

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION
ARBITRATION APPLICATION (L) NO. 29667 OF 2024
WITH
ARBITRATION PETITION (L) NO. 9405 OF 2024

Aditya Birla Finance Limited ...Applicant

Versus

Manami Basu ...Respondent

Ms. Tikshata Modi, a/w Jenny Somiya, i/b Akhil Modi & Associates, for the Applicant.

None for Respondent.

CORAM : SOMASEKHAR SUNDARESAN, J.

DATE : SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

ORDER :

1. This Application 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 under an agreement dated December 31, 2022 (***“Agreement”***). The arbitration agreement is contained at Page 40 of the Application. 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 the Applicant on February 23, 2024. There is no reply filed to the said invocation.

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 to arbitration by a Sole Arbitrator.

5. Arbitration Petition (L) No. 9405 of 2024 (“**Section 9 Petition**”) relates to the very same matter between the very same parties, seeking certain interlocutory protective reliefs. The Section 9 Petition is

1 In Re: Interplay Between Arbitration Agreement under Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 and Stamp Act, 1899 (2024) 6 SCC 1

2 SBI General Insurance Co. Ltd. Vs. Krish Spinning, 2024 SCC OnLine 1974

3 Ajay Madhusudan Patel Vs. Jyotindra S. Patel, 2024 SCC OnLine, 2597

not on board today, by consent of the parties, taken on board. The reliefs already granted in the Section 9 Petition would abide by the outcome in the arbitration. The Section 9 Petition shall be treated as an Application under Section 17 of the Act by the arbitral tribunal appointed hereby. Given the efflux of time, the Petitioner is at liberty to modify or mould the contents of Section 9 Petition for its consideration as a Section 17 Application.

6. In these circumstances, this Application under Section 11 as well as Section 9 Petition are hereby ***finally disposed of***, in terms of the following order:

A) Resolve X, an independent online dispute resolution institution is directed to appoint a sole arbitrator to adjudicate upon the disputes and differences between the parties arising out of and in connection with the Agreement referred to above;

B) The contact particulars of the Head Coordinator, Resolve X are set out below:-

Email id : info@resolvex.co.in

Address: 21-A, First Floor, Plot No. 15,
Contractor Building, Vaju Kotak Marg,

Ballard Estate, Mumbai - 400001

Contact No: +91 9967571374

Website: www.resolvex.co.in

C) A copy of this Order will be communicated to Resolve X by the Advocates for the Applicant within a period of one week from the date on which this order is uploaded on the website of this Court. The Applicant shall provide the contact and communication particulars of the parties to Resolve X along with a copy of this Order;

D) It is clarified that Resolve X being an ODR institution, all proceedings will be conducted online through electronic mode, unless otherwise agreed between the appointed Arbitrator and the parties, with appropriate notification to the administration of Resolve X;

E) The administration of Resolve X is requested to appoint an independent arbitrator in compliance with the Act and its own rules consistent with the Act as soon as possible and in any event within a period of two

weeks from receipt of a copy of this Order;

F) 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 administration of Resolve X and any other particulars as reasonably requested by the administration. Communications to such email addresses shall constitute valid service of correspondence in connection with the arbitration;

G) All arbitral costs and fees of the arbitration 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; and

H) The seat of the arbitration shall be deemed to be the same as the seat discernible from the Agreement while the arbitration shall primarily be conducted online.

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. 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.

[SOMASEKHAR SUNDARESAN, J.]