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UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

IA No.52864/2020 in C.A. No.1867/2006

The High Court of Calcutta has come up with the present application seeking a modification of the timeline fixed by this Court in Malik Mazhar Sultan & Anr. vs. U.P. Public Service Commission & Ors., for the recruitment of judicial officers for the recruitment year 2020.

In Malik Mazhar Sultan vs. U.P. Public Service Commission - (2008) 17 SCC 703, this Court fixed a schedule for filling up of vacancies of judicial officers. The schedule is to commence with the notification of the number of vacancies being issued by the 31st March every year and the whole process coming to an end with the issuance of appointment letters by 30th September indicating the last date of joining as 31st October, 2020.

Mr. Jaideep Gupta, learned Senior Counsel appearing for the applicant - High Court of Calcutta, drew our attention to the difficulties faced by the High Court of Calcutta due to Pandemic and requested for modification of the schedule for the current year viz., 2020.

Admittedly, even the first step namely that of notifying the vacancies, has not been taken due to the announcement of lock down by 24.03.2020.

Therefore, taking into account the difficulty expressed, we order a revised schedule for appointment of judicial officers in the State of West Bengal for the year 2020 as follows :

S.No.	Particulars	Direct Recruitment from Bar/Limited Competitive Examination (Timelines)	Normal Promotion (Timelines)	Civil Judge (Junior Division) to Civil Judge (Senior Division) (Timelines)	Revised Date
1.	Vacancy Declaration	31 st March	31 st March	31 st March	15.10.2020
2.	Advertisement inviting Application	15 th April			31.10.2020

3.	Last date of receipt of Application	30 th April			15.11.2020
4.	Publication of list of eligible Applicants/ Officers	15 th May	15 th May	15 th May	30.11.2020
5.	Receipt of Judgments		30 th May	30 th May	15.12.2020
6.	Issuance of Admit Cards	16 th May to 15 th June			01.12.2020 to 31.12..2020
7.	Written Examination	30 th June			15.01.2021
8.	Declaration of Result of Written Examination	16 th August			28.02.2021
9.	Viva – Voce	1 st to 7 th September	15 th to 31 st July		15.03.2011 to 31.03.2021
10.	Declaration of Final Select List	15 th September	31 st August	15 th September	15.04.2021
11.	Issuance of Appointment Letter by the Government	30 th September	30 th September	30 th September	30.04.2021

The instant interlocutory application stands disposed of accordingly.

I.A. No.89500/2020 in C.A. No.1867/2006.

Taken on Board.

The applicant – High Court of Madhya Pradesh has come up with the present application seeking deferment of MPHJS (District Judge – Entry Level) (Direct Recruitment from Bar) Examination 2020 till the Examination Committee finds it suitable to conduct the examination.

It is stated in the application that the notification for recruitment was published on 16.01.2020 and preliminary examination was fixed to be held on 16.03.2020. However, the examination got postponed due to the current Pandemic.

On 24.08.2020, a new notification was issued fixing the date of preliminary examination as 30.09.2020. But due to the increase in the number of persons affected by Covid-19, a request was received from the MP High Court Bar Association on 29.08.2020 seeking postponement of the examination. A total of 3113 candidates are likely to appear for the examination and out of them 1942 candidates belong to other States. The examinations are to be conducted at Bhopal, Indore, Gwalior and Jabalpur.

During the period from 25.03.2020 to 08.08.2020, 8 judicial officers, 52 judicial employees, and 46 Advocates tested positive for Corona.

Therefore, taking into account the above factors, the instant interlocutory application is allowed permitting the Examination Committee of the Madhya Pradesh High Court to review the situation once in a month and take a decision to conduct the above examination.

The first of such review shall be conducted in the first week of November, 2020.

The High Court may endeavour to hold the above examination as soon as the situation becomes conducive and the time-schedule shall stand extended accordingly.

We make it clear that other High Courts may also file such applications, if so warranted.

(SANJAY KUMAR-II)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(INDU KUMARI POKHRIYAL)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR