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Respectful Homage

SHIV KUMAR VARMA : A Multifaceted Personality (July 24, 1924-August 23, 2011)



We, the members of the Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society, deeply mourn the sad demise of our respected Patron, Shri Shiv Kumar Varma, who breathed his last on August 23, 2011 at his residence in New Delhi, after a brief illness.

When Shri Varma left his village Dalwal in the district of Jhelum (now in Pakistan) in 1947 at the age of 23 during the days of partition of the country, he could never have imagined that he would one day play a vital role in shaping the hockey careers of hundreds of young boys and girls in the country in the next 4-5 decades.

Born on July 24, 1924, 87-year-old Shiv Kumar Varma made quite a significant effort to promote the country's national game of hockey at grassroots level through the Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society for the past 47 years. He had joined the Society in 1964 as a Joint Secretary under the Presidentship of the then Union Minister of Law and Justice, late Shri A.K. Sen. He was elevated to the post of Secretary the following year. Since then as Secretary of the Society he had been its guiding spirit having seen both high and low of Indian hockey. His name is synonymous with the Nehru Hockey for his total involvement with the organization.

While graduating from the Gordon College at Rawalpindi in undivided Punjab Shri Varma represented his University in hockey competitions in undivided Punjab.

After retirement as Director in the Union Ministry of Shipping and Transport in 1982, he devoted more time and energy to serve hockey. Shri Varma also served as the Hony. Secretary of the Korfball Federation of India.

All he asked for was hard work and commonsense from the players. It is a simple message delivered by a man dedicated to hockey

May his noble soul rest in peace !

KUKOO WALIA - THE SECRETARY



Shri Kukoo Walia, hitherto Jt-cum-Organising Secretary of the Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society, has been elevated to the post of Hony Secretary, by the Society's President, Shri Arun Subhashchandra Yadav. Shri Walia replaced Shri Shiv Kumar Varma and took over as Secretary in July, 2011.

Shri Kukoo Walia started his hockey career in Delhi, representing New Stars Club in the league. He was also a member of the Delhi University hockey team and participated in the All India University hockey tournaments for three years. He made it to the All India University team as well. He represented Calcutta's renowned club Mohun Bagan in Beighton Cup and was adjudged the Best Player of the tournament. He also received the award of scoring maximum goals in the competition. A widely-travelled sportsman and administrator, Shri Kukoo Walia visited Yugoslavia in 1976 as player-cum-coach. The same year saw him playing in the European Club championships in London, representing Suboticank Club and earned the Best Player award.

After representing the country in several official Test matches, Shri Kukoo Walia devoted his time to umpiring and supervised many top-class domestic tournaments, including Beighton Cup, Gold Cup (Bombay), Aga Khan Cup, Surjeet Hockey (Jalandhar), Ramesh Chandra Cup and the prestigious and most popular Nehru tournaments. The year 1999 saw Shri Kukoo Walia become the Umpire-Manager of the FIH and nominated as Member of the Umpiring Committee. He continues to be a Member of the AHF Umpiring Committee as well. Shri Walia has served Indian hockey and International Hockey Federation (FIH) in several capacities, the most notable being Umpire-Manager for the Azlan Shah Cup in Malaysia and the Doha Asian Games. He had conducted several umpires seminars on behalf of the FIH in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Indonesia and Myanmar.

Shri Kukoo Walia has inherited the legacy of his illustrious father, late Sardar Gian Singh, who was himself an institution as far as the game of hockey was concerned. Shri Walia's vast knowledge of various aspects of the game and his experience should be of immense help to the Nehru Hockey Society.

PRESIDENT HONOURS SPORTSPERSONS FOR THE YEAR 2011.

The Arjuna Award, the Union Government's highest national recognition of distinguished sportspersons 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, personally presides over the annual award presentation ceremony with all solemnity it deserves at the gorgeous Ashoka Hall in the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. This year was the 106th birth anniversary of the legend.

The President, Her Excellency Smt. Pratibha Devi Singh Patil presented this prestigious Award to 19 sportsmen and women for the year 2011. Of the 728 Arjuna Awards given so far, the share of hockey is 78. They include 55 men and 23 women.

The awardees this year included among others one hockey stalwart, ace striker Rajpal Singh. Twenty-

eight-year-old Rajpal led the country as Captain to a silver medal winning performance at the 19th Commonwealth Games in 2010 in Delhi, bronze at the 16th Asian Games at Guangzhou (China), gold in Sultan Azlan Shah Cup (2010), bronze in Champions Challenge - I at Salta (Argentina) in 2009. he was top scorer of the 8th Asia Cup at Kauntan (Malaysia) in 2009 and Olympic qualifiers at Santiago (Chile) in 2008.

Coach Junior Rajinder Singh's life's ambitions achieved ! He was awarded the Guru Dronacharya Award for the year 2011. Fifty two-year-old Rajinder can proudly claim to have earned 'double honour' because he was the recipient of the Dhyan Chand Award too earlier in 2005. He has been associated with hockey, both in the capacity of player and coach. His coaching career started in 1990. He was Chief Coach of the National men's hockey team (2005-06), Chief Coach of National Women's Hockey Development team (2004). A large number of his trainees who have been part of the national teams have won medals in international events, such as Asian Games, Asia Cup, Azlan Shah Cup etc.

INAUGURAL MEN'S ASIAN CHAMPIONS TROPHY (SEPTEMBER 3-12,2011)

Winning days are here again

Indian hockey lovers have something to cheer about finally, after some poor showing in recent international tournaments. India registered a sensational 4-2 victory over arch-rivals Pakistan via the tie-breaker to lift the first edition of the men's hockey Asian Champions Trophy at Ordos (China).

"This is a great win. Both teams played well and had enough chances. But it is fantastic to see a young Indian side with such a prestigious tournament," said Indian men's team coach Michael Nobbs. This was his first international assignment with the Indian team. The star of the men's final was Indian goalkeeper S. Sreejesh, who made two saves in the shoot-out to ensure the memorable win. The match ended goalless after the regulation time and even 15 minutes of extra time failed to produce any result. At the end it were the shots from one-to-one situations with the goalkeeper in the tie-breaker that sealed the match in India's favour.

India remained the only unbeaten team in the six-team group league matches. They began with a comfortable 5-0 win over hosts China but were held to draws by Japan, Pakistan and Malaysia, India beat tough opponents South Korea 5-3 to maintain their clean slate before taking on traditional rivals Pakistan in the final. One of the surprises of the tournament was Pakistan's shocking 1-3 loss to Japan in the league phase. This was India's 25th final clash with Pakistan, India having won 11 and Pakistan 14. The last time India won a major tournament was in 2007 when they clinched the Asia Cup in Chennai. Firhan Ashari scored with exactly seven seconds on the clock as Malaysia beat Japan to win the bronze medal.

Final Standings :

India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Japan, South Korea, China.

SECOND WOMEN'S ASIAN CHAMPIONS TROPHY (SEPTEMBER 4-10, 2011)

Indian Women finish fourth

In the second Women's Asian Champions Trophy, held at Ordos (China) during September 4-10, 2011, India finished fourth and last after losing 2-3 to Japan, who won the bronze medal. In the league phase, Indian women lost all their matches (1-4 to S. Korea, 0-5 to Japan and 0-4 to China). India had finished third in the inaugural edition at Busan last year. While the Indian men resurrected their image at the international level with a fantastic win (remaining unbeaten throughout) the women disappointed by losing all their games to finish a poor fourth in the four-team competition.

South Korea fought their way back from two-goal down to overpower China 5-3 and win the women's

Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament. The local crowd at the packed stadium were on their feet after China took a 2-0 lead midway into the first half but the Koreans dashed their hopes with some brilliant goals on the counter attack. The home side were also let down by poor finishing at the Korean striking circle.

South Korea scored through Ju Ok Kim (19th), Eun Bi Cheon (23rd), Jong Eun Kim (44th), Jong Hee Kim (45th) and Mi Hyun Park (64th) while Yibo Ma (12th), Baorong Fu (18th) and Lihau Gao (48th) found the target for China.

Final Standings :

1. South Korea 2. China 3. Japan 4. India.

UMPIRES SEMINAR

The Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society has been regularly conducting seminars for umpires to update them with the latest rules and regulations that come into force from time to time. These seminars are conducted basically to share with aspiring umpires the information, techniques and inspiration required to maximise their abilities and achieve their personal goals.

It is again due to the personal efforts of the Society's ever-energetic and livewire Secretary Shri Kukoo Walia that such useful seminars had been conducted in the past as well. Being an international

Grade-1 umpire himself, Shri Kukoo Walia understands the importance of such seminars.

This year, the Society under the patronage of the Hockey India proposes to host an umpires seminar at Maj Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi during November 14-25, to coincide with the senior Nehru tournament to be conducted in the Capital. The Society has requested Mr Ermanno Silvano, Chairman, FIH Umpiring Committee, to be the Course Conductor. The Society proposes to invite 40 top men and women umpires from all over the country.

NEHRU HOCKEY SOCIETY'S GESTURE TO AN OLYMPIAN'S WIDOW

As one who has always been in the forefront when it comes to helping the needy sportspersons and their families, the Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society once again came to the help of a distressed widow of a former triple Olympian.

When the Society learnt about the pitiable condition in which the former international Vadivelu John Peter's widow and her children were living in a slum in Chennai, it immediately initiated a drive to collect as much money as possible to help the family financially. Peter had left behind his widow Shanti Merry Peter, three daughters and two sons. Only one of the three daughters is married while the remaining two, in their 30s, are yet to be married.

Society's President Shri Arun Subhashchandra Yadav initially extended financial help of Rs 2 lakh to the distressed family. Society's Secretary Shri Kukoo Walia made a personal appeal to the hockey fraternity and the game's followers to contribute liberally to help

the distressed family. His personal efforts along with large help from Shri A.K. Bansal, Dronacharya enabled the Society to add another Rs 3.61 lakh within a short period of a week.

The Society presented a cheque to the tune of Rs 5,61,701 to Mrs Shanti Merry Peter, widow of triple Olympian and Arjuna awardee V J Peter, at a brief function on the National Sports Day (Aug 29). The Society also organized an exhibition hockey match on the occasion between ONGC and Punjab National Bank at the Maj Dhyan Chand National Stadium. Union Sports Minister Shri Ajay Maken and several Arjuna awardees graced the occasion.

Mrs Shanti Merry, while accepting the cheque, thanked the Society's President Shri Arun Yadav and Secretary Shri Kukoo Walia for their generous contribution. "I will always remain grateful to the Nehru Hockey Society till I breath my last," she said, choked with emotion.

NEHRU HOCKEY SOCIETY'S ANNUAL CALENDAR : 2011-12

The Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society is happy to announce its annual series of four most popular age-group competitions which will be held at Gwalior and the Maj Dhyan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi from October 10. It will begin with the 18th Nehru Girls (Under - 17) tournament during Oct 10-19 at Gwalior. It will be followed by the 29th Nehru Sub-Junior Boys (u - 15) between Oct 19-30. The 40th edition of Nehru Junior Boys (u - 17) will be conducted during Oct 30-Nov 14. The Society's age-group tournaments will conclude with the 48th Senior Nehru tournament for men during Nov 14-25. The flagship tournament of the Nehru Hockey Society, the 19th Nehru Champion Colleges tournament will take place during Feb 8-17, 2012.

The Nehru Hockey Society has from time to time introduced various incentives to encourage participating teams and players and to bring out the best from them

the Society's Secretary Shri Kukoo Walia has announced that from this year the total prize money for the Senior Nehru tournament is proposed to be increased from Rs 3.5 lakh to Rs 6 lakh. Winners will receive Rs 3 lakh, runners-up Rs 2 lakh and third-placed team will get Rs 1 lakh. The Society also proposes to give away a cash award to the tune of Rs 2,000 to the Best Player in the preliminary Matches, 5,000 in the two semi-finals and Rs 10,000 in the final.

The Society has also made an earnest plea to the hockey fraternity across the country to come forward to either sponsor or contribute to any of the above-mentioned cash awards. Their contributions will be highly appreciated by the Society. With the support and blessings of millions of hockey followers across the country, we are confident that the Nehru Hockey Society's series of annual tournaments will yield the desired results in the coming years as in the past.



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