

Press Release

Palinder Chaudhary, 18, a sprinter, who attempted suicide in his hostel room at the Sports Authority of India's Athletics Academy in Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi, on Tuesday evening, was declared dead at the Safdarjung Hospital later on Tuesday night.

The athlete who hailed from Aligarh had trained till 5.30pm at JNS yesterday, and returned to his hostel room. Preliminary information suggests that he attempted to kill himself by hanging from the ceiling fan in his hostel room, around 6pm. Other athletes and Chaudhary's sister, who had come to visit her at the hostel, raised an alarm and officials of SAI immediately rushed to the room and brought Chaudhary down. He was alive and was rushed to Safdarjung Hospital by SAI officials. He was given CPR in the ambulance and emergency medical attention was given to him at the hospital, upon arrival.

Sadly, the young athlete could not be saved and was declared dead by doctors late on Tuesday night. The Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore expressed his deepest condolences at the loss of a young life.

The Director General of Sports, Ms. Neelam Kapur has ordered an internal enquiry to ascertain the facts. The enquiry will be headed by S S Chhabra, Secretary SAI. Speaking about the enquiry, Ms. Kapur said, "The enquiry officer will speak to all concerned people - coaches, other athletes and his family members, especially his sister who had come to visit him that evening, to understand what may have led him to take this extreme step. This is a very sad turn of events and we are extending all support to the family. Arrangements are being made to send the body to Aligarh for his the last rites."

Chaudhary joined the National Athletics Academy of SAI in November 2016. In 2017 he was selected for Asian Youth Championships at Bangkok and won a gold medal in the relay race. He participated in the World Youth Championship in July 2017. This year, he was away at Jabalpur till July to complete the joining formalities in the Indian Army, where he had been selected. He joined regular training at the academy in JLN, thereafter.

Director General, Sports Authority of India