

## **India**

### **Indian Team's Coaching Camp for BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals - 2014 from May 7, 2014 at Siri Fort Stadium, New Delhi**

#### **New Delhi**

**: 04-05-2014**

As part of its preparation for the Li Ning BWF Thomas and Uber Cup Finals, 2014 to be held at the Siri Fort Sports Complex between May 18 and 25, the Indian team will conduct a special camp from May 7 here under the guidance of chief national coach Pullela Gopichand.

India has picked a 30-member core group to prepare for the tournament out of which 10 men and 10 women would be picked later in the week.

Badminton Association of India president Dr Akhilesh Das Gupta said "India is hosting the Thomas/Uber Cup finals for the first time and we want to put our best foot forward. So we decided to make most of the home conditions and hold the camp in New Delhi itself so that the players would get acclimatized to the playing conditions and temperatures here."

In the Thomas Cup competition for men, India has been grouped with Malaysia, Germany and Korea in a virtual group of death, while the women face Thailand, Canada and Hong Kong in Group C for the Uber Cup competition.

While the team and coaches are aware that qualifying for the knockout round won't be easy in the Thomas Cup, but they are banking on the women to create history by reaching the last eight for the first time in the tournament.

Indian women have managed to qualify for the tournament proper for only the second time in over four decades and reaching the quarter-finals would be in the realm of possibility given the fact that India now boast of two singles players who are among the top-10.

The format of the tournament is such that each match consists of three singles and two doubles rubbers.

Gopichand was confident that both the teams are upbeat about the prospects and look forward to putting up a grand show. "I don't want to predict where we will reach in the tournament at this stage. But I can

promise you that the teams would give their best in every match to justify our rising status. We know it will be tough against higher ranked teams in the Thomas Cup but we assure you of a cent percent effort in group stages.”

### **Teams request for early arrival**

Meanwhile, Dr Das Gupta also informed that some of the top Asian teams have shown interest in holding a weeklong camp in New Delhi ahead of the tournament given the strong competition this year.

The Badminton World Federation has changed the rules of qualification this year with the final 16 teams participating in the tournament have been decided on the basis of their overall ranking, rather than through qualifying tournaments as in the past.

“The request for training camps by top teams is a proof of the stature of the tournament and BAI is extremely proud to host such an event within years of hosting the BWF World Championship in 2009. We are trying our best to accommodate the request of most teams and are weighing with options on several things. We will take a decision soon on their requests,” Dr Das Gupta added.

### **LIST OF INDIAN CAMPERS**

**Men:** K Srikanth, P Kashyap, RMV Guru Sai Dutt, HS Prannoy, Anand Pawar, Arvind Bhat, Saurabh Verma, B Sai Praneeth, Anup Sridhar, Akshay Dewalkar, Pranaav Jerry Chopra, B Sumeeth Reddy, Manu Atri, Arun Vishnu and Alwyn Francis

**Women:** Saina Nehwal, PV Sindhu, Arundhati Pantawane, PC Thulasi, Rituparna Das, Sayali Gokhale, Tanvi Lad, Saili Rane, Jwala Gutta, Ashwini Ponnappa, N Sikki Reddy, Pradnya Gadre, Prajakta Sawant, Aarti Sara Sunil and Aparna Balan

**Coaches:** Pullela Gopichand, Madhumita Bisht, U Vimal Kumar, Vijaydeep Singh, Dwi Kristiawan, Hendra Mulyono, Dhanu Utomo, Andhika Anhar