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\* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**  
+ W.P.(C) 5393/2021  
NITYA SHARMA ..... Petitioner  
Through In person.

versus

NATIONAL COMPANY LAW APPELLATE TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH DELHI ..... Respondent  
Through None.

**CORAM:**  
**HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE REKHA PALLI**

**ORDER**  
% **20.05.2021**

**CM APPL. 16682/2021**

1. Exemption allowed, subject to all just exceptions.
2. The application stands disposed of.

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3. The present petition has been filed by an advocate-in-person being aggrieved by the revised SOP issued by the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) on 03.01.2021.
4. The petitioner submits that the said SOP makes it mandatory that at the time of filing, along with the e-filing receipt, a hard copy of the pleadings be filed manually at the NCLAT filing counter. He further submits that most other forums, including the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) have, as on date, in view of the huge surge in the number of COVID-19 cases, permitted e-filings to be carried out, provided they are accompanied by an undertaking that, if necessary, the parties/litigants shall

file hardcopies of the pleadings once the Tribunal resumes physical functioning. He submits that since the learned NCLAT, by way of the revised SOP, is insisting that hard copies of pleadings be filed, lawyers/litigants are being forced to personally visit the Registry of the learned Tribunal and expose themselves to the risk of contracting COVID-19. He, therefore, prays that a direction be issued to the NCLAT to dispense with the requirement of submitting hard copies of pleadings at the time of filing, in order to accommodate the exigencies of the pandemic.

5. Although I find *prima facie* merit in the submissions of the petitioner, since none appears on behalf of the respondent, no orders in this regard are being passed at this stage. Issue notice to the Registrar, NCLAT through all permissible modes, including e-mail, returnable on 27.05.2021.

**MAY 20, 2021**

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**REKHA PALLI, J**