



THE ADVOCATES' ASSOCIATION, BENGALURU (Regd.)

A.P. RANGANATHA
President

A.N. GANGADHARAIHAH
General Secretary

SHIVAMURTHY
Treasurer

Ref: AAB/ /2020

20.03.2020
Date:

To:

The Hon'ble Chief Justice,
Supreme Court of India,
NEW DELHI.

Your Lordship,

Covid 19, has been declared as a world Pandemic by the World Health Organisation. Almost every country has taken several precautionary measures based on the sound advice of medical experts. India is no exception and the central government and state government has come up with several directives to stall the spread of the virus through community contact.

In this regard the Karnataka State government has ordered for closure of all activities where there is a possibility of people gathering. The objective is to prevent congregation of people. Malls, Cinemas, Bars etc are fully closed and functions such as birthdays, weddings etc are prohibited.

In the face of these hopefully timely measures, the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka has issued a circular taking various steps and issuing advisories to lawyers and litigants. We have no doubt with the good intent of the Hon'ble Chief Justice, High Court of Karnataka, in issuing the circular. However the intent and object of the circular

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has failed in implementation. The court continues to work at full strength and the cause list of cases lists even the final hearing matters. The lawyers are bound to attend court when the cause list is issued and the court is hearing all the matters like a regular court day. Thousands of lawyers and litigants continue to throng the court halls. In furtherance, the High Court has issued another circular prohibiting litigants into the court premises. But the fact remains that the court continues to work like a normal working day even in face of the international health crisis. Every prudent citizen understands the implication of large people gathering and the court is no exception. Your lordship has ensured that the Hon'ble Supreme Court functions with minimal number of cases and judges. The lawyers are unable to understand why this model can't be adopted in Karnataka as well. It is as though we are waiting for something untoward to occur before taking action.

Sir, The entire planet is gripped with fear and no one not even the best in the medical field are sure of what lies ahead. Precautionary measures to prevent or restrict the spread is the need of the hour.

The Advocates Association, Bangalore, in its wisdom felt that the courts, which is ground for congregation of large number of people with the City Civil Court having

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footfall off nearly 30,000 everyday and the High Court of about 5000 can fully close down for two weeks to start with or in the alternate list only urgent cases which are moved and close the courts at 12.30 pm everyday. period for Summer. Usually the summer vacation runs for a period of 4 weeks with vacation court sitting to take up only urgent matters. It is most appalling to see that the courts are failing to appreciate this and apply the suggested mechanism to tide over the present situation.

It may not be out of context here to point out what transpired in the High Court, with one of the Lawyers claiming in the open court to have come in contact with an infected person. This has been widely reported in all the newspapers.

Under the aforesaid circumstances, it is imperative that the courts remain closed for the next two weeks and contribute towards overcoming the present health crisis faced by the world.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

A.P. RANGANATHA
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