2026:AHC:224293-DB

HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT ALLAHABAD

WRIT - C No. - 31056 of 2026

Sheo Kinkar Singh

…..Petitioner(s)

Versus

State of U.P. and 2 others

…..Respondent(s)

Counsel for Petitioner(s)	:	Sheo Kinkar Singh, Suryaprakash Sharma
Counsel for Respondent(s)	:	C.S.C., Chandan Sharma, Vijay Bahadur Maurya

Reserved on 24.09.2026
Delivered on 28.10.2026

Court No. - 1

HON'BLE AJIT KUMAR, J.
HON'BLE GARIMA PRASHAD, J.

1. Heard Sri Surya Prakash Sharma, learned counsel for the petitioner, Sri Ashish Mishra along with Sri Chandan Sharma, who had been directed to appear on behalf of the High Court.

2. The controversy arose when, during scrutiny of the present petition, the prayer clause, which had been typed in italics, was not reported as a defect. The issue was not confined to the present petition, as similar inconsistencies in font, font size, spacing and the use of bold and italic type had been noticed in several matters. The Court accordingly called for an explanation from the officials of the Stamp Reporting Section and also sought the relevant Rules or administrative directions governing

these aspects and the margins to be maintained in pleadings presented before this Court.

3. On 6 August 2026, the Review Officer, who had scrutinised the petition, submitted a written explanation stating that the italicised prayer could not be reported as a defect in the absence of any direction treating it as such. This Court, therefore, called upon the Registrar General to place before it the Rules or directives, if any, governing the font, spacing, signs and margins of petitions presented before the Court. The Court also noted that there was no prescribed requirement concerning headers, footers or bold lettering.

4. The Registrar General has placed the report before us. Upon examination of the Allahabad High Court Rules, 1952, the report states that Rule 2 of Chapter XIII, relating to the paper-book in a First Appeal, prescribes double spacing. The provision is reproduced below:

> **"**2. The paper-book in a First Appeal shall, unless otherwise directed by the Chief Justice, be either type-written or cyclostyled on one side of stout full scape paper with double spacing and consist of a fly-leaf, an index and copies, transliterations or translations of the following papers, namely-
>
> (a) Plaint;
>
> (b) Written statement;
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> (c) Further pleadings, if any;
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> (d) Statements of parties or their pleaders recorded under Rules 1 and 2 of Order X of the Code;
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> (e) Judgment under appeal;
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> (f) Decree under appeal;
>
> (g) Memorandum of appeal;

(h) Such evidence, oral or documentary or other papers as the appellant may wish to refer to;

(i) Memorandum of cross-objection, if any; and

(j) Such other evidence, oral or documentary or other papers as the respondent may wish to refer to;

Provided that papers in Hindi written in Devanagri script shall not be translated;

Provided further that documents in Urdu shall be transliterated in Devanagri script."

5. On the question of margins, the report stated that the requirement of maintaining quarter margins is prescribed by Rule 6 and sub-rule (4) of Rule 11 of Chapter IX of the Allahabad High Court Rules, 1952. The provisions were reproduced as follows:

"Rule 6. Water-marked paper to be used.- Every memorandum of appeal or objection or application shall be fairly and legibly written or type-written, lithographed or **printed with quarter margin** on one side only of Government water-marked paper;

Provided that the Court may, when considered necessary, permit any other paper of full scape or both sides of the paper to be used for the purpose."

"Rule 11. Memorandum of appeal or objection or application to be accompanied by copies thereof :- (1) Every memorandum of appeal or objection and every application shall be accompanied by as many typed copies thereof as there may be parties to be served, together with -

(i) two extra copies in a Division Bench case, [to be supplied at once,] and

(ii) one extra copy in every other case:

Provided that it shall not be necessary to supply copies for service on the parties until the Court has ordered notice to issue:

It shall be deemed to be sufficient compliance with this Rule if the person presenting the memorandum or application gives a written undertaking to supply the necessary copies within four days of its admission. Such copies shall be certified to be correct by the party supplying them or his Advocate:

Provided further that in every Division Bench case an extra copy of all the documents (including judgments or orders appealed against) duly certified to be correct by the appellant or his counsel, as the case may be, shall also be filed for the use of the Court along with the memorandum of appeal, objection or application. It shall not, however, be necessary to supply an extra copy of the decree or formal orders.

(2) If the requisite copies are not supplied within such time or within such further time as may, for sufficient cause shown, be allowed by the Registrar General, the memorandum or application shall be listed for rejection before the Court.

(3) No order shall issue from the Court on such memorandum or application until the required copies have been supplied.

(4) The copies shall be fairly and legibly written or type written, lithographed or **printed with quarter margin** on one side of durable paper;

Provided that the Court may, when considered necessary, permit any other paper of full scape or both sides of the paper to be used for the purpose.” (emphasis added)

6. On the question of typing font, the report stated that there was no specific provision in the Allahabad High Court Rules, 1952 prescribing the typing font to be used while drafting petitions or other pleadings presented before the Hon'ble Court could be found.

7. The report then referred to the Instructions for Electronic Filing (e-Filing) in the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad and reproduced clauses 2.1 and 2.2 as follows:

> **"**2.1 The original text material, documents, notice of motion, memorandum of parties, main petition or appeal, annexures as the case may be, and interlocutory applications etc. will be prepared electronically using MS Word or Open Office, or any other word processor. The formatting style of the text will be as under:
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> Paper size: Legal (8.05" X 14")
>
> Margins:
>
> Top: 1.5"
>
> Bottom: 1"
>
> Left: 1.75"
>
> Right: 0.5"
>
> Justification: Full
>
> Font: English (Arial, size: 12)
>
> Hindi (any unicode font, font size: 14)
>
> Line spacing: Double
>
> 2.2 Where the document is not a text document and has to be enclosed with the petition, appeal or application or other pleadings as an annexure, it should be scanned as black & white, at a resolution of 300 dpi (dot per inch) and saved as a PDF document."

8. Thus, the report discloses that, save for the limited provisions relating to double spacing in a First Appeal paper-book, quarter margins in the matters governed by Chapter IX, and the formatting requirements contained in the e-Filing Instructions, there is no uniform prescription applicable alike to physical and electronic filings regarding font, font size, line spacing, or the use of bold and italic type. No Rule, judgment, guideline or circular laying down such a uniform prescription has been issued or passed by the Full Court, the Administrative Committee or the Hon'ble Chief Justice.

9. We have noticed in several cases that petitions and other pleadings are being filed in different fonts and font sizes, with inconsistent spacing and indiscriminate use of bold and italic type. The lack of uniformity affects readability and the orderly presentation of the record. It has, therefore, become necessary to issue directions in this regard so as to bring uniformity in the manner in which pleadings are presented before the Court.

10. Accordingly, the following directions are issued to govern the filing of petitions, appeals, applications and revisions before this Court:

(i) These directions shall apply equally to physical filings.

(ii) The typed text of every petition, affidavit, counter affidavit, rejoinder affidavit, reply, application and all other pleadings prepared in English shall be in Times New Roman, size 14, with double line spacing. Pleadings prepared in Hindi shall continue to be in a Unicode font, size 14, with double line spacing.

(iii) Bold type shall be used only for the marking or description of annexures in the pleadings and in the index. No other part of a pleading shall be set in bold type.

(iv) Italic type may be used only for extracts reproduced in a pleading and for references to courts or statutory provisions. The prayer or relief clause shall not be italicised. Italic type shall not be used elsewhere.

(v) The requirements relating to margins under the applicable Rules and the Instructions for Electronic Filing shall continue to be observed in petitions, applications, appeals and revisions.

11. The Registrar General shall circulate this order forthwith to all filing and scrutiny sections at the Principal Seat of the High Court at Allahabad as well as its Lucknow Bench and shall ensure that these directions are brought to the notice of the Bar. The respective Stamp Reporting Sections shall scrutinise filings in accordance with these directions w.e.f. 12th November, 2026.

Writ No. 31056 of 2026

12. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner seeks correction of the house-tax assessment and demand raised by respondent Nos. 2 and 3 in respect of House No. 05/1119, Mohalla Shaha urf Peepal Gaon, Phase 1, Ward 5, Zone 6, Prayagraj. It is submitted that the petitioner has already made a representation dated 14 July 2026 and confines the relief sought in this petition to a direction for its decision.

13. It appears from the record that the petitioner has already represented the matter to the respondent authority by application dated 14 July 2026, which is still pending consideration.

14. Learned Standing Counsel submits that he has no objection in the event this petition stands disposed of with a direction to the authority concerned to look into and consider the grievance of the petitioner and pass an appropriate order strictly in accordance with law.

15. In view of the above, this petition stands disposed of with a direction that the authority concerned, respondent No. 2, Nagar Ayukt, Nagar Nigam, Prayagraj, shall consider the grievance of the petitioner raised in his application/representation and decide the same within a period of two months from the date of receipt of a certified copy of this order. Needless to add, the order to be passed by the competent authority, as directed hereinabove, shall be a reasoned and speaking order.

(Garima Prashad,J.) (Ajit Kumar,J.)

October 28, 2026
Sachin Mishra

Digitally signed by :-
SACHIN MISHRA
High Court of Judicature at Allahabad