IBBI celebrates its Fourth Annual Day

In the year 2016, India overhauled its insolvency and bankruptcy regime by enacting the landmark Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (Code). The Code consolidates and amends the laws relating to reorganisation and insolvency resolution of corporate persons, partnership firms and individuals in a time bound manner for maximization of the value of assets of such persons, to promote entrepreneurship, availability of credit and balance the interests of all the stakeholders. It is a modern, unified law that: (a) endeavours to prevent insolvency; (b) provides a market mechanism for time bound resolution of insolvency, wherever possible; and (c) facilitates ease of exit, wherever required.

2. Four years into operation, the insolvency regime under the Code now boasts of a strong ecosystem. The Adjudicating Authority having presence in 15 cities, the Appellate Authority, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), 3122 Insolvency Professionals, three Insolvency Professional Agencies, 73 Insolvency Professional Entities and one Information Utility are in place. The Code has expanded the scope of services of Advocates, Accountants and other professionals. It has also created markets for education and capacity building of these professionals. Debtors and creditors alike are utilising the provisions of the Code. About 3900 corporates, including some with very large NPAs, have been admitted into corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP). About 1205 CIRPs have completed the process either yielding resolution plans or ending up with orders for liquidation. 380 processes have been closed on appeal or review or settled and 218 have been withdrawn. Another 692 firms have commenced voluntary liquidation. Rich jurisprudence has developed. The government has been proactively addressing the issues that come up in the implementation of the reform.

3. A key pillar of the ecosystem responsible for implementation of the Code is the IBBI, which was established on 1st October, 2016. It has regulatory oversight over the elements of the insolvency regime, namely, Insolvency Professionals, Insolvency Professional Agencies and Information Utilities. It writes and enforces regulations for various processes, viz., corporate insolvency resolution, corporate liquidation, individual insolvency resolution and individual bankruptcy under the Code. It has also been assigned the task of developing and regulating the profession of valuers under the Companies Act, 2013. There are 3130 valuers and 14 Valuers organisations registered with the IBBI under the Companies (Registered Valuers and Valuation) Rules, 2017.

4. The IBBI is celebrating its Fourth Annual Day on 1st October, 2020. Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog will grace the occasion as the Chief Guest. Shri Rajesh Verma, Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs will join as the Guest of Honour.

5. In order to commemorate the establishment of the IBBI, it has instituted an Annual Day Lecture Series. Mr. Girish Chandra Murmu, Comptroller and Auditor General of India will deliver the Fourth Annual Day Lecture on “IBC: Adapting to the Times of a Pandemic”.

6. An annual publication, “Insolvency and Bankruptcy Regime in India: A Narrative” will be released on the occasion.

7. The programme will be held in the C&AG Auditorium, Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India, Pocket-9, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Marg, New Delhi in physical presence of a very limited audience of distinguished persons. It will be web cast and accessible online to the larger audience. The link to join the programme virtually will be made available on the IBBI website soon.

*****