

Delhi to host Senior Badminton Nationals after 14 years

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NAGPUR: After a long gap of 14 years, Delhi will again get a chance to host the Senior National Badminton Championships in December - 2013, according to Annual Calendar released by the Badminton Association of India on Saturday.

The Capital had last hosted the Senior Nationals in 1999 at the Siri Fort Stadium and the premier national event will again be back at the same venue when the country's all leading shuttlers will compete for the top honours from December 16 to 23, 2013.

The last Nationals Delhi hosted was a significant event in more ways than one as after that BAI allowed Petroleum Teams (PSPB) to participate in the Senior Nationals, breaking the dominance of the traditional teams like Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.

After Delhi, 2000 Nationals was staged at Jaipur. The debutants PSPB emerged Champions in both Men's and Women's team events.

From Jaipur to Srinagar (2012), the powerful PSPB teams have maintained their stranglehold on the Rahimatoola Cup and Chadha Cup making the mockery of the competitions.

The Junior Nationals will be held at Chandigarh, while the Sub-Junior Nationals will be played at Cuttack.

The BAI calendar also mentioned the dates of Indian Badminton League which will be held at various major cities from August 14 to 31, 2013.

In the upcoming season, India will host five International events including the Thomas Cup and Uber Cup Finals at New Delhi.

2013-14 Calendar:

International (BWF Events): Sep 4-8: Sushant Chipalkatti Memorial Junior International Challenge, Pune; Aug 14-31: Indian Badminton League; Dec 10-15: Tata International Challenge, Mumbai; Jan 21-26: Syed Modi India Grand Prix Gold, Lucknow; Mar 25-30: India Open Super Series, New Delhi; April 17-25: Thomas Cup/Uber Cup Finals, New Delhi.

Senior Ranking Tournaments: Jul 17-21, Pune; July 23-28, Bhilai; Oct 16-20, Indore; Nov 12-17, Haridwar; Dec 16-23: Senior Nationals, New Delhi; Jan 29-Feb 2, Hyderabad; Feb 4-8 Feb, Bangalore; Feb 18-23, Veteran Nationals, Indore.

Juniors U-17 and U-19: Jul 8-14, Hyderabad; Jul 30-Aug 4, Cochin; Aug 5-10, Bangalore; Sept 16-22, Bhilwara; Sept 23-28, Gautam Thakkar Memorial, Mumbai; Nov 27-Dec 5, Junior Nationals, Chandigarh; Dec 25-31, Krishna Khaitan memorial, Chandigarh.

Sub-Juniors U-13 and U-15: Jul 22-28, Durgapur, WB; Sept. 9-15, Kadapa, AP; Oct 14-20, Guwahati; Oct 21-27, Jamshedpur; Nov 4-10, Sub-Jr Nationals, Cuttuck; Feb 17-23, venue not announced.
