

## **AITA has big plans for CWG**

New Delhi, June 16

WITH 28 medals at stake in the sport in the 2010 Commonwealth Games, the All India Tennis Association (AITA) is making concrete plans to ensure that India end up with a rich haul.

To ensure good return from the Games, AITA has formed a Development Advisory Committee comprising Jaideep Mukherjea, Nandan Bal, Enrico Piperno, Akhtar Ali, Dr. Vece Paes and Dr. PSM Chandran to ensure that the medal hopes are realized.

“We’ve allocated sizeable funds to ensure that the medal prospects get adequate support,” said Col. Ranbir Chauhan, AITA executive director of development.

AITA will give grants of Rs. Five to 10 lakhs to Rohan Bopanna, Sunil Kumar Sipaeya, Vijyant Malik and Vishnu Vardhan. Sponsors like Standard Chartered Bank, DLF and Reliance have pledged their support. Karan Rastogi is not in the list as he already has sponsors.

AITA will conduct two more Challengers towards the end of the year and six more the next year. It also plans to hold higher-level events for girls, with a total prize money of \$75,000.

To make the plans work, AITA intends to rope in Doug McCurdy, the former head of the ITF Development Programme, for 30 weeks. McCurdy is currently working with the Chinese Tennis Federation.

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