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

\# **CNR No. DLHC010535942026**

\+ W.P.(C) 16456/2026, CM APPL. 77270/2026, CM APPL. 77271/2026, CM APPL. 77272/2026

DR DEEPAK SINGH .....Petitioner

Through: Dr. Amit George, Ms. Akansha Sisodia, Ms. G. Khakhlari and Mr. Arnav B., Advocates.

versus

UNION OF INDIA AND ORS .....Respondents

Through: Mr. Udit Dedhiya, SPC and Mr. Vinay Kaushik, GP with Mr. Preyansh Gupta and Mr Arihant Shrivardhan, Advocates for R-1 and 2.

CORAM:
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE A. J. BHAMBHANI

O R D E R

% 04.11.2026

By way of the present petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, the petitioner seeks a writ in the nature of *quo warranto* declaring the appointments of respondents Nos.3 to 5 in respondent No.2 (National Rifle Association of India) as illegal, arbitrary, *ultra vires* and therefore *void ab-initio*. The petitioner also seeks cancellation of all such appointments and other consequential and ancillary reliefs.

2. Dr. Amit George, learned counsel appearing for the petitioner submits that the co-ordinator/coach of the national squad for the sport of shooting are to be appointed based on certain eligibility criteria as set-out by respondent No.2 association in the “Expression of Interest for Hiring & Empanlament of Coaches for Promotion of Sport & Training of Shooters for International Teams, National Squad, Distt. and State

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Level" issued by them. However, it is the petitioner's contention that none of the appointees from amongst respondents Nos.3 to 5 who are currently occupying the said positions fulfil the requisite eligibility criteria; and are therefore *per-se* disqualified from holding those positions.

3. Upon being queried as to the maintainability of the present petition, Dr. George submits that, since respondent No.2 is concerned with a national sport *viz.*, rifle shooting; and is *inter-alia* responsible for selecting athletes to represent India in rifle-shooting in international competitions, they are amenable to the writ jurisdiction of this court. Besides Dr. George submits that under section 3 of the National Sports Governance Act 2025, associations such as respondent No.2 have been accorded the character of 'State' within the meaning of Article 12 of the Constitution.

4. Dr. George submits that respondents Nos.3 to 5 have been engaged based on contracts signed with respondent No.2 association, which contracts have been renewed from year-to-year; and to the best of the petitioner's knowledge, the last extension of such contracts has been granted sometime in March-April 2026.

5. Dr. George further submits that, quite apart from the other roles that respondents Nos.3 to 5 perform, it is significant to note that the said persons are also personally involved in the selection of the national team for rifle-shooting, that represents the country in international events.

6. Issue notice.

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7. Learned counsel appears for respondents Nos.1 and 2 on advance copy; accepts notice; and seeks time to file counter-affidavit.

8. Upon the petitioner taking requisite steps, let notice be sent to respondents Nos.3 to 5 by all permissible modes, returnable for the next date.

9. Let counter-affidavit(s) be filed within 04 weeks; rejoinder(s) thereto, if any, be filed within 03 weeks thereafter; with copies to the opposing counsel.

10. Re-notify on 20th January 2027.

A. J. BHAMBHANI, J

NOVEMBER 4, 2026/hb

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