

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF



HCL

23rd INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP

OCTOBER 02 - 11, 2026



PRIZE MONEY

Rs. 28.5 Millions (~USD 310,000)

VENUE

The Leela Ambience Convention Hotel
1, CBD, Maharaja Surajmal Marg,
(Near Yamuna Sports Complex), DELHI - 110032, INDIA



For Queries Contact

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ABOUT HCL INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP

Bridge is a strategy game that teaches one to be of a tougher mindset, to use one's intellect to maximum capacity, communicating powerfully and to pursue victory diligently. It is these qualities that make bridge a perfect fit for HCL.

HCL has been strongly supporting the game in India since 2003 through the HCL International Bridge Championship held every year in New Delhi, India. The Championship is the premier bridge tournament in the country and the biggest in terms of the prize money and participation levels. The prize purse for this year's tournament will be of Rs. 28.5 million (~USD 310,000 at current rate). The previous editions of the tournament have witnessed participation by over 1000 players from 185 teams. International teams having players from USA, Poland, Italy, Bulgaria, Netherlands, Israel, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, South Africa, UK, Australia, New Zealand, Croatia, Denmark, Romania, Japan, Thailand, Jordan, Sri Lanka, Kenya & Bangladesh have participated in the last few editions of the Championship.

The 23rd HCL International Bridge Championship will be held from 2nd October to 11th October 2026 at the Leela Ambience Convention Hotel, New Delhi. The Championship will have the following events:

- Team of Four Gold - Winners will be awarded the '**Naresh Tandan Trophy**'
- Team of Four Silver - Winners will be awarded the '**Mohini Tandan Trophy**'
- Open Pairs - Winners will be awarded the '**Neena Bonarji Trophy**'
- Mixed IMP Pairs - Winners will be awarded the '**N K Gupta Trophy**'
- An IMP Pairs event
- A ProAm event on the last day of the tournament (11th Oct 26) in which Amateur player will partner a Professional player. The ProAm event will have a maximum of 36 pairs. Further details will be provided shortly to interested players. Those interested in ProAm event may please contact Mr. Sandeep Thakral on 91-9910034918.
- A one day Board-A-Match Team event on last day.



THE PROGRAM

Friday, October 02, 2026

02
OCT

Time in Hour	Activity
	MIXED IMP PAIRS EVENT – ELIMINATION ROUND (10 Sessions of 10 Boards each to be played over 2 days)
1000 – 1015	Director's Announcements & Display of Seating Plan for the event
1015 – 1135	SESSION 1 (10 Boards)
1135 – 1145	Break
1145 – 1305	SESSION 2 (10 Boards)
1305 – 1400	Lunch Break
1400 – 1520	SESSION 3 (10 Boards)
1520 – 1530	Break
1530 – 1650	SESSION 4 (10 Boards)
1650 – 1720	Tea Break
1720 – 1840	SESSION 5 (10 Boards)

Saturday, October 03, 2026

03
OCT

Time in Hour	Activity
	MIXED IMP PAIRS EVENT – ELIMINATION CONTINUES
1000 – 1120	SESSION 6 (10 Boards)
1120 – 1130	Break
1130 – 1250	SESSION 7 (10 Boards)
1250 – 1350	Lunch Break
1350 – 1510	SESSION 8 (10 Boards)
1510 – 1520	Break
1520 – 1640	SESSION 9 (10 Boards)
1640 – 1710	Tea Break
1710 – 1830	SESSION 10 (10 Boards)
	Note: The TOP 25 Pairs and one sponsored Pair will qualify for the Mixed IMP Pairs Gold Final. The pairs ranked 26 – 51 will play the Mixed IMP Pairs Silver Final and the rest will play MIXED STRATA event.



04
OCT

Sunday, October 04, 2026

Time in Hour	Activity
	MIXED IMP PAIRS GOLD / SILVER EVENT – FINAL All Play All 50 Boards with Barometer Scoring. Will be divided in 5 Sessions of 10 boards each)
1000 – 1125	SESSION 1 (10 Boards)
1125 – 1135	Break
1135 – 1300	SESSION 2 (10 Boards)
1300 – 1400	Lunch Break
1400 – 1525	SESSION 3 (10 Boards)
1525 – 1535	Break
1535 – 1700	SESSION 4 (10 Boards)
1700 – 1730	Tea Break
1730 – 1855	SESSION 5 (10 Boards)
	MIXED IMP PAIRS EVENT – STRATA
1015 – 1315	SESSION 1 (22 Boards)
1315 – 1415	Lunch Break
1415 – 1715	SESSION 2 (22 Boards)
1915	PRIZE DISTRIBUTION OF MIXED IMP PAIRS EVENT

05
OCT

Monday, October 05, 2026

Time in Hour	Activity
	TEAM OF FOUR GOLD & SILVER EVENT – SWISS LEAGUE (5 Rounds of 10 Boards each) Note: There will be 2 parallel team events in Gold & Silver category.. See the criteria for Silver category participation in the “Notes for Participants”.
1000 – 1015	Director's Announcements & Display of Draw for Team of Four Events
1020 – 1145	Round 1
1205 – 1330	Round 2
1330 – 1430	Lunch Break
1430 – 1555	Round 3
1615 – 1740	Round 4
1740 – 1810	Tea Break
1810 – 1935	Round 5



06
OCT

Tuesday, October 06, 2026

Time in Hour	Activity
	TEAM OF FOUR GOLD & SILVER EVENTS – SWISS LEAGUE Continues (5 Rounds of 10 Boards each)
1000 – 1125	Round 6
1145 – 1310	Round 7
1310 – 1410	Lunch Break
1410 – 1535	Round 8
1555 – 1720	Round 9
1720 – 1750	Tea Break
1750 – 1915	Round 10
1930 – 2000	Captain's meet for the Top 16 qualifying teams of the GOLD & SILVER event for Pre-QF knock out

07
OCT

Wednesday, October 07, 2026

Time in Hour	Activity
	TEAM OF FOUR GOLD & SILVER – KO Pre-Quarter Finals (4*14 boards)
1000 – 1200	Session 1
1215 – 1415	Session 2
1415 – 1515	Lunch Break
1515 – 1715	Session 3
1715 – 1745	Tea Break
1745 – 1945	Session 4
	OPEN MP PAIRS – ELIMINATION 1 (3 Sessions of 18 Boards each)
1030 – 1300	Session 1
1300 – 1400	Lunch Break
1400 – 1630	Session 2
1630 – 1700	Tea Break
1700 – 1930	Session 3
1930 onwards	Cocktails & Dinner (Hosted by HCL)
2015 – 2045	Draw of Lots for ProAm Tournament



08
OCT

Thursday, October 08, 2026

Time in Hour	Activity
	TEAM OF FOUR GOLD & SILVER – KO Quarter Finals (4*14 boards)
1000 – 1200	Session 1
1215 – 1415	Session 2
1415 – 1515	Lunch Break
1515 – 1715	Session 3
1715 – 1745	Tea Break
1745 – 1945	Session 4
	OPEN MP PAIRS – ELIMINATION 2 (3 Sessions of 18 Boards each)
1030 – 1300	Session 1
1300 – 1400	Lunch Break
1400 – 1630	Session 2
1630 – 1700	Tea Break
1700 – 1930	Session 3
	MP PAIRS STRATA (2 Sessions of 22 Boards each)
1100 – 1400	Session 1
1400 – 1500	Lunch Break
1500 – 1815	Session 2

09
OCT

Friday, October 09, 2026

Time in Hour	Activity
	TEAM OF FOUR GOLD & SILVER – KO Semi Finals (4*14 boards)
1000 – 1200	Session 1
1215 – 1415	Session 2
1415 – 1515	Lunch Break
1515 – 1715	Session 3
1715 – 1745	Tea Break
1745 – 1945	Session 4
	OPEN MP PAIRS – ELIMINATION 3 & IMP PAIRS - ELIMINATION (3 Sessions of 18 Boards each)
1030 – 1300	Session 1
1300 – 1400	Lunch Break
1400 – 1630	Session 2
1630 – 1700	Tea Break
1700 – 1930	Session 3



10
OCT

Saturday, October 10, 2026

Time in Hour	Activity
	TEAM OF FOUR GOLD & SILVER – Finals (4*14 boards) & PLAY-OFF (3*14 boards)
0900 – 1100	Session 1
1115 – 1315	Session 2
1315 – 1400	Lunch Break
1400 – 1600	Session 3
1615 – 1815	Session 4
	OPEN MP PAIRS– FINAL (GOLD & SILVER) Barometer Scoring
0930 – 1315	Session 1
1315 – 1400	Lunch Break
1400 – 1745	Session 2
	IMP PAIRS – FINAL (2 Sessions of 24 Boards each)
1000 – 1330	Session 1
1330 – 1430	Lunch Break
1430 – 1745	Session 2
	IMP PAIRS STRATA (2 Sessions of 22 Boards each)
1030 – 1330	Session 1
1330 – 1430	Lunch Break
1430 – 1730	Session 2
1830	PRIZE DISTRIBUTION & CLOSING CEREMONY

11
OCT

Sunday, October 11, 2026

Time in Hour	Activity
	PRO-AM PAIRS TOURNAMENT (IMP SCORING) (Max 54 Boards)
0930 – 1315	Session 1 (28 Boards)
1315 – 1400	Lunch Break
1400 – 1730	Session 2 (26 Boards)
	BOARD-A-MATCH TEAMS (24 Rounds of 2 Boards each)
0930 – 1300	Session 1 (1-24 Boards)
1300 – 1400	Lunch Break
1400 – 1730	Session 2 (1-24 Boards)
1800	PRIZE DISTRIBUTION



PRIZE MONEY

Break-up of the total prize money as per different events:

TEAM EVENTS			PAIR EVENTS					
Rank	Gold	Silver	Rank	Open Pairs Gold	Open Pairs Silver	IMP Pairs	MP Pairs STRATA	IMP Pairs STRATA
1st	44,00,000	16,00,000	1st	12,80,000	2,00,000	2,40,000	80,000	80,000
2nd	24,00,000	9,20,000	2nd	8,40,000	1,50,000	1,60,000	60,000	60,000
3rd	12,00,000	4,80,000	3rd	6,40,000	1,20,000	1,20,000	40,000	40,000
4th	9,00,000	3,60,000	4th	4,80,000	80,000	90,000	24,000	24,000
5th to 8th	4,50,000	1,80,000	5th	3,20,000	60,000	75,000	18,000	18,000
9th to 16th	1,80,000	72,000	6th	2,50,000	40,000	60,000	15,000	15,000
17th to 20th	60,000	25,000	7th	2,00,000	30,000	50,000	10,000	10,000
			8th	1,50,000	20,000	40,000	8,000	8,000
			9th	1,00,000	15,000	30,000	6,000	7,000
			10th	90,000	10,000	20,000	5,000	5,000
			11th	75,000		15,000		
			12th	60,000		10,000		
			13th to 16th	50,000				
			Pairs Elim- 1, 2 & 3 (1st)	15,000				
			Pairs Elim- 1, 2 & 3 (2nd)	10,000				
			Best Mixed & Best Ladies Pair - 1st	20,000				
Swiss League Winner	50,000	40,000	Best Mixed & Best Ladies Pair - 2nd	12,000				
Total	1,24,30,000	47,96,000		48,24,000	7,25,000	9,10,000	2,66,000	2,66,000

SPECIAL EVENTS

Rank	ProAm IMP Pairs Event	Mixed IMP Pairs-Gold	Mixed IMP Pairs-Silver	Mixed IMP Pairs STRATA	Board-A-Match
1st	6,00,000	2,40,000	80,000	20,000	3,60,000
2nd	4,00,000	1,50,000	60,000	15,000	2,40,000
3rd	3,00,000	1,00,000	50,000	12,000	1,20,000
4th	1,80,000	75,000	40,000	10,000	90,000
5th	1,40,000	60,000	30,000	8,000	60,000
6th	1,00,000	50,000	25,000	6,000	45,000
7th	80,000	40,000	20,000	5,000	36,000
8th	60,000	30,000	15,000	5,000	30,000
9th	50,000	25,000	10,000		24,000
10th	40,000	20,000	5,000		12,000
11th	30,000	15,000			
12th	20,000	10,000			
13th to 16th		5,000			
Pairs Elimination (1st)		10,000			
Pairs Elimination (2nd)		5,000			
Total	20,00,000	8,50,000	3,35,000	81,000	10,17,000
Grand Total			2,85,00,000		

All figures are in Indian Rupees.

Note 1 – For international players, the final prize money will be converted as per the prevailing foreign exchange rates of the day. TDS will be deducted as per the prevailing Indian Income Tax rules

Note 2 – There are two prizes each for Best mixed and Ladies pairs in open MP Pairs event. For winning this prize pairs must reach Open MP Pairs final or at least 3rd elimination of MP Pair event.

ENTRY FEE

- Mixed IMP Pairs – Rs. 3000 per Pair
- Mixed IMP Pairs STRATA – No entry fee for this event. Non qualifiers from Mixed IMP Pairs elimination round can only participate in this event.
- Team of Four Gold – Rs. 10,000 for 4 member team and Rs. 2000 for additional member.
- Team of Four Silver – Rs. 8,000 for 4 member team and Rs. 1,500 for additional member.

Note: In the Team of Four Gold and Silver events, the 16 teams qualified to play the KO stage will pay additional Rs. 3,000 per team.

- Open MP Pairs – Rs. 4,000 per pair.
- Open MP Pairs STRATA – No entry fee for this event. Non qualifiers from Match Point Pairs elimination-1 round can only participate in this event.
- IMP Pairs – Rs. 3000 per Pair
- IMP Pairs STRATA – No entry fee for this event. Non qualifiers from IMP Pairs elimination round can only participate in this event.
- Board-A-Match (One day event) – Rs. 4000 per Team of 4 + Rs. 1000 extra for each extra player

Note: There will be a 50% concession on entry fee for a Team / Pair consisting of all under-30 players.

IMPORTANT NOTES FOR THE PARTICIPANTS

- In SILVER event, a team can have only one **“National Master or above level player”**, who will be treated as the team mentor. All other players should be below the rank of **“National Master”**. In case, a team is found to have more than one player above **“National Master”** level, the team will get scratched from Silver event.
- **Any player who has played in any of the Previous Finals of HCL Team of Four – Silver event (from 2013 onwards) will be treated as equivalent to “National Masters” for this purpose, irrespective of the fact that he / she may not have attained the status of “National Master” in terms of Master Points.**
- All foreign teams will participate in the **“GOLD event”** only, unless tournament committee gives them special permission to participate in **“SILVER”** category.
- The MPs to be considered for participation in the Silver event will be as on **15th Sep 2026**.
- The TOP 26 pairs from Elimination-3 round of MP Pairs will qualify for MP Pairs GOLD final, whereas pairs ranked 27-52 will play in the MP Pairs SILVER final. The rest of the Elimination-3 qualifiers will be seeded to the IMP Pairs final.
- The TOP 25 pairs from Elimination round of Mixed IMP Pairs will qualify for Mixed IMP Pairs GOLD final, whereas pairs ranked 26-51 will play in the Mixed IMP Pairs SILVER final. The rest of the participating pairs can play in the Mixed IMP STRATA event.
- **Sponsor will have a quota of 2 Pairs, directly seeded to the MP Pairs GOLD Final and quota of 1 Pair seeded to the Mixed IMP Pairs Final. Sponsor can nominate any player to play in the final, irrespective of whether the player has played in elimination round or not. However, a sponsored player is not eligible for Ranking Points, if he / she has first played in the elimination round and after not qualifying has again re-entered the final.**

- The Match Point Pairs STRATA is only for those non qualifiers, who could not qualify to the elim-2 round of the MP Pairs event. Similarly the Mixed IMP Pairs STRATA and IMP Pairs STRATA is only for those non-qualifiers, who have played the elimination event but could not qualify to the Finals. Any non-qualifier not interested to play the STRATA event is kindly requested to inform the same to TC Pant through WhatsApp (Mob: 9811094407) or personally at the venue.
- In ProAm event, recognized expert players may not be permitted to play as an Amateur, on discretion of the Tournament Committee.
- Registration for all events will only be done online. The Registration will be considered “complete”, only once the payment of entry fee is made online through the payment gateway on the registration page.
- No entry for team event (Gold & Silver) will be accepted after the stipulated closing time of **2100 hrs on Sunday, September 27, 2026.**

All teams are advised to register their entries in advance on website. The following persons can be contacted for any clarification:

T.C. Pant - Tel: +919811094407 Email: tcpant@hotmail.com

Sudhir Aggarwal – Tel: +919810100361 Email: sgaggarwal@gmail.com

Srinivasan Iyengar - Tel: +919974164676 Email: cardpacker@gmail.com

- **Closing time for entries of Mixed IMP Pairs is 2100 hrs on Sunday, September 27, 2026.**
- **Closing time for entries of MP Pairs is 2100 hrs on Monday, October 05, 2026.**
- **Closing time for entries of IMP Pairs is 2100 hrs on Wednesday, October 07, 2026.**
- **Closing time for entries of Board-A-Match is 2100 hrs on Friday, October 09, 2026.**
- Participating players are required to take their seats as per the program; failure to do so will result in penalty.
- Displaying of properly filled convention cards at the table is compulsory. Copies of blank Convention cards will be made available at the venue.
- Players will be provided Lunch at the venue. Tea /coffee and snacks during scheduled tea breaks, will also be provided.
- Players are requested not to bring Tea/Coffee/Cold drinks/Lunch inside the playing arena.
- Please visit the Tournament web site www.hcl-bridge.com for accommodation details in nearby hotels and their contacts. Details will be updated around **15th June 2026.**
- The applicable Supplementary Conditions of Contest (SCoC) will be published on the tournament web site www.hcl-bridge.com by **31st July 2026.**
- Tournament will follow the WBF - 2017 Laws of Duplicate Bridge.
- The organizing committee has the right to change the tournament schedule and format, if deemed necessary.
- All prize money will be credited to the winner bank accounts within 20-30 days of the final day of the tournament, with the condition that player has sent the required documents asked by the HCL accounts department for transferring the same into their bank accounts.

Organizing Committee

ORGANIZING MEMBERS

Chairperson - Mrs. Kiran Nadar

Co-Chairman - Mr. Prasad Keni (President, BFI)

Organizing Secretary - Sandeep Thakral

Members - T.C. Pant, Sudhir Aggarwal & Srinivasan Iyengar

Marketing, Administration & Finance - Padam Singh, Rakesh Kalra, S.S. Mishra & their Teams

TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT

Head of Operations - T.C. Pant

Technical Management - T.C. Pant & Sudhir Aggarwal

Bulletin - Dr. Prakash Paranjape & Bhola Nath Das

Website - Sudhir Aggarwal, Sandeep Thakral & HCL Team

Bridgemates & Scoring - Srinivasan Iyengar, Prithvi Singh, Shouvik Das & Kaustubh Deodhar

Dealing - Chetan Raval, SRC Sekar, Gajendra Singh, Murari Kumar Jha, Mrs. Sharmishta Raval

BBO Vu-Graph - Ms. Meenal Thakur, Somik Mitra, Subrata Adhikari, Abhishek Roy, Sudip Mahato

TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

Head TD - Laurie Kelso (Head TD, WBF)

CTD - Sudhir Aggarwal (TD, WBF)

TDs: Pranab (Ranju) Bhattacharya, VK Sharma, Sanjay Chakraborty, Debbrata Roy Choudhury, Narasinga Rao, K.S. Swaminathan, Soumadeep Ghosh, Rounak Ghosh, Pintu Maity, T. Sankar, Arya Chakraborty

VENUE

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