

**HIGH COURT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR AT JAMMU
(Office of the Registrar General)**

ORDER

No: 259 of 2021/RG

Dated: 26.04.2021

Keeping in view the alarming surge in COVID-19 infection cases in the Country in general and UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh in particular, the filing/hearing of cases in the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir as well as in the District and Subordinate Courts and Tribunals shall be conducted through Virtual Mode as per the following directions:

High Court

1. Entry of litigants, public and clerks of the Advocates into the Court premises from the very outer gate shall be strictly prohibited.
2. For filing of cases, Registrars Judicial of both wings of the High Court shall create a dedicated email address of their respective filing counters and notify the same to the advocates/litigants by making it available on the website of the High Court.
3. Ordinarily 'Before Notice' matters shall be taken up by each Bench unless urgency in respect of any 'After Notice' matter is shown to the satisfaction of the Bench concerned.
4. Physical hearing in respect of any listed matter will be at the discretion of the Bench concerned subject to the satisfaction of the Bench regarding extreme urgency involved in such matter and thereafter such case shall be taken up for physical hearing on the date fixed by the Bench.
5. In order to decongest the sections/offices/Courts, the officials shall be permitted to function in batches with



50 percent reduction on rotation basis. The roster in this regard, shall be formulated by the Registrar Judicial of the concerned wing. The officials, who as per the roster are not on duty in the office, shall not leave the station and shall remain available on telephone and electronic means of communication at all times.

6. The Registrars Judicial of both wings of the High Court shall ensure sanitization of the entire High Court Complex on every Saturday and Sunday.
7. The staff on duty and the counsel, if any permitted for physical hearing, shall take necessary precautions, ensure physical distancing, wearing of mask and observance of SOPs and guidelines issued by the respective Governments from time to time.
8. On account of virtual hearing, entry of lawyers in the High Court premises is not required unless any advocate is permitted for physical hearing in any extremely urgent matter.

District and Subordinate Courts and Tribunals in UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh

1. Entry of litigants, public and clerks of the Advocates into the Court premises from the very outer gate shall be strictly prohibited.
2. For filing of cases, the Presiding Officers shall create a dedicated email address of their respective courts and make it available to the advocates/litigants by posting the same on the website of their District Courts concerned or through any appropriate electronic mode.
3. Pr. District & Sessions Judges, shall categorise the emergent nature of cases of their respective courts and the courts subordinate to them which shall be taken up for hearing through virtual mode.
4. Physical hearing in respect of any listed matter will be at the discretion of the Judge concerned subject to the



satisfaction of the Judge regarding extreme urgency involved in such matter.

5. In order to decongest the sections/offices of the Courts, the officials working in the Subordinate Courts, shall be permitted to function in batches with 50 percent reduction on rotation basis. The roster in this regard, shall be formulated by the concerned Presiding Officer of the Court. The officials, who as per the roster are not on duty in the office, shall not leave the station and shall remain available on telephone and electronic means of communication at all times.
6. The staff on duty in courts and the counsel, if any permitted for physical hearing, shall take necessary precautions, ensure physical distancing, wearing of mask and observance of SOPs and guidelines issued by the respective Governments from time to time.
7. For smooth hearing of the cases through virtual mode, the Presiding Officer of the concerned Court shall create a link and provide the same to the advocates/litigants by making it available on the website of the District Court concerned or through any appropriate electronic mode.
8. On account of virtual hearing of cases, entry of lawyers in the District Courts/Subordinate Courts premises is not required unless any advocate is permitted for physical hearing in any extremely urgent matter.

These directions shall remain in force till 15th May, 2021 unless reviewed earlier.

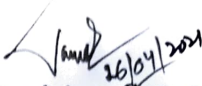
Sd/-
(Pankaj Mithal)
Chief Justice

No:- 4421-42 /RG/GS
Copy of the above forwarded to:

Dated: 26.04.2021

1. Principal Secretary to Hon'ble the Chief Justice, High Court of J&K, Jammu.
2. Secretary to Hon'ble Mr./Mrs. Justice _____,
..... for information of their Lordships.
3. Registrar Vigilance, High Court of J&K, Jammu.

4. Registrar Computers, High Court of J&K, Jammu.
5. Registrar Rules, High Court of J&K, Jammu.
6. Registrar Judicial, High Court of J&K, Jammu/Srinagar.
7. All Principal District Judges of the UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, with the request to circulate the same among the Judicial Officers within their jurisdiction.
8. Administrative Officer, Office of the Advocate General, J&K, Jammu.
9. President, all Bar Associations in UTs of J&K and Ladakh.
..... for information and compliance.
10. Incharge NIC for uploading the same on official website of the High Court of J&K.
11. Incharge Library High Court of J&K, Jammu/Srinagar for information and keeping the record of the order.


26/04/2021
Registrar General