

IN THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA

NOTIFICATION

No. 3667 - RG.

Date: 24.09.2020.

It is hereby notified for information of all concerned that the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, High Court, Calcutta, upon consideration of the recommendations of the Hon'ble Covid Committee of this Hon'ble Court, has been pleased to pass the following orders with regard to the modalities of the functioning of the Calcutta High Court and District Courts:

1. Plexi-glass barriers to be put up in all Court rooms, similar to the ones put up in about 10 court rooms.
2. Attempts should be made to increase the workload both in the High Court and at the district level. However, the committee has been informed that very few applications, if at all, have been received for appeals or revisions or arbitration petitions to be taken up for final disposal.
3. It is time that more staff be encouraged to report to the High Court and to the district courts. If staff are assigned duty on a roster basis, those who fail to attend should be marked absent and be deemed to be on leave.
4. As far as the High Court is concerned, the three Division Benches together with the Division Bench headed by the Hon'ble the Chief Justice should continue functioning as at present. Of the four regular Single Benches, one should take up all Original Side and Appellate Side matters to be heard by a Single Bench, except writ petitions. Another Bench should take up all criminal matters to be heard by a Single Bench other than writ matters. The two other Benches should take up all other matters, including writ petitions, to be taken up by Single Benches. In addition, two other Single Benches should continue sitting three days a week to take up writ petitions. One of these Benches could exclusively take up writ petitions filed during the Covid time which are ready for hearing or had been made returnable but were not taken up for further hearing. In the event the upgraded internet connectivity is available, a further Single Bench may be added.

5. Matters pertaining to the Circuit Bench at Port Blair should continue on Wednesdays as at present.
6. Urgency applications need no longer be filed and all matters filed will be placed before the relevant Benches in chronological order. In other words, all matters filed during the Covid time and which have not been disposed of will start appearing before the relevant Benches unless the returnable date has not been reached.
7. In final hearing matters, both before the Division Bench and the Single Bench, physical hearing will be permissible or the hybrid mode may be adopted as long as the number of lawyers in court in a particular matter does not exceed six or seven at any given point of time. However, the virtual mode will continue to be the preferred mode, particularly at the motion and the interim stage.

By Order,

Sd/-

[Rai Chattopadhyay]

Registrar General.