



**Message From
Mohd. Mushtaque Ahmad
President - Hockey India**

"The months of November and December were very fruitful for all of us here at Hockey India. Apart from terrific results on the field, India won the bid to host the 2023 Men's Hockey World Cup. It will be a record fourth time that the hockey-loving nation will be hosting the competition since its inception in 1971. It will be a great honour for us to host the Men's Hockey World Cup in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela in 2023.

In the month of November, the Indian Junior Men's and Women's Teams improved their games through national coaching camps, which were set up by Hockey India. The next generation of players honed their skills and learned new techniques to evolve into better players. The results were there to be seen when the Indian Junior Women's Team won the 3-Nations Tournament in Australia. Everyone at Hockey India was ecstatic to see the way our team fought toe-to-toe with Australia and New Zealand in the competition in December.

After the Indian Senior Men's and Women's Teams secured tickets to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, they hit the ground running at their respective national coaching camps. The teams focused on fitness, ball-handling speed and strength, apart from emphasis on planning and plotting for their road ahead leading up to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. We are extremely proud of the way both the Indian Hockey Teams have performed on the field this year. We at Hockey India hope that both the teams carry on their form during the all important year 2020.

Hockey India continued to make efforts to grow hockey in Jammu and Kashmir. The 5th Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Memorial Hockey Tournament was conducted in the state in November. The competition which was held at the KK-Haku Stadium in Jammu saw tremendous participation.

Overall, it has been a fantastic and energetic two months for all of us here at Hockey India. We will keep working towards our goal of revolutionizing hockey in the upcoming months."

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INDIA WON BID TO HOST 2023 MEN'S HOCKEY WORLD CUP

After successfully hosting the Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup Bhubaneswar 2018, India won the bid to host the 2023 Men's Hockey World Cup. It will be a record fourth time that the hockey-loving nation will be hosting the competition since its inception in 1971. Hockey India had earlier been among three nations to have submitted a bid to host the 2022/2023 Men's Hockey World Cup. Winning this bid holds great significance as also being in the year which will see India complete 75 years of independence and also looking to win the coveted title after the last win in 1975. Hockey buffs around the country will have the opportunity to witness their national sport, and also celebrate the platinum jubilee of independence watching their favourite players in action.



HOCKEY FIESTA RETURNS TO ODISHA; BHUBANESWAR AND ROURKELA TO HOST THE 2023 FIH HOCKEY MEN'S WORLD CUP

To mark the one-year anniversary since the commencement of the Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup Bhubaneswar 2018, a spectacular event was held in Bhubaneswar on 27th November 2019, which saw Hockey India announce the cities of Bhubaneswar and Rourkela as the venues for the 2023 FIH Hockey Men's World Cup, a bid which was yet again won by Hockey India.

The mega announcement by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha Shri Naveen Patnaik was made in the presence of dignitaries including Honourable Sports Minister, Government of Odisha Mr. Tusharkanti Behera, Chief Secretary Government of Odisha Mr. Asit Kumar Tripathy, FIH President Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra, Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha Mr. Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, Hockey India President Mohd Mushtaque Ahmad, Chairman of Hockey Promotion Council Padma Shri Dr. Dilip Tirkey, Secretary-cum-Commissioner, Department of Sports & Youth Services, Government of Odisha Mr. Vishal Kumar Dev, and Director, Department of Sports & Youth Services, Government of Odisha Mr. R Vineel Krishna, were among other top officials from Hockey India and Government of Odisha. The Indian Men's Hockey Team, based in Bhubaneswar for National Coaching Camp, were also present during the announcement.

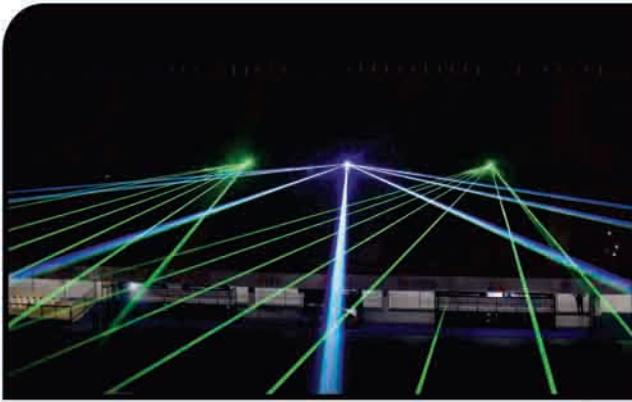
On this momentous occasion, FIH President Dr. Narinder Dhruv Batra said: "On behalf of FIH, I would like to extend our sincerest thanks to the Government of Odisha and Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha Shri Naveen Patnaik in particular for their great and permanent support to hockey over the years. This really is remarkable and contributes to grow our sport not only in India but in the world also. Our thanks also go to Hockey India for their dedication and efforts to put together an unforgettable event."

The precision in which the Odisha Men's Hockey World Cup Bhubaneswar 2018 was conducted, and the grandeur of the marquee event drew several accolades from the hockey fraternity worldwide. The unparalleled support by Government of Odisha towards the development of hockey, their vision to provide state-of-the-art infrastructure like none other in the world, and the government's willingness to invest in the event were some of the key reasons to name the State as the venue for the prestigious event in 2023.

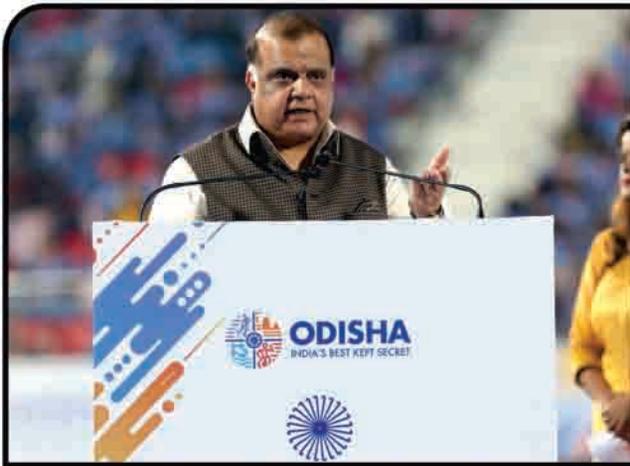


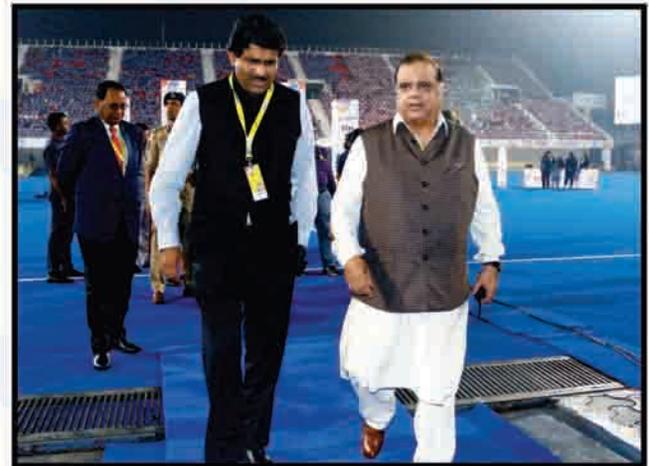












HOCKEY INDIA NAMED 18-MEMBER INDIAN JUNIOR WOMEN'S TEAM FOR 3 NATIONS TOURNAMENT HELD IN AUSTRALIA

Hockey India named the 18-member Indian Junior Women's Team for the 3-Nations Tournament scheduled from 03 - 08 December 2019 in Canberra, Australia, which also involved the Junior Women's teams from hosts Australia and New Zealand.



India played a total of four matches - two each against Australia and New Zealand. The Indian Junior Women's Team was captained by Suman Devi Thoudam and vice-captained by Ishika Chaudhary.

GOALKEEPERS	Bichu Devi Kharibam	Rashanpreet Kaur
DEFENDERS	Thoudam Suman Devi (Captain)	Gagandeep Kaur
	Ishika Chaudhary (Vice-Captain)	Mahima Choudhary
	Marina Lalramnghaki	Priyanka
MIDFIELDERS	Ajmina Kujur	Baljeet Kaur
	Beauty Dungdung	Chetna
	Mariana Kujur	Prabhleen Kaur
FORWARDS	Deepika	Lalrindinki
	Reet	Sharmila Devi

INDIAN JUNIOR WOMEN'S HOCKEY TEAM LEFT FOR THE 3-NATIONS TOURNAMENT

The Indian Junior Women's Hockey Team left from the Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru on 28 November 2019 to take part in the 3-Nations Tournament in Canberra, Australia.



MATCH 02 - 3 NATIONS TOURNAMENT (JR. WOMEN)
INDIA VS NEW ZEALAND
SCORE 2 - 0
AT CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA



MATCH 03 - 3 NATIONS TOURNAMENT (JR. WOMEN)
INDIA VS AUSTRALIA
SCORE 1 - 1
AT CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA



MATCH 05 - 3 NATIONS TOURNAMENT (JR. WOMEN)
INDIA VS NEW ZEALAND
SCORE 4 - 1
AT CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA



MATCH 06 - 3 NATIONS TOURNAMENT (JR. WOMEN)
INDIA VS AUSTRALIA
SCORE 1 - 2
AT CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA





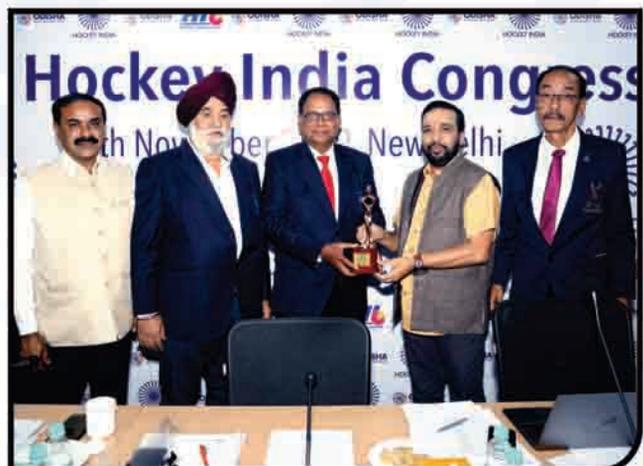
3 Nations Tournament (Jr. Women) Canberra, Australia 03 Dec 2019 - 08 Dec 2019

Match No.	DATE	TIME(IST)	TEAM	RESULT
1	03.12.19	12:30	Australia vs New Zealand	1 - 3
2	04.12.19	12:30	India vs New Zealand	2 - 0
3	05.12.19	12:30	India vs Australia	1 - 1
4	06.12.19	08:30	Australia vs New Zealand	3 - 1
5	07.12.19	08:30	India vs New Zealand	4 - 1
6	08.12.19	04:30	India vs Australia	1 - 2

9TH HOCKEY INDIA CONGRESS HELD ON 30TH NOVEMBER 2019 AT NEW DELHI

Here are some moments from the 9th Hockey India Congress held on 30th November 2019 in New Delhi to celebrate the success of yet another year of exceptional work in Hockey.





INDIAN MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM TO BEGIN OLYMPIC CAMPAIGN AGAINST NEW ZEALAND AND WOMEN TO TAKE ON THE NETHERLANDS IN THEIR FIRST MATCH IN 2020 TOKYO OLYMPICS

The Indian Men's Hockey Team will take on New Zealand in their opening match at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics on 25 July 2020 while the Indian Women's Team will play against Rio Olympics Silver Medallists The Netherlands on 25th July 2020. The draw for the prestigious quadrennial extravaganza was announced in Tokyo, Japan on 17 December 2019.

Speaking about the draw, Indian Men's Hockey Team Skipper Manpreet Singh said: "A good start will always give the right confidence and momentum to carry on in the tournament so it will be important for us to begin with a win. New Zealand have always posed stiff competition for us and I believe it can be a close game," stated Manpreet further adding that the team will need to keep a check on their nerves. "It is important to keep our nerves in check as opening matches can be a bit overwhelming especially at a major event like the Olympics," Manpreet added.

Meanwhile, the Indian Women's Team Skipper Rani said: "Draw does not matter because in the Olympics every team is equal and every team will come to the Olympics with an aim win. As a team, we need to focus on ourselves and what we can do better on the given day. We are preparing well to ensure we tick all the boxes in each of our match and put all the energy into every game we play and give our best to the blue shirt if we want to see ourselves in the quarter finals and semi finals."

The Quarter Finals for the Women's Hockey will be held on 3 August 2020 while the Semi Finals will be held on 5 August 2020 and the Gold Medal and Bronze Medal matches will be held on 7 August 2020.

SUMMER OLYMPICS 2020 SCHEDULE (M)

Date	Time (IST)	Match
25 July	10:00 AM	NEW ZEALAND VS INDIA
26 July	18:30 PM	INDIA VS AUSTRALIA
28 July	10:00 AM	INDIA VS SPAIN
30 July	9:30 AM	INDIA VS ARGENTINA
31 July	18:30 PM	JAPAN VS INDIA

India players: Manpreet Singh, Navjot Singh Sidhu, Gurpreet Singh Sandhu

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SUMMER OLYMPICS 2020 SCHEDULE (W)

Date	Time (IST)	Match
25 July	10:45 PM	NETHERLANDS VS INDIA
27 July	10:15 PM	GERMANY VS INDIA
28 July	10:00 AM	GREAT BRITAIN VS INDIA
31 July	11:45 AM	IRELAND VS INDIA
1 August	12:15 PM	INDIA VS SOUTH AFRICA

India players: Rani Singh, Manpreet Singh, Gurpreet Singh Sandhu

#IndiaKaGame



HOCKEY MEN'S SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 25 JULY

NORTH PITCH	
9:30	JAPAN vs AUSTRALIA
11:45	NETHERLANDS vs BELGIUM
18:30	GREAT BRITAIN vs SOUTH AFRICA
SOUTH PITCH	
10:00	NEW ZEALAND vs INDIA
12:15	ARGENTINA vs SPAIN
19:00	CANADA vs GERMANY

SUNDAY 26 JULY

NORTH PITCH	
18:30	INDIA vs AUSTRALIA
20:45	SPAIN vs NEW ZEALAND
SOUTH PITCH	
19:00	JAPAN vs ARGENTINA
21:15	SOUTH AFRICA vs NETHERLANDS

MONDAY 27 JULY

NORTH PITCH	
9:30	GERMANY vs BELGIUM
11:45	GREAT BRITAIN vs CANADA

TUESDAY 28 JULY

NORTH PITCH	
9:30	ARGENTINA vs AUSTRALIA
11:45	JAPAN vs NEW ZEALAND
18:30	BELGIUM vs SOUTH AFRICA
20:45	NETHERLANDS vs CANADA
SOUTH PITCH	
10:00	INDIA vs SPAIN
12:15	GERMANY vs GREAT BRITAIN

WEDNESDAY 29 JULY

NORTH PITCH	
20:45	JAPAN vs SPAIN
SOUTH PITCH	
21:15	AUSTRALIA vs NEW ZEALAND

THURSDAY 30 JULY

NORTH PITCH	
9:30	INDIA vs ARGENTINA
11:45	SOUTH AFRICA vs GERMANY
SOUTH PITCH	
10:00	BELGIUM vs CANADA
12:15	NETHERLANDS vs GREAT BRITAIN

FRIDAY 31 JULY

NORTH PITCH	
18:30	JAPAN vs INDIA
20:45	GERMANY vs NETHERLANDS
SOUTH PITCH	
10:00	AUSTRALIA vs SPAIN
12:15	CANADA vs SOUTH AFRICA
19:00	ARGENTINA vs NEW ZEALAND
21:15	BELGIUM vs GREAT BRITAIN

SUNDAY 2 AUGUST

9:30	QUARTER-FINAL
12:00	QUARTER-FINAL
18:30	QUARTER-FINAL
21:00	QUARTER-FINAL

TUESDAY 4 AUGUST

10:30	SEMI-FINAL
19:00	SEMI-FINAL

THURSDAY 6 AUGUST

10:30	BRONZE MEDAL
19:00	GOLD MEDAL

POOLS

POOL A	POOL B
AUSTRALIA	BELGIUM
ARGENTINA	NETHERLANDS
INDIA	GERMANY
SPAIN	GREAT BRITAIN
NEW ZEALAND	CANADA
JAPAN	SOUTH AFRICA



NOTES
FIH, IOC and TOCOG reserve the right to amend the match schedule for any reason.
Quarter-Finals: The sequence of matches will be advised after the completion of the pool phase.
Semi-Finals: The sequence of matches will be advised after the completion of the Quarter-Finals.



HOCKEY WOMEN'S SCHEDULE



SATURDAY 25 JULY

NORTH PITCH	
20:45	NETHERLANDS vs INDIA
SOUTH PITCH	
21:15	IRELAND vs SOUTH AFRICA

SUNDAY 26 JULY

NORTH PITCH	
9:30	GREAT BRITAIN vs GERMANY
11:45	JAPAN vs CHINA
SOUTH PITCH	
10:00	AUSTRALIA vs SPAIN
12:15	NEW ZEALAND vs ARGENTINA

MONDAY 27 JULY

NORTH PITCH	
18:30	SOUTH AFRICA vs GREAT BRITAIN
20:45	JAPAN vs NEW ZEALAND
SOUTH PITCH	
10:00	NETHERLANDS vs IRELAND
12:15	AUSTRALIA vs CHINA
19:00	ARGENTINA vs SPAIN
21:15	GERMANY vs INDIA

WEDNESDAY 29 JULY

NORTH PITCH	
9:30	NETHERLANDS vs SOUTH AFRICA
11:45	NEW ZEALAND vs SPAIN
18:30	JAPAN vs AUSTRALIA
SOUTH PITCH	
10:00	GREAT BRITAIN vs INDIA
12:15	GERMANY vs IRELAND
19:00	ARGENTINA vs CHINA

THURSDAY 30 JULY

NORTH PITCH	
18:30	SPAIN vs CHINA
20:45	JAPAN vs ARGENTINA
SOUTH PITCH	
19:00	GREAT BRITAIN vs NETHERLANDS
21:15	NEW ZEALAND vs AUSTRALIA

FRIDAY 31 JULY

NORTH PITCH	
9:30	SOUTH AFRICA vs GERMANY
11:45	IRELAND vs INDIA

SATURDAY 1 AUGUST

NORTH PITCH	
9:30	CHINA vs NEW ZEALAND
11:45	ARGENTINA vs AUSTRALIA
18:30	GERMANY vs NETHERLANDS
20:45	IRELAND vs GREAT BRITAIN
SOUTH PITCH	
10:00	JAPAN vs SPAIN
12:15	INDIA vs SOUTH AFRICA

MONDAY 3 AUGUST

9:30	QUARTER-FINAL
12:00	QUARTER-FINAL
18:30	QUARTER-FINAL
21:00	QUARTER-FINAL

WEDNESDAY 5 AUGUST

10:30	SEMI-FINAL
19:00	SEMI-FINAL

FRIDAY 7 AUGUST

10:30	BRONZE MEDAL
19:00	GOLD MEDAL

POOLS

POOL A	POOL B
NETHERLANDS	AUSTRALIA
GERMANY	ARGENTINA
GREAT BRITAIN	NEW ZEALAND
IRELAND	SPAIN
INDIA	CHINA
SOUTH AFRICA	JAPAN



NOTES
FIH, IOC and TOCOG reserve the right to amend the match schedule for any reason.
Quarter-Finals: The sequence of matches will be advised after the completion of the pool phase.
Semi-Finals: The sequence of matches will be advised after the completion of the Quarter-Finals.

FICCI INDIA SPORTS AWARDS 2019 RANI – SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR

Hockey India Congratulates Rani for being conferred as the Best Sports person of the Year at the FICCI Sports Awards 2019



FICCI INDIA SPORTS AWARDS 2019 ODISHA – BEST STATE PROMOTING SPORTS

Hockey India Congratulates Odisha for being conferred as the Best State Promoting Sports at the FICCI Sports Awards 2019



2019 FIH HOCKEY STARS AWARDS

Indian stars nominated in the 2019 FIH Hockey Stars Awards.

To Cast your votes: <http://www.fih.ch/events/hockey-stars-awards/hockey-stars-2019/vote/>

FIH **VOTING OPEN** **2019 FIH HOCKEY STARS AWARDS** **HOCKEY INDIA**

MANPREET SINGH
FIH PLAYER OF THE YEAR (M)

LALREMSIAMI
FIH RISING STAR OF THE YEAR (W)

VIVEK PRASAD
FIH RISING STAR OF THE YEAR (M)

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SPORTSTAR ACES AWARDS 2020

Hockey India's ace performers Mandeep Singh, Lalremsiami and Deep Grace have all earned a well-deserving nomination for the Sportstar ACES Awards 2020!

SPORTSTAR ACES AWARDS 2020 **HOCKEY INDIA**

LALREMSIAMI
SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR (TEAM SPORTS)

MANDEEP SINGH
SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR (TEAM SPORTS)

DEEP GRACE
SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR (TEAM SPORTS)

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ASIAN HOCKEY FEDERATION CONGRESS 2019

Hockey India congratulated Shri. Vishal Kumar Dev, IAS, Secretary-Cum-Commissioner, Department of Sports & Youth Services, Odisha State Government and Shri. R Vineel Krishna, Director, Department of Sports & Youth Services, Odisha State Government on being appointed as Members of the Raja Ashman Shah Hockey Academy Committee and AHF Effective Promotions Committee respectively.

During the AHF Congress held on 26th December 2019 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, AHF also appointed Hockey India CEO Elena Norman as Member of AHF Competition Committee, Hockey India Vice President Bholanath Singh was appointed as Member of AHF Award Nomination Panel and Hockey India Secretary General Rajinder Singh was appointed as Member of the AHF Event Evaluation Panel.

Former India Captain Jagbir Singh was appointed as Member, AHF Masters Panel while former India stalwart midfielder Sardar Singh was appointed as Member AHF Athletes Committee. International umpire Javed Shaikh was also appointed as Member of the AHF Umpiring Committee.



Shri. Vishal Kumar Dev,



Shri. R Vineel Krishna



Shri. Rajinder Singh



Shri. Bholanath Singh



Ms. Elena Norman



Shri. Jagbir Singh



Shri. Sardar Singh



Shri. Javed Shaikh

HOCKEY INDIA ANNOUNCED HOCKEY INDIA COACHING EDUCATION PATHWAY 2020

Hockey India announced the launch of the Hockey India Coaching Education Pathway 2020 which will be conducted from February - March 2020. The program, which is an integral part of the FIH Academy, will see the Hockey India Level 'Basic' and Level '1' Coaching Courses being conducted across the four zones - South, West, North and East in February 2020, with the Hockey India Level '2' Coaching Course also taking place later in March 2020.

A simplified education structure, the Hockey India Coaching Education Pathway, consists of a combination of web-based modules and face-to-face interactive courses, underpinned by a competency based assessment process, which helps the Coaches in progressing to higher levels. The Pathway is divided into 7 levels: Hockey India Level 'Basic', Hockey India Level '1', Hockey India Level '2', FIH Level 1, FIH Level 2, FIH Level 3 and FIH High Performance. Once a candidate progresses from the Hockey India Levels, they are then eligible to enrol for the FIH Academy Level 1 Course, and so on. In its initial year, this initiative from Hockey India attracted an overwhelming response from across the country with over 300 candidates applying for each March 2019 and August 2019 phases of the Pathway.

Hockey India had launched the first-ever Hockey India Coaching Education Pathway in March 2019, designed with the aim to provide a simplified education structure to help in developing coaches from the grassroots level into world-class coaches of the high performance/international level. With hundreds of candidates having enrolled for the Pathway in 2019, the meticulously-designed program provided certification to candidates including young upcoming hockey coaches who are already coaches or wish to pursue coaching as a career; along with NIS-qualified coaches, and former International Hockey players who have represented India at the highest level in the past.

The Hockey India Coaching Education Pathway 2020 will see the Hockey India 'Basic' and Level '1' Coaching Course for the South Zone take place in Kollam, Kerala from 11th to 13th February 2020, for the West Zone in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh from 15th to 17th February 2020, for the North Zone in New Delhi from 19th to 21st February 2020, and for the East Zone in Ranchi, Jharkhand from 23rd to 25th February 2020. After the completion of the Hockey India 'Basic' and Level '1' Courses across the four Zones, Hockey India Level '2' Coaching Course will be held in New Delhi from 27th to 30th March 2020, which will be conducted for candidates who have successfully cleared the initial two courses.



DR. NARINDER DHRUV BATRA, PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL HOCKEY FEDERATION MET WITH SHRI. AMIT SHAH, HON'BLE HOME MINISTER, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Dr. Narinder Dhruv Batra, President of FIH on 9th December, 2019 met Shri Amit Shah, Hon'ble Home Minister, Government of India to discuss about conducting Hockey Men's World Cup in January 2023 in Bhubaneswar & Rourkela (Odisha). They also discussed about the Fit India Movement, TOPS Programme and Khelo India Youth Games 2020.

On behalf of the sporting community & fraternity, we thank our Hon'ble. Home Minister Shri Amit Shah



HOCKEY INDIA CONGRATULATED FORMER INDIA SKIPPER SANDEEP SINGH ON BEING NAMED AS HON'BLE SPORTS MINISTER, GOVT OF HARYANA

Hockey India congratulated former India Skipper Sandeep Singh on being named as the Hon'ble Sports Minister of Haryana after he turned out for the BJP in the recent state assembly elections and won from Pehowa seat. He took oath as the Minister of the State and was named Hon'ble Sports Minister.



HOCKEY INDIA CONGRATULATED ROHINI BOPANNA ON BEING PROMOTED TO FIH TECHNICAL OFFICIAL - ADVANCEMENT PANEL AND UMPIRE GURBAJ SINGH ON BEING PROMOTED AS OUTDOOR UMPIRE - FIH INTERNATIONAL PANEL



Rohini Bopanna promoted to
FIH Technical Official- Advancement Panel



Gurbaj Singh promoted to
Outdoor Umpire- FIH International Panel

JR WOMEN - YEAR-IN-REVIEW: INDIAN JUNIOR WOMEN'S HOCKEY TEAM ON THE RIGHT TRACK GOING INTO AN IMPORTANT 2020

The Indian Junior Women's Hockey Team ended the year 2019 on a great high by winning the 3-Nations Tournament in Canberra, Australia, paving the way for more success in the upcoming year where they will be playing some crucial tournaments, and will be looking to secure their place in the next edition of the FIH Hockey Junior Women's World Cup.

The team participated in various tournaments during the year which included Test matches against Ireland and Canada, Cantor Fitzgerald U21 International 4-Nations Tournament in May-June, Series with Belarus in June and the 3-Nations Tournament with New Zealand and Australia in December.

"It was a very positive year for us, we played against some of the best teams from around the world and performed exceedingly well. We focused on raising the level of our performances with every single match, and with some tough challenges against teams like Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, Canada through the year, it was pleasing to see the girls improve with every single tournament and National Camp," said Coach Baljeet Singh Saini.

He continued, "When you play other strong teams from around the world, it helps in giving a lot of exposure to our players, and also makes them aware of what is actually required to be performing consistently at the highest level. I am very happy to see that our team has developed so much over the years, and can now beat any team in the world, regardless of the physicality and built. Our players at the Junior level are getting stronger and fitter, and I am really pleased to see that because these are the players who will progress to play for the Senior team in the future."

Having played a total of 16 matches across various tournaments, the Indian team registered an impressive 10 victories, drew two matches and lost four, but their most important win came in the Cantor Fitzgerald U21 International 4-Nations Tournament which also saw hosts Ireland, Canada and Scotland take part. It was India who took the title as they registered a 1-0 win in the Final match against the hosts with Gagandeep Kaur scoring India's only goal. "It was a good exposure for the team to have played in Europe, and have some matches under their belts. We had some tough matches but our team kept the intensity going and produced good performances to win the tournament," said Saini.

2019 also saw a few of the Indian Junior Team's members progress to the Senior Team set-up, which has pleased Coach Saini. "When you are in-charge of any Junior team, your role is to help the youngsters develop into well-honed players who can match the standards of the Senior team, and also provide something unique to the team. As the Coach, it was something that really pleased me to see two of our players progress to the Senior Team. Salima Tete and Sharmila Devi are both very talented, and have set an example for the other players in our team," said the Coach.

Looking forward to the upcoming year where the team will be taking part in the Junior Women's Asia Cup, Saini said that the tournament is crucial as it provides direct qualification to the FIH Hockey Junior Women's World Cup. "Our collective aim during the next year will be to win the Junior Women's Asia Cup because winning the tournament will give us direct qualification to the next edition of the FIH Hockey Junior Women's World Cup. There will obviously be other targets also during the course of the next year, and we will start work on them from the next National Camp onwards," Saini stated.



JR MEN - YEAR-IN-REVIEW: WITH A SILVER MEDAL AT THE SULTAN OF JOHOR CUP, THE INDIAN JUNIOR MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM LOOK TO BUILD ON THEIR PERFORMANCE FOR AN ALL-IMPORTANT 2020

The year 2019 saw the Indian Junior Men's Team remain consistent in their overall performance while they improved their overall fitness and also saw the return of Dilpreet Singh in the forwardline after he last played in the 2018 Men's Hockey World Cup.

Although the team began the season with a disappointing outing at the 8 Nations Tournament in Spain, the team produced strong results at the Sultan of Johor Cup in Malaysia where they remained unbeaten against Malaysia (4-2), New Zealand (8-2), Australia (5-1), and drew against Great Britain (3-3) but lost to Japan (3-4). In the Final, however, they put up a strong fight against nemesis Great Britain but lost narrowly (1-2) to bag a Silver medal. Despite the loss, there were plenty of positives that came out of the tournament. "We were consistent throughout the tournament and we saw good improvement in the overall PC conversion rate," expressed Coach BJ Kariappa.

He further highlighted that the structure of the team, improved fitness, temperament and consistency are the positives the team would like to carry forward to the year 2020 where the India Colts will be vying to qualify for the 2021 FIH Junior World Cup. "Next year will definitely be important for the Junior Men's Team. The core group of this team is strong and they have played together for nearly two years so each of them understand their strengths and weak points. Their overall fitness has also improved a lot and I am sure this team will continue to build on their performance and do well in the Junior Asia Cup which will be a priority for 2020," added Coach Kariappa.

He further added that with India playing the FIH Pro League in 2020, he expects some of the India Junior Players to make the cut for the Senior Core Group. "Every year we see some of the junior players graduate to the Senior Core Group. In 2019, we saw players like Sanjay (defender) show consistent performance. Mandeep Mor was effective with his penalty corners too while it was good to see Dilpreet Singh (forward) return to action and played a composed game," Kariappa said.



SR WOMEN - YEAR-IN-REVIEW: INDIAN WOMEN'S TEAM ADAPTED TO A NEW AVATAR OF BEING AGGRESSIVE

Having shed their underdog image, the Indian Women's Team embraced the year 2019 with a singular vision to qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics after narrowly missing the ticket at the 2018 Asian Games where they settled for a Silver. The loss in the final to Japan only made the women's team emerge stronger and aggressive in their matches to come in 2019. Their opening tour of the season in Spain saw them clinch confidence-boosting wins against the FIH Women's World Cup 2018 Silver Medallists Ireland and Bronze Medallists Spain.

A reassuring start to the season meant the women's team began to believe that they can beat higher ranked teams. "I think the fact that many people never believed that we were capable of beating top teams did affect us. Some way, this was affecting the team's morale too but I think this tour to Spain set off a new beginning for Indian Women's Team where we knew we can create historic results," stated Rani, skipper of the Indian team looking back at 2019.

In the following months, the team had a successful outing in Malaysia -- clinching the tour with four wins and a draw. They also won the Tour to Korea with two wins and a loss. The team then avenged their loss to Japan in the 2018 Asian Games as they defeated the home team at the important FIH Women's Series Finals in Hiroshima, Japan. This helped the team qualify for the FIH Olympic Qualifiers to be held in Bhubaneswar in November. "I believe the team has grown immensely both mentally and physically this year. Our defeats only made us stronger and we wanted to adapt to the aggressive, attacking game more like how the Dutch women play. We wanted to showcase that winning attitude, which we lacked earlier. I think improving our fitness was a big plus point that made a huge difference to our attitude," explained Rani.

While the team beat China and Japan, drew with Australia in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics Test Event, they won a match, drew three and lost a match against Rio Olympics Gold Medallist Great Britain during their tour to England in September 2019.

The turning point of 2019 was in Bhubaneswar where the women's team played out a successful FIH Olympic Qualifiers against USA. "It was everything we had trained for and we didn't give ourselves any other option but to win. The atmosphere was quite incredible and also nervy as many of us had not experienced the home crowd. Now that we have qualified, next year will be all about taking our game to the next level with further improved fitness because the playing conditions in Tokyo will be quite challenging. While making the top four in the Olympics is the target, we also want to win the Asian Champions Trophy which is before the Olympics. This will give us a good momentum for Tokyo," Rani concluded wishing all the hockey fans a very Happy New Year.



SR MEN - YEAR-IN-REVIEW: INDIAN MEN'S TEAM MAKE POSITIVE STRIDES

The Indian Men's Hockey Team were quick to leave the disappointment of the 2018 Men's Hockey World Cup behind and focused on their lone target for 2019 which was to make the qualification for 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Now that the goal has been accomplished, the core group which reported to National Coaching Camp in Bhubaneswar have set their sights on the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

"I think the year 2019 was full of positives. Our single most important target was to make the Olympic qualification and in that pursuit we improved collectively as a team and performed consistently. I think retaining our World Ranking (No.5) was also a morale boost," expressed skipper Manpreet Singh looking back at the year 2019.

Manpreet also believes that the increase in pool of players who are of international standards was also another big positive for the team in 2019. "We saw quite a few youngsters play their first international match. It is good to have a strong pool of players who have the capabilities of handling the pressure at international level. This is an advantage especially now when we play back-to-back FIH Hockey Pro League matches," he added.

Highlighting the team's goal for this year, Manpreet said: "Our immediate target is to do well in the FIH Hockey Pro League. We had a meeting recently where we gave our feedback to the Chief Coach and we discussed what we need to do if we intend to win against teams like The Netherlands, Belgium and Australia who we play against in January and February."

He further added, "We have nine months to prepare for the Olympics and the plan is to get better and better each day, in each session we train. Under Chief Coach Graham Reid there is already a solid process in place and we just need to keep at it and I am sure the result will follow. The team strongly believes we have a good shot at finishing Top 4 at the Tokyo Olympics and once we make the Semi Finals, it can be anybody's game there onwards."

Having won back-to-back Asian Champions Trophy in 2016 and 2018, the team will aim to claim the title third time in a row when the bi-annual tournament returns in 2020. "It is definitely on our mind to defend the Asian Champions Trophy title. It will be sweet to make it a hat-trick but we would like to take it step-by-step, tournament-by-tournament," an optimistic Manpreet said.



FIH UNVEILED NEW WORLD RANKING SYSTEM FOR 2020

Following 12 months of painstaking research, analysis and testing, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) was delighted to reveal details of the new FIH World Ranking system which will be employed from 1 January 2020.

The fresh approach – which has been approved by the FIH Executive Board – sees a switch from the existing tournament-based World Rankings to a more dynamic, match-based system, one which is designed to increase opportunities for all National Associations to gain rankings points and also provide a better reflection of current performance.

The outgoing FIH World Ranking system has served the sport since 2003, being originally devised to allocate teams into pools at tournaments. The old model operated well on various levels, ranking the top teams who participated in FIH and Continental events with a good level of accuracy whilst also allowing those nations to earn ranking points two to three times per year.

However, the numerous restrictions of the tournament-based system – including the limited opportunities for lower-ranked teams to earn points, the degree of subjectivity required to determine the relative strengths of the five continents in order to calculate continental ranking points, and the fact that over 60 percent of international hockey matches had no ranking points on offer - have provided an ever-strengthening case for a change of approach.

The new match-based World Ranking system involves an exchange of points between the two teams competing in each FIH-sanctioned match played. In short, the number of points exchanged depends on a trio of factors: the result of the match, the relative ranking of the teams and the importance of the match. As well as the aforementioned increased opportunities to earn points, the new model removes much of the subjectivity surrounding continental weighting by creating a system which is fair to all, whilst also encouraging the playing of international matches.

The decision to introduce a new World Ranking system comes at the end of a year-long trial period. Using every official international match played since the end of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, a working model of the new system was created, allowing for constant monitoring, assessment and adjustment throughout 2019. The results of the test phase indicated that the new system was more dynamic and immediately reflective of current form than the existing World Ranking system and was subsequently approved by the FIH Executive Board.

The introduction of the new system for calculating the FIH World Rankings will not affect the current placements – each nation will start 2020 in the same ranking position and with the same number of ranking points that they finished with in 2019.

The model explained

- Based on the Elo rating system, which is used as the basis of many other sports ranking systems
- When two nations play against each other, a number of ranking points are exchanged between them
- In every match, the number of points gained by one team is exactly matched by the number of points lost by the other
- Teams will win more points for beating teams ranked above them, and therefore teams will lose more points for losing to a team ranked below them
- Teams will win less points for beating teams ranked below them, and therefore teams will lose less points for losing to a team ranked above them
- If a draw occurs, the lower ranked team will gain a small number of points and the higher ranked team will lose the same number of points
- The number of points exchanged is dependent on the result of the match (win, lose, shootout win/loss or draw), the importance of the match (part of a major tournament, or a test series for example), and the relative difference in ranking points between the teams before the match

HOCKEY JAMMU & KASHMIR

Under the Aegis of Hockey India and Hockey Jammu & Kashmir, the 5th Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Memorial Hockey Tournament was successfully conducted. The tournament which was a Hockey Jammu & Kashmir initiative in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, held at the KK-Haku Stadium in Jammu saw tremendous participation.



HOCKEY PATIALA

Hockey Bathinda started training a batch of young guns (U-8) students of the DPS Bathinda and Silver Oaks School Bathinda.



SDT HOCKEY NILGIRIS ACADEMY

Hockey Nilgiris and SDT Hockey Nilgiris Academy conducted the School Hockey League for Girls and Boys (U-15, U-17, U-19) in Nilgiri district at Laidlaw Memorial School ground, Ooty.



HOCKEY PATIALA

Here are some images from the 3rd Hockey Patiala Senior Men State Championship 2019 which was held at Hockey Stadium Bathinda from 15th to 17th November 2019.

Guru Kashi University Talwandi Sabo (Bathinda) claimed the Gold medal while Patiala District bagged the Silver medal.



BENGALURU HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Bengaluru Hockey Association conducted its annual 'B' Division Hockey Championship at Bangalore, Karnataka from 1 to 29 November 2019. A total of 24 teams had participated in the championship and 5C Sports Club were crowned as the champions.



Winners - 5C Sports Club



Runner Up - Air India



3rd Place - Falcon Hockey Club

UTTAR PRADESH HOCKEY

Uttar Pradesh Hockey successfully organised the Junior Men and Women State Hockey Championships.

Junior Women State Championship
 Date - 1 to 6 November 2019
 Venue - Etawah, Uttar Pradesh

Junior Men State Championship
 Date - 4 to 9 November 2019
 Venue - Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh



Mohd Shahid Hockey Stadium (Lucknow) experienced the 1st edition of the Sheela Chaturvedi School Hockey Tournament from 13th-18th November, 2019.



ANDHRA HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Andhra Hockey Association conducted the Sub Junior Boys, Girls and Club Tournament at Rayachoty from 26th November - 1st December 2019.

On the Final day, Y.S.R Kapada beat Chitoor in the Boys category while Ananthapuram District beat Y.S.R Kadapa District in Girls category.



MALWA HOCKEY ACADEMY

Malwa Hockey Academy organised the Under 23 Men's Hockey Tournament at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium - Hanumangarh Jn on 28th and 29th November.



R.D.T HOCKEY ACADEMY

The R.D.T school tournament kicked off on 11 December 2019 at Z.P.H.S school Havaligi Vidapanakal Mandal Anantapuramu by Ananthapuram Hockey Association affiliated to Andhra Hockey Association.



SDT HOCKEY NILGIRIS ACADEMY

SDT Hockey Nilgiris Academy hosted a coaching session on 15th December, 2019 at Coonoor for the Sub Junior Boys participating in several championships.



HOCKEY COORG

Hockey Coorg conducted U-14 Tournament for Girls and Boys at Ponnampet from 10th to 17th November, 2019 wherein Lions Primary School, Gonikoppal emerged triumphant in both Boys and Girls Category.



Hockey Coorg conducted U-17 Tournament for Girls and Boys at Ponnampet from 10th to 17th November, 2019 wherein Chinmaya Vidhyalaya, Banglore emerged victorious in Girls category and Karnataka Public School, Ponnampet emerged victorious in Boys category.



CITIZEN HOCKEY XI

One Thousand Hockey Legs (OTHL) LEARN Program commenced with tutorials for spoken English for 50 boys in Janakpuri Centre, Delhi.



HOCKEY ANDHRA PRADESH

Hockey Andhra Pradesh conducted Senior Men Inter District Hockey Championship at B.R Stadium, Guntur from 18 - 30 December 2019. 12 teams participated in the championship and Guntur District were the crowned as the champions.



BIRTHDAYS

MEN'S

JANUARY

GURINDER SINGH	01
SUKHMAN SINGH	01
HARMANPREET SINGH	06
SHARDA NAND TIWARI	07
PARAMPREET SINGH	08
GREGORY XESS	09
ARAJEET SINGH HUNDAL	21
MANDEEP SINGH	25
GURJANT SINGH	26
JASKARAN SINGH	27

FEBRUARY

BIRENDRA LAKRA	03
MANINDER SINGH	04
GURSAHIBJIT SINGH	05
MOIRANGTHEM DINACHANDRA SINGH	12
VIVEK SAGAR	25
ARSHDEEP SINGH	27

WOMEN'S

JANUARY

UDITA	04
SUSHMA KUMARI	22
YOGITA BORA	24
SUMITA	25
NAVNEET KAUR	26

FEBRUARY

PUKHRAMBAM SUSHILA CHANU	25
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