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**'I want to win the Gold in the Olympics for India one day,' says Indian Junior Men's Hockey Team goalie Prince Deep Singh**

*~ The 19-year-old is a part of the Indian Junior Men's Hockey Team set to tour Europe later this month ~*

**New Delhi, 16th May:**The Indian Junior Men's Hockey team is gearing up for their tour of Europe scheduled for later this month and Prince Deep Singh, the team's goalkeeper, is thrilled at having a chance to gain some much-needed exposure playing against teams from other countries.

The Indian Junior Men’s Hockey Team, led by Rohit, will be playing matches in Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands between 20th and 29th May. Among the twenty players selected to be a part of the tour is Prince Deep Singh, who has been picked alongside Bikramjit Singh to shoulder the goal-keeping responsibilities.

Coming from a humble background in the Pathankot district of Punjab, Prince Deep Singh picked up a hockey stick in 2016 for the first time. "I watched the Indian team play on TV and was particularly fond of PR Sreejesh's game. It made us want to try playing the sport. As I started to enjoy it while playing with my friends, I moved to an Academy," he said.

Prince Deep Singh slowly moved up the ranks and went on to represent Roundglass Punjab Hockey Club Academy in the 2nd Hockey India Junior Men Academy National Championship 2022 before having an opportunity to represent Punjab in the 5th Khelo India Youth Games 2022 which took place in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh where they won the Bronze. He also represented Hockey Punjab in the 13th Hockey India Junior Men National Championship that took place in June 2023 in Rourkela, Odisha. Although the team finished in fifth place, Prince Deep left a mark with his goal-keeping prowess during the tournament and over the year across other domestic tournaments as a result of which he was drafted in to be a part of the 40-member Junior Men’s National coaching camp in Bengaluru earlier this year.

Speaking about his experience during the camp, he said, “I got to learn a lot. Getting to be among the best Junior players in the country makes you want to put your best foot forward. I worked on getting better with each practice session and it helped that everyone involved motivated me.”

“We all got to know each other well, both as players and individuals. That goes a long way in creating a positive team environment,” he added.

The Indian Junior Men’s team’s tour of Europe will help the players develop their game and learn about what they need to work on going into the season. Prince believes it is an opportunity for him to take his game to the next level. He said, “When you play against teams from other countries, you have to bring your A-game. I see this as an opportunity for the team as well as for myself to identify what we’re doing well and what we need to tweak to be able to reach greater heights in the game. That is the reason for this tour and I believe we’re going to make full use of it.”

“Right now, I’d like to do well for the nation at the Junior level and help us win tournaments with every chance I get and then go on to represent the senior Indian Men’s Hockey Team. I want to win the Gold in the Olympics for India one day. That is the ultimate dream,” he concluded.

Please find attached the schedule and 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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