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A Perfect Serve by Amritraj Brothers

Once regarded as the ‘A’ in the ABC of tennis and one of the game’s greatest players. Vijay Amritraj was in the City recently with his brother Anand Amritraj. Amidst their busy schedule, they took time off to visit Jayanagar Centre of Parikrma, a school for slum kids.

The school’s curriculum is formulated such that kids passing out of this school are fit to compete with their more privileged counterparts. Apart from ICSE syllabus, they also get a chance to learn things like art, film-making, photography, sports, computers, vedic maths, astronomy etc.

Jayanagar Centre of Parikrma also provides Health care to the family along with vocational training to older siblings to help bring then family above poverty line. The tennis duo were taken around the school to give them an insight into the functioning of the school. Even as the brothers admired the wall murals, they were lead to classrooms named after astronomical objects. The students asked them many questions which they patiently answered.

The duo were at their wit’s end when asked to explain how different is ‘love’ in tennis from the ‘love’ between two people. “Who wins when the two of you play against each other?” They replied by pointing fingers at themselves. The students then explained a new sport called ficket, a marriage of cricket and football.

Both Anand and Vijay listened intently and praised the children for the confidence they had.