

GENERAL INFORMATION - PRELIMINARY ROUND 1

Background -

Mitali Bhanu is a 28-year-old decorated Indian Professional Badminton Player who has been representing the country of India at numerous national and international badminton events all over the globe. She is India's top ranked shuttler in both, men's and women's categories and her world ranking has shot up exponentially over the last 5 years, climbing from 118 to 34. Amidst many, some of her most noteworthy laurels have been securing the gold medal in Women's Singles category at the Asian games 2018, Commonwealth Games 2018 and the Tokyo Olympics 2020 along with bagging a gold medal for the Mixed Doubles category in the Tokyo Olympics 2020. Ms. Bhanu's continuous and exceptional performance and contribution to the Indian sporting fraternity has been recognized by the Indian Government, whereby she was awarded with the esteemed Arjuna Award in 2018 and the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award in 2020.

During the course of 2021, Ms. Bhanu was training under the academy of her coach, Mr. Lakhan Shri Das (LSD) at his training center in Kolkata, India. Over the past 10 years, Mr. Das has been training several talented and medal winning prospects at his academy, whom he believes to be the future stars for India in the sport of badminton. One such future star recognized by Mr. Das was his daughter, Ms. Sunita Das aged 18 years, who was also training at the academy of Mr. Das and was considered to be an emerging talent by her fellow shuttlers as well. Ms. Das was an emerging yet a raw player, still learning the tricks and trades of the game under the guidance of her father while simultaneously learning from the much more experienced shuttlers in the academy as well. Mr. Das was of strong belief that his daughter, Ms. Das., was progressing well and was seasoned enough to participate in the Commonwealth Games 2022 and in lieu of the same, he decided to set her training regimes and aims to prepare her well for the CWG 2022.

Dispute -

On January 31st, 2021, there was a qualifying match that was to be played between Ms. Das and Ms. Bhanu. The winner of the said match would qualify for the CWG 2022 and therefore, be eligible to participate, contend and represent India at the CWG 2022. Mr. Das was well aware of the fact that it was highly unlikely for his daughter to win against a World Ranked 34 shuttler in the said match. Therefore, on January 30th 2021, just a day before the said match, he approached Ms. Bhanu and demanded her that she lose the match against Ms. Das the next day, as he believed that Ms. Das was

an emerging player and the CWG 2022 would give her the perfect platform to launch herself into the sporting world and make a name for herself. Upon hearing this demand of her coach, Ms. Bhanu was shell shocked as she did not expect her coach to ask her to give up participation in an event as prestigious as the CWG 2022. Therefore, Ms. Bhanu denied bowing down to such demand of Mr. Das and told him that she would not engage in match fixing practices as they stand against the integrity of the sport.

The match between Ms. Bhanu and Ms. Das was played the next day on January 31st 2021, wherein Ms. Bhanu expectedly and comprehensively defeated Ms. Das which eventually secured her qualification for the CWG 2022. The result of the said match coupled with Ms. Bhanu's denial to bow down to Mr. Das's illicit demand brought about friction between their relationship. After losing the game, Ms. Das was understandably distraught as she did not qualify for the CWG 2022 despite her extreme hard work. Mr. Das developed bitterness towards Ms. Bhanu as she denied to bow down to his demands as a result of which Ms. Das' shot to fame and glory disappeared in thin air.

Over the next 2 months, Mr. Das made training and life to be a living hell for Ms. Bhanu. He ensured the strictest, toughest and the hardest training regimes for Ms. Bhanu to follow, as a result of which Ms. Bhanu was severely fatigued and thereby, attained several injuries. Ms. Bhanu realized believed the antics of Mr. Das to be arising from the bitterness between the two and having felt frustrated and disheartened from the same, she left Mr. Das's academy on March 31st 2021 and joined the academy of his arch-rival, Mr. Sahil Pradhan in Pune, India on April 4th 2021. Such abrupt switch of academies by a world renowned Indian shuttler garnered a lot of media attention. Subsequently, it was widely reported by the media on the back of an anonymous tip off that there was a breakdown in the relationship between Ms. Bhanu and Mr. Das because Mr. Das physically and mentally harassed and exploited Ms. Bhanu over the last few months, as a result of which Ms. Bhanu had abruptly left his academy.

On July 14th 2021, Mr. Das sent a legal notice to Ms. Bhanu wherein he accused her of breach of contract. In the said notice, Mr. Das claimed that Ms. Bhanu's abrupt departure from his academy constituted a breach of contract on her end as she failed to provide to Mr. Das a one-month prior intimation and notice of her decision to leave the academy. By virtue of this notice, Mr. Das also demanded a return of Ms. Bhanu in Kolkata, India and complete her duration of the contract or compensate him with an amount of INR 10,00,000 (Ten Lakh Rupees only) on account of damages accrued due to Ms. Bhanu's breach of contract. In order to solve this dispute, the parties have invoked the mediation clause of the said Training Agreement.