

HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY

NOTIFICATION

In view of the Office Memorandum dated 5th March, 2020 issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, the advisory issued by the Government of Maharashtra and Notification dated 13th March, 2020 issued by Secretary General, Supreme Court of India as advisory cautioning against mass gathering and as the World Health Organisation has also declared Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) as global pandemic advising against mass congregation and in view of the advisory issued by the Government of India and in view of the opinion of public health experts including medical professionals and also considering the safety and welfare of all the litigants, lawyers, staff members and the parties appearing in-person, security, maintenance and support staff, interns, The Hon'ble Acting Chief Justice is pleased to direct the following :

- A) The functioning of the Courts in High Court as well as its Benches functioning at Nagpur, Aurangabad and the High Court of Bombay at Goa presently for a week commencing from Monday, 16th March, 2020 shall be restricted to urgent matters.
- B) The Advocates, litigants and parties in persons may mention their matters showing the urgency before the concerned Courts and upon satisfaction about the urgency, the Court shall hear such matters. CMIS dates would be given to the rest of the matters. Orders of Ad-interim and interim relief subsisting in the matter shall continue to operate.

C) It is appealed to all the Bar associations and the Advocates that they shall endeavor to restrict the entry of the litigants in the Court and only in cases where the presence is unavoidable, one person may be called.

D) Advocates and Party in person are requested to provide number and stage of matter on daily board which they want to be taken up urgently to the concerned Court Sheristedar/Associate prior to 11.00 a.m. Rest of the matters on Regular Board shall stand adjourned.

E) Considering the importance of the safety measures for health, all concerned are requested to cooperate with the instructions of the staff on duty, in the interest of all.

Date : 14th March 2020



Sd/-
(S. B. Agrawal)
REGISTRAR GENERAL

HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
ADVISORY TO THE DISTRICT COURTS

In view of the outbreak of Coronavirus (2019-Ncov), Hon'ble the Acting Chief Justice has been pleased to issue the following instructions to the District and Sessions Courts and Subordinate Courts at **Mumbai, Thane, Pune, Nagpur and Ahmednagar:-**

1. Courts should not insist on the presence of the parties unless it is unavoidable. All the District and Sessions Judges and Principal Judges, would take appropriate measures to regulate entry of the litigants and the general public in the Court Complex to avoid crowding.
2. The lawyers may advice their clients not to visit the Court unless their presence is directed by the Court or is unavoidable.
3. Till the present situation persists, no adverse/default orders be passed in matters where parties are found to be absent.
4. Parties/Advocates/witnesses seeking an adjournment be accommodated.
5. In criminal matters, the request for exemption from personal appearance of the accused be considered favourably.
6. In civil matters, wherever possible, service of Local Commissioner be availed of for the purposes of recording of evidence, after obtaining the consent of both the parties.
7. The facility of video conferencing be put to optimum use for the purposes of recording of evidence.
8. Instead of physical production of undertrial prisoners (UTPs) from jails, facility of video conferencing be availed of.
9. Unnecessary crowding in the Lock up be curtailed and appropriate steps in this regard be taken by all the District and Sessions Judges in consultation with the prison authorities.
10. In final argument matters, as far as possible, written submissions be called upon to be submitted in Court and the time for oral arguments be reduced to the extent possible.

11. It be ensured by all Principal Judges that sanitizers are available in their respective Court complexes for the visitors as well as the staff, particularly those manning windows where there is constant public dealing. Housekeeping agency/staff be asked to ensure that highest level of hygiene is maintained in the Court complex and disinfectants are sprayed on a regular basis.
12. All the possible preventive and remedial measures be taken to combat the impending threat of COVID-19.
13. The President and General Secretary of the respective District Court Bar Associations may issue necessary directions in order to ensure that there is no crowding in the Court complex including the lawyers chambers. Bar would also ensure that interns are not permitted in the Court complex till the present situation persists.
14. No function/election or any other event be permitted to be held/conducted till further orders.
15. The Judge Incharge, Mediation Centre of all the District Court Complex would also ensure that mediation proceedings are held only in cases that are of urgent nature.

Date : 14th March, 2020



Sd/-
(S. B. Agrawal)
REGISTRAR GENERAL