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SPORTS LAW – INDIA

DELHI HC ORDERS TO INCLUDE HEARING-IMPAIRED ATHLETES IN KHEL RATNA CRITERIA

The Delhi High Court has asked the Central government to revise its rules for the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2025 so that hearing-impaired athletes can finally be considered. At the moment, the criteria allow para-athletes to apply but leave no room for deaf sportspersons, a gap the court said creates clear and unfair discrimination.

Justice Sachin Datta pointed out that the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 makes no distinction between hearing impairments and physical disabilities, yet the current system effectively sidelines deaf athletes. He added that government schemes like the 'Cash Awards for Medal Winners' already offer limited opportunities for hearing-impaired sportspersons, further deepening the inequality.

The case was brought forward by Virender Singh, a celebrated deaf wrestler, multiple Deaflympics gold medallist, and Arjuna Awardee, who argued that athletes like him are consistently overlooked for top national honours. Acting on his plea, the court directed the Centre to update the award criteria without delay and to extend the application deadline, ensuring deaf athletes have a fair chance to apply for India's highest sporting recognition.

Access link: Source [here](#)

Judgement Link: Source [here](#)

HARYANA TAKES A FIRM STEP TO PROTECT YOUNG ATHLETES FROM DOPING

In a strong move to promote clean and honest sports, the Haryana Olympic Association has decided that athletes who win gold, silver, or bronze will now receive their official merit certificates only after clearing mandatory dope tests. The initiative aims to discourage substance abuse and ensure that victories reflect true talent and integrity. While the National Anti-Doping Agency remains the key authority, athletes can also submit test reports from reputed private labs or government hospitals to make the process smoother. HOA President Jasvinder Meenu Beniwal described the policy as a "soft but firm" approach, designed to gradually build awareness

rather than intimidate young players.

The decision comes in the wake of concerning global data showing India leading worldwide doping violations for the third consecutive year, sparking international concern ahead of India's anticipated 2036 Olympic Games bid. Coaches have welcomed the move, noting it will push athletes to think more carefully about supplements and health choices. Alongside this, Haryana also plans to develop world-class sports infrastructure and host major competitions, supporting a cleaner, stronger sporting future.

Access link: Source [here](#)

SOURAV GANGULY TAKES LEGAL STAND TO PROTECT REPUTATION AMID MESSI-KOLKATA CONTROVERSY

Former India cricket captain Sourav Ganguly has filed a ₹50-crore defamation lawsuit against Uttam Saha, president of the Argentina Fan Club in Kolkata, after Saha publicly alleged Ganguly acted as a "middleman" in Lionel Messi's chaotic Salt Lake Stadium visit. The complaint, lodged at Lalbazar, states that these claims were made without any factual basis and have unfairly damaged Ganguly's reputation. His legal team had earlier issued a notice demanding a retraction, but with no resolution, the matter has now moved to court.

Ganguly acknowledged being present at the stadium but clarified he had no involvement in organizing Messi's visit and even left the venue early amid the disorder. The episode adds another dramatic turn to Messi's much-talked-about India trip, which, despite chaos, left the football icon expressing heartfelt gratitude for India's warmth and affection. As legal proceedings unfold, the case highlights how quickly public narratives can spiral, and how reputation remains deeply personal, especially for a national sporting icon like Ganguly.

Access link: Source [here](#)

ED TARGETS CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS IN MAJOR ILLEGAL BETTING CRACKDOWN

In a significant move against illegal online betting operations, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached

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assets worth ₹7.93 crore belonging to several prominent personalities, including former cricketers Yuvraj Singh and Robin Uthappa, and actors Sonu Sood, Urvashi Rautela, Mimi Chakraborty, Ankush Hazra, and Neha Sharma. The action is linked to investigations into the offshore betting platform 1xBet and its surrogate brands, accused of promoting unlawful betting in India. Earlier in October, assets worth ₹11.14 crore belonging to Shikhar Dhawan and Suresh Raina were frozen in the same case.

According to the ED, celebrities allegedly knowingly endorsed these brands, accepting payments routed through overseas channels to hide their illicit origins, funds believed to be connected to proceeds of crime. The agency highlighted that these platforms used surrogate advertising and targeted Indian users despite lacking authorisation. Warning that illegal betting fuels money laundering and wider criminal activity, the ED also urged the public to stay vigilant and reminded influencers that promoting such platforms may carry legal consequences. This development underscores the growing accountability expected from public figures in safeguarding ethical and legal standards.

Access link: Source [here](#)

ISL FACES CRISIS AS AIFF TENDER DRAWS NO BIDS

The Indian Super League (ISL) has been plunged into uncertainty after the All India Football Federation (AIFF) failed to receive a single bid for its new commercial partnership tender, which closed on November 7. With the AIFF's 15-year agreement with Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL) set to expire on December 8, the league's future hangs in the balance. The tender issued after the Supreme Court approved the AIFF's new constitution sought a partner to manage broadcasting, sponsorship, and commercial rights but demanded an annual payment of ₹37.5 crore or 5% of gross revenue, plus production costs and gradual VAR adoption. Despite initial interest from FSDL, FanCode, and an international consortium, no formal bids were submitted, reportedly due to an unsustainable financial model.

The fallout has been severe. With pre-season stalled for many teams, concerns over salary suspensions and contract terminations are

rising. Former players and coaches have urged the AIFF to urgently revive the league even if it means renegotiating with FSDL, to prevent further damage to Indian football.

Access link: Source [here](#)