

Office of CGPDTM, Mumbai
Govt. of India

18th January, 2022

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 23.03.2020 (enclosed), extended period of limitation prescribed under the general law or special laws with effect from 15.03.2020 till further orders. Vide order dated 08.03.2021, the order dated 23.03.2020 was brought to an end, permitting the relaxation of period of limitation between 15.03.2020 and 14.03.2021. While doing so, it was made clear that the period of limitation would start from 15.03.2021. Thereafter, due to a second surge in COVID-19 cases, vide order dated 23.09.2021, the said period of limitation is extended with effect from 15.03.2020 till 02.10.2021.

Now, vide order dated 10.01.2022 (enclosed), the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, *inter alia*, has ordered as follows:

5. Taking into consideration the arguments advanced by learned counsel and the impact of the surge of the virus on public health and adversities faced by litigants in the prevailing conditions, we deem it appropriate to dispose of the M.A. No. 21 of 2022 with the following directions:

- I. The order dated 23.03.2020 is restored and in continuation of the subsequent orders dated 08.03.2021, 27.04.2021 and 23.09.2021, it is directed that the period from 15.03.2020 till 28.02.2022 shall stand excluded for the purposes of limitation as may be prescribed under any general or special laws in respect of all judicial or quasi-judicial proceedings.*
- II. Consequently, the balance period of limitation remaining as on 03.10.2021, if any, shall become available with effect from 01.03.2022.*
- III. In cases where the limitation would have expired during the period between 15.03.2020 till 28.02.2022, notwithstanding the actual balance period of limitation remaining, all persons shall have a limitation period of 90 days from 01.03.2022. In the event the actual balance period of limitation remaining, with effect from 01.03.2022 is greater than 90 days, that longer period shall apply....”*

It is accordingly notified to all the concerned stakeholders/litigants that the period of limitation shall be computed in accordance with the afore-cited order dated 10.01.2022 (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. 15th 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

MISCELLANEOUS APPLICATION NO. 21 OF 2022

IN

MISCELLANEOUS APPLICATION NO. 665 OF 2021

IN

SUO MOTU WRIT PETITION (C) NO. 3 OF 2020

IN RE: COGNIZANCE FOR EXTENSION OF LIMITATION

WITH

MISCELLANEOUS APPLICATION NO.29 OF 2022

IN

MISCELLANEOUS APPLICATION NO. 665 OF 2021

IN

SUO MOTU WRIT PETITION (C) NO. 3 OF 2020

Order

1. In March, 2020, this Court took Suo Motu cognizance of the difficulties that might be faced by the litigants in filing petitions/ applications/ suits/ appeals/ all other quasi proceedings within the period of limitation prescribed under the general law of limitation or under any special laws (both Central and/or State) due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. On 23.03.2020, this Court directed extension of the period of limitation in all proceedings before Courts/Tribunals including this Court w.e.f. 15.03.2020 till further orders. On 08.03.2021, the order dated 23.03.2020 was brought to an end, permitting the relaxation of period of limitation between 15.03.2020 and 14.03.2021. While doing so, it was made clear that the period of limitation would start from 15.03.2021.
3. Thereafter, due to a second surge in COVID-19 cases, the Supreme Court Advocates on Record Association (SCAORA) intervened in the Suo Motu proceedings by filing Miscellaneous Application No. 665 of 2021 seeking restoration of the order dated 23.03.2020 relaxing limitation. The aforesaid Miscellaneous Application No.665 of 2021 was disposed of by this Court *vide* Order dated 23.09.2021, wherein this Court extended the period of limitation in all proceedings before the Courts/Tribunals including this Court w.e.f 15.03.2020 till 02.10.2021.
4. The present Miscellaneous Application has been filed by the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association in the context of the spread of the new variant of the COVID-19 and the drastic surge in the number of COVID cases across the country.

Considering the prevailing conditions, the applicants are seeking the following:

- i. allow the present application by restoring the order dated 23.03.2020 passed by this Hon'ble Court in *Suo Motu Writ Petition (C) NO. 3 of 2020* ; and
- ii. allow the present application by restoring the order dated 27.04.2021 passed by this Hon'ble Court in *M.A. no. 665 of 2021 in *Suo Motu Writ Petition (C) NO. 3 of 2020**; and
- iii. pass such other order or orders as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit and proper.

5. Taking into consideration the arguments advanced by learned counsel and the impact of the surge of the virus on public health and adversities faced by litigants in the prevailing conditions, we deem it appropriate to dispose of the *M.A. No. 21 of 2022* with the following directions:

- I. The order dated 23.03.2020 is restored and in continuation of the subsequent orders dated 08.03.2021, 27.04.2021 and 23.09.2021, it is directed that the period from 15.03.2020 till 28.02.2022 shall stand excluded for the purposes of limitation as may be prescribed under any general or special laws in respect of all judicial or quasi-judicial proceedings.

- II. Consequently, the balance period of limitation remaining as on 03.10.2021, if any, shall become available with effect from 01.03.2022.
- III. In cases where the limitation would have expired during the period between 15.03.2020 till 28.02.2022, notwithstanding the actual balance period of limitation remaining, all persons shall have a limitation period of 90 days from 01.03.2022. In the event the actual balance period of limitation remaining, with effect from 01.03.2022 is greater than 90 days, that longer period shall apply.
- IV. It is further clarified that the period from 15.03.2020 till 28.02.2022 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.

6. As prayed for by learned Senior Counsel, M.A. No. 29 of 2022 is dismissed as withdrawn.

.....CJI.
(N.V. RAMANA)

.....J.
(L. NAGESWARA RAO)

.....J.
(SURYA KANT)

New Delhi
January 10, 2022

ITEM NO.301

Court 1 (Video Conferencing)

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

Miscellaneous Application No.21/2022 in MA 665/2021 in SMW(C)
No.3/2020

I N R E : C O G N I Z A N C E F O R E X T E N S I O N O F L I M I T A T I O N

(FOR ADMISSION and IA No.1935/2022-APPLICATION UNDER SECTION LV
RULE 6 OF THE SUPREME COURT RULES, 2013)

W I T H

MA 29/2022 in MA 665/2021 in SMW(C) No. 3/2020 (PIL-W)

(FOR ADMISSION and IA No.3161/2022-APPLICATION UNDER SECTION LV
RULE 6 OF THE SUPREME COURT RULES, 2013 and IA No.3444/2022-
APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION)

Date : 10-01-2022 These matters were called on for hearing today.

C O R A M :

H O N ' B L E T H E C H I E F J U S T I C E
H O N ' B L E M R . J U S T I C E L . N A G E S W A R A R A O
H O N ' B L E M R . J U S T I C E S U R Y A K A N T

F o r P e t i t i o n e r (s)

Mr. Shivaji M. Jadhav, Adv.
Ms. Manoj K. Mishra, Adv.
Dr. Joseph Aristotle S., Adv.
Ms. Diksha Rai, Adv.
Mr. Nikhil Jain, Adv.
Mr. Atulesh Kumar, Adv.
Dr. Aman M. Hingorani, Adv.
Ms. Anzu Varkey, Adv.
Mr. Aljo Joseph, Adv.
Mr. Sachin Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Varinder K. Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Abhinav Ramkrishna, AOR

Mr. Neeraj Kishan Kaul, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Himanshu Chaubey, AOR
Mr. Prem Dave, Adv.
Mr. Raghav Agrawal, Adv.
Mr. Toshiv Goyal, Adv.

F o r R e s p o n d e n t (s)

Mr. K.K. Venugopal, AG
Mr. Tushar Mehta, SG

Mr. Rajat Nair, Adv.
Mr. Kanu Agrawal, Adv.
Mr. Siddhant Kohli, Adv.
Mr. Chinmayee Chandra, Adv.
Mr. Arvind Kumar Sharma, AOR

Ms. Uttara Babbar, AOR
Mr. Manan Bansal, Adv.

Mr. Arjun Garg, AOR
Mr. Aakash Nandolia, Adv.
Ms. Sagun Srivastava, Adv.

Ms. Sunieta Ojha, AOR

Mr. P. I. Jose, AOR
Mr. Jenis V. Frensis, Adv.
Mr. Prashant K. Sharma, Adv.

Ms. Anindita Mitra, AOR

Mr. Sahil Tagotra, AOR
Mr. Subhro Mukherjee, Adv.

Mr. Amit Sharma, AOR

Mr. Sameer Parekh, Adv.
Mr. Kshatrashal Raj, Adv.
Ms. Tanya Chaudhry, Adv.
Ms. Pratyusha Priyadarshini, Adv.
Ms. Nitika Pandey, Adv.
For M/s.Parekh & Co., AOR

M/S. VKC Law Offices, AOR

Mr. Vinod Sharma, AOR

Mr. Mukesh K. Giri, AOR

Mr. Kunal Chatterji, AOR
Ms. Maitrayee Banerjee, Adv.
Mr. Rohit Bansal, Adv.

Ms. Pratibha Jain, AOR

Sh. Soumya Chakraborty, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Sanjai Kumar Pathak, AOR
Ms. Shashi Pathak, Adv.

Mr. Divyakant Lahoti, AOR
Mr. Parikshit Ahuja, Adv.
Ms. Praveena Bisht, Adv.
Ms. Madhur Jhavar, Adv.
Ms. Vindhya Mehra, Adv.
Mr. Kartik Lahoti, Adv.
Mr. Rahul Maheshwari, Adv.
Ms. Shivangi Malhotra, Adv.

Mr. Tapesk Kumar Singh, AOR
Mr. Aditya Pratap Singh, Adv.
Mr. Aditya Narayan Das, Adv.

Ms. Binu Tamta, Adv.
Mr. Dhruv Tamta, Adv.

Mr. Siddhesh Kotwal, Adv.
Ms. Ana Upadhyay, Adv.
Ms. Manya Hasija, Adv.
Ms. Pragya Barsaiyan, Adv.
Mr. Akash Singh, Adv.

Ms. Taruna Ardhendumauli Prasad, AOR

Mr. Sibor Sankar Mishra, AOR
Mr. Niranjana Sahu, Adv.

Mr. Abhimanyu Tewari, Adv.
Ms. Eliza Bar, Adv.

Mr. Avijit Mani Tripathi, AOR
Mr. T.K. Nayak, Adv.

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

The Court is convened through Video Conferencing.

M.A. No.21 of 2022 is disposed of and M.A. No.29/2022 is dismissed as withdrawn, in terms of the signed Order.

(VISHAL ANAND)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(Signed Order is placed on the file)

(R.S. NARAYANAN)
COURT MASTER (NSH)