Prince Deep Singh finds belief through double nomination at Hockey India 8th Annual Awards 2025

NEW DELHI: For a player who is yet to make his senior international debut, Prince Deep Singh's rise has been anything but ordinary. The young goalkeeper, currently training at the Senior Men's National Camp, has found himself rubbing shoulders with the country's best after being nominated in two of the biggest categories — Hockey India Baljit Singh Award for Goalkeeper of the Year 2025 and Hockey India Jugraj Singh Award for Upcoming Player of the Year 2025 (Men – Under 21) — at the Hockey India 8th Annual Awards 2025 which will be held on 27 March 2026 in New Delhi.

It is a recognition that feels both surreal and deeply affirming for the 21-year-old player, who only broke into the international scene in 2024 with the Indian Junior Men's Hockey Team, but has already won numerous laurels with the team - including a Gold medal at the FIH Junior Asia Cup 2024, a Silver medal at the Sultan of Johor Cup 2025, and a Bronze medal at the FIH Men's Junior World Cup Tamil Nadu 2025.

Interestingly, Prince Deep Singh was also named 'Goalkeeper of the Tournament' in the Men's Hero Hockey India League (HIL) 2025-26, where he played for Accord Tamil Nadu Dragons.

"I feel very happy and proud," Prince says with quiet conviction. "It usually takes time to get nominated for such awards, but I got this opportunity early. Performing well in tournaments and seeing my name among top goalkeepers — it motivates me a lot."

His journey to this moment has been shaped by

performances under pressure. At the FIH Junior Men's World Cup 2025, where India clinched Bronze, Prince stood tall in crunch situations, particularly during India's quarter-final against Belgium — a match that tested not just skill, but temperament.

"That match was do-or-die for us," he recalls.

JKP organizes grand Volleyball tournament in Domana

JAMMU: With the objective of promoting community engagement and encouraging youth participation in sports, the Jammu & Kashmir Police (JKP) organized a grand volleyball tournament in the Domana area. The event created an atmosphere of enthusiasm and strong sportsmanship in the region.

On this occasion, SP Rural Brijesh Sharma was present as the Chief Guest, while Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust and a State Awardee, graced the event as the Guest of Honour.

The final match of the tournament was played between Pallanwala and Domana teams. After a tough and competitive contest, the Pallanwala team delivered an outstanding performance to secure victory. The players

impressed the audience with their enthusiasm, discipline, and sportsmanship. Addressing the gathering, SP Rural Brijesh Sharma stated that such sports events provide positive direction to the youth and strengthen the spirit of brotherhood and cooperation in society. He added that Jammu & Kashmir Police has always been committed to keeping youth away from drugs and negative activities by engaging them in

sports and constructive initiatives. Guest of Honour Mahant Rohit Shastri, in his address, emphasized that sports are essential not only for physical fitness but also for building mental strength and discipline. He urged the youth to actively participate in sports and move forward in life with a positive approach.

Among others present on the occasion were SDPO Domana Mudassir, SHO Domana Varune-

shwar Singh, Inspector Rajesh Verma, former Sarpanch of Domana Vikram Sharma, former Sarpanch Shamsher Singh,

Joginder Singh, Lucky Sharma, and several other prominent citizens and local residents. At the conclusion of the event, the winning team was felicitated, and all participants were appreciated. The tournament proved to be an important step towards promoting sports culture in the region.

'My coaches have been reminding me to remember who you are'

NEW DELHI: 2-time Grand Slam winning tennis star Coco Gauff recently opened up about dealing with 'imposter syndrome' where she doubts her position as one of the best and feels her achievements are not real. "I think I have to believe that I belong where I am. Sometimes I can get imposter syndrome," she said in a press conference in the Miami Open.

"Even when they're saying my accomplishments when I walk, or during the warm-up, it doesn't feel like me. And I'm like, "Oh, actually, I do have a good career. But it doesn't feel like that sometimes in the moment, because you're working on things. My serve, it just feels like I don't know that I shouldn't be where I am, but tennis doesn't lie. The ball doesn't lie. So I just have to believe in myself. My coaches have been reminding me to remember who you are, and you're a good player. I think they've been putting that into my head. And, at moments, I believe it, and at moments I don't. So I'm just trying to believe it more," she added. Gauff battled past Switzerland's Belinda Bencic in three sets to take a 6-3 1-6 6-3 win. With the win, world-number-four Gauff reached the semi-finals in Miami for the first time in her career, after failing to make it past the fourth round in her previous six attempts.

Esterhuizen, bowlers lead South Africa to 3-2 series win

NEW DELHI: South Africa won their first away T20I series under Shukri Conrad, and second successive bilateral series, with a convincing performance over New Zealand in Christchurch. Put in to bat, they posted the highest total of the series of 187 for 4 and defended it with a six-player attack to seal the series 3-2.

After poor batting performances in the second and third T20Is, South Africa went from good to better in the next two. Three of South Africa's four highest partnerships of the series came in this match, and they have unearthed a potential future star in Connor Esterhuizen. He scored back-to-back fifties in matches four and five and anchored their efforts in the decider. While Zak Foulkes and Josh Clarkson were economical, the rest of their attack conceded at over nine runs an over. Offspinner Cole McConchie's 0 for 48 was the most expensive.

New Zealand were without their first choice top five and also had to do without Tom Latham, who was due to lead them but fractured his thumb in the third T20I. They were never really in the chase against a disciplined South African effort. None of their batters scored more than Bevan Jacobs' 36

and they only had one partnership which threatened: 52 between Jimmy Neesham and Jacobs for the fifth wicket.

Rubin Hermann has been involved in half of South Africa's top stands and looked set for a big one today. Early in his innings, Hermann took down Ben Sears no matter what length he bowled and took 14 runs off four balls. Later, he showed his strength against spin when he joined Esterhuizen in targeting McConchie. But then Hermann did not hit a boundary for 12 balls and needed to take it on. When Sears went hard length, Hermann pulled but got his timing wrong and skied the ball towards mid-off. Nick Kelly ran from mid-on, made his ground and then stuck out one hand to take a superman catch, flying low to the ground. Hermann was out for 39, and the second-wicket partnership was broken on 59.

While Hermann's promise only peeped through, Esterhuizen went from excellent to exceptional and topped up his maiden international half-century from game four with a new career-best: 75 off 33 balls in the finale. His on-side dominance was on display, as he scored 52 runs in that half

of the ground, including five of his six sixes. The biggest ones came off McConchie who he hit back over his head, then over midwicket and over square leg. In total, Esterhuizen scored 21 runs off 8 balls but wasn't shy to show what he could do against the quicks either. In the last two overs, he took 25 runs off Kyle Jamieson and Sears. His innings ended when he tried to send a Sears full toss to Neesham with two balls to go and he ended the series with a total of 200 runs, 100 more than his nearest competitor, Devon Conway.

It's been a tough few months for Jason Smith. He only played one game at the T20 World Cup, despite being a first-choice pick in the squad and has not managed to get one score over 20 in five innings on this tour. And then things seemed to become tougher. Smith was at extra cover when Dane Cleaver, on 1, backed away from a Gerald Coetzee ball and smashed it to him. It was hit hard and could have taken some holding onto but Smith let it burst through his hands. Luckily for him, three overs later, the chance to do better came. Ottneil Baartman drew a leading edge from a Cleaver and the ball looped to him at point.

UP Government appoints Rinku Singh as Regional Sports Officer

LUCKNOW: The Uttar Pradesh government is set to appoint Indian cricketer Rinku Singh as a Regional Sports Officer (RSO), as reported by India Today. He was a part of India's T20 World Cup 2026 squad. The Men in Blue defeated New Zealand in the final at the Narendra Modi Stadium.

Rinku had to return home after his father passed away after batting with Stage IV cancer. Despite the challenges, Rinku remained committed to the team.

The Uttar Pradesh government rewards athletes who excelled in national and international tournaments. The government is offering jobs, cash rewards, and other honors to the top performers.

Rinku is not alone in this recognition. Rajkumar Pal, a member of the Indian hockey team that won bronze at the Paris Olympics, will also be appointed as a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP). Rajkumar, from Ghazipur, is among the athletes who were honored by the state government.

A total of six international medalists will be rewarded. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will officially hand over their appointment letters during a ceremony at Lok Bhavan. Among the honourees are Paralympic gold medalist Praveen Kumar from Gautam Buddh Nagar, who will also serve as DSP, and Paralympic silver medalist Ajit Singh from Etawah, who will become a District Panchayat Raj Officer.

Paralympic 200m bronze medallist Simran from Ghaziabad will also receive a similar appointment.

Preetipal, who earned bronze medals in both the 100m and 200m events at the Paralympics, will be appointed as a Block Development Officer (BDO) in Muzaffarnagar.

The ceremony will also recognize nine athletes with the prestigious Lakshman Award and Rani Lakshmibai Award for the 2024–25 year, each receiving a cash prize of Rs 3.11 lakh and a bronze statuette. In total, Rs 1.64 crore in cash rewards will be distributed to 14 athletes, and 19 other players will receive Rs 8.75 lakh in financial assistance from the Eklavya Sports Fund.

Don't Panic Yet: 'Humanity's Last Exam' Has Begun

When advanced artificial intelligence systems began scoring near-perfect marks on established academic tests, researchers recognized a growing concern. The exams that once posed serious challenges were no longer difficult enough to meaningfully evaluate cutting-edge AI. Well-known benchmarks such as the Massive Multitask Language Understanding (MMLU) exam, previously viewed as rigorous, have become less effective at distinguishing true progress in AI capability.

In response, an international group of nearly 1,000 researchers, including a professor from Texas A&M University, developed a far more demanding assessment. Their goal was to design an exam so comprehensive and grounded in specialized human expertise that today's AI systems would struggle to pass it.

The result is "Humanity's Last Exam" (HLE), a 2,500-question test that covers mathematics, the human-

ities, natural sciences, ancient languages, and highly specialized academic fields. The project is described in a paper published in Nature, and additional details are available at lastexam.ai.

One of the contributors is Dr. Tung Nguyen, instructional associate professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at Texas A&M. He helped write and refine questions for the assessment.

"When AI systems start performing extremely well on human benchmarks, it's tempting to think they're approaching human level understanding," Nguyen said. "But HLE reminds us that intelligence isn't just about pattern recognition — it's about depth, context, and specialized expertise."

The point wasn't to stump humans. It was to reveal, precisely and systematically, what AI cannot do, at least not yet.

Specialists from around the world drafted and reviewed the HLE ques-

tions. Each item was required to have one clear, verifiable answer and to resist being solved through quick online searches. The material reflects advanced scholarship, ranging from translating ancient Palmyrene inscriptions to identifying tiny anatomical structures in birds and examining the detailed sound patterns of Biblical Hebrew.

Before being included, every question was tested on leading AI systems. If a model produced the correct answer, that question was eliminated. This process ensured the final exam would remain just beyond the reach of current AI performance.

The results show how difficult the assessment is. Early testing found that even top models struggled. GPT-4o scored 2.7%. Claude 3.5 Sonnet achieved 4.1%. OpenAI's o1 model reached 8%. More recent systems, including Gemini 3.1 Pro and Claude Opus 4.6, have improved to roughly 40-50% accuracy, but they still do not demonstrate full mastery.

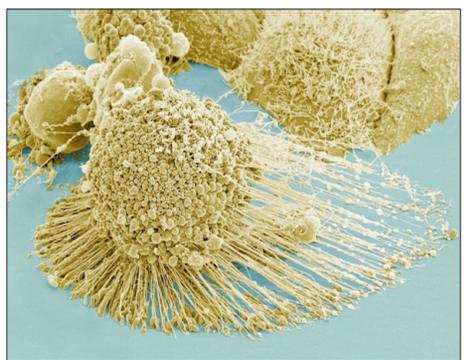## Securing AI systems under today's and tomorrow's conditions

Evidence cited in an eBook titled "AI Quantum Resilience", published by Utimaco [email wall], shows organisations consider security risks as the leading barrier to effective adoption of AI on data they hold.

AI's value depends on data amassed by an organisation. However, there are security risks to building models and training them on that data. These risks are in addition to better-publicised threats to intellectual property that exist around the point of inference (prompt engineering, for example).

The eBook's authors state that organisations need to manage threats throughout their AI development and implementation processes. At the same time, companies can and should prepare to change their security protocols, changes that will become mandatory if quantum computing-powered decryption tools become easily available to bad actors.

Utimaco lists three areas under threat:

• Training data can be manipulated by bad actors, degrading model outputs in ways that are hard to detect,

• Models can be extracted or copied, eroding intellectual property rights,

• Sensitive data

used during training or inference can be exposed.

Current public key cryptography will become vulnerable in the next ten years, the report's authors attest; a period in which capable quantum systems may emerge. Regardless of the timescale, it's thought that better organised groups currently collect encrypted data and store it to decrypt when or if quantum facilities become available. Any dataset with long-term sensitivity, including model training data, financial records, or intellectual property, may require protection against future decryption, therefore, Utimaco says.

A migration to quantum-resistant cryptography will affect protocols, key management, system interoperability, and perfor-

mance, so any migration is likely to take several years. The report's authors suggest what they term 'crypto-agility', which it defines as changing cryptographic algorithms without redesigning underlying systems. 'Crypto-agility' is based on the principle of hybrid cryptography – combining established algorithms with post-quantum methods, such as those suggested by NIST.

The eBook's authors concur that cryptography on its own doesn't address all possible areas of risk. It advocates the use of hardware-based trust devices that can isolate cryptographic keys and sensitive operations from normal working environments.

If companies are developing their own AI tools

and processes, protection on that basis should extend throughout the AI lifecycle, from data ingestion through to training, model deployment, and inference in production. Hardware keys used to encrypt data and sign models can be generated and stored inside a boundary. Model integrity can then be verified before deployment, and sensitive data processed during inference remains protected.

Hardware-based enclaves isolate workloads so that even system administrators can't access any of the data being processed. Hardware modules can verify that the data enclave is in a trusted state before releasing keys – a process of external attestation – helping create a 'chain of trust' from hardware to application.

Hardware-based key management produces tamper-resistant logs covering access and operations to support compliance frameworks such as the EU AI Act.

Many of the risks inherent in AI systems are well known if not already exploited. The risk from quantum computing's ability to decrypt data currently considered safe is less immediate, but the implications should affect data and infrastructure decisions made today, Utimaco states.