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**Abhishek credits team for Hockey India 6th Annual Awards nominations**

*~ Abhishek has been nominated in two categories at 6th edition of the Hockey India Annual Awards ~*

**New Delhi, 30th March 2024:**The stage is set for the highly anticipated 6th edition of the Hockey India Annual Awards, set to take place on Sunday, in New Delhi. This year's awards ceremony boasts an unprecedented total prize pool of INR 7.56 crores. A total of 32 nominations spanning eight categories have clinched a spot on the shortlist for these annual accolades. These nominees will be lauded for their remarkable contributions to Indian hockey throughout the 2023 calendar year.

The prestigious awards ceremony will be graced by Hockey Legends including Olympians Raghbir Lal, A.S. Bakshi, Harbinder Singh, Ashok Diwan, Zafar Iqbal, Ajit Pal Singh, Romeo James, Jagbir Singh, M.P. Singh, and Vineet Kumar. Hockey India President Dr Dilip Tirkey, Secretary General Shri Bhola Nath Singh, and Treasurer Shri Sekar J Manoharan will be present, along with Hockey India Executive Board Members. Other notable attendees include Shri R Vineel Krishna, IAS, Commissioner-Cum-Secretary DSYS, Odisha; Dr Atulya Misra, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu, and Shri Meghanath Reddy, IAS, Member Secretary SDAT, Tamil Nadu.

Among the nominees is Indian forward Abhishek, who enjoyed a tremendous year making a mark with his stellar performances. For his consistent display, Abhishek has been nominated in two categories - Hockey India Dhanraj Pillay Award for Forward of the Year 2023 (Men) and Hockey India Balbir Singh Sr. Award for Player of The Year 2023 (Men).

Speaking on his dual nominations, Abhishek said, "It is a matter of great honour for me to be nominated this year in two categories. I wish to thank the Hockey India support staff, our coaches and my teammates who constantly supported me and always advised me whenever I was in need. Because of their constant backing, I gained confidence and was able to perform freely."

Abhishek, who scored three goals in six games at the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's Hockey World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar-Rourkela, continued his form at the Hangzhou Asian Games, where he scored 9 goals in 7 games, helping his side to a Gold medal win. He was also named the Player of the Match after India's thrilling 2 - 2 (8 - 7 SO) win over Spain at the FIH Men's Hockey Pro League 2023/24 last month in Rourkela.

Recapping the last year, Abhishek said, "It was a good year for me. Every time I step out on the field wearing the Indian jersey, my aim is to ensure that I give my absolute best to help my team get the desired result. More than the individual achievements, it is about ensuring the team performs well and they are able to find me in the desired positions at the correct times, and that is what I worked on this year. I hope to continue to improve as we go further into the current year."

With the Paris Olympics approaching, the Indian Men's Hockey Team will tour Australia to compete in a five-match Test series against the World No. 5 team. Speaking on the importance of the tour, Abhishek said that the coming series is a chance for the Indian team to work on key areas ahead of the Olympics.

"This is an important year for each and every one with the Paris Olympics coming up. Our team is focused on improving ourselves ahead of major competitions and hence, we all are really looking forward to the tour of Australia to test ourselves and our strategies against strong opposition," he signed off.

*The awards will telecast live on DD Sports, and will also be livestreamed on Hockey India YouTube Page (*[*https://youtube.com/live/ELO4KX04qxg?feature=share*](https://youtube.com/live/ELO4KX04qxg?feature=share)*), Fan code and on Watch.Hockey.*

Please find attached pictures.

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**About HOCKEY INDIA**

HOCKEY INDIA (HI) is the governing body with exclusive mandate to direct and conduct all activities for both men and women's hockey in India. It is recognized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt. of India as the sole body responsible towards promoting Hockey in India.

Headquartered in New Delhi, Hockey India was established on 20th May, 2009 and is affiliated to the International Hockey Federation (FIH), the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and Asian Hockey Federation (AHF).

Committed to the development of Hockey in the country, Hockey India with the assistance of Sports Authority of India and Department of Sports, Government of India, trains players at sub-junior, junior and senior level. The governing body engages in Coaching the coaches with International Standard certification programs, educates and equips technical officials and umpires to find a foothold in international arena, provides world-class infrastructure and International exposure for the players besides regular international competition. Hockey India has also pioneered in bringing top International hockey events to India such as the FIH Men's World Cup in 2010 and 2018, FIH Champions Trophy in 2014, FIH Junior Men's World Cup in 2016 and 2021, FIH Hockey World League Final in 2017. With its vision to popularize the game and constantly promote it, Hockey India brought the Indian Men's Hockey Team into the top three in the world. Hockey India is also dedicated to getting the Indian Women's Hockey Team into the top three in the world.

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**About ODISHA**

Odisha - the Eastern State of India - is known for its love for Hockey and over the years it has evolved to be the Global Hub of Hockey. The State successfully hosted the Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup Bhubaneswar 2018, followed by the FIH Men's Series Finals Bhubaneswar Odisha, FIH Olympic Qualifiers Odisha, and FIH Hockey Pro League 2020-21. Odisha has previously hosted the Champions Trophy 2014 and the Odisha Men's Hockey World League Final Bhubaneswar 2017. Odisha also hosted the FIH Men's Hockey Junior World Cup in 2021.

Kalinga Lancers, the team owned by the State, were the winners in the Hockey India League 2017. Taking a step further towards realising the dream of restoring the glory of Indian Hockey at the global level, the State is sponsoring the Indian Hockey Teams till 2033.

Odisha also hosted the FIH Odisha Hockey Men’s World Cup 2023 and the Rourkela and Bhubaneswar legs of the FIH Hockey Pro League 2022/23 and 2023/24.

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