

Chennai, Friday, January 4, 2019

## Baskaran in charge of coaching at CSS

**CHENNAI:** India's Olympic gold medallist Vasudevan Baskaran will impart training to hockey hopefuls in an academy in the city. Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research, Porur, which appointed Baskaran as its coach at its Centre for Sports Science said the former hockey captain, who would be at the helm of affairs as the Director of Hockey Operations.

Announcing this here on Thursday S. Arumugam, Director, Centre for Sports Science said a world class astro-turf will be put in place soon at the centre.

CSS has been approved by Govt. of India as a Multi Sports Academy for the Khelo India Program by Ministry of Sports to nurture talented players from all over the country, said Arumugam. Now, three Khelo India academies for Rowing, Shooting and Weightlifting have begun operations at CSS and initiatives would be taken



**V Baskaran (middle) inaugurating the coaching centre at CSS**

to establish a similar academy for hockey aiming for the development of the National game at the very grassroots level, Dr. Arumugam, added.

Baskaran said reputed Hockey Olympians from Tamil Nadu Mohammed Riaz and Thirumavalavan,

penalty-corner specialists Raghunath and Rupinder Pal Singh along with Youth Development expert Sardara Singh are expected to join him at CSS making it a formidable coaching centre. The training and coaching facilities at CSS will help players improve their

fitness level, mental toughness and finishing qualities in a scientific manner, said the former captain. There will be special training for goalkeepers, defenders, midfielders and forwards. CSS aims to develop players from the age of 10 years and will promote players at all levels to enhance their performance by providing high performance technology, skill and tactics required in modern hockey on par with international standards.

This centre will be a boon to hockey players and aspirants from Chennai and other parts of Tamil Nadu while it will also cater to players from other states and foreign countries of Europe and Australasia regions. 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 would also encourage tournaments to be hosted by various institutions from grassroots and school level to elite and club levels, Baskaran said.