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MESSAGE

I feel privileged to be the Organising Secretary of the 'ING VYSYA HYDERABAD OPEN 2004', a WTA tour event. This is the only US\$ 140,000 WTA sanctioned Women's Professional Tennis Tournament in South Asia, and will be played on the modern synthetic surface courts in the SAAP tennis complex, Hyderabad from 16th to 21st February, 2004. Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh is presenting with pride the tournament to the sports loving public of Hyderabad.

Hyderabad is fast emerging as the most important sports hub in this part of the world with its modern world class sports infrastructure facilities and a Government committed to high quality/standard sports events. In a span of just last four months, Hyderabad has successfully played host to many international events like the first ever Afro-Asian games, IBSF World Billiards Championship 2003, ITF Women's tennis tournament 2004, Indo-Netherlands Hockey three test series etc apart from the many national events like National Shooting Championships, Senior National Badminton Championships and National Canoeing and Kayaking championships and national coaching camps for Indian Hockey and Shooting teams, The CM has laid foundation for the state of art IMG Bharatha Sports Academies complex in 400 acres near Gachibowli under the auspices of IMG, Florida. Hence it is appropriate that this tournament is branded as 'ING VYSYA HYDERABAD OPEN 2004'. The organizers have committed to make this event an annual feature in the historic city of Hyderabad.

The organizing committee is leaving no stone unturned to ensure that the participants are given the best playing and non playing facilities, confirming to the international standards.

I wish all the contestants the very best of luck.

(G. Asok Kumar, IAS)
Organising Secretary,
Ing Vysya HYDERABAD OPEN