



12th Men's Asia Cup Hockey Championship

Why in News?

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar unveiled the **logo, mascot, and trophy** for the **12th Men's Asia Cup Hockey Championship**.

- The Chief Minister also flagged off the Trophy Pride Journey, a symbolic torch relay that will travel through all districts of Bihar leading up to the tournament.



Key Points

- **About:** The tournament will take place from **29th August 2025** ([National Sports Day](#) and [Major Dhyan Chand's birth anniversary](#)) to **7th September 2025** at the **Rajgir International Stadium**, marking the first time Bihar is hosting the event.
 - **Rajgir, a historic city in Bihar**, will host the event following an MoU signed between **Hockey India** and the **Bihar State Sports Authority**.
 - This is the second international sporting event for **Rajgir**, after hosting the **Women's Asian Champions Trophy** in 2024.
- **Tournament Details:** The tournament will feature teams from **India, China, Japan, Chinese Taipei, Malaysia, South Korea, Oman, and Bangladesh**.
 - The tournament will serve as a qualifier for the **2026 International Hockey Federation (FIH) Men's Hockey World Cup**, to be hosted by **Belgium** and the **Netherlands**.
 - The winner will qualify directly for the **Hockey World Cup**.
- **Mascot:** The official mascot, **Chand**, symbolizes the courage and agility of India's national animal, the **tiger**, and is inspired by **Major Dhyan Chand**, India's legendary hockey player.
 - **Chand's Design:** The red cape represents strength, and the magician's hat honors **Dhyan Chand's extraordinary talent**.

Asian Hockey Federation (AHF)

- The Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) was founded during the **Asian Games in Tokyo in 1958**, during which hockey made its first Asian Games appearance.
- The **five founding** AHF member countries were **India**, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia and Pakistan.
- As one of the **five Continental Federations**, AHF assists the **International Hockey Federation (FIH)** in promoting, developing, and administering the sport by supporting its Member National Associations through high-performance projects, grants, equipment, and technical guidance.

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