



VOL. 1, ISSUE 8, AUGUST 2025

THE TOSS

— SPIN THE WHEEL —

ATHLETE'S BUCKET LIST

THE WORLD'S GREATEST SPORTS ARENAS - PART 1



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Dear Readers,

I feel thrilled to share with you the August edition of our monthly newsletter, 'The Toss'. August is a month of pride and inspiration for every Indian as we celebrate our Independence Day, reinstating our belief in the strength of unity in diversity. For us at IIG Sports Academy, this August became even more memorable with the successful hosting of the **CBSE Far East Zone (FEZ) Cricket Tournament** at our academic partner institution, KT Global School, from **6th - 10th August 2025**.

The tournament brought together over 850 budding cricketers from 57 schools, turning the KT Global campus into a vibrant showcase of skills and sportsmanship. The young players competed across U-14, U-17, and U-19 categories (boys and girls), displaying their skills in batting, bowling, and wicket-keeping.

I would like to emphasize that this was more than a tournament for us; it was a reflection of our mission to nurture young talent and a test to check how well we are doing. I feel especially elated that six of our trainees and students of KT Global School have been selected to represent the East Zone in the upcoming National CBSE Cricket Tournament. Their achievement testifies to our structured training pattern and personalised mentorship.

As we rejoice in this milestone, we reaffirm our commitment to encouraging and empowering aspiring athletes to dream big and excel. I extend my sincere gratitude to the CBSE for providing us with this opportunity and to our dedicated coaches and mentors for their efficient guidance to our students.

Hearty congratulations to all players who have been selected for the National Tournament. This is just the beginning. I strongly believe our young champions are ready to take on bigger stages, and we continue to stand firmly behind them.

Warm regards
Prasanta Kumar Puhan
Director, IIG Sports Academy.

CAMPUS Feed

23rd KT Global School All Odisha Open School Chess Tournament

IIG Sports Academy organised the 23rd KT Global School All Odisha Open School Chess Tournament at the IIG Academy building in Patia, Bhubaneswar, on 3rd August 2025. This event attracted around 110 participants from all over the state in both junior and senior categories. The event was highly successful, with players engaging in intense matches with strategic brilliance, focus, and sportsmanship. Shreeharsh Mohanty and Satya Narayan Swain emerged as winners in the senior and junior categories, respectively. This tournament not only celebrated the intellectual spirit of chess but also strengthened our commitment to nurturing holistic sporting talent across the country.



CBSE Far East Zone (FEZ) Cricket Tournament 2025 at KT Global School

KT Global School, Bhubaneswar proudly hosted the CBSE Far East Zone (FEZ) Cricket Tournament 2025 from 6th -10th August. A total of 57 schools from the eastern region registered for this tournament, bringing together more than 850 budding cricketers on one grand stage. The 1st day was dedicated to registration, document verification, & other formalities, setting the stage for the intense competition ahead.

The tournament officially kicked off with the individual skill trials for players. The KT Global campus was abuzz with energy, enthusiasm, and excellence as the young cricketers displayed their skills and talent in the game. Participants, both boys and girls, competed in the U-14, U-17, & U-19 categories. Following the skill trials, four teams were formed in each category & faced each other in competitive selection matches.

Mr. Afzal Ahmad, Observer, CBSE; Mr. Farhan Ur Rahman, Selector, CBSE; & Mrs. Reema Thakur, Selector, CBSE, were the designated officials responsible for evaluating the players. One Boys Team from each age group - U14, U17 & U19 & an U-17 Girls Team were finalized to represent the East Zone at the nationals.

Congratulations to all the finalists. A special shout-out to the six students from KT Global School, training at IIG Sports Academy who have been selected in the finalized teams. The selected teams will represent the eastern zone in the upcoming National CBSE Cricket Tournament.



Proud Moment

IIG Sports Academy congratulates our young and dynamic cricketers who have been selected for the final team to participate in the upcoming National CBSE Cricket Tournament. Your achievement makes us proud and inspires us to continue nurturing talent and building champions—best wishes from all of us.



Naitik Sadaramka
U-14 Category



Pratyush Puhan
U-14 Category



Swayam Palei
U-17 Category



Partha Sarathi Lenka
U-17 Category



Pratik Bharadwaj
U-19 Category



Mrityunjay Mohapatra
U-19 Category

MONTHLY Motivation

Rani Rampal - The Queen of Indian Hockey

“Life isn’t fair; you won’t always get what you deserve. It is the same in sports, too. You might be the best team and still lose. What truly matters is how you respond to it. Success or failure, it is important to keep moving forward. That’s what sports teach us.” That’s the philosophy Rani Rampal lives by both in sports and in life.

From a childhood entrenched in poverty where survival itself was a daily struggle to being the brightest name in Indian women’s hockey and leading the country to many historic milestones; Rani Rampal is a glaring example of the raw, the real, and the resolute.

Born as the third daughter of a cart puller father, in Shahbad Markanda of Kurukhstera in Haryana, Rani grew up in a household with limited means and huge financial challenges. As a young girl, she watched the

women hockey players practicing in Shahbad and dreamt that sports could change her life. Rani reveals a sad truth about Indian sports as she remarks, *“We love sports because of passion, yes. But for most athletes like me, the biggest reason is financial security- to get a job and support our families.”*

Rani started training in her town’s academy at the age of 7 years. She showed a lot of potential, which paved the way for her international debut in 2008 at the Olympic qualifiers. Rani was just 14 years old then, making her the youngest hockey player India had ever fielded. Two years later, she also made her World Cup debut, scoring five of the seven goals India netted in the competition. Rani led the Indian Women’s Hockey team as captain in the 2018 Asian Games, where they won a silver medal. She also captained India to a historic semi-final finish at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Along the way, she has been honored with the Padma Shri and Major Dhyan

Chand Khel Ratna awards, symbols of her extraordinary contribution to Indian sport.

India’s forward player with a knack for scoring crucial goals and the capability of doubling up as a midfielder, Rani Rampal, is considered one of the best female hockey players in the world. With a remarkable career graph of 212 international matches and multiple stellar performances that transformed the visibility of women’s hockey in the country, Rani Rampal is truly deserving of the title ‘Queen of Indian Hockey’ and has earned every bit of it.



Athlete's Bucket List: The World's Greatest Sports Arenas – Part I

We all have some dreams that we deeply cherish and hope to fulfill someday. Every skill, every art has its own sacred stage where the artist or performer dreams of performing. Similarly, for an athlete, more than the wealth or adrenaline that sport brings, the stage they perform on defines their journey. Every sport

has its grand arena, which is considered the pinnacle of the athlete's journey. For an athlete, the chance to compete at these venues or events is more than just a professional milestone. It is an honor, a lifelong dream that sits at the top of their bucket list.

In this special 2-part story series, we bring you a curated list of the 10 greatest sporting events and venues where Indian athletes aspire to shine. In this first part of our series, we present 5 of these pan-sport dream events/venues that inspire our athletes.

1. THE OLYMPIC GAMES

Background: The Olympic Games date back to ancient Greece, where they were held as part of a religious festival to honour Zeus. However, modern Olympic Games were revived in the late 19th century, as the first games were hosted in Athens in 1896 under the auspices of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). 14 nations and 241 athletes competed in 43 different events in these games. Since then, the Olympic Games have grown into the largest sporting event on earth.

Frequency and Venue: The Olympic Games are held every four years, referred to as an 'Olympiad' in ancient Greece. There are two versions of the Olympics - Summer and Winter editions. Each is held

every four years. However, since 1994, the Summer and Winter Olympics have been staggered and alternate every two years within the four-year period. The host cities are chosen through a global bidding process.

Participants & Sports: The Olympic Games currently attract participation from athletes of around 206 National Olympic Committees (NOCs). The NOC represents an individual nation without any strict requirement of political sovereignty. The Olympics feature around 43 different sports across its Summer and Winter editions, including athletics, gymnastics, swimming, soccer, volleyball, tennis, wrestling, & many more.

Stature: The Olympic Games are held in such high regard in the world of sports that winning an Olympic medal is often considered the ultimate achievement for an athlete. The value of an Olympic medal far exceeds its material worth and is a matter of honor and national pride, ushering admiration, widespread recognition, and career advancements for the medallist.



2. CRICKET WORLD CUP & ICC TOURNAMENTS



Background: The ICC Men's Cricket World Cup was first played in 1975 in England. It is a quadrennial World Cup for cricket played in One Day International (ODI) format with multiple participating nations. This tournament is one of the world's most-viewed sporting events. Alongside it, the ICC Women's World Cup, first held in 1973, has steadily risen in popularity, inspiring a new generation of female cricketers.

Game Format: The Cricket World Cup is played in the One Day International (ODI) format with each side batting for 50 overs. Participating teams representing different countries compete with each other in group stages, followed by knockout rounds leading to the grand final. The T20 World Cup, played in the shorter version of 20 overs per team, has added a modern dimension to this popular sport and has also been widely accepted by the audience.

Frequency & Venue: The ODI World Cup is played every four years, and the T20 is held every 2 years. The rights for hosting the tournament rotate between the cricket-playing nations.

Dream Venues: Cricket has been played across the world for decades, and certain grounds have gained iconic status for cricketers. **Lord's in London**, known as the 'Home of Cricket' is the foremost among them. Winning a final in this ground, steeped in history, is considered a crowning glory. The Indian cricket team, under the captainship of Kapil Dev, won the World Cup final here in 1983. The **Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG)** in Australia, with its 100,000-seat capacity, is another dream destination. In India, the **Eden Gardens in Kolkata** and the newly built **Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad**, the largest cricket stadium in the world, stand as modern temples of the game.

Stature - The Indian Context: Cricket is not just a sport in India; it is an emotion, a passion that binds together a billion people. Not just in sports academies, in every small and big ground, alley, lane, you can spot young boys and girls playing 'gully' cricket. The Cricket World Cup is a stage where these young dreams come alive. The Cricket World Cup is an event when millions of Indians forget their routine to watch the game,

rejoice in the victories, & get disappointed by the misses. For every aspiring cricketer, being part of the World Cup team, playing on one of these iconic grounds, and lifting the coveted World Cup trophy are the most cherished dreams.





3. WIMBLEDON CHAMPIONSHIPS

Background: First held in 1877, Wimbledon is the oldest tennis tournament in the world. It is one of the four Grand Slam tennis events and the only tennis tournament still played on grass courts - the traditional surface. The Wimbledon Championship, organised by the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club (AELTC), is widely considered the most prestigious tennis tournament in the world.

Frequency & Venue: The first Wimbledon Tournament was played in the Worple Road Ground, Wimbledon. But the venue was shifted to its present site on Church Road in 1922 to accommodate the increasing audience. The famous Centre Court at Church Road has been the heart of Wimbledon ever since. Wimbledon is chronologically the third of the four Grand Slams played annually. It is held after the Australian Open and French Open and before the US Open.

Sport and Format: Lawn tennis is played at Wimbledon. The tournament comprises five main events, four junior events, and seven invitation events. The formats include singles, doubles, and mixed doubles for specific events. All events are single-elimination tournaments except a few, which are played in the round-robin format.

Stature: Wimbledon is an iconic venue for all tennis players. Wimbledon is not just about a tennis tournament; it has a distinct character to it. Playing and winning on the Centre Court at Wimbledon is the ultimate dream of many aspiring tennis players. Vijay Amritraj's flair, Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi's doubles heroics, and Sania Mirza's mixed doubles success have all been tied to this iconic grass court.

4. ALL ENGLAND OPEN

Background: The All England Open Badminton Championships is the world's oldest badminton tournament, predating even the World Championships. First held in 1899 at London's Horticultural Halls, this tournament is one of the most prestigious badminton tournaments in the world, often called the 'Wimbledon of Badminton'.

Frequency and Venue: Since the year of its introduction, the tournament has been held at different venues. However, from 1994 onward, it has been annually held in Birmingham, England.

Format: The tournament follows a knockout format across men's and women's singles, doubles, and mixed-doubles. Winning here is considered a career-defining milestone for any shuttler.

Stature: The All England Open Badminton Championships is designated as a Super 1000 event by the Badminton World Federation's (BWF) grading system. India shares a proud connection with this event. Prakash Padukone became the first Indian to win the All England title in 1980, followed by Pullela Gopichand in 2001. For Indian shuttlers, lifting the All England trophy means etching their name alongside the sport's legends.



5. WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP



Background: The official World Chess Championship was held for the first time in 1886. The winner of this tournament is crowned as the undisputed world champion in chess. The International Chess Federation (FIDE) holds the administrative rights of the World Championship.

Frequency and Venue: The championship follows a two-year cycle, with championship matches conducted every even year. The venues of the tournament rotate globally.

Format: The players for the World Chess Championship are finalised through a multi-stage selection process culminating in the Candidates Tournament. The Candidates Tournament is a high-stakes event featuring eight of the world's top chess players. The winner of the Candidates Tournament faces the reigning World Champion in a match to determine the world champion.

Stature: The World Chess Championship is not just a test of skill, but of resilience, stamina, and intellect, making it the ultimate stage for chess aspirants worldwide.

With the rise of many chess prodigies like R. Praggnanandhaa, D. Gukesh, Arjun Erigaisi, and Nihal Sarin, India is emerging as the new powerhouse in world chess, inspiring budding chess players to dream of claiming the world championship crown.

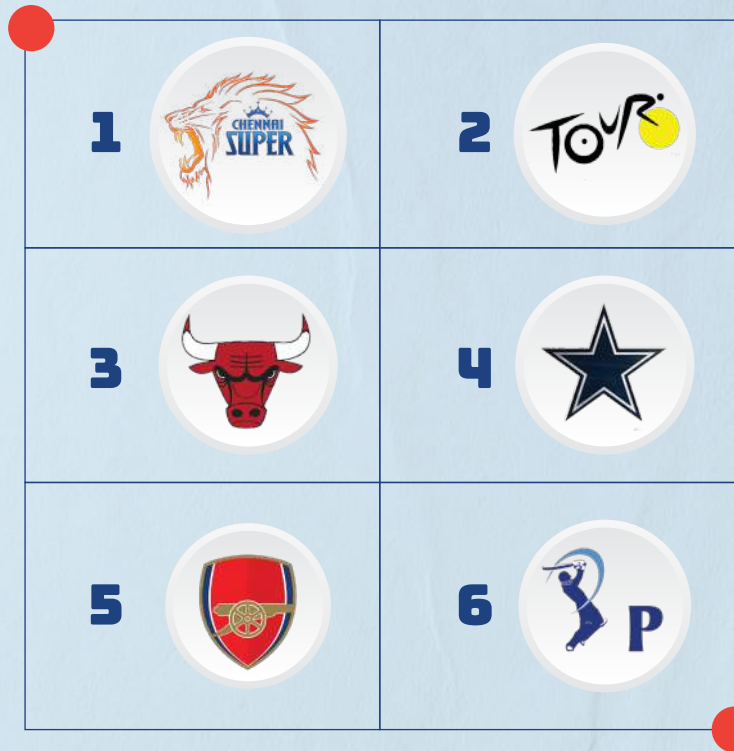


CONCLUSION

These stages are not mere competitive platforms; they've become arenas of legacy. To perform on these stages is an honor, & to win here means joining a select club of legends who inspire generations. In our next edition, we will feature five more such revered sports events that complete an Indian athlete's bucket list.



GUESS THE SPORTS TEAM/EVENTS FROM THE GIVEN HINTS:



SOLUTION TO OUR PREVIOUS ISSUE'S 'GUESS THE LEGEND' QUIZ.

1. "When people throw stones at you, you turn them into milestones."
2. "I hated every minute of training, but I said, 'Don't quit. Suffer now and live the rest of your life as a champion.'"
3. "Hard work, willpower, and dedication. For a man with these qualities, sky is the limit."
4. I've missed more than 9000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. 26 times, I've been trusted to take the game-winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed."
5. "If you want to be the best, you have to do the things that other people aren't willing to do."

Sachin Tendulkar

Muhammad Ali

Milkha Singh

Michael Jordan

Michael Phelps



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