

# Sports Authority of India

## Press Release

### Dutee Chand's Case: SAI Continues to Support.

**New Delhi: 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2015:** Odisha sprinter Dutee Chand had a fair hearing at the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS) in Lausanne. Sports Authority of India (SAI) supported Ms. Chand since her disqualification in August 2014. SAI had backed her to make an appeal against her disqualification at the highest court of law in sports, reinstated her in Centre of Excellence (COE), NSNIS Patiala. In December 2014, Ms. Chand was provisionally allowed to compete. She won a Gold and two Bronze medals at the 35<sup>th</sup> National Games in Kerala. Pending the decision in CAS, Ms. Chand will continue in competition. Sports Authority of India and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports are committed to continue to support Ms. Chand. She is currently going to train in Hyderabad at the P. Gopichand Academy with support from both SAI and MYAS.

Mr. Jim Bunting from Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg LLP, Toronto, Canada represented Ms. Chand at CAS. He was assisted by Mr. Carlos Sayao and was advised by former Judge of Supreme Court of Canada, Justice Morris Fish. The legal team worked *pro bono*. SAI had covered all travel, accommodation and other expenses of Ms. Chand and the legal team. From India, Dr. Payoshni Mitra, Researcher and Activist, Gender and Sport Issues, accompanied Ms. Chand to Lausanne, whose travel and related costs were also borne by SAI.

SAI has been informed that the CAS hearing was presided over by three eminent arbitrators. Ms. Chand is satisfied with the hearing and looks forward to the CAS decision in the coming months.

DG SAI, Sh. Injeti Srinivas has said that” **Safeguarding our athletes’ rights is one of the foremost duties of SAI. SAI believes in equality and fairness in sports. And we will continue to support legitimate interests of our athletes.**”

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