



The New Indian Express



Tiny tots race to the finish line

Express News Service

Bangalore: After Saina Nehwal and Mary Kom won laurels for the country at the Olympics 2012 in London, tiny tots of the city showcased their talent at the three-day mini Olympics held in the city recently. Jain Heritage School hosted the fifth mini Olympics 2012 at their campus. R Rajan, former international basketball player was the chief guest of the event.

JHS children along with other participating schools sportingly participated in various track and field events. A number of schools took part in the event.

The schools that participated were: Sindhi High School, Federal Public School, Kenneth George School, Red Hills High School, New Baldwin School, Presidency School, and Visistha Play School. Events like bouncing ball, get set in net, ball 'n' basket, garland race, market, rully poly and fishing race were held. The winners were awarded medals and

certificates.

Explaining the importance of sports in schools, Archana Vishwanath, Principal of Jain Heritage School said, "Sports need to be encouraged at a grass root level. Sports have to be introduced as a compulsory subject at the school level with all the students participating in various activities."

"We need to have a government sports policy in place starting from kindergarten and we need to identify talent at a very young age. Talented kids need



Children competing in track and field events | EXPRESS PHOTO

Children had a great time participating in various sporting events

to be given professional coaching in schools," she said and added that such events provide a platform for students to showcase their talent. Students need to be exposed to such events at an early age. City Express interacted with the parents of a few participants. "Such events are really helpful as it helps children build talent, team work and leadership skills. It also enables personal growth mentally and physically," said Yogesh J Lowalekar, as he cheered for his child who was participating in the event.

He further added that all sports should be given importance in India and not just cricket. "My child is extremely interested in tennis. We are encouraging him to pursue his interests," he said with a smile.

Another parent Vijay Mewada felt that rather than stressing about winning and losing, it is more important for children to have a good time at such events.

"Such events can be a good introduction to games. Children must be given a chance to enjoy themselves," he said.

Another parent Sanjay Arudi said, "Such events should be organised at least twice a year. This way children can get an opportunity to learn from their mistakes."