



2ND RGNUL SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT LAW NATIONAL MEDIATION COMPETITION
06-08 MARCH 2020

SEMI-FINALS*

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Mandore Express is an Indian Hindi rock band from Lucknow. Since its inception in the year 2008, the band has gone on to achieve massive commercial success and has become a staple in cultural and music festivals across the country. The Mandore Express is widely known for its emphatic lyrics – which are a blend of Urdu and Hindi – and their signature lies in a raw, honest sound which resonates with the youth. The Mandore Express released its acclaimed debut album “*Aam ka Pedh*” in 2015 and its second album “*Hasnaini*” in the year 2018. Apart from being active at prominent college fests all over the country, the Mandore Express also frequents well-known musical hotspots such as Hard Rock Café, Social, Humming Tree, Farzi Café and so on.

NH-65 Yuva is an annual, multi-city and multi-genre music and comedy festival held in India. It is created by What They Say which is an Indian artist and event management company that was founded in 2002 as an independent artist management venture and officially incorporated in the year 2006. The festival is held between October and December and hosted in multiple cities alongside its flagship event in Pune. The lineup includes a mix of established and emerging, sub-continental and global artists.

* This competition problem is a fictional roleplay drafted by Krida Legal for the 2nd RGNUL Sports and Entertainment Law National Mediation Competition 2020. All Rights Reserved.

DISPUTE FACTS

The 2019 Pune edition of the NH-65 Yuva was announced in August 2019 amongst immense buzz and excitement. Being one of the most anticipated music festivals in the country, patrons and music lovers waited with bated breath over the course of the entirety of the month to catch the announcements of the various artists that would be performing at the event. Every two or three days, the event organizers at What They Say would release a new name along with a sneak peek into the kind of performances that could be expected from such artists at the 2019 Pune edition of NH-65 Yuva.

In the final week of February, The Mandore Express were announced as one of the bands that would be performing on the final day of the 2019 Pune edition of NH-65 Yuva which was to be held in the final week of December 2019. The fans were given a glimpse into the wonderful tracks that comprised the two already released albums of The Mandore Express which were expected to be performed by the band at the event.

Behind the scenes, The Mandore Express and the folks at What They Say had already negotiated and reached an understanding that the band would be the penultimate band to perform on the final day of the event and they would be performing music from their two albums. What They Say had screened multiple artists and their music before narrowing down to The Mandore Express and their relatable music which they felt resounded more with the youthful spirit of the festival itself. The terms of the arrangement were mutually agreed to between both the band as well as the organizers, and preparations began for the festival.

The band members of The Mandore Express believed themselves to be highly conscientious individuals and in the wake of democratic and political volatility in the country, they decided to release a new album with just 5 songs in the first week of December. This album was intended to convey a message from the band with regard to their feelings towards the system. The album was trending within 4 hours of its release and highly acclaimed for its neo-liberal and anti-fascist sentiments. While

answering social media Q&As, the band also confirmed that they would be performing all the songs in the album at their NH-65 Yuva performance.

The organizers at What They Say were quick to make contact with The Mandore Express' agent and inquire about these comments on social media. It was conveyed to the agent in no uncertain terms that the arrangement between the parties did not include the possibility of any new music and therefore could not possibly feature in the band's performance. After speaking to the band however, their agent stated that the band was adamant that their performance would include the new album.

Three days prior to The Mandore Express' performance at NH-65 Yuva, a statement was issued by the organizers of the festival that the band had unfortunately pulled out of the festival and would not be performing. This announcement was met with uproar from the fans and heated debates ensued with regard to this premature decision of the band. The Mandore Express however, were aghast as they had made no such communication to the organizers at What They Say. Further surprises were in store for them when later that day, they received a notice for termination of their contract with What They Say due to what was quoted as "*a gross violation of the terms of the agreement.*"

The band's agent and the lawyers at What They Say exchanged multiple emails, notices and litigious threats for weeks before both parties agreed to attempt to mediate the dispute in an attempt to amicably resolve the dispute.