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# SPORTS WING

An E Newsletter of Sports Wing

## **Singapore Youth Olympic Games 14 - 26 Aug 2010**

### **About the Youth Olympics**

The 2010 Summer Youth Olympics, officially known as Games (YOG), was an international multi-sport event for youths that took place in the city-state of Singapore from 14 to 26 August 2010.

It was the inaugural Summer Youth Olympics, a major sports and cultural festival celebrated in the tradition of the Olympic Games. Three thousand, five hundred and thirty-one athletes between 14 and 18 years of age from 204 National Olympic Committees (NOCs) competed in 201 events in 26 sports.

In accordance with IOC guidelines, only youths aged between 14 and 18 years participated in the 2010 Summer Youth Olympics. Unlike the Olympic Games, the youth athletes taking part in YOG were expected to stay in the host city throughout the Games to take part in an integrated sport and culture and education programme (CEP). The qualifications for participation in the Games differed by sport, and were determined by the NOCs and international sports federations. Two hundred and four out of all 205 National Olympic Committees (NOCs) that existed as of 2010 competed in the Games.



**Singapore: Dr. Jacques Rogge, President of the IOC addressing during the Olympic Walk**

### **Participation of the Sports Wing of RERF / BKs**

The three faculty members of the Sports Wing of Rajyoga Education and Research Foundation / B.Ks participated in the first edition of the Youth Olympic Games namely: B.K. Shashi Prabha - National Co-ordinator, Sports Wing, B.K. Jagbir Singh - HQs Co-ordinator, Sports Wing and B.K. Onkar – Faculty member of the Sports Wing.



**BK Shashi Prabha (C), BK Jagbir (L) and BK Onkar (R) of Sports Wing**

## Olympic Walk

The Olympic Walk marked the Inaugural Youth Olympic Games in Singapore which was launched at the Marina Bay Waterfront Promenade on 13 Aug 2010. IOC President Jacques Rogge had put soil during a tree planting ceremony at the Marina Bay Walk.

Some 900 students and school officials joined members from the National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and three of the Sports Wing faculty members to dedicate 210 trees in tribute to the unity of the Youth Olympic Games family and to officially open the Olympic Walk. Each tree was adorned with a unique plaque, designed by students from Singapore schools paired with the Participating NOCs under the Friends at YOG programme.



**Olympic Walk: BK Shashi Prabha (C) and BK Jagbir (L) with the Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore Teo Chee Hean (R)**

Gracing the event were Dr. Jacques Rogge, President of the International Olympic Committee; Mr Teo Chee Hean, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, and President of Singapore National Olympic Council; Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports; Mr Sergei Bubka, Chairman, Coordination Commission for the 1st Summer Youth Olympic Games, in addition to NOC representatives and members from the IOC Executive Board and High Ranked Singaporean Officials.

For Sports Wing, this marked the first opportunity to meet representatives from their adopted NOC especially the President of the International Olympic Committee Dr. Jacques Rogge, Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore Teo Chee Hean and Mr Sergei Bubka of Ukraine, World Champion Pole Vaulter (who broke 35 times world record).

"We met a lot of sports legends from different nations. And to be here, when history is being made, as this is the first Youth Olympics is a privilege and an honour," said BK Shashi Prabha.

The Olympic Walk also seeks to recognize and affirm the solidarity of the Olympic Movement.

Also speaking at Friday's event, Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean said it's significant that the tree dedication ceremony took place at Marina Bay, as many key YOG venues are located in the area.

"The trees planted along the Marina Bay Waterfront Promenade stand tall as a symbol of Singapore's commitment to international friendship and respect.

As a proud member of the Olympic family, we are dedicated to furthering the Olympic Movement and promoting sporting excellence at home and abroad," said Mr Ser Miang NG, Chairman of the Singapore Youth Olympic Games Organising Committee (SYOGOC).



**Gracing the Olympic Walk event**

The impact of Singapore 2010 will be felt well beyond the Games. Permanent physical installations such as the Olympic Walk, the Youth Olympic Park and the Singapore Youth Olympic Museum will be inspiring reminders of the first-ever Youth Olympic Games for many years to come. At the Marina Bay Waterfront Promenade, future generations of sportsmen, educators and artists will be able to discover and embrace the Olympic values of Excellence, Friendship and Respect.

## Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony of the Games was held on 14 August at The Float at Marina Bay, a floating stage near downtown Singapore. Approximately 27,000 spectators attended the event, which took place against a backdrop of the city's skyline.



**BK Shashi Prabha during the Opening Ceremony of the SYOG**

## Memorable meeting with the Sports Legends

It was a memorable for the faculty members of the Sports Wing meeting star pole vaulters Sergei Bubka and Yelena Isinbayeva. Yelena was a brand ambassador for the event.

"I met Yelena Isinbayeva, which is something I would remember forever. She is so humble and fit, it was during a press conference she asked me about the Sports Wing activities, I told her that I serve an NGO to promote values in sports. I also met other Olympic champions who came here to support the Games. It is something that would be with me all forever," said Jagbir Singh.

Isinbayeva is a two-time Olympic champion and has 27 world records to her credit, which has prompted many to dub her as the greatest pole vaulter of all time.

"The whole experience was just fantastic. Being here with so many international stars and athletes felt very well." Said BK. Onkar.

## Closing ceremony

The closing ceremony of the Games was held on 26 Aug at The Float at Marina Bay. A crescendo of drums, an eclectic array of singers and an elaborate fireworks display brought an end to the inaugural Youth Olympic Games (YOG) on Thursday.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Jacques Rogge closed the event on the world's largest floating platform at Marina Bay and handed over the Olympic flag to the mayor of Chinese city Nanjing, the hosts of the 2014 youth Games.

The ceremony featured messages from three YOG ambassadors and Olympic gold medallists – Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt, American swimmer Michael Phelps and Russian pole vaulter Yelena Isinbayeva -- with all the youth athletes situated on the stage.



**Pole Vaulter Sergei Bubka with BK Shashi Prabha**



**BK Jagbir Singh with Yelena Isinbayeva who is a two-time Olympic champion and has 27 world records to her credit in pole vault.**

Rogge was given rapturous applause by the 27,000 capacity crowd after telling Singapore they had done a "superb job" in hosting the Games, an event he had been pushing for throughout his presidency.

Earlier, in his closing news conference, Rogge said: "The Youth Olympic Games have exceeded vastly my highest expectations."

"I now have 22 Olympic Games under my belt but (Singapore) ranks at the very top."

### India finish with eight medals at inaugural Youth Olympics

The Indian contingent returned home with a rich haul of medals from the inaugural Youth Olympics. India finished their campaign with an overall tally of eight medals which include six silver and two bronze.

China was at the top of the medals tally with 30 gold, 16 silver and 5 bronze medals. With 43 medals (18 gold, 14 silver, 11 bronze) Russia finished second while South Korea bagged the third position with a total of 19 medals (11 gold, 4 silver, 4 bronze).

India finished 58th among the 84 countries that won medals, though it could have finished much higher with a gold to show. Nevertheless, Indian athletes would be happy with their performance. India had sent a contingent of 32 athletes.

India put up a good show at the event and won medals in athletics, boxing, wrestling and tennis. Wrestler Pooja Dhanda won the first medal for India by winning a silver in the women's 60kg freestyle. Another wrestler, Satywart Kadian won a bronze in the men's 100kg freestyle.

Discus thrower Arjun sprung a surprise by pocketing a silver and giving India its first medal in athletics. Durgesh Kumar followed it up with a silver in the 400m hurdles final.

Shuttler HS Prannoy, who has been making waves at junior level and won a bronze in the world championships, had an impressive tournament but lost to Pisit Poodchalat of Thailand in the boys final, bagging a silver.

Tennis sensation Yuki Bhambri, who stunned second seed Damir Dzumhur of Bosnia and Herzegovina, had to contend with a silver after he was forced to retire in the final against Juan Sebastian Gomez of Colombia because of cramps. Yuki was trailing in the third and deciding set when he retired hurt 7-6(4), 6-7(4), 1-4.

The Indian boxers Shiva Thapa and Vikas Krishan won silver and bronze in the 60kg and 54kg category.



Indian Wrestling Team Pooja Dhanda, Satywart Kadian and coach Sujeet Maan with RK Jaohir



Mohammad Yousef Al Mana, Chairman of Qatar's delegation with BK Shashi & BK Jagbir.



BK. Onkar with the Indian Boxing Team coach Ganapathy Manoharan in Sports Village.

## Service Photos during the Singapore Youth Olympic Games



Opening Ceremony of the Singapore Youth Olympic Games – the Historical beginning of the games.



Singapore Youth Olympions during a Sports Tour in a garden.



The mascots for the Singapore Youth Olympic Games in a group photo with the Volunteers



BK Jagbir Singh with the Indian Basketball coach Sridhar Shanmugam after the match.



BK Onkar with Indian Athlete Arjun (Discuss Throw)



BK Shashi Prabha in Badminton Sports Station.



Indian Lawn Tennis Player Yuki Bhambri after his match



Indian Table Tennis Coach Manjit Singh Dua in SYOG



The mascots of the SYOG with Sports Wing Faculty members.



Lord Sebastian Coe, Chairman of London Olympics – 2012 Organising Committee with BK Jagbir.

**‘I always knew it would be well organized but I did not expect this level of perfection’ – IOC President Jacques Rogge on SYOG.**

**‘Thanks a lot to the Sports Wing faculty members who came long way to support our players. We get lot of encouragement by your presence and efforts.’ said Indian Wrestling Coach Sujeet Maan.**



**Congratulations SYOG**

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