

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

Petition(s) for Special Leave to Appeal (C) No(s). 9802/2026

[Arising out of impugned judgment and order dated 23-06-2025 in ARB No. 15617/2025 passed by the High Court of Judicature at Bombay]

WALLOP ADVERTISING

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ANR.

Respondent(s)

Date : 13-07-2026 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE K.V. VISWANATHAN

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARUN PALLI

For Petitioner(s) :

Mr. Mohammed Zain Khan, Adv.
Mr. Ashraf Kapoor, Adv.
Mr. Md. Zeeshan Ali, Adv.
Mr. Amit Pandey, Adv.
Mr. Mehmood Umar Faruqui, AOR

For Respondent(s) :

Mr. Rishabh Sahu, Adv.
Ms. Vidushi Pandey, Adv.
Mr. Karan Chahar, Adv.
Mr. Kamal Digpaul, Adv.
Ms. Medha Pushkarna, Adv.
Mr. Amrish Kumar, AOR

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

1. Heard Mr. Mohammed Zain Khan, learned counsel appearing for the petitioner and Mr. Rishabh Sahu, learned counsel appearing for the respondents.
2. The present Special Leave Petition calls in question the correctness of the Order dated 23rd June, 2025 passed by the High Court of Judicature at Bombay in

Arbitration Petition (L) No.15617 of 2025, by which the High Court has refused to extend the time under Section 29A of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 (for short, "the Act") and has dismissed the application for extension. The High Court has recorded that the mandate of the Arbitral Tribunal expired way back in February, 2020 and the extension application being filed five years later cannot be entertained.

3. By our Order dated 25.02.2026, we had called for a Report from the Arbitrator, as regards the status of the arbitration.

4. We have heard learned counsel appearing for the parties and perused the relevant material placed on record. We have also gone through the report of the Arbitrator.

5. The report indicates that after the Arbitrator entered appearance in 2018, a series of applications under Section 17 of the Act were heard till January, 2019. Thereafter, during 2019 and early 2020, proceedings continued with disposal of other applications, framing of issues and so on. The Arbitrator has stated that though the mandate expired on 1st February, 2020, he was informed that an application under Section 29-A of the Act was filed and pending and both the parties agreed to continue with the proceedings.

6. According to the petitioner herein, an application during the period of Covid-19 pandemic was filed by e-mail on 06.07.2020 in accordance with the prevailing protocol. It is stated under the *bona fide* belief that the application was pending, the proceedings continued. Upon discovering that the earlier e-mail filed application was not reflected on the Registry record, the petitioner filed a formal application on 13.05.2025. We have perused the covering letter to the email. The Petitioner also avers about sending email on 06.07.2020 in the application filed on 13.05.2025. In the Counter affidavit filed in this Court the respondents admits receiving the copy of the said email.

7. Today we are informed that the arbitration is at an advanced stage and if a six months period is given, the award itself can be pronounced.

8. Having considered the overall facts and circumstances and after perusing the report of the Arbitrator and in the peculiar facts of the case, we direct that the time for concluding the arbitral proceedings and pronouncing the award is extended till 31st January, 2027.

9. At this stage, Mr. Rishabh Sahu, learned counsel for the respondent submits that the petitioner has moved a Writ Petition in the High Court challenging the orders of the Arbitrator holding certain claims to be non-arbitrable.

10. Mr. Mohammed Zain Khan, learned counsel for the petitioner, fairly submits that the petitioner will not press the Writ Petition so that there is no impediment for the Arbitrator to comply with the directions made by this Court in the present matter

11. With the above observations, the Special Leave Petition is disposed of.

12. Pending application, if any, shall also stand disposed of.

(ANITA MALHOTRA)
DEPUTY REGISTRAR

(MANOJ KUMAR)
COURT MASTER