



HOCKEY INDIA

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY TO MARCH 2024, VOLUME - 70

COVER STORY

14TH HOCKEY INDIA SENIOR WOMEN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 2024 LIVES UP TO THE BILLING



14TH HOCKEY INDIA SENIOR WOMEN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 2024

13TH - 23RD MARCH | MAJOR DHYANCHAND HOCKEY STADIUM, PIMPRI, PUNE, MAHARASHTRA

CHAMPIONS



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HOCKEY INDIA

PRESIDENT MESSAGE



Namaskar,

Over the past three months, the journey of hockey in India has resembled a thrilling roller coaster, marked by a series of many highs and some lows for our national teams. Amidst this whirlwind of achievements and setbacks, I find it imperative to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all involved - be it the players, officials, or the diligent personnel of Hockey India. Your unwavering dedication and resolve have been instrumental in propelling the sport towards unprecedented success.

The year commenced with unforeseen challenges, as despite the relentless efforts of our Senior Women's Team on the field, they encountered disappointment at the FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers Ranchi 2024 in January. However, the Indian Women's Hockey 5s Team made us proud in the FIH Hockey5s World Cup 2024, where they finished as runners-up. Meanwhile, the Men's 5s Hockey Team secured a fifth-place finish in the tournament. Also, the Senior Men's Team toured South Africa, where they produced a brilliant show to beat France and host South Africa before going down to the Netherlands in their final match of the tour.

During February, the FIH Pro League 2023-24 took centre stage in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela, showcasing thrilling matches for both the men's and women's teams. The women's team demonstrated remarkable prowess on home turf, securing impressive victories against formidable opponents like the USA and Australia. Meanwhile, the men's team showcased their dominance by clinching victory in three out of four matches in Bhubaneswar and maintaining an unbeaten streak in Rourkela, highlighting their strength and resilience on the international stage.

We also saw our players from senior women's teams taking an active part in the 14th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship in March and in the same month, Hockey India came up with the latest initiative to develop future drag-flickers and goalkeepers before successfully organising 6th edition of Hockey India annual awards.

Looking forward, the focus shifts to the highly anticipated Paris Olympics, where all eyes will be on our Men's team. With unwavering confidence, we believe they will leave no stone unturned in their pursuit of glory, aiming to bring honour and pride to our nation on the grandest stage of all.

In closing, I'm proud to affirm that Hockey India has seen tremendous progress, achieving notable successes on and off the field. Rest assured, the journey continues as we persist in our efforts to propel the sport to greater heights.

Jai Hind!

Dr Dilip Tirkey
President, Hockey India

HOCKEY INDIA

SECRETARY GENERAL



Namaskar,

India's hockey journey over the last quarter has witnessed many highs and some lows for our national teams. And for braving this swirl of successes and disappointments, I feel compelled to offer my sincere appreciation to everyone who has been involved - the players, the officials, and the hardworking staff of Hockey India. Their persistent commitment and perseverance have been crucial in advancing the sport to new heights.

Our Senior Women's Team faced disappointment at the FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers Ranchi 2024 in January, despite their outstanding efforts on the field. Nonetheless, we were pleased with the Indian Women's Hockey 5s Team when they placed second in the FIH Hockey5s World Cup 2024. Meanwhile, the Men's 5s Hockey Team placed fifth in the competition. In addition, the Senior Men's Team went on tour to South Africa, where they triumphed against France and their hosts South Africa before losing to the Netherlands in the last game.

In February, Bhubaneswar and Rourkela hosted the FIH Hockey Pro League 2023/24, which featured exciting games for both the men's and women's teams. The women's squad showcased their resilience, winning over strong foes like the United States and Australia. The men's team demonstrated their strength and tenacity on the global scene by winning three of the four games they played in Bhubaneswar and continuing their unbeaten run in Rourkela.

In March, we witnessed our senior women's teams' players participating in the 14th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship. The same month, Hockey India unveiled their newest initiative to train future goalkeepers and drag-flickers, and they also successfully hosted the 6th Hockey India Annual Awards.

As the attention turns to the much-awaited Paris 2024 Olympics, our men's squad will be the centre of attention. We have complete faith that they will succeed in their quest for glory and that they will honour and proudly represent our country on the biggest platform possible.

Finally, I'm happy to state that Hockey India has made great strides and has had outstanding accomplishments both on and off the field. You can be confident that the ascendance will continue as we continue to push the sport to new heights.

Jai Hind!

Bhola Nath Singh
Secretary General, Hockey India

2ND KHELO INDIA SUB JUNIOR WOMEN'S HOCKEY LEAGUE - PHASE 2

Odisha Naval Tata Hockey High Performance Centre, Pritam Siwach Hockey Academy and SAI Shakti Team won their respective matches on the final day of the 2nd Khelo India Sub Junior Women's Hockey League - Phase 2.

Odisha Naval Tata Hockey High Performance Centre defeated Jai Bharat Hockey Academy 12-1 in the first match. Pragya Patel (10', 12', 45', 58') scored four goals, Captain Doli Bhoi (8', 15', 57') scored a hat-trick while Kesar Bhabar (3'), Sheetal Yadav (14'), Neharika Toppo (24'), Saniya Syed (36') and Chanchal Yadav (38') scored a goal each for Odisha Naval Tata Hockey High Performance Centre. The lone goal for Jai Bharat Hockey Academy came from a penalty corner conversion by Anita Devi (19').

Pritam Siwach Hockey Academy defeated Bhai Behlo Hockey Academy Bhagta 1-0 in the second game of the day. The game nearly ended in a goalless draw with both teams putting on a tremendous display of defence but it was Pritam Siwach Hockey Academy Captain Diksha (60') who converted a penalty corner in the final minute of the game to break the deadlock and take her team to victory.

SAI Shakti Team defeated SAI Bal Team 5-1 in the final match of the day. Purnima Yadav (3', 23') scored a brace for SAI Shakti Team while Ravina (36'), Captain Kajal (40') and Priyanka (56') scored a goal each. The solitary goal for SAI Bal Team was a field goal that was scored by Sree Vidya Thirumalasetty (21').



14TH HOCKEY INDIA SENIOR WOMEN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 2024

Date	First Place	Second Place	Third Place	Location
13th- 23rd March	Hockey Haryana	Hockey Maharashtra	Hockey Jharkhand	Pune, Maharashtra

The 14th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship concluded at the Major Dhyanand Hockey Stadium Pimpri, Pune, Maharashtra with Hockey Haryana being crowned Champions. Hockey Haryana defeated Hockey Maharashtra 1-1(3-0 SO) in the Final to claim the bragging rights. Hockey Jharkhand finished third in the tournament.

Hockey Haryana defeated hosts Hockey Maharashtra 1-0 (3-0 SO) in a nail-biting Final to win the 14th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship at the Major Dhyanand Hockey Stadium Pimpri, Pune, Maharashtra. While Deepika (26') scored for Hockey Haryana in regulation time, Navneet Kaur, Usha and Sonika scored in the shootout and their Captain Savita made three successive saves to take them to glory.



Hockey Jharkhand defeated Hockey Madhya Pradesh 2-0 to win the 3rd/4th place play-off.



HOCKEY INDIA NAMES 39-MEMBER CORE PROBABLE GROUP AHEAD OF SOUTH AFRICA TOUR

Hockey India named a 39-member core group for the Men's National Coaching Camp that began on 3rd January 2024 at Sports Authority of India (SAI), Bengaluru. The short 11-day camp was held ahead

of the team's departure for Cape Town, South Africa where they were set to take part in a 4 Nation Tournament to be played against France, the Netherlands, and hosts South Africa.

GOALKEEPERS

KRISHAN BAHADUR PATHAK

SREEJESH PARATTU RAVEENDRAN

SURAJ KARKERA

PAWAN MALIK

PRASHANT KUMAR
CHAUHAN

DEFENDERS

HARMANPREET SINGH

JARMANPREET SINGH

SURENDER KUMAR

VARUN KUMAR

AMIT ROHIDAS

GURINDER SINGH

JUGRAJ SINGH

MANDEEP MOR

NILAM SANJEEP XESS

SANJAY

YASHDEEP SIWACH

DIPSAN TIRKEY

MANJEET

MIDFIELDERS

MANPREET SINGH

HARDIK SINGH

VIVEK SAGAR PRASAD

MOIRANGTHEM
RABICHANDRA SINGH

SHAMSHER SINGH

NILAKANTA SHARMA

RAJKUMAR PAL

SUMIT

AKASHDEEP SINGH

GURJANT SINGH

MD. RAHEEL MOUSEEN

MANINDER SINGH

FORWARDS

S. KARTHI

MANDEEP SINGH

LALIT KUMAR UPADHYAY

ABHISHEK

DILPREET SINGH

SUKHJEET SINGH

SIMRANJEET SINGH

SHILANAND LAKRA

PAWAN RAJBHAR



HOCKEY INDIA NAMES 41-MEMBER CORE

PROBABLE GROUP FOR JUNIOR WOMEN'S NATIONAL COACHING CAMP

Hockey India announced a 41-member core probable group for the Junior Women's National Coaching Camp, which commenced on 8th January 2024 at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) facility in Bengaluru. Chosen based on their performances in

the 2023 domestic championships, this new core group underwent a month-long camp under the guidance of Coach Tushar Khandker, concluding on 15th March.

GOALKEEPERS

VIDYASHREE V

ADITI MAHESHWARI

NIDHI

ENGIL HARSHARANI MINZ

DEFENDERS

LALTHANTLUANGI

NIRU KULLU

MAMITA ORAM

JYOTI SINGH

ANJALI BARWA

PAWANPREET KAUR

THOUNJAOJAM NIRUPAMA DEVI

PUJA SAHOO

MIDFIELDERS

PRIYANKA DOGRA

RAJNI KARKETTA

F. LALBI AKSIAMI

MANISHA

NIRALI KUJUR

HINA BANO

KSETRIMAYUM SONIA DEVI

ANISHA SAHOO

PRIYANKA YADAV

KHAIDEM SHILEIMA CHANU

SUPRIYA KUJUR

JAISIKDEEP KAUR

BINIMA DHAN

HUDA KHAN

SAKSHI RANA

FORWARDS

SONAM

SANJANA HORO

DECHAMMA PG

ISHIKA

HIMANSHI SHARAD GAWANDE

KANIKA SIWACH

NISHA MINJ

YAMUNNA

GEETA YADAV

GURMAIL KAUR

LALRINPUII

MUNMUNI DAS

ASHWINI PUNJAB KOLEKAR

SUNELITA TOPPO



HOCKEY INDIA NAMES 40-MEMBER CORE

PROBABLE GROUP FOR JUNIOR MEN'S NATIONAL COACHING CAMP

Hockey India unveiled a 40-player core probable group for the Junior Men's National Coaching Camp, commencing on 29 January 2024, at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) facility in Bengaluru.

Under Coach Janardhana CB's guidance, the core probable group convened for a 20-day training camp from 29 January to 15 March.

GOALKEEPERS

PRINCE DEEP SINGH

BIKRAMJIT SINGH

ASHWANI YADAV

ADARSH G

ALI KHAN

DEFENDERS

SHARDA NAND TIWARI

SUKHVINDER

AMIR ALI

ROHIT

YOGEMBER RAWAT

MANOJ YADAV

ANMOL EKKA

PRASHANT BARLA

AKASH SORONG

SUNDARAM RAJAWAT

ANAND . Y

TALEM PRIYO BARTA

MIDFIELDERS

ANKIT PAL

ROSAN KUJUR

MUKESH TOPPO

RITIK KUJUR

ANKUSH

JEETPAL

CHANDAN YADAV

MANMEET SINGH

VACHAN H A

THOUNAOJAM INGALEMBA LUWANG

THOKCHOM KINGSON SINGH

GOVIND NAG

BIPIN BILLAVARA RAVI

FORWARDS

MOHIT KARMA

GURJOT SINGH

MOHD. KONAIN DAD

PRABHDEEP SINGH

DILRAJ SINGH

ARSHDEEP SINGH

SOURABH ANAND KUSHWAHA

ARAJEET SINGH HUNDAL

MOHD. ZAID KHAN

GURSEWAK SINGH



TEAM ARRIVALS

FIH HOCKEY OLYMPICS QUALIFIERS RANCHI 2024

India, Japan, Italy, New Zealand, Germany, USA, Chile and Czech Republic were the teams that arrived in Ranchi, Jharkhand for the FIH Hockey Olympics Qualifiers Ranchi 2024. The home team, Indian Women's Hockey Team arrived on January 3rd. The

motivated USA team arrived in Ranchi on January 4th along with Italy Women's Hockey Team while Germany and Czech Republic arrived on January 6th. Chile, Japan and New Zealand arrived on January 7th.



TEAM INDIA



TEAM CHILE



TEAM CZECH REPUBLIC



TEAM GERMANY



TEAM ITALY



TEAM JAPAN



TEAM NEW ZEALAND



TEAM UNITED STATES

TEAM ARRIVALS

FIH HOCKEY PRO LEAGUE 2023/24 WOMEN

India, the Netherlands, Australia, USA and China were the teams that arrived in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, for the Women's FIH Hockey Pro League 2023/24 campaign. The home team, Indian Women's Hockey

Team arrived on 28th January. The Netherlands and Australian team arrived on 31st January along with the USA arriving on 29th January, while China's team arrived on 27th January.



TEAM INDIA



TEAM AUSTRALIA



TEAM CHINA



TEAM NETHERLANDS



TEAM USA

TEAM ARRIVALS

FIH HOCKEY PRO LEAGUE 2023/24 MEN

India, the Netherlands, Ireland, Spain and Australia were the teams that arrived in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, for the Men's FIH Hockey Pro League 2023/24 campaign. The home team, Indian Men's Hockey

Team arrived on 5th February. The Netherlands team arrived on 4th February. Ireland also landed in India on 4th February. Spain arrived on 5th February while Australia arrived on 6th February.



TEAM INDIA



TEAM AUSTRALIA



TEAM IRELAND



TEAM NETHERLANDS



TEAM SPAIN

TICKET SALES FOR THE FIH MEN'S AND WOMEN'S HOCKEY PRO LEAGUE 2023/24 MATCHES BEGIN IN BHUBANESWAR AND ROURKELA

The FIH Pro League 2023/24 started with the Indian Women's Hockey Team taking on reigning Asian Games Champions China in their first match on 3rd February 2024. Hockey India started the sale of offline tickets for the Bhubaneswar leg of FIH Pro League 2023/24. The tickets for the West Stand and East Stand were priced at Rs.500 and Rs.200 respectively. Meanwhile, North Stand and South Stand tickets are priced at Rs.100. The Kalinga Hockey Stadium hosted 10 matches of the Women's teams from 3rd February to 9th February, followed by 10 matches of the Men's teams from 10th February to 16th February.

Hockey India announced online ticket sales for

all the Women's and Men's matches in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela. Fans could also avail match tickets from www.ticketgenie.in.

FIH PRO LEAGUE
2023/24

Meanwhile, the sale of offline tickets for the Rourkela leg of FIH Pro League 2023/24 began on 8th February. The tickets for the West Stand and East Stand were priced at Rs.500 and Rs.200 respectively. Meanwhile, North Stand and South Stand tickets were priced at Rs.100. The Birsamunda Hockey Stadium hosted 10 matches of the Women's teams from 12th February to 18th February, followed by 10 matches of the Men's teams from 19th February to 25th February.



HOCKEY INDIA APPOINTS HERMAN KRUIS AS HIGH PERFORMANCE DIRECTOR

Hockey India announced the appointment of Herman Kruis as the new High Performance Director. He will assume the role till September 2024, overseeing the National Junior and Senior programs of Hockey India, including the Coaches Education Pathway among other tasks.

Kruis who is from the Netherlands has over two decades of coaching experience, and was earlier appointed as Coach of Indian Men and Junior Women's Hockey Teams to oversee their preparations for the coveted FIH Men's Junior World Cup and FIH Women's Junior World Cup respectively. In his vast coaching experience, Kruis has worked with Den Bosch ladies – a club based out of the Netherlands – as their Head Coach and during his tenure the team won the European Cup eight times in a row. In his most recent stint, he was the National Head Coach of the Belarus Indoor and

Outdoor team from 2016 to August 2023. Kruis is a certified FIH Coach-Educator.

"Hockey India is delighted to appoint senior Coach Herman Kruis as the High Performance Director of Hockey India. He will oversee the various programs run by Hockey India including the Junior and Senior programs. I wish Herman the very best as he assumes this new role," expressed Hockey India President Dr Dilip Tirkey.

Expressing his delight at being appointed as the High Performance Director, Kruis said, "I am looking forward to this new stint with Hockey India. The Indian teams are on the cusp of creating history and I look forward to utilizing my expertise in helping the teams and Hockey India in achieving their goals for this year."



HOCKEY INDIA CONGRATULATES **MANPREET SINGH**

ON ACHIEVING

350

INTERNATIONAL CAPS

Hockey India congratulated Manpreet Singh on completing 350 International Caps when India took on Spain in their first match of the FIH Hockey Pro League 2023/24 at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium in Bhubaneswar on 10 February 2024. He made his debut for the Indian Men's Hockey Team in 2011 at the age of 19. He was a part of the Indian squad that won the 2011 Men's Asian Champions Trophy held in Ordos, China as well as the squad that won the Silver medal in the 2013 Men's Hockey Asia Cup in Malaysia. Manpreet also won the Gold medal with the Indian team at the 2014 Asian Games in South Korea.

Manpreet won the Silver medal with the Indian Team at the 2014 Commonwealth Games and the Bronze medal in the 2014-15 Men's FIH Hockey World League. This was followed by Silver medals in the 2016 South Asian Games in Guwahati and the 2016 Men's Hockey Champions Trophy in London. He then went on to win the Gold medal with the Indian Team in the 2017 Men's Hockey Asia Cup in Dhaka, Bangladesh before helping India finish in third place at the 2016-17 Men's FIH Hockey World League.

In 2018, the midfielder won the Silver medal with the Indian Team at the Men's Hockey Champions Trophy in Breda, Netherlands, the Bronze medal at the Asian Games in Jakarta and the Gold at the Men's Asian Champions Trophy in Muscat, Oman. Under his captaincy, India won the Bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics 2020. He was part of the Indian Men's Hockey Team that won the Silver medal at the 2022 Commonwealth Games held in Birmingham, England. He won the Gold medal with the Indian team at the 2023 Asian Champions Trophy held in Chennai before winning yet another Gold medal at the Asian Games in Hangzhou later that year.



HOCKEY INDIA CONGRATULATES HARMANPREET SINGH ON ACHIEVING 200 INTERNATIONAL CAPS

Hockey India congratulated Harmanpreet Singh on completing 200 International Caps when India took on the Netherlands in their second match of the FIH Hockey Pro League 2023/24 at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium in Bhubaneswar on 11 February 2024. Harmanpreet Singh, the Captain of the Indian Men's Hockey Team made his debut in 2015 and has been a pivotal part of the Indian defence ever since. He won the Gold medal with the Indian Junior Men's Hockey Team at the 2015 Men's Hockey Junior Asia Cup in Malaysia later that year as well as the Gold in the 2016 Men's Hockey Junior World Cup.

This was followed by a Silver medal for the deft defender with the Indian Men's Hockey Team in the 2016 Men's Hockey Champions Trophy in London. He then went on to win the Gold medal with the Indian Team in the 2017 Men's Hockey Asia Cup in Dhaka, Bangladesh before helping India finish in third place at the 2016-17 Men's FIH Hockey World League. Harmanpreet, in 2018, won the Silver medal with the Indian Team at the Men's Hockey Champions Trophy in Breda, Netherlands, the Bronze medal at the Asian Games in Jakarta and the Gold at the Men's Asian Champions Trophy in Muscat, Oman.

He was one of the key architects of the Indian Men's Hockey Team's Bronze medal win at the Tokyo Olympics 2020. He then went on to win another Bronze medal, this time at the 2021 Men's Asian Champions Trophy in Dhaka. The Indian Men's Hockey Team won the Silver medal at the 2022 Commonwealth Games held in Birmingham, England with Harmanpreet playing a significant role. Under his captaincy, India won the Gold medal at the 2023 Asian Champions Trophy held in Chennai before winning yet another Gold medal at the Asian Games in Hangzhou later that year.



HOCKEY INDIA CONGRATULATES

NEHA

ON ACHIEVING

150

INTERNATIONAL CAPS

Hockey India congratulated Neha on completing 150 International Caps when India took on the Netherlands in their second match of the FIH Hockey Pro League 2023/24 at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar on 04 February 2024.

Having made her debut in 2014, Neha was a part of the squad that won the Gold in the 2016 South Asian Games that took place in Guwahati, India. She was also part of the Indian Women's Hockey Team when they struck Gold at the 2017 Women's Hockey Asia Cup in Gifu, Japan Where they beat China in the Final.

The midfielder played a significant role in the team that won the Silver medal at the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta and was also a part of the squad that finished second in the 2018 Asian Champions Trophy at Donghae. Neha represented India at the 2018 Women's Hockey World Cup in London where the team finished eighth and was also in the team that finished fourth in the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Australia.

Neha was also a part of the Indian Women's Hockey Team when they narrowly missed out on a medal as they finished fourth in the Tokyo Olympics 2020. Her contribution was crucial in India winning the Bronze medal at the 2022 Women's Hockey Asia Cup held in Muscat, Oman. The 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, England saw the Indian Women's Hockey Team finishing in third place after beating New Zealand in the Bronze medal match and Neha was a part of the squad. In December 2022, Neha was a part of the Indian Women's Hockey Team that beat the host nation Spain in the Women's FIH Hockey Nations Cup Final at Valencia to win the Gold medal. She was also a part of the squad that won the Bronze medal in the Asian Games in Hangzhou that ended in October 2023. Winning the Gold medal with the Indian Women's Hockey Team at the 2023 Women's Asian Champions Trophy in Ranchi, Jharkhand was Neha's most recent achievement.



HOCKEY INDIA CONGRATULATES NAVNEET KAUR

ON ACHIEVING

150

INTERNATIONAL CAPS

Hockey India congratulated Navneet Kaur on completing 150 International Caps. She achieved this remarkable milestone during India's match against New Zealand, the ninth-ranked team in the world, in the FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers 2024 at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh AstroTurf Hockey Stadium in Ranchi, Jharkhand.

Navneet Kaur, who hails from Haryana, has been one of the most consistent midfielders for the Indian Women's Hockey Team. She played a significant role in the team that won the 9th Women's Asia Cup in November 2017 scoring four goals. She was also a part of the Bronze Medal winning team at Junior Women's Hockey World Cup in Germany in 2013.

Her most recent achievement was winning the Gold medal with the Indian team at the 2023 Asian Champions Trophy in November at Ranchi after winning the Bronze medal at the Asian Games in Hangzhou in October 2023.





HOCKEY INDIA CONGRATULATES

GURJANT SINGH

ON COMPLETING

100

INTERNATIONAL CAPS

Hockey India extended heartfelt congratulations to Gurjant Singh as he achieved the remarkable milestone of completing 100 International Caps during India's riveting encounter against the Netherlands in the FIH Hockey Pro League 2023/24, held at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium in Bhubaneswar on 11th February 2024.

Gurjant Singh, the 29-year-old forward hailing from Amritsar, made his debut for the Indian Men's Hockey team in 2017, quickly establishing himself as a pivotal member of the squad. A celebrated player, Gurjant played a crucial role in the team's triumph, securing the Bronze medal at the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo, where he showcased his skills in seven matches and netted three goals.

HOCKEY INDIA CONGRATULATES **SALIMA TETE** ON COMPLETING **100** INTERNATIONAL CAPS

Hockey India, on 03 February 2024, congratulated Salima Tete on making her 100th appearance for the Indian Women's Hockey Team in their first match of the FIH Hockey Pro League 2023/24 against China at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium, Bhubaneswar.

Salima, known for her blistering pace, made her debut for India in the 2016 Test Matches: AUS v IND (W) that was held in Melbourne in November 2016. She attained the status of an Olympian at 19 years of age, as she was part of the historic squad that finished fourth at the Tokyo Olympics 2020. The invaluable experience from the Olympics saw her bloom as a player. Soon after, she was named the Rising Player of the Tournament of the Women's Asia Cup 2022, held in Muscat, where the team finished third.

A confident Salima then went on to Captain the team that finished fourth at the FIH Hockey Women's Junior World Cup 2021 held in Potchefstroom, South Africa. In the 2022 Commonwealth Games, Salima scored a crucial goal in the 3rd/4th place match against New Zealand, which enabled the team to register their first official victory against New Zealand, through shootouts and claim the Bronze medal.

Salima was also an integral part of the Indian Women's Hockey Team that was crowned Champions of the FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup Spain 2022 in December 2022. She was also a part of the squad that won the Bronze medal in the Hangzhou Asian Games which ended in October 2023.

The young player scored 5 goals across 7 matches of the Jharkhand Women's Asian Champions Trophy Ranchi 2023, where India clinched the title. In addition to her exploits on-field, Salima was appointed as an AHF Athletes Ambassador in March 2023, enabling her to play a leadership role in international representation, development, and advocacy of athletes.



HOCKEY INDIA CONGRATULATES

UDITA

ON COMPLETING

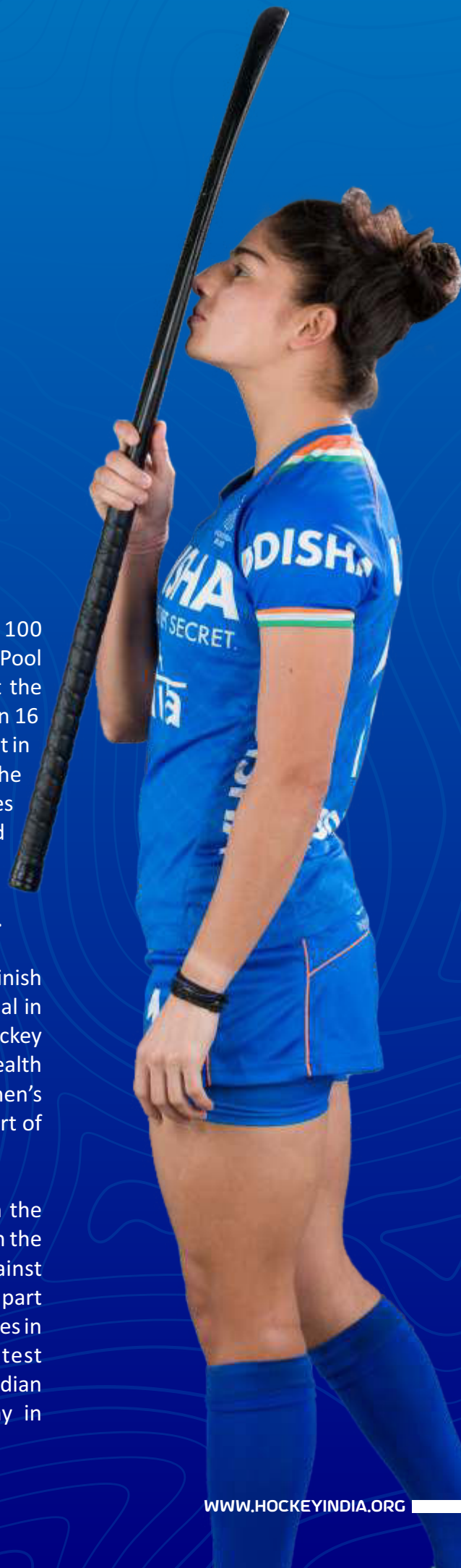
100

INTERNATIONAL CAPS

Hockey India congratulated Udita on completing 100 International Caps when India took on Italy in their final Pool B match of the FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers 2024 at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh AstroTurf Hockey Stadium on 16 January 2024 in Ranchi, Jharkhand. Udita made her debut in 2017 and since then she has played a significant role in the team that won the Silver Medal at the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta and was also a part of the squad that finished second in the 2018 Asian Champions Trophy at Donghae. Udita represented India at the 2018 Women's Hockey World Cup in London where India finished in eighth place.

The speedy defender was a part of India's fourth-place finish in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Her contribution was crucial in India winning the Bronze medal at the 2022 Women's Hockey Asia Cup held in Muscat, Oman. The 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, England saw the Indian Women's Hockey Team finishing in third place and Udita was a part of the squad.

In December 2022, India beat the host nation Spain in the Women's FIH Hockey Nations Cup Final at Valencia to win the Gold medal. Udita's equalizer in the Semi-Final against Ireland was critical to the team's success. She was also a part of the squad that won the Bronze medal in the Asian Games in Hangzhou which ended in October 2023. Her latest achievement was winning the Gold medal with the Indian team at the 2023 Women's Asian Champions Trophy in Ranchi, Jharkhand



HOCKEY INDIA CONGRATULATES HARBINDER SINGH ON WINNING THE PRESTIGIOUS PADMA SHRI AWARD

Hockey India on 28 January 2024 congratulated veteran hockey star Harbinder Singh for being conferred with the prestigious Padma Shri award. The legendary centre forward was part of India's triumph in Tokyo where they won the Gold Medal in the 1964 Olympic Games.

Harbinder Singh who was playing his first Olympic Games in 1964 had scored five goals in the quadrennial event. Harbinder played for India between 1961 and 1972, featuring in three Olympic Games and winning a medal in each. Apart from a Gold in 1964, he was part of the Indian team that won Bronze in the 1968 Mexico Olympics and 1972 Munich Olympics. He was part of the golden era of Indian hockey when the team also dominated in Asia winning the Gold in Asian Games in 1966 and a Silver in 1970.

Congratulating Harbinder Singh on this much-deserved recognition, Hockey India President Dr Dilip Tirkey said, "We are very delighted that Harbinder Singh has been recognised with the prestigious Padma Shri award for his exemplary career in hockey. He has been a role model for many of us and he continues to inspire this generation of young hockey stars. I congratulate him on winning this award."

Hockey India Secretary General Shri Bhola Nath Singh said, "On behalf of Hockey India, I congratulate Harbinder Singh. He will forever be known as one of India's finest centre forwards who scored at will and won many accolades for the country. He continues to serve the sport even to this day, always willing to be involved in whatever capacity it may be and that is very inspiring."



HOCKEY INDIA ANNOUNCES 24-MEMBER INDIAN WOMEN'S HOCKEY TEAM FOR FIH PRO LEAGUE 2023-24

Hockey India named a 24-member Indian Women's Hockey Team for the Bhubaneswar and Rourkela legs of the FIH Pro League 2023-24. The Bhubaneswar leg began on 10th February and

concluded on 16th February while Rourkela leg commenced on 19th February and ended on 25th February.

GOALKEEPERS

SAVITA (C)

BICHU DEVI KHARIBAM

DEFENDERS

GURJIT KAUR

NIKKI PRADHAN

UDITA

ISHIKA CHAUDHARY

MONIKA

JYOTI CHHATRI

MIDFIELDERS

NISHA

VAISHNAVI VITTHAL PHALKE

NEHA

NAVNEET KAUR

SALIMA TETE

SONIKA

JYOTI

BALJEET KAUR

SUNELITA TOPPO

FORWARDS

MUMTAZ KHAN

BEAUTY DUNG DUNG

LALREMSIAMI

SANGITA KUMARI

DEEPIKA

VANDANA KATARIYA (VC)

SHARMILA DEVI



HOCKEY INDIA ANNOUNCES 24-MEMBER INDIAN MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM FOR FIH PRO LEAGUE 2023-24

Hockey India announced the 24-member Indian Men's Hockey Team that participated in the Bhubaneswar and Rourkela legs of the FIH Pro League 2023-24. The Bhubaneswar leg began on

3rd February and ended on 9th February while the Rourkela leg commenced on 12th February and lasted till 18th February.

GOALKEEPERS

SREEJESH PARATTU RAVEENDRAN

KRISHAN BAHADUR PATHAK

DEFENDERS

JARMANPREET SINGH

SUMIT

JUGRAJ SINGH

AMIT ROHIDAS

SANJAY

VARUN KUMAR

HARMANPREET SINGH (C)

VISHNUKANT SINGH

MIDFIELDERS

HARDIK SINGH (VC)

VIVEK SAGAR PRASAD

MANPREET SINGH

NILAKANTA SHARMA

SHAMSHER SINGH

RAJKUMAR PAL

RABICHANDRA SINGH MOIRANGTHEM

FORWARDS

LALIT KUMAR UPADHYAY

MANDEEP SINGH

GURJANT SINGH

SUKHJEET SINGH

ABHISHEK

AKASHDEEP SINGH

ARAJEET SINGH HUNDAL



HOCKEY INDIA ANNOUNCED 28-MEMBER CORE

PROBABLE GROUP FOR NATIONAL MEN'S COACHING CAMP IN BHUBANESWAR

Hockey India announced the 28-member core probable group for the Senior Men's National Coaching Camp, which commenced on 12th March and lasted until 30th March at the

Kalinga Hockey Stadium in Bhubaneswar. The camp was significant as the Indian Team aimed to fine-tune their preparations ahead of the crucial Paris 2024 Olympics.

GOALKEEPERS

KRISHAN BHADUR PATHAK

PR SREEJESH

SURAJ KARKERA

DEFENDERS

HARMANPREET SINGH

JARMANPREET SINGH

AMIT ROHIDAS

JUGRAJ SINGH

SANJAY

SUMIT

AMIR ALI

MIDFIELDERS

MANPREET SINGH

HARDIK SINGH

VIVEK SAGAR PRASAD

SHAMSHER SINGH

NILAKANTA SHARMA

RAJKUMAR PAL

RABICHANDRA SINGH MOIRANGTHEM

VISHNUKANT SINGH

FORWARDS

AKASHDEEP SINGH

MANDEEP SINGH

ABHISHEK

DILPREET SINGH

SUKHJEET SINGH

GURJANT SINGH

BOBY SINGH DHAMI

ARAJEET SINGH HUNDAL

MOHAMMED RAHEEL MOUSEEN

LALIT KUMAR UPADHYAY



DENNIS VAN DE POL KEEPING CAMP

ANNOUNCEMENT - MARCH

Aiding the Indian Men's Hockey Team's preparations for the Olympic Games Paris 2024, Hockey India roped in the services of Dutch goalkeeping expert Dennis Van De Poole.

He joined the national coaching camp held at the iconic Kalinga Hockey Stadium in Bhubaneswar, where he closely worked with PR Sreejesh, Krishan Pathak and Suraj Karkera. The 10-day special goalkeeping camp, overseen by Chief Coach Craig Fulton ended on 26 March, a week before the team left for the Australia Tour.

Dennis has been working with the Indian goalies for nearly four years now, with his first stint in 2019.

Speaking about the significant camp ahead of India's tour of Australia, Hockey India President Dr Dilip Tirkey, said, "This is a very important phase for the Indian Men's Team and everything they do in the months leading up to the Olympic Games will be crucial in achieving the desired result in Paris.



HOCKEY INDIA CONGRATULATES PR SREEJESH

ON BEING APPOINTED CO-CHAIR OF THE FIH ATHLETES COMMITTEE

The International Hockey Federation, on 28 March 2024, announced the appointment of the new FIH Athletes Committee, to be led by Co-Chairs Camila Caram of Chile and PR Sreejesh of India. While Camila Caram has been assigned Co-Chair and Athletes Committee Representative in the Executive Board, Indian Men's Hockey Team goalkeeper PR Sreejesh is the Co-Chair and he will lead the planning and meetings along with Caram.

The FIH Athletes Committee serves as a consultative body and makes recommendations to the FIH Executive Board, FIH Committees, Advisory Panels and other bodies.

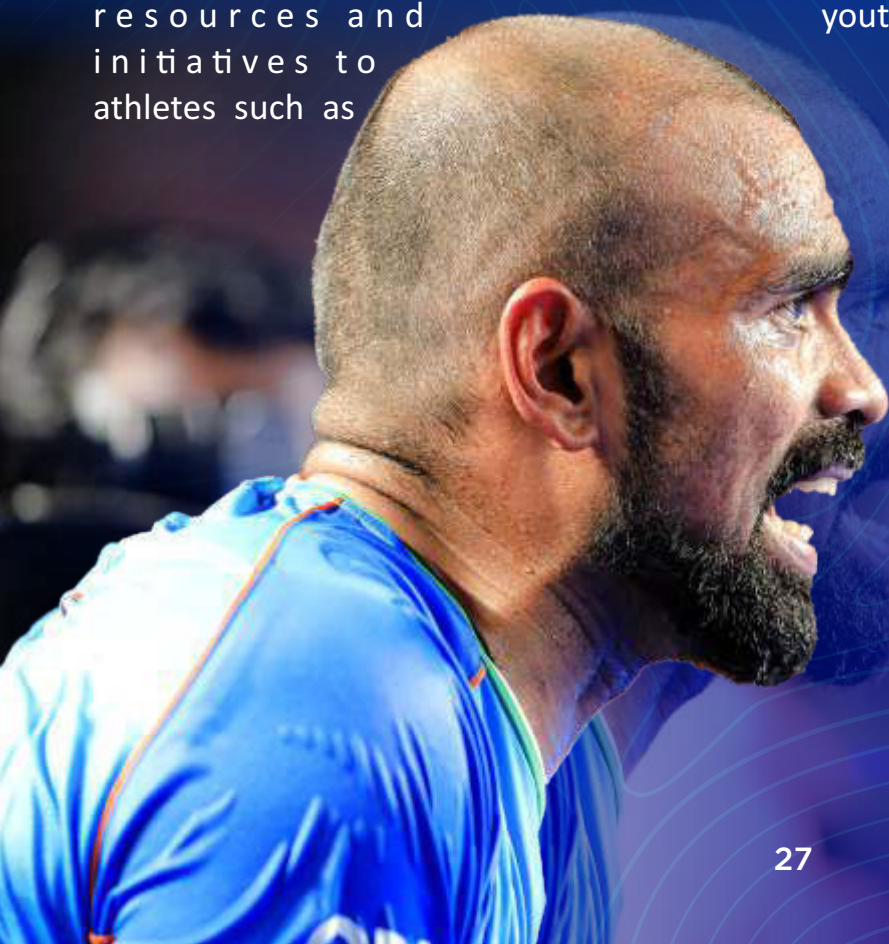
The roles also cover seeking and providing feedback to the FIH on behalf of all athletes, whilst developing and promoting resources and initiatives to athletes such as

health and welfare, anti-doping, social media, creating stars to attract new fans, career preparation and management. The Committee also plays a central role in liaising with the Athletes' Commission of the IOC and other sporting organisations to enable the sharing of information and research and ultimately develop the game of hockey.

Commenting on the occasion Hockey India President Dr Dilip Tirkey said, "It is heartening to see PR Sreejesh assume a role with the FIH that would directly impact the lives of hockey players. A veteran like him will have the experience and perspective to advise on the betterment of athletes who have picked up hockey sticks around the world.

We are looking forward to witnessing the positive impact Sreejesh will have on the youth in this role."

Echoing similar thoughts Hockey India Secretary General Shri Bhola Nath Singh said, "We would like to congratulate PR Sreejesh on being appointed the Co-Chair in the new FIH Athletes Committee. Sreejesh is an empathetic leader and we are confident, in his capacity as Co-Chair he will ensure that the voices of hockey players around the world are heeded, leading to the growth of the sport."



HOCKEY INDIA CONGRATULATES **YOGITA SHYAMLAL PASI** ON PROMOTION TO FIH INTERNATIONAL PANEL AS OUTDOOR UMPIRE

Hockey India on 14 March 2024 congratulated Yogita Shyamlal Pasi for getting promoted to the prestigious FIH International Panel as an Outdoor Umpire. This recognition comes as a result of Yogita's outstanding contributions and dedication to the sport of hockey.

In a letter addressed to Yogita, the FIH Umpiring Committee expressed their pleasure in accepting the recommendation for her promotion. The

letter, which was also copied to her National Association and Continental Federation, acknowledged Yogita's commitment to excellence in umpiring.

Notably, 28-year-old Yogita has officiated in some of the major tournaments like the Women's Asian Champions Trophy held in Ranchi, Jharkhand in 2023, Women's Junior Asia Cup held in Japan in 2023, and 36th National Games held in Rajkot in 2022.



HOCKEY INDIA HIGH PERFORMANCE DIRECTOR CONDUCTS COACHING WORKSHOP ON MODERN COACHING TECHNIQUES FOR DOMESTIC HEAD COACHES

Hockey India High Performance Director Herman Kruis conducted a workshop focusing on contemporary coaching methods and grassroots hockey development on the sidelines of the 14th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2024 in Pune. The aim was to equip coaches in the domestic circuit with the skills to enhance the learning journey of young hockey players from the onset of their careers.

As a part of Hockey India's ongoing commitment to elevating coaching standards at the grassroots level, Herman Kruis led a workshop. During the session, he highlighted the significance of instilling a sense of ownership in young athletes and stressed the value of active learning as opposed to passive learning. Kruis also underscored the importance of promoting broad motor development, advocating for exposing players to diverse play styles and sports to establish a solid foundation of fundamental skills during their

developmental stages.

In attendance for this workshop were coaches from Goans Hockey, Manipur Hockey, Hockey Association of Odisha, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Diu & Daman Hockey, Hockey Maharashtra, Assam Hockey, Hockey Bengal, Hockey Madhya Pradesh, Hockey Bihar, Hockey Jharkhand, Hockey Telangana, Hockey Uttar Pradesh, Kerala Hockey, Hockey Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh Hockey, Hockey Gujarat, Hockey Chandigarh, Hockey Delhi, Hockey Karnataka, Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu, and Le Puducherry Hockey. Also in attendance virtually were Hockey India President Dr Dilip Tirkey, Hockey India Secretary General Bholu Nath Singh, and Hockey India Treasurer Sekar J Manoharan.



HERMAN KRUIS CONDUCTS COACHING WORKSHOP ON MODERN TECHNIQUES & GRASSROOTS DEVELOPMENT WITH LEADING HOCKEY ACADEMY COACHES

Hockey India High Performance Director Herman Kruis on 28 March 2024 hosted a Coaching Workshop on Modern Techniques of Coaching & Grassroots Development with leading hockey academy coaches at the Hockey India office in New Delhi. The focus of the meeting was on enhancing grassroots development and charting out a comprehensive strategy for the advancement of hockey in India.

The Coaching Workshop, led by Herman Kruis, the High Performance Director of Hockey India, witnessed the active participation of prominent figures in the hockey community. Hockey India President Dr Dilip Kumar Tirkey also addressed the attendees virtually, emphasizing the significance of grassroots development in shaping the future of Indian hockey. Hockey India Secretary General Shri Bholu Nath Singh and Treasurer Shri Sekar J Manoharan were also in attendance, underlining

the organization's commitment to fostering talent at the grassroots level.

Coaches from boys' academies who were present in the meeting were - Gurdeep Singh (Punjab State Institute of Sports, Mohali), Neha Rawat (MP Academy, Gwalior), Harjinder Singh (Namdhari Hockey Academy), Muthukumar (Sport Development Authority of Tamil Nadu, Egmore), Harmeet Singh (GHG Khalsa College, Ludhiana), Gavin Ferreira and Sujit Lakra (Sports Hostel Rourkela), Bittu Shigroha and Ravinder Singh (Roundglass Punjab Hockey Academy), Bharat Chhikara (Ghumanhera Riser's Academy, Ghumanhera), and Raju Kant Saini (SAIL Hockey Academy, Rourkela).

Coaches from girls' academies who were present in the meeting were - Jyoti Thakran and Neetu Kumari (Pritam Siwach Hockey Academy, Sonapat), Pitti Lakshmi Naryana (Odisha - Naval Tata Hockey High

Performance Centre), Satara Sagar Karande (Krida Prabodhini Academy, Pune), Sunil Malik and Mr. Kuldeep S (Har Hockey Academy), Khader Basha and G.L. Anil Kumar (YSR Sports School, Kadappa, Andhra Pradesh), Pramila Jacob (Sports Authority of Gujarat Academy, Baroda), Rashmi Ekka (Sports Academy Raipur Chhattisgarh), Tarini Kumari (Hockey Training Centre, Simdega, Jharkhand), and Jyoti (Khalsa Hockey Academy, Amritsar).

The gathering served as a platform for fruitful discussions on various aspects of grassroots development, including talent identification, coaching methodologies, infrastructure enhancement, and talent pathway programs. Attendees shared valuable insights and experiences, contributing to the formulation of a comprehensive approach aimed at nurturing and honing young hockey talent across the country.



14TH HOCKEY INDIA SENIOR WOMEN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 2024 LIVES UP TO THE BILLING

INDIA'S FINEST STARS AND BUDDING PLAYERS GRAB THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHINE ON UNIQUE NATIONAL STAGE

The 14th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2024 held at the erstwhile Balewadi Stadium in Pune, Maharashtra was unlike any other in the recent years. Why? The marquee domestic event in Hockey India calendar saw all the members of the Indian Women's Hockey Team turn up for their respective state teams, ensuring a grand tussle for the coveted trophy.

This event was of immense significance as Hockey India national selectors closely following the ten-day tournament named a 60-member core probable group based on their performance in this championship. This group of 60 was further down to 33-member core group for future camps and exposure tours.

Hockey Haryana, featuring the likes of stalwarts Savita, Neha Goyal, Navneet Kaur, Monika, Sonika, Udit and former India skipper Ritu Rani, emerged as the undisputed Champions of the prestigious tournament which saw Haryana's rising star Deepika etch her name as the top scorer with an impressive 15 goals. They got the better of hosts Hockey Maharashtra after the two teams held each other for a 0-0 draw in regulation time. The thrilling final encounter went down to the wire with ace goalie Savita holding her nerves in the shootout keeping a clean slate, while her compatriots Navneet, Usha and Sonika broke no sweat in scoring goals to help Hockey Haryana win 3-0 in the shootout.

Meanwhile, in the third-fourth place playoff match, Hockey Jharkhand stood tall on the podium after a convincing 2-0 victory over Hockey Madhya Pradesh. Jharkhand's iconic players Nikki Pradhan, Salima Tete, Sangita Kumari, Beauty Dung Dung and budding stars Deepika Soreng, Mahima Tete among others were instrumental in the team's success.

The showpiece event that attracted a niche hockey-loving audience who religiously turned up for all the matches in Pune which is a stronghold of the sport for decades, also witnessed some standout performances from North East teams like Hockey Mizoram and Hockey Manipur. They marched into the knockout stage playing some gritty hockey in the round robin league, defeating teams like Hockey Punjab (lost to Hockey Mizoram 2-4) and Hockey Karnataka (lost to Hockey Manipur 0-3). Their players showed great character and played with a lot of heart to bring pride to their state in this all-important championship that gave a brilliant platform for youngsters to shine and find recognition.

As the norm in the recent Hockey India National Championships, this event too was held by Hockey India on the same lines as the international matches hosted by them. The standard of organising the tournament was top notch with awards being presented to Player of the Match for all 41 matches, which had 27 teams from across India participate – making it a memorable outing for the teams.

OPENING CEREMONY



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 14TH HOCKEY INDIA SENIOR WOMEN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 2024, PUNE, MAHARASHTRA







14TH HOCKEY INDIA SENIOR WOMEN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 2024

PUNE, MAHARASHTRA

13 - 23 MAR 2024

MATCH NO	DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME	PITCH	MATCH	RESULT
1	POOL A	13/03/2024	07:00	MDHS	HMP vs CHA	8 - 0
2	POOL C	13/03/2024	08:45	MDHS	JHA vs HAP	13 - 0
3	POOL H	13/03/2024	10:30	MDHS	HBL vs GUJ	28 - 0
4	POOL H	13/03/2024	14:00	MDHS	UTN vs TEL	2 - 1
5	POOL G	13/03/2024	15:30	MDHS	KAR vs HUT	6 - 0
6	POOL B	13/03/2024	19:00	MDHS	MAH vs KER	10 - 0
7	POOL A	14/03/2024	07:00	MDHS	BIH vs HMP	1 - 7
8	POOL C	14/03/2024	08:45	MDHS	UPH vs JHA	2 - 2
9	POOL H	14/03/2024	10:30	MDHS	GUJ vs TEL	0 - 12
10	POOL H	14/03/2024	15:30	MDHS	UTN vs HBL	0 - 2
11	POOL G	14/03/2024	17:15	MDHS	MAN vs DDD	12 - 0
12	POOL B	14/03/2024	19:00	MDHS	DEL vs MAH	0 - 3
13	POOL D	15/03/2024	07:00	MDHS	HAR vs ASH	15 - 0
14	POOL E	15/03/2024	08:45	MDHS	HOD vs GOA	9 - 1
15	POOL F	15/03/2024	10:30	MDHS	PUN vs RAJ	11 - 2
16	POOL F	15/03/2024	16:00	MDHS	HHP vs MIZ	0 - 10
17	POOL B	16/03/2024	07:00	MDHS	KER vs DEL	1 - 4
18	POOL A	16/03/2024	08:45	MDHS	CHA vs BIH	2 - 0
19	POOL C	16/03/2024	10:30	MDHS	HAP vs UPH	2 - 11
20	POOL H	16/03/2024	15:30	MDHS	HBL vs TEL	11 - 0
21	POOL H	16/03/2024	17:15	MDHS	GUJ vs UTN	0 - 6
22	POOL G	16/03/2024	19:00	MDHS	HUT vs DDD	5 - 0
23	POOL D	17/03/2024	07:00	MDHS	PUD vs HAR	0 - 22
24	POOL E	17/03/2024	08:45	MDHS	CHD vs HOD	1 - 6
25	POOL F	17/03/2024	10:30	MDHS	RAJ vs MIZ	2 - 20
26	POOL F	17/03/2024	17:15	MDHS	HHP vs PUN	0 - 8
27	POOL G	17/03/2024	19:00	MDHS	MAN vs KAR	3 - 0
28	POOL D	18/03/2024	07:00	MDHS	ASH vs PUD	2 - 1
29	POOL E	18/03/2024	08:45	MDHS	GOA vs CHD	2 - 2
30	POOL F	18/03/2024	10:30	MDHS	PUN vs MIZ	2 - 4
31	POOL F	18/03/2024	16:00	MDHS	RAJ vs HHP	4 - 4
32	POOL G	19/03/2024	08:00	MDHS	KAR vs DDD	13 - 0
33	POOL G	19/03/2024	09:45	MDHS	HUT vs MAN	2 - 11
34	QUARTER-FINAL 1	20/03/2024	14:00	MDHS	HMP vs HBL	1 - 1 (4 - 3 SO)
37	QUARTER-FINAL 4	20/03/2024	16:00	MDHS	HAR vs HOD	4 - 1
36	QUARTER-FINAL 3	20/03/2024	18:00	MDHS	JHA vs MIZ	2 - 1
35	QUARTER-FINAL 2	20/03/2024	20:00	MDHS	MAH vs MAN	2 - 1
39	SEMI-FINAL 2	22/03/2024	18:00	MDHS	JHA vs HAR	0 - 4
38	SEMI-FINAL 1	22/03/2024	20:00	MDHS	HMP vs MAH	1 - 2
40	3RD / 4TH PLACE	23/03/2024	15:00	MDHS	HMP vs JHA	0 - 2
41	FINAL	23/03/2024	19:00	MDHS	MAH vs HAR	1 - 1 (0 - 3 SO)

INDIAN MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM BEGINS ALL-IMPORTANT 2024 WITH SOUTH AFRICA TOUR

The Indian Men's Hockey Team dominated their tour of South Africa, showcasing formidable defense and relentless offense. They secured victories against France with a 4-0 triumph and South Africa with a 3-0 win, but faced a tough 2-2

draw in a rematch against France. Despite a 1-5 defeat to the Netherlands, India's journey was marked by memorable performances and intense showdowns.

GOALKEEPERS

KRISHAN B PATHAK

PAWAN MALIK

PR SREEJESH

DEFENDERS

RABICHANDRA SINGH MOIRANGTHEM

AMIT ROHIDAS

HARMANPREET SINGH

JARMANPREET SINGH

JUGRAJ SINGH

SANJAY

SUMIT

VARUN KUMAR

MIDFIELDERS

HARDIK SINGH

MANPREET SINGH

NILAKANTA SHARMA

RAJKUMAR PAL

SHAMSHER SINGH

VISHNUKANT SINGH

VIVEK SAGAR PRASAD

FORWARDS

ABHISHEK

AKASHDEEP SINGH

ARAJEET SINGH HUNDAL

BOBY SINGH DHAMI

GURJANT SINGH

LALIT KUMAR UPADHYAY

MANDEEP SINGH

SUKHJEET SINGH



INDIA TOUR OF SOUTH AFRICA 14 - 28 JAN 2024, SOUTH AFRICA

MATCH NO	DATE	TIME (IST)	MATCH	RESULT
01	MONDAY, 22 JAN 2024	14:30	INDIA VS FRANCE	4-0
02	WEDNESDAY, 24 JAN 2024	14:30	INDIA VS FRANCE	2-2
03	FRIDAY, 26 JAN 2024	21:30	SOUTH AFRICA VS INDIA	0-3
04	SUNDAY, 28 JAN 2024	14:00	INDIA VS NETHERLANDS	1-5

INDIAN WOMEN'S HOCKEY TEAM SCRIPTS HISTORY, CLINCHES SILVER AT INAUGURAL FIH HOCKEY5S WOMEN'S WORLD CUP 2024

The Indian Women's Hockey5s Team secured a historic Silver medal at the FIH Hockey5s Women's World Cup in Muscat, Oman. They triumphed over Poland, the USA, and Namibia in the group stage. Dominating performances led them through the Quarter-Finals and Semi-Finals, where they

defeated New Zealand (11-2) and South Africa (3-6) respectively. Despite a valiant effort, they fell to the Netherlands in the Final, earning commendation and cash rewards of Rs 3 Lakhs to each player and Rs 1.5 Lakhs to each support staff member from Hockey India.

GOALKEEPERS

BANSARI SOLANKI

RAJANI ETIMARPU

DEFENDERS

AKSHATA ABASO DHEKALE

MAHIMA CHOUDHARY

MIDFIELDERS

AJMINA KUJUR

FORWARDS

DEEPIKA SORENG

JYOTI CHHATRI

MARIANA KUJUR

MUMTAZ KHAN

RUTUJA DADASO PISAL



FIH HOCKEY 5S WOMEN'S WORLD CUP 2024 24 - 27 JAN 2024, MUSCAT, OMAN

MATCH NO	DATE	POOL	TIME (IST)	MATCH	RESULT
05	WEDNESDAY, 24 JAN 2024	C	12:50	INDIA VS POLAND	5-4
14	WEDNESDAY, 24 JAN 2024	C	21:10	USA VS INDIA	3-7
23	THURSDAY, 25 JAN 2024	C	14:30	INDIA VS NAMIBIA	7-2
32	FRIDAY, 26 JAN 2024	QUARTER-FINAL 1	13:00	INDIA VS NEW ZEALAND	11-
40	FRIDAY, 26 JAN 2024	SEMI-FINAL 2	23:00	SOUTH AFRICA VS INDIA	3-6
48	SATURDAY, 27 JAN 2024	FINAL	21:50	NETHERLANDS VS INDIA	7-2

INDIAN MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM FINISHES 5TH AT INAUGURAL FIH HOCKEY5S MEN'S WORLD CUP 2024

India's Men's Hockey Team showcased formidable strength in the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup, dominating Switzerland 9-1 but faced a setback with a 6-8 loss to Egypt. They bounced back with a resounding 13-0 win over Jamaica, securing a

Quarter-Finals spot where they fell 4-7 to the Netherlands. Despite the defeat, they secured fifth place, defeating Kenya 9-4 and Egypt 6-4 in classification matches.

GOALKEEPERS

PRASHANT KUMAR CHAUHAN

SURAJ KARKERA

DEFENDERS

MANDEEP MOR

MANJEET

MIDFIELDERS

MANINDER SINGH

MOHAMMED RAHEEL MOUSEEN

FORWARDS

GURJOT SINGH

PAWAN RAJBHAR

SIMRANJEET SINGH

UTTAM SINGH



FIH HOCKEY 5S MEN'S WORLD CUP 2024 28 - 31 JAN 2024, MUSCAT, OMAN

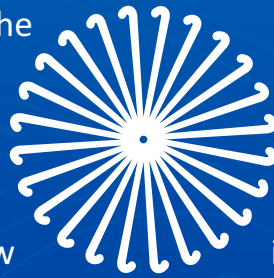
MATCH NO	DATE	POOL	TIME (IST)	MATCH	RESULT
03	SUNDAY, 28 JAN 2024	B	11:10	INDIA VS SWITZERLAND	9-1
12	SUNDAY, 28 JAN 2024	B	18:00	EGYPT VS INDIA	8-6
17	MONDAY, 29 JAN 2024	B	14:30	INDIA VS JAMAICA	13-0
29	TUESDAY, 30 JAN 2024	QUARTER-FINAL 1	09:30	NETHERLANDS VS INDIA	7-4
37	TUESDAY, 30 JAN 2024	MATCH 5/8	19:30	INDIA VS KENYA	9-4
46	WEDNESDAY, 31 JAN 2024	MATCH 5/6	19:30	INDIA VS EGYPT	6-4

HEARTBREAK FOR INDIAN WOMEN'S HOCKEY TEAM AT FIH HOCKEY OLYMPICS QUALIFIERS; NARROWLY MISSES OUT ON THE QUALIFICATION

India engaged in a battle to earn a berth for Paris Olympics in the FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers Ranchi 2024 in Ranchi, Jharkhand at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Astro Turf on 13 January. The eight teams in the fray included world no.5 Germany, Japan, Chile and Czech Republic, which were placed in Pool A, while hosts India were clubbed in Pool B with New Zealand, United States and Italy. Only the top 3 teams in the tournament were set to make the qualification cut.

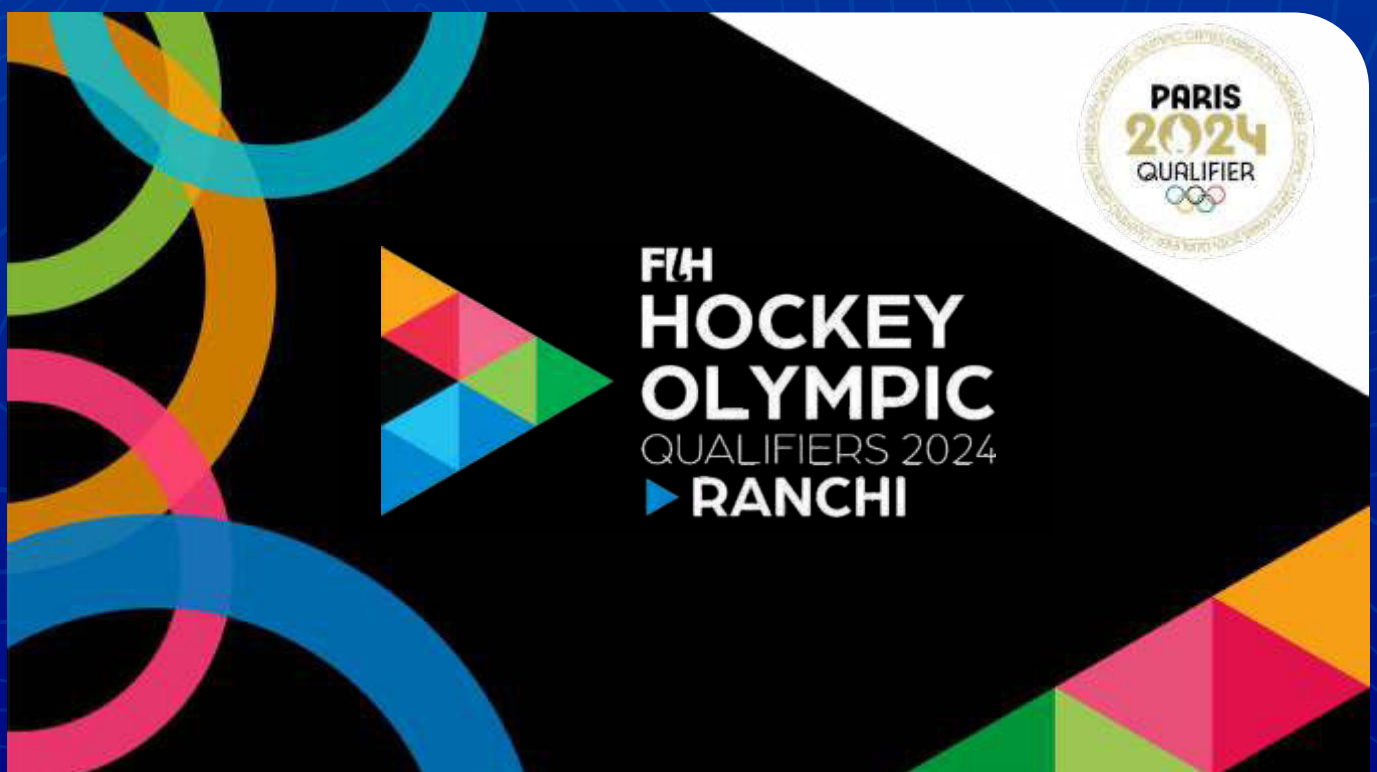
Vying for their third consecutive Olympic berth, the Savita-led Indian Women's Hockey Team faltered against the United

States in their first match, losing 0-1. They bounced back and defeated New Zealand 3-1 and Italy 5-1 to finish second in Pool B and advance to the Semi Finals.



HOCKEY INDIA

The Indian Women's Hockey Team put on a spirited show against Germany but were unable to get over the line as they lost 2-2 (3-4 SO) in a thrilling Semi-Final. In a do or die game, they faced Japan next and the Indian Women's Hockey Team lost 0-1 to Japan in a hard-fought 3rd/4th place play-off game at the FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers Ranchi 2024. With this loss, India finished in fourth place and missed out on qualifying for the 2024 Paris Olympics.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM FIH HOCKEY OLYMPICS QUALIFIERS RANCHI 2024







FH
HOCKEY
OLYMPIC
QUALIFIERS 2024
▶ **RANCHI**

QUALIFIED

#ENROUTETOPARIS

PARIS
2024
QUALIFIER
Olympic



FH
HOCKEY
OLYMPIC
QUALIFIERS 2024
▶ **RANCHI**

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FH
HOCKEY
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QUALIFIERS 2024
▶ **RANCHI**

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FIH HOCKEY OLYMPIC QUALIFIER RANCHI 2024 (WOMEN)

RANCHI, JHARKHAND, INDIA
13 - 19 JAN 2024

MATCH NO	POOL	DATE	TIME	MATCH	RESULT
1	A	13/01/2024	12:00	GERMANY vs CHILE	3 - 0
2	A	13/01/2024	14:30	JAPAN vs CZECH REPUBLIC	2 - 0
3	B	13/01/2024	17:00	NEW ZEALAND vs ITALY	28 - 0
4	B	13/01/2024	19:30	INDIA vs USA	0 - 1
5	A	14/01/2024	12:00	CHILE vs CZECH REPUBLIC	6 - 0
6	A	14/01/2024	14:30	JAPAN vs GERMANY	1 - 1
7	B	14/01/2024	17:00	USA vs ITALY	2 - 0
8	B	14/01/2024	19:30	INDIA vs NEW ZEALAND	3 - 1
9	A	16/01/2024	12:00	GERMANY vs CZECH REPUBLIC	10 - 0
10	A	16/01/2024	14:30	CHILE vs JAPAN	0 - 2
11	B	16/01/2024	17:00	USA vs NEW ZEALAND	1 - 0
12	B	16/01/2024	19:30	INDIA vs ITALY	5 - 1
13	5/8 ¹	18/01/2024	10:30	CHILE vs ITALY	2 - 2 SO 1 - 2
14	5/8 ¹	18/01/2024	13:30	NEW ZEALAND vs CZECH REPUBLIC	2 - 0
15	1 ST SEMI FINAL	18/01/2024	16:30	USA vs JAPAN	2 - 1
16	2 ND SEMI FINAL	18/01/2024	19:30	GERMANY vs INDIA	2 - 2 SO 4 - 3
17	7/8 PLACE	19/01/2024	10:30	CHILE vs CZECH REPUBLIC	1 - 0
18	5/6 PLACE	19/01/2024	13:30	ITALY vs NEW ZEALAND	1 - 3
19	3/4 PLACE	19/01/2024	16:30	INDIA vs JAPAN	0 - 1
20	FINAL	19/01/2024	19:30	GERMANY vs USA	2 - 0

HOCKEY INDIA CONGRATULATES DEEP GRACE EKKA ON A GLORIOUS CAREER



DEEP GRACE EKKA

As the stalwart defender and penalty corner specialist Deep Grace Ekka called time on her illustrious career, Hockey India congratulated the two-time Olympian for her outstanding contribution to the growth of the Indian Women's Hockey Team. Ekka announced her retirement through a social media post.

Ekka's sojourn in international hockey began as early as 2011 when she was only 17 years old. From Lulkidihi village in Sundargarh district, Odisha, Ekka etched her name in the history books when the Indian Junior squad she was part of won the historic Bronze medal at the 2013 Women's Junior Hockey World Cup in Germany.

She was also instrumental in the team qualifying for the Rio Olympic Games for the first time and she was a vital cog in the team's defence line at

the Tokyo Olympics where they finished fourth, winning over a billion hearts the world over for their brave performance in only their third appearance (1980, 2016 and 2021) at the Summer Games.

As the curtains went down on her incredible career in international hockey, Hockey India President Dr Dilip Tirkey said, "For over a decade, Deep Grace Ekka has been a household name in women's hockey. Her success in hockey has been a huge inspiration for youngsters not only in Odisha but across the country. She has shown great sportsmanship throughout her career and has immensely contributed to the team's growth in the past decade. On behalf of Hockey India, I wish her the very best for the future and congratulate her on her illustrious career."

22 CANDIDATES COMPLETE FIH ACADEMY

**LEVEL 1 & LEVEL 2 COACHING COURSES;
34 CANDIDATES ENROL FOR LEVEL 3 COURSE
DURING FIH PRO LEAGUE 2023/24**

On the sidelines of the FIH Pro League 2023/24, a notable enhancement in coaching proficiency occurred, with three participants completing the FIH Academy Level 1 Coaching Course and an impressive 20 individuals immersing themselves in the FIH Academy Level 2 Coaching Course. These transformative programs took place in Bhubaneswar from 10th to 12th February, orchestrated through a collaborative effort between the International Hockey Federation (FIH) and Hockey India.

The eligible candidates enrolled in the courses through an online application, and one of the noteworthy participants in these courses was the esteemed former Indian Women's Hockey Team Captain, Rani. It should be noted that Rani participated in both the FIH Academy Level 1 and Level 2 Coaching Courses. Rani has also enrolled herself for the FIH Academy Level 3 Coaching Course.

Distinguished FIH Academy Educators, namely Herman Kruis, Hockey India High Performance Director, Michael Vincent Irving, and Tsoanelo Pholo, were entrusted with the responsibility of imparting advanced knowledge and skills to the candidates, ensuring they are well-equipped for the challenges of coaching at higher levels.

It is worth noting that, alongside the mentioned courses, FIH, in collaboration with Hockey India, commenced the FIH Academy Level 3 Coaching Course, bifurcated into two batches. The batch 1, comprising 18 candidates, is taking place in Bhubaneswar from 13th to 16th February, with the subsequent batch 2 of 16 candidates undergoing the course from 16th to 19th February. Renowned FIH Academy Educator Helen Lejeune will spearhead both batches, contributing her expertise to the development of coaching proficiency.



**'IT HAS BEEN A SURREAL EXPERIENCE,'
SAYS INDIAN MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM FORWARD**

ARAIJEET SINGH HUNDAL

ON FIH HOCKEY PRO LEAGUE 2023/24 EXPERIENCE AT HOME



Araijeet Singh Hundal, who made his maiden appearance at the FIH Hockey Pro League matches held in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela in February, spoke about his experience of playing top-level hockey at the home turf.

India began their FIH Hockey Pro League 2023/24 season at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium in Bhubaneswar with a 4-1 win against Spain. In their next game, they recorded a 2-2 (4-2) draw against the Netherlands in regulation time, before losing 4-6 to Australia in a high-scoring game and followed it up with a 1-0 win against Ireland before moving to Rourkela, where they kept up their record of remaining unbeaten (in regulation time) at the iconic Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium.

The Indian side led by Harmanpreet Singh and Vice Captained by Hardik Singh registered 2-2 (8-7), 1-1 (2-4), and 2-2 (0-3) and 4-0 against Spain, the Netherlands, Australia and Ireland respectively in Rourkela.

Speaking about his experience, Araijeet Singh Hundal, a recent addition to the senior Indian Men's Hockey squad, said, "It has been a surreal experience. Competing against top-tier teams such as the Netherlands and Australia, receiving encouragement from both seniors and the coach, is genuinely delightful, and it has also been a valuable learning experience for me."

When asked about the guidance provided by his senior teammates, the 20-year-old forward from Punjab shared, "They advised me to keep an open mindset, play freely, and avoid putting unnecessary pressure on myself."

'MY FATHER TOLD ME TO SEIZE THE MOMENT,' SAYS INDIAN MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM DEFENDER AMIR ALI AMIR ALI AFTER A MEMORABLE INDIA DEBUT

Young defender Amir Ali, who made his senior team debut during India's FIH Hockey Pro League match against Ireland in Bhubaneswar on 16 February 2024, took a moment to reflect on his journey and how he made several sacrifices to reach at this level.

The support of his father, Tasauvar Ali, and Rashid Aziz Khan, a coach at the KD Singh Babu Stadium, who identified Amir's talent early on and offered training and crucial assistance, has played a pivotal role in making Amir achieve his dream of representing the Indian Men's Hockey Team.

When asked about how he felt before his first game, Amir said, "A lot of people dream of representing the nation and I was grateful that I had the chance to experience this against Ireland. The coach and seniors in the team helped me a lot before the game, they told me to play how I usually do, not to worry about making mistakes or feeling that I'm dragging the others down. They assured me that I was not alone on the pitch; the team was there to help me out and that gave me a lot of confidence."

Son of a bike mechanic in Lucknow, the defender made his debut for the Junior Indian Men's Hockey Team in October 2022 in the

Sultan of Johor Cup, where the team clinched the Gold. Next, he featured in the 2023 Men's Junior Asia Cup, which was also won by India. Amir went on to earn the Bronze medal at the Sultan of Johor Cup 2023 as well.

"My family was over the moon when I broke the news to them, my father said that opportunities like this come seldom in life and I should seize the moment, give it my all to make sure that I perform to the best of my abilities and help the team win," he added.

Following his debut Amir was picked to face Ireland again on 25th February, in the last match of the Rourkela leg of the FIH Hockey Pro League 2023/24, which the team won by 4-0.

"It was truly exhilarating to step onto the field for my first match. Upon reviewing the recorded match later, I recognized the areas where I could improve further and this helped me as I was more confident and relaxed in the last match of the Rourkela leg against Ireland. This confidence came from my teammates; being in camp with them I was able to watch and learn from the best in the business. Going forward, I will aim to emulate the way my seniors train and inculcate their habits, discipline, and skills to make myself a better player," Amir signed off.



HOCKEY INDIA LEADERSHIP UNITES TO PROPEL INDIAN HOCKEY TO A NEW ERA

The top leadership of Hockey India, including President Dr Dilip Tirkey, Secretary General Shri Bhola Nath Singh, and Treasurer Sekar J Manoharan, on 28 February 2024, collectively addressed a gathering to discuss the future trajectory of men's and women's hockey.

The meeting had a strong emphasis on grassroots development in general and women's hockey in particular and aimed to strategize and work collaboratively towards taking Indian hockey to a new era. The purpose of this high-profile meeting was to ensure a comprehensive approach towards the growth and excellence of the sport in the country.

Hockey India President Dr Dilip Tirkey expressed his enthusiasm for the future of Indian hockey. He said, "We are committed to fostering a culture of excellence in hockey at all levels. This meeting is a pivotal moment where we collectively envision a bright future for the sport in India, with a focus on holistic development."

Hockey India Secretary General Shri Bhola Nath Singh also added, "The discussions held today were crucial in understanding the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Together, we are determined to create an environment that nurtures talent, enhances performance, and promotes the sport across the nation."

Herman Kruis, the High Performance Director of Hockey India, led the aforementioned meeting that was attended by former prominent Indian players. The attendees included MM Somaya, Jagbir Singh, AB Subbaiah, Pritam Siwach, Sumrai Tete, Subhadra Pradhan, Rupinder Pal Singh and Piyush Dubey. The purpose of the collaboration is to benefit Indian hockey by utilizing the attendees' valuable insights and experiences at the grassroots level.

Furthermore, key coaches from top-performing hockey states participated in the meeting, contributing to the comprehensive approach to hockey development across the nation. The list of coaches includes:

**MANOJ KUMAR PRASAD
JHARKHAND**

**SAGAR SINGH THAKUR
MAHARASHTRA**

**DAVID IAN JOHN
ODISHA**

**PARAMJEET SINGH
MADHYA PRADESH**

**MOIRANGTHEM RINASH MEITEI
MANIPUR**

**CHARLES DIXON
TAMIL NADU**

**KULBIR SINGH
PUNJAB**

**SIMRANJEET SINGH
WEST BENGAL**

**KANCHAN
PUNJAB**

The collaboration between the leadership of Hockey India, former players, and coaches from various states is a clear indication of a united effort to shape a promising future for Indian hockey. With a renewed focus on

grassroots development in general and women's hockey in particular, along with high-performance strategies, Hockey India is all set to take the standard of the sport towards a new era.



INDIAN MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM MIDFIELDER MANPREET SINGH RECALLS HIS TOP 5 MOMENTS AFTER MAKING 350 APPEARANCES

As India took on Spain in their first match of the FIH Hockey Pro League 2023/24 at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium in Bhubaneswar on 10th February 2024, Manpreet Singh completed the coveted milestone of 350 appearances for the Indian Men's Hockey Team. On the occasion, Manpreet ranked his top 5 most memorable moments in his career so far, and undoubtedly, at the top of the pile was winning the Bronze medal at the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo, where India beat Germany 5-4.

"It was an unbelievable feeling to win the Bronze medal at the Olympics; that had always been my dream since I started playing for the national team. I felt immensely proud when we finally clinched an Olympic medal in hockey after 41 years. It is a significant achievement and will always remain close to my heart," Manpreet recalled.

Another memorable moment was winning the Gold medal in the 17th Asian Games in 2014 held in Korea. "That was my first major Gold Medal with the Indian Men's Hockey Team, and winning it as a junior player ignited the fire in my belly. The feeling of winning the Gold is incomparable, and I have been chasing it ever since," he expressed.

Manpreet considers winning the Silver medal at the XX Commonwealth Games 2014 in Glasgow, Scotland as his third most memorable moment. "I feel that these initial successful events boosted my confidence and propelled me further in my career. Winning two consecutive medals, especially as a junior in the team, was a really big thing for me at that moment," the 31-year-old said.

Next, he recalled the Men's Asia Cup 2017 held in Bangladesh where India won the gold medal. "This tournament is also close to my heart because it was the first medal the team won with me as the Captain. Sharing my experience with the youngsters and leading the team to victory instilled a deep sense of achievement and satisfaction in me," he explained.

Beyond these achievements, Manpreet values his goal against Japan in the Final of the Asian Games Hangzhou 2022 at the top of the list. "I remember, the Japanese keeper swatted away a shot on goal and the ball fell to me at the edge of the shooting circle, I took a touch to get it out of my feet and let loose a reverse tomahawk to beat the keeper. Before the Asian Games, I felt I wasn't having the impact I knew I could but my performances kept improving and to score like that, in the Final, put my mind at ease", he reminisced.



‘LOOKING FORWARD TO DEFENDING OUR TITLE IN CHINA,’ SAYS INDIAN MEN’S HOCKEY TEAM VICE CAPTAIN **HARDIK SINGH**

On 28th February, the Asian Hockey Federation announced that the Men’s Asian Champions Trophy 2024 is scheduled to take place in Hulunbuir City, Inner Mongolia, China, from September 8th to 17th March 2024. Participating teams will include China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, and reigning champions India.

Speaking on the significance of the tournament, Indian Men’s Hockey Team Vice Captain Hardik Singh said, “The Asian Champions Trophy is a prestigious tournament where teams battle to claim the title of being the best hockey team in Asia. We aim to be the best team in the world, and an important step in that journey will be to retain the trophy and solidify our position as the best team in Asia”.

India emerged victorious in the previous edition, the Asian Champions Trophy Chennai 2023, held in Chennai from 3rd to 12th August. They secured the top spot in the pool with four victories and one draw, the draw coming against Japan. Meeting Japan again in the Semi-Final, they secured a convincing 5-0 victory.

In the final match, India initially trailed 1-3 at halftime. However, a strong comeback in the second half, with goals from Captain Harmanpreet Singh, Gurjant Singh, and Akashdeep Singh, led to India being crowned champions of the Asian Champions Trophy Chennai 2023.

Reflecting on the team's performance, Hardik said, “The Asian Champions Trophy Chennai 2023 was a spectacular tournament. As a team, we were still adapting to the new style

of play under Chief Coach Craig Fulton, and claiming the Gold medal was a testament to the progress the team had made under him. We also had the Mental Trainer Paddy Upton with us to help us along the way, and the team showed immense character to keep their wits about them and turn things around when we were trailing to Malaysia in the Final.”

“Coming back from behind to win the tournament was a special feeling, and looking back, I feel the team used that game as a springboard to reach greater heights. There is no doubt that we are looking forward to playing in the Men’s Asian Champions Trophy 2024 and defending our title,” the midfielder signed off.



HOCKEY INDIA LAUNCHES COMPREHENSIVE COACHING COURSE & MATCH OFFICIALS EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR EMERGING COACHES AND MATCH OFFICIALS

Hockey India continued its extensive Coaching Course and Match Officials Education & Development Plan, aimed at nurturing emerging coaches and match officials. This initiative reflects Hockey India's dedication to fostering excellence across all levels of the sport.

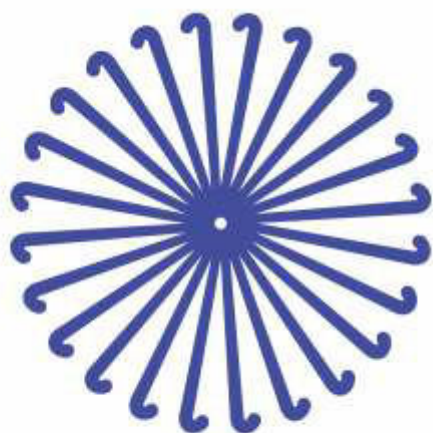
Acknowledging the pivotal role of coaches in shaping the future of Indian hockey, Hockey India took steps to elevate coaching standards and involve more coaches. The Coaching Courses were conducted in three categories:

1. HI Level Basic Course
2. HI Level 1 Course
3. HI Level 2 Course

During the courses, match officials were provided necessary guidance & support in order to fast-track their development. After which eligible candidates will be provided an opportunity to officiate at the Hockey India

sanctioned Sub Junior & Junior Level Zonal National Championships. In addition to this, the candidates will be eligible to attend FIH Academy, AHF & Hockey India Umpires & Technical Officials Courses/workshops. The program is designed to foster a deeper understanding of the FIH Rules and Regulations governing their roles.

Hockey India President Dr. Dilip Tirkey lauded the initiative, saying, "The standard of hockey in India will grow if we focus on the development of the sport at the grassroots level. That implies providing youngsters with the best coaches and conducting matches with the same standards as international matches. To best equip the coaches, technical officials, and umpires for this endeavor at the grassroots, we are introducing multiple courses. These courses will help elevate the standards of the sport while also providing opportunities for candidates to grow in their careers."



HOCKEY INDIA



**MATCH OFFICIALS EDUCATION
& DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

'AS SENIORS, WE CAN'T TAKE OUR PLACE FOR GRANTED IN THE CORE GROUP,'

SAYS

SALIMA TETE



Looking to rebuild the Indian Women's Hockey team ahead of their qualification for the FIH Women's Hockey World Cup in 2026, Hockey India urged senior players to make themselves available for the 14th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2024.

Speaking about her preparedness to turn up for her home state Jharkhand, Salima Tete said, "As senior players, we need to have a fresh outlook now and positively work towards the future. We need to leave the disappointment of not making the Olympic qualification behind us and move ahead with a renewed determination." Salima reiterated that the seniors in the squad need to fight for a place in the core group now or make way for fresh talent. The Simdega champ, known for her speedy dribbles, is one of the crucial members of the Jharkhand side which has shown remarkable growth in women's hockey by churning out young players year-on-year.

"Over the past few years, very good players have come to the forefront from Simdega in particular. The talent identification program and grassroots development initiatives have helped in bringing up new talent and I am sure more players will be identified for their skills."

'BY HARNESSING OUR FULL POTENTIAL, WE CAN BEAT ANYONE,' SAYS

HARMANPREET SINGH

ON 2024 PARIS OLYMPICS FIXTURES



With the Paris 2024 Olympic Games around the corner, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) unveiled the much-anticipated schedule for the tournament on 07 March 2024.

The Indian Men's Hockey Team, under the steadfast leadership of Captain Harmanpreet Singh, is poised to commence their campaign on 27th July against New Zealand. India will next take on Argentina on 29th July before facing Ireland and Belgium on 30th July and 1st August. They will play their last group stage game against the mighty Australians on 2nd August.

India are placed in Pool B alongside formidable

opponents: reigning Olympic Champions Belgium (world No. 2), Australia (world No. 5), Argentina (world No. 7), New Zealand (world No. 10), and Ireland (world No. 12). Notably, Argentina and Australia also have etched their names as former Olympic Champions.

Expressing his thoughts on the fixtures, Captain Harmanpreet Singh conveyed his enthusiasm and determination, saying, "Competing in Pool B is going to be challenging, given the undeniable potential of every team to emerge victorious on any given day. But we stand steadfast, mentally and physically prepared for every challenge that paves our journey at the Paris Olympics. As a collective force, our mindset is unwaveringly centred on our own strengths, as we believe that by harnessing our full potential, we can beat anyone."

Also, reflecting on India's historic achievement at Tokyo 2020, where they

secured a Bronze medal after a 41-year gap, Harmanpreet remarked, "Tokyo was a monumental moment, and we're determined to carry that momentum into Paris. Our goal is straightforward – to upgrade the colour of the medal by aiming for Gold. Taking it one step at a time, our initial focus is on advancing through the group stage and securing a spot in the Quarter-Finals. With our experience and skill set, we believe we're strong contenders for a podium finish."

Meanwhile, world No. 1 the Netherlands, Germany, Great Britain, Spain, South Africa and hosts France make up Pool A of the 12-team men's hockey tournament at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

In line with the tournament structure, teams will engage in one match each during the group stage, with the top four from each pool advancing to the Quarter-Finals.

XXXIII OLYMPIC GAMES PARIS

PARIS, FRANCE

26 JUL - 11 AUG, 2024

MATCH NO	DATE	POOL	TIME	PITCH	MATCH
1	27 JUL 2024	A	13:30	1	GREAT BRITAIN vs SPAIN
2	27 JUL 2024	B	14:00	2	BELGIUM vs IRELAND
3	27 JUL 2024	A	16:15	1	NETHERLANDS vs SOUTH AFRICA
4	27 JUL 2024	B	16:45	2	AUSTRALIA vs ARGENTINA
5	27 JUL 2024	A	20:30	1	GERMANY vs FRANCE
6	27 JUL 2024	B	21:00	2	INDIA vs NEW ZEALAND
7	28 JUL 2024	A	20:30	1	GERMANY vs SPAIN
8	28 JUL 2024	B	21:00	2	BELGIUM vs NEW ZEALAND
9	28 JUL 2024	A	23:15	1	NETHERLANDS vs FRANCE
10	28 JUL 2024	A	23:45	2	SOUTH AFRICA vs GREAT BRITAIN
11	29 JUL 2024	B	13:30	1	IRELAND vs AUSTRALIA
12	29 JUL 2024	B	16:15	1	INDIA vs ARGENTINA
13	30 JUL 2024	A	13:30	1	SPAIN vs FRANCE
14	30 JUL 2024	A	14:00	2	SOUTH AFRICA vs GERMANY
15	30 JUL 2024	A	16:15	1	GREAT BRITAIN vs NETHERLANDS
16	30 JUL 2024	B	16:45	2	IRELAND vs INDIA
17	30 JUL 2024	B	20:30	1	ARGENTINA vs NEW ZEALAND
18	30 JUL 2024	B	23:15	1	AUSTRALIA vs BELGIUM
19	31 JUL 2024	A	21:00	2	GERMANY vs NETHERLANDS
20	31 JUL 2024	A	23:15	1	SPAIN vs SOUTH AFRICA
21	01 AUG 2024	B	13:30	1	INDIA vs BELGIUM
22	01 AUG 2024	B	14:00	2	NEW ZEALAND vs AUSTRALIA
23	01 AUG 2024	A	16:15	1	FRANCE vs GREAT BRITAIN
24	01 AUG 2024	B	16:45	2	ARGENTINA vs IRELAND
25	02 AUG 2024	A	14:00	2	NETHERLANDS vs SPAIN
26	02 AUG 2024	B	16:45	2	AUSTRALIA vs INDIA
27	02 AUG 2024	B	20:30	1	NEW ZEALAND vs IRELAND
28	02 AUG 2024	B	21:00	2	BELGIUM vs ARGENTINA
29	02 AUG 2024	A	23:15	1	FRANCE vs SOUTH AFRICA
30	02 AUG 2024	A	23:45	2	GREAT BRITAIN vs GERMANY
31	04 AUG 2024	1ST QUARTER FINAL	13:30	1	TBC vs TBC
32	04 AUG 2024	2ND QUARTER FINAL	16:00	1	TBC vs TBC
33	04 AUG 2024	3RD QUARTER FINAL	21:00	1	TBC vs TBC
34	04 AUG 2024	4TH QUARTER FINAL	23:30	1	TBC vs TBC
37	06 AUG 2024	1ST SEMI FINAL	17:00	1	TBC vs TBC
36	06 AUG 2024	2ND SEMI FINAL	22:30	1	TBC vs TBC
35	08 AUG 2024	BRONZE MEDAL MATCH	17:30	1	TBC vs TBC
39	08 AUG 2024	GOLD MEDAL MATCH	22:30	1	TBC vs TBC

A close-up photograph of a hockey player wearing a silver, textured helmet with a white face mask. The player is looking slightly to the right. The background is a solid blue color with faint white wavy lines. The player is wearing a red jersey with a green and white collar.

FEATURE STORIES

SAVITA'S MESSAGE

ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: BELIEVE IN YOURSELF AND YOU CAN ACHIEVE BEYOND LIMITS

On the occasion of International Women's Day 2024, Indian Women's Team Captain, Savita gave a strong message. The Captain said that the key to achievement lies in believing in yourself.

She said, "When I started playing, I was lucky that I got full support from my family despite the challenges. That was a massive confidence booster for me. However, that was not the case for everyone. But with time, the situation has changed for the good. So, always believe in yourself and don't think that you are any less than anyone. Set your goals, and put all your hard-work with determination and motivation. It may take a bit of time to achieve your goals, but in the end, you will always get there."

"If you see, there are a lot of players from Haryana who are in the Indian Hockey Team. That just shows you that times have changed and it should continue like this. It makes me so happy that girls from across India are now getting support from their families. Family plays a significant role in the success of a child. If the child has his family's backing, I am sure that the child will give his best to make the family proud. It is great to see equality between genders. You can take as many steps and initiatives towards equality, but it is great to see women getting equal opportunity to show their mettle in all walks of life."

FIH PRO LEAGUE 2023/24 INDIA LEG SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDES IN ODISHA

The Indian Women's and Men's Hockey Teams began their FIH Hockey Pro League 2023/24 campaign in Odisha. Both teams played 4 matches in Kalinga Hockey Stadium, Bhubaneswar, and 4 matches in Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium, Rourkela, each in the home leg mini tournament this season.

The Women's Team registered a 1-2 loss against China, a 1-3 loss against Netherlands, a 0-3 loss against Australia, and a 3-1 victory over United States in Bhubaneswar. In Rourkela, they registered a 1-2 loss against China, 0-1 loss against the Netherlands, 1-0 victory over

Australia and 1 - 1 (2- 1 SO) shootout victory over United States to finish the mini tournament placed sixth on the table with 8 points.

The Men's Team registered a 4-1 victory against Spain, a 2 - 2 (4 - 2 SO) shootout win against the Netherlands, a 4-6 loss to Australia, and a 1-0 victory over Ireland in Bhubaneswar. In Rourkela they registered a thrilling 2 - 2 (8 - 7 SO) shootout victory over Spain, a 1 - 1 (2 - 4 SO) shootout loss to the Netherlands, a 2 - 2 (0 - 3 SO) shootout loss to Australia and a 4-0 victory over Ireland to end the mini tournament placed third on the table with 15 points.

FIH HOCKEY PRO LEAGUE 2023/24 (WOMEN) 03 - 18 FEB 2024, BHUBANESWAR & ROURKELA, ODISHA

MATCH NO	DATE	TIME (IST)	MATCH	RESULT
08	03 FEB 2024	19:30	CHINA VS INDIA	2-1
10	04 FEB 2024	19:30	INDIA VS NETHERLANDS	1-3
14	07 FEB 2024	19:30	INDIA VS AUSTRALIA	0-3
16	09 FEB 2024	19:30	INDIA VS USA	3-1
18	12 FEB 2024	19:30	CHINA VS INDIA	2-1
21	14 FEB 2024	19:30	NETHERLANDS VS INDIA	1-0
28	17 FEB 2024	19:30	AUSTRALIA VS INDIA	0-1
31	18 FEB 2024	19:30	USA VS INDIA	1-1 (SO 1-2)

FIH HOCKEY PRO LEAGUE 2023/24 (MEN) 10 - 25 FEB 2024, BHUBANESWAR & ROURKELA, ODISHA

MATCH NO	DATE	TIME (IST)	MATCH	RESULT
08	10 FEB 2024	19:30	INDIA VS SPAIN	4-1
10	11 FEB 2024	19:30	INDIA VS NETHERLANDS	2-2 (SO 4-2)
15	15 FEB 2024	19:30	INDIA VS AUSTRALIA	4-6
19	16 FEB 2024	19:30	INDIA VS IRELAND	1-0
24	19 FEB 2024	19:30	INDIA VS SPAIN	2-2 (SO 8-7)
26	21 FEB 2024	19:30	INDIA VS NETHERLANDS	1-1 (SO 2-4)
30	24 FEB 2024	19:30	INDIA VS AUSTRALIA	2-2 (SO 0-3)
32	25 FEB 2024	19:30	INDIA VS IRELAND	4-0

HIGHLIGHTS FROM FIH HOCKEY PRO LEAGUE 2023/24 (WOMEN) BHUBANESWAR & ROURKELA, ODISHA



HIGHLIGHTS FROM FIH HOCKEY PRO LEAGUE 2023/24 (MEN) BHUBANESWAR & ROURKELA, ODISHA



HOCKEY INDIA UNVEILS GROUND-BREAKING PROGRAM TO CULTIVATE NEXT GENERATION OF DRAG-FLICKERS AND GOALKEEPERS

Hockey India, the apex body for the sport in the country, on 15 March 2024, announced a ground-breaking initiative aimed at investing in the future of Indian hockey through specialized coaching targeting young drag-flickers and goalkeepers across the nation.

This strategic decision follows a pivotal meeting convened to discuss the crucial aspects of goalkeeping & drag-flicking coaching at the grassroots level. The meeting saw the participation of eminent former India goalkeepers including Adrian D'Souza, Bharat Chetri, Yogita Bali, Helen Mary, Dipika Murty, Akash Chikte, PT Rao, along with illustrious former India drag-flickers Rupinder Pal Singh, Jugraj Singh, VR Raghunath, and Gurjinder Singh.

The esteemed officials of Hockey India, including President Dr Dilip Tirkey, Secretary General Shri Bhola Nath Singh, Treasurer Mr Sekar Manoharan, and High Performance Director Mr Herman Kruijs, also lent their invaluable insights to the deliberations, joining the meeting virtually.

The newly unveiled initiative places a paramount emphasis on nurturing talent at the grassroots level, with a focused approach towards identifying and honing gifted players in the pivotal positions of drag-flickers and goalkeepers. By fostering a nurturing environment from an early age, Hockey India aims to fortify the talent pipeline for the nation's prestigious hockey teams.

- **Formation of Talent Pool:** Hockey India will assemble a dedicated pool of former goalkeepers and drag-flickers. These seasoned athletes will be deployed to premier national academies across India to conduct intensive 3-day training sessions.
- **Identification and Specialized Training:** Following the training sessions, the former players will meticulously identify young talents exhibiting exceptional promise. These identified athletes will receive specialized attention and training from Hockey India, tailored to enhance their skills and nurture their potential.
- **Support and Compensation:** Recognizing the invaluable contribution of the former players, Hockey India will provide compensation for their time and efforts. Additionally, the organization will extend support to cover any incidental expenses, including accommodation and travel arrangements.



FROM DREAMS TO REALITY: SANJANA HORO CHARTING HER OWN PATH ON HOCKEY FIELD

During the recently concluded 14th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2024, Hockey Bengal's 19-year-old forward Sanjana Horo emerged as the second-highest goalscorer in the tournament, behind Deepika from Haryana. Sanjana finished the tournament with 13 goals to her name before her team was knocked out by Hockey Madhya Pradesh in the Quarter-Finals.

Sanjana Horo is a vital cog in the Hockey Bengal team's forwardline – her eye-popping stick work, clinical finishing and proficiency in finding the back of the net are a treat to watch. The 19-year-old, who hails from Jharkhand, has indeed come a long way when it comes to hockey.

Born and raised in Jharkhand, Sanjana was introduced to the sport of hockey at the tender age of nine. Surrounded by the hilly landscapes of her homeland, Sanjana found solace and passion in the rhythmic flow of the game. Fuelled by determination and guided by unwavering support from her family members, she honed her skills on rugged grounds.

Recalling her early days, she said, "I used to see kids playing hockey outside of my school. I was in Class 6 at that time. At first, it was not something which attracted me. But once my elder brother started playing, my father, who himself played hockey, told me to give it a try and there was no looking back after that. Slowly and steadily, my game started to improve. In 2014, I gave trials for Ranchi Zilla and got selected. I was there for 2 years. After that, I gave trials for SAI Ranchi and got selected. I stayed there for a year but due to unavailability of grounds there, some of us were transferred to Bengal SAI."

Sanjana burst onto the scene after her impressive outing at the 13th Hockey India Junior Women National Championship 2023, held at the Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium in Rourkela, Odisha. Sanjana, who captained the Hockey Bengal team, scored 11 goals in the tournament, which included seven field goals and four from penalty corners.

During the 14th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2024, Sanjana emerged as a beacon of excellence. With lightning speed and precision, she carved her path through defenders,

leaving everyone awestruck. As the second-highest goal scorer of the tournament, she etched her name in the books, a testament to her unwavering determination and skill.

Speaking about her experience of playing in the 14th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2024, the forward said, "It was an amazing experience. Playing with all the senior players like Savita, Salima, and Sangita, one can learn a lot. You can learn a lot from just observing their game. Their style of playing, mental strength and game tactics are at par."

The 19-year-old considers Senior Indian forward player Salima Tete as her role model. During the 14th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2024, the teenager got an opportunity to interact with her. Expressing her delight, Sanjana shared, "I have always considered Salima didi as my role model. I want to be like her. I am impressed with her dribbling skills, speed, and her finishing skills. I want to imbibe these qualities. I talked to her about my game and where I could improve. She gave me some valuable feedback and I will surely work on that."

Despite her meteoric rise, Sanjana has faced her share of challenges along the way. Talking about the struggles, she said, "When I started playing hockey, the price of hockey sticks was expensive. I used to play with wooden hockey sticks which my father used to buy for me. Since the condition of the ground was poor, the wooden hockey sticks used to get damaged pretty fast. I used to change my stick after every three months. My father was in the Army but he is retired now. So, there were financial issues at times but my family always supported me and I give all the credit to my family members for making me who I am today."

As Sanjana stands on the cusp of a promising future, she harbours dreams of representing India on the international stage and inspiring future generations of young hockey enthusiasts. "It is a player's dream to represent their country at the highest level. I want to don the Indian jersey and bring laurels and accolades for India," she signed off.

HOCKEY INDIA 6TH ANNUAL AWARD 2023

In a glittering ceremony held in New Delhi, the Hockey India 6th Annual Awards 2023 celebrated the pinnacle of achievement in Indian hockey. The event, graced by illustrious guests and luminaries of the sport, honoured the dedication and excellence of players, officials, and legends who have shaped the narrative of Indian hockey.

This year's edition of the Hockey India Annual Awards showcased an unprecedented total prize pool of INR 7.56 crores, underscoring the commitment towards fostering excellence and nurturing talent within the hockey fraternity.

In a testament to their stellar performances, Hardik Singh and Salima Tete clinched the coveted Hockey India Balbir Singh Sr. Award for Player of The Year in the men's and women's categories respectively. Notably, Hardik also bagged the Hockey India Ajit Pal Singh Award for Midfielder of the Year.

PR Sreejesh clinched the Hockey India Baljit Singh Award for Goalkeeper of the Year, while the Indian Men's Hockey Team Captain Harmanpreet Singh's indomitable spirit and defensive prowess earned him the coveted Hockey India Pargat Singh Award for Defender of the Year. Also, Abhishek won the Hockey India Dhanraj Pillay Award for Forward of the Year.

Deepika Soreng and Araijeet Singh Hundal were honoured with the Hockey India Asunta Lakra Award for Upcoming Player of the Year (Women – Under 21) and the Hockey India Jugraj Singh Award for Upcoming Player of the Year (Men – Under 21), respectively.

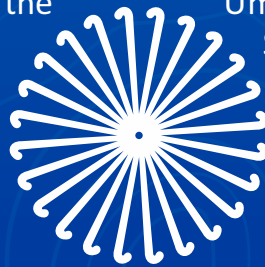
In a fitting finale, Ashok Kumar, a revered icon of Indian hockey, was feted with the prestigious Hockey India Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award. His illustrious career, marked by unparalleled achievements and indelible contributions to the sport, stands as a beacon of inspiration for generations to come.

Meanwhile, Hockey Haryana clinched the Hockey India Best Member Unit of the Year Award, while G Harsha Vardan was honoured with the Hockey India President Award for Umpire/Umpires Manager of the Year. Sonia Bathla received the Hockey India President Award for Technical Official of the Year.

SAIL Hockey Academy, Rourkela, was recognized with the Hockey India President Award for Outstanding Achievement. Dr. Bibhu Kalyan Nayak was presented with the Hockey India Jaman Lal Sharma Award for Invaluable Contribution.

Also, the awards ceremony witnessed a fitting tribute to the Gold Medal Winning Indian Junior Men's and Women's Hockey Teams of Uttar Pradesh Hockey Junior World Cup Men Lucknow 2016 as each player was awarded with a cash prize of INR 5 Lakh along with a trophy.

The awards ceremony also witnessed the Milestone Awards, recognizing the exemplary feats of players who reached significant international caps milestones.



HOCKEY INDIA

**2023 | HOCKEY INDIA
6th ANNUAL AWARDS
NEW DELHI**



HOCKEY INDIA
2023 | **HOCKEY INDIA**
6th ANNUAL AWARDS
NEW DELHI



HOCKEY INDIA PRESIDENT AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT 2023 - SAIL HOCKEY ACADEMY



HOCKEY INDIA JAMAN LAL SHARMA AWARD FOR INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTION 2023 - DR BIBHU KALYAN NAYAK



HOCKEY INDIA PRESIDENT AWARD FOR UMPIRE/UMPIRES MANAGER OF THE YEAR 2023 - G HARSHA VARDHAN



HOCKEY INDIA PRESIDENT AWARD FOR TECHNICAL OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR 2023 - SONIA BATHLA



HOCKEY INDIA BALJIT SINGH AWARD FOR GOALKEEPER OF THE YEAR 2023 - PR SREEJESH



HOCKEY INDIA PARGAT SINGH AWARD FOR DEFENDER OF THE YEAR 2023 - HARMANPREET SINGH



HOCKEY INDIA AJIT PAL SINGH AWARD FOR MIDFIELDER OF THE YEAR 2023 - HARDIK SINGH



HOCKEY INDIA DHANRAJ PILLAY AWARD FOR FORWARD OF THE YEAR 2023 - ABHISHEK



HOCKEY INDIA ASUNTA LAKRA AWARD FOR UPCOMING PLAYER OF THE YEAR 2023 (WOMEN - UNDER 21) - DEEPIKA SORENG



HOCKEY INDIA JUGRAJ SINGH AWARD FOR UPCOMING PLAYER OF THE YEAR (MEN - UNDER 21) - ARAJJEET SINGH HUNDAL



HOCKEY INDIA BALBIR SINGH SR. AWARD FOR PLAYER OF THE YEAR 2023 (WOMEN) - SALIMA TETE



HOCKEY INDIA BALBIR SINGH SR. AWARD FOR PLAYER OF THE YEAR 2023 (MEN) - HARDIK SINGH



HOCKEY INDIA MAJOR DHYAN CHAND LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2023 - ASHOK KUMAR



HOCKEY INDIA BEST MEMBER UNIT OF THE YEAR AWARD 2023 - HOCKEY HARYANA

HOCKEY TE CHARCHA

In the latest episodes of Hockey Te Charcha, a podcast series launched by Hockey India, we sat down with the former Captain of the Indian Men's Hockey Team, renowned for his role as a defending-midfielder. Somaya played a pivotal role in securing the Gold at the 1980 Moscow Olympics. On the podcast, Somaya shared his insights on the current state of Indian hockey, with a focus on women's hockey.

"We boast a talented lineup of players, yet a critical aspect that warrants attention is our performance in crucial moments, notably during the Asian Games and Olympics Qualifiers. Finishing, particularly in penalty corners, has been an area where we fell slightly short. Despite facing the setback of missing key players in the Qualifiers in Ranchi due to injuries, we acknowledge that this should not serve as an excuse. It underscores the need for focused improvement and strategic planning to address these challenges effectively," Somaya said.

Expressing optimism about the future, Somaya discussed the potential benefits of establishing a domestic Hockey League for women. "Introducing a Hockey League for women holds immense potential. This initiative would not only provide valuable exposure but also foster confidence and instil a profound sense of belief in the women's team. It stands as a key element for their development,

preparing them for upcoming tournaments and ensuring a brighter future for women's hockey."

Meanwhile, Somaya commended the strides made in facilities for both the men's and women's teams, acknowledging the support from the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and the Ministry of Sports. He emphasized that these advancements have contributed significantly to the recent progress in Indian hockey.

"There's been a marked improvement over the years, not only in terms of facilities but also in terms of personnel. They employ some of the most meritorious coaches and some of the best practitioners available internationally," Somaya remarked during the podcast.



MEMBER UNIT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT



Congratulations to the Katoch Stadium, Jalandhar and Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) School, Kochi as they have been granted the FIH Category 2 Hockey field certificates



Congratulations to the Indian Air Force Jalahalli Hockey Field, Bangalore as they have been granted the FIH Category 2 Hockey field certificates



Congratulations to the SAI Training Centre, Hazaribagh, Jharkhand as they have been granted the FIH Category 2 Hockey field certificates.



Congratulations to the Karnal Hockey Stadium, Karnal, Haryana as they have been granted the FIH Category 2 Hockey field certificates.

It field's different

With a maximum of 10 fielders, the hockey field is a different world from the 11-a-side game.



SAVITA is the captain of the Indian women's hockey team. She is a key player in the team and has been instrumental in their success in recent years. Her leadership and skill on the field have made her a fan favorite.



The field is a different world from the 11-a-side game. It's a fast-paced, tactical game that requires precision and teamwork. The players must be able to think quickly and react to the changing situations on the field.



सर्द मौसम में हॉकी ने भरी गर्माहट, टीम इंडिया के आते ही मैदान में गुंजा एक ही स्वर- आ गई हमारी बेटियां...

हॉकी के सर्द मौसम में हॉकी ने भरी गर्माहट, टीम इंडिया के आते ही मैदान में गुंजा एक ही स्वर- आ गई हमारी बेटियां... The atmosphere was electric as the Indian women's hockey team arrived at the stadium. The fans were cheering and waving flags, creating a warm and supportive environment for the players.

India keep Olympics dream alive

The Indian women's hockey team is looking to make a strong showing at the Olympics.



The Indian women's hockey team is looking to make a strong showing at the Olympics. They have been performing well in recent tournaments and are confident that they can compete for a medal in Tokyo. The team's hard work and dedication have paid off, and they are ready to take on the world's best.

India has its task cut out against favourite Germany in the semifinals

Skipper Savita sees the squad is prepared for the challenge, highlighting that it needs to be good in counter control and also play an aggressive game.

OLYMPIC QUARTRS

Olivia Gosselin
TORONTO

Back in the race after a disappointing start, the Indian women's hockey team will be hoping to keep the winning momentum going when it takes on Germany in the semifinals of the Olympic Quarters here on Thursday in its toughest game of the competition. It isn't clear that India starts the underdog in a match at home but with a quarter Germany, the last would have to be at its best to find a way through to the final and a confirmed Olympic ticket.

Not the end of the road. A loss won't be the end of the road, with a second chance in the third place playoff. But Savita & Co will want to avoid getting into another must-win situation.



Key strategy: Savita, sharing a light moment with head coach Subroto on the eve of the last Quarters, stressed on the importance of an attacking game.

While the numbers favour Germany, India will have the crowd in its corner. The team played twice in 2020 with Germany, winning them all, besides the practice game before the start of the Quarters. The last time India won was on diamonds during the Pro-League in 2022. A regulation win was last achieved in a test match in 2015. "We were prepared for this scenario, we knew right from the start that anything could happen - we could top the pool and play Japan or Chile as fifth second and play Germany in the semifinals, there were no doubts or assumptions and we prepared for every opponent. So we are not really worried," Savita said on the eve of the match. "Everyone knows what they are but we know we have to play attacking hockey, which is our strength. Germany is a very

skilled individual players and they can attack fast. Defence will be very important and it will be our main focus, we need to play together and attack and defend as a team. We need to be good in counter control but we will also play our natural aggressive game," she added.

Bouncing back

After the disappointing 1-0 draw against Japan, Germany bounced back with a massive 3-0 win against Czech Republic to finish on top of Pool A and coach Valentin Altenburg, who had said his team needed to work out ways to open up defences, will be hoping to build on the victory.

"Pressure is always there. The New Zealand game was high pressure because we had to win to stay in the competition. The Italy game was also high pressure because they had had a chance to get three points and a shot at

the semifinals. The Germany match will be a different type of pressure because they are ranked higher but there will be pressure on them, also," Savita explained, adding that the team's target was to stay in the present and give their 100% effort.

"That's all we can control, and the result. So that's what we will focus on," she said. "The other semifinal will see USA take on Japan in a clash of styles, the Americans more physical and defensive against the well-manned Japanese with an strategic defence and equally quick on the counters with an ability to open up the field and find gaps along the ground without needing to see many high balls.

Thursday's games: Chile vs USA (12:00 AEST) and Ireland vs Czech Republic (13:00 AEST). **Sunday's games:** USA vs Japan (10:00 AEST), India vs Germany (13:00 AEST).

In the last couple of years, women's hockey has become very dynamic: Valentin Altenburg



Valentin Altenburg, head coach of the German women's hockey team, has seen the sport evolve significantly in recent years. He notes that women's hockey has become much more dynamic and tactical, with players showing improved skills and teamwork. The growth of the sport is evident in the increasing number of international tournaments and the rising profile of the players.

झारखंड की बेटियों ने भारत को दिलाई जीत

झारखंड की महिला हॉकी टीम ने भारत को दिलाई जीत। The Jharkhand women's hockey team has secured a victory for India. The team's performance was exceptional, showing great skill and determination on the field. Their win was a testament to their hard work and dedication to the sport.



► INTERVIEW

“We are pushing to improve on India's Tokyo Olympics performance. We are looking forward to the journey”

CRAIG FULTON

A. K. SETHI/ANAND/AP/REUTERS

Since winning the gold of Paris Hockey in the Tokyo Olympics, India's national hockey team has been a topic of discussion for the Indian sports community. The team's performance in Tokyo was a subject of debate, with some praising the team's resilience and others questioning their strategy. Now, as the team prepares for the Paris Games, the focus is on how they can improve and secure a better result.

Can you begin by offering insight into the training approach of the Indian team?
 Yes, we have a very specific training approach. We focus on technical skills, tactical awareness, and physical fitness. We have a lot of drills and practice sessions. We also have a lot of video analysis to help the players understand their own game and the game of their opponents.

What are your expectations for the Paris Games?
 We are pushing to improve on our Tokyo performance. We are looking forward to the journey and to competing at the highest level. We have a lot of hard work ahead of us, but we are confident that we can achieve our goals.

How do you see the younger players fitting into the team's strategy?
 The younger players are a key part of our strategy. They bring fresh energy and talent to the team. We are looking to identify core players who can go to Europe and gain experience. This will be a positive step for the team's long-term development.

What are the challenges you face as a coach?
 One of the biggest challenges is the lack of consistent training facilities. We have to make the most of what we have and ensure that the players are getting the best possible training. We also face challenges in terms of player availability and injuries.



Indian hockey player in action during a match.



The Indian hockey team celebrating their gold medal win at the Paris Games.

What are the key areas of focus for the Indian team?
 We are focusing on technical skills, tactical awareness, and physical fitness. We are also looking to improve our defensive play and our ability to score goals.

How do you see the Paris Games as an opportunity for the Indian team?
 The Paris Games are a great opportunity for the Indian team to showcase their skills and to compete at the highest level. We are looking forward to the challenge and to representing our country with pride.

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Harmanpreet's prolific 200

With a goal-scoring record second to none, skipper key for Paris but team needs another quality drag-flicker



Harmanpreet Singh in action during a match.

WYAYAK MOHAMMAD RAOV

THE MOTHER OF DRUGS has been a topic of discussion for the Indian sports community. The team's performance in Tokyo was a subject of debate, with some praising the team's resilience and others questioning their strategy. Now, as the team prepares for the Paris Games, the focus is on how they can improve and secure a better result.

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We're 100% ready to win gold at Paris Games, says Hardik



The Indian hockey team and coaching staff.

Hardik and his team are 100% ready to win gold at the Paris Games. The team has been training hard and is confident that they can achieve their goals.

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Hardik and his team are 100% ready to win gold at the Paris Games. The team has been training hard and is confident that they can achieve their goals.

India avenges loss to the USA, gets it right finally

India avenges its loss to the USA in the Paris Games, getting it right finally. The team's performance was a testament to their hard work and determination.

Indian hockey's dummies guide: why Fulton thinks this team is special

Indian hockey's dummies guide: why Fulton thinks this team is special. The team's performance was a testament to their hard work and determination.

Crucial home stretch as Paris 2024 beckons

Crucial home stretch as Paris 2024 beckons. The team is in a race against time to prepare for the Paris Games.

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PLAYERS BIRTHDAY'S

SENIOR MEN

Krishan B Pathak 24

APRIL

Ishika Chaudhary 15

Vandana Katariya 15

Rajkumar Pal 01

MAY

Bansari Solanki 24

Pawan Malik 01

Jyothi Edula 30

Nilakanta Sharma 02

Sanjay 05

Shilanand Lakra 05

P.R Sreejesh 08

Amit Rohidas 10

JUNIOR MEN

Govind Nag 30

APRIL

Mamita Oram 02

Niru Kullu 04

Thounaojam Nirupama Devi 05

Khaidem Shileima Chanu 14

Nirali Kujur 15

Dechamma P G 19

JUNIOR WOMEN

Amir Ali 02

MAY

Rajni Kerketta 01

Adarsh G 02

Supriya Kujur 09

Rosan Kujur 03

Sonam 26

Chandan Yadav 04

Mukesh Toppo 09

Sukhvinder 14

MY AGE IS
21

MY HOMETOWN IS
ROURKELA, ODISHA

I PLAY AS A
DEFENDER

MY DEBUT WAS IN
JULY 2023, INDIA'S TOUR OF
GERMANY

MY MOST IMPORTANT TARGET
OLYMPICS

MY FAVOURITE WORKOUT IS
SQUATS

MY FAVOURITE ACTOR IS
AKSHAY KUMAR

MY FAVOURITE SONG IS
SUFİ SONGS

MY FAVOURITE CUISINE IS
INDIAN FOOD

MY BEST SPORTING MOMENT
WINNING
THE JUNIOR ASIA CUP IN 2023

MY IDOL IS
MY BROTHER

MY DREAM DESTINATION IS
MY OWN COUNTRY

IF I WASN'T A HOCKEY PLAYER,
I WOULD'VE BEEN
DANCER

MY GYM BUDDY IS
VANDANA KATARIYA

MY FAVOURITE OUTFIT IS
NOTHING PARTICULAR

3 THINGS I DON'T TRAVEL WITHOUT
PHONE, POWER BANK,
WATER BOTTLE

MY CHEAT MEAL
BURGER

IN FOCUS

INDIAN WOMEN'S HOCKEY TEAM

JYOTI CHHATRI



IN FOCUS

INDIAN MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM

RABICHANDRA MOIRANGTHEM

MY AGE IS
23

MY HOMETOWN IS
MOIRANG, MANIPUR

I PLAY AS A
MIDFIELDER

MY DEBUT WAS IN
FIH PRO LEAGUE 2022

MY MOST IMPORTANT TARGET
PLAYING MAJOR TOURNAMENTS LIKE
THE OLYMPICS AND THE WORLD CUP

MY FAVOURITE WORKOUT IS
LOWER BODY WORKOUT

MY FAVOURITE ACTOR IS
DWAYNE JOHNSON

MY FAVOURITE SONG IS
MANIPURI SONGS

MY FAVOURITE CUISINE IS
MANIPURI CUISINE

MY BEST SPORTING MOMENT
WINNING
THE U-18 ASIA CUP

MY IDOL IS
DIEGO MARADONA

MY DREAM DESTINATION IS
ANYWHERE, AS LONG
AS I'M WITH FAMILY

IF I WASN'T A HOCKEY PLAYER,
I WOULD'VE BEEN
ACADEMICALLY INCLINED

MY GYM BUDDY IS
ABHISHEK, VISHNU

MY FAVOURITE OUTFIT IS
T-SHIRT AND SHORTS OR
JOGGERS

3 THINGS I DON'T TRAVEL WITHOUT
NOTHING SPECIFIC

MY CHEAT MEAL
WAI WAI SINGJU
(MANIPURI FOOD)



