

BEFORE THE HON'BLE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

SUO MOTO WRIT (CIVIL) NO. 3 of 2020

IN RE : COGNIZANCE FOR EXTENSION OF LIMITATION

S. No.	Order Dated	Court Order in brief	Page No.
1.	23.03.2020	Ordered that a period of limitation in all 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) 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 orders.	1-2
2.	06.05.2020	All periods of limitation prescribed under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 and under section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act 1881 shall be extended with effect from 15.03.2020 till further orders. In case the limitation has expired after 15.03.2020 then the period from 15.03.2020 till the date on which the lockdown is lifted in the jurisdictional area where the dispute lies or where the cause of action arises shall be extended for a period of 15 days after the lifting of lockdown.	3-5
3.	08.06.2020	Prayer for filing reply-affidavit and also reply-in-rejoinder	6-8
4.	06.07.2020	Permission seek to file a short note on the various aspects of the Limitation involved in the matter	9-11
5.	10.07.2020	Orders shall also apply for extension of time limit for passing arbitral award under Section 29A and for extension of the time limit prescribed under Section 23(4) of the said Arbitration Act. Time Lines also extended for Section 12 of the Commercial Courts Act for compulsory pre-litigation shall stand extended from the time when the lockdown is lifted plus 45 days	12-17

		<p>thereafter. That is to say that if the above period, i.e. the period of lockdown plus 45 days has expired, no further period shall be liable to be excluded.</p> <p>Service of notices, summons and pleadings may be effected by e-mail, FAX, commonly used instant messaging services, such as WhatsApp, Telegram, Signal etc. we direct that in addition thereto, the party must also effect service of the same document/documents by e-mail, simultaneously on the same date.</p>	
6.	08.03.2021	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.	18-20
7.	27.04.2021	Owing to the new surge of cases, the Supreme Court restored the order of 23.03.2020 and 08.03.202 and further suspended limitation under general or special laws in respect of all judicial or quasi-judicial proceedings till further orders under Article 142 read with Article 141 and listed the matter for 19.07.2021. Thereby, effectively limitation stands suspended from 15.03.2020 till date.	21-26
8.	01.09.2021	The matter was orally mentioned on the behest of Election Commission of India seeking urgent listing of two applications (i) Seeking Intervention (ii) Seeking Directions.	27-28
9.	09.09.2021	The Court directed to list all the applications with the main matter before an appropriate bench.	29-31
10.	23.09.2021	<p>The Court disposed of the application with certain directions:-</p> <p>1. The period of limitation for any suit, appeal, application or proceeding, the period from <u>15.03.2020 till 02.10.2021 shall stand excluded</u>. Consequently, the</p>	32-42

balance period of limitation remaining as on 15.03.2021, if any, **shall become available with effect from 03.10.2021.**

2. In cases where the limitation **would have expired** during the period between 15.03.2020 till 02.10.2021, **notwithstanding the actual balance period of limitation remaining**, all persons shall have a limitation period of **90 days from 03.10.2021 i.e. January 1, 2022**
In the event the actual balance period of limitation remaining, with effect from 03.10.2021, is greater than 90 days, **that longer period shall apply.**

*(Note:- January 1 and 2 being the weekend; the first day of reopening of most Courts will be **January 3, 2022**).*

3. The period from 15.03.2020 till 02.10.2021 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.”*

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

ITEM NO.6

Virtual Court 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 MOTO WRIT (CIVIL) NO. 3 of 2020

IN RE : COGNIZANCE FOR EXTENSION OF LIMITATION

WITH

IA No.48411/2020 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS

IA No.48375/2020 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION

IA No.48511/2020 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION

IA No.48461/2020 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION

IA No.48374/2020 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION

IA No.48416/2020 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION

IA No.48408/2020 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION

I.A NO..... OF 2020 - FILED BY MR. NARAYAN VASUDEO MARATHE,
APPLICANT-IN-PERSON

Date : 06-05-2020 This matter(s) was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE DEEPAK GUPTA

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HRISHIKESH ROY

By Courts Motion

Counsel for the parties

Mr. K.K. Venugopal, Ld. AG

Mr. Tushar Mehta, Ld. SG

Mr. B.V. Balram Das, AOR

Mr. Dushyant Dave, Sr. Adv.

Mr. Sameer Pandit, Adv.

Mr. Nikhil Ranjan, Adv.

Mr. Utkarsh Kulvi, Adv.

Mr. Pranaya Goyal, AOR

Ms. Meenakshi Arora, Sr. Adv.

Mr. Ankur Mahindro, Adv.

Ms. Anannya Ghosh, AOR

Mr. Arjun Garg, AOR

Mr. Divyakant Lahoti, AOR

Mr. Parikshit Ahuja, Adv.

Ms. Praveena Bisht, Adv.

Mr. Kartik Lahoti, Adv.

Ms. Madhur Jhavar, Adv.

Ms. Vindya Mehra, Adv.

Mr. Mayank Kshirsagar, AOR
Mr. Sahil Mongia, Adv.

Mr. Aniruddha P. Mayee, AOR

Mr. Narayan Marathe, Applicant-in-Person

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

IA No.48411/2020 - FOR DIRECTIONS

By way of filing this application for directions, the applicant has made the following prayer :

"To issue appropriate directions qua (i) arbitration proceedings in relation to section 29A of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 and (ii) initiation of proceedings under section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881;"

In view of this Court's earlier order dated 23.03.2020 passed in Suo Motu Writ Petition (Civil) No.3/2020 and taking into consideration the effect of the Corona Virus (COVID 19) and resultant difficulties being faced by the lawyers and litigants and with a view to obviate such difficulties and to ensure that lawyers/litigants do not have to come physically to file such proceedings in respective Courts/Tribunal across the country including this Court, it is hereby ordered that all periods of limitation prescribed under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 and under section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act 1881 shall be extended with effect from 15.03.2020 till further orders

to be passed by this Court in the present proceedings.

In case the limitation has expired after 15.03.2020 then the period from 15.03.2020 till the date on which the lockdown is lifted in the jurisdictional area where the dispute lies or where the cause of action arises shall be extended for a period of 15 days after the lifting of lockdown.

In view of the above, the instant interlocutory application is disposed of.

IA No.48375/2020 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION AND IA No.48511/2020 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION AND IA No.48461/2020 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION AND IA No.48374/2020 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION AND IA No.48416/2020 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION AND IA No.48408/2020 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION

Issue notice.

Waive service on behalf of the respondent - Union of India since Mr. K. K. Venugopal, learned Attorney General for India and Mr. Tushar Mehta, learned Solicitor General, appear on its behalf.

Let notice be issued to other respondents.

(CHARANJEET KAUR)
AR-CUM-PS

(SANJAY KUMAR-II)
AR-CUM-PS

(INDU KUMARI POKHRIYAL)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

ITEM NO.15

Virtual Court 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 (Civil) No.3/2020

IN RE COGNIZANCE FOR EXTENSION OF LIMITATION

WITH

I.A. NOS.48375, 48511, 48461, 48374, 48416, 48408, 48574, 48671, 48672,48673, 49221, 51078, 51082, 50977 & 50985 OF 2020
(Applications for Intervention/impleadment, direction/clarification & exemption from filing attested affidavit)

Date : 08-06-2020 These matters were called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE A.S. BOPANNA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HRISHIKESH ROY

Counsel for the parties

Mr. K.K. Venugopal, Ld. AG
Mr. Tushar Mehta, Ld. SG
Mr. Ankur Talwar, Adv.
Mr. Kanu Agrawal, Adv.
Mr. B.V. Balram Das, AOR

Mr. Dushyant Dave, Sr. Adv. (Not Joined VC)

Mr. Apoorv Kurup, AOR
Ms. Upama Bhattacharjee, Adv.

Mr. Abhimanyu Tewari, AOR

Mr. Arjun Garg, AOR
Mr. Aakash Nandolia, Adv.

Ms. Binu Tamta, AOR

Mr. Pravin H. Parekh, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Sameer Parekh, Adv.
Mr. Kshatrshal Raj, Adv.
For M/s Parekh & Co., AOR

Mr. Mayank Kshirsagar, AOR

Mr. Divyakant Lahoti, AOR

Mr. Parikshit Ahuja, Adv.
Ms. Praveena Bisht, Adv.
Ms. Vindhya Mehra, Adv.
Ms. Madhur Jhavar, Adv.
Mr. Kartik Lahoti, Adv.

Ms. Anannya Ghosh, AOR

Mr. Vivek Narayan Sharma, AOR

Mr. Shyam Divan, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Sameer Pandit, Adv.
Mr. Nikhil Ranjan, Adv.
Mr. Utkarsh Kulvi, Adv.
Mr. Govind Manoharan, Adv.
Mr. Pranaya Goyal, AOR

Mr. Sarvam Ritam Khare, AOR

Mr. A. Velan, Adv.
Ms. Navpreet Kaur, Adv.
Mr. A. Lakshminarayanan, AOR

Mr. Vivek Narayan Sharma, AOR

Mr. Abhimanyu Tewari, AOR

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

I.A. No.48511/2020 - For Clarification of this Court's Order dated 23.03.2020

Mr. Dushyant Dave, learned Senior Counsel, has not joined the video conferencing today.

In view of letter dated 08.06.2020 sent through email by Mr. Dave, learned Senior Counsel, the instant interlocutory application for clarification is dismissed as withdrawn.

REST OF THE INTERLOCUTORY APPLICATIONS

Mr. K.K. Venugopal, learned Attorney General for India, prays for and is granted one week's time to file reply affidavit. As prayed for by Mr. Shyam Divan, learned Senior Counsel appearing for

the applicant(s), reply-in-rejoinder be filed within one week's thereafter.

Put up on 06.07.2020.

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

(INDU KUMARI POKHRIYAL)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

ITEM NO.19

Virtual Court 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 MOTO WRIT PETITION (c) No. 3/2020

IN RE COGNIZANCE FOR EXTENSION OF LIMITATION

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

Respondent(s)

(MR. DUSHYANT DAVE, SR. ADVOCATE)

IA No. 48672/2020 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS

IA No. 48461/2020 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION

IA No. 48375/2020 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION

IA No. 48673/2020 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT

IA No. 48416/2020 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION

IA No. 48408/2020 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION

IA No. 48374/2020 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION

IA No. 48671/2020 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT)

ALONG WITH IAS. 49221/2020, 51078-, 51082, 50977, 50985, 55276,
55277, 58914, 58910/2020(APPLN.(S) FOR INTERVENTION, EXEMPTION FROM FILING ATTESTED
AFFIDAVIT)Date : 06-07-2020 These applications were called on
for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE R. SUBHASH REDDY

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE A.S. BOPANNA

By Courts Motion

Counsel for the parties:

Mr. K.K.Venugopal, Ld. A.G.

Mr. Tushar Mehta, Ld. S.G.

Mr. Ankur Talwar, Adv.

Mr. Kanu Agrawal, Adv.

Mr. B.V. Balaram Das, AOR

Mr. Dushyant Dave, Sr. Adv. (Not joined)

Mr. Arjun Garg, AOR

Mr. Rati Tandon, Adv.

Mr. C.M. Lall, Sr. Adv.

Mr. Gurvinder Singh, Adv.
Mr. Rahul Vidhani, Adv.
Mr. Gaurav Miglani, Adv.
Ms. Nancy Roy, Adv.
Ms. Archana Sahadeva, AOR

Ms. Binu Tamta, AOR

Mr. V.N. Raghupathy, AOR

Mr. Pravin H Parekh, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Sameer Pathak, Adv.
Mr. Kshatrshal Raj, Adv.
For M/S. Parekh & Co., AOR

Mr. S. Thananjayan, AOR

Mr. Mayank Kshirsagar, AOR
Mr. Sahil Mongia, Adv.
Mr. Rahul Yadav, Adv.
Ms. Pankhuri, Adv.
Mr. Parthasarthy Bose, Adv.
Mr. Akhilesh Yadav, Adv.
Ms. Aruna Mathur, Adv.
Mr. Avneesh Arputham, Adv.
Ms. Anuradha Arputham, Adv.
Ms. Geetanjali, Adv.
For M/S. Arputham Aruna And Co, AOR

Mr. Divyakant Lahoti, AOR
Mr. Parikshit Ahuja, Adv.
Ms. Praveena Bisht, Adv.
Ms. Vindhya Mehra, Adv.
Ms. Madhur Jhavar, Adv.
Mr. Kartik Lahoti, Adv.
Mr. Bhanu Pant, Adv.

Ms. Anannya Ghosh, AOR

Mr. Vivek Narayan Sharma, AOR

Mr. Shyam Divan, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Sameer Pandit, Adv.
Mr. Nikhil Ranjan, Adv.
Mr. Utkarsh Kulvi, Adv.
Mr. Govind Manoharan, Adv.
Mr. Pranaya Goyal, AOR

Mr. Sarvam Ritam Khare, AOR
Mr. Akash Shukla, Adv.

Mr. Arvind Kumar Sharma, AOR

Mr. A. Velan, Adv.
Mr. A. Lakshminarayanan, AOR
Ms.Navpreet Kaur, Adv.

Mr. Sidharth Luthra, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Arshdeep Singh Khurana, Adv.
Mr. Varun K Chopra, Adv.
Mr. Akshat Gupta, Adv.
Ms. Rajshree Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Gurtejpal Singh, Adv.
Mr. Ayush Luhtra, Adv.
Mr. Shivanshu Singh, Adv.
Mohd. Shakeib Naru, Adv.
For M/S. VKC Law Offices, AOR

Mr. Yashvardhan, Adv.
Mr. Apoorv Shukla, AOR
Ms. Ihita Farsaiya, Adv.
Ms. Prabhleen Kaur, Adv.

Mr. Apoorv Kurup, AOR
Ms. Upama Bhattacharjee, Adv.

Mr. Anilendra Pandey, AOR

Mr. Abhimanyu Tewari, AOR

R.B.I

Mr. V. Giri, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Ramesh Babu M.R., AOR

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

Shri K.K. Venugopal, learned Attorney General
and Shri V. Giri, learned senior counsel, appearing
for the Reserve Bank of India, seek permission to
file a short note on the various aspects of the
limitation involved in the matter.

Permission sought for is granted.

List on 10.07.2020.

[Charanjeet Kaur]
A.R.-cum-P.S

[Indu Kumari Pokhriyal]
Asstt. Registrar.

ITEM NO.19

Virtual Court 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 MOTO WRIT PETITION (C) NO. 3/2020

IN RE COGNIZANCE FOR EXTENSION OF LIMITATION

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

Respondent(s)

IA No. 48672/2020 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA No. 48375/2020 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION
IA No. 48461/2020 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION
IA No. 48673/2020 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT
IA No. 48374/2020 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION
IA No. 48416/2020 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION
IA No. 48408/2020 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION
IA No. 48671/2020 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT)
ALONG WITH IAS. 48574/2020 49221/2020, 51078,
51082, 50977, 50985, 55276, 55277, 58914, 58910/2020 AND
60198/2020

Date : 10-07-2020 These applications were called on
for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE R. SUBHASH REDDY
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE A.S. BOPANNA

By Courts Motion, AOR

Counsel for the parties:

Mr. Dushyant Dave, Sr.Adv.(AC)(Not Joined)

Mr. KK Venugopal, AG
Mr. Tushar Mehta, SG
Mr. Ankur Talwar, Adv.
Mr. Kanu Agrawal, Adv
Mr. B.V. Balram Das, AOR

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

Mr. Bhanu Pant, Adv.

Mr Apoorv Kurup, Adv.
Ms. Upama Bhattacharjee, Adv.

Mr. C.M. Lall, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Gurvinder Singh, Adv.
Mr. Gaurav Miglani, Adv.
Mr. Rahul Vidhani, Adv.
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Mr. Shyam Divan, Sr. Adv.
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Mr. Nikhil Ranjan, Adv.
Mr. Utkarsh Kulvi, Adv.
Mr. Govind Manoharan, Adv.
Ms. Sarrah Khambati, Adv.
Mr. Pranaya Goyal, AOR

Mr. V. Giri, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Ramesh Babu M.R., Adv.

Ms. Aruna Mathur, AOR
Mr. Avneesh Arputham, Adv.
Ms. Anuradha Arputham, Adv.
Ms. Geetanjali, Adv.
For M/s. Arputham Aruana & Co.

Mr. Pravin H. Parekh, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Sameer Parekh Adv
Mr. Kshatrshal Raj Adv
for M/S. Parekh & Co., AOR

Mr. Yashvardhan, Adv,
Mr. Apoorv Shukla, AOR,
Ms. Ishita Farsaiya, Adv.
Ms. Prabhleen Kaur, Adv.

Mr. Arjun Garg, AOR
Mr. Rati Tandon, Adv

Ms. Anannya Ghosh, AOR

Mr. Vivek Narayan Sharma, AOR

Mr. Sarvam Ritam Khare, AOR

Mr. Arvind Kumar Sharma, AOR

Mr. A. Lakshminarayanan, AOR

Mr. Sidharth Luthra, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Arshdeep Singh Khurana, Adv.
Mr. Varun K Chopra, Adv.
Mr. Akshat Gupta, Adv.
Ms. Rajshree Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Gurtejpal Singh, Adv.
Mr. Ayush Luthra, Adv.
Mr. Shivanshu Singh, Adv.
Mohd. Shakei Naru, Adv.
For M/s. VKC Law Offices, AOR

Mr. Anilendra Pandey, AOR

Mr. Abhimanyu Tewari, AOR

Ms. Binu Tamta, AOR

Mr. V.N. Raghupathy, AOR

Mr. S. Thananjayan, AOR

Mr. Mayank Kshirsagar, AOR

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

Parties have prayed to this Court for extending the time where limitation is to expire during the period when there is a lockdown in view of COVID-19 or the time to perform a particular act is to expire during the lockdown.

I.A. No. 49221/2020 -Section 29A of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996

Taken on Board.

In Suo Moto Writ Petition (C) No. 3/2020, by our order dated 23.03.2020 and 06.05.2020, we ordered that all periods of limitation prescribed under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996

shall be extended w.e.f. 15.03.2020 till further orders.

Learned Attorney General has sought a minor modification in the aforesaid orders.

Section 29A of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 does not prescribe a period of limitation but fixes a time to do certain acts, i.e. making an arbitral award within a prescribed time. We, accordingly, direct that the aforesaid orders shall also apply for extension of time limit for passing arbitral award under Section 29A of the said Act. Similarly, Section 23(4) of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 provides for a time period of 6 months for the completion of the statement of claim and defence. We, accordingly, direct that the aforesaid orders shall also apply for extension of the time limit prescribed under Section 23(4) of the said Act.

The application is disposed of accordingly.

Pre-Institution Mediation and Settlement under Section 12A of the Commercial Courts Act, 2015.

Under Section 12A of the Commercial Courts Act, 2015, time is prescribed for completing the process of compulsory pre-litigation, mediation and settlement. The said time is also liable to be

extended. We, accordingly, direct that the said time shall stand extended from the time when the lockdown is lifted plus 45 days thereafter. That is to say that if the above period, i.e. the period of lockdown plus 45 days has expired, no further period shall be liable to be excluded.

I.A. No. 48461/2020- Service of all notices, summons and exchange of pleadings

Service of notices, summons and exchange of pleadings/documents, is a requirement of virtually every legal proceeding. Service of notices, summons and pleadings etc. have not been possible during the period of lockdown because this involves visits to post offices, courier companies or physical delivery of notices, summons and pleadings. We, therefore, consider it appropriate to direct that such services of all the above may be effected by e-mail, FAX, commonly used instant messaging services, such as WhatsApp, Telegram, Signal etc. However, if a party intends to effect service by means of said instant messaging services, we direct that in addition thereto, the party must also effect service of the same document/documents by e-mail, simultaneously on the same date.

Extension of validity of Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881-I.A. Nos. 48461 and 48672/2020 (IA. No. 48671/2020, 48673/2020)

I.A. No. 48671/2020 for impleadment is allowed.

With reference to the prayer, that the period of validity of a cheque be extended, we find that the said period has not been prescribed by any Statute but it is a period prescribed by the Reserve Bank of India under Section 35-A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. We do not consider it appropriate to interfere with the period prescribed by the Reserve Bank of India, particularly, since the entire banking system functions on the basis of the period so prescribed.

The Reserve Bank of India may in its discretion, alter such period as it thinks fit. Ordered accordingly.

The instant applications are disposed of accordingly.

I.A. Nos. 48374/2020 and 48375/2020

List after six weeks.

[CHARANJEET KAUR]
ASSTT. REGISTRAR-CUM-PS

[INDU KUMARI POKHRIYAL]
ASSTT. REGISTRAR

REPORTABLE

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.**

ITEM NO.1 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
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

IN RE COGNIZANCE FOR EXTENSION OF LIMITATION Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

XXXX Respondent(s)

(FOR ADMISSION and IA No.55867/2021-INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT and IA No.55869/2021-APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS and IA No.55865/2021-APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION)

Date : 27-04-2021 This Application was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SURYA KANT
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE A.S. BOPANNA

For the Parties:

For applicant

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

For Union of
India

Mr. K.K. Venugopal, AG
Mr. Tushar Mehta, SG
Mr. Rajat Nair, adv.
Mr. Kanu Agrawal, Adv.
Mr. Siddhant Kohli, Adv.
Ms. Chinmayee Chandra, Adv.
Mr. B.V. Balaram, Das, Adv.

For R.No.4
in SMWP 3/20

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.

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

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

The Court is convened through Video Conferencing.

This Court took *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 could be faced by the litigants across the country. Consequently, it was directed vide order dated 23rd March, 2020 that the period of limitation in filing petitions/ applications/ suits/ appeals/ all other proceedings, irrespective of the period of limitation prescribed under the general or special laws, shall stand extended with effect from 15th March, 2020 till further orders.

Thereafter on 8th March, 2021 it was noticed that the country is returning to normalcy and since all the Courts and Tribunals have started functioning either physically or by virtual mode, extension of limitation was regulated and brought to an end. The *suo motu* proceedings were, thus, disposed of issuing 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.”

Supreme Court Advocate on Record Association (SCAORA) has now through this Interlocutory Application highlighted the daily surge in COVID cases in Delhi and how difficult it has become for the Advocates-on-Record and the litigants to institute cases in Supreme Court and other courts in Delhi. Consequently, restoration of the order dated 23rd March, 2020 has been prayed for.

We have heard Mr. Shivaji M. Jadhav, President SCAORA in support of the prayer made in this application. Learned Attorney General and Learned Solicitor General have also given their valuable suggestions.

We also take judicial notice of the fact that the steep rise in COVID-19 Virus cases is not limited to Delhi alone but it has engulfed the entire nation. The extraordinary situation caused by the sudden and second outburst of COVID-19 Virus, thus, requires extraordinary measures to minimize the hardship of litigant-public in all the states. We, therefore, restore the order dated 23rd March, 2020 and in continuation of the

order dated 8th March, 2021 direct that the period(s) of limitation, as prescribed under any general or special laws in respect of all judicial or quasi-judicial proceedings, whether condonable or not, shall stand extended till further orders.

It is further clarified that the period from 14th March, 2021 till further orders 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.

We have passed this order in exercise of our powers under Article 142 read with Article 141 of the Constitution of India. Hence it shall be 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 6 weeks.

List the Miscellaneous Application on 19th July, 2021.

**(NEELAM GULATI)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS**

**(RAJ RANI NEGI)
DY. REGISTRAR**

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.665/2021 in SMW(C) No. 3/2020

IN RE COGNIZANCE FOR EXTENSION OF LIMITATION Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

XXXX Respondent(s)

(IA NO.80989/2021-APPLN. FOR INTERVENTION & IA NO.80945/2021-APPLN.
FOR DIRECTION)

Date : 01-09-2021 These applications were orally mentioned today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SURYA KANT
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE A.S. BOPANNA

For Petitioner(s)

Mr. Abhinav Ramkrishna, AOR

For Respondent(s)

Mr. Sahil Tagotra, AOR

M/S. Parekh & Co., AOR

M/S. Vkc Law Offices, AOR

Mr. Vinod Sharma, AOR

Mr. Amrish Kumar, AOR

Mr. Mukesh K. Giri, AOR

Mr. Kunal Chatterji, AOR

Mr. Sanjai Kumar Pathak, AOR

Ms. Sunieta Ojha, AOR

Mr. Tapesh Kumar Singh, AOR

Mr. Aniruddha P. Mayee, AOR

Mr. Arjun Garg, AOR

Ms. Anindita Mitra, AOR

Mr. P. I. Jose, AOR

Mr. Vikas Singh, Sr. Adv. (Orally mentioned by)
Mr. Amit Sharma, AOR

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

The Court is convened through Video Conferencing.

Upon being orally mentioned by Mr. Vikas Singh, learned Senior counsel appearing for the applicant – Election Commission of India seeking urgent listing of two applications, i.e., (i) seeking intervention and (ii) seeking direction, the Registry is directed to list these applications on Tuesday, the 7th September, 2021 before an appropriate Bench.

(VISHAL ANAND)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

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

Mr. Vikas Singh, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Amit Sharma, AOR
Mr. Dipesh Sinha, Adv.
Ms. Pallavi Barua, Adv.
Mr. Prateek Kumar, Adv.

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

M/S. Vkc Law Offices, AOR

Mr. Pawan Reley, Adv.
Mr. Akshay Lodhi, Adv.
Mr. Vinod Sharma, AOR
Mr. Arun Singh, Adv.
Mr. Binod Kr. Singh, Adv.
Mr. Parijat Som, Adv.

Mr. Mukesh K. Giri, AOR

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

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

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

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

Ms. Sunieta Ojha, AOR

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

Mr. Aniruddha P. Mayee, AOR

Mr. P. I. Jose, AOR
Mr. Prashant K. Sharma, Adv.

Mr. Jenis v. Francis, Adv.

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

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

Mr. Tushar Mehta, SG
Mr. Kanu Agrawal, Adv.
Ms. Chinmayee Chandra, Adv.
Mr. Ankur Talwar, Adv.
Mr. Sidhant Kohli, Adv.
Mr. B.V. Balram Das, AOR

Mr. Yashvardhan, Adv.
Mr. Apoorv Shukla, AOR
Ms. Smita Kant, Adv.
Ms. Ishita Farsaiya, Adv.
Ms. Prabhleen Kaur, Adv.
Ms. Kritika, Adv.

Mr. Apoorv Kurup, AOR
Ms. Nidhi Mittal, Adv.

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

The Court is convened through Video Conferencing.

Heard learned Senior counsel/learned counsel appearing for the parties.

The Registry is directed to list the Miscellaneous Application No.665/2021 in Suo Motu Writ Petition(Civil) No.3/2020 along with all the applications on Thursday, the 16th September, 2021.

(VISHAL ANAND)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(SUNIL KUMAR RAJVANSHI)
BRANCH OFFICER

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION**

**Miscellaneous Application No. 665 of 2021
In SMW(C) No. 3 of 2020**

IN RE: COGNIZANCE FOR EXTENSION OF LIMITATION

O R D E R

1. Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic 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 proceedings within the period of limitation prescribed under the general law of limitation or under any special laws (both Central and/or State). On 23.03.2020, this Court directed extension of the period of limitation in all proceedings before the Courts/Tribunals including this Court w.e.f. 15.03.2020 till further orders.

2. Considering the reduction in prevalence of COVID-19 virus and normalcy being restored, the following order was passed in the *Suo Motu* proceedings on 08.03.2021:

"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. Thereafter, there was a second surge in COVID-19 cases which had a devastating and debilitating effect. 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. Acceding to the request made by SCAORA, this Court passed the following order on 27.04.2021:

“We also take judicial notice of the fact that the steep rise in COVID-19 Virus cases is not limited to Delhi alone but it has engulfed the entire nation. The extraordinary situation caused by the sudden and second outburst of COVID-19 Virus, thus, requires extraordinary measures to minimize the hardship of litigant-public in all the states. We, therefore, restore the order dated 23rd March, 2020 and in continuation of the order dated 8th March, 2021 direct that the period(s) of limitation, as prescribed under any general or special laws in respect of all judicial or quasi-judicial proceedings, whether condonable or not, shall stand extended till further orders.

It is further clarified that the period from 14th March, 2021 till further orders 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.

We have passed this order in exercise of our powers under Article 142 read with Article 141 of the Constitution of India. Hence it shall be a binding order within the meaning of Article 141 on all Courts/Tribunals and Authorities.”

4. In spite of all the uncertainties about another wave of the deadly COVID-19 virus, it is imminent that the order dated 08.03.2021 is restored as the situation is near normal.
5. We have heard learned Attorney General for India, Mr. Vikas

Singh, learned Senior Counsel for the Election Commission of India, Mr. Shivaji M. Jadhav, learned counsel for the SCAORA and other learned Advocates. There is consensus that there is no requirement for continuance of the initial order passed by this Court on 23.03.2020 and relaxation of the period of limitation need not be continued any further. The contention of Mr. Vikas Singh is that the order dated 08.03.2021 can be restored, subject to a modification. He submitted that paragraph No.2 of the order dated 08.03.2021 provides that the limitation period of 90 days will start from 15.03.2021 notwithstanding the actual balance of period of limitation in cases where limitation has expired between 15.03.2020 and 14.03.2021. According to him, the period of limitation prior to 15.03.2020 has to be taken into account and only the balance period of limitation should be made available for the purpose of filing cases.

6. The order dated 23.03.2020 was passed in view of the extraordinary health crisis. 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. As the said order dated 08.03.2021 was only a one-time measure, in view of the pandemic, we are not inclined to modify the conditions contained in the order dated 08.03.2021.

7. The learned Attorney General for India stated that paragraph

No.4 of the order dated 08.03.2021 should be continued as there are certain containment zones in some States even today.

8. Therefore, we dispose of the M.A. No.665 of 2021 with the following directions: -

- I. In computing the period of limitation for any suit, appeal, application or proceeding, the period from 15.03.2020 till 02.10.2021 shall stand excluded. Consequently, the balance period of limitation remaining as on 15.03.2021, if any, shall become available with effect from 03.10.2021.
- II. In cases where the limitation would have expired during the period between 15.03.2020 till 02.10.2021, notwithstanding the actual balance period of limitation remaining, all persons shall have a limitation period of 90 days from 03.10.2021. In the event the actual balance period of limitation remaining, with effect from 03.10.2021, is greater than 90 days, that longer period shall apply.
- III. The period from 15.03.2020 till 02.10.2021 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.

- IV. 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.”

.....CJI.
[N. V. RAMANA]

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

.....J.
[SURYA KANT]

**New Delhi,
September 23, 2021.**

- Mr. Atulesh Kumar, Adv.
 Dr. Aman Hingorani, Adv.
 Ms. Anzu Varkey, Adv.
 Mr. Sachin Sharma, Adv.
 Mr. Aljo Joseph, Adv.
 Mr. Varinder Kumar Sharma, Adv.
 Mr. Abhinav Ramkrishna, AOR
- For State of A.P. Mr. S. Niranjana Reddy, Sr. Adv.
 Mr. Mahfooz Ahsan Nazki, AOR
 Mr. Polanki Gowtham, Adv.
 Mr. Shaik Mohamad Haneef, Adv.
 Mr. T. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy, Adv.
 Mr. Amitabh Sinha, Adv.
 Mr. K.V. Girish Chowdary, Adv.
- For Patna High Court Mr. P.H. Parekh, Sr. Adv.
 Mr. Sameer Parekh, Adv.
 Mr. Kshatrashal Raj, Adv.
 Ms. Tanya Chaudhry, Adv.
 Ms. Pratyusha Priyadarshini, Adv.
 Ms. Nitika Pandey, Adv.
- For Registrar General, High Court of Meghalaya Mr. Soumya Chakraborty, Sr. Adv.
 Mr. Sanjai Kumar Pathak, Adv.
 Ms. Shashi Pathak, Adv.
- For Election Commission of India Mr. Vikas Singh, Sr. Adv.
 Mr. Amit Sharma, Adv.
 Mr. Dipesh Sinha, Adv.
 Ms. Pallavi Barua, Adv.
 Mr. Prateek Kumar, Adv.
- Mr. Ashok Nijhawan, Adv.
 Mr. Aman Bhalla, Adv.
 Ms. Anindita Mitra, AOR
- Mr. Pawan Reley, Adv.
 Mr. Akshay Lodhi, Adv.
 Mr. Vinod Sharma, AOR
 Mr. Joydip Roy, Adv.
 Mr. Sajal Awasthi, Adv.
 Mr. Binod Kumar Singh, Adv.
 Mr. Parijat Som, Adv.
- For High Court of Allahabad Mr. Yashvardhan, Adv.
 Mr. Apoorv Shukla, Adv.
 Ms. Smita Kant, Adv.
 Ms. Ishita Farsaiya, Adv.
 Ms. Prabhleen Kaur, Adv.
 Ms. Kritika Nagpal, Adv.

	Ms. Bhavya Bhatia, Adv.
For High Court of M.P.	Mr. Arjun Garg, AOR Mr. Aakash Nandolia, Adv. Ms. Sagun Srivastava, Adv.
	Ms. Sunieta Ojha, AOR
For Gauhati High Court	Mr. P. I. Jose, AOR Mr. Prashant K. Sharma, Adv. Mr. Jenis V. Francis, Adv.
For State of Meghalaya	Mr. Avijit Mani Tripathi, Adv. Mr. T.K. Nayak, Adv.
	Mr. Sahil Tagotra, AOR
For Bombay & Gujarat High Court	Mr. A.P. Mayee, Adv. M/S. Vkc Law Offices, AOR Mr. Mukesh K. Giri, AOR
For Calcutta High Court	Mr. Kunal Chatterji, AOR Ms. Maitrayee Banerjee, Adv.
For Arunachal Pradesh	Mr. Abhimanyu Tewari, Adv. Ms. Eliza Bar, Adv.
For High Court of Chhattisgarh	Mr. Apoorv Kurup, Adv. Ms. Nidhi Mittal, Adv.
For High Court of Delhi	Ms. Binu Tamta, Adv. Mr. Dhruv Tamta, Adv. Ms. Pratibha Jain, AOR Mr. Sanjai Kumar Pathak, AOR 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.
For High Court of Jharkhand	Mr. Tapesh Kumar Singh, AOR Mr. Aditya Pratap Singh, Adv. Mrs. L. Bhaswati Singh, Adv.

Mr. Aditya Narayan Das, Adv.

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

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

We dispose of the M.A. No.665 of 2021 with the following
directions: -

I. In computing the period of limitation for any suit, appeal, application or proceeding, the period from 15.03.2020 till 02.10.2021 shall stand excluded. Consequently, the balance period of limitation remaining as on 15.03.2021, if any, shall become available with effect from 03.10.2021.

II. In cases where the limitation would have expired during the period between 15.03.2020 till 02.10.2021, notwithstanding the actual balance period of limitation remaining, all persons shall have a limitation period of 90 days from 03.10.2021. In the event the actual balance period of limitation remaining, with effect from 03.10.2021, is greater than 90 days, that longer period shall apply.

III. The period from 15.03.2020 till 02.10.2021 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.

IV. 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.”

As a sequel to disposal of MA No.665/2021, pending interlocutory applications, including the applications for intervention/impleadment, also stand disposed of.

(SATISH KUMAR YADAV)
DEPUTY REGISTRAR

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

(Signed reportable order is placed on the file)