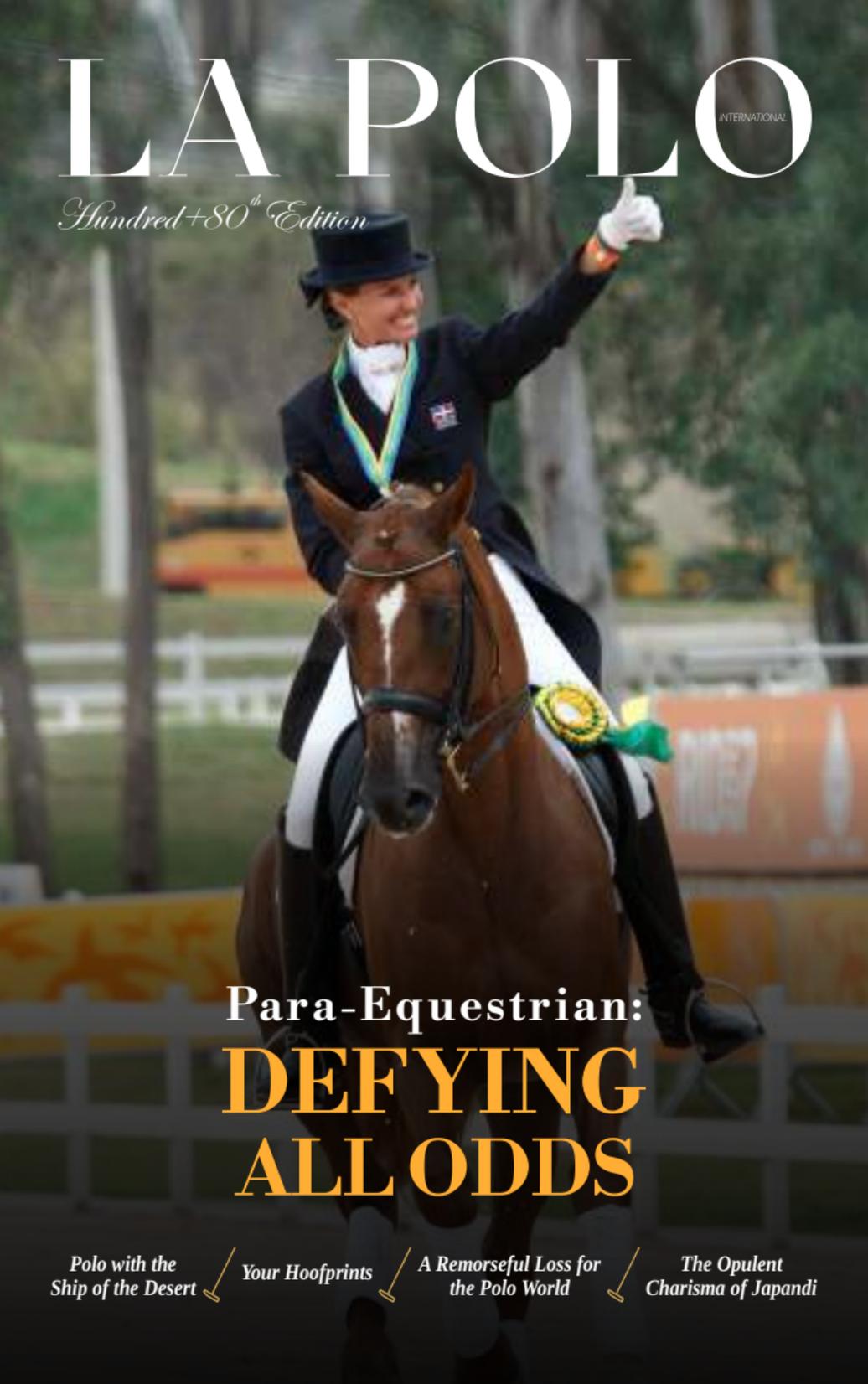


# LA POLO

INTERNATIONAL

*Hundred+80<sup>th</sup> Edition*



Para-Equestrian:  
**DEFYING  
ALL ODDS**

*Polo with the  
Ship of the Desert*

*Your Hoofprints*

*A Remorseful Loss for  
the Polo World*

*The Opulent  
Charisma of Japandi*



### Polo world Grieves a Hero

*CDS Gen. Bipin Rawat, orchestrator of nationwide self-reliance reformation, has passed on, but his legacy remains unshakable.*



4



### The Arabian Twist: Camel Polo

*Polo is played with horses, but there are many variants, and one such variant is with the ship of the desert, Camel Polo.*



8



### Your Hoofprints

*Lt. Col. Vishal Chauhan pens down an emotional eulogy to his 18-year-old golden hearted polo pony.*



12



### Para-Equestrianism

*A sport of horse-lovers whose athletic spirit and perseverance serves as an inspiration globally.*



14



### The Luxury of Simplicity

*Minimalist style Japandi is a combination of Japanese and Scandinavian aesthetics.*



18



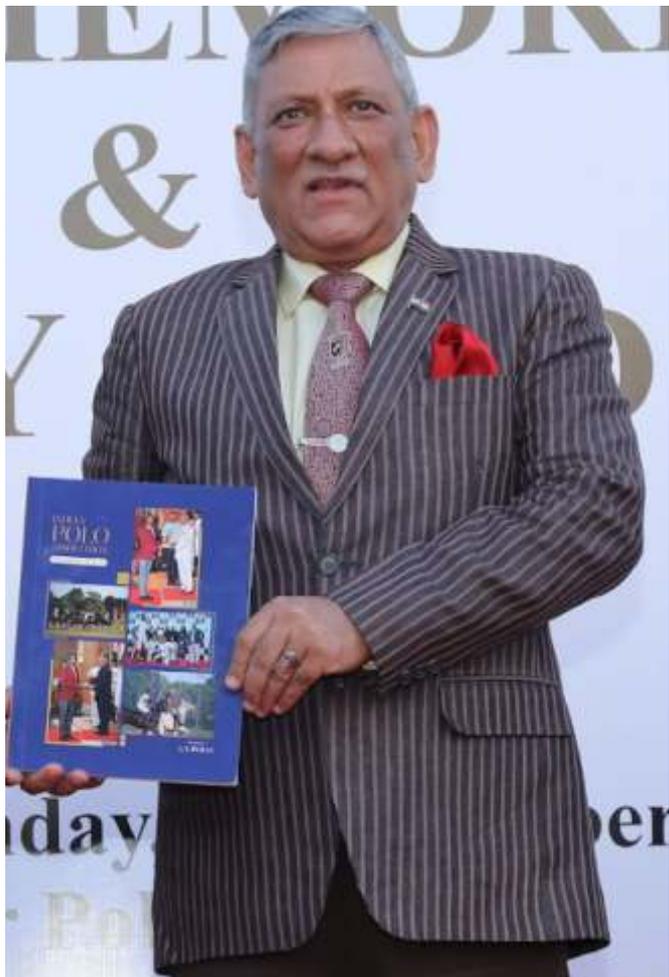
**Witness the exhilarating sport of snow polo at the 2nd coldest place on Earth!**

The mountains and the trees of Drass engulfed in a blanket of wispy snow is now the pitch of the adrenaline spiking adventure on November 14. Kargil, as the landscape of thrill, features 10 teams braving their way through the impenetrable ice in an unusual exhibition game!



# POLO WORLD GRIEVES A HERO

CDS Gen. Bipin Rawat, orchestrator of nationwide self-reliance reformation, has passed on, but his legacy remains unshakable.



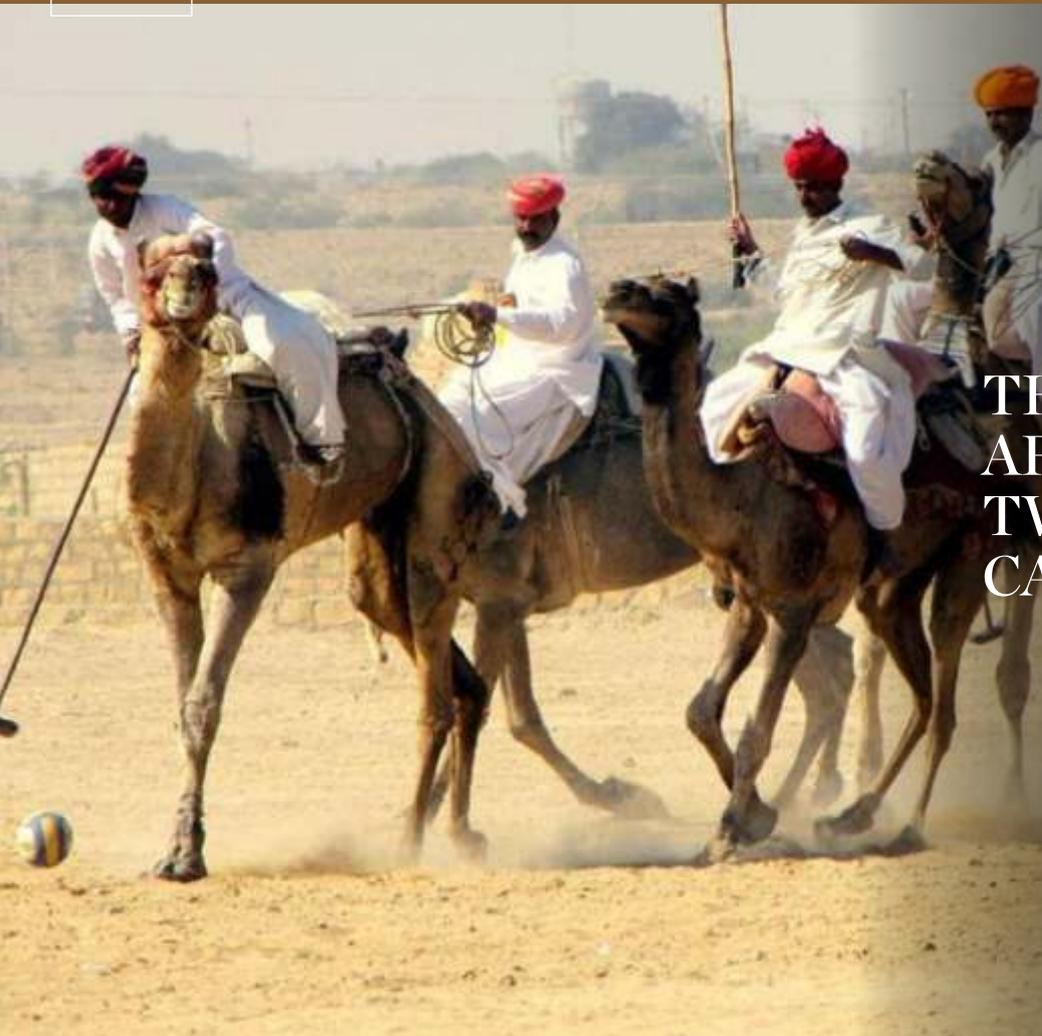
On the afternoon of December 9, 2021, India faced the unimaginable loss of Chief of Defence Staff, Gen. Bipin Rawat, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, YSM, SM, VSM and ADC, his wife Madullika Rawat, and 11 brave soldiers. Appointed in 2019, as the first Chief of Defence Staff, a position created to unify the Army, Navy and Air Force, he had momentous plans ahead. Despite umpteenth resistances, he advocated for Made-in-India military equipment, and ensured that it happened.

Among his many roles, he was president of the Indian Polo Association (torchbearer of polo scene in India) until 2019. Over this trajectory, he embarked on many milestones. Most recently, it was the initiative to renovate the Jaipur Polo Grounds, to be at par with

international standards. This was a pivotal upgrade for Indian polo as it improved players' and equine performance and helped in the reduction of injuries. He oversaw the agreement with the Argentinian Polo Association, focused on enhancing skills of Indian polo players through player exchange programs, bilateral tournaments and training for budding polo players by Argentinian veterans.

He also supported the fight against COVID, monetarily through his gracious donations to PM CARES, as well as by providing moral support by his diligent quarantine-centre visits. His bravado and ambitious spirit live on, among his near and dear ones, who are taking his dream of a better India forward!

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## THE ARABIAN TWIST : CAMEL POLO

Polo is played with horses, but there are many variants, and one such variant is with the ship of the desert, Camel Polo.

Camel Polo was considered one of the strangest sports of Dubai 2019 by Darragh Murphy of TimeOut, but why? This is because polo is a challenging sport with the horse, and if you try to hit the ball while riding on a camel, it's near to impossible to hit the ball, because the camel is a tough, large animal.

Coach Steve Thompson invented Camel Polo after being inspired by Elephant Polo, another variant of polo and a novelty sport played in Thailand. According to an article by National News, the first match of Camel Polo was played at Bab Al Shams Desert Resort and was played by eight riders, who were recruited and had to learn how to play the game. Camel Polo was harder to understand since the learning process was challenging, and it took a lot of time to train the camels. In the Middle East, Camel Polo can accommodate groups between 8 and 60, and is usually played in the winter season, from September to May, as a novelty sport.



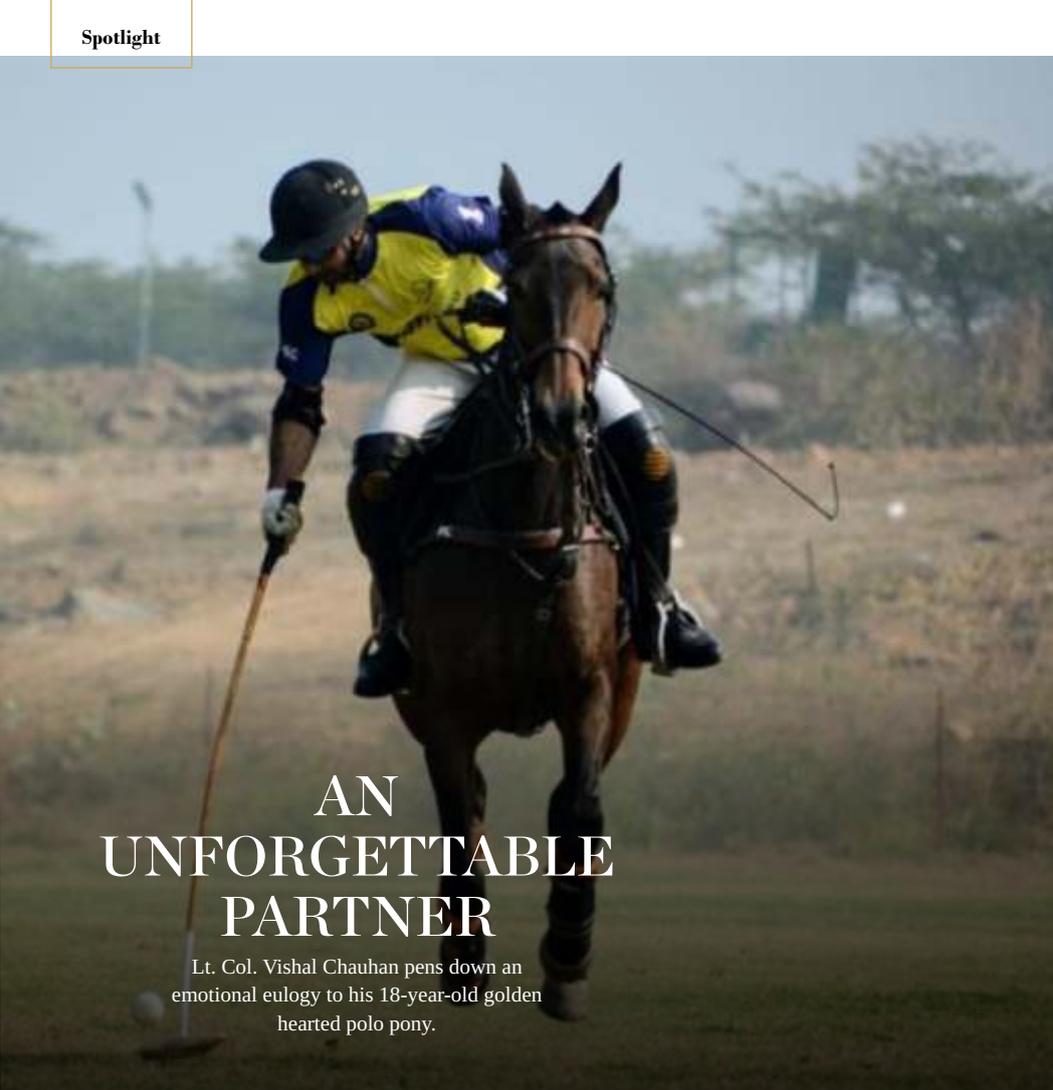
Image Credit: CreativeCommons



Image Credit: Eas Sojourn

Bharatdeep Singh Bedi, Managing Director of Eas Sojourn, explained that Camel Polo in Rajasthan is usually played as a fun activity and not as a competitive sport. Unlike horses, indigenous camels of Rajasthan are harder to train and require focus. Camel Polo is organised with eight camels, four camels on each side, and players may focus only on hitting the ball.

[Click to read more >](#)



## AN UNFORGETTABLE PARTNER

Lt. Col. Vishal Chauhan pens down an emotional eulogy to his 18-year-old golden hearted polo pony.

Winston Churchill rightly stated: “There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man.” And, that was so true for my darling Moolah, who knew me inside out. Before an important match, when my anxiety levels rose, I was like a little lost toddler in a crowd searching for his mother, and there she stood amongst the other string of horses, solid, poised, as if waiting to soothe and calm me. Not to sound dramatic, but I could have sworn we shared a soul connection.

In contrast to my anxieties, her self-confidence and her divine spirit stood out. It was the reason for me always picking her for my first chukker. It seemed as though before the match via her beckoning look, she was trying to tell me: “Relax Vishal, just hold on tight to my reins and leave the rest to me for I know how to get the best of you.” And yes, on that day too, she, like always, was my pick for the first chukker.

On December 23, there was an unexplainable uneasy feeling in the morning. Little did I realise that it was God’s way of telling me, “Sorry son, but your best buddy needs to cross the rainbow today.” The stage was set for the tournament finals. All calm and ready to be mounted, she stood there, as if inviting me and saying, “Come on, bring it on, bring it on this one last time, let’s show the world what we have to offer as a duo.”

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Image credit: Para Equestrian Ireland

# Para-Equestrianism

Riding the horse with a disability is accompanied by a huge level of satisfaction.



Para-Equestrian is governed by the International Federation of Equestrian Sports (FEI) and includes two types of competitive events—Para-Equestrian dressage and Para-Equestrian driving.

Paralympic sports events have gathered athletes from all over the world, to challenge their opponents and test their limits. Initially, Paralympics were only open to athletes in wheelchairs, but now they include events for different disabilities. In the 1996 Summer Paralympics, para-equestrian was added and monitored by the FEI.

Para-Equestrian Dressage is the only equestrian event included in Paralympics, but there are different classifications for athletes with various disabilities. After a conversation with Para-Equestrian Ireland in 1992, a small group of members came

together to introduce Ireland for the para-dressage event for the physically disabled riders.

Para-equestrian is a beautiful event but takes a lot of time, cost, and dedication. Roxanne Trunell, the 2021 Para-dressage rider of the year, told La Polo: “I love that you get to compete with your furry best friend in Para Dressage. Horses don’t judge or discriminate. If you give them unconditional love, they will show that love right back. You can just be ‘you’ with the horses, you are their person and it doesn’t matter if you have a disability, to them.”

[Click to read more >](#)

**“You can just be ‘you’ with the horses, you are their person and it doesn’t matter if you have a disability, to them.”**

**- Roxanne Trunell, 2021 Para-Dressage Rider of the Year**



Image Source: Roxanne Trunell



Image Source: Para Equestrian Ireland



# THE LUXURY OF SIMPLICITY

Minimalist style Japandi is a combination of Japanese and Scandinavian aesthetics.

Image credit: Wilfrid Chan



Image credit: Wilfrid Chan

**The succinct expression of minimalism and simplicity represented in japandi evokes a sense of being in the presence of peace, beauty and the rootedness of the soul.**

Japandi is an interior design trend combining Japanese and Scandinavian styles. In recent times, the shared attributes of these diverse styles have produced an aesthetic that's "Japanese - Scandinavian minimalism". Clean lines in furniture, tableware, and interiors, neutral tones, and natural textures are the hallmarks of this style. Japandi is thus the fruit of two cultures. It's minimalistic and sophisticated, matched in a way that it's also visually pleasing and relaxing.



Co-Founder of Living in Design Wilfred Chan mentions the heavy influence of the concept of Wabi-Sabi in Japandi, in the way Scandinavian decor compliments Japanese calm, to convey the idea that less is more. Japandi is all about texture and materials.

[Click to read more >](#)

## Rajputana and Central India Cup (10 goals)

**December 17, 2021:** Achievers DB Realty (8.5) vs Rajnigandha Achievers (7)

**December 18, 2021:** Polo Factory-61st Cavalry (6.5) vs The Jodhpur Team (5)

**December 19, 2021:** Yuvraj's Knights (4) vs the Jodhpur Warriors (7)

**December 20, 2021:** Achievers DB Realty (9.5) vs the Jodhpur Team (7)

**December 21, 2021:** Polo Factory-61st Cavalry (9.5) vs Rajnigandha Achievers (8)

**December 22, 2021:** Achievers DB Realty (8) vs Polo Factory-61st Cavalry (3)

## BM Birla Cup

**December 8, 2021:** Horse&Wagon/Cavalry (8) vs Krishna Polo(4.5)

Achievers Sahara Warriors (7) vs Acrysil Polo(3)

**December 9, 2021:** Horse&Wagon/Cavalry (8) vs Krishna Polo(4.5)

Achievers Sahara Warriors (7) vs Acrysil Polo(3)

**December 10, 2021:** V Polo(5) vs Horse&Wagon/Cavalry (4)

Achievers Sahara Warriors (8) vs Sujan Indian Tigers (6.5)

**December 11, 2021:** Krishna Polo(7.5) vs V Polo(6)



Image Source: @instagram\_lapolo

## HH Maharaja of Jodhpur Cup

The HH Maharaja of Jodhpur Cup commenced on December 13, between The Achiever's Sahara Warriors and The Jodhpur Team. Both teams battled fiercely, and at the second chukker, both teams scored roughly the same.

At the final chukker, The Warriors stole the game and defeated The Jodhpur Team by 6.5 to 2 goal. Daniel Otamendi helped The Warriors win the match by scoring 4 goals.

The second leg of the game began late afternoon between two teams, The Polo Factory and The 61st Cavalry team. An intense battle between the two teams ensued. The 61st Cavalry took home the win by 9 to 7 goals. Siddhant Sharma became the star of the show as he scored 5 goals for the team.

On December 14, the first semi-final match played out between Achiever's Sahara Warriors and the Polo Factory team. The two teams fought a powerful match and Warriors took the lead with 8.5 to 4 goals.



The next semi-finals panned out between 61st Cavalry and Jodhpur Polo. The game honored the team spirit, grit, and principles of Polo. In the end, with team effort, Jodhpur Polo went into the finals by scoring 6 to 5 goals.

On December 15, the final showdown took place between Jodhpur Polo and Achiever's Sahara Warriors. In a tough tussle for the trophy Achiever's Sahara Warriors got the upper hand with 8.5 to 6 goals.

## 12-goal Sternhagen Bhavnagar Polo Trophy

Three teams, Vimal Arion Achievers, Horse & Wagon, and Sujan Indian Tigers, will compete together for the 12-goal Sternhagen Bhavnagar Polo trophy. On December 1, the first two teams of the tournament were Vimal Arion Achievers and Horse & Wagon at the RPC Ground. Vimal Arion Achievers defeated Horse & Wagon, by 6 goals. Day 2 of the match was between Sujan Indian Tigers and Vimal Arion Achievers. Sujan Indian Tigers won by a tight goal of 5.5 to 5.



Image Source: @instagram\_lapolo

On December 3, Sujan Indian Tigers fought out with Horse & Wagon, but the match ended at third chukker. Sujan Indian Tigers pumelled Horse & Wagon by 8.5 to 4 goals. On December 5, the finale was fought between the two finalists, Vimal Arion Achievers and Sujan Indian Tigers, at the Rajasthan Polo Club. Vimal Arion Achievers took home the trophy, beating Sujan Indian Tigers with 7 to 6.5 goals.

## 2022 XII FIP WORLD POLO CHAMPIONSHIP

The XII Federation of International Polo (FIP) World Polo Championship will be held in Florida in 2022. Eight countries will compete for the highest accolades representing the best 10- to 14-goal teams from around the world. The United States Polo Association, International Polo Club Palm Beach and Valiente Polo Farm are excited to host it from October 26 to November 6 2022 at Valiente Polo Farm.



Image Source: @instagram\_uspoloassociation

## UAE National Day Cup 2021

On December 3, the finals of the UAE National Day Cup were held at Al Habtoor Polo Resort and Club. Bin Drai triumphed over Hesketh, by a 7-4 goal, taking home the UAE National Day Cup.



## US Open Arena Polo Championship

The 12 to 14-goal tournament came back from hiatus since 2018, with California Polo Club as host. Six teams competed with each other to win the title and the prize money of \$50,000. Dallas Polo's approach of stopping Pelon Escapite from dominating the game ultimately resulted in a 14-10 triumph for the Texan triumvirate.

### Argentine Amateur Championship

After a tense set of matches the Argentine Amateur Championship finale took place on December 8. Martindale Bonalma won by 16 to 9 goals, by defeating team Core Capital and sweeping home the VIII Argentine Amateur Championship.

### EVVIVA POLO ST MORITZ

Evviva Polo St Moritz (SUI) unites with the Las Brisas Polo Club of Chicago (USA), Hamburger Polo Club (GER) at the 2022 Polo Rider Cup for the tournament from, June 8 to 18, at Polo Club of Chantilly, Paris.

## LA AGUADA SPRING CUP

On December 5-7, competition for the La Aguada Spring Cup, which is a core element of the 2021 Spring Season at La Aguada Polo Club, was hosted by Rio Uruguay Seguros. It continued at La Aguada Polo Club in Open Door, Argentina. The 14-goal tournament had 14 teams competing with each other.

**December 5:** Las Mercedes Polo Ranch (11) vs. Las Tapias (9)

**December 7:** Yabba Yabba Doo (10 ) vs. Aguineros (9)

**December 9:** Las Tapias (10) vs. Yabba Dabba Doo (8) | Las Mercedes Polo Ranch (9) vs. Aguineros (7)

**December 10:** Yabba Dabba Doo(11) vs. Las Mercedes Polo Ranch(10)

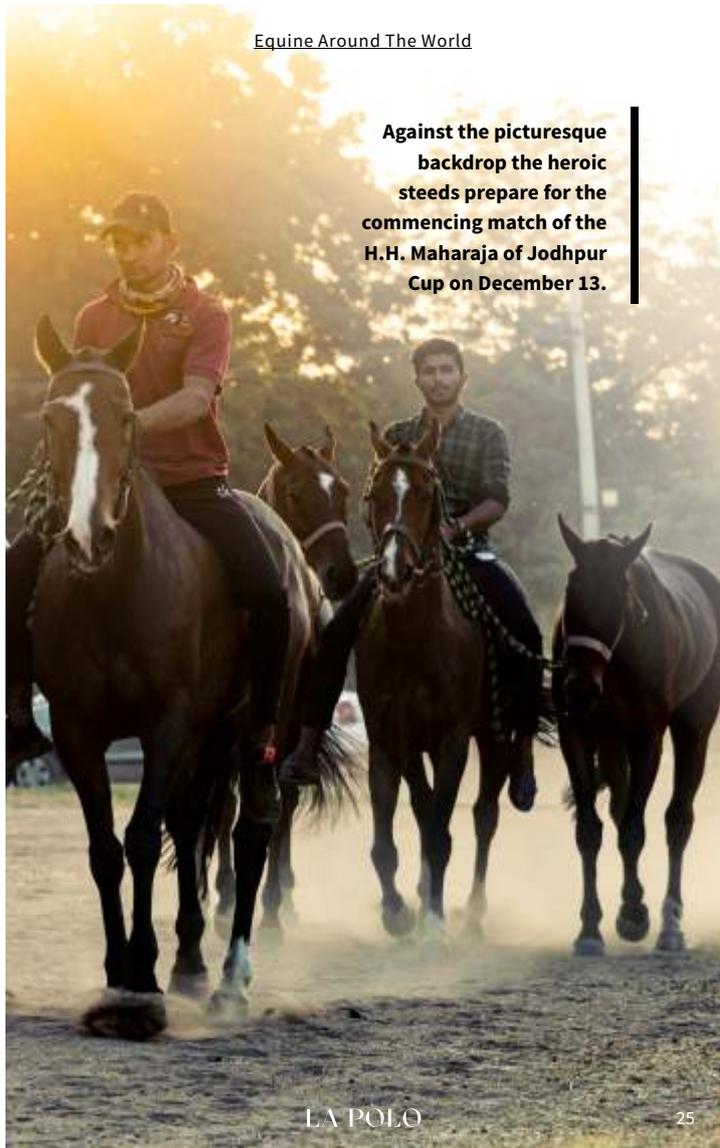
## Arjun Rampal is brand ambassador of USPA

Arvind Fashions Limited, the approved supplier of the United States Polo Association (USPA) announced Arjun Rampal as the brand ambassador for its new "Play Together" campaign. Rampal said: "Being associated with an iconic brand like USPA is a great feeling and becoming the first Indian brand ambassador is truly an honour. US Polo Assn is known for its sport-inspired, classic American style and each season the brand takes it a notch higher. The new campaign focuses on twinning, which is a fun and fashion-forward concept that captures the pure, emotional bond fathers share with their children. As a father, this is what drew me to the brand."



Image Source: @instagram\_uspoloassnindia

**Against the picturesque backdrop the heroic steeds prepare for the commencing match of the H.H. Maharaja of Jodhpur Cup on December 13.**



## Equestrian Sports confirmed for 2028 Los Angeles Olympics



The International Olympic Committee (IOC) Executive Board meeting on December 12 displayed a list of 28 sports confirmed for the 2028 Olympics, among which Equestrian has been passed on for final confirmation in February 2022. This endorsement has been amplified by the recent success of equestrian disciplines at the Tokyo 2020 Games, alongside the positive changes made by FEI that showcases the reach of the sport. In 2017, when Los Angeles was announced as the host for the 2028 Olympics, an FEI spokesperson stated: "The United States have a long and successful equestrian tradition, and has developed as a country with sustained equestrian excellence on an international stage."

image credit: @instagram\_lazbigames

## Xmas Bells for LIHS 2021

Christmas in the UK remains incomplete without the London International Horse Show, formerly known as the Olympia Horse Show. It is slated to be held between December 16-20, at the ExCel Center (instead of the Kensington Olympia, London). Featuring world-class dressage, show jumping and driving stars, it's an unmissable show. For those who cannot make it, BBC would be broadcasting 16 hours of the show on various channels and digital platforms.



image credit: @instagram\_synoviumuk

## Corogne World Cup Circuit (La Caruña)



Phillipp Schulze Toppfiff wins at the 5th stage of the circuit with a time of 37.69 seconds with his horse Concordes NRW. At second place was Gregory Cottard and his stallion Bibici at 37.78 seconds. Swedish Angelica Augustsson-Zanotelli came third with her horse Kanlika van de Nachtegale at 38.39 seconds and finally Michael Pender was at the fourth due to his foul despite having the best score at 36.09 seconds.

image credit: @instagram\_philippeschulzetoppfiff

## FEI DRIVING WORLD CUP

Bram Chardon dethroned king of the FEI Driving World Cup for 12 editions, Boyd Exell. Three riders had qualified for the Geneva leg of the four-in-hand circuit. Starting off the tough competition was Jerome Voutaz, who showed a beautiful display. Then came the splendid performance of Boyd Exell who ended with 5 seconds to spare, but the last lap of Bram Chardon spectacularly cut off a further 5 seconds.



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