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ALL INDIA TENNIS ASSOCIATION

25th August 2026

AITA rejects media report suggesting it did not submit names for Asian Games tennis squad

Pune, August 25, 2026: The All India Tennis Association (AITA) has taken strong exception to a source-based report carried by news agency **Press Trust of India (PTI)** suggesting that the Association did not provide names for the shortlist of tennis players for the 2026 Asian Games.

AITA wishes to place on record that it had **formally communicated its position to the Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** and specifically sought the inclusion of all players selected through its selection process, making it clear that no player should be excluded from India's Asian Games tennis squad.

AITA came to know of the allegation through the PTI report and is compelled to place the facts on record in the interest of accuracy and transparency.

In a letter dated **3 July 2026**, addressed to IOA CEO Raghuram Iyer, AITA Secretary General Sunder Iyer made an **“urgent representation seeking review of the exclusion of tennis players from the Indian contingent”** and named **Manas Dhamne, Ankita Raina, Sahaja Yamalapalli, Vaidehee Chaudhari, Vaishnavi Adkar and Prarthana Thombare**.

The representation was unequivocal. AITA stated that the matter was not merely about individual athletes but about ensuring that India fields its **strongest possible tennis contingent and maximises its medal prospects** at the Asian Games.

AITA further requested the IOA to **urgently review the exclusion of the named players, reassess the tennis entries on an event-specific basis and approve their inclusion in order to maximise India's prospects of winning medals**.

In view of this documented communication, any suggestion that AITA did not provide names or did not seek the inclusion of its selected players is **factually incorrect and contradicted by the Association's written representation to the IOA dated 3 July 2026**.

AITA has documentary evidence establishing that it communicated the names of the players in question and formally sought their inclusion in the Indian contingent.

The Association therefore strongly reiterates that its position has been consistent: **all players selected by the AITA selection committee should form part of the Indian tennis squad for the Asian Games, and no player should be excluded when their inclusion provides India with a legitimate opportunity to strengthen its medal prospects**.

AITA has always acted, and will continue to act, in the larger interest of Indian tennis and Indian sport. Its July 3 representation concluded with a clear request for urgent intervention so that India is represented by its **strongest possible team and every legitimate medal opportunity is preserved**.

Sunder Iyer, Secretary General, **All India Tennis Association**