



**FIH ODISHA
HOCKEY**
MEN'S WORLD CUP 2023
BHUBANESWAR - ROURKELA

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

January 2023





Key Information

About the event

Event Name: FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup Bhubaneswar – Rourkela 2023

When: 13 - 29 January 2023

Where:

- **Bhubaneswar:** Kalinga Stadium, Bidyut Marg, Nuasahi, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar, Odisha 751012
- **Rourkela:** Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium, BPUT Campus, Chhend Colony, Rourkela, Odisha 769015.

Teams

Pool A: Argentina, Australia, France, South Africa

Pool B: Belgium, Germany, Japan, Korea

Pool C: Chile, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand

Pool D: England, India, Spain, Wales

Official event website: [click here](#).

Broadcast and live streaming

Where to watch: [FIH Odisha Hockey Mens World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar - Rourkela | Live streaming and telecast](#)

In territories where broadcast rights agreements are not in place, fans can watch live match action from the competition via the [Watch.Hockey](#) app.

Social Media

The FIH will provide comprehensive coverage of the event via our social media channels, including [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [TikTok](#) and [YouTube](#).

Hashtags: #HWC2023 #HockeyEquals #HockeyInvites

Event Logos: [Logo](#)

Contact: For any questions relating to the event, please contact media@fih.ch.





A message of welcome from Tayyab Ikram, President of the International Hockey Federation (FIH).

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023
Bhubaneswar – Rourkela.

I would like to extend my wholehearted congratulations to all teams and officials whose talent, ambition and grit have seen them reach the 15th edition of the FIH Hockey Men's World Cup.

Being here makes you part of an exclusive elite, and throughout the history of the Men's World Cup as the pinnacle of our sport, legends have been made at each edition. We can't wait to see the outstanding skills, the ambition and determination, the spirit of fair-play and all the wonderful emotions that the athletes and coaches, who are at the heart of everything we do and the best ambassadors of our game, will share with us.

Like all the hockey family, I can't wait to see the action take place in the new "jewel" of hockey, the Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium in Rourkela, which will play host to this event alongside the iconic Kalinga Hockey Stadium in Bhubaneswar, where so many wonderful pages of hockey history have already been written.

On behalf of FIH and in my personal name, I would also like to extend my sincerest thanks to Hockey India and to the State of Odisha for hosting this event. With their commitment, experience, and passion, we can expect nothing less than an amazing World Cup event.

So, from 13 to 29 January 2023, hockey family, friends, fans, and sports lovers around the world, don't miss this! Whether you follow the matches via broadcast, on Watch.Hockey, on social media or in the news, I am confident you will be mesmerized by this unforgettable hockey show.

On behalf of FIH and all the hockey family, I also thank our commercial and broadcast partners, our preferred suppliers, and the media who through their support and good will help our sport thrive and our events succeed. Without you, this would not be possible.

Last but not least, I wish the very best of luck to all participating National Associations, the teams, athletes, coaches, and officials. This is your moment, your time to shine.

Yours in Hockey,

Tayyab Ikram
FIH President





About the FIH Hockey Men's World Cup

Held every four years, the FIH Hockey Men's World Cup brings together the world's greatest teams and players for the toughest, most skilful and entertaining international hockey imaginable.

This showpiece tournament combines extraordinary talent levels with unrivalled prestige to serve as the climax of the world hockey calendar. The Hockey World Cup provides a unique chance to achieve sporting immortality. Every nation, team and player has the chance to attain true legendary status, with a place in hockey's history books being reserved for the competition winners.

Offering contrasting styles and skills, the players step onto the biggest stage with the simplest of equations: win your matches or go home empty handed. Global superstars compete for national pride, personal greatness and ultimate glory.

The number of teams that compete in the FIH Hockey Men's World Cup has changed at various points in history. This 2023 edition in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela contains 16 nations, matching that of the 2002 competition in Kuala Lumpur (MAS) and 2018 event in Bhubaneswar. The 1971 competition in Barcelona (ESP) featured ten nations while the 1978 event in Buenos Aires (ARG) was a 14-nation tournament. All other World Cup competitions have been 12 nation events.

FIH Hockey Men's World Cup: A History



Throughout the 20th century, the sport of hockey has shared an intricate bond with the Olympic Games, ever since its first introduction in 1908 London Games.



The history of the Hockey World Cup however is much more recent in comparison, with the first edition being played in 1971.

The early years of Hockey history was largely dominated by Asian teams as India and Pakistan between them won 11 of the first 15 gold medals in men's hockey at the Olympic Games. However, in the late 60s and early 70s the global popularity of Hockey started to grow, especially amongst the European nations. The introduction of the artificial grass surfaces further changed the global dynamics of hockey as the increased pace of the game saw a reversal in fortunes for the Asian teams who struggled to modify decades-long style of play, while the European teams found their footing on the surface rather swiftly.

With the increasing popularity and sudden shift away from Asian domination, the concept of a Hockey World Cup was born in 1969, in an attempt to add to the Olympic Games which were the only international tournaments for hockey at the time.

The idea of a Hockey World Cup was first proposed jointly by India and Pakistan in an International Hockey Federation council meeting in March 1969. At the time the World Cup was proposed as a biennial event, and Pakistan Hockey Federation chief Air Marshal Nur Khan (who is also credited for first conceptualizing the Champions Trophy) proposed for the inaugural edition of the World Cup to be held in Pakistan.

The proposal for the World Cup was accepted, but due to increasingly tense relations between India and Pakistan, the two most successful hockey teams at that point in time, the inaugural edition was played in Spain instead of Pakistan.

Pakistan did end up as the first winners of the FIH Hockey Men's World Cup, narrowly beating Spain 1-0 in the finals. They further went on to win three more gold medals at the World Cup making them the most successful team in the Men's World Cup history. Australia and Netherlands follow closely behind with three gold medals each. Germany is the next most successful team with two gold medals while India and Belgium have won one gold each. India's only success came in the third edition in 1975, while Belgium are the current reigning world champions having won the 2018 FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup.

The World Cup was held biennially from 1971 to 1975. The 4th edition was held in 1978 and the following editions since then have been held once every four years starting from 1982. The FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 will be the first time a nation has played host to the World Cup for two successive editions. However, unlike in 2018, Kalinga Hockey Stadium in Bhubaneswar will not be the only venue as the brand-new Birsa Munda Hockey stadium in Rourkela will split hosting duties with Bhubaneswar in the upcoming World Cup.





FIH Hockey Men's World Cup – medal-winning nations

EDITION	VENUE	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
2018	Bhubaneswar (IND)	Belgium	Netherlands	Australia
2014	The Hague (NED)	Australia	Netherlands	Argentina
2010	New Delhi (IND)	Australia	Germany	Netherlands
2006	Mönchengladbach (GER)	Germany	Australia	Spain
2002	Kuala Lumpur (MAS)	Germany	Australia	Netherlands
1998	Utrecht (NED)	Netherlands	Spain	Germany
1994	Sydney (AUS)	Pakistan	Netherlands	Australia
1990	Lahore (PAK)	Netherlands	Pakistan	Australia
1986	London (ENG)	Australia	England	West Germany
1982	Bombay (IND)	Pakistan	West Germany	Australia
1978	Buenos Aires (ARG)	Pakistan	Netherlands	Australia
1975	Kuala Lumpur (MAS)	India	Pakistan	West Germany
1973	Amstelveen (NED)	Netherlands	India	West Germany
1971	Barcelona (ESP)	Pakistan	Spain	India



About the trophy

The Hockey World Cup is a masterpiece of craftsmanship. Carved out of gold and silver, it exhibits a hockey stick and ball atop of a large, embellished globe. The designer was Basheer Moojid, with workmanship being carried out in Pakistan by members of the Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Corps of the Pakistan Army.

Including the base, the trophy stands 650 mm (26 in). It weighs 11,560 g (408 oz), including 895g (31.6 oz) of gold, 6,815g (240.4 oz) of silver, 350 g (12 oz) of ivory and 3,500g (120 oz) of teak.

On 27 March 1971, the World Cup trophy was formally presented to FIH President Rene Frank at the then FIH headquarters in Brussels by Mr H. E. Masood, the Pakistani Ambassador to Belgium. The trophy has been presented to the winning team at every World Cup since the inaugural edition in 1971.





About the host cities and venues

About Bhubaneswar

City of culture

Bhubaneswar is a hockey cauldron of players and fans with Kalinga Stadium boasting a recently updated Olympic level hockey pitch. However, what you may not know about this 'hockey city' is that it's also known as the "Temple City of India" with thousands of ancient temples, some dating back to earlier than the 11th Century and hundreds of temples standing the test of time and available to visit.



The Golden Triangle

One of the top attractions in the East of India is the destinations known as the "Swarna Tribhuja" Golden Triangle – which are made up of Puri (a site of religious significance) and Konark a city on the coast by the Bay of Bengal. Konark is the site of the 13th-century Sun Temple, also known as the Black Pagoda, built in black granite during the reign of Narasimhadeva-I and now a World Heritage Site.

Konark

Konark is also home to an annual dance festival called Konark Dance Festival, held every December, devoted to classical Indian dance forms, including the traditional classical dance of Odisha; Odissi. While you are in Swarna Tribhuja you must also check out the famous applique work of Pipli; these brightly coloured and layer garments are magnificent using traditional methods.

Watch More:

[Odisha Culture](#)

[Buddhism](#)

[Tourism Adventure](#)

For additional information on the State of Odisha and the city of Bhubaneswar and its attractions, please visit:

<http://www.odishatourism.gov.in/>
www.Bhubaneswar.me





About the Kalinga Hockey Stadium



Built in 2010 with a capacity of 5,000 spectators, the Kalinga Hockey Stadium played host to the Men's Champions Trophy in 2014 and the Odisha Hockey World League Final in 2017. It is also the home ground of Hockey India League side the Kalinga Lancers.

In preparation for the showpiece Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup Bhubaneswar 2018, the Kalinga Hockey Stadium underwent a huge transformation. An impressive refurbishment saw the construction of new stands to increase the capacity to 15,000, with both the stadium pitch and nearby practice pitches being re-laid. Widely regarded as one of the finest hockey arenas anywhere in the world, it is a stadium perfectly suited to welcoming the world's greatest teams and players. The stadium will host 24 of the 44 matches at this World Cup, including the showpiece final and bronze medal match.

Address: Kalinga Stadium, Bidyut Marg, Nuasahi, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar, Odisha 751012





About Rourkela



The Hanuman Vatika statue in Rourkela.

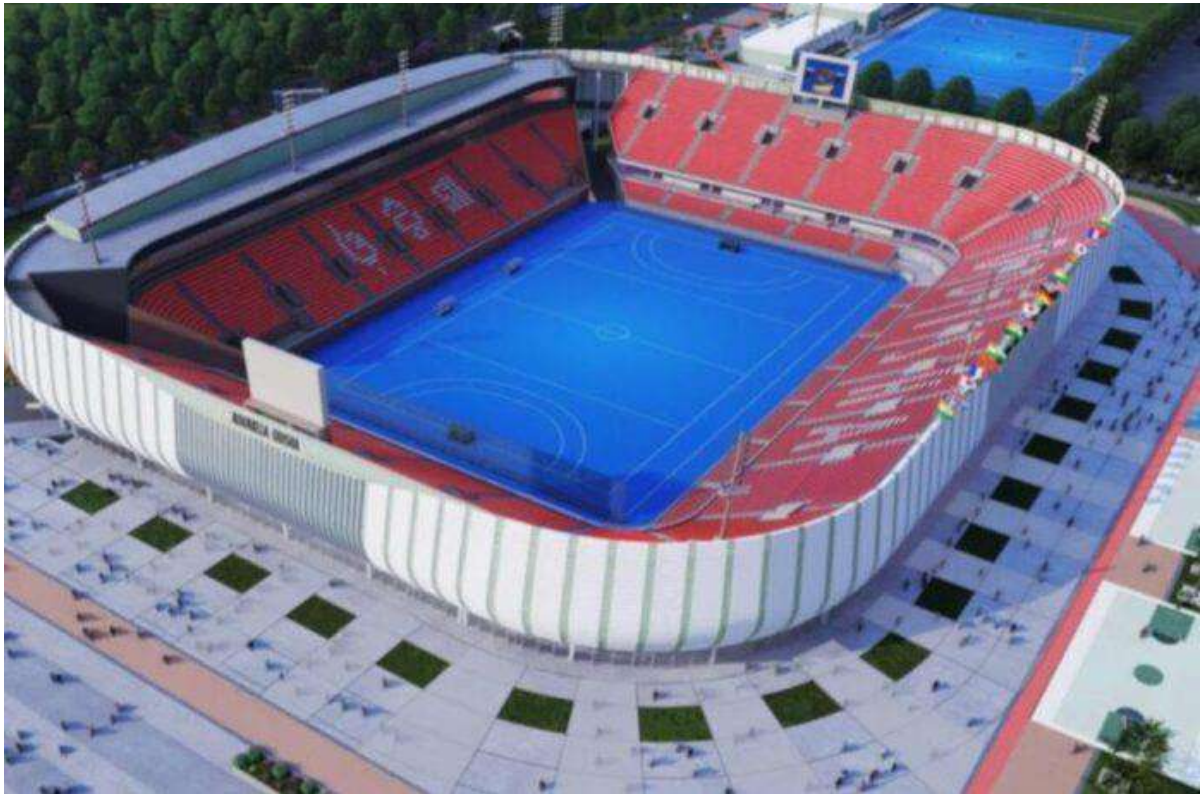
Located 300km north by north-west of Bhubaneswar lies the city of Rourkela. The history of the city is intertwined with India's first public sector steel plant. The Steel Authority of India (SAIL) set up the plant in the 1960's with the help of German conglomerate Krupp and Demag. Since then, Rourkela has kept with modernization and grown to become one of Odisha's best planned and picturesque cities. As a whole Rourkela is perfect confluence of a city living and a nature retreat.

Set within rolling hills, the city is dotted with luscious forests, waterfalls, and creeks, all of which makes it a great wilderness destination.

More information about Rourkela can be found on the Odisha Tourism website by [clicking here](#).



About the Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium



Named after the tribal leader and famous freedom fighter Birsa Munda, the Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium has been constructed especially for this event and is officially the largest hockey stadium in India. It will host 20 out of the 44 matches being played in this competition.

With a total capacity of 20,000, the State of Odisha is now blessed with two genuinely world class hockey arenas, complementing the already iconic Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar. Following the completion of the FIH Men's World Cup, the stadium will be used to host several of India's matches in the FIH Hockey Pro League.

Address: Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium, BPUT Campus, Chhend Colony, Rourkela, Odisha 769015.



FIH Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 - Qualification overview



Chile secured a first ever FIH Hockey Men's World Cup qualification with a second-place finish at the 2022 Pan American Cup on home soil in Santiago.

Dates	Event	Location	Quotas	Qualifier(s)
8 November 2019	Hosts	—	1	India
4–13 June 2021	2021 EuroHockey Championship	Amstelveen, Netherlands	5	Belgium England Germany Netherlands Spain
21–24 October 2021	2021 European Qualifier	Cardiff, Wales	2	France Wales
17–23 January 2022	2022 Africa Cup of Nations	Accra, Ghana	1	South Africa
20–30 January 2022	2022 Pan American Cup	Santiago, Chile	2	Argentina Chile
23 May – 1 June 2022	2022 Asia Cup	Jakarta, Indonesia	3	Japan Malaysia Korea
Cancelled*	2022 Oceania Cup	New Zealand	2	Australia New Zealand
Total			16	

* The Oceania Cup could not be completed before the qualification deadline due to travel restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The two Oceania quota places were filled based on the FIH Men's World Ranking.



To learn more about the qualification criteria, please click [here](#).

Competition Format

Information about the tournament format can be found in the official competition regulations document by clicking [here](#).

Match Schedule

To see the official match schedule of the competition, please click [here](#).

The Teams

Background information about the competing each pool at the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup Bhubaneswar – Rourkela 2023, including notable achievements, key players and more, can be found below. You can download a complete list of all squads by clicking [here](#).

Please note: not all squads had been confirmed at the time of publication.





Pool A: Argentina, Australia, France, South Africa

Argentina

Nickname: Los Leones

How they qualified: 1st Place – 2022 Men's Pan American Cup

About the team: The Olympic champions from Rio 2016 are Pan American hockey's most potent force, having been crowned continental champions on 14 separate occasions. With a swashbuckling style and incredible technical ability, Los Leones can match any team on the planet. The team is coached by former Argentina goalkeeper Mariano Ronconi, who will do all he can to lead his talented group to a first men's World Cup title.

Although the squad has not been confirmed at the time of writing, it is expected to contain at least three veterans of that glorious gold medal winning squad from Rio 2016. Agustin Mazzilli, Lucas Vila and team captain Matias Rey – named Player of the Tournament as his team swept to victory in the 2022 Men's Pan American Cup in Santiago, Chile to seal their ticket to this event – remain outstanding performers despite being well into their 30s. The team recorded a notable 2-1 victory over reigning Olympic and World champions Belgium in November, providing a timely reminder that they can match the best in the business. Can Argentina emulate their men's football team by winning a World Cup on Asian soil?

One to watch: Maico Casella. A creative, intelligent attacker capable of scoring spectacular goals. Netted eight times in the 2022 Men's Pan American Cup to help Los Leones to their fourth title.

Website: www.cahockey.org.ar

Twitter: @ArgFieldHockey

Facebook: ArgFieldHockey

Instagram: arg_fieldhockey



Australia

Nickname: The Kookaburras

How they qualified: Oceania quota*

About the team: The Kookaburras are the most consistently outstanding men's hockey team of the last 30 years, having remained in the top four of the FIH World Rankings for the duration of that period. They have won every prize available, including Olympic, World Cup, FIH Hockey Pro League and Oceania Cup titles.

Most recently, the side coached by former striker Colin Batch claimed a sensational seventh Commonwealth Games title, obliterating a hugely talented India team 7-0 in the event final in Birmingham. Nathan Ephraums and Jacob Anderson, the latter a travelling reserve for this event, both scored twice with Blake Govers, Tom Wickham and Flynn Ogilvie also netting in typically devastating display from the brilliant Aussies. A shoot-out loss to Belgium in the gold medal match at the delayed Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 was painful but may serve as motivation as the brilliant Aussies go in search of a record-equalling fourth world title.

One to watch: Eddie Ockenden. One of hockey's all-time greats, 35-year-old co-captain Ockenden is Australia's record caps holder, being one of just seven players in the history of men's hockey to have made more than 400 international appearances. Equally comfortable in defence or midfield and blessed with composure in the most stressful of situations, Ockenden – a world champion with the Kookaburras both 2010 and 2014 – remains a pivotal figure.

Hockey Australia website: www.hockey.org.au

Twitter: @kookaburras **Facebook:**

@TheKookaburras **Instagram:**
hockeyaustraliaofficial

** The Oceania Cup could not be completed before the qualification deadline due to travel restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The two Oceania quota places were filled based on the men's FIH World Rankings.*





France

Nickname: Les Bleus

How they qualified: 2nd Place – Men's FIH Hockey World Cup – European Qualifier

About the team: In 2018, France arrived in Bhubaneswar for their first FIH Men's World Cup for 28 years, with their last appearance coming at 1990 competition in Lahore, Pakistan, where they finished seventh. Having been drawn in the same pool as Rio 2016 Olympic champions Argentina, Spain, and New Zealand, many expected them to be on the first plane out of India. However, after suffering a narrow



defeat against the Black Sticks, Les Bleus achieved a set of results which would see them go all the way to the World Cup quarter finals. A draw with higher-ranked Spain was followed by a stunning 5-3 victory over Argentina, sealing their place in the knock-out stages of the competition, where they beat China to set up a last eight meeting with Australia. Although the mighty Kookaburras brought France's magnificent run to an end, they left the competition with their heads held high, having earned respect from everyone who saw them in action.

Since then, France – who are building towards the Olympic Games Paris 2024, where they will compete as hosts – have been going from strength to strength. They competed in the 2021-22 edition of the FIH Hockey Pro League, registering wins against India, South Africa, and Argentina before earning their ticket to this event with a second-place finish at the European Qualification event in Cardiff, won by hosts Wales. A fifth-place finish at the recent FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup South Africa 2022 event was perhaps below expectations, but with the likes of penalty corner ace Victor Charlet and outstanding attacking talent Timothée Clément, France will be a dangerous outfit here in Odisha.

One to watch: Timothée Clément. A young man with the world at his feet. Crowned Best Player of the Tournament at the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's Junior World Cup Bhubaneswar 2021, where France claimed the bronze medal, before being named voted as the men's FIH Rising Star of the Year for 2021-22.

DHB Website: www.ffhockey.org

Twitter: @FF_Hockey **Facebook:** FFHockey **Instagram:** ff_hockey



South Africa

How they qualified: 1st Place –
2022 Men's Hockey Africa Cup of
Nations

About the team: Following their
superb title victory in the recent
FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup,
earning them a ticket to the next
edition of the elite FIH Hockey
Pro League, South Africa have
every reason to believe that they



can achieve big things here in Odisha. The tournament hosts finished top of the pile on home soil in Potchefstroom, recording victories over Pakistan, France, and Korea before claiming a thrilling 4-3 win against Ireland – who they had lost to earlier in the competition – in the competition final. Inspirational 23-year-old captain Dayaan Cassiem scored twice in the title match, with younger sibling Mustapha netting a penalty stroke won by his big brother.

The outrageously gifted Cassiem brothers may be the poster boys of this hugely exciting new generation, but the team are far from reliant on them. Striker Tevin Kok is proving himself to be a reliable source of goals, while 33-year-old defender Jethro Eustice brings a steady, experienced head to a group brimming with youth and talent.

One to watch: Dayaan Cassiem. A livewire forward capable of hurting the very best teams in the world, a fact proven by some extraordinary individual performances at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 and more recently in the FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup.

SA Hockey website: www.sahockey.co.za

Twitter: [@SA_Hockey](https://twitter.com/SA_Hockey) **Facebook:** [SAHockeyMen](https://www.facebook.com/SAHockeyMen)



Pool B: Belgium, Germany, Japan, Korea

Belgium

Nickname: The Red Lions

How they qualified: 3rd Place – 2021 Men's EuroHockey Championship

About the team: Belgium's rise from European also-rans to the summit of global hockey has been one of the standout stories of the past two decades. In the past five years the Red Lions have won every major title on offer, including the World Cup (2018), Olympic Games (2021), European Championship (2019) and FIH Hockey Pro League (2020-21). It would take a brave person to bet against them successfully defending the world title they so memorably claimed four years ago in Bhubaneswar.

The team coached by Dutchman Michel van den Heuvel contains some of the world's finest players, proven winners who have claimed the biggest titles on the greatest of stages. In Vincent Vanasch and Loic Van Doren they have two world class goalkeepers, while Arthur Van Doren, Victor Wegnez, Felix Denayer, Florent Van Aubel, John-John Dohmen, Alexander Hendrickx, Arthur de Sloover and Tom Boon – the latter two both shortlisted for the FIH Hockey Stars Player of the Year Award for 2022 – are all extraordinary talents. With strength and depth in every department, you can be sure Belgium will be rightly considered amongst the favourites for the title.

One to watch: Arthur Van Doren. A key figure in the Red Lions team that claimed the Olympic, World, European and FIH Hockey Pro League titles in recent years, defender Arthur Van Doren is a two-time winner of the FIH Player of the Year award and, without question, one of the finest players of the modern era.

Royal Belgian Hockey Federation

website: www.hockey.be

Twitter: @BELRedLions **Facebook:**

RedLions **Instagram:** BELRedLions





Germany

Nickname: Die Honamas

How they qualified: 2nd Place – 2021 Men's EuroHockey Championship

Notable honours: 4x Olympic gold medallists (1972, 1992, 2008, 2012), 2x FIH Men's World Cup winners (2002, 2006), 9x Champions Trophy winners (1986, 1987, 1988, 1991, 1992, 1995, 1997, 2001, 2007, 2014), 8x European champions (1970, 1978, 1991, 1995, 1999, 2003, 2011, 2013)

Rank in previous WC editions: 1971 – 5th, 1973 – 3rd, 1975 – 3rd, 1978 – 4th, 1982 – 2nd, 1986 – 3rd, 1990 – 4th, 1994 – 4th, 1998 – 3rd, 2002 – 1st, 2006 – 1st, 2010 – 2nd, 2014 – 6th, 2018 – 5th.

About the team: With four Olympic gold medals, two World Cups and eight European titles, Germany have an enviable history in international hockey and, when at their best, few teams can live with them. Tactically astute and technically superb, Die Honamas have a habit for hitting form at Olympic Games and World Cups, something they will be hoping to repeat here in Odisha.



Although the squad had not been confirmed at the time of writing, there are numerous names that we hope to see in action at this FIH Men's World Cup. Two Germany players were shortlisted for the FIH Hockey Stars Awards for 2022, with attacker Niklas Wellen gaining a nomination for the Best Player prize and goalkeeper Alexander Stadler nominated for the Best Goalkeeper award. They are far from being the only superstars in the Germany squad, with brilliant attacker Christopher Rühr, captain Mats Grambusch and penalty corner weapon Gonzalo Peillat – the man who fired Argentina to Olympic gold at Rio 2016 – just a handful of the world class players at the disposal of head coach Andre Henning.

One to watch: Christopher Rühr. A sensational attacker blessed with speed, skill, guile and supreme confidence. Named FIH Rising Star of the Year both in 2013 and 2015. If Rühr is on his game, Germany have every chance of claiming their first World Cup title since Mönchengladbach 2006.

DHB Website: www.hockey.de

Twitter: @DHB_hockey **Facebook:** [DHBHockey](https://www.facebook.com/DHBHockey) **Instagram:** [dhb_hockey](https://www.instagram.com/dhb_hockey)



Japan

Nickname: The Samurais

How they qualified: 4th Place – 2022 Men's Hockey Asia Cup

About the team: Making their first FIH Men's World Cup appearance since Mönchengladbach 2006, Japan's Samurais will be determined to remind everyone of their considerable talents.



At the delayed Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, the 2018 Asian Games gold medallists proved

themselves to be a fearsome attacking unit that was perhaps unfortunate to be eliminated in the competition pool phase. The team that competes in Odisha is considerably less experienced than the one that took to the Olympic turf in Tokyo, with 11 players having fewer than 50 caps and ten athletes being aged between 18 and 23. Thirty-year-old captain Seren Tanaka is one of six players to have surpassed the 100 caps marker, alongside goalkeeper Takashi Yohikawa, Shota Yamada, Masaki Ohashi, Hiromasa Ochiai and Koji Yamasaki, all of whom competed at Tokyo 2020.

Japan, who sealed their place at this FIH Men's World Cup with a fourth-place finish at the 2022 Men's Asia Cup, were recently in action at the FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup in South Africa, recording wins against Canada and Pakistan on their way to a sixth-place finish. The team is coached by Akira Takahashi, who represented Japan at the 2002 FIH Men's World Cup in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and, fascinatingly, was Head Coach of the Samurais four years later in Mönchengladbach.

One to watch: Koji Yamasaki. Top scored for Japan at the 2022 Men's Hockey Asia Cup with six goals, netting against India and Korea as well as a claiming a four-goal haul against Indonesia.

Japan Hockey Association website: <https://en.hockey.or.jp/>

Twitter: [jha_hockey](https://twitter.com/jha_hockey) **Facebook:** [@hockey.nationalteam](https://www.facebook.com/hockey.nationalteam) **Instagram:** [samuraijapan_hockey](https://www.instagram.com/samuraijapan_hockey)



Korea

How they qualified: 1st Place – 2022 Men's Hockey Asia Cup

About the team: After failing to qualify for the 2018 edition, Korea return to FIH Men's World Cup action courtesy of a superb victory at the 2022 Men's Hockey Asia Cup, where they defeated Malaysia in the competition final. Veteran defender Jang Jonghyun and Hwang Taeil contributed 11 goals to that title success, sealing Korea's place back at the top table of international hockey.



The team have been involved in two high profile competitions in recent months, with Malaysia gaining a measure of revenge by defeating the Koreans 3-2 in the final of the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup in November. The Korea-Malaysia rivalry continued a couple of weeks later at the inaugural FIH Hockey Nations Cup, with evergreen 39-year-old captain Lee Namyong on the scoresheet as Korea recorded a superb 4-0 victory in the bronze medal game. While a bronze medal was not good enough for Korea to secure a berth in the next edition of the FIH Hockey Pro League, their solid performances at that competition in South Africa provided plenty of evidence that Korea are a team that should not be underestimated.

One to watch: Jang Jonghyun. An athlete with incredible longevity, 38-year-old defender Jang Jonghyun – top scorer at the recent FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup South Africa 2022 with seven goals – represented Korea as far back as the Athens 2004 Olympic Games. A brilliant penalty corner drag-flicker, Jang has scored more than 100 goals for his country and netted six times to help Korea claim the Hero Asia Cup in May-June 2022.

Website: www.koreahockey.co.kr

Facebook: [KHASNS](#) **Instagram:** [koreahockey](#)





Pool C: Chile, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand

Chile

Nickname: La Roja

How they qualified: 2nd Place – 2022 Men's Pan American Cup

About the team: On 28 January 2022, Chile secured qualification for the FIH Men's World Cup for the first time in their history. A 3-1 victory over Mexico in the cross-over phase of the 2022 Men's Pan American Cup, being played on home soil in Santiago, had set up a winner-takes-all semi-final meeting with the USA.



It proved to be a match of huge tension, with neither team being able to break the deadlock before Chile emerged victorious in the shoot-out. Chilean goalkeeper Adrian Henriquez was beaten just once in the one-on-ones, with Juan Amoroso, Franco Becerra and Kay Gesswein netting the goals to seal a place in the event final and the all-important World Cup ticket that came with it. The team were well beaten in the competition final, with Argentina storming to a 5-1 victory, but it mattered little.

In October 2022, Chile claimed their fourth silver medal at the South American Games in Luque, Paraguay, being defeated again by Argentina but scoring an incredible 53 goals in just five matches. The team is captained by Fernando Renz and coached by Jorge Dabanch.

One to watch: Juan Amoroso. A fifteen-goal haul at the 2022 South American Games saw Juan Amoroso finish well clear at the top of the competition scoring charts. The penalty corner expert could be a potent weapon for Chile in Odisha.

Website: www.chilehockey.cl

Twitter: [@chile_hockey](https://twitter.com/chile_hockey) **Instagram:** [chile_hockey](https://www.instagram.com/chile_hockey)



Malaysia

Nickname: Speedy Tigers

How they qualified: 2nd Place – 2022 Men's Hockey Asia Cup

About the team: Malaysia will compete in their third successive FIH Men's World Cup competition thanks to a fine second place finish at the 2022 Men's Hockey Asia Cup. The Speedy Tigers were in outstanding form at the event in Jakarta, Indonesia, reaching the competition final without losing any of their six matches to secure their World Cup ticket before eventually going down 2-1 to Korea in the gold medal game.



The team featured in two competitions in the latter part of 2022, winning the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup on home soil with a 3-2 victory over Korea before losing 4-0 to the same opponent in the bronze medal match at the inaugural FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup South Africa 2022.

Known for their distinctive brand of high-paced attacking hockey, Malaysia – coached by Arul Anthoni, who represented the country as a player at the 1998 FIH Men's World Cup in Utrecht, Netherlands – are certainly capable of hurting any team that they play against. Razie Rahim is a potent weapon from penalty corner situations, while Faiz Jali, Firhan Ashari and Azuan Hasan bring a wealth of international experience to the table.

One to watch: Razie Rahim. At the age of 35 and with over 300 international appearances under his belt, key Razie is a defensive stalwart whose quality and experience plays a vital role in making the team tick. He is also a world class penalty corner drag-flicker, as he proved at the 2022 Men's Hockey Asia Cup, where he finished top scorer with 13 goals.

Website: www.mhc.org.my

Twitter: [@hockeymalaysia](https://twitter.com/hockeymalaysia) **Instagram:** [malaysianhockeyconfederation](https://www.instagram.com/malaysianhockeyconfederation)

Netherlands

Nickname: The Oranje

How they qualified: 1st Place – 2021 Men's EuroHockey Championship

About the team: Under head coach Jeroen Delmee, the legendary Dutch defender who as a player won two Olympic gold medals, the Netherlands have found a consistency in their performance levels which has already started to reap rewards. Since taking charge in the latter part of 2021, Delmee has injected a significant amount of fresh talent into the Oranje squad.



The young guns rose to the challenge in style, winning 12 of their 16 matches in the 2021-22 edition of the FIH Hockey Pro League to win the title for the first time. Captain Thierry Brinkman and striker Koen Bijen top scored for the Netherlands with seven goals apiece, with six goals coming from both Dennis Warmerdam and penalty corner ace Jip Janssen. Thanks to their excellent form, three Dutchmen earned nominations for the FIH Hockey Stars Awards for 2021-22, with captain Brinkman shortlisted for the Best Men's Player prize while Miles Bukkens and Pirmin Blaak were selected for the Rising Star and Best Goalkeeper awards respectively.

Having suffered painful defeats in the last two FIH Men's World Cup finals, the Netherlands will be aiming to make it third time lucky this time around and win a fourth world crown, a feat only Pakistan have managed to achieve.

One to watch: Thierry Brinkman. A creator and scorer of goals, the Netherlands captain is an inspirational figure who is a key part of the ongoing revolution being led by head coach Jeroen Delmee.

Website: www.knhb.nl

Twitter: @oranjehockey **Facebook:** oranjehockey **Instagram:** oranjehockey



New Zealand

Nickname: The Black Sticks

How they qualified: Oceania quota*

About the team: New Zealand are all set to compete in their 11th FIH Men's World Cup, with the Odisha event being their seventh in succession. They are yet to finish higher than seventh, a placing they have achieved on four separate occasions, but that could all change this time around.

The Black Sticks are always a force to be reckoned with, being blessed with some genuinely world class players amongst their ranks. Blair Tarrant is a fine defender who has represented his country more than 230 times, while the likes of veteran striker Simon Child, Sam Lane, and penalty corner weapon Kane Russell are all goal threats. Highly regarded defensive midfielder Nick Ross makes a return to the team after taking a break throughout 2022, while 19-year-old debutant defender Charlie Morrison will be relishing the opportunity to show his talents on the big stage after gaining selection.

The team is coached by former South Africa striker Greg Nicol, who represented his country at the Atlanta 1996 and Athens 2004 Olympic Games as well as the 2002 FIH Men's World Cup in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

One to watch: Simon Child. As a prodigious teenager, Simon Child lit up the Mönchengladbach 2006 World Cup with a series of superb attacking displays. Now 34 and having scored 144 goals in 288 appearances, this certified Black Sticks legend is still capable of producing moments of match-winning brilliance.

Hockey New Zealand website:

www.hockeynz.co.nz

Twitter: @BlackSticks **Facebook:** @HockeyNZ

Instagram: [nzblacksticks](https://www.instagram.com/nzblacksticks)

** The Oceania Cup could not be completed before the qualification deadline due to travel restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The two Oceania quota places were filled based on the FIH Men's World Ranking.*



Pool D: England, India, Spain, Wales

England

How they qualified: 4th Place – 2021 Men's EuroHockey Championship

About the team: Having participated in every edition of the FIH Men's World Cup, England are always capable of achieving great things. They have reached the semi-finals of the last three World Cup competitions but missed the podium on each occasion. That is something they will be desperate to change this time around, as they aim to secure a first FIH Men's World Cup medal since grabbing silver at the 1986 event on home soil in Willesden, London. They certainly have a very good squad of players, but first need to navigate their way out of a tricky pool that contains home favourites India, in-form Spain, and neighbours Wales.

England – coached by Paul Revington, former head coach of South Africa and Malaysia men and assistant coach to Great Britain women – were outstanding at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, with striker Nick Bandurak finishing as the competition's top scorer with 11 goals as his team snatched the bronze medal. Only one team managed to defeat the Englishmen in that competition, with the mighty Australia – a side that have only ever won gold in the Commonwealths – overturning a two-goal deficit in the semi-final to triumph 3-2. Captain Zach Wallace, midfield ace Phil Roper and attacker Sam Ward were all key players in Birmingham and will be hoping to replicate that form in Odisha. If they do, the sky is the limit.

One to watch: Zach Wallace. Nominated for the 2019 FIH Rising Star of the Year Award, Zach Wallace has established himself as a world class player who can have an impact in almost any position. The 23-year-old captained England at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, where the team claimed the bronze medal.

Website: <http://www.englishhockey.co.uk>

Twitter: @EnglandHockey **Facebook:**

Instagram: [englishhockey](https://www.instagram.com/englishhockey)





India

How they qualified: Host nation.

About the team: After years of sliding down the FIH World Rankings which culminated in failure to qualify for the Olympic Games Beijing 2008 – a competition that they had won a record eight times – India are back at the top table of the global game. A bronze medal at the delayed Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 was a landmark moment for the team, who followed it up with a third-place finish in the 2021-22 edition of the FIH Hockey Pro League.



Head coach Graham Reid is getting the best out of the group, injecting a tactical discipline to their trademark skilful, fluid playing style, making them a team both respected and feared in equal measure. The star of the show is Harmanpreet Singh, a fabulous defender and one of the best drag flickers in the game, while goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, midfield ace Manpreet Singh and striker Mandeep Singh all capable of game-changing moments.

Despite the undeniable pressure that comes with being the competition hosts, this India team has all the attributes needed to claim their first FIH Men's World Cup title since 1975.

One to watch: Harmanpreet Singh. India's drag-flicking defender is a proven match winner who, at Tokyo 2020, played a crucial role in helping his team back onto the Olympic podium after an absence of 41 years. Named FIH Player of the Year both 2021 and 2022, Also finished top scorer of the 2021-22 edition of the FIH Hockey Pro League.

Website: www.hockeyindia.org

Twitter: @TheHockeyIndia **Facebook:** @TheHockeyIndia **Instagram:** hockeyindia





Spain

Nickname: The Red Sticks

How they qualified: 5th Place – 2021 Men's EuroHockey Championship

About the team: Known for their flair, skill, and attacking prowess, the Red Sticks men are one of the most talented and unpredictable teams out there, having proven on countless occasions that, on their day, they can mix it with the very best teams in the world. As well as having rare talents such as electrifying attacker Enrique Gonzalez, classy captain Marc Miralles and experienced midfielder Alvaro Iglesias, they are also blessed with a revered head coach in Max Caldas, who enjoyed terrific success with the Netherlands women and men, guiding the former to World Cup and Olympic glory and the latter to two European Championship titles.

In August 2022, the Red Sticks showed strong form at the recent EuroHockey Championship Qualifier competition on home soil in Orense, beating Czech Republic, Portugal, and Poland to seal their ticket to the 2023 EuroHockey Championship. The team scored 20 times without conceding in that competition, with Pau Cunill (Rising Star nominee – FIH Hockey Stars Awards 2021-22), Iglesias and former Argentina international and 2016 Olympic gold medallist Joaquin Menini each scoring three times.

They followed that success with a superb start to their 2022-23 FIH Hockey Pro League campaign by going unbeaten in their first four games, claiming notable victories over New Zealand and Pool C rivals India in matches that took place in the World Cup host city of Bhubaneswar.

One to watch: Marc Miralles. A classy midfielder who has fully embraced his role as team captain, 24-year-old Miralles is likely to be a cornerstone of the Red Sticks set-up for many years to come.

RFEH website: www.rfeh.es

Twitter: [@rfe_hockey](https://twitter.com/rfe_hockey) **Facebook:** [RFEH Hockey](https://www.facebook.com/RFEH.Hockey)

Instagram: [absolutamasc](https://www.instagram.com/absolutamasc)





Wales

How they qualified: 1st Place – Men's FIH Hockey World Cup, European Qualifier

About the team: After decades of trying, Wales finally secured a first ever FIH Men's World Cup qualification thanks to a tournament winning display at the European Qualification event on home soil in Cardiff. After claiming a 2-0 win against Italy in their quarter-final, Wales went head-to-head with Ireland, with the winner taking not only a place in the competition final but also one of the two World Cup tickets on offer at the event.



Wales fell behind in the very first minute of the match when Michael Robson fired home, but Joe Naughalty's equaliser early in the second quarter proved to be enough to send the match to a winner-takes-all shoot-out. Successful efforts from Rupert Shipperley and Jack Pritchard gave Wales a 2-1 lead ahead of the final round, with goalkeeper Toby Reynolds-Cotterill doing enough to deny Ireland's Lee Cole and create a moment of Welsh sporting history.

The team finished the competition on a glorious high by recording a 2-1 victory over higher-ranked France, fighting back from a goal down thanks to goals from Luke Hawker and Shipperley, the latter arriving just five minutes from the end.

Current Great Britain internationals Shipperley and Jacob Draper are both key players for Wales, as is penalty corner specialist Gareth Furlong, who is a regular source of goals. Despite being one of the lowest ranked teams in this competition, Wales have proven themselves more than capable of punching above their weight and are certainly not here to make up the numbers.

One to watch: Rupert Shipperley. A member of the Great Britain team that participated at the delayed Olympic Games 2020, Wales co-captain Shipperley is an energetic, combative attacking midfielder with a keen eye for goal.

Website: www.hockeywales.org.uk

Twitter: [@HockeyWales](https://twitter.com/HockeyWales) **Facebook:** [HockeyWales](https://www.facebook.com/HockeyWales) **Instagram:** [hockey_wales](https://www.instagram.com/hockey_wales)





Key statistics about the FIH Hockey Men's World Cup

Overview

No of previous editions: 14

All time participating nations (including 2023): 27 – Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Canada, Chile (2023 debutants) China, Cuba, England, France, Germany (including West Germany), Ghana, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Poland, South Africa, Soviet Union, Spain, Wales (2023 debutants).

Most titles: 4 – Pakistan

Most podium finishes: 10 – Australia (3 gold, 2 silver, 5 bronze)

Total no of matches played: 605

Total no of goals scored: 2433

Average no of goals per match: 4

Most matches played: 100 – Netherlands

Most matches won: 69 – Australia

Highest % of games won: 75% - Australia

Most goals scored: 305 - Australia

Previous winners:

Pakistan: 4 – 1971, 1978, 1981, 1994

Australia: 3 – 1986, 2010, 2014

Netherlands: 3 – 1973, 1990, 1998

Germany: 2 – 2002, 2006

India: 1 – 1975

Belgium 1 - 2018





All-time FIH Hockey Men's World Cup medal matches

EDITION	LOCATION	GOLD / SILVER	BRONZE
2018	Bhubaneswar (IND)	Belgium 0-0 Netherlands (3-2 ASO***)	Australia 8-1 England
2014	The Hague (NED)	Australia 6-1 Netherlands	Argentina 2-0 England
2010	New Delhi (IND)	Australia 2-1 Germany	Netherlands 4-3 England
2006	Mönchengladbach (GER)	Germany 4-3 Australia	Spain 3-2 Korea (AET**)
2002	Kuala Lumpur (MAS)	Germany 2-1 Australia	Netherlands 2-1 Korea (AET**)
1998	Utrecht (NED)	Netherlands 3-2 Spain	Germany 1-0 Australia
1994	Sydney (AUS)	Pakistan 1-1 Netherlands (4-3 APS*)	Australia 5-2 Germany
1990	Lahore (PAK)	Netherlands 3-1 Pakistan	Australia 2-1 West Germany (AET**)
1986	London (ENG)	Australia 2-1 England	West Germany 3-2 Soviet Union (AET**)
1982	Bombay (IND)	Pakistan 3-1 West Germany	Australia 4-2 Netherlands
1978	Buenos Aires (ARG)	Pakistan 3-2 Netherlands	Australia 4-3 West Germany
1975	Kuala Lumpur (MAS)	India 2-1 Pakistan	West Germany 4-0 Malaysia
1973	Amstelveen (NED)	Netherlands 2-2 India (4-2 APS*)	West Germany 1-0 Pakistan
1971	Barcelona (ESP)	Pakistan 1-0 Spain	India 2-1 Kenya

* APS – After Penalty Strokes.

**AET – After Extra Time.

***ASO – After Shoot Out





STARS BECOME LEGENDS

FIH World Rankings

To see the official FIH World Rankings, [click here](#).

Presenting Partner



Host Partner



Global Leadership Partner



Global Partners



Official Partners



Global Suppliers



Official Suppliers

