



Davis Cup Fiesta returns to Bangalore

Government of Karnataka extends support to the event

Leander Paes and Rohan Bopanna likely to combine under the Non playing captaincy of Mahesh Bhupathi with Yuki Bhambri & Ramkumar Ramanathan taking over singles responsibilities.

Will Leander break the World record for most Davis Cup Doubles victories?

Bangalore: It is indeed another feather in the Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association's Cap to be hosting another Davis Cup fixture within two years, 3rd edition in the last 4 years.

Tennis buffs of the Garden City can look forward to a pulse pounding finish when Bengaluru hosts the India Vs Uzbekistan tie from April 7 to 9, 2017.

Having conducted a plethora of events starting from the junior's level to a Tier II WTA event to the Davis Cup is no bed of roses and KSLTA has been in the forefront of promoting the game.

The last Davis Cup, hosted by us, the Davis Cup World Group play-off tie between India and a top notch team, Serbia, sans the famous Novak Djokovic, went to the wire and this time around with the teams evenly matched; another humdinger is on the cards.

The Govt of Karnataka has extended a huge financial support to the event by supporting KSLTA to host this mega event to the tune of Rs 1 crore.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chairman of the Organizing Committee and the Minister for Youth Empowerment & Sports, GOK, **Mr. Pramod Madhwaraj** said, "Government of Karnataka is proud to support the prestigious Davis Cup Tie between India & Uzbekistan and privileged to host this tie in Bengaluru. Government of Karnataka has been a huge supporter of sports and is working towards making Bengaluru, the sports capital of the Country. I take this opportunity to welcome the visiting team Uzbekistan and the Indian teams to Bengaluru and people of the city should be treated to World class tennis. Me and my team shall work closely with KSLTA to ensure this event is organized in the best possible manner and also showcase the culture and tradition of the state to all."

The home team consists of players, the likes of local lad Rohan Bopanna, the evergreen Leander Paes, Yuki Bhambri, Ramkumar Ramnathan under the new Non playing Captain Mahesh Bhupathi who shall be making his debut in this tie.

The visitors have in their ranks Denis Istomin, a player who sent Djokovic (World No 2 then) packing in the second round of the Australian Open 2017. Others who can rally around him are Sanjar Fayziev, Temur Ismailov and Farrukh Dustov.

Sponsors, led by Karnataka Tourism are coming forward to be a partner for this tie and that includes Radisson Blu which would be the official Tie Hotel, Advait Hyndai which would be the transport partner, Bookmyshow.com which would be the ticketing partner. More sponsors are likely to be finalized in the coming week.

Speaking on the arrangements, Principal Secretary to GOK & Vice President of KSLTA, Mr. M. Laxminarayan, IAS, said, "KSLTA has rich experience in hosting mega events and this too shall be held in a grand manner. The courts at KSLTA are being re-laid and KSLTA is working closely with Bangalore Police, Fire Service, Horticulture, Sports Department and Tourism department for the success of the event."

"KSLTA is extremely thankful to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka Mr. Siddaramaiah for supporting the event with a financial grant. My gratitude to also Mr. Pramod Madhwaraj and Mr. Priyank Kharge, Minister for IT & Tourism, who have taken up the responsibility of spearheading the Davis Cup Organisation."

Mr. Anupam Agarwal, IPS, Director, Youth Empowerment & Sports, GOK said "We are very proud that Bengaluru has been chosen to host this prestigious event. This shall go a long way in promoting Sports Tourism and establish the IT Capital as the Sports capital of the Country as the climate and the metropolitan nature of the city support the need."

Mr. Sunil Yakama, Chief Organizer said, "The tie will be played under floodlights, with timings being 3 pm, 6 pm and 3 pm on Fri, 7 April, Sat, 8 April and Sunday, 9 April respectively."

He went on to add, "The courts would be re-laid for the tie with the same surface termed Frogg. KSLTA also have ideas of making it a unique experience for tennis buffs, with Corporate boxes, food courts that will have different cuisines".

"The Govt has always been supportive of the sport and now they have got into it in a big way and have set the ball rolling with financial grant and seek to create Brand Bengaluru".

The neutral officials for the tie appointed by ITF are:

Referee: Wayne McKewen (AUS)

Chair Umpire: Nacho Forcadell (ESP)

Chair Umpire: Adel Borghei (IRI)

The sale of tickets for this, expected to be a high-tension tie will be available on Bookmyshow.com and during the last week will also be available at booths at the KSLTA, Cubbon Park, Bengaluru. The teams are expected to arrive from Saturday, 1 April onwards. Sunil Yajaman, Former National Coach is the Chief Organiser of the event on behalf of AITA & KSLTA.

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