

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

ARBITRATION PETITION NO. 15 OF 2026

M/S. STRAITS LAUNDRY PTE. LTD.

PETITIONER(S)

VERSUS

M/S. TIMESCAN LOGISTICS
(INDIA) LTD

RESPONDENT(S)

O R D E R

1. This petition under Section 11(6) read with Section 11(12) of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 (Act), seeks the appointment of a sole arbitrator to adjudicate disputes arising from the Warehousing Agreement dated 09.07.2020 (Warehousing Agreement) executed between the Petitioner and the Respondent.

2. Briefly observed, the Petitioner is a Singaporean Company providing laundry solutions and is a distributor of laundry systems. The Respondent is an Indian entity which provides logistical services to importers and exporters. The parties executed the Warehousing Agreement, under which the Petitioner imported and entrusted the Respondent to warehouse certain goods, including a "Speed Queen SCG 080 Commercial Hard-Mount Washer Extractor," under a Bill of Entry dated 10.09.2022.

3. It appears that the dispute arose when the Petitioner alleged that the said machinery was severely damaged due to a heavy object falling onto the machine, and attributed such negligence to the Respondent. It is stated that the Respondent acknowledged the incident and offered compensation of USD 1000. However, aggrieved

by the quantum of the compensation offered, the Petitioner sent a legal notice dated 07.06.2023, to which no reasonable settlement appears to have been made.

4. Thereafter, vide Notice dated 28.07.2023, the Petitioner invoked arbitration and proposed the appointment of a sole arbitrator to resolve the disputes between the parties. The records demonstrate that the Respondent refused to accept the delivery of the notice invoking arbitration.

5. This prompted the Petitioner to approach the High Court of Judicature at Madras by way of Arb. O.P. (Com. Div.) No. 525 of 2023, whereby vide Order dated 13.02.2024, the High Court appointed Mr. Pawan Jhabhak, Advocate, as the sole arbitrator. We may note here that the said Arbitrator, on 14.10.2024, communicated, and rightly so, that he could not proceed with the matter as the dispute constituted an International Commercial Arbitration and the jurisdiction to appoint the arbitrator vested solely with this Court. We deem it appropriate to note at this stage that, according to the Petitioner, a Review Petition has also been preferred by the Petitioner before the High Court seeking recall of its Order dated 13.02.2024, and the said petition is still pending before the High Court.

6. Subsequently, the Petitioner sent a fresh notice dated 27.11.2025, invoking arbitration and proposing the appointment of a sole arbitrator to resolve the disputes between the parties. Since the Respondent has not participated in the formation of the

arbitral tribunal, the Petitioner is before us by way of the instant petition.

7. We have heard learned counsel for the parties and perused the material placed on record.

8. Keeping in view the facts and circumstances recorded above and the relevant provision(s) under the Warehousing Agreement, we deem it just and proper to allow the instant Arbitration Petition and appoint Adv. Vikram Ramakrishnan (+91 9840058954) as the sole arbitrator to resolve the disputes between the parties. The seat and venue of arbitration, in accordance with the agreement, shall be Chennai, India.

9. The Arbitrator shall have the liberty to fix his own remuneration/fees. Ordered accordingly.

10. Pending interlocutory applications, if any, also stand disposed of.

.....CJI
(SURYA KANT)

.....J.
(JOYMALYA BAGCHI)

NEW DELHI;
MAY 04, 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 Arbitration No(s). 15/2026

M/S. STRAITS LAUNDRY PTE. LTD.

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

M/S. TIMESCAN LOGISTICS (INDIA) LTD

Respondent(s)

Date : 04-05-2026 This petition was called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI

For Petitioner(s) :Mr. Sudarshan Singh Rawat, AOR
Mr. Hari Radhakrishnan, Adv.
Mr. Sethu Prabhakaran, Adv.
Mr. Sunny Sachin Rawat, Adv.

For Respondent(s) :Dr. P. V. Saravanaraja, AOR
Mr. P. Veerappan, Adv.
Mr. M.J. Riaz Ahamed, Adv.
Mr. Vaibhav Sharma, Adv.
Mrs. Chaitali Bhattacharya, Adv.
Mr. K. Chinraj, Adv.
Mrs. Priya Agarwal, Adv.
Mrs. Monika Shrivastava, Adv.
Mr. Vikash Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Amar Kumar Raizada, Adv.
Dr. Dere Kishor Shankar, Adv.
Ms. Ayushi, Adv.
Mr. Sourav, Adv.
Ms. Ikra Khatun, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

The petition stands allowed in terms of the signed order.

Pending application(s), if any, shall stand closed.

(NITIN TALREJA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(PREETHI DILEEP KUMAR)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

(Signed order is placed on the file)