

IN THE HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT AT AHMEDABAD**R/CIVIL APPLICATION (FOR CONDONATION OF DELAY) NO. 444 of
2024****In F/FIRST APPEAL NO. 1263 of 2024**

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DIRECTOR K.M. TRANS LOGISTICS PVT. LTD. THROUGH POA

Versus

PRAMODKUMAR MAHADEV PRASAD

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Appearance:

DESHAL A MODI(12518) for the Applicant(s) No. 1

for the Respondent(s) No. 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9

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CORAM:HONOURABLE MS. JUSTICE GITA GOPI**Date : 29/01/2024****ORAL ORDER**

1. The present application has been filed for condonation of delay of 619 days caused in filing the First Appeal.

2. Learned advocate for the applicant states that after receiving the memo of appeal being First Appeal No.1883 of 2020, the applicant could have the knowledge of the proceedings. He further states that the judgment was declared on 7.2.2020 because of the Nation wide lock down, the applicant could not approach the court for certified copy. Learned advocate has referred to the judgment of the Hon'ble Apex Court in Suo Motu Writ Petition (C) No.3 of 2020 to submit that the Hon'ble Apex Court has extended limitation period. In view of the judgment of the Hon'ble Apex Court and in view of the fact that the appeal has been filed by respondent No.2, delay of 619 days is condoned.

3. In the case of **Collector, Land Acquisition, Anantnag and Another v. Mst. Katiji and Others** reported in **AIR 1987 SC 1353** it has been observed as under :-

“3. The legislature has conferred the power to condone delay by enacting [Section 5](#) of the Indian Limitation Act of 1963 in order to enable the Courts to do substantial justice to parties by disposing of matters on 'merits'. The expression "sufficient cause" employed by the legislature is adequately elastic to enable the courts to apply the law in a meaningful manner which subserves the ends of justice that being the life-purpose for the existence of the institution of Courts. It is common knowledge that this Court has been making a justifiably liberal approach in matters instituted in this Court. But the message does not appear to have percolated down to all the other Courts in the hierarchy. And such a liberal approach is adopted on principle as it is realized that:-

1. Ordinarily a litigant does not stand to benefit by lodging an appeal late.

2. Refusing to condone delay can result in a meritorious matter being thrown out at the very threshold and cause of justice being defeated. As against this when delay is con- doned the highest that can happen is that a cause would be decided on merits after hearing the parties.

3. *"Every day's delay must be explained" does not mean that a pedantic approach should be made. Why not every hour's delay, every second's delay? The doctrine must be applied in a rational common sense pragmatic manner.*

4. *When substantial justice and technical considerations are pitted against each other, cause of substantial justice deserves to be preferred for the other side cannot claim to have vested right in injustice being done because of a non-deliberate delay.*

5. *There is no presumption that delay is occasioned deliberately, or on account of culpable negligence, or on account of mala fides. A litigant does not stand to benefit by resorting to delay. In fact he runs a serious risk.*

6. *It must be grasped that judiciary is respected not on account of its power to legalize injustice on technical grounds but because it is capable of removing injustice and is expected to do so."*

4. Considering the averments made in the application and as the delay is sufficiently explained and in view of the facts and circumstances of the case, the delay of 619 days caused in filing the First Appeal is condoned. The application is allowed.

(GITA GOPI,J)

Bharat