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Delhi High Court Declares Sole-Arbitrator Appointments by One Party a Legal Dead End

Sheikh Rayees • June 17, 2025

PUBLISHED REPORT

In a ruling that could upend many arbitration-based settlements, the Delhi High Court has struck a hard line against unilateral appointments of sole arbitrators—declaring such appointments inherently void, regardless of whether any party raises an objection. The case—M/s Mahavir Prasad Gupta and Sons v. Govt of NCT of Delhi—saw Justices Vibhu Bakhru and Tejas Karia issue a decisive reminder: in Indian-seated arbitrations, one party cannot handpick an...

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