

HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA

DATED 15th March, 2020

MEMORANDUM (DISTRICT JUDICIARY)

The World Health Organization has declared the Novel Corona Virus (COVID-19) as pandemic. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has issued a Memorandum cautioning the general public to stay away from mass gatherings to curtail spread of the said disease. To avoid such mass gatherings, the State Government has also taken a decision to close down the shopping malls, schools, theaters, colleges, universities, anganavadis and tourist places.

Having regard to the safety of all the litigants, lawyers, visitors to the Court premises and Court staff, and with a view to assist the efforts made by both the Central and the State Governments to prevent spread of said COVID-19, Hon'ble the Chief Justice has issued the following directions which will operate till further orders:

- i) All the District Courts and the Trial Courts will take up only urgent matters;
- ii) The cause lists will be displayed as usual and the Courts will hold sitting in the morning at usual time. Only those matters on the cause list, which are stated to be urgent by

the members of the Bar or parties in person will be taken up at the discretion of the Court. The recording of evidence of witnesses shall be postponed except in exceptional cases. Video conferencing can be resorted to. The other matters will be taken up provided, all the contesting parties on both the sides consent for taking up the matters. In respect of the remaining matters on the cause list, the dates will be assigned as per the discretion of the concerned Courts;

- iii) Even in urgent matters, the presence of the litigants should not be insisted unless it is mandatory, for example, in case of applications for grant of anticipatory bail;
- iv) The enclosed general advisory should be given wide publicity by displaying it at prominent places in the Court premises and by circulating it to the members of the Bar as well as staff;
- v) The members of the staff who are showing the symptoms, as disclosed in the enclosed advisory should immediately consult Government Health Department officials and in emergent cases, contact Arogya Sahayavani at Phone No - 104;
- vi) The members of the staff should be advised to strictly follow the said advisory by taking all precautions as mentioned therein;

- vii) As per the Advisory issued by the State Government, no programmes shall be conducted by the Courts or Legal Services Authority where there are large number of participants. Mass gathering on account of any functions should be avoided.

- viii) New Court buildings or premises which are ready for occupation in all respects should be immediately occupied without holding any formal function. In case, holding of a formal function is necessary, the same can be held only after future directions are issued.

By order of Hon'ble the Chief Justice,

Sd/-

(Rajendra Badamikar)
Registrar General