



CRACKER OF A CELEBRATION

With the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar – Rourkela set to commence from 13 January 2023, a world class celebration of hockey to commemorate the beginning of the Hockey World Cup 2023 in Odisha will be held on 11 January 2023 in Barabati Stadium, Cuttack. As part of organising the tournament itself, an incredible, action-packed show that serves as an introduction to both the guest nations as well as the nation as a whole! In doing so, the celebration is set out to create an incredible display of showmanship, festivity, technology, and culture.

Aptly titled 'Celebrations' the show will serve as the precursor event to the opening of the tournament itself on 13th Jan, 2023, with a star-studded cast lined up for all manner of performances, songs, dances, and technology; all while incorporating the cultural aspects of Odisha. Serving as the host nation of the Hockey World Cup for the second consecutive time, India, and more specifically, Odisha, has taken every measure to ensure that our guests from the 15 visiting nations will bear witness to one of the most spectacular shows ever created.

'Celebrations' will take place on the 11th of January, two days before the official commencement of the tournament on the 13th of January. The show incorporates aspects of traditional Odia music and dance, as well as the use of innovative new technology during the show that is sure to create a spectacle that will leave audiences awe-struck. While the show will be broadcast across national TV channels, those present in the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack, Odisha, will get the full experience of the show amongst ecstatic fans in the stadium.

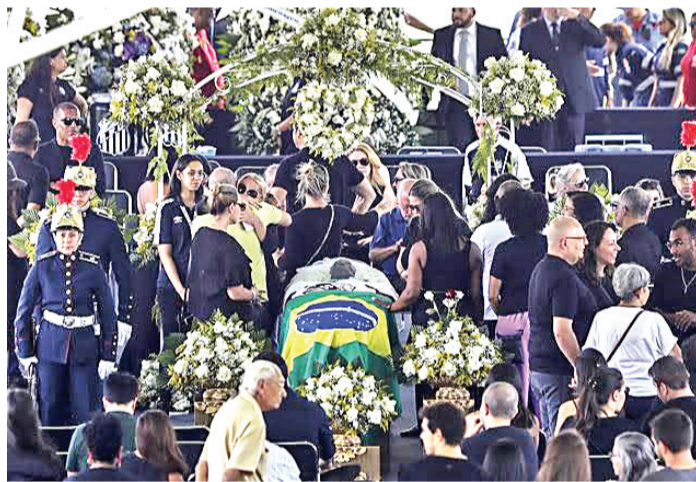
"The Celebration is an integral part of the tournament as it symbolises our pride in both our state and in our nation for playing host to the Hockey World Cup for the second consecutive time. With stars from local film industries, Bollywood, traditional singers, and even acts from overseas, this promises to be a show that you won't want to miss. It gives me great pride to offer a warm welcome to all our national and foreign guests as one of the hosts of the tournament and invite them to come celebrate the spirit of hockey with us!" Hockey India President Padma Shri Dr. Dilip Tirkey. The show will feature live performances by India's leading stars Ranveer Singh and Disha Patani along with BLACKSWAN, the famous K-Pop band featuring Odisha's very own Shreya Lenka.

Amongst the stars is Pritam, the writer and composer of the Hockey World Cup 2023 Song, who will take the stage and enthral us along with incredible vocalists like Benny Dayal, Neeti Mohan, Lisa Mishra, Amit Mishra, Antara Mitra, SreeramaChandra, Nakash Aziz and Shalmali Kholgade along with Namita Meleka from Odisha. Guru Aruna Mohanty and National Award winner Shiamak Davar have choreographed the dance performances. The event will also feature many local Odia stars and performers. Along with the stars, we have produced a technology-based shows that are immersive and awe inspiring. So, as we mark the opening of the Hockey World Cup 2023 here in Odisha, we hope that you will join us and be part of the 'Celebrations' on the 11th of January. Tickets for the celebrations event will be available only online starting 28th Dec at 12 noon on Paytm Insider.



'RS 1 CR TO EACH PLAYER IF INDIAN HOCKEY TEAM WINS WORLD CUP'

Ahead of the upcoming FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced that every player in the Indian hockey team will receive Rs 1 crore if they win the World Cup. Chief Minister Patnaik, who was visiting Rourkela, also opened the World Cup Village at the Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium Complex in Rourkela. On this occasion, the Chief Minister interacted with the men's national ice hockey team based at the World Cup Village. "Each player of Team India will be rewarded with Rs 1 crore, if our country wins World Cup. I wish the very best to Team India and hope they will emerge champions," Patnaik said. The players praised the Odisha government and thanked the Chief Minister for developing a comprehensive hockey ecosystem for the country's players.



THE LEGEND

BRAZIL BIDS FAREWELL TO THE KING OF FOOTBALL

The Brazilian coastal town of Santos, where sports giant Pelé has become synonymous with football excellence during the club's illustrious career, bid goodbye to its hero with a 24-hour wake-up call. The mourners lined up to see Pelé's body in an open coffin in the middle of the Vila Belmiro stadium, home of Santos Football Club. Pelé died on Thursday at the age of 82 after battling colon cancer. FIFA President Gianni Infantino was one of the first to attend the ceremony and said he would ask each country to name a stadium after Pelé, the only person to have won the World Cup three times as a World Cup winner. "Pelé is eternal," Infantino said.

TENNIS TALKS

DJOKOVIC TO FACE MEDVEDEV IN ADELAIDE SEMIS

Novak Djokovic defeated Denis Shapovalov 6-3, 6-4 at the Adelaide International to set up a semifinal with Daniil Medvedev. The combined ATP-WTA event is a warmup for this year's Australian Open. Top-seeded Djokovic had missed the tournament last year after being barred from the country because he was not vaccinated against COVID-19. Medvedev, the runner-up last year to Rafael Nadal in the Australian Open, defeated fellow Russian Karen Khachanov 6-3, 6-3 on Friday. "It's never easy to play your compatriot," Medvedev said. "I'm happy that I managed to really raise my level, especially in the end of both sets, and really happy to be through to the semis." Medvedev is the 2021 U.S. Open champion, but has lost twice in the finals in Australia — and in 2021 it was against Djokovic.



AMERICAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

NFL PLAYER DAMAR HAMLIN IN 'CRITICAL CONDITION'

Buffalo Bills safety Damar Hamlin collapsed on the field and is in critical condition in hospital after suffering from a cardiac arrest during game against the Cincinnati Bengals. Hamlin was hit hard in the chest while working on the Bengals' Higgins tee in the first quarter of the game, causing him to stand and fall to the ground. Medical personnel rushed to the scene to treat him. The medical emergency sparked an immediate outpouring of well-wishes from fans, commentators and other players, and brought attention back to the particularly dangerous nature of America's most popular sport.

BOXING

BOXING NATIONALS: MANISH KAUSHIK, GAURAV SOLANKI IN QUARTERS

World Championship bronze medallist Manish Kaushik, Asian Championship bronze medalist Mohammad Husamuddin, and Commonwealth Games champion Gaurav Solanki advanced to the quarterfinals of the Men's National Boxing Championship. Representing the services sector, Kaushik (63.5kg) demonstrated his technical prowess over Andhra Pradesh's Commonwealth Games silver medalist Sandeep Doni. Service representative Hussamuddin (57 kg) presided over the procedure to blank Lallawmawma from Mizoram.

Solanki (60kg) from Haryana put in a powerful performance to beat Harendra Singh of Madhya Pradesh.



TABLE TENNIS

MANIKA BATRA RISES TO CAREER-HIGH 35 IN ITTF WORLD RANKINGS

Indian table tennis star Manika Batra climbed three places to reach a career-high number 35 in the ITTF World Rankings. The 27-year-old had an exceptional performance at the Asian Cup in November, earning India its first-ever medal. She defeated world No. 5 Hina Hayata of Japan and world No. 7 Chen Xingtong of China to win a historic bronze medal in Bangkok. She will be active in the Asian qualifiers for the World Championships in Doha later this week. She will also be attending the WTT Contender later this month in Doha before appearing at WTT Star Contender in Goa next month.



FORMULA E

HYDERABAD RACE TICKET SALES START JUST ONE MONTH BEFORE THE EVENT

Ticket sales for the inaugural race of India's ABB FIA Formula E World Championship on February 11 in Hyderabad began. Arvind Kumar, Special Secretary of Telangana State Government (City Government) has booked the first tickets for the event in the state capital. "The world's fastest, lightest, most powerful and most efficient electric racing car - Gen3" is coming to Hyderabad for the event on February 11, according to a press release from the organisers. Private company Ace Next Gen is the official promoter of Formula E racing in India in partnership with Formula E and Telangana State Government.

