

**Ciriello Coaching Academy U – 19 Hockey players' exposure tour
to Naval Tata Hockey Academy Odisha**

Bhubaneswar, 22 January 2020: Australia's Ciriello Coaching Academy & Chris Ciriello Hockey 's players in the U-19 age category, were in Bhubaneswar for a week, from 16- 21 January 2020, during the FIH Pro League, for an exposure visit. Led by Chris Ciriello, Indian Hockey Team Analytical Coach and former Australian drag-flick specialist and his father Lou Ciriello, they had dedicated and specialized skill sessions with the cadets of Naval Tata Hockey Academy, Odisha and engaged in friendly matches. Fostering the development of players through linked sessions is a key objective of both the academies.

Speaking on this, **Mr. Rajiv Seth, Project Director, Naval Tata Hockey Academy, Odisha** said, *"I am happy that our cadets got the opportunity to engage in specialised skilled sessions and friendly matches with the players from the Ciriello Coaching Academy & Chris Ciriello Hockey. Exposure tours benefits cadets of both the academies. The program proved to be highly beneficial to the development of our youth players. There was instant team bonding between the players of NTHA, Odisha and the hockey players from Australia."*

NTHA, Odisha, Head Coach P. Laxminarayan shared, *"The girls are getting better, and the future definitely looks promising for them. Post the Indian Hockey Women's team qualifying for the Olympics Tokyo 2020, it is getting clear that women's hockey in India will be on the rise. There is increased passion amongst our players for the sports. They too can imagine themselves vying for a position in the national hockey team in the future. Participating in regular domestic tournaments and friendly matches likes these will prepare them for national competitions and boost their confidence."*
