



HEROES OF 1975

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

Compiled By



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ODISHA IS PROUD TO HOST

Hockey World Cup 2023



POOLS

POOL A

- Australia
- Argentina
- France
- South Africa

POOL B

- Belgium
- Germany
- Korea
- Japan

POOL C

- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Malaysia
- Chile

POOL D

- India
- England
- Spain
- Wales

January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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Indian hockey team's historic run @ 1975 World Cup

LEAGUE STAGE - Pool B

vs England (March 2): **Won 2-1**

vs Australia (March 7): **Drew 1-1**

vs Ghana (March 8): **Won 7-0**

vs Argentina (March 9): **Lost 1-2**

vs West Germany (March 10): **Won 3-1**

SEMIFINAL

vs Malaysia (March 13): **Won 3-2**

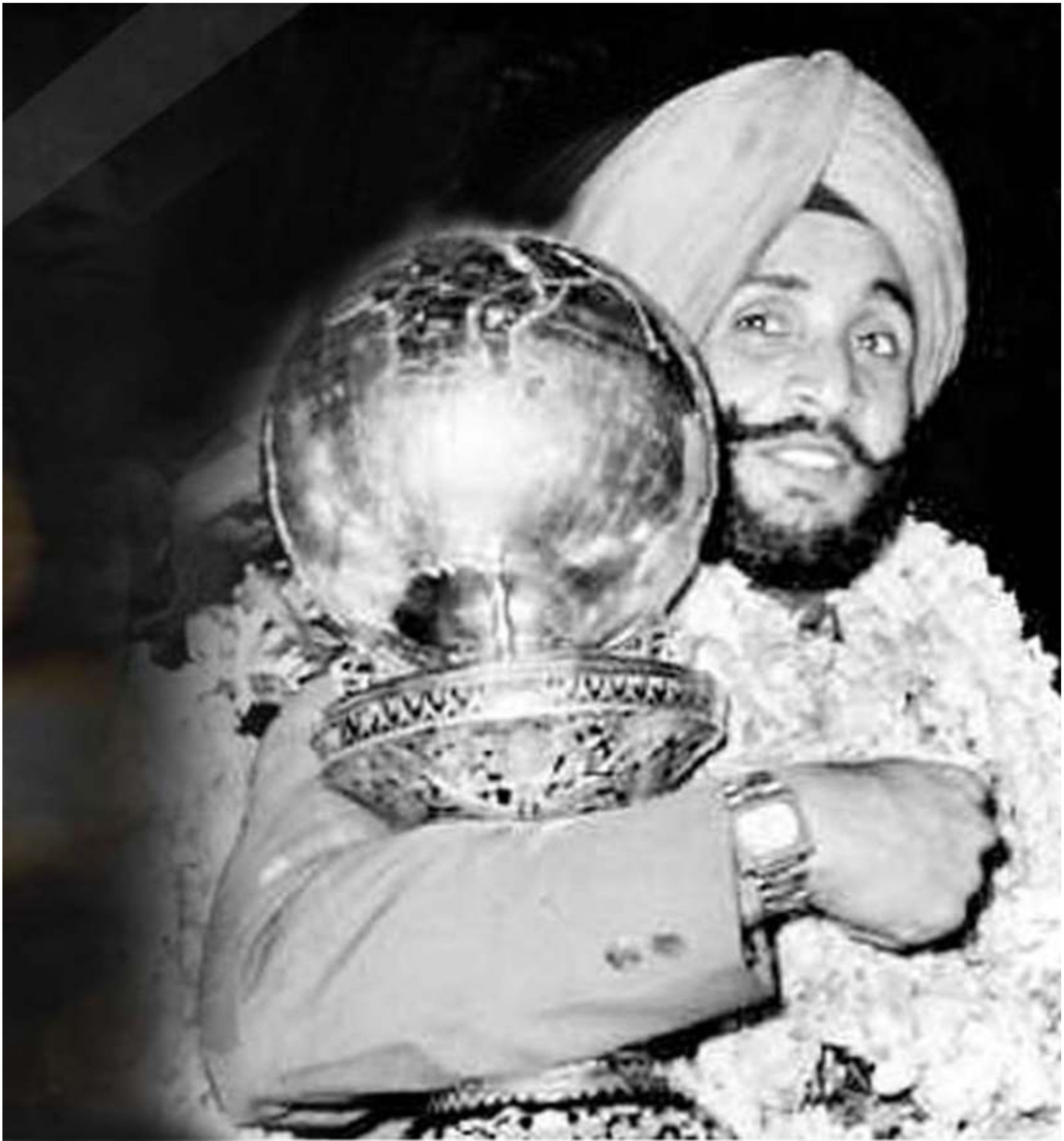
FINAL

vs Pakistan (March 15): **Won 2-1**



February 2023

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March 2023

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**Aslam Sher Khan :
India Will Win The World Cup**

April 2023

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KLIP INTEREST

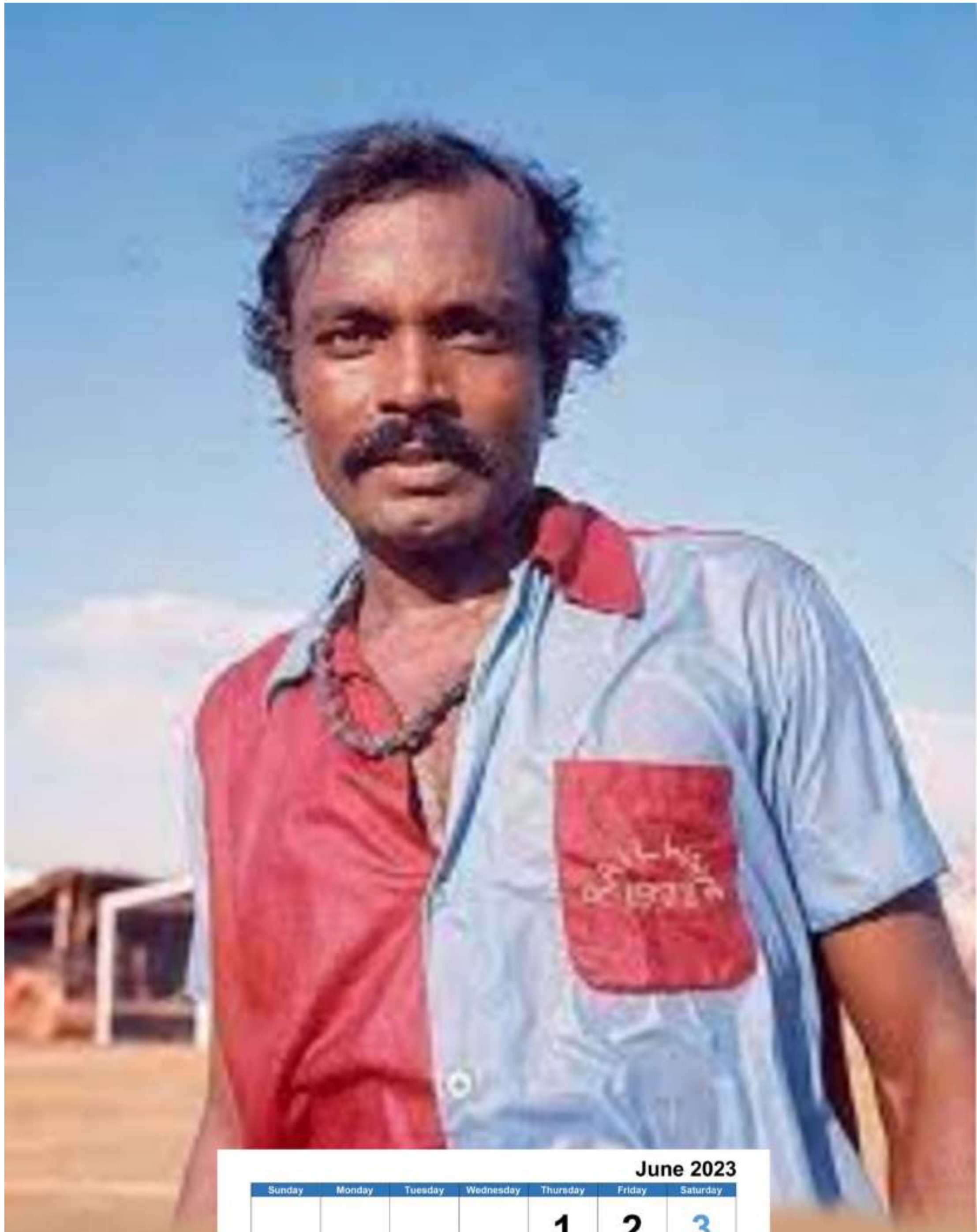
Billimoga Puttaswamy Govinda (Born: 4 March 1951)

An Indian professional field hockey player and the former captain of the Indian team who was considered as one of the fastest hockey players during his time.

May 2023

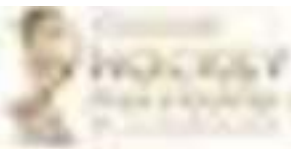
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June 2023

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Ashok Kumar

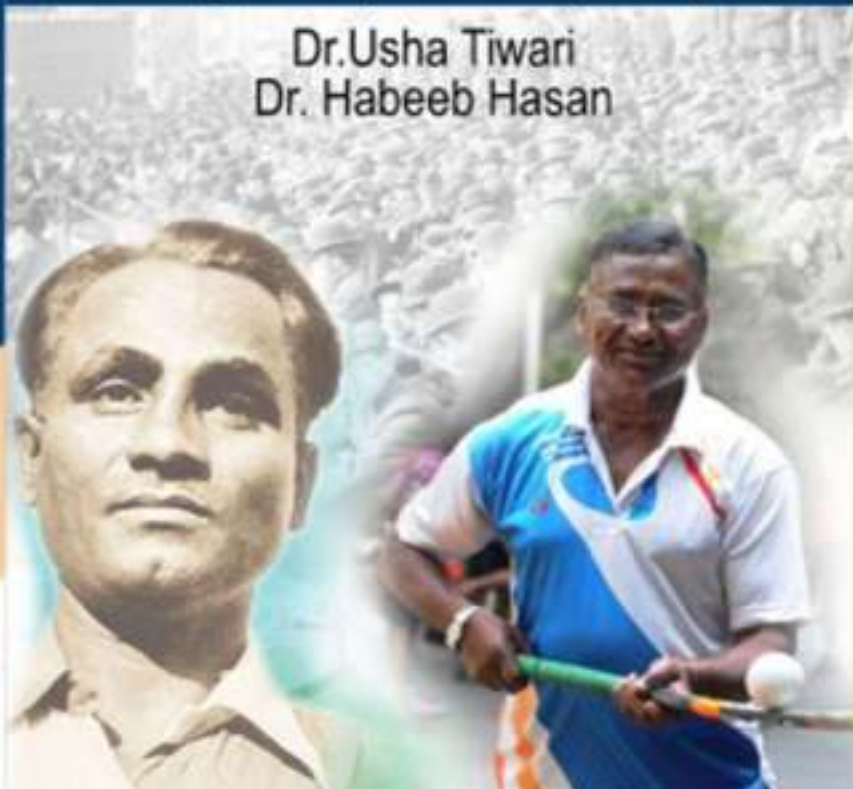
The man whose goal brought the World cup to India.

Ashok Kumar | A Legendry Hockey Player

ASHOK KUMAR

A Legendry Hockey Player

Dr.Usha Tiwari
Dr. Habeeb Hasan



Dr. Usha Tiwari
Dr. Habeeb Hasan



July 2023

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Reliving the GOLDEN DREAM

By Paritosh Pramank
BETUL, Mar 16

IF BETUL is searched on Google one is guided to a small district in the western part of Madhya Pradesh. The 2000 census (as per Google) shows a thin population of around 83,000. But a few die-hard hockey lovers of this nondescript place did something unthinkable, unimaginable, something which no one did in India.

To celebrate 38 years of hockey World Cup win, Bharat Dabey, in support with Pradipkant Saxena and Karandev Thakur, procured a CD of the final match between India and Pakistan played at Malaysia on March 15, 1975. They invited members of that gold-winning Indian team and showed them the entire match on 70cm screen making it a 'Friday Blockbuster'.

Ashok Kumar, Aslam Sher Khan, Oskar Singh, BP Govinda, Ashok Dwan, Leslie Fernandes and VJ Phillips made it a point to celebrate the triumph by reaching Betul and they watched the 'First Day First Show'. The icing on the cake was added by Akhshay Ahirwad, a railway employee from Jabalpur and a commentator, who added Hindi commentary of the match a day before it was shown. The match CD had Malaysian commentary but the young Akhshay did the commentary as if it was done live, 38 years ago.

Not a single member, present in the hall, had ever seen the recording of that match ever. They might be remembering every second of that 70-minute epic final and might have narrated them on 'u' number of times, to friends, to friends and to players. But never in their life, for 38 long years, they got a chance to witness how they played, how

they tackled, how they dribbled, and above all...how they celebrated the triumph on the field and how they at Kuala Lumpur stadium. "It is something unique. It's (the CD) a treasure...precious," said Ashok Kumar while talking with 'The Hitavada'.

Some 2000-odd spectators, along with hockey stars, present at Karandev Cinema Hall were taken 38 years back in Malaysia where our hockey heroes turned lucky, on their attempt, winning the trophy after missing the gold at 1971 (domest) and 1973 (silver) World Cups. The 70-minute 'Friday Blockbuster' at the 'Theatre of Dreams' brought tears of joy, not only to the eyes of players but also to those who were not even born, and who had only heard about that historic triumph.

It was as if sitting in a Time Machine, going several years back. The match was recorded in black and white. There were the days when wooden goal posts were used and matches were played on 'short' or lawn grounds with white balls. The sticks were 'less curved' at the bottom and had wide blades.

All the 'young' players looked smart in crossed shirts and knickerbockers. A slim goal-keeper Ashok Dwan's stick legs were covered with coated pads with cotton lickers attached to it, the hand gloves were heavily belted to save his palms and fingers. No helmets, no chest guard, no thigh pads and no elbow guards. The protection was limited to bare minimum, he present held BP Govinda looked the most handsome of all with wavyish hair style. So did defender Aslam Sher Khan, tall, swart and fair. Captain Ajitpal Singh, VJ Phillips, Ashok Kumar, Shivaji Pawar and all others looked fit as



1975 World Cup winning team members (from left) Oskar Singh, Ashok Dwan, Aslam Sher Khan, BP Govinda, VJ Phillips and Leslie Fernandes at the felicitation function in Betul on Friday.

HOCKEY WORLD CUP 1975

INDIA'S FINAL XI (WITH JERSEY NUMBERS):
Ashok Dwan-2 (goal-keeper), Aslam Sher Khan-5, Surjit Singh-4, Varinder Singh-6, Ajitpal Singh-7, (captain), Mohinder Singh-8, VJ Phillips-10, Ashok Kumar-17, S R Pawa-18, BP Govinda-11, Natharaj Singh-15.

field. All the players sat in the middle row outside public to see the match. At times, they felt embarrassed when were tackled. But on most of the occasions, their chest grew wider when they saw themselves leading a Pakistani player.

The entire match was free-paced, a rarely seen-a-days. Even after 38 years, that match had a gripping effect on those present in hall. BP Govinda and Ashok Kumar were simply outstanding in the centre. Watching them dribbling, passing with a cup and running at an extraordinary speed was a treat to watch. They were the two who made most of the breathtaking moves.

Ajitpal Singh looked robust and hard worker who ran front to help forwards Shivaji Pawar, VJ Phillips and others and at the same time was quick to support Aslam Sher Khan and Surjit Singh in defence clearing the ball with his long reach.

Aslam Sher Khan clearly was the best defender of the match, thwarting Pakistan forwards' moves several times. On Friday, Aslam Sher

A SILENT CINEMA HALL

THE Karandev Cinema Hall in Betul turned into an 'indoor hockey stadium' when the 1975 World Cup final between India and Pakistan was replayed. The atmosphere was unlike any movie hall as every one present there, players, women and kids, watched the history-making game with pin-drop silence. The usual commotion during a movie was excluded as the excited but kept guard to their fascinating action. The mobile phones too were silent, a complete rarity! Mobile lights did go on but it was only to click glimpses of the match on screen. It was one film that was to be screened for eternity.

—Paritosh Pramank

Khan, sitting besides Ashok Kumar, nodded in dejection when Mohd Zubair scored from the left to put Pakistan ahead in the first half.

But the scales were back when their team-mate Surjit Singh converted a penalty corner. They all gathered in appreciation after Surjit's cracking hit scored into the hoard as scores read 1-1.

However, the best shot of the 'movie' was when Ashok Kumar got a pass on his shoulder from Aslam Sher Khan and shook hands after Kumar had pushed the ball across the goal line off a ruse to put India ahead 2-1.

For the first time spectators saw how Ashok Kumar celebrated his goal. Immediately after scoring, he ran towards India's half. Defender Surjit Singh kissed him and so did Shivaji Pawar while captain Ajitpal Singh hugged him, with a sigh of relief. Ashok Kumar, wearing jersey number 17, raised his hands heavenwards as cameras got locked on him to capture the defining

moment. The son of hockey legend Dhanraj took a short but fast stroll on the field racing forward and returning back like a strongman tiger after killing his prey.

The hall resounded with 'Bharat mata ki jai' even though there were still several minutes left in the match. They were aware of the result. In the dying minutes 'keeper Ashok Dwan leaved his legs open when he made a daring save advancing and stopping Pakistan's Akhtar Razaev's hit from right with those bare minimum protective gear.

India supporters ran onto the field as umpire blew the final horn. The 1975 heroes wiped their misty eyes and the hall echoed with applause which was followed by a long felicitation function where the players received one of the prized and most sought gift—the final match CD.

Karandev Singh, Olympian, Jitendra Kirti, Jambher, Mohinder Singh, Dogra James, Yusuf were also felicitated.



FROM TOP: The Indian playing XI followed by bully off. A moment of action of 1975 World Cup final at Karandev Cinema Hall in Betul. (Pic: Paritosh Pramank)

August 2023

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September 2023

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October 2023

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November 2023

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REMEMBERING 1975 HOCKEY WORLD CUP VICTORY



Forty years back (15 March 1975) the Indian men's hockey team led by Ajit Pal Singh defeated archrivals Pakistan 2-1 to accomplish a historic world cup victory. The team was placed in Group B where they played against West Germany, Australia, England, Argentina and Ghana. Winning 3 matches, losing 1 and drawing 1 in the pool phase, India advanced to the semi-finals to play against the hosts Malaysia wherein they beat them 3-2. They had a close contest against Pakistan in the finals and it was Ashok Kumar's scoring the all important goal that help India win the first and the lone title till date.

1975 World Cup team: Ajit Pal (captain), Ashok Kumar, Mohd. Aslam Sher Khan, Harcharan Singh, Leslie Fernandez, Valinder Singh, Ashok Dwanj, Michael Kinda, BP Govinda, HUS Chinnai, VJ Phillips, Omkar Singh, Kalliah PE, Jate Surjit Singh, late Shivaji Power and late Mohinder Singh.

Members of the 1975 world cup team with then prime minister Indira Gandhi, (below) the Indian team showing the trophy at the Delhi airport.



December 2023

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