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**Hockey Haryana crowned Champions of the 14th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship**

*~Hockey Haryana defeated hosts Hockey Maharashtra 1-1 (3-0 SO) to clinch Gold~*

*~Hockey Jharkhand defeated Hockey Madhya Pradesh 2-0 to finish in third place~*

**Pune, 23rd March:** Hockey Haryana defeated hosts Hockey Maharashtra 1-0 (3-0 SO) in a nail-biting Final to win the 14th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship at the Major Dhyanchand Hockey Stadium Pimpri, Pune. While Deepika (26’) scored for Hockey Haryana in regulation time, Navneet Kaur, Usha and Sonika scored in the shootout and their Captain Savita made three successive saves to take them to glory.

Hockey Haryana applied pressure on their opponents right off the blocks, keeping the ball in Hockey Maharashtra’s half for a major part of the first quarter. While Hockey Haryana made a few circle penetrations, no goals were scored as the first quarter ended with the score 0-0.

The second quarter started in similar fashion and Hockey Haryana was awarded a penalty stroke a little over five minutes into the quarter. Rajani Etimarpu, the goalkeeper for the hosts, kept the ball out, much to the delight of the fans at the stadium. Their happiness was short-lived as leading goal-scorer of the tournament Deepika (26’) converted a penalty corner to put Hockey Haryana in the lead.

An opportunity presented itself to Hockey Haryana to double their lead, but a gritty Hockey Maharashtra defence kept the ball from finding the back of the net. Both teams came close to scoring but neither succeeded as the third quarter ended with Hockey Haryana leading 1-0.

With a little over six minutes left in the game, Hockey Maharashtra found their elusive equalizer with a penalty corner conversion from Akshata Abaso Dhekale (54’), bringing even more excitement into the game. Hockey Haryana was awarded a penalty corner with under two minutes left, but failed to score as the game went into a penalty shoot-out with the score reading 1-1.

Navneet Kaur, Usha and Sonika scored for Hockey Haryana in the shootout while Indian Women’s Hockey Team and Hockey Haryana’s Captain and goalkeeper Savita made three successive saves as Hockey Haryana clinched the Gold at the 14th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship.

**Hockey Jharkhand finishes in third place with win over Hockey Madhya Pradesh:**

In a late afternoon clash, Hockey Jharkhand defeated Hockey Madhya Pradesh 2-0 to ensure they would finish the tournament at third place for the third year in a row. While both teams have displayed their goal scoring prowess throughout the competition, the ensuing encounter was a low scoring thriller.

Sangita Kumari (3’) broke the deadlock as early as the third minute to give Hockey Jharkhand the lead. Despite various measures, Hockey Madhya Pradesh was unable to find the equaliser. Late in the fourth quarter Ropni Kumar (59’) successfully converted a penalty corner to double the lead and seal the victory for Hockey Jharkhand.

Please find attached pictures and the schedule.

*All the matches will be live-streamed on FanCode.*

For more pictures, login to the Hockey India Photo library:

Click: <https://photolibrary.hockeyindia.org/>

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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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