

Badminton a smash hit

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MSSA Inter-school tournament witnesses a sharp rise in the number of entries for the 2013 competition.

The popularity of Badminton appears to be soaring among the city's schoolchildren with the number of entries for this year's MSSA Inter-school Tournament, which starts on Sunday, witnessing a sharp increase of nearly 28 per cent.

Inundated by interest in the Tournament and with a view to accommodate a total of 830 participants this year, compared to the 650 that signed up in 2012, the MSSA has booked two venues to host the Tournament instead of one, with Bombay Gymkhana the new venue in addition to the Cricket Club of India, which has for years served as the only venue. The jump in participating numbers corresponds directly with an increase in the number of Schools that have signed up for the competition, with 127 institutions sending their wards into battle, compared to last year's 97.

"This year the entries have increased and many more Schools have come forward and registered their entries. This year there are 830 entries for this event as compared to last year when we had 650. This year 127 schools have participated, while last year there were 97 schools which had enrolled in the tournament," SL Pol, the MSSA Badminton Secretary, told Mirror.

IBL stirring up interest:

Pol believes the sport's stock is on the rise because it is relatively cheap to play. He feels the ongoing Indian Badminton League (IBL) is another reason for the surge in entries.

"The sport is getting popular because of the IBL and being a cheap sport, students are taking more interest in it. A good racquet will cost you around Rs1,000 and with it you can play for the whole year," said Pol.