



## FROM BEIJING TO BENGALURU: ASIA'S MOMENTUM MEETS INDIA'S MOMENT.



It feels like Asian tennis has been building to a moment like this. From Beijing to Tokyo, from Chennai to Riyadh, the women's game across the region has pushed forward. New champions, new cities, fuller crowds. And now, for the first time, India is hosting the Billie Jean King Cup Play-offs at the S.M. Krishna Tennis Stadium in Bengaluru. Three teams, one spot on the road to the 2026 Qualifiers. For India, it's not just a home tie. It's a statement that the region's rise runs through this court too.

The timing says a lot. A week ago in Riyadh, Elena Rybakina, Asia's lone singles semifinalist who won the WTA Finals, unbeaten and calm when it mattered. Earlier in 2024, Zheng Qinwen gave Asia an Olympic singles gold in Paris, a moment the region will remember for years. Osaka's second chapter, post-maternity brought a title and reliable form. The greatest female player from Asia put fresh belief into the region this year. Yulia Putintseva kept making deep runs. And in Chennai, Indonesia's Janice Tjen ended a 23 year wait by winning a WTA singles trophy and then the doubles on the same day. Across the calendar, Asia's women aren't just showing up, they are making it count.

There is a broader picture here. Today, more Asian women sit in the WTA Top-100 than Asian men do in the ATP Top ranking. The pathway for women is real and visible. More young players, more team wins, more weeks like this. Women's events are also finding stronger path across the region, with bigger stages and better fields. From Beijing and Tokyo, from Riyadh to Chennai, the women's tour has put Asia on its map firmly. For India and Asia, the goal is clear, build steady singles results, week after week. That is why these three days in Bengaluru matter. India enters Group G with Slovenia and the Netherlands, ranked higher on paper and rich in experience. The format leaves no room for error. Two singles, one doubles, every point matters. The group winner advances, the other two drop back to Group I next season.

India's squad looks like a real unit. Sahaja Yamalapalli leads the singles, sharp and improving. Ankita Raina brings experience. Shrivalli Bhamidipaty has momentum from a standout Group I run when she won five singles out of five, that extraordinary run gave her the prestigious BJKC 'Heart Award' earlier this year from the Asia/Oceania group. Riya Bhatia adds depth. Parthana Thombare anchors the doubles. A home tie brings pressure but it also brings belief.

Slovenia will be a tough challenge. Tamara Zidansek is solid in singles, and they are always tricky in doubles if it goes to a decider. The Netherlands are the highest ranked team here, steady in singles and very good in doubles, with enough experience. And in Bengaluru where the ball bounces a bit higher, the pace is lively, and the crowd can lift a player.





India's goal is simple and brave. They will try to win the group and reach the Qualifiers for the first time. A step like that pushes the program forward. It gives juniors some real hope. It shows sponsors and federations that a team is worth backing. And it reminds Asia that the rise in women's tennis is not only about a few stars at the top, it's also about national teams learning how to win together.

The season is almost over, and Asia has had its best run in years. The women's game kept the spotlight. Titles, finals, big stories and now another big week is happening at home. Fans have reasons to watch any day. Bengaluru fits that mood perfectly. A team event, a ready host, and a real chance for India to rise to the level the region is setting.

Three afternoons. Two singles and one doubles each day. Just a door slightly open. If India can push through, they won't just book a spot in the 2026 Qualifiers. They will also keep Asia's story moving the way it has all year.