



## Press Release

**New Delhi: 18<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

### **India Juniors vault to top of pool with third big win, SAI B also scores hard-fought win**

**New Delhi, December 18:** India Juniors delivered object lessons in focus and team-work in scoring a 6-0 victory over Him Hockey Academy (Vikas Nagar, Himachal Pradesh) to displace Odisha Naval Tata Hockey High Performance Centre at the top of Group A in the Khelo India U21 Women's Hockey League at the Maj. Dhyan Chand National Stadium here today.

The National team, which scored its third successive win, secured some help from Sports Authority of India B to take the top spot in the pool. SAI B defeated Odisha Naval Tata HHPC by the odd goal in five to spoil the Bhubaneswar side's bid to keep its slate clean after four matches. Of these three teams with 9 points each, India Juniors alone has an all-win record.

The two key matches in Group A on Saturday were studies in contrast. India Juniors packed too many punches for Him Hockey Academy's comfort, with Lucknow-born Mumtaz Khan scoring four of her team's six goals. The other match was an intensely fought affair between two evenly balanced outfits eager to take the second spot behind the National U21 team.

Mumtaz Khan, who rose from very modest background to be a livewire on the pitch, opened the scoring for India Juniors in the 12th minute. She added a second field goal six minutes into the second quarter. Baljeet Kaur's penalty corner strike just before the half-time sandwiched Mumtaz Khan's four goals. Deepika completed the tally before the hooter went off.

SAI B had to strain its every sinew to keep its nose ahead of Odisha Naval Tata HHPC in a riveting contest. In each of the first two quarters, SAI B took the lead only to see the Bhubaneswar side bounce back and draw level. A penalty stroke scored by Vinamrata Yadav in the 50th minute proved to be the winner for SAI B.

In a clash between two Haryana-based teams, Har Hockey Academy rallied from a goal behind to edge out Pritam Siwach Hockey Academy 2-1, Preeti scoring both goals in the span of two minutes. Its third win in as many matches saw Har Hockey Academy vault past Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy, which has seven points from three matches, to the top of the pool.



Saturday's results:

Group A: India Juniors 6 (Mumtaz Khan 12th minute, 21, 51 and 55, Baljeet Kaur 30 and Deepika 58) beat Him Hockey Academy 0. Half-time 3-0.

Sports Authority of India B 3 (F Lalawmpuii 11, Vartika Rawat 20, Vinamrata Yadav 50) beat Odisha Naval Tata Hockey High Performance Centre 2 (Kamla Singh 14, Neha Toppo 26). Half-time 2-2.

Khalsa Hockey Academy 2 (Simranjeet Kaur 22 and 39) beat Raja Karan Hockey Academy 1 (Gurmail Kaur 31). Half-time 1-0.

Group B: Har Hockey Academy 2 (Preeti 23 and 24) beat Pritam Siwach Hockey Academy 1 (Kanika Siwach 22). Half-time: 2-1.

Friday's results:

Group B: Pritam Siwach Hockey Academy 5 (Manju Chorsiya 18, Bharto Saroha 21, Tannyu 23, Kanika Siwach 27, Sakshi Rana 60) beat Jai Bharat Hockey Academy 0. Half-time: 4-0

Har Hockey Academy 2 (Monika Sihag 18, Jyoti 33) beat Sports Hostel Bhubaneswar 0. Half-time: 1-0.

Sunday's fixture: Mumbai Schools Sports Association vs. Him HA, 8-00 a.m.; Raja Karan HA vs. Sports Authority of India B, 9-45 a.m.; India Juniors vs. Khalsa HA, 11-30 a.m.; Sports Authority of India A vs. Har HA, 2-30 p.m.; Jai Bharat HA vs Delhi Hockey, 4-15 p.m.; Pritam Siwach HA vs Sports Hostel Bhubaneswar, 6-00 p.m.

**EOM**