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**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH**

CWP-PIL-267-2025

Date of decision: 19.09.2025

RAHUL KHANDELWAL AND ANOTHER

....Petitioners

Versus

UNION TERRITORY, CHANDIGARH AND OTHERS

...Respondents

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SHEEL NAGU, CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJIV BERRY**

Present: Mr. Rahul Khandelwal, and
Mr. Abhishek Garg, Petitioners-in-person.

Mr. Amit Jhanji, Senior Standing Counsel (Arguing counsel)
Mr. Sumeet Jain, Addl. Standing Counsel and
Ms. Aliza Gupta, Advocate
for respondents-U.T. Chandigarh Administration.

SHEEL NAGU, C.J. (Oral)

1. Writ jurisdiction of this Court under Article 226 of Constitution of India is invoked by two petitioners, who claim to be parents of trainees receiving coaching at Chandigarh Lawn Tennis Association (hereinafter referred to as 'CLTA'), Tennis Stadium, opposite DAV College, Sector 10-C, Chandigarh.

2. The challenge herein is to Annexure P-1, which is a letter of Joint Director Sports, U.T. Chandigarh informing CLTA that the lease agreement dated 10.04.2023 has expired on 10.09.2025, and thus, the same stands terminated by efflux of time, with a direction to the CLTA to hand over vacant possession of the premises within seven (7) days, and further representation of the CLTA dated 06.03.2025 for renewal of lease has been rejected.

2.1 The petitioners, who appear in person, express anxiety that lot many



young enthusiasts of the sport of tennis are not only disheartened but would be deprived of the affordable coaching and other facilities extended since last three years by CLTA. It is urged that several school/college-going youngsters who are tennis enthusiasts and are residents of places far away from Chandigarh are residing on rent in various hostels in Chandigarh to pursue training in the said sport. The impugned decision of the U.T. Chandigarh Administration has come as a bolt from the blue to all the budding sports persons. It is also submitted that tennis is a rigorous game which instills sportsmanship and physical strength in youngsters, thereby instilling good human values helping them to become capable citizens of this country.

3. On the other hand, learned counsel for the U.T. Administration, Sh. Amit Jhanji, Senior Standing Counsel, submits that it is a pure and simple contractual matter where the tenure of agreement has expired, and therefore the CLTA has to vacate the premises, and in case of grievance, the proper forum is the Civil Court or to avail the arbitration clause under the agreement (Annexure P-6).

4. It is pertinent to point out that Sh. Amit Jhanji, Senior Standing Counsel on behalf of U.T. Administration has assured that the quantity and quality of equipment, facilities and services rendered by the U.T. Administration would not be less than what were being enjoyed by the tennis enthusiasts/trainees under the CLTA.

5. After hearing the petitioner-in-person and learned Senior Standing Counsel on behalf of U.T. Administration, we are of the considered view that without entering into the controversy of adjudicating the civil rights of rival parties, it would be appropriate to hope and expect that the U.T. Administration which is a 'State' under Article 12 of the Constitution of India ensures that



adequate and sufficient opportunity is afforded to the youngsters of Chandigarh, as well as from outside, to avail the facilities of playing and undergoing tennis coaching.

5.1 It may not be out of place to mention here that any activity of any sport is a healthy activity, which ought to be encouraged by the State and its functionaries by providing adequate and sufficient opportunity of playing and training, subject to financial capacity of the State. It is well known that a healthy body leads to a healthy mind, which in turn is helpful in developing a responsible and capable citizen of this country.

6. We have no manner of doubt that the U.T. Administration shall keep the aforesaid avowed principles in mind, and their actions would facilitate encouragement to sports activities, especially in the backdrop of UNESCO Charter postulating that practice of physical education, physical activity and sport is a Fundamental Right for all. We expect that future course of action taken by the UT-Administration shall be in line with the object behind The National Sports Governance Act, 2025.

7. With the above-said observations, present petition stands disposed of.

(SHEEL NAGU)
CHIEF JUSTICE

(SANJIV BERRY)
JUDGE

19.09.2025

mohit goyal

Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes / No
Whether reportable : Yes / No