



IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU

DATED THIS THE 18TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2025

PRESENT

THE HON'BLE MR. VIBHU BAKHRU, CHIEF JUSTICE

AND

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE C.M. POONACHA

COMMERCIAL APPEAL NO. 573 OF 2025

BETWEEN:

SH.RAVINDER KUMAR CHAUHAN
AGED ABOUT 55 YEARS,
S/O, HARI RAM CHAUHAN
RES, AT 16, LAXMAN VIHAR 1,
MAHAVEER SUWALKA,
TENT KE PICHE, KUNHADI
SHAMBHOOPURE, KOTA,
RAJASTHAN 324008

...APPELLANT

(BY SRI. KARTIK RAI, ADVOCATE FOR
SRI. PONNANNA M B, ADVOCATE)

AND:

M/S SORTING HAT SOLUTIONS
PRIVATE LIMITED
A COMPANY INCORPORATED
UNDER THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013
HAVING ITS REGISTERED
ADDRESS AT 11/1, 12/1,
MARUTHI INFOTECH CENTRE,
5TH FLOOR, A BLOCK, DOMLUR,
KORAMANGALA, INNER RING ROAD,
BANGALORE-560071

Digitally
signed by
NIRMALA
DEVI

Location:
HIGH COURT
OF
KARNATAKA



REP BY ITS AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY
HARISH SASIKUMAR

...RESPONDENT
(BY SRI. DHANANJAY V JOSHI, SENIOR ADVOCATE A/W
SRI. KASHYAP N NAIK, ADVOCATE)

THIS COMAP IS FILED UNDER SECTION 13 (1A) OF THE
COMMERCIAL COURTS ACT, 2015 PRAYING TO ALLOW THE
APPEAL AND SET ASIDE THE ORDER DATED 16.09.2025,
PASSED BY LXXXIII, ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS
JUDGE, COMMERCIAL COURT, BENGALURU (CCH-84) IN
COM.A.A.NO.75/2025.

THIS APPEAL, COMING ON FOR ADMISSION, THIS DAY,
JUDGMENT WAS DELIVERED THEREIN AS UNDER:

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. VIBHU BAKHRU, CHIEF JUSTICE
and
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE C.M. POONACHA

ORAL JUDGMENT

(PER: HON'BLE MR. VIBHU BAKHRU, CHIEF JUSTICE)

1. The appellant has filed the present appeal under Section 37(1)(b) of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act [**A&C Act**] and Section 13(1A) of the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 impugning an order dated 16.09.2025 [**impugned order**] passed by the learned Commercial Court in Com.AA.No.75/2025. The respondent had filed the said petition under Section 9 of the A&C Act seeking interim measures of protection.



2. The parties had entered into an agreement (Educator Agreement dated 14.06.2022) whereby the appellant was engaged as an Educator to teach the students enrolled on the respondent's platform. The said agreement provided for lock-in period of three years. It is the respondent's case in the Commercial Court that the appellant had breached the said agreement and in the said context, disputes have arisen between the parties. The learned Commercial Court had passed the impugned order, the operative part of which reads as under:

ORDER.

The Petition under Section 9 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act is partly allowed.

Temporary injunction is granted restraining the Respondent from utilizing in any manner or delivering to third parties in any manner any "educator content" as defined under the Educator Agreement dated 14-06-2022 (effective date 11-06-2022).

Further, Respondent is directed to furnish security before this Court for sum of Rs 51,20,143/= within 3 months from today, failing which petitioner is at liberty to seek freezing of bank account of the Respondent for the said sum. Both sides are permitted to file necessary application to take the case on board for the above purpose, with advance notice to the other side.

It is made clear that the above interim orders shall be in force initially only for a period of 90 days from today. Within 90 days from today, if the petitioner takes steps for initiating arbitration by filing CMP under Section 11 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act before Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka, then, the above interim orders shall continue till



conclusion of the contemplated arbitral proceedings. Else, the above interim orders shall stand immediately vacated on expiry of 90 days from today.

Ordered accordingly.

Office to issue soft-copy of this order, to the parties, by email, if furnished.

3. The appellant preferred the present appeal assailing the said order. This Court had passed an *ad interim* order dated 30/10/2025 staying the order passed by the learned Commercial Court insofar as it directs the appellant to deposit a sum of Rs.51,20,143/- and other attendant directions.

4. Learned counsel for the parties state that an Arbitral Tribunal has since been constituted and the parties can thus approach the Arbitral Tribunal for appropriate orders including for interim measures of protection under Section 17 of the A&C Act. They state that the interim order be set aside and the parties be relegated to avail of their remedies before the Arbitral Tribunal.

5. In view of the aforesaid submissions made by the counsel for the parties, the impugned order is set aside. The parties are relegated to the Arbitral Tribunal. The respondent is at liberty to seek any interim measures of protection. If any such application is



made, the same be considered afresh uninfluenced by the impugned order or the interim orders passed by this Court.

6. All rights and contentions of the parties are reserved.

7. The appeal is, accordingly disposed of.

Sd/-
(VIBHU BAKHRU)
CHIEF JUSTICE

Sd/-
(C.M. POONACHA)
JUDGE

ND
List No.: 1 SI No.: 0