

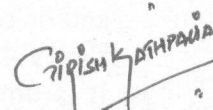
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT & SESSIONS JUDGE (HQ), TIS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI

ORDER

In compliance with the directions issued by the Hon'ble High Court, conveyed through letter No.R-123/RG/DHC/2020 dated 30.04.2020 of the Registrar General, Delhi High Court, the Judicial Officers (JOs) have to commence pronouncement of judgments/orders, in cases in which arguments have already been heard and the matters were reserved for judgment/order before or after the commencement of Covid19 lockdown. For that purpose, with effect from 04.05.2020, the Judicial Officers shall start visiting the Courts Complex. Keeping in mind the ongoing lockdown due to Covid19 pandemic, in addition to the earlier Advisory Protocols, after detailed discussion with Shri Dharmesh Sharma, District & Sessions Judge, West, following directions are issued for implementation in the entire (Central + West) Tis Hazari Courts Complex, with immediate effect till further orders:

1. The JOs posted in Tis Hazari Courts may kindly note that except for dictation and/or pronouncement of the reserved judgments/orders, they shall not hold court till further orders. However, the JOs dealing with urgent matters shall continue to hold courts as per the duty rosters already circulated. Those JOs, who do not have any case pending for pronouncement of judgment/order are requested not to come to the court complex.
2. The JOs are also requested to keep in mind that since the reserved cases would have already been adjourned *en bloc* in compliance with the earlier orders of the Hon'ble High Court, they must fix fresh date(s) and time of pronouncement, and issue notices to the litigants and/or counsel qua preponement. The notices so issued to the litigants and/or counsel shall specifically direct that only one counsel with or without litigant shall come to the court on the day and at the specified time of pronouncement.
3. It is directed that in order to prevent congestion and the infection risks associated therewith, the JOs shall ensure that except one *ahlmad* or one reader, one stenographer and one orderly, no other staff member of their court shall come to the court complex on any given day. Preferably, the staff called to court by the JOs should be Delhi resident, who commutes by self-driven vehicle. The JOs shall also specifically direct their staff to carry their Identity Cards. All JOs are impressed upon to download and install the *Arogya Setu* application on their mobile devices and ensure that the said app is downloaded and installed by their staff as well, keeping the bluetooth of their devices 'on' constantly.
4. It is advised that the JOs dictate the judgments/orders from their respective residential offices, instead of dictating the same in their respective courtrooms/chambers.
5. Those JOs, who opt to dictate judgments/orders to their stenographers in their respective courtrooms/chambers shall intimate about their option with date and time of their court visit to the Administrative Civil Judge of their respective district, so that with extremely limited housekeeping and sanitation staff, their courtrooms, chambers and *ahlmad* rooms are well sanitized in advance as well as after they leave the court.
6. In view of limited stock available and time required to purchase fresh stock through GeM, it is directed that the JOs opting to come personally to court for dictations shall ensure that they as well as their staff are equipped with face masks and gloves, and maintain soaps and sanitisers for hand hygiene.
7. The JOs opting to come personally to court for dictations shall ensure that, at all times in the court complex, social distancing is strictly adhered to. The JOs are also advised not to touch judicial files or any common touch surfaces without wearing gloves, manner of wearing which was demonstrated by Dr.Chawla of the Apollo Hospital in the recently held webinar.

8. It is informed that till further orders, all common Lunch Rooms and Seminar Hall in the court complex shall remain closed and the JOs opting to come to court are advised not to sit together in groups for lunch or tea/coffee.
9. The JOs are requested to take up for pronouncement of judgments/orders all pending cases on a single day in order to avoid repeated visits to the court complex and the resultant load on the limited staffed sanitation services.
10. It is emphasised that in the present day scenario, the best option for the JOs would be to dictate the judgments/orders from their residential office over telephone call to their stenographer or over Dictaphone or by videoconference over Cisco Webex with their stenographer. The JOs at their residential office can also make use of Dragon speech software, if already provided.
11. The soft file of the dictated judgment/order, dictated over phone call or Dictaphone or by videoconference and typewritten by the stenographer at his/her residence, can be sent by the stenographer to the JO over e-mail. The JO, after correcting the clerical errors can take printout thereof and sign the judgment/order in court on the day fixed for pronouncement without requiring the presence of the stenographer, as the proceedings sheet of pronouncement can always be hand written by the JO. After signatures and pronouncement in court, the judgment/order can be digitally signed by the JO for being uploaded with the technical assistance from Computer Branch.
12. On the day fixed for pronouncement of judgments/orders, the JOs shall ensure that only those litigants/counsel are present inside their courtroom, whose matter is being taken up, while the remaining litigants and counsel shall be directed to wait outside the courtroom for call of their case. The JOs shall ensure that rules of social distancing are strictly adhered to inside and outside their respective courtroom.



(GIRISH KATHPALIA)
DISTRICT & SESSIONS JUDGE (HQ)
TIS HAZARI COURTS,
DELHI

Dated:03.05.2020

Ref. No. 8188-8348/DJ/Covid19 Lockdown/pronouncements/2020 dated:03.05.2020

Copy forwarded for information & necessary action to :

1. The Registrar General, High Court of Delhi New Delhi
2. The District & Sessions Judges, all Court Complexes, Delhi/New Delhi
3. All Officers of Central and West Districts, THC, Delhi
4. Sh. V.K. Bansal, Director (Administration), Delhi Judicial Academy/Chairman, Centralized Computer Committee, Dwarka, New Delhi.
5. The JR/CPC, Hon'ble High Court of Delhi with request to bring the same to the notice of Hon'ble IT Committee, High Court of Delhi.
6. The Sr.AO (J), Administration Branch, I, II & III, Central, THC, Delhi
7. The Sr. AO(J)/DDO/Branch Incharge, Filing Section, General Branch, Computer Branch, THC
8. The Director, Directorate of Prosecution, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Delhi
9. The Chief Public Prosecutor, THC, Delhi
10. The Incharge, Lock up, THC, Delhi
11. Secretary, DLSA Central, THC
12. The Secretary, Bar Associations, all court complexes, Delhi/New Delhi
13. The Website Committee (English/Hindi), THC, Delhi
14. The R&I Branch, Central for uploading on LAYERS
15. The PS/Reader to the undersigned


(GIRISH KATHPALIA)

DISTRICT & SESSIONS JUDGE (HQ), TIS HAZARI COURTS,
DELHI. Dated:03.05.2020