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## Handball federation of India: An overview

**Md. Ziauddin and Dr. Sandeep Bhalla**

### Abstract

Handball Federation of India is a non-profit organisation, established in 2013 that works primarily in the domain of the said sport. Its primary office is in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. Major tasks and accomplishments include securing 7th position in the Asian Championship in women's section; securing 8th position in the Asian Championship in men's section; securing gold medal in IHF Trophy in both sections; secured gold medal in the South Asian Games at Guwahati; etc. However, in handball sports, India is yet to make a major impact at international level, world championship and the Olympic Games.

**Keywords:** Handball, handball federation of India, international handball federation

### Introduction

Handball Federation of India was founded by Mr. Jagat Singh Lohan, a Jat from Rohtak (Haryana) who was an alumnus of YMCA College of Physical Education of Madras (now Chennai). Lohan was founder/father of Handball, Netball and Throwball games in India. His efforts in Germany during Munich Olympics helped in establishing Handball Federation of India. The Member States were Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Vidharbha and Jammu and Kashmir. He was also elected as first Secretary General of Handball Federation of India. The first Senior Men's National Handball Championship was held at Sir Chhotu Ram Stadium, Rohtak (Haryana) in the year 1972. Haryana won the gold medal and Vidharbha got the silver medal. Handball is a popular sport in India, played at local level in India but has not made it big in domestic level. India has yet to make an impact at international level and the World Cup. Due to huge efforts of the HFI administrators, India started participating in the Asian Men's Handball Championship in 1979 and the Asian Women's Handball Championship in 1993. Though the teams were not able to win any medal at any championship, the participation in the events are bring experience and exposure for the players and coaching staff which more important.

As far as Indian Handball leaders are concerned, since the foundation of handball and Handball Federation of India (HFI), many government officials and other renowned personalities were involved in it. They not only represented handball in the Indian Olympic Association but also represented Indian handball at international level. One of these is HFI President Dr. Roshan Lal Anand, the longest serving Director of National Institute of Sports. Anand was elected as Secretary General of Asian Handball Federation (2000 - 2013) unopposed for continuously 13 years. He was also elected as IOA Secretary General. Dr. Surinder Mohan Bali, who is the longest serving HFI Secretary General, was elected as Member of AHF Marketing Commission. Bali become the first Indian who was awarded with IHF Badge of Merit in Gold for his contributions to the development of handball by the International Handball Federation during the 2009 IHF Congress held at Cairo (Egypt). Bali is also a member of Executive Council of the Indian Olympic Association. Dr. Anandeshwar Panday, who is current HFI Secretary General was elected as Member of AHF Commission of Organizing and Competition and Treasurer of Indian Olympic Association in 2017.

### Description

The Handball Federation of India, Rohtak is the administrative and controlling body for handball and beach handball in Republic of India. HFI is registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 at Rohtak. HFI is a member of the Asian Handball Federation (AHF) and the International Handball Federation (IHF) since 1974.

It is also a member of Commonwealth Handball Association and South Asian Handball Federation. Handball was founded in India by Choudhary Jagat Singh Lohan a Jat from Rohtak (Haryana) who was an alumnus of YMCA College of Physical Education of Madras (now Chennai). He was also the first Secretary General of HFI.

### Formation

In India, sport of handball and HFI was founded by Jagat Singh Lohan a Jat from Rohtak (Haryana) who was an alumnus of YMCA College of Physical Education of Madras (now Chennai). He was the also the first Secretary General of

HFI. Lohan was founder/father of handball, netball and throwball games in India. His efforts in Germany during the Munich Olympics in 1972 helped in establishing HFI. The founding member states were Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Vidharbha and Jammu and Kashmir. The 1st Senior National Handball Championship was held at Sir Chhotu Ram Stadium, Rohtak (Haryana) in the year 1972. Haryana won the Gold Medal and Vidharba got the silver medal. In India, handball is currently played at local level in India but has not made it big in domestic level. India has yet to make an impact at international level, world championship and the Olympic games.

### HFI Presidents

S. No.	Name	State	Tenure
1.	Mrs. Laxmi Chhabla		1972 – 1976
2.	AVM Harkrishan Lal Kapur, PVSM AVSM MP	Uttar Pradesh	1976 – 1985
3.	Padma Shree Dr. Roshan Lal Anand	Punjab	1985 – 1 February 2010
4.	Dr. Sarwan Singh Channy, IAS	Punjab	1 February 2010 – 22 December 2013
5.	Dr. M. Ramasubramani, IPS	Tamil Nadu	22 December 2013 – 1 November 2020
6.	Arishnapally Jagan Mohan Rao	Telangana	1 November 2020 – <i>present</i>

### HFI Secretary Generals

S. No.	Name	State	Tenure
1.	Jagat Singh Lohan	Rohtak (Haryana)	1972 – 1973
2.	M. L. Khan	Andhra Pradesh	1973 – 1985
3.	Dr. Surinder Mohan Bali	Jammu (Jammu and Kashmir)	1985 – 22 December 2013
4.	Dr. Anandeshwar Panday	Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)	22 December 2013 – 1 November 2020
5.	Pritpal Singh Saluja	Indore (Madhya Pradesh)	1 November 2020 – <i>present</i>

### HFI Executive Committee

Following is the HFI Executive Committee for the term 2020 – 2023.

Designation	Name	State
Life-President <sup>[note 1]</sup>	Padma Shri Dr. Roshan Lal Anand	Punjab
President	Arishnapally Jagan Mohan Rao	Telangana
Chairman	Dr. M. Ramasubramani, IPS	Tamil Nadu
Sr. Vice-President (Administration)	<i>Vacant</i>	
Sr. Vice-President	Dr. Pradeep Kumar Balmuchu, MP	Jharkhand
Vice-President	Amanbir Singh Sidhu	Punjab
	Dr. Dev Kumar Singh	Uttarakhand
	Padma Shri Satpal Singh	Delhi
	Amal Narayan Patowary	Assam
	Reena Sarin	Meghalaya
Secretary General	Pritpal Singh Saluja	Madhya Pradesh
Sr. Joint Secretary	Brij Kishor Sharma	Bihar
Joint Secretary	Sameer Khan	Chhattisgarh
	Randhir Singh	Maharashtra
	Dr. Jugminder Sheokand	Haryana
	Nand Kishore Sharma	Himachal Pradesh
	Veena Shekhar	Arunachal Pradesh
Treasurer	Vinay Kumar Singh	Gujarat
Executive Member	Sunil Kumar	Chandigarh
	P. Satyanarayan Raju	Andhra Pradesh
	W. Kajal Devi	Manipur
	Ashwani Raina	Jammu & Kashmir
	Saneh Lata	Himachal Pradesh
Executive Director <sup>[note 1]</sup>	Dr. Anandeshwar Panday	Uttar Pradesh

**Head Coach of National Teams**

Category	Head Coach	State
Senior Men	Shivaji Sindhu	SAI / Delhi
Senior Women	Mohinder Lal	SAI / Punjab
Junior Boys	Shivaji Sindhu	SAI / Delhi
Junior Girls	Atanu Mazumdar	SAI / West Bengal
Youth Boys	Praveen Singh	SAI / Gujarat
Youth Girls	Dr. Jugminder Singh	Haryana

**Current Title Holders**

Category	Men's	Women's
Indian Premier Handball League	TBD	TBD
Senior National Handball Championship	Punjab (March 2020)	RSPB (Dec 2019)
Handball at National Games	SSCB (Feb 2015)	Haryana (Feb 2015)
HFI Federation Cup	SSCB (Sep 2019)	Uttar Pradesh (Sep 2019)
HFI Inter-Zonal Handball Championship	TBD	TBD
Junior (U-19) National Handball Championship	SAI (Jan 2020)	Himachal Pradesh (Feb 2020)
Sub-Junior (U-15) National Handball Championship	Delhi (Nov 2019)	Himachal Pradesh (Oct 2019)
Mini (U-12) National Handball Championship	Haryana (?)	Haryana (Oct 2012)
Senior National Beach Handball Championship	Data unavailable	Data unavailable
Beach Handball at National Games	Chhattisgarh (Feb 2015)	Delhi (Feb 2015)

- (Month and year of event)
- TBD = To be decided

**Competitions Hosted**

HFI had hosted following international championships:

Championship	Venue
2019 Asian Women's Youth Handball Championship	Jaipur
2017 Asian Men's Club League Handball Championship	Hyderabad
2016 South Asian Games	Guwahati
2015 Asian Women's Youth Handball Championship	New Delhi
2004 Asian Men's Junior Handball Championship	Hyderabad
1982 Asian Games	New Delhi

**Future Events**

Event	Venue	Dates
49th HFI Senior Women's National Handball Championship	Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh	17 – 21 March 2021
43rd HFI Junior (U-21) Boy's National Handball Championship	Pitam Pura, NCT of Delhi	23 – 27 March 2021
49th HFI Senior Men's National Handball Championship	Indore, Madhya Pradesh	30 March – 3 April 2021
43rd HFI Junior (U-21) Girl's National Handball Championship	Telangana	30 March – 3 April 2021
2020 Asian Women's Club League Handball Championship	Almaty, Kazakhstan	7 – 15 June 2021
2020 Asian Men's Club League Handball Championship	Jeddah, Saudi Arabia	20 – 31 May 2021
2021-22 Indian Premier Handball League	Sawai Mansingh Indoor Stadium, Jaipur	Postponed due to coronavirus pandemic, new dates TBD
2020 Asian Beach Games	Sanya, China	Postponed due to coronavirus pandemic, new dates TBD
2020 National Games of India	Goa	Postponed due to coronavirus pandemic, new dates TBD

**Affiliated Members****State Associations**

- I. Andhra Pradesh Handball Association
- II. Arunachal Pradesh Handball Association
- III. Assam Handball Association
- IV. Bihar Handball Association
- V. Chhattisgarh Handball Association, Bhillai
- VI. Goa Handball Association, Margao
- VII. Gujarat Handball Association, Ahmedabad
- VIII. HAR Handball Welfare Association, Jind
- IX. Himachal Pradesh Handball Association
- X. Jharkhand State Handball Association, Jamshedpur
- XI. Karnataka Handball Association
- XII. Kerala Handball Association

- XIII. Madhya Pradesh Handball Association
- XIV. Handball Association of Maharashtra
- XV. Manipur Handball Association
- XVI. Meghalaya Handball Association
- XVII. Mizoram Handball Association
- XVIII. Nagaland Handball Association, Dimapur
- XIX. Odisha State Handball Association
- XX. Punjab Handball Association
- XXI. Rajasthan State Handball Association, Jaipur
- XXII. Sikkim Handball Association
- XXIII. Tamil Nadu Handball Association, Chennai
- XXIV. Telangana Handball Association
- XXV. Tripura Handball Association
- XXVI. Uttar Pradesh Handball Association, Lucknow

XXVII. Uttaranchal Handball Association

XXVIII. West Bengal State Handball Association

**Union Territory Associations**

- I. Andaman and Nicobar Islands Handball Association
- II. Chandigarh Handball Association
- III. Handball Association of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu
- IV. Handball Association of Delhi
- V. Handball Association of Union Territory of Ladakh
- VI. Jammu and Kashmir Handball Association
- VII. Lakshadweep Handball Association
- VIII. Pondicherry State Amateur Handball Association

**Other Units**

- I. Association of Indian Universities, New Delhi (AIU)
- II. Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
- III. Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
- IV. Mumbai Hand Ball Academy (MHBA)
- V. National Handball Academy, Bhilai (NHA)
- VI. Railway Sports Promotion Board, New Delhi (RSPB)
- VII. Services Sports Control Board, New Delhi (SSCB)
- VIII. Sports Authority of India (SAI)

**Sponsors**

- I. Shiv Naresh
- II. COSCO

**Conclusion**

The Handball Federation of India, Rohtak is the administrative and controlling body for handball and beach handball in Republic of India. HFI is registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 at Rohtak. HFI is a member of the Asian Handball Federation (AHF) and the International Handball Federation (IHF) since 1974. It is also a member of Commonwealth Handball Association and South Asian Handball Federation. Handball was founded in India by Choudhary Jagat Singh Lohan a Jat from Rohtak (Haryana) who was an alumnus of YMCA College of Physical Education of Madras (now Chennai). He was also the first Secretary General of HFI. Earlier in November 2020, the Handball Federation of India (HFI) held its Annual General Body Meeting in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, with 60 of its 66 members in attendance, the remaining members unable to join due to the travel restrictions and ongoing COVID-19 situation. The meeting was led by outgoing HFI President Dr M Ramasubramni who praised the “cohesive working of the HFI in the last three years,” which included “many successful national and international championships,” conducted under the leadership of outgoing Secretary General Dr Anandeshwar Pandey. Aside from many other points of order, the main focus of the meeting was to elect the HFI Executive Committee. Jagan Monhan Rao (from Telangana state) was elected President, Dr Pradeep Kumar Balamuchu (Jharkhand) was elected Senior Vice President, Pritpal Singh Saluja (Madhya Pradesh/West Zone) was elected Secretary General and Vinay Kumar Singh (Gujarat/West Zone) was elected Treasurer. In addition, a further four Vice Presidents, four Joint Secretaries and five Executive Members, including international players Ashwini Raina and Sneha Lata, were elected, and six, vacant Executive Committee posts were filled, with all elected unopposed. “I am truly grateful to all 29 state associations for electing me as HFI President unanimously,” said Rao to local media. “I swear to work hard for the development of handball in the country. Handball is a

very popular game in India, but it’s highly overshadowed by cricket and badminton, so to cope with this problem, we came up with the idea of the Handball Premier League.” According to local media, Rao has excelled in the professional and corporate world and was a valued cricket, volleyball, kabaddi and handball player at school, college and university. He ran a team in the 2018 Telangana T20 cricket league and also established a sports academy. As HFI Vice President previously, Rao had proposed, created and prepared the Handball Premier League, ready for launch, but COVID-19 delayed its start. “Our nation lacks the necessary infrastructure for handball,” added Rao after his election. “That is why we are focusing on developing handball infrastructure on a national level with the help of the sports ministry, IOA and Sports Authority of India (SAI). We will hunt for talented youngsters and help them get trained under expert coaches. We will train Indian athletes with the goal of winning medals at the Olympics.” In addition to the Executive Committee posts, the Chairman Handball League, Chairman Handball Development Committee and General Manager – Handball Federation of India posts were also elected and confirmed. “I am sure the Handball Federation of India will be immensely benefitted by your rich experience and the sport of handball will achieve new heights under your able leadership” , said Rajeev Mehta, Secretary General of the Indian Olympic Association in a letter address to the new HFI President Rao. Newly-elected Senior Vice President – Administration, Dr Anandeshwar Pandey, told local media after the election, “...for the first time, the AGM saw representation from Leh (Ladakh) to Tamil Nadu and from Arunachal Pradesh to Gujarat,” referring to the 35 participating states who participated, including two newly-affiliated ones and five without voting rights. A number of observers were appointed for the meeting, including representatives of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) in person, and the International Handball Federation (IHF) and Asian Handball Federation (AHF), who attended via Zoom video conferencing<sup>[1]</sup>.

In a first, on 14 December 2020, the Premier Handball League (PHL) has been launched in India, bringing the much-needed focus back on the Olympic sport. There are a number of sporting leagues running across India for the development of the sport. While cricket and football leagues rule the roost - badminton, hockey, kabaddi and volleyball leagues have also given a platform for talents to showcase their skills. The Premier Handball League will run from December 24, 2020, to January 10, 2021. All the matches of the inaugural edition of the PHL will be held at the Sawai Mansingh Indoor stadium in Jaipur, Rajasthan. Handball Federation of India (HFI) president Arshnapally Jagan Mohan Rao said that the formation of the league will be an important step towards the development of the sport in the country and bring about excitement among the players. This is going to be a significant moment in the Indian handball history as the Premier Handball League will infuse fresh breath to the sport which has immense potential at grassroot level. The league will bring exciting competition among the players as well as help build handball as a brand. The inaugural edition of the league will see teams from Maharashtra, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Telangana participate. The teams have been christened as Telangana Tigers, UP Icons, Maharashtra Handball Hustlers, KingHawks Rajasthan, Bengal Blues and Punjab Pitbulls. The PHL will see more than 80 players taking part in the inaugural edition, with each team consisting of 14 players. Handball, significantly, has

been identified as a priority sport by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MYAS) under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS). Around 8000 players had registered to participate in the league. Among them the best players have been selected to represent the respective franchises. The PHL matches will be broadcast LIVE in India through the Sony Pictures Sports Network through its Sony and Ten channels. The matches will also be available through Jio TV and Sony LIV apps [2].

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