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## **Odisha CM Shri Naveen Patnaik inaugurates NTHA Odisha, a joint initiative of Tata Steel, Tata Trusts and Government of Odisha to nurture hockey talent across the Nation**

~ The Tata Odisha Hockey Programme sets up the High-Performance Centre for Hockey Training Academy in Odisha as part of a three-pronged approach to groom sports talent in the State ~

**Bhubaneswar, August 13, 2019:** Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri Naveen Patnaik, today, inaugurated the high-performance hockey centre - Naval Tata Hockey Academy (NTHA), Odisha, that will groom the best hockey talent in the State into future national and international players.

This elite hockey academy has been opened in Bhubaneswar as part of the three-pronged Tata Odisha Hockey Programme, a joint initiative of Tata Steel, Tata Trusts and Government of Odisha to nurture sports talent in the State, which is already being hailed as a cradle for the sport. The State government sports hostels in Bhubaneswar, Sundargarh, and Rourkela will become the Regional Development Centres (RDCs), where experts engaged by Tata Trusts and Tata Steel will work with the RDCs to further enhance their efficiency and excellence. 10-20 grassroots centers will initially be established in Sambalpur and Sundargarh districts. The talent scouted from the grassroots centers will be recommended for admission into the sports hostels. The grassroots centers and the RDCs will ensure continuous flow of talent into NTHA. The government will help develop infrastructure in these regions to improve the quality of hockey players being fed into the RDCs and NTHA Odisha. Young players from the community, who are enthusiastic and willing to work with children, will be trained and provided with career opportunities as trainers and coordinators in these centres.

The Academy was formally dedicated to the Nation by Hon'ble Chief Minister in the presence of Mr. T. V. Narendran, CEO & MD, Tata Steel and Shri Tusharkanti Behera, Hon'ble Minister, Sports & Youth Services Department, Government of Odisha. Shri Vineel Krishna, Director, Sports & Youth Services Department, Government of Odisha, Mr. Chanakya Chaudhary, Vice President (Corporate Services), Tata Steel, and Mr. Burzis Taraporevala, Senior Advisor, Tata Trusts, also graced the occasion with their presence.

**Shri Tusharkanti Behera, Hon'ble Minister, Sports & Youth Services Department, Government of Odisha,** said: *"Bhubaneswar is fast emerging as the sports capital of India. With the establishment of NTHA Odisha, youth from the State will get the best-in-class training on artificial turf from an early age that will enable players to compete at par with their international counterparts. This initiative will also help in making high performance hockey coaches. Ultimately, this programme will increase the number of Odisha players in the National team representing India on the international stage."*

NTHA Odisha will be operated from the existing infrastructure that was set-up to host the Odisha Men's Hockey World Cup in 2018 in Bhubaneswar. Access to the Abhinav Bindra Target Performance Centre, Bhubaneswar, will provide the best sports medicine support to improve the performance of the players.

**Mr. T. V. Narendran, CEO & MD, Tata Steel** said: *"Tata Steel has always supported and encouraged sports as a vocation and a career. It is always our effort to nurture sporting talent by providing access to state-of-the-art sports facilities and rigorous training. Tata Steel has a significant connect with youth at the grass root level through various programmes. I am confident that the academy will enhance the efforts of the State to develop champions of the future."*

Tata Steel has a long and enduring commitment to sports. Over the years, the Company has created infrastructure for various sports disciplines, including hockey, which is popular in and around its areas of operation. The Company has established three sports academies (Tata Football Academy, Tata Archery Academy and Naval Tata Hockey Academy - Jamshedpur and now Odisha), two extension centres run along with Sports Authorities of India (Athletics and Boxing), and training centres covering 17 disciplines, including basketball, badminton, volleyball, table tennis and chess.

**Mr. Burzis Taraporevala, Senior Advisor, Tata Trusts,** said: *"Tata Trusts believe that sports are a means to enable holistic development, particularly for young children from marginalised sections. Promoting sports has the dual benefit of raising the standard of Indian sports as well as promoting livelihood opportunities for those in underdeveloped regions of the country. The unique feature of this programme is that education and excellence in sports, go hand in hand."*

Tata Trusts sports programmes envision to create a strong foundation at the grassroots level leading progressively towards the pursuit of excellence. The impetus is on developing the sports ecosystem. Based on this philosophy, in addition to hockey, the Trusts have programmes to support football (Mizoram, Meghalaya, and Manipur), badminton (Mizoram) and boxing (Manipur).

Boveland Hockey Academy from the Netherlands, founded by the European Champion, World Champion and three time Olympian, Floris Jan Boveland, is the technical partner to implement the programme. The brand specialises in youth hockey development as well as in high-performance coaching. This technical partnership will ensure the training provided is at par with the international standards.

**Mr. Floris Boveland** said: *"It has been my privilege to work with the Tatas. My goal is to make sure all players in the programme develop the essential life skills and, of course, we will surely see some players from this academy reaching the National team and winning accolades for the State and the Nation."*

The Academy is named in the honour of Naval H. Tata to commemorate his contribution to Hockey in India, his achievements as an outstanding sports administrator and passion for sports. Mr. Tata held prestigious positions such as President of the All India Council of Sports (AICS), President of the Indian Hockey Federation (IHF) for fifteen years and Vice Chairman of the International Hockey Federation (IHF).

### **About Tata Steel**

Tata Steel group is among the top global steel companies with an annual crude steel capacity of 33 million tonnes per annum (MnTPA). It is one of the world's most geographically-diversified steel producers, with operations and commercial presence across the world. The group (excluding SEA operations) recorded a consolidated turnover of US \$22.67 billion in the financial year ending March 31, 2019. In 2018, Tata Steel acquired Bhushan Steel Ltd (now renamed as Tata Steel BSL Ltd).

A **Great Place to Work-Certified™** organisation, Tata Steel Ltd., together with its subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures, is spread across five continents with an employee base of over 65,000.

Tata Steel retained the 'Global Steel Industry Leader' position in the DJSI 2018. The Company has been recognised as the Climate Disclosure Leader in 'Steel category' by CDP (2017). Besides being a member of the World Steel Climate Action Programme, Tata Steel has won several awards including the Prime Minister's Trophy for the best performing integrated steel plant for 2016-17, 'GreenPro' certification for products (Tata Pravesh Steel Doors, Tata Structura, Tata Pipes) by CII, Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) status (Tier 2) by the W Association, Dun & Bradstreet Corporate Awards (2019), Golden Peacock HR Excellence Award by Institute of Directors (2018), 'Best Companies To Work For' recognition by Business Today, 'Asia's Best Integrated Report' award by the Asia Sustainability Reporting Awards (2017), among several others.

In 2018, the Company launched a corporate brand campaign #WeAlsoMakeTomorrow. ([www.wealsomaketomorrow.com](http://www.wealsomaketomorrow.com)).

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### **About Tata Trusts**

Since inception in 1892, the Tata Trusts, India's oldest philanthropy, have played a pioneering role in bringing about an enduring difference in the lives of the communities it serves. Guided by the principles and the vision of proactive philanthropy of its Founder, Jamsetji Tata, the Trusts' purpose is to catalyse development in the areas of healthcare and nutrition, water and sanitation, education and sports, energy, rural upliftment, urban poverty alleviation, and arts, craft and culture. The Tata Trusts' programmes, achieved through direct implementation, partnerships and grant making, are marked by innovations, relevant to the country.

For more information, please visit [www.tatatrusts.org](http://www.tatatrusts.org) and please follow social media channels - Twitter: @tatatrusts

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### **About Department of Sports and Youth Services, Odisha**

The Government of Odisha is working towards developing excellence programmes by way of setting up high performance centres in unique partnership model, to bolster their claims of becoming the true sporting destination of India. They have put Odisha on the international map by hosting many international competitions like the 22<sup>nd</sup> Asian Athletics Championships in 2017, Men's Hockey World Cup in 2018 and the recently concluded 21<sup>st</sup> Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships in July 2019. As official sponsors of the Indian Hockey Team, they have breathed new life into the sport of hockey and pledged their support to bring back the glory days to the national sport of India.