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REVIEW ARTICLE

**“A CASE STUDY ON PADAMA SHREE DHANRAJ
PILLAY – A LEGENDRY HOCKEY PLAYER OF
INDIA”**

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“A Case Study on Padama Shree Dhanraj Pillay – A Legendry Hockey Player of India”

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INTRODUCTION:-

Padama Shree Dhanraj Pillay is one of the most famous sport personality in India for his significant contributions and achievements in the field of hockey. He belongs to Tamil ancestral origin and has developed his career in Mumbai city. He has brought many victories to Indian hockey team and has been a notable star of hockey from the year 1989 to 2004 in the world.

Padama Shree Dhanraj Pillay was born on 16 July, 1968 in khadki near Pune. He is the fourth son of Tamil parents Nagalingam Pillay and Andalamma As his name suggest –A man who will get gold i.e. Dhan and rule i.e. Raj. This Would have come true in Sydney Olympics – had Indian coach Bhaskar and Mr. Gill had not broken winning combination of senior players of 1998 Asian games. He has been former captain of the Indian hockey team.

Dhanraj moved to Mumbai in the mid-eighties to join his elder brother Ramesh, who was playing for RCF in the Mumbai League. Ramesh had already played for India in international matches and his guidance helped Dhanraj to develop as a speedy striker. He then moved over to Mahindra & Mahindra where he was tutored by Indian coach, Mr. Joaquim Carvalho.

At the age of 17, Dhanraj played in the Junior National hockey tournament held at Manipur. He got a chance to play at Sanjay Gandhi Tournament in 1987 held at Delhi, and further played his first senior National hockey tournament in 1988 at Delhi. It is said that he used to cover 100m of distance in just 11.6 seconds and due to this, he became famous as “Toofan” (Tornado) in the hockey fraternity. Mr. Joquim Carvalho, the famous hockey player and Coach noticed the talent of Dhanraj and invited him to join Mahindra & Mahindra team at Mumbai. At Mahindra &

Mahindra, Dhanraj got a chance to play with the internationally renowned players like Marcellus Gomes and Mark Patterson and honed his skills under their guidance.

METHODOLOGY: -

As per the requirement and nature of the Study, a Case Study was designed to explore the biography, sports achievements and contributions made to the country by Dhanraj Pillay in the field of hockey. A survey type case study was considered appropriate to explore in information on various aspects of the case which is the subject matter of the present empirical investigation. The information regarding Dhanraj Pillay about his life has been taken from the various newspapers, official record of IHF and HFI, sports magazines and Wikipedia at the internet. The pictorial record was obtained from internet.

The data collected from primary and secondary sources was analysed qualitatively as well as quantitatively by descriptive statistics.

RESULTS OF THE STUDY: -

1. Biography of Dhanraj Pillay: -

Dhanraj Pillay was born at Khadki near Pune in Maharashtra. He is the fourth son of Nagalingam Pillay and Mrs. Andalamma. He was the youngest member of his family. He comes from a low socio economic status. As his name suggest – man who will get gold (Dhan) and rule (Raj) - hockey. This would have come true In Sydney Olympics – had Indian coach Bhaskar and Mr. Gill had not broken winning combination of senior players of 1998Asian games of Indian team.

Pillay's career has been marked by a constant struggle against all odds. The signs were evident early on in his life. He was born in a poor family. Dhanraj had a tough life in the gallis (streets) around the neighbourhood at ammunition factory in Pune. Dhanraj was the youngest of his five brothers and the family had not enough money to buy hockey sticks.

Dhanraj Pillay's father, Nagalingam Pillay was a worker in the Khadki ammunition factory and he was maintaining a big family. The youngest member of the Pillay family, Dhanraj Pillay started to play hockey from his early childhood on the Khadki ammunition factory grounds, along with some other youngsters. He used to play hockey with a few broken sticks put together with sutali (gunny-sack strings). The ground was actually a meeting place for the boys of Khadki. His elder brother Ramesh, was playing for RCF in the Mumbai League, When he started learning hockey in his native place.

2. Educational background: -

He was a regular schoolgoer in his childhood and was considered as a mediocre student in his school. Dhanraj Pillay did his schooling from the Sugra Vilasi Sabha (SVS) School in Khadki and he was more interested in playing rather than studies. Though he was not a brilliant student in his school. But his teachers loved him because of his obedience to them and excellence in the field of sports.

The school had a very small ground but Dhanraj did not mind honing his skills on the school ground, said Sridharan Thamba, his classmate. "The school provided the perfect launching pad for Dhanraj. I would say that school played its part in shaping the personality of Dhanraj Pillay. Some of the teachers who taught Dhanraj are still serving in the school. Agnes Paul, who taught maths and English, recalled that Dhanraj was always inclined towards sports and had little interest in academics. The teachers did not discourage Dhanraj. We were always supportive and knew that one day the enthusiastic lad will make it big way. It gives us great privilege that our school gave a hockey player of international class to Indian team," she said.

3. Professional Career

The elder brother of Dhanraj, Ramesh used to play for a Club in Mumbai and introduced him to professional hockey for the first time. Dhanraj showed his commendable capabilities in the first match itself, and was spotted by the sport veterans and Coaches at Mumbai in the first glance. At the age of 17 years, Dhanraj played in the Junior National Hockey Tournament held at Manipur.

He got a chance to play at Sanjay Gandhi Tournament in 1987 held at Delhi, and further played his first National Hockey Tournament in 1988 in the same city.

Owing to his superfast speed (he is said to cover 100m of distance in just 11.6 seconds), he became famous as "Toofan"(Tornado) in the hockey fraternity. Joaquim Carvalho, the famous hockey player and Coach noticed the talent of Dhanraj and invited him to join Mahindra & Mahindra team at Mumbai. At Mahindra & Mahindra, Dhanraj got to play with the internationally renowned players like Marcellus Gomes and Mark Patterson and honed his skills under the able guidance of Carvalho.

Dhanraj Pillay, whose career spanned from December 1989 to August 2004, played 339 international matches. The Indian Hockey Federation did not keep official statistics for the goals scored. There is no credible information on the number of International goals scored by Dhanraj. He scored around 170 goals in his career, according to him as well as leading staticians in the world. His mother, whom he gives all the credit for his success, encouraged all her five sons to play hockey despite leading a hand-to-mouth existence.

Dhanraj Pillay's wonderful skill in the game of hockey was first recognised in a match in Mumbai. Once the club was falling short of one member in the team and Ramesh sent an urgent letter to Dhanraj to join him in the club, as soon as possible. Dhanraj played in the match as a substitute player and he easily got noticed by the coaches, as he was playing with his natural enthusiasm and great ability of playing good hockey. After that Dhanraj continued playing Hockey and he got his first big break, when Joaquim Carvalho requested him to join Mahindra & Mahindra.

Dhanraj Pillay spent some successful years playing hockey in the club level and he got exposure in the national circuit, when he played wonderfully in the 1987 Sanjay Gandhi Tournament in Delhi. He played as a right-out in his team and he did beat the famous hockey player, Rajinder by his extraordinary speed. The spectators named him as Toofan for his wonderful ability of running on the turf in bullet speed. Dhanraj Pillay played well throughout the tournament and he eventually won the title as the best player of the tournament. After the successful tournament, he once again got noticed during the National Hockey Championships in New Delhi in the year 1987. Dhanraj met another young and talented hockey player, Harendra Singh during the tournament and both of them were desperate to play for the national team of India.

Dhanraj Pillay made his debut in the International hockey with Allwyn Asia Cup hockey tournament held at New Delhi in the year 1989. He played his first International match against the team of China on the 20th of December 1989. He played as a substitute for Ram Prakash Singh in the match and he easily caught the eyes of the spectators. After this, he

represented the Indian team in a number of International tournaments.

After making some great waves in the first tournament that he played for the Indian National team, Dhanraj Pillay continued to play for the team in the upcoming big tournaments like the 1990 Beijing Asian Games, Auckland 1991 Olympic qualifiers, 1992 Barcelona Olympics, 1994 World Cup and many more. He also fine-tuned his fitness by playing in the English League, French League and the German League during his career and became one of the fittest hockey players in the history of Indian hockey.

He is a first-class player in a sport who received second class treatment. In 1998 he led India to an Asian Games gold medal for the first time in 32 years, scoring 11 goals.

He is the only player to have played in four Olympics (1992, 1996, 2000, and 2004), four World Cups (1990, 1994, 1998, and 2002), four Champions Trophies (1995, 1996, 2002, and 2003), and four Asian Games (1990, 1994, 1998, and 2002). He also served as the Captain of the Indian hockey team for some time, and led the team to victory in Asian Games 1998 and Asia Cup hockey 2003. Dhanraj was the highest goal scorer in the hockey event at Bangkok Asian Games 1998, and has been the only Indian player to appear in the World Eleven team at Sydney World Cup Tournament 1994.

In the domestic circuit, he has played for teams like Indian Airlines, Mahindra & Mahindra, city Mumbai. He has represented India in many international fixtures apart from the Asian and Olympic Games. In 1994, he was selected for the World XI team. In addition, he has played for many foreign clubs like Indian Gymkhana, London, FC Lyon, France, Selangor Kuala Lumpur, Abhahani Ltd. Dhaka, Stuttgart Kickers, Stuttgart Bank, Simpanan National, Kuala Lumpur, Arthur Andersen Kuala Lumpur, Ernst and Young, Kuala Lumpur and many other notable clubs.

The details of number of tournament Dhanraj Pillay had played at National level is presented in table no. - 1

Table -1

**OVER VIEW OF DHANRAJ PILLAY
 PARTICIPATION AT NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS**

S.N	TOURNAMENT	NAME OF TEAM	YEAR	VENUE	POSITION
1	Junior Nationals	Maharashtra	1985	Manipur	NO
2	Senior Nationals	Maharashtra	1988	Delhi	NO
3	Senior National	Mumbai	1997	Bangalore	4 th
4	Muruguppa Gold Cup	Mumbai	1998	Chennai	2 nd
5	Muruguppa Gold Cup	Mumbai	1999	Chennai	1 st
6	Muruguppa Gold Cup	Indian Airlines	2002	Chennai	1 st
7	Jawaharlal Nehru Tournament	Indian Airlines	2002	Delhi	2 nd
8	Lal Bahadur Shastri Hockey Tournament	Indian Airlines	2002	Delhi	2 nd
9	National Games	Mumbai	2002	Hyderabad	2 nd
10	Bombay Gold Cup	Indian Airlines	2003	Mumbai	1 st
11	Jawaharlal Nehru Tournament	Indian Airlines	2003	Delhi	2 nd
12	Lal Bahadur Shastri Hockey Tournament	Indian Airlines	2004	Delhi	2 nd

It is evident from the above table that Dhanraj Pillay played 12 national championships over a period of 19 years. His team had won 3 time championship and had won 2nd position for six times in the national tournaments.

The critical analysis of performance of Indian team at various International tournament during his captainship of Dhanraj Pillay is presented in table no. - 2.

Table -2

**CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE OF
 INDIAN TEAM AT VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL
 TOURNAMENTS UNDER THE CAPTAINSHIP OF
 DHANRAJ PILLAY**

S.N.	TOURNAMENT	YEAR	VENUE	POSITION
1	Test Series Vs. Germany	Jan 1998	Mumbai	Lost 0-3
2	Indo-Pak Series	Feb/Mar 1998	New Delhi	Lost 3-4
3	World Cup	May 1998	Utrecht	9 th
4	Commonwealth Games	Sep 1998	Kuala Lumpur	4 th
5	Asian Games	Dec 1998	Bangkok	1 st
6	Tri Series	May/ Jun 2003	Perth	2 nd
7	Tri Series	Jun 2003	Sydney	1 st
8	4-Nation Hamburg Masters	Jun 2003	Hamburg	1 st
9	Test Series vs. Germany	Jun 2003	Duisburg (Ger.)	2-2 tie
10	Champion Trophy	Aug 2003	Amstelveen	4 th
11	Asia Cup	Sep 2003	Kuala Lumpur	1 st
12	Sultan Azlan Shah Cup	Jan 2004	Kuala Lumpur	10 th

It is evident from the above table that Indian Men hockey team won 1st place four times out of 12 times participation at international competition under the captainship of Dhanraj Pillay. The success rate was 33%. It is also to state that the team won 2nd place only once under his captainship. The team also won 4th place in the commonwealth games in 1998 and championship trophy in 2003. It is also clear that Indian team lost two test series in the year 1998 against Germany and Pakistan under his captainship.

The analysis of data regarding the performance of Indian team at international level while Dhanraj Pillay was playing as member of Indian hockey team is given in table no. 3.

Table -3

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES WON BY INDIAN TEAM WHEN DHANRAJ PILLAY WAS PLAYING FOR INDIA AS A MEMBER OF THE INDIAN TEAM

S.N.	TOURNAMENT	YEAR	VENUE	POSITIO N
1	Asian Games	Dec 1998	Bangkok	1 st
2	Asia Cup	Nov 1999	Kuala Lumpur	3 rd
3	Test Series Vs. Belgium	Jan 2000	Barcelona	Won3-2
4	Sultan Azlan Shah Cup	Feb 2000	Kuala Lumpur	3 rd
5	4-Nation Tournament	Apr 2000	Sydney	3 rd
6	4-Nation Tournament	Apr 2000	Perth	1 st
7	Prime Minister's Gold Cup	Mar 2001	Dhaka	1 st
8	Champions Challenge	Dec 2001	Kuala Lumpur	1 st
9	Asian Games	Oct 2002	Bussan	2 nd
10	Tri Series	May/Jun2003	Perth	2 nd
11	Tri Series	Jun 2003	Sydney	1 st
12	Asia Cup	Sep 2003	Kuala Lumpur	1 st
13	Test Series Vs. Ireland	Aug 2004	Leverkusen	Won2-1

The above table clearly reveals that Indian hockey team won eight times Gold medal out of 13 tournaments from 1998 to 2004 while Dhanraj Pillay was the member of Indian team as player and got silver and bronze medal 2 times each at international tournaments. The success rate of Indian team was 61.53% for getting 1st position. The success rate of Indian team was 15.38% for getting 2nd position and 23.07% for 3rd position.

The analysis of data regarding number of international tournament being played by Dhanraj Pillay are given in table no. - 4.

Table -4

NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT IN WHICH DHANRAJ PILLAY PARTICIPATED

S.N.	TOURNAMENT	YEAR	VENUE	POSITIO N
1	Asia Cup	1989	New Delhi	2 nd
2	World cup	Feb 1990	Lahore	10 th
3	Asian games	1990	Beijing	2 nd
4	BMW Tournament	1990	Germany	N/A
5	Olympics Games	Jul/Aug 1992	Barcelona	7 th
6	Alps Cup	1993	Vienna (Europe)	N/A
7	Test Series Vs. South Africa	1993	Mumbai	N/A
8	Asia Cup	1993	Hiroshima	N/A
9	Inter-Continental Tournament	1993	Pozanan (Europe)	N/A
10	Test Series Vs. Holland, Australia, South Africa	1994	New Delhi	N/A
11	Indira Gandhi Gold Cup	1994	New Delhi	N/A
12	Asian Games	1994	Hiroshima	2 nd
13	World Cup	Nov/Dec1994	Sydney	5 th
14	Champions Trophy	1995	Berlin	5 th
15	SAF Games	1995	Chennai	1 st
16	Test series Vs. Holland , Spain	1995	New Delhi	N/A
17	Indira Gandhi Gold Cup	1995	New Delhi	N/A
18	4-Nation Tournament	1995	Germany	N/A
19	Olympic Games	Jul/Aug1996	Atlanta	8 th
20	Sultan Azlan Shah up	1996	Ipoh	N/A
21	Champion Trophy	Dec 1996	Chennai	4 th
22	Test Series Vs. England, Germany, Australia	1996	New Delhi	N/A
23	4-Nation Tournament	1997	Hamburg	N/A
24	Test Series Vs. Germany	1997	Chennai	N/A
25	World Cup	May 1998	Utrecht	9 th
26	Asian Games	Dec 1998	Bangkok	1 st
27	Commonwealth Games	Sep 1998	Kuala Lumpur	4 th
28	Indo-Pak Series	Feb/Mar1998	New Delhi	Lost 3-4
29	4-Test Series Vs. Germany	Jan 1998	Mumbai	Lost 0-3
30	Asia Cup	Nov 1999	Kuala Lumpur	3 rd
31	4 Nation Tournament	Jan 2000	Barcelona	3 rd
32	1-of Test V. Canada	Jan 2000	Barcelona	Won 3-2
33	3-Test Series Vs. Belgium	Jan 2000	Barcelona	Won 2-0
34	4 Nation Tournament	Apr2000	Sydney	3 rd
35	4 Nation Tournament	Apr2000	Perth	1 st
36	Sultan Azlan Shah Cup	Feb 2000	Kuala Lumpur	3 rd
37	Olympic Games	Sep 2000	Sydney	7 th
38	Prime Minister's Gold Cup	Mar 2001	Dhaka	1 st
39	Champion Challenge	Dec 2001	Kula Lumpur	1 st
40	World Cup	Feb/Mar2002	Kuala Lumpur	10 th
41	Champion Trophy	Aug/Sep 2002	Cologne	4 th
42	Asian Games	Oct 2002	Bussan	2 nd
43	Robobank Tournament	Aug 2002	Amsterdam	Last
44	Champions Trophy	Aug 2003	Amsterdam	4 th
45	Asia Cup	Sep 2003	Kuala Lumpur	1 st
46	Tri Series	May/Jun	Perth	2 nd
47	Tri Series	Jun 2003	Sydney	1 st
48	Hamburg Master Cup	Jun2003	Hamburg	1 st
49	1-off Test vs. Germany	Jun 2003	Duisburg (Ger.)	2-2 Tie
50	Olympics Games	Aug 2004	Athens	7 th
51	Sultan Azlan Shah Cup	Jan 2004	Kuala Lumpur	Last
52	3-Test Series Vs. Ireland	Aug 2004	Leverkusen	Won 2-1
53	4-Nation Tournament	Jul 2004	Dusseldorf	2 nd

It is evident from the above table that Dhanraj Pillay participated in 53 international tournaments from 1989 to 2004 at various places in the world. His team had won 11 time championship and had won 2nd position for six times and won 3rd position for 4 times at the international tournaments. The success rate was 20.75% for 1st position, 11.32% for 2nd position and 7.54% for 3rd position respectively.

The analysis of total number of goal scored by Dhanraj Pillay at international tournament as per limited records available is presented in table no. 5.

Table -5

TOTAL NUMBER OF GOAL SCORED BY DHANRAJ PILLAY AT INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT AS PER LIMITED RECORDS AVAILABLE

S.N.	TOURNAMENT	YEAR	VENUE	GOAL
1	World cup	Feb 1990	LAHORE	1
2	BMW Tournament	1990	Germany	2
3	Indira Gandhi Gold Cup	1994	New Delhi	7
4	World Cup	Nov/Dec 1994	Sydney	1
5	Champions Trophy	1995	Berlin	2
6	Olympic Games	Jul/Aug 1996	Atlanta	2
7	Champion Trophy	Dec 1996	Chennai	3
8	World Cup	May 1998	Utrecht	2
9	Asian Games	Dec 1998	Bangkok	11
10	Commonwealth Games	Sep 1998	Kuala Lumpur	5
11	Indo-Pak Series	Feb/Mar 1998	New Delhi	3
12	Asia Cup	Nov 1999	Kuala Lumpur	3
13	3-Test Series Vs. Belgium	Jan 2000	Barcelona	1
14	4 Nation Tournament	Apr 2000	Sydney	1
15	4 Nation Tournament	Apr 2000	Perth	2
16	Sultan Azlan Shah Cup	Feb 2000	Kuala Lumpur	5
17	Olympic Games	Sep 2000	Sydney	1
18	Prime Minister's Gold Cup	Mar 2001	Dhaka	3
19	Champion Challenge	Dec 2001	Kuala Lumpur	1
20	World Cup	Feb/Mar 2002	Kuala Lumpur	2
21	Champion Trophy	Aug/Sep 2002	Cologne	2
22	Asian Games	Oct 2002	Bussan	3
23	Robobank 4-Nation Tournament	Aug 2002	Amsterdam	1
24	Asia Cup	Sep 2003	Kuala Lumpur	1
25	Tri Series	May/Jun	Perth	1
26	Tri Series	Jun 2003	Sydney	1
27	Olympics Games	Aug 2004	Athens	2
28	Sultan Azlan Shah Cup	Jan 2004	Kuala Lumpur	2
29	3-Test Series Vs. Ireland	Aug 2004	Leverkusen	1

The analysis of the above table clearly reveals that Dhanraj had scored 72 goals against various teams in various tournaments at international competition from 1990 to 2004.

The analysis of data regarding total number of times Dhanraj Pillay played from various foreign clubs is given in table no. 6.

Table -6

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF TIMES DHANRAJ PILLAY PLAYED FROM FOREIGN CLUBS

S.N.	CLUB	PLACE	YEAR
1	Indian Gymkhana	London	1992 - 1993
2	FC Lyon	Lyon, France	1993
3	Selangor	Kuala Lumpur	1994- 1997
4	Abhahani Ltd.	Dhaka	Jul 1997, Mar 1999
5	Stuttgart Kickers	Stuttgart	May - Jun, Oct 2000
6	Bank Simpanan National	Kuala Lumpur	Nov 2000 - Feb 2001
7	Arthur Andersen	Kuala Lumpur	Mar 2002 - Jun 2002
8	Singapore	Singapore	November 2002
9	Ernst and Young	Kuala Lumpur	Sep - Oct 2004
10	Telekom Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur	Jul - Sep 2005

It is also very much clear that Dhanraj Pillay played for 10 foreign clubs as a player from 1992 to 2005.

4. Awards and honors of Dhanraj Pillay: -

The Track Records of Dhanraj Pillay is regarded as the only player to have played in four Olympics (1992, 1996, 2000, and 2004), four World Cups (1990, 1994, 1998, and 2002), four Champions Trophies (1995, 1996, 2002, and 2003), and four Asian Games (1990, 1994, 1998, and 2002). India won the Asian Games (1998) and Asia Cup (2003), under his captainship. He has also been honoured as the highest goal scorer in the Bangkok Asian Games and he was the only Indian player during the 1994 World Cup held at Sydney to figure in the World Eleven side.

The total number of prestigious award received by Dhanraj Pillay are given in table - 7

Table -7

TOTAL NO. OF PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS AND HONOURS BEING CONFERRED TO DHANRAJ PILLAY

S.N.	Name of Award	Year	Awarded by
1	Arjuna Award	1995	Govt. of India
2	K.K. Birla Award	1998-99	Birla Foundation
3	Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award	1999	Govt. of India
4	Padama Shree Award	2001	Govt. of India
5	Bharat Ratna Dr. Ambedkar Award	2013	Dr. Ambedkar Foundation

The table clearly reveals that Dhanraj Pillay has been awarded with the highest Khel Award i.e. Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, Padma Shree, Arjuna award, K.K. Birla award and Bharat Ratna Dr. Ambedkar Award by the various agencies for being the best player of India in hockey who had performed very excellently in all the international matches in the world.

CONCLUSIONS: -

1. It may be concluded that Padma Shree Dhanraj Pillay is the first Indian hockey player to receive highest award like Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award in the history of Indian hockey.
2. It may be also concluded that Padma Shree and Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Dhanraj Pillay has been able to create record in the field of hockey in India by being caption of Indian team in 1998 and he led India to an Asian Games which won gold medal after gap of 32 years, scoring 11 goals. Dhanraj was the highest goal scorer in the Hockey event at Bangkok Asian Games in 1998.
3. It may be also concluded that Padma Shree and Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Dhanraj Pillay has been the only Indian player to appear in the World Eleven team at Sydney World Cup Tournament 1994.
4. It may be also concluded that Padma Shree and Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Dhanraj Pillay is regarded as the only player to have played in four Olympics (1992, 1996, 2000, and 2004), four World Cups (1990, 1994, 1998, and 2002), four Champions Trophies (1995, 1996, 2002, and 2003), and four Asian Games (1990, 1994, 1998, and 2002) in the history of Indian Hockey.
5. It may be also concluded that Padma Shree and Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Dhanraj Pillay also served as the Captain of the Indian Hockey team for six years.
6. It may be further concluded that his parents and family support played very significant role in promoting his skills in Hockey to win Padama Shree and Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award.
7. It is also concluded that Dhanraj Pillay played for ten foreign clubs as a player of India.
8. It is also concluded that he has contributed a lot for promotion of sports, especially hockey in India.
9. It is also concluded that he is a role model for junior hockey players both within the country and abroad.
10. It is also concluded that he is very friendly, co-operative, has a lot of patience, perseverance, hard working and disciplined hockey Player of India.

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