

**Office of CGPDTM, Mumbai**  
**Govt. of India**

24<sup>th</sup> March, 2021

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

In the matter of Suo Motu Writ Petition (Civil) No. 3 of 2020 (In Re: Cognizance for Extension of Limitation), the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide order dated 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 (enclosed), extended the period of limitation prescribed under the general law or special laws with effect from 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020 till further orders.

Now, in the aforementioned matter, vide Order dated 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 (enclosed), *inter alia*, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has ordered as follows:

*“2. We have considered the suggestions of the learned Attorney General for India regarding the future course of action. We deem it appropriate to issue the following directions: -*

*1. In computing the period of limitation for any suit, appeal, application or proceeding, the period from 15.03.2020 till 14.03.2021 shall stand excluded. Consequently, the balance period of limitation remaining as on 15.03.2020, if any, shall become available with effect from 15.03.2021.*

*2. In cases where the limitation would have expired during the period between 15.03.2020 till 14.03.2021, notwithstanding the actual balance period of limitation remaining, all persons shall have a limitation period of 90 days from 15.03.2021. In the event the actual balance period of limitation remaining, with effect from 15.03.2021, is greater than 90 days, that longer period shall apply.*

*3. The period from 15.03.2020 till 14.03.2021 shall also stand excluded in computing the periods prescribed under Sections 23 (4) and 29A of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, Section 12A of the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 and provisos (b) and (c) of Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 and any other laws, which prescribe period(s) of limitation for instituting proceedings, outer limits (within which the court or tribunal can condone delay) and termination of proceedings.”*

It is accordingly notified to all the stakeholders that period of limitation shall be computed in accordance with the afore-cited Order dated 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 (enclosed) passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

Sd/-

**Controller General of Patents, Designs & Trademarks**

**Encl: As above**

ITEM NO.12

COURT NO.1

SECTION PIL-W

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

SUO MOTU WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) No(s).3/2020

IN RE : COGNIZANCE FOR EXTENSION OF LIMITATION

Date : 23-03-2020 This petition was taken up suo motu for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE L. NAGESWARA RAO  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SURYA KANT

By Courts Motion

COUNSEL PRESENT

Mr. Tushar Mehta, SG  
Ms. Swati Ghildiyal, Adv.  
Mr. Ankur Talwar, Adv.  
Mr. G.S. Makkar, Adv.  
Mr. Raj Bahadur, Adv.  
Mr. B.V. Balaram Das, AOR

Mr. Dushyant Dave, Sr. Adv.

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

This Court has taken *Suo Motu* cognizance of the situation arising out of the challenge faced by the country on account of Covid-19 Virus and resultant difficulties that may be faced by litigants across the country in filing their petitions/applications/suits/ appeals/all other proceedings within the period of limitation prescribed under the general law of limitation or under Special Laws (both Central and/or State).

To obviate such difficulties and to ensure that lawyers/litigants do not have to come physically to file such

proceedings in respective Courts/Tribunals across the country including this Court, it is hereby ordered that a period of limitation in all such proceedings, irrespective of the limitation prescribed under the general law or Special Laws whether condonable or not shall stand extended w.e.f. 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020 till further order/s to be passed by this Court in present proceedings.

We are exercising this power under Article 142 read with Article 141 of the Constitution of India and declare that this order is a binding order within the meaning of Article 141 on all Courts/Tribunals and authorities.

This order may be brought to the notice of all High Courts for being communicated to all subordinate Courts/Tribunals within their respective jurisdiction.

Issue notice to all the Registrars General of the High Courts, returnable in four weeks.

(SANJAY KUMAR-II)  
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(MUKESH NASA)  
COURT MASTER

(INDU KUMARI POKHRIYAL)  
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA  
CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION  
Suo Motu Writ Petition (Civil) No.3 of 2020**

**IN RE: COGNIZANCE FOR EXTENSION OF LIMITATION.**

**..... Petitioner (s)  
Versus**

**.....Respondent (s)**

**O R D E R**

**1.** Due to the onset of COVID-19 pandemic, this Court took *suo motu* cognizance of the situation arising from difficulties that might be faced by the litigants across the country in filing petitions/applications/suits/appeals/all other proceedings within the period of limitation prescribed under the general law of limitation or under any special laws (both Central or State). By an order dated 27.03.2020 this Court extended the period of limitation prescribed under the general law or special laws whether compoundable or not with effect from 15.03.2020 till further orders. The order dated 15.03.2020 was extended from time to time. Though, we have not seen the end of the pandemic, there is considerable improvement. The lockdown has been lifted and the country is returning to normalcy. Almost all the Courts and Tribunals are functioning either physically or by

virtual mode. We are of the opinion that the order dated 15.03.2020 has served its purpose and in view of the changing scenario relating to the pandemic, the extension of limitation should come to an end.

**2.** We have considered the suggestions of the learned Attorney General for India regarding the future course of action. We deem it appropriate to issue the following directions: -

1. In computing the period of limitation for any suit, appeal, application or proceeding, the period from 15.03.2020 till 14.03.2021 shall stand excluded. Consequently, the balance period of limitation remaining as on 15.03.2020, if any, shall become available with effect from 15.03.2021.
2. In cases where the limitation would have expired during the period between 15.03.2020 till 14.03.2021, notwithstanding the actual balance period of limitation remaining, all persons shall have a limitation period of 90 days from 15.03.2021. In the event the actual balance period of limitation remaining, with effect from 15.03.2021, is greater than 90 days, that longer period shall apply.
3. The period from 15.03.2020 till 14.03.2021 shall also stand excluded in computing the periods

prescribed under Sections 23 (4) and 29A of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, Section 12A of the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 and provisos (b) and (c) of Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 and any other laws, which prescribe period(s) of limitation for instituting proceedings, outer limits (within which the court or tribunal can condone delay) and termination of proceedings.

4. The Government of India shall amend the guidelines for containment zones, to state.

“Regulated movement will be allowed for medical emergencies, provision of essential goods and services, and other necessary functions, such as, time bound applications, including for legal purposes, and educational and job-related requirements.”

3. The Suo Motu Writ Petition is disposed of accordingly.

.....CJI.  
[ S. A. BOBDE ]

.....J.  
[ L. NAGESWARA RAO ]

.....J.  
[ S. RAVINDRA BHAT ]

**New Delhi,  
March 08, 2021.**