



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 16-07-2026

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THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE MOHAMMED SHAFFIQ

WP Nos.26715 and 26721 of 2026

and

WMP Nos.29215, 29217, 29225, 29228, 29231 and 29237 of 2026

Minor.Nithin Navadeep Saravan Kumar (17 years)
Rep. by his natural guardian/Father saravana
kumar A, No.5/135, gandhi nagar main road,
poonthottam, virupakshipuram, thorapadi post,
vellore - 632002.

..Petitioner(s)

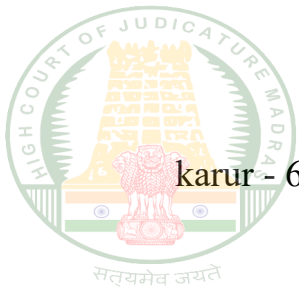
Vs

1. The Government of Tamil Nadu
Rep. by its Secretary,
Higher Education Department, Government of
Tamilnadu, Fort St.George, Chennai – 600009.
2. The Director of Technical Education,
Directorate of Technical Education, Guindy,
Chennai - 600025.
3. The Secretary
Tamilnadu Engineering Admissions
(TNEA)-2026, Anna University,
Chennai - 600025.
4. The Member Secretary,
Sports Development Authority of Tamilnadu,
Jawaharlal nehru stadium campus,
periamet, Chennai - 600003.

..Respondent(s)

WP No. 26721 of 2026

Minor V.Sujan Pranav (Aged 17 years)
Rep. by his natural guardian/Mother S.Geetha,
No.22-1/5, sakthi nagar, gandhi gramam south,



karur - 639004.

..Petitioner(s)

Vs

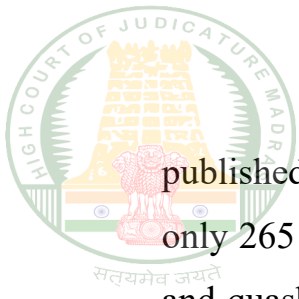
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1. The Government Of Tamil Nadu
Rep. by its Secretary,
Higher Education Department, Government of
Tamilnadu, Fort St.George, Chennai – 600009.
2. The Director of Technical Education,
Directorate of Technical Education, Guindy,
Chennai - 600025.
3. The Secretary
Tamilnadu Engineering Admissions
(TNEA)-2026, Anna University,
Chennai - 600025.
4. The Member Secretary,
Sports Development Authority of Tamilnadu,
Jawaharlal nehru stadium campus,
periamet, Chennai - 600003.

..Respondent(s)

PRAYER in W.P.No.26715 of 2026: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for a writ of Certiorarified Mandamus calling for the entire records relating to the provisional rank list for the category of the eminent sports person for tamilnadu engineering admissions (TNEA)-2026 published in the web site by the 2nd and 3rd respondent in so far as awarding only 570 sports-marks for the petitioner and ranking the petitioner at Sl.No.23 and quash the same and consequently direct the 2nd and 3rd respondents to re-evaluate the same and award 890 sports marks to the petitioner and rank him accordingly in accordance with the provisions under the category I(B) of Annexure III to the TNEA - 2026 prospectus.

PRAYER in W.P.No.26721 of 2026: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for a writ of Certiorarified Mandamus calling for the entire records relating to the provisional rank list for the category of the eminent sports person for tamilnadu engineering admissions (TNEA)-2026



published in the web site by the 2nd and 3rd respondent in so far as awarding only 265 sports-marks for the petitioner and ranking the petitioner at Sl.No.239 and quash the same and consequently direct the 2nd and 3rd respondents to re-evaluate the same and award 465 sports marks to the petitioner and rank him accordingly in accordance with the provisions under the category I(B) of Annexure III to the TNEA - 2026 prospectus.

For Petitioner(s):
in both cases

Mr.N.Subramaniyan
for Mr.N.Santhosh

For Respondent(s):
in both cases

Mr.P.Ilayarajkumar
Counsel for Government (for R1 & R2)
Mr.U.Baranidharan
Standing Counsel (for R3)
Ms.Tanvi
Standing Counsel (for R4)

COMMON ORDER

These writ petitions are filed praying for a writ of certiorarified mandamus challenging the provisional rank list for the category of the Eminent Sports Person for Tamilnadu Engineering Admissions (TNEA)-2026 published in the web site by 2nd and 3rd respondent insofar as awarding only 570 and 265 sports-marks respectively for petitioners and ranking the petitioners at Sl.No.23 and 239 respectively and quash the same and consequently direct the 2nd and 3rd respondents to re-evaluate the same and award 890 and 465 sports marks respectively to the petitioners and rank them accordingly in accordance with the provisions under the Category I(B) of Annexure III to the TNEA - 2026 prospectus.



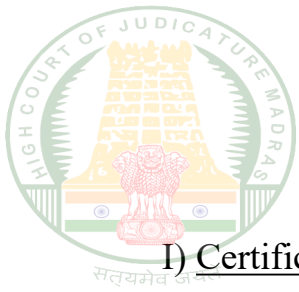
2. Learned counsel for petitioners would submit that petitioners had applied for admission to B.E/B.Tech Degree course through Tamil Nadu Engineering Admissions (TNEA), 2026 under the “Eminent Sports Person Category”. Petitioners produced relevant Sports certificate before the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT) during certificate verification. Sports Rank list was published wherein petitioner in W.P. No.26715 of 2026 was ranked at Sl.No.23 and petitioner in W.P. No.26721 of 2026 was ranked at Sl.No.239. Petitioners had participated in 2nd Asian Junior Soft Tennis Championship, 2026, held in Punjab in February 2026 and their International Sports Achievements was treated as falling under Category III instead of Category I(B) of Annexure III to TNEA 2026 Prospectus. Resultantly, marks awarded to petitioners fell short by 320 marks and 200 marks respectively. This in turn affected their opportunity to secure admission through Sports Quota in TNEA 2026 to desired/ intended courses. Learned counsel for petitioners would submit that petitioners had submitted representation pointing out the discrepancies in evaluation and sought correction of the Sports marks and Rank, however, the same has not been considered. It is in these circumstance that these writ petitions have been filed.

3. Learned counsel for petitioners would submit that Asian Junior Soft Tennis Championship, is an event which is conducted once in four years, and would submit that petitioners ought to have been awarded 400 marks



respondents have instead awarded lesser marks (200 marks) on the premise that Asian Junior Soft Tennis Championship is not an event which is organised in an interval of four years inasmuch as there is no material to indicate the interval at which the event was to be conducted.

4. Petitioner would submit that First Asian Junior Soft Tennis Championship was conducted sometime in the year 2019 at Philippines and second event was intended to be conducted in the year 2023. However, due to COVID-19 pandemic, was postponed. Thereafter was conducted in 2026, 3rd Edition of the event is now proposed to be conducted in the year 2028 at Thailand. While learned counsel for petitioners would submit that petitioners being Eminent Sports Person ought to be awarded 400 marks treating the Asian Junior Soft Tennis Championship as falling under Category I B of the Prospectus. Denial of petitioners' claim for being awarded 400 marks despite having produced certificates issued by the Amateur Soft Tennis Federation of India (Reg), which is recognised by the Ministry of Youth, Affairs and Sports, Government of India and certificate issued by Asian Soft Tennis Federation is unjustified. Photocopies of the aforesaid certificates are scanned and extracted below:



I) Certificates of petitioner in W.P.No.26715 of 2026:

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 **AMATEUR SOFT TENNIS FEDERATION OF INDIA (REG.)**

Affiliated with : International Soft Tennis Federation (ISTF), Asian Soft Tennis Federation (ASTF)
Recognised by : Ministry of Youth, Affairs & Sports, Government of India

President
Mr. Mahesh Kaswala

Secretary General
Shakuntala J. Khodadhara
+91- 93270 50344

DECLARATION

We hereby declare that, in accordance with the regulations and competition calendar of the Asian Soft Tennis Federation (ASTF), the **Asian Junior Soft Tennis Championship** is organized once every four years.

The **1st Asian Junior Soft Tennis Championship** was held in the **Philippines from 26th to 31st August, 2019**. As per the prescribed cycle, the **2nd Asian Junior Soft Tennis Championship** was scheduled to be held in **2023**. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its resulting restrictions, the championship could not be conducted as planned.

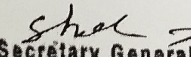
The **2nd Asian Junior Soft Tennis Championship** is now scheduled to be organized in **India in 2026**. Subsequently, the **3rd Asian Junior Soft Tennis Championship** is scheduled to be held in **Thailand in 2028**, in order to bring the championship cycle back on track.

In view of the above circumstances, we kindly request you to consider and accept the certificates issued to the players participating in the **2nd Asian Junior Soft Tennis Championship 2026**.

We shall be grateful for your kind consideration and favourable action.

Date: 10/06/2026
Place: Ahmedabad




Secretary General
Amateur Soft Tennis Federation of India

401/A



135

ASTF
ASIAN SOFT TENNIS FEDERATION
ROOM201, 1-16-2, OOI, SHINAGAWA-KU, TOKYO 140-0014, JAPAN
TEL: +81-3-6417-1654 FAX: +81-3-6417-1664 E-mail: info@astf.asia

DECLARATION

We hereby declare that, in accordance with the regulations and competition calendar of the Asian Soft Tennis Federation (ASTF), the **Asian Junior Soft Tennis Championships** is organized once every four years.

The **1st Asian Junior Soft Tennis Championships** was held in the Philippines from **26th to 31st August, 2019**. As per the prescribed cycle, the **2nd Asian Junior Soft Tennis Championships** was scheduled to be held in **2023**. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its resulting restrictions, the championships could not be conducted as planned.

The **2nd Asian Junior Soft Tennis Championships** is now scheduled to be organized in **India in 2026**. Subsequently, the **3rd Asian Junior Soft Tennis Championships** is scheduled to be held in **Thailand in 2028**, in order to bring the championships cycle back on track.

In view of the above circumstances, we kindly request you to consider and accept the certificates issued to the players participating in the **2nd Asian Junior Soft Tennis Championship 2026**.

We shall be grateful for your kind consideration and favourable action.

Date: 10/06/2026

Place: Tokyo, Japan

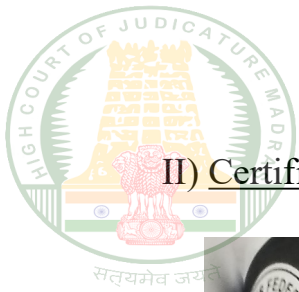
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Mitsuji Ando

President

Asian Soft Tennis Federation



II) Certificates of petitioner in W.P.No.26721 of 2026:

AMATEUR SOFT TENNIS FEDERATION OF INDIA (REG.)

Affiliated with : International Soft Tennis Federation (ISTF), Asian Soft Tennis Federation (ASTF)
Recognised by : Ministry of Youth, Affairs & Sports, Government of India

President
Mr. Mahesh Kaswala

Secretary General
Shakuntala J. Khodadhara
+91- 93270 50344

DECLARATION

We hereby declare that, in accordance with the regulations and competition calendar of the Asian Soft Tennis Federation (ASTF), the **Asian Junior Soft Tennis Championship** is organized once every four years.

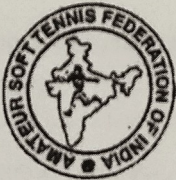
The **1st Asian Junior Soft Tennis Championship** was held in the **Philippines** from **26th to 31st August, 2019**. As per the prescribed cycle, the **2nd Asian Junior Soft Tennis Championship** was scheduled to be held in **2023**. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its resulting restrictions, the championship could not be conducted as planned.

The **2nd Asian Junior Soft Tennis Championship** is now scheduled to be organized in **India** in **2026**. Subsequently, the **3rd Asian Junior Soft Tennis Championship** is scheduled to be held in **Thailand** in **2028**, in order to bring the championship cycle back on track.

In view of the above circumstances, we kindly request you to consider and accept the certificates issued to the players participating in the **2nd Asian Junior Soft Tennis Championship 2026**.

We shall be grateful for your kind consideration and favourable action.

Date:10/06/2026
Place: Ahmedabad



Shakuntala J. Khodadhara
Secretary General
Amateur Soft Tennis Federation of India

401/A, Samruddh Appartment, Nr. Kankaria Football Ground, Ahmedabad-380022. INDIA
softtennisindia@gmail.com Web: www.softtennis.in Tele/Fax: +91-79-25328228



73

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ASIAN SOFT TENNIS FEDERATION
ROOM201, 1-16-2, OOI, SHINAGAWA-KU, TOKYO 140-0014, JAPAN
TEL: +81-3-6417-1654 FAX: +81-3-6417-1664 E-mail: info@astf.asia

DECLARATION

We hereby declare that, in accordance with the regulations and competition calendar of the Asian Soft Tennis Federation (ASTF), the **Asian Junior Soft Tennis Championships** is organized once every four years.

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In view of the above circumstances, we kindly request you to consider and accept the certificates issued to the players participating in the **2nd Asian Junior Soft Tennis Championship 2026**.

We shall be grateful for your kind consideration and favourable action.

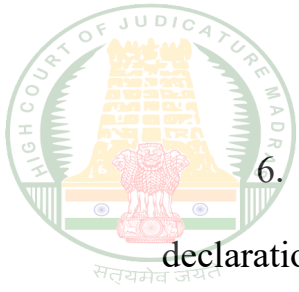
Date: 10/06/2026

Place: Tokyo, Japan

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Mitsuji Ando
President
Asian Soft Tennis Federation





6. Learned counsel for petitioners would submit on the basis of above declarations that petitioners are eligible for being awarded 400 marks. To the contrary, learned counsel for respondents would submit that there is no material to show that Asian Soft Tennis Championship is organised in four years frequency.

7. Question arises as to whether Asian Soft Tennis Championship is an event organised in four years frequency, thus would fall under Category-I-B as claimed by petitioner or under Category III as submitted by the respondents.

8. Before proceeding further, it may be relevant rather necessary to refer to the relevant portions of the prospectus insofar as it fixes the category for International Tournaments. Relevant portion is scanned and extracted:



4. (a) Guidelines For **International Tournaments:**

Category - I	(I - A) Olympic Games (Summer / Winter), Youth Olympic Games (Summer / Winter), Commonwealth Games and Asian Games (Games organized in 4 years frequency by the International Olympic Committee). (I - B) World Championship, Commonwealth championship, World Cup- Eligibility for athletes requires participation in an event involving at least seven different countries and such competitions should have been approved by Indian Olympics Association (IOA), Sports Authority of India (SAI) and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS).
Category - II	World Championship, World cup, Asian Championship, SAF Games (South Asian Games), Commonwealth championship Organized in 2 years frequency by the International Sports Federation. Eligibility for athletes requires participation in an event involving at least seven different countries and such competitions should have been approved by Indian Olympics Association (IOA), Sports Authority of India (SAI) and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS). Open or Invitational or Memorial or any indifferent nomenclature or title of tournaments or Championships at International level, not approved by any of the above authority will not be considered for marks.
Category - III	Asian Championships, Commonwealth Games, World cup, World Championship, Grand Prix, Grand slam - Organized in Every year by the International Sports Federation. Eligibility for athletes requires participation in an event involving at least seven different countries and such competitions should have been approved by Indian Olympics Association (IOA), Sports Authority of India (SAI) and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS), Government of India.

2. **Participation or achievement in international tournaments will be considered only with earlier achievements at National and State level tournaments. Direct participation / Selection trials / Camps any International or National tournaments will not be considered for award of marks.**
3. The highest achievement in only one annual regular tournament, officially conducted in a regular manner by the member National Olympic Committee (NOCs) authorized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) or International Sports Federations affiliated to the IOC will be considered for award of marks. The players/sports persons representing the Country in such tournaments through Indian Olympic Association (IOA) or respective National Sports Federations recognized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India or IOA will be considered for award of marks in each year.
4. Only tournaments officially recognized by the Indian Olympic Association / respective official National Sports Federations Recognized by MAYS will be considered for the award of marks (for each year) **from 01.06.2022 to 31.05.2023, 01.06.2023 to 31.05.2024, 01.06.2024 to 31.05.2025 and 01.06.2025 to 31.05.2026.**
5. Certificates of Participation or Achievements in tournaments, submitted along with Form I alone are eligible for marks indicated in Table (I) above (should be submitted before the last date for submission of application).

9. Learned counsel for petitioners would submit that Asian Junior Soft Tennis Championship would fall under Category I-B.

10. To the contrary, learned counsel appearing for 4th respondent would place reliance on the TNEA Prospectus, 2026, to submit that petitioners' claim



ought to be treated as falling under Category II of the Guidelines for International Tournaments.

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11. Learned counsel for 4th respondent would further submit that petitioners' claim that Asian Junior Soft Tennis Championship would fall under Category I-B is again unjustified inasmuch as admittedly "Asian Championship" is not included in Category I-B, instead only World Championship, Common Wealth and World Cup organised in 4 years frequency. Further, petitioners cannot be considered under Category II, as it only includes World Championship, World Cup and Asian Championship, South Asian Games, Common Wealth Championship, organised in two years frequency by the International Sports Federation, which is not the case inasmuch as Asian Junior Soft Tennis Championship was conducted in 2019, then 2026 and next Championship is intended to be held in 2028, thus would not fall under Category II. Petitioners were thus awarded marks in Asian Junior Soft Tennis Championship as falling under Category III. The manner in which marks are awarded in all sports disciplines and how the marks were awarded to petitioners was explained in the counter as under:

"1. awarding of marks in all sports disciplines is as follows:

i. The candidates applying under the Eminent Sports Quota are required to submit appropriate Forms of certificate based on the level of



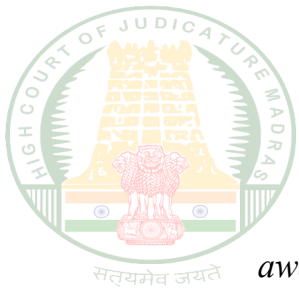
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sports representation and competition such as Form I (International level), Form II (National Level) and Form III (University/Inter-university Level) produced along with the respective sports certificates. These certificates are issued by the Recognised National Sports Federation, State Sports Association etc. The same is to verify that the winnings /participation of the individual candidate.

ii. Once the same is verified, then the timeline of the conduct of such championships will be verified through the event calendar provided in the appropriate websites of the respective national and international federations which conducts such tournaments. Based on the above verification, the marks will appropriately be awarded to the candidates after determining whether such championships was conducted annually/biennially/quadriennially.

Name + Total marks	Marks awarded	Marks claimed by petitioner	Reason for rejection
Nithin Navdeep (570) Petitioner in W.P.No.26715 of 2026	2 nd Asian Junior Championship (2026) – 200 marks (annual event)	400 marks (Based on the declaration of the intent to conduct said event once in 4 years) / 250 marks (once in two years)	Periodicity not yet established. Event calendar does not support the declaration given by the Asian Soft Tennis Federation.
	State Championship (80 marks)	2 nd India International Soft Tennis Championship, 2025 (denied) – 200 marks claimed	Invitational events not granted marks as per Prospectus.
Sujan Pranav (Petitioner in W.P.No.26721 of 2026)	2 nd Asian Junior Championship (2026) – 200 marks (annual event)	400 (once in 4 years) / 250 (once in 2 years)	Periodicity not yet established. Event calendar does not support claim.

2. Following the above, the petitioners were respectively



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awarded marks for their certificates. It is submitted that with regard to the 2nd Asian Junior Soft Tennis Championship, the petitioners and other participants were awarded 200 marks for the event. The Petitioners are seeking award of 400 (quadrennial)/250 (biennial) marks by treating this event as either a quadrennial event or as a biennial event.

3. Both of these requests were denied by SDAT since the event calendar published by Asian Soft Tennis Federation and the Amateur Soft Tennis Federation of India both demonstrate that this event has never been conducted in a 4 year/2 year periodicity. The Asian Soft Tennis Federation's event calendars clearly indicate when an event was cancelled and conducted on a later date. However, with regard to this event, there is no mention. Therefore, the declaration of the Asian Soft Tennis Federation that they had intended to conduct this event in 2023 but cancelled it and they intend to conduct this event in 2028 once again cannot be acted upon for grant of marks”

12. It is submitted that respondents visited the website of the Asian Soft Tennis Federation and the International Calendar hosted in the website does not show that Asian Junior Soft Tennis Championship was being conducted once in four years. It is further submitted that once the calendar does not reflect the same, mere fact that the event was “intended” to be organised once in four years may not satisfy the requirement of Category I-B or Category II for that matter. It was thus submitted that petitioners were in fact awarded 200 marks for participating in Asian Junior Soft Tennis Championship, 2026, held at Punjab,



treating the event as falling under Category III.

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13. On the other hand, learned counsel for petitioners would submit that the respondent authorities ought to investigate the genuineness of the certificates by writing to the Federation issuing the certificates and denying the petitioners of higher scores/ marks is unjustified in the absence of any investigation/ enquiry of the certificate issuing authority.

14. Learned counsel for 4th respondent in response would submit that on an average there are about 3000 applications received under Sports Quota and if enquiry is sought to be conducted in respect of every Certificate submitted, it would be time consuming exercise, ranging from a month to almost a year. Such an exercise if mandated, far from assisting the students may prove counter productive rather may put the chance of admission of students under Sports Quota in peril. It is thus submitted that the above exercise would be unworkable rather obnoxious and petitioners' request to make an enquiry with the Asian Soft Tennis Federation was thus not acceded. She would thus submit that respondents have carried out the necessary/ standard/ routine exercise which is carried out in respect of applications/ certificates received under Sports quota.

15. This Court finds merit in the submission of learned counsel for respondents and thus not inclined to entertain the prayer in this writ petition.



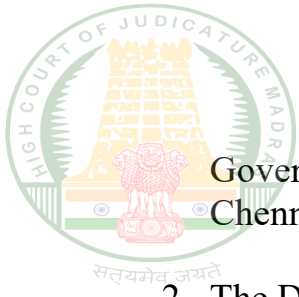
Accordingly, the writ petitions are disposed of. No costs. Consequently, the connected miscellaneous petitions are closed.

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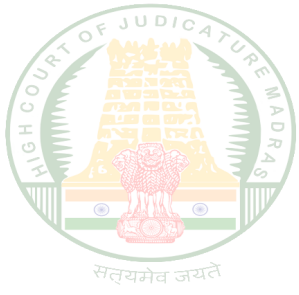
Index: Yes/No
Speaking/Non-speaking order
Neutral Citation: Yes/No
MKA

To:
1. The Secretary,
Higher Education Department,



Government of Tamilnadu, Fort St.George,
Chennai – 600009.

2. The Director of Technical Education,
Directorate of Technical Education,
Guindy, Chennai - 600025.
3. The Secretary
Tamilnadu Engineering Admissions (TNEA)-2026,
Anna University, Chennai - 600025.
4. The Member Secretary,
Sports Development Authority of Tamilnadu,
Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium Campus,
Periamet, Chennai - 600003.



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WP Nos.26715 and 26721 of 2



MOHAMMED SHAFFIQ J.

MKA

WP Nos.26715 and 26721 of 2026

16-07-2026