



# NEWSLETTER

MAY TO 13 AUGUST | VOL. 63



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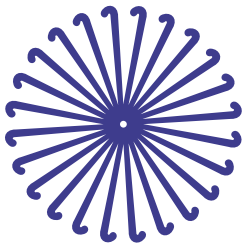




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# TOP HIGHLIGHTS

## NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS CONDUCTED IN MAY 2022

### 12<sup>th</sup> Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship 2022

| DATE OF THE EVENT | WINNER               | RUNNERS UP       | THIRD POSITION               | LOCATION |
|-------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------------------|----------|
| 04 - 15 May 2022  | Uttar Pradesh Hockey | Hockey Jharkhand | Hockey Association of Odisha | Goa      |

Uttar Pradesh Hockey emerged as the Champions of the 12th Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship 2022 after defeating Hockey Jharkhand 3-0 in the Final of the tournament, which was held in Goa on 15th May, 2022. Shahrukh Ali (10', 13', 47') scored all three field goals in the first and final quarters of the match for Uttar Pradesh Hockey. Hockey Association of Odisha defeated Hockey Haryana in the 3rd/4th Place match to finish on the podium.



### 12<sup>th</sup> Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2022

| DATE OF THE EVENT | WINNER                       | RUNNERS UP       | THIRD POSITION   | LOCATION              |
|-------------------|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| 06 - 17 May 2022  | Hockey Association of Odisha | Hockey Karnataka | Hockey Jharkhand | Bhopal Madhya Pradesh |



Hockey Association of Odisha were crowned as the Champions of the 12th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2022 in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh with a thrilling 2-0 victory over Hockey Karnataka in the Final of the competition on 17th May, 2022. Hockey Jharkhand managed to pick a 3-2 win to earn a third-place finish in the competition against Hockey Haryana. Punam Barla (34') opened the scoring in the match in the third quarter as Hockey Association of Odisha picked up the lead. Ashim Kanchan Barla

(59') sealed the game with a late goal as Hockey Association of Odisha beat Hockey Karnataka 2-0 to claim the Championship.



## 12<sup>th</sup> Hockey India Sub Junior Women National Championship 2022

| DATE OF THE EVENT | WINNER         | RUNNERS UP       | THIRD POSITION       | LOCATION        |
|-------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 11 - 22 May 2022  | Hockey Haryana | Hockey Jharkhand | Uttar Pradesh Hockey | Imphal, Manipur |



**WINNER**  
Hockey Haryana

Hockey Haryana emerged as the winners of the 12th Hockey India Sub Junior Women National Championship 2022 after defeating Hockey Jharkhand 2-0 in the Final of the tournament, which was held in Imphal, Manipur on 22nd May, 2022. Riya (13') and Sejal (39') scored a goal each to help Hockey Haryana successfully defend the title.

Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh Hockey defeated Madhya Pradesh Hockey 3-0 to secure third place in the tournament for the second

consecutive time.

## 12<sup>th</sup> Hockey India Junior Men National Championship 2022

| DATE OF THE EVENT | WINNER               | RUNNERS UP        | THIRD POSITION | LOCATION               |
|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| 17 - 28 May 2022  | Uttar Pradesh Hockey | Hockey Chandigarh | Hockey Haryana | Kovilpatti, Tamil Nadu |

Uttar Pradesh Hockey successfully defended their crown with a win over Hockey Chandigarh in the Final of the 12th Hockey India Junior Men National Championship 2022 in Kovilpatti, Tamil Nadu on 29th May, 2022. Uttar Pradesh Hockey defeated Hockey Chandigarh 2 – 0 in a tightly contested affair. Sourabh Anand Khushwaha (4') and Captain Sharda Nand Tiwari (33') scored a goal early in each half for Uttar Pradesh Hockey to settle the contest. Hockey Haryana claimed third place in the competition with a win against Hockey Association of Odisha in the 3rd/4th place match.



**WINNER**  
Uttar Pradesh Hockey



# KHELO INDIA YOUTH GAMES CONDUCTED IN JUNE 2022

## Khelo India Youth Games 2021 (U18 Women)

| DATE OF THE EVENT | WINNER  | RUNNERS UP | THIRD POSITION | LOCATION           |
|-------------------|---------|------------|----------------|--------------------|
| 04 - 13 June 2022 | Haryana | Odisha     | Jharkhand      | Panchkula, Haryana |

Host Haryana emerged as Champions in the 4th Khelo India Youth Games 2021 (U-18 Women's) as they defeated Odisha 4-1 in the final of the tournament. Captain Sonam (4',49') scored in the first quarter to take the lead in the game against their rivals. Kanika Siwach (18') and Gurmail Kaur (56') scored one goal each to keep Haryana ahead in the closely contested encounter. Sunelita Toppo scored (45') in the last minute of the third quarter for Odisha after successfully getting past the strong defence of Haryana.



**WINNER**  
Haryana

Jharkhand secured the third position after defeating Uttar Pradesh 4-1.

## Khelo India Youth Games 2021 (U18 Men)

| DATE OF THE EVENT | WINNER | RUNNERS UP    | THIRD POSITION | LOCATION           |
|-------------------|--------|---------------|----------------|--------------------|
| 04 - 13 June 2022 | Punjab | Uttar Pradesh | Odisha         | Panchkula, Haryana |



**WINNER**  
Punjab

Punjab was crowned as the Champions of 4th Khelo India Youth Games 2021 (U-18 Men's) held in Panchkula, Haryana as they defeated Uttar Pradesh 3-1 in the final. Bharat Thakur (4', 47') scored two goals for his side whereas Rajinder Singh (58') scored one goal late in the match to clinch the title. On the other hand, Uttar Pradesh gave a tough fight to finish at the center of the podium. Captain Sharda Nand Tiwari (11') managed to breach the strong defence of Punjab and ended up with the Silver medal.

Odisha secured the third position after defeating Jharkhand 8-0.



## Hockey India congratulates Umpires for receiving promotions from FIH Officials Committee

Hockey India on 11 July 2022 congratulated Rama Pramod Potnis and Sourabh Singh Rajput for receiving promotions from the FIH Officials Committee. Rama Pramod Potnis was promoted as FIH International Panel Umpire and Sourabh Singh Rajput was promoted as FIH Advancement Panel Umpire for Outdoor Hockey.

Potnis from Maharashtra started her international career as an umpire at the South Asia Games held in Guwahati, India in 2016 and she also went on to officiate at the 5 Nations



Invitational (Valencia) - Junior Women in the same year. Potnis also umpired in major events such as Women's Junior AHF Cup 2019 held in Singapore and Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2021 held in Donghae City, South Korea.

Meanwhile, Rajput has officiated at the 8 Nations Invitational Tournament (U 21) 2019 held in Madrid, Spain and also umpired in major tournaments such as Hero Asian Champions Trophy Dhaka 2021 and Hero Asia Cup 2022 held in Jakarta, Indonesia including the Final of the latter competition.





# Hockey India conducts FIH Academy Level '2' & Level '3' Coaching Course 2022 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha

After successfully conducting several editions of Hockey India Coaching Education Pathway Level 'Basic' Coaching Course (online), and Hockey India Coaching Education Pathway Level '1' & Level '2' Coaching Course, Hockey India organised the FIH Academy Level '2' & Level '3' Coaching Course 2022 for interested and aspiring coaches. The FIH Academy Level '2' Coaching Course 2022 took place between 14th June to 20th June, 2022 in



Bhubaneswar, Odisha, with 60 candidates while the FIH Academy Level '3' Coaching Course 2022 took place between 14th June to 22nd June, 2022 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, with 20 candidates.





# Baljeet Kaur made debut for Indian Women's Hockey Team, while 11 players made debut for Indian Men's Hockey Team

Young midfielder Baljeet Kaur made her debut for the Senior National team during India's first match of the FIH Hockey Pro League double-header against Belgium on 11 June in Antwerp, Belgium.



Karthi - were handed their debuts for the Indian Men's Hockey Team during Men's Asia Cup 2022 in the month of May. They were part of the core group of players who helped India clinch the Bronze medal at the prestigious event.

Meanwhile, as many as 11 players - Pawan Rajbhar, Abhisek Lakra, Manjeet, Yashdeep Siwach, Uttam Singh, Vishnukant Singh, Maninder Singh, Sudev Belimagga, Sheshe Gowda, Mareeswaran Sakthivel and Selvam





## Hockey India congratulates Rani on completing 250 International Caps

Hockey India on 11 June 2022 congratulated Rani on completing 250 International Caps with the Indian Women's Hockey team. The veteran forward reached this special milestone during India's match against Belgium in the FIH Hockey Pro League in Antwerp, Belgium.

In her 12-year career, Rani has led the Indian squad to numerous victories, including a historic fourth-place result at the Tokyo Olympics last year. At the age of 15, she made her international debut in the 2009 Champions Challenge, making her the youngest player to represent India. She hails from Shahbaad Markanda in Haryana and was the first Indian woman to be nominated for the FIH Women's Young Player of the Year Award. In 2019, Rani became the first athlete from the country to win the World Games Athlete of the Year honour.

She was crowned the 'Best Young Player of the Tournament' at the 2010 Women's Hockey World Cup in Argentina. In 2017, India made history by winning the Women's Asia Cup for the first time after 13 years, under her captaincy. India reached the Quarter Finals of the Vitality Hockey Women's World Cup London 2018 under her captaincy and also earned the Silver Medal at the 2018 Asian Games.

Rani has also won the Arjuna Award (2016), the Hockey India Award for Best Women Player of the Year (2019), the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna (2020), and the Padma Shri Award (2020).





## Hockey India congratulates Neha on completing 100 International Caps

Hockey India on 18 June 2022 congratulated midfielder Neha on completing 100 International Caps. She achieved the milestone during India's FIH Women's Hockey Pro League 2021/22 match against Argentina in Rotterdam, Netherlands.

Neha made a name for herself through a string of solid performances for the Indian Women's Junior Team. At the age of 14, she was selected for the India squad for the Junior Women's Asia Cup in 2011. She was, then, selected for the U-21 Four-Nations Lal Bahadur Shastri Women's Hockey Tournament in the same year, where she received the Player of the Tournament award for her outstanding performance. Neha made her debut for the Indian Women's Senior Team in 2014 at the FIH Champions Challenge in Glasgow.

She went on to become a key member of the Indian squad that earned a silver medal at the 5th Women's Asian Champions Trophy in 2018. She also played a role in India's historic Silver Medal victory at the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta-Palembang. In 2019, Neha was honoured with the Hockey India Ajit Pal Singh Award for Midfielder of the Year.

Neha also played a key role for the Indian Women's Hockey Team at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, where the side finished historical fourth.





## Hockey India congratulates Navjot Kaur on completing 200 International Caps

Hockey India on 10 July 2022 congratulated midfielder Navjot Kaur on completing 200 International Caps. She achieved the milestone during India's FIH Hockey Women's World Cup 2022 crossover match against Spain in Terrassa.

Navjot Kaur has been a regular member of the Indian side in recent years and was also part of the sides during their recent exploits in the FIH Hockey Women's Pro League 2021/22 and 2020 Olympic Games.

An emotional Navjot Kaur, who was feted by the Indian Women's Team Chief Coach Janneke Schopman ahead of the game said, "When I picked up the Hockey stick, I just wanted to wear the Indian jersey and now I complete 200 matches for India that too at the World Cup, I am truly honoured. Now, all we need is a win against Spain to make this day even more momentous. We are mentally and physically ready for the challenge."

Navjot Kaur made her debut for India in a series against New Zealand in Napier in 2012. Following that, she never looked back as she went on to represent India in some of the most prominent events in the world, including the Asian Games in 2014 and 2018, when India won the Bronze and Silver medals, respectively. She also competed for the national team in the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, where India finished in fifth place, and in the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast (4th position).

Congratulating Navjot on her 200th International Cap, Chief Coach Janneke Schopman said, "I congratulate Navjot on completing 200 games for India. It is a special moment to achieve this milestone at an event as big as the World Cup. It is an important match and I believe she will execute her role as expected of her."





## Hockey India congratulates Manpreet Singh on completing 300 International Caps

The Indian Men's Hockey Team's opening match at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games against Ghana witnessed Captain Manpreet Singh achieving the milestone of completing 300 International Caps for India.

Hailing from Mithapur near Jalandhar, Punjab, Manpreet made his international debut for the men's team in 2011 at the age of 19. Since then he has represented the country at all major tournaments and featured in some of India's greatest victories.

The experienced midfielder for a long time has been one of the key figures in the Indian team. In his career spanning over 11 years, Manpreet has led the Indian Men's team to many successes including the historic Bronze medal win at the Tokyo Olympic Games, which also ended the country's 41-year medal drought in the quadrennial Games. He was also the flagbearer of the Indian contingent at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

Under his Captaincy, India has also won Bronze at the 2018 Asian Games, Silver at the 2018 Champions Trophy, Gold at the 2018 Asian Champions Trophy, Winner's in the FIH Series Finals in 2019 and Bronze at the 2021 Asian Champions Trophy.

For his achievements, the Indian Captain was conferred with the Arjuna Award in 2018, FIH Player Of the Year (Men's Category) in 2019 and won the prestigious Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna award in 2021.

Speaking about this incredible milestone, Manpreet expressed, "This is a very special

moment for me and my family. This also reminds me that I've come a long way and there is still a long way to go. It is with great pride and honour that I wear the Indian



jersey, and it really motivates me whenever I put on this jersey. It's been a wonderful journey so far, and I thank each and everyone who has been part of it. I hope to continue to give my best for the country."

"It's a great feeling to achieve this milestone at a prestigious event. It will certainly motivate me to give my absolute best for the team to achieve our goal of winning the maiden Gold medal at the Commonwealth Games. But for that, we will focus on one match at a time, and give our 100% on the pitch," he added.

Congratulating Manpreet on completing 300 International matches, Indian Men's Team Chief Coach Graham Reid said, "Manpreet has been one of the most influential figures in the team. He is someone who leads by example, and youngsters in India and around the globe really look up to him. Achieving 300 International Caps is a huge feat, he has worked really hard and made lots of sacrifices to be here. I congratulate him on this incredible milestone and I wish him the very best for the future."





# Hockey India name 20-member squad for Hero Men's Asia Cup

Hockey India on Monday 9th May named 20-member Indian Men's Hockey team for the forthcoming Hero Men's Asia Cup scheduled to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia from 23rd May to 1st June 2022. The prestigious event which is a World Cup qualifier will see India, Japan, Pakistan and hosts Indonesia in pool A while Malaysia, Korea, Oman and Bangladesh are grouped in pool B.

The Defending Champions India was led by Olympic Bronze Medallists Birendra Lakra and SV Sunil shouldered the responsibility as Vice Captain. The team saw as many as 10 players make their senior India debut.

|                    |                              |                           |
|--------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Goalkeepers</b> | <b>Pankaj Kumar Rajak</b>    | <b>Suraj Karkera</b>      |
| <b>Defenders</b>   | <b>Birendra Lakra (c)</b>    | <b>Nilam Sanjeep Xess</b> |
|                    | <b>Yashdeep Siwach</b>       | <b>Abhisek Lakra</b>      |
|                    | <b>Manjeet</b>               | <b>Dipsan Tirkey</b>      |
| <b>Midfielders</b> | <b>Vishnukant Singh</b>      | <b>RajKumar Pal</b>       |
|                    | <b>Mareeswaran Shaktivel</b> | <b>Sheshe Gowda BM</b>    |
|                    | <b>Simranjeet Singh</b>      |                           |
| <b>Forwards</b>    | <b>Pawan Rajbhar</b>         | <b>Abharan Sudev</b>      |
|                    | <b>SV Sunil (vc)</b>         | <b>Selvam Karthi</b>      |
|                    | <b>Uttam Singh</b>           |                           |

## Defending champions India left for Hero Asia Cup Jakarta 2022

Olympic Bronze medallist Birendra Lakra-led Indian Men's Hockey Team left for Jakarta, Indonesia to defend their Hero Men's Asia Cup title which started from 23rd May 2022. The Indian team went up against Japan, Pakistan and hosts Indonesia in Pool A while Malaysia, Korea, Oman and Bangladesh were grouped in Pool B.

The Indian team arrived in Jakarta on Friday, 20th May.

On Monday, 23rd May India kicked off their campaign against Pakistan at 1700 hrs. IST. Matches were live on Star Sports first + Select 2 + HD and on Disney + Hotstar

In the previous edition held in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 2017, India had defeated Malaysia in the Final to lift the title.







**MATCH 04**  
**INDIA vs PAKISTAN**  
**SCORE 1 - 1**  
**GELORA BUNG KARNI SPORTS**  
**COMPLEX, JAKARTA, 23 MAY 2022**







**MATCH 08**  
**INDIA vs JAPAN**  
**SCORE 2 - 5**  
**GELORA BUNG KARNO SPORTS**  
**COMPLEX, JAKARTA, 24 MAY 2022**







**MATCH 12**  
**INDIA vs INDONESIA**  
**SCORE 16 - 0**  
**GELORA BUNG KARNO SPORTS**  
**COMPLEX, JAKARTA, 26 MAY 2022**







**MATCH 15**  
**INDIA vs JAPAN**  
**SCORE 2 - 1**  
**GELORA BUNG KARNO SPORTS**  
**COMPLEX, JAKARTA, 28 MAY 2022**







**MATCH 18**  
**INDIA vs MALAYSIA**  
**SCORE 3 - 3**  
**GELORA BUNG KARNI SPORTS**  
**COMPLEX, JAKARTA, 29 MAY 2022**







**MATCH 21**  
**INDIA vs KOREA**  
**SCORE 4 - 4**  
**GELORA BUNG KARNO SPORTS**  
**COMPLEX, JAKARTA, 31 MAY 2022**







**MATCH 23, 3RD PLACE  
INDIA vs JAPAN  
SCORE 1 - 0  
GELORA BUNG KARNI SPORTS  
COMPLEX, JAKARTA, 01 JUNE 2022**





## Hockey India name nine-member Indian Men's team for the inaugural edition of Hero FIH Hockey 5S

Hockey India on Wednesday, 18 May named a nine-member Indian Men's Hockey Team to represent the country in the inaugural edition of the FIH Hockey 5s to be held in Lausanne, Switzerland on 4th and 5th June 2022. The Indian Men's team took on Malaysia, Pakistan, Poland and hosts Switzerland.

The Indian team were Captained by Gurinder Singh and Sumit shouldered the responsibility as the Vice Captain.

The squad list is as follows

|                    |                    |                               |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Goalkeeper</b>  | Pawan              |                               |
| <b>Defenders</b>   | Gurinder Singh (c) | Sanjay                        |
|                    | Mandeep Mor        |                               |
| <b>Midfielders</b> | Sumit (vc)         | Rabichandra Singh Moirangthem |
|                    | Gursahibjit Singh  | Mohd Raheel Mouseen           |
| <b>Forwards</b>    | Boby Singh Dhami   |                               |







# Hero FIH HOCKEY5s LAUSANNE 2022

**MATCH 03  
INDIA VS SWITZERLAND  
SCORE 4 - 3  
AT LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND  
04 JUNE 2022**



# Hero FIH HOCKEY5s LAUSANNE 2022

**MATCH 05  
INDIA VS PAKISTAN  
SCORE 2 - 2  
AT LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND  
04 JUNE 2022**





**5** **Hero**  
**FIH HOCKEY5s**  
**LAUSANNE 2022**

**MATCH 07**  
**INDIA VS MALAYSIA**  
**SCORE 7 - 3**  
**AT LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND**  
**05 JUNE 2022**



**5** **Hero**  
**FIH HOCKEY5s**  
**LAUSANNE 2022**

**MATCH 09**  
**INDIA VS POLAND**  
**SCORE 6 - 2**  
**AT LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND**  
**05 JUNE 2022**







# Hero FIH HOCKEY5s LAUSANNE 2022

**MATCH 11, FINAL  
INDIA VS POLAND  
SCORE 6 - 4  
AT LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND  
05 JUNE 2022**





## Hockey India name nine-member Indian Women's team for the inaugural edition of Hero FIH Hockey 5S

Hockey India named a nine-member Indian Women's Hockey Team to represent the country in the inaugural edition of the FIH Hockey 5s to be held in Lausanne, Switzerland from 4th to 5th June 2022. The Indian Women's team will play Uruguay, Poland, South Africa, and hosts Switzerland.

The Indian team will be Captained by Rajani Etimarpu and Mahima Choudhary will shoulder the responsibility as the Vice Captain.

The squad list is as follows

|                    |                                 |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Goalkeeper</b>  | <b>Rajani Etimarpu (c)</b>      |                     |
| <b>Defenders</b>   | <b>Rashmita Minz</b>            | <b>Ajmina Kujur</b> |
| <b>Midfielders</b> | <b>Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke</b> |                     |
|                    | <b>Mahima Choudhary</b>         | <b>Preeti</b>       |
| <b>Forwards</b>    | <b>Mariana Kujur</b>            | <b>Mumtaz Khan</b>  |
|                    | <b>Rutuja Dadaso Pisal</b>      |                     |







# Hero FIH HOCKEY5s LAUSANNE 2022

**MATCH 02  
INDIA VS URUGUAY  
SCORE 3 - 4  
AT LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND  
04 JUNE 2022**



# Hero FIH HOCKEY5s LAUSANNE 2022

**MATCH 04  
INDIA VS POLAND  
SCORE 1 - 3  
AT LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND  
04 JUNE 2022**





**5** **Hero**  
**FIH HOCKEY5s**  
**LAUSANNE 2022**

**MATCH 08**  
**INDIA VS SWITZERLAND**  
**SCORE 4 - 3**  
**AT LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND**  
**05 JUNE 2022**



**5** **Hero**  
**FIH HOCKEY5s**  
**LAUSANNE 2022**

**MATCH 10**  
**INDIA VS SOUTH AFRICA**  
**SCORE 4 - 4**  
**AT LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND**  
**05 JUNE 2022**







## Indian Men and Women's Hockey teams departed for Belgium for the remainder of the FIH Hockey Pro League 2021/22 matches

The Senior Indian Men and Women Hockey teams on Wednesday 08 June 2022 morning left for Brussels, Belgium for the upcoming games of the FIH Hockey Pro League 2021/22.

The Indian Men's Hockey squad, led by Amit Rohidas, also played their double-header games against Belgium, Netherlands on June

11, 2022 and June 12, 2022, June 18, 2022 and June 19, 2022 respectively.

The Indian Womens Team led by Savita played their double header games against Belgium on 11th June 2022 and 12th June 2022 against Argentina on 18th and 19th June, 2022 and against USA on 21st and 22nd June, 2022.





# FIH PRO LEAGUE

2021/22

MATCH 57

BELGIUM (W) VS INDIA (W)

SCORE 2 - 1

AT SPORTCENTRUM WILRIJKSE PLEIN-  
ANTWERPEN, ANTWERP, 11 JUN 2022



# FIH PRO LEAGUE

2021/22

MATCH 60

BELGIUM (W) VS INDIA (W)

SCORE 5 - 0

AT SPORTCENTRUM WILRIJKSE PLEIN-  
ANTWERPEN, ANTWERP, 12 JUN 2022







# FIH PRO LEAGUE

2021/22

MATCH 61

INDIA (W) VS ARGENTINA (W)

SCORE 3 - 3 (SO 2 - 1)

AT HC ROTTERDAM, ROTTERDAM

18 JUN 2022





# FIH PRO LEAGUE

2021/22

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MATCH 64  
INDIA (W) VS ARGENTINA (W)  
SCORE 2 - 3  
AT HC ROTTERDAM, ROTTERDAM  
19 JUN 2022





# FIH PRO LEAGUE

2021/22

**MATCH 68**  
**USA (W) VS INDIA (W)**  
**SCORE 2 - 4**  
**AT HC ROTTERDAM, ROTTERDAM**  
**21 JUN 2022**



# FIH PRO LEAGUE

2021/22

**MATCH 70**  
**USA (W) VS INDIA (W)**  
**SCORE 0 - 4**  
**AT HC ROTTERDAM, ROTTERDAM**  
**22 JUN 2022**







# FIH PRO LEAGUE

2021/22

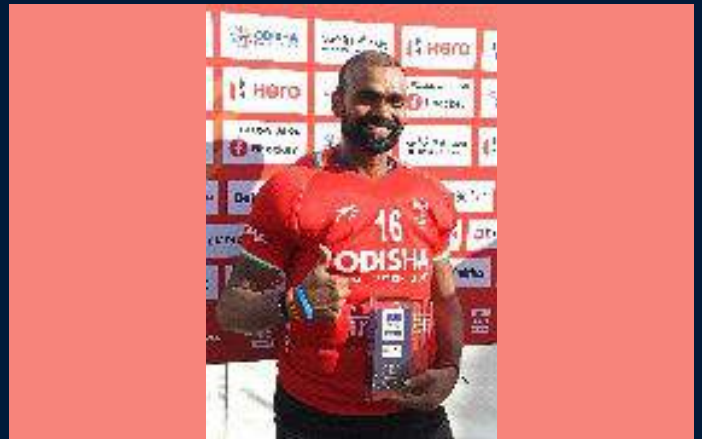
**MATCH 64  
BELGIUM (M) VS INDIA (M)  
SCORE 3 - 3 (SO 4 - 5)  
AT SPORTCENTRUM WILRIJKSE PLEIN-  
ANTWERPEN, ANTWERP, 11 JUN 2022**



# FIH PRO LEAGUE

2021/22

**MATCH 66  
BELGIUM (M) VS INDIA (M)  
SCORE 3 - 2  
AT SPORTCENTRUM WILRIJKSE PLEIN-  
ANTWERPEN, ANTWERP, 12 JUN 2022**





# FIH PRO LEAGUE

2021/22

MATCH 67  
NETHERLANDS (M) VS INDIA (M)  
SCORE 2 - 2 (SO 1 - 4)  
AT HC ROTTERDAM, ROTTERDAM  
18 JUN 2022



# FIH PRO LEAGUE

2021/22

MATCH 69  
NETHERLANDS (M) VS INDIA (M)  
SCORE 2 - 1  
AT HC ROTTERDAM, ROTTERDAM  
19 JUN 2022







# Indian Junior Women's Hockey team left for Uniphar U23 5 Nations tournament 2022

The Indian Junior Women's Hockey Team left for Dublin, Ireland on Wednesday 15 June 2022 for the upcoming Uniphar U23 5 Nations Tournament 2022, which was held from June 19th to June 26th.

The Indian Women's Hockey Team was led by Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, began their campaign against Ireland on June 19, 2022 in UCD Dublin.

Following Ireland, India faced the Netherlands on June 20, 2022. The Indian Team then played Ukraine in their third game on June 22, 2022, and the United States of America (USA) in their final league stage match on June 23, 2022.

The Indian Junior Women's Hockey Team faced Ireland in their first match on June 19, 2022 at 1830 IST.





# UNIPHAR U23 5 NATIONS TOURNAMENT 2022

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**MATCH 02  
INDIA VS IRELAND  
SCORE 4 - 1  
UCD DUBLIN, IRELAND  
19 JUNE 2022**



# UNIPHAR U23 5 NATIONS TOURNAMENT 2022

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**MATCH 04  
INDIA VS NETHERLANDS  
SCORE 2 - 2  
UCD DUBLIN, IRELAND  
20 JUNE 2022**







# UNIPHAR U23 5 NATIONS TOURNAMENT 2022

**MATCH 05  
INDIA VS UKRAINE  
SCORE 3 - 0  
UCD DUBLIN, IRELAND  
22 JUNE 2022**



# UNIPHAR U23 5 NATIONS TOURNAMENT 2022

**MATCH 07  
INDIA VS UNITED STATES  
SCORE 4 - 1  
UCD DUBLIN, IRELAND  
23 JUNE 2022**





# UNIPHAR U23 5 NATIONS TOURNAMENT 2022

MATCH 13, FINAL  
INDIA VS NETHERLANDS  
SCORE 1 - 4  
UCD DUBLIN, IRELAND  
26 JUNE 2022







# Hockey India announced 18-member Indian Women’s Hockey Team for the much-awaited FIH Women’s Hockey World Cup 2022

Hockey India on 21 June named the 18-member Indian Women's Hockey Team for the most-awaited FIH Women's Hockey World Cup to be held in Netherlands and Spain starting from 1st July to 17th July 2022.

Deep Grace Ekka, GurjitKaur, Nikki Pradhan, Udita have been named in the squad along with midfielders Nisha, Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam, Monika, Neha, Jyoti, Navjot Kaur, Sonika and SalimaTete.

The Indian team will be Captained by ace goalkeeper Savita and Vice Captained by Deep Grace Ekka.

The forwardline features the very experienced Vandana Katariya, Lalremsiami, Navneet Kaur and Sharmila Devi while talented young stars Akshata Abaso Dhekale and Sangita Kumari have been named as replacement players.

The 18-member squad includes goalkeepers Savita and Bichu Devi Kharibam. Defenders

|                    |                      |                          |
|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Goalkeepers</b> | Savita (c)           | Bichu Devi Kharibam      |
| <b>Defenders</b>   | Deep Grace Ekka (vc) | Gurjit Kaur              |
|                    | Nikki Pradhan        | Udita                    |
| <b>Midfielders</b> | Nisha                | Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam |
|                    | Monika               | Neha                     |
|                    | Jyoti                | Navjot Kaur              |
|                    | Salima Tete          | Sonika                   |
| <b>Forwards</b>    | Vandana Katariya     | Lalremsiami              |
|                    | Navneet Kaur         | Sharmila Devi            |





FIH  
WOMEN'S WORLD CUP  
SPAIN & NETHERLANDS 2022

**MATCH 08**  
**INDIA vs ENGLAND**  
**SCORE 1 -1**  
**WAGENER HOCKEY STADIUM,**  
**AMSTELVEEN, 03 JULY 2022**







FH  
HOCKEY  
WOMEN'S WORLD CUP  
SPAIN & NETHERLANDS 2022

**MATCH 13**  
**INDIA vs CHINA**  
**SCORE 1 - 1**  
**WAGENER HOCKEY STADIUM,**  
**AMSTELVEEN, 05 JULY 2022**







FIH  
HOCKEY  
WOMEN'S WORLD CUP  
SPAIN & NETHERLANDS 2022

**MATCH 23**  
**INDIA vs NEW ZEALAND**  
**SCORE 3 - 4**  
**WAGENER HOCKEY STADIUM,**  
**AMSTELVEEN, 07 JULY 2022**







RH  
HOCKEY  
WOMEN'S WORLD CUP  
SPAIN & NETHERLANDS 2022

**MATCH 29**  
**INDIA vs SPAIN**  
**SCORE 0 - 1**  
**ESTADI OLÍMPIC DE TERRASSA**  
**11 JULY 2022**







FIH  
HOCKEY  
WOMEN'S WORLD CUP  
SPAIN & NETHERLANDS 2022

**MATCH 31**  
**INDIA vs CANADA**  
**SCORE 1 - 1 (SO 3 - 2)**  
**ESTADI OLÍMPIC DE TERRASSA**  
**12 JULY 2022**







RH  
HOCKEY  
WOMEN'S WORLD CUP  
SPAIN & NETHERLANDS 2022

**MATCH 38**  
**INDIA vs JAPAN**  
**SCORE 3 - 1**  
**ESTADI OLÍMPIC DE TERRASSA**  
**13 JULY 2022**





# Indian Men's Hockey Team returns to National Camp ahead of Commonwealth Games Birmingham 2022

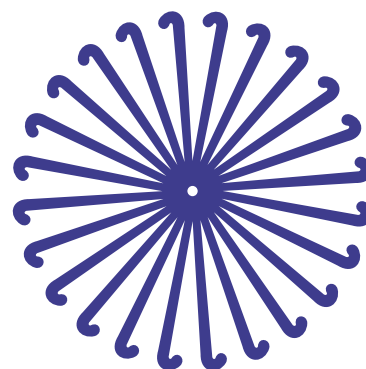
In a bid to prepare for the all-important Commonwealth Games Birmingham 2022, the Indian Men's Hockey Team held a National Camp at the SAI Centre in Bengaluru. Hockey India named 31 players for the camp which ran from June 27, 2022 to July 23, 2022. The Indian team, led by Manpreet Singh, travelled to Birmingham on July 24, after the completion of the camp, for the quadrennial event.

For the camp, Hockey India named PR Sreejesh, Krishan B Pathak, Pawan, Surender Kumar, Harmanpreet Singh, Varun Kumar, Amit Rohidas, Jugraj Singh, Jarmanpreet Singh, Manpreet Singh, Hardik Singh, Shamsher Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Akashdeep Singh, Nilakanta Sharma have been called-up along with Gurjant Singh, Mandeep Singh, Dilpreet Singh, Sukhjeet Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Abhishek, Gursahibjit Singh, Mandeep Mor, Sanjay Mohd Raheel Mouseen, Sumit, Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh, Gurinder Singh, Jaskaran, Ashis Kumar Topno and Shilanand Lakra.

Speaking on the camp, India Men's Chief Coach Graham Reid said, "In these three weeks, we focused on improving our performance. After the FIH Pro League, we recognized a few areas that we can do better and be consistent with, and we worked on those areas."

Indian Men's Hockey Team defender Surender Kumar also revealed that the team's focus during the camp was on improving the fitness of the team. "Our focus was mainly on improving our fitness, and we worked a lot on this aspect of the game. We worked on getting stronger in other areas as well, especially in defence," Surender said.

Vice-Captain Harmanpreet Singh added, "Ahead of Commonwealth Games 2022, we have worked on specific aspects of our game during our training sessions and we have focused on the learnings from the FIH Hockey Pro League."



**HOCKEY INDIA**





# Hockey India names 18-member Indian Men's Hockey Team for Commonwealth Games 2022

Hockey India on 20 June 2022 named the 18-member Indian Men's Hockey Team for the prestigious Commonwealth Games scheduled to begin from 29th July in Birmingham. India grouped in Pool B along with England, Canada, Wales and Ghana will begin their campaign on 31st July against Ghana.

The team will be captained by Manpreet Singh, who led the Indian team to a historic Bronze medal at the Olympic Games in Tokyo last year. Dragflick specialist Harmanpreet Singh, the highest goal scorer of the FIH Hockey Pro League, has been named as the Vice Captain of the team.

The squad includes the experienced goalkeeper PR Sreejesh and Krishan B Pathak, who returns to the team after a brief injury break. Defenders Varun Kumar, Surender Kumar, Harmanpreet Singh, Amit Rohidas, Jugraj Singh and Jarmanpreet Singh have been named in the team. The midfield includes the experience of Manpreet Singh, Hardik Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Shamsher Singh, Akashdeep Singh and Nilakanta Sharma. While experienced strikers Mandeep Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Gurjant Singh and Abhishek will lead the charge in attack.

|                    |                    |                      |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Goalkeepers</b> | PR Sreejesh        | Krishan B Pathak     |
| <b>Defenders</b>   | Varun Kumar        | Surender Kumar       |
|                    | Harmanpreet Singh  | Amit Rohidas         |
|                    | Jugraj Singh       | Jarmanpreet Singh    |
| <b>Midfielders</b> | Manpreet Singh (c) | Hardik Singh         |
|                    | Vivek Sagar Prasad | Shamsher Singh       |
|                    | Akashdeep Singh    | Nilakanta Sharma     |
| <b>Forwards</b>    | Mandeep Singh      | Lalit Kumar Upadhyay |
|                    | Gurjant Singh      | Abhishek             |



# Hockey India names 18-member Indian Women's Hockey Team for Commonwealth Games 2022

Hockey India on 23 June 2022 named the 18-member Indian Women's Hockey Team for the prestigious Commonwealth Games scheduled to begin from 28th July in Birmingham, England. India placed in pool A along with England, Canada, Wales and Ghana will begin their campaign on 29th July against Ghana.

The team will be Captained by Savita and Vice-Captained by experienced defender Deep Grace Ekka.

The squad includes goalkeepers Savita and Rajani Etimarpu. Defenders Deep Grace Ekka, Gurjit Kaur, Nikki Pradhan, Udita have been named in the squad along with midfielders Nisha, Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam, Monika, Neha, Jyoti, Navjot Kaur and Salima Tete.

The forwardline features the very experienced Vandana Katariya, Lalremsiami, Navneet Kaur, Sharmila Devi and youngster Sangita Kumari.

|                    |                             |                                 |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Goalkeepers</b> | <b>Savita (c)</b>           | <b>Rajani Etimarpu</b>          |
| <b>Defenders</b>   | <b>Deep Grace Ekka (vc)</b> | <b>Gurjit Kaur</b>              |
|                    | <b>Nikki Pradhan</b>        | <b>Udita</b>                    |
| <b>Midfielders</b> | <b>Nisha</b>                | <b>Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam</b> |
|                    | <b>Monika</b>               | <b>Neha</b>                     |
|                    | <b>Jyoti</b>                | <b>Navjot Kaur</b>              |
|                    | <b>Salima Tete</b>          |                                 |
| <b>Forwards</b>    | <b>Vandana Katariya</b>     | <b>Lalremsiami</b>              |
|                    | <b>Navneet Kaur</b>         | <b>Sharmila Devi</b>            |
|                    | <b>Sangita Kumari</b>       |                                 |





## Indian Men’s Hockey Teams arrived in Birmingham for Commonwealth Games 2022

The Indian men's hockey team arrived on 23rd July 2022 for the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham. The event kickstarted on 28th July 2022. The Indian Men's Hockey Team have been placed in Pool B with England, Canada, Wales, and Ghana.

Ahead of their departure, Indian Men’s Hockey Team Captain Manpreet Singh had said that the team will be aiming for a podium finish at the Commonwealth Games.

"We are excited about this event as we have

been training for it for a long time now, and we are looking forward to putting on our best show against some of the best teams in the world. We worked on our strengths and weaknesses in the last few months and will do everything in our power to win a medal," said Manpreet.



Speaking about the mood in the dressing room, Manpreet said, "The third-place finish at the FIH Hockey Pro League 2021/22 will certainly help us do well in Birmingham. Everyone is excited and looking forward to giving their 100 percent.

## Indian Women’s Hockey Team arrived in Birmingham for Commonwealth Games 2022

The Indian Women's Hockey Team arrived in London from Barcelona on July 18, 2022, to compete in the 2022 Commonwealth Games. The Indian Women's Team rode a bus from London to Nottingham, England for their final preparatory camp.

Indian Team travelled to London after the conclusion of FIH Hockey Women's World Cup Spain & Netherlands 2022, where they finished ninth. The Hockey Women’s World Cup was held between July 1 and July 17, 2022.

Speaking about the CWG games, Indian Captain Savita said that the team is adamant about improving and determined to turn

their form around at the prestigious event.

"Unfortunately, we couldn't play to our potential at the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup Spain & Netherlands 2022, but we are very determined to turn our form around at the Commonwealth Games 2022. We have a great squad with a fantastic balance of experienced and young players. We'll take a fresh start at CWG 2022 and I am certain that we will be able to take on the best of teams in the competition," Savita remarked.

Indian Team kicked off their CWG campaign against Ghana with a resounding 5-0 win.





# OPENING CEREMONY COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022

[www.hockeyindia.org](http://www.hockeyindia.org)







**MATCH 08**  
**INDIA vs GHANA**  
**SCORE 11 - 0**  
**BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND**  
**31 JULY 2022**







**MATCH 10**  
**INDIA vs ENGLAND**  
**SCORE 4 - 4**  
**BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND**  
**01 AUGUST 2022**







**MATCH 13**  
**INDIA vs CANADA**  
**SCORE 8 - 0**  
**BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND**  
**03 AUGUST 2022**







**MATCH 17**  
**INDIA vs WALES**  
**SCORE 4 - 1**  
**BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND**  
**04 AUGUST 2022**







**MATCH 23, 1ST SEMI FINAL  
INDIA vs SOUTH AFRICA  
SCORE 3 - 2  
BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND  
06 AUGUST 2022**







**MATCH 27, FINAL  
INDIA vs AUSTRALIA  
SCORE 0 - 7  
BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND  
08 AUGUST 2022**







**MATCH 03  
INDIA vs GHANA  
SCORE 5 - 0  
BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND  
29 JULY 2022**







**MATCH 07**  
**INDIA vs WALES**  
**SCORE 3 - 1**  
**BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND**  
**30 JULY 2022**







**MATCH 15**  
**INDIA vs ENGLAND**  
**SCORE 1 - 3**  
**BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND**  
**02 AUGUST 2022**







**MATCH 18**  
**INDIA vs CANADA**  
**SCORE 3 - 2**  
**BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND**  
**03 AUGUST 2022**







**MATCH 24, 2ND SEMI FINAL  
INDIA vs AUSTRALIA  
SCORE 1 - 1 (SO 3 - 0)  
BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND  
06 AUGUST 2022**







**MATCH 25, 3/4 PLACE  
INDIA vs NEW ZEALAND  
SCORE 1 - 1 (SO 1 - 2)  
BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND  
07 AUGUST 2022**







# Indian Men’s Hockey Team Visit National War Memorial in New Delhi



importance. The team took a tour around the memorial, taking time to dive into the historical references and importance of the various monuments present.

More than 25,000 names of India soldiers who have been martyred at war are etched at

Back after a good campaign at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham in United Kingdom, the India men’s hockey team, led by captain Manpreet Singh took time out to visit the iconic National War Memorial in New Delhi.



the memorial which was opened in 2019, before the coronavirus pandemic hit the world. The iconic National War Memorial boasts of thematic concentric circles with a tall ceremonial obelisk at its centre that bears the eternal flame 'Amar Jawan Jyoti'.

The Indian men’s hockey team had finished second, claiming the Silver medal at the Commonwealth Games with the Australians taking home the Gold.

The members of the hockey team took a keen interest in this memorial of great national





# Hockey India mourns the sad demise of Olympic and World Cup medallist Varinder Singh

Hockey India on 28 June 2022 mourned the demise of the 75-year-old Varinder Singh, who was part of Indian hockey's glorious past. He passed away in Jalandhar in the early hours on the morning of 28th June.

The two-time Olympian was an integral part of India's various memorable victories in the 1970s. Among his stupendous achievements include a Gold medal at the 1975 Men's Hockey World Cup in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This remains India's only Gold medal at the prestigious World Cup where India has beaten nemesis Pakistan 2-1.

Varinder Singh was also part of the Bronze medal-winning team at the 1972 Munich Olympics and Silver medal at 1973 World Cup in Amsterdam.

He also had to his credit, a Silver medal at the 1974 and 1978 Asian Games, respectively. The Indian hockey stalwart also featured in the 1975 Montreal Olympics. In 2007, Varinder was conferred with the prestigious Dhyan Chand Life Time Achievement Award.

Varinder Singh's achievements will be remembered by the hockey fraternity worldwide.











“I am grateful to Hockey India that these sorts of courses are now available to the Coaches in India because 10 years ago that wasn’t the case. These courses put us on par with Coaches from all over the world, and we are on a level playing field, which wasn’t there a decade ago.”

“Secondly, the coaching courses have helped Indian hockey progress because the methods have improved and are more in sync with the modern ways. So, the standard of coaching across the country will be standardised, and importantly this is happening on the basis of scientific information,” mentioned Siddharth.

“Earlier, there used to be just one system of playing, but now that has changed, and things like reading opponents has become a bigger part of the methodology, just like using video analysis.”

Former International players, Bharat and Deepak Thakur, who achieved FIH Level ‘3’ Coach Certification & FIH Level ‘2’ Coach Certification respectively, believe

that the certification courses help to strengthen the lower levels of the sport.

“The Coaches get to learn something new and pick up more on tactics and ways of working from countries like Holland and Belgium. It’s a good thing that the Coaches are learning these aspects, because they can then use the same experience at the grass roots level of Indian hockey.”

“When someone becomes a Coach, it is perceived that he knows everything, but actually through this platform a Coach can continue to upgrade themselves from time to time.”

“The knowledge the Coaches pick up from these courses can only help as they are learning more advanced areas, and then after that they apply that at the grassroot levels. Hockey India is doing a great job by having courses like these because now more Coaches in India can make use of the information to help players.”







## Celebrating 1 year of our historic Bronze medal win at Tokyo 2020 Olympics, after a gap of 41 years.

A year ago today on 5th August 2021, The Indian Men's Hockey Team scripted history by clinching Bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics 2020. It was India's first medal at the Olympics in Hockey since the 1980 Moscow Olympics, where the Indian Men's Hockey team won Gold.

The Bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics 2020 ended a 41-year medal drought for Indian Hockey at the mega sporting event.

The Bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics 2020 sparked the resurgence of India as a superpower in world hockey.

India outclassed Germany in a highly entertaining Bronze medal tie that ended 5-4 in India's favour.



## Celebrating 1 year of our historic 4th place finish at Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

There was joy, despair and a lot of silent sobs. A year ago on 6th August 2021, the Indian Women's Hockey team had pulled off the unexpected, finishing a memorable fourth, sealing their spot in the upper echelons of Indian sport, at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

The Indian Women's Hockey Team registered their best ever finish at the Summer Olympics, having qualified for the Bronze medal playoff, where they lost narrowly 3-4, against Great Britain, who cut short their celebrations to put an arm around the Indians' shoulders.

After all, India had punched well beyond their weight category, leaving everyone to pick up their jaws.





## Indian Men's hockey team clinch Silver at Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games

# FEATURE STORY

The Indian Men's Hockey Team secured the Silver medal after going down 0-7 to Australia in the Final of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Monday 8 August 2022.

While the Final was a forgettable experience, there were a number of positives to take away from the entire campaign at Birmingham 2022 CWG. The Indian team marched into the Final on the back of remarkable performances. They remained unbeaten in the group stage as they beat Ghana 11-0, drew against England 4-4, beat Canada 8-0 and Wales 4-1. They edged past South Africa 3-2 in a thrilling Semi-Final to secure their medal in the Commonwealth Games history.

Upon the team's return from UK, Vice-Captain Harmanpreet Singh said that the team must move on. The team had some time to think about their performances at the Commonwealth Games

2022 held in Birmingham.

Harmanpreet said, "It is hard to digest a loss like that. The entire team is disappointed in the way they played, but it's important to move on. We lacked the energy and pace required to match-up with a team like Australia."

The drag flick specialist further stated, "There are many lessons we can learn from this campaign. We will be starting from scratch when we return to camp after a two-week break, because every match we played in will be analysed thoroughly."

Harmanpreet scored nine goals for the team and was the second highest goal scorer behind Wales' Gareth Furlong who scored 9 goals from penalty corners at the 2022 CWG.

He scored a hattrick in India's win against Wales. England's Nicholas Bandurak remained the highest goal-scorer of the tournament with 11 goals. He said, "This was a memorable outing for me personally despite the Final not going our way. We played in front of a big crowd for the first time after the Pandemic and many Indian fans showed up. This was the first time that my wife travelled with me to Birmingham. This was my first Commonwealth Games medal, so in-all it was a special outing for me on a personal note," he stated.







# Indian women's Hockey team scripts history at Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games

**"It's not just a medal for us, it's an inspiration," says proud Captain Savita**

After a two-month long European sojourn, the Indian Women's Hockey Team returned home with a historic Commonwealth Games Bronze medal. This incredible feat was the culmination of what was a ride for the Savita-led Indian team who put up an inspiring show to bounce back from a heart-breaking ninth place finish at the FIH Women's World Cup which took place in the Netherlands and Spain in July.

The Indian team started their Commonwealth Games campaign with back-to-back wins against Ghana (5-0) and Wales (3-1) respectively but lost 1-3 to England in their third match. They registered a 3-2 win against Canada in their fourth match to finish second in Pool A. The Indian team fought valiantly against Australia in the Semi-Final, but couldn't manage to get past them as they suffered a narrow 1-1 (0-3 SO) loss. However, they bounced back in style and registered a thrilling 1-1 (2-1 SO) win against New Zealand to clinch the historic Bronze medal.

Savita made three sensational saves in the shootout against New Zealand to help India end their 16-year wait for a medal at the prestigious Commonwealth Games.

Speaking about the achievement, the ace goalkeeper stated, "We are happy and proud of what we've achieved, and most importantly how we've achieved it. The defeat against Australia in the Semi-Final was hard to accept, we lost our morale. But it was our Coach Janneke Schopman who motivated us and made us realise that we still have an

opportunity to return home with a medal.



# FEATURE STORY



So, all credit for the medal goes to her. I am proud of how we as a team showed great character and never gave up till the last minute."

"It's not just a medal for us, it's an inspiration. The younger generation will also get inspired by this. We're grateful for all the support and love our fans have given to us throughout our campaign in the World Cup as well as the Commonwealth Games," she added.

The Indian team also took part in their last set of FIH Hockey Pro League matches in June in Belgium and Netherlands, where they finished third.

Reflecting on the long tour, Indian Women's Hockey Team Captain Savita said, "It was a pretty long tour, there were ups and downs but it taught us a lot of things. We started the tour on a strong note by finishing third in our debut FIH Hockey Pro League 2021/22 campaign and then went through a rough patch during the World Cup. Finishing ninth was disappointing, but it was equally important to move ahead and take positive learnings from the campaign to focus on the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games."

"We then had a short preparatory camp in Nottingham, where we introspected our performance and worked on our mistakes. We came in with a fresh mind and took one day at a time in Birmingham. I think the team unity also helped us bounce back. The bond we share helped

us in maintaining a positive atmosphere in the team, it helped us focus on the present moment and overcome the challenges thrown at us," added the ace goalkeeper, who led team India from the front.

Savita stated that the team's goal remains the same, which is to win the Gold medal at the Asian Games to ensure direct qualification for the Paris Olympics 2024.

"We will spend some time at home with our families and come back to the camp with fresh minds.

Our goal remains the same, which is to win the Gold medal at the Asian Games for the direct qualification for the Paris Olympics 2024. We take the one-year postponement as an opportunity to train for the Asian Games. We have significant time to prepare and approach step-by-step," she concluded.







## Sangita Kumari reflects on her fairytale Commonwealth Games debut

The Indian Women's Hockey Team recently returned to India after winning a historic bronze medal at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. With this, Indian Team have ended the country's 16-year medal drought at the quadrennial event.

This medal was significantly special for Indian youngster Sangita Kumari because it was her maiden appearance in the prestigious tournament.

Speaking about the same, the 20-year-old said, "It is a special feeling to return home with a medal. There are plenty of festivities back home. Everyone in my village is so happy and excited, they tell me it is a proud moment for Jharkhand. I think it will take some time to let the feeling of standing on the podium sink in."

"I was quite nervous at first, but my senior players said it's only natural to feel this way particularly at a multi-discipline sports event. I am grateful to have their support," She said on her first CWG appearance.

The Indian Team kicked off their CWG campaign with a stunning 5-0 win over Ghana. In their next game, they defeated

Wales 3-1 before going down against England by the same margin. Thereafter, the team recorded a hard-fought 3-2 win over Canada in their last group stage match to finish second in Pool A and qualify for the Semi-Finals.

The Indian squad put up a strong performance against Australia in the Semis but were unable to overcome

their opponents, losing the match via shootout (0-3 SO) after the contest was tied at 1-1 at the end of regulation time. Following that, the side bounced back by defeating New Zealand 2-1 via Penalty Shootout in the Bronze medal match.

Speaking about India's heartbreaking loss against Australia in the Semi-Final, she said,

"We played extremely well against Australia, but, unfortunately, we could not be on the right side of the result. In simpler terms, it was not our day. Having said that, we should not detract from Australia's performance, which was excellent. And, of course, we are disappointed with the outcome. But we want to learn from our mistakes and do better in the future."





## "Coach Graham Reid's advice helped me at Commonwealth Games 2022," says Indian Men's Hockey Team forward Abhishek

Young Indian Men's Hockey Team forward Abhishek played an integral role in the forward line at the Commonwealth Games 2022, helping his team win a Silver medal. The 24-year-old started in all the six games and scored two goals in the tournament, remaining a constant threat inside the opposition's circle.

Speaking about his experiences of performing on the big stage, Abhishek, who also scored two goals at the Commonwealth Games 2022, said, "It was quite a memorable experience for me to perform on such a big stage. I learned a lot about my game during the tournament, and understood areas where I can improve upon."

Abhishek had made his debut earlier this year when the Indian team travelled to South Africa for the FIH Pro League 2021/22 matches in February. Abhishek played 14 matches during the FIH Pro League and displayed consistent performances, on the back of which he was selected in the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games squad. Abhishek opened up on how Coach Graham Reid's advice helped him in dealing with the pressure of performing at the quadrennial event.

"Our Chief Coach Graham Reid had already told me before in training sessions to enjoy the games and to not take too much pressure. This advice really helped me at Commonwealth Games 2022 as I was able to focus on my natural game and was able to play freely," Abhishek added.

India performed brilliantly throughout the tournament, picking an 11-0 win over Ghana in their opening Pool B match. With a 4-4 draw against England, followed by an 8-0 win over

Canada and a 4-1 win over Wales, India booked a spot in the Semi-Final, where they went past South Africa with a 3-2 win to reach the Final. India lost the Final 0-7 to Australia and claimed the Silver medal.

On being asked to assess his own performance in the tournament, Abhishek said, "My teammates and coaches told me I performed well considering it was my first major tournament of such scale. There are still a few areas where I have to improve upon, and the Commonwealth Games 2022 experience has motivated me to work even harder to fulfill those shortcomings."

Speaking on his team's performance at the Commonwealth Games 2022, Abhishek added, "We performed as a team throughout the competition, despite facing tough opponents. Every match had a new challenge for us, and we were able to face it head-on. Even though the Final against Australia did not go our way, we learned a lot from the match and have to improve upon in training."

The Indian Men's Hockey team will return to the National Coaching Camp in Bengaluru on the 29th August and will begin preparation for the upcoming FIH Hockey Pro League 2022/23 season which begins in October. India are scheduled to play New Zealand and Spain at home.

"We all are really eager to return to training and prepare ourselves for the upcoming competitions. We all want to improve as a team, and with the World Cup next year, everyone wants to be in the best shape and form in the coming months," Abhishek signed off.





## "Felt special meeting with the Hon'ble Prime Minister post CWG success," say Indian Men and Women's Team Captains

It was a sweet outing for the Indian Men and Women's Hockey teams at the recently concluded Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. While the Indian Men's Team led by Manpreet Singh returned home with a Silver medal, the Women led by ace goalkeeper Savita clinched a historic Bronze Medal after beating New Zealand in a thrilling shootout. The 2-1 win ended India's 16-year long wait to win a medal in Women's Hockey at the CWG.

The victorious teams were invited by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 13th August in New Delhi where he met with all the medal winners from the Commonwealth Games. Having interacted with the Prime Minister after the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 and the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, Manpreet Singh said, "It is a rare yet very special opportunity to meet and interact with the Hon'ble Prime Minister. He inspires each and everyone of us and it also lifts the profile of the sport when the man holding the highest office in the country takes the time out to meet us and motivate us, encourage us and extend his support to us. We also presented a signed jersey from the CWG to the Hon'ble Prime Minister."

Savita, on the other hand, reflected similar emotions as Manpreet after the team's interaction with the Hon'ble Prime Minister. She said, "When the Hon'ble Prime Minister called us to tell us we played well and not to feel too disappointed when we lost the Bronze medal in Olympics to Great Britain, it

really did lift our spirit up. We knew then that we had the entire nation's support despite losing a medal. That encouragement stayed with us as we worked hard to do well in the Commonwealth Games."

"Even though our World Cup campaign did not go as planned, we wanted to bounce back from the disappointment to make a fresh start in the CWG. We are really happy and delighted to have this kind of support from the Hon'ble Prime Minister. Many players in our team come from very difficult, poor background and it means the world to them when the Prime Minister meets with them and it not only build their profile as a player but it also brings great recognition to the small villages they hail from," added the Women's Team Captain who was the star of the match against New Zealand as she stood tall in defending India's post yet again to help the team win the historic medal.

The Women's Team came up with some fine performances to finish on the podium at the CWG. They beat Ghana 5-0, Wales 3-1, Canada 3-2 and lost to England in the group stage matches. They lost a close match to Australia in the Semifinal and then beat New Zealand 1-1 (1-2 SO) in the medal round.

The Men too played some fantastic matches, beating Ghana 11-0, drew with England 4-4, beat Canada 8-0 and won 4-1 against Wales. In the Semifinal, India beat South Africa 3-2 but lost 0-7 to Australia in the Final and settled for a Silver medal.







# Indian Men's and Women's Hockey Team players share heartfelt messages for India's 75th Independence Day

# FEATURE STORY

The Indian Men's and Women's Hockey Teams have witnessed several highs at the biggest of stages and have played an integral part in the growth of the nation. As India completes 75 years of Independence, a few of the Indian Men's and Women's Hockey Team players shared heartfelt messages for the special day.

"I would like to wish all the citizens of our country a very Happy Independence Day. This one is extra special for us as it's our 75th Independence Day. We have grown tremendously as a nation and especially in the field of sports. We are moving in the right direction," said the Indian Men's Hockey Team Captain Manpreet Singh.

The Indian Women's Hockey Team Captain Savita also wished her fellow citizens a Happy Independence Day, "It's a great honour and pride for us to complete 75 years of Independence. I wish all Indians a very Happy Independence Day. I hope you look back at how far we have come. We have done exceedingly well in sports in the last few years and I am certain that we are going to get stronger from here."

Meanwhile, the Indian Men's Hockey Team Defender Harmanpreet Singh said, "It's been absolutely fantastic to see our growth as a nation in the last few years and I am eager to see how far we can go in the future. The determination and persistence we have shown in every field is simply amazing. I wish all the citizens of India a very Happy

Independence Day and all the very best for the upcoming challenges."

The Indian Men's Hockey Team Goalkeeper PR Sreejesh expressed, "There's no greater pride than playing for your country and therefore the Independence Day is always special for me. The citizens of our country have worked tirelessly to take India to the greatest of heights in all fields and it's been truly magnificent to be a small part of this journey. I wish everyone happiness and light this Independence Day."

The Indian Women's Hockey Team Forward Vandana Katariya also reiterated the same sentiment, "This is a special day for all of us as India completes 75th years of Independence. I always feel very proud about the way our nation has grown over the years. Our growth on the sports field has also been absolutely spectacular and I hope that we keep evolving as a nation in the years to come."

Meanwhile, Indian Women's Hockey Team Midfielder Salima Tete said, "A very Happy Independence Day to all my fellow Indians. We have grown and evolved as a nation in the last 75 years and we have to continue to put in the hard work to make our nation even greater. We have moved forward leaps and bounds especially in the field of sports in the last few years and it's been amazing to be a part of this beautiful journey with my country."

## "Extremely happy with my performance at Asia Cup," says Forward Pawan Rajbhar

The Indian Men's Hockey Team put up a prolific performance at the Asia Cup earlier in June. After defeating Japan 1-0 in the third-place match, the national team clinched the coveted Bronze medal and one of the shining stars for the Indian side was the debutant, Pawan Rajbhar. The Forward found the back of the net four times and won two Player of the Match Awards in the tournament.

Speaking about his performance, Rajbhar said, "I was extremely happy with my performance in the tournament. It was a really good experience for me and I couldn't have asked for a better start. I really enjoyed being part of the Indian forward line and I hope I can continue my performance in the upcoming matches."

When asked about his favourite match in the competition, the 24-year-old expressed, "The Super 4s match against Japan was my favourite one. Both teams were locked at 1-1 in the opening 34 minutes and I was thrilled to find the winner in the 35th minute for India. We held on to our lead and eventually registered an important victory for ourselves. I always want to contribute for the team in crunch situations and I am happy I came through for the side on that day."

When asked about the importance of the Asia Cup Bronze medal for himself, Rajbhar said, "Winning a medal in your first competition is always a huge confidence booster for anybody. This Medal will stay special for me forever. However, I will not stop here. I will keep trying to work on my game and try to get better as much as possible. I would like to make an even bigger



contribution in future tournaments and hope that we go on to win Gold in whichever competition we play in."

The youngster also spoke about his dreams and aspirations, "For every sportsperson, the Olympics is the biggest competition and even I have a dream of winning an Olympic Gold medal. The Bronze medal win at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics was truly a huge motivating moment for all of us to train even harder and I am sure that the Indian team will stand on the podium with Gold medals in the near future."





# 'Proud of our achievement,' said Birendra Lakra after India Men's Hockey Team win Bronze medal at Hero Asia Cup 2022

# STORY

Indian Men's Hockey Team, led by Birendra Lakra, and SV Sunil claimed the Bronze medal at the Hero Asia Cup 2022 after picking a 1-0 win over Japan at the GBK Sports Complex Hockey Stadium in Jakarta, Indonesia. In a tight contest that saw a solid defensive performance from the Indian Men's Hockey team, Raj Kumar Pal (7') scored the sole goal for India to help them pick a thrilling win.

It was a tough start for the young Indian Men's Hockey Team at the Hero Asia Cup 2022. With as many as 10 players making their debuts in the tournament, the tournament was a big test for the first time Coach Sardar Singh, who had travelled with the team.

India drew their first game 1-1 in the tournament against Pakistan after which they suffered a 2-5 loss to Japan. With a win by a 15-goal margin needed to qualify for

the Super 4s, India defeated the hosts Indonesia by a whopping 16-0 margin to advance into the tournament.



In the Super 4s stage, India beat Japan 2-1, and then drew 3-3 against Malaysia and 4-4 against Korea to book themselves a spot in the Bronze medal match, where they defeated Japan once again to claim the third-place finish in the competition.

Speaking on the team's performance,

Birendra Lakra said, "The Bronze medal at the Hero Asia Cup 2022 showcased the mental tenacity of our team. We were pushed early on in the tournament, but the young players in the team dug deep and showcased their talents on the big stage. We are really proud of our achievement."



## HERO ASIA CUP 2022

23 May, 2022 - 01 Jun, 2022

Jakarta, Indonesia

|                     |                |                        |
|---------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| MATCH 4             |                | MONDAY, 23 MAY 2022    |
| <b>INDIA</b>        | <b>1 vs 1</b>  | <b>PAKISTAN</b>        |
| MATCH 8             |                | TUESDAY, 24 MAY 2022   |
| <b>INDIA</b>        | <b>2 vs 5</b>  | <b>JAPAN</b>           |
| MATCH 12            |                | THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022  |
| <b>INDIA</b>        | <b>16 vs 0</b> | <b>INDONESIA</b>       |
| MATCH 15            |                | SATURDAY, 28 MAY 2022  |
| <b>INDIA</b>        | <b>2 vs 1</b>  | <b>JAPAN</b>           |
| MATCH 18            |                | SUNDAY, 29 MAY 2022    |
| <b>INDIA</b>        | <b>3 vs 3</b>  | <b>MALAYSIA</b>        |
| MATCH 21            |                | TUESDAY, 31 MAY 2022   |
| <b>INDIA</b>        | <b>4 vs 4</b>  | <b>KOREA</b>           |
| MATCH 23, 3RD PLACE |                | WEDNESDAY, 01 JUN 2022 |
| <b>INDIA</b>        | <b>1 vs 0</b>  | <b>JAPAN</b>           |





## "I really loved playing this format of the game," says FIH Hockey5s top scorer Mohammed Raheel

# STORY

Young forward Mohammed Raheel had a remarkable outing in Lausanne earlier this month, where the Indian Men's Hockey Team clinched the inaugural FIH Hockey5s Title. The 25-year-old was the tournament's top goal scorer and was awarded the Best Player of the Tournament.

Having scored a total of 10 goals in five matches, Raheel expressed, "Firstly, it's a great feeling to be playing for the Indian team. I am really happy that I contributed to the team's cause. It was a wonderful experience and I really loved playing this format of the game."

The Indian team led by Gurinder Singh, who finished the round-robin stage on top with three wins and one draw in four matches, remained unbeaten in the tournament. They started their campaign with a 4-3 win and played out a 2-2 draw against Pakistan on the opening day. Then later on, they registered massive 7-3 and 6-2 wins against Malaysia and Poland respectively before scripting a stunning comeback against the latter in the Final match.



Raheel, who got on the scoresheet in all five matches, netted twice in India's thrilling 6-4 win against Poland in the Final.

Reflecting on the campaign, the young forward said, "It was a new experience, the matches

were really fast-paced, but we improved match-by-match and got to score a lot of goals. We started using the perimeter boards more, and with that our finishing got improved. We played really well as a team. It's a great feeling to win the inaugural edition of the Hockey5s."

A part from emphasising on the entertaining factor involved in this short 5-a-side format, Raheel also credited the FIH for making this event a memorable experience for all the participating teams.

"Credits to the FIH for introducing the Hockey5s. It was a beautiful set-up in Lausanne, we really enjoyed it. We were playing in front of a packed ground after so long, so it made this experience all the more memorable," he concluded.

# FEATURE STORY

## "My biggest aim is to play for the Indian Senior Women's Hockey Team," says Mumtaz Khan

The Indian Women's Hockey Team recorded an emphatic 4-3 win over the hosts Switzerland, and then drew 4-4 to South Africa on the second day of the FIH Hockey 5s 2022 at the Place de la Navigation Stadium in Lausanne, Switzerland on 05 June 2022. However, despite the big win over the hosts, India missed out on a spot in the Final with the draw against South Africa, and finished in the 4th position on the table with 4 points.

Mumtaz Khan, who was one of the stars of the Indian team in the FIH Hockey 5s 2022 with 5 goals in the competition, spoke about her experience at the tournament, "I really enjoyed playing at the FIH Hockey 5s 2022. I loved the fast-paced format, it forces you to pick up a variety of skills. We played very well as a team as well, but unfortunately, we couldn't make it to the final. I was very happy with my own performance. Hopefully, I will make an even bigger contribution to the team in the future."

The Forward, who scored a hat-trick against Switzerland, expressed her thoughts about the game, "That was a really interesting match. We kept finding an equalizer for every time they scored a goal and it was really pleasing to find the winner for the team in the 17th minute. I want to be a part of such matches in the future and keep finding ways to help my team win. I don't

focus much on individual performances and I just look to contribute to the team's success as much as I can."

When asked about her biggest goal, Mumtaz said, "Featuring in the Indian Women's Hockey Team (Senior Outdoor) is my biggest aim at the moment. Playing for the nation is the ultimate thing for any sports person. I want to be in the thick of things and take part in big competitions such as the Olympics."







# FEATURE STORY

## Indian Teams impress at FIH Hockey Pro League

Both the Indian Men and Women's Hockey Teams ended their campaign at the FIH Hockey Pro League with an impressive third place finish. Out of the 18 matches played, the Men's Team registered eight wins and two wins in shootouts. They finished behind the Netherlands and Belgium while Germany placed fourth, Argentina placed fifth and England placed sixth.



Current team's new dragflick sensation Jugraj Singh, and forwardline's latest addition Abhishek proved their mettle and utilized the opportunity they got in the Pro League. Sukhjeet too made his international debut during the Pro League matches held this year in India. Likewise, Indian Women's team saw a host of debut players such as Sangita Kumari, Bichu Devi Kharibam, Ishika Chaudhary, Akshata Abaso Dhekale, Mahima Choudhary who were fortunate to gain experience with the Senior team ahead of the all-important FIH Junior Women's Hockey World Cup where they narrowly missed a bronze medal.



The Indian Women's Team, on the other hand, won six of the 14 matches they played and also registered two wins in the shootouts. They finished behind Argentina and the Netherlands, making this their first-ever top three finish at the world stage. This was a special outing for the Savita-led team as they were making their Pro League debut this season.

Enroute to these impressive outings in the Pro League, both Indian Men and Women's Teams tried out new and upcoming players who came into the reckoning backed by good performances in the Hockey India National Championships and played to potential in the National Coaching camps.



The Men's team registered emphatic wins against France (5-0), South Africa (10-2 and 10-2), Spain (5-4), Argentina (4-3), England (4-3) Germany (3-0, 3-1), beat Olympic Gold medalists Belgium in the shootout. The Women's team led by ace goalie Savita were on par with every team they took on too, clinching strong wins against China (7-1 and 2-1), Spain (2-1), Germany (3-0 SO), Netherlands (2-1), Argentina (2-1 SO) and USA (4-2, 4-0)



game in crunch situations,” stated Janneke Schopman, Chief Coach, Indian Women's Hockey Team.



The outing in Pro League, according to the Chief Coaches, has helped them gain the right momentum ahead of big-ticket tournaments. “Playing the FIH Hockey Pro League definitely helped in our preparations for the World Cup and the Commonwealth Games. Playing against some of the top teams in the world and doing well against them is a confidence booster for the team. It also gave us a chance to test some of the new comers and assess their

Graham Reid, the Chief Coach of Indian Men's Hockey Team, meanwhile said, “There were a number of takeaways for us from these matches in Pro League particularly the ones in Europe which were closely-fought. The learnings from these matches are what will help us as we prepare of a tough outing in Commonwealth Games as well as the upcoming World Cup in Bhubaneswar.”







# Indian Junior Women's Hockey Team finishes second at U23 5 Nations Tournament 2022

# FEATURES STORY



The Indian Junior Women's Hockey Team had to settle for a Silver medal in the Uniphar U23 5 Nations Tournament 2022 after losing to the Netherlands 1-4 in the final on Sunday, 26 June 2022, in Dublin, Ireland. Beauty Dungdung (29') scored the lone goal for the Indian side while Belen Van Der Broek (26'), Amber Brouwer (31'), Emma Santbrink (53'), and Sanne Hak (55') were on the target for the Netherlands.

Following India's heartbreaking loss, Captain Vaishnavi Phalke said, "We did our

best. But, it was not enough. We challenged the Netherlands side throughout the game. We kept creating chances but were unable to convert them. The Netherlands side outplayed us. It would not be wrong to say that they were the better team and deserved to win this game."

India and the Netherlands progressed to the final after finishing the group stage of the tournament unbeaten. Indian Junior Women's Hockey Team kicked off their campaign with a resounding 4-1 victory over hosts Ireland on 19 June 2022.



In their second match, India rallied from behind to earn a 2-2 draw against a tenacious Netherlands team on 20 June 2022. India recorded a thumping 3-0 win over Ukraine in their third game on 22 June 2022. India routed the much-fancied United States of America (USA) 4-1 in their final group stage match.

## Less Than 200 Days to go for the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar-Rourkela

Countdown to Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup: Less than 200 days to go for FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar-Rourkela

With less than 200 days to go for Hockey Men's World Cup Bhubaneswar and Rourkela to begin on 13 January 2023, there is a lot of anticipation among hockey fans, who will arrive in Odisha to witness the prestigious event. Odisha is hosting the quadrennial event for the second time, under the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik, making it the only state to hold back-to-back FIH Hockey Men's World Cups.

While the 2018 Men's World Cup was held at the iconic Kalinga Hockey Stadium in Bhubaneswar, this time the coveted event will also take place in the heart of Odisha's hockey belt – Rourkela.

Manpreet Singh, who has been named Captain for the 2022 Commonwealth Games, expressed the squad's delight about playing another World Cup in front of a home audience, "Mere words can't express the team's excitement of playing yet another World Cup in Odisha. This time, with Rourkela also hosting matches, we are all eager to

experience the region's hockey craze. Our compatriots in the team who are from Odisha have spoken endlessly about the love people have for hockey in this region which makes us all the more eager to play there."



**Shri. Naveen Patnaik**  
Chief Minister of Odisha

"We are ever so grateful to Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik who with his continued support for the sport has helped us achieve great laurels for the country. Under his leadership, we have been provided with the world's best hockey infrastructure to compete and with infrastructure work nearing completion in Rourkela, we are all waiting to play in the new facility. By hosting the event in India again, we are provided with yet another opportunity to fight for the prestigious World Cup Title and the team is heading in the right direction," Manpreet continued.



# 200

## DAYS TO GO

13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023 - 29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023

**#IndiaKaGame**





# FEATURE STORY

## Upbeat Indian Women’s Hockey Team eye better execution in the hunt for Commonwealth Games Glory (Women’s team preview)



The Indian Women’s Hockey Team, who won Gold in the 2002 Manchester Commonwealth Games, began their campaign in Birmingham, two decades later, against Ghana in the Pool A game on 29 July 2022.

The Indian Women’s Hockey team finished fourth in the 2018 edition of the Commonwealth Games; however, the current squad is eager to do better this time around. And they’re hungrier, especially as



they have just come off a difficult FIH Hockey Women's World Cup Spain and Netherlands 2022 campaign. Last year, the Women’s Team finished fourth at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics as well.



Ahead of their opening game, Savita, the Captain of the Indian Women’s Hockey Team had said, “The whole squad is eagerly waiting to kickstart our campaign in Birmingham, as we want to make this Commonwealth Games special. We were disappointed with our performance in the last edition of the tournament, but this time around we will definitely look to do better.

The Captain also added, “We are confident about our chances to clinch a medal and a resounding win against Ghana will provide the perfect start to our 2022 Commonwealth Games campaign.”



India, who had a training camp in Nottingham before the 2022 Games began, were keen to improve how they executed their plans in the field of play, Chief Coach Janneke Schopman noted.

“Our performance at the World Cup wasn’t good in terms of results, but we created a lot of PC chances and played well overall. It was our execution that wasn’t the best. We will be focusing on getting our execution spot on going ahead and prepare accordingly for the CWG. We need to train better for the execution to improve,” stated Schopman and further added, “Our manner of playing has changed, instead of defending more like earlier, other teams are setting up

defensively against us.”

Deep Grace Ekka also briefly spoke about their game plan also “We will look to move the ball quickly so that we can penetrate the Ghanaian defence. For the last couple of years, we have been playing an aggressive style and we would look to continue in the same fashion.”

Ekka further added, “Our squad has some amazing young players, and I am always looking to help them out. I always advise them to play a simple game so that they avoid unnecessary pressure, as it was the best advice I got as a young player and I think this will be crucial for us at the Commonwealth Games.”







# Indian Men’s Hockey Team Commonwealth Games Preview

“We are focused on podium finish at Commonwealth Games 2022”, say Indian Men’s Hockey Team Captain Manpreet Singh & Chief Coach Graham Reid



After a strenuous training camp at the SAI Centre in Benglauru, the Indian Men’s Hockey Team have geared up for their upcoming Commonwealth Games 2022. The Indian team, being led by Captain Manpreet Singh and Chief Coach Graham Reid are placed in Pool B along with Ghana, England, Canada and Wales. The team arrived in Birmingham on Saturday, 23 July 2022 for the 12th edition of the Commonwealth Games (CWG) and ever since their arrival they have been training vigorously as they aim for a podium finish in the colossal event.

The Indian Team opened their campaign against Ghana on Saturday, 31 July 2022, and ahead of the contest, Coach Reid had said that his team is not feeling the weight of the

expectations.

This will be the first time India will play off against Ghana since the 1975 Men's World Cup. The last time the two teams faced off against each other, India had won the encounter 7-0.

“I must say, I don't think that anyone’s expectations of us are more than that of our own expectations. We really have high expectations of what we expect from ourselves and also from each other. So, yes, we are not weighed down by these expectations,” Chief Coach Graham Reid said on the team’s expectations.



FEATUR  
ESTORY

The Chief Coach added, “Of course, we cannot do much about the external expectation, but we can do something about our own expectations and that's what we do as it keeps the pressure on us but it's in a good way because we are the ones that can control that,” he added.

India Captain Manpreet Singh further added that the team is hoping to earn a podium finish but will take the tournament game-by-game, and look to do well in each match.

“Yes, we know that fans have expectations from us that we will win a medal here. We discussed the same before arriving here that

if our focus is on winning a medal, we will eventually be victorious in our efforts but we need to work on it first. We want to do our best in every single game, we are not going to take any team lightly and yes our final goal is to win a medal here,” Manpreet said.

Meanwhile, Manpreet Singh, who is set to make his 300th appearance for India in the CWG tournament opener against Ghana said, "I am really glad to have played 299 games for India. I am excited about it but my focus at the moment is on the game against Ghana and the team and I am not that concerned about the personal milestone.”







## Hockey India Celebrates 74th Olympic Day 2022

### Hockey India Member Units conducted week-long Olympic Day 2022 celebrations

Hockey India with its Member Units conducted week-long celebrations on the occasion of the 74th Olympic Day to promote Olympic values among the young children, players, coaches and administrative staff through various activities.

The theme of this year's Olympic Day celebrations is 'Together, For a Peaceful World', which represents the power of sports to bring people together in peace. Keeping that in mind, Hockey India's Member Units marked this special Olympic Day with various activities that spread the message of peace and togetherness through hockey-based activities including quizzes, drawing competitions, essay writing competitions, yoga sessions and the Olympic Day Run.

Olympic Day, which was first introduced in 1948 to commemorate the birth of the modern Olympic Games on 23 June 1894 at the Sorbonne in Paris, is observed every year on June 23 to promote participation in sport across the globe regardless of age, gender or athletic ability. Marking the 74th Olympic Day on 23 June 2022, Hockey India along with its Member Units, endorsed the International Olympic Committee's campaign and themes of #MoveForPeace in different parts of the country.

The Indian hockey community was united in sending their celebrations to Hockey India in the form of pictures and videos. Among many such activities organised by the various Member Units, Hockey Rajasthan celebrated

the day by organising an Olympic Day awareness run from Udaipur to several districts around Rajasthan under the guidance of officials who encouraged participants on the importance of Olympic Day. They also conducted an exhibition match, as well as carried out yoga sessions and a tree plantation drive along with drawing and essay-writing competitions on the occasion.

Odisha Naval Tata Hockey High Performance Centre kickstarted its celebrations with a marathon on 23rd June. They conducted exhibition matches, quizzes, debates and essay writing competitions at their various grassroots centres in Odisha to inculcate Olympic values among young children. Telangana Hockey organized special Olympic runs in various parts of the state, while Hockey Jharkhand conducted a drawing competition.

Ghumanhera Riser's Academy played an exhibition match against the SSB Hockey team and Olympian Vivek Singh Hockey Academy held friendly matches at their academy in Varanasi on the Olympic Day to mark the occasion.

# FEATURE STORY







# 'Grateful to be back again on the field,' says India Women's Hockey Team midfielder Sonika on return to team

The Indian Women's Hockey Team midfielder Sonika, made a solid comeback in the team after a span of over one year, at the FIH Women's Hockey Pro League 2021/22, where she played a key role in helping her team pick up a third-place finish. Sonika played 9 games in the tournament, and on the back of her consistent performances, she was also included in the Indian Women's Hockey squad for the FIH Women's World Cup 2022 in Spain & the Netherlands, where she featured in all six games for the team.

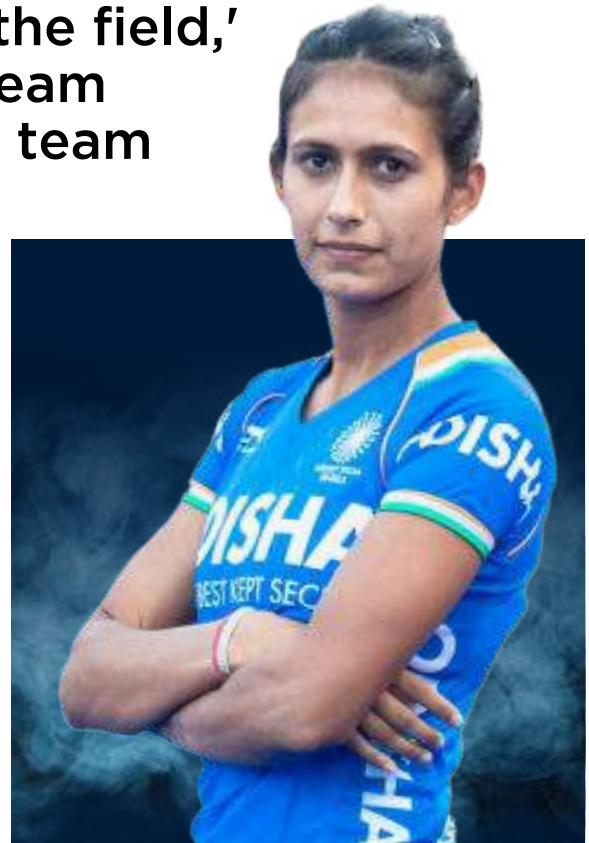
"It was a great opportunity for me to represent my country at the biggest stage. I learned a lot from the experience, and I hope it helps me going forward in my career.

Sonika developed an interest in Hockey at the age of 9. A visit from a veteran hockey

Coach at her school in Hisar, Haryana, sparked a desire in young Sonika to pursue the sport. "It was the first time I had seen someone wearing the Indian tracksuit. I wanted to wear the same and represent my country on the biggest platforms," she said. She was advised by her coach to work hard and fulfil her dreams.

From then on, she became focused and started training rigorously every day. Her father, who was a volleyball player, gave her full support to pursue the sport. Her mother, too, shunned down the neighbours who questioned them for pushing their young daughter towards sports.

"I was quite a naughty kid. My parents thought the sports will bring discipline



into me, so they never refused to let me go for training," Sonika said.

In 2011, Sonika participated in her first rural Nationals for Haryana in Ranchi. She then went on to become a part of the Senior Nationals team that won the Gold medal in 2013. In 2014 New Zealand Test series, Sonika went on to make her debut for India Junior Women's National Team, before leading the team as Captain in Spain in the Five-Nations tournament.

# FEATURE STORY

Sonika was selected at the Senior Women's National Camp in 2016 and made her Senior debut at Hawke's Bay Cup in New Zealand. She was also part of the Indian Women's Senior Team that won the Gold medal at the Women's Asia Cup in 2017.

In 2020, after the New Zealand Tour in January, Sonika decided to take a break from the sport and the National camp, during the Covid-19 lockdown, to spend time with her family.

"I wanted to be with my family amid the lockdown. I was finding it hard to focus on the sport. I am thankful to my parents, my teammates and the Hockey India coaching staff, who all really supported me at that time," she said.

"Everyone stayed in touch with me and kept motivating me to bounce back. It really helped me out a lot," Sonika said.

In 2021, Sonika decided to make a return to hockey with the Senior Nationals. "The Senior Nationals gave me a platform to showcase my talent once again, and gave me a chance to bounce back. I feel grateful that I am back on the field again. I am thankful to everyone who stuck by me during that time."

On the back of her performances in the Nationals, Sonika was included

in the squad for the FIH Women's Hockey Pro League 2021/22 matches, and then went on to represent the nation at the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup 2022.







## CWG 2022 Special: Current and former Women's team players share their memorable experiences

Ahead of the start of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, the former and current players of the Indian Women's Hockey Team took a moment to share their memorable moments from the past editions of the prestigious tournament.

Former India goalkeeper Helen Mary, who played an integral part in India's historic Gold medal victory at the Commonwealth Games 2002, stated, "The whole of 2002 Commonwealth Games campaign is my favourite moment actually."

"The way we fought back in the crossover match against South Africa boosted our morale. From 0-3 down in the first half to winning the match 4-3 in the extra time, set the tone for us. We then beat New Zealand 2-1 in the Semi-Final and went on to win against the hosts England 3-2 in the extra time. But it was an outcome of the hard work done in the past eight-nine months and the team unity was our biggest strength," she said.

Former Indian Women's Hockey Team Captain Asunta Lakra recalled her favourite moment from the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games, where India clinched Silver after losing 0-1 to the hosts Australia in the final.

"It was my first major tournament with the Senior team and I scored my first goal in the opening game itself against Australia, so it is my favourite memory of the Commonwealth Games.



# STORY



We missed the Gold medal with a very narrow margin, but it was a great experience overall. We finished second in the pool stage and then defeated New Zealand 1-0 in the semi-Final to ensure the Indian Women's Hockey Team's second consecutive medal at the Commonwealth Games," said Asunta.

Meanwhile, current players Navjot Kaur and Navneet Kaur also shared their memorable Commonwealth Games moments.

Navjot, who featured in the 2014 and 2018 Commonwealth Games, said, "It's always an honour to represent India at the prestigious tournament. The win against England in the Pool stage in the last edition is one of my best memories of the tournament. We missed out on winning a medal, but we will give our best to create history in Birmingham."

Navneet too stated that the win against England in the pool stage match has been her most memorable moment of the quadrennial games so far.

"I scored a goal in that match, and it is always a special feeling to contribute to the team's win. It was also my career's first Commonwealth Games. I still remember each and every moment of it," she expressed.





## CWG 2022 Special: Current and former Men's Team players share CWG memories

Ahead of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, the former and current players of the Indian Men's Hockey Team shared some of the highlights and their memories from the past editions of the prestigious Commonwealth Games.

Former Indian Men's Hockey star Tushar Khandker who played a crucial role for India on their way to the Silver medal at Commonwealth Games 2010 campaign which was held in Delhi, said, "It was a great feeling altogether to play at the Commonwealth Games especially at home, in Delhi. The reason it was a special campaign was that it was our first medal in Hockey at the Commonwealth Games, in fact it was the first time we made it to the Final of the Games.

We had prepared well. We took on Malaysia, Scotland, Australia and Pakistan in the group stages. The game against Pakistan was especially memorable as we decimated them 7-4 in the final game of the group stages. We were all charged up especially since this was the first time since the 1982 Asian Games something big like this was being held in India and all people in the country were excited about the Games. We played exactly how we wanted in the group stages and the knock-out stages as every player followed the game plan perfectly in each match. In the final also we played well for the first 20 minutes, unfortunately after that the score line was not great. But yeah, our journey to the Final was superb. We had a really good time during

the games since we had so much support at the stadiums, and that was the first time we won the Silver Medal at the Commonwealth Games, the memory will always stick with me."

Captain Manpreet Singh and charismatic goal-keeper PR Sreejesh also took some time out to share some of their memorable Commonwealth Games moments.

Manpreet, who was part of the Indian squad that featured at the 2014 and 2018 Commonwealth Games, in fact played a crucial role in midfield for India on their way to Silver medal in 2014. He recalls the campaign fondly, "The Silver medal in Glasgow was special, Rupinder and Ramandeep were in fantastic form at the tournament, and we were unplayable at points during our Commonwealth Games campaign.

Even my goal against South Africa has been etched into my memory, as I was able to contribute to the team and scored my first goal at such a major event. That goal gave me confidence that I belong on the biggest stages of Hockey."

This is also be PR Sreejesh's third Commonwealth Games, he recalled some special moments from the 2018 Commonwealth Games, where India finished 4th.

FEATURE STORY

Sreejesh said, “We narrowly missed out on the Bronze in 2018 as we lost 2-1 to England in a gripping game for the Medal. Despite that our group stage games were exhilarating from the first match against Pakistan to the final game against England that we won, I

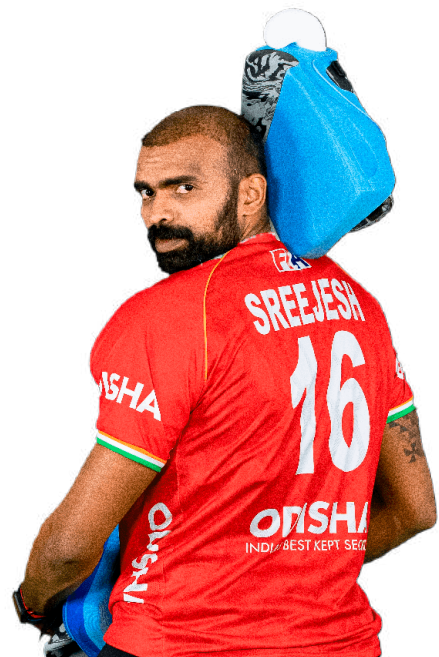
remember each and every detail about our campaign. We also got to visit the beautiful shores of Australia after the campaign where the players bonded and reflected on their performance, which will surely serve as a great motivator this time around.”



**Manpreet Singh**  
Captain Of Indian Hockey Team



**Tushar Khandker**  
Former Hockey Player



**PR Sreejesh**  
Goalkeeper Of Indian Hockey Team





# FEATURE STORY

## Indian Women's Team show grit to finish 9th overall in FIH Hockey Women's World Cup Spain and Netherlands 2022

Riding on hopes of a million fans, the Indian Women's Hockey Team was touted to do well in the FIH Women's Hockey World Cup in Spain and Netherlands which was held in July. A third-place finish at the FIH Hockey Pro League, raised expectations and also the confidence of the team who had registered some fine victories against top teams of the world during this prestigious league held in the lead up to the quadrennial extravaganza.

Grouped in pool B along with nemesis England, New Zealand and China, India stood a great chance of making it to the knockout rounds. In their first match of the campaign, India led by Savita came up with an impressive show as they drew 1-1. In the following match too, they ended up with a 1-1 draw against China leaving them with no option but the win their last group stage match against New Zealand to earn a direct spot in the Quarter Final.

While in the previous matches, the team came short in converting goals, that wasn't the case in the match against New Zealand which was a high-scoring game. Unfortunately for India, they lost by a narrow margin of one goal, with New Zealand pipping them 4-3 to make the Quarter Final.

India, had to quickly rally back after the disappointment, in order to face hosts Spain in an important crossover match. But with home audience backing them, Spain beat India 1-0 to push them out of the knockouts and out of medal contention.

The spirit of the team, however, remained intact and they bounced back to beat Canada 3-2 in shootout and defeat defending Asian Games champions Japan 3-1 to finish overall 9th in the final placings at the World Cup.

Talking about the campaign, Captain Savita said, "It was a disappointing outing no-doubt because we went there with an aim to win a medal. I feel the team did well in that pursuit too but fell short in convert goals from the chances we created. We lacked the depth in our PC variations but the way we bounced back despite the disappointment of not making it to the Quarter Final and beyond shows the spirit of this team and I am very proud of each one of them."



## Hockey Te Charcha

AB Subbaiah, Savita, Sanjay, Gurjit Kaur and Suman Bala

Hockey India has initiated a podcast series to share insights from members closely linked with Indian Hockey. Named Hockey Te Charcha, various individuals who have played a part in Indian Hockey over the years - from coaches to players themselves - appeared as guests on the podcast to speak about their personal and professional experiences in Indian Hockey. Here are some excerpts from conversations with Former India goalkeeper and two-time Olympian Dr AB Subbaiah, Indian Women's Hockey Captain Savita and Defenders Sanjay and Gurjit Kaur & CWG Gold medallist, Suman Bala.

Dr AB Subbaiah candidly spoke about developing a strong grassroots structure, by equipping the domestic-level coaches with the right knowledge and called the Coaches Education Pathway a 'game changer' for the sport.

"Soon after my generation of players called it quits, we should have taken to coaching particularly in the grassroots. But we didn't back then, however, it is very encouraging to see many of the international players who have recently retired, coming into coaching at the domestic level and they are open to re-learning or updating themselves with the latest

coaching techniques in world hockey which the Hockey India Coaches Pathway offers," expressed Subbaiah, who has recently been appointed as the high-performance director of Khelo India Centre for Excellence in Bengaluru.

One of the most successful goalkeepers in recent times - Savita spoke about living up to the expectations of performing well in every tournament following their successful outing in Tokyo Olympics last year.

She said, "Yes, no one expected we will go beyond the quarter-finals in the Olympic Games. Many of our supporters thought we would reach up to the quarter-finals at the outset, but I don't think anyone believed we could win the quarter-finals. This zeal to win and not to give up till the last second of the match was inculcated by our coaching staff. We had to, and we knew we would change the script of Tokyo. Having finished fourth in Tokyo, everyone took notice of us. Earlier, there were expectations from the men's team only. But now, people expect the women also to finish in the top three in any







tournament we play and that is good for the sport.”

Drag flick specialist and defender Sanjay opened up about his ambition and journey in the sport during a candid conversation with Hockey Te Charcha, "The past 5-6 years have been very interesting for me and I have learnt a lot in these years. It feels great every time my name was announced in the India junior side. My family also feels thrilled when I am named in the squad, now I really want to take this up a notch and want to play for the Senior side. I will work hard for it.”

Appearing on the FIH Women’s Hockey World Cup 2022 special episode of Hockey Te Charcha, Gurjit Kaur highlighted the improvements the Indian Team has made in the recent years, particularly since the 2020 Tokyo Games, "We have progressed a lot since the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. Yes, we did not win a medal in Tokyo, but we did perform admirably there. So, certainly, that performance did boost our morale.”

Gurjit also highlighted the improvements Indian Team has made in the recent, particularly since the 2020 Tokyo Games.

Gurjit was also upbeat about the team putting up an excellent performance at the World Cup.

When asked about the mood in the Indian camp in Amsterdam, the charismatic drag-flicker said that they are all ecstatic to be here.

Suman Bala, who was part of the 2002 Gold medal winning squad in Manchester, looked back at her journey .

Speaking about the journey through the campaign in 2002, Suman, who also played in the 1998 Kuala Lumpur Commonwealth Games, said that the win against South Africa was the turning point and added that it took time a while before they realised the importance of their achievement. Suman, who scored three goals for India in the 2002 Games, was all praise for the Savita-led Indian Women’s Team.

The former ace also touched on the changes in women’s hockey since her playing days, saying that the current team has been empowered more by Hockey India.

She concluded by saying that the current players have more support from the system than was the case earlier, when Coaches could’ve been more controlling than what was in the best interest of the team.





HOCKEY  
TE CHARCHA

# PODCAST

FEATURING SANJAY  
DEFENDER, INDIAN MEN'S TEAM, HOCKEY INDIA

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HOCKEY  
TE CHARCHA

# PODCAST

FEATURING SAVITA  
GOALKEEPER, INDIAN SR. WOMEN'S TEAM

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HOCKEY  
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# PODCAST

FEATURING GURJIT KAUR  
DEFENDER, INDIAN WOMEN'S HOCKEY TEAM

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HOCKEY  
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# PODCAST FEATURING

DR. AB SUBBAIAH

LIVE NOW



Suman Bala

Former International Player and 2002 Commonwealth Games Gold Medalist





HOCKEY INDIA

# MEMBER UNIT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT MAY, JUNE & JULY 2022



Congratulations to the Sports Authority of India, Northern Regional Centre (SAI, NRC) Sonapat for being granted the FIH Category 2 field certificate based on its construction, performance, and player welfare requirements.



Congratulations to the Lala Lajpat Ray, B.A. Govt. College Hockey Field, Moga, India for being granted the FIH Category 2 field certificate based on its construction, performance, and player welfare requirements.



A big congratulations to IA&AD Integrated Sports Complex, Hockey Ground, Ranchi, Jharkhand, India for being granted FIH Category 2 field certificate based on its construction, performance and player welfare requirements.



Congratulations to the Markandeshwar Hockey Stadium, Kurukshetra, Haryana, India for being granted the FIH Category 2 Hockey field certificate based on its construction, performance, and player welfare requirements.



Congratulations to Model Boys Higher Secondary School Poonch, District Poonch, India, for receiving an FIH Category 2 field certificate based on its construction, performance, and player welfare requirements.



Congratulations to the S.S+2 High School Campus in Khunti, India, for receiving the FIH Category 2 field certificate based on its construction, performance, and player welfare requirements.





## Hockey India announces 20-member Junior Women's Team for Uniphar U23 Tournament

Kolkata (UNI)

Hockey India on Wednesday announced the Indian Junior Women's Hockey Team for the upcoming Uniphar U23 5 Nations Tournament, which will be held from June 19 to 26 in Dublin, Ireland. The Junior Women's Team is scheduled to play against Netherlands, Ireland, USA and Ukraine.

The 20-member team will be led by Vishnu Vithal Phalke and Vice-Captain by Munira Khan, who will also feature in FIH Hockey 20, scheduled to be held in Lucerne, Switzerland on 4th & 5th June 2022.

The Indian Junior Women's Team for the Uniphar U23 5 Nations Tournament features goalkeepers Khushboo and Kurnava Bhanu, defenders Preet, Manika Oza, Mahima Tane, Neelam and Hritika Singh.

The midfield will see Manju Chhonra, Captain Vishnu Vithal Phalke, Jyoti Chhonra, Hina Bano,

Nikita Toppi, Advitri Kotekar and Himaja Dasgupta.

The forward line includes Annu, Beary Durgajung, Munira Khan, Deepika Soerg, Manika Dipi Toppi and Madhura Bhavani. Additionally, Madhura Kiran, Nidhi Talya, Jyoti Singh Kohetrissayam, Sonika Devi and Kajal Sadeesh Alpadkar have been named as standbys for the tournament.

Speaking about the team, Coach Erik Wozniak said, "We've got a very talented group of players, who have been working hard to learn and improve each and every day. It's a well-balanced side, some of them performed really well at the Junior World Cup recently, while some of them will take part in their first major international outing. The U23 5 Nations Tournament in Ireland will give them a good learning exposure and they are looking forward to make the most out of this opportunity."

## Odisha won National Senior Women's Hockey Championship

Beat Karnataka 2-0 in final



Bhubaneswar: Hockey Association Odisha celebrated Karnataka-2-0 in a thrilling match to win the women's National Senior Hockey Championship of the 12th Hockey India Senior Women's National Championship held from May 11 to 18 at the Mohit Uthra, Chhatrapati Stadium in the capital on Thursday. In the final match played in the stadium,

Prasen Barik scored in the 19th minute and Annu Karanah Barik scored in the 56th minute for Odisha.

Both the teams got off in a good way and created many chances to score. The defence of Karnataka was impenetrable, due to which the score remained goalless till 16th minute. Prasen Barik scored in the 19th minute and Annu Karanah Barik scored in the 56th minute for Odisha.

## Japan hammer hapless India 5-2



Action from the Asia Cup match between India and Japan in Jakarta yesterday

### ASIA CUP HOCKEY

**JAKARTA:** A new-look Indian team paid for its inexperience and profligacy with Asian champions Japan soundly thrashing them 5-2 in a Group A league match of the men's Asia Cup hockey championship here on Tuesday.

Having drawn against Pakistan in the opening game, India's chances after this defeat will be badly dented as even a big win against Indonesia in the last game might not be enough for qualification to the knock-out stages.

Kosei Kawabe netted a brace while Ken Nagayoshi, Ryomi Ooka and Koji Yamasaki scored one goal each for Japan. Pawan Rajbhar and Uttam Singh were on target India.

However, the younger crop of Indian players didn't measure up against the Japanese, who looked more organised and put repeated pressure on the counters.

The two seniors—Birendra Lakra and SV Sunil—looked well past their prime and couldn't make any tangible difference. "The first two quarters were tough because we didn't get into any rhythm. We got better in the last two quarters, but didn't create many chances," said India captain Lakra.

PTI

### ASIA CUP HOCKEY

## India crush Indonesia 16-0 to book place in Super 4s

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## India eye revenge against Japan in Super 4 clash

### ASIA CUP HOCKEY

**JAKARTA:** Having risen like a proverbial phoenix from the ashes, a rejuvenated Indian men's hockey team would like to put up a much-improved performance when it takes on Japan in its first 'Super 4' match of the Asia Cup here on Saturday.

Despite facing a below-par Indonesia in their final group league game, the young side coached by Sardar Singh must be lauded for being able to score a whopping 16 goals in just an hour. It was one more than what Birendra Lakra-led India required to put a final nail in Pakistan's coffin as far as harbouring World Cup qualification hopes were concerned. Revenge would be high on India's agenda having lost

to the Japanese in the pool stages. But it would be easier said than done as the nimble-footed Japanese rely mostly on counter attacks to surprise their opponents, a ploy they used to perfection against India in their last outing. One of the perennial areas of concern for India is poor percentage of penalty corner conversions as this team doesn't have a designated drag-flicker like Rupinderpal Singh or Amit Rohidas.

Even against Indonesia, India failed to convert even half of the 20 plus short corners that they earned. The Indian defence, led by Lakra, will have to be at its best to stop the speedy Japanese, while the midfield will have to bind the team together to create chances

upfront.



Birendra Lakra

PTI

### ASIA CUP HOCKEY

## The avengers

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### ASIA CUP HOCKEY

## India avenge loss, defeat Japan 2-1

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FIH Pro League

Girls take a tumble

Indian women's hockey team lose 0-5 to Belgium

Indian women's hockey team lost 0-5 to the hosts Belgium in the second leg of their FIH Hockey Pro League 2021/22 at a Spectatorium Walsley Place here.

Barbara Nelso (12'), Charlotte Englebret (14'), Adri Rave (19'), Stephanie Van den Broeke (23') and Antje Buijlinghin (26') scored a goal each for the hosts Belgium.

The match started in almost a similar fashion as yesterday, with Belgium's Barbara Nelso giving the hosts an early lead in the second minute.

India were caught off guard in the counterattack, leaving the right flank completely open for Barbara, who confidently found the back of the net from the far post.

Two minutes later, the hosts doubled their lead through Charlotte Englebret. Belgium nearly had their

third goal in the seventh minute, but the decision was overturned on India's review as a Belgian foot goal was found before the goal.

Belgium went on to pile pressure on India through their attacking moves, but it was Savita who stood tall and kept the scores 2-0 at the end of the first quarter.

Belgium scored on to pile pressure on India through their attacking moves, but it was Savita who stood tall and kept the scores 2-0 at the end of the first quarter.



India's Savita (11) in action against Belgium on Saturday.

Pro League: Hockey teams return to action vs Belgium

Women's hockey teams return to action against quality opposition and working on tactical aspects will be high on the Indian men's and women's hockey teams' agenda as they resume their respective FIH Pro League campaigns against Belgium tomorrow.

The men's team is scheduled to play the hosts on Saturday and Sunday, followed by the games against the Netherlands next weekend in Rotterdam.

The women play Belgium (14th ranked), Argentina (the 10th ranked) and the United States on June 21 and 22.

The men's team is currently second in the standings with 21 points from 12 games, a rung above Belgium, who have the same number of points but are third due to India's better goal difference.



The men's team is currently second in the standings.

These back-to-back matches provide India with an opportunity to evaluate their top scorers, taken over by the Netherlands, who have 21 points from 10 games.

With eyes firmly set on Pakistan (14th) in this year's CWG, both the men's and women's teams' chief coaches - Graham Reid and

Janneke Schepman - had already insisted they are looking at the European leg of the league to gain better tactical insights about their opponents.

"With 2022 less than three months for the CWG, we will utilise this time to ensure we are best prepared for the prestigious event. The Pro League matches will give us insights into the areas that require improvement ahead of the CWG," men's team coach Reid said. -PTI

Indian hockey team to fine-tune skills for CWG at training camp

Month-long practice sessions will aid team, says Sreejesh

India hockey stalwarts such as goalkeeper Dhanraj, Arshad Faruk, Navdeep Soora, Harmanpreet Singh, Varun Kumar and Anil Kohli are among 31 players included in the Commonwealth Games camp which begins on Monday and will conclude on July 21 when the team leaves for Birmingham for quadrilateral event.

After their preparation during the camp, the men's team will head up to the billing against Belgium and the Netherlands in the FIH Pro League double-header, the team will have a nearly five-week long session of camp at the Sports Authority of India centre in Bengaluru, where they will do the final fine-tuning.

India, which is being led by Harmanpreet, is scheduled to begin their campaign on July 31 against Ghana, Georgia and Poland. India will also take on hosts England, Canada and Wales in the round-robin league matches, talking about the camp, chief coach Graham Reid said.



Members (11) will play a key role for team during games of Birmingham.

Indian hockey team to fine-tune skills for CWG at training camp

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Members (11) will play a key role for team during games of Birmingham.

India hopes to go one better this time

It's all about taking it one match at a time, says captain Savita

WORLD CUP

India women's hockey team finished fourth at the Tokyo Olympics and performance since then has been followed by increased expectations at the World Cup starting in three days time.

Despite Savita Prasad knowing the hurdles she will face in order to clinch any title at present, the team has no second thoughts about its defence in abundance in 2018 and India hopes to go one better this time around.

"A World Cup or Olympics is a special event and every team is there to win. It's all about the campaign and we



Savita Prasad

team is that concentrating on our own performance is the only way to get better results. The difference this time is that we have played some very good games with the top teams in the Pro League. India has had a good preparation has been in the right direction, but we are also aware that once the actual tournament starts, all the preparation and training comes down to these 90 minutes on the day. It's all about taking it one match at a time," she added.

The absence of talented goalkeepers Rajni and Deepika Thakur in defence will be a big hole, but Savita will be willing to let after the youngsters on the field.

"Both these players have been integral to the team for many years, but to be honest, we did have promise on us in the Pro League as well because we were participating in it for the first time and we wanted to let people know that the Indian team was as good as any and meant there only to make up the numbers.

"Their presence would have obviously been a great help, but every player in the team has a role and we are looking to run an option.

"The younger players I am proud to be a part of this team," she finished.

Savita retained as skipper, Deep Grace as her deputy for Commonwealth Games



IN PHOTOS



Savita Prasad

Janneke Schepman - had already insisted they are looking at the European leg of the league to gain better tactical insights about their opponents.

"With 2022 less than three months for the CWG, we will utilise this time to ensure we are best prepared for the prestigious event. The Pro League matches will give us insights into the areas that require improvement ahead of the CWG," men's team coach Reid said. -PTI

FIH Pro League: Indian hockey teams aim to fine-tune specific areas ahead of CWG

ANTWERP (BELGIUM), JUN 10

ADEQUATE game time against quality opposition, working on their tactical nous will be high on Indian men's and women's hockey teams' agenda as they resume their respective FIH Pro League campaigns against Belgium on Saturday as pre-cursor to Commonwealth Games.

While the Indian men's team is scheduled to play Belgium (June 11) and Argentina (June 18) and June 19) and the United States (June 21 and June 22).



For the Indian women, these matches hold greater significance ahead of the FIH Women's World Cup to be jointly hosted by Spain and the Netherlands from July 1 to 17.

Raheel stars for India on opening day

Lausanne: Mohammed Raheel scored in both games as India registered a 4-3 win against Switzerland before playing out a 2-2 draw against Pakistan at the FIH Hockey 5s Lausanne 2022 on Saturday.



Raheel scored two goals in the second and 10th minutes while Rabichandra Moirangthem (5th) and captain Gurinder Singh (19th) also chipped in as India notched a thrilling victory against the hosts.

Jonas Winkler (6th), Fabio Reinhard (11th) and Patrick

FIH HOCKEY 5S

Kruesi (16th) were the goalkeepers for Switzerland.

In the second match, Raheel struck in the very first minute before Gursahibjit Singh doubled the tally in the 18th minute. Arshad (7th) and Abdul Rehman (20th) fetched the goals for Pakistan.

Among women, India went down 3-4 to Uruguay before losing to Poland 1-3.

Results: Men: India 4 (Mohammed Raheel 2, ID, Rabichandra M 5, Gurinder Singh 19) bt Switzerland 3 (Jonas Winkler 6, Fabio Reinhard 11, Patrick Kruesi 16). India 2 (Md Raheel 1, Gursahibjit Singh 38) draw with Pakistan 2 (Arshad 7, Abdul Rehman 20). Women: India 3 (Ajayna Kujur 1, 7, Vaishnavi V Phalke 18) lost to Uruguay 4 (Tereza Viana 2, 10, 19, Mariana Vila 6). India 1 (Rashmita Misra 6) lost to Poland 3 (Marta Potewiczak 26, Amelia Katarla 18, Natassia Suszyńska 39). AGENCIES.



# Indian Men's Hockey team take on hosts Netherlands

Rotterdam (UNI)

After a battle of equals against reigning World and Olympic Champions Belgium last week, the Indian Men's Hockey Team will take on table toppers Netherlands in their last FIH Hockey Pro League double-header matches this weekend in Rotterdam.



stadium. The league has given us great insights into the top teams and it's also been a great learning for us in terms of how we must improve as a unit," stated India Skipper Amit Rohidas.

Currently placed third in the pool standings with 29 points, behind Netherlands who are placed first with 31 points and have four more matches to be played while Belgium, also at 31 points, with two more matches to be played against England this weekend, the Indian team is aware their task is cut out if they want to better their placing in the prestigious league.

"It will be the last two matches of our FIH Hockey Pro League 21/22 campaign and definitely the mood in the team is upbeat to finish on a high. It was a great experience to play these matches, traveling to South Africa earlier in the year, then playing home games and now we play in Europe in front of packed

# FIH Pro League: Indian women beat USA 4-2

The Americans reduced the margin in 45th minute before Vandana sealed the game in India's favour with a field goal

ROTTERDAM: The Indian women's hockey team came out with a goal down before USA 4-2 India in the double-header match on Tuesday.



USA did not give up and reduced the margin just in the middle of the final quarter through a penalty corner on Sunday.

USA did not give up and reduced the margin just in the middle of the final quarter through a penalty corner on Sunday.

# FIH Pro League

## Indian women beat USA, open 5-point lead in race

Eves hit up third-spot finish with fine 4-2 win

Two goals in the first minute of the second half set the Indian women's hockey team on the path to crossing a 100-goal deficit and securing a convincing 4-2 win against a fighting United States in the FIH Pro League here on Tuesday.



The six seeded India, wave up to 37 points in the table

# | SPORT | SOUTH KOREA WIN TITLE

## India beat Japan 1-0 to clinch bronze at Asia Cup



Indian Men's Hockey Team clinched the bronze medal at the Asia Cup 2022 after a 1-0 win over Japan at the IBC Sports Complex, Hockey Stadium in Jeonju, Wednesday. After missing out on a place in the title clash on goal difference following an exciting 4-4 draw on Tuesday with South Korea, who clinched a record FIH Pro League title by beating Malaysia 2-1 in the summit clash, defending champions India came out victorious and scored a field goal through Raj Kumar Palanchariy in the seventh minute of the game and then defended in numbers to seal the deal.

USA did not give up and reduced the margin just in the middle of the final quarter through a penalty corner on Sunday.

# Indian women finish third

Swamp USA 4-0 in their last match

## FIH PRO LEAGUE

### PROGRESS OF INDIA

ROTTERDAM

The Indian women's hockey team produced a dominating performance to outclass USA 4-0 and finish a respectable third in its debut season at the FIH Pro League, here on Wednesday.



Player of the match Salima

thrice in four minutes. Vandana scored in the 34th minute, Sorika found the net from a goalmouth relief before Salima completed the tally. Sorika was named the player of the match.

# Facing strong teams will help, says Deep Grace

## HOCKEY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BENGALURU

The Indian women's hockey team defender Deep Grace Ekku said competing against strong teams in The Netherlands during the upcoming away leg of the FIH Pro League will help the side adapt to the conditions and also prepare for the World Cup in July.



Deep Grace. FILE PHOTO: ISHVARANATH BOUT

# Savita retained as skipper, Deep Grace as her deputy for Commonwealth Games

NEW DELHI, JUN 12

INDIA on Thursday named an 18-member women's hockey team for the upcoming Commonwealth Games, with star striker Savita Rampal left out yet again for failing to regain full fitness after an injury.



Bebe Devi Khurana as number two goalkeeper while World Cup team member Sachin (goalkeeping) was left out from the CWG squad, forward Saranga Kumar, who was named as one of the replacement

Speaking about the team selection, chief coach (senior) Schoopman said, "We have chosen an experienced side for the Commonwealth Games and the players believe they have a good shot at a medal this time... The team is upbeat after a good outing in the FIH Pro League matches and undoubtedly very well met the expectations are also high."

India is set to play Belgium, Argentina, the Netherlands and the USA this month in the Pro League. "We have a busy schedule ahead of us in the lead-up to the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup 2022, and we are looking forward to it be-

# Indian hockey team pip Japan to clinch bronze

Jakarta, June 1: The young Indian men's hockey team produced a spirited performance to beat Japan 1-0 and clinch the bronze medal in the Asia Cup here on Wednesday.



Action from the India vs Japan bronze medal playoff match of the Asia Cup in Jakarta on Wednesday.

After missing out on a place in the title clash on goal difference following an exciting 4-4 draw with South Korea on Tuesday, defending champions India came out with purpose and scored a field goal through Raj Kumar Palanchariy in the seventh minute of the game and then defended in numbers to seal the deal.

Earlier in the day, India started brightly and reached half in the first five minutes of the match but their attacks

failed once out inside the opposition. The Indians, however, broke the deadlock in the seventh minute from a break routine-attack with Urooz Singh hitting all the hardware on the right flank to set it up

# Sharpshooter Raheel aims to consolidate gains

After Hockey 5s Success, Striker From Punjab Keen To Make Indian XI

Mumbai (ANI)

Keen to make his mark in the Indian men's hockey team, Punjab's Raheel Singh has been named in the preliminary squad for the Commonwealth Games.

On the occasion of the Commonwealth Games, the Indian men's hockey team will be competing in the preliminary round of the tournament.



Raheel Singh, Punjab, is one of the players named in the preliminary squad for the Commonwealth Games.

On the occasion of the Commonwealth Games, the Indian men's hockey team will be competing in the preliminary round of the tournament.

Raheel Singh, Punjab, is one of the players named in the preliminary squad for the Commonwealth Games.

On the occasion of the Commonwealth Games, the Indian men's hockey team will be competing in the preliminary round of the tournament.

Raheel Singh, Punjab, is one of the players named in the preliminary squad for the Commonwealth Games.





REPORTERS' CHOICE 2022

# 'Not easy, but will fancy our chances'

INDIA'S HOCKEY TEAM has a long way to go to qualify for the 2022 Commonwealth Games, but the players are confident they can make it. The team's coach, Narinder Datta, says the team is in good form and will be ready to take on the world's best. He says the team has a lot of talent and will be able to compete with the best. He also says that the team is working hard to improve their skills and that they are confident they can win gold. He says that the team is looking forward to the Commonwealth Games and that they will be giving their all to win the gold medal.

### Elusive CWG gold the target

By Anand Bhatia, Sports Desk | Last updated: 10:30 AM, 11th May 2022

**CAREER HIGHLIGHTS**

- 300+ international caps
- 11 Commonwealth Games medals
- 2011 Commonwealth Games gold medalist
- 2014 Commonwealth Games silver medalist
- 2018 Commonwealth Games bronze medalist
- 2019 Commonwealth Games silver medalist
- 2022 Commonwealth Games gold medalist

**India men's hockey team at the Commonwealth Games**

**Team captain**: Narinder Datta

**Coach**: Narinder Datta

**Players**: 18

**Goalkeepers**: 2

**Defenders**: 6

**Forwards**: 10



# Smells Like Team Spirit

The men's team's belief in their ability to win gold is a key factor in their success.

**F**rom the moment they stepped onto the field, the Indian men's hockey team knew they were in for a fight. The opposition was strong, but the players were determined to win. They knew that this was their chance to shine on the world stage, and they were not going to let it slip. They played with heart and courage, and in the end, they emerged as the victors. The team's spirit and belief in themselves were the key to their success. They knew that they were capable of winning, and they proved it to the world.

**H3 brunch**

**Hockey's Starring Men**

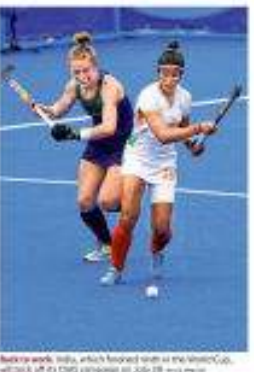
Experience the best of both worlds. Enjoy a delicious brunch while watching the best of hockey. Book your table now.

# India looks to do better at CWG

We wanted to end our World Cup campaign on a positive note, says Narinder

**HOCKEY**

**INDIA'S HOCKEY TEAM** is looking forward to the Commonwealth Games with a positive outlook. The team's coach, Narinder Datta, says that the team is in good form and will be ready to take on the world's best. He says that the team has a lot of talent and will be able to compete with the best. He also says that the team is working hard to improve their skills and that they are confident they can win gold. He says that the team is looking forward to the Commonwealth Games and that they will be giving their all to win the gold medal.



# 'Keeper' of Indian hockey team's fortunes: Sreejesh ready for memorable CWG swansong

Goalkeeper Sreejesh is looking forward to a memorable performance at the Commonwealth Games.

**S**reejesh, the goalkeeper of the Indian men's hockey team, is looking forward to a memorable performance at the Commonwealth Games. He says that he is in good form and will be ready to take on the world's best. He says that he has a lot of experience and will be able to handle any situation. He also says that he is confident that his team will win the gold medal. He says that he is looking forward to the Commonwealth Games and that he will be giving his all to win the gold medal.



# CWG 2022: 2002 gold is abiding memory as women hockey stars share their experience

Former India goalkeeper Narinder Datta shares his experience of winning gold at the 2002 Commonwealth Games.

**NEW DELHI, JULY 11**

**FOR** fans of women's hockey in India, the most abiding memory of the Commonwealth Games will be the gold medal that India won in Melbourne in 2002. The team's coach, Narinder Datta, says that the team was in good form and that they were able to win the gold medal. He says that the team has a lot of talent and that they were able to compete with the best. He also says that the team is working hard to improve their skills and that they are confident they can win gold. He says that the team is looking forward to the Commonwealth Games and that they will be giving their all to win the gold medal.

**Former India goalkeeper Narinder Datta** says that the team was in good form and that they were able to win the gold medal. He says that the team has a lot of talent and that they were able to compete with the best. He also says that the team is working hard to improve their skills and that they are confident they can win gold. He says that the team is looking forward to the Commonwealth Games and that they will be giving their all to win the gold medal.

# 'Not thinking of Australia as yet, focussing on group matches'

India's women's hockey team is focusing on their group matches and not thinking about Australia.

**INDIA'S WOMEN'S HOCKEY TEAM** is focusing on their group matches and not thinking about Australia. The team's coach, Narinder Datta, says that the team is in good form and will be ready to take on the world's best. He says that the team has a lot of talent and will be able to compete with the best. He also says that the team is working hard to improve their skills and that they are confident they can win gold. He says that the team is looking forward to the Commonwealth Games and that they will be giving their all to win the gold medal.



# India lose to NZ, to play in crossover against Spain quarterfinal spot

India's women's hockey team lost to New Zealand and will play in a crossover match against Spain.

**INDIA'S WOMEN'S HOCKEY TEAM** lost to New Zealand in their first match at the Commonwealth Games. The team's coach, Narinder Datta, says that the team was in good form and that they were able to compete with the best. He also says that the team is working hard to improve their skills and that they are confident they can win gold. He says that the team is looking forward to the Commonwealth Games and that they will be giving their all to win the gold medal.



# Hockey at CWG: Indian women look to bury WC ghosts, seek Tokyo inspiration to end medal drought

Indian women's hockey team is looking to end their medal drought at the Commonwealth Games.

**INDIA'S WOMEN'S HOCKEY TEAM** is looking to end their medal drought at the Commonwealth Games. The team's coach, Narinder Datta, says that the team is in good form and will be ready to take on the world's best. He says that the team has a lot of talent and will be able to compete with the best. He also says that the team is working hard to improve their skills and that they are confident they can win gold. He says that the team is looking forward to the Commonwealth Games and that they will be giving their all to win the gold medal.

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# Focussed on getting accustomed to weather in UK: Manpreet

India's men's hockey team is focused on getting accustomed to the weather in the UK.

**INDIA'S MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM** is focused on getting accustomed to the weather in the UK. The team's coach, Narinder Datta, says that the team is in good form and will be ready to take on the world's best. He says that the team has a lot of talent and will be able to compete with the best. He also says that the team is working hard to improve their skills and that they are confident they can win gold. He says that the team is looking forward to the Commonwealth Games and that they will be giving their all to win the gold medal.

# India women's hockey team look to NZ to New Zealand in their first match

India's women's hockey team is looking forward to their first match against New Zealand.

**INDIA'S WOMEN'S HOCKEY TEAM** is looking forward to their first match against New Zealand. The team's coach, Narinder Datta, says that the team is in good form and will be ready to take on the world's best. He says that the team has a lot of talent and will be able to compete with the best. He also says that the team is working hard to improve their skills and that they are confident they can win gold. He says that the team is looking forward to the Commonwealth Games and that they will be giving their all to win the gold medal.









# 'Team must improve upon in its training'

## Says hockey forward Abhishek after CWG defeat

**NEW DELHI** India men's hockey team forward Abhishek has conceded that the thinking of the coach of Abhishek in the final of the Birmingham Commonwealth Games was a lesson that the side had to "improve upon in training".

India's hopes of clinching their maiden CWG hockey gold remained a dream as they were soundly thrashed in the quadrangular showdown, even as Australia went on to clinch a second-ascending seventh CWG gold.

"Even though the final against Australia did not go our way, we learned a lot from the match and have to improve upon in training,"

opined Abhishek on Friday.

The forward, who is set to turn 23 on August 13, started in all six games at the Commonwealth Games and notched an ever-present threat inside the opponent's defence as India scribbled for silver. He believes the tournament was a big learning experience for him.

Abhishek made his senior India debut earlier this year when the team travelled to South Africa for the FIH Pro League 2021/22 matches in February. He played 14 matches during the Pro League and displayed consistent performance, on the back of which he was selected in the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games squad.



India's hopes of clinching their maiden CWG hockey gold were dashed

# RIGHT STEP FORWARD

By the author, sports writer, India's first female sports journalist, Dr. Pooja K. Choudhary



## Reality bites: The bitter taste of silver

It is a bitter-sweet moment for the Indian men's hockey team as they stand on the podium to receive their silver medal at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. The team's performance in the tournament has been a mix of highs and lows, with a disappointing final against Australia. The players and coaches are reflecting on the experience and looking for ways to improve in the future.

The team's journey through the tournament was not without challenges. They faced strong opposition from several nations, including Australia, who proved to be a formidable opponent in the final. The Indian players showed great skill and determination throughout the tournament, but it was not enough to secure the gold medal.

Despite the disappointment, the team's performance is a testament to their hard work and dedication. They have shown that they are capable of competing at the highest level of international hockey. The coaching staff has also done a great job of preparing the team for the tournament.

The silver medal is a reminder that there is still much work to be done. The team needs to focus on their training and preparation for the future. They need to learn from their mistakes and strive to be the best they can be. The Indian hockey community is proud of the team's achievement and looks forward to seeing them succeed in the future.

# India's women's hockey team at CWG



## For India, a bronze to remember

The Indian women's hockey team has secured a historic bronze medal at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. This is the first time India has won a medal in women's hockey at the CWG. The team's performance was a testament to their hard work and dedication.

The team's journey through the tournament was a mix of highs and lows. They faced strong opposition from several nations, including Australia, who proved to be a formidable opponent in the final. The Indian players showed great skill and determination throughout the tournament, but it was not enough to secure the gold medal.

Despite the disappointment, the team's performance is a testament to their hard work and dedication. They have shown that they are capable of competing at the highest level of international hockey. The coaching staff has also done a great job of preparing the team for the tournament.

The bronze medal is a reminder that there is still much work to be done. The team needs to focus on their training and preparation for the future. They need to learn from their mistakes and strive to be the best they can be. The Indian hockey community is proud of the team's achievement and looks forward to seeing them succeed in the future.

# CHAK DE GIRLS!



## Women's hockey side claims bronze medal, beat New Zealand 2-1

**NEW DELHI** India women's hockey team secured a historic bronze medal at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, defeating New Zealand 2-1 in the final. The team's performance was a testament to their hard work and dedication.

The team's journey through the tournament was a mix of highs and lows. They faced strong opposition from several nations, including Australia, who proved to be a formidable opponent in the final. The Indian players showed great skill and determination throughout the tournament, but it was not enough to secure the gold medal.

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# Hartmanpreet's hat-trick hands India 4-1 win over Wales, enter semi-finals

Harmanpreet Singh's hat-trick over Wales set the party in motion and opened the road to the quarter-finals for India

**NEW DELHI** India women's hockey team forward Harmanpreet Singh scored a hat-trick to lead India to a 4-1 victory over Wales in the quarter-finals of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. The win secured India's place in the semi-finals.

Harmanpreet's performance was exceptional, as she scored three goals in the first half. Her teammates also contributed to the win, with two other players each scoring a goal. The Indian players showed great skill and determination throughout the match.

The coaching staff was pleased with the team's performance and looks forward to seeing them succeed in the semi-finals. The Indian hockey community is proud of the team's achievement and looks forward to seeing them succeed in the future.

# Hard to digest defeat but need to move on: Harmanpreet

Harmanpreet Singh says the team needs to focus on their training and preparation for the future

**NEW DELHI** India women's hockey team forward Harmanpreet Singh says the team needs to focus on their training and preparation for the future. She says the team is disappointed with their performance in the final but believes they can improve in the future.

Harmanpreet says the team needs to focus on their training and preparation for the future. She says the team is disappointed with their performance in the final but believes they can improve in the future.

The Indian hockey community is proud of the team's achievement and looks forward to seeing them succeed in the future.

# INDIA CONCEDE LATE GOALS AS ENGLAND FORCE DRAW IN MEN'S HOCKEY

**NEW DELHI** India men's hockey team conceded late goals to England in a 2-2 draw in the quarter-finals of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. The draw forced the teams to play a penalty shootout, which England won.

The match was a closely contested affair, with both teams showing great skill and determination. The Indian players showed great skill and determination throughout the match, but it was not enough to secure the win.

Despite the disappointment, the team's performance is a testament to their hard work and dedication. They have shown that they are capable of competing at the highest level of international hockey. The coaching staff has also done a great job of preparing the team for the tournament.

The draw is a reminder that there is still much work to be done. The team needs to focus on their training and preparation for the future. They need to learn from their mistakes and strive to be the best they can be. The Indian hockey community is proud of the team's achievement and looks forward to seeing them succeed in the future.

# India edge past Canada to enter semis

Tough Aussie Challenge Awaits Women's Hockey Team in Last-Four Stage

**NEW DELHI** India women's hockey team edged past Canada 1-0 in the quarter-finals of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. The win secured India's place in the semi-finals.

The match was a closely contested affair, with both teams showing great skill and determination. The Indian players showed great skill and determination throughout the match, but it was not enough to secure the win.

Despite the disappointment, the team's performance is a testament to their hard work and dedication. They have shown that they are capable of competing at the highest level of international hockey. The coaching staff has also done a great job of preparing the team for the tournament.

The win is a reminder that there is still much work to be done. The team needs to focus on their training and preparation for the future. They need to learn from their mistakes and strive to be the best they can be. The Indian hockey community is proud of the team's achievement and looks forward to seeing them succeed in the future.

# It's a special feeling to return home with CWG medal: Young hockey sensation Sangita Kumari

**NEW DELHI, AUG 11** The Indian women's hockey team returned home after clinching a historic Bronze Medal at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, ending the country's 14-year medal drought in the quadrangular event.

This medal was significantly special for Indian youngster Sangita Kumari because it was her maiden appearance in the prestigious tournament.

When asked about the same, the 20-year-old said, "It is a special feeling to return home with a medal. There are plenty of festivities back home. Everyone in my village is so happy and excited. They tell me it's a good moment for my husband. I think it will take some time for him to get used to it on the podium itself."

Speaking about playing her first CWG, she said, "I was quite nervous at first, but my senior players said it's only natural to feel this way, particularly at a

multi-discipline sports event. I am grateful to have their support.

The Indian team kicked off their Birmingham 2022 CWG campaign with a stunning 5-0 win over Ghana in Pool A. In their next game, they defeated Wales 0-1 before going down against England by the same margin. Thereafter, the team recorded a hard-fought 2-2 win over Canada in their last group-stage match to finish second in Pool A and qualify for the semi-finals.

The Indian squad put up a strong performance against Australia in the semi but were unable to overcome their opponents, losing the match on a shoot-out (3-5) after the contest was tied at 1-1 at the end of regulation time. Following that, the side bounced back by defeating New Zealand 2-1 via Penalty Shoot-out in the Bronze Medal match.

Speaking about India's heartbreaking loss against Australia in the Semi-Final, she said, "We played extremely well against Australia, but unfortunately, we could not be on the right side of the result. In simpler terms, it was not our day. Having said that, we should not detach from our belief in our performance, which was excellent. And, of course, we are disappointed with the outcome. But we want to learn from our mistakes and do better in the future."

Sangita Kumari, who hails from Lucknow, picked up the hockey stick at the age of seven and since then she has never looked back. In the last few years, she has been a constant in the Junior National Camp, having played in many international tournaments for the Indian Women's Junior Hockey team, including Hockey to Spain, Portugal, Australia, and Chile, as well as the Asian Youth Olympic Games Qualifier in Bangkok in 2018. She was also part of India's squad for the 2021 FIH Hockey Women's Junior World Cup and, when they finished fourth and the FIH Hockey Women's Pro League match against Spain marked her senior debut.

"I am fortunate to have gotten this opportunity to play at the CWG at a young age. I am aware that I need to continue working on my game, and with the help of Coach and my teammates, I look forward to being my skills further and work on being a constant member of the team," she concluded. —LANS

# 'We should've created more opportunities'

**NEW DELHI** There is not much a hockey team could do when Australia, the top-ranked team in the world, took the series and decaying.

But Manpreet Singh the player, the captain of India's men's hockey team, said they should have been in the final of the Commonwealth Games. He said the team should have been in the final of the Commonwealth Games. He said the team should have been in the final of the Commonwealth Games.

Manpreet Singh says the team needs to focus on their training and preparation for the future. He says the team is disappointed with their performance in the final but believes they can improve in the future.

The Indian hockey community is proud of the team's achievement and looks forward to seeing them succeed in the future.

# TEAMBIRTHDAYS

## SENIOR MEN

## JUNIOR MEN

### AUGUST

ABHISHEK

15

### SEPTEMBER

HARDIK SINGH

23

SOURABH ANAND HUSHWAHA 16

ANKIT MALIK 25

### OCTOBER

SURAJ KARKERA

14

POOVANNA CB 05

DIPSAN TIRKEY

15

AKASHDEEP SINGH 05

## SENIOR WOMEN

## JUNIOR WOMEN

### AUGUST

UPASANA SINGH

20

KURMAPU RAMYA 13

NEELAM 17

PRIYANKA YADAV 22

### SEPTEMBER

AANCHAL SAHU 05

### OCTOBER

SHARMILA DEVI

10

JYOTI SINGH 06

AISHWARYA RAJESH CHAVAN

18

KAJAL BARA 28

GURJIT KAUR

25





# IN FOCUS

- My age is 22**  
(Indian Women's Hockey Team)
- My hometown is** – Sonipat, Haryana
- I play as a** – Midfielder
- My debut was in** – 2019
- My most important target** – Podium finish in Olympics
- My favourite workout is** – Core Exercise
- My favourite actor is** – Siddharth Malhotra
- My favourite song is** – Raza by Tarsem Jassar
- My favourite cuisine is** – Mummy ke Hath ki Bajre ki khicdi
- My best sporting moment** – when we win the CWG medal
- My idol is** – Christopher Ruhr
- My dream destination is** – Switzerland
- If I wasn't a hockey player, I would've been** – Trying to become an IAS or IPS
- My gym buddy are** – Udit
- My favourite outfit is** – Wearing India jersey
- My go-to karaoke song is** – Zinda dil zindagi aa, Poori chill zindagi aa, Massa massa tainu, Ae mili zindagi aa
- 3 things I don't travel without** – Phone, Power Bank, Water Bottle
- My cheat meal** – Pizza



# NI FI FOCUS

ABHISHEK



**My age is 23**  
(Indian Men's Hockey Team)

**My hometown is** – Sonipat, Haryana

**I play as a** – Forward

**My debut was in** – FIH Pro League 2022

**My most important target** – To get Gold in Olympic

**My favourite workout is** – Speed workout in gym

**My favourite actor is** – Akshay Kumar

**My favourite song is** – All Hip-Hop Songs

**My favourite cuisine is** – Anything made by my mother

**My best sporting moment** – When I got Gold in U-18 Asia Cup 2016

**My idol is** – Samsheer Singh Dahiya

**My dream destination is** – Dubai

**If I wasn't a hockey player, I would've been** – Government Employee

**My gym buddy are** – Sumit

**My favourite outfit is** – Formal Dress

**My go-to karaoke song is** – No love Punjabi Song

**3 things I don't travel without** – Phone, Wallet, Water

**My cheat meal** – Pizza





HOCKEY INDIA

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