

Newsletter

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COVER STORY

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Hockey India Conducts
Four National Championships
With Strict Health Measures
in Place



HOCKEY INDIA

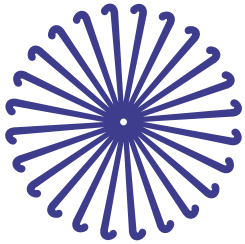


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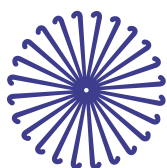
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HOCKEY INDIA

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Message



Mr. Gyanendro Ningombam
President, Hockey India

Hi Friends,

The months of March and April were very energetic here at Hockey India. It was absolutely fantastic to see the Indian Men's Hockey Team return from their tours of Germany and Belgium unbeaten in March and then back that up with a fantastic performance against the Rio Olympics Gold Medallists Argentina in April. It was brilliant to see the Indian Women's Hockey Team play their heart out against the World Number 3 side Germany in March as well.

In the month of March, Hockey India successfully conducted the 11th Hockey India Sub Junior Women National Championship 2021, 11th Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship 2021, 1st Hockey India Sub Junior Women Academy National Championship 2021 and 1st Hockey India Junior Women Academy National Championship 2021. It was unfortunate that the National Championships had to be cancelled due to Covid-19 in 2020 and therefore we were ecstatic to organize National-level tournaments by putting in the necessary protocols in place in three different states – Jharkhand, Haryana and Odisha. We would like to thank the organizing committee of each of the National Championships for carrying out a fabulous job of ensuring that all matches were held in a safe and secure environment. Hockey India also sanctioned the 5th All India Rajmata Vijay Raje Scindhiya Women's Hockey Tournament and the 56th All India Veer Singh Ju Dev Memorial Hockey Tournament in the same month.

Hockey India also conducted the Hockey India Coaching Education Pathway Level 'Basic' Coaching Course and Hockey India Coaching Education Pathway Level '2' Coaching Course 2021 in the month of March. The courses have tremendously helped the Hockey India Coaches learn some very important techniques in the sport.

It has been appreciated to see the way the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) has helped our Coaches, Umpires and Technical Officials take big strides in their careers through the AHF Online Education Workshops each month. We look forward to many more workshops in the upcoming months.

It's been an exciting two months for Hockey India. We will continue to put in all our efforts to ensure that the sport of hockey is evolving and growing in our country.

TOP HIGHLIGHTS

Indian Women's Hockey Team end Germany tour with 1-2 defeat

Indian Women's Hockey Team concluded their tour of Germany with a 1-2 defeat in the fourth and final match in Dusseldorf on 04 March 2021.

The Indian Women's Hockey Team went down 0-5, 0-1 and 0-2 in their first three matches of the tour.



Germany Tour 2021 (Sr. Women)

23 Feb, 2021 - 05 Mar, 2021

Dusseldorf, Germany

Match No.	Date	Time (IST)	Team	Score
01	27-02-2021	16:30	Germany Vs India	5 - 0
02	28-02-2021	16:30	Germany Vs India	1 - 0
03	02-03-2021	16:30	Germany Vs India	2 - 0
04	04-03-2021	17:00	Germany Vs India	2 - 1

Indian Men's Hockey Team carry out a successful Europe Tour

Indian Men's Hockey Team ended their Tour of Europe with a splendid 3-2 win against Great Britain on 08 March 2021. Harmanpreet Singh's goal in the very first minute and double goals by Mandeep Singh in the 28th and 59th minute helped India remain undefeated

on the tour. In their previous matches, India's Simranjeet Singh had scored a late goal to hold Great Britain to a 1-1 draw and against Germany, the PR Sreejesh-led side had secured a 6-1 win and a 1-1 draw respectively.





Europe Tour (Sr. Men)				
21 Feb – 09 Mar 2021 Krefeld, Germany & Antwerp, Belgium				
Match No.	Date	Time (IST)	Team	Score
01	28-02-2021	17:30	Germany Vs India	1 - 6
02	02-03-2021	20:30	Germany Vs India	1 - 1
03	06-03-2021	18:30	Great Britain Vs India	1 - 1
04	08-03-2021	18:30	Great Britain Vs India	2 - 3

India secure victories against Argentina in FIH Hockey Pro League

The Indian Men's Hockey Team returned to the FIH Hockey Pro League for the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic began last year. The Indian team played brilliantly against Argentina in the two FIH Hockey Pro League matches in Buenos Aires in April, winning 3-2 (the score was 2-2 after full-time) on penalty shootout in their first encounter and then

defeating their opponents 3-0 in their next match.

The Indian Men's Hockey Team played four practice matches on their tour of Argentina as well. India registered scores of 4-3, 4-4, 0-1 and 4-2 in their practice matches against Argentina.





FIH Pro League & Argentina Tour (Argentina Vs India) (Sr. Men) 31 March – 16 April 2021 Buenos Aires, Argentina				
Match No.	Date	Time (IST)	Team	Score
01	06-04-2021	20:30	Argentina Vs India	3 - 4
02	07-04-2021	20:30	Argentina Vs India	4 - 4
03	11-04-2021	01:30	*Argentina Vs India	2 - 2 (2 - 3 SO)
04	12-04-2021	01:30	*Argentina Vs India	0 - 3
05	13-04-2021	19:30	Argentina Vs India	1 - 0
06	14-04-2021	17:30	Argentina Vs India	2 - 4

*FIH Pro League 2020/ 2021 matches

Hockey Haryana win 11th Hockey India Sub Junior Women National Championship 2021

11th Hockey India Sub Junior Women National Championship 2021 was conducted in Simdega, Jharkhand from 10 - 18 March 2021. Hockey Haryana defeated Hockey Jharkhand 4-3 in a shootout to secure the 11th Hockey India Sub Junior Women National Championship 2021 title after the Final ended 0-0 after 60 minutes of

action in Simdega Jharkhand on 18 March 2021.

Uttar Pradesh Hockey finished third in the 11th Hockey India Sub Junior Women National Championship 2021 after edging out Hockey Odisha 3-1.



**Gold Medal
Hockey Haryana**



**Silver Medal
Hockey Jharkhand**



**Bronze Medal
Uttar Pradesh Hockey**

Hockey Jharkhand win 11th Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship 2021

11th Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship 2021 was conducted in Jind, Haryana from 17 - 25 March 2021.

Hockey Jharkhand beat Hockey Haryana 3-1 via a shootout to win the 11th Hockey India Sub Junior Men National

Championship 2021 in Jind, Haryana on 25 March 2021. Uttar Pradesh Hockey finished at the third position in the 11th Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship 2021 after a magnificent 23-0 win against Manipur Hockey.



SAI-Academy win 1st Hockey India Sub Junior Women Academy National Championship 2021 title

1st Hockey India Sub Junior Women Academy National Championship 2021 was conducted in Bhubaneswar, Odisha from 17 - 25 March. SAI- Academy defeated Odisha Naval Tata Hockey High Performance Centre 5-4 via shootout after both teams were locked at 2-2 in regulation time to win the 1st Hockey India Sub Junior Women

Academy National Championship 2021 title in Bhubaneswar on 25 March 2021.

Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy beat Roundglass Punjab Hockey Club Academy 8-0 to finish third in the inaugural edition of the tournament



**Gold Medal
SAI - Academy**



**Silver Medal - Odisha Naval Tata Hockey
High Performance Centre**



**Bronze Medal
Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy**

SAI-Academy Become 1st Hockey India Junior Women Academy National Championship 2021 Winners

1st Hockey India Junior Women Academy National Championship 2021 was conducted in Bhubaneswar, Odisha from 17 - 26 March 2021. SAI – Academy claimed a thrilling 2 – 1 victory over Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy in the Final of the 1st Hockey India Junior Women Academy National

Championship 2021 to become the winners of the inaugural edition of the competition.

In the 3rd/4th place match, Odisha Naval Tata Hockey High Performance Centre defeated Khalsa Hockey Academy (Amritsar) 5 – 1 to claim 3rd place.



**Gold Medal
SAI - Academy**



**Silver Medal
Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy**



**Bronze Medal - Odisha Naval Tata
Hockey High Performance Centre**

Hockey India launches Hockey Te Charcha podcast series

Hockey India launched the Hockey Te Charcha podcast series on 14 April, exactly 100 days ahead of the Tokyo Olympic Games. Through this podcast series, Hockey India aims to provide the fans of hockey a unique experience to relive the glorious moments of Indian hockey by listening to the iconic players who have brought pride and honour to the nation. In its first episode, Hockey Te Charcha engaged in a candid conversation with legendary centre forward Harbinder Singh who narrated India's success at the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games. The second episode (released on 30 April 2021) featured Hockey legend and Captain of the Indian Men's Hockey Team at the 1980 Moscow Olympic Games Vasudevan Baskaran, who spoke about India's Gold Medal campaign at the 1980 Olympics. The podcast series can be accessed on Hockey India social media handles.



Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) continue to organize Online Education Workshops exclusively for Hockey India Umpires, Technical Officials and Coaches

After the successful completion of the AHF Online Education Workshops exclusively for the Hockey India Coaches, Umpires and Technical Officials in each of the last several months, the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) conducted another set of Online Education Workshops in March and April. A group of 12-30 Umpires and Technical Officials attended two AHF Online Education Workshops in March and six AHF Online Education Workshops in April.

Aimed at providing technical expertise and knowledge on various aspects of pre-tournament preparations for the Technical Officials and managing concentration levels for Umpires, these online education workshops were conducted free of cost, consisting of a three to four hours' sessions each.



Hockey India condoles death of Balbir Singh Junior

Hockey India on 13 April 2021 condoled the death of Balbir Singh Junior who played alongside legends like Balbir Singh Dosanjh, popularly known as Balbir Singh Senior as well as Leslie Claudius, Prithipal Singh, Balkishan, Charles Stephen among other top players. Balbir Singh Junior was part of the Indian Team that won Silver at the Asian Games held in Tokyo, Japan in 1958.

The octogenarian lived in Chandigarh after retiring as Major in the Indian Army. Balbir Singh Junior hailed from Sansarpur (Jalandhar) known as the hockey nursery of India. Like many children from the village, Balbir Singh Junior too took to hockey early in his life, at the age of six and he was selected to play for India in 1951 when the Indian Hockey Team toured Afghanistan. He was also part of the Punjab state hockey team and also Captained the Punjab University Team. Later in his career he also represented the Indian Railways Hockey team that toured European countries such as Spain, Switzerland and Italy. They also played Test matches in Netherlands.



Hockey India mourns the death of Former International Umpire Anupama Puchimanda

Hockey India on 18 April 2021 mourned the death of 40-year-old Anupama Puchimanda, former international umpire. She passed away in Bengaluru due to covid-related complications.

Anupama, a former national level hockey player, had officiated in several prestigious international tournaments including the 2005 BDO Junior World Cup (Women) in Santiago, Hero Hockey World League Round-2 (Women) in 2013 at New Delhi as well as the 2013 Women's Asia Cup in Kuala Lumpur.



Hockey India deeply mourns the demise of hockey historian and statistician BG Joshi

Hockey India mourned the death of 66-year-old hockey historian and statistician Baboolal Goverdhan Joshi, fondly known as BG Joshi. He passed away in Bhopal on 20 April 2021 due to covid-related complications. He is survived by his wife Krishna, sons Shravan and Neeraj, daughters-in-law, a grandson and a granddaughter.

The hockey historian worked as an engineer at the Madhya Pradesh Water Resource Department. A passionate lover of hockey, BG Joshi began maintaining records of the sport from world over since the early 1970s and also contributed hockey statistics to several reputed national dailies.

What began as a mere interest when he jolted down details from the 1970 Bangkok Asiad, Joshi became the go-to man for hockey statistics from across the globe. With India's dominance at the world stage, Joshi's interest in collecting data grew many folds. It was during the 1978 World Cup that his first statistical and analytical piece appeared in a hindi daily. During the 1982 World Cup in Bombay, he brought out a special issue and in 1986 World Cup he brought out a magazine.

From there on, there was no looking back for this modest Bhopal man who would often travel with his wife to FIH tournaments in India post his retirement.



Hockey India mourns the death of Former International Umpire Suresh Kumar Thakur

Hockey India on 24th April 2021 mourned the death of 51-year-old Suresh Kumar Thakur, former international umpire. He passed away in Mohali, Punjab due to covid-related complications. Thakur had officiated in several prestigious international tournaments including the Four Nation Tournament in Hamburg (Germany) and the Azlan Shah Hockey Tournament at Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia. He also officiated as an Umpire in the Hockey India League in 2013 and 2014.



Hockey India mourns the demise of National Umpire's Manager Virendra Singh

Hockey India on 27th April 2021 mourned the sad demise of 47-year-old hockey Umpire's Manager Virendra Singh. He passed away in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh on Monday, 26 April 2021 following covid-related complications.

Actively involved with Hockey India, Virendra had officiated in a number of All India Tournaments and Hockey India National Championships. Virendra had also officiated as Umpire's Manager at the recently concluded at the 56th All India Veer Singh Ju Dev Memorial Hockey Tournament and 5th All India Rajmata Vijay Raje Scindhiya Women's Hockey Tournament. He also officiated at the 4th Edition of Bangalore Cup Invitation All India Hockey Tournament 2019 (Men) Bengaluru, All India Swami Shradhdhanand Hockey Tournament 2019 Haridwar, Uttarakhand among other events.



Hockey India mourns the sad demise of Odisha Journalist Manas Ranjan Jaipuria

Hockey India on 29th April 2021 mourned the sad demise of well-known TV journalist Manas Ranjan Jaipuria. He passed away in Bhubaneswar, Odisha following covid-related complications. He is survived by his wife and teenage daughter. Actively involved in covering hockey events held in Bhubaneswar, Manas Ranjan worked for a reputed National News Channel. He also worked with several regional newspapers and news channels in Odisha. He was part of the esteemed media which extensively covered the FIH Hockey Pro League matches in Bhubaneswar in 2020 as well as the FIH Olympic Qualifiers in 2019 and the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup in 2018 among several other events.





FEATURE STORY

FEATURE

“Tour of Argentina and Germany has provided valuable inputs about our game,” says Indian Women’s Hockey defender Deep Grace Ekka



Indian Women's Hockey Team's recent tours to Argentina and Germany respectively has been crucial in their preparations for the Olympic Games, feels experienced defender Deep Grace Ekka.

"Playing against Argentina and Germany, both highly ranked in the world, with very different and unique playing styles has been very helpful in planning the areas we need to improve in the days leading up to the Olympics," said Grace.

“World no.3 Argentina plays man-to-man, and their style is quite conventional. Personally, for me, playing against Germany was quite intriguing because of their style and attacking game. There was a lot to learn about how the German players communicate on the field and how they create space in pursuit of circle entries. Their attack is aggressive, they are quick and think on their feet," she added.

Grace reckons that their experience of playing against Germany will help them take on world no.1 Netherlands in their opening match at the Olympic Games. "I feel that Germany and Netherlands have very similar style. They tackle two-on-one and the way they attack is very similar. I feel we have gained a lot of confidence playing against Argentina and Germany. We have no inhibitions or fear in our mind when we play these top teams now and another key element has been our fitness. We don't tire easily anymore and that will help us bounce back in the game and finish well even if there are early setbacks," she said.

Speaking about takeaways from the recent tours, the 26-year-old defender said, "I feel we have improved a lot in our PC defending.



Though we need to avoid giving away PCs, we have improved in defending PCs. If we have given away 5-6 PCs in a match, we restrict conversion to 1 or at the most 2 which was not the case earlier".



For this positive improvement, she credited team's Analytical Coach Janneke Schopman. "Since Janneke has joined the team, we have paid a lot of attention to PC defending and earlier, we would just take positions but now she's helped us work on our movements while defending a PC and that has made a lot of difference," she said.



"This is an important phase for me to work on my game," says Defender Nisha

FEATURE STORY



The Indian Women's Hockey Team Defender Nisha has made positive strides since her debut at the FIH Series Final in 2019. For her, the last year has been all about mental toughness, learning from her seniors and executing what the coach says. "It has been a very challenging year for everyone but we have to count our blessings for being in a very secure environment. Because I am part of Hockey India's national program, I am able to enjoy the comforts of training in a safe environment like SAI and work on my game," expressed Nisha who was part of the Indian squad that toured Argentina and Germany earlier this year.

She further added that the seniors in the team have been a big support during the pandemic. "It is not easy to be in Camp for a long period but the seniors have made it easy and they have been supportive all along particularly during the lockdown when there were no activities. The coaching staff too have been supportive and often check with us during one-on-one meetings about how we are feeling and how our family is doing etc. This shows that we are being cared for," she said.

Speaking of her own growth in the team, Nisha said, "I just want to utilize the opportunities I get and prove myself to the team. The competitions that I have played in have been a great exposure for me and I got to learn a lot from all the matches that I have played, especially about match temperament required to play against good teams."

With no tournaments for almost one year, Nisha utilized her time to improve her skills as a defender. "Personally, I feel in the period when we had no games was a great opportunity for me to improve my own game and pay more attention to tactical awareness, PC defending etc. This is an important phase for me as I am still finding my feet at the international level. The pool of players in the Senior Women's team is quite strong and if I need to make a place in the team for big tournaments, I need to bring my A game to every session and I am committed to doing that," she said.





FEATURE STORY

“Senior players’ advice motivated me while recuperating from injuries,” says Indian Men’s Hockey Team Defender Varun Kumar

Varun Kumar was considered as one of the most promising talents to emerge from India’s victorious Men’s Hockey Junior World Cup team in 2016. The defender didn't take much time to cement his place in the senior team, but a string of injuries meant that he had to wait for his chance to make a comeback. The 25-year-old’s last international outing was in October 2019 during India’s tour of Belgium.

However, after a long hiatus, Varun returned to the Indian team set-up as he was selected by Chief Coach Graham Reid for India’s tour of Argentina.

"I am extremely happy to make a comeback after one year and five months. It took me five-six months to recover from my shoulder injury and then I contracted Covid-19 as well. In the meanwhile, I also suffered a hamstring injury. My world had collapsed at that point," Varun expressed.

Speaking about the challenges faced while overcoming the injuries, Varun said, "The key was to stay motivated and be patient for opportunities to come your way. "It wasn't easy for me. Being out for a long period would sometimes take a toll on me mentally and my mind would begin to wander. I slowly began to accept that such injuries, and the subsequent layoff periods, are a part and parcel of a player’s life."

The Punjab-based defender also revealed that the advice from senior players like Manpreet Singh, PR Sreejesh and Rupinder Pal helped him a lot overcome the tough times.

"My coaches and the senior players in the side such as Manpreet Singh, PR Sreejesh and Rupinder Pal Singh guided me a lot. They are big players who have seen many highs and lows in their careers. They told me to work hard on regaining my fitness and giving my 100 percent once the opportunity comes along. Their advice helped me immensely," Varun said.

With the Olympics just around the corner, Varun has only one target in mind – to make the cut for the flight to Tokyo. "Even though I've just come back to competitive action, I can get into the rhythm of playing very soon. Playing for your country is such a big honour and wearing the India jersey just gives you confidence to achieve great things for your country. The opportunity to play in the Olympics is also an added boost; it's a dream for any player. So I am keen to make an impact for my team in every match that I get to play," Varun concluded.



FEATURE STORY

“Thrilled to play my first overseas tour since 2019,” says Indian Men’s Hockey dragflicker Rupinder Pal Singh as he returns to the India squad



India's experienced defender and dragflicker Rupinder Pal Singh, who played his first overseas tour this year since 2019 when India travelled to Belgium, expressed that he was thrilled to play matches against Argentina in the FIH Hockey Pro League on 11 April 2021 and 12 April 2021.

"I was super excited to play against the Olympic Champions. It's been a very long break from competitive hockey. My last overseas tour was in September 2019 when we played in Antwerp, Belgium," recalled Rupinder.

"It was unfortunate that I missed India's previous tour to Europe. I had worked really hard and was looking forward to playing against Germany and Great Britain, but I injured my hamstring one week before the team left. It was very disappointing for me personally," added the lanky defender, who missed out on India's tour to Europe in February this year due to injury.

Having contributed to the team's Pro League campaign with a total of five goals in six matches last year, the 30-year-old vied to find his old form, when the team took on Argentina in their backyard.



"I was in good nick last year. Against Argentina, it was all about finding that rhythm back. It was important to play simple hockey, as Chief Coach Graham Reid always says and not do anything too dramatic and we did just that. The focus was on basic skills, strong defence, good on-field communication and coordination with each other and I feel we did very well in both the FIH Hockey Pro League matches against Argentina," explained Rupinder.

On being asked about playing in a bio-bubble and travelling in these circumstances with the ongoing fight against the pandemic, Rupinder said that the team is used to being in a bio-bubble and understands the protocols very well.

"We are very used to being in a bio-bubble and understand the protocols very well. As for the travel, we are very grateful to Hockey India and Sports Authority of India for planning the journey in such a way that we didn't feel any strain. We were all provided with rooms in the airport in Paris where we had a 13 hours layover. This particularly helped us rest and recover. In the airports too, we were very careful about social distancing and always had our masks on. These measures are necessary to ensure our safety," concluded Rupinder.

FEATURE STORY

“I’m inspired by Lalremsiami to break into the Indian Senior women’s squad,” says Junior India Women forward Lalrindiki



Having earned close to four years of experience with the Junior India women setup, young forward Lalrindiki is aiming to break into the Indian women's senior hockey team. The 20-year-old, who was inspired by the football star Cristiano Ronaldo while growing up, expressed that she is encouraged by senior team member and her state colleague Lalremsiami's stunning rise in recent years.

"She [Lalremsiami] has always been helpful. Whenever we meet, she always gives me pointers on how to improve and what it takes to get to play for the senior team. She has paved the way for many other girls in Mizoram to follow in her footsteps. I like her technique and she works very hard on her game. I, too, want to play for the senior team in the near future," said Lalrindiki.

The Mizoram-based forward was a part of Junior Women's tour of Chile in January this year, where the team remained unbeaten. Speaking about results and getting a chance



to play after a one-year hiatus due to Covid-19 pandemic situations, Lalrindiki said that the good results in South America were an outcome of all the hard work at home done during the lockdown.

"It was frustrating to not play any matches for a year or so because of Covid-19. Even when at home, I was constantly trying to work on my game. For example, I worked on getting better at one-on-situations," she said.

Having scored two goals in Chile, Lalrindiki said, "I was very happy to help my team by scoring goals. I want to contribute more. I want to make up for lost time. We have a big year with the Junior Asia Cup coming up, which will also decide our fate for the FIH Junior World Cup later this year."

"I want to build on my performances from Chile and make important contributions. The team spirit is good right now," she added.

The 20-year-old forward also said that it was a team spirit that guided India to remarkable wins in Santiago against the hosts.

"Playing after a long time, we were feeling a little rusty. I was feeling a little nervous too in the beginning, but it got better once we settled into a playing rhythm. We executed all our plans well and took a lot of confidence from each win. We had a lot of faith in each other's game and the results followed," she signed off.



COVER STORY

Hockey India conducts four National Championships with strict health measures in place

After a turbulent 2020 which saw many national level hockey events being cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Hockey India conducted four Hockey India National Championships in March 2021 by putting in strict measures in place.

As Hockey India took charge of the situation to gradually restore normalcy to the national sporting calendar, the domestic competitions resumed in a new and restructured format with a key focus on maximising athlete participation and developing the game in states, union territories, institutional units and academies. Moreover, strict health guidelines and SOPs in accordance with directives from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) as well as respective state governments were followed in staging each of the four National Championships.

The season began with the 11th Hockey India Sub Junior Women National Championship 2021 in Simdega, Jharkhand from 10th to



18th March. Subsequently, the 11th Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship 2021 was played in Jind, Haryana from 17th to 25th March. These two events marked the



first time that a Hockey India National Championship was hosted in Simdega, Jharkhand & Jind, Haryana. Bhubaneswar took centre stage next as the inaugural editions of the 1st Hockey India Junior Women Academy National Championship



2021 and 1st Hockey India Sub Junior Women Academy National Championship 2021 both took place simultaneously at the iconic Kalinga Hockey Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.



These four tournaments brought an end to the pandemic induced one year hiatus for domestic hockey in India wherein all National Championships since March 2020 stood cancelled.

“We are very happy to have resumed the domestic calendar for hockey after such a long and unprecedented forced break for sporting events last year,” stated Hockey India President Gyanendro Ningombam.

“It gives me immense pleasure to see the output of all the tireless work that was done

by the team at Hockey India as well as the respective state associations to ensure that domestic competitions are brought back in a safe and well regulated manner amidst a pandemic,” he said.

While it was imperative for Hockey India to resume national competitions to continue to develop grassroots talent and offer consistent match exposure to young players in their formative years, the safety of all the players, tournament officials and organisational staff remained paramount.



President Gyanendro Ningombam added, "We laid out a strict emphasis on all the host states, participating teams and officials involved in each of the National Championships to follow all the health protocols laid out not just by Hockey India, but the MHA and respective state governments as well."



"The protocols varied slightly in each of the three states, but it was necessary to implement them strictly to ensure the safety of all players and officials. We ensured that the State Members had appointed a Hygiene Officer to see that all necessary protocols and SOPs were implemented to good effect," he said.

For Simdega, Jharkhand & Jind, Haryana to host their first Hockey India National Championships in such trying circumstances was a particularly commendable task.



393 players in 22 different teams participated in the 11th Hockey India Sub Junior Women National Championship 2021 in Simdega, Jharkhand, where Hockey Haryana ran out as winners of the competition.



"I am pleased to see the faith Hockey India showed in us to conduct this National Championship in Simdega. The organisational staff at Hockey Jharkhand has done a wonderful job in conducting this competition in such a professional manner and adhering to all the health guidelines instructed to us by Hockey India," said Bhola Nath Singh, President of Hockey Jharkhand.

Jind, the town located in the Jind district in Haryana, hosted the 11th Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship 2021. 403 players representing 22 different teams participated in the competition, as Hockey Jharkhand claimed victory.



Speaking after the culmination of the event, Hockey Haryana President Jaideep Malik said, "It was a challenge to conduct the competition in the middle of the pandemic, but our team at Hockey Haryana was well up to the task. Hosting such prestigious events is always a privilege."

247 & 177 players participated in the 1st Hockey India Junior Women Academy



National Championship 2021 and 1st Hockey India Sub Junior Women Academy National Championship 2021 respectively. Both tournaments were held simultaneously in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. SAI – Academy emerged as the winner in both tournaments.



Principal Secretary, Sports and Youth Services, Government of Odisha, Vishal K. Dev, IAS said, "It was very exciting to host the 1st Hockey India Junior and Sub Junior Women Academy National Championship 2021, here at the Kalinga Stadium. The competition provided a brilliant platform to the academy players to test their skills and evolve into better hockey players." He added, "We put in place guidelines to ensure the safety of all the persons involved in both the competitions."



FEATURE STORY

“Savita didi and Rajani didi help me a lot,” says India Women’s Hockey Team goalkeeper Bichu Devi Kharibam

Goalkeeper Bichu Devi Kharibam hailed the presence of seasoned campaigners Savita Punia and Rajani Etimarpu, against whom the Manipuri competes for a spot in the India Women’s Hockey Team side.

Bichu welcomes the inputs of her seniors and is calm about her role in the team. The 20-year-old, infact, is relishing training alongside her seniors.

“Savita didi and Rajani didi help me a lot,” Bichu said. She added, “I approach them with my doubts and are more than happy to help me out. Even they ask me about their weaknesses, and how they can go about correcting them despite me being new at the senior level. They treat me like a friend or like a sister. They've given me a lot of love and I respect them a lot.”

Bichu's career has been on a steep rise since making her breakthrough with eye-catching displays in the 2018 Youth Olympics, a tournament where India clinched the historic Silver Medal. In the following year, she was named 'Goalkeeper of the Tournament' in the 4 Nations Junior Women Invitational in Dublin and was fast-tracked to the senior squad.

Part of the Core Probable Group that is training for the Olympic Games, Bichu understands this is a great opportunity for her to make an impression and imbibe the qualities it takes to be a standout goalkeeper.

"I get really excited just thinking about the Olympics. Because it's such a big tournament, I have to work harder. I'm trying to absorb all the advice my seniors and coaches have been giving me," she stated.

The Manipuri earned some much-needed game time during the team's tour of Argentina earlier this year. India didn't register a win against the world No 2 side but were praised for the resilience and character they showed in each of their matches.

"I was delighted to get back on the pitch while playing against Argentina," Bichu reflected on her team's first tour after more than a year. "We played with a lot of spirit and passion. I was nervous during the first game, playing after such a long gap. But it got better as time progressed.

"Previously, we used to be beaten by huge margins against Argentina, but I think, our defence held strong throughout the tour. I thoroughly enjoyed my time there," she stated.



Junior Hockey Defender Gagandeep Kaur Eyeing Cut for Senior Indian Women's Team

FEATURE STORY



India Junior Women's Hockey team Defender Gagandeep Kaur is aiming to make the cut for the senior national team before she finishes her stint with juniors this year.

"I have been giving my 100 per cent in the training and trying to improve day-by-day. I believe the Chile tour helped us assess the areas which we need to focus on. I feel I am in good shape both mentally and physically, and I am confident of doing well in the upcoming assignments. I want to make the most out of the opportunities and hopefully, get a call-up for the Senior Group as soon as I finish my stint with the Junior team," said Gagandeep.

Gagandeep's grandfather Jagir Singh, who served in the Indian army, was an international kabaddi player in the late 1970s.

"My grandfather had always wished that someone else from the family should also take up sports just like him. But my father chose to move to the United Kingdom for livelihood, while my uncle did try his luck in athletics but couldn't achieve much. So, all his hopes came down to me. I started playing hockey in school and then joined the hockey academy in Shahabad," stated Gagandeep.



Gagandeep was born in Shahabad Markanda in Kurukshetra district, Haryana, also touted as the "nursery of women's hockey" in India. It is also the hometown of India Captain Rani. The 21-year-old, just like other girls in the town, also took to hockey at a young age.

"Within a couple of years, I started playing nationals and started earning recognition in the town. My biggest inspiration has been Rani di. Having watched her from close quarters, it gives confidence to a player like me. It makes us believe that we can also do something. So, my ultimate goal has always been to don the India jersey with my name," added the young defender who was part of Indian Junior Women's recent success in Chile where they were unbeaten.





FEATURE STORY

After earning India Colts call-up, Mareeswaran Saktivel aims to break into senior team

Tamil Nadu's Mareeswaran Saktivel, who earned a spot in the Junior Men's 37-member core probable group, aspires to play Hockey in the senior team in the future but is currently focussed on the upcoming FIH Junior Men's World Cup slated to be held later this year.

Last year, the 20-year-old's on-field exploits saw him being fast-tracked to his state's senior side.



"It's a great feeling to be at the SAI camp. Right now, I am focused on the upcoming Junior Men's Asia Cup and the FIH Junior Men's World Cup scheduled for later this year. My dream is to play for the Senior Team someday," said Mareeswaran.

He also played in the Khelo India Youth Games Guwahati 2020. Impressive performance at the games meant a spot in the Indian Junior Men's 37-member Core Probable group.

Delighted to earn his maiden call-up to the Junior National Coaching Camp, Mareeswaran said: "I have always had a habit of assessing my own performances and would know if I am playing well or not. I was on a good run of form last year and I was delighted to see my name in the camp list."

"My friends and family were also



thrilled after hearing about my selection. They don't want this to be the end, though, and expect me to make further progress. They want me to break into the Senior team someday. But I understand it is a step-by-step process and I first want to show my worth in the India Colts team," he added.



FEATURE STORY

100 days for Tokyo:

Indian Captains Manpreet, Rani confident of podium finish



There is plenty of hope that the Indian Men's and Women's Team can finish on the podium during the Summer Olympics in Tokyo following their spirited displays since the resumption of the international calendar.

Even though the Covid-19 pandemic wiped out much of the year 2020's action, the Indian Men's and Women's Hockey Teams have been training hard at National Camps at the SAI Centre, Bengaluru.

The Indian Women's Hockey Team have been steadily improving with every tournament. For the first time in history, the Indian Women's Team will be playing in back-to-back Olympic events. The current outfit under Chief Coach Sjoerd Marijne are no pushovers.

Despite not getting a win under their belt, the Indian Women's Hockey Team put in a string of spirited displays against World No 2 Argentina and heavyweights Germany earlier this year. Their opponents in Group A of the Tokyo Olympics include Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Netherlands and South Africa.

"I am happy with the fight our team showed against Argentina and Germany earlier this year," Rani said. "Of course, we're disappointed to have not registered a win, but we have showed that we could hold our own against higher-ranked opponents. Since coming back from Germany, we have been working hard on our finishing and our technique. I'm confident that once we convert these good performances into results, we will be in the mix for an Olympic medal too."





got a taste of it during the FIH Pro League last year. India's opponents in Group A in the Tokyo Olympics include hosts Japan, Argentina, Australia, New Zealand and Spain.

"Firstly, it was good to be back playing international hockey after a long time," said Manpreet. "I'm very happy with the progress of the team over the last 18 months. If we continue to build on this, I am sure we can defeat any team. The team spirit is high right now and as I said before, we should use every opportunity we get before the Tokyo Olympics to fine-tune our game," the India Men Hockey Team Captain added.



On current form, the sky is the limit for Manpreet's side. They have a good mix of youth and experience in their ranks and have picked up from where they left last year in the FIH Hockey Pro League.

The tour of Europe at the start of the year also went to plan for Chief Coach Graham Reid. Under the Australian, India has a new-found solidity. World Champions Belgium, Australia and Netherlands too,





FEATURE STORY

“We have to build momentum for Olympics after Argentina tour,” says Indian Men’s Hockey Team’s Harmanpreet Singh

Indian Men’s Hockey Team defender Harmanpreet Singh saw the Argentina tour as the ideal preparation ahead of the Tokyo Olympics in the summer. The tour included four practice matches apart from the back-to-back FIH Hockey Pro League matches on 11th and 12th April (IST). Harmanpreet observed that the Indian team’s good performance against the host nation will help the Indian Men’s Hockey Team build momentum for the Olympics.

“Argentina’s style of play is slightly different compared to the teams we played in Europe,” said Harmanpreet. “It was fantastic to perform well against the Olympic Gold Medal holders, especially in the FIH Hockey Pro League. We have to gather momentum for the Tokyo Olympics from here on. Teams around the world are trying to get as much match practice before the Olympics and we are no different. We are grateful to be getting more games under our belt and need to make the most of it,” he added.

Harmanpreet has been among the most consistent performers in the Indian Men’s Hockey Team in recent years. The Vice-

Captain was in fine form during the side’s Europe tour, where the team finished unbeaten in what was their return to international Hockey after a year.



"We are very happy with the way the Europe tour shaped up for us. Whether in quarantine or back home, the past year we worked hard on our fitness with high-intensity body-weight training in our rooms and I'm glad it

paid off. We have also worked on the tactical side of the game as well as our finishing. Hopefully, we can produce more good performances," said Harmanpreet.



India and Argentina have been involved in some riveting battles in recent years. Harmanpreet was encouraged by India Men's Hockey Team's 2-1 win in the 2018 Champions Trophy match in Breda, the last time India played Argentina before the recently-concluded tour, a match where he had also scored.

"I would say we were evenly matched in terms of quality before going into the tour. It's always great to have the likes of Manpreet Singh & Rupinder Pal Singh back in the side. The presence of senior experienced players like them, who have seen many highs and lows in their careers, only boosted the morale of the side. It was fantastic to see the way we coordinated on the field and gave it our 100 percent in every match on the tour. The matches against Argentina have given us a lot of confidence," Harmanpreet concluded.

FEATURE STORY



Hockey India organizes Hockey India Coaching Education Pathway Level '2' Coaching Course 2021 in New Delhi

Hockey India conducted the Hockey India Coaching Education Pathway Level '2' Coaching Course 2021 in New Delhi from 23 March 2021 to 31 March 2021.

After the successful completion of Hockey India Coaching Education Pathway Level '1' Coaching Course 2021 in New Delhi and Bhubaneswar earlier this year, Hockey India called for applications of interested and aspiring Coaches for the Hockey India Coaching Education Pathway Level '2' Coaching Course 2021, which had a maximum of 100 slots available.

Each of the candidates' competencies were assessed and only those candidates who successfully completed the Hockey India Coaching Education Pathway Level '2' Coaching Course on the basis of the assessment criteria, were provided the necessary certification.

The interested applicants enrolled for the Hockey India Coaching Education Pathway Level '2' Coaching Course 2021 via an open forum link. Each of the candidates undertaking the course had to submit a negative COVID RT-PCR test report with the test taken within 72 hours of arrival at the venue of the course.

The candidates for the course were chosen through a first-cum-first-serve basis and minimum criteria to apply required an interested applicant to have successfully passed the Hockey India Coaching Education Pathway Level '1' Coaching Course. A preference was given to the Athletes/ Coaches who have participated in Olympic Games/ Senior World Cup/ Junior World Cup/ Continental Events, sanctioned by AHF/ FIH and women applicants were given preference under gender equality, subject to fulfilling the eligibility criteria mentioned above.



Since the launch of Hockey India Coaching Education Pathway in 2019, over 800 coaches from across India have benefitted from the programme which is a simplified education structure that consists of a combination of web-based modules and face-to-face interactive courses, underpinned by a competency-based assessment process, which helps the Coaches in progressing to higher levels.



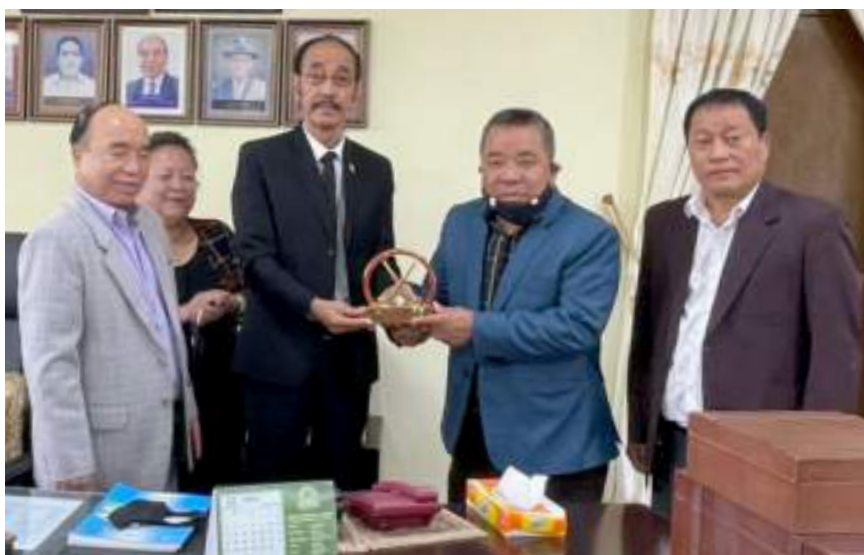
A simplified education structure aims to help in developing coaches from the grassroots level into world-class coaches of the high performance/ international level. Once a candidate progresses from the Hockey India Coaching Education Pathway Levels, they are then eligible to enrol for the FIH Academy Level 1 Course, and so on.

"It was fantastic to conduct the Hockey India Coaching Education Pathway Level '1' Coaching Course 2021 in New Delhi and Bhubaneswar in January and February. We could see the difference between organizing the course on-ground and conducting the course virtually. The candidates were able to understand the various coaching techniques in a much better way when the course was held on-ground and therefore I am delighted that the Hockey India Coaching Education Pathway Level '2' Coaching Course 2021 was conducted on-ground as well. As always, the safety of all the persons involved in the course was our highest priority and we ensured that everyone followed the Covid-19 protocols and safety measures in New Delhi," stated Gyanendro Ningombam, President, Hockey India.



Hockey India President Visits

Mr. Gyanendro Ningombom, President, Hockey India presented a memento to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Mizoram, Mr. Zoramthanga and discussed the progress of sport in the state on his tour at Mizoram on 6th March 2021.



Mr. Gyanendro Ningombom, President, Hockey India presented a memento to Hon'ble Sports Minister of Mizoram, Mr. Robert Romawia Royte on 6th March 2021.

Hockey Mizoram welcomed Mr. Gyanendro Ningombom, President, Hockey India on his arrival in the state.



Mr. Gyanendro Ningombam, President, Hockey India who was accompanied by the President of Hockey Jharkhand, Mr. Bhola Nath Singh presented a memento to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jharkhand, Mr. Hemant Soren during the opening ceremony of the 11th Hockey India Sub Junior Women National Championship 2021, on 10th March 2021 at Simdega, Jharkhand.



Players and Officials of Hockey Jharkhand welcomed President of Hockey India, Mr. Gyanendro Ningombam who was accompanied by President of Hockey Jharkhand, Mr. Bhola Nath Singh at the Astroturf Hockey Stadium, Khuti on 9th March 2021.



President, Hockey India, Mr. Gyanendro Ningombam visited the East Bengal ground to witness the Premier Hockey Tournament on 12 March 2021. Here are some moments captured from his interaction with the Officials and Team members.



The first edition of Hockey India Junior and Sub Junior Women Academy National Championship 2021 commenced on 17th march 2021 at Kalinga Stadium in the presence of Hockey India President, Mr. Gyanendro Ningombam & Padma Shri Dr. Dilip Tirkey.



Assam Hockey

Team Dibrugarh clinched the 10th All Assam Sub-Junior Women Inter District Hockey Championship 2021 by defeating team Kokrajhar by 2 - 1. The event hosted by Assam Hockey was held from 10th to 12th March at Missa Kaliabor.



Assam Hockey conducted the Senior Men Inter District Hockey Championship 2021 at Missa from 10th to 15th March 2021



Goans Hockey

Goans Hockey conducted the 2nd Junior Women Hockey 5-A-Side State Championship at Seraulim Ground on 3rd March 2021



Hockey Bengal

On 6th March 2021, Hockey Bengal inaugurated the 2nd phase of the Calcutta Hockey Tournament 2021 at East Bengal Stadium (Kolkata Maidan).

The event was graced by Olympian Shri Gurbux Singh along with other dignitaries.



BSF South Bengal defeated the Khalsa Blues AC by 4 - 2 to become the Champions of 1st Division Group B of the Calcutta Hockey Tournament 2021.



Hockey Jammu & Kashmir

On the occasion of International Women's Day, Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh Foundation under the aegis of Hockey Jammu & Kashmir organized 5-a-side hockey matches among women teams in Jammu on 8 March 2021



Hockey Karnataka

Hockey Karnataka celebrated International Women’s Day on 8 March 2021 with some on-field action.

Hon’ble Sports Minister of Karnataka Mr. K. C. Narayana Gowda and IOA Vice President. Mr. K. Govindaraj graced the event.



The Chairos Hockey Cup 5th Edition CCA 5-A-Side Hockey Tournament 2021 conducted by Hockey Karnataka at the Field Marshal K.M.Cariappa Hockey Arena, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru from 02 - 04 April 2021.



Hockey Mizoram

Glimpses from the Baktawng Village Hockey Tournament held across all age groups at the Baktawng GSA Playground, Serchhip District, Mizoram from 23 to 31 march 2021.



Hockey Unit Of Tamil Nadu

A group of 15 veteran players from Chennai took it upon themselves to organise a tournament on the occasion of International Women's Day 2021.



Kerala Hockey

Thiruvananthapuram Hockey distribution free Hockey stick to the childrens. The Kerala Hockey President Mr. Sunil Kumar distributed the sticks. Kerala Hockey General Secretary Mr. Ayyapan R., Thiruvananthapuram Hockey Secretary Mr. Jyothis Kumar. L , Formers Indian Sub Junior Coach Mr. S Jayakumar, Coach Mr. Ramalingam and other Senior Players and Master Players where present during this Function



Kerala Hockey had allotted 1000 New hockey Sticks to 5 Districts (200 each). Kasargode, Kozhikode Malappuram Trissur, and Idukki are the district received Sticks in first phase. Kerala Hockey President Mr. Sunil Kumar, issuing the hockey sticks palyers at Kasargod, Kasargod Hockey President Ramakrishan, Shri Achuthan Mash and Members of Kasargod Hockey were presented in this function.



Kasargode Hockey under the aegis of Kerala Hockey conducted two days residential Training Camp at Chimeni GHSS for the Senior Players. The Camp was inagruated on 8th March 2021



Hubli Hockey Academy

Hubli Hockey Academy distributed 25 graphite sticks and kits to its Sub Junior Hockey Team as an encouraging gesture to the players.



Hubli Hockey Academy from Karnataka conducted a 7-a-side Invitational State Level Hockey Tournament on 20th and 21st April 2021. Teams South Western Railway Hubli and Bellary Hockey Club claimed the Gold and Silver Medals respectively. All necessary SOPs were followed to ensure safety.



Manipur Hockey

Manipur Hockey Masters Committee held an exhibition match on 3rd March 2021 at Khuman Lampak Hockey stadium. Veteran Olympians, Former International players, and prominent state players participated in this exhibition match.



All India Tournaments sanctioned by Hockey India

Hockey India sanctioned 56th All India Veer Singh Ji Dev Memorial Hockey Tournament in Tikamgarh, Madhya Pradesh from 07 March to 14 March 2021. Hockey India ensured that all the SOP's were implemented and followed during the conduct of the tournament.



Glimpses of the Hockey India sanctioned 5th All India Rajmata Vijay Raje Scindhiya Women's Hockey Tournament in Tikamgarh, Madhya Pradesh from 07 March to 14 March 2021.



Infrastructure development

Kudige Sports School - Hockey Ground in Kodagu District receives its FIH Global category certification



The hockey pitch at Junior College Somwarpet Kodagu, is now certified as FIH Global Category Field



Hockey Madhya Pradesh

Hon'ble Former Member of the Lok Sabha, Mr. Gaurishankar Bisen along with Hon'ble MLA, Mr. Ram Kishor Kawre, on 10 March 2021 laid the foundation stone for the Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad Synthetic Hockey Turf, Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh.



Hockey Maharashtra

Congratulations to Hockey Maharashtra on receiving the Global category certification by FIH for the Major Dhyanchand Hockey Stadium, Pune.



The Habri Hockey Stadium in Kaithal is now certified by FIH in the Global Elite category



Central Chronicle - Bhopal

SAI Academy wins 1st Junior Women's Academy National Championship



Agencies, Bhubaneswar
The Sports Authority of India (SAI) Academy claimed a well-deserved 2-1 win over Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy in the final of the first Hockey India junior women's Academy National Championship 2023 to become the winners of the inaugural edition of the competition. Odisha-based SAI Hockey High Performance Centre defeated Kharwa Hockey Academy (Uttarakhand) 2-1 to claim the third spot, as Friday's final match ended the final with a 300 per cent record in the competition, ensuring all of their matches in more to the final showdown. SAI Academy got off to a quick start in the final, with Sangeeta Thapa giving her team the lead in the seventh minute of the first quarter. Sangeeta then shocked her lady side, giving her team a 2-0 lead when she found the back of the net again in the 23rd minute. Yogita Mishra then got one goal back for Bhadracharya Hockey Academy in the 25th minute to set up a nail-biting contest in the 2nd half. SAI Academy retained their strategic advantage and won the remainder of the match professionally to become the champions of the Championship.

Central Chronicle Bhopal

Hockey Men National Championships Odisha, Jharkhand, Chandigarh, Haryana, Punjab secure win on day 8

Final Odisha, Punjab, Chandigarh, Haryana and Punjab respectively
The Hockey Men National Championships 2023 in the 13th Hockey India edition were held at the National Hockey Stadium, Chandigarh on Friday. In Pool A, Odisha beat Chandigarh by a comprehensive 6-0 margin in the first match of the day. Ajay Mishra (54, 50), Anshu Bhatia (7, 8), and Manoj Kumar (22, 24) scored four goals each. At the same time, Punjab secured a 3-0 win against the Hockey team of Tamil Nadu. Ashish Maiti (14, 22) scored a couple of goals, whereas Chaitanya (33), Anshu Lakshya (35), and Captain Siddhant Loria (44) scored one goal each. Chandigarh edged out Odisha (30-21) in a thrilling match in the Pool B contest. Jagdeep Singh (10) found the goal for Punjab. Chandigarh led the final day's hockey action. Punjab registered a convincing 4-0 win over Chandigarh. In the final quarter of the Hockey Championships.

Dainik Bhaskar - Bhopal

मम्र हॉकी अकादमी की लड़कियाँ 10-0 से जीतीं



एक दिन पहले मम्र अकादमी 42-0 से जीती थी
साई अकादमी की हॉकी टीम ने शुक्रवार को बंगलूर में हुए प्रथम महिला हॉकी अकादमी राष्ट्रीय चैंपियनशिप 2023 का पहला मैच जीत लिया। मैच में साई अकादमी ने 10-0 से जीत हासिल की।

Deshbandhu - Delhi

हॉकी टीम में जगह पक्की करना करना लक्ष्य



हॉकी टीम में जगह पक्की करना करना लक्ष्य। कोच ग्राहम रेड ने कहा कि टीम को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए प्रशिक्षण और अनुभव की आवश्यकता है।

The Hans India - HYD

MP scores 42-0 win in women's sub jr hockey

BHUBANESWAR: Following their 0-5 defeat on the opening day, Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy bounced back in style to score a monumental 42-0 win over Tamil Nadu Hockey Academy on the third day of the 1st Hockey India Sub Junior Women Academy National Championship here on Friday.

Swati (3rd minute, 4, 10, 13, 22, 25, 28, 34, 39, 52) scored 10 goals while captain Bhumiksha Sahu (2nd minute, 3, 8, 12, 30, 35, 47, 55, 59) netted nine goals in what turned out to be a goal fest.

Krishna Sharma (15th minute, 31, 38, 41, 44, 55, 56) bagged seven goals whereas Huda Khan (16th minute, 32, 46, 52, 60) scored five goals. Sneha Patel (7th minute, 9, 23, 41) scored four and Palak Gupta (45th minute, 49, 60) scored three in the Pool B match. Ritika Ahirwar (42nd minute, 47) and Shileima Khaidem Chanu (29th minute, 40) scored two goals each.

Dainik Bhaskar - Delhi

हॉकी: भारतीय टीम ने दूसरे मैच में ओलिंपिक चैंपियन अर्जेंटीना से ड्रॉ खेला



ब्यूस अक्सर्स | भारतीय हॉकी टीम ने दूसरे प्रैक्टिस मैच में ओलिंपिक चैंपियन अर्जेंटीना से 4-4 से ड्रॉ खेला। भारत के लिए बरुण कुमार ने सातवें, 44वें, राजकुमार पाल ने 13वें और रुपिंदरपाल सिंह ने 14वें मिनट में गोल किए। इस बीच, पूर्व भारतीय कोच हरेद सिंह को अमेरिका टीम ने अपना मुख्य कोच बनाया है।

Dainik Bhaskar - Ranchi

हॉकी में झारखंड की लड़कियों की हार के 7 दिन बाद लड़कों ने लिया बदला, हरियाणा को हराया



हॉकी में झारखंड की लड़कियों की हार के 7 दिन बाद लड़कों ने लिया बदला, हरियाणा को हराया। झारखंड की लड़कियों की हार के 7 दिन बाद लड़कों ने लिया बदला, हरियाणा को हराया।

Deccan Herald - Bangalore

India edge past Argentina in opener

BUENOS AIRES, PTI
The Indian men's hockey team made a positive start to its tour of Argentina, beating the reigning Olympic champions 4-3 in the first practice match here on Tuesday night.

Nilakanta Sharma (16th minute), Harmanpreet Singh (28th), Rupinder Pal Singh (33rd) and Varun Kumar (47th) were the goal scorers for India. Drag-flicker Leandro Tolini (35th, 53rd) and Maico Casella (41st) scored for the home team.

"It was a very good practice match, intensely fought by both teams. It is always nice to come up with a win against a team like Olympic champions Argentina as it amplifies our confidence levels," India coach Graham Reid said of the win. Both teams were slow to get off the blocks in the first quarter, but it was India who picked up pace in the second quarter. Shilpanand Lakra was the creator of India's first goal as his fine assist found Nilakanta inside the circle and the striker put the ball past Argentina's goalkeeper to hand the visitors lead.

India, thereafter, pushed the hosts on the backfoot with persistent attacks. Argentina replied to India's aggressive show by securing a penalty corner soon but experienced custodian PR Sreejesh made a brilliant save to keep the hosts at bay. Dilpreet Singh then earned India a penalty corner in the 28th minute and Harmanpreet made no mistake to hand his team a 2-0 lead with a powerful strike. Argentina made a strong comeback in the third quarter as they scored in the 32nd minute via Tolini, who was spot on while converting a penalty corner.



The Indian hockey team celebrates after scoring a goal against Argentina in a friendly on Tuesday. HI MEDIA

Central Chronicle - Bhopal

Indian men's hockey core probable group to report for national camp on Saturday

New Delhi: A probable core group of the Indian men's hockey team will report to SAI Delhi on Saturday for the national camp on Saturday for the 10th Hockey Pro League tournament against Argentina.

The 20-day camp will conclude on March 28 before the team departs for the 10th Hockey Pro League tournament against Argentina in Buenos Aires. In their opening assignment for 2023, the Indians took on Chile in their opening assignment for the 10th Hockey Pro League tournament against Argentina, followed by Chile and Argentina.

The Indian team have played six matches in the 10th Hockey Pro League so far and are currently placed 6th on the points table. India's next opponents are Argentina, followed by Chile and Argentina.

Morning India - Ranchi

Jharkhand to take on Haryana in finals today

Patna: Jharkhand will take on Haryana in the final of the 10th Hockey Pro League tournament today. The match will be held at the Shaheed Bhagat Singh Stadium, Patna.



Players from Jharkhand and Haryana during the match.

Central Chronicle - Bhopal

1st Hockey India Sub-Junior & Women's Academy National C'ships begins today

New Delhi: The 1st Hockey India Sub-Junior & Women's Academy National Championship begins today. The tournament will be held at the Shaheed Bhagat Singh Stadium, Patna.

Orrisa Post - Bhubaneswar

ONTHHPC rout Jai Bharat

Bhubaneswar, March 16: On Saturday, the Orissa National Hockey Pro League (ONTHHPC) routed Jai Bharat Hockey Academy in a 7-0 victory.



ONTHHPC players celebrating their 7-0 victory over Jai Bharat.

Orrisa Post - Bhubaneswar



Players from the Orissa Women's Academy National Championship.

Dainik Bhaskar - Ranchi



Players from the Orissa Women's Academy National Championship.

The Free Press Journal - Mumbai

National Academy C'ships boost for Mumbai juniors: MSSA Coach

Mumbai: A Mumbai-based coach has expressed optimism about the performance of the Mumbai School Sports Association (MSSA) Sub-Junior Women's Hockey team in the National Academy C'ships tournament.



MSSA Sub-Junior Women's Hockey team players.

The coach mentioned that the team's performance in the tournament was a significant boost for the juniors. He also mentioned that the team's performance in the tournament was a significant boost for the juniors.

The Free Press Journal - Bhopal

MSSA girls score big win

Bhopal: The MSSA girls' hockey team scored a big win in their match against the Orissa Women's Academy National Championship team. The match was held at the Shaheed Bhagat Singh Stadium, Patna.

Orrisa Post - Bhubaneswar

AN INTENSE BATTLE



Players from the Orissa Women's Academy National Championship.

The Hindu - Mumbai

Mumbai: The Orissa Women's Academy National Championship team scored a big win in their match against the MSSA girls' hockey team. The match was held at the Shaheed Bhagat Singh Stadium, Patna.

The Hindu - Delhi

Sreejith's grit for India horns point

Delhi: Sreejith's grit for India horns point. The player's performance in the tournament was a significant boost for the team. The match was held at the Shaheed Bhagat Singh Stadium, Patna.



Players from the Orissa Women's Academy National Championship.

The New Indian Express - Bhubaneswar

Hockey teams to get ₹50K allowance

Bhubaneswar: Hockey teams to get ₹50K allowance. The government has announced that it will provide an allowance of ₹50,000 to the hockey teams.

Hindustan Times - Mumbai

Mumbai: Hindustan Times - Mumbai. The article discusses the performance of the Mumbai School Sports Association (MSSA) Sub-Junior Women's Hockey team in the National Academy C'ships tournament.

The Hindu - Bangalore

Jr. women's Natl. hockey postponed

Bangalore: Jr. women's Natl. hockey postponed. The tournament has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The match was held at the Shaheed Bhagat Singh Stadium, Patna.

The Hindu - Delhi

Pay to coach umpire Anguraj passes away

Delhi: Pay to coach umpire Anguraj passes away. The player's performance in the tournament was a significant boost for the team. The match was held at the Shaheed Bhagat Singh Stadium, Patna.



Players from the Orissa Women's Academy National Championship.

The Hindu - Mumbai

Academy girls reflect the success of SAI programme

Mumbai: Academy girls reflect the success of SAI programme. The players' performance in the tournament was a significant boost for the team. The match was held at the Shaheed Bhagat Singh Stadium, Patna.



Players from the Orissa Women's Academy National Championship.

The Tribune - Delhi

India end Argentina tour with a bang

BUENOS AIRES, APRIL 14
The Indian hockey team ended their tour of Argentina on a high, recording a 4-2 victory in the final practice game here.

India's goals were scored by Rupinder Pal Singh (3rd minute), Jaskaran Singh (12th) Shilananand Lakra (50th) and Surender Kumar (58th), while Argentina scored through Leandro Tolini (14th) and Pedro Ibarra (54th).

It was India's fourth win on the tour. "I'm very happy with the progress of the team. If we continue to build on this, I am sure we can defeat any team," captain Manpreet Singh said. — TNS agencies

The Hindu - Delhi

Dominant India takes Argentina to the cleaners



Manpreet Singh (left) and Rupinder Pal Singh (right) shake hands after the final practice game between India and Argentina.

DELHI
The Indian hockey team ended their tour of Argentina on a high, recording a 4-2 victory in the final practice game here. India's goals were scored by Rupinder Pal Singh (3rd minute), Jaskaran Singh (12th) Shilananand Lakra (50th) and Surender Kumar (58th), while Argentina scored through Leandro Tolini (14th) and Pedro Ibarra (54th). It was India's fourth win on the tour. "I'm very happy with the progress of the team. If we continue to build on this, I am sure we can defeat any team," captain Manpreet Singh said.

The New Indian Express Bangalore

Manpreet leading team, Indians



Manpreet Singh, captain of the Indian hockey team, leads the team during a practice session.

The Times of India - Ranchi

Hockey Jharkhand start with big win

Team News Network

Ranchi: India Hockey Jharkhand registered a big win on the first day of the 10th Hockey India Sub-Junior Women's National Championship being held on Wednesday. They beat Hockey Gujarat in their Pool B opener 11-0 as Shikha Khan scored six goals and Pooja Ghargha and captain Shru Khatu recorded hattricks. Ananya Devi also scored two while Khatu, Sagnika, Kauri, Purvika Barua and Sowmya Durgasingh managed to get a goal each.

In another match of the day, Hockey Odisha defeated Chhattisgarh Hockey 9-1. Anisha Khatu of SCWD led.

SUN IN MILET

At Khamrui, it was their side as a 20 lead at half time. So, Rohini Bhatia (47) and Dipika Barua (47) then added to Odisha's goal tally in the second half. In their Chhattisgarh Hockey pulled one back late in the game through Akshay Prasad (19).

Meanwhile, debuting champion Hockey Haryana earned their biggest win of the day as they beat Hockey Rajasthan 20-0. In other matches, Delhi Hockey beat Hockey Bengaluru and Hockey Karnataka beat Hockey Jammu & Kashmir (10-0) and Odisha Post matched between Hockey Andhra Pradesh and Telangana Hockey and Hockey Uttar Pradesh and Hockey Mizoram score 5-0 each.

Khatu in the day, the opening ceremony of the tournament was held in the presence of Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren and Hockey India (HI) president Gyanendra Kishore and various other dignitaries of Hockey Jharkhand.

The Political and Business Daily - Bhubaneswar

Hockey Ind a to organise coaching education pathway level 2 course

DELHI, APRIL 14

Hockey India has announced a coaching education pathway level 2 course for its coaches. The course is designed to provide a structured and comprehensive training program for coaches at the national level. It will cover various aspects of hockey, including technical, tactical, and physical training, as well as sports science and sports medicine. The course is expected to start in the next few months.

The course will be conducted in a modular format, allowing coaches to complete the course at their own pace. It will be available to coaches who have completed the level 1 course. The course is expected to be a significant step towards improving the coaching standards in Indian hockey.

The course is expected to be a significant step towards improving the coaching standards in Indian hockey. It will provide coaches with the necessary skills and knowledge to train their players effectively and improve their performance on the field.

The Hindu - Mumbai

Pathak primed for Tokyo action

Think the competition with Argentina has only made him better

MUMBAI



Manpreet Singh, captain of the Indian hockey team, is primed for action in Tokyo.

Manpreet Singh, captain of the Indian hockey team, is primed for action in Tokyo. He has been in excellent form throughout the tournament, leading the team to a series of victories. His leadership and goal-scoring ability have been key factors in India's success. He is expected to continue his strong performance in the upcoming matches.

Manpreet Singh, captain of the Indian hockey team, is primed for action in Tokyo. He has been in excellent form throughout the tournament, leading the team to a series of victories. His leadership and goal-scoring ability have been key factors in India's success. He is expected to continue his strong performance in the upcoming matches.

The Hindu - Bhubaneswar

Khatu happy with India's performance

DELHI



Shru Khatu, captain of Hockey Jharkhand, is happy with the team's performance.

Shru Khatu, captain of Hockey Jharkhand, is happy with the team's performance. He has led his team to a series of victories, showcasing their skill and teamwork. Khatu's leadership and goal-scoring ability have been instrumental in the team's success. He is confident that the team will continue to perform well in the upcoming matches.

The Times of India - Chandigarh

Khalsa Hockey Academy bids emotional championship semifinals



Players from Khalsa Hockey Academy compete during the semifinals of the national championship.

Simranjeet's late strike helps Indian men's team hold Britain to a draw



Simranjeet Singh, a player from the Indian men's hockey team, is shown in action during a match.

The Times of India - Chandigarh

India beat Argentina in final tie

DELHI



Indian hockey players celebrate their victory over Argentina in the final tie.

India beat Argentina in the final tie, securing a victory in the tournament. The match was a closely contested affair, but India's superior play and teamwork proved to be the deciding factor. The team's performance throughout the tournament has been exceptional, and this victory is a testament to their hard work and dedication.

'Important to find rhythm back'

DELHI



Manpreet Singh, captain of the Indian hockey team, is shown in action during a match.

Manpreet Singh, captain of the Indian hockey team, is shown in action during a match. He has been a key player for India throughout the tournament, leading the team to a series of victories. His leadership and goal-scoring ability have been instrumental in the team's success. He is confident that the team will continue to perform well in the upcoming matches.

The Tribune - Chandigarh

Khalsa Hockey Academy bids emotional championship semifinals



Players from Khalsa Hockey Academy compete during the semifinals of the national championship.

The Statesman - Delhi

Manpreet leading team, Indians



Manpreet Singh, captain of the Indian hockey team, leads his team on the field.

The Tribune - Delhi

Manpreet leading team, Indians



Manpreet Singh, captain of the Indian hockey team, leads his team on the field.

The Pioneer - Ranchi

Haryana finishes 1st in Jharkhand women's hockey trophy



Players from Haryana and Jharkhand compete during the women's hockey trophy match.



TEAM BIRTHDAYS

SENIOR MEN'S

JUNIOR MEN'S

MAY

RAJ KUMAR PAL

01

PAWAN

01

NILAKANTA SHARMA

02

SHIVAM ANAND

03

SHILANAND LAKRA

05

SANJAY

05

S V SUNIL

06

NIRAJ KUMAR WARIBAM

14

P R SREEJESH

08

AMIT ROHIDAS

10

JUNE

MANPREET SINGH

26

SENIOR WOMEN'S

JUNIOR WOMEN'S

MAY

MANPREET KAUR

17

JUNE

DEEP GRACE EKKA

03

MARINA LALRAMNGHAKI

12

NAMITA TOPPO

04

RAJANI ETIMARPU

09

SUNITA LAKRA

11

IN FOCUS

RAJKUMAR PAL

(Indian Men's Hockey Team)

My age is - 22



My hometown is – Karampur, Uttar Pradesh

I play as a – Attacking midfielder/Forward

My debut was in – 2020

My most important target – Is for India to win gold in Tokyo

My favourite workout is – Skill workout

My favourite actor is – Akshay Kumar

My favourite song is – Bhagwaan Hai Kaun

My favourite cuisine is – Ghar ka Khaana (Rice or Paranthas)

My best sporting moment – When I played against World Champions Belgium on my debut

My idol is – Sardar Singh

My dream destination is – Germany

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

My gym buddy are – Vivek Sagar Prasad and Varun Kumar

My favourite outfit is – T-Shirt and Jeans

My go-to karaoke song is – All motivational songs

3 things I don't travel without – Hockey Stick, Cell Phone, and Wallet

My cheat meal – Noodles



HOCKEY INDIA

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The official App of Hockey India gets you close to the action by providing direct access to latest news, schedules, results, photos and videos throughout the year.

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