

ORDER

The pandemic of COVID-19 has taken a grip over the entire world and resumption of normalcy in these trying times is very difficult.

Initially, when the lockdown was imposed in the country, the High Court had reduced the number of benches and was entertaining only extremely urgent cases. However, gradually, with relaxation of the norms by the Government and with increase in numbers of freshly filed matters coupled with earnest request of the Bar, system has been put in place whereby all matters, pending and fresh, civil and criminal, are slowly being listed before the various benches and almost all Judges of the High Court are functioning using the video conferencing facility.

This picture of the state of affairs is only one side of the coin, whereas on the other side, the Court has recently been confronted with COVID-19 within its premises and as on 07.07.2020, there were 7 persons who had tested positive which led to suspension of judicial work for 3 days. Today, the scenario has worsened and as on today there are total of 17 persons who have tested positive for COVID-19. Considering the fact that the members of Registry are hailing from different areas and locations of cities and proximity in which they work in the departments, the possibility of this number rising, also seems like a harsh reality that cannot be overlooked while addressing the future course of action.

The functionality of the Courts needs to be balanced with the safety of the members of the Registry, which is the backbone of the Court and without the active and cooperative participation of very good message from the Registry, it would not have been possible for the High Court to function in such an efficient manner. The members of the Registry have weathered the toughest of circumstances and have come to the premises of the High Court even during the peak of the Lockdown and therefore, it would not be out of place to mention the heroic role that they have played in enabling and supporting the dispensation of justice.

Therefore, in view of the recent developments and in view of the need to strike a balance between the interests of all the stakeholders involved, the following order is passed for listing of matters, which shall come into effect from Wednesday, 15th July 2020, till Friday, 17th July 2020:

1. Fresh matters of urgent nature of Temporary Bail, Regular Bail, Anticipatory Bail, Parole-Furlough matters, Habeas Corpus, Detention and urgent fresh Civil Nature matters shall be listed. A brief note explaining the urgency would accompany such matters which will be placed before the concerned Bench along with the matters. The urgency to be determined by the concerned Bench where the matter is listed.

2. Pending matters that have been filed during the lockdown will not be listed unless a note explaining the urgency is moved by the concerned advocate(s). Such note would be placed before an Hon'ble Judge nominated by the Chief Justice on the

administrative side. On acceptance of the urgency, the matters would be listed before the Benches sitting for judicial work. A serious endeavour would be made to complete this entire exercise within 3 days of moving of the said urgency note by the advocate(s) concerned.

3. For all pending matters, that have been filed before the lockdown, the procedure as enumerated in point no. 2 shall be adopted. However, the matters would be listed within approximately 4-5 days of moving of the said urgency note by the advocate(s) concerned.

4. Mentioning of matters would continue as per current dispensation.

5. Except as mentioned hereinabove, all previous circulars relating to listing of all matters shall remain suspended for the time being.

6. However, the filing through email may continue as per current dispensation.

By order of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice

Date : 13.07.2020


Registrar General