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**Preview: 2nd Khelo India Sub Junior Women's Hockey League - Finals**

*~Nine teams have been divided into two Pools~*

**Lucknow, 27th March:**After the successful completion of Phase 1 in December 2023 and Phase 2 in January 2024, both in New Delhi, the Final stage of the 2nd Khelo India Sub Junior Women's Hockey Leagueis all set to take place from 28th March to 6th April at the Padma Shri Mohammad Shahid Synthetic Hockey Stadium in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

Nine teams have been divided into two Pools. Pool A consists of SAI Shakti Team, Odisha Naval Tata Hockey High Performance Centre, Khelo India State Excellency Centre, Bilaspur, Bhai Behlo Hockey Academy, Bhagta and HAR Hockey Academy while SAI BAL team, Pritam Siwach Hockey Academy, Jai Bharat Hockey Academy and Raja Karan Hockey Academy form Pool B.

The top two teams from each pool will advance to the Semi-Finals, which are scheduled for 5th April. Meanwhile, the teams finishing 3rd and 4th in their respective pools will compete in 5th/8th classification matches to determine their final positions in the tournament. Teams that lose their Semi-Finals will play in the 3rd/4th place play-off, while the winners will proceed to the all-important Finals scheduled for 6th April.

Speaking about the upcoming event, Hockey India President Dr Dilip Tirkey said, “This is yet another step in Hockey India’s commitment towards growing the game at grassroots levels. We have already completed the first two phases of the 2nd Khelo India Sub Junior Women's Hockey League successfully and the Final stage will also, I have no doubt, be a wonderful tournament. This league serves as a platform for nurturing talents, providing them with the exposure needed at early stages to play in great conditions and hone their skills to become better players that may one day go on to bring laurels to the nation.”

“It exemplifies our persistent efforts towards developing the future stars of Indian hockey and bringing about a competitive approach right from the grassroots levels," said Hockey India Secretary General Shri Bhola Nath Singh.

“We have seen that domestic tournaments like these have proven to be fruitful in identifying talents. The 2nd Khelo India Sub Junior Women's Hockey League will aid us in our vision to take Indian hockey to greater heights,” he concluded.

Please find attached pictures and the schedule.

For more pictures, login to the Hockey India Photo library:

Click: <https://photolibrary.hockeyindia.org/>

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**About HOCKEY INDIA**

HOCKEY INDIA (HI) is the governing body with exclusive mandate to direct and conduct all activities for both men and women's hockey in India. It is recognized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt. of India as the sole body responsible towards promoting Hockey in India.

Headquartered in New Delhi, Hockey India was established on 20th May, 2009 and is affiliated to the International Hockey Federation (FIH), the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and Asian Hockey Federation (AHF).

Committed to the development of Hockey in the country, Hockey India with the assistance of Sports Authority of India and Department of Sports, Government of India, trains players at sub-junior, junior and senior level. The governing body engages in Coaching the coaches with International Standard certification programs, educates and equips technical officials and umpires to find a foothold in international arena, provides world-class infrastructure and International exposure for the players besides regular international competition. Hockey India has also pioneered in bringing top International hockey events to India such as the FIH Men's World Cup in 2010 and 2018, FIH Champions Trophy in 2014, FIH Junior Men's World Cup in 2016 and 2021, FIH Hockey World League Final in 2017. With its vision to popularize the game and constantly promote it, Hockey India brought the Indian Men's Hockey Team into the top three in the world. Hockey India is also dedicated to getting the Indian Women's Hockey Team into the top three in the world.

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**About ODISHA**

Odisha - the Eastern State of India - is known for its love for Hockey and over the years it has evolved to be the Global Hub of Hockey. The State successfully hosted the Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup Bhubaneswar 2018, followed by the FIH Men's Series Finals Bhubaneswar Odisha, FIH Olympic Qualifiers Odisha, and FIH Hockey Pro League 2020-21. Odisha has previously hosted the Champions Trophy 2014 and the Odisha Men's Hockey World League Final Bhubaneswar 2017. Odisha also hosted the FIH Men's Hockey Junior World Cup in 2021.

Kalinga Lancers, the team owned by the State, were the winners in the Hockey India League 2017. Taking a step further towards realising the dream of restoring the glory of Indian Hockey at the global level, the State is sponsoring the Indian Hockey Teams till 2033.

Odisha also hosted the FIH Odisha Hockey Men’s World Cup 2023 and the Rourkela and Bhubaneswar legs of the FIH Hockey Pro League 2022/23 and 2023/24.

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