



INTRA

INDIAN WHEELCHAIR TENNIS TOUR

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Respecting Abilities. Celebrating Capabilities.
INITIATIVE



ABOUT

Indian Wheelchair Tennis Tour (IWTT) has been created to provide a platform for the development of and excellence in one of the thriving Paralympic and international sport, Wheelchair Tennis.

Launched in 2016, IWTT has already executed three ranking tournaments – two in Bengaluru and one in Chennai, that has helped provide a platform for existing players to compete and prepare for international exposure.

Tournaments of IWTT are recognized by AITA as well as the respective State Associations and also has the encouragement of the International Tennis Federation (ITF).



IWTT is part of Astha, an organization that provides a variety of interventions for the differently-abled in India.

INTENT

To create a vibrant wheelchair tennis culture in India through grassroots development of the sport and by providing an international standard competitive platform. We want to put Indian Wheelchair Tennis on world Map in next 4 years.



The First Serve workshop in Bengaluru, held in April 2018.

For a vibrant wheelchair tennis culture to emerge, it is important to 1. widen the base of interested players at a young age and 2. provide easy access for the players to pursue this sport. This means spreading our reach to key cities and associating with on-ground organizations that work with the physically challenged.

We also need to build our resources by having adequate number of wheelchairs, making courts easily available for practice and providing relevant training to those who wish to pursue the sport beyond just recreation.



In 2018 we will focus our efforts in Mumbai, Bengaluru, Khammam, Kolkatta, Chandigarh, Chennai, Bhopal, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Mysore and Agra.

We have launched 'The First Serve', a workshop for beginners that will encourage the young to take up this sport. We have already executed the program in two cities. Post this workshop, a 3-month camp conducted over weekends by trained wheelchair tennis coach will be held which will also include fitness & diet regime given to enhance their game. We will be regularly monitoring the players on their development and performance.

We are hoping that we will have enough momentum built up at the grassroots to feed into a thriving competitive program.



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TENNIS ASSOCIATION
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FOR WHEELCHAIR TE

If we have to make a mark at the international level, we need to have a high standard of local competitions that will be open to even international players. We launched the Tour in December 2016 with the Tabebuia Open in Bengaluru. It was India's first AITA ranking tournament. We followed it up with the Marina Open in August, 2017.

This year, apart from the Tabebuia Open and the Marina Open, the Tour will include a third tournament, the Charminar Open, in Hyderabad in October. All the tournaments are recognised by AITA and the rankings are based on them.



These tournaments, for men and women, are conducted as per ITF rules and have prize money. The tournaments include singles and doubles matches.

As preparation for the Tour in 2019, a one-week, residential National Workshop for the top twenty players will be held.

We are in conversation with ITF to conduct 'ITF Future Series' tournaments in India in 2019. Playing with international players would increase the exposure of our players to a different level of the game.



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TO
2018

TABEBUIA OPEN
FOR WHEELCHAIR TENNIS
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The Tabebuia Open was the first official, AITA ranking tournament for wheelchair tennis in India held in 2016. The second edition was conducted in December 2017.

The third edition will be held in December 2018 in Bengaluru.





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2018

MARINA OPEN
FOR WHEELCHAIR TENNIS





The Marina Open is the second tournament of the tour. The first edition was held in Chennai, India's tennis capital, from August 2-5, 2017 at the SDAT Tennis Stadium.

The second edition of this annual tournament will be held in the month of August 2018





Putting India on the world map of wheelchair tennis requires players from our national circuit to play successfully at the international level. Our intent is to ensure that at least five players break into the top 100 of the world rankings by 2021.

For this to happen identified elite players from the Tour need to participate in international tournaments and be prepared for taking on the best in the world.



These players will need additional support of specialized coaching, nutrition and physical training. However the most critical element in being world-class is a high-quality wheelchair, which is customised to the player's physical needs.

We have already identified a few elite players and customisation of the wheelchair and additional support has started.

GET INVOLVED

IWTT is a division of Astha which is a non-profit organization. We need funding in kind and in monetary resources to make our vision a reality.

We are looking for donors who can help us with our grassroots development program - funding of wheelchairs, time at the tennis courts, trainers and coaches and nutrition.

We are also looking for sponsors to fund our elite players and our competitive platform of three national open tournaments. These sponsorships provide a unique opportunity to reach out to a whole new target group and establish the right values for the organization or brand.



IWTT is part of Astha, an organization that provides a variety of interventions for the differently-abled in India.

CONNECT WITH US

If you are keen to explore how we can partner with each other, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please do contact Priyanka Shylendra at +91-991692190 or write to her at priyanka@astha.in.

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