



Rendez-Vous à Roland-Garros comes to India

- *To promote tennis at grassroots level in India*
- *Champions to play in Paris to win a wild-card to the 2015 French Open Junior Competition*

New Delhi, March 03, 2015: French Tennis Federation (FFT), the sole and exclusive owner and organizer of the French Open (Roland-Garros) and the All India Tennis Association (AITA) have announced the launch of Rendez-Vous à Roland-Garros in India in association with Longines. The new initiative is aimed at boosting the development of junior tennis in the country. “Rendez-Vous à Roland-Garros” (RDVRG) is the junior tournament on red clay which offers a wild-card for the 2015 French Open junior tournament.

The “Rendez-Vous à Roland-Garros” competition which will be held at the Delhi Gymkhana Club, will offer the first-of-its kind opportunity for Indian junior players to experience the atmosphere of the Grand Slam, and feel firsthand the unique culture of clay court. Staging the events by FFT and AITA jointly, the event will be an opportunity to raise awareness of tennis at grassroots level as well as inviting junior Indian players to Paris to compete and maybe win the wild-card to the 2015 French Open Junior Competition.

Jean Gachassin, French Tennis Federation (FFT) President said, “As the organizer of the Tennis World Championship on clay courts, the French Tennis Federation wishes to share worldwide the unique and amazing Roland-Garros' atmosphere. I therefore welcome the recent partnership between Roland-Garros and the All India Tennis Association. It is a real bridge between two countries which share identical passions and goals: developing tennis on clay courts. I am truly delighted by all the opportunities offered by this cooperation, such as giving the opportunity to young Indian players to have a shot at winning a wild-card to the junior draw and set foot on the Roland-Garros' red clay thanks to the "Rendez-Vous à Roland-Garros" operation”.

Mr Anil K Khanna, President, All India Tennis Association (AITA) said “It is with much pleasure that the AITA is entering into a partnership with Roland-Garros and French Tennis Federation. We are very keen on extending the opportunities for Indian Juniors to play clay court tennis and gain the valuable opportunity of competing for a wild Card spot to the junior draw of Roland-Garros through the ‘Rendez-Vous à Roland-Garros’ in India. I am confident that with this partnership we will be able to gain further opportunities towards tennis education and development with the expertise of the FFT and Roland-Garros.”



French Tennis Federation has extended the programme to India and Brazil after the successful launch of the tournament in China last year. The tournament will first take place separately in China, India and Brazil in April 2015. After the first round of competition in each country, the ultimate champions will travel to Paris and play the final stage against a Brazilian and Chinese player, in order to win the 2015 French Open Junior Competition wild-card

THE FORMAT

“Rendez-Vous à Roland-Garros” is open to the best 16 players under the age of 18 from India. The selection will be made based on the national ranking. There will be both 16 players in male and female singles competition for the 8 draw, with best-of-three sets. The ultimate champions will travel to Paris and play the final stage against a Brazilian and Chinese player, in order to win the 2015 French Open Junior Competition wild-card.

ABOUT ROLAND-GARROS

Both committed sports fans and the general public alike have come to love Roland-Garros. Some 462,384 spectators flocked to the highly prestigious French Open in 2014, and the tournament was also broadcast in 191 territories across the world, making it an event of truly global significance. Roland-Garros is run by the French Tennis Federation and held every year at the Porte d’Auteuil in Paris. It is the only Grand Slam to be played on clay – one of the oldest and most noble surfaces in the history of tennis.

ABOUT ALL INDIA TENNIS ASSOCIATION

All India Tennis Association is the National Federation for development and promotion of Indian Tennis. It has a very strong and tiered junior tournament & ranking structure and a sound professional tournament structure for Men & Women. AITA also has a sound coach’s education programme and is the only recognized nation in Asia to have the ITF Silver Certification.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ms. Sukriti Kalra
IPAN Hill & Knowlton Strategies
9910393262
sukriti.kalra@hkstrategies.com