

As an organisation, ASM Technologies has always been inclined towards sport. We have made efforts to engage our employees and team regularly through the medium of sport, whether it is through our participation in runs or by planning other means of engagement through sporting outings. We believe that this keeps us fit, healthy and motivated as an organisation, and we fully endorse the values of sport in creating a motivated and engaged community. While we have grasped every opportunity to associate with sport, we were delighted to come across GoSports Foundation, who are contributing towards professionalising the Indian sporting ecosystem.

The GoSports Foundation is a not-for-profit venture working towards the development of some of India's most talented emerging and elite athletes, competing in Olympic and Paralympic disciplines. Joined by India's only individual Olympic gold medalist **Abhinav Bindra**, former Indian cricket captain **Rahul Dravid** and Badminton Chief National Coach **Pullela Gopichand** on their Board of Advisors, their mission to Empower India's Future Olympians is premised on the belief that sporting champions are created when the right talent gets the right support at the right time. The Foundation works with some of India's top junior Olympic and Paralympic talent, through their athlete scholarships and knowledge building programmes.

We had been supporting the foundation through our contributions, but took advantage immediately when the opportunity came our way to make a bigger impact by associating as Partners with their Rahul Dravid Athlete Mentorship Programme. The programme is executing the vision of former Indian cricket captain Rahul Dravid, and what better platform for us to associate with! Along with financial scholarships, Rahul Dravid and his team of experts personally mentor and advise the selected athletes at key phases in their sporting journeys through this programme. 2015-16 was our first year being associated with the programme, and what a delight to find that we were also contributing to the journeys of four Olympians last year, among the 15 other talents across sports. The four included: Sprinter and two-time Olympian M.R. Poovamma, racewalker Manish Rawat – who finished 13th at the Olympics in 20km racewalk, gymnast Dipa Karmakar who placed 4th in the vault finals in gymnastics, and badminton player Kidambi Srikanth who almost defeated Olympic champion Lin Dan in the Olympic quarterfinals. What is even more exciting to note is that the programme supported the journeys of other current and future international champions who made tremendous strides on their quest to put India on the podium at the world's biggest sporting events.

We believe that sport has the power to unite a nation and instil values which hold any society in good stead. It is an immense honour for us to do our bit towards building India through sport, hand-in-hand with GoSports Foundation, which is implementing the vision of a widely respected Indian sporting legend through their programme. The fact that the athletes' lives are being transformed and empowered through sport is the most rewarding part of our association for us at ASM Technologies. We can only hope that our support to this programme will go a long way towards creating a ripple effect and inspire many others to aspire towards and achieve excellence.