



Company Law Refresher Course

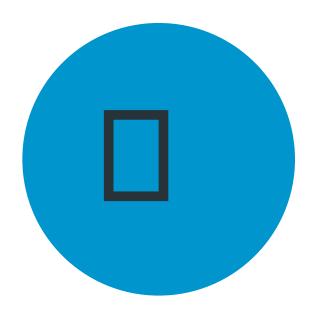
BUSINESS organization RESTRUCTURING

> CA. Rahul Parikh 25th May, 2020

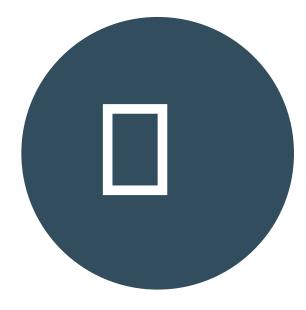
What is Business Organization Restructuring?

- **Restructuring** is a management term for the act of reorganizing the legal, ownership, operational, or other structures of a business organization for the purpose of making it more profitable, or better organized for its present needs
- Business Organization can restructure in multiple ways:
 - Convert its form of business. For eg. Firm to Company or vice-versa
 - Mergers / Demergers
 - Debt Restructuring
 - Internal Organizational Restructuring.
 - Change of Business Model

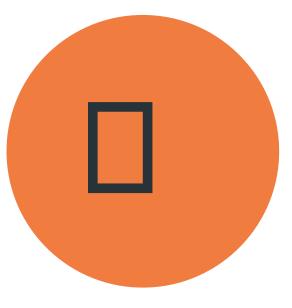
Our Topics of Discussion today:



Conversion of Firm / LLP into Company



Conversion of Company into LLP



Amalgamation of Companies

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- Factors which lead to a desire for conversion to Company
 - Migration to Corporate Entity is considered as a natural progression indicating progress and growth of an entity and leads to better recognition
 - Increases the fund raising capabilities of an entity
 - Ring-fences the Promoters' liability by providing limited liability structure
 - Separation of Ownership & Management
 - Enhances Professional Management and Corporate Governance
 - Exit opportunities to investors by way of sale of shares, listing of shares etc.
 - Valuation perception
 - Perpetual existence
 - Tax efficient organic growth by enabling mergers / demergers
 - Ability to attract talent to the organization increases

- The Legal Provisions

- The Companies Act 2013 (Chapter XXI Part 1)
 - Section 366.....Enabling Provision
 - Section 366 lists out the organizations capable of being registered as a Company under the Act including:
 - a) Partnership Firm
 - b) Limited Liability Partnership
 - c) Co-operative Society
 - d) Society
 - e) Any other business entity formed under any other law in force
 - Section 367 to 374.....Provisions for giving effect to conversion
 - The Companies (Authorised to Register) Rules, 2014Procedure For conversion

- The Legal Provisions

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• The Income Tax Act

- Section 47(xiii) of the Income Tax 1961
 - Section 47 lists out the instances of transfer of assets, which would not be considered as transfers for the purpose of applicability of Capital Gains Provisions.
 - Sub-Section (xiii) of the said provision provides that a succession of a Firm by a Company shall not be considered as a transfer if following conditions are fulfilled:
 - i. All assets and liabilities of the Firm should become the assets and liabilities of the Company.
 - ii. All Partners of the Company should become the Shareholders of the Company in the same proportion in which their Capital stands in the books of the Firm as on date of succession.
 - iii. Partners of the Firm do not receive any consideration or benefit, directly or indirectly, in any form or manner, other than by way of allotment of shares in the Company
 - iv. The shareholding of the Partners of the Firm in the Company should not be below 50% and should not fall below 50% at any time for a period of at least 5 years from the date of succession.

- The Legal Provisions

• The Income Tax Act

- Issues to be considered
 - Section 47A(3)Consequences if conditions u/s 47(xiii) not fulfilled

 The Profits & Gains arising from transfer of such capital asset / intangible assets which were not charged under the head "Capital Gains" in the year of transfer shall be charged to tax as **Business Profits** in the year in which the conditions u/s 47(xiii) are violated.
 - **However,** Conversion of Firm into Company under Chapter XXI of the Companies Act 2013 (Erstwhile Chapter IX of the Companies Act, 1956) may still not be regarded as a transfer under Income Tax as the conversion is statutory vesting and duality of transferor and transferee are missing.
 - i) Texspin Engg. And Mfg. Works 263 ITR 345 (Bom)
 - ii) DCIT v. Vishal Engineering and Galvanizers (ITA no. 2316/Ahd/2014)
 - iii) DCIT v. R. L. Kalathia & Co. 66 Taxman.co 249 (2016) (Gujarat)

Stamp Duty

- Respective State Law will apply
- However, it is possible to argue that in absence of duality of transferor and transferee and since no registered instrument of transfer is required, no stamp duty would be payable
 - Rama Sundari Ray V. Syamendra Lal Ray ILR (1947) 2 Cal 1
 - Vali Pattabhirama Rao V. Sri Ramanuja Gining and Factory P. Ltd. 60 Company Cases 568 (AP-DB)

Key Checkpoints for Conversion of Firm / LLP to Company



Registered Partnership Deed

In case of Partnership Firm, registration of the Partnership Firm with the Registrar of Firm is an essential condition for conversion.



Minimum Number of Partners

For conversion to Private Company, now only 2 Partners required. For conversion to Public Company 7 Partners required.



Check Name Availability

Check in advance whether the desired name will be available as per MCA Guidelines or decide on an alternative name before commencing process.



Desired Capital

Partners' Capital as per the Audited Accounts as on date of conversion will be converted in Share Capital



Preparatory Work for Mandatory Documents

Ensure that all ground work for all mandatory documents is completed. For eg. Consent of Secured Creditors, NOC of Registrar of Firm etc.



No Pending Legal Compliances

Ensure that all due returns under Income Tax Act, GST etc are filed and readily available.

Conversion Process – Firm / LLP to Company

Section 366

- Execute supplementary deed to ensure:
 - Mandatory / Desired Number of Partners (2 for Private and 7 for Public Company)
- Partners' Meet and Resolution for Conversion by Majority of Partners
- Authorise one or more partners to carry out the process
- Written Consents of all secured creditors

Name Reservation

- Apply for proposed name through Part A of Spice+
- Ensure before starting conversion process that proposed name will be available, else time-lines can be disturbed
- Proposed Name, if made available, will be available for a period of 20 days only.
- Apply for Name again on expiry of 20 days with explanation that name is requested again for conversion process

Form URC-2

- Publish the advertisement for conversion in Form URC 2 in 1 English and 1 vernacular newspaper with a notice of 21 clear days from the date of publication for objections to conversion, if any.
- Objections to be sent to the Registrar of Company, CRC, Ministry of Corporate Affairs and to the Registered Office of the Firm / LLP.

Form URC-1

- Form URC-1 to be filed within
 - 30 days of Publication of URC-2
 - 15 Days of the date on Financial Statements of the Firm / LLP are drawn up
- Incorporation Form SPICE+
 (INC 32) & AGILE Pro, MOA &
 AOA to be filed along with
 URC-1
- On Approval of URC-1,
 Registration Certificate will
 be issued in INC-11

- List of Partners with their names, address, occupation and share held
- Address Proof & Identity Proof of Partners
- Written Consent of Partners to continue as Members of Proposed Company
- Notarised Copy of Latest Partnership Deed / LLP Agreement
- Certified Copy of Partners' resolution for conversion.
- Certificate of Registration issued by Registrar of Firm in case of P.
 Firm / ROC in case of LLP

- NOC of Registrar of Firms / ROC
- Notarised Affidavit of all Partners confirming dissolution on conversion and undertaking that intimation to ROC / ROF will submitted in 15 days from date of conversion
- Statement of Proceedings pending against Firm / LLP

- Copy of Latest Income Tax Returns
- Audited Statement of Accounts as on a date not later than 15 days from the date of Filing of URC-1
- Written Consent of Secured Creditors

- List of Proposed Directors showing their names, surnames / family name / DIN, PAN, Passport Number (If any) with expiry date, residential address
- Maximum 3 new DIN can applied for.

- Consent to act as First Directors in DIR-2
- Declaration of Interest in other entities in DIR-8
- Affidavit of non-disqualification u/s 164(1) from all proposed Directors
- Draft MOA / AOA along with declaration of First Subscribers (In this case, all Partners as on date of conversion) & First Directors (INC 9) Proof of Registered Office Address
- MOA to include specific clauses related conversion including Statement of Assets & Liabilities
- Certificate of CA / CS / ICWA certifying compliance with provision of Stamp Act, to the extent applicable
- Copy of Advertisement in URC-2
- After Filing of URC-1 along with incorporation Forms / Documents, the ROC will issue a Certificate of Incorporation in Form INC 11.
 Date of Conversion will be the date of approval by ROC and not the date on which Financial Statements were drawn up.
- Within 15 days of conversion, file notice of conversion with ROF (In case of P. Firm) / ROC (In case of LLP)

Preparation of URC-1 – Details & Documents

- Practical Issues

Income Tax

- New PAN & TAN will be allotted
- Conversion during the year Two separate returns
- Proportionate Depreciation based on number of days......Proviso to Section 32(1)
- Carry forward of unabsorbed depreciation & losses......Section 72A(6)
- Claim of deductions on payment basis......No specific provision..... 155 ITR 152(SC) may help

Accounts

- Date of Incorporation of Company i.e. conversion and date on which financial statements were drawn up different. Treatment of transactions in intervening period?
- Conversion during the year Two sets of account Pre-Conversion Post Conversion
- Transfer of Balances to new entity at book value
- In case of Fixed Assets, Original Cost of all assets will need to be ascertained and Depreciation will also need to be ascertained in accordance with Schedule II of Companies Act 2013. FA Register also to be prepared.
- Loans from persons, other than those permitted under Companies Act, 2013?

- Practical Issues

Goods & Service Tax

- New GST Registration will be granted
- How to treat transactions till new GST Registration granted?
- Transfer of GST Input Credit ?
- Refer Section 18(3) of CGST Act and Rule 41 of CGST Rules 2017

General

- Transfer of Bank Limits
- Transfer of all registrations / title deeds / investments / permissions
- Stamp Duty issues at the time of transfer of title deeds
- New PF / ESI Registrations will be granted (Migration of Employees from Old Registration to New)

Why Conversion of Company into LLP?

- Lower Compliance Cost
- Statutory Audit applicable only if Turnover above Rs. 40 lacs / Capital above Rs.
 25 lacs.
- Flexibility in raising funds from friends and relatives for business purposes
- No restrictions in respect of related party transactions
- Better Tax efficiency on following points:
 - Non-Applicability of MAT (AMT is applicable but only in very specific situations)
 - Non-taxability of profit distributions.
 - Deductibility of Interest on Capital
 - Option to opt for Cash Basis of Accounting

Conversion of Company into LLP

- The Legal Provisions

- The Limited Liability Partnership Act 2008
 - Section 56 & Third Schedule of LLP Act
 - Conversion of Private Company to LLP
 - Section 57 & Fourth Schedule of LLP Act
 - Conversion of Unlisted Public Company into LLP
 - Companies not eligible for conversion
 - Listed Public Company
 - Companies engaged in banking, finance & insurance
 - Companies engaged in a business governed by sector specific regulator and where such regulator does not permit LLP
 - Companies having FDI and where performance linked conditions are applicable
 - Companies having External Commercial Borrowings
 - Companies having FDI under approval route
 - Section 8 Company (Not for Profit Companies)
 - Company Limited by Guarantee
 - Companies having existing charge / security interest over their assets
 - Companies which has not filed at least 1 Annual Accounts and Annual Return with ROC

Conversion of Company into LLP

- The Legal Provisions

• The Income Tax Act

- Section 47(xiiib) of the Income Tax 1961
 - Section 47 lists out the instances of transfer of assets, which would not be considered as transfers for the purpose of applicability of Capital Gains Provisions.
 - Sub-Section (xiiib) of the said provision provides that a conversion of a Private Company and Unlisted Public Company into a LLP shall not be considered as a transfer if following conditions are fulfilled:
 - i. All assets and liabilities of the Company should become the assets and liabilities of the LLP.
 - ii. All Shareholders of the Company should become the Partners of the LLP with their capital contribution and profit sharing ratio in the LLP in the same proportion as their shareholding in the Company
 - iii. Shareholders of the Company do not receive any consideration or benefit in the LLP other than share of profit or capital contribution in LLP
 - iv. The total profit sharing ratio of the Shareholder of the Company in the LLP should not be below 50% at any time for a period of at least 5 years
 - v. Total Sales, Turnover or Gross Receipts of the Company from its business should not exceed Rs. 60 lacs in any of the preceding three years from the year of conversion.
 - vi. Total value of the assets of the Company as per its Books of Accounts in any of the previous three years preceding the year of conversion does not exceed Rs. 5 crores.
 - vii. No amount is paid directly or indirectly to any partner out of the accumulated profits of the Company for a period 3 years from the date of conversion.

Key Checkpoints for conversion of Company to LLP



Align Shareholding

All Shareholders will become partners with their ratio of capital contribution profit sharing proportionate to Shareholding. Maybe necessary to buy-off some shareholders.



DIN for all Designated Partners

Ensure that all partners who are to be designated partners have DIN



Check Name Availability

Check in advance whether the desired name will be available in RUN system or decide on an alternative name before commencing process.



No Secured Creditors

Ensure that there are no Creditors, who have a security over the assets of the Company and all registered charges should be satisfied



Preparatory Work for Mandatory Documents

Ensure that all ground work for all mandatory documents is completed. For eg Consent of Shareholders / Unsecured Creditors / NOC of Regulatory Authority



No Pending Legal Compliances

Ensure that all pending MCA Forms, Due Returns under Income Tax Act, GST etc are filed and readily available.

Conversion Process – Company to LLP

Resolutions & Consents

- Convene Board Meeting and pass resolution by a majority for conversion of Company into LLP.
- Obtain consent of all shareholders of the Company
- Obtain consent of all unsecured creditors of the Company as on the date on which the financials are prepared for conversion.

Name Reservation

- Apply for proposed name through the RUN Facility of MCA.
- Ensure before starting process that proposed name will be available, else timelines can be disturbed

Form 18 & FilliP

- File Form 18 with all necessary attachments for conversion
- File Form FiLLiP for incorporation of LLP
- On approval of Form 18 and FiLLiP, Certificate of Incorporation of LLP is issued certifying that the Company has converted into LLP

Post Conversion

- Execution of LLP Agreement
- File Form 3 with the signed LLP Agreement as attachment within 30 days of incorporation.

Preparation of Form 18 & FilliP — Details & Documents

Form 18	Form FiLLiP
 Statement of Consent of Shareholders Consent of Unsecured Creditors Copy of Acknowledgement of Latest Income Tax Return Approval of any Sector Regulator, if applicable Statement of Assets & Liabilities of the Company certified true and correct by Auditor not older than 30 days from date of filing of Form 18 	 Proof of Registered Office of LLP Identity and Address Proof of all Partners including designated partners. Fixed Capital Contribution of all Partners Number and Name of LLPs, where Designated Partners are already partners
 Details of No of Prosecution initiated / Show Cause issued against Company Details of No of Proceedings by or against Company in any Court / Tribunal / Authority If a conversion application has been rejected earlier, SRN of such application and reason for rejection Details of any subsisting conviction / ruling / judgment in favour or against Company 	 Consent to act as Designated Partners in prescribed format Board resolution of any Company becoming a Partner Subscriber Sheet in prescribed format

Why Amalgamation?

- Under the Companies Act, the terms "Amalgamation & Mergers" are used almost synonymously, with no differentiation being made either in process or results.
- Amalgamation is the process of either one entity absorbing one or more entity in itself or two or more entities combining together to result in a single entity.
- The most common objectives / benefits of an amalgamation are
 - Economies of Scale / Synergy
 - Elimination of Competition / Increase of Market Share
 - Cost Efficiency / Better Competitiveness
 - Acquisition of Intellectual Property / Talent
 - Achieve Economic Strength

Amalgamation

- The Legal Provisions

- The Companies Act 2013 (Chapter XV)
 - Section 230......Enabling Provision
 Section 230 enables a Company to approach the NCLT to make an application for approval of a compromise or arrangement between the Company and its creditors and / or members
 - Section 231.....Powers of NCLT to enforce the arrangement / compromise
 - Section 232.....Procedure for Amalgamation
 - Section 233......Fast Track Amalgamation

 Section 233 deals with fast track amalgamation of two or more small companies and an amalgamation of a Wholly owned subsidiary with a Holding Company without approaching the NCLT for approval. The power of approval in such cases lies with the Central Government.
 - Section 234......Cross Border Mergers
- The Companies (Compromise, Arrangements and Amalgamation) Rules, 2016

Amalgamation

- The Legal Provisions

• The Income Tax Act

Section 2(1B)Section 47(vi)	Definition of Amalgamation Transfer of assets on amalgamation of two Indian Companies not regarded as transfer.
Section 47(viaa)	Transfer of assets on amalgamation of Banking Company with Banking Institution not regarded as transfer.
Section 32	Depreciation to be bifurcated between amalgamating and amalgamated companies based on no of days used
• Section 72A	Carry forward of unabsorbed loss & depreciation of amalgamating company in the hands of amalgamated company subject to certain conditions. (This Benefit is available only to Companies with industrial undertaking, shipping business, hotel business, banking business)
• Section 35	Has various sub-provisions for providing continuity to specific deductions available to the amalgamating company in the hands of amalgamated company

Amalgamation

- The Legal Provisions

- SEBI (LODR) Regulations 2015
 - Prior Approval of SEBI through stock exchanges is mandatory in case of listed companies
- Competition Act 2002
 - Amalgamations which exceed prescribed threshold limits in respect of Assets and Turnover are required to get prior approval.
- Stamp Act
 - Respective State Laws will apply. Certain States have specific entries for calculation of stamp duty in case of amalgamation, some do now. In cases of amalgamations involving assets situated in different states, duplication of stamp duty payments is not ruled and sometimes inevitable.

Board Approval

• BOD to consider proposal of amalgamation

- Draft Scheme of Amalgamation
- Valuation Report and determination of Exchange Ratio by a Valuer registered with RVO.
- Approval of Scheme by Audit Committee and Board of Directors.

3B **Application to NCLT**

- Details Pending **Investigations**
- Specific Disclosure regarding reduction in capital as per Scheme, if any
- CA Certificate as at Cut-Off Date certifying list of Secured & Unsecured Creditors with values

SEBI Approval (In case of Listed Companies)

- Obtain Fairness Opinion in regards to Valuation Report from Merchant Banker.
- Upload Scheme, Valuation Report & Fairness Report on Company Website
- Submit Scheme. Valuation Report & Fairness Report to respective Stock Exchange for SEBI Approval.

Application to NCLT

 CA Certificate as at Cut-Off certifying list of Shareholders and Number of Shares held

3A

Application to NCLT

- Application in Form NCLT-1
- Notice of Admission in Form NCLT-2
- Affidavit by Director in NCLT6
- Copy of Scheme
- Latest Financial Position
- Material Facts of the Cos
- Latest Audited Accounts

3D

Seek NCLT Directions for:

i. Notice in CAA-3 to ROC, RD, OL, IT Dept., SEBI, Stock Exchange, Competition Commission, any Sectoral Regulator

ii. Holding of separate Meeting of Secured Creditors, Unsecured Creditors and Shareholders

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3E

Seek NCLT Directions for

For meetings, NCLT shall fix:
i. Time & Place of Meeting
ii. Chairperson of Meeting
iii. Quorum
iv. Time within which the
Chairperson shall report results of
meeting to NCLT



Meetings of Creditors & Shareholders

- Notice in Form CAA-2 with explanatory statement to be sent to individually
- Notice to uploaded on Company Website / SEBI / SE at least 30 days prior to the date of meeting

3F

Dispensation of Creditors Meetings

- NCLT may dispense meeting if it is satisfied that the creditors and net worth of the Transferee Company after amalgamation are not adversely affected
- NCLT may dispense meeting if 90% in value of creditors in each class have given written consent to Scheme.

4B

Meetings of Creditors & Shareholders

- Notice to be sent at least 30 days prior to the date of meeting by Reg. Post / Speed Post / Courier
- Notice also to be published in 1
 English and 1 Vernacular
 Language Newspaper of the
 State of Registered Office 30
 days prior to date of meeting

3G

Dispensation of Shareholders' Meeting

 NCLT may dispense with Shareholders' Meeting if 100% of the Shareholders have consented to the Scheme.



Meeting of Creditors & Shareholders

At least 7 days prior to the Meetings, the Chairperson of respective meetings have to file Affidavit that all directions of NCLT regarding Notice and Advertisement have been complied with

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4D

Meetings of Creditors & Shareholders

i. Voting at the meetings may take place by poll or electronically or by postal ballot

ii. Voting by proxy is permitted

iii. The Scheme should be approved by majority constituting at least 3/4th in value of creditors / shares as the case may be

4G

Details along with Notice in Form CAA-2

- Explanatory Statement
- Scheme of Amalgamation
- Details of Meetings to be held
- Summary of Valuation Report
- Basis of Valuation & Fairness Opinion

4E

Meetings of Creditors & Shareholders

 Chairperson of Meeting shall submit report in Form CAA-4 on result of the meeting to the NCLT within 3 days after conclusion of the meeting.



Details along with Notice in Form CAA-2

- Appointed Date
- Fffective Date
- perceived by Directors



Response to Notice in CAA-3

Regulators Statutory Authorities to whom Notice in Form CAA-3 is sent, should file their objections if any in 30 days of receipt of notice, else it is presumed that there are no objections



Details to be kept available for inspection at RO

- Audited Financials
- NCLT Orders in the matter
- Valuation Report / Fairness **Opinion Report**
- Auditor Certificate that Accounting treatment envisaged under Scheme is in compliance.

• Benefits of Amalgamation as

Report of RD / ROC

- Regional Director shall seek a report from ROC on the affairs of the Company
- Both ROC & RD shall call for details from Petitioner Companies
- ROC shall submit its Report to RD.
- RD after considering ROC Report shall file its submission before the NCLT through the ROC.

Petition to NCLT

- NCLT shall admit the Petition.
- NCLT shall direct publication of Notice of Hearing in same two newspapers in which notice of meeting were published. Notice shall be published at least 10 days prior to final hearing.

4K

Report of OL

- OL shall call for details in respect of the Amalgamating Company
- OL shall appoint CA Firm to investigate affairs of amalgamating Company and to opine whether the amalgamation is in the interest of the members of the Company and Public at large.
- OL shall submit its Report to NCLT after considering the said CA report

5C

Petition to NCLT

- NCLT shall also send Notice of hearing to:
- i. Objecting Creditors / Members
- ii.Central Government (ROC/RD / OL)
- iii.Other Regulators / Statutory Authorities who represented

5A

Petition to NCLT

• Within 7 Days of filing of Chairpersons' Report, Petition for Amalgamation shall be filed before NCIT in Form CAA-5

5D

Final Hearing by NCLT

- .Once Reports of Regulatory Authorities, specifically RD and OL are submitted, NCLT shall taken the Petition for sanction.
- NCLT would examine the Scheme, consider the objections, if any, and shall make appropriate order.

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5E

Final Order of NCLT

- The Amalgamating Company shall prepare a Statement of Assets and submit to Registrar of NCLT
- The Registrar shall certify the same and annex the same to Final NCLT Order
- Registrar shall provide certified copy of NCLT Order

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Post Order Compliances

- Issue of Shares to shareholders of the Amalgamating Company
- Intimation of Amalgamation to various regulatory authorities, customers, suppliers etc.
- Transfer of Title Deeds,
 Permissions etc of Amalgamating
 Company to Amalgamated
 Company

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Payment of Stamp Duty

- NCLT order shall be the instrument of conveyance.
- Company shall initiate process of payment of Stamp Duty
- Stamp Duty procedure may defer from state to state
- In Gujarat, the process of adjudication of stamp duty is prescribed by Stamp Authorities

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Post Order Compliances

Until the Scheme is fully implemented, the Amalgamated Company shall file within 210 days of end of FY, a Compliance Report in Form CAA-8 duly certified by CA/CS confirming that directions in the order being complied.

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Filing of Order with ROC

The Amalgamated Company shall file a Certified Copy of the NCLT Order with the ROC within 30 days of receipt of order along with Form CAA-7

The date of filing of order shall be the effective date.

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Post Order Clarifications

The Company, their Creditors or members may at any time after passing of the order by NCLT, approach the NCLT for determination of any question in relation to the working of the Scheme sanctioned by the NCLT.

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