



SHRI BALDEV SINGH



Shri Baldev Singh is a veteran hockey coach who has rendered distinguished service to Indian hockey for over four decades. He is known for his technical competence, disciplined coaching methodology, and sustained commitment to grassroots development. He has made a significant contribution to the growth of hockey in India, particularly through his long association with Shahbad Markanda, Haryana, which emerged as a prominent centre for hockey training under his guidance.

2. Born on 15th November 1950, Shri Baldev Singh completed his Master of Arts in History from Punjabi University in 1977 and obtained a Diploma in Hockey Coaching from the National Institute of Sports (NIS), Bengaluru, during 1979-80. He began his professional career in hockey with the Namdhari Hockey Team, Bhaini Sahib. In July, 1981, he joined the Haryana Sports Department and was appointed Coach at Shahbad Markanda on 1 January, 1982. He served there until 1986, during which period he established a structured coaching system that laid the foundation for the development of Shahbad as a recognized hockey nursery.

3. In 1986, Shri Baldev Singh served as Coach of the Namdhari Hockey Team at Jiwan Nagar, Sirsa. He returned to Shahbad Markanda in 1993, marking the beginning of a sustained phase of excellence. At the national level, he served as Chief Coach and Selector of the Indian Junior Men's Hockey Team in 1993 and as Assistant Coach of the Indian team that won the Champions Trophy at Madras in 1996. In 2000, he was appointed Chief Coach of the Senior Indian Men's Hockey Team for the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup, Malaysia. From 2001 to 2004, he served as Coach of the Indian Men's Hockey Team, including at the Champions Trophy held at Amstelveen, Netherlands, and guided the team to a Gold Medal at the Asia Cup in 2004.

4. Shri Baldev Singh is widely recognised for developing the Shahbad Markanda hockey nursery into one of India's most productive centres for hockey talent. Under his mentorship, the academy consistently supplied players to national teams. Over the course of his career, he mentored more than 80 international players and 8 Indian team captains. During his service with the Haryana Government, he rose to the position of Deputy Director while continuing active coaching. Although he formally retired in 2008, his services were extended multiple times, and he continued his work with Haryana Sports Department till 2015.

5. After returning to Punjab, Shri Baldev Singh continued to contribute to hockey coaching at Sri Guru Granth Sahib World University, Fatehgarh Sahib (Sirhind), and later served as Coach at Khalsa College, Amritsar, from 2019 to 2023. In 2017, he was appointed as a core member of the Olympic Task Force constituted by the Government of India to prepare a roadmap for the 2020 (Tokyo), 2024 (Paris), and 2028 (Los Angeles) Olympic Games. As one of eight core members, alongside eminent sportspersons, he contributed to the formulation of recommendations aimed at strengthening India's sports performance framework through an athlete-centric, coach-led, and system-driven approach. In recognition of his outstanding contribution to sports coaching, he was conferred the Dronacharya Award in 2009.