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From the President's Desk

Wishing all a very Happy and Prosperous New Year

October is the month when the Nehru Hockey Tournament Society opens its doors organizing a big chain of five top grade tournaments, including three age-groups, held simultaneously one after the other at the Society's home turf at the Shivaji Stadium in the national capital. However, this year all these tournaments, excluding the Champion Colleges tournament, had taken place in the neighbouring State of Haryana, owing to renovation work having been undertaken at the Shivaji Stadium in connection with the forthcoming 19th Commonwealth Games to be held in Delhi in 2010. Thanks to unstinted cooperation of the Haryana Government, all went well without any let or hindrance during the period October 6-November 25.

Admittedly, all this was possible because of the nerve-wrecking year-long table-and-leg work done by those dedicated and workaholic members of the Society's Secretariat days in and days out in all weathers. The persons who need special mention are Shri Kuku Walia, N. L. Narang & Shri R. K. Jain. The rising force of energy indicated fresh attitudes and enthusiasm in personal and professional aspects. They are led from the front by no less a strong-willed personality than Cdr. G. Nandy Singh (Retd.) a two - time Olympic gold medallist and the recipient of the nation's prestigious Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime Achievements in Sports and Shri Shiv Kumar Varma has always been a source of inspiration.

From distant Argentina came a heart-warming news that our valiant young boys, led by Diwakar Ram and coached by A. K. Bansal, had made the country proud by defeating the World Champions Argentina in Argentina, in a recent four-Test series. Our girls also did not lag behind. They have won the bronze medal in the U-21 Women's Junior Asia Cup held at Kuala Lumpur defeating Japan 3-1.

Leandro Negre has taken over as President of the International Hockey Federation (FIH). I, on behalf of the Society, extend to him our congratulations and best wishes.



Ram Niwas Mirdha

15TH JINDAL STEEL-NEHRU GIRLS (U-17) HOCKEY TOURNAMENT FOR THE NDMC TROPHY

SGNP Girls School retains the title

The 15th edition of the Jindal Steel-Nehru Girls (U-17) Tournament for the NDMC Trophy, the Nehru Hockey Society's first of the five chain of tournaments, took place at the Markandeshwar Stadium at Shahabad Markanda (Haryana) during October 6-15, this year. Defending Champions SGNP Girls Sr. Sec. School, Shahabad had the last roar as they snatched a 7-1, victory from Gwalior's Gajraraja Hr. Sec. School, in the presence of a full house on October 15. The SGNP girls have made their school proud by winning the coveted trophy for the ninth time of the tournament's 15-year-old fruitful existence. With this win, the Shahabad eves have also performed a second hat-trick (2006-2008). Their first hat-trick was established during 2001-2003. They were runners-up three times (1994, 1996 and 2000). A record, indeed!

Held under the auspices of M/s Jindal Steel & Power Ltd. and the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), 20 teams as that of last year from across the country were in the fray. In the first leg, 12 teams were divided into four groups of three teams each. The four group champions qualified for the super-league to play against eight seeded teams. These 12 teams were again divided into four groups. The

winners of each group then qualified for the semi-final berths. In the first semi-final, defending Champions SGNP Girls beat the Tika Ram Girls Sr. Sec. School, Sonapat (Haryana) 8-2 in a virtually one-sided match while the Gajraraja Girls Sr. Sec. School Gwalior ousted Govt. Girls High School, Ranchi 4-3 in the other Semis. The Tika Ram School earned the bronze medal by trouncing the three-time winners Govt. High School, Ranchi 5-2.

The Winners SGNP School received the prestigious trophy alongwith a cash award of Rs. 96,000 and runners-up the Gajraraja School were richer by Rs. 64,000. The bronze medallists Tika Ram School was awarded Rs. 32,000. SGNP's Rajni received Rs. 5,000 having been declared as the Best Player of the Match in the Final's. Neha Goel of the Tika Ram School was adjudged the Player of the Tournament. She received a cash award of Rs. 2,100. The Geeta Bajaj Fair Play Trophy alongwith a cash award of Rs. 5,000 was awarded to Govt. Girls High School, Bariatu, Ranchi. The coaches of the winning team Amarjeet Singh, runner's up team coach Paramjeet Singh and the third position team coach Devender Singh received cash awards of Rs. 8,000, Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 3,000 respectively.

26TH ONGC-NEHRU SUB-JUNIOR BOYS (U-15) TOURNAMENT

Birsa Munda Vidyapitha annex the title

It was a dream come true for the Birsa Munda Vidyapitha of Rourkela (Orissa) when they annexed the prestigious trophy for the third time of the tournament's 26 - year - old history. The Rourkela School thrashed the debutants Baba Gurmukh Singh Uttam Singh (BGSUS) Sr. Sec. School, Khadoor Sahib, Amritsar 5-0 in a one-sided match in the final of the 26th edition of the ONGC-Nehru Sub-Junior Boys (U-15) Tournament held during Oct 18-31. This was Nehru Hockey Society's second of the five long chain of the tournaments, on display at Gurgaon's Nehru Stadium.

Twenty School teams from across the country took part this year. Of them, 16 teams were in the preliminary league. They were divided into four groups. The four toppers then met four seeded teams in the Super League. Then these eight teams were also divided into two groups. Two leaders from each of these two groups then constituted the semi-final line up. In the first semi-final, BGSUS School,

Amritsar beat the last two editions' Champions (2006-07) Govt. High School, Harnamdasspura, Jalandhar 3-1 while the Birsamunda School ousted the 1996 Champions Army Boys Sports Coy, BRC Danapur 2-1 in the other semis. And for the third place the Harnamdasspura School beat the Army Boys 4-3.

The winners Birsa Munda Vidyapitha received the glittering trophy alongwith a cash award of Rs. 96,000. The runner's up BGSUS School earned Rs. 64,000 while the third position holder Harnamdasspura School got Rs. 32,000. Mercurial centre-forward Mandeep Singh of the Harnamdasspura School was adjudged the Top Scorer of the Tournament's league stage onwards. He was awarded a cash prize of Rs. 5,000 alongwith the coveted Jagdish Sharma Trophy. The Coach of the winning team B. K. Lakra, runners-up team's Harmik Singh and the 3rd position team's Ashok Kumar received cash awards of Rs. 8,000, Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 3,000 respectively.

37TH ATS-NEHRU JUNIOR BOYS (U-17) TOURNAMENT

Lyallpur Khalsa annex the title

The Nehru Hockey Tournament Society has been deeply engaged during the last 37 years to build up a strong second line of defence of the Indian Hockey by unearthing fresh talents through its ever - popular chain of five age-group annual tournaments. And admittedly, the Junior Nehru Tournament for Boys (U-17) age-group category is considered to be the best platform the Society has been offering to the country's up-and-coming boys to exhibit their best talents.

Sponsored by M/s ATS Infrastructures Ltd., 31 teams took part in the tournament held at the Nehru Stadium in Gurgaon during November 1-14. The tournament this year had an added attraction due to the participation of two foreign teams from Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. They evidently came here to hone up their preparation for the next year's Junior World Cup to be held in Malaysia and Singapore in May-June.

The competition was organized in three phases. In the first phase, 16 teams took part. They were divided into five groups. The five group Champions then joined seven seeded teams in phase-II where they played in four groups. The four leaders then joined another eight seeded teams in phase-III. They were also divided into four groups. The four toppers from here became semi-

finalists. In the first semi-final on November 13, Rourkela's Birsa Munda Vidyapitha beat Young Pioneers English School, Imphal (Manipur) 5-1 while the second semi-final was held between two old rivals from Jalandhar. Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School, Ladowali lost 1-2 to Lyallpur Khalsa Sr. Sec. School.

In the final on November 14, the old war horse Lyallpur Khalsa beat the other oldy Birsa Munda School by two goals to one to annex the trophy for the second time. While Lyallpur boys had earlier won the trophy in 2004 and were runner's-up in 1999 and 2005, the Birsa Munda boys won the trophy in 1995, 1997 and 1999 and runner's-up in 2000. The bronze medal went to the defending champions Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School, Ladowali (Jalandhar). They defeated the Manipur boys by three goals to one.

The winners earned a cash award of Rs. 96,000. The runners-up was richer by Rs. 64,000. The third position holder got Rs. 32,000. The coach of the winning team Ripu Daman K. Singh received a cash award of Rs. 8,000 and the runners-up coach Bijoy Kumar Lakra got Rs. 5,000. The coach of the third position team Surjit Singh got Rs. 3,000. The foreign participation trophies were awarded to both Bangladesh School-XI and Sri Lanka School-XI.

45TH JINDAL STEEL NEHRU HOCKEY (SENIOR) TOURNAMENT

India Colts win Senior Nehru Tournament

It was really an exhibition of spectacular display of entertaining hockey artistry as the 45th edition of the fortnight-long Senior Nehru Hockey Tournament came to a grand conclusion at the Nehru Stadium in Gurgaon (Haryana) on November 25. India Colts and Bharat Petroleum brought out their best talents to provide the best contest of this tournament with the first-timer India Colts emerging 3-2 winners in the summit clash through a golden goal.

Sponsored by M/s Jindal Steel & Power Ltd., 19 teams, including two foreign teams from Pakistan and Bangladesh, took part in this coveted tournament this year. Separated into four groups, 15 teams played in Phase-I on Knock-out basis to select the best four teams to join four directly seeded teams in Phase-II quarter-finals. These eight teams were divided into two groups where the matches were played on league basis. Two toppers from

each group qualified to play in the Semis. The four semi-finalists that emerged after an intense battle were India Colts, defending Champions Punjab & Sind Bank (PSB), last year's runners-up Bharat Petroleum and ONGC-XI. Of them the PSB has the best record in this tournament having finished winners in 1991 and 1999 and runners-up in 1990, 1998, 2001 and 2005. Bharat Petroleum were runners-up in 2000.

In the first semi-final, India Colts thrashed ONGC-XI 4-0 while Bharat Petroleum beat PSB 1-0 in the second semis. However, PSB this year had to be satisfied with a third place finish. They beat ONGC - XI 2-1.

India Colts earned a cash award of Rs. 2.00 lakhs alongwith the Nehru Gold Cup and Japan Trophy while Bharat Petroleum received Rs. 1.00 lakh and the Nehru Silver Cup. The Punjab & Sind Bank got Rs. 50,000 and the Hero Honda Hardline Trophy.

16TH SAIL GOLDEN JUBILEE NEHRU CHAMPION COLLEGES HOCKEY TOURNAMENT 2009

The Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Society's Champions Colleges Tournament, the fifth in the series, which acts as the flagship tournament of the Society's

chain of five age-group tournaments, will take place at Gwalior during February 7-14, 2009.

LEANDRO NEGRE IS NEW FIH PRESIDENT

Leandro Negre is the new President of the International Hockey Federation (FIH). At the FIH Congress held at Los Angeles during the last week of November, the Spanish sports administrator, who is also the President of the European Hockey Federation, has dethroned the incumbent President for eight years Els van Breda Vriesman, by a margin of five votes (42-47) during

the Presidential election on Saturday, November 29. Sixty-two-year-old Leandro Negre has been elected for a four-year term. During this Congress the World body welcomed five new National Associations viz. Mongolia, Qatar, Togo, Vanuatu and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. With these new members, the number of FIH member-countries has increased to 127.

INDIA BEAT ARGENTINA IN ARGENTINA

India's Junior boys hockey team under coach A. K. Bansal has given a fresh lease of life to Indian Hockey by gaining one success after another after achieving the crowning glory by brilliantly defending the sixth edition of the Junior (U-21) Boys Asia Cup in July this year. A 20-member Junior team, led by dragflicker Diwakar Ram, went to Buenos Aires in December to challenge the might of the World Champions Argentina to a four-Test series.

India opened the series with a 3-2 win and drew the other three Tests, the results being 1-1, 2-2 and 4-4 respectively. India thus clinched the series 1-0 and squarely beat Argentina in Argentina at their own home ground.

In between these Test matches, India also played a match against Holland where again India exhibited flair and fluency to beat Holland 3-2 at the same venue Cluded Club de Buenos Aires on Saturday, December 13, 2008.

INDIAN EVES WIN BRONZE IN WOMEN JUNIOR ASIA CUP

India's Women Junior team has added a new feather in their already much decorated cap. The young vibrant girls under coach G. S. Bhangu have won the bronze medal defeating Japan 3-1 in the Under 21 Women's Junior Asia Cup which concluded in Kuala

Lumpur (Malaysia) on Sunday, December 21.

Consequently, this win has helped them to qualify for the forthcoming 6th Women's Junior World Cup, scheduled to be held in Boston (USA) from August 3-16, 2009.

JUNIOR ASIA CHAMPIONS INDIA HEADING JR. WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

For the first time as many as 20 countries will fight to annex the coveted Jr. World Cup. This global Championship is scheduled to be held at Singapore and Johar Baru (Malaysia) during June 7-21, 2009. India

being the Jr. Asia Cup Champions takes the top place among the five qualifiers, along with Pakistan, South Korea and Japan. Both Malaysia and Singapore make the grade as the host countries.

DO YOU KNOW?

The Nehru Hockey Tournament Society has decided to start a Quiz Programme. Through this Quiz Programme the Society desires to enlighten as also refresh the minds of the Hockey lovers of the country about the state of our national game of Hockey. Anyone giving correct answers will earn Rakshak track-suits. The answers should reach the Society's office

through e-mail (nehruhockey64@hotmail.com or kukoowalia@usa.net) on or before the 15th of February, 2009. Please give your name, address and telephone numbers.

Quiz Questions: (1) Which women's teams have won Olympic gold on home soil? (2) When was the first time Olympic Hockey Tournament played on artificial turf?

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