



Indian Hockey's Glory Continues

Bronze at Paris 2024 Olympics

August 9, 2024

The Indian hockey shines at the **Paris 2024 Olympics** by clinching the **Bronze Medal**. This achievement is particularly noteworthy, marking their **second consecutive Olympic medal**. This victory adds to India's storied legacy in field hockey and reaffirms the nation's status as a formidable force in the sport. With a proud history, this latest achievement reflects India's enduring hockey excellence.



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Reviving the Glory

The Golden Era (1928-1980)

For over five decades, the Indian Men's Field Hockey Team was a dominant force in the sport, particularly in the Olympics. Between **1928 and 1980**, India secured eleven gold **medals** in twelve Olympic Games, including **eight gold medals**. This period of dominance was marked by **six consecutive Olympic gold medals from 1928 to 1956**, a feat unparalleled in the sport's history. India's unmatched skill, speed, and strategic prowess on the field made the team a global powerhouse and established Indian hockey as a symbol of national pride.

	MEDAL	VENUE
2024	BRONZE	PARIS
2020	BRONZE	TOKYO
1980	GOLD	MOSCOW
1972	BRONZE	MUNICH
1968	BRONZE	MEXICO
1964	GOLD	TOKYO
1960	SILVER	ROME
1956	GOLD	MELBOURNE
1952	GOLD	HELSINKI
1948	GOLD	LONDON
1936	GOLD	BERLIN
1932	GOLD	LOS ANGELES
1928	GOLD	AMSTERDAM

Challenges and a Long Wait for Glory

Following the 1980 Moscow Olympics, where India won its **last gold medal** of the golden era, the team faced a challenging period. The dominance waned, and India experienced a long drought in Olympic success. It took 41 years for the Indian hockey team to end this dry spell. The turning point came at the **Tokyo 2020 Olympics**, where a determined Indian men's hockey team rewrote history by winning the **bronze medal**, a sweet victory that signalled India's resurgence in international hockey.

The Road to Tokyo 2020

The years leading up to the Tokyo Olympics were filled with both challenges and successes for the Indian men's hockey team. The 2018-19 season was particularly notable. Although the team did not achieve the desired results at the Commonwealth and Asian Games, they showcased significant potential. A major highlight was winning the **Asian Champions Trophy**, which boosted the team's confidence. Additionally, the **Silver Medal at the Champions Trophy** helped improve their global ranking, reflecting the team's resilience and promise for the future.

A New Era of Indian Hockey

The Indian Men's Hockey Team had a remarkable 2022. They secured a Bronze medal at the Asia Cup in Jakarta with a new set of players, showcasing India's strong talent pool beyond the regular senior squad. The team also won the **FIH(The Fédération Internationale de Hockey) Hockey 5s title** and a **Silver Medal at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games**. Their impressive performance in the FIH Hockey Pro League 2021/22 season, where they finished third, was another significant achievement.

Emulating their senior counterparts, the Indian Junior Women's and Men's teams also had notable successes in 2022. The Junior Women's team performed strongly at the FIH Junior Hockey Women's World Cup in Potchefstroom, South Africa, narrowly missing out on a Bronze medal against England. The Indian Junior Men's team won the prestigious Sultan of Johor Cup, adding to the year's achievements.

Looking Ahead

In 2023, Hockey India successfully hosted the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup across Bhubaneswar and Rourkela, with the **world's largest-seated Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium** capturing the imaginations of fans globally. Although the Indian Men's Hockey Team faced an upset at the World Cup, they bounced back with a tremendous showing in the FIH Men's Hockey Pro League 2022/23, registering significant wins over Australia and reigning **World Champions Germany** in March.

As Indian hockey continues to evolve, the legacy of past successes and recent achievements fuels the nation's hopes for future glory. With a strong talent pool and a renewed focus on excellence, Indian hockey is poised to reclaim its status as a global powerhouse.

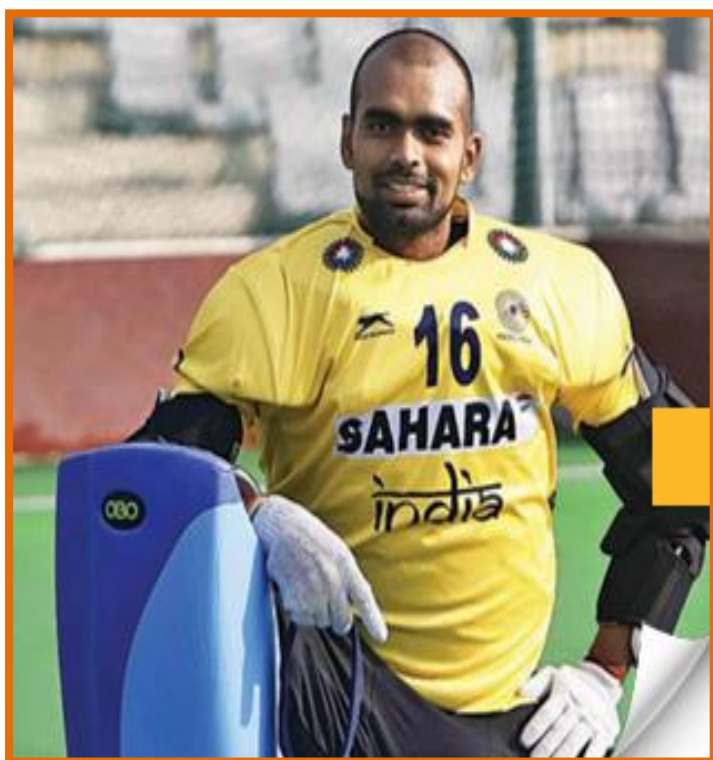
The recent addition of the Bronze Medal at **Paris 2024** adds to this glory!

Financial and Infrastructural Support

The Indian hockey team's success on the international stage has been bolstered by significant financial and infrastructural support. A lot of credit goes to **Odisha State Government** for unparalleled support to the hockey team across all horizons. Key initiatives include the **Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)**, providing **Rs. 88.5 lakhs**, and the **Annual Calendar for Training and Competition (ACTC)**, allocating **Rs. 40.93 crores** to the men's team. Additionally, financial assistance was given for **19 foreign training camps, test matches, and the procurement of gym equipment**, along with specialised trainers. Since the Tokyo Olympics, the team has also benefited from 740 days of national training camps held 33 times.

Meet the Hockey Team

Sreejesh PR



Sreejesh was initially a sprinter, long jumper, and volleyball player, he took up goalkeeping at GV Raja Sports School in Thiruvananthapuram. His talent was discovered by hockey coach Jayakumar. Sreejesh made his junior national debut in **2004** and his senior debut in **2006**. He was named '**Best Goalkeeper of the Tournament**' at the **2008 Junior Asia Cup**. He starred in India's gold medal win at the **2014 Asian Games** and **captained the national team in 2016**. At the Tokyo Olympics, Sreejesh played a key role in securing a bronze medal for India after 41 years.

Harmanpreet Singh

Harmanpreet Singh is a defender and the captain of the Indian national field hockey team. He debuted for the **India Junior Team** against New Zealand, scoring 9 goals at the **2014 Sultan of Johor Cup**. He made his senior team debut in 2015 against Japan and was part of the 2016 Sultan Azlan Shah Cup. Harmanpreet scored his **100th international goal** in a 2021–22 Men's FIH Pro League match against England. He played a crucial role in India's bronze medal win at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and led the team to gold at the 2022 Asian Games.



Manpreet Singh



Manpreet Singh Pawar started playing hockey at age **10**. He captained the **India junior team to a gold medal** at the **2013 Sultan of Johor Cup** and was named **Junior Player of the Year** by the Asian Hockey Federation in 2014. Manpreet was part of India's gold-winning team at the 2014 Asian Games and led the national team to a bronze medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. He was awarded the **Khel Ratna in 2021**.

Hardik Singh

Hardik Singh plays midfield for the team. His father, Varinderpreet Singh, and uncle, Jugraj Singh, were both accomplished hockey players. Hardik made his senior international debut at the 2018 Asian Men's Hockey Champions Trophy and played in the 2018- and 2023-Men's Hockey World Cups. He comes from a family deeply rooted in hockey, with his aunt and grandfather also representing India.



Jarmanpreet Singh



Jarmanpreet Singh is a defender for the team. He debuted internationally at the **2018 Men's Hockey Champions Trophy**, where India won the silver medal. His family supported his early interest in hockey and further nurtured him at the Khalsa Academy in Amritsar and Surjit Hockey School in Jalandhar. His international career began in **2011** when he was selected for the **Indian junior hockey squad**.

Amit Rohidas

Amit Rohidas is a **defender and vice-captain** of the Indian national team. He was part of the bronze medal-winning squad at the **2020 Tokyo Olympics**. He started playing hockey in his village and joined the Panposh Sports Hostel in Rourkela in 2004. He was selected for the **national junior team in 2009**. Rohidas was chosen in **the senior squad for the 2013 Asia Cup** in Ipoh, where the Indian team won the silver medal. He made a comeback to the Indian side in 2017.



Sumit



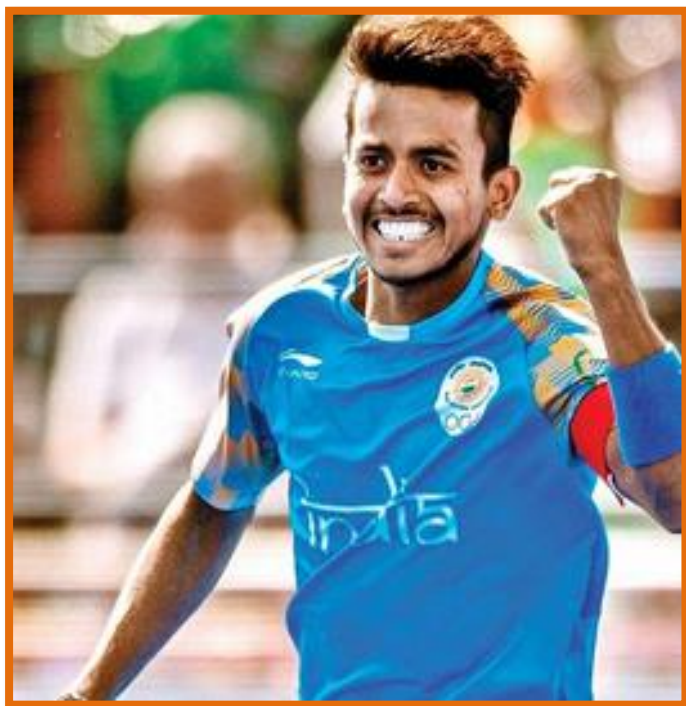
Sumit plays as a midfielder. He was part of the Indian squad that won the **2016 Men's Hockey Junior World Cup** and made his **senior team debut** at the **2017 Sultan Azlan Shah Cup**. He played a key role in India's bronze medal win at the **Tokyo 2020 Olympics** and gold at the **2022 Asian Games**.

Sanjay

Sanjay trained at the **Chandigarh Hockey Academy from 2011 to 2017** and later represented Haryana state. He was part of the team that won the **3rd Youth Olympic Games in Argentina in 2018** and played in the Men's Junior World Cup team in 2021. Sanjay made his senior debut at the FIH Hockey Pro-League in 2022.



Vivek Sagar Prasad



Vivek Sagar Prasad became the **second youngest player** ever to debut for India at **17 years, 10 months and 22 days**. He was named the **FIH Rising Star of the Year in 2019** and **FIH Young Player of the Year in 2020-21**. He scored a crucial goal in the 2018 Champions Trophy final and was part of the bronze medal-winning team at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Shamsher Singh

Shamsher Singh plays as a forward. He debuted his senior team **at the 2019 Ready Steady Tokyo Hockey Tournament**. He was part of the team that won gold at the **2022 Hangzhou Asian Games**, securing a berth for the Paris Olympics.



Raj Kumar Pal



Raj Kumar Pal is a midfielder. He made his international debut in **February 2020 at the Men's FIH Pro League** and was part of the gold medal-winning team at the **2023 Asian Champions Trophy**.

Mandeep Singh

Mandeep Singh plays as a **forward**. Mandeep Singh debuted for the **India men's national field hockey** team on 18 February 2013 during the second round of the 2012–14 **Hockey World League** against Fiji, in which India routed the opposition to come out as 16–0 winners. He was on the bronze medal-winning team at the **2020 Tokyo Olympics** and the gold-winning team at the 2022 Asian Games.



Lalit Kumar Upadhyay



Lalit Kumar Upadhyay is also a forward. He was part of the bronze medal-winning team at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and played on the gold-winning team at the **2022 Asian Games**.

Abhishek

Abhishek is a forward for the team. He made his **international debut in February 2022** at the **Men's FIH Pro League** and was part of the **gold-winning team at the 2022 Asian Games**.



Gurjant Singh



Gurjant Singh is an Indian field hockey player who plays forward. He was on the **gold-winning team at the 2016 Men's Hockey Junior World Cup** and the **bronze medal-winning team at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics**.

Sukhjeet Singh

Sukhjeet Singh is also a forward. He made his senior team debut in 2018 but faced a major setback due to a back injury. He made a comeback in the **FIH Pro League 2021-22** and was part of the **gold-winning team at the 2022 Asian Games**.



Krishna Bahadur Pathak



Krishna Bahadur Pathak is a goalkeeper. Despite initial reluctance, he joined the Surjit Hockey Academy at his father's insistence. He was part of the junior team that won the **2016 Men's Hockey Junior World Cup** and the senior team that won bronze at the **2020 Tokyo Olympics**.

Nilkantha Sharma

Shanglakpam Nilakanta Sharma is a midfielder for the team. He was part of the junior team that won the **2016 Men's Hockey Junior World Cup** and the senior team that won bronze at the **2020 Tokyo Olympics** and gold at the **2022 Asian Games**.



Jugraj Singh



Jugraj Singh is a defender and drag flicker. He played a crucial role in the **penalty conversion** alongside Harmanpreet Singh and was part of **the gold-winning team at the 2023 Asian Champions Trophy**.

The Indian hockey team, with its rich history and continued success, remains a formidable force in international field hockey. The recent accolades, including the bronze medal at the 2024 Paris Olympics and multiple medals at the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games, are testament to the team's hard work and commitment.

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Pathway to Paris pdf

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