

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION

INTERIM APPLICATION NO. 307 OF 2023
IN
EXECUTION APPLICATION NO. 1821 OF 2024

Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited	... Applicant
Versus	
Ganesh Ramnath Pikwane	... Respondent

Ms. Bijal Gogri i/b. O M Gujar Law Chambers, Advocate for the Applicant.
None for the Respondent.

CORAM	:	ABHAY AHUJA, J.
DATE	:	6 th May, 2026

PC. :

1. When the matter is called out, Ms. Gogri, learned Counsel, appearing for the Applicant submits that in this matter there has been a unilateral appointment of Arbitrator and this Court may pass appropriate orders in view of the decision in the case of ***Bhadra International (India) Pvt. Ltd. and others vs. Airports Authority of India***¹ where the Hon'ble Supreme Court has clearly observed that unilateral appointment of arbitrator is *void ab initio* and the ineligibility can be raised at any stage and even in execution.

¹ 2026 SCC Online SC 7

2. In view of the aforesaid, the award dated 27th April 2016 is therefore set aside and the Execution Application as well as the connected Interim Application stand dismissed.

3. It would be open to the parties to initiate fresh arbitration proceedings in accordance with law.

4. As far as limitation is concerned, the period from the invocation of the arbitration till today be excluded in initiating fresh arbitration proceedings.

(ABHAY AHUJA, J.)