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\* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

+ W.P.(C) 8691/2020

RAHUL MEHRA

..... Petitioner

Through: Petitioner in – person along with Mr.R.A. Iyer, Mr. Chaitanya Gosain and Mr. Anand Thumbayil, Advocates.

versus

UNION OF INDIA

..... Respondent

Through: Mr. Chetan Sharma, ASC with Mr. Anil Soni, CGSC with Mr. Amit Gupta, Mr. Saurabh Tripathi and Mr. Sahaj Garg, Advocates for UOI.  
Mr. Harish Vaidyanathan Shankar, CGSC with Mr. Srish Kumar Mishra, Mr. Sagar Mehlawat and Mr. Alexander Mathai Paikaday, Advocates for UOI.  
Mr. Kirti Uppal, Sr. Advocate with Mr. Aditya Vikram Singh and Mr. Chandan Sinha, Advocates for NRAI.

**CORAM:**

**HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE**

**HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUBRAMONIUM PRASAD**

**ORDER**

**19.01.2023**

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**CM APPL. 2301/2023**

1. This is an application on behalf of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) for vacation/modification of the Orders dated 02.06.2022 and 03.06.2022 passed by this Court in W.P.(C) 8691/2020.

2. The instant writ petition has been filed challenging various decisions taken by the Union of India according recognition to various National Sports Federations. The Petitioner also prayed for issuance of a writ of mandamus directing the Union of India to grant recognition to the entities only after considering the material demonstrating that the National Sports Federations are in compliance with the Sports Code. The Petitioner further has also prayed for implementation of the Sports Code in strict terms, without granting any exemption.

3. Various orders have been passed in the writ petition from time to time. On 03.06.2022, a Division Bench of this Court had directed that no more monies will be expended by the Union of India nor any assistance will be extended to any National Sports Federations and the Union of India was directed to ensure that monies, patronage and other facilities to the National Sports Federations will be resumed only when the National Sports Federations comply with Annexure 2 of the Sports Code as well as the orders passed by the Apex Court and this Court in various petitions.

4. The NRAI has moved the instant application for vacation/modification of the Orders dated 02.06.2022 and 03.06.2022, passed by this Court stating that the Orders dated 02.06.2022 and 03.06.2022 has affected the smooth functioning of the National Sports Federations as the entire working capital has come to a standstill.

5. It is stated that India is hosting World Cup for the shooting sport in March, 2023 and stoppage of funds would affect the hosting of the World Cup. It is stated that the Applicant is dependent on the Government for the conduct of international events in India and various activities including training of the shooters and their participation in the international events. It

is stated that in view of the upcoming World Cup event, it is expedient to vacate/modify the Orders dated 02.06.2022 & 03.06.2022 passed by this Court.

6. Mr. Rahul Mehra, who is appearing in person, has objected to this application stating that the Applicant ought not to have come to this Court with the present application at the last minute. He further states that granting any latitude to the Applicant would result in further applications being filed before this Court by other Sport Federations which are in complete violation of the Sports Code. He states that the present petition is not adversarial in nature and has been filed only keeping in mind the interests of sports in the country. He states that the NRAI is also in violation of various Clauses of the Sports Code.

7. Mr. Mehra has given an *ad hoc* solution stating that a committee comprising of a retired Judge of this Court and Mr. Abhinav Bindra, the first Olympic Gold Medal winner in Shooting, must be constituted to oversee the World Cup event in March, 2023. He states that the funds which are proposed to be released must be passed through the Committee and the Committee must furnish its Report in a sealed cover before this Court upon the conclusion of the World Cup event.

8. The suggestion made by Mr. Mehra for constitution of a Committee to oversee the utilisation of funds which are proposed to be released by the Union of India is a fair solution. This proposal of Mr. Mehra is not opposed by the learned ASG and by the learned Senior Counsel appearing for NRAI.

9. The prestige of the country will be affected if there is any impediment in organizing the World Cup event which would require funding from the Union of India.

10. In view of the above, Hon'ble Mr. Justice (Retd.) Arjan Kumar Sikri, Former Judge Supreme Court of India, is appointed as an Administrator to oversee the utilization of funds in the World Cup event that is being held in India in March, 2023. The Administrator can also take the assistance of any sportsperson of his choice, who has been a national or international shooter, to assist him in the matter. The Administrator shall be free to fix his remuneration commensurate to the work and the same will be paid by the Union of India. The funds released must get the concurrence of the Administrator.

11. Let a report be furnished in a sealed cover before this Court after the conclusion of the event.

12. The application is disposed of with the above observations.

**SATISH CHANDRA SHARMA, CJ**

**SUBRAMONIUM PRASAD, J**

**JANUARY 19, 2023**

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