

# FIRST EVER CORPORATE SOCIAL TENNIS TOURNAMENT WHICH WAS CONDUCTED BY 'AOKHELE' IN GURGAON ON 18-19 FEB FOR A SOCIAL CAUSE

Aaokhele (an NGO promoting sports & fitness) organized a social tennis doubles-only tournament for corporates in Gurgaon. The tournament was guided with the able hands of Sh. Suman Kapur (Hon'able Secretary, Haryana Tennis Association) and brought the tournament under the aegis of HTA. By the grace of the support of sponsoring companies - Kriskindu (Infrastructure Support), Prince (Prize Sponsor), & Artemis (Health Sponsor) - and the support of the community with people bringing water, fruits & other refreshments, this Gurgaon get-together saw a spike in the participation of working executives from the corporate world.

A total of 27 teams participated in this doubles tournament with 22 in the men's doubles draw and 5 in the mixed doubles. The enthusiasm was at its peak when it was not only the players but even their families cheering for them. We had a footfall of around 158 folks (kids, friends, families) who came to watch their folks play. Infact, the news of the tournament spread fast - as we had teams participating from Chandigard & Muzaffarnagar (UP) too.

The participating of the teams came from corporate world - Accenture, IBM, Oracle, PwC, eValueServe, DLF, Alcatel, Orange, to name a few, Defence Services (IAF, CRPF), government officials, and other businessmen. The players age varied from 22-56 but that was not to matter. Surprisingly, no-one complained of the hectic sched-

ule, the number of matches to be played... no-one fought on the line calls and noone went home after their matches. All were just there, cheering for one another. After the round-robin stages, all had their own favorites and they were cheering for them. Families came together, they sat in groups - cheering and singing. One of the players, Manish Aggarwal, an excellent guitarist rejuvenated the moods of everyone by making them sing on his tunes. The weather was a plus too. The gentle cool breeze flew through the weekend giving a perfect weather to play tennis.

## Results:

### Men's Doubles:

**Ajay/Ajeet def. Manish/Vikram 4-1, 2-4, 10-5**

### Mixed Doubles:

**Amita / Ajeet def Saurabh / Richa 4-2, 4-1**

Besides bringing the competitive spirit to fore, there was fun elements too. The biggest attraction amongst them was the speed-gun. There was a huge fascination to measure the serve

speeds and map them with the players on circuit. However, to everyone's despair, they could not reach Andy Roddick's speed. But a few did beat Sania Mirza. Manish Jain was the fastest with a serving speed of 160kmph.

The event concluded in the evening hours of Sunday with the players content with a wonderful weekend well spent. Anubhav Saksena (Ciena) thanked with a statement that filled our hearts, "It was an awesome weekend you guys made for us. When is the next tournament." Dr. Kanjom (CRPF) also was kind with his words. He mentioned that the tournament was very well organized and that he will bring more his friends in the next edition.

This tournament was an endeavor of Aaokhele to organize some funds to help the needy. Aaokhele intends to sponsor the needful players who don't have resources to themselves. Aaokhele also is focussed to provide education to the underprivileged by going to villages and organizing camps for the poor.



# MBTA'S SCHOOL TENNIS PROGRAM IN INDIA

-By **Shankar Krishnaswamy**

*Director, coaching operations and coaches education program, MBTA, Kochi*

*Tennis India* magazine interviewed Mr. Shankar Krishnaswamy, presently is the director, tennis coaching operations and coaches education program for Mahesh Bhupathi Tennis Academies. During an interview at Regional Sports Center (RSC) at Kochi, Kerala, Mr. Shankar explained about MBTA's school tennis initiative as below:

## **Q. What is school tennis?**

**Shankar:** School Tennis is a typical terminology used for Tennis being learned during school hours in the schools. It is known in different names such as MINI TENNIS, PLAY & STAY. We MAHESH BHUPATHI TENNIS ACADEMIES (MBTA) call it SCHOOL TENNIS INITIATIVE OR PROGRESSIVE TENNIS.

Typically School Tennis means the sport of Tennis learned during the school hours in their Games/ PT periods. It is all about getting the kids interested in the sport, using a fun filled, game based approach of teaching. This program is done for children from 4 yrs to 10 yr olds.

## **Q. Why they need to have it in school?**

**Shankar:** The Academic system currently prevailing in our country, hardly leaves any time for the child to pursue any interest other than studies. MBTA felt it will be better, the sport of Tennis reaches the child in school rather than expecting the child to reach the sport in clubs and Academies. The QUALITY can come out only from QUANTITY and QUANTITY can only be reached, if the sport of Tennis reaches the school. Most importantly it becomes really cost effective for the parents of the children doing the school Tennis because they save on the cost of (1) Transportation – as the sport has reached the school, no need to travel to any Academies/ Clubs, (2) Tennis clothing's – as the sport is done during school hours, they use their school uniforms only



*Mahesh Bhupathi along with Shankar Krishnaswamy*

and no separate Tennis clothing required,(3) Tennis Equipments – since the equipments required to learn the sport such as Tennis Raquets are provided in the program, there is no equipment cost burden. These mentioned factors make School Tennis really cost effective and most importantly helps the parents as well as we Tennis Professionals to know whether the child has the aptitude and attitude to take up this sport professionally.

**Q. Who can conduct it?**

**Shankar:** School Tennis program is completely different from regular Tennis teaching. It is more of a Specialized program and there are courses offered by INTERNATIONAL TENNIS FEDERATION (ITF) and ALL INDIA TENNIS ASSOCIATION (AITA) to qualify himself to conduct this program. More than the Tennis playing ability communication and teaching skills are required to conduct this program. So any person with a sporting background of played any sport and the right attitude can undergo the courses offered by ITF and AITA and get himself certified to conduct a school Tennis program.

**Q. Do you need a tennis court to conduct school tennis?**

**Shankar:** NOT AT ALL!!! We only need a flat even surface, preferably cemented one to conduct the program. A space of 40 feet X 50 feet is enough to conduct this program and it can be an open ground, school auditorium or even a class room!!!

**Q. What do children gain?**

**Shankar:** Other than learn-



ing the core fundamentals of Tennis, we aim to develop NEURO MUSCULAR CO ORDINATION, STATIC AND DYNAMIC BALANCE, AGILITY, REACTION, RECEPTION AND PROJECTION SKILLS to name a few skills. It develops leadership qualities, team spirit and sportsmanship in children .The program cultivates interest of the child for sports and also develops child's PSYCHOSOMATIC abilities. In short the general objective of the program is to give back to our society a physically well coordinated child/ citizen!!!

**Q. What were the MBTA'S programs towards school tennis? What has been the highlight of the program till date?**

**Shankar:** MBTA has developed a 36 week syllabus for an academic year for the Grades from Upper KG to Grade V, which is followed pan INDIA. The introductory Tennis program is designed to introduce the sport of Tennis in a fun based approach and aims to familiarize the students with the core fundamentals of the sport through a "GAME





BASED APPROACH" of learning. At the end of the Academic year, where the program is introduced for the 1<sup>st</sup> year an individual assessment of the child on various aspects like physical ability, tennis skill ability, knowledge of the sport, will be tested through an evaluation process and assessment report card with relevant grading given to every kid in the program. And in schools, where the program is running for the subsequent years, the evaluations are conducted every Quarter and there will a calendar of events for the year, which consists of PROGRESSIVE TENNIS TOURNAMENTS held during the year. We run an in house COACHES EDUCATION PROGRAM for our coaches, who conduct our programs in schools and also provide all equipments like tennis raquets. Mini nets, special tennis balls, fitness equipments etc., so that there is no burden on the school management, who adopts our program. Highlight of this program till date is MAHESH's vision of getting this sport to grassroots level and get more and more kids to play this sport in our country is slowly

bearing fruit as the present numbers of approximately 12,000 plus kids play this sport in our school programs pan INDIA and growing!!! Another aspect of this program is that through this program we are helping the SPECIALLY ABLED CHILDREN to improve their Neuro Muscular Coordination and we have 70 specially abled children attending the program in one of the school programs in Calcutta and are responding well.

**Q. Do all cities have this program ?**

**Shankar:** As mentioned

earlier MBTA operates this program across INDIA. We conduct school Tennis programs in Delhi and NCR, Kolkata, Amritsar, Ludhiana, Jaipur, Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur, Bangalore, Kochi. I am sure that other Tennis professionals are also doing the school Tennis in different cities.

But the fact is, with what we are doing now, we were able to touch the Tip of the ICE BERG considering the number of cities and the schools we have in our country. But we are very happy that the concept is slowly catching attention and more and more parents are being made aware of the benefits of the program. In fact Govt: of INDIA, HRD Ministry is actively considering making sports part of the curriculum and giving due weight age for performance in sports.

**Q. Does School tennis help the hand-eye coordination for specially-abled children ?**

**Shankar :** Yes, As I have mentioned earlier, since this pro-





School Tennis Programme :  
Helping specially abled children

gram helps in the development of Neuro muscular co ordination of the child, it plays a vital role in developing the hand eye co ordination of the specially abled children, which we know for sure as 70 odd such children in our program had proved. This has been the SOCIAL RELEVANCE side of the program, which should be

highlighted and MBTA would like to contribute in whatever little way in helping the specially abled children in our country to enjoy this beautiful sport " TENNIS".

### Profile of Shankar Krishnaswamy :

*Shankar Krishnaswamy was born in 1968 in Trivandrum, Kerala. He is the son of N. KRISHNASWAMY (Late), who started the Tennis Coaches Education program in our country with RAJAKUMARI KAUR SCHEME in OLD MOTIBAGH in PATIALA in 1968, later came to be known as National Institute of Sports ( NIS) and presently known as Sports Authority Of India (SAI).*

*Shankar presently is the Director, Tennis Coaching Operations and Coaches Education Program for MAHESH BHUPATHI TENNIS ACADEMIES. He was a former top 10 sub junior and junior level player in the country and*

*was the member of the ASSOCIATION OF INDIAN UNIVERSITIES TEAM in 1987. Former Kerala State and Kerala University Champion, he is a certified USPTR certified, ITF Level II/ AITA Level V certified Tennis Professional.*

**For Any Further Information On School Tennis And Assistance, he can be contacted at:**

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School Tennis Programme : Helping specially abled children

PROMISING PLAYER



**TI's PROMISING PLAYER, WINNER OF ALL INDIA  
GRASS COURT NATIONALS 2012(MENS)**

**SAKETH MYNENI**

## Profile

All India Ranking (Singles)	7
All India Ranking (Doubles)	11
Atp Singles	583
Age	24 Years (19-10-1987)
Birthplace	Vuyyuru, Vijayawada
Residence	Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh
Plays	Right-Handed
Racquet	Head Youtek Radical Ig
Father	Prasad Myneni
Mother	Saroja Myneni
Coach	C.V Nagaraj
Academy	The School Of Power Tennis (Secunderabad)
School	Graduated From University of Alabama
Started Playing Since (Age)	12

## Recent Achievements/Performance:

Sl. No.	Name of the Tournament	Place & Date	Result
1.	ITF Mens Circuit F3	Bhimavaram, Mar 2012	Runner Up Singles And Winner Doubles
2.	All India Grass Court Nationals	Kolkata, Feb 2012	Winner Singles
3.	ITF Mens Circuit F9	Chennai, Nov 2011	Winner Singles And Doubles

## Exceptional Career Performances:

- Currently ranked as the top singles and doubles player in andhra Pradesh
- All India Men's Nationals Champion in 2012 and Junior Nationals Champion in 2005
- Represented (A.P) in the All India Interstate and won a team event Gold
- Won 5 Consecutive Gold medals for A.P in the All India Interschool's- (2001-05)

Favorite Shot	Serve & Volley
Favorite Surface	Grass
Favorite Tennis Player	Andre Agassi
Favorite Tennis Moment	When I Won 2012 Grass Court Nationals Kolkata

**TI: How were you introduced to tennis, and whom do you credit for your present achievement?**

**Saketh Myneni:** Basically, I started it as a physical activity and started to get interest in it. I will give credits to my parents for the all the sacrifice and support that they put in for me. Also, to all those people who have played different roles in my life. (I cannot single out one in particular) Everyone involved with me have to be credited in this part.

**TI: Where are you presently training?**

**Saketh Myneni:** I presently train at The School of Power Tennis (Secunderabad) under Coach C.V Nagaraj.

**TI: Who is your favorite tennis player and why?**

**Saketh Myneni:** My favorite tennis player while growing up and will always be Andre Agassi for his amazing comeback to tennis. The guy is one of the greatest legends of tennis with great character and attitude.

**TI: What are your goals for the 2012 season?**

**Saketh Myneni:** I am trying to earn a spot on the Indian Davis Cup Team and try to represent the country on the World Stages. I like to be moving up in the ATP ranking and compete with the best in the world.

**TI: What can make tennis more popular and entice more kids to take up tennis?**



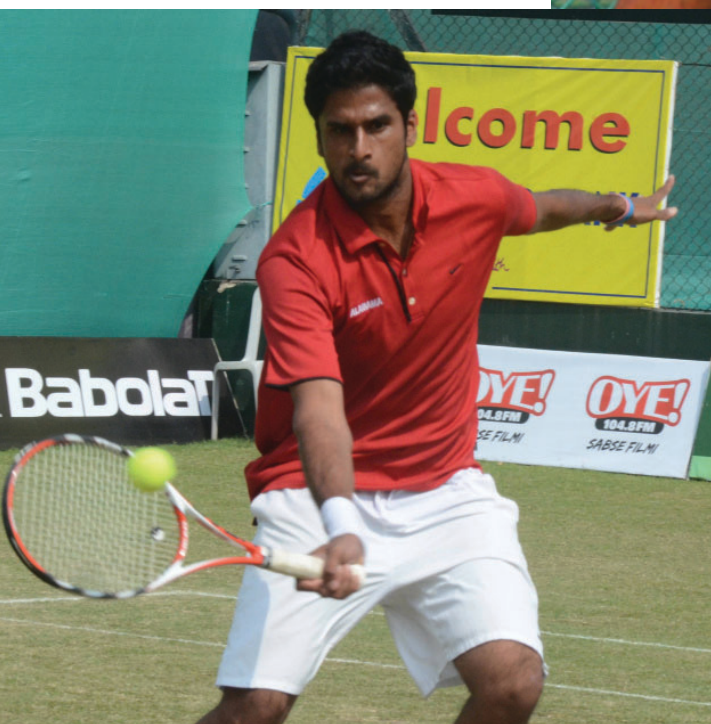
**Saketh Myneni:** First and foremost, we should have the accessibility for kids to play it as a leisure sport. It is an expensive individual sport and should be exposed to kids at an early age for it to develop.

**TI: What are the financial challenges that Indian parents are facing in meeting the expenses for tennis tours in India and abroad?**

**Saketh Myneni:** This is one of the key factors that is letting down the talent that we have in India. As I mentioned before, tennis is pretty expensive and a person should be well funded to prove him/herself internationally. Sponsors can help a lot helping in exposing the talent from here.

**TI: What is your message to young kids taking up tennis?**

**Saketh Myneni:** Always be passion and goal oriented. Take the baby steps to succeed in sports and life.



### Rapid Fire With Saketh

Favourite Music	English, Hindi & Telugu
Favourite Bollywood Movie	Lagaan
Favourite Tv Series	Friends
Favorite City	Visakhapatnam
Favorite Books	Autobiography
Favorite Food	Indian & Italian
Favorite Women's Player	Steffi Graf

# GUIDELINES FOR CONSTRUCTION OF CLAY TENNIS COURT

-By A.R. Rao,

*Clay court preparation expert and Director Surya Tennis Academy, Secunderabad*



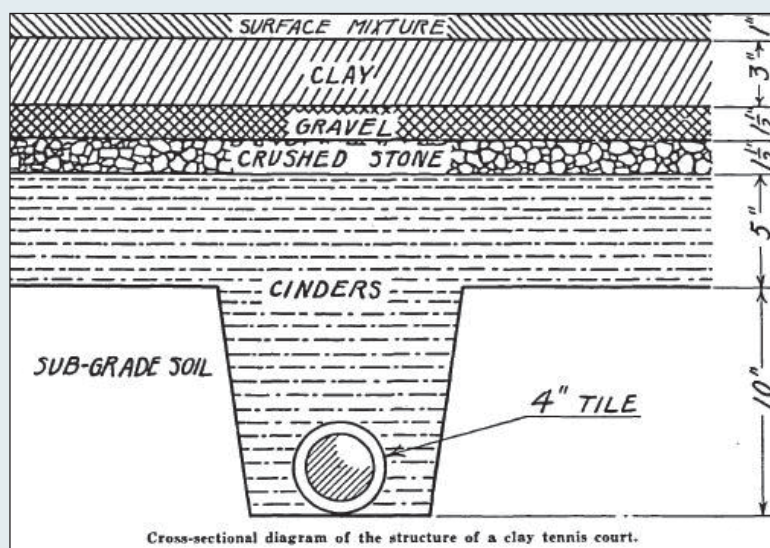
More tennis courts are being converted to clay court systems than ever before in the history of tennis. That's because clay court tennis brings players more enjoyment and fewer injuries at every stage of life. Clay courts allow tennis players to slide, which means they can play for as long and as often as they like without overstressing the knees, back and lower extremities. Here are some guidelines for clay court construction:

1. Plan the location for your court. The playing surface for a doubles-based tennis court is 36-by-78 feet. When you factor in the space needed outside the lines, having 60-by-120 feet

is ideal. The area should be level and on firm ground. A north-south axis orientation is desirable. If ground is not even, it

should be leveled to even surface.

2. Decide on the type of clay court you want. Different





types of clays are available in different Indian cities. Clay requires constant watering, so it does not dry up and crack.

3. Consider hiring someone with experience building clay courts. Clay courts are not practical as a do-it-yourself project because the construction of a tra-

ditional clay court requires multiple layers underneath the playing surface. The Tennis court area to be excavated to the depth of 15".on the middle of the court to the size shown in the drawing and also the plan of tennis court/cross section also shown in the drawing. The court will be lev-

eled and rolled with 8-10 tones power road roller. In trench 6" dia cement pipe to be laid and joining with neat cement. The outlet of the pipe to be taken to the existing natural rain water drains/slope to drain out the rain water easily. Due to this drain the court surface will not be disturbed badly and dry very soon .The bottom surface of the court the Linder will be filled and compacted to even surface.Next layer 40 mm graded aggregate (hard stone) should be laid and compacted with roller to the even surface to a thickness shown in the drawing. Red Gravel to be spread to a thickness shown in the drawing, water will be spread and rolled to an even surface and well compacted. The clay used for this type of court such as mixture of soft clay and sand equal proportion and well watered and rolled with hand roller to even surface. The top surface also laid same clay but it should be passed through 6mm/1/4" sieve and well watered and rolled with hand roller to even surface. The court will be laid to a gentle slope to drain out the rain water by 4" (1" in every 15 feet).

4. The fence (Jali) should be at least 12 feet high entirely surrounding the courts. Jali should be galvanized wire of 1 inch mesh. Two side gates is a must. Fence should be painted with dark Green colour. The fence should be fixed on the retaining wall which is 1 feet higher from the top layer of court.

5. Plan for any amenities you might want on the court, such



as a water fountain, benches and a place to store equipment.

6. Plan your maintenance of the court. After the contractor has built the clay court, you will need to maintain it. The court

should be compacted with a roller once a week. After playing on the court, you should water it to maintain the condition of the clay. The court will need to be swept and the lines cleared with

a special line brush. Dusting the courts with chloride of calcium helps to bind the surface material and make the court wear better.

### Profile of Mr. AR Rao

Name	A Ratnakar Rao
D O B	04/06/1952
Address	20-157.MES colony, venkatapuram,secunderabad-500015(AP)
Qualification	B A
Worked	20 years in Indian Air Force(Technical)
Tennis Qualification	NSNIS,USPTR,ITF
Coached	Indian Air Force, Army,Navy(Services coach)Represented Services three times in Nationals(Best-Last 16 in singles)
Won	Air Force cup, many inter-club competitions/tournaments
Conducted coaching camps for 45 days with	Mr. Ramanathan KrishnanMr. Ramesh Krishnan, Mr. Shyam Minotra and Mr. Jaydeep Mukerjee
Worked as chair umpire for	Fed cup, world Railway Games and many National and International Matches
Coached /Financial help	Punna Vishal: Played for Davis cup Arafat: played for ITF and All India Tournaments Pradeep D:Gold Medal Winner-K V School Games Many services players
Presently working	Director of Surya Tennis Foundation at Bowenpally, Secunderabad-Having 7 clay courts with 125 players
Works	Preparation of all types of Tennis courts and manufacturing of all Tennis equipments like Hand Roller, Metal score boards, Flood light poles.
Hobbies	Playing Sports, Swimming ,Friendship
Languages Known	Telugu, Hindi, English

**For any further information on Clay Court Construction and assistance at your city, Mr AR Rao can be contacted at:**

**Phone: 040-27966409, mob: 09246368494,  
e-mail: ratnakar.tennis1@gmail.com**



**Send the right answers for the HEAD Word game and win "HEAD BACK PACK" in lucky draw contest.**

A 10x10 grid of colored squares representing a 100% area. The grid is divided into four 5x5 quadrants. The top-left quadrant is entirely blue. The top-right quadrant has 1 blue square and 4 yellow squares. The bottom-left quadrant has 4 blue squares and 1 yellow square. The bottom-right quadrant is entirely blue.

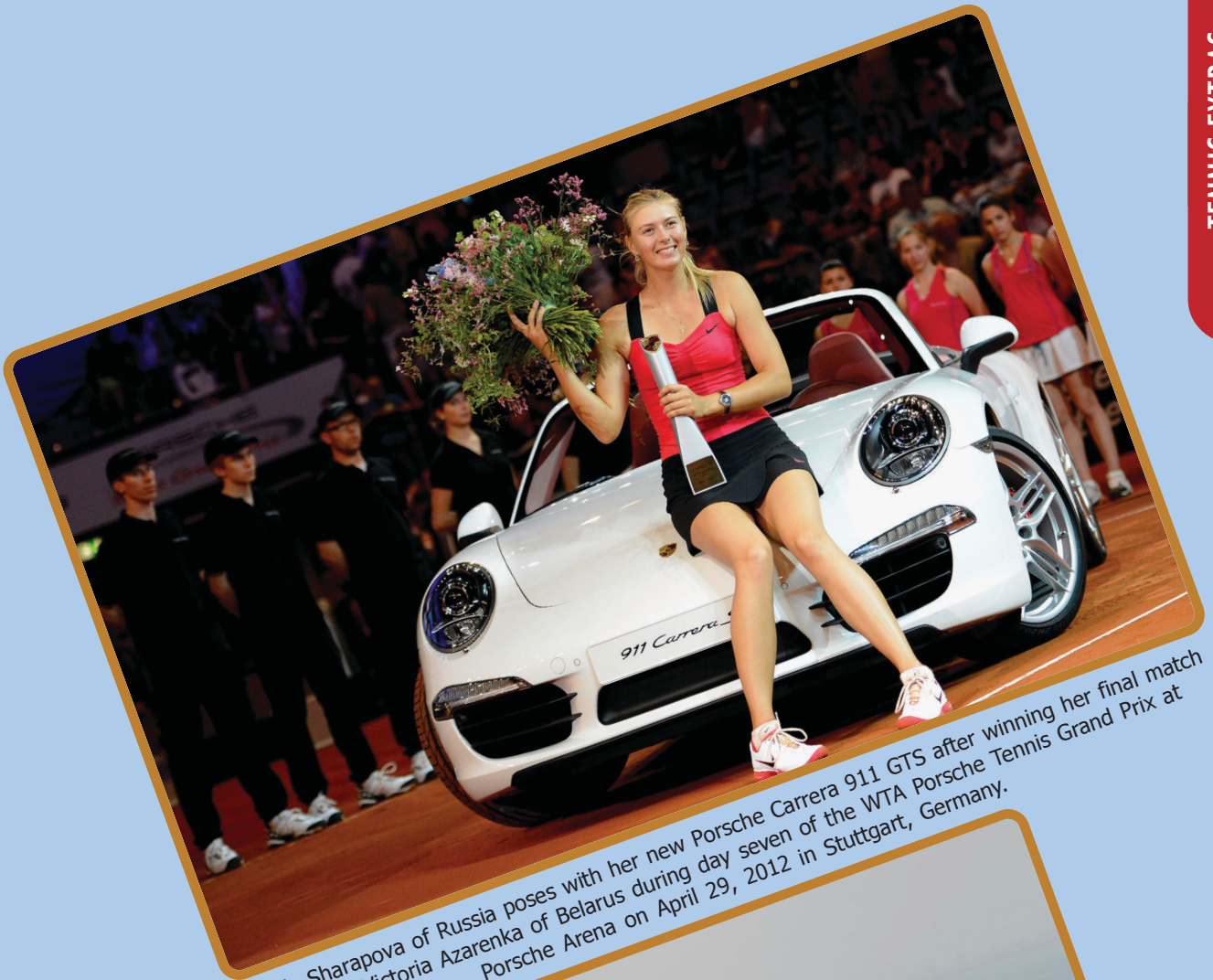
Andy Murray



Send your entries to [editor@tennisindiamagazine.com](mailto:editor@tennisindiamagazine.com) with your name, address and contact details.

**Head lucky draw contest Feb-March issue winner : Swaroop, Hyderabad**

**Phone : 09686044746, 09343780945**



Maria Sharapova of Russia poses with her new Porsche Carrera 911 GTS after winning her final match against Victoria Azarenka of Belarus during day seven of the WTA Porsche Tennis Grand Prix at Porsche Arena on April 29, 2012 in Stuttgart, Germany.



Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer in the view from the Burj Al Arab helipad.



*View from the Burj Al Arab helipad, Dubai*

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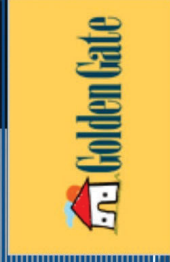
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*Rafael Nadal attends 'Alma Nadal' Charity Match Presentation at Santiago Bernabeu stadium on May 7, 2012 in Madrid, Spain*

### 3 TEAMS PER ENTRY

- Pro Team (No Age Limit) - 1 TEAM
- Club Team (35+ min. Age) - 1 TEAM
- Senior Team (45+ Min. Age) - 1 TEAM



**WINNERS PRIZE MONEY ₹ 1,00,000**

# THE FIRST EVER SOUTH INDIAN T3 TEAM TENNIS TOURNAMENT

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**3 SUPER TIE BREAKS**  
(All matches will be  
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