



The Starting Block (Dev Roy, Founder)

Dear Readers,

The 2010 Delhi Commonwealth Games have concluded with a BIG LOUD BANG bringing to end months of speculation, controversy and anxiety. The enthralling event is testimony to the fact that India is capable of competing on an international platform and a prime example of 'resurgent India' – a virtue inherited from our forefathers. Despite any negativity that surrounded the event, the athletes, organizers and people of Delhi have made India proud by their strong will and ambition to make the Games unforgettable!

Despite indications over the past year that Indian Athletes have been growing in stature and performance, no one predicted 101 Medals and a second place finish! All 619 members of the Indian contingent played their role in making this India's best ever performance at an International Sports Event. Shooting, Wrestling, Athletics, Weightlifting were just some of the sports that India dominated. Every medal won will be talked about for generations to come, while some victories will always be considered stand-out moments. The Indian Women's relay team clinching Gold in a thrilling dash, Prasanta Karmakar's medal in aquatics, Gagan Narang and his 4 Golds and Saina Nehwal's Gold on the last day are just some of these Kodak moments that will inspire the children of our country to dream big, aim high and reach further! This is the real legacy of these Games, inspiring the youth of the nation to take up sports and bring laurels back to the India.

The foundation has been laid and its now time for us to consider ourselves as serious contenders for the 2012 London Olympics. Who knows maybe one day we will finish top two at the Olympics. We at LeapStart are proud to do our part by nurturing the next generation of sports stars.

Till next time! Jijo Utho Bado Jeeto
Dev!

Partnership in Practice

Global Public School:

Located in the beautiful city of Kochin, Global Public School is one of Kerala's most highly respected educational institutes. In the pursuit of 'a better world, through better education', the institute focuses on imparting high-quality education to produce responsible individuals with an eagerness to learn and an ambition to succeed. Backed by stunning infrastructure and a powerhouse of dedicated, open-hearted and energetic faculty, Global Public School is taking the Indian Education System to the next level.

Global Public School realizes the importance of a well-rounded education, placing equal importance on academics as well as sports and extra-curricular activities. With a path-breaking curriculum that is child centric, the school boasts of a unique educational experience. Students are provided a fine balance between a modern outlook and traditional values, so that they become progressive thinkers with social responsibility. With a thorough understanding of the important role sports and physical education play in the development of a child, Global Public School has partnered with LeapStart so that every student benefits from this revolutionary program.



MindPlay: Raining Medals!

Question:
How many Gold,
Bronze and Silver
Medals did India win
at the 2010
Commonwealth
Games?

Send in your answers to
info@leapstart.co.in and stand
a chance to win exciting
LeapStart merchandise.

Congratulations...

**Anvitha Anand
of DPS Bangalore!**

for successfully
tackling September's
MindPlay Quiz.



Mr. Ananda Sanjeev father of Anvitha Anand

"I was pleasantly surprised about this program thanks to a vibrant introduction when we visited the school for an "Open House" program. I am sure Anvitha will not only be studious but a fit kid becoming competitive in body, mind and beyond books."

We took on LeapStart as our partner after considerable deliberation. Today, five months into this partnership I am happy to state that our fitness programme and sports events have certainly been given a boost, thanks to their presence and activities at our school. I am particularly happy about the fact that their entire curriculum is well structured and that their coaches are involved and enthusiastic."

Best Wishes,

**Lakshmi Ramachandran, The Dean
Global Public School, Kochin**

Asian Games

Going to Guangzhou



The 2010 Commonwealth Games have come and gone, leaving behind a phenomenal sporting revolution in an otherwise cricket crazy country. The unknown athletes of yesterday have exploded into the heroes of today, and all eyes are firmly gripped on this inspiring resurgence which is now headed to the home of Asia's Super Power – China, for the 2010 Asian Games. Delhi 2010 has laid the foundation for a new era in the enthralling journey of Indian Sports, and the next stop – Guangzhou, China.

From November 12th – 27th, the southern city of Guangzhou will play host to the 16th edition of the Asian Games. This 16 day extravaganza will witness 476 events in 42 sports, making it the largest ever event in the history of the games. With 17 training venues in addition to the 53 competition venues, athletes from across Asia will be treated to world class infrastructure and state of the art facilities. Nearly 8,500 athletes will be taking part and the level of competition will be fierce, a huge increase from Beijing 1990, where 6,122 athletes competed for the medals at stake. With a conflux of international talent and the rich cultural heritage of China on full display, "Thrilling Games, Harmonious Asia" is a fitting motto!

From the Indian perspective, the best ever performance at the Asian Games was Delhi 1951, with 51 medals including and 15 Gold. Only in 1982, again at Delhi, did we come close to matching this performance with 13 Gold medals. The worrying statistic for Indian fans however is that we seem to perform best when at home, case in point being the Commonwealth Games 2010. The last time India visited China was the 1990 Asian Games at Beijing. India finished with just 1 Gold medal and 23 medals over-all. Despite what the numbers say, if there was any Indian contingent capable of beating the odds all the way to the top – it would have to be this generation of Indian stars.

The upcoming Asian Games will serve as a perfect barometer to gauge India's progress on the world stage of sports. With tough competition expected from the countries in the far-east, Indian athletes will have to step-up if they have to repeat the success in Delhi. Regardless of the obstacles, India is in prime condition to take on the sporting powers of the World!

Open Day at DPS South School-Bangalore

DPS South School, Bangalore organizes 'Open Days' periodically to showcase to parents what the children have been learning. This time around LeapStart was the featured program and parents and teachers were treated to a unique display of activities over 4 days from the 25th to the 31st of August. 413 students from Grade 2 participated in the spectacle along with their teachers to demonstrate the LeapStart Program. Parents got first-hand experience of the wonders of the program through an activity specially organized for them. Thanks to the Open Day, parents at DPS South have a better understanding of the Program and are left with the knowledge that LeapStart ensures that health and fitness is an important aspect of any well-rounded education system.



Profile of the Month:



Give any youngster the opportunity to work with the likes of Chelsea and Liverpool and they will jump at the chance. Pradhyum Reddy is one of the lucky few living out his dream. Born in the UK and raised in India, Pradhyum has always been an avid footballer playing at junior ranks before moving back to the UK to complete his graduation. It is here that Pradhyum began pursuing his dream job of becoming an international football coach. After years of hard work and determination and many stints in the US and UK, Pradhyum has officially become a UEFA-certified 'A' licensed coach. After an unforgettable experience working with the England Team and Michael Owen in particular, Pradhyum is now back in India to share his expertise and take Indian Football to the next level. At present Pradhyum is the first team coach of Shillong Lajong FC.

Q. Describe your first experience on the football pitch, what position did you play?

I started playing way back when I was 5 or 6 years old. I remember stepping onto the pitch and thoroughly enjoying myself. I was and still am very passionate about the game. I am a midfielder but like playing as a striker on occasion.

Q. What drove you to become a coach?

When I went to the UK to complete my graduation I realized the gulf in class between Indian and European footballers. However I still wanted to be associated with the game I love so much. That's how I started pursuing coaching. Having worked with some of the best footballers and clubs in the world, this is definitely the best job in the world.

Q. How important are structured P.E classes to young children?

Especially in sports like football, if you have to teach kids the basics in passing, controlling and shooting it is essential that they have very good body mechanics. They need to have a strong foundation. Many kids I see these days have poor running techniques, and are not provided the right kind of learning early on. That is why I am glad to be part of Programs like LeapStart who are providing children across the country the right kind of organized physical education.

Q. Is Indian Football heading in the right direction?

Definitely, for a very long time no one was willing to invest in the sport but things are changing. The authorities have brought in foreign coaches with great experience not just for the national team but for the youth teams as well. The next generation of Indian stars are quickly climbing the ranks and the future is bright. The next step is for state organizations and clubs to ensure quality coaching for all youngsters and not just the state or club teams.

Q. Who is your favorite player? Which club do you support?

My favorite player is Diego Maradona. I am a huge Tottenham Hotspur fan. As I coach I love the Arsenal and Barcelona style of football.

Contact Us

LeapStart is a Sports & Fitness program that ensures fitness is a critical element in the academic and social development of children.

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