

Hockey India announces 20-member Team for Junior Asia Cup in Muscat

NEW DELHI: Hockey India has announced a strong 20-member squad for the upcoming Women's Junior Asia Cup, set to take place in Muscat, Oman, from December 7 to 15.

As the defending champions, India enters the tournament with high hopes after securing their maiden title last year, defeating South Korea 2-1 in the final. This tournament serves as a qualifier for the FIH Hockey Junior World Cup 2025.

The competition will feature 10 teams divided into two pools: India is placed in Pool A alongside China, Malaysia, Thailand, and Bangladesh, while Pool B consists of South Korea, Japan, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong China, and Sri Lanka.

The Indian Junior Women's Team will be led by Captain Jyoti Singh, with Sakshi Rana serving as Vice-Captain.

Goalkeepers Nidhi and Aditi Maheshwari will provide a strong presence in goal, while the defense will be marshaled by Manisha, Jyoti Singh, Lalthantluangi, Pooja Sahoo, and Mamata Oram.

The midfield features a talented lineup with Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, Sunel-



ita Toppo, Ishika, Rajni Kerketta, Sakshi Rana, and Khaidem Shileima Chanu.

Up front, India will rely on forwards Deepika, Beauty Dzungdung, Kanika Siwach, Mumtaz Khan, and Lalrinpui to lead the attack. Binima Dhan and Himanshi Sharad Gawande have been named as alternate players.

Several players bring valuable senior-level experience, with Deepika, Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, Sunelita Toppo, Mumtaz Khan, and Beauty Dzungdung already having represented the

Indian Women's Hockey Team at the senior level.

Speaking on the squad selection and expectations for the tournament, Coach Tushar Khandker said, "We are excited to embark on our title defense at the Women's Junior Asia Cup.

This is a special group with a great balance of experience and young talent. Many of our players have already showcased their skills on the senior stage, and their presence will be crucial in guiding the team.

India outclass Chinese Taipei 16-0 in Junior Asia Cup

MUSCAT: The Indian Junior Men's Hockey Team continued their dominant performance at the Men's Junior Asia Cup as they convincingly beat Chinese Taipei 16-0 in their pool A match here.

Dilraj Singh (17', 40', 45', 57') starred in the match with four scintillating goals while Indian defence held sway with goalies Bikramjit Singh and Prince Deep Singh ensuring a clean slate.

Riding on their 3-2 win against a tough opponent like Japan in their previous pool A match, India began with early attack on Saturday night that fetched positive outcome. In only the 7th minute of the match, the team's forwards secured a PC which was finely struck by Yogember Rawat. The early 1-0 lead gave India the right momentum for a high-scoring game.

Though there were no more goals in the first quarter, India Colts showed aggression in the second



quarter scoring as many as four goals. It was mercurial forward Dilraj Singh, instrumental in India's performance in the recent Sultan of Johor Cup, who was the cynosure of the team's attack against Chinese Taipei.

He scored the team's second goal in the 17th minute. Sourabh Anand Kushwaha (20', 28') scored twice in this quarter while Rosan Kujur (23') too added to the team's 5-0 lead by half-time.

India continued to demolish the Chinese Taipei's defence with back-to-back goals in the third quarter. They played with pace, relied on short-passes to create space in the circle. They pumped a goal just a minute into the third quarter through Talem Priyobarta's PC. Rosan Kujur scored his second goal in the 32nd minute taking India's lead to a formidable 7-0.

Arshdeep Singh arrived to the party in the 37th minute

with a PC goal which was followed by a penalty stroke in the 39th minute by Sharda Nand Tiwari. This took India's lead to 9-0. The team scored four more goals in this quarter through Dilraj Singh (40', 45'), Rosan Kujur (42') both of whom completed a hat-trick of goals. Arshdeep too added to the scoresheet in the 44th minute giving India a 13-0 lead before entering the last quarter of the match.

The remaining 15 minutes was only a formality with the strikers scoring three more goals taking India's scoreline to an impressive 16-0. Stylish forward Arajeet Singh Hundal entered his name on the score sheet in the 54th minute through a field goal while Dilraj scored his fourth individual goal in the 57th minute while Sourabh Anand too completed his hat-trick with a 58th minute field goal. This high-scoring win ensured India remained on top of the points table with nine points in pool A.

India secure victory over Aussie PM XI

CANBERRA: India secured a six-wicket victory over the Australian Prime Minister's XI in their pink-ball warm-up match at the Manuka Oval here on Sunday.

Chasing a target of 241, the visitors reached 257 for 5 in 45.2 overs, gaining valuable practice ahead of the day-night Test in Adelaide.

The game saw impressive performances from both sides. For the Prime Minister's XI, 19-year-old Sam Konstas stole the show with a commanding century, scoring 107 off 97 balls. His knock, marked by inventive stroke play including a reverse-ramp off Akash Deep, highlighted his potential as a future star for Australian cricket.

He was supported by Hanno Jacobs, who contributed 61 runs, but the rest of the batting lineup struggled against India's disciplined bowling. Harshit Rana was the pick of the bowlers, claiming 4 for 44, while Mohammed Siraj and Akash Deep kept the scoring under control. India's response was



led by their top-order batsmen, who made the most of the challenging conditions under the lights. KL Rahul and Yashasvi Jaiswal opened the innings and weathered a testing period with the pink ball, especially during twilight. Jaiswal battled a back niggle during his knock of 45, while Rahul showed pa-

tience and composure before retiring to give others an opportunity.

Shubman Gill, batting at No. 3, looked fluent as he notched up a quick 50 off 62 balls before retiring as well.

Rohit Sharma, returning from paternity leave, batted at No. 4 but managed only 3 runs. He ap-

peared cautious and circumspect, an approach that will likely be refined further in the lead-up to the Test series. Washington Sundar played a crucial role in the middle order, finishing unbeaten on 42 to guide India to victory.

The match, reduced to 46 overs per side due to

rain, provided India with exactly the kind of preparation they needed. Batting under twilight and facing the pink ball's movement, especially from Scott Boland and Charlie Anderson, tested their technique and temperament. The experience will undoubtedly prove valuable as they head into the Adelaide Test.

Konstas' century was a bright spot for the Prime Minister's XI, as his performance against an international bowling attack showcased his promise. His ability to handle pacers like Siraj and Rana, and his shot selection, particularly against short-pitched deliveries, will boost his credentials for future opportunities in the Australian senior team.

The game also offered insights into India's plans for the Test series. With Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah, and R Ashwin rested, the management focused on providing game time to others. The decision to stick with KL Rahul and Jaiswal as openers underscores their importance in the upcoming matches.

Ponting urges Australian batter to find their own way out of rut

ADELAIDE: ICC Hall of Famer Ricky Ponting has expressed the need to show faith in Australia's Marnus Labuschagne, but has urged the star batter to change his approach to turn around his form.

Labuschagne managed scores of 2 and 3 in the first Test against in Perth, as Australia crashed to a 295-run loss. It was the latest in a long line of lower scores for Labuschagne.

Having accumulated the third-most runs in the WTC 2021-23 cycle, the right-hand batter has managed just 658 runs in 13 Tests in the current cycle. He averages 13.66 across five Tests after his two half-centuries against Pakistan in early January this year.

Ponting reiterated the need to back "champion" players, but said Labuschagne needed to find his way out of the rut.

"I think you have to show faith in champion players," Ponting said in the latest ICC Review. "A lot of the guys



that we're talking about in this team have been champion players. Maybe albeit not for a little while."

"I think I read somewhere the other day that Marnus is averaging 13 since January (after Pakistan series) in Tests. So he's really got to find a way to turn it around."

A former No. 1 ranked batter in Tests, Labuschagne has been pivotal to Australia's recent success after his debut in the Ashes in 2019, averaging 48.45 in 51 Tests.

However, Ponting had

concerns with his approach in the Perth Test.

"He was the one that looked most tentative to me out of all the batsmen in Perth," said Ponting.

"Yes, it was high-quality bowling. Yes, it was a difficult wicket to bat on. But when you're facing the best bowlers as a batsman, you have to take more risks," he said.

Ponting urged the Australian batters, Labuschagne included, to focus on run-scoring rather than survival in the upcoming Tests.

World's longest happiness experiment has been on for 87 years

CALIFORNIA: One of the longest-running experiments in the world is focused on happiness. What makes a person happy and healthy, the nearly 87-year-long experiment aims to understand, IFL Science reported. The Harvard Study of Adult Development started in 1938 as two separate studies. The first one was the Grant Study, funded by the William T. Grant Foundation and led by Dr George E. Vaillant. The study recruited 268 men from the undergraduate classes at Harvard University.

At the same time, the Glueck Study also kicked off with 456 male participants from areas around Boston. Both experiments aimed to follow the participants throughout their lifetimes to know which factors impact their health and happiness as they grow older.

Believe it or not, US President John F Kennedy was among the participants of this study. Only a few participants from the original experiment are alive today. The study has now entered its Second

Generation mode where the children of the original participants are being monitored. Psychiatrist Dr Robert Waldinger is leading this study.

Waldinger and associate director Dr Marc Schulz have published the findings in a book called *The Good Life: Lessons from the World's Longest Scientific Study of Happiness*.

Loneliness is dangerous. The biggest revelation of the study is that relationships matter the most. Waldinger told *The Harvard Gazette* in 2017 that "our relationships and how happy we are in our relationships has a powerful influence on our health."

"Taking care of your body is important, but tending to your relationships is a form of self-care too. That, I think, is the revelation," he added.

The study, specifically in view of the COVID-19 times, found that loneliness impacts health. As per some other studies, the effects of isolation are similar to smoking or obesity.



Passengers in China may experience 5G connectivity in 1,000km/h trains: Study

BEIJING: China may soon offer passengers a seamless experience by offering them 5G connectivity to watch ultra-high-definition videos or enjoy online gaming on their smartphones while travelling in high-speed trains at 1,000 km/h (621 mph)

The new generation of trains in China will travel through near-vacuum times with magnetic levitation and run faster than commercial airlines.

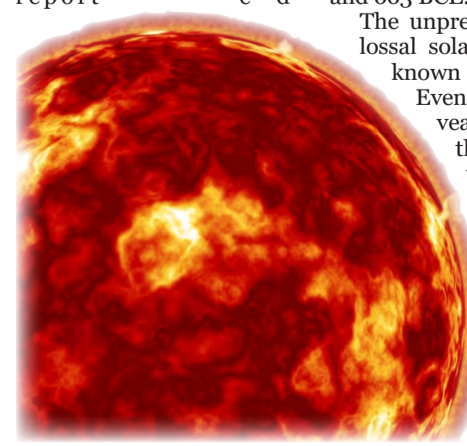
Currently, the high-speed trains offering 5G networks operate at 350 km/h, even through long tunnels. However, the challenge arises while travelling at near-sonic speeds

and staying connected to mobile phones at the same time. This is because the frequency of the signal changes while travelling at high speeds, disrupting data communication. Moreover, the base stations cannot be installed close to the tubes, which may pose a threat to the rapidly moving train.

The research team at the National Key Laboratory of Mobile Communications at Southeast University discovered that laying two parallel cables on the inner wall can "leak" electromagnetic signals and help in maintaining a stable connection between smartphones and service providers.

Solar storm 2,687 years ago was so massive that it is embedded in trees

CALIFORNIA: A huge solar storm hit Earth 2,687 years ago, evidence of which has been found hiding in tree rings. It was nothing like the storms reported-



today and is so rare that only six such solar events have been recorded in the past 14,500 years. The last storm of such magnitude happened between 664 and 663 BCE.

The unprecedented colossal solar storms are known as Miyake Events. Trees reveal a lot about the past, and their rings also harbour stories of massive solar storms that might have hit Earth when there was

no technology to record them.

A research team from the University of Arizona led by Irina Panyushkina and Timothy Jull has been working to study these rings to reveal evidence about solar storms centuries ago.

The study is published in the journal *Communications Earth & Environment*.

Panyushkina warns that if a Miyake Event were to happen today, it would have devastating effects. "If they happened today, they would have cataclysmic effects on communication technology," Panyushkina said in a statement.

The extreme type of so-

lar activity was first identified in 2012 by Japanese physicist Fusa Miyake and named after him. He published his research about massive solar storms and described the distinctive signature of these events. He noted sharp increases in radioactive carbon isotopes, specifically carbon-14, found in tree growth rings, according to the statement.

When cosmic radiation interacts with nitrogen, it leads to the formation of carbon-14 in the atmosphere. Later, this carbon-14 reacts with oxygen to form carbon dioxide which then enters the trees via photosynthesis and gets embedded into the wood.

Some powerful people want humans to be replaced by machines, AI pioneer warns

MONTREAL: A pioneer of artificial intelligence has sent out an ominous warning, not about the technology itself, but about the people controlling it. Canadian computer scientist Yoshua Bengio, in an interview with CNBC, said that there are some elite tech moguls who want to replace humans with AI, *Futurism* reported.

Bengio is one of the people referred to as the Godfather of AI. He had earlier also raised alarm about AI and was one of the public signatories of the "Right to Warn" open letter penned by leading AI researchers at OpenAI. They claimed that the technology poses several dangers and they're being forced not to speak about them.

Speaking during the One Young World Summit in Montreal, Bengio said, "Intelligence gives power. So who's going to control that power?"

"There are people who might want to abuse that power, and there are people who might be happy to see humanity replaced by machines," Bengio claimed.

He warned that while there are only a handful of such people, they need to be thwarted right now.

"I mean, it's a fringe, but these people can have a lot of power, and they can do it unless we put the right guardrails right now."



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