



Sumitra Nayak to lead the Indian Women's Rugby Team at the Asia Rugby U-20 Sevens Championship in Laos

- **Five girls from Odisha selected to the national team**

Bhubaneswar 20th, August, 2019: Rugby India today announced the Indian Women's Rugby team who will compete in the Asia Rugby U20 Sevens Championship to be held in Vientiane, Laos on 24th & 25th August 2019. The team trained and prepared for 3 weeks at the Indian National Training Camp held in Bhubaneswar from 1st August to 22nd August, 2019. The national training camp was fully supported by the Sport and Youth Services Department, Govt. of Odisha and the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT).

The players shortlisted to join the Indian National Training Camp were selected during the Societe Generale Junior Nationals and Senior Nationals Rugby 7s Championships held in Chandigarh and Patna respectively.

The team will be led by captain Sumitra Nayak from Odisha. The other four girls selected from the state are Soni Mandangi, Lija Sardar, Rajani Sabar, Parbati Kisku.

A total of five countries from across Asia including Thailand, Singapore, Hong Kong, India and hosts Laos will vie for top honors at the championships.

Speaking on the occasion **Mr. Mahesh Mathai, Secretary General, Rugby India** said, "We are grateful to the Sport & Youth Services Department, Govt. of Odisha, KIIT, KISS and Societe Generale for supporting our Indian National U-20 women's rugby team. Our girls have done exceptionally well in their recent international tournaments and have done our country proud. These results are testament to the growth we are witnessing in the women's game across the country and these young ladies who will represent India this weekend are true heroes and role models for female ruggers across the globe. I wish them all the success for the tournament."



The following 12 players are selected from across India to represent the nation at the Asia Rugby U20 Sevens Championship in Laos.

- 1) Sumitra Nayak – Captain (Odisha)
- 2) Soni Mandangi (Odisha)
- 3) Lija Sardar (Odisha)
- 4) Rajani Sabar (Odisha)
- 5) Parbati Kisku (Odisha)
- 6) Sandhya Rai (West Bengal)
- 7) Lachmi Oraon (West Bengal)
- 8) Suman Oraon (West Bengal)
- 9) Sweety Kumari (Bihar)
- 10) Priya (Delhi)
- 11) Sultana (Delhi)
- 12) Shikha Yadav (Delhi)

Coach- Rehamuddin Shaikh (Maharashtra)

Manager- Ishwaraj Kotariki (Maharashtra)

Physio – Vahbiz Bharucha (Maharashtra)

About Rugby India

Rugby India, founded in 1998, is the sole governing body for the sport of Rugby in India. Recognized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sport, Govt. of India, Rugby India is a full member of World Rugby, Asia Rugby and the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). The body is responsible for the growth & development of the sport of Rugby across the country from the grassroots to the high performance level.

IRFU is the sole governing body of all formats of the sport of Rugby in India for all genders and ages. The formats included are as follows: Rugby Union, Fifteen-a-Side Rugby, Seven-a-Side Rugby, 10-a-Side Rugby, 12-a-Side Rugby, Touch Rugby, Non-Contact Rugby - Tag Rugby, Flag Rugby, Beach Rugby, Snow Rugby, Wheelchair Rugby, Underwater Rugby.

Rugby has been included in the School Games Federation of India (SGFI) for all age-groups (U14, U17 & U19 boys & girls) and the National University Games for both Men & Women, under the aegis of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), The sport is also a part of the Services Sports Control Board (SSCB) and played by the Paramilitary & Police Forces.

Rugby in India has a rich history and heritage and dates back to 1872. However, only over the last decade has the sport seen a major rise in following and Rugby India has been instrumental in garnering this interest across the country. There has been a significant growth and increase in participation numbers and currently, within India, over 120 Rugby Clubs are affiliated to our State and Districts Associations with competitive Rugby, for both Men & Women, being actively played across 24 States in India.

For More Information you can follow us on twitter @RugbyIndia or visit our website www.rugbyindia.in.



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For further information, please contact:

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| <p>Anand Godiwala, Rugby India Mobile no - +91 90044 05432 Email: anand.godiwala@rugbyindia.in/ info@rugbyindia.in</p> | <p>Government of Odisha Sports & Youth Services Department Phone No.0674 2396715 Email : info.dsys.odisha@gmail.com</p> |
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