
**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION
IN ITS COMMERCIAL DIVISION**

COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION PETITION NO. 9 OF 2025

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Prajakta Kumar

...Petitioner(s)

Versus

Robin P. Kumar & Ors.

...Respondent(s)

Mr. Tushad Cooper, Senior Advocate *a/w Ms. Vijaya Ingule* *for*
Petitioner.

Mr. Amit Jajoo *a/w. Nirav Parmar a/w Dr. Vedant Chhajed i/b*
IndusLaw, for Respondent(s).

CORAM : SOMASEKHAR SUNDARESAN, J.

Date : April 16, 2025

P. C.

1. This Petition has been filed under Section 11 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 (*"the Act"*), seeking appointment of an arbitrator in connection with disputes and differences that are said to have arisen between the parties relate to a Partnership Deed dated May 16, 2006. The arbitration agreement is contained in Clause 24 (found at Page 76 of the Petition). In the interest of brevity, the arbitration agreement is not being extracted here. Suffice it to say that this matter falls within the jurisdiction of this Court.

2. It is apparent from the record that the arbitration agreement was invoked by Petitioner on April 5, 2024. The existence of the arbitration

agreement is not in dispute. However, from the reply dated June 29, 2024, it is seen that the contentions relate to suits being pending between Respondent No. 1 and Respondent No. 2 to which a partnership firm had made a party.

3. The scope of review under Section 11 is explicitly set out in Section 11(6A) of the Act. It is now trite law, with particular regard to the decisions of a seven-judge bench in the *Interplay Judgement*¹ followed by multiple others, including *SBI General*² and *Patel*³ that the Section 11 Court ought not to venture beyond examining the existence of a validly existing arbitration agreement that has been formally executed. Even questions of existential substance is a matter that falls squarely in the domain of the arbitral tribunal, in view of Section 16 of the Act.

4. Being satisfied that an arbitration agreement is validly in existence, and that arbitration has been duly invoked, it is in the fitness of things to refer the disputes and differences between the parties in connection with the aforesaid agreement dated May 16, 2006 to arbitration by a Sole Arbitrator.

¹ *In Re: Interplay Between Arbitration Agreements Under Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 & Stamp Act, 1899 – (2024) 6 SCC 1*

² *SBI General Insurance Co. Ltd. v. Krish Spinning – 2024 SCC OnLine SC 1754*

³ *Ajay Madhusudan Patel v. Jyotrindra S. Patel – 2024 SCC OnLine SC 2597*

5. In these circumstances, it would be appropriate to highlight the arbitral tribunal that should any objection relating to arbitrability or the jurisdiction of the arbitral tribunal be raised, the same shall be dealt with in terms of Section 16 of the Act.

6. No useful purpose would be served keeping the matter pending any further. Consequently, the Petition is ***finally disposed of***, in terms of the following order:

A] Mr. Dormaan Dalal, a learned advocate of this Court is hereby appointed as the Sole Arbitrator to adjudicate upon the disputes and differences between the parties arising out of and in connection with the Agreement referred to above;

Mumbai office – 207, Blue Moon Chambers, 25, Nagindas Master Road, Fort, Mumbai – 400 023.

Pune office – Flat No. M-2, Mezzanine Floor, Cinderella CHS Ltd. 602, Sachapir Street, Pune – 411 001.

Email ID: dormaandalal@gmail.com

B] A copy of this Order will be communicated to the Learned Sole Arbitrator by the Advocates for the Petitioner within a period of one week from the date on which this order is uploaded on the website of this Court. The Petitioner shall provide the contact and communication particulars of the parties to the Arbitral Tribunal along

with a copy of this Order;

C] The Learned Sole Arbitrator is requested to forward the statutory Statement of Disclosure under Section 11(8) read with Section 12(1) of the Act to the Advocates for the Petitioner so as to enable them to file the same in the Registry of this Court. The Registry of this Court shall retain the said Statement on the file of this Petitioner and a copy of the same shall be furnished by the Advocates for the Petitioner to the Respondents;

D] The parties shall appear before the Learned Sole Arbitrator on such date and at such place as indicated, to obtain appropriate directions with regard to conduct of the arbitration including fixing a schedule for pleadings, examination of witnesses, if any, schedule of hearings etc. At such meeting, the parties shall provide a valid and functional email address along with mobile and landline numbers of the respective Advocates of the parties to the Arbitral Tribunal. Communications to such email addresses shall constitute valid service of correspondence in connection with the arbitration;

E] All arbitral costs and fees of the Arbitral Tribunal shall be borne by the parties equally in the first instance, and shall be subject to any final Award that may be passed by the Tribunal in relation to costs.

7. Needless to say, nothing contained in this order is an expression of an opinion on merits of the matter or the relative strength of the parties. All

issues on merits are expressly kept open to be agitated before the arbitral tribunal appointed hereby.

8. Learned counsel for the Respondent No. 2 submits that it is likely that the disputes and differences between them could get resolved without having to proceed to arbitration. In view of this submission, the effect of this order is deferred by a period of four weeks from the upload of this order on the website of this Court. Should the parties settle their disputes within such period, needless to say, they need not initiate arbitration before the arbitral tribunal appointed hereby.

9. The Petition is *finally disposed of* in the aforesaid terms.

10. All actions required to be taken pursuant to this order, shall be taken upon receipt of a downloaded copy as available on this Court's website.

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[SOMASEKHAR SUNDARESAN, J.]