



**BEFORE THE ADJUDICATING OFFICER
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA
[ADJUDICATION ORDER NO. Order/JS/YK/2025-26/32128]**

**UNDER SECTION 15-I OF SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA ACT, 1992
READ WITH RULE 5 OF SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA
(PROCEDURE FOR HOLDING INQUIRY AND IMPOSING PENALTIES) RULES, 1995.**

In respect of:

**Alok Kumar Singhania
(PAN: AKOPS3982M)**

In the matter of dealings in Illiquid Stocks Options on BSE

BACKGROUND OF THE CASE

1. Securities and Exchange Board of India (hereinafter referred to as “**SEBI**”) observed large scale reversal of trades in the Illiquid Stock Options (hereinafter also referred to as “**ISO**”) on BSE Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as “**BSE**”) leading to creation of artificial volume. In view of the same, SEBI conducted an investigation into the trading activities of certain entities in ISO on BSE for the period starting from April 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015 (hereinafter referred to as “**IP**”).
2. Investigation by SEBI revealed that during the IP, a total of 2,91,744 trades comprising 81.41% of all the trades executed in stock options segment of BSE were trades involving reversal of buy and sell positions by the clients and counterparties in a contract. In these trades, entities reversed their buy or sell position in a contract with subsequent sell or buy position with the same counterparty. These reversal trades were alleged to be non-genuine as they lacked basic trading rationale and allegedly portrayed false or misleading appearance of trading leading to creation of artificial volume in those contracts. In view of the same, such reversal trades were alleged to be deceptive and manipulative in nature.
3. During the IP, 14,720 entities were found to have executed non-genuine trades in BSE’s stock options segment. It was observed that Alok Kumar Singhania



(hereinafter referred to as the “**Noticee**”) was one of the entities who indulged in execution of reversal trades in stock options segment of BSE during the IP. His trades were alleged to be non-genuine in nature which created false or misleading appearance of trading in terms of artificial volumes in stock options. Therefore, his trades were alleged to be manipulative and deceptive in nature. In view of the same, SEBI initiated adjudication proceedings against the Noticee for alleged violation of the provisions of regulations 3(a), (b), (c), (d), 4(1) and 4(2)(a) of SEBI (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices) Regulations, 2003 (hereinafter referred to as “**PFUTP Regulations**”).

APPOINTMENT OF ADJUDICATING OFFICER

4. Pursuant to transfer of the case from erstwhile Adjudicating Officer (hereinafter referred to as “**AO**”), the undersigned was appointed as AO in the matter vide order dated April 03, 2025, under section 15-I of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 (hereinafter referred to as the “**SEBI Act**”) read with rule 3 of SEBI (Procedure for Holding Inquiry and Imposing Penalties) Rules, 1995 (hereinafter referred to as “**Rules**”), to inquire into and adjudge under the provisions of section 15HA of the SEBI Act for the alleged violations by the Noticee.

SHOW CAUSE NOTICE, REPLY AND HEARING

5. A Show Cause Notice dated August 02, 2022 (hereinafter referred to as “**SCN**”) was issued to the Noticee under rule 4(1) of Rules to show cause as to why an inquiry should not be held and penalty, if any, should not be imposed upon him for the alleged violations of the provisions of regulations 3(a), (b), (c), (d), 4(1) and 4(2)(a) of the PFUTP Regulations. In Part B of the said SCN, it was stated that SEBI had introduced a Settlement Scheme, i.e., SEBI Settlement Scheme, 2022 (hereinafter referred to as “**Settlement Scheme 2022**”) in terms of regulation 26 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Settlement Proceedings) Regulations, 2018 (hereinafter referred to as “**Settlement Regulations**”). It was further stated that the Settlement Scheme 2022 provided a one-time opportunity to the entities against whom proceedings were initiated and appeals against the said proceedings were



pending, to settle the proceedings. The scheme commenced from August 22, 2022 and remained open for a period of three months. Later, the applicable period of the Settlement Scheme 2022 was extended to January 21, 2023 by SEBI. The SCN was served on the last known addresses of the Noticee through Speed Post Acknowledgement Due (hereinafter referred to as “**SPAD**”) and by e-mail.

6. Subsequently, a Post SCN Intimation (hereinafter referred to as “**PSI**”) dated March 06, 2024 was issued to the Noticee, wherein it was stated that SEBI had offered another Settlement Scheme, i.e., SEBI Settlement Scheme, 2024 (hereinafter referred to as “**Settlement Scheme 2024**”) in terms of regulation 26 of Settlement Regulations. The applicable period of the scheme was March 11, 2024 to May 10, 2024. Later, the Settlement Scheme 2024 was extended till June 10, 2024 by SEBI vide Public Notice dated May 08, 2024. The PSI was also served on the last known addresses of the Noticee through SPAD and by email.
7. Pursuant to appointment of undersigned as AO, an opportunity of hearing was provided to Noticee on February 04, 2026. The hearing notice was issued to the Noticee through SPAD and e-mail. However, hearing notice sent through SPAD returned undelivered to SEBI with remark “Addressee Deceased”.
8. Efforts were made to contact the family or associates of the Noticee. Public records revealed that the Noticee previously served as a director in a company. Upon contacting the co-director, Mr. Pradeep Singhania who identified himself as the Noticee’s cousin, it was learnt that the Noticee is deceased. Pursuant to a request, a notarized copy of the Noticee’s death certificate was received via email on February 11, 2026. As per the death certificate issued by Kolkata Municipal Corporation, the Noticee passed away on August 07, 2015.
9. Before proceeding further in the matter on merit, it would be in the fitness of things to first decide as to whether on the death of the Noticee, the present adjudication proceedings against him would continue or abate.



10. In this context, I note that in the matter of *Girijanandini Devi v. Bijendra Narain Choudhary* (AIR 1967 SC 1124), the Hon'ble Supreme Court held that in case of personal actions, i.e., the actions where the relief sought is personal to the deceased, the right to sue will not survive to or against the representatives and in such cases the maxim *actio personalis moritur cum persona* (personal action dies with the death of the person) would apply. It is also relevant to refer to the decision of Hon'ble Securities Appellate Tribunal in *Chandravadan J. Dalal v. SEBI* (Appeal No. 35/2004 decided on June 15, 2005) wherein it was held that: "*The appeal abates since the appellant during the pendency of the appeal died on 29th November 2004. The appeal accordingly abates. The penalty imposed on the original appellant being personal in nature also abates.*"
11. In view of the foregoing, I am of the view that the instant adjudication proceedings against the Noticee are liable to be abated without going into the merits of the case qua him and the SCN dated August 02, 2022 issued against him is disposed of accordingly.
12. In terms of the provisions of rule 6 of the Rules, a copy of this order is being sent to SEBI, to the last known addresses of deceased Noticee and to Mr. Pradeep Singhania, who provided the death certificate of the deceased Noticee.

Place: Mumbai
Date: February 18, 2026

JAI SEBASTIAN
ADJUDICATING OFFICER