

**BEFORE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE L. NAGESWARA RAO**

**FORMER JUDGE, SUPREME COURT OF INDIA**

**OMBUDSMAN, BIHAR CRICKET ASSOCIATION**

**Complaint No.15 of 2025**

**Aditya Verma** **....Complainant**

**Versus**

**Bihar Cricket Association** **...Respondent**

**With**

**Complaint No.33 of 2025**

**Rupesh Kumar Jha** **.... Complainant**

**Versus**

**Bihar Cricket Association** **...Respondent**

**And**

**Complaint No.39 of 2025**

**Shashi Shekhar and Anr.** **.... Complainant**

**Versus**

**Bihar Cricket Association** **...Respondent**

**And**

**Complaint No.40 of 2025**

**Yashaswi Rishav** **.... Complainant**

**Versus**

**Bihar Cricket Association** **...Respondent**

**And**

**Complaint No.41 of 2025**

**Alok Kumar** **.... Complainant**

**Versus**

**Bihar Cricket Association** **...Respondent**

**Appearance:**

**On Behalf of Complainant:**

**In BCA/Ombudsman/Complaint No. 15 of 2025**

1. Mr. Abhinav Srivastava, Senior Advocate
2. Mr. Kartik Pandey, Advocate

**In BCA/Ombudsman/Complaint No. 33 of 2025**

1. Mr. Ashhar Mustafa, Advocate
2. Mr. Pratik Kumar, Advocate

**In BCA/Ombudsman/Complaint No. 39 of 2025**

1. Mr. Ashaar Mustafa, Advocate
2. Mr. Pratik Kumar, Advocate

**In BCA/Ombudsman/Complaint No. 40 of 2025**

1. Mr. Abu Nasar, Advocate
2. Mr. Yashaswi Rishav, Complainant

**In BCA/Ombudsman/Complaint No. 41 of 2025**

1. Mr. Alok Kumar, Advocate

**On behalf of Respondent:**

**In BCA/Ombudsman/Complaint No. 15, 33, 39, 40 & 41 of 2025**

1. Mr. Raju Giri, Senior Advocate
2. Mr. Navjot Yesu, Advocate
3. Mr. Manish Raj, CEO BCA

**ORDER**

1. Complaint No.15 of 2025 has been filed by Mr. Aditya Verma seeking an inquiry against the office bearers of the Bihar Cricket

Association<sup>1</sup> for their corrupt activities and malpractices in the appointment of selectors and selection of the players.

2. Complaint No.33 of 2025 has been filed by Mr. Rupesh Kumar Jha and another, seeking an independent investigation into the corrupt activities of Mr. Rakesh Kumar Tiwary, former President and his team members. The complainants further alleged corruption in the selection of players representing BCA. A request was made by the complainants to appoint an Administrator to regulate the activities of the BCA.

3. Complaint No.39 of 2025 has been filed by Mr. Shashi Shekhar and Mr. Niku Kumar, requesting for fair and transparent selection process for selection to the cricket teams representing Bihar Cricket Association.

4. Complaint No.40 of 2025 has been filed by a player requesting for an inquiry regarding the constitution of the Selection Committee being contrary to the BCA Rules and Regulations of 2025. The complainant requested for appointment of neutral selectors from outside the State of Bihar. A further request was made by the complainant to hand over the entire selection process to BCCI.

5. Complaint No.41 has been filed by Mr. Alok Kumar, a former cricketer who represented Bihar in Ranji Trophy and also

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<sup>1</sup> for short, 'the BCA'

represented East Zone. His grievance relates to appointment of assistant coaches and support staff being contrary to Rules.

6. Mr. Aditya Verma sent an email to the Ombudsman on 02.10.2025, requesting for an urgent hearing of his complaint which raises issues of selection to the men's senior team.

7. Notices were issued in all these complaints to BCA and the complaints were directed to be taken up on 07.10.2025. The Learned Counsel appearing for the Complainants and Bihar Cricket Association were heard. Two days' time was granted to the BCA to file its reply and the complaints were directed to be taken up for hearing on 09.10.2025.

8. The BCA filed its reply on 09.10.2025 and the learned counsel for the parties were also heard on 09.10.2025.

9. The major grievance of the complainants is that the men's selection committee was constituted in violation of Rule 28 of the Bihar Cricket Association Rules and Regulations, 2025. The said Rule provides that the men's selection committee shall consist of five members to be appointed by the BCA at the Annual General Meeting. Only three persons were appointed to the selection committee. It was argued that Mr. Sunil Kumar Singh is ineligible for appointment as he is above 60 years. In respect of Mr. Anant Prakash and Mr. Vishnu Shankar, a learned Single Judge of the Patna High Court had made scathing remarks relating to serious irregularities in selection of

players during the last season. Even the then Ombudsman criticised Mr. Anant Prakash and Mr. Vishnu Shankar for acting on the dictates of the then President of BCA in selecting players during the last session. In spite of such findings recorded by the Patna High Court and the Ombudsman, the same persons are appointed as selectors only to ensure that the selection to the teams representing Bihar will be of persons who are favoured by the managing committee.

**10.** A Special Investigation Team has been constituted by the Director General of Police, Bihar to investigate serious allegations of financial irregularities and corruption in the selection of players and investigation is in progress.

**11.** The selectors appointed for the men's team for this year have been appointed by the committee of management for the last two (2) seasons as well.

**12.** Normally, an advisory committee is appointed by the committee of management and the said advisory committee appoints the selectors. This process is followed to ensure that there is no interference of the committee of management in the selection process. Though, this practice of appointing advisory committee was followed by the Bihar Cricket Association earlier, the same has been discontinued this year.

**13.** There are several eligible persons for appointment as selectors and coaches. However, they are not willing to apply for appointment

as selectors and coaches, as there is no likelihood of the selectors being permitted to conduct selections in a fair and transparent manner. Further, the BCA does not execute contracts with the Selectors and Coaches. There are some instances earlier where selectors were removed after one (1) or two (2) matches.

**14.** The selectors are barely seen at the playground during the period of 10 days when a camp is held. The selection of players is done without reference to their performance during the domestic season and in the earlier Matches conducted by BCCI.

**15.** The selection of coaching staff has been done contrary to the Rules. Mr. Rajesh Kumar Dubey and Mr. Zishan Bin Wasi were appointed as assistant coaches. Mr. Zishan Bin Wasi did not produce a certificate of Level-I coach. Mr. Rajesh Kumar did not even apply for appointment as assistant coach.

**16.** On behalf of the BCA, it was submitted that Mr. Aditya Verma is a habitual litigant and has filed several complaints in various Courts and other fora against the BCA. His sole intention is to wreak vengeance as his son has not been selected to represent Bihar in the men's team.

**17.** On 10.07.2025, an advertisement was posted on the website of BCA for appointment of selectors and support staff for the 2025-2026 session. A total of 139 applications for various posts have been received out of which 19 were for selectors and 59 for coaches.

Remaining 61 applications were for assistant coaches and S&C coaches. Only four (4) applications were received for appointment of selectors for the under 19 team and they were appointed. The 5<sup>th</sup> post of selectors for under 19 team remains vacant.

**18.** On 28.09.2025, the AGM of BCA discussed the matter relating to selection to the Men's Senior team, Junior team and the Women's team. The appointments of Mr. Vishnu Shankar, Mr. Anand Kumar and Mr. Sunil Kumar Singh as selectors of the senior selection committee were unanimously confirmed. Likewise, the appointment of selectors to the junior selection committee and the women's selection committee were also affirmed.

**19.** Realising that the eligible candidates were not applying for appointment as selectors, the Bihar Cricket Association filed I.A. No.23074 of 2025 in Civil Appeal No.4235 of 2014 in the Supreme Court of India seeking permission for having the selectors from outside the State. On 04.02.2025, the Supreme Court of India directed the BCCI to respond to the request made by BCA. On 06.10.2025, the BCA requested the Supreme Court to take up the said application for hearing. The learned counsel for the BCA informed me that the said application is coming up for hearing on 14.10.2025.

**20.** The process of selection to the senior men's team is on the basis of the performance of the players during the season and the Ranji Trophy matches played by them. 50 to 60 players are selected and

called for a camp which is held for 10 days to assess their skills, ability and fitness. Five players from each district are called to a camp and the players are shortlisted on the basis of their assessment at the camp for a period of 10 days. A list of 50-60 players is prepared, and The names of such players is registered on ODMS (Online Data Management System). After such registration, the final team is selected.

**21.** The management does not interfere in the process of selection, and it is entirely left for the selectors to select competent players to represent Bihar. In view of the availability of only three persons in the selection committee, the BCA requested the Ombudsman to suggest the names of two other selectors from outside Bihar to fill the quorum in accordance with the Rule 28 (2) (ii) of the Rules and Regulations of 2025.

**22.** It is true that Mr. Sunil Kumar is above 60 years of age and in the ordinary course could not have been appointed as a selector. However, he was appointed as there were no other eligible candidates who applied for appointment as selectors. His appointment was done after the Rule relating to age was relaxed at the Annual General Meeting of BCA.

**23.** Selectors and coaching staff are appointed on contract for one year and it is not correct to say that there are no contracts entered into by BCA for selectors and coaching staff.



**24.** Mr. Rajesh Kumar Dubey has submitted his certificate of Level I coach and Mr. Zeeshan Bin Wasi has also produced his certificate showing that he has passed Level I coaching course which was signed by Mr. VVS Laxman, a former international cricketer. It cannot be said that ineligible persons have been appointed as coaches.

**25.** The learned counsel for the BCA further submitted that the BCCI was requested to send some selectors to fill the quorum of the selection committee.

**Analysis:**

**26.** Rule 28 (A) (ii) provides that the Men's Selection Committee shall consist of five (5) persons to be appointed by the BCA at the Annual General Meeting. Mr. Sunil Kumar, Mr. Anant Prakash and Mr. Vishnu Shankar have been appointed by BCA at the AGM held on 28.09.2025. The Complainants contended that Mr. Sunil Kumar is not eligible as his age is more than 60 years. Mr. Anant Prakash was in the Men's Selection Committee for the last two (2) seasons. There are some observations in the Judgement dated 05.08.2024 of High Court of Patna that he favoured some members of COM by selecting their children.

**27.** The manner of selection made to the Men's Selection Committee requires a thorough examination which will be done when

the complaints are heard finally. The immediate concern to be addressed is about the selection committee for this season. BCA has filed an Application in the Supreme Court of India seeking permission to appoint Selectors from outside Bihar. In the Reply, BCA requested me to nominate Selectors from any place outside Bihar. Therefore, it is fit and proper that BCCI is requested to nominate two (2) selectors who will be part of the Men's selection committee for this season.


**28.** It has been brought to my notice that the Ranji Season is starting soon, and Bihar is scheduled to play its first match with Arunachal Pradesh on 15.10.2025 at the Moin-ul-Haq stadium in Patna. Though the selection committee was not constituted in conformity with Rule 28 of the 2025 Rules, it is not desirable to interfere with the selections made by the Selection Committee to the Men's Senior team at this stage.

**29.** BCA is directed to request BCCI within two (2) days to nominate two (2) experienced Selectors. The Selectors nominated by BCCI will form part of the Men's Selection Committee for this Season. It was submitted on behalf of BCA that only four (4) persons were appointed as selectors for the Men's junior cricket committee and Women's selection committee, respectively. The reason given for not appointing five (5) persons as required by the Rules is non-availability of eligible candidates. The selectors to be nominated by BCCI shall also be part of the selection committees for Men's Junior

Cricket Committee and Women's Selection Committee. The Men's Selection Committee of three (3) members appointed by BCA and the two (2) members to be nominated by BCCI are directed to review the Selection process to ensure that the selection of players to the Men's Senior team was held in a fair and transparent manner. Likewise, there shall be a review of selections held for Junior Men's team and Women's team also. The Selection Committees shall also review the appointment of coaching staff and support staff. After the review, the Selection Committees shall inform the Ombudsman about the complete details of the process followed for selection of the Men's Senior, Men's Junior and Women's Team, appointment of coaching staff and support staff.

**30.** The Secretary, BCA is directed to upload a copy of this order on the website of BCA.

**Date: 13 October 2025**

  
**Justice. L. Nageswara Rao**  
**Former Judge, Supreme Court of India**  
**Ombudsman**  
**Bihar Cricket Association**