

# Kids tee off at camp, eye professional golf tourneys

## Gaekwad Baroda Golf Club Starts Junior Coaching Camp To Produce Champs

Tushar Tere | TNN

**Vadodara:** 'Catch them young and produce champions' is the mantra at the Gaekwad Baroda Golf Club. In an initiative to promote golf in the city, the club has organised a summer golf coaching clinic for children. Children between the age of eight and 18 are being taught the basics of golf - right from teeing off to hitting a birdie.

The camp has been organised with the support of The Indian Golf Union. And, the initiative has got good response with over 50 children getting enrolled for the camp. "Golf is a professional game and one needs time to learn it. If we have to produce champions, we have to catch them young. So, we thought of starting a coaching camp for children interested in learning golf in the city," said Deepak Anand, club captain who came up with the idea of bringing in children.

"Golf is now an Olympics game and the idea behind the junior coaching camp is to



Ashwin Rajput

Children being coached at the Gaekwad Baroda Golf Club

produce international golfers. Most golfers learn the game at an average of 35 and they rue the fact that they joined late. If we are able to train golfers at young age, they may go on to win international tourneys," added Anand.

The coaching began on Saturday and the participants will be taught golf in 21 sessions spread over one-and-a-half months. Towards the end of the camp, the club headed by

Samarjitsinh Gaekwad will organise a tournament to pick up talented golfers amongst the children.

"Winners of this tournament will be given intense training. The idea is to field them for Western India Junior Golf Open tournament that will be organised in the city in November this year. We are first in the state to introduce junior coaching camp," Anand told TOI.