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PART I—Orders and Notifications by the Governor of West Bengal, the High Court, Government Treasury, etc.

HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA

NOTIFICATIONNo. 1106–GDated, Calcutta, the 16th June, 2026

In exercise of the powers conferred by Article 225 and 227 of the Constitution of India and all other powers thereunto enabling, the High Court at Calcutta promulgates and issues the following Rules with respect to practice and procedure to be followed to imbue greater transparency, inclusivity and foster access to Justice.

RULES

1. Short Title and Commencement. -

- 1.1. These rules shall be called the Calcutta High Court (Live Streaming of Court Proceedings) Rules, 2023.
- 1.2. These rules shall come into force with effect from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.
- 1.3. These rules will apply to the High Court at Calcutta including Circuit Benches at Port Blair and Jalpaiguri and to the courts and tribunals over which it has supervisory jurisdiction.

2. Definitions:

- 2.1. **Bench:** means the Judge(s) assigned to hear the case filed before the court.
- 2.2. **Chief Justice:** means the Chief Justice of the High Court at Calcutta, including the Acting Chief Justice.
- 2.3. **Court:** means the High Court at Calcutta including Circuit Benches at Port Blair and Jalpaiguri and/or all the courts/tribunals under its supervision under Article 227 of the Constitution of India.
- 2.4. **Court Master:** means the Court staff who assists the court in conducting proceedings, including updating of the cause lists published on the display board.
- 2.5. **Court Premises:** means and includes buildings and complexes under the authority of courts.
- 2.6. **Designated Venue:** means and includes a courtroom or any other place where the proceedings are conducted, whether within the court premises or at a remote location.

- 2.7. **Live-stream/Live-streamed/Live streaming:** means and includes a live television link, webcast, audio-video transmissions via electronic means or other arrangements whereby any person can view the proceedings as permitted under these rules.
- 2.8. **“Live Streaming Platform” or “Live Streaming Portal”:** means the web platform/portal used for live telecast/streaming/webcasting of the physical/virtual court proceedings of the High Court, as may be selected, authorized and notified from time to time, by the High Court at Calcutta.
- 2.9. **Registrar (IT):** means and includes any officer so designated by the Chief Justice of the High Court
- 2.10. **Proceedings:** mean and include judicial proceedings, Lok Adalat proceedings, full-court references, official transfer, elevation, retirement, farewells organized by the Court.
- 2.11. **Remote Location:** means and includes a geographical location, different from the court premises, from where proceedings are conducted.

3. **Hardware – Placement & Control :**

- 3.1. Cameras will be preferably installed in the Court Room covering at least five angles one towards the Bench, the second and third towards the advocates engaged in the concerned matter, the fourth towards the accused (where applicable) and fifth towards the deponent/witness, as required.
- 3.2. If the court has employed an electronic evidence presentation system, additional feed shall be captured therefrom.
- 3.3. A remote-control device may be provided to the presiding judge on the bench to pause or stop the live streaming at any time.
- 3.4. Advocates, witnesses, accused, or any other person permitted by the bench, shall use appropriate microphones while addressing the court.
- 3.5. In so far as a remote location is concerned, appropriate hardware will be deployed to the extent practicable, bearing in mind the provisions made in the aforementioned sub-rules.
- 3.6. Where proceedings are conducted through weblinks, including video conferencing services, appropriate software and hardware will be employed, if necessary, to generate an integrated feed for live streaming.

4. **Requisitioning and Positioning of Human Resources:**

- 4.1. A dedicated control room (DCR) shall be set up for every court complex.
- 4.2. The DCR shall, inter alia, comprise an officer of the Court, technical and video-recording experts. The DCR will monitor and track proceedings as they are live streamed. The DCR shall modify / remove any uncivil or inappropriate streamed in the public domain.
- 4.3. The coverage of Proceedings will be coordinated by the technical experts under the direct supervision of the Registrar (IT) or her/his nominee or any other Officer as nominated by the Chief Justice in the High Court and Senior most Officer in the District/Tribunal.
- 4.4. The Registrar (IT) and/or their nominee or any other Officer as nominated by the Chief Justice shall be subject to the directions of the IT Committee for the overall implementation of live streaming.

5. **Personnel positioned in the Court:**

In addition to the Court Master and court staff attached to the Bench, technical expert(s) shall be appointed/ deputed in each of the court premises or designated venue to enable the live streaming of proceedings. The technical expert(s) shall function under the overall supervision of the DCR.

6. **Live streaming of Proceedings:**

- 6.1. Subject to the exclusions contained within these rules, all proceedings will be live streamed by the court.
- 6.2. The following will be excluded from live streaming:
 - i. Matrimonial matters, child adoption and child custody including transfer petitions arising thereunder.
 - ii. Cases concerning sexual offences, including proceedings instituted under Section 376, Indian Penal Code, 1860 (IPC)/64 and 65 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

- iii. Cases concerning gender-based violence against women.
- iv. Matters registered under or involving the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO) and under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.
- v. Matters registered under or involving the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971.
- vi. In-camera proceedings as defined under Section 327 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (CrPC)/366 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita or Section 153 B of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (CPC).
- vii. Matters where the bench is of the view, that publication would be antithetical to the administration of justice.
- viii. Cases which in the opinion of the Bench, may provoke enmity amongst communities likely to result in a breach of law and order.
- ix. Recording of evidence, including cross-examination.
- x. Privileged communications between the parties and their advocates; cases where a claim of privilege is accepted by the Court; and non-public discussions between advocates.
- xi. Any other matter in which a specific direction is issued by the Bench or the Chief Justice.

6.3. Live streaming in certain cases may be restricted to final arguments.

6.4. Objections, if any, to Live streaming may be raised at the time of institution of the case or any later stage. The final decision as to whether to allow the live streaming of the proceedings or any portion thereof will be of the Bench. However, the decision of the Bench will be guided by the principle of an open and transparent judicial process.

6.5. Audio-video recording or recording of proceedings by any other means, beyond the mandate of the present Rules is expressly prohibited.

7. Manner of Live Streaming of Proceedings:

7.1. The cameras in the Court shall be as per Rule 3.1.

7.2. Media Persons present during proceeding as Visitor shall not record audio-video of the proceedings without permission of the Court.

7.3. The following will ordinarily not be live streamed:

- i. Discussions between/amongst the Judges on the Bench.
- ii. Instructions given by a Judge to the administrative staff during the proceedings.
- iii. Any communication/message/document given by the Court Master to the Bench.
- iv. Documents given to the Judge during the proceedings.
- v. Notes taken down by the Judge during the proceedings.
- vi. Notes made by an advocate either on paper or in electronic form, for assistance, while making submissions before the Bench.
- vii. Communication between the advocate and client, inter-se the advocates, and communications which is not a submission exchanged between the advocate and the Court.

7.4. If one or more circumstances mentioned in Rule 6.2 occur, the monitor will display the message: "Live streaming paused as per applicable Rules".

7.5. In case the Judge concerned on the bench is desirous of opting out of live streaming while dictating the order/oral judgment, live streaming will be paused during that period. In such circumstances, the monitors will display a message: "Order-dictation in progress". Likewise, when the bench rises for recess or otherwise, the live streaming will be paused, and the monitor will display the message: "Court not in-session".

8. Relay of Proceedings:-

8.1. Subject to limitations contained in these rules, the live stream shall commence as soon as the bench assembles and instructs the court staff to start the proceedings and shall end when the bench signals its conclusion for the day.

8.2. There shall be a delay of ten minutes in streaming, which may be changed as per the direction of the Court.

8.3. The live streaming shall be carried out from the designated venue as decided by the bench.

9. Disclaimers, Prohibitions and Restrictions:

9.1. Disclaimers:—

- i. The daily cause list published on the website of the Court shall contain requisite information and disclaimer regarding live streaming.
- ii. Live streamed feed and videos shall not constitute the official record of the court proceedings or for reliance by any Court in any other proceeding unless otherwise directed by the Bench.

9.2. Prohibitions and restrictions on usage of the live stream:

- i. No person/entity (including print and electronic media, and social media platforms) other than a person/entity, authorized by Registrar IT or by Court as the case may be, shall record, share and/or disseminate live streamed proceedings or archival data.
- ii. This provision shall also apply to all messaging applications. Any person/entity acting contrary to this provision will be prosecuted as per law. The court shall have the exclusive copyright over live streamed feed and videos.
- iii. Any unauthorized usage of the live stream will be punishable as an offence under the Indian Copyright Act, 1957, Information Technology Act, 2000 and other provisions of law, including the law of Contempt.
- iv. Any party/litigant-in-person accessing the live stream will be bound by these Rules.
- v. The live stream shall not, without the prior written authorization by Registrar IT/by Court, be reproduced, transmitted, uploaded, posted, modified, published, or republished in any form.
- vi. The live streaming of the court proceedings is done with an educative and beneficial cause and it will not be sought for as of right by any of the stakeholders. The same is for general information purpose only, aimed to instill greater transparency, foster access to justice with larger public interest and to effectuate the principles of open court justice.
- vii. No person shall use a recording device for recording or for transcribing the proceedings.

9.3 Use of communication device or recording device during proceedings:

- i. A person must not use a communication device or a recording device to disturb proceedings in a manner that may cause concern to a witness or other participants in the proceedings or allow a person who is not a participant to receive information about the proceeding or the hearing to which the person is not otherwise entitled.
- ii. During proceedings, all personnel shall adhere to courtroom etiquettes and discipline, and shall not engage in audio and/or video recording, taking screenshots or using mobile communication tools to relay the proceedings. Violation of Sub-Rules (i) and (ii) shall amount to Criminal Contempt under section 2C of Contempt of Courts Act in addition to other liabilities as per law including seizure of the communication device or recording device.
- iii. The High Court at Calcutta will not be held responsible for any delays, breakdown or disruption in the live streaming or its quality of the Live Streaming Platform / Portal. Any delay / breakdown / disruption / stoppage of the live streaming due to any reason at the Court end will be noted with details by the assisting ministerial personnel of the particular Court, in the Register as prescribed in ANNEXURE FORM-I to these rules.
- iv. The live streamed feed / videos of the court proceedings are not to be considered as part of the case or court record or for reliance by any Court in any other proceeding.
- v. The live streamed feed / videos of any court proceedings will not be treated as evidence relating to that Court proceedings and will also not be considered admissible in any other Court proceedings either in High Court or in any other Courts.
- vi. Requests for copy of any live streamed feed / videos will not be entertained for any purpose whatsoever.

- vii. No content of the live streamed feed / videos or any observations made therein, will be treated as authorised / certified / official version of anything relating to the Court proceedings.
- viii. Anyone participating in the proceedings, whether in person or through video conferencing, shall have to maintain utmost discipline and decorum for upholding the dignity and majesty of the Court. Any participant if found to be scandalize, prejudice or interfere with judicial proceeding and the administration of justice or misuse the virtual access to the Court for undue publicity through live streaming facility shall be held liable for contempt and other punitive measures. In addition to the aforesaid, the participants may be muted or removed from video conferencing session or asked to leave the Court, if participating in person. In such a situation, if required, the Presiding Judge may direct to stop the live streaming of the Court proceedings of the particular case for the day. Such an event will be noted by the ministerial personnel of the Court, in the Register as prescribed in ANNEXURE FORM-I to these rules.
- ix. In the event of stoppage of live streaming of the proceeding due to any of the foregoing reasons/circumstances, there will be a fresh link of the live streaming, on resumption, which would be notified through the High court website and/or the Live Streaming Platform / Portal.

10. **Power to relax:**

The High Court at Calcutta may, if satisfied that the operation of any rule is causing undue hardship, by order, dispense with or relax the requirements of that Rule to such extent and subject to such conditions as may be stipulated to deal with the case in a just and equitable manner.

11. **Reference to Words and Expressions :**

Words and expressions used and not defined in these rules shall have the same meaning as assigned to them by the law for the time being in force, including the Information Technology Act 2000, the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973/ Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023, the Indian Evidence Act 1872/ Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam 2023, and the General Clauses Act, 1897.

12. **Residual Provisions :**

Matters concerning which no express provision is made in these rules shall be decided by the Court consistent with the principle of furthering the interest of justice.

ANNEXURE FORM - I

Bench/ Court of	Date & Time	Matter Number, Ld. Adv. etc.	Detailed Account of Not Live Streaming and Stopping/Pausing/Breakdown etc. of Live Streaming				Sign of the Assisting Ministerial Personnel
			Not Live Streaming on instructions of Presiding Judge(s) [Rule 6.4]	Stopped/Paused in the interest of administration of Justice [Rule 7.4]	Delays / Breakdown/ Disruption [Rule 9.3(iii)]	Stopping for court Decorum [Rule 9.3(viii)]	

By order,

Sd/-
[NABANITA RAY]
Registrar General.

