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SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : A Multi - Faceted Personality

(24-8-1924 - 29-1-2010)

Respectful Homage



We, the members and office-bearers of the Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society, deeply mourn the sad demise of our revered President, Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha, who breathed his last on January 29, 2010 in New Delhi after a brief illness.

A multi-faceted personality and a man of letters, Shri Mirdha held several key positions in the Union Cabinet as also his native State of Rajasthan.

He also held a number of important positions in the field of sports. He was an active promoter of our national game of hockey, in particular.

Shri Mirdha was always considerate to his colleagues and friends and was always a great source of inspiration to the Society, which he headed since the mid-1993. Despite his extremely busy daily schedule, Shri Mirdha spared his valuable time, energy and advice in regard to all activities of the Society. His very presence helped the Nehru Hockey Society to grow from strength to strength.

We solemnly pledge to carry on the task shown by him for the promotion of hockey in the country. We also pledge that we shall walk on the path shown by him and reach the goal-that of bringing back the golden era of Indian hockey.

May his noble soul rest in peace!

SHRI SUBIR RAHA : A Born Leader who put ONGC on World Map

(28-04-1948 - 01-02-2010)

Respectful Homage



We, the members and office bearers of the Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society, also deeply mourn the sad and untimely demise of our former Vice - President, Shri Subir Raha, who breathed his last on February 1, 2010 in New Delhi. He was diagnosed with lung cancer.

Shri Subir Raha had joined the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) in May 2001 as its Chairman and Managing Director on a five-year covenant with the Government of India. A workaholic, Shri Raha was credited with taking ONGC where it is today, the largest oil and gas producer in the country. During his tenure ONGC went on to rank ahead of all Indian companies in public or private sector.

Shri Raha served as Vice-President of the Nehru Hockey Tournament Society during 2002-2006. His contribution towards the promotion of sports, especially football, cricket and chess was immense, hockey being his first love. His very presence and timely advice helped the society to grow from strength to strength.

We solemnly pledge to carry on the task shown by him. He will surely be sadly missed and fondly remembered for his compassion and humility.

May his noble soul rest in peace!

12th HERO HONDA FIH WORLD CUP HOCKEY (MEN) Disappointing finish for India, worst – ever as hosts.

(February 28 - March 13, 2010)

India began their campaign in the 12th edition of the Hero Honda FIH World Cup Hockey for men with a bang but ended the fortnightly long competition with a whimper. Hosts India began the tournament with a surprisingly easy 4-1 victory over arch-rivals Pakistan in their opening game in front of a vociferous and slogan-shouting 'full house' at the State-of-the-art Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi. That victory gave a false hope to the home team's supporters as the team lost its next three games in-a-row before salvaging a 3-3 draw against South Africa. Finally, India finished eighth in the 12-team tournament after losing 2-4 to Argentina in the classification 7-8 position.

The 12th edition might have seen India climb up three rungs but the performance hasn't been too encouraging, but for the one show against Pakistan in the very first match. India faltered and failed in almost all departments. Whether it was in tactics, team selection or strategy, the Indian team was found wanting in all. Another important factor for India's poor show was the failure to convert penalty-corners. India went into this World Cup with three PC experts but none of them looked good enough to convert them into goals. Apart from Mahadik to some extent, other could not even do anything of mention. India conceded as many as 21 goals, the third highest after Canada and South Africa and gave away 23 penalty-corners, the fourth highest.

The stunning win over Pakistan should have motivated the hosts but it was altogether a different story when they took on Australia in the next pool match. They failed miserably against the fitter, pacier and quick thinking Aussies. The team from Down Under thrashed India 5-2. India's next match against Spain was another blow to the team's prospects in the tournament. Spain also won 5-2 to push India out of the race for a semi-final berth. It was also a story of missed chances against England in the next game as the home team went down 2-3. India broke their losing

streak only to draw their next game 3-3 to South Africa.

Powered by three goals scored in the space of four minutes, Argentina beat India 4-2 to push the home team to the eighth position. They thus equaled the worst finish by a host nation, joining Argentina (1978) and Malaysia (2002). It may be recalled that India had beaten Argentina (3-2) to win the third position in the Champions Challenge-I at Salta last year.

Australia put an end to Germany's domination in the last two editions to win the final 2-1. It was a great comeback for the Kookaburras, who had begun the campaign with a loss to England 2-3 in the league phase. The Netherlands upset England 4-3 to take the third position.

The Asian powerhouse South Korea lost to Spain (0-2) to finish sixth while New Zealand beat South Africa 9-8 to take the ninth Spot.

For Pakistan also, it was a forgettable World Cup. It's only win was against Spain (2-1) and it finished last, behind Canada in the final standings.

According to knowledgeable sources, the only positive point that came out of this tournament for India was the fact that the home team's matches drew record crowds, even when it was evident that the home team will not make it to the podium finish. Clearly, this World Cup has shown that there is an audience for India's national sport that has over the years become a poor cousin to cricket!

In the final analysis, the 2010 World Cup may have generated and revived interest among the spectators in the game. But to sustain that, the Indian team has to perform on a consistent basis. The eighth finish may be an improved one on the previous edition. But this edition has amply shown that India, once the dominating team in world hockey, is lagging well behind in all departments of the game, while other nations have moved far ahead.

17TH SAIL – NEHRU CHAMPION COLLEGES TOURNAMENT (FEBRUARY 1-8-2010)

Lyallpur Khalsa College Triumphs

The Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society's fifth and the last event of its annual calendar, the SAIL-Nehru Champion Colleges Tournament's 17th edition was successfully conducted at the Madhya Pradesh State Women's Hockey Academy's Stadium in Kampoo (Gwalior).

This prestigious tournament, sponsored by the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) and with the active help and collaboration of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) acts as the bridge between the Society's three age-group tournaments and the main tournament for men, which can rightly be termed as the Flagship tournament of the Nehru Hockey Society. This tournament had the overwhelming support of the Sports Department of the Madhya Pradesh Government. It was inaugurated by Shri S.M. Afzal, IPS, Inspector-General of Police, Gwalior on February 1, 2010.

The Lyallpur Khalsa College, Jalandhar defeated Jawaharlal Nehru PG College, Bhopal 2-0 in the final to emerge champions among the eleven best hockey-playing colleges representing the four zones across the country. The tournament was played on league-cum-knock-out format. These 11 teams were divided into four groups. Two toppers from each group qualified to play in the quarter-finals. The four semi-finalists

emerged from this stage were JN PG College, Bhopal, Sri Guru Govind Singh College, Chandigarh, Desh Bhagat College, Patiala and Lyallpur Khalsa College, Jalandhar. In the Semis, JN PG College beat Shri Guru Gobind College 2-1 and Lyallpur Khalsa College defeated Desh Bhagat College 5-2.

Shrimati Yashodhara Raje Scindia, M.P. had presided over the function in the final on February 8, 2010 in the presence of the City Mayor, Smt. Samiksha Gupta, other distinguished guests, media, and a vast number of local hockey lovers.

The winners Lyallpur Khalsa College received the glittering trophy alongwith a cash prize of Rs. 96,000 while runners-up Jawaharlal Nehru PG College were richer by Rs. 64,000. Shri Guru Govind Singh College received Rs. 32,000 earning the third place by beating Desh Bhagat College 3-1. Gurvinder Singh of the winning team was presented the 'Man of the Match' cash prize Rs. 10,000.

The coach of the winning team Sanjeev Kumar received Rs. 8,000 and the runners-up team's coach Habib Hasan got Rs. 5,000. The coach of the third position team Dr. Manmeet Gill got Rs. 3,000.

SULTAN AZLAN SHAH CUP HOCKEY TOURNAMENT India will defend the title

The 19th edition of the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup International Hockey Tournament, the Continent's third mega hockey championship, will take place at the last years's venue in Ipoh (Malaysia) on May 6, 2010. The competing countries this year in the seven-team 10-day tournament are the defending champions India, World Champions Australia, Asian Champions South Korea, China, Pakistan, Egypt and hosts Malaysia.

Defending Champions India will meet China in their opening match. This will be Indian hockey's first foreign assignment soon after their eighth place finish at the just-held World Cup at home. India, it may be recalled, had earlier won this prestigious tournament in 1986, 1991, 1996 and 2009. India defeated hosts Malaysia 3-1 in the final of the last edition. India finished runners-up to Argentina in the 17th edition.

SAF GAMES (REGIONAL CO-OPERATION IN SPORTS) Pakistan beat India once again

The eleventh edition of the South East Asian Federation's Games (SAFG), the dream-child of India's first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, took place in Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh, during January 29-February 8, 2010. In the third edition of its hockey event, it was once again a clash for supremacy between the two traditional arch-rivals, Pakistan and India. As in the previous edition, held at Colombo (Sri Lanka) in 2006, Pakistan edged out India 5-4 via penalty-strokes. The defeat came as a shock for India, who had crushed

Pakistan 5-1 in the league stage and also remained unbeaten throughout.

India began its campaign with a thundering 21-0 win over hapless Nepal. India got a morale boost with a convincing 5-1 defeat over Pakistan. India made it to the final after holding the hosts to a 3-3 draw after trailing 0-2 at the breather. Hosts Bangladesh finished third defeating Sri Lanka 2-1. Nepal conceded the most goals in the competition (79) in just four matches while getting just one goal to its name.

NATIONAL AWARDS Ignace Tirkey honoured with Padma Shree

Shri Ignace Tirkey was honoured with one of the nation's most prestigious civilian awards "Padma Shree" by the President of India on the occasion of the 61st Republic Day on January 26, 2010, acclaiming his outstanding performances in the field of hockey, the country's national game. Ignace Tirkey

representing the discipline of hockey, was one of the six sports persons honoured on the occasion.

Shri Tirkey is the 17th in the list of awardees so far in the field of hockey.

INDIA NO. 9 IN FIH WORLD RANKING (MEN)

India has again successfully acquired its coveted place among the ten elite nations of the Men's World hockey. It is now placed at No. 9 by virtue of its finishing eighth in the just-held Hero Honda FIH World Cup in New Delhi. India had slipped to the 12th position amongst the 76 FIH-affiliated hockey-playing nations, after the first round exit from the eighth edition of the Asia Cup, held in Kauntan (Malaysia) in May last year. India's tally of points now stands at 1360 in the latest updated ABN-

AMRO World Rankings of the FIH. Expectedly, Australia, the winner of this World Cup, acquires the No. 1 spot, pushing the defending champions Germany to the second.

RANKING (TOP TEN)

1. Australia (2605), 2. Germany (2388), 3. Netherland (2215), 4. Spain (2053), 5. Korea (2005), 6. England (1930), 7. New Zealand (1560), 8. Pakistan (1523), 9. India (1360) and 10. Argentina (1349).

WOMEN'S WORLD RANKING

In so far as India's fair sex is concerned in respect of world ranking, they are ranked as low as 13th amongst the 62 FIH-recognised women hockey-playing nations of the world. Of the 13 toppers, Indian eves have been able to aggregate only 1005 points. The Netherlands are on the top of the world

aggregating 2190 points, followed by Argentina (1980), China (1860), Germany (1780), Australia (1728), Spain (1408), England (1405), Japan (1403), New Zealand (1333), United States (1213), Korea (1185), and South Africa with 1070 points became 12th.

INDIAN WOMEN HOCKEY TEAM'S EXPOSURE TOURS

As part of the Long Term Development Programme (LTDP), the national women's hockey team has undertaken a fortnight-long exposure trip to Japan and China. They will play a series of four Test matches against Japan and three against China on the second leg of the tour starting on March 25. The team accompanied a few up and coming junior players, in the absence of key players like Surender Kaur, Deepika Murthy and Mamta Kharab, due to various reasons, including injury.

According to the team's Coach M.K. Kaushik, the juniors are being given a chance to be worthy for bigger matches.

The whole exercise is aimed at preparing a much better outfit for the forthcoming 12 - nation BDO Women's World Cup to be held at Rosario (Argentina) during August 29-September 11, 2010.

DO YOU KNOW? Answer if you know

The Screening Committee of the Nehru Hockey Society's Quiz Programme is glad to announce the names of successful persons, who have won the gorgeous Rakshak track-Suit prize for the quarter ending December, 2009. They are S'Shri Sanjeev Nehra (Delhi), Lokesh Sharma (Chandigarh) and Firoze (Pune).

The two questions were :

1. What for the 1972 Munich Olympic is considered sensational in more ways then one?

Ans : There was tragedy - the Black September Gang had gunned down eleven Israeli athletes.

2. Against whom and in which Olympic hockey tournament India lost first time in its pool matches?

Ans : New Zealand defeated India 2-1, in the pool matches of 1968 Mexico Olympic.

Given below are the two questions :

1. Which are the countries who had the honour of organizing the Olympic hockey tournaments more than once?
2. Who had the honour of making first hat-trick in the Olympic hockey tournament from India Side?

The answers must reach on or before the 15th of April, 2010 to the Society through e-mail (nehruhockey64@hotmail.com) or (kukoowalia@usa.net) The decision of the Screening Committee is final and binding.



Rakshak

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