

# **IN THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA**

## **NOTIFICATION**

No.1456-RG.

Dated 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2024.

Pursuant to the direction of the Hon`ble Supreme Court passed in W.P.(C) No-643 of 2015 (All India Judges' Association - Vs - Union of India and Others) on 04.01.2024, the Committee for Service Condition of the District Judiciary (in short CSCDJ) is constituted by the Hon`ble Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court. The CSCDJ headed by The Hon`ble Justice Arijit Banerjee, Chairman formulates the following Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for proper implementation of the recommendation of the SNJPC in respect of pay, pension, allowances and all allied matters as approved by the Hon`ble Supreme Court including all the payment of arrears of salary and pension of the Judicial Officers, pensioners and family pensioners etc. of the State of West Bengal.

### **STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP)**

1. The Judicial Department, Government of West Bengal with concurrence of Finance Department shall publish all the G.Os. /Notifications on or before 08.02.2024, if not already issued in respect of pay, pension, allowances and all allied matters to comply with the direction of the Hon`ble Apex Court and for proper implementation of the recommendation of the Second National Judicial Pay Commission (in short SNJPC) as approved by the Hon`ble Supreme Court.
2. The State Government and all the concerned authorities shall act in terms of the above direction passed by the Hon`ble Supreme Court on 04.01.2024 and earlier in W.P(C) 643 of 2015 and disbursement on account of arrears of salary, pension and all allowances due and payable to Judicial Officers, retired Judicial Officers and family pensioners shall be computed and paid on or before 29.02.2024 and compliance report be submitted to the Registrar General by the first week of March, 2024.
3. The Judicial Department, Government of West Bengal with concurrence of Finance Department to pass necessary direction by which the above bills can be passed in anticipation of allotment to comply with the above direction of the Hon`ble Court and sufficient funds may be released by the concerned department in order to disbursement of arrears of pay and allowances in compliance with the direction of the Hon`ble Apex Court.

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4. In the G.O/ Notification the effective dates, Major/Minor heads of Accounts from which the current and arrears claim/ allowances be drawn / reimbursed shall be mentioned.
5. All the District Judges and heads of office shall constitute a special team to prepare the above bills for disbursement of the arrears and current amounts to comply with the direction of the Hon'ble Apex Court. The District Judges must also appoint a Judicial Officer who can make necessary communication with the Nodal agencies and Nodal Officer of this Committee pertaining to implementation of the direction.
6. The Judicial Department, Government of West Bengal to supply all the detailed information of retired Judges and family pensioners to the Registrar General by 15.02.2024 to maintain a database with a process for periodical updating, at least on a quarterly basis and the same be uploaded in the website of the court. The Central Project Coordinator (CPC) of this Court shall provide all technical and IT related support to the Cell.
7. The Judicial Officers, pensioners and family pensioners shall not be harassed in any form by any authority in the smooth release of their entitlements including salary, allowance and pensionary benefits.
8. If the arrear salary/retiral & pensionary benefits, of any serving Judicial officer/pensioner/family pensioner has not been disbursed by their respective Heads of Department/DDO as per previous orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, it shall be paid with immediate effect and compliance reports be submitted to the Registrar General of the High Court for onward submission before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
9. For smooth disbursement of salary, allowances, arrears and other service and retiral benefits, the following Government Authorities are hereby declared as Nodal Agencies --
  - i) Registrar (Judicial Service), High Court at Calcutta;
  - ii) Principal Accountant General (A & E), West Bengal;
  - iii) Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department, Govt. of West Bengal;
  - iv) Principal Secretary, Judicial Department, Govt. of West Bengal;
  - v) Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department, Govt. of West Bengal;
  - vi) Secretary, Public Works Department, Govt. of West Bengal;
  - vii) Deputy Registrar (Accounts) High Court at Calcutta, Representative of Registrar General, High Court at Calcutta
  - viii) Director of Treasury, Govt. of West Bengal;
  - ix) District Judges of all the Judgeships of West Bengal and Andaman & Nicobar Islands;
  - x) Heads of Department of all the Courts/Offices/Institutions of the Government where Judicial Officers are working or have worked on deputation.

The above authorities shall see that the disbursement on account of arrears of salary, pension and allowances due and payable to Judicial Officers, retired Judicial Officers and family pensioners shall be computed and paid on or before 29.02.2024.

The office of the Registrar (Judicial Service) shall prepare the contact details of these Nodal Agencies at the District and State Level and upload in the website of the Court.

10. The Nodal Officer shall monitor and coordinate the functioning of all the Nodal Agencies.

11. The SOP be published in the website of the Court and the above SOP shall be communicated to all concerned for their information and further guidance.

By order of the Court,

Sd/-

Registrar General

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Ex-Officio Secretary of CSCDJ