

PRESS RELEASE

HCL Tennis Junior Tour Concludes Successfully In Pune

Overall the JuniorTour witnessed participation from over 750 players from four zones with over 900 matches

- *P Sruthi and Yashraj Dalvi wins the U-14 Singles Titles for Girls and Boys respectively*
- *Rutuja Chaphalkar and Akarsh Gaonkar wins the U-12 Singles Titles for Girls and Boys respectively*
 - *P Sruthi and Kaavya Palani wins the U-14 Doubles Titles for Girls*
 - *Atharva Amrule and Yashraj Dalvi wins the U-14 Doubles Titles for Boys*

30 September, 2016, Pune, India: HCL, a leading global conglomerate today announced the successful completion of the **HCL Tennis Junior Tour**. The tour began in Chennai on the 30th of August and subsequently travelled to Kolkata, Lucknow and culminated in Pune. Mr. Sandeep Kirtane attended the Pune closing ceremony as the Chief Guest, Anand Tulpule, Life Vice President at Maharashtra State Lawn Tennis Association (MSLTA) and Sudhir Ranade, Tournament Director for the event and Secretary of Deccan Gymkhana Club attended the closing ceremony as the Guest of Honours and awarded winners with the winning trophies, certificates and merchandises.

The tournament in Pune which kick-started on 26th September witnessed a total of 291 matches in the main draw and qualifying rounds with over 246 entries across all categories in the main draw and qualifying rounds.

Rutuja Chaphalkar from Maharashtra and Akarsh Gaonkar from Karnataka won the U-12 Singles Titles for Girls and Boys respectively.

In the doubles category, P Sruthi and Kaavya Palani both from Tamil Nadu won the U-14 Doubles Titles for Girls and Atharva Amrule and Yashraj Dalvi both from Maharashtra won the U-14 Doubles Titles for Boys.

P Sruthi from Tamil Nadu and Yashraj Dalvi from Maharashtra wins the U-14 Singles Titles for Girls and Boys respectively.

In the next phase, 16 players in the Singles category (across the U/12 and U/14 for boys and girls respectively) will compete in the HCL Tennis Junior Masters at the Shiv Nadar University, Greater Noida in November, 2016. 14 of these will be selected basis the AITA points collected through the tour, while two winners will be selected from the "Plate events".

The Masters will follow a knockout format and the winners in both U/12 and U/14 categories will be sent to a week-long all-expense paid training session to the **Rafa Nadal Tennis Academy** in Spain. The runners-up will be sent to **Mahesh Bhupathi Tennis Academy's** high-performance center in Kochi for an all-expenses paid two week training program.

Speaking on the occasion, **Sundar Mahalingam, Chief Strategy Officer, HCL Corporation and Shiv Nadar Foundation** said, "*Pune has always had a vibrant and rich tradition in tennis and the response we received was overwhelming. This points to the incredible passion for tennis and sports that exists in this city.*"

He further added, "HCL Tennis Junior Tour is a platform that has given young tennis enthusiasts an enriching and rewarding platform to showcase their skills. Having concluded the first phase we will now move to the Masters in November where the top 16 players will battle it out in the U/12 and U/14 Singles categories, at the Shiv Nadar University in Greater Noida"

HCL also organised an additional "Plate event" which provided an added opportunity to the players who could not qualify in the main draw to play the plate event. Two winners of the plate event out of four cities will be given an entry into the masters. The Plate event had a draw of 64 for the Boys U12, draw of 32 for the Boys U14 and a draw of 16 for the Girls U14 categories.

HCL Tennis Junior Tour is being organised under the aegis of All India Tennis Association (AITA) and is supported by the respective state tennis associations. Mahesh Bhupathi Tennis Academies (MBTA) is the Knowledge Partner for the Junior Tour and Masters.

Key highlights of the tournament- Please refer to Annexure 1

Notes to the Editor:

About HCL

Founded in 1976 as one of India's original IT garage start-ups, HCL is a pioneer of modern computing with many firsts to its credit, including the introduction of the 8-bit microprocessor-based computer in 1978 well before its global peers. Today, the HCL enterprise has a presence across varied sectors that include technology, healthcare and talent management solutions and comprises four companies - HCL Infosystems, HCL Technologies, HCL Healthcare and HCL TalentCare. The enterprise generates annual revenues of over US \$7 billion with more than 110,000 employees from 100 nationalities operating across 31 countries, including over 500 points of presence in India. For further information, visit www.hcl.com.

About MBTA

Mahesh Bhupathi Tennis Academies (MBTA) enters its 10th year and are now looking to focus not only on grass root players but also on developing more State, National and International level players. Over the years MBTA has produced 7 international players, 65 National players and 120 State level players. Mr. Gaurav Natekar, former India No. 1, Arjuna Awardee and double Asian Games gold medalist is the CEO and the driving force behind MBTA.

MBTA is a pioneering effort to promote the game of tennis across different levels. By launching our 'School Tennis Program' in various schools across India, MBTA has established itself as a force that adopts a systematic and well-planned approach at every stage in the process of tennis coaching. It is customized to the capabilities and needs of each participant and leads to a comprehensive and highly effective graduation process. As part of our continued effort to spread the game of tennis, MBTA has entered into a private partnership with the Government of Kerala for the SMILE project where MBTA conducts the tennis program at three Government Schools in Trivandrum.

The academy also provides consultancy services to various schools, colleges and corporate companies to structure, develop and implement a variety of tennis coaching programs based on their needs.

For more information, log on to: <http://www.mbtaworld.com/>

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