

# Golf ignites change in special children's lives

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TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**MOHALI, AUGUST 23**

Seeing the golf bring improvement in certain special children practicing at the Mohali Golf Range, the Greater Mohali Area Development Authority (GMADA) has decided to encourage more such children to adopt the game at its greens.

Apart from holding a month-long free camp for special children from September 4, the authorities are urging the schools for special children and parents of such wards to send the kids to the range to hone the golfing skills under "special care".

Vini Mahajan, the Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Punjab, and president of the range, said they were encouraged to see "tremendous" improvement in the attitude and aptitude of special children, who have been playing at the range.

"At our range, three special

children — Shivam (18), Savneet Singh and Prashant have been honing their golfing skills. We are amazed to see the improvement that the game has brought into them. Not only their game, but their personality, coordination of body parts and decision making skills have also developed tremendously," said Vini Mahajan.

The elated parents of these "special" golfers confirmed the transformation in their wards.

Patiala-based Rakesh Cajla, father of Shivam, said his son had developed special liking for the game. "Seeing his passion for the game, I have made special arrangements for his visits to the Mohali Golf Range. He comes to the range twice a week to hone his skills."

Similarly, Chandimandir-based Col NP Singh, father of Savneet Singh aka Sunny, said he was happy to see his ward play like a normal golfer at the range.

Colonel Singh, who is adept

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**RAKESH CAJLA**, Shivam's father

"They are certainly special for me as they are keen learners. They listen to my instructions very carefully and follow them. I just treat them like any other golfer"

**HARMEET SINGH KAHLON**, Director

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**VINI MAHAJAN**, President, Mohali Golf Range

at the sport, said a golfer needs to have ability to judge speed, distance and force while chipping and putting in the game.

"Seeing our wards play the game, nobody can judge that they are special children. Their confidence has improved a lot and so has

their ability to interact with the strangers. Improvement in control on body parts, their coordination, their personality, speech and of course the fitness level too has developed tremendously," Col. Singh told The Tribune.

Shivam and Sunny, who look quite confident while

holding clubs in their hands, said they liked the game very much.

"Tiger Woods is my favourite player," said Sunny, who was detected as a special child at the age of four.

Their coach Harmeet Singh Kahlon, an Arjuna Awardee, and also the director of the range, said he had developed special bond with these "special learners".

"They are certainly special for me as they are keen learners. They listen to my instructions very carefully and follow them. I just treat them like any other golfer," said Kahlon.

He further said he was excited to see that golf was playing a vital role in his wards' lives.

"Seeing substantial improvement in their attitude and aptitude after adopting the game, we have decided to do more for such children. More programmes would soon be chalked out for special children to bring positive changes in their lives through the game," added Mahajan.



Coach and Mohali Golf Range director Harmeet Singh Kahlon (left) looks on as Shivam plays a shot. Also seen in the picture is Savneet Singh (second from left). VICKY GHARU