



AMATEUR BASEBALL FEDERATION OF INDIA

Recognised By : Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India

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The Press Trust of India

Kindly publish the below matter in All India printed media.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Akshay More Becomes First Indian Player to Sign up with Nippon Professional Baseball Club Saitama Seibu Lions

Historic milestone marks a new era for Indian baseball as **Akshay More** becomes the first Indian player to sign with a **Nippon Professional Baseball (NPB)** club in Japan.

The **Amateur Baseball Federation of India (ABFI)** proudly announces that **Akshay More** has become the **first Indian baseball player in history to sign with a Nippon Professional Baseball (NPB) club**, joining the prestigious **Saitama Seibu Lions** of Japan.

The **Saitama Seibu Lions** based in Tokorozawa City compete in the Pacific League of Nippon Professional Baseball, one of the most respected and competitive professional baseball leagues in the world. This landmark achievement represents a significant breakthrough for Indian baseball and opens new pathways for aspiring players across the country.

The Amateur Baseball Federation of India is delighted to strengthen its collaboration with Nippon Professional Baseball and the Saitama Seibu Lions in identifying, nurturing, and developing promising Indian talent while creating greater opportunities for young athletes to compete at the highest international level.



India's Pitching Sensation

At just **23 years of age**, **Akshay More** has emerged as one of India's brightest baseball prospects through an extraordinary journey built on determination, discipline, and exceptional talent.

Hailing from Indapur, Pune, Maharashtra, **More** began playing baseball in 2019 and quickly showcased his potential by winning a silver medal at the School District Championship while representing **Narayandas Ramdas Vidyalaya, Indapur**. His rapid development has since established him among India's premier strikeout pitchers.

A defining chapter in his career began in 2021 under the mentorship of **Vishnu Kalel**. Training alongside India's elite prospects, including **Saurabh Gaikwad**, **More** underwent one of the most remarkable pitching transformations in Indian baseball, increasing his fastball velocity from **77 mph to an impressive 94 mph** within just a few years.

Outstanding Collegiate Career

Currently pursuing a degree in Agriculture at **Lovely Professional University (LPU), Phagwara**, **More** has enjoyed an exceptional collegiate career.

He has helped LPU achieve podium finishes in four consecutive **All India Inter-University Baseball Championships** winning:

- **Silver Medal – 2023**
- **Silver Medal – 2024**
- **Gold Medal – 2025**
- **Silver Medal – 2026**

His dominance on the mound earned him the **Best Pitcher Award** in both **2023** and **2025**, cementing his reputation as one of India's finest young pitchers.

International Success

More represented the **Indian National Baseball Team** at the **14th West Asia Baseball Championship** held in Iran in 2025, where he emerged as one of the tournament's most dominant pitchers.

He recorded an outstanding **30 strikeouts** while also contributing significantly as a powerful hitter, demonstrating his rare ability to influence games on both offense and defense.

He has further enhanced his international experience by competing in **three Baseball United tournaments in Dubai**, playing alongside high-level international talent and continuing to elevate his professional development.



A Rare Two-Way Talent

Recognized for his elite command, refined pitching mechanics, and strikeout ability, **Akshay More** is also an accomplished **Designated Hitter**, making him one of the few genuine two-way players in Indian baseball capable of making a significant impact both on the mound and at the plate.

His remarkable journey—from district-level baseball in Maharashtra to representing India internationally and now signing with one of Japan's most prestigious professional baseball organizations—reflects the tremendous progress of Indian baseball and the opportunities created through dedication, quality coaching and international exposure.

Akshay More's historic signing with the Saitama Seibu Lions is not only a personal achievement but also a landmark moment for Indian baseball. It demonstrates that Indian players possess the talent and determination to compete at the highest levels of the global game and serves as an inspiration for the next generation of athletes across the country.

The Amateur Baseball Federation of India congratulates **Akshay More** on this historic accomplishment and looks forward to continuing its efforts, in partnership with international baseball organizations, to develop world-class Indian talent and elevate the sport both nationally and globally.

For President



S. Venkatesh

Treasurer

Amateur Baseball Federation of India (ABFI)

