

Baskaran to be in charge of CSS hockey academy

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Chennai: With an aim of producing Olympic champions, the Centre for Sports Science, Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research, will start a full-fledged programme for hockey players at the grassroots level. The main objective of the programme will be to train and offer coaching facilities to help players improve their fitness level, mental toughness and finishing qualities in a scientific manner. Currently three academies for rowing, shooting and weightlifting are operational at CSS.

Former India skipper **V Baskaran**, who has been appointed as director of Trucoach CSS-Baskaran Centre for Hockey, feels India will never get a medal at the World Cup or Olympics unless grassroots level programmes are monitored. "India don't have dearth of talent but our system is archaic. We'll not be able to beat world's top teams unless we



overhaul our system and start coaching junior boys at various age categories in a scientific manner. CSS offers all facilities under one roof — from biomechanics to data analytics, fitness training and nutrition — a player can have access to all. I'm thrilled to be associated with such a great initiative," Baskaran told reporters on Thursday. CSS is trying to get their ground, which will be fully ready by April, approved by International Hockey Federation (FIH)

According to Baskaran, some Olympians like Mohammed Riaz, Thirumavalavan, penalty-corner specialists VR Raghunath and Rupinder Pal Singh along with Sardar Singh are expected to join Baskaran at CSS. The facilities will not only be restricted to Indian players. Countries like Japan and China will be offered to use the facility before the Olympic qualifiers in June 2019. TNN