

R.O.C.NO.1363/2020/RG/HC

MOST URGENT



NOTIFICATION

On an assessment of the suggestions received from the Madras Bar Association, Tamil Nadu Senior Advocates Forum, open letter of the Bar Council of India dated 26.5.2020 and suggestions received from other sources, and the existing situation prevailing in the State of Tamil Nadu, the Hon'ble Administrative Committee of the Madras High Court allowed only staggered opening of the High Court, both Principal Seat and Madurai Bench and issues following directions:

I. PRINCIPAL SEAT AT MADRAS

- i) In view of the current situation of the threat of Corona Virus still looming large, no physical court hearing was found to be feasible. However, in order to open up accessibility, all Hon'ble Judges may function either from their respective chambers or court-halls, subject to availability of effective connectivity **through Video Conferencing only.**
- ii) The method of video conferencing that has been continuing with limited number of Hon'ble Judges uptill now shall stand expanded to the video conference hearing of cases by all the Hon'ble Judges in their respective assigned jurisdiction.

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iii) Rest of the restrictions and observance of precautionary measures as resolved earlier in respect of the Principal Seat shall continue, to be assessed again after a period of two weeks.

iv) The Joint Registrars/Deputy Registrars/ Assistant Registrars/ Heads of all Sections / Overseer shall ensure availability of the staff Members not above 50% in any case, and endeavour to manage the same on rotational basis with minimum number of staff.

MADURAI BENCH

i) In addition to the hearing of cases through video conferencing that has been continuing till now, may also continue at Madurai Bench with an additional relaxation of allowing accessibility with physical hearing in court-halls to the maximum of five lawyers at a time inside one court-hall including the State Government Counsel.

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- ii) The number of cases for open hearing in court-halls in a day shall not be more than 10 with a time slot allotted to the respective Advocates, with strict instructions only to enter the court-hall only when their cases are shown on the display board or otherwise intimated to them.
- iii) The restrictions imposed on the opening of the bar rooms, library and canteen shall continue as before, subject to any special order being made by the Hon'ble Administrative Judge at Madurai Bench.
- iv) The Hon'ble Chief Justice will finalise the modalities of functioning at Madurai Bench in consultation with the Hon'ble Administrative Judge at Madurai Bench.
- v) In the event it is observed that the physical court hearings in any way is causing any impediment, or is likely to cause any such threat to the COVID-19 health and hygiene precautionary norms, the Hon'ble Administrative Judge at Madurai Bench shall immediately recall any such physical sittings of hearing cases in open courts and continue with the hearing of cases through video conferencing method.

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vi) The social distancing norms and medical precautions shall be taken at the single entry point of the High Court and only such lawyers will be permitted to enter the court premises whose cases are accepted and shown on the cause list issued by the High Court.

vii) No other lawyer or their personal staff, clerk, etc. shall be allowed to enter the High Court premises.

viii) Lawyers above 65 years of age may abstain from coming to court and instead avail the facility of hearing through video conferencing.

ix) It is made clear that the above mode of functioning shall be observed at Madurai Bench, but in the event it is found that such mode of functioning may not be congenial, the Hon'ble Administrative Judge shall take appropriate steps immediately.

HIGH COURT,MADRAS
DATED: 30.05.2020.

SD/- C.KUMARAPPAN
REGISTRAR GENERAL

To

1. All the Hon'ble Judges (for information).
2. All the Registrars, High Court, Madras and Madurai Bench of Madras High Court, Madurai.
3. The Additional Registrar, Madurai Bench of Madras High Court, Madurai.
4. All the Officers, High Court, Madras and Madurai Bench of Madras High Court, Madurai.
5. All the Heads of Sections, High Court, Madras and Madurai Bench

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6. The Secretary to His Excellency The President of India, New Delhi.
7. The Secretary General, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi.
8. The Chief Secretary to Government, Secretariat, Chennai 9.
9. The Private Secretary to His Excellency The Governor of Tamil Nadu, Raj Bhavan, Guindy, Chennai.
10. The Chief Secretary to Government of Puducherry, Puducherry.
11. The Secretary to Government, Home Department, Secretariat, Chennai-9
12. The Registrar General, High Court of Judicature @ Patna.
13. The Registrar General, High Court of Madhya Pradesh @ Jabalpur.
14. The Registrar General, High Court of Andhra Pradesh @ Amaravati.
15. The Registrar General, High Court of Telangana @ Hyderabad.
16. The Registrar General, High Court of Judicature @ Bombay.
17. The Registrar General, High Court of Punjab & Haryana @ Chandigarh.
18. The Registrar General, High Court of Judicature @ Allahabad.
19. The Registrar General, High Court of Kerala @ Ernakulam.
20. The Registrar General, High Court of Rajasthan @ Jodhpur.
21. The Registrar General, Odisha High Court @ Cuttack.
22. The Registrar General, High Court of Karnataka @ Bangalore.
23. The Registrar General, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir @ Srinagar/Jammu.
24. The Registrar General, High Court of Calcutta @ Kolkatta.
25. The Registrar General, High Court of Himachal Pradesh @ Shimla.
26. The Registrar General, The Gauhati High Court, Guwahati, Assam, (Nagaland, Mizoram & Arunachal Pradesh)
27. The Registrar General, High Court of Manipur
28. The Registrar General, High Court of Meghalaya
29. The Registrar General, High Court of Tripura
30. The Registrar General, High Court of Gujarat @ Ahmedabad
31. The Registrar General, High Court of Delhi, New Delhi.
32. The Registrar General, High Court of Sikkim @ Gangtok.

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33. The Registrar General, High Court of Chhattisgarh @ Bilaspur.
34. The Registrar General, High Court of Jharkhand @ Ranchi.
35. The Registrar General, High Court of Uttarakhand @ Nainital.
36. The Secretary, Madras Bar Association, High Court, Madras.
37. The Secretary, Madras High Court Advocates' Association, High Court, Madras.
38. The Secretary, Bar Council of Tamil Nadu & Puducherry, High Court, Madras
39. The Secretary, Women Lawyers Association, Madras.
40. The Secretary, Law Association, Madras.
41. The Organising Secretary, Tamil Nadu Mediation and Conciliation Centre, High Court Buildings, Madras.
42. The Secretary, Madurai Bench of Madras High Court Bar Association, Madurai.
43. The Secretary, Madurai Bench High Court Advocates' Association, Madurai.
44. The Secretary, Madurai Women Lawyers' Association, Madurai.
45. The Secretary, Madras High Court Madurai Bench Advocates' Association, Madurai.
46. The Secretary, Madurai Bar Association of Madurai Bench of Madras High Court, Madurai.
47. Thiru A.L. Somayaji, Senior Advocate, Secretary, Rules Committee, No.29,30, Old Law Chambers, High Court, Madras.
48. The Director/Asst. Director, Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy, Chennai/Madurai/Coimbatore.
49. The Curator, High Court Museum, High Court, Madras.

Copy to:

1. The Editors, The Hindu, Indian Express, Dinathanthi, Dinamani, Dinakaran, Dinamalar, Malaimurasu, Madras Times and UNI Madras.
2. The Press Trust of India, United India Colony, Kodambakkam – 600 024.
3. The Press Reporters, High Court, Madras.
4. The Director, All India Radio, Chennai-4 (News Division).
5. The Director, Doordarshan, Chennai-5 (News Division).
6. The Secretary, The Madras High Court and Madurai Bench Officers and Staff Association, Madras.
7. The Record Keeper, A.D. Records, High Court, Madras.

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