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INSIDE

MAJOR GENERAL VIRENDRA SINGH – SOCIETY'S – EMERITUS LIFE PRESIDENT2

Dr. D.R. SAINI JOINS NEHRU SOCIETY2

INDIA TO HOST 2011 CHAMPIONS TROPHY FOR MEN2

PRESIDENT HONOURS SPORTS PERSONS FOR THE YEAR 20102

12TH BDO WORLD CUP WOMEN'S HOCKEY

India finish ninth ; Rani Rampal Shines .3

2010 CWG IN NEW DELHI

Tough battle beckons Indian Hockey...3

INAUGURAL ASIAN WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS TROPHY HOCKEY

India produces their best3

ANNUAL CALENDER OF NEHRU HOCKEY TOURNAMENT 2010-2011 .4

NEW INCENTIVES4

DO YOU KNOW?

Nehru Hockey's Quiz Programme.....4

UNFORGETTABLES

Oldest Indian Hockey Olympian passed away.....4

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From the President's Desk



Our national sports, hockey, is witnessing a lovely spectacle this year. Its lovers were overwhelmed by some brilliant matches played during the Hero Honda FIH World Cup and had an opportunity to watch their favourite players in action. The mood is all set to become festive again during the ensuing Commonwealth Games where we can expect some of the best hockey being played and enjoyed by hockey lovers across the globe. Fortunately, the festivity will continue as the country will also be staging 2011 Hockey Champions Trophy in December. These mega events will definitely give spurt to our national sports and Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society will continue to play its meaningful role in providing a platform to all hockey talents to showcase their skills and make their grade to national team.

On the field, Indian Hockey is dribbling back to its own self and sooner than later we will be seeing our supreme position redeemed among the hockey playing nations. The Indian women's hockey team finished ninth, its best finish in 32 years, in the BDO World Cup Hockey for Women at Rosario (Argentina). Fifteen years old Rani Rampal did the country proud when she was adjudged the "Best Young Player of the Tournament".

Dr. D.R. Saini, Principal, DPS R.K. Puram, New Delhi, an ardent sports lover and an able administrator, has joined the Society as Vice-President and Chairman, Tournament Committee. His association will immensely benefit the Society.

To promote and patronize quality players, the Society has decided to give cash rewards for best individual performances in every match of its tournaments from this year onwards

The Society mourns the passing away of Olympian Leo Hillary Knowles Pinto, who breathed his last in Mumbai on August 10, 2010 at the age of 96. The Society extends its condolences to the bereaved family.

(Arun Subhashchandra Yadav)

MAJOR GENERAL VIRENDRA SINGH – SOCIETY'S – EMERITUS LIFE PRESIDENT



On a request made by the Society Major Gen. Virendra Singh (Retd.), has kindly agreed to become the Emeritus Life President

of the Society. This is in appreciation of the commendable services rendered by him for the welfare of the Society over the last more than four decades.

DR. D.R. SAINI JOINS NEHRU SOCIETY

The Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society has always been very keen to associate itself with eminent educationists, administrators and sports lovers, so that the Society can work more effectively towards the promotion of the national game of hockey. Towards this objective, the Society has recently added Dr. D.R. Saini, Principal, D.P.S. R.K. Puram New Delhi, in its fold as one of its Vice-Presidents and Chairman of the Society's Tournament Committee.

Dr. Saini is an ardent sports lover. He is one of the prominent members of the Org. Committee of the 2010 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi. Dr. Saini's advice and views are also being sought by the Sport Scientific Board Olympic Council of Asia and the Olympic Values

Education Programme of the IOC, both of which he associates himself as a Member. He is also a Member of the Planning Commission of India as well as the Consultative Group on School Education and Literacy.

Dr. Saini's induction into the Nehru Hockey Society should enhance its prestige and further help in the promotion and development of our national game in the country at large.

Lt. Gen. M.S. Bhullar (Retd.), a former Chairman, Tournament Committee of the Society, who has been deeply associated with it for a long time, has been elevated as Vice-President. His association will be of great help in furthering the cause of our national game in the country.

INDIA TO HOST 2011 CHAMPIONS TROPHY FOR MEN

Following the successful conduct of the Men's World Cup Hockey in New Delhi in March 2010, India has been allotted the 2011 Men's Champions Trophy with the hosting rights by the FIH. The decision was taken by the FIH in its Executive Board meeting. This would be the third time that India will be hosting the FIH flagship event after

Chennai in 1996 and 2005. The event will take place in December 2011. The exact dates and venues will be decided later. The 2011 Men's Champions Trophy will be a test for the host nation—India—which will try to win it for the first time in their hockey history.

PRESIDENT HONOURS SPORTS PERSONS FOR THE YEAR 2010

The Arjuna Award, the Union Government's one of the top sports honour, specifically meant for outstanding sportsmen and women of the country, has generated into a purposeful institution, established in 1961.

August 29, has been designated as the National Sports Day by the Government of India to honour the nation's greatest-ever sportsman, the late Major Dhyan Chand. To commemorate the legend's birth anniversary on this day, the President of India, of all dignitaries, presides over the award presentation ceremony with all solemnity its deserves at the gorgeous Ashoka Hall in the Rashtrapati Bhawan.

The Union Government has recently revised the scheme for the Arjuna Award for outstanding performance in sports and games. As per the revised schematic guidelines, to be eligible for the award, a sportsperson should have had not only good performance consistently for the previous three years at the international level with excellence for the year for which the Award is recommended, but also have shown qualities of

leadership, sportsmanship and a sense of discipline. The awardee is given a statuette, a scroll of honour, ceremonial dress and a cash award of Rs. 5.00 lakhs.

The President Her Excellency Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil presented this Award to 15 sportsmen and women. The awardees included among others two hockey stalwarts, ace strikers Sandeep Singh and Jasjeet Kaur Handa belonging to both men and women sections of the discipline of hockey for the year 2010.

Also honoured on the occasion was the eminent hockey Coach Ajay Kumar Bansal, who was awarded the Guru Dronacharya Award for the year 2010. This Award instituted in 1985, honours eminent Coaches who have successfully trained sportspersons or teams and enabled them to achieve outstanding results in international competitions. The Awardee is given a Statuette of great Guru Dronacharya of the Mahabharata, a scroll of honour, ceremonial dress and a cash prize of Rs. 5.00 lakhs.

Of the 711 Arjuna Awards given so far, the share of hockey is 78. They include 55 men and 23 women.

12TH BDO WORLD CUP WOMEN'S HOCKEY

India finishes ninth; Rani Rampal Shines

India beat South Africa 4-3 in a highly entertaining match to finish ninth in the 12th BDO World Cup Hockey Tournament for Women that concluded in Rosario (Argentina) on September 11, 2010. India's 15-year-old Rani Rampal struck two goals to take her tournament tally to seven goals and helped India to their best finish at a World Cup since finishing seventh in 1978. Rani Rampal was later declared "The Best Young Player of the Tournament". Earlier in the Pool-A matches, India finished fifth among six teams, notching its only win over Japan 2-0. India suffered an ignominious 1-7 loss to Netherlands, 1-4 to Germany, 3-6 to Australia and 0-3 to Netherlands.

Hosts Argentina emerged World Cup Champions for the second time when they beat reigning

Olympic, European and World Cup Champions Netherlands 3-1 in the final. Netherlands have so far won 11 World Cup medals, including six gold, four silver and one bronze.

England beat Germany 2-0 to finish third. It was England's first-ever world cup medal. Their best was finishing fourth in 1990. Australia beat Korea 2-1 for the 5-6 classification. New Zealand crushed China 3-0 to finish seventh, their best result at Olympics or World Cup since their sixth finish at the 2004 Athens Olympics.

Final Standing : 1. Argentina, 2. Netherlands, 3. England, 4. Germany, 5. Australia, 6. Korea, 7. New Zealand, 8. China, 9. India, 10. South Africa, 11. Japan and 12. Spain

2010 CWG IN NEW DELHI Tough battle beckons Indian Hockey

Field hockey became a permanent feature in the Commonwealth Games with its introduction in the 16th edition of the Games in 1998 at Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia). Indian men's and women's hockey teams finished fourth in the inaugural year. The men's team did not take part in the next edition at Manchester in 2002. However, India's women's team, which participated emerged winners after defeating England 3-2 via golden goal in the final. At the next edition at Melbourne in 2006 India's men's team finished a poor sixth but the women's team became runners-up having lost to Australia 1-0.

The 19th edition will be held at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi during October 4-14, 2010. This edition will feature 10 teams each in both men and women section. Indian men have been clubbed with World Champions Australia, arch-rivals Pakistan,

Malaysia and Scotland in Pool-A. India will open their campaign on October 5 against last edition's bronze medalist Malaysia. Their other matches are : October 7 Vs Australia, October 9 Vs Scotland and October 10 Vs Pakistan.

The women's team, who won a silver in the last edition are grouped with defending Champions Australia, South Africa, Scotland and Trinidad & Tobago in Pool-A. They will begin their campaign on October 4 Vs Scotland. The other matches are : October 6 Vs Australia, October 8 Vs Trinidad & Tobago and October 9 Vs South Africa.

The Men's Semi-finals will be played on October 12 and final on October 14. The Women's Semi-finals are scheduled on October 11, The final will be on October 13.

INAUGURAL ASIAN WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS TROPHY HOCKEY India produces their best

India produced their best display as they shocked World's fourth-ranked China 2-1 to win the bronze medal in the inaugural Asian Women's Champions Trophy hockey tournament, held at Busan (South Korea) during July 21-31, 2010. The first such a mega tournament in Asia drew the four power-houses of the region - Korea, Japan, China and India. Even though

losing all their three pool matches India did well to pip China to the fourth and last spot.

Currently ranked 11th in the world, India suffered consecutive losses in their pool matches, losing 2-3 to Japan, 1-6 to China and 3-5 to Korea. Korea won the final beating Japan 2-1 after leading 1-0 at the interval.

Final Standing : Korea, Japan, India and China.

Please have a look into our Website www.nehruhockey.com for more information regarding Nehru Hockey activities and other news across the world.

ANNUAL CALENDER OF JAWAHARLAL NEHRU HOCKEY TOURNAMENTS 2010-2011

The Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament society is glad to announce that the Society's annual series of four popular age-group tournaments are scheduled to begin this year on October 18, 2010 in New Delhi. The 17th Nehru Girls (u-17) tournament will as usual be the first to begin with the series to be held during October 18-26. This event will be

followed by the 28th Nehru Sub-Junior Boys (u-15)- October 26 - Nov. 4) and 39th Nehru Junior Boys (u-17)- Nov. 4 - 14). The age-group series will conclude with the 47th Nehru Senior tournament (Nov. 14-25). The flagship tournament of the Society, 18th Nehru Champion College Tournament, will take place during February 1-8, 2011.

NEW INCENTIVES

True to its objective of promoting the national game of hockey from the grassroots level to providing maximum competition exposure to all aspiring players, the Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society has been making all-out efforts over the last 46 years to provide maximum incentives to the players. Winners, runners-up as also coaches of the winning teams are given adequate incentives for their untiring efforts.

The Nehru Hockey Society gladly announces a landmark decision that from this year onward there will be many more individual cash awards in all Jawaharlal Nehru

Hockey Tournaments. Each match will have a "Man of the Match" award. The Society has also decided to increase the prize money of the 47th Senior Nehru Hockey Tournament from the existing Rs. 2 Lakhs to Rs. 2.5 Lakhs to the winners. The runners-up teams prize money will also increase from Rs. 1 Lakh to Rs. 1.5 Lakhs and the bronze medalists too from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1 Lakh. The total amount will thus be increased from Rs. 3.50 lakhs to Rs. 5 lakhs. This will be subject to availability of funds.

DO YOU KNOW? Answer if you know

Given below are the two questions to be answered. The first two successful persons will win the famous Rakshak track-suit prize for the quarter ending December, 2010.

1. Which are the countries who played in the first Olympic Hockey final?

2. When mens's hockey was included in the Olympic Games?

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



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UNFORGETTABLES

Oldest Indian Hockey Olympian passed away

One of the country's all-time great hockey players and the oldest living Olympian Leo Hillary Knowles Pinto breathed his last in Mumbai on August 10, 2010. He was 96.

Born on April 11, 1914 at Nairobi in Kenya, Pinto donned the role of a goalkeeper with distinction and was a member of the fabulous gold medal winning 1948 London Olympics team. Ironically, a serious concussion of the brain during the trials put paid to his hopes of donning the mantle of undivided India's goalkeeper at the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

In 1930, Leo's parents left East Africa and settled in Mumbai and as they took up residence in Bandra, Leo joined St. Stanislaus High School in Bandra. An all-round sportsman he played hockey,

football and cricket for his school. He took up hockey as a goalkeeper at the age of 13, played for Byculla Rovers, the then famous Lusitanian and the star-studded Tata SC in the Blue-riband Aga Khan tournament for 27 years in a row.

After his playing days Pinto became a Coach and then a member of the National Selection Panel that picked up the bronze medal winning team at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

The Nehru Hockey Tournament Society deeply mourns the sad demise of this great Olympian.

May his noble soul rest in peace!



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