

HIGH COURT OF DELHI, NEW DELHI

No. 194/Rules/DHC

Dated: 02.09.2026

CIRCULAR

In compliance with the judgment dated 29.05.2026 passed by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 169/2025 titled "*Pila Pahan @ Peela Pahan & Ors. Vs. State of Jharkhand & Anr*" with W.P.(Crl.) No. 252/2025 and W.P.(C) Nos. 489, 482, 492, 519, 506, 508 of 2025 and pursuant to the recommendations of the "*Rules Committee for all Statutes and Jurisdiction not provided in any other Committee including Contempt of Courts Act, 1971*", the Hon'ble Full court has resolved that the attention of all concerned be drawn to the above said judgment, wherein, Hon'ble the Supreme Court in exercise of its power under Article 142 of the Constitution, issued following comprehensive guidelines which shall operate as binding directions:-

A. Procedural Timelines re Pronouncement of Judgements/Orders

I. Timelines

- a. In a matter where the judgment is reserved, the High Court shall endeavour to pronounce a reasoned judgment promptly, within a maximum period of 3 months from the date of reserving such judgment.
- b. The High Court shall display extra promptitude in pronouncing judgments and orders in matters of personal liberty, e.g. regular bail, anticipatory bail, criminal appeals (where the convict is in custody), death references, etc.
- c. As soon as the bail application is heard, the order should preferably be pronounced and uploaded on the same day. In the event the order is reserved, it is expected to be pronounced on the next day and uploaded to the website.
- d. Orders granting regular bail, suspending sentence, or acquitting a convict in custody should be communicated to the jail authorities and the Trial Court on the date it is pronounced.
- e. Consequent upon the outcome of serial number (d) above, the undertrial/ convict must be released on the same day or, at most, on the next day, unless they are required to be taken in custody in another case, or there is a delay in complying with the bail conditions, etc.
- f. The compliance with the order must be reported by the Trial Court to the Bench of the High Court that passed the order.
- g. In the event the judgment in a criminal appeal/death reference is reserved, and the appellant is in custody, the clarifications, if any, required by the Bench from the advocates be sought within 7 days of the date of reserving the judgment.
- h. In all other matters, the clarifications, if any, should be sought not beyond 1 month of the date of reserving the judgment.

- i. Where, after hearing the parties, the Bench is of the opinion that any delay in pronouncement of a reasoned judgment will cause irreparable loss to the parties and urgent orders are required, the operative part may be pronounced in Court, and the reasoned judgment be uploaded within 7 days or a maximum of 15 days, if practical difficulties are faced by the High Court. Such cases may include habeas corpus matters, criminal appeals resulting in the acquittal of a convict in custody, matters relating to demolition/eviction, matters relating to admission to educational institutions, or other urgent cases.
- j. A reasoned judgment pronounced in open court should be uploaded on the High Court website within 24 hours.

II. Accountability

- a. Necessary changes shall be made to the High Court website, wherein, at the end of every month, an automated email will be sent to the Hon'ble Chief Justice, specifying all the reserved judgments pending in that month, along with a copy of the email to the Bench that has reserved the judgment.
- b. The statement of the cases, in which the judgments have not been pronounced within 2 months from the date of reserving such judgment, may also be circulated amongst the Judges of the High Court for their information. The communication shall be conveyed as confidential and in a sealed cover.
- c. In the event the reserved judgment is not delivered within 3 months, the Registrar General shall place the matters before the Hon'ble Chief Justice for orders, and the Hon'ble Chief Justice shall bring it to the notice of the concerned Bench for pronouncing the judgment within 2 weeks thereafter.
- d. In the event the reserved judgment is still not delivered within the extended period of 2 weeks, the Hon'ble Chief Justice should assign the case to another Bench with a notification to the advocates and the parties. The new Bench to which the matter is assigned shall obviously rehear the case and pronounce the judgment promptly.
- e. Where the operative part of the judgment has been pronounced in open court, and the reasoned judgment is not uploaded within 15 days, the Registrar General shall place the matters before the Hon'ble Chief Justice for orders, and the Hon'ble Chief Justice shall bring it to the notice of the concerned Bench for uploading the reasoned judgment within the next 3 days.

III. Remedies

- a. In case the judgment is not pronounced upon the expiry of 3 months from the date of reserving, any party to the lis shall be entitled to file an application in the High Court with a prayer for early judgment.

- (ai) Such an application shall be listed before the concerned Bench within two days, excluding the intervening holidays.
 - (aii) The Registry shall inform the Hon'ble Chief Justice of all such applications filed.
 - (aiii) If the judgment, for any reason, is not pronounced within a period of 3 and a half months from the date of reserving, any party to the lis shall be entitled to move an application before the Hon'ble Chief Justice of the High Court with a prayer to withdraw the said case and make it over to any other Bench for fresh hearing.
- b. In case the reasoned judgment is not uploaded upon the expiry of 15 days from the date of pronouncement of the operative part, any party to the lis is permitted to file an application in the High Court with a prayer for early judgment.
 - (bi) Such an application shall be listed before the concerned Bench within two days, excluding the intervening holidays.
 - (bii) The Registry shall inform the Hon'ble Chief Justice of all such applications filed.
 - (biii) If the reasoned judgment, for any reason, is not uploaded within 1 month from the date of pronouncement of the operative part, any party to the lis shall be entitled to move an application before the Hon'ble Chief Justice with a prayer to withdraw the said case and make it over to any other Bench for fresh hearing.

B. Measures to Increase Transparency

I. Format of Judgments/Orders

- a. The certified copy of the judgment should mention the date of reserving the judgment, the date of pronouncing the judgment, and the date of uploading the judgment.
- b. Where the operative part of the judgment has already been delivered, the date of pronouncing the operative part shall be the date of pronouncement, and the date on which the reasoned judgment is uploaded will be the date of uploading.

II. Updates to the High Court Website

- a. After the conclusion of final hearing, the date of reserving judgment must be reflected against the case status on the High Court website.
- b. If only the operative part of the judgment is delivered, the case status on the High Court website must reflect accordingly.

- c. When the reasoned judgment is uploaded on the website, an automated intimation through email/SMS be sent to the advocates representing the parties.

BY ORDER

Sd/-
(ARUN BHARDWAJ)
REGISTRAR GENERAL