



HOCKEY INDIA

Newsletter

HOCKEY INDIA



Hockey India League Announced

Hockey India announces the Hockey India League wherein the best national and international hockey players showcase their talent. The first edition of this mega league will be played in January-February 2013.

The inaugural season of the Hockey India League consists of six franchise based teams in six cities across India. Each team will have 24 players including 10 foreign and 14 Indians.

There will be a live telecast of all 32 matches of the league on a leading international sports channel.

Hockey India League will be a multi city franchise-based league and players acquired in an auction.

The Hockey India League is an FIH (International Hockey Federation) sanctioned tournament and a separate window has been created in the international calendar.



Dr. Narinder Batra

Message from Secretary General

I am pleased to introduce the first edition of Hockey India's official newsletter. The quarterly newsletter will provide all our stakeholders with a summary of the National Sports Federation activities as well as a platform for promoting our national game at every level. We welcome feedback and hope that everyone enjoys the first edition.



Finally a new beginning for Indian Hockey

Indian hockey's tears of not qualifying for the Beijing Olympics 2008 were wiped by success in 2012. The national game returned to where it belonged – the Olympics –is qualifying for the London Olympics by dominating the six-team qualifiers held at New Delhi's iconic Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium from 18 – 26 February, 2012.

In an emotionally charged up atmosphere, the eight-time Olympic gold-medalists beat France 8-1 in the final to storm into the London Games unbeaten.

The no. 10 ranked Indian men team began its run by overwhelming Singapore 15-1 in the opening match. The team didn't let the tempo drop in the subsequent league encounters. With the goal-spree continuing against Italy (8-1) and France (6-2), India met Canada in the third game, presenting the hosts their first real test, with India prevailing 3-1. The last league game against Poland was another closely fought match, until the hosts scored two goals in the last five minutes to win the match 4-2. India's eight goals in the final took their goal tally to a whopping 44 in six matches. The performance gave hockey a much-needed boost ahead of the London Olympic Games scheduled from 27 July – 12 August 2012.



Heroes of Olympic Qualifier



Tushar Khandker
Position- Winger
International Caps- 212



Bharat Chetri (Captain)
Position- Goalkeeper
International Caps- 126



Ignace Tirkey
Position- Left Fullback
International Caps- 242



Sardar Singh (Vice Captain)
Position- Centre half
International Caps- 129



Sandeep Singh
Position- Fullback
International Caps- 161



Gurwinder Singh Chandi
Position- Forward
International Caps- 75



Sarvanjit Singh
Position- Forward
International Caps- 116



S.V Sunil
Position- Winger
International Caps- 86



Shivendra Singh
Position- Centre Forward
International Caps- 143



Raghunath V.R
Position- Fullback
International Caps- 103



Yuvraj Walmiki
Position- Winger
International Caps- 22



P.R Sreejesh
Position- Goalkeeper
International Caps- 48



Rupinderpal Singh
Position- Fullback
International Caps- 40



Danish Mujtaba
Position- Inside forward
International Caps- 71



Manpreet Singh
Position- Halfback
International Caps- 28



S.K Uthappa
Position- Inside forward
International Caps- 14



Kothajit Singh
Position- Left Half
International Caps- 11



Birendra Lakra
Position- Halfback
International Caps- 19



SANDEEP SINGH

Drag-flicker Sandeep Singh celebrated a memorable 26th birthday on 27 February with his teammates after winning the final of the Olympic Qualifier tournament hosted in Delhi from 18- 26 February 2012. The leading goal scorer of the tournament made a grand contribution to India's journey to London Olympics, slamming 16 of the 44 goals that the team scored during the tournament. Sandeep has received star status after slamming five goals in India's memorable victory against France in the final.

Midfielder Sardar Singh proved to be the strongest player from the Indian side throughout the tournament, fetching him the title of 'Player of the Tournament'. The lone Indian in the FIH World Hockey XI for the last two years, is perhaps the only player in the country who can be called an all-rounder in the true sense. He was a roving play-maker, who created moves, moved up to attack, and fell back to defend, as the occasion demanded. The Vice-Captain's presence in the field was omnipresent, and it was just as well that he led the team to victory in the title clash against France, when regular Captain Bharat Chetri was rested.



SARDAR SINGH

Indian Team Celebrating Their Victory



Some Memorable Moments of the Tournament



**Mr. Antonio Von Ondarza (FIH Representative),
Dr. Farooq Abdullah (Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy),
Mr. Leandro Negre (President FIH),**
witnessing final encounter between India and South Africa Women Teams.



**Mr. Arun Jaitley (Leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha),
Mr. Abhijit Sarkar (Head, Corporate Communications, Sahara India Pariwar),
Mr. Ajay Maken (Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports, Independent Charge)**
and other dignitaries giving standing ovation to the Indian Team after securing position in the London Olympic Games 2012.



**Mr. Leandro Negre (President FIH),
Mr. Ajay Maken (Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports, Independent Charge)
and Mr. Antonio Von Ondarza (FIH Representative)**
releasing Souvenir of Hero FIH Road to London 2012 at New Delhi



**Dr. Narinder Batra (Secretary General, Hockey India),
Mr. Antonio Von Ondarza (FIH Representative),
Mr. Leandro Negre (President FIH),
Ms. Elena Norman (CEO, Hockey India) and Mr. Kelly Fairweather (CEO, FIH)**
paying tribute to Late Major Dhyhan Chand at MDC National Stadium, New Delhi.



Mr. Arun Jaitley (Leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha)
shaking hands with players of Canada and India.



Mr. Pratap Sathpathy (Vice-President, Hockey India)
shaking hands with the members of Indian team before the start of their second encounter against Italy.



Dr. Narinder Batra (Secretary General, Hockey India)
presenting Memento to
Mr. Ajay Maken (Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports, Independent Charge)
during the dinner party hosted by Hockey India.



Executive board members of Hockey India posing for a photograph with
**Mrs. Vidya Stokes (Life Patron, Hockey India),
Mrs. Mariamma Koshy (Interim President, Hockey India) and Mr. Tayyab Ikram (FIH).**

Hockey India Successfully Organised The Olympic Qualifier

The Olympic Qualifiers in India not only provided the National men and women teams with the home advantage for the tournaments, it also showcased the capabilities of Hockey India in hosting major tournaments.

The Hero FIH Road to London, Delhi 2012, men and women, was the first major international tournament hosted and conducted in India by Hockey India.

The two parallel tournaments each for men and women, featured 6 teams and was conducted at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi from 18 – 26 February 2012. During the group stages, 6 matches per day were hosted on the main pitch, and 3 matches per day during the classification stage for women and men on 25 and 26 February respectively.

The staging and conduct of the event, was extremely successful, with all participants, including players, support staff and officials having great praise for the organisation and delivery of the tournament. Tournament Director, Mr. Wiert Doyer with over 10 years officiating experience noted in his Tournament Directors Report that " Olympic Qualifying Tournament hosted by Hockey India was one of the most successful and memorable event ".

In the next 3 years, FIH has granted hosting rights to 5 major international tournaments to Hockey India, including the Junior World Cup in 2013, and the Men Champions Trophy in 2014. Following the successful conduct of the Olympic Qualification Tournaments, Hockey India's capabilities of hosting international tournaments is world class.



Sahara Felicitates Indian Hockey Team



The Indian hockey team was felicitated by its Major Partner, Sahara India Pariwar, on 21 March 2012 with cash award worth Rs. 1.16 crore for winning qualifying tournament, The Hero FIH Road to London Delhi 2012 held in February.

Sahara India Chief Subrata Roy felicitated the team members in a ceremony in Lucknow.

For their outstanding display, Vice-Captain Sardar Singh and penalty corner expert Sandeep Singh were awarded Rs. 11 lakh each, while the rest of the team members along with the Chief Coach Michael Nobbs were given Rs. 5 lakh each for their performances.

The support staff also received an incentive of Rs. 1 lakh each.

"We are delighted with the spirit and commitment that the Indian hockey team has shown in the recently conducted FIH Olympic qualifiers. They have made not only us but the entire nation proud." Roy said. Hockey India Secretary General Dr.

Narinder Batra said, "I am sure this felicitation would encourage the sportsmen and the support staff to live up to the expectations of the entire nation and would inspire them to continue playing with the same commitment and zeal that they had displayed during the FIH Olympic qualifiers."

Hockey India & Hotel The Lalit Felicitates Indian Hockey Team

Indian Hockey team that impressively won the Olympic Qualifier in February this year was felicitated by Hockey India and Hotel The Lalit Ashok in Bangalore on 29 March 2012.

Hockey India honoured all 18 players of the winning Olympic Qualifying team and presented Rs. 1 lakh each in addition to one ipad to each. Hockey India also felicitated each member of the support staff of the winning team with Rs. 50,000 and one ipad each. Hockey India President Mrs. Mariamma Koshy and Senior Vice-President Mr. Pratap Satpathy felicitated the players.

At the same time Mrs. Jyothsana Suri CMD of Bharat Hotels Limited also felicitated Indian team with a cheque of Rs. 1 lakh to each player and cheque of Rs. 50,000 to each member of support staff.



Road to London (WOMEN)

Couldn't end up wait of 32 years....

The dream of the Indian women hockey team to qualify for the London Olympics came to an end after suffering a 1-3 defeat against top ranked South Africa in the final of the Hero FIH Road to London Delhi 2012 played at MDC National Stadium in New Delhi in February.

India started the tournament on a typically low note playing their first game as a draw against Ukraine, but from the second game onwards the Indian side geared up and played well against Canada, Poland and Italy. The Indian eves however failed to show their strength against higher ranked South African in the league stage and suffered a 2-5 defeat.

In the final match against South Africa, India paid the price of their defence lapses and lack of finishing. The top ranked team of the tournament South Africa secured a berth for the London Olympics 2012.



Mr. Sandeep Dikshit (Member of Parliament)
presenting awards to Indian Women Hockey Team.



Mr. Kelly Fairweather (CEO, FIH) and Mr. Rajeev Mehta (Associate Vice-President, Hockey India)
watching final match between India and South Africa Women team



Indian Women Hockey Team finished Runners-up in the Qualifiers.



Games of the XXX Olympiad

Men, London : 30 July - 11 August 2012
Venue: Riverside Arena, Olympic Park

Indian Team Geared up for London Olympics Challenge

The Indian hockey has the most glorious history in the Olympics winning 8 gold medals to date. Following the disappointment of the Indian team not qualifying for the Beijing Olympics in 2008 the Indian Men's team secured their place in the 2012 Olympics with winning the Olympic Qualifiers Tournament hosted in New Delhi in Feb 2008. The Federation along with the Government of India has left no stone unturned to give team the best preparation ahead of the prestigious event.

With less than two months left for the London Olympics, the Indian team will travel to France in the end of June and then to Spain to play test matches and a 3 nation tournament. This will help Indian team to acclimatize to the European conditions which will be similar to the conditions of London in July and August when they will take part in London Olympics.

During the London Olympic Games Hockey event will be held from 30 July – 11 August with India opening its campaign against Netherlands on 30 July followed by matches against New Zealand, Germany, Korea and Belgium.

We wish the India Men's Team success at the London Olympics.



Participating Teams

Pool A	Pool B
Australia	Germany
Great Britain	Netherlands
Spain	Korea
Pakistan	New Zealand
Argentina	India
South Africa	Belgium

Match Schedule

Date	Match #	Pool	Local Time	Indian Time	Pitch	Match	
Monday 30 July	M1	B	08:30	13:00	1	Korea	v New Zealand
	M2	A	10:45	15:15	1	Australia	v South Africa
	M3	A	13:45	18:15	1	Spain	v Pakistan
	M4	B	16:00	20:30	1	Netherlands	v India
	M5	A	19:00	23:30	1	Great Britain	v Argentina
	M6	B	21:15	01:45	1	Germany	v Belgium
Wednesday 1 August	M7	A	08:30	13:00	1	Spain	v Australia
	M8	B	10:45	15:15	1	Belgium	v Netherlands
	M9	B	13:45	18:15	1	New Zealand	v India
	M10	A	16:00	20:30	1	South Africa	v Great Britain
	M11	A	19:00	23:30	1	Pakistan	v Argentina
	M12	B	21:15	01:45	1	Korea	v Germany
Friday 3 August	M13	A	08:30	13:00	1	Australia	v Argentina
	M14	B	10:45	15:15	1	Netherlands	v New Zealand
	M15	B	13:45	18:15	1	Germany	v India
	M16	A	16:00	20:30	1	Great Britain	v Pakistan
	M17	A	19:00	23:30	1	South Africa	v Spain
	M18	B	21:15	01:45	1	Belgium	v Korea
Sunday 5 August	M19	B	08:30	13:00	1	New Zealand	v Belgium
	M20	A	10:45	15:15	1	Pakistan	v South Africa
	M21	B	13:45	18:15	1	India	v Korea
	M22	B	16:00	20:30	1	Netherlands	v Germany
	M23	A	19:00	23:30	1	Great Britain	v Australia
	M24	A	21:15	01:45	1	Argentina	v Spain
Tuesday 7 August	M25	A	08:30	13:00	1	Australia	v Pakistan
	M26	B	10:45	15:15	1	Korea	v Netherlands
	M27	A	13:45	18:15	1	Argentina	v South Africa
	M28	B	16:00	20:30	1	India	v Belgium
	M29	A	19:00	23:30	1	Spain	v Great Britain
	M30	B	21:15	01:45	1	Germany	v New Zealand
Thursday 9 August	M31	9 th /10 th	08:30	13:00	1	5 th Pool A	v 5 th Pool B
	M32	7 th / 8 th	11:30	16:00	1	4 th Pool A	v 4 th Pool B
	M33	SF1	15:30	20:00	1		v
	M34	SF2	20:00	00:30	1		v
Saturday 11 August	M35	1 th /12 th	08:30	13:00	1	6 th Pool A	v 6 th Pool B
	M36	5 th / 6 th	11:30	16:00	1	3 rd Pool A	v 3 rd Pool B
	M37	Bronze	15:30	20:00	1	Loser Match M33	v Loser Match M34
	M38	Gold	20:00	00:30	1	Winner Match M33	v Winner Match M34

India Beat South Africa

SERIES THAT PREPARED INDIA FOR THE DREAM

Indian men team played South Africa in an all-important 5 match series in January as a part of their preparation for the Olympics Qualifier. India were seeking some important match practice games before the FIH Road To London and the team also required to test out their combinations for the tournament.

Experimentations were the name of the game as India fielded five different Captains in 5 matches. India started well in the tournament winning the first two matches by handsome margins. It was in the third match of the series that India were outclassed by a spirited South African side winning 3-1. It could have been an awakening call for the Indian think-tank, but coach Michael Nobbs believed that there was more to learn in the defeat than in victory. India's experimentation of playing defenders like Sandeep Singh in the forward line, may have drawn flak from the media, however it provided invaluable experience prior to the big test in February.

A 4-3 victory in the fourth match of the series gave India the series win and an opportunity to try out all their permutation combinations for the fifth match. In the final match after trailing by 3 goals, India came back in the second half to equalize the score. Complacency followed by exceptional hockey, was another element which taught the Indian team a tough lesson ahead of the qualifiers.

Results of all five matches

16 January 2012	India beat South Africa by 4-0
17 January 2012	India beat South Africa by 2-1
19 January 2012	South Africa Beat India by 3-1
20 January 2012	India beat South Africa by 4-3
22 January 2012	Match Draw 3-3

London Olympic Test Event

With the 2012 London Olympics only less than 2 months away the India Men's team were fortunate to participate in the Visa International Invitational Olympic Test Event held at Riverside Arena, Olympic Park.

The tournament was conducted by London Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games to not only test the new venue and its facilities before the start of the Olympics.



The tournament gave Indian team the opportunity to get a feel of playing on blue turf with yellow Kookaburra balls.

India were distinctly handicapped as they had no experience of playing on blue turf but they improved their performance with every game in the tournament.

In their last two games they went down to defending Olympic Champions Germany and World No-4 Great Britain by identical 1-2 margins.

After losing 3-0 to World Champions Australia in their opener, Indian forward line, midfield and defence improved a lot in each of the games.

Although blue turf was new challenge in front of team India but till the end of this tournament they proved that they can improve a lot in next 2 months before London Olympics.

India Eves complete series whitewash over Azerbaijan

In the run-up to the Olympic qualifying tournament in February, the Indian women's hockey team played a four match Test Series against Azerbaijan in Delhi.

The Indian eves completed a clean sweep in their four-match Test series, which was played at the MDC National Stadium in Delhi.

The matches gave Indian coach CR Kumar an opportunity to try out different combinations ahead of the all important Olympic qualifier tournament and he made full use of it.

It was also a test for the home players some of whom were making a comeback from injuries and fitness issues, most importantly it gave all players an opportunity to impress the national selectors as the final 18-member squad for the Olympic Qualifiers was being selected at the conclusion of the series.

Although India was playing against a team placed lower than them in the FIH rankings, it provided invaluable experience to the Indian eves as they prepared to book their place in the London Olympic Games.

As expected India dominated Azerbaijan and won all the four-matches but what would have delighted the Indian Coach was that the team conceded just one goal while scoring 10.

Results of all four matches

15 January 2012	India beat Azerbaijan by 3-0
16 January 2012	India beat Azerbaijan by 2-1
17 January 2012	India beat Azerbaijan by 3-0
18 January 2012	India beat Azerbaijan by 2-0



Bronze Medal for Women Team in 4 Nation Tournament

India women team won bronze medal by defeating USA (three ranked above in the global rankings) during the second leg of the Women Four Nation Hockey Tournament held at Llyod Elsmore Hockey Stadium in Pakuranga, Auckland.

Indian team played the tournament against all higher ranked teams Australia, New Zealand and USA.

Although India lost some games with 1-2 identical margins, they gave a tough fight to each of their opponents.

Indian defence and midfield was compact with senior players like Joydeep Kaur, Ausnta Lakra, Deepika and Ritu Rani who make timely interceptions in most of the games. Indian forwards Rani and Anuradha Devi Thokchom scored some good goals beating opponents.

Indian goalkeeper Yogita Bali also made some splendid saves in most of the games and was declared Best Goalkeeper of the Tournament.



Bronze for India at 7th Junior Men Asia Cup

Indian junior men's team showed a promising performance at the 7th Junior Men's Asia Cup Hockey Tournament held at Malacca, Malaysia with the Indian team winning the bronze medal beating Korea 2-1 with a Golden Goal.

The Indian team consisted of new, young and energetic squad living upto expectations. During the tournament the Indian team showed attacking hockey and players like Captain Akashdeep Singh, Naveen Antil, Lokesh Thimmanna and Vice-Captain Amit Rohidas showed a great level of commitment and skills.



India opened the tournament with an 11-0 win against Sri Lanka. The winning start gave confidence to team ahead of their tough played 2-2 draw match against Pakistan. The Indian team progressed well to the semi-finals, however were overcome by Malaysia and had to settle for the bronze medal playoff.

In general the junior's team did well in all departments of the game. During each match the Indian Team had more circle penetration and ball possession than their opponents and this gives a positive sign for the future. Malak Singh, Mandeep Singh, Satbir Singh and Akashdeep Singh are dashing forwards. The team has enormous potential and the long-term prospects are encouraging for our Junior World Cup next year. "This tournament was just the beginning for a new and dynamic India team" Coach Baljeet Singh Saini said.

FIH Announces World Hockey League

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has revealed its plans to launch the ambitious World League that will also serve as a new qualification norm for the Olympics and the World Cup.

The league will start in August 2012 and will be held every two years across the globe.

FIH President Leandro Negre addressed media during the Olympic Qualifier tournaments hosted in New Delhi and said that all affiliated member nations would be eligible to play in the tournament.

FIH's new venture would also act as a qualifying tournament for two of the sport's marquee events, the World Cup and the Olympics.

Mr. Negre said "The sports' governing body will invite member countries to enter and offer to host Round 1 and Round 2 in the month of April every odd year. The competition will be played over four rounds and will be open for all FIH members."

As per the format prepared by the FIH, all the teams playing in the World League will gain World Ranking points. Because the FIH World League will replace the qualifying tournaments for the Olympic Games and the FIH World Cup, there will be an adjustment to the number of World Ranking point to be gained from those events from 2014 onwards.

The World League has already received an enthusiastic response with as many as 80 men's and 58 women's teams having signed up.

FIH CEO Kelly Fairweather outlined the time line for the final of the World League. "The men's final will be played in India in February 2014, while the women's final will be played in Brazil in December 2013."



In Brief

Financial Support for Junior Players

In the Hockey India Executive Board meeting it is also decided to give financial support to a pool of 33 junior men and 33 junior women players. Hockey India will give each player Rs. 1,20,000 per annum which is equal to Rs. 10,000 per month payable at every quarter. Payments will start from July-September quarter and this amount will provide a big support for players in purchasing their equipment and it will further help players to reduce the financial burden on their families.

Hockey India is always committed to promote and support our national game.

Hockey India announces grant for State Associations

With the aim of popularizing the game of hockey at the grass-root level, Hockey India (HI) will be giving an annual grant to all its State Associations. HI has decided to give Rs. 5 lakhs each to all its State Associations to help them improve the sport of hockey in their respective region. The grant will be used to organize Senior, Junior, Sub-Junior level tournaments as well as most importantly school level tournaments. This will help them attract more youngsters towards the national game and play for the pride of our country.

The decision was taken during the Hockey India Executive Board meeting held in New Delhi on 12th May 2012. This is the first time in the history of Indian Hockey that the National Federation will give a grant to its State Associations, since the commencement of men and women hockey from 1927.

Announcing the grant Hockey India Secretary General Dr. Narinder Batra said "Though as a game hockey is popular in the country, this grant will help to encourage more youngsters to come and play Hockey which will popularize the game at grass-root level".

Hockey India conducts Umpiring Seminar

With the changing rules of our National Game, Hockey India took an initiative and conducted an Umpiring Seminar for 30 Elite and potential Indian Umpires from 22- 27 February 2012 in New Delhi. The Seminar was conducted by Mr. Ermanno Silvano, Chairman FIH Umpiring Committee.

During the 6-day seminar conducted in the capital, all the Umpires were given on-field and off- field knowledge about the latest rules of international hockey. On 24 February 2012 an on-field training session was conducted at National Stadium, where during the matches of the Olympic Qualifier tournament Umpires were taught about the interpretation and the application of different rules by international umpires. The Olympic Qualifier women's Umpire Manager Ms. Sarah Garnet (New Zealand) and Ms. Margaet Hunnaball (Great Britain) briefed the participants about the international Umpires performance, feedback reports and the procedures adopted for gradations to the international tournaments.

All participating umpires received certificates and mementos from the course.

HOCKEY INDIA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2012

S. No.		Men		Women	
		Location	Date	Location	Date
1	Senior	Lucknow	24 Sep - 03 Oct 2012	Hyderabad	3 - 12 Oct 2012
2	Junior	Chennai	01-09 Sep 2012	Rai (Haryana)	01-12 Oct 2012

SUB JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2012

S. No.		Men		Women	
		Location	Date	Location	Date
1	North Zone	Uttarakhand	15 - 20 October 2012	Uttarakhand	15 - 20 October 2012
2	South Zone	Bangalore	20- 25 October 2012	Bangalore	20- 25 October 2012
3	East Zone	Bihar	16 - 21 October 2012	Bihar	16 - 21 October 2012
4	West Zone	Chhattisgarh	17 - 21 October 2012	Chhattisgarh	17 - 21 October 2012
1	Finals	Haryana	01-07 November 2012	Haryana	01-07 November 2012

Grant by Hockey India to State Associations for conducting National Championships

Event	Men	Women
Senior	16 Lacs	15 Lacs
Junior	14 Lacs	13 Lacs
Sub Junior (Zone)	2.5 Lacs each (Zone)	2.5 Lacs each (Zone)
Sub Junior (Final)	3 Lacs	3 Lacs

Player's Milestone



Orissa girl playing at forward position **Anupa Barla** made her debut against New Zealand in their opening match of the Four Nation Hockey Tournament played at Harbour Hockey Stadium in Auckland on 12 April 2012. In the debut match Anupa showed good performance.



Senior player of Indian team **Tushar Khandker** completed 200 international caps during second test of the Karbonn Cup Test Series on 17 January 2012 against South Africa played at MDC National Stadium, New Delhi.



Haryana girl playing at forward position **Navneet Kaur** made her debut against USA in the opening match at the second leg of the Women Four Nation Hockey Tournament played at Lloyd Elsmore Hockey Stadium in Pakuranga, New Zealand on 18 April 2012.



One of the most promising player of Indian Team **Raghunath V.R** completed 100 international caps during the opening match of the Four Nation London Olympics Hockey Test Event played at the Riverbank Arena, Olympic Park on 2 May 2012.



Haryana girl playing at goalkeeper position **Sukhmani Virk** made her debut against New Zealand in the last preliminary round match of the second leg Women Four Nation Tournament at Lloyd Elsmore Hockey Stadium at Pakuranga, New Zealand on 21st April 2012.



India's promising youngster in the left half **Kothajit Singh**, 19 year old boy from Manipur made his international debut against South Africa in the first test of Karbonn cup Hockey Test Series on 16 January 2012 played at MDC National Stadium, New Delhi.



India's promising youngster inside forward **S.K Uthappa** made his international debut against South Africa in the first test of Karbonn cup Hockey Test Series on 16 January 2012 played at MDC National Stadium, New Delhi. Uthappa also scored a goal in his debut match.

New Innings



Hockey India wishes Pargat Singh

During the recent elections in Punjab, former Indian Captain and Secretary General of Hockey Punjab, Pargat Singh was elected as a Member of Legislative Assembly from Jalandhar Cantt.

This is another feather in the cap of the two times Olympic Captain, who has already been conferred with the Padma Shree and Arjuna Award.

Pargat captained the Indian Hockey Team in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics and 1996 Atlanta Olympics, and was known as one of the world's best fullbacks.

Hockey India wishes Pargat Singh all the best in his new endeavor.



Hockey India wishes Dilip Tirkey

Hockey Legend and Former Indian Captain Dilip Tirkey has donned a new avatar as he has been elected to the Rajya Sabha (the Upper House of the Indian Parliament).

This is another feather in the three time Olympians Cap as he has already been conferred with Padma Shree and honorary University Doctorate. Dilip Tirkey is the highest capped Indian

Hockey player and he is also the third Indian Hockey player to enter the portal of Parliament following Jaipal Singh and Aslam Sher Khan.

Hockey India wishes Dilip Tirkey all the best in his new endeavor.

Player's Birthday

Men

Shivendra Singh	- 3 June
Pardeep Mor	- 9 June
Manpreet Singh	- 26 June
Sarvanjit Singh	- 3 July
Sardar Singh	- 15 July
Anup Valmiki	- 26 July
Dharamvir Singh	- 5 August
Gurbaj Singh	- 9 August
Vikas Chaudhary	- 16 August
Kothajit Singh	- 17 August

Women

Deep Grace Ekka	- 3 June
Lily Chanu Mayengbam	- 3 June
Namita Toppo	- 4 June
Subhadra Pradhan	- 5 June
Rajani Etimarpu	- 9 June
Sukhmani Virk	- 14 June
Jaspreet Kaur	- 20 June
Savita Punia	- 11 July
Kiran Dahiya	- 18 July
Renuka Yadav	- 18 July
Balvinder Kaur	- 4 August
Renuka Rajput	- 12 August
Sonal Minj	- 24 August