Kavita** were awarded cash prizes of Rs 11,000 each by Department of Women and Child Development, Panchkula for winning gold and silver medals respectively in national taekwondo competitions.



SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE JAMMU

School Games Federation of India awarded certificates to **Viswas** and **Akshay** for their participation in National Carrom (Doubles) Tournament held at Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu.



SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE KOCHI



Dr Libin, BDS, a settled youth from SOS Children's Village Cochin, has cleared the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) for Masters in Dental Science.

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE ALIBAUG

Vaibhav Tambat, a B.Sc. student, stood second in the Maharashtra State Level Microeconomics Olympiad. His Microbio Canvas Project was selected among the top ten in a competition participated by students from 48 colleges.



SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE BHUBANESHWAR



Taking a break from their **2018 Hockey World Cup** schedule in Bhubaneshwar, the **South African men's team** visited our Village in the city much to the delight of the children.

DR GITA MULIYIL – A LIFE-LONG FRIEND OF SOS INDIA



The magnanimity and goodwill of friends like you helps sustain our programme and ensures a loving home and future for children in need. SOS India salutes the spirit of giving of **Dr. Gita Muliyl**, a renowned Gynecologist from Bangalore, who has been committed to our cause since 2002.

When did you start supporting our organisation?

I think I made the first donation around 2002. Today, I am sponsoring six young girls living in SOS Children's Village Bangalore.

Why did you choose to give to SOS India? Can you share the most rewarding experience you have had as a donor to SOS India?

The beauty of its care concept has made me a life-long supporter of SOS Children's Villages. A few months back, I visited SOS Children's Village Bangalore. I can very confidently say that my support has been truly worth it. I met with the children, mothers, aunts, and Village staff, and I was definitely impressed with the kind of visible impact I could see. I am also very happy that SOS brings up the children in a secular manner.



What are some of the most critical results that you expect SOS India to produce?

The most valuable thing that SOS offers is a home to so many parentless children. All children have mothers and live with siblings, which is wonderful. Each individual child has an identity and grows up living a normal life. Everything is run so systematically. The houses are beautiful, clean and well-managed. Children get regular health check-ups, take part in various sports, do yoga, and pursue their hobbies. I think the focus on all-round development of these children is something that is the most critical result that SOS is producing.

FAMILY BASED CARE

7,034

CHILDREN IN FBC

160 YOUTH GOT FIRST-TIME EMPLOYMENT

Rs 16,661/ month first-time average salary

(Oct - Dec 2018)

6,307

YOUTH SETTLED

(since inception)

FAMILY STRENGTHENING PROGRAMME

36,959

CHILDREN IN FSP

(DIRECT + INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES)

8,032

CAREGIVERS IN FSP

551 active
Self Help Groups

29,472

BENEFICIARIES SUCCESSFULLY EXITED FSP (SINCE 2009)

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE HOJAI WINS 'BEST CHILD CARE INSTITUTION' AWARD

SOS Children's Village Hojai has been awarded 'Best Child Care Institution' by the Hojai district administration, as part of their 70th Republic Day celebrations. The recognition is a testament to the quality of care provided to children of SOS India.

Donation Form

Your donation sets forth a process where a parentless child is nurtured through a holistic family-like care model and transformed into an independent adult, successfully reintegrating into society.

Your support will help us change the lives of many more disadvantaged children.

Please accept my gift of:

| | | | |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------|
| ₹ 10,800 | ₹ 21,600 | ₹ 108,000 | ₹ |
| sponsor a child for a year | sponsor a child & his or her education for a year | sponsor 10 children for a year | any amount |

I am an existing sponsor / donor Yes No

If yes, my Donor ID is

Name (Mr./Ms.)

DOB: DD MM YYYY

Address

PIN

Phone

Email

I wish to make my gift by:

Authorising SOSCVIndia to charge the indicated amount from my credit card



Card No.:

.....

Expiry Date: MM YYYY

Date: Signature

Enclosing my cheque no..... drawn on (bank) in favour of 'SOS Children's Villages of India'

All donations are eligible for 50% tax exemption under section 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961

NOTE: You can claim your tax exemption via the donation receipt.

SOS Children's Villages of India

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Tel: +91-11-43239200
E-mail: soscvi@soscvindia.org
Website: www.soschildrensvillages.in

Scan to donate to SOS Children's Villages

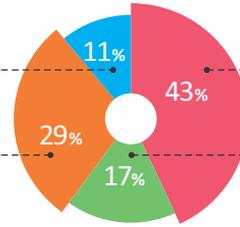


Committed to financial credibility and transparency

How your Donation is Utilised

Administrative Expense

Integrated Education Support



Child Family Expense

Health & Nutrition

25,000+

children are being cared for by SOS India annually

32

SOS Children's Villages across India

4

generations of children settled since 1964

There are many ways in which you can make a difference and help change the lives of vulnerable children across the country.



Provide for vulnerable children through your contributions

Millions of children are growing up alone; surviving daily battles of life without love, care or support from anyone. To provide these children with the best chance for a fulfilled and happy life within their own family environment, we need YOUR support.

DONATE NOW



Share your sponsorship story with us!

By sharing your sponsorship story, you can help maximise our impact and help us reach out to the most vulnerable and at-risk young children.

Share your sponsorship story with us at sulabh.mathur@soscvindia.org



Spread the word and share the hope

Whether you are donating or spreading the word about us, you are part of the movement to protect and care for abandoned children. You can be the spark others need to get involved.



Step up as an ambassador for a crowdfunding campaign

Scale up donations through online fundraising! Start your own online, crowdfunding campaign on behalf of SOS India and secure the future of many more vulnerable children.

Like, follow and share SOS India on social media

soschildrensvillages.in

[facebook/sosindia](https://facebook.com/sosindia)

[instagram/soschildrensvillagesindia](https://instagram.com/soschildrensvillagesindia)

[twitter/SOSVillageINDIA](https://twitter.com/SOSVillageINDIA)

[youtube/user/sosCVIndia](https://youtube.com/user/sosCVIndia)

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