



How can India  
Regain their Past  
Glory in Hockey?



# BACKGROUND PAST HISTORY



- India won **six consecutive Olympic field hockey gold medals** from **1928 (Amsterdam)** to **1956 (Melbourne)**, showcasing unmatched global supremacy.
- **Major Dhyan Chand**, known as the "**Wizard of Hockey**," was pivotal in India's golden era, earning three Olympic golds (1928, 1932, 1936) and mesmerizing audiences with his stickwork.
- From **1928 to 1960**, India played 24 Olympic matches, **winning all**, scoring 178 goals, and conceding only 7, a record of unparalleled consistency.
- India won the **first two Asian Games field hockey golds** in **1951 (New Delhi)** and **1958 (Tokyo)**, establishing regional dominance.

# CURRENT HAPPENINGS



- The Indian men's hockey team won a historic **bronze medal** at the **2020 Tokyo Olympics**, defeating Germany 5-4, ending a **41-year Olympic medal drought**.
- India secured another **bronze** at the **2024 Paris Olympics**, defeating Spain 2-1, marking their first back-to-back Olympic medals since 1972, with captain Harmanpreet Singh as the top scorer with 10 goals.
- The Indian men's team won **gold** at the **2023 Hangzhou Asian Games**, going undefeated and securing qualification for the Paris 2024 Olympics.
- The **Indian women's team** won a **bronze** medal at the **2023 Hangzhou Asian Games**, a notable achievement despite not securing gold.

# GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS



**Total Estimated Budget Range**  
allocated for Hocket by the **Govt. of India** is around **215Cr. to 380Cr.** and **Government of Odisha** alone spends **₹117.76Cr. to 117.93Cr. per year** on an average for the past 18 years.

# PRIVATE INITIATIVES

Coca-Cola India  
Foundation's  
#SheTheDifference  
Campaign

Dilip Tirkey Sports  
Research and  
Development  
Foundation's Grassroots  
Program

Odisha Naval Tata  
Hockey High-  
Performance Centre  
(HPC)

Hockey India League  
(HIL) Team Ownership  
by Private Entities

JSW Sports' Hockey  
Development Programs

Reliance Foundation  
Youth Sports (RFYS)  
Hockey Tournaments

Initiatives taken up by **private organizations** have collectively invested an **estimated ₹4,111-4,582 crore** from **2014 to 2034**, with the HIL alone contributing ₹3,640 crore over 10 years. These investments **support grassroots training, professional leagues, and women's hockey**, though their sustainability hinges **on commercial success** and **broader regional outreach**.

# EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

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Khelo India Youth Games and Talent Search

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Sports Authority of India (SAI) National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC)

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Odisha Naval Tata Hockey High-Performance Centre (HPC) Grassroots Program

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Dilip Tirkey Sports Research and Development Foundation's One Step Ahead Program

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East India Hockey Project

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JSW Sports' Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS) Junior Program

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Early intervention programs promote the sport by identifying and training young talent **aged 8-16**, providing **over 5,000 players annually** with **coaching, equipment and competitive exposure** to find **strong talent, grassroots participation and skill development**, ensuring a steady flow of skilled athletes to sustain India's hockey legacy.



# PROFESSIONAL LEAGUE INFLUENCE



**Hockey India League(HIL)** launched in 2013, played a **major role** in **reviving interest** in Indian Hockey.

- HIL brought in **significant financial rewards**, giving Indian hockey players a **solid income and professional contracts**, which motivated young athletes to take up the sport.
- World-class foreign players participated, **exposing Indian players** to **high-level international standards**, improving their game and confidence.
- Franchise cities **invested in better stadiums and training facilities**, upgrading the overall hockey infrastructure across India.
- Young Indian players got a **platform to showcase their skills on national television**, which led to faster national team selections and wider recognition.
- With marketing, star players, and regular matches, the league **re-engaged fans**, especially the youth, **with hockey again**.

# COACHING AND TRAINING INFRASTRUCTURE

List of a few World Class Hockey Infrastructure in India are as follows:



- **SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA(SAI) TRAINING CENTRES – 100CR. TO 200CR. ANNUAL BUDGET**
- **ODISHA NAVAL TATA HOCKEY HIGH-PERFORMANCE CENTRES(HPC) – 10CR. TO 20CR.**
- **BIRSA MUNDA HOCKEY STADIUM, ROURKELLA - 90CR. PROJECT**
- **MAJOR DHYAN CHAND NATIONAL STADIUM, NEW DELHI – 10CR. TO 20CR. ANNUAL BUDGET**
- **JSW SPORTS INSPIRE INSTITUTE OF SPORTS, VIJAYANAGAR – 100CR. TO 200CR. TOTAL EXPENDITURE**



# PLAYER INCENTIVES

Government Job Opportunities

States like Odisha, Punjab, and Haryana provide cash rewards for international successes

Sponsorship and Endorsement Deals

Hockey India League (HIL) Salaries and Contracts. A player signed for a top HIL team could earn ₹10-50 lakh per season, depending on their grade

Khelo India Scholarship and Stipends

Cash Awards for Olympic Success. Each player from the 2024 bronze-winning team received approximately ₹65 lakh combined from state and central governments

These are the few **incentives** that are provided by the **government, state authorities, private entities, and sports organizations** like Hockey India, **encouraging players to excel at domestic and international levels**

# PHYSICAL AND MENTAL FITNESS INITIATIVES

PHYSICAL FITNESS INITIATIVES	MENTAL FITNESS INITIATIVES
<b>Sports Authority of India (SAI) Sports Science Support</b>	<b>Coca-Cola India Foundation's #SheTheDifference Campaign</b>
<b>Khelo India Fitness Assessments</b>	<b>Hockey India's Mental Conditioning Workshops</b>
<b>Odisha Naval Tata Hockey High-Performance Centre (HPC) Fitness Programs</b>	<b>SAI's Psychological Support Program</b>
<b>JSW Sports' Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS) Conditioning Programs</b>	<b>Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) Mental Training Support</b>
<b>Hockey India's National Camps with Fitness Focus</b>	<b>East India Hockey Project's Leadership and Mental Resilience Training</b>

# CONCLUSION



To **regain** its **past glory** in field hockey we need to,

- **Initiate annual national tournaments outside of HIL** to ensure regular game time. A solid domestic calendar, similar to cricket's Ranji Trophy, can keep players in form and depth.
- **Build FIH-standard turfs** in Punjab, Haryana, and Tamil Nadu to delocalize hockey from Odisha. Grassroots academies need to be funded so that players learn on astroturf early.
- **Appoint international fitness and mental conditioning coaches** to the level of global standards. Exposure to the best teams through regular bilateral series or Pro League involvement is essential.
- **Expand Khelo India and private academies** to find varied talent, particularly from rural and tribal pockets of the country.