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Press Release

## **AITA to launch 2021 Season with Return to Tennis 'High Performance Training Camps' for Juniors from January onwards**

**New Delhi:** The All India Tennis Association (AITA) under the stewardship of the new President, Dr. Anil Jain and its newly appointed office bearers, will launch the upcoming 2021 season with a 'High Performance Training Camp' for Junior Boys from 4<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at R.K. Khanna Tennis Stadium, New Delhi.

The Camp will be conducted in a bio-bubble environment and will include a week-long training period followed by an invitational National Championship.

As many as 22 top AITA ranked junior players, including eight players from AITA U-18 category Top 10 are selected to participate in this first-of-its-kind Training Camp by AITA, which will be headed by recently appointed National Coach, Zeeshan Ali.

Ali has been a former National Champion, Asian Games Gold Medalist and Davis Cup Player for India and has come on board full time, with AITA, to spearhead this 'Return to Tennis' project as the National Coach. He will be assisted by former National Champion and Davis Cup player, Ashutosh Singh as well as Saurabh Singh, winner of multiple ITF Junior tournaments and Junior Davis Cup Asia/Oceania champion.

"Beginning the new year with India's up and coming Tennis stars will be the perfect way to set the ball rolling in 2021. It is, I hope, going to be the beginning of a new era in Indian tennis with more such dedicated and focused camps for talented players in the near future. Fortunately, the spread of Covid-19 infections has declined in Delhi and we are hoping to conduct AITA's maiden residential camp for India's top 20 plus junior players successfully," said Ali.

After being forced to shut tennis related activities completely for almost eight months due to the on-going Covid-19 pandemic, the AITA, with this camp, aims to mark the return to tennis of Indian players and to prepare them for return to competitive tennis. The prime focus of this camp will be on physical conditioning, providing hitting opportunity with best players and providing high intensity of an in-built tournament. Special modules have been planned with experts in the field of Sports Psychology (Dr. Janki R. Deole), Sports Nutritionist (Shiny Chandran), Equipment specialist (Shivkumar Pallini), Davis Cup/Billie Jean King Cup Physio (Anand Dubey) and Fitness Trainer (Abhimanyu Singh) have been retained for the camp.

The Camp will be followed by back-to-back ITF Grade 5 Junior events in Delhi and Gurugram.

AITA has planned to organise the High Performance Training Camp just before the ITF Junior Tour resumes in India from the week of 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at Delhi.

"We are sure that the players will benefit from the high intensity training sessions and the competitive in-built tournament at the camp and take advantage of the ITF events scheduled in India," added Ali.

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