



# THE CRADLE OF INDIAN HOCKEY QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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## *From the President's Desk*



Smiles were back on the faces of hockey fans of Delhi with the coming back to the Union capital of the series of annual tournaments organised under the aegis of Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society after a two year gap because of the renovation work being carried out for the Commonwealth Games. The popular series of competitions began with the girls (U-17) tournament at the world-class Major Dhyani Chand National Stadium.

Government Girls Senior Secondary School (Shahabad Markanda, Haryana) made it a memorable final by out-classing S.S. Girls High School (Simdega, Jharkhand) in the final. Defending Champions Birsa Munda Vidyapitha (Rourkela) triumphed over Jai Hind Junior High School, Imphal 11-0 to finish third.

Birsa Munda Vidyapith earned a rare "double" when they won both Sub-Junior Boys (U-15) and Junior Boys (U-17) trophies, in the space of a fortnight. In the Sub-Junior final, the team from Rourkela defeated Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School (Ladowali, Jalandhar) 2-1. In the Junior (U-17) final, Birsa Munda Vidyapitha beat Lyallpur Khalsa Sr. Secondary School (Jalandhar) 2-1. Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School from Ladowali finished third, beating Bright Scholars (Sonapat) 6-1 to win the Hardline trophy. A team from Bangladesh also participated in this tournament. Studded with experienced stars, Air India beat a youthful Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) 4-3 in the final to win the 47th edition of Nehru Senior Hockey Tournament.

The credit for the continued success of the Nehru Tournaments over the years should go to the Society's ever-energetic office-bearers, who have been working untiringly to make the Tournaments a grand success.

It has been an eventful year for the Nehru Hockey Society, whose various Tournaments have always proved a nurturing ground for hundreds of aspiring hockey players across the country.

I take this opportunity to extend a happy and prosperous New Year to all hockey players, advertisers, sponsors, media and last but not the least millions of admirers of the sport of hockey in India.

(Arun Subhashchandra Yadav)



## 19<sup>TH</sup> COMMONWEALTH GAMES HOCKEY (NEW DELHI-OCTOBER 4-14, 2010)

### Indian Men and Women teams fall prey to Aussie power

The Australian bug bit India twice, once in the league phase and again in the final, of the hockey competition during the 19th Commonwealth Games held at the renovated Maj Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi. Indian men's hockey team went down 2-5 to Australia in their Pool encounter and then were humbled by a humiliating margin of 8-0 in the summit clash to contend with the silver medal.

That the **Indian men's team** managed a silver medal for the first time in the Commonwealth Games was no consolation in front of the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and a capacity crowd as they were completely outplayed by the Australians in all departments of the game. But the home team had earlier raised the level of their play to hand out a stunning 7-4 win over arch-rivals Pakistan in Pool A and then overcame England 8-7 via tie-break in the semi-final. India also scored wins over Malaysia (3-2) and Scotland (4-0) to finish second in their pool. New Zealand claimed

the bronze medal beating England 5-3 via tie-break. Last edition's silver medalists Pakistan ended up sixth, losing to South Africa, through a golden goal.

**Indian Women's hockey team** slipped to the fifth position after having won the gold and silver in the last two editions. Like in the men's sections, Australia dominated the women's section as well and retained the gold medal, beating New Zealand 6-4 via tie-break in the final. A 1-2 reverse against Australia upset India's calculation and missed out a semi-final spot to South Africa on goal difference. England retained their third position after beating South Africa 1-0. Indian women's team's third successive podium finish dream vanished despite a 3-1 win over South Africa. India earlier humbled Trinidad & Tobago 7-0 but drew 1-1 against Scotland to finish third in Pool-A. India lost to South Africa on goal difference. Indian women made heavy weather of their rivals Canada before scoring a 3-0 win over Canada to finish fifth.

## 16<sup>TH</sup> ASIAN GAMES HOCKEY 2010 : MEN FINISH 3<sup>RD</sup>, WOMEN 4<sup>TH</sup>

One bad game against Malaysia cost India a place in the final as the team could end only with a bronze medal in the **men's section** of the 16th Asian Games held in Guangzhou (China). Despite beating arch-rivals Pakistan and four-time winners and defending champions South Korea, two of the strongest opponents in the tournament, India had to be contend with the bronze. Ironically, Pakistan, who lost to India, won the gold medal beating Malaysia 2-0 in the final. India's drag-flicker Sandeep Singh ended the competition with a tally of 11 goals, the highest in this Asian Games. No doubt, India maintained their domination against Pakistan, having won the battle against the neighbours in this year's World Cup as well as in the Commonwealth Games, both held in New

Delhi. But the failure to make it to the summit will bother the Indian team for a long time.

The **Indian women's team** finished a disappointing fourth, going down by a solitary goal to Japan in their bronze medal play-off. Japan had beaten the Indian women 3-0 in the league phase as well. India had earned the bronze medal in the last edition at Doha. Some poor trapping and sloppy defence cost India the game against Japan, who earned as many as 10 penalty corners. But for Goalkeeper Dipika Murthy's excellent work under the bar, India's margin of defeat could have been bigger.

China won the gold medal for the third time in a row, beating Korea 5-4 via penalty strokes.

## 17<sup>TH</sup> NEHRU JUNIOR GIRLS HOCKEY TOURNAMENT (UNDER-17 YEARS) OCT 18-26, 2010)

### Govt. Girls Sr. Sec. School, Haryana Stamp their class

The Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society's series of five popular annual tournaments are back in Delhi after a two-year gap because of stadium renovations for the just-concluded 19th Commonwealth Games.

Thanks to the leadership, guidance and blessings received from time to time from the Society's dynamic President, Shri Arun Yadav, Hon'ble Union

Minister of State for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, the Society embarked on its annual activities with renewed enthusiasm. The season began with the inauguration of the Girls (Under-17) tournament, in the presence of distinguished guests and a packed house of hockey enthusiasts.

Government Girls Senior Secondary School (Shahbad Markanda, Haryana) made it quite a



Memorable final in the first of the Nehru tournaments for the season : 17th edition of Girls (under-17) tournament which was held at the renovated Maj Dhyan Chand National Stadium. Led by India star Rani Ramphal (named the "FIH Best Young Woman Player of the World") recently the Haryana team stamped its authority by slamming nine goals against SS Girls High School (Simdega, Jharkhand). Rani led the onslaught by scoring four of the goals and was later declared the "Best Player of the Tournament" and awarded a cash prize of Rs. 10000 in memory of Shri K S Chauhan. Hardeep Kaur accounted for three goals for the team, coached by former Indian Coach Baldev Singh. The Haryana girls led 6-0 at the breather. They played attacking hockey and completely outplayed their opponents who were swept off their feet.

The winner received the glittering NDMC Cup along with Rs. 96000 while coach Baldev Singh got Rs. 8000. The runners-up team were richer by Rs. 64000 while team coach Ms Pratima Barwa received Rs. 5000. In the bronze medal play-off, defending champions Birsa Munda Vidyapeeth from Rourkela thumped Jai Hind Junior High School, Imphal 11-0.

Birajini Ekka scored a hat-trick while Anupa Barla slammed in four goals. The Rourkela team received Rs. 32000 while coach Amulya Nanda Bihari got Rs. 3000. The Imphal school, however had the consolation of winning the Mrs. Geeta Bajaj Fair Play Trophy and a cash award of Rs. 15000.

The Union Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs, Dr. M S Gill presided over the closing ceremony and gave away prizes to the teams. Shri Arun Yadav, President of the Nehru Society, gave a vote of thanks and also inaugurated the Nehru Sub-Junior tournament. The nine-day Junior Girls tournament was earlier inaugurated by Shri Mehboob Alam, IG CRPF.

As many as 11 of the 19 participating teams played in the preliminary league in four groups. The four group leaders (Govt. Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya, Nangloi, Jai Hind Junior High School, Imphal, Govt Bhoj Girls Higher Secondary School, Dhar, and NCC Directorate) qualified to join the seven seeded teams in Phase-2. In the semi-finals, Simdega School beat the School from Imphal 4-2 via tie-break while Shahbad Makranda girls ousted defending champions Birsa Munda Vidyalaya by a 5-4 margin.

## **28<sup>TH</sup> NEHRU SUB-JUNIOR (BOYS UNDER-15) HOCKEY TOURNAMENT**

### **Memorable win for Birsa Munda Vidyapitha**

Birsa Munda Vidyapitha made it a memorable eighth appearance in the final of the Nehru Sub-Junior Hockey Tournament by winning it for the fourth time at the Maj Dhyan Chand National Stadium in the Indian Capital. The boys from Rourkela scored a 2-1 win over Government Model Senior Secondary School (Ladowali, Jalandhar) in the 28th edition, the goals coming through the sticks of Parkash Barla and skipper Sumit Toppo after Lovepreet Singh had put the Jalandhar team ahead in the eighth minute.

The Rourkela team, named after the famous tribal freedom fighter in the State of Orissa, had earlier won the trophy in 1992, 1994 and 2008 and finished runners-up in 1991, 1998, 1999 and 2007. The winners received Rs. 96000 while team coach Vijay Kumar Lakra was awarded Rs 8000. The runners-up team got Rs. 64000 while its coach Gurdev Singh received Rs. 5000.

Munnalal Madanlal Vidyamandir Higher Secondary School (Faizabad) won the battle for the third place beating Springdales Senior Secondary School

(Amritsar) 3-2 via a golden goal. Besides the Hardline trophy, it received a cash prize of Rs. 32000 while coach Sudarshan Singh Salaria got Rs. 3000 for his efforts.

The Tournament attracted 27 teams from across the country and 23 of them played in the preliminary league. Eight group toppers from the preliminary league joined the four seeded teams (defending champions and four-time winners Govt Model Sr. Sec. School, Ladowali, Jalandhar, last year's runners-up Springdales Sr. Sec. School, Amritsar, BGSUS Sr. Sec. School, Khadoor Sahib, Amritsar, and Birsa Munda Vidyapitha, Rourkela). In the semi-finals, the Ladowali boys beat Munnalal Madanlal School 2-1 while Birsa Munda defeated Springdales by an identical margin.

The 10-day tournament was inaugurated by Shri Arun Yadav, President of the Nehru Hockey Society. Former Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, Justice Vijendra Jain, presided over the closing ceremony and distributed the prizes. Dr. D R Saini, Vice-President of the Society, gave vote of thanks.

Please have a look into our Website [www.nehruhockey.com](http://www.nehruhockey.com) for more information regarding Nehru Hockey activities and other news across the world.



# 39<sup>TH</sup> NEHRU JR BOYS (U-17) TOURNAMENT (NOV 4-17, 2010)

## Double Crown for Birsa Munda Boys

In the space of a fortnight, Birsa Munda Vidyapitha earned themselves a second trophy at the same venue. The team from Rourkela added the Under-17 title in the Nehru Junior Boys Tournament after the school had claimed the Under-15 boys crown two weeks earlier at the Maj Dhyani Chand National Stadium in New Delhi. In the final, Birsa Munda Vidyapitha beat Lyallpur Khalsa Senior Secondary School from Jalandhar 2-1. It was, thus, a double joy for coach Bijay Kumar Lakra who earned a cash award of Rs. 8000 while the winning team was richer by Rs. 96000. Sunil Ekka and Arbin Barla scored a goal each for the winners while Amandeep Singh reduced the margin for the losers with a penalty corner conversion in the 69th minute.

This was Birsa Munda Vidyapith's fourth title-win in five entries into the final, having won earlier in 1995, 1997 and 1999. They had finished runners-up in 2000 and 2008. The Jalandhar team had won the trophy twice in 2004 and 2008 and had ended up on the losing side in the final twice as well, in 1999 and 2005. The Jalandhar boys got Rs. 64000 while their coach Olympian Baljeet Singh Saini

was awarded Rs. 5000 for his efforts. Government Model Senior Secondary School (Ladowali, Jalandhar) finished third after beating Bright Scholars (Sonapat) 6-1 to win the Hardline trophy and Rs. 32000. Team coach Avtar Singh received Rs. 3000.

A feature of this year's 39th edition was the participation of a team from Bangladesh among the 31 teams. Sixteen teams took part in the preliminary qualifying competition. The five group winners joined the seven seeded teams. The four teams that made it to the semi-finals were Birsa Munda Vidyapitha (Rourkela), Bright Scholars Sr. Sec. School (Sonapat), Lyallpur Khalsa Sr. Sec. School (Jalandhar) and Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School (Jalandhar). In the Semi-finals, Birsa Munda beat Bright Scholars 3-1 while Lyallpur Khalsa ousted Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School by an identical margin.

Shri Subhash Kapoor chairman of M/s Steelbird Hi-Tech India Ltd. presided over the prize distribution function on the final day. Shri Kukoo Walia, Jt-Cum-Organising Secretary announced a vote of thanks.

## 47<sup>TH</sup> SENIOR HOCKEY TOURNAMENT (NOV. 14-25, 2010)

### Air India beat ONGC, claim Nehru Cup; Army XI finish 3rd

Experience triumphed over youth as Air India, comprising several veterans and former India Internationals (including Dhanraj Pillay, Len Aiyappa, V S Vinay, Adrian D'Souza, Birender Lakra and Sameer Dad), defeated Oil and Natural Gas Corporation 4-3 to win the 47th edition of Senior Nehru Hockey Tournament in front of a capacity crowd at the Maj Dhyani Chand National Stadium in the Indian Capital. Air India thus avenged their defeat suffered at the hands of ONGC in the super league stage when they went down 1-3. Len Aiyappa, Sandeep Michael, Birender Lakra and Yuvraj Walmiki scored for the winners after ONGC had taken the lead in the seventh minute through Gurwinder Chandi. But Air India struck back immediately and slammed in four goals in the space of 12 minutes. Diwakar Ram and Gurwinder Chandi scored the other goals for the losers after Air India had led 4-2 at the breather.

Air India received a cash award of Rs. 2 lakh along with the Nehru Cup and Japan Trophy. ONGC were richer by Rs 1 lakh. They also earned the Nehru Silver Cup. As many as 18 top teams from the country participated in this Senior Nehru Tournament. Thirteen of them took part in the initial phase knock-out stage. The three group leaders then joined the five seeded teams in the super league. Army XI and Indian Oil emerged on top in Pool A while Pool B saw ONGC XI and Air India finish in that order. In the semi-finals, Air India beat Army XI 2-1 while ONGC ousted Indian Oil by a 3-2 margin. Army XI

finished third, beating Indian Oil 2-1, to receive the Hero Honda Hardline Trophy as well as the Lt Gen Harbaksh Singh Trophy along with a cash award of Rs. 50000.

As Indian Airlines (before merger with Air India) the team had won the Nehru title 10 times. Now as Air India, it was their third title in their fifth entry into the final. ONGC, on the other hand, were making their maiden final entry. International umpire Shri Bhupinder Singh and Shri G S Sangha received jointly cash award of Rs 10000 for being declared the best umpires of the tournament. They got the prestigious Sardar Gian Singh Best Umpire Trophy.

The President of the Nehru Hockey Tournament Society, Shri Arun Yadav, Honorable Union Minister of State for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, presided over the final day's function and presented awards to the players. Shri Kukoo Walia, Joint-cum-Organising Secretary, gave a vote of thanks.

Nehru tournaments have always proved to be the premier ground for aspiring hockey players across the country. Over the past 47 years, scores of players who participated in these tournaments and exhibited their skills have gone on to represent the country at the highest level. The credit for the continued success of the tournament over the years should largely go to the untiring efforts of the Nehru Society's office-bearers.



## TRIPLE OLYMPIAN HARBINDER SINGH APPOINTED GOVT. OBSERVER FOR HOCKEY

The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has appointed the Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society's Vice-President, triple Olympian (1964 Tokyo-Gold, 1968-Mexico-bronze and 1972 Munich-bronze) and Arjuna Awardee (1967),

Shri Harbinder Singh, as a Government Observer for Hockey from January 1, 2011.

The Nehru Hockey Society is confident that the veteran's induction as Govt. Observer for the country's national game of hockey, will immensely help improve the standard of the game in the country, and wishes him all the best.

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