

NEWSLETTER

JUL-AUG | VOL.57

COVER STORY

*Olympic Performance
has Increased
the Team's Confidence*



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Message from Hockey India President



Mr. Gyanendro Ningombam

Namaskar,

The months of July and August have been very gratifying for Hockey India. The Indian Men's and Women's Hockey Teams, which have worked tremendously hard in the last five years for the Tokyo Olympics, showed their mettle on the biggest of stages. The Indian Men's Hockey Team brought so much happiness and fervour to the nation when they ended a 41-year Olympic Medal drought at the Olympic Games. Meanwhile, the Indian Women's Hockey team fought toe-to-toe against the best teams in the world and made all of us proud with the way they performed in the Olympic Games. We are certain that the teams will work even harder and produce much better results in the next Olympics.

It was fantastic to see the kind of reception the Indian Teams received when they returned to India post the Olympics. We would like to thank the Government of Odisha from the bottom of our hearts for felicitating our Indian Men's and Women's players and also would like to thank the government of Uttar Pradesh for recognizing the teams' efforts in the Olympic Games.

We are delighted to note that the Indian teams have made the shortlist for all the categories for the FIH Hockey Stars Awards 2020-21. We would like to extend our heartiest congratulations to Harmanpreet Singh and Gurjit Kaur for being nominated for the FIH Player of the Year Award, PR Sreejesh and Savita for being nominated for the FIH Goalkeeper of the Year Award and Vivek Sagar Prasad and Sharmila Devi for being nominated for the FIH Rising Star of the Year Award.

The Indian Men's and Women's Teams have shown the power of grit and determination in the recently-concluded Olympic Games, however, this is just the beginning for the teams. They are certainly looking to evolve as athletes further and win more laurels for the country.

All in all, the last two months have been very exciting for Hockey India. We are certainly looking forward to growing the game of hockey even more across the country in the upcoming months. We will continue to put in the hard yards to ensure that hockey is spreading to all parts of the nation.

Indian Men's and Women's Hockey Team Depart for Tokyo Olympic Games 2020





Manpreet Singh and MC Mary Kom was Indian contingent flag bearer during the opening ceremony of the Tokyo Olympics 2020






A letter straight from Tokyo and their hearts

The Captains of Team India, Rani and Manpreet have penned down a letter to the Indian Hockey fans around the globe.



Top Highlights from Tokyo Olympics 2020: Important results for Men's and Women's Teams




Indian Men's Hockey Team get off to a winning start in Tokyo; beat New Zealand 3-2 in a battle of nerves

| | | | | | |
|---|----------|---|----------|-----------------------|---|
| | | 6:30 AM | | SATURDAY 24 JULY 2021 | |
|  NEW ZEALAND | 2 |  | 3 | INDIA |  |



The Indian Men's Hockey Team got off to a rollicking start in their group stage campaign with a strong 3-2 win against New Zealand in a match that went down to the wire. While it was Rupinder Pal Singh who opened the scoreboard for India in the 10th minute, Harmanpreet Singh extended the lead in the 26th and 33rd minute but it was experienced goalkeeper PR Sreejesh who saved the day for India with excellent work in the goal post to stop New Zealand from converting an equaliser in the dying minutes of the match.

Indian Women's Hockey Team go down 5-1 in Tokyo Olympics opening match vs Netherlands

| | | | | | |
|---|----------|---|----------|-----------------------|---|
| | | 5:15 PM | | SATURDAY 24 JULY 2021 | |
|  NETHERLANDS | 5 |  | 1 | INDIA |  |



The Indian Women's Hockey Team fought valiantly against the World Number 1 Netherlands team in their first encounter of the Tokyo Olympics at the Oi Hockey Stadium. The Netherlands took the lead with an early goal in the 6th minute, however, India fought back and equalized the score in the 10th minute. After playing out a goalless second quarter, the Netherlands took complete control of the match and scored four goals in the second half to seal a 5-1 victory.



Ruthless Australia beat India 7-1 in the second Pool A match

SUNDAY 25 JULY 2021

3:00 PM



AUSTRALIA

7



1

INDIA 



Coming off strong performances against New Zealand in the FIH Hockey Pro League ahead of their arrival in Tokyo, the World No.1 squad displayed formidable form to beat India 7-1 in their second Pool A match at the Oi Hockey Stadium.

Though India created two good PCs in the 8th and the 15th minute, neither could be converted. Dilpreet too made a brave foray into the circle in the 13th minute but didn't have enough support to finish the task. Even though India made 24 circle penetrations as opposed to 22 by Australia in the match, they could not muster breaching Australia's solid defence in the circle.

Indian Women's Hockey Team lose 0-2 to World Number 3 Germany

MONDAY 26 JULY 2021

5:45 PM



GERMANY

2






0

INDIA 



The Indian Women's Hockey Team played their hearts out in their second Tokyo Olympics encounter against the World Number 3 Germany side at the Oi Hockey Stadium. The Indian team had many chances to score, but couldn't find a way to get on board, before going down 0-2 against the Germans. In their third Pool A match. The Indians put more pressure on the Germans, but the German defense proved to be too strong.

Indian Men's Hockey team bounce back with 3-0 win over Spain in their third Tokyo Olympics match




| | | | | | |
|--|----------|---|----------|----------------------|---|
| | | 6:30 AM | | TUESDAY 27 JULY 2021 | |
|  SPAIN | 0 |  | 3 | INDIA |  |



Following a 1-7 loss against Australia, the Indian Men's Hockey Team bounced back in style as they outclassed Spain 3-0 in their third match of the Tokyo Olympics 2020. India started off in an aggressive manner with a structured attack and dominated the possession in the early minutes. Challenging the opponent's defence, India made their moves in Spain's half and created potential goalscoring opportunities.

It was Rupinder Pal Singh (15', 51') and Simranjeet Singh (14') who scored for India while PR Sreejesh ensured a clean sheet to bring India's Olympics campaign back on track.

Missed opportunities leads Indian Women's Hockey Team to a 1-4 loss to Defending Olympic Champions Great Britain

| | | | | | |
|--|----------|---|----------|------------------------|---|
| | | 6:30 AM | | WEDNESDAY 28 JULY 2021 | |
|  GREAT BRITAIN | 4 |  | 1 | INDIA |  |



The Indian Women's Hockey Team played out a hard-fought encounter against Great Britain in their third Pool A match of the Tokyo Olympics, which ended 4-1 in favour of the defending Olympic champions. The match saw free flowing attacking hockey being played by both sides, with World Number 5 side Great Britain emerging winners due to efficient chance conversion.

Goals from Hannah Martin (2', 19'), Lily Owsley (41') and Grace Balsdon (57') seal Great Britain's victory and Sharmila Devi (23') scored the solitary goal for India.



Hockey India congratulates Birendra Lakra on completing 200 Senior International Caps for India

The Indian Men's Hockey team's third Pool match against Spain at the Tokyo Olympics 2020 saw veteran defender Birendra Lakra achieve the milestone of completing 200 Senior International Caps for the National team.



MILESTONE




Hockey India congratulates Amit Rohidas on completing 100 International Caps for India

Defender Amit Rohidas completed 100 international caps for Indian Men's Hockey Team. He achieved this milestone when India took on Spain in their third match of the Tokyo Olympics 2020.



MILESTONE




India soaks up pressure to beat defending Olympic Champions Argentina 3-1 in a thriller

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|-----------------------|---|
| | | 6:00 AM | | THURSDAY 29 JULY 2021 | |
|  ARGENTINA | 1 |  | 3 | INDIA |  |



A resilient performance by India saw them register a thrilling 3-1 win against the defending Olympic Champions Argentina in their fourth Pool A encounter at the Oi Hockey Stadium on 29 July 2021. This was India's third win in the Pool stage which put them at the No.2 spot in the pool A table. India's goals came from dragflicker Varun Kumar (43') called up in place of Birendra Lakra, Vivek Sagar Prasad (58') and Harmanpreet Singh (59'). Maico Casella (48') was the lone goal scorer for Argentina.

Indian Women's Hockey Team defeat Ireland 1-0

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---------------------|---|
| | | 8:15 AM | | FRIDAY 30 JULY 2021 | |
|  IRELAND | 0 |  | 1 | INDIA |  |



The Indians Women's Hockey Team registered their first victory at the Tokyo Olympics after defeating Ireland 1-0 at the Oi Hockey Stadium on 30 July 2021. The Indian team created a flurry of chances throughout the match before Navneet Kaur (57') converted an opportunity in the last few minutes of the match to keep India's Quarter-Finals hopes alive.

With just a little over three minutes left on the clock, Rani, from the right, delivered a brilliant pass to Navneet, who tapped the ball into the goal and helped India go 1-0 up in the match. India continued to put pressure on their opponents in the last few minutes and ensured that they walked away from the pitch as the winners of the match.



India beat hosts Japan 5-3 to finish second in Pool A

| | | | | | |
|-------|---|---------|---|---------------------|--|
| | | 3:00 PM | | FRIDAY 30 JULY 2021 | |
| JAPAN | 3 | | 5 | INDIA | |



Continuing their winning momentum, the Indian Men's Hockey Team registered their third consecutive win in the round robin league stage at the Oi Hockey Stadium on 30 July 2021. The team led by Manpreet Singh beat hosts Japan 5-3 with goals scored by Gurjant Singh (17', 56'), Harmanpreet Singh (13'), Shamsheer Singh (34') and Nilakanta Sharma (51'). Kenta Tanaka (19'), Kota Watanabe (33') and Kazuma Murata (59') were the goal scorers for Japan. With this victory, India were placed second in the Pool A table only behind World No.1 Australia.




Vandana Katariya scores a hat-trick as Indian Women's Hockey Team defeat South Africa 4-3

| | | | | | |
|--------------|---|---------|---|-----------------------|--|
| | | 8:45 AM | | SATURDAY 31 JULY 2021 | |
| SOUTH AFRICA | 3 | | 4 | INDIA | |



The Indian Women's Hockey Team kept their Tokyo Olympics Quarter-Finals hopes alive after defeating South Africa 4-3 at the Oi Hockey Stadium on 31 July 2021. Vandana Katariya (4', 17', 49') and Neha (32') found the back of the net for India and helped their team clinch 3 crucial points in the competition. India's place in the knock-out stage of the tournament was confirmed after the match between Ireland and Great Britain. After Great Britain defeated Ireland, India sealed a fourth place finish in Pool A.

Indian Men's Hockey Team inch closer to end 41-year medal drought; Beat Great Britain 3-1 to book Semi Final berth

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|-----------------------|---|
| | | 5:30 PM | | SUNDAY 01 AUGUST 2021 | |
|  GREAT BRITAIN | 1 |  | 3 | QUARTER FINAL | |
| | | | | INDIA |  |



Carrying the hopes of an entire nation, the Indian Men's Hockey Team lived up to the billing with a scintillating 3-1 win against Great Britain in the Quarter Final of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 at the Oi Hockey Stadium on 01 August 2021. India inched closer to end the 41-year medal drought as they booked the Semi Final berth with help of goals from Dilpreet Singh (7'), Gurjant Singh (16') Hardik Singh (57'). The overall effort ensured India a place in the Semi Final against World Champions Belgium on Tuesday, 3 August 2021. Samuel Ward (45') was Great Britain's lone goal scorer.

Indian Women's Hockey Team create history, make the Semi-Finals of the Olympics for the first time

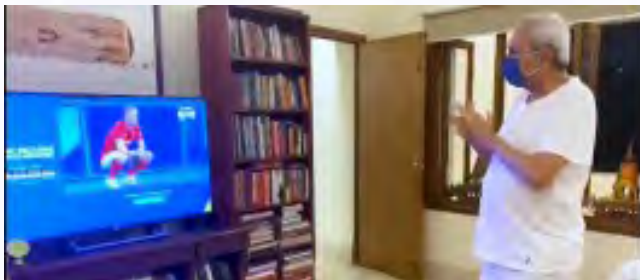
| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|-----------------------|---|
| | | 8:30 AM | | MONDAY 02 AUGUST 2021 | |
|  AUSTRALIA | 0 |  | 1 | QUARTER FINAL | |
| | | | | INDIA |  |



The Indian Women's Hockey Team made history after reaching their first-ever Olympic Semi-Final on 02 August 2021. The Indian team played their hearts out and fought toe-to-toe against the World Number 2 Australia and defeated them 1-0 in the Quarter-Final match at the Oi Hockey Stadium in the Tokyo Olympics. The Indian team were sublime in their attacking and defensive game as Gurjit Kaur (22') emerged as the only goal-scorer of the match.





Hon'ble **Chief Minister of Odisha** **Shri Naveen Patnaik** congratulated **Indian Men's Hockey Team** on registering a stunning **victory** in the **quarter-final** against Great Britain at **Tokyo Olympics 2020**. May the team continue its momentum and bring the much awaited medal for the country. Wish the team **all the best**.



The Hon'ble **Chief Minister of Odisha**, **Shri. Naveen Patnaik** congratulates the **Indian Women's Hockey Team** after their **Quarter Final win** against Australia in **Tokyo Olympics 2020**



Valiant India falls short against World Champions Belgium; lose 2-5 in the Semi Final

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---------|---|------------------------|---|
| | | 7:00 AM | | TUESDAY 03 AUGUST 2021 | |
| | | VS | | SEMI-FINAL | |
|  BELGIUM | 5 | | 2 | INDIA |  |



India's hopes to play in an Olympic Final were dashed by the formidable Belgium squad who came back from a 1-2 deficit to beat the Manpreet Singh-led Indian team 5-2 in the 1st Semi Final of Men's Hockey in the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 at the Oi Hockey Stadium on 03 August 2021. It was a hat-trick by Alexander Hendrickx (19', 49', 53'), and goals by Loick Luyaert (2') and John-John Dohmen (60') that helped Belgium book a place in the Final. For India, Harmanpreet Singh (7') and Mandeep Singh (9') scored the two goals.

Indian Women's Hockey Team go down 2-1 to Argentina in Tokyo Olympics Semi-Final

| | | | | | |
|---|---|----------|---|--------------------------|---|
| | | 03:30 PM | | WEDNESDAY 04 AUGUST 2021 | |
| | | VS | | SEMI-FINAL | |
|  ARGENTINA | 2 | | 1 | INDIA |  |



The Indian Women's Hockey Team put up a valiant effort against Argentina in the Semi-Final of the Tokyo Olympics at the Oi Hockey Stadium on 04 August 2021. The Indian team found a breakthrough in the second minute of the match itself, however, they couldn't hold on to their lead and eventually went down 2-1 in the match.

The Indian team made a great start, making a circle penetration in the second minute of the match. Soon after, the Indians earned a Penalty Corner and Gurjit Kaur (2'), carrying out the drag-flick, didn't miss out on

the opportunity to put India 1-0 ahead early on in the match.

However, Argentina put relentless pressure on India and earned a Penalty Corner in the third minute of the second quarter. Captain María Noel Barrionuevo (18') carried out the drag-flick and found the equalizer. Argentina earned another Penalty Corner in the 5th minute of the third quarter and Captain Barrionuevo (36') converted another drag-flick to put her team 2-1 ahead in the match.



Incredible India beat Germany 5-4 to win the historic Bronze Medal at the Tokyo Olympics Games 2020

| | | | | |
|---------|---|---------|---|-------|
| | | 7:00 AM | THURSDAY 05 AUGUST 2021 BRONZE MEDAL MATCH | |
| GERMANY | 4 | | 5 | INDIA |



The Indian Men's Hockey Team played with all their heart to bring the entire nation joy on a memorable Thursday as they scripted history with a fantastic 5-4 win against a fighting Germany in the Bronze medal play-off match at the Oi Hockey Stadium on 05 August 2021. This victory ended the country's 41-year medal drought at the Olympic Games and has scripted India's resurgence in global hockey. It was Simranjeet Singh (17', 34'), Hardik Singh (27'), Harmanpreet Singh (29'), Rupinder Pal Singh (31') who scored while PR Sreejesh came up with some outstanding saves in the dying seconds of a historic win at the Tokyo Olympic Games 2020.

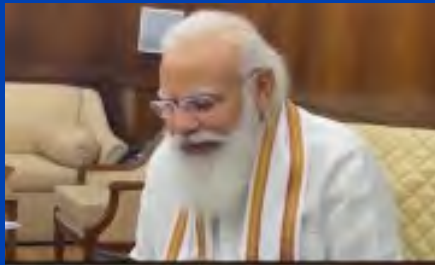
Indian Women's Hockey Team go down 4-3 to Great Britain in Tokyo Olympics Games 2020 Bronze Medal match

| | | | | |
|---------------|---|----------|---|-------|
| | | 07:00 AM | FRIDAY 06 AUGUST 2021 BRONZE MEDAL MATCH | |
| GREAT BRITAIN | 4 | | 3 | INDIA |



The Indian Women's Hockey Team put up a valiant effort against Rio Olympics Gold Medallists Great Britain in the Tokyo Olympics Bronze Medal match at the Oi Hockey Stadium on 06 August 2021. The Great Britain side controlled most of the proceedings in the opening minutes of the match and took a 2-0 lead by the 24th minute. However, Gurjit Kaur (25', 26') and Vandana Katariya (29') struck three goals in quick succession to help India take the lead at 3-2 just before the half-time whistle. Great Britain regained the momentum in the second half and scored a goal in each of the third and fourth quarters to seal a Bronze Medal at the Tokyo Olympic Games 2020.

Hon'ble Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** spoke to the **Indian women's hockey** team members after the **bronze medal** match, congratulated **the team** for their **efforts**.



Hon'ble Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** spoke to the **Indian men's hockey** team members after they beat Germany 5-4 to win the **bronze medal**, their first medal in the **Olympics** after a **gap** of **41 years**.



Hon'ble **Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri Naveen Patnaik** congratulated to the **Indian men's hockey team** after their **historic Bronze in Tokyo Olympics 2020**



Hon'ble **Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri Naveen Patnaik** Spoke to the **Indian Women Hockey Team** and congratulated them for their splendid performance in **Tokyo Olympics 2020** after Bronze Medal Match. They may have lost the match, but they have won over a billion hearts with their grit and hard work.





FEATURE STORY

Indian Men's Hockey Team end 41-year Olympic Medal drought

The date 05 August 2021 will be etched in Indian hockey fans' memories forever as the Indian Men's Hockey Team scripted a fantastic comeback against Germany to win the Bronze Medal at the Tokyo Olympics. The Indian team was trailing 1-3 in the 25th minute, however, Hardik Singh (27'), Harmanpreet Singh (29'), Rupinder Pal Singh (31') and Simranjeet Singh (34') found the back of the net in quick succession to help their team take a lead at 5-3 in the 34th minute. The Germans found a breakthrough in the 48th minute, however, they couldn't equalize the score as the Indian Team went on to make history at the Oi Hockey Stadium.

Earlier in the game, Germany played out the first quarter with incredible pace in their attack and displayed their intent to put India on the backfoot right from the start. Tactical play inside India circle by Timm Herzbruch who pushed the ball to Florian Fuchs. He in turn setup Timur Oruz to score

Germany's first goal in the 2nd minute of the match. Though India had an opportunity to equalise in the 7th minute when they earned a PC but it was fired away wide from the target by Rupinder Pal Singh. India's goalkeeper Sreejesh, on the other hand, made a brilliant save in the 10th minute when he stopped Mats Grambusch from scoring a field goal to extend Germany's lead.

A charged-up German attack continued to play with pace and precision testing India's defence all through the first quarter. They made yet another ambitious attempt at goal in the 12th minute through Johannes Grosse and in the 15th minute Germans used a referral just after the hooter to win their first PC. There were three retakes given following some brave blocking by Amit Rohidas in India's defence. Lukas Windfeder taking a flick could not convert from these chances.



The second quarter saw a flurry of goals being scored between the two teams. While India equalised in the 17th minute when a brilliant counterattack from India led by Nilakanta Sharma made a delightful pass to Simranjeet Singh who put it past German goalie Alexander Stadler.

It was an important equaliser that put India back in the hunt. But Germany earned back the lead in the 24th minute. Nilakanta this time had given away the ball cheaply in the midfield that led to German's attack. It was Christopher Ruhr who made a quick-fire pass to Niklas Wellen who launched the ball into the goal post.

Germany pumped another goal within the next minute when defender Surender Kumar lost the ball to German's double tackle inside the circle. Germany punished India for this error with Benedikt Furk scoring the third goal for Germany taking their lead to 3-1.

India bounced back soon enough with Simranjeet earning a PC in the 27th minute. It was experienced Rupinder Pal Singh taking the flick, and though keeper Stadler made a brilliant save, India's Hardik Singh was quick to take a rebound to successfully put it past the keeper.





Narrowing the German lead to 3-2, India played to their potential by winning another crucial PC in the 29th minute. This time, Harmanpreet Singh does exceedingly well to score his 6th goal of the tournament and fetching a very important 3-3 equaliser for India.

The 10-minute Half-time break was followed by a superb goal for India in the 31st minute through a PC. Germans lost the referral in the process and Rupinder Pal Singh converted a splendid penalty stroke putting India ahead with 4-3 score line.

India scored again in the 34th minute when Harmanpreet Singh was at the heart of a counterattack with his long scoop pass, Gurjant Singh showcased his brilliant stick work making a quick run into the right flank. He entered the circle to set up Simranjeet Singh who completed the attack with a fine deflection. This attack brought back memories from India's Junior World Cup campaign in 2016 that brought the talent of this trio - Gurjant Singh, Simranjeet and Harmanpreet Singh to the fore. The third quarter continued to be action packed with both teams trading PCs. But India did well to hold on to the 5-3 lead.

The final quarter remained tense with Germany scoring a goal off a PC in the 48th minute. This time it was Windfeder who scored for Germany. India gave away another opportunity for Germany to score when an early tackle by Sreejesh when Ruhr was going for a shot resulted in India conceding a PC. But Sreejesh made amends for the mistake with an excellent save to keep India in the driver's seat. The final few minutes was absolutely thrilling with Germany pushing for an equaliser. Germany won their 13th PC with less than 10 secs on the timer but India's defence held on, PR Sreejesh on target to bring home the Bronze Medal.





FEATURE STORY



Indian Women's Hockey Team's best-ever result at the Olympics

The Indian Women's Hockey Team put up a spirited performance throughout the Tokyo Olympics. After going down 5-1 to the Netherlands, 2-0 to Germany and 4-1 to Great Britain in their first three Group Stage matches in Pool A, the Indian eves gained momentum in their last two Pool matches and registered victories against Ireland (1-0) and South Africa (4-3) to book a place in the Quarter-Finals. Facing a formidable opponent in Australia in the knockout stage, the Indian team accepted the challenge head-on and went on to script history when they defeated the Australians to book a place in the Olympics Semi-Final for the first time.

The Indian team put up a strong fight against Argentina in the Semi-Final, but couldn't manage to get past them as they went down 2-1. With a medal hope still alive, the Indian Women's Team played their hearts out in the Bronze Medal match against Great Britain, however, they couldn't achieve a podium finish after coming tantalizingly close. Great Britain; the defending Olympic champions, registered a 4-3 victory over India to clinch a Bronze medal.

Post the heart-breaking loss, the Indian Women's Hockey Chief Coach Sjoerd Marijne told the team that they have won something more than a medal. "We showed a fighting spirit in the Bronze Medal match against Great Britain, but it wasn't enough. We gave away too many PCs and in these kinds of matches, you have to convert all your PCs into goals, and I must say Gurjit (Kaur) did really well. I told the team that we didn't win a medal, but we achieved something bigger than a medal, and that's inspiring an entire nation."

When asked about the turning point for the Indian team in the Olympics during a virtual media conference, Marijne said, "After the Pool match against Great Britain, I was extremely angry with the team. I told the team that if you go down then show that you really tried and then go down. I told the team that they will have to do better and I think the team's mindset transformed after that match. Janneke and I had a lot of individual meetings with the girls and they found the key for the next matches themselves. I think that was an important part of the tournament for us."



The Chief Coach added that the Indian Women's Team players believing in themselves has made him proud, "We always had the belief that we can win a medal and we were really close. The girls believing in themselves makes me really proud. I think that was one of the biggest steps we made. Every girl in the team has her own story and every story is amazing. Let's hope that a lot of women in India have seen this Indian team's performance and are inspired by the team to start playing hockey or any other sport."

Marijne stressed the fact that staying in the moment was very important for the Indian team in the Olympics, "We finished among the top four in this competition and every team is now taking us seriously. I think that is a big step. We have always looked to stay in the moment and be busy with our task. We have tried to develop this mindset for a long time. We wanted to avoid thinking about



winning or losing because that makes you nervous and we wanted to stay away from that."

During the media conference, the Indian Women's Hockey Team's Analytical Coach Janneke Schopman said that she has been impressed with the team's desire to always get better.

"What I have seen in this Indian team is their desire to learn. They ask a lot of questions and are willing to try a lot of things, which is quite impressive. The girls want to learn and want to improve. As a Coach, you want your team to have success, but for me, it was great to see how the team fought and how they played as a team. It's been incredibly rewarding to be part of this team because of their mindset, wanting to learn, to get better, to fall, but to get back up. It's truly been amazing," said Schopman.



After recording their best ever performance in the Olympics in Tokyo this year, the Indian Women's Hockey Team will now divert their attention to the upcoming Olympic cycle ahead of the Summer Games in Paris 2024, with the ambition of going one better and securing a coveted medal for Indian Women's Hockey.



FEATURE STORY

Indian Hockey Olympic heroes get grand welcome in Delhi
After scripting history at the recently concluded Tokyo Olympics 2020, the Indian Men's and Women's Hockey teams were given a grand welcome by Hockey India at the Ashoka Hotel in New Delhi on Monday, 09 August 2021.

Both the Bronze Medal-winning men's team and the fourth-place finishing women's team cut cakes after arriving at the hotel and sang the National Anthem during the felicitation program organized by Hockey India.

Members of both the teams were garlanded and presented with mementos by the delegates of Hockey India on their arrival at the entrance of the hotel amid beat of dhols and loud cheering.

Earlier in the day, Indian Hockey teams, along with other athletes of the Indian Olympic contingent, were accorded a rousing welcome by a huge crowd upon their arriving at Indira Gandhi International Airport.



Here are some glimpses from the felicitation ceremony organised by Government of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports at Ashoka Hotel, Delhi on 9 August 2021





FEATURE STORY

Odisha felicitates Indian Hockey Teams; commits to sponsor Hockey India for 10 more years

The Indian Men's and Women's Hockey Teams were felicitated by the state of Odisha in Bhubaneswar on Tuesday, 17 August 2021, for their inspiring performance at the recently concluded Tokyo Olympics 2020. The men's hockey team won bronze in 41 years, while the women's hockey team finished fourth (best-ever finish) in quadrennial Games.

During the grand felicitation ceremony, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha Shri Naveen Patnaik announced the extension of their partnership with Hockey India for 10 more years. This means Odisha's sponsorship of the Indian hockey teams,

which was set to end in 2023, will continue till 2033.

The Indian Hockey contingent was given a grand welcome at the Biju Patnaik International airport, amid beats of dhol, traditional dance and cheer. They were received by Hon'ble Minister for Sports and Youth Services, Government of Odisha, Shri Tusharkanti Behera, Chairman Odisha Hockey promotion council Padmashri Dr. Dilip Tirkey and Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Sports and Youth Services, Government of Odisha, Shri R. Vineel Krishna.



The members of the Indian Hockey teams had a photo session with Odisha CM and IOA President Dr. Narinder Dhruv Batra at the iconic Kalinga Stadium before the dazzling felicitation program, organized at the Lok Seva Bhavan.





Each player was awarded Rs 10 Lakh, while each member of the support staff was awarded Rs 5 Lakh by the Odisha Chief Minister. In return, as a token of gratitude, both the teams gifted signed jerseys to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri Naveen Patnaik.



Besides, the Odisha government presented five special awards each -- Player with Maximum no. of Goals saved, for men's category was rewarded to PR Sreejesh and for women's category was rewarded to Savita, Player with Maximum no. of Goal assists, for men's category was awarded to Nilakanta Sharma and for women's category we had two joint winners namely Rani & Navneet Kaur, Player with Maximum no. of Defensive Tackles, for men's category was rewarded to Rupinder Pal Singh and for women's category was rewarded to Deep Grace Ekka, Player with Maximum no. of Interceptions in the midfield, for men's category was jointly rewarded to Harmanpreet Singh & Amit Rohidas and for women's category was rewarded to Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam, Player with Maximum no. of Goals scored, for men's category was rewarded to Harmanpreet Singh and for women's category was jointly rewarded to Gurjit Kaur & Vandana Katariya -- along with the cash prize of Rs. 5 Lakh to the Indian Men's and Women's Hockey Teams.





Odisha CM also felicitated Dr. Narinder Dhruv Batra, President IOA, Col. (Dr.) Bibhu Kalyan Nayak, Chair – FIH Health & Safety Committee, Shri Gyanendro Ningombam, Hockey India President, Shri Rajinder Singh, Hockey India Secretary General, and Ms. Elena Norman, Hockey India CEO during the ceremony.





FEATURE STORY

Hockey India expresses heartfelt gratitude towards Odisha for undying support

Odisha - Major Team Partners of Hockey India, has been at the forefront of supporting the sport and it is one of the biggest reasons behind the Indian Hockey Contingent's success at the recently concluded Tokyo Olympics 2020.

While the Indian Men's Hockey Team ended a 41-year Olympic medal drought by clinching the Bronze Medal, the Indian Women's Hockey Team fought hard to earn their best-ever finish (fourth place) at the Olympic Games. These inspiring performances at the biggest of all stages cannot be produced overnight and therefore Indian hockey will always be

indebted to the incredible contributions made by Odisha.

The Odisha State Government, which became the Major Team Partners of the Indian Men's and Women's Hockey Teams in 2018, has extended its partnership with the national teams for 10 more years. The announcement by Odisha Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik came during the State felicitation program, which was organised for the Indian Men and Women's Hockey Teams in Bhubaneswar after their stellar show at the Tokyo Olympic Games 2020.



A team of winners can only be made with a combination of all stakeholders towards one objective. One initiative of the Odisha government was the refurbishment of the Kalinga Stadium for the Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup Bhubaneswar 2018, which gave the Indian Men's Hockey Team an opportunity to play in a state-of-the-art stadium in front of their home fans.

Through the efforts of the Odisha government and Hockey India, many additions were made to the stadium to create an electrifying experience for fans and players. Both Practice and main turfs were re-laid with new blue turf as per the FIH specifications. The capacity of the main stadium was increased to 15,000 and two new galleries, one on North and other on the South side, were added to the iconic

venue, making it a total of four grand Stands.

Following the success of the Men's Hockey World Cup, Odisha also hosted major competitions such as FIH Men's Series Finals 2019, Olympic Hockey Qualifiers 2019 and the FIH Pro League in 2020. The Indian Men's and Women's Hockey Teams have improved manifold after practicing and playing with the aid of world-class facilities and infrastructure.

Moreover, the Odisha government has already commenced the construction of a new world-class stadium in Rourkela city which would be the biggest stadium for Hockey in India with a sitting capacity of 20 thousand. The stadium is set to be utilized for the FIH Odisha Men's Hockey World Cup India 2023.





FELICITATION CEREMONY OF IN

17-08-2021, BHUBANE



Expressing Hockey India's gratitude towards Odisha's undying support to Indian hockey, Hockey India President Gyanendro Ningombam, said "The state of Odisha has been the bedrock of the growth of the Indian Hockey Teams in the last few years. We cannot thank enough the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha Shri Naveen Patnaik and his team for their heartfelt contributions to the evolvement of the sport of hockey in India. Without their infrastructure and astute guidance, it would've been very difficult for the Indian Hockey Teams to play the way they did in the Tokyo Games. We are Hockey India are absolutely elated about the Chief Minister's decision to extend the term as Official Team Sponsor for ten more years. This will certainly boost the sport and elevate it to the next level."

The state of Odisha felicitated the players of the Indian Men's and Women's Hockey Teams on Tuesday, 17 August 2021, for the teams' impressive outing at the Tokyo Olympic Games. The Odisha government presented five awards each (Player with Maximum no. of Goals saved, Player with Maximum no. of Goal assists, Player with Maximum no. of Defensive Tackles, Player with Maximum no. of Interceptions in the midfield and Player with Maximum no. of Goals scored) to the Indian Men's and Women's Hockey Teams and also felicitated Dr. Narinder Dhruv Batra, IOA President, Col. (Dr.) Bibhu Kalyan Nayak, Chair – FIH Health & Safety Committee, Mr. Gyanendro Ningombam, Hockey India President, Mr. Rajinder Singh, Hockey India Secretary General and Ms. Elena Norman, Hockey India CEO during the ceremony.



ODISHA HOCKEY TEAMS

SWAR



Thanking the Odisha government for their tremendous contribution to Indian hockey, Indian Men's Hockey Team Captain Manpreet Singh said, "It was a special moment for us when we achieved our dream of winning an Olympic Medal and I would like to thank the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha Shri Naveen Patnaik, who has supported us throughout our journey. His vision and encouragement have helped us tremendously to achieve this remarkable feat for the country. Thank you so much for your incredible support. I would also like to thank the people of Odisha for coming to the ground and supporting us whenever we have played a match at the Kalinga Stadium. I would also like to thank Odisha for being our Major Team Partner for many years and also extending its partnership with the team for ten more years."

Meanwhile, the Indian Women's Hockey Team Captain Rani also thanked the Odisha government for their massive

contribution to Indian hockey.

"The players have to be the ones to triumph on the field, but a team can only win if it has the necessary infrastructure, facilities and full support of their partners at their disposal. The Odisha state government has ensured that we are given the best facilities so that we can play at our best in every competition and therefore I would like to give big thanks to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha Shri Naveen Patnaik and his team for sponsoring us for many years and helping us achieve our best result at the Olympics. We were extremely ecstatic to know that Odisha will be our official partner for 10 more years. The experience of playing the FIH Olympic Qualifiers at the Kalinga Stadium helped us tremendously while preparing for the Tokyo Games. Thank you so much to the people and Government of Odisha for your massive support in the last several years," said Rani.



FEATURE STORY

Government of Uttar Pradesh felicitates Olympic Medal Winners



Upon the Indian contingent's return from Tokyo, on 19 August 2021, the Uttar Pradesh government felicitated the Tokyo Olympics medal winners and participants from Uttar Pradesh in a felicitation program held at the Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee - Ekana Stadium in Lucknow. Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri

Yogi Adityanath, along with Governor Anandi Ben Patel felicitated the athletes with cash rewards.

Olympic Gold Medallist Neeraj Chopra was given a cash prize of rupees 2 crores, while silver medallists Mirabai Chanu and Ravi Dahiya were awarded rupees 1.5 crores each. The Indian Men's Hockey team – which ended a 41-year-long wait for an Olympic medal in the country's national sport – were felicitated with a cash award of rupees 1 crore for each member of the team. Fellow Bronze medallists PV Sindhu, Lovlina Borgohain and Bajrang Punia were also awarded rupees 1 crore each.

The Indian Women's Hockey Team, which recorded India's best ever performance in women's hockey in the Olympics, were also rewarded for securing a fourth place finish in the Olympics. Each member of the Indian Women's Hockey Team was honoured with a cash prize of rupees 50 lakh.



The Coaches from both teams were also honoured with cash prizes. Golfer Aditi Ashok, who put up a stellar performance but narrowly missed out on a medal on the final day, was also awarded rupees 50 lakh. Moreover, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced an additional award of rupees 25 lakh each to all 10 athletes from Uttar Pradesh who participated in the Tokyo Olympics. Dr. Narinder Dhruv Batra, IOA President presented a memento to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri Yogi Adityanath.

Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath lauded India's best-ever show at an Olympic event and praised the athletes for delivering their best for the country despite the pandemic.



"On behalf of all of you (audience), I would congratulate all the athletes who represented the nation at Tokyo 2020. All these athletes gave their best performance for the country despite the covid pandemic. It shows that every athlete plays for the entire country and they do not see anything else apart from country," Adityanath said during the event.





Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri. Naveen Patnaik felicitated the Indian Hockey players from Odisha

On 11 August 2021, The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik felicitated the Indian Hockey players from Odisha at a function in the Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar.

The Chief Minister handed over cash awards of Rs 2.5 crores to Tokyo 2020 Bronze Medalists Birendra Lakra and Amit Rohidas as well as an offer letter for appointment as Deputy Superintendent of Police in the State Police department.

The Women's Team players, Deep Grace Ekka and Namita Toppo were also handed over cash awards of Rs 50 lakhs each.



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Manipur, Shri N. Biren Singh felicitated the Indian Hockey players from Manipur

To commemorate the stellar performances of the players in the Tokyo Olympics, on 12 August 2021 the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Manipur, Shri N. Biren Singh felicitated Nilakanta Sharma and Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam.

Hon'ble Sports Minister Shri Letpao Haokip, Hon'ble Education Minister S. Rajen Singh, Hon'ble Minister Forest & Environment Shri Awangbou Newmai & Shri Gyanendro Ningombam, President Hockey India were also present in the event held in Manipur.





Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jharkhand, Shri Hemant Soren felicitated the Indian Hockey players from Jharkhand

To commemorate the stellar performances of the players in the Tokyo Olympics, on 12 August 2021, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jharkhand, Shri Hemant Soren felicitated Ms. Salima Tete and Ms. Nikki Pradhan.

He handed over a cheque of Rs 50 lakh, a house with land, a scooty, a laptop and a smartphone to each of the players in the ceremony organised by the Government of Jharkhand.

The Hon'ble Sports Minister, alongside the Secretary and the Director of the Sports Department of the state were also present.



Hon'ble Sports Minister of Kerala, Shri V. Abdurahiman felicitated the Indian Men's Hockey Team Goalkeeper from Kerala

On 12 August 2021, the wall of Indian Hockey, PR Sreejesh receives a grand welcome from the Hon'ble Sports Minister of Kerala, Shri V. Abdurahiman.

Kerala Hockey President, Mr. V. Sunilkumar and other dignitaries were also present during the event in Kerala.





Hon'ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan felicitated the Indian Hockey player from Madhya Pradesh



On 12 August 2021, after a stellar performance in the Tokyo Olympics, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan handed over a cheque of Rs 1 crore as a reward to the Olympic Medallist, Vivek Sagar Prasad.

He has also been made the DSP in the Madhya Pradesh Police and the Government will also give a house to his family.



Hon'ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind congratulated the Indian Contingent of the Tokyo Olympics 2020

The Indian Hockey Teams met the Hon'ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind over a 'High Tea' at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre on 14 August 2021.

Hon'ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind congratulated the Indian Contingent of the Tokyo Olympics 2020 for bringing glory to the nation.



Images Courtesy: Twitter handle of Hon'ble President of India



SGPC felicitated the Indian Hockey Team Players from Punjab the Sri Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple) in Amritsar

On 12 August 2021, the Indian Hockey players belonging to Punjab received a rousing reception after returning from a brilliant Tokyo 2020 campaign and paid obeisance at the Sri Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple) in Amritsar.

Manpreet Singh, Dilpreet Singh, Harmanpreet Singh, Rupinder Pal Singh, Hardik Singh, Gurjant Singh, Varun Kumar, Mandeep Singh,

Shamsher Singh and Simranjeet Singh were present from the Men's team.

SGPC President Jagir Kaur awarded Rs 1 crore to the Indian Men's Hockey Team for winning the Bronze Medal at Tokyo Olympics 2020. SGPC President Jagir Kaur also awarded Rs. 5 Lakhs to Gurjit Kaur for their outstanding performance at the Tokyo Olympics 2020.



India Hockey Team Player's celebrated the **75th India Independence Day** ceremony at the **historic Red Fort** in New Delhi with the Hon'ble **Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi**



Images Courtesy - Twitter Handle of Sports Authority of India



The Hon'ble **Prime Minister** Shri **Narendra Modi** hosted the **Indian Olympians** on 16 August 2021 to laud their memorable performances for the nation at **Tokyo Olympics 2020**. Here are glimpses of his interaction with the **Indian Hockey Men's** and **Women's** Teams.



COVER STORY

Olympic Performance has increased the team's confidence

With the Indian Men and Women's Hockey Teams achieving historic results at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, they have now firmly set their sight on achieving bigger feats during the upcoming Olympic cycle. To end the 41-yearlong medal drought, the Indian Men's Hockey Team gave their heart and soul in the Bronze Medal match where they beat Germany 5-4 in a thrilling encounter.

While Simranjeet Singh (17', 34') scored an important double in this match, Hardik Singh (27'), Harmanpreet Singh (29') and Rupinder Pal Singh (31') scored a goal each to ensure India bounced back from the 1-3 setback to beat the Germans 5-4 in a match that went down to the wire. Experienced goalkeeper

Sreejesh was in his best elements to keep India ahead till the final whistle and the team effort scripted history in Indian hockey.

Skipper Manpreet Singh highlighted that it was the team's unflinching belief and that burning desire to return home with a medal which helped them succeed against Germany. He said, "Even when we were behind by two goals in the second quarter, you could see it in everybody's eyes that we will not give up and we just wanted that medal. And we would do everything it would take to achieve it. We just did not give up at any point and that I believe is the greatest quality of this team."





Hockey India & Odisha made a big difference

The Charismatic midfielder further emphasized the constant support from Hockey India, SAI, MYAS and various other stakeholders particularly the Major Team Partners Odisha Government made this feat a reality. "I think over the past years, Hockey India and Odisha Government's endeavour to host several World-class events in India helped us gain the right exposure and we rallied a lot on the spectator support in our home ground in Bhubaneswar that helped us win medals or beat higher ranked teams. This in turn helped tremendously in building our confidence and also helped achieve better world ranking. I believe that these factors contributed immensely to our success in Tokyo," Manpreet stated.

Having dealt with major setbacks over the last 18 months leading up to the Olympic

Games, Manpreet stressed upon the work put in by the National Federation and SAI to ensure the preparations were never impacted by the raging Covid situation across the country. Looking back at these difficult times, Manpreet said, "There are not enough words to thank the efforts of Hockey India and SAI in this regard. There were so many uncertainties particularly when the second wave caused a lot of casualties across the country. We even lost some of the stalwarts in hockey. I feel that was a very challenging time for us too, but Hockey India and SAI provided us with every support we needed to ensure the training was never halted. We had enough support around us to not feel stressed about the covid situation and just remain focused on our target for the Olympics."





Next target is to become World No.1

"Now that we have achieved the target of standing on the podium in Tokyo, we believe we are poised for bigger results. This Olympic cycle is short and has top events like the FIH Hockey Pro League, the Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and the World Cup at home in 2023. Our aim now is to become World's No.1 team, and we will work towards it," Manpreet added.

With the all-important Asian Games scheduled to be held in Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China from 10 to 25 September 2022, the team's top priority will be to qualify for the Paris Olympics by winning the Asian Games. "Last time, we ended up with a Bronze medal and lost out on winning the automatic qualification. We were lucky to have the FIH Olympic qualifying matches in

India. But we can't depend on the same again. The best would be for us to qualify by winning the Asian Games, so it gives us right amount of time to prepare for 2024 Olympics," he explained.

He also believes that a Gold medal at Asian Games will help them with ranking points and also propel them to do well in the FIH Men's World Cup to be held in Rourkela and Bhubaneswar in 2023. "It will be great in play in front of the home crowd again. Though in 2018, we lost to the Netherlands in the Quarter Finals, we want to stand on the podium in 2023. It would be a befitting result for all the support and love people of Odisha has given this team," he said.



Rani & Co win a billion hearts

Though they may have returned home without a medal around their necks, the Indian Women's Hockey Team surely won the nation's heart and accolades from fans around the globe. Their incredible spirit to bounce back from a series of losses in the league stage to beat Ireland (1-0) and South Africa (4-3) changed the course of the Games for them. Making it to the Quarter Final was the team's first priority and getting past the mighty Australians 1-0 in the first knockout game ensured the entire nation rallied behind them ahead of the Semi Final clash against Argentina women.

It was a euphoric moment for the team, who were considered the underdog team in the tournament to have made it to the Semi Final of the Olympics for the very first time. Though they lost the game by only a goal,

their brave effort was lauded worldwide and even got immense praise from the country's Prime Minister Narendra Modi as well as the Chief Minister of Odisha Shri Navneen Patnaik who called them on to encourage them ahead of the Bronze Medal match against 2016 Olympic Champions Great Britain. "I think while we were in Tokyo, we never realised the kind of euphoria back home where everyone was talking about our performance and were calling it the real Chak de moment. For me personally, after we beat Australia in the Quarter Finals, I had begun to believe that we stood a great chance to win a medal. And I do regret falling short against Argentina in the Semis but we quickly had to toughen up for the match against Great Britain and mentally we were ready for the challenge," recalls Rani, Skipper of the Team.



A hero's welcome

Though India put up a great performance against a champion squad like Great Britain, they fell short by a whisker. Great Britain beat them 4-3. While the scenes from the pitch in Tokyo of the Indian women breaking into tears, there were celebrations back home for the country had never witnessed such a fightback from Indian women's hockey team in the history of the sport. "It was only when we returned to India that we eventually realised how big this feat was to finish fourth

after having finished 12th in Rio, which was our first appearance at the Olympics in 36 years. Everyone made us feel like we came back with a Gold," Rani added.

Now, Rani believes the team is confident like never before and are gunning for glory in world hockey. "Now we are a different team with a different mindset. We will now aim for greater feats," she concluded.





FEATURE STORY

Indian Hockey Teams achieve best-ever FIH World Rankings after good show at Tokyo Olympics 2020; Men's Team rise to 3rd and Women's Team to 8th

Riding on their historic Tokyo Olympics 2020 campaign, both Indian Men's and Women's Hockey teams achieved their highest ever FIH World rankings.

The Indian Men's Hockey team, which ended a 41-year medal drought by clinching the Bronze Medal in Tokyo, rose to 3rd in the International Hockey Federation (FIH) World Rankings, behind Belgium and Australia, respectively. Whereas, the Indian Women's Hockey Team, acquired 8th position according to the latest FIH world rankings.

Manpreet and Co. finished second in Pool A winning four out of five group phase matches and defeated Great Britain 3-1 in Quarter Final before losing 5-2

against Belgium in their historic Semi Final. However, they staged a remarkable comeback to bag a 5-4 win over Germany to clinch a historic Bronze medal at Olympic Games and as a result they climbed up to their best-ever world ranking.

Having achieved their highest-ever world rankings, the Indian Men's Hockey Team Captain Manpreet expressed, "It's the reward of all the hard work and dedication towards the game we love, towards the game which has given us everything. This ranking and the Olympic medal after 41 years mark the rise of Indian Hockey, and I think this couldn't have happened without the support of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Sports Authority of India, Odisha Government and Hockey India. There is no

looking back now, we have set the benchmark for ourselves and would like to grow from here."

Men's team Chief Coach Graham Reid stated, "I must admit, I feel privileged to have played a part in the rise of Indian Hockey. It's a great feeling that we won the historic Bronze Medal as well as achieving the highest ranking on the back of our solid performance in the Olympics. We played like a unit, with the right kind of attitude, and I think that has helped the team achieve this feat. Also, Hockey India, Sports Authority of India and all the stakeholders involved with the Indian Hockey has played a huge part in bringing back the team where it truly belongs."



On the other hand, the Indian eves, who suffered three losses in the initial matches, went on pulled off arguably the biggest upset by beating World No. 3 Australia in what was their first ever quarterfinal of the Olympic Games. Rani & Co. missed out on the Olympic Medal by a whisker, having lost to Great Britain in the Bronze Medal Play-Off match. Hence, finishing fourth at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics led India Women's Hockey Team to move up to 8th in the world rankings.

Indian Women's Hockey Team Skipper Rani said, "We were very close to finishing on the Podium, and it is hurting the team that we didn't. However, looking at the bright side, we have made remarkable progress in recent years, and I am really proud of it. Finishing in the top four at Olympics, and climbing to the 8th position in world rankings, is a very big thing for us, and this has boosted our confidence, it will certainly help us grow going forward. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Odisha Government, Hockey India and Sports Authority of India for the continuous support and encouragement."

Indian Women's team Chief Coach Sjoerd Marijne expressed, "It's the result of all the hard work that girls have put in over the past few years. Achieving 8th rank in the world ranking and finishing among the top four at Olympics, is a big step for Indian Women's hockey, and I think every team will definitely take us seriously. The athletes have that desire to

learn and improve each and every day, and I feel this is one of the biggest reasons why we could finish among the top four."

Before this feat, the Manpreet Singh-led side's career-high ranking was No.4, which they achieved in March 2020 on the back of their scintillating performances in the first three rounds of the second edition of FIH Hockey Pro League 2020.

Whereas, the Indian Women's team's earlier highest world ranking was 9th, which they accomplished by producing their best finish (Quarter Finals) at the Vitality Hockey Women's World Cup London 2018 in four decades. Having reached the quarterfinals of the World Cup, the women's team had become the top-ranked Asian team and went on to clinch the silver medal at the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta.





FEATURE STORY

Indian Men's and Women's Hockey Teams make the shortlist for all categories of the FIH Hockey Stars Awards 2020-21

After scripting history at the Tokyo Olympics 2020, the Indian hockey contingent has made the shortlist of all the categories of FIH Hockey Stars Awards 2020-21.

Defenders Harmanpreet Singh and Gurjit Kaur have been nominated for the FIH Player of the Year Award, Goalkeepers PR Sreejesh and Savita have been nominated for the FIH Goalkeeper of the Year Award, meanwhile, Midfielder Vivek Sagar Prasad and Forward Sharmila Devi have been nominated for the FIH Rising Star of the Year Award.

Having won the FIH Rising Star of the Year Award last year and being nominated yet again after a stupendous performance in Tokyo Olympics, Vivek expressed, "I never imagined this would happen again. It's a surreal feeling to have been nominated for the second time in the same category (FIH Rising Star of the Year Awards). I got to know this late in the night when I saw texts from my friends congratulating me for this. To be honest, it's really overwhelming".



HARMANPREET SINGH



GURJIT KAUR



PR SREEJESH



SAVITA



VIVEK SAGAR PRASAD



SHARMILA DEVI

The 21-year-old midfielder added, "However, it's the result of teamwork and the support of senior players. Since my debut, senior players have been the biggest source of my motivation. They have helped me play my natural game without any fear and pressure, and that is the biggest reason behind why I could win the 2019 FIH Rising Star of the Year Award and also stand a chance to win the accolade for the second time."



The Indian Women's Hockey Team made history when they achieved their best-ever result (fourth place) at the Olympic Games in Tokyo earlier this month and one of the players who played a crucial role in India's excellent outing at the Tokyo Games was young Forward Sharmila Devi. The 19-year-old made several brilliant runs during the tournament and put pressure on the opposition to create many goal-scoring opportunities. The Forward also scored a goal in India's Pool Stage match against Great Britain. For her incredible efforts at the Tokyo Olympics, Sharmila Devi has been nominated for the FIH Women's Rising Star of the Year Award 2020-21.

Speaking about being nominated for the prestigious award, Sharmila said, "It's a great honour to be nominated for the FIH

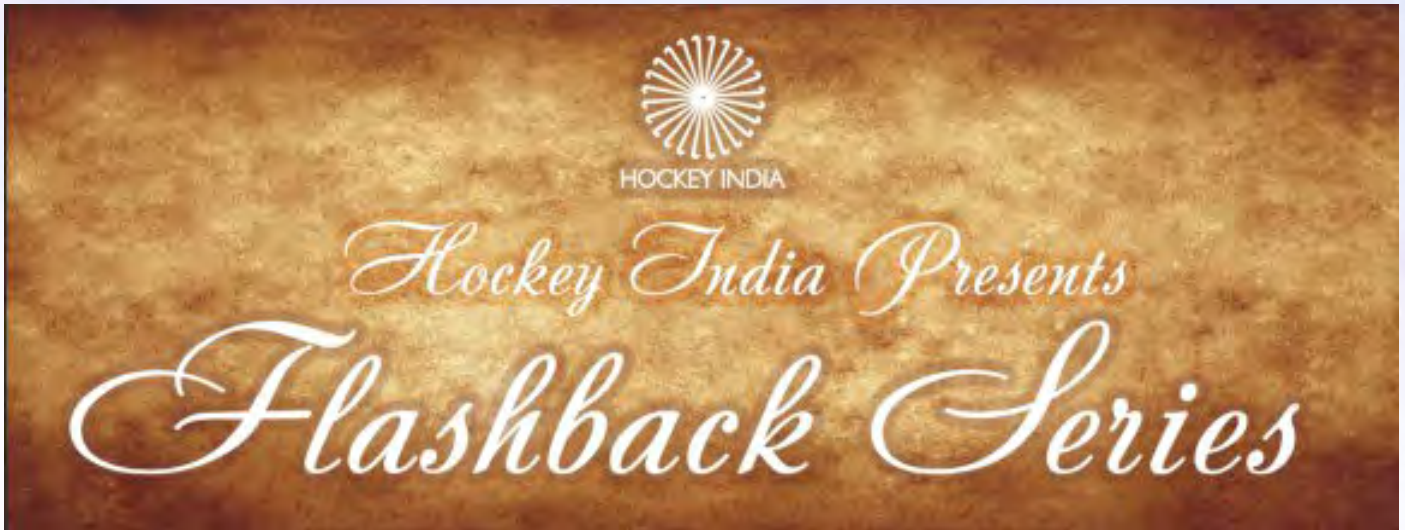
Women's Rising Star of the Year Award 2020-21. It feels fantastic when your efforts and performances are recognized. I have always played to help my team win and we have always believed in collective efforts, therefore this nomination is a testament to the way the entire team has played in the last year and especially at the Tokyo Games."

Sharmila added that the national side was disappointed after missing out on a Bronze Medal, however, the team will focus on the learnings from the Tokyo Games.

"We were very close to winning a Medal, but we couldn't do so. It was heartbreaking for us to not close out the game against Great Britain, however, we will focus on the learnings from the tournament in the upcoming days. We have gained a lot of confidence from the way we took on the top teams in the world. We just need to fine-tune a few things and then we will certainly perform well regularly in the biggest of tournaments," said the 19-year-old.



Excerpts From The Flashback Series Articles



In the days leading up to the Tokyo Olympics 2020, hockey fans were given a chance to reminisce and relive the memories from the triumphant Olympic campaigns in the past through Hockey India's Flashback Series, with thoughts, anecdotes and trivia from past Indian Hockey players who ruled the world with their sleek technique and panache. Here are some excerpts from the Flashback Series.

Gurdev Singh, an integral member of the team which won Gold in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, reminisced playing alongside the legendary Balbir Singh Sr.

"We played with five Forwards in that tournament. I scored 5 goals in the Olympics. We all used to practice a lot, but Balbir Singh Sr used to practice much more. Whenever he got into the D, he never missed the goal. He was a really good scorer. There was a match in which Balbir Singh got the ball four-five times and he converted each one of those chances into goals. Then he said, 'if you keep giving me the ball, then I'll keep scoring and keep playing for four-five years'.

90-year-old Charanjit Singh spoke about his team's campaign in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. The centre-halfback led the team as Captain at the time.

"We performed really well, and won matches with good margins. However, I would say games against Australia in the Semi-Final and Pakistan in the Final were very tough. Both the teams were regarded among the strongest teams during that time, and we had a very challenging outing against them. Moreover, you know how intense it becomes when you play against Pakistan, that too in the Final of the Olympics. The match was also interrupted briefly to cool down the tempers of both teams. I told my boys to focus on the game, rather than wasting time talking to them. We were tested hard but also showed great character, and won the match by a narrow 1-0 margin to return home with that historic Gold medal."

Gurbux Singh, key member of the Indian team in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, recalled the victory ceremony after the team won a record 7th Olympic Gold medal

"Honestly, at that stage I did not feel any excitement. When you are looking for that particular moment for years and finally it happens, everything is drained out of you, and it takes some time for it to sink in. It was only when the Indian flag went up, the national anthem was played, and tears rolled down my cheeks. I think that occasion it set in that we had actually won."

Ajit Pal Singh, India's only Hockey World Cup winning Captain, recalled memories from his Olympic debut in the Indian team which won the Bronze medal at the 1968 Mexico Olympics.

"Having lost the opening match against New Zealand, there was some reshuffling in the team, and I was brought in as the centre-half. My first Olympic match turned out to be against West Germany, who were one of the strongest teams during that time. I had butterflies in my stomach the night before the match, so you can imagine the pressure, we had already lost the first match, and we were supposed to pit against a quality side. I would say, I handled the pressure pretty well, and ended up contributing to the team's 2-1 win. I never looked back from there, and eventually played all the matches at the Mexico Olympics."

Former Captain BP Govinda spoke about the Bronze medal match against the Netherlands in the 1972 Munich Olympics.

"All through the tournament in Munich, I had played as centre-forward, but our Coach insisted I change my position for this match, and it so happened that I scored the equaliser and then Mukhbain Singh scored the winning goal through a penalty corner which helped us win the match 2-1."

Iconic Indian Left Forward Zafar Iqbal reminisced about the 1980 Moscow Olympics campaign, where India secured its 8th and last Olympic Gold medal.

"The memory of 1980 will remain with me forever. It was more than a personal achievement as it was such a big moment for the country as well. It was the 8th Gold medal in hockey for the country, which is a record that will surely stand for a long long time. It was a tough campaign for us because most of the members in that team were young players and debutants at the Olympics. I believe only Vasudevan Baskaran and Bir Bahadur Chhetri had played in the 1976 Olympics previously. I remember that the final against Spain was a really difficult match. Mohammed Shahid was our key player in the final, and he played extraordinarily that day."





Excerpts from Hockey Te Charcha Podcast Series Episodes



With anticipation ahead of the Tokyo Olympics 2020 reaching a fever pitch, Hockey India initiated a podcast series to share insights from members closely linked with Indian Hockey. Named Hockey Te Charcha, various individuals who have played a part in Indian Hockey over the years - from coaches to players themselves - appeared as guests on the podcast to speak about their personal and professional experiences in Indian Hockey. Here are some excerpts from conversations with former India Women's Hockey Team Chief Coach Neil Hawgood, current Men's Team Assistant Coach Shivendra Singh and current Indian Men's Hockey Team Chief Coach Graham Reid.

Neil Hawgood speaking about the Women's team's development since his time as Chief Coach.

"Sjoerd (Marijne) has done an amazing job in elevating the team's level. The current team is mentally tougher than

previous years. Earlier, if the team conceded an early goal then it created a worrying situation which could lead to a heavy defeat. In a similar situation now, the team is calm and confident knowing that

they can come back into any game. I am delighted to see that the team has kicked on and reached another level since my time."

Reflecting on his time at the helm, Hawgood said:

"When I was first appointed, I felt everything was in place in terms of structure to build upon. Our intention from the start was to build a team for the future. We never felt the need for an overhaul, but my team and I implemented minor changes. I suppose the biggest change we made was in the way the team trains. Lots of players at the time would train through injuries to avoid losing their place in the team. Instead, we placed emphasis on rehab and taking time to heal so players could train at the highest level and not worry about being left out of the team because of injury. Our biggest success wasn't changing the hockey; it was changing the training methods."

Former Indian Men's Team Centre Forward Shivendra Singh is presently the Assistant Coach of the team he was once a part of. Shivendra spoke about making the transition from player to coach.

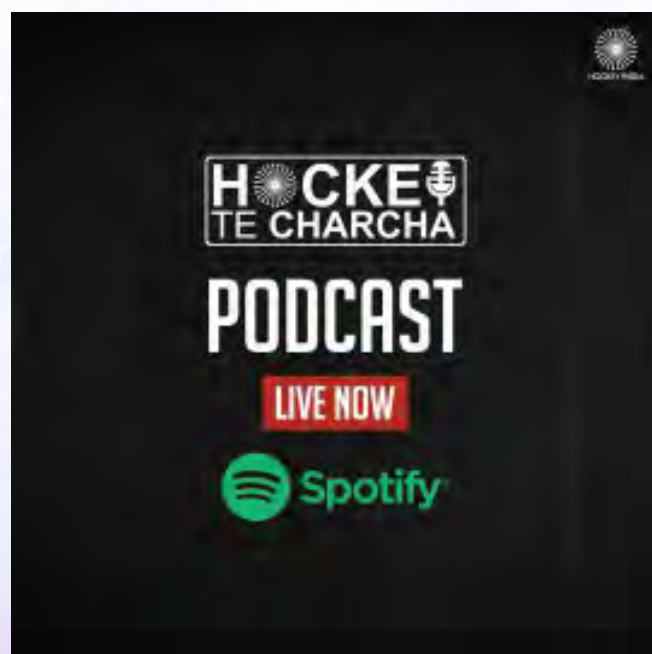
"I felt awkward initially as a Coach as I had been a player in the team for so long, but it only took me a week to settle in to my new role. The rest of the Coaching staff and players made me feel welcome. I enjoy my work so much now that I feel like spending most of my time on the training ground itself." Shivendra Singh on the influence of Chief Coach Graham Reid

"Graham has a very calm personality and he always adopts a team-first approach in his Coaching. He involves the whole coaching staff and has the quality of maintaining togetherness in the group. He makes sure no member feels left out as he never hesitates to ask his staff for inputs that will help the team get better."

The Indian Men's Hockey Team Chief Coach Graham Reid credits this team's success to certain innate qualities that has helped them achieve this historic feat of winning a Bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics 2020. Reflecting on the team's performance, Reid said, "This group is very focused and mentally very tough. They have imbibed a team-first mentality and have great bonding among them. At an event like the

Olympics, there are so many distractions, and it is such a huge place that often when you hit the ground at the Olympic village and everyone spread out like ants, but we were able to keep the group together and that was very positive."

Reid who has been nominated for the FIH Men's Coach of The Year award further expressed that this is not the time to get complacent with the result but it's time to analyze and understand the way in which the team can elevate their performance to the next level. "Third is where we are at the moment, Australia and Belgium have been consistently playing at the higher level. We need to be able to get to that level. That's the simple goal I have for this team."





Hockey India mourns the sad demise of double Olympic Champion Keshav Datt

Hockey India mourns the sad demise of legend Keshav Chandra Datt who breathed his last at about 1230 am on Wednesday, 07 July 2021, he was 95 years old.

Datt was part of India's golden era in hockey. He was a formidable halfback and was part of Independent India's historic feat at the 1948 where they beat home team Great Britain 4-0 in the Final at the Wembley Stadium in London. Before the 1948 Olympics, Datt had toured East Africa under the leadership of the great hockey wizard Major Dhyani Chand in 1947.

Datt, born on 29 December 1925 in Lahore, Pakistan, was also part of the Indian

team at 1952 Olympic Games in Helsinki where they beat the home team Netherlands 6-1 in the Final to become the Olympic Champions for the fifth consecutive time.

Having moved to Calcutta in 1950, Datt also represented Mohun Bagan - the most famous Indian club of that time in multiple sports.



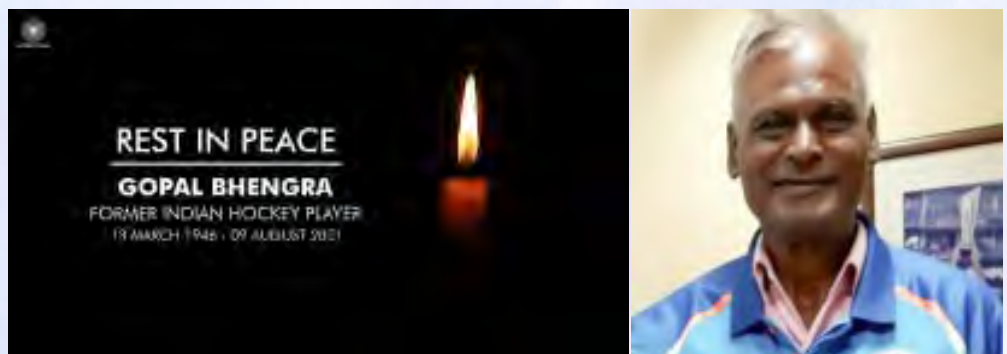
Hockey India mourn the demise of former international Hockey player, Gopal Bhengra

Hockey India mourns the death of 75-year-old Gopal Bhengra, who was part of the 1978 Indian World Cup side. He passed away on Monday, 09 August 2021 in Ranchi due to a prolonged illness.

The former Indian Men's Hockey Team player, who played against Argentina and Pakistan in the 1978 Men's Hockey World Cup held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, had also served in the Indian Army.

Expressing Hockey India's condolences to Bhengra's bereaved family, President Gyanendra Ningombam

said, "Hockey India extends its deepest condolences to Gopal Bhengra's family. Gopal was an important member of the 1978 World Cup side and his contributions to Indian Hockey will always be remembered. May Gopal's family and friends have the strength to pass through this tough time."



Webinar Hosted By Odisha Naval Tata HPC

Odisha Naval Tata Hockey High Performance Centre and The Abhinav Bindra Foundation hosted the webinar with the Captains and Chief Coaches of the Indian Hockey Teams on 01 July 2021.



Congratulations, Telangana Hockey on winning the Olympic Day Celebrations 2021

Over 40 Hockey member units participated in the fitness challenges, art, essay writing and various other activities during the Olympic Day celebrations. Hockey India declared Telangana Hockey as the winner of the Hockey India Olympic Day Celebrations 2021 for their brilliant involvement and work during the Olympic Day Celebrations 2021.





Chief Minister of Jharkhand recognizes Olympic qualified athletes

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jharkhand, Shri Hemant Soren had met all the sportspersons from the state on 2 July 2021 who have qualified for the Tokyo Olympics 2020, including Indian Women's Hockey Team stars Nikki Pradhan and Salima Tete. He announced a grant of Rs 5.00 lakhs to each participant as well as a prize money of Rs 2.00 crore if they win Gold.



Hockey India felicitates Dr. Narinder Dhruv Batra on being elected as President of FIH for a second consecutive term

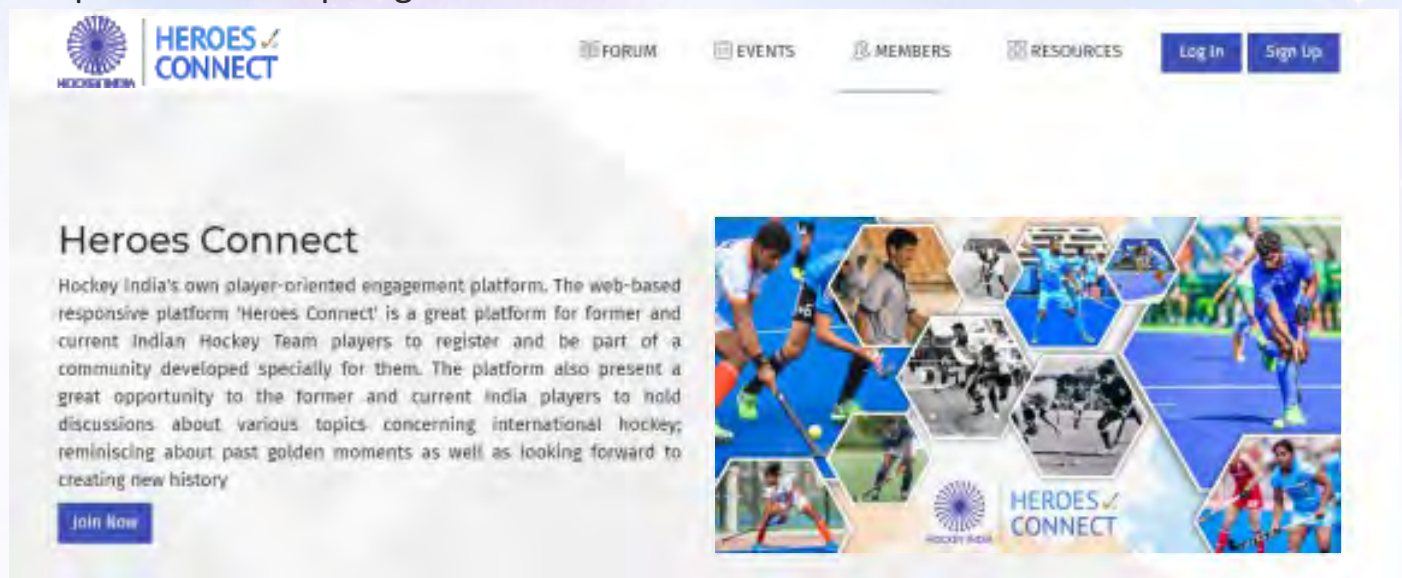
On 7 July 2021, on their first visit to Delhi after the FIH President election, Hockey India Executive Board Members felicitated Dr. Narinder Dhruv Batra on being re-elected as the President of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) for the second consecutive term.





'Heroes Connect' a unique web-based responsive platform launched by Hockey India

Hockey India on July 16, launched its own player-oriented engagement platform, the 'Heroes Connect'. Heroes Connect is a platform where former and current Indian international Hockey stars can register themselves. The players will hold discussions on this platform about past golden moments.



Sportswoman Of The Year Team: Rani

Rani
was adjudged
The
Sportswoman
of
the year Team



Mr. Gyanendro Ningombam, President of Hockey India met the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Manipur, Mr. N.Biren Singh at his office secretariat. They had a detailed discussion for setting up 5-a-side astroturf pitches at 16 district headquarters.



Shri Gyanendro Ningombam, Hockey India President was on a three-day visit to Mewar where he was received by the Hockey enthusiasts at the Dabok Airport, Udaipur.

The purpose of the visit was to create an action plan to strengthen the Hockey environment in the Udaipur division.





Mr. Tapan Kumar Das, Treasurer of Hockey India and Ms. Elena Norman, CEO of Hockey India met Shri. Sarbananda Sonowal, Hon'ble Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Minister of AYUSH in the Government of India on 29th July 2021. The Hon'ble Minister was presented with a memento on the occasion.



The **Indian Men's and Women's Hockey Team** were invited by '**The Kapil Sharma Show**' for a **special episode**, where they celebrated the success of our **Tokyo Olympics 2020 stars**.





Adyar Hockey Academy

Adyar Hockey Academy from Chennai celebrated National Sports Day in style.



Assam Hockey

Assam Hockey celebrated National Sports Day 2021 by flag hoisting and paying respect to Major Dhyhan Chand, while also organising a cycle rally with Parikrama NGO.



Bhai Behlo Hockey Academy

Bhai Behlo Hockey Academy, Bhagta celebrated Hockey wizard Major Dhyan Chand's birth anniversary on the occasion of National Sports Day.



Central Reserve Police Force

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Hockey Team at Group Center, Jalandhar (Punjab) celebrated National Sports Day 2021.





Chhattisgarh Hockey

On the occasion of National Sports Day 2021, Chhattisgarh Hockey organized an event where they paid homage to Major Dhyan Chand and played an exhibition match, which was followed by a prize distribution ceremony.



Goans Hockey

Goans Hockey celebrated National Sports Day 2021 by organising a Hockey match for the Men's and Women's Teams at the Don Bosco Ground, Fatorda in Margao, Goa.



Hockey Andhra Pradesh

The National Sports Day celebrations held in the State of Andhra Pradesh in the presence of many dignitaries. On this auspicious day, Major Dhyan Chand's statue was inaugurated in Srikakulam.

The Various affiliated Member Units and Clubs of Hockey Andhra Pradesh celebrated National Sports Day by organising the various activities across the State.



Hockey Bengal

The Chandanagore unit of Hockey Bengal celebrated National Sports Day 2021 with a special parade by the children.





Hockey Bihar

Hockey Bihar celebrated National Sports Day in various districts on 29th August, 2021. They further Organised Boys-Girls Mixed 5-A side hockey match.



Hockey Himachal

Hockey Himachal celebrated National Sports Day 2021 at Una, Himachal Pradesh.



Hockey Jammu & Kashmir

For the development & promotion of Hockey in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, the J&K Sports Council and Hockey Jammu and Kashmir celebrated National Sports Day 2021 at the KK Hakku Astro Turf Hockey Stadium, Jammu. Several sporting activities including Hockey and Football matches were held to spread Major Dhyhan Chand's message amongst the youth, in the presence of dignitaries from different fields.



For the development & promotion of Hockey in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, the State Council and District Hockey Association organised an exhibition match at Subhash Stadium, Udhampur to celebrate the 116th birthday of Major Dhyhan Chand. The match was played between the Rising Star Club and Khalsa Club of Udhampur which ended in a draw. The Additional Deputy Commissioner of Udhampur, M.S Khan was the Chief Guest of this special occasion.





Hockey Chandigarh

Hockey Chandigarh celebrated the National Sports Day at Sector 42 Hockey Stadium by organising the 'Chandigarh State Men & Women State Hockey Championships', whose final match was played on August 29 in the presence of several dignitaries.



Hockey Gujarat

A glimpse of all activities held by the various units of Hockey Gujarat on the occasion of National Sports Day 2021



Hockey Jharkhand

Hockey Jharkhand celebrated the National Sports Day 2021 by conducting an exhibition match for the women's team and also paid floral homage to Major Dhyan Chand.



Hockey Karnataka

Hockey Karnataka along with the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, Bengaluru celebrated National Sports Day 2021 with a Hockey match between Karnataka Internationals and DYES teams at the FMKMC Hockey Arena, Bengaluru. Ankitha BS, Coach of the Indian Women's Hockey Team, was felicitated in the presence of Karnataka Sports Minister, Shri. K.C. Narayana Gowda, MLC & President of KOA, Dr. K. Govindaraj and Shri. Venkatesh Kumar, IAS Commissioner, DYES.





Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu

The National Sports Day 2021 celebrations were held in full swing by the Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu across the state. Various activities such as fitness and training sessions, awareness campaigns and distribution of kits and uniforms were organised.



Malwa Hockey Academy

A look at the National Sports Day celebrations at the Malwa Hockey Academy Hanumangarh. On the occasion of National Sports Day, young enthusiasts from the academy played an exhibition match after paying their tributes to Major Dhyan Chand.



Hockey Madhya Pradesh

The National Sports Day celebrations were celebrated by Hockey Madhya Pradesh in several ways. A floral homage was paid to Major Dhyan Chand, while dignitaries were felicitated and presented with mementos. An exhibition match between Jabalpur Boys and Jabalpur Boys B was also conducted.



Hockey Rajasthan

A glimpse of how Hockey Rajasthan celebrated Major Dhyan Chand's birthday on the occasion of National Sports Day. The celebrations were followed by a Hockey match which was organised for the men's and women's team.





Manaparai Hockey Academy

Manaparai Hockey Academy celebrated Major Dhyan Chand's Birthday on National Sports Day.



Manipur Hockey

Manipur Hockey celebrated National Sports Day 2021 with the Executive Body Members, with Shri Basudev Singh and Shri Neken Singh paying floral tribute to Major Dhyan Chand.



Mumbai Schools Sports Association

A virtual celebration on the occasion of Major Dhyan Chand's birthday held by Mumbai Schools Sports Association on The National Sports Day.



Olympian Vivek Singh Hockey Academy

Olympian Vivek Singh Hockey Academy's players celebrated National Sports Day 2021 by paying tribute to Major Dhyan Chand on his birth anniversary. Certificates were also distributed to the girls who participated in the 1st Hockey India Sub Junior Women Academy National Championship 2021 at Bhubaneswar in 2021.





RV Academy of Hockey

RV Academy of Hockey celebrated National Sports Day 2021 and Major Dhyan Chand's birth anniversary.



Telangana Hockey

Hockey Ranga Reddy, a district unit member of Telangana Hockey, conducted a Mukesh Kumar Gold Cup 5-a-side U-16 Men tournament to celebrate National Sports Day 2021.



Uttar Pradesh Hockey

Uttar Pradesh Hockey celebrated National Sports Day 2021 by felicitating Olympians and international Hockey players, followed by an exhibition match at Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh.



Glimpse of how National Sports Day 2021 was celebrated at Rampur, Uttar Pradesh.



Goans Hockey

To increase the awareness of the Olympics, Goa Olympic Association organised an Olympic Games Awareness Programme. Mr. Vijai Sardesai, MLA of Fatorda inaugurated the event and was presented with a memento by Mr. Costau Xavier Marquis, President of Goans Hockey.

A special run was organised by the Hockey and Basketball players on the occasion.



Hockey Bengal

Hockey Bengal paid homage to the two-time Olympic Gold medalist at the London and Helsinki Olympics and the Jewel of India, Shri Keshav Datt. Dignitaries from various offices, his family members and the whole Hockey fraternity offered their prayers to the Late Hockey legend of India



Hockey Chandigarh

Hockey Chandigarh organized the Chandigarh State Senior Men's & Women's Championship that had commenced on 24th August 2021, at Sector 42 Hockey Stadium Chandigarh. A total of eight teams participated in the Championship.



Hockey Mizoram

Hockey Mizoram held a discussion on the Tokyo Olympics 2020 on July 23, 2021. The discussion revolved around the Indian Men's and Women's Hockey campaign at the Olympics and especially about Lalremsiami who hails from Mizoram.





Hockey Unit Of Tamil Nadu

Thoothukudi District Hockey Association, Tamil Nadu organised a rally to support the Indian contingent for the Tokyo Olympics. Deputy Superintendent of Police, Mr. M.Udthaya Suriyan inaugurated the rally.



Hockey Jammu & Kashmir

For the development & promotion of Hockey in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, the sport resumed in the state.



In the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, a district-level Hockey tournament named 'Shri Guru Hargobind Sahib' was organised in Srinagar. It is the first district-level Hockey tournament that has been organised in Kashmir Valley post the COVID lockdown.



Hockey Jammu & Kashmir

The Indian Army presented Hockey kits to Power House Hockey Club and BBSB Hockey Club, Poonch on Hockey J&K's initiative.



Sh. Farooq khan, Advisor to LG, Jammu & Kashmir interacted with both the Women and Men players at the Green Field Hockey Play Ground in Gandhi nagar. He also distributed Hockey sticks among the women players and assured his full support.





For the development & promotion of Hockey in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, the last league match of the Independence Day Celebration Sports Week Hockey tournament was held at Green Field Stadium, Gandhinagar. Jammu Khalsa Warrior won the match 8-0 against Jammu XI.



The Independence Day Sports Week Hockey tournament was organised jointly by Hockey J&K and the Sports Council.

Khalsa Warriors defeated MBS Hockey Club 2-0 to lift the trophy. Dr Zeffer Iqbal, Chief Accounts Officer of J&K Sports Council was the Chief Guest.



Manipur Hockey

A grand reception was organised by Manipur Hockey for Tokyo 2020 stars, Nilakanta Sharma and Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam at Manipur on 23rd August.

Dignitaries - Hon'ble MLA Shri M.Rameshor, President Hockey India Shri Gyanendro Ningombam, President Manipur Hockey Shri Basudev Singh, Patron Dr Th. Dhanbali, Olympian Shri Thoiba Singh and Director, Manipur YAS Shri T Phunil Meitei were present among other members from different communities and well wishers.





Infrastructure Development

Chhattisgarh Hockey

Congratulations to the Shatrunjay Pratap Singh Judev Stadium Jashpur, Chhattisgarh for being granted the FIH Category 2 field certificate based on its construction, performance and player welfare.



Delhi Hockey



The Shivaji Stadium in New Delhi has received the Category 2 Certificate of Field Performance from the FIH. It was tested on the construction, performance.



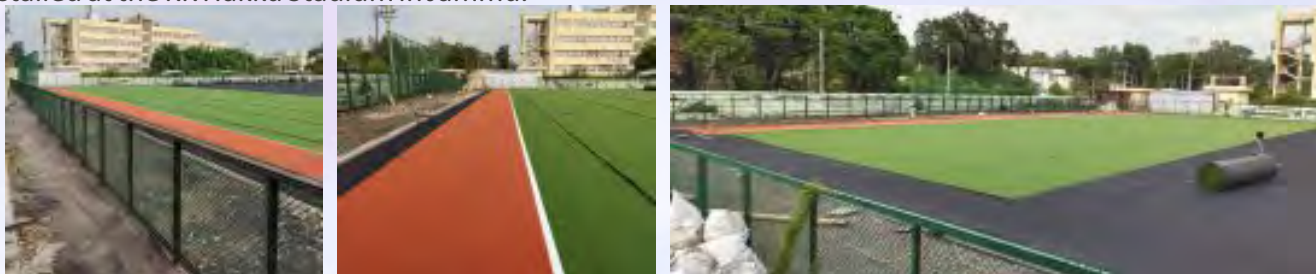
Hockey Jammu & Kashmir

For the development & promotion of hockey in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, the construction work for the new synthetic Hockey pitch at Govt. Model Boys Higher Secondary School is underway at Poonch.

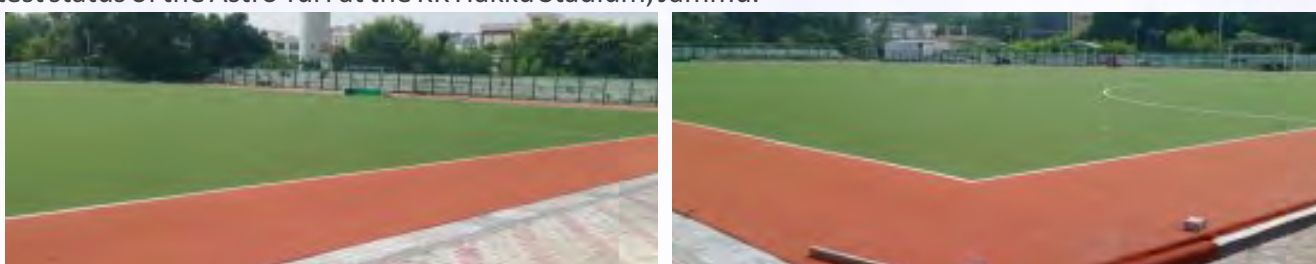


Hockey Jammu & Kashmir

For the development & promotion of Hockey in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, a new AstroTurf was installed at the KK Hakku Stadium in Jammu.



For the development & promotion of Hockey in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, here's a look at the latest status of the Astro Turf at the KK Hakku Stadium, Jammu.



Hockey Mizoram

The construction work for the Muallungthu Hockey Ground in Mizoram has resumed.



The Hon'ble Sports Minister of Mizoram, Mr. Robert Romawia Royte laid the foundation stone for the new Synthetic Hockey Turf at Salem Veng Lunglei.





Hockey Punjab

The construction work for the new synthetic hockey pitch at Shaheed Bhagat Singh Stadium, Ferozepur, Punjab has started.



Hockey Rajasthan

The Sawai Man Singh Hockey Stadium in Jaipur, Rajasthan gets a brand new AstroTurf pitch.



Congratulations to the Sawai Mansingh Stadium, Jaipur, Rajasthan for being granted the FIH Category 2 field certificate based on its construction, performance and player welfare requirements.



Deccan Herald - Bangalore

Belgium test for Indian men

Manpreet Singh leads the hockey players with a win in the series

Hockey players from the Indian men's national team have secured a 2-1 victory over Belgium in the first of two test matches in the series. The Indian team, led by Manpreet Singh, dominated the first half, scoring two goals. Belgium's only goal came in the second half. The series will continue with a second test match on Sunday.



Deccan Chronicle - HYD

Rani & Co. gear up for British test

The Indian women's national hockey team, led by Rani Singh, is preparing for a test match against the British team. The team has been practicing hard and is confident of a good performance. The match is scheduled for next week.

Dainik Bhaskar - Bhopal

टोक्यो के मौसम में ढलने के लिए दोपहर में कर रहे प्रैक्टिस

भारतीय पुरुष हॉकी टीम टोक्यो के गर्म मौसम में ढलने के लिए दोपहर में प्रैक्टिस कर रही है। कोच ने कहा कि टीम को गर्म मौसम में खेलने की क्षमता बढ़ाने की जरूरत है। टीम ने पिछले कुछ दिनों में कई प्रैक्टिस मैचों में अच्छा प्रदर्शन किया है।



Amar Ujala - Delhi

कोरोना हुआ तो वीडियो देख नवजोत ने सीखी नई तकनीक

नवजोत सिंह, भारतीय पुरुष हॉकी टीम के खिलाड़ी, कोरोना महामारी के दौरान वीडियो देखकर नई तकनीक सीखी। उन्होंने कहा कि वीडियो देखने से उन्हें खेल में बेहतर प्रदर्शन करने में मदद मिली। उन्होंने नए तरीके सीखे जो उन्हें मैदान में मदद कर रहे हैं।



Dainik Bhaskar - Chandigarh

Hockey Star

'मेरी कोचिंग के लिए पिता अलग से पैचे बचाते थे'



भारतीय पुरुष हॉकी टीम के खिलाड़ी नवजोत सिंह ने कहा कि उनके पिता ने उनकी कोचिंग के लिए अलग से पैचे बचाए थे। उन्होंने कहा कि पिता ने उन्हें खेल में बेहतर प्रदर्शन करने में मदद की। उन्होंने कहा कि पिता ने उन्हें खेल में बेहतर प्रदर्शन करने में मदद की। उन्होंने कहा कि पिता ने उन्हें खेल में बेहतर प्रदर्शन करने में मदद की।

HT City - Mumbai

OLYMPIC EFFORT: TWIN HOCKEY TEAMS SHINE

भारतीय पुरुष और महिला हॉकी टीमों ने ओलिंपिक में बेहतरीन प्रदर्शन किया। दोनों टीमों ने अपने खेल में बेहतर प्रदर्शन किया। उन्होंने अपने खेल में बेहतर प्रदर्शन किया। उन्होंने अपने खेल में बेहतर प्रदर्शन किया।

Bombay Times - Mumbai

THINGS ARE LOOKING UP FOR INDIAN HOCKEY!

भारतीय हॉकी टीम का भविष्य उज्ज्वल दिख रहा है। कोच ने कहा कि टीम में कई नए खिलाड़ी शामिल हैं जो टीम को बेहतर प्रदर्शन करने में मदद करेंगे। टीम ने पिछले कुछ दिनों में कई प्रैक्टिस मैचों में अच्छा प्रदर्शन किया है।

Deccan Herald - Bangalore

Determined men seek to snap the 41-year drought

भारतीय पुरुष हॉकी टीम कोच ने कहा कि टीम को 41 सालों के सूखे को तोड़ने में निर्धारित है। उन्होंने कहा कि टीम में कई नए खिलाड़ी शामिल हैं जो टीम को बेहतर प्रदर्शन करने में मदद करेंगे। टीम ने पिछले कुछ दिनों में कई प्रैक्टिस मैचों में अच्छा प्रदर्शन किया है।



Mid Day - Mumbai

'CONFIDENT OF MEDAL IN HOCKEY THIS TIME'

भारतीय पुरुष हॉकी टीम के कोच ने कहा कि टीम को इस बार मेडल जीतने में आस है। उन्होंने कहा कि टीम में कई नए खिलाड़ी शामिल हैं जो टीम को बेहतर प्रदर्शन करने में मदद करेंगे। टीम ने पिछले कुछ दिनों में कई प्रैक्टिस मैचों में अच्छा प्रदर्शन किया है।





Deccan Herald - Bangalore

Manpreet & Co look to stage a hockey revolution



Manpreet Singh and his teammates are looking to stage a hockey revolution in India. The team has been performing well in recent matches and is confident of making a strong start in the upcoming tournament.

Ahmedabad Mirror - Ahmedabad

Be careful in opening match, former players warn India



Former players have warned the Indian team to be careful in the opening match. They believe the team has the talent to succeed but must stay focused and avoid any early setbacks.

Bombay Times - Mumbai


'We now believe we can beat any side in the world'



The Indian hockey team now believes it can beat any side in the world. The players are confident and motivated, ready to take on any challenge.

Ahmedabad Mirror - Ahmedabad

Men's hockey preview: Pressure on India to make a strong start



Pressure is on the Indian men's hockey team to make a strong start in their opening match. The team is expected to perform well and set the tone for the tournament.

Ahmedabad Mirror - Ahmedabad

Former hockey players praise new portal 'Heroes connect'



Former hockey players have praised a new portal called 'Heroes connect'. They believe it will help connect and support the current players and fans.

Hindustan Times - Chandigarh

THESE ARE THE MEN WHO ENDED INDIA'S MEDAL DROUGHT



A group of hockey players who have ended India's medal drought. They are the heroes of the team and have shown exceptional skill and teamwork.

Deshbandhu - Delhi

रियो ओलंपिक चैंपियन अर्जेंटीना को हराने वाली एकमात्र टीम थी भारत : पीआर श्रीजेरा



P.R. Srijaya, a former Indian hockey player, has written a book about the Rio Olympics. He highlights the Indian team's victory over Argentina as a historic moment in the sport's history.

Deccan Herald - Bangalore

After men, women gun for more glory



After the men's team, the women's hockey team is gunning for more glory. They are determined to perform well and win medals in the upcoming tournament.

Delhi Times - New Delhi

The girls always pushed themselves and were eager to learn



The girls always pushed themselves and were eager to learn. They are dedicated players who have worked hard to improve their skills and team performance.

Bombay Times - Mumbai

Essexite fans await next match



Essexite fans are eagerly awaiting the next match. They are passionate supporters of the team and are looking forward to seeing them play.

Deccan Chronicle - HYD

GURJANT WANTS TO MAKE OPPORTUNITIES COUNT



Gurjant Singh, a hockey player, wants to make the most of his opportunities. He is focused on his performance and aims to contribute to the team's success.

Deccan Herald - Bangalore

Women need to play out of their skins against Aus



Women need to play out of their skins against Australia. The match is expected to be a tough one, and the Indian team must be prepared for a challenge.

Dainik Bhaskar - Jaipur

इसने हिंदी के विकास को बनाया और और लोगों को भी, इस है कि खेल नहीं और नहीं: राजस्थान में खेलों को बढ़ावा देना, जयपुर में खेल को बढ़ावा देना का भी अर्थ है



This has helped the development of Hindi and benefited many people. Sports are not just a game but a way of life that brings people together and promotes health and well-being.

Deccan Chronicle - Chennai

Nayneet's late strike keeps hockey women in the mix



Nayneet's late strike keeps the women's hockey team in the mix. Her goal was a crucial moment that kept the team's hopes alive.

Deshbandhu - Delhi

भारत के खिलाड़ी हैं जो विश्व में खेल को बढ़ावा दे रहे हैं



Indian players are the ones who are promoting sports in the world. They are role models for young athletes and are inspiring the next generation.

Deccan Chronicle - Chennai

Hockey side lose to big Britain



The Indian hockey team lost to a strong British side. The match was a tough one, and the Indian team was unable to overcome the challenge.

Orrisa Post - Bhubaneswar



YAN HUI-HUI HATS ON COMBINATION

YAN HUI-HUI HATS ON COMBINATION... The article discusses the performance of the Chinese team and the role of Yan Hui-hui.

The Hindu - New Delhi

'We feel we have won a significant Olympic medal'



'We feel we have won a significant Olympic medal'... The article features quotes from team members about their performance at the Tokyo Olympics.

The Hitavada - Bhopal

Laurels for Lalremsiami

Laurels for Lalremsiami... The article highlights the achievements of Lalremsiami as a coach and player.

The Hindu - Mumbai



New role for Lalremsiami

New role for Lalremsiami... The article reports on Lalremsiami's appointment as the chief coach of the Indian women's hockey team.

The Hindu - New Delhi

Mary Kom, Manpreet Singh to be flagbearers at opening ceremony



Mary Kom, Manpreet Singh to be flagbearers... The article mentions their roles as flagbearers for India at the Tokyo Olympics.

Mid Day - Mumbai



'We deserved better'... The article discusses the team's performance and the sentiment of the players.

The Indian Express - Delhi

HERSTORY

HERSTORY... A multi-column article detailing the history and current state of Indian hockey.

The Hindu - New Delhi



India beats Germany, bags bronze in men's hockey

India beats Germany, bags bronze... The article reports on India's victory over Germany in the men's hockey final.

HT City - Delhi



Orrisa Post - Bhubaneswar

Hockey teams given traditional welcome

Hockey teams given traditional welcome... The article describes the traditional welcome ceremony for the hockey teams.

Hyderabad Times - Hyderabad

Series, autographs, and bonding over jokes: Olympic heroes get together for lunch on 1-day



Orrisa Post - Bhubaneswar

I added to hockey squads

I added to hockey squads... The article features a personal account of an athlete's experience.

Orrisa Post - Bhubaneswar



RENEWING COMMITMENT

RENEWING COMMITMENT... The article discusses the team's commitment to future success.

The Hindu - New Delhi

Many Indians nominated for FIH awards

Many Indians nominated for FIH awards... The article lists the Indian athletes nominated for FIH awards.

The Hindu - New Delhi



Tributes to 6-ferds for vice captain

Tributes to 6-ferds for vice captain... The article pays tribute to a vice-captain's performance.



Sportstar - National

Article snippet from Sportstar - National featuring a photo of a hockey player.

Sportstar - National

Article snippet from Sportstar - National featuring a photo of a woman.

Orrisa Post - Bhubaneswar

Article snippet from Orrisa Post - Bhubaneswar with the headline 'LOST GLORY REGAINED' and a photo of a hockey match.

Hindustan Times - New Delhi

Article snippet from Hindustan Times - New Delhi with a photo of a hockey match.

The Asian Age - Delhi

Article snippet from The Asian Age - Delhi with the headline 'Honeydew of praise for women's hockey coach' and a photo of a coach.

The Hindu - New Delhi

India gets its act together

Repudiers brace highlights 3-0 win over Spain

HOCKEY

India's hockey team... (introductory text)



India's hockey team... (caption text)

In the 19th minute, the... (main article text)

... (main article text)

The Financial Express - Mumbai

LEADING AT THE PITCH

Indian hockey teams at best-ever world rankings

After ranked 20... (introductory text)



... (introductory text)

... (main article text)

The Hindu - Hyderabad

India breaks new ground, rekindles hope

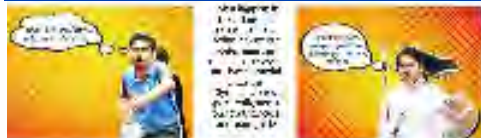
... (introductory text)



... (introductory text)

... (main article text)

The Indian Express - Delhi



Tick, tick, tick... boom



... (main article text)

Orrisa Post - Bhubaneswar

PICTURES TELL STORIES



Hindustan Times - Mumbai

Luzerne's Japanet Japanet... (headline)

... (main article text)

Mid Day - Mumbai

Manpreet & Co face Argentina with eye on quarter-finals

TOKYO: A resurgent Indian... (introductory text)

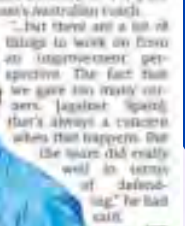
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Deccan Chronicle - HYD

Oly gold-winning hockey legend Keshav dies at 95

New Delhi, July 7: Three-time Olympic gold medal-winning hockey legend Keshav Das died on Wednesday after a prolonged illness, marking the end of a glorious era in the sport.

Das was 95 and is remembered for his role in securing India's Olympic gold in London, 1948, and his status as a national hero.

The former centre half-back led several Indian teams to international success, including the 1956 Melbourne Olympics where he won a gold medal.

Das was born in 1923 in Lakshmi. Das was a part of India's golden era in hockey after leading India to three Olympic gold medals in 1948, 1956 and 1964.

A versatile half-back, he was part of India's Olympic gold in 1948.



Keshav Das

Das was a part of India's golden era in hockey after leading India to three Olympic gold medals in 1948, 1956 and 1964.

Das was a versatile half-back, he was part of India's Olympic gold in 1948.

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Orrisa Post - Bhubaneswar



AIMING FOR SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN

Odisha hockey superstar Anil Rohidas focuses on helping India win a medal at Tokyo Olympics

Odisha hockey superstar Anil Rohidas is focused on helping India win a medal at the Tokyo Olympics. He is a key player for the national team and has been instrumental in their success in recent years.

Rohidas is a versatile player who can play in both the forward and defensive halves. He has a strong record in international tournaments and is considered one of the best players in the world.

He is determined to lead India to a medal at the Tokyo Olympics and is working hard to improve his skills and fitness. He is also focused on helping his teammates and is a team player.

Deccan Chronicle - HYD

Manpreet & Co. fight for bronze

Manpreet Singh and his teammates are fighting for a bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics. They have shown great skill and determination throughout the tournament and are determined to finish on a high note.

Manpreet is a key player for the Indian team and has been instrumental in their success. He is a versatile player who can play in both the forward and defensive halves.

He is focused on helping his teammates and is a team player. He is determined to lead India to a medal at the Tokyo Olympics and is working hard to improve his skills and fitness.

Hindustan Times - Mumbai

India's hockey dreams again

India's hockey dreams are being rekindled as the team prepares for the Tokyo Olympics. The national team is in excellent form and is expected to perform well at the tournament.

The team is led by Manpreet Singh and is supported by a strong squad of players. They have shown great skill and determination throughout the tournament and are determined to finish on a high note.

The team is focused on helping India win a medal at the Tokyo Olympics and is working hard to improve their skills and fitness. They are also focused on helping their teammates and are a team player.



Hindustan Times - Delhi

Dilpreet, Lalit and hockey's tale of second chances

Dilpreet Singh and Lalit Kumar are two of the most talented players in Indian hockey. They have both had second chances and are determined to make the most of them.

Dilpreet is a key player for the Indian team and has been instrumental in their success. He is a versatile player who can play in both the forward and defensive halves.

Lalit is also a talented player and is expected to perform well at the Tokyo Olympics. He is focused on helping his teammates and is a team player.



Dilpreet Singh and Lalit Kumar

Orrisa Post - Bhubaneswar

Odisha hockey stars felicitated



Odisha hockey stars being felicitated by officials.

Odisha hockey stars were felicitated by officials for their excellent performance in recent tournaments. They are expected to perform well at the Tokyo Olympics.

The stars include Anil Rohidas, who is a key player for the national team. He is a versatile player who can play in both the forward and defensive halves.

Other stars include Dilpreet Singh and Lalit Kumar, who are also talented players. They are focused on helping their teammates and are a team player.

The Hindu - Mumbai

India's hockey dreams again

India's hockey dreams are being rekindled as the team prepares for the Tokyo Olympics. The national team is in excellent form and is expected to perform well at the tournament.

The team is led by Manpreet Singh and is supported by a strong squad of players. They have shown great skill and determination throughout the tournament and are determined to finish on a high note.

The team is focused on helping India win a medal at the Tokyo Olympics and is working hard to improve their skills and fitness. They are also focused on helping their teammates and are a team player.



Orrisa Post - Bhubaneswar

'Goalie' Naveen keeps guarding India's hockey post

'Goalie' Naveen is a key player for the Indian team and has been instrumental in their success. He is a versatile player who can play in both the forward and defensive halves.

Naveen is focused on helping his teammates and is a team player. He is determined to lead India to a medal at the Tokyo Olympics and is working hard to improve his skills and fitness.

Naveen is also a talented player and is expected to perform well at the Tokyo Olympics. He is focused on helping his teammates and is a team player.



Naveen in goal during a match.

Deshbandhu - Delhi

हमारे पास है टोक्यो ओलंपिक में इतिहास रचने का बड़ा सुनहरा मौका : गुरजीत कौर

हमारे पास है टोक्यो ओलंपिक में इतिहास रचने का बड़ा सुनहरा मौका : गुरजीत कौर. The Indian hockey team is in excellent form and is expected to perform well at the Tokyo Olympics.

The team is led by Manpreet Singh and is supported by a strong squad of players. They have shown great skill and determination throughout the tournament and are determined to finish on a high note.

The team is focused on helping India win a medal at the Tokyo Olympics and is working hard to improve their skills and fitness. They are also focused on helping their teammates and are a team player.



Gurbaj Singh in action during a match.

Deccan Herald - Bangalore

Demoralised men look to bounce back against Spain

Demoralised men look to bounce back against Spain. The Indian team is in excellent form and is expected to perform well at the Tokyo Olympics.

The team is led by Manpreet Singh and is supported by a strong squad of players. They have shown great skill and determination throughout the tournament and are determined to finish on a high note.

The team is focused on helping India win a medal at the Tokyo Olympics and is working hard to improve their skills and fitness. They are also focused on helping their teammates and are a team player.



India's hockey team preparing for the tournament.

Orrisa Post - Bhubaneswar

INDIA END 49-YEAR WAIT

INDIA'S HOCKEY TEAM IN GUERRILLA SPIRIT DEFEATS GREAT BRITAIN 3-1

INDIA END 49-YEAR WAIT. The Indian hockey team has won a historic gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics, ending a 49-year wait for the country.

The team was led by Manpreet Singh and was supported by a strong squad of players. They showed great skill and determination throughout the tournament and were determined to finish on a high note.

The team's victory was a historic moment for India and was celebrated by millions of fans. The team is focused on helping India win a medal at the Tokyo Olympics and is working hard to improve their skills and fitness.



Manpreet Singh celebrating with the Indian hockey team.

Hindustan Times - New Delhi

India's women beat SA 1-0, qualify for bronze

India's women beat SA 1-0, qualify for bronze. The Indian women's hockey team has qualified for the bronze medal match at the Tokyo Olympics.

The team was led by Manpreet Singh and was supported by a strong squad of players. They showed great skill and determination throughout the tournament and were determined to finish on a high note.

The team's victory was a historic moment for India and was celebrated by millions of fans. The team is focused on helping India win a medal at the Tokyo Olympics and is working hard to improve their skills and fitness.



India's women's hockey team in action.



TEAM

BIRTHDAYS

SENIOR MEN

JUNIOR MEN

SEPTEMBER

HARDIK SINGH

23

S KARTHI

01

SURYAN M

24

OCTOBER

SURAJ KARKERA

14

SENIOR WOMEN

JUNIOR WOMEN

SEPTEMBER

RASHANPREET KAUR

04

OCTOBER

SHARMILA DEVI

10

GURJIT KAUR

25

IN FOCUS

SIMRANJEET SINGH

(Indian Men's Hockey Team)

My hometown is – Chahal Kalan, Punjab

I play as a – Striker as well as Midfielder

My debut was in – 2017

My most important target – is to change the color of this Olympic medal

My favourite workout is – Bench Press

My favourite actor is – Aamir Khans

My favourite song is – Let me down slowly by Alec Benjamin

My favourite cuisine is – Ghar ka khaana

(Chicken, Mutton and Halva)

My best sporting moment – winning Bronze at Tokyo Olympics 2020

My idol is – Dhanraj Pillay

My dream destination is – Switzerland

If I wasn't a hockey player, I would've been – Cricketer

My gym buddy are – Harmanpreet and Hardik

My favourite outfit is – T-shirt and shorts

My go-to karaoke song is – Let me down slowly by Alec Benjamin

3 things I don't travel without – Phone, Passport and Wallet

My cheat meal – Ice Cream and Gulab Jamun





HOCKEY INDIA

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