



SC: Restores March 2020 order, extends limitation period for all judicial proceedings

SC restores its order dated March 23, 2020, thereby extending limitation period for all judicial and quasi-judicial proceedings, pursuant to an application 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; Specifies that the period from March 15, 2020 to February 28, 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; Remarks, “Consequently, the balance period of limitation remaining as on 03.10.2021, if any, shall become available with effect from 01.03.2022.”, and clarifies that in cases where the limitation would have expired during the aforesaid period notwithstanding the actual balance period of limitation remaining, all persons shall have a limitation period of 90 days from March 1, 2022; Further states that the said period (March 15, 2020 to Feb 28, 2022) shall also stand excluded in computing the periods prescribed u/s 23(4) and 29A of the Arbitration Act, 12A of the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 and provisos (b) and (c) of Sec. 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 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.