

**THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL
CHANDIGARH BENCH, CHANDIGARH
(through web-based video conferencing platform)**

**IA Nos.386/2020 & 387/2020
IN
CP (IB) No.205/Chd/Hry/2019**

**Under Section 60 (5) of the
Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code,
2016 read with Regulation 40 (C) of
the Insolvency and Bankruptcy
Board of India (Insolvency
Resolution Process for Corporate
Persons) Regulations, 2016 and
Rule 11 of the National Company
Law Tribunal Rules, 2016.**

In the matter of:

Oriental Bank of Commerce.Petitioner-Financial Creditor.

Versus

M/s Hike Leather Private Limited.Respondent-Corporate Debtor.

And in the matter of : **IA No.386/2020 & 387/2020 :**

Rakesh Phull, Resolution Professional
of M/s Hike Leather Private Limited.

....Applicant-Resolution Professional.

Present through Video Conferencing :-

Mr. Pulkit Goyal, Advocate for the Applicant-Resolution
Professional.

IA No.386/2020 :

The instant IA has been filed by Applicant-Resolution Professional seeking urgent hearing of IA No.387/2020. In the circumstances, the instant IA is allowed and IA No.387/2020 is taken up for hearing.

2. IA No.386/2020 stands disposed of accordingly.

IA No.387/2020 :

The instant IA has been filed by the Applicant-Resolution Professional of M/s Hike Leather Private Limited, the Corporate Debtor under Section 60 (5) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 read with Regulation 40 (C) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016 and Rule 11 of the National Company Law Tribunal Rules, 2016 seeking exclusion of the period of Lockdown w.e.f. 23.03.2020 to 31.07.2020 i.e. 131 days from the initial CIRP period of 180 days.

2. It is stated that the CIRP proceedings were initiated against the Corporate Debtor i.e. M/s Hike Leather Private Limited on 20.02.2020, when CP (IB) No.205/Chd/Hry/2019 was admitted. In pursuance of the initiation of the CIRP, the IRP/RP took all the necessary steps for resolution of the Corporate Debtor. However, the Resolution Professional could not finalise the CIRP of the Corporate Debtor within the initial CIRP period of 180 days due to imposition of the lockdown by the Government of India and the CIRP period was to expire on 18.08.2020. Hence, the I.A.

3. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in ***Suo Motu Writ Petition (Civil) No(s).3/2020 in Re: cognizance for extension of Limitation***, vide order dated 23.03.2020, observed as under:-

"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.”

4. The Hon'ble National Company Law Appellate Tribunal in
Suo Moto-Company Appeal (AT) (Insolvency) No.01 of 2020. Vide order
dated 30.03.2020, observed as under:-

“Upon requests for urgent listing of cases having been made telephonically to Registrar of this Appellate Tribunal from various persons, who were unable to physically file the same on account of complete lockdown declared by Government with effect from 25th March, 2020, we take suo moto cognizance of the unprecedented situation arising out of spread of COVID19 virus declared a pandemic. Having regard to the hardships being faced by various stakeholders as also the legal fraternity, which go beyond filing of Appeals/ cases, which has already been taken care of by the Hon'ble Apex Court by extending the period of limitation with effect from 15th March, 2020 till further order/s in terms of order dated 23rd March, 2020 in Suo Motu Writ Petition (Civil) No(s).03/2020, inasmuch as certain steps required to be taken by various Authorities under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 or to comply with various provisions and to adhere to the prescribed timelines for taking the 'Resolution Process' to its logical conclusion in order to obviate and mitigate such hardships, this Appellate Tribunal in exercise of powers conferred by Rule 11 of National Company Law Appellate Tribunal Rules, 2016 r/w the decision of this Appellate Tribunal rendered in “Quinn Logistics India Pvt. Ltd. vs. Mack Soft Tech Pvt. Ltd. in Company Appeal (AT) (Insolvency) No.185 of 2018” decided on 8th May, 2018 do hereby order as follows: -

- (1) *That the period of lockdown ordered by the Central Government and the State Governments including the period as may be extended either in whole or part of the country, where the registered office of the Corporate Debtor may be located, shall be excluded for the purpose of counting of the period for 'Resolution Process under Section 12 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, in all cases where 'Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process' has been initiated and pending before any Bench of the National Company Law Tribunal or in Appeal before this Appellate Tribunal.*
- (2) *It is further ordered that any interim order/ stay order passed by this Appellate Tribunal in anyone or the other Appeal under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 shall continue till next date of hearing, which may be notified later.*

A copy of this order be communicated to Registrar of National Company Law Tribunal, New Delhi with a request to circulate the same to all Benches of NCLT across the country including the Principal Bench based at Delhi.

A copy of this order be also communicated to Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, New Delhi for information and compliance by various Authorities under its control."

5. Thereafter, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India, inserted Regulation 40C to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016, vide notification dated 29.03.2020 and the same is as under:-

"40C. Special provision relating to time-line

Notwithstanding the time-lines contained in these regulations, but subject to the provisions in the Code, the period of lockdown imposed by the Central Government in the wake of COVID-19 outbreak shall not be counted for the purposes of the time-line for any activity that could not be completed due to such lockdown, in relation to a corporate insolvency resolution process"

6. Similarly, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India, vide notification dated 20.04.2020, inserted Regulation 47 A to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2016 and the said regulation reads as under :-

“Exclusion of period of lockdown

47A. Subject to the provisions of the Code, the period of lockdown imposed by the Central Government in the wake of Covid-19 outbreak shall not be counted for the purpose of computation of the timeline for any task that could not be completed due to such lockdown, in relation to any liquidation process.”

7. In the circumstances and since the facts are not disputed and in view of the orders of the Hon’ble Supreme Court of India, National Company Law Appellate Tribunal and in view of the Regulations issued by Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India, we allow the instant IA and exclude the period from 25.03.2020 to 31.07.2020 from the CIRP period.

8. IA No.387/2020 stands disposed of accordingly.

Sd/-
(Raghu Nayyar)
Member (Technical)

Sd/-
(Ajay Kumar Vatsavayi)
Member (Judicial)

September 14, 2020
Ashwani