



सत्यमेव जयते

न्यायालय मुख्य आयुक्त

COURT OF CHIEF COMMISSIONER FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN)

दिव्यांगजन सशक्तिकरण विभाग / Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)

सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय / Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

भारत सरकार/ Government of India

Case No. CCPD/15241/1141/24

Dated: 16/03/2026

In the matter of-

Complainant

Ms. Kanishka Sharma

Versus

Respondent

The Director General,

Sports Authority of India,

New Delhi

1. Gist of the case:

1.1 Ms. Kanishka Sharma, a person with 91% Speech and Language Disability filed her complaint dated 05-03-2024 regarding denial of participation in World Deaf Taekwondo Championship which was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on 25th to 30th March, 2024.

1.2 The Complainant submitted that she is a national-level Taekwondo athlete with multiple medals and highlights the neglect of deaf athletes by SAI. Despite selection for the World Deaf Taekwondo Championship in Kyrgyzstan, funding was denied, causing missed registration and loss of opportunity.

1.3 A request is made for financial support and permission; so deaf athletes can also represent India internationally.

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2. Notice issued to the Respondent:

2.1 A Notice dated 05.04.2024 was issued to the Respondent for forwarding their comments within 30 days to this Court u/s 75 & 77 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (hereinafter referred as "the Act").

3. Submissions made by the Respondent:

3.1 The Respondent filed their reply dated 08.05.2024 and submitted that they have not discriminated against deaf athletes. It was informed that they consistently provided financial and institutional support to deaf sports bodies through recognized federations, and allowed participation in international events as per government policy and court directions.

4. Response filed by Complainant in Rejoinder:

4.1 The Complainant filed her rejoinder dated 01.01.2026 and submitted that the Sports Authority of India stated that there was no budget issue and funds were available even as the financial year was ending.

4.1 A request is made to SAI to continue providing financial support to deaf athletes, who cannot easily express their concerns, and to ensure that athletes like Kanishka and other deaf players do not face such situations in the future.

5. Hearing:

5.1 A hearing was conducted in hybrid mode on **06.01.2026**, wherein the following parties/representatives were present:

Sl. No.	Name and Designation of the Party/Representative	Parties	Mode
1.	Ms. Kanishka sharma	Complainant	Online
2.	Mr. Kapil Sharma, (Father of Complainant)	Complainant	Online

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3.	Ms. Lincy, Young Professional, SAI, Head office	Respondent	Online
4.	Mr. Manoj Awati, Dy. Director, (SDO), SAI	Respondent	Online

6. Proceedings of the hearing:

6.1 At the outset, the Respondent, Sports Authority of India (SAI), submitted that:

6.1.1 Financial assistance for international sports events is governed by the Annual Calendar for Training and Competition (ACTC), which is proposed by the concerned National Sports Federation, in this case, the All India Sports Council of the Deaf (AISCD).

6.1.2 The athletes selected through trials at the relevant time did not meet the required international performance criteria, as the competition was of a high international standard.

6.1.3 Consequently, the proposal was cleared only on a "No Cost to Government" basis, with the responsibility resting upon the concerned National Sports Federation.

6.1.4 It was further submitted that the complainant was subsequently extended support and facilitated to participate in various international competitions, including:

(a) Asia Pacific Deaf Championship, and

(b) Deaf Olympics 2025, where the complainant secured 25th position.

6.2 The representative of the Complainant confirmed the statements made by the Respondent.

7. Observations:

7.1 After hearing both parties and perusal of records, the Court observed that:

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7.1.1 The decision not to support the events in question was attributable to administrative and budgetary constraints and the non-inclusion of the events in the approved ACTC, and was not motivated by any discriminatory intent or conduct toward the complainant.

7.1.2 The complainant's subsequent participation in several international competitions demonstrates that institutional support was extended at later stages.

7.1.3 Accordingly, the grievance raised in the complaint does not presently survive.

7.1.4 During the hearing, concerns were raised regarding accessibility and effective communication, including the availability of coaches trained in sign language for hearing-impaired athletes.

7.1.5 The Sports Authority of India acknowledged its appellate and supervisory role and stated that capacity-building initiatives for coaches working with hearing-impaired athletes are currently underway.

8. Recommendations:

8.1 In view of the above, the Court issues the following recommendations:

8.1.1 The Sports Authority of India (SAI) is recommended to:

(a) Frame and issue clear guidelines to National Sports Federations concerning deaf and hearing-impaired athletes, with emphasis on accessibility and inclusive communication; and

(b) Ensure that coaches engaged with hearing-impaired athletes possess adequate proficiency in sign language or that appropriate communication support mechanisms are provided.

8.1.2 National Sports Federations shall be advised to:

(a) Maintain transparent communication to adequately inform athletes of selection, funding, and administrative decisions; and

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(b) Ensure accessibility in training, trials, and competitions, including necessary communication support and inclusive arrangements.

8.1.3 The Sports Authority of India shall submit a written compliance report to this Commission detailing the measures taken and proposed with respect to accessibility, coach capacity-building and inclusive practices.

8.1.4 A copy of the guidelines framed by SAI shall be submitted to this Court for future reference and monitoring.

8.2 The complaint is hereby disposed of, as no subsisting grievance remains in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

**(S. Govindaraj)
Commissioner**

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