



OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM

Sub.: Courts and Judges – Spread of Corona Virus Pandemic – Physical functioning of Courts at District Head quarters and in Taluks in the Districts of (i) Coimbatore, (ii) Madurai, (iii) Salem, (iv) Thanjavur, (v) Thoothukudi, (vi) Tiruchirapalli, (vii) Tirunelveli, (viii) Tiruvannamalai, (ix) Vellore, (x) Villupuram and in Union Territory of Puducherry – Effective from 22.06.2020 – Directions issued.

- Ref : 1) High Court's Official Memorandum in Roc.No.1363/2020/RG/Sub.Courts, Dated: 30.05.2020.
2) High Court's Official Memorandum in Roc.No.1363/2020/RG/Sub.Courts, Dated: 03.06.2020.
3) High Court's Official Memorandum in Roc.No.1363/2020/RG/Sub.Courts, Dated: 05.06.2020.

On assessment of physical court hearing in the Taluk Courts in the Ten Districts of Tamil Nadu, namely (i) Coimbatore; (ii) Madurai; (iii) Salem; (iv) Thanjavur; (v) Thoothukudi; (vi) Tiruchirapalli; (vii) Tirunelveli; (viii) Tiruvannamalai; (ix) Vellore; (x) Villupuram, and that of the Courts in Union Territory of Puducherry by the Hon'ble Chief Justice with the Principal District Judges of the said Districts and the Chief Judge, Puducherry, through video conferencing, it is found that the Principal District Judges were agreeable with the state of preparedness, and they expressed their confidence that not only the Taluk Courts, but also the Principal headquarters can be opened for physical court hearings in the same pattern as the other 19 Districts, covered under the

High Court's Official Memorandum under reference cited above.

Hence, as ordered by the Honourable Administrative Committee, **the Principal District Judges of ten Districts viz., (i) Coimbatore; (ii) Madurai; (iii) Salem; (iv) Thanjavur; (v) Thoothukudi; (vi) Tiruchirapalli; (vii) Tirunelveli; (viii) Tiruvannamalai; (ix) Vellore; (x) Villupuram, and the Chief Judge of Puducherry** are directed to take all necessary steps for operation and physical functioning of the Courts in **Taluks** in their respective Districts/ in Union Territory of Puducherry **w.e.f. 22.06.2020**, on the same pattern as the functioning of the Taluk Courts in other 19 districts as already directed in the Official Memorandum under reference cited, **except** Five Taluks namely, (i) Arakkonam, Vellore District; (ii) Srirangam, Tiruchirapalli District; (iii) Valliyur, Tirunelveli District; (iv) Alangulam, Tirunelveli District, and (v) Melur, Madurai District, which for the time being are not permitted for physical court hearings due to the peculiar situations prevailing therein.

As an interim measure, on a trial basis, the physical court hearing at the headquarters of these districts, including Puducherry, is also permitted in a limited manner with final hearing and interlocutory applications being permitted in staggered form by avoiding any congregation of lawyers in Courts, and maintaining of social distancing norms, as well as taking hygiene precautions that are required to be taken for that purpose. The Principal District Judges and the Chief Judge, Puducherry may also accordingly coordinate with the Bar Associations of the respective Districts with advance cause lists and making provisions for physical filing through drop box being stationed, so as to avoid the physical presence of either lawyers or their Clerks. The restrictions

with regard to litigants shall continue to be in force, and they shall not be permitted to enter the Court premises.

The Principal District Judges may depute supporting staff as per their discretion in all the districts, wherever required, but not exceeding the protocol of 50% by rotation and shifts.

In the event, lawyers do not wish to avail of the physical court hearing process, they can be optionally permitted to avail of video-conferencing method as well in order to facilitate the disposal of matters in the manner aforesaid.

The Principal District Judges of all the Districts may ensure that the functional employees of the Court disclose their status of health in case of any such complaint appropriately by making a declaration to that effect, so as to avoid any such cause of infection or steps for taking quarantine or containment that may possibly arise, if the information is not furnished.

In the event of any untoward incident or problem or complication arising in the smooth functioning of the physical court hearings, the Principal District Judges may act accordingly and immediately report the matter to the Registrar General for taking further appropriate action.

HIGH COURT, MADRAS.

DATED: 18-06-2020

**Sd/- C.KUMARAPPAN
REGISTRAR GENERAL**

To

01. All the Hon'ble Judges (for information)
02. All the Registrars, High Court, Madras and Madurai Bench.
03. The Additional Registrar General, Madurai Bench of Madras High Court, Madurai.
04. All the Officers of the High Court of Madras and Madurai Bench.
05. All the Head of Sections, High Court of Madras and Madurai Bench.

06. All the Principal District Judges (**except** Chennai, Tiruvallur and Kancheepuram Districts)
07. The Chief Judge, Puducherry
08. All the Chief Judicial Magistrates (**except** Chennai, Tiruvallur and Kancheepuram Districts)
09. The Chief Judicial Magistrate, Puducherry
10. The Record Keeper, A.D.Records, High Court, Madras.

Copy to:

01. The Chairman, Federation of District and Subordinate Courts Bar Associations of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry, No.1-A6, Tiruchirapalli Main Road, Namakkal 637 001.
02. The Editors, The Hindu, Indian Express, Dinathanthi, Dinamani, Dinakaran, Dinamalar, Malaimurasu, Madras Times and UNI Madras.
03. The Press Trust of India, United India Colony, Kodambakkam, Chennai-24.
04. The Press Reporters, High Court, Madras.
05. The Director, All India Radio, Chennai-4 (News Division).

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