

16th HCL International Bridge Championship Concludes

~ 800 Indian and international players participated in the six-day Championship

- *Team South Sweden emerged as the winner of the Team of Four Gold*
 - *Team Manzova Casual won the Team of Four Silver*
- *The pair of George Matushka (from Russia) and Rogov Dmitry (from England) won the Open Pairs*

Tuesday, August 14, 2018, New Delhi: HCL, a leading global conglomerate, today announced the successful completion of the 16th HCL International Bridge Championship, held under the auspices of the Bridge Federation of India. The six-day Championship witnessed participation from ~800 players and 160 teams from India and several other countries including the US, Bulgaria, Australia, Poland, Romania, Russia, South Africa, New Zealand, Japan, UK, Sweden, Thailand and Bangladesh. The participants battled it out for one of the world's highest prize purse for Bridge, totalling Rs. 1.8 Crore. The Chief Guest at the Closing Ceremony of the Tournament was Mr. Gagan Narang, an Indian shooter in Air Rifle shooting, supported by the Olympic Gold Quest. He won the Bronze Medal in the Men's 10 m Air Rifle Event at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London.

The Championship was held from August 9 - 14 at the JW Marriott Hotel in Aerocity, New Delhi and comprised "Team of Four Gold", "Team of Four Silver", "Open pairs", "Swiss pairs" and "IMP pairs", events. The winner details are as follows:

- *The Naresh Tandan Trophy for the winners of Team of Four Gold event and Rs. 30 Lakh prize money – won by Team South Sweden, which included Alon Apteker, Craig Gower, Sven- Are Bjerregard and Anders Morath*
- *The Mohini Tandan Trophy for the winners of Team of Four Silver and Rs. 12 Lakh prize money – won by Team Manzova casual which included Joynarayan Roy, Pijuskantt Baroi, Devashis Bose, Gautam Pore, Bijit Dutta and Mrinal De*
- *The Neena Bonarji Trophy for the "Open Pairs" event and Rs. 10 Lakh prize money – won by the pair of George Matushka (from Russia) and Rogov Dmitry (from England)*
- *Winners of the IMP Pairs i.e. Shakti Pada Roy and Ramen Chandra Chowdhury won a prize money of Rs. 2 lakhs*

Speaking on the occasion, **Ms. Kiran Nadar, Director, HCL Corporation, who led the victorious Indian Bridge team at the 5th Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championship said,** *"It was a closely contested tournament this year and I congratulate all the winners. It's amazing to witness the masters of the sport live in action and I hope next year, the 17th HCL International Bridge Tournament, will witness greater participation from both veteran and new players from India and across the world. It is our continued endeavour to raise the bar of the sport in the country and encourage young people to join the game. Now that Bridge has been recognized by the Olympic Committee and is becoming a part of multidisciplinary international sporting tournaments like the Commonwealth and Asian Games, it is important that younger players participate in the sport wholeheartedly and prepare to represent India in the future."*



Every year, HCL endeavours to improve the overall experience of the players, who come from across the world to participate in the Championship. Towards this end, HCL has launched the HCL Bridge app this year, which offers live updates on the scores, match schedule and latest updates on the Championship, at the click of a button.

Notes to the Editor:

About HCL

Founded in 1976 as one of India's original IT garage start-ups, HCL is a pioneer of modern computing with many firsts to its credit, including the introduction of the 8-bit microprocessor-based computer in 1978 well before its global peers. Today, the HCL Enterprise has a presence across varied sectors that include technology, healthcare and talent management solutions and comprises three companies - HCL Infosystems, HCL Technologies and HCL Healthcare. The enterprise generates annual revenues of over US \$8.5 billion with more than 125,000 employees from 140 nationalities operating across 41 countries, including over 500 points of presence in India. For further information, visit www.hcl.com

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