BEFORE JUSTICE ARUN MISHRA
FORMER JUDGE, SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

OMBUDSMAN
THE BOARD OF CONTROL FOR CRICKET IN INDIA

In Re: Complaint dated 27.10.2025 made by Mr. Sanjeev Gupta against Mr. Sudhir Asnani, Secretary Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association, under Rule 41(1)(d) of the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, sent to the Ombudsman, BCCI

ORDER

1. The present complaint has been filed with respect to the ugly incident which happened in Indore around 11 AM on Thursday, 23.10.2025 a day after the Australia vs. England match at Holkar Stadium when the 2 players were going to a Café were touched inappropriately by a motorcyclist. The matter was reported by team security to police.

2. BCCI condemned the incident and promised to revisit its safety protocols and further tighten the security ahead of the knock-out stage of the World Cup. The State police nabbed the culprits and took the prompt action.

3. Action was taken by the Madhya Pradesh police and that law will take its due course to ensure justice is served. Promise was made to review the existing protocols and strengthen them, if necessary, in order to ensure such incidents are not repeated. MPCA also expressed shock and anguish over deplorable incident.

4. In the aforesaid backdrop of the facts, the complaint has been filed relying on Rule 41(1)(d) of the BCCI Rules. The same is extracted hereunder:

> "41(1)(d) : By the Public against the BCCI
> Where a member of the public is aggrieved concerning ticketing and access and facilities at stadia, the same may be brought in the form of a complaint to the Ombudsman.
> *Procedure:* The Ombudsman would adopt the same procedure as laid down in (c) above after referring the complaint to the CEO to solicit a report on the complaint."

5. It is stated that cricket fans are aggrieved due to complete failure in match protocol of the BCCI match by MPCA. The ugly incidence dented the image of BCCI and India globally. As such prayer has been made to refer the complaint to BCCI CEO, who will submit an inquiry report within 15 days from reference. Further, prayer has been made to debar MPCA from hosting any International IPL, WPL and BCCI domestic matches for five years.

6. No doubt that the complaint discloses an ugly incident. However, it is also clear that security arrangements were provided and the grievance is not with respect to ticketing, access and facilities at stadium, as contemplated under Rule 41(1)(d) of the Rules. The match got over and the incident took place next day on the road

while players were going to the Cafe from the place they were staying. Incident is condemnable. The concerned authorities have taken action. Law has to take its own course. Criminal case has been registered. The assurance has been made by the BCCI and its Secretary that in the future, if necessary, safety protocols will be revisited and, security shall be further tightened, so that such incidents are not repeated in future. As the incident has taken place on the road, MPCA cannot be said to be responsible for the same. It's more of law and order problem. Assurance has been made to revisit the security protocols if necessary for remaining matches.

7. No further inquiry is warranted in the case as prayed by the complainant. Case is not covered under Rule 41(1)(d). It is a criminal matter for which action has been initiated by the police. Accused has been arrested, law will take its own course. Suffice to observe that if necessary, security protocols may be revisited and adequate security be provided to prevent happening of such incident.

8. The complaint is accordingly disposed of.

Dated: 01.11.2025

(Justice Arun Mishra)
Ombudsman, BCCI