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From the President's Desk

The London Olympics will be a litmus test for the eight-time gold medal winning Indian men's hockey team, especially after it failed to qualify for the Beijing Games five years ago. In that sense, a good preparation and decent performances in tournaments leading up to the big event was necessary. India, thus can take heart from the fact that the team won a bronze medal in the 21st edition of Sultan Azlan Shah Cup in Ipoh (Malaysia) during May-June this year.



India's junior team also finished third in the Junior Asia Cup held in Malacca (Malaysia) in the second week of May when they beat Korea 2-1 to bag the bronze medal. Malaysia won the gold beating Pakistan 2-1 in the final.

Experienced goalkeeper Bharat Chetri was named to lead a 16members Indian team to participate in the London Olympics where the team is clubbed in tough Pool B along with New Zealand, Germany, Korea, Belgium and Netherlands. The Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society takes this opportunity to wish the Indian team the very best for the Olympics.

The London Olympic Games Organising Committee made a great gesture towards India's three great hockey legends by naming three of the city's metro-tube stations in their names. Hockey Wizard Maj Dhyani Chand (1928, 1932, 1936), Rup Singh (1932, 1936) and four-time Olympian Leslie Claudius.

Former India three-time Olympian Dilip Tirkey was honoured by the Nehru Hockey Society at an impressive function to celebrate the hockey star's entry into the Rajya Sabha as an elected MP from Odisha.

Following the phenomenal success of Indian Premier League in cricket, Hockey India plans to start a franchise-based field hockey league early next year, featuring top teams.

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21ST SULTAN AZLAN SHAH CUP

Run-up to London Games India takes bronze

Five-time champions India bounced back from a goal down to beat tournament favourites Great Britain 3-1 and clinch the bronze medal in the 21st Azlan Shah cup hockey Tournament in Ipoh (Malaysia). For India, eight-time Olympic champions, the win over World No.4 Britain would give them the much needed boost ahead of the 2012 London Games. India also took sweet revenge of their 2-3 loss against Britain in the league games.

India were undeterred despite conceding a goal in the 35th minute to an Ashley Jackson penalty corner flick. India created several chances. And they were duly rewarded as Shivendra Singh fired home in the 43rd minute to level the score. Sandeep Singh converted a penalty corner while Tushar Khandker sealed the third spot with a goal for India.

It was a consolation for the Indian side after a disappointing campaign in preparation for the London Games. But coach Nobbs and the team definitely will have positives to take out from the tournament. India had begun their campaign with a disastrous 1-5 loss to New Zealand but their wins over Korea (2-1), traditional rivals Pakistan (2-1) and hosts Malaysia (3-2) gave them a tally

of nine points to finish fourth behind New Zealand, Argentina (both 12 points each) and Great Britain (11). They lost to Great Britain 2-3 and Argentina (2-3).

The tournament in the Malaysian northern city to Ipoh was an important pre-Olympic warm-up for London qualifiers Argentina, Britain, India, South Korea and Pakistan. New Zealand are ranked seventh in the world and the Black Sticks last won an Olympic gold in Montreal in 1976 and had only ever made it to the third place in the annual Sultan Azlan Shah cup despite participation in the tournament that goes back two decades. India's Sardar Singh was declared "Player of the tournament." India's star mid-fielder Sardar Singh and striker S V Sunil has featured in Sultan Azlan Shah's XI, the best 11 players of this year's Azlan Shah Cup.

New Zealand clinched the title in their maiden final appearance, defeating Argentina 1-0 in the summit clash. South Korea finished in fifth place after defeating host Malaysia 3-2. Asian giants Pakistan finished rock bottom. Hosts Malaysia were the only team at the tournament not going to the Olympics.

LONDON OLYMPIC 2012

Bharat Chetri to lead India in London Olympics

Bharat Chetri is the first goalkeeper to lead Indian men's hockey team in the Olympics as he has been named skipper for the London games. Chetri has played over 130 matches. The 16-member squad and two stand-bys was announced by Hockey India after trials at the Balewadi Sports Complex in Pune during June 6-7.

The trials were witnessed by Hockey India's Selectors, the double Olympians Shri BP Govinda and Shri Balbir Singh (Services) alongwith the Chief Coach Michael Nobbs and the Government observer triple Olympian Shri Harbinder Singh. Eight-time champions India will start their campaign against the Netherlands on July 30. India is in pool B alongwith Germany, Korea, New Zealand, Belgium and Netherlands. Their second match

will be against New Zealand on August 1. The Nehru Hockey Society wishes Indian team the very best. The team is as under :-

Goalkeepers : Bharat Chetri (Captain) and P. R. Sreejesh;

Defenders : V. R. Raghunath, Ignace Tirkey and Sandeep Singh;

Mid-fielders: Sardar Singh (Vice-captain), Gurbaj Singh, Birendra Lakra and Manpreet Singh;

Forwards : S. V. Sunil, Gurwinder Singh Chandi, Shivendra Singh, Danish Mujtaba, Tushar Khandekar, Daramvir Singh and S. K. Uthappa.

Standby : Kothajit Singh, Sarvanjit Singh

HONOUR TO THREE INDIAN HOCKEY LEGENDS

The London Olympic Games Organising Committee has done a great job to renaming as many as three metro-tube Stations out of 361 spread across the city of London naming three Indian hockey legends. The legends are Padma Bhushan Major Dhyan Chand, Shri Rup Singh of the gold winning Olympic teams of 1932 (Los Angeles) and 1936 (Berlin) Olympics and the four-time

Olympian Leslie Claudius belonging to the gold winning Olympic teams of 1948 (London), 1952 (Helsinki), 1956 (Melbourne) and 1960 (Rome-Silver).

This gesture of giving honour to the three Indian Hockey Legends has been deeply appreciated by the Nehru Hockey Tournament Society. Nevertheless, this has also made the country proud.

DILIP TIRKEY AND WOMEN INTERNATIONAL UMPIRES HONOURED

It was an emotional meeting, both for the Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society as well as the newly-elected Member of Rajya Sabha, Shri Dilip Tirkey when the former honoured the latter at an impressive function in the Capital on May 17. Shri Tirkey, a former India Captain and three-time Olympian, started his hockey career as a sub-junior player in the Nehru Hockey Tournament in 1989.



Nehru Society's President, Shri Arun Subhashchandra Yadav presented Shri Tirkey a beautiful memento on behalf of the Society as the large gathering rose in unison and applauded the former India defender's feats on the field and his recent achievement on the political arena. The soft-spoken Shri Tirkey's election as Biju Janta Dal (BJD) MP from Odisha means that the ex-player from the Sundergarh tribal belt would have to be more assertive while raising important issues.

Introducing the new Member of Parliament to the august gathering, Nehru Society's energetic Secretary, Shri Kukoo Walia spoke of the international

player's achievements on the field of hockey hailing from Sundergarh in Odisha, 35-year-old Shri Dilip Tirkey represented B.S. High School (Sundergarh) in the Nehru sub-junior tournament in 1989. He represented India in three successive Olympics - Atlanta (1996), Sydney (2000) and Athens (2004). He played in the Milton Keynes (England) Junior World Cup, in the 1998 Bangkok Asian Games, 1993 Kuala Lumpur Asia Cup, 2002, Kuala Lumpur World Cup and the 2003 Kuala Lumpur Asia Cup. Shri Tirkey also captained the country in 2002 Cologne Champions Trophy, 2002 Busan Asian Games and the 2003 Hyderabad Afro-Asian Games.

Shri Tirkey, an employee with Indian Airlines, received the Arjuna Award for the year 2001 and was awarded the Padma Shri in 2004. In a brief but emotional reply, Shri Tirkey recalled his playing days in the Nehru tournaments and expressed his gratitude to the Nehru Society for the encouragement he always received as a young player.



On this occasion, the Nehru Society also honoured two Indian women

international Umpires, Ms Sunita Pant and Ms Nirmala Dagar, who have achieved the distinction in the field of umpiring, Ms Sunita officiated in the 15th Aisan Games in Doha, in the Singapore four-nation International Challenge Trophy (both in 2006) and in the 6th Asia Cup in Hong Kong in 2007 and in Australia in 2009. Ms Nirmala officiated in AHF Cup in Hong Kong (2007), Senior Asia Cup in Hong Kong (2010), South Asian Trophy, 2nd Asian Championship in China and four double-leg tournament in Argentina (all in 2011).



In the meeting, it was unanimously decided to entrust the job of forming sub-committees for the Nehru Society's Golden Jubilee Celebrations next year to the vibrant Secretary, Shri Kukoo Walia. The meeting was attended by the distinguished gathering like Shri H.S. Hanspal, Dr. Mahboobalam, Dr. D.R. Saini, Shri Subhash Kapur, Shri Ramesh Kapur, Shri Harbinder Singh and other prominent people from the hockey fraternity.

HOCKEY INDIA LEAGUE ANNOUNCED

Hockey India announces the Hockey India League wherein the best national and international hockey players showcase their talent, the first edition of this mega league will be played in January-February 2013. The inaugural session of the Hockey India League consists of six franchise based teams in six cities across India. Each team will have 24 players including 10 foreign and 14 Indians.

There will be a live telecast of all 33 matches of the league on a leading international sports channel. Hockey India League will be a multi city franchise-based league and players acquired in an auction.

The Hockey India League is an FIH (International Hockey Federation) sanctioned tournament and a separate window has been created in the international calendar.

(Courtesy: Hockey India)

INDIA FINISH 3RD IN JUNIOR ASIA CUP

India, who had won the gold in the sixth edition in Hyderabad in 2008 could get only a bronze this time in the latest edition held in Malacca (Malaysia) in the second week of May. India defeated South Korea 2-1 to bag the bronze medal after the hosts (Malaysia) had dashed India's hopes of making it to the final with a 2-0 win.

India had earlier held arch-rivals Pakistan to a 2-2 draw and then beat China 2-1. Malaysia went on to win the gold, beating Pakistan 2-1 for their first title win in the tournament in 20 years.

Final standings : 1. Malaysia, 2. Pakistan, 3. India, 4. Korea, 5. Japan, 6. China, 7. Iran, 8. Sri Lanka.

CALENDAR FOR THE YEAR 2012-2013

- | | | | |
|-----|---|----|-------------------------|
| (1) | 19 th Nehru Girls Hockey Tournament
(under 17 years) | -- | October 08-17, 2012 |
| (2) | 30 th Nehru Sub-Jr. Hockey Tournament
(Boys under 15 years) | -- | October 17-28, 2012 |
| (3) | 41 st Nehru Junior Hockey Tournament
(Boys under 17 years) | — | Oct. 28 – Nov.14, 2012 |
| (4) | 49 th Nehru Senior Hockey Tournament
(for men) | -- | November 14-25, 2012 |
| (5) | 20 th Nehru Champion Colleges
Hockey Tournament | -- | Feb. 28 – March 5, 2013 |

GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION NEHRU HOCKEY SOCIETY

is preparing to celebrate
GOLDEN JUBILEE in the year 2013
on conclusion of **FIFTY YEARS** of
Fruitful Services to the National Game.

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