

## **Ramkumar Ramanathan, the Indian jewel carved in Sánchez-Casal**

Ramkumar Ramanathan, the Indian Davis Cup player that plays against the Spanish national team this weekend, has a “Spanish accent” thanks to his formative years at the Sánchez-Casal Academy.

In the year 2011, Ramkumar arrived at the Sánchez-Casal Academy where he joined the Young Promises team, with the objective of making the most of his forehand and good serve while also acquiring experience in competition.

He operated within the Sánchez-Casal System for five years (as had Andy Murray, Grigor Dimitrov and Sveta Kuznetsova before him) with a clear focus on four main pillars: technical, tactical, mental and physical.

The young Ramkumar, bestowed with the affectionate name of “Ram” by colleagues and staff, worked to improve his potential. He gained experience in competition while becoming stronger on the clay courts and strengthening his body, in order to meet the requirements of high performance competition.

A calendar was planned with special focus on the Spanish national circuit, and he played ITFs and Futures, as well as fulfilling his international commitments with the Indian Tennis Federation.

As a Junior he achieved excellent results, becoming a Junior national champion in India. A few years later he took a spot as part of the Davis Cup Team, where he had Mahesh Bhupathi as a senior figure to follow.

In 2016, with the Davis Cup Team, he played one tie (two singles points) in the victory over South Korea. After that he enrolled the Travelling Team of the Sánchez-Casal Academy in Florida, United States.

In an interview for the Hindu Newspaper in 2013, Emilio Sánchez Vicario affirmed that Ramkumar, by then 18 years old, was "*a young talent with clear potential and one day he will do something important in tennis*".