



## NEWSLETTER - March 2020

### History created by India at Fed Cup Asia/Oceania Group I



Photo: Fed Cup

On the eve of International Women's Day 2020, the Indian Fed Cup team capped off a successful Fed Cup Asia/Oceania Group I tournament as they booked their berth in the Fed Cup Play-offs for the first time in Indian tennis history. India won four back-to-back matches in the tournament to finish second and thus, promoted themselves into the play-offs where they will meet Latvia.

India had started off the proceedings at the tournament with a 0:3 defeat against table toppers China on the opening day but bounced back strongly to win all the remaining matches against Uzbekistan, Korea, Chinese Taipei and Indonesia.



Riya Bhatia - Rutuja Bhosale - Sowjanya Bavisetti - Ankita Raina - Sania Mirza  
Captain: Vishal Uppal, Coach: Ankita Bhambri



Fed Cup  
@FedCup

India are just two matches away from reaching the 2021 [#FedCupFinals](#) - their best [#FedCup](#) performance since 2006 🙌

@MirzaSania 🇮🇳



5:11 PM · Mar 8, 2020 · TweetDeck

Playing Indonesia on the final day of the event, world no 433 Rutuja Bhosale, in the opening rubber, suffered an upset defeat against her 16-year-old unranked Indonesian opponent Priska Madelyn Nugroho 3-6, 6-0, 3-6.

With team India's back against the wall, it was the top ranked Indian in the world, Ankita Raina (160), who chose the most appropriate time to win her singles rubber to make it 1:1. Raina had fallen short in the previous two singles rubbers in the tournament but on the final day, she won in straight sets 6-3, 6-3 against Aldila Sutjiadi.

In the deciding doubles rubber, India once again fielded their most successful and experienced pairing of Sania Mirza and Ankita Raina. The Indonesians were up to the task as they fought hard in the opening set and stretched it to tie-break before the Indian pair eventually won it 7-6.

However, the Indians were determined to not have any more drama in the match and breezed to a 6-0 in second set and won the tie 2:1 to book their ticket to the Fed Cup Play-offs.

Previously in India's Fed Cup history, a runner up finish at Asia/Oceania Group I in 2006 was India's best performance.



Players' results at the Asia/Oceania Group I tournament:

**Ankita Raina:** Singles W/L: 2/3, Doubles W/L: 3/0

**Sania Mirza:** Singles W/L: -/-, Doubles W/L: 3/0

**Rutuja Bhosale:** Singles W/L: 3/2, Doubles W/L: -/-

**Sowjanya Bavisetti:** Singles W/L: -/-, Doubles W/L: 1/1

**Riya Bhatia:** Singles W/L: -/-, Doubles W/L: 1/1

(Round-robin League Standings below)

Nation	Played	Won	Lost	Rubbers W/L
China	5	5	0	14/1
India	5	4	1	9/6
Korea	5	2	3	7/8
Indonesia	5	2	3	7/8
Chinese Taipei	5	2	3	6/9
Uzbekistan	5	0	5	2/13

## Davis Cup World Group Qualifier, Croatia beats India 3-1



Indian hopes of reaching the Davis Cup Finals were shattered by home team Croatia as they won the Qualifier stage tie with a 3-1 margin at Dom Sportova in Zegreb, Croatia on March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.

This was India's seventh time in as many years that the Indian team had made it to the qualifier stage of the elite team competition.

Captain Rohit Rajpal entrusted Prajnesh Gunneswaran for the opening singles rubber of the tie. Borna Gojo, at 6 ft 5 in, stood tall in his third Davis Cup match in Croatian colours and got his maiden win for his country at the Davis Cup.

Gojo defeated Gunneswaran in a come-from-behind win 3-6, 6-4, 6-2.

In the second rubber, 25-year-old Ramkumar Ramanathan was pitted against world no. 37 Marin Cilic. Chennai born Ramanathan had played Cilic once at Pune in 2018 where he suffered a loss 3-6, 4-6 at the hands of former US Open champion.

Playing in India colours, however, brought out an inspired performance from world no. 182 Ramanathan as he stretched Cilic to tie-breaks in both the sets before going down 6-7, 6-7.

With a noisy crowd right behind the Croat, Ramanathan played his heart out and displayed a great exhibition of classic serve and volley game.

In the do-or-die doubles rubber, India's most experienced players Leander Paes and Rohan Bopanna took the court and put on a valiant fight to keep the tie alive as they beat Mate Pavic and Franko Skugor in three sets 6-3, 6-7, 7-5.

India's highest ranked player in the world, Sumit Nagal got an opportunity to make it all-square in the crucial fourth rubber but was beaten 0-6, 1-6 by Marin Cilic in reverse singles and India lost the tie 1-3.

**Team India will now compete in World Group I in September and have been drawn against Finland in an away tie.**

## Rankings of Indian Players

Top Ten Indian Players				
	ATP Rankings (as on 9 Mar 2020)		WTA Rankings (as on 16 Mar 2020)	
	Singles	Doubles	Singles	Doubles
1	<b>Sumit Nagal (127)</b>	<b>Rohan Bopanna (37)</b>	<b>Ankita Raina (163)</b>	<b>Ankita Raina (122)</b>
2	Prajnesh Gunneswaran (132)	Divij Sharan (56)	Riya Bhatia (339)	Rutuja Bhosale (193)
3	Ramkumar Ramanathan (185)	Ramkumar Ramanathan (101)	Rutuja Bhosale (438)	Sania Mirza (225)
4	Sasikumar Mukund (280)	Purav Raja (112)	Karman Thandi (598)	Prarthana Thombare (341)
5	Saketh Myneni (418)	Leander Paes (115)	Sowjanya Bavisetti (607)	Riya Bhatia (555)
6	Sidharth Rawat (445)	N. Sriram Balaji (143)	Pranjala Yadlapalli (657)	Snehal Mane (664)
7	Manish Sureshkumar (647)	Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan (151)	Zeel Desai (686)	Sowjanya Bavisetti (782)
8	Arjun Kadhe (676)	Saketh Myneni (179)	Mahak Jain (803)	Jennifer Luikham (829)
9	Niki Kaliyanda Poonacha (829)	Vishnu Vardhan (199)	Sathwika Sama (815)	Ashmitha Easwaramurthi (845)
10	Aryan Goveas (857)	Arjun Kadhe (230)	Mihika Yadav (871)	Saumya Vig (859)

Top Ten Indian Players (as on 16 Mar 2020)		
	ITF Rankings	
	Boys	Girls
1	<b>Dev Javia (70)</b>	<b>Vipasha Mehra (180)</b>
2	Udit Gogoi (240)	Nikita Vishwase (339)
3	Aryaan Bhatia (275)	Tanisha Kashyap (345)
4	Nishant Dabas (281)	Sarah Dev (370)
5	Uddayvir Singh (329)	Sanjana Sirimalla (455)
6	Aditya V.R. Chowdhury (361)	Smriti Bhasin (465)
7	Aaryan Zaveri (392)	Sandeep Singh Rao (482)
8	Sandeep Vm (444)	Reshma Maruri (493)
9	Aman Dahiya (450)	Prerna Vichare (568)
10	Eshaan Lumba (471)	Gauri Bhagia (604)

### Notable Performance

All Indian pairing of **N. Sriram Balaji** and **Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan** reached the US\$ 108,320 Monterrey Challenger semi-finals in Mexico.

Before bowing out to fourth seeds Orlando Luz (BRA) and Rafael Matos (BRA) in the semis 5-7, 4-6, the fifth seeded Indian pair had a marathon quarter-finals win over Italians Federico Gaio and Paolo Lorenzi.

Having lost the first set in the quarters 2-6, the Indians produced a solid come-from-behind win as they pocketed the next two sets 6-3 and 15-13.

N. Sriram Balaji (left) and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan  
(Picture credit: ATP Tour)



## ITF Tour



21-year-old **Zeel Desai** enjoyed a solid week at the ITF US\$ 15,000 Women tennis tournament at Cairo, Egypt as she brought home runner up trophies in both singles and doubles category of the competition.

In the final, Desai took on the number one seed and home favourite Sandra Samir in a three hours and 55 minutes long marathon match. Desai had taken the early advantage after winning the first set 7-5 but was unable to capitalise and lost the next two sets 6-7(6) and 2-6.

Earlier in the tournament, Desai partnered with Poland's Stefania Rogozinska Dzik to reach the doubles

final but lost to top seeded pairing of Sweden's Jacqueline Cabaj Awad and local girl Sandra Samir 5-7, 2-6.

(Picture credit: Zeel Desai/Instagram)

## Social Corner



The All India Tennis Association launched a social media campaign - **#LetsFightCOVID19**, to engage with the tennis fans across the globe.

In the wake of global situation due to the Coronavirus outbreak, competitive tennis has come to a halt domestically in India and globally on the International level as well.

So far, Indian Fed Cup team members **Riya Bhatia** and **Ankita Raina** have joined the campaign and **Vishnu Vardhan** from the Men's circuit. Girls and boys who are as young as seven to other amateur

players in their 30s have participated in the campaign as well. During these testing times when there is no tennis action on court, we request and encourage your involvement to engage with us on social media. Check out our social media for more information.

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