

HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND: RANCHI

Memo No. 41/R.G

Date:17.03.2020

OFFICE-ORDER

This is for information to all concerned that Noval Corona Virus (COVID-19) has been declared a global pandemic advising against mass congregation and in view of the opinion of public health experts including medical professionals and also considering the safety and welfare of all the Hon'ble Court has been pleased to give the following direction :-

- (1) The Courts subordinate to this Court would take up only bail / anticipatory bail matters and matters requiring urgent stay / injunction / application for stay of writ of delivery of possession / vacation of Garnishee orders etc. till 31st March, 2020.
- (2) Production of jail inmates be undertaken only through video conferencing.
- (3) Learned Principal Judicial Commissioner, Ranchi / Principal District & Sessions Judges are authorised to depute Judicial Magistrates at Jail premises in case of exigency, if production of accused through video conferencing is not possible for any technical reasons.
- (4) Remand matters would be taken up by the concerned Judicial Magistrate / Presiding Officer as usual.
- (5) No coercive steps be taken to ensure the attendance of the witnesses in criminal matters till 31st March, 2020.
- (6) Rest of the pending civil and criminal matters, listed between 18th March 2020 and 31st March 2020, be suitably adjourned after 4th April 2020 and orders of ad-interim and interim reliefs subsisting in such matters shall be deemed to be extended till the adjourned date.
- (7) Till 31st March, 2020, no adverse / default orders shall be passed where parties are found at default.
- (8) CMIS dates would be given to the pending matters.
- (9) Service of notice through process server be avoided during this period.
- (10) In civil matters, notices through registered post be issued in usual manner till 31st March 2020.
- (11) The unit criteria applicable to the Subordinate Courts shall remain suspended from 18th March 2020 till 31st March, 2020.
- (12) All Mediation proceedings / Lok Adalats / Legal Awareness Camps and outreach

programmes of District Legal Services Authority shall remain suspended on and from 18th March, 2020 till 31st March 2020.

- (13) Principal Judicial Commissioner, Ranchi / Principal District & Sessions Judges, in consultation with the respective prison authorities shall ensure that there should not be any crowding in the lockups. Appropriate measures for sanitising of the lockups and Court premises be undertaken with the assistance of the District administration.
- (14) Principal Judicial Commissioner, Ranchi / Principal District & Sessions Judges shall ensure that sufficient amount of sanitary items, viz. Sanitizers, screening equipments, fumigation equipments be procured. If sufficient fund is not available, the Registrar General, Jharkhand High Court be informed, accordingly.
- (15) All Bar Rooms, Association Halls within the Court campus in the District Courts / Sub-divisional Courts shall remain closed till 31st March, 2020.
- (16) Entry of litigants shall remain restricted in the District and Sub-divisional Court campus till 31st March, 2020. Entry in exceptional circumstances be permitted after proper screening.
- (17) Learned lawyers / party in person, whose cases are listed before the concerned Courts should only enter the Court rooms at most with one assisting counsel / person at most.
- (18) Crowding and assembly of persons in the Court campus shall not be allowed till 31st March, 2020.
- (19) Learned Principal Judicial Commissioner, Ranchi / Principal District & Sessions Judges are authorised to regulate the filing hours of urgent cases.
- (20) Canteens and food kiosks within the Court campus shall remain closed till 31st March, 2020.
- (21) No function / election or any other gathering be permitted to be held / conducted till further orders.
- (22) Principal Judicial Commissioner, Ranchi / Principal District & Sessions Judges may, if necessary, seek clarification from the Registrar General on the instructions issued by this Court and the standard operating protocol devised to meet any exigency in dealing with the Corona Virus (COVID-19) pandemic.
- (23) A dedicated / Core Team be constituted by the Principal Judicial Commissioner, Ranchi / Principal District & Sessions Judges for each district complex for taking stock of the situation on day to day basis and take appropriate remedial steps.

By order
Sd/-
(Registrar General)