

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
EXTRAORDINARY APPELLATE JURISDICTION**

SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CIVIL) No.16092/2025

BOMBAREDDY ASHOK REDDY

PETITIONER(s)

VERSUS

**MS PANCHAJANYA FEATURES THROUGH ITS
DIRECTOR MR SHRAVAN JESTA & ANR.**

RESPONDENT(s)

O R D E R

1. The parties were referred for mediation to the Supreme Court Mediation Centre.
2. We are informed by the learned counsel appearing for the parties that the mediation has been successful. The Settlement Agreement dated 25.04.2026 has been reduced into writing, duly signed by the parties, their respective counsel, including the learned Mediator.
3. The terms of the settlement reads thus:-

"WHEREAS

A. This Settlement Agreement is entered into between Petitioner- Mr. Bommareddy Ashok Reddy S/o Chandra Shekar Reddy, R/o 4303, 4th Block, Panchavati Apartments, Pragati Nagar, Kukatpalli, Hyderabad-500090 (herein after referred to as Petitioner) and Respondents M/s Panchajanya features Through Its Director Mr Shravan Jesta and Others, having registered office at flat no. A-702, Honer Vivantis, Gopanpalli, Serlingampally, Hyderabad-500046, Telangana (herein after referred to as Respondent).

B. First Party is a script writer who filed a suit for Permanent Injunction vide O.S No. 268/2024 against Second Party for Copyright Infringement, before the Ld. District Judge at L.B Nagar, Ranga Reddy District in Telangana, along with an additional Interim Application No.

408/2024, seeking Ad-interim Injunction to restrict Second Party from releasing any related material to the Film 'Vinnapalu Vinavale Vintha Vinthalu'.

C. Pursuant to the suit filed by the First Party, Second Party, filed an Application before the Ld. District Judge under Order VII Rule 11 of CPC, challenging the jurisdiction of the Court on the ground that the dispute between the parties is a commercial dispute directly covered by the Commercial Courts and therefore, Civil Court does not have jurisdiction to entertain the Suit. However, the application filed by the Second Party was dismissed by the Ld District Judge, vide its Order dated 15.07.2024.

D. Aggrieved by the Order dated 15.07.2024, the Second Party approached the Hon'ble High Court of Telangana vide Civil Revision Petition No. 2323 of 2024 filed under Article 227 of the Constitution of India, whereby the Hon'ble High Court while allowing the petition set aside the order passed by the Ld. District Judge, vide its Order dated 02.05.2025.

E. Order of the Hon'ble High Court was challenged by the First Party before the Hon'ble Supreme Court in SLP (Civil) No. 16092 of 2025, whereby the Hon'ble Supreme Court was pleased to refer the parties for mediation, vide its order dated 18.08.2025. The Parties appeared before the Supreme Court Mediation center, however, could not reach an amicable settlement.

F. When the case was listed for hearing on 02.12.2025, the Hon'ble Court recorded that ***"We find no merit in the matter and we could have dismissed it today itself. However, a proposal has been put forward by the petitioner before the respondent for settlement. 2. The Parties to appear before the Supreme Court Mediation Centre on 16.12.2025 and work out the terms of the settlement. 3. It is understood that the respondent-original defendant shall pay an amount of Rs.13,00,000/- (Rs. Thirteen lakhs only) to the petitioner-original plaintiff towards full and final settlement. 4. List after the mediation report is received."*** With that observation, the Parties were directed to appear before the Supreme Court Mediation Centre to work out the terms of settlement.

G. Pursuant thereto, the Parties appeared before the Ld. Mediator on 16.12.2025 and worked out the following terms of settlement.

Terms of Settlement

1. The Petitioner is the author of an original story intended for an audiovisual project and has also contributed his portion of screenplay work and rendered

services while working at the Producer's office. The parties have agreed to resolve all rights, claims, and entitlements by way of a one-time, full and final settlement. It is agreed that the story shall be credited in the name of Ashok Bommareddy, the story development shall be carried out by other names as determined by the Producer, and the screenplay shall be credited as "*Ashok Bommareddy and other names*".

2. In consideration of all services rendered and rights assigned, the Producer agrees to pay the Writer a lump-sum amount of ₹12,00,000/- (Rupees Twelve Lakhs Only). The said amount is accepted by the Writer (Petitioner) as a one-time, full and final settlement towards consideration for the story, the Writer's portion of screenplay work, and salary/remuneration for the Writer's portion of work performed at the Producer's office. The Writer acknowledges that no further payment, royalty, profit share, or consideration of any nature whatsoever shall be payable now or in the future.

3. The Petitioner hereby unconditionally, irrevocably, and absolutely assigns in favour of the Respondent all rights, title, and interest in respect of the story, screenplay, and all allied literary and creative material, including drafts, concepts, characters, and dialogues. The Respondent shall be the sole, exclusive, and perpetual owner of all such rights in all aspects, formats, media, languages, and territories, present and future. The Petitioner further waives, to the extent permitted by law, all moral rights under Section 57 of the Copyright Act, 1957, and confirms that he shall have no ownership or claim post this Agreement. The Petitioner agrees and confirms that this Settlement Agreement constitutes a complete buy-out of his contribution and that upon receipt of the settlement amount, he shall not initiate or pursue any civil, criminal, commercial, or other proceedings against the Respondent in respect of the subject matter herein.

4. The Writer agrees and confirms that this Agreement constitutes a complete buy out of his contribution and that upon execution of this Agreement and receipt of the aforesaid amount, he shall not retain any right, interest, claim, lien, or entitlement of any nature whatsoever in relation to the story, screenplay, or the project. The Writer (Petitioner) further agrees that he shall not raise any claim in future, whether monetary or otherwise, including claims for royalty, authorship, moral rights, injunction, damages, or profit participation.

5. The Petitioner shall maintain strict confidentiality in respect of the story, screenplay, project, all intellectual property embodied therein, and the terms of this Agreement, and shall not disclose, communicate,

publish, or make available the same to any third party in any manner whatsoever, except as required by law or by order of a court of competent jurisdiction, and it is expressly agreed that any breach or attempted breach of this obligation shall constitute a material breach of this Agreement, rendering the Writer fully liable for all consequences thereof, including bearing the entire cost of litigation, court fees, advocate fees, expenses, and damages, and entitling the Producer to seek all remedies available in law and equity, including injunctive relief, specific performance, and monetary compensation, without prejudice to any other rights of the Producer.

6. The Petitioner acknowledges that the story, screenplay, and all related materials are intellectual property under the Copyright Act, 1957 and other applicable laws, and hereby irrevocably assigns to the Producer all rights, title, and interest therein, including copyright and allied rights, in all forms, formats, media, languages, and territories, present and future; the Writer further waives, to the extent permitted by law, all moral rights under Section 57 of the Copyright Act, 1957 and agrees that he shall have no ownership or claim post this Agreement, and shall maintain strict confidentiality of the project, materials, and terms of this Agreement, any breach whereof shall entitle the Producer to all remedies available in law, including injunctive relief and damages.

7. It is pertinent to mention that out of the total settlement amount of ₹12,00,000/-, a sum of ₹4,00,000/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Only) shall be paid by the Respondent to the Petitioner at the time of signing of this Settlement Agreement, and the balance amount of ₹8,00,000/- (Rupees Eight Lakhs Only) shall be paid within 60 (sixty) days from the date of first payment of Rs. Four Lakhs (Rs 4.00,000/-). Upon receipt of the aforesaid amount, the Petitioner acknowledges full satisfaction of all claims and confirms that no claim of any nature survives.

8. This Agreement constitutes the entire understanding between the parties and supersedes all prior discussions, negotiations, or communications. No amendment shall be valid unless made in writing and signed by both parties. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of India, and courts at Hyderabad shall have exclusive jurisdiction.

9. That the Petitioner and the Respondent have agreed that none of them will initiate any other legal action or complaint against each other in respect of the same dispute in future.

10. That by signing this Agreement the parties hereto

solemnly state and affirm that they have no further claims or demands against each other and all the disputes and differences have been amicably settled by the parties hereto through the process of mediation.

11. The parties undertake to abide by the terms and conditions set out in the above-mentioned terms of this Settlement Agreement, which have been arrived with free will of the parties without any coercion, duress or collusion and parties undertake not to raise any dispute whatsoever henceforth.

12. That the parties are accordingly signing this settlement agreement in presence of the following persons, to authenticate their will to comply the same as agreed above.

13. The contents of this Settlement Agreement have been explained to all the parties through their respective counsels and they have understood and understood the same and voluntarily agreed to them.

(Bommareddy Ashok Reddy)
Petitioner

(M/s Panchajanya features
Through Its Director Mr.
Shravan Jesta and Others)
Respondents

(Mr. Abhinav Raghuvanshi)
AoR for the Petitioner

(Ms. Rao Vishwaja)
AoR for the Respondents

B. Sunita Rao
(Mediator)
Supreme Court Mediation Centre

Date: 25/04/2026"

4. The original Settlement Agreement is ordered to be taken on record and the same shall be kept with the record of this case.

5. The parties are directed to abide by all the terms and conditions of the settlement.

6. The Special Leave Petition stands disposed of in terms of the settlement.

7. Pending application(s), if any, shall also stand disposed of.

.....J.
[J.B. PARDIWALA]

.....J.
[K. VINOD CHANDRAN]

NEW DELHI;
15th OCTOBER, 2026.

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).16092/2025

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 02-05-2025 in CRP No. 2323/2024 passed by the High Court for The State of Telangana at Hyderabad]

BOMBAREDDY ASHOK REDDY

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

MS PANCHAJANYA FEATURES THROUGH ITS
DIRECTOR MR SHRAVAN JESTA & ANR.

Respondent(s)

IA No. 141965/2025 - APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION

IA No. 139889/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED
JUDGMENT

Date : 15-10-2026 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE J.B. PARDIWALA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE K. VINOD CHANDRAN

For Petitioner(s) : Mr. Abhinav Raghuvanshi- 3737, AOR

For Respondent(s) : Mr. P. Vamshi Rao, Adv.
Mr. Abhishek Choudhury, Adv.
Ms. Rao Vishwaja- 4027, AOR

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

1. The Special Leave Petition is disposed of in terms of the signed order which is placed on the file.
2. Pending application(s), if any, shall also stand disposed of.

(HARPREET KAUR)
COURT MASTER (SH)(POOJA SHARMA)
COURT MASTER (NSH)