



# Naaveennash ready to prove his worth with Speedy Tigers

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**PETALING JAYA:** It will be a step up for T. Naaveennash (*pic*) when he joins the Speedy Tigers in their Tour of Australia next month.

Having only played against Australian junior teams while in the national junior team, Naaveennash is looking forward to taking on a tougher challenge as he is eager to prove his worth in the senior side.

He is among the 30 players called up for training by head coach Sarjit Singh as they prepare to play six friendly matches in Australia next month.

"It will be my second time going to Australia but this time, it's against the seniors and the level will be totally different.

"In life you have to keep stepping up so this is what I need to do. Focus and try to impress the coaches for me to be in the senior team," said the 20-year-old.

The Speedy Tigers will participate in the Nations Cup from June 15-21, followed by six to eight weeks of training for the Asian

Cup in India, scheduled from Aug 27-Nov 29.

Naaveennash added that a good season in the 2025 Malaysian Hockey League (MHL) with TNB Thunderbolts has also aided in his call up for the senior team, and he doesn't intend to let that chance go to waste.

Last year, he was named in the Speedy Tigers' squad of 30 but did not get to play in the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup in May and the Nations Cup in Poland in June.

"This is my chance to prove myself again. I am very motivated to work hard and perform the best I can in the team.

"It's a big team with many good players, and I have to fight for my spot.

"Playing with Thunderbolts has also helped the coaches take note of me, so I'm thankful to have performed well in the league," he said.

Naaveennash scored two goals this season, one against Australia's Territory Stinger and another against Armed Forces.

