



Newsletter



THE WORLD GAMES
**ATHLETE OF
THE YEAR**

Rani Cover Story
on pg 19

#IndiaKaGame

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MESSAGE FROM

Mohd. Mushtaque Ahmad

President, Hockey India



Hi,

The months of January and February were very fruitful for all of us here at Hockey India. The Indian Men's Hockey Team performed brilliantly on their FIH Hockey Pro League debut against Netherlands, Belgium and Australia. It was amazing to see our team go toe-to-toe with top three world ranked teams in the world.

The Indian Men's Hockey Team worked on their skills and picked up new techniques during the national camps and the results were there to be seen when India defeated Netherlands 5-2 in their first match and registered a come-from-behind victory in their second match through a shoot-out. The first match against Belgium also proved to be a great result for the team, with the 2-1 victory also taking the team to the No. 4 spot in the FIH World Rankings for the first time.

We are extremely proud of the Indian Women's Hockey Team and its Captain Rani, who was conferred with the Padma Shri award. She has led by example through her work ethic and excellent performances on the field. She has inspired many youngsters in the country to take up hockey, and we hope that our captain continues to bring laurels to the country.

We are also delighted with our players from both teams, who won in their respective categories of the FIH Hockey Stars Awards, with the Indian Men's Hockey Team skipper Manpreet Singh becoming the first Indian to win the FIH Player of the Year Award, and Vivek Sagar Prasad and Lalremsiami winning the FIH Rising Star of the Year Awards in their respective categories.

The Indian Women's Hockey Team went on their tour of New Zealand where they produced good performances against the hosts and Great Britain, which shall help them further in preparing for a very important year with the Tokyo Olympics later this year.

Towards the latter part of January, we also witnessed some excellent upcoming talent at the 10th Hockey India Senior Men National Championship (A Division), 10th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship (A Division) and 10th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship (B Division). While our senior teams have shown great skill and character on the field, we are happy with the great bench strength for the upcoming years.

Overall, it has been a fantastic and energetic two months for all of us here at Hockey India. We will keep working towards our goal of revolutionizing hockey in the upcoming months and we are delighted to be launching with this newsletter the all new vigour.

TOP HIGHLIGHTS

India start FIH Hockey Pro League with convincing victories over the Dutch

Indian Men's Hockey Team defeat World No. 3 Netherlands in their first two matches of the FIH Hockey Pro League held at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium in Bhubaneswar.

India vs Netherlands

18 January 2020

	IND 5	Rupinder Pal Singh 12', 46' Gurjant Singh 1' Mandeep Singh 34' Lalit Kumar Upadhyay 36'
	NED 2	Jip Janssen 14' Jeroen Hertzberger 28'



World No. 5 Indian team won the first match convincingly with a scoreline of 5-2 which saw forward Gurjant Singh give India the lead inside the first 15 seconds. Drag-flicker Rupinder Pal Singh doubled India's lead as he converted a Penalty Corner in the 12th minute, but Netherlands' Jip Janssen scored two minutes later to pull a goal back for his side. The second quarter saw the Dutch equalize through Jeroen Hertzberger, but the hosts scored twice in three minutes through Mandeep Singh (34') and Lalit Kumar Upadhyay (36') to restore their two-goal lead, with Rupinder Pal Singh adding a fifth in the 46th minute to give India a 5-2 opening win in the FIH Hockey Pro League 2020.

India vs Netherlands

19 January 2020

	IND 3	Lalit Kumar Upadhyay 25' Mandeep Singh 51' Rupinder Pal Singh 55'
	NED 3	Mink van Der Weerden 23' Jeroen Hertzberger 26' Bjorn Kellerman 27'



India gain 50-Bonus point with 3-1 win in shootout

The second match saw India secure a shootout bonus point after the scores were tied at 3-3 after regulation time. The hosts went behind to Mink van Der Weerden's goal in the 24th minute, but Lalit Kumar Upadhyay's scorching finish in the 25th minute saw India equalize. However, two goals in the next two minutes gave the visitors a 3-1 lead as Jeroen Hertzberger (26') and Bjorn Kellerman (27') scored for the Dutch. Chief Coach Graham Reid's team-talk at the end of the third quarter inspired the Indians to score twice through Mandeep Singh (51') and Rupinder Pal Singh (55') to take the game into a shootout. Indian Goalkeeper PR Sreejesh kept out three different attempts to win the points for India, as Vivek Sagar Prasad, Gurjant Singh and Akashdeep Singh, all converted their shootouts.

India vs Belgium

08 February 2020

 **IND 2** | Mandeep Singh 2' | Ramandeep Singh 46'
 **BEL 1** | Gauthier Boccard 33'



Aggressive play by the Indian Men's Hockey Team ensured they beat World No.1 Belgium 2-1 in a thrilling encounter to keep up their winning form in the FIH Hockey Pro League 2020.

It was goals by Mandeep Singh (2') and Ramandeep Singh (46') that saw India gain the winning points against the World Champions at the iconic Kalinga Hockey Stadium in Bhubaneswar on 08 February 2020.

With this sensational victory, India consolidated their World Ranking from No.5 to World No.4 for the first time since the World Ranking system was introduced in 2003.

India vs Belgium

09 February 2020

 **IND 2** | Vivek Sagar Prasad 15' | Amit Rohidas 17'
 **BEL 3** | Alexander Hendrickx 3' | Nicolas De Kerpel 17' | Maxime Plennevaux 26'



World No.1 Belgium came up with a dominant performance to beat India 3-2 in a high-voltage match at the FIH Hockey Pro League 2020 on 09 February 2020. It was goals by Alexander Hendrickx (3'), Maxime Plennevaux (17' & 26') that ensured Belgium's victory while goals by Vivek Sagar Prasad (15'), Amit Rohidas (17') kept India in the hunt till the final hooter.

India made several attempts on goal in the final 15 minutes. They recorded 28 circle entries and 12 shots on goal at the end of the game while Belgium made 19 entries with 9 shots on goal. But it was Belgium who had better ball possession with 53 percent as opposed to India's 47 percent that eventually saw them romp home with winning points.

TOP HIGHLIGHTS

India vs Australia

21 February 2020



IND 3

Raj Kumar Pal 36', 47' | Rupinder Pal Singh 52'



AUS 4

Dylan Wotherspoon 6' | Tom Wickham 18' | Lachlan Sharp 41' | Jacob Anderson 42'

Australia's men moved up to third place in the FIH Hockey Pro League thanks to a thrilling 4-3 victory over hosts India at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar on 21 February 2020.

The Kookaburras were at their imperious best in the first, second, and third quarters, dominating the home favourites to open up a 4-1 lead thanks to goals from Dylan Wotherspoon, Tom Wickham, Lachlan Sharp and Jacob Anderson. However, India produced a spirited performance in the final quarter, with Raj Kumar Pal adding to his third quarter penalty corner with a stunning field goal to make it 4-2 before Rupinder Singh's superb penalty corner drag-flick pulled India to within one goal going into the final eight minutes. Rupinder had a glorious chance to level the scores with a last minute penalty corner, but his effort sailed wide of the mark, giving Australia all three points.



India vs Australia

22 February 2020



IND 2

Rupinder Pal Singh 25' | Harmanpreet Singh 27'



AUS 2

Trent Mitton 23' | Aran Zalewski 46'

India gain SO-Bonus with 3-1 win in shootout

India men produced a near-perfect shoot-out performance to steal a bonus point in Match 2 of their double-header against Australia, with the hosts emerging 3-1 winners in the one-on-ones after regular time finished 2-2 at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.

The result left the two teams locked together on ten points in the FIH Hockey Pro League points table, with third-placed Australia ahead in of fourth-placed India in the standings by virtue of a superior goal difference.



Dignitaries at FIH Hockey Pro League 2020 matches

India vs Netherlands 18 January 2020



Shri Tusharkanti Behera, Hon'ble Minister - Sports and Youth Services, Government of Odisha with **Elena Norman**, CEO, Hockey India



(L-R) - Olympians **Jagbir Singh**, **Harbinder Singh**, **B.P. Govinda**, **Dr. A B Subbaiah**, & **Padma Shri. Dilip Tirkey**

India vs Netherlands 19 January 2020



Shri. Vishal Kumar Dev, IAS, Commissioner-Cum-Secretary, Department of Sports & Youth Services, Commissioner-Cum-Secretary for Tourism, Government of Odisha and **Dr Sudhanshu Sarangi**, IPS, Commissioner of Police Bhubaneswar-Cuttack



Dr Sudhanshu Sarangi, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Bhubaneswar & Cuttack and **Shri Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi**, Hon'ble Minister, Tourism, Odia Language, Literature & Culture, Government of Odisha

TOP HIGHLIGHTS

India vs Belgium 08 February 2020



Dr. Narinder Dhruv Batra, President, International Hockey Federation & Indian Olympic Association, and Member, International Olympic Committee with **Dr. Sandeep Tripathi**, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force, Odisha

India vs Belgium 09 February 2020



Olympians **Mr. B.P. Govinda** with **Dr. A B Subbaiah**

India vs Australia 21 February 2020



Dr. Sudhanshu Sarangi - IPS, Commissioner of Police Bhubaneswar, Cuttack with his wife

India vs Australia 22 February 2020



(L-R) **Shri Abhay** - IPS Director General of Police, Odisha and **Shri Anup Kumar Sahoo** - IPS Additional Commissioner of Police, Bhubaneswar

Hockey India would like to thank Defender Sunita Lakra for her contribution to the sport, and for being a role model for fellow and upcoming players as she announced her retirement. The 28-year-old released the following statement on the occasion of her farewell:

"Today is a very emotional day for me as I have decided to retire from International Hockey. I had been part of this wonderful journey with the Indian Women's Hockey Team since 2008 and through this journey we have seen many ups and downs but we remained as one unit, giving each other the strength and motivation to remain strong and fight all the odds to excel and bring laurels to the country.



I was very fortunate to have played at the Rio Olympics in 2016, India's first appearance in over 3 decades. Many people told me it was a historic moment for women's hockey in India but I always believed this team can achieve so much more. As much as I wish to be part of the Indian team as they prepare for the Tokyo Olympics, my knee injuries have cut short my dream. I have been told by the doctors that I would be requiring another knee surgery in the coming days and I am unsure how long it would take before I fully recover. Pursuant to my treatment, I will play domestic hockey and play for NALCO who have supported my career by providing me a job. I have come a long way in the sport and I carry with me some great memories with the Indian team who have stood strong by my side and the girls were always my family away from home.

I would like to thank my teammates, Chief Coach Sjoerd Marijne and the team support staff. My heartfelt thanks to Hockey India who ensured I was given the best treatment during my injury and I am grateful for their unparalleled support to women's hockey. I would also like to thank Ministry, Youth Affairs & Sports (GOI), Sports Authority of India and Odisha State Government for constantly encouraging us and providing us with support. My family, my husband and friends back in Odisha have been my strongest supporters and I wish to thank them for helping me pursue my passion for hockey. I could not have come this far without their encouragement.

Lastly, I wish all my teammates the very best as they begin the New Year with a new goal to win a medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. I will miss being part of this fantastic team!"

- **Sunita Lakra** Former Defender, Indian Women's Team

TOP HIGHLIGHTS

Indian Women's Hockey Team's tour of New Zealand

The Indian Women's Hockey Team carried out a decent tour of New Zealand from 25 January 2020 to 05 February 2020. After getting off to a good start with a 4-0 win against the New Zealand Development squad in their first match, the Indian Women's Hockey Team lost 1-2 to hosts in a hard-fought match in their next fixture.

India played out another high-octane clash in their next match but went down 0-1 against New Zealand. The Indian Women's Hockey Team returned to form after defeating Great Britain 1-0 in their fourth match of the tour and wrapped it up on a high with a 3-0 victory over hosts New Zealand. The Indian Women's Hockey Team Captain Rani was the top scorer of the tour with three goals.



Rani conferred with Padma Shri Award

Indian Women's Hockey Team Captain Rani was conferred with India's fourth highest civilian award, the Padma Shri Award, on the occasion of the country's 71st Republic Day. Having accumulated over 240 International Caps for the country since making her debut in 2008, the Indian skipper, who was in New Zealand for their matches against the hosts and Great Britain, was elated upon hearing about the announcement,



"I am truly humbled and overjoyed on receiving this news about being short-listed for the Padma Shri Award. This honour is a huge recognition for women's hockey in India. We have come a long way in the sport, and I truly believe we can achieve greater results."

The World Games Athlete of the Year 2019

The Indian skipper also became the first ever Indian to win the prestigious The World Games Athlete of the Year 2019 Award. The Indian Captain received an astonishing 1,99,477 votes, and beat 24 other athletes from 24 other sports to bag the Award. This was the 6th edition of the IWGA (International World Games Association) initiative that recognises and honours an athlete or a team for their outstanding performance in 2019, or for their social commitment or particularly fair behaviour.



The 25 athletes nominated for this award from 25 sports were recommended by their International Federations and in Rani's case, the FIH had recommended her name for the award for her outstanding performance and her ability to lead by example. She was instrumental in India qualifying for the first time in back-to-back Olympic Games.

Rani was adjudged as the winner through the number of public votes garnered. Last year, the Acrobatic Gymnastics couple Mariia Chernova and Georgii Pataraiia (Russia) won the title with 159,348 votes, just ahead of American Powerlifter Jennifer Thompson with 152,865 votes.

MP Ganesh, Former Captain, Indian Men's Hockey Team was also conferred with Padma Shri Award.

Mollera Poovaiah Ganesh, aged 73, was the captain of the Indian Hockey Team and won the Arjuna award in 1973. Ganesh played for India at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, finishing third. He was one of the coaches of the Indian team that won a gold medal at the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow. He was also the chief coach to the Indian team that participated in the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul.

TOP HIGHLIGHTS



Our versatile athletes, Deep Grace Ekka and Manpreet Singh, who received the Sportstar Sportswoman of the Year and Sportstar Sportsman of the Year awards, respectively pose with the Sports Minister of Odisha Shri Tusharkanti Behera who proudly received the award for 'Best State for Promotion of Sports - Odisha.'

Sportstar Aces Awards 2020

Indian hockey players took the honours for other team sports with Men's Team Captain Manpreet Singh and Deep Grace Ekka winning the Awards. Manpreet successfully led India in the FIH Men's Series Final victory as well as the FIH Olympic Qualifiers. Meanwhile, Ekka was instrumental in her team's performance last year where they created history by earning first-ever back-to-back qualification for the Olympic Games.

Hockey India appoints Janneke Schopman as Analytical Coach for Indian Women's National Team

During her playing career, Schopman had 212 international caps for the Netherlands and also successfully led the side for two years before retirement. She also has to her credit a Gold medal at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and a Silver from the 2004 Athens Olympics. She was also part of the Netherlands squad that won the World Cup in 2006, and a Silver in the 2002 and 2010 World Cup.



"I am looking forward to working with Janneke. We know each other for a long time and have the same thoughts about hockey and her experience as an Olympic Gold Medallist and World Cup winner will give the team a good boost in our preparations for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics," stated Chief Coach Sjoerd Marijne.

"I am really excited to work with the Indian Women's Hockey Team. I have followed their game for quite a while and I believe they are a very talented and determined group of players. I look forward to contributing to their zest to achieve desired results for India," stated Janneke.

India to host 2021 FIH Junior Men's Hockey World Cup



The International Hockey Federation (FIH) on 17 February 2020 announced India as the hosts of the FIH Junior Men's Hockey World Cup 2021 to be held towards the end of 2021. After having hosted the previous edition of the biggest Junior-level hockey competition in 2016, when the Indian team were also crowned as the Champions for the second time by beating Belgium 2-1 in the Final match at the Major Dhyan Chand Stadium in Lucknow, India will again be hosting the competition.

TOP HIGHLIGHTS

10th Hockey India Senior Men National Championship 2020 (A Division)



The 10th Hockey India Senior Men National Championship 2020 (A Division) was held in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh from 23 January 2020 to 02 February 2020. Services Sports Control Board were crowned champions of the 10th Hockey India Senior Men National Championship 2020 (A Division) after defeating Air India Sports Promotion Board 3-1. Petroleum Sports Promotion Board beat Punjab & Sind Bank 3-1 to clinch the Bronze Medal.

GOLD MEDAL WINNER

Services Sports Control Board

SILVER MEDAL WINNER

Air India Sports Promotion Board

BRONZE MEDAL WINNER

Petroleum Sports Promotion Board

10th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2020 (B Division)

The 10th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2020 (B Division) was held in Kollam, Kerala from 23 January 2020 to 01 February 2020. Sashastra Seema Bal emerged victorious in the Final of 10th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2020 (B Division) beating Steel Plant Sports Board 3-1 in a shootout after the scores were level at 1-1 after regulation time. In the match for the 3rd/4th place, UCO Bank Women's Hockey Academy finished the tournament on a high, beating Bengaluru Hockey Association 10-0.

FIRST PLACE

Sashastra Seema Bal

SECOND PLACE

Steel Plant Sports Board

THIRD PLACE

UCO Bank Women's Hockey Academy



10th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2020 (A Division)

The 10th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2020 (A Division) was held at Kollam, Kerala from 30 January 2020 to 09 February 2020. Hockey Haryana beat Sports Authority of India 6-0 to emerge champions in the 10th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2020 (A Division). In the match for the third/fourth place, Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy beat Hockey Maharashtra 2-1 to finish third in the tournament.

GOLD MEDAL WINNER

Hockey Haryana

SILVER MEDAL WINNER

Sports Authority of India

BRONZE MEDAL WINNER

Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy



Double glory for Haryana women at Khelo India Youth Games 2020



Haryana's women teams in the U-17 and U-21 categories of the Khelo India Youth Games 2020 bagged the respective gold medals through some excellent performances at the Maulana Md. Tayabullah Hockey Stadium in Guwahati.

In the U-17 Women's category, Haryana defeated Jharkhand 2-1 in shootout, and beat Jharkhand 5-3 in the U-21 Women's category to pocket the top prizes. In the U-17 Men's category, Chandigarh defeated Uttar Pradesh 2-0 in shootout, while Uttar Pradesh beat Haryana 3-1 in shootout in the U-21 Men's category.

TOP HIGHLIGHTS

Bengaluru Universities impress in 1st Khelo India University Games 2020 in Odisha



The first edition of the 1st Khelo India University Games 2020 took place in Bhubaneswar, Odisha from 22 February - 01 March 2020 which saw Bangalore Central University, Bengaluru win the Gold medal in hockey in the Men's category, while ITM University, Madhya Pradesh won the Gold medal in the Women's category.

In the Men's Final, a pulsating contest between Bangalore Central University and Bangalore University saw the tie go to a nail-biting shootout after the match ended 3-3 at full-time. In the shootout, after having been locked at 3-3, it was Bangalore Central University who won in 5-4 in sudden death. In the Women's Final, ITM University, Madhya Pradesh beat Sambalpur University, Odisha 4-1.

Sports Authority of India and Hockey India launch High Performance Hockey Centres

In a bid to further provide state-of-the-art facilities to Junior and Sub-Junior hockey players across the country and to prepare a new group of young players for the 2024 and 2028 editions of the Olympic Games, Sports Authority of India (SAI) and Hockey India in February 2020 announced the establishing of High Performance Hockey Centres (HPHC) in seven different locations across India. These seven Centres will be set-up under the Khelo India scheme, and have been strategically shortlisted by SAI and Hockey India keeping in mind the large hockey-playing population in and around these seven cities and availability of infrastructure.

While the National Hockey Academy at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi; SAI Sundergarh, Odisha; SAI UDMCC, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh; and SAI, Bengaluru will be active within the next 3 months, the remaining three centres, namely SAI NS NEC, Takyel, Imphal, Manipur; Balewadi Sports Complex, Pune, Maharashtra; and SAI Centre, Ranchi and Gomke Jaipal Singh Astroturf Hockey Stadium will be developed over the next 12 months. These centres will be closely monitored by Hockey India and the Hockey India High Performance Director, and the programme will also ensure the athletes are provided with international exposure. The existing SAI Centres and Hockey Academies around India will serve as 'feeder' Centres to these new High Performance Hockey Centres, which shall hold 72 Men and 72 Women hockey players at each location. These young hockey players will be selected from a specific age range of 14 to 24 years in order to ensure that they are developed and prepared in time for the 2024 and 2028 Olympics. The SAI Centre Bengaluru will remain as the main site for the Senior and Junior National Teams.





FEATURE STORY

Mizoram & Jharkhand's women hockey players paving the way for future stars

Guwahati: Mizoram and Jharkhand's rise in women's hockey in recent years has been a wonderful story and both teams have been producing some fantastic players, and their fiercely-competed semi-final match of the U-21 Girls category in the Khelo India Youth Games 2020, was a perfect exhibition of the level that the two states have reached.

A nerve-wrecking, high-scoring encounter saw Jharkhand come out on top after winning 4-3 in the penalty shootout, but it was the spirit shown by both teams which won the hearts of the crowd present at the Maulana Md. Tayabullah Hockey Stadium.

Mizoram's rise can be credited to the Indian Senior Women's Hockey team's forward Lalremsiami, who became the first-ever hockey player from the state to represent the team when she made her debut in 2018. The 19-year-old player has since inspired many girls to take up the sport, including the likes of Lalrindiki and Marina Lalramnghaki, who are the current core members of the Indian Junior Women's Hockey Team. "I am happy to see so many girls taking up the sport now, and

it is also because of the facilities we have now in the SAI Hostel in Aizawl. The players have certainly benefited from the facilities. When I had started playing, there was not even a single turf in our state, but slowly we are getting to a good level. The girls are very talented and I am happy that they have someone to look up to," said Lalremsiami.

Whereas, Jharkhand on the other hand, have only produced a few hockey players who have gone on to represent the country. Most recently, it has been Indian mid-fielder Nikki Pradhan, who has also managed to inspire the next generation of women players. "I feel that players from Jharkhand have the ability to play at the highest level, and through various domestic tournaments organized by Hockey India, these players will learn a lot. We have been able to get some more facilities into place in our state, and that is why we have been performing well in the domestic circuit recently," said Nikki, who is also with the Senior team.

Meanwhile Mizoram's U-21 Women's coach Lalrothua-mi, unable to hide her disappointment with her team's

FEATURE STORY

“ I think the reason why someone would choose to play a sport is because they are inspired by a person very similar to them who has done something big for their country.

- Sangita Kumari



loss in the semi-final, said that the fact that three Junior players from the state are in the junior national camp proves things are improving. “I think Lalremsiami’s rise to the national team at such a young age inspired many young athletes.

There is always football first for many of our children, but slowly hockey is also garnering attention which is good to see. There are various competitions across the country which provide a huge opportunity for the players to experience good competitive environment, and I’m sure they will be helped a lot,” she said.

For Sangita Kumari, who was a constant threat to Mizoram in their semi-final encounter, it is about making it to the biggest stage and winning something for the country. “I think the reason why someone would choose to play a sport is because they are inspired by a person very similar to them who has done something big for their country.

It is something that I want to do for my country as well, and the moment I win something big, young girls in my

state and country will actually look up to me and take up the sport. Nikki didi’s achievements have inspired all of us to take up hockey and win something big,” said the young forward.

The exciting semi-final match saw Mizoram take a 3-0 lead through Lalneihpuii’s hat-trick inside the opening 40 minutes of the match, but constant pressure from Jharkhand helped them in scoring three goals inside the last nine minutes to take the match into a shootout. Jharkhand’s Anjna Dungdung, Reshma Soreng and Sangita Kumari scored the crucial goals.

In the penalty shootout, Mizoram missed their first shot, while Jharkhand converted their first three shots. However, trailing by 3-2, it was Mizoram’s goalkeeper Ramsangliani who displayed nerves of steel to save the next two shots, to take the tie into a sudden death.

Both the teams missed their first shots in sudden death, but Jharkhand’s Albela Rani Toppo produced a stunning, fierce finish to put her side ahead. Indian Junior international, Lalrindiki, who was superb for Mizoram throughout the match and had converted her first shot in the shootout, stepped up to take the deciding execution, but could not beat Jharkhand’s Anjali Binjhia, meaning that Jharkhand snatched a memorable win to progress to the Final of the competition, which the team eventually lost to Haryana.

However, the level of hockey played by the two less-talked about states is something to follow closely in the coming years.



COVER STORY



Queen of Indian Hockey

This new decade began on a positive note for Rani, the Captain of the Indian Women's Hockey Team. First, she was among the five sports people shortlisted for the prestigious Padma Shri Award. Later that week, she was named the World Games Athlete of the Year 2019 after she registered a record number of votes from fans worldwide to win the title. This was the first time an Indian was honoured with this recognition since its inception six years ago.

Rani was also promoted, by her employers Sports Authority of India, to a new role as Coach from her earlier designation as Assistant Coach. "Hockey has given me

everything. Hockey has given me a new life. I still recall the time when I was not sure if I would get the next meal of the day in my house because we were that poor. My father would barely earn Rs100 a day. Life is far kinder now," recalled an emotional Rani.

The current Olympic cycle -- from 2016 to 2020 -- has not only witnessed Rani's meteoric rise in hockey but her contribution to the team as a Captain has been instrumental in the team's success.

In 2016, India won the Asian Champions Trophy, and in 2017 the team Captained by Rani lifted the Asia Cup

COVER STORY

after beating China in the Final. In 2018, the Indian team led by Rani won a historic Silver medal at the 18th Asian Games and earlier that year they also made the Quarter Finals of the FIH Women's World Cup in London. In 2019, the team won the FIH Series Finals in Hiroshima followed by Olympic Test event victory in Tokyo and then in November 2019, they sealed qualification for 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games after beating USA. The feat was significant as it is the first time in the history of Indian hockey that the women's team have qualified for back-to-back Olympic Games.

“ While these awards have made me feel extremely honoured, I am committed to the team's goal of doing well in the Olympics.



These important victories ensured the Indian Women's Team jumped up the world ranking to No.9 from World No.13 in 2016. "Rani didi's personal struggles and her rise in the sport despite facing several odds is quite incredible. When I initially came into the Indian team, I shared a room with her and everyday was a learning experience for me. She has been a constant motivating factor not only for me but for the rest of the team too," express young striker Lalremsiami.

Savita, India's ace goalkeeper and Rani's state-mate from Haryana, stated that Rani's never-give-up attitude and her commitment to the game is what inspires the team.

"I have known Rani for over a decade now. Her incredible will power, ability to never give up and the dedication and hardwork she puts into every single session is what inspires the rest of the team. The awards she has won has brought great attention to the sport and it's important to have a role model in every sport and for women's hockey, it is Rani," states Savita.

With less than six months to go for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, the Indian Women's Team is focused on their goal to win a medal.

"While these awards have made me feel extremely honoured, I am committed to the team's goal of doing well in the Olympics. As a team, our biggest struggle was to prove to everyone around us that we can win. I feel in recent times, with our success at some of the major events, people do believe in us. Doing well at the Olympic Games will be a game changer for Indian hockey and how people perceive women in team sports. Our aim is to first make the quarterfinals and from there on, take it one step at a time," a confident Rani signed off.



FIH AWARDS

Manpreet Singh

FIH Men's Player of the Year 2019

“ I am truly honoured to win this award and I would like to dedicate this to my team. I also thank my well wishers and hockey fans from around the world for voting in my favour. It is truly humbling to see so much support for Indian Hockey. I wish we continue to receive more such support as we gun for glory this Olympic year,” stated an elated Manpreet Singh.



Lalremsiami

FIH Women's Rising Star of the Year 2019

“ I am very honoured to win this award. This is a big moment for me and I thank everyone who voted for me to win this award. This comes as a big motivation for me to do well. I would also like to thank my teammates who stood by me during my personal struggles,” – Lalremsiami



Vivek Sagar Prasad

FIH Men's Rising Star of the Year 2019

“ This is a big moment for me and I thank everyone who voted for me to win this award. This comes as a big motivation to strive harder for the Indian team and give my best as we aim to achieve higher goals for the country. I would also like to thank my teammates especially the seniors who ensured they constantly motivated me enough if I made any mistakes, they encouraged me to give my best,” stated an elated Vivek Sagar Prasad.



HOCKEY INDIA COACHING COURSES

Hockey India Coaching Education Pathway 2020 was conducted in February 2020

After having launched the first-ever Hockey India Coaching Education Pathway in March 2019, which proved to be a success in terms of providing a simplified education structure to help in developing coaches from the grassroots level into world-class coaches of the high performance/international level, Hockey India launched the 2020 edition of the program, which started in February 2020. The Hockey India Coaching Education Pathway 2020 saw the Hockey India Level 'Basic' and Level '1' Coaching Course (South Zone) being held at Kollam, Kerala from 11th to 13th February 2020; Hockey India Level 'Basic' and Level '1' Coaching Course (West Zone) being held at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh from 15th to 17th February 2020; Hockey India Level 'Basic' and Level '1' Coaching Course (North Zone) being held at New Delhi from 19th to 21st February 2020; and the Hockey India Level 'Basic' and Level '1' Coaching Course (East Zone) being held at Ranchi, Jharkhand from 23rd to 25th February 2020. The Hockey India Level '2' Coaching Course will be taking place in New Delhi from 27th to 30th March 2020.

FIH Academy – Hockey India Level '2' and Level '3' Technical Official, Umpire & Goalkeeper Coaching Courses in Bhubaneswar

After the successful completion of previous FIH Academy – Hockey India Level '2' and Level '3' Technical Official and Umpire Courses held during the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2018 and FIH Men's Series Finals 2019, Hockey India in association with FIH decided to conduct another round of Technical Official and Umpires Courses in Bhubaneswar during the FIH Hockey Pro League matches against Belgium and Australia. FIH Academy Educators for the Technical Officials courses included Edna Rutten (Netherlands, FIH Pro League Panel) and Rogier Warris (Netherlands, FIH Olympic Panel). Edna Rutten was assigned as the educator for FIH Academy – Hockey India Level '2' Technical Official Course, which took place from 07 - 09 February 2020. The FIH Academy – Hockey India Level '3' Technical Officials Course also took place within the same dates with Rogier Warris having been assigned as an educator for the course. Over 25 candidates enrolled in total for the courses.



Meanwhile, the FIH Academy – Hockey India Level '2' and Level '3' Umpire and Goalkeeper Coaching Courses were held in Bhubaneswar from 21 – 23 February 2020, with Coen van Bunge (Netherlands, FIH Olympic Panel), Simon Taylor (New Zealand, FIH Olympic Panel) and Yolande Brada (Netherlands) being the FIH Academy Educators for the Umpire Courses, and Carel van der Staak (Netherlands) and Nastasja Erasmus (Netherlands) being the FIH Academy Educators for the first-ever FIH Academy – Hockey India Coaching Education Pathway Goalkeeper Coaching Course. Over 30 candidates who were FIH Level '1' Certified Coach or above attended the Goalkeeper Coaching Course which was aimed at developing Goalkeeping Coaches across the country. "Hockey India's is clearly demonstrating its commitment to the development of umpires and coaches through knowledge and practical-based courses that will equip them to deliver within the modern hockey environment. FIH believe it is important to work with all top hockey nations across all areas of the game. Education is one of the four pillars of Hockey4Life, our global development programme," stated Mike Joyce, Executive Director – The Hockey Foundation and FIH Development Director. Having been organized on the side-lines of the FIH Hockey Pro League, the courses aimed at effectively equipping attendees with practical knowledge and on-ground scenarios. These Courses also provided candidates with the opportunity to study and be assessed on their coaching theoretical knowledge, with the help of formative assessment and development planning.

HOCKEY INDIA MEMBER UNIT ACTIVITIES

Hockey Haryana conducts Women State Championship for Sub-Junior, Junior and Senior categories

Approximately 1000 participants from different parts of Haryana, participated in the Championship which was held at Astro- Turf Hockey Ground in Hisar from 1st till 6th January 2020.

Hockey Hisar won the Senior and Sub Junior Women's State Championships and Hockey Sonipat won the title of Junior Women's State Championship.

Hockey Haryana also conducted the selection trials for Sub Junior and Junior Women players on 5th January and a Special Coaching Clinic was also conducted for the coaches as well as the players.

Hockey Haryana also conducted special preparatory coaching camps for the Khelo India Youth Games (U 21) for Men & Women categories from 30th December to 9th January 2020 at Sonipat & Hisar.



Bengaluru Hockey Association conducts 'A' Division Hockey Championship 2019 – 2020



17 State Teams played 40 matches from 27th Nov 2019 to 11th Jan 2020. While South Western Railway team from Hubli emerged as winners of the tournament V. Raja Hockey Academy and Coorg Hockey Association secured 2nd and 3rd place respectively. Special prizes were given across categories like Best Defender, Best Goal Scorer, Best Forward and more.

HOCKEY INDIA MEMBER UNIT ACTIVITIES

To enthuse and entertain young kids, One Thousand Hockey Legs created its own Mascot, called 'Chhota Cheetah, OTHL Cheeta'



The Mascot was unveiled by Olympic gold medalists Olympians Harbinder Singh & MK Kaushik and World Cup Gold medalist HJS Chimni in a simple but impressive function held at Major Dhyana Chand National Stadium, New Delhi, on 15th January 2019. About 250 kids who were enrolled into the OTHL Scheme in the present Academic Year were also given stickable Mascot for display at their homes. The Mascot was conceived by OTHL OTHL volunteer Abhinav and created by designer Sanjan.

Ananthapuram School Tournament

- An inter-district tournament for school boys & girls



The Rural Development Trust District Hockey Tournament in Ananthapuram, Andhra Pradesh took place from 4th February to 9th February 2020.

Hockey Bhatinda under the aegis of Hockey Patiala conducted coaching Seminar for Goalkeepers on 7th and 8th February 2020

A 2-day seminar was organised by Hockey Bhatinda on advanced training for Goalkeepers. Several young goalkeepers got a chance to be groomed by former Indian Goalkeeper Yogita Bali.



HOCKEY INDIA MEMBER UNIT ACTIVITIES

Republic Day Celebrations

To mark India's 71st Republic Day, Sports Department of Punjab under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner, Bathinda, organised a Sr Men's Hockey Match.

Hockey Patiala also celebrated Republic Day by organising Hockey matches for Sub-Junior and Junior Women.



5th Junior Women State Championship organised by Hockey Madhya Bharat

(12th January & 13th January 2020)

Approximately 206 players from 12 teams participated in the 2-day event in Agar.



District unit Hockey Medak under the aegis of Telangana Hockey conducted 1-day school tournament



9 teams from combined Medak & Sangareddy districts participated in the tournament, which was held at B H E L Grounds, Patancheruvu in Hyderabad on 2nd February 2020.

Khammam District Hockey Association under the aegis of Telangana Hockey conducted Inter-School Hockey Tournament at Charla, Bhadradi on 2nd February 2020



HOCKEY INDIA MEMBER UNIT ACTIVITIES



CDR Nandy Singh Academy honoured the upcoming Anglo Indians who will be a part of the Senior League at Victoria, Australia with a view to uplift the less privileged players of Calcutta on 14 February 2020



In the honour of the 36th National Games of India, 11 disciples participated in the National Games floats in Panaji, Goa on 22nd February 2020

Goans Hockey participated in the carnival floats as part of the National Games 2020 awareness floats.

Hockey Bhatinda under the aegis of Hockey Patiala conducted 2nd edition of Bhatina Hockey Tournament from 15th december to 23rd February 2020

4 teams with 8 players each side play in a round robin format, which is played over the weekends. 2 matches each weekend are played in this format where participants are all 35 years and above.



HOCKEY INDIA MEMBER UNIT ACTIVITIES

Mumbai School Sports Association (MSSA) Hockey tournament 2019/2020

2124 players from 118 teams registered with MSSA Hockey competed in the tournament which was held from November 2019 to February 2020.



10th Hockey Andhra Pradesh Junior Women Inter District Hockey Championship

The 10th Hockey Andhra Pradesh Junior Women Inter District Hockey Championship took place at SPG High School, Nadiyal, from 11th to 13th January, 2020. 200 players from all 13 District Hockey Units of Andhra Pradesh participated in the event which was organized on league-cum-knockout system. In the final match Vishakapatnam defeated East Godavari by 2 - 1 and became champions of the tournament.



10th Hockey Andhra Pradesh Junior Men Inter District Hockey Championship

The 10th Hockey Andhra Pradesh Junior Men Inter District Hockey Championship took place at Government High School, Dhramavaram from 1st to 4th February, 2020. 230 players from all 13 District Hockey Units of Andhra Pradesh took part in the event which was organized on league-cum-knockout system. In the final match YSR KADAPA District defeated KRISHNA District by 3 - 2 and became champions of the tournament.



HOCKEY INDIA MEMBER UNIT ACTIVITIES

Poonch lifts VK Kohli trophy for Hockey J&K UT (Men) Championship 2020 in finals

Poonch lifts VK Kohli trophy for Hockey J&K UT Championship 2020 (Men) organized by Hockey Jammu and Kashmir from 10 -14 February 2020 at KK Haku Hockey Stadium Jammu. Jammu Blue, who were the runners up was awarded with Sham Lal Sharma trophy. For the first time this championship was played on league basis with the motto of this championship "Say no to banned drugs".



Beside distributing the prizes among winners and the runners up, Hockey J&K gave Hockey sticks and complete Goalkeeper kit to the participating teams. Shaeed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh Foundation gave a dozen hockey balls to each participating team.

Poonch won finals of Hockey J&K UT Championship (Men)- 2020 defeating favourites Jammu Blue by 3 goals to 0. Jammu Blue gave tough fight, but Poonch used better skills and won the match.

The teams participated in Hockey J&K UT Championship 2020 (Men) includes Srinagar, Baramulla, Anantnag, Shopian, Ganderbal, Budgam, Poonch, Rajouri, Jammu Red, Jammu Blue, Hira Nagar, Kathua. In this championship daily 4 matches were played. The matches were played as per rules and regulations of Hockey India.

MILESTONES



24 January 2020

6 Months to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games

The day marked the six-month countdown to the much-awaited Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games which will feature the Indian Men's & Women's Hockey Teams in their respective competitions. Having qualified for the biggest competition on the planet by winning their respective FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers back in November 2019, the Indian teams are currently preparing for the Games by competing in various competitions, with the Men's team playing in their first-ever FIH Hockey Pro League, and the Women's team playing the likes of New Zealand, Great Britain recently.



08 February 2020

Raj Kumar Pal makes debut for Senior Team, scores twice against Australia

Forward Raj Kumar Pal made a memorable International Debut for the Indian Senior Men's Hockey Team when they took on Belgium in their first of the two matches of the FIH Hockey Pro League 2020 at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium in Bhubaneswar. The 21-year-old assisted India's first goal of the match which was scored by Mandeep Singh, and helped the team to defeat the World Champions 2-1. In their matches against the Australians, Raj Kumar went on to score twice in the first match though the team went down 3-4 after full-time.



SPOTLIGHT



Indian Senior Men's Hockey Team visit Germany for huge FIH Hockey Pro League ties in April 2020

The Indian Men's Hockey team will be visiting Berlin in the month of April 2020 to face current World No. 6 Germany in the first of their away matches of the FIH Hockey Pro League 2020, with the first match taking place on 25 April, and the second on 26 April 2020.

Indian Junior Women's Hockey Team to fight for Women's Junior Asia Cup 2020 crown



The Indian Junior Women's Hockey team will be back in action as they take part in the Women's Junior Asia Cup 2020 in Kakamighara, Japan from 06- 12 April 2020, which is the qualifying tournament for the FIH Hockey Junior Women's World Cup 2021. India is in Pool A along with Malaysia, Thailand and Uzbekistan, and will start their campaign on 6 April against Thailand, before facing Malaysia on 7 April and Uzbekistan on 9 April in their Pool matches. Top two teams from each Pool will advance to the Semi-Finals to be held on 11 April 2020. The Women's Junior Asia Cup 2020 is the qualifying tournament for the 2021 FIH Hockey Junior Women's World Cup, which will be held in South Africa.

10th Hockey India Junior and Sub-Junior National Championships 2020 to take place in April:



National Championships for Junior and Sub-Junior Men and Women return for its 10th edition in the following order:

10th Hockey India Junior Women National Championship 2020 (B Division)
in Ranchi, Jharkhand - 10 to 20 April 2020

10th Hockey India Junior Men National Championship 2020 (B Division)
in Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 10 to 17 April 2020

10th Hockey India Sub-Junior Women National Championship 2020 (B Division)
in Hisar, Haryana - 13 to 24 April 2020

10th Hockey India Junior Men National Championship 2020 (A Division)
in Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 15 to 26 April 2020

10th Hockey India Junior Women National Championship 2020 (A Division)
in Ranchi, Jharkhand - 18 to 28 April 2020

10th Hockey India Sub-Junior Women National Championship 2020 (A Division)
in Hisar, Haryana - 22 April to 03 May 2020

10th Hockey India Sub-Junior Men National Championship 2020 (B Division)
in Imphal, Manipur - 26 April to 03 May 2020

10th Hockey India Sub-Junior Men National Championship 2020 (A Division)
in Imphal, Manipur - 07 May to 17 May 2020

TOP PERFORMER

KRISHAN B PATHAK



Along with several other players from the Indian Men's and Women's Hockey Teams, Krishan B Pathak has been in exceptional form in recent matches for the Indian Men's Team, with the 22-year-old standing out in India's first match against Belgium on 08 February 2020 at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium.

Pathak, along with veteran PR Sreejesh, produced some fine saves to deny the World Champions, and helped the team in bagging a crucial 2-1 win, which saw India reach the No. 4 spot in the FIH World Rankings for the first-time ever.

The young Goalkeeper was adjudged as the Player of the Match for his performance.

Hockey India donates USD 25,000 to Red Cross bushfire appeal

Hockey India donated \$US25,000 to the Red Cross Bushfire Appeal while also providing Hockey Australia with two playing shirts signed by the Indian Men's and Women's hockey teams to auction with all proceeds going to the cause.



Hockey India lends its support on World Cancer Day



On the occasion of World Cancer Day, players and staff of the Indian Men's Hockey Team showed their support to the patients of this deadly disease as they visited affected patients at the Capital Hospital in Bhubaneswar on 04 February 2020. Members of the Indian Men's Hockey Team met with patients undergoing treatment for cancer in Bhubaneswar as part of the World Cancer Day awareness program.

Hockey India hosts special kids to FIH Hockey Pro League 2020 matches against Belgium & Australia

India's matches of the FIH Hockey Pro League 2020 against Belgium & Australia saw the national federation host 200 special children at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium in Bhubaneswar, with the kids being greeted by the Indian and Belgian Hockey Teams at the end of their matches on 08 & 09 February 2020 and 21st & 22nd February 2020. Hockey India's CEO Ms Elena Norman also welcomed the kids to the iconic stadium for a memorable match-day experience.



TEAM BIRTHDAYS

MARCH

MEN's SENIOR

06 **ASHISH** Kumar Topno

MEN's JUNIOR

01 **SUMAN** Beck

16 **MANDEEP** Mor

APRIL

01 **RAMANDEEP** Singh

24 **KRISHAN** B Pathak

10 **GOPI** Kumar Sonkar

10 **VISHAL** Antil

MARCH

WOMEN's SENIOR

20 **SONIKA**

30 **LALREMSIAMI**

WOMEN's JUNIOR

03 **GAGANDEEP** Kaur

04 **JIWANI** Kishori Toppo

22 **BALJEET** Kaur

25 **LALRINDINKI**

APRIL

10 **REENA** Khokhar

10 **LILIMA** Minz

15 **VANDANA** Katariya

28 **CHETNA**

15 **ISHIKA** Chaudhary

20 **MARIANA** Kujur

IN FOCUS MONIKA

INDIAN WOMEN'S HOCKEY TEAM



My age is 26

My hometown is Gamri, Haryana

I play in Midfield

I made my debut in 2012

My idol is the legendary Dhanraj Pillai

My best sporting moment was qualifying for the Rio Olympics in 2015

If not coaching, I would like to take up a ground to provide basic facilities and infrastructure to young girls

Apart from Hockey I also follow and love the game of football

My most important target this year is to win an Olympics' medal

My favourite..

Actor is Akshay Kumar

Cuisine is Pizza!! But I'm not allowed to eat it at least till after the Olympics

Workout is core and practicing hockey skills

Songs are from the movies Dhadkan and Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam

My gym buddy is Lilima Minz

Go to Karaoke song would be gulabi aankhein

My fashion comfort is in casualwear, trousers, and Indo-Western clothes

My dream destination would be somewhere cold

3 things I don't travel without would be my sports shoes, my prayer book and mints

My 3am buddy in the team is again Lilima

My cheat meal would again be a pizza! Domino's Cheese Burst to be specific



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