

A SHOT IN THE ARM FOR HOCKEY

DC CORRESPONDENT

In a major boost to hockey in Tamil Nadu, the Centre for Sports Science (CSS), run by Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research, has announced that it would develop a world-class astro-turf facility with former India hockey captain V. Baskaran at the helm. The Olympic gold medalists will be the director of operations at the academy which has been approved by the Ministry of Sports under Khelo India Programme.

S. Arumugam, director of CSS said: "At present three Khelo India academies — for rowing, shooting and weightlifting — have begun operations at CSS and initiatives would be taken to establish a similar academy for hockey."

Baskaran said the CSS would be a formidable centre with Olympians such as Mohammed Riaz, Thirumavalavan, Raghunath, Rupinder Pal Singh and Sardara Singh expected to join the star-studded coaching staff. "The training and coaching facilities at CSS will help players improve their fitness level, mental toughness and finishing qualities in a scientific manner. There will be special training for goalkeepers, defenders, midfielders and strikers," Baskaran said.

"CSS aims to develop players from right from the age of 10 years and will promote players at all levels to enhance their performance by providing high

technology, skill and tactics required in modern hockey on par with international standards," he added.

The centre will also cater to players from other states and foreign countries. Countries like Japan and China will be offered to use the facility before the Olympic qualifiers in June 2019 to be held in India. The centre will also host tournaments.



Olympian V. Baskaran demonstrates the scientific assessment of a hockey player at the Centre For Sports Science.