



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurates World's Largest Hockey Stadium - Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium in Rourkela ahead of the Hockey World Cup 2023

Bhubaneswar, 5 January 2023: It is a celebratory day for Odisha, particularly the people of Sundargarh and the hockey fraternity of the state as Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the much-awaited Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium, under the 5T initiative, in Rourkela, amidst much fanfare and in the presence of the National Men's Hockey Team. Both the stadium and the Hockey Practice Centre have been certified Level 1 by FIH which is the highest in its category. As a tribute, the stadium has been named after legendary tribal leader Birsa Munda.

He also inaugurated Hockey Training Centres in Sundargarh, Ganjam, Sambalpur and Rourkela.

On this landmark occasion, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said, "It is a moment of great joy and celebration for Odisha. We are not only hosting the Hockey World Cup for the second consecutive time, but we have also built the world's largest hockey stadium in the world. This is the new Odisha. I dedicate this to the people of Sundargarh and the hockey players of our nation. I welcome the global Hockey fraternity to come and experience its grandeur."

In the coming years the Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium will play a pivotal role in taking Indian Hockey to global heights.

Chief Minister Patnaik also inaugurated the World Cup Village with 225 rooms that will house the Teams of the upcoming World Cup. Taj has been roped in by Hockey India to offer impeccable service and hospitality that reflects the culture of Odisha. On this occasion, Chief Minister spent some time with the National Men's Hockey Team and announced an award of Rs 1 Cr for each Indian Hockey team player if they win the World Cup. He wished them all the best and hoped they will lift the cup.

Players praised the Odisha Government and thanked Chief Minister Patnaik for developing a holistic ecosystem for Hockey for the players of the nation.

Earlier in the day he flagged off the Mo Bus service in Rourkela. A fleet of 25 buses were rolled out. City level Development projects in Rourkela were also inaugurated.

President Hockey India Dilip Tirkey, Sports Minister, Odisha, Tusharkanti Behera, Secretary to CM (5T) V K Pandian, Sports Secretary, Odisha, R Vineel Krishna, and other Government officials were present during the inauguration of the Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium.

The Hockey World Cup will be played in Kalinga Stadium and Birsa Munda Stadium in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela respectively from January 13 to 29. 16 teams will compete with each other in the prestigious world tournament. 24 matches will be played in Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar while 20 matches will be held in Birsa Munda Stadium in Rourkela.

[19:32, 05/01/2023] Dipta Maam Sports: Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium is the World's Largest Hockey Stadium by seated(chair) capacity of 20,000.

The Stadium project cost is about Rs 261 crores excluding the taxes.