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

+ **W.P.(C) 3164/2024**

**BAJRANG PUNIA AND ORS.**

..... Petitioners

Through: Mr. Rahul Mehra, Sr. Adv. alongwith  
Mr. Siddharth Nayak, Mr. Chaitanya  
Gosain and Mr. Raghav Khanna,  
Advs.

versus

**UNION OF INDIA AND ORS.**

..... Respondents

Through: Mr. Devvrat Yadav and Ms. Sonali  
Gambhir, Advs. for the respondent  
no.1/Union of India.  
Mr. Dayan Krishnan, Sr. Adv. along  
with Mr. Hemant Phalpher, Mr.  
Sukrit Seth and Mr. Auritro  
Mukherjee, Advs. for R-2/WFI.

**CORAM:**

**HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SACHIN DATTA**

**ORDER**

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**02.04.2024**

**CM APPL. 18267/2024** (under Section 151 of CPC, 1908 for grant of stay and interim injunctions against the respondent no.1/MYAS and the respondent no.2/WFI alongwith appointment of an administrator/one-man committee for the management and administration of affairs of respondent no.2/WFI)

1. The present application has been filed by the petitioners, *inter alia*, seeking the following reliefs :-

*“B. ISSUE A WRIT/ORDER/DIRECTION OF MANDAMUS OR ANY OTHER WRIT OF THE LIKE NATURE DIRECTING Respondent No.2 to cease and desist as an NSF from undertaking any activity pertaining to the sport of wrestling against the directives and circulars issued by Respondent No.1/MYAS and Respondent No.3/Ad-Hoc Committee for the reason that WFI is in blatant violation of the sports code as interpreted by the Judgment dated 16.08.2022 in W.P.(C) 195/2010.”*

2. Learned senior counsel for the petitioners emphasizes that the above



prayer is liable to be allowed inasmuch as the respondent no.2/WFI, which has been suspended by virtue of an order/letter dated 24.12.2023 issued by the Government of India/Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports; further, and ad-hoc body came to be appointed for managing the affairs of the respondent no.2/WFI pursuant to a letter dated 24.12.2023 addressed by the Government of India/Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to the President, Indian Olympic Association. The ad-hoc body came to be constituted by the Indian Olympic Association (“IOA”) on 27.12.2023. Thereafter, inexplicably, the said ad-hoc body is stated to have been dissolved by the IOA even though the respondent no.2/WFI continues to be under suspension.

3. In these circumstances, learned senior counsel for the petitioners submits that since the respondent no.2/WFI has been rendered virtually headless, it is imperative that an administrator be appointed to manage the affairs of the respondent no.2/WFI.

4. Pursuant to directions contained in the order dated 22.03.2024, an affidavit has been filed on behalf of the Union of India/Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. Unfortunately, the said affidavit is vague and does not deal with the salient aspects of the matter, in particular, the affidavit does not take a position/ discloses the stand of the Ministry as to (i) whether the suspension of the WFI *vide* the aforesaid order/letter dated 24.12.2023 continues to subsist or not; (ii) the circumstances which impelled the ad-hoc body to be dissolved; (iii) who is in-charge of the affairs of the respondent no.2/WFI after the dissolution of the ad-hoc body constituted *vide* office order dated 27.12.2023.

5. At the request of the learned counsel appearing for the Union of India,



a further opportunity is granted to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to file an affidavit taking a clear stand on the aforesaid issues. Let the same be filed latest within a period of one week from today.

6. In view of the gravity of the matter, the concerned Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is directed to join the proceedings on the next date of hearing, through video-conferencing.

7. The IOA, represented by Mr. Vikash Singh, Advocate, is also directed to file an affidavit clearly indicating the circumstances in which the office order dated 18.03.2024 came to be issued, whereby, the ad-hoc committee appointed *vide* order dated 27.12.2023 was dissolved. The concerned Director of the IOA is also directed to remain personally present in Court, on the next date of hearing.

8. List on 10.04.2024.

**SACHIN DATTA, J**

**APRIL 2, 2024/r**