

No.HCLC.59/2020

High Court of Karnataka,
Bengaluru,
Dated: 19.01.2022.

CIRCULAR

The Hon'ble Supreme Court in Miscellaneous Application No.21/2022 in Suo Motu Writ Petition (Civil) No.3/2020, has 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.

Hence, all the Officers and Officials working on judicial side at Principal Bench, Bengaluru, Benches at Dharwad and Kalaburagi are hereby directed to follow the directions passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, vide Order dated 10.01.2022 in Miscellaneous Application No.21/2022, in Suo Motu Writ Petition (Civil) No.3/2020.

A copy of the order dated 10.01.2022 passed in Miscellaneous Application No.21/2022 in Suo Motu Writ Petition (Civil) No.3/2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court is attached herewith for perusal.

BY ORDER OF HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE,

Sd/-

(K.S.BHARATH KUMAR)
REGISTRAR (JUDICIAL)

To:

1. The Registrar General.
2. The Registrar (Vigilance).
3. The Registrar (Computers).
4. The Registrar (Administration).
5. The Registrar (Recruitment).
6. The Registrar (Review & Statistics).
7. The Registrar (Infrastructure & Maintenance).
8. The Central Project Co-ordinator.

9. The Addl. Registrar General, High Court of Karnataka, Dharwad Bench, Dharwad.
10. The Addl. Registrar General, High Court of Karnataka, Kalaburagi Bench, Kalaburagi.
11. The P.S. to Hon'ble the Chief Justice.
12. All the Private Secretaries to the Hon'ble Judges.
13. All the PAs to Registrars.
14. The Chief Secretary to Government of Karnataka, Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru.
15. The Principal Secretary to Government, Department of Law, Justice and Human Rights, Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru.
16. The Chairman, Karnataka State Bar Council, Old KGID Building, Bengaluru.
17. The President, Advocates' Association, Bengaluru.
18. The President, Advocates' Association, High Court of Karnataka, Dharwad / Kalaburagi Bench.
19. The Advocate General in Karnataka, Bengaluru.
20. Office of the Advocate General, High Court of Karnataka, Dharwad / Kalaburagi Bench.
21. The President, Women Federation of Lawyers, Bengaluru.
22. The Member Secretary, Karnataka State Legal Services Authority, Bengaluru.
23. The Member Secretary, High Court Legal Services Authority, Bengaluru.
24. The Chief Librarian of this office.
25. The P.A. to Registrar (Judicial) with a request to circulate the same to all the Court Officers and Asst. Court Officers of this office.
26. All Group-A officers of this office.
27. All Section Officers with a direction to circulate the same to the staff working under their control.
28. Office copy.

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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.
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Ms. Diksha Rai, Adv.
Mr. Nikhil Jain, Adv.
Mr. Atulesh Kumar, Adv.
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Mr. Sachin Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Varinder K. Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Abhinav Ramkrishna, AOR

Mr. Neeraj Kishan Kaul, Sr. Adv.
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Mr. Prem Dave, Adv.
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F o r R e s p o n d e n t (s)

Mr. K.K. Venugopal, AG
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Mr. Rajat Nair, Adv.
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Mr. Aakash Nandolia, Adv.
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Mr. P. I. Jose, AOR
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Mr. Prashant K. Sharma, Adv.

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Mr. Sahil Tagotra, AOR
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Mr. Amit Sharma, AOR

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

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Mr. Vinod Sharma, AOR

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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)