

## NOTICE

Advocates and parties-in-person are requested to note the following for all matters assigned to the Bench of GS Patel and SG Dige JJ, with effect from 2nd January 2023.

### 1 OVERALL OBJECTIVE

- (a) A concerted effort is being made to (a) reduce paper inflow (with a view ultimately eliminating it altogether); and (b) make the process of listing for all purposes more efficient.
- (b) The following directions are to that purpose, *though still on an experimental basis and temporary basis*.
- (c) Advocates and parties are requested to cooperate.

### 2 PRAECIPES & MENTIONING

- (a) Far too much time of courts *and* advocates is lost in mentioning matters for listing.
- (b) Further, on a careful study, it is found that there is no established system of preserving praecipes date-wise, numbering them, and later digitizing them.
- (c) Moreover, the present CIS does **NOT** contemplate orders being passed *except* on a listing, i.e., the system has issues when orders are passed on praecipes.
- (d) **Therefore: there will be no orders on praecipes simpliciter under any circumstances before this Bench.**

- (e) All matters **MUST** be listed, whatever the purpose, and whatever the desired order.
- (f) *Shortly stated: no order without a listing.*
- (g) To simplify the process, **EXCEPT FOR VERY URGENT PRODUCTION matters (that very day or the immediately next day): (1) NO MENTIONING IS PERMITTED and (2) NO PRAECIPES ARE REQUIRED.**
- (h) **PLEASE DO NOT ATTEMPT TO MENTION MATTERS RELATING TO DEMOLITIONS, EVICTION ETC FOUR DAYS LATER.** Such praecipes will **NOT** be accepted. Instead, use the form **AND** state the urgency.
- (i) Instead of praecipes, all must use the online Google Form at the following (clickable) link:  

<https://forms.gle/obRfEwPWG4wVqns7>

**OR**

<https://tinyurl.com/2fhoow9t>
- (j) The required fields must be filled in. Advocates and parties must take care to inform the opponent/opponent's advocates that a listing is being sought.
- (k) This applies to a request for listing **FOR ALL PURPOSES**, including admission, speaking to the minutes, withdrawal, consent terms and even applications for extension of time.
- (l) In the form, the **PURPOSE** for which a listing is sought must be set out in the appropriate field so that the matter can be listed under an appropriate purpose caption.
- (m) A statement of urgency is **NOT** required and is optional.
- (n) The registered mobile number and email id of the advocate/party must be entered.

- (o) The form has fields to provide alternative preferred dates or a date range (within the next 14 days).
- (p) On submission of the form, a preview is available. Email intimation will also be sent to the applicant confirming receipt of the application.
- (q) The corresponding Google sheet will be checked twice daily by the Court Associate/Sheristedar and the Presiding Judge.
- (r) The listing date will be entered in the Google Sheet. Thereafter, at the end of each day, a PDF of the Google Sheet will be available with open and unrestricted access on the High Court website.
- (s) AN AUTOMATED EMAIL INTIMATION OF THE ASSIGNED DATE WILL ALSO BE SENT. Applicants should, however, also check the PDF of the Google Sheet on the High Court website.
- (t) In addition, the PDF of the Google Sheet will enable all advocates to check their listing requests and the dates assigned. Opponents who have been give notice of the listing application may also check this PDF of the Google Sheet.
- (u) We believe this process will facilitate all advocates and parties in getting their matters listed in a more organized, open, transparent, and efficient manner.
- (v) This is only a transitional arrangement until a more robust system is finalized for E-FILING OF PRAECIPES (with auto-generation of SMS, WhatsApp and Email notification to the applicant seeking a listing and a corresponding alert to the advocates/parties who have given their contact information).
- (w) FOR PRODUCTION MATTERS, AND ONLY FOR PRODUCTION MATTERS, PRAECIPES ARE NECESSARY.
- (x) NO MENTIONING IS PERMITTED AT 1.30 PM.

### 3 DAILY BOARDS

- (a) The Daily Board for every week will be issued the previous Friday/Saturday.
- (b) Specially fixed final hearing matters will also be noted on the board at the head of the Board with the timing (example: at 2.30 pm).
- (c) On every day, miscellaneous matters will be listed at the beginning of the board including IAs for condonation of delay, impleadment of heirs, restoration etc.

### 4 URGENT PRODUCTION

- (a) Mentioning is permitted only for urgent production that very day or the next day provided sufficient urgency is made out. If no urgency is found, costs will be imposed.
- (b) All matters under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act will be taken up in camera without the hybrid option at 10.30 pm before the rest of the board.

### 5 AUTO LISTING

- (a) Parties and Advocates are informed that an endeavour is being made to provide for auto-listing so that for every newly filed Petition or IA, **without requiring a praecipe**, the matter gets listed **even if filing defects are not removed**, seven working days after filing.
- (b) THIS MEANS THAT PRAECIPES ARE NOT REQUIRED FOR FRESHLY FILED MATTERS THAT CAN BE TAKEN UP AFTER SEVEN DAYS.
- (c) To achieve this, after the second week of January 2023, there will be a supplementary board published daily from Tuesday to Friday of such newly filed Petitions/applications etc.

## 6 FINAL HEARINGS

- (a) For the week of 2nd January 2023, no matters will be listed for final hearing.
- (b) Parties may put in praecipes (using the system described above) seeking a listing for directions for fixing or scheduling final hearings. Such direction matters will be listed on board *before* miscellaneous matters/IAs.
- (c) All final hearings (even those at the admission stage) will be time-limited. Advocates must keep to the allotted timings.
- (d) Lists of dates, concise advance notes of arguments and compilations are permitted. These must be filed in soft copy with the court Associate/Sheristedar 48 hours in advance.
- (e) Concise final written submissions may or may not be permitted at the discretion of the court. If permitted, these **MUST** be signed or in the name of the arguing counsel.
- (f) All notes of arguments / written submissions must be concise. There are to be no quotations or extracts in these written submissions.
- (g) Scheduled final hearings are not to be adjourned at the instance of either side. If any such application is made, a fresh priority date will not be assigned thereafter.
- (h) Compilations of authorities must be properly indexed and paginated. The soft copies in PDF must be bookmarked and, preferably, hyperlinked to the index.
- (i) Soft copies from SCC are preferred. Under no circumstances are soft copies to be of the SCC watermarked version.

- (j) All soft copies must be given to the Court Associate/Sheristedar on a pen drive. This is operational until an online e-filing system is finalized for this purpose.

## **7 TENDERING AFFIDAVITS AND FILINGS**

- (a) Tendering of affidavits disrupts the digital record-keeping and creates a mismatch between the digital record and the physical record. There is also a greater risk to the integrity of the court record because of such a mismatch.
- (b) Therefore, no affidavits and filings will be permitted to be tendered across the Bar. These MUST be filed in the registry at least 48 hours in advance.
- (c) Convenience notes may be tendered. These must be in physical copy if requested. Airdropping such notes is permitted.

## **8 HYBRID OPTION**

- (a) The hybrid option is available on all working days throughout the day for all matters except those under Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act.
- (b) No permission is required to be sought to use the hybrid option.
- (c) For those joining online, the usual protocols continue to apply:
  - (i) All attendees will be admitted once the Court is in session. Until then, attendees will be in the waiting room.
  - (ii) Videos and microphones are to be kept OFF until the matter is called.
  - (iii) All those seeking to be heard online must identify themselves by name and matter sr no. Users with ids like “Redmi”, “iPhone” will not be admitted or will be ejected.

- (d) The following link is to be used for hybrid/online hearing.

<b>LOGIN LINK</b>	<a href="https://zoom.us/my/pateldigejj">https://zoom.us/my/pateldigejj</a>
<b>MEETING ID</b>	202 222 4242
<b>PASSCODE</b>	2722

## **9 EFILING**

- (a) In all fresh matters, Advocates and parties in person are requested to use the e-filing process.

## **10 LISTING AS PER CIS**

- (a) In addition, an endeavour will be made to list on the daily board as per their turn, all Petitions that are yet pending admission even if no listing has been specifically sought.
- (b) As a general rule, whatever matters cannot be taken up will be assigned fresh dates and the fresh date will be updated in the CIS. FRESH PRAECIPES SEEKING CIRCULATION AGAIN FOR THE SAME MATTER ARE THEREFORE NOT REQUIRED.
- (c) The Daily Board will, therefore, NOT BE CURTAILED. The Bar Associations are requested, therefore, to avoid printing hard copies of the full Daily Board.
- (d) Instead, Advocates and parties should use the PDF version of the Daily Board.

Sd/-  
By order  
28 December 2022