

Re:- THE MATTER WITH REGARD TO PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES IN WAKE OF PANDEMIC NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

In continuation to the earlier instructions issued with regard to precautionary measures in wake of pandemic due to outbreak of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), the following instructions to all the Courts at District and Sub-Divisional Level in the States of Punjab, Haryana and U.T. Chandigarh are hereby issued w.e.f. 17.03.2020 till further orders:-

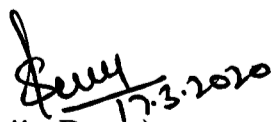
- I. All the Courts at District and Sub-Divisional Level in the States of Punjab, Haryana and U.T. Chandigarh would take up only bail matters and matters requiring urgent stay/injunction, till further orders. The remaining matters shall be adjourned. The parties/Advocates/witness seeking adjournment be accommodated. However, the Court can proceed to hear any matter in which the learned counsel for both the sides give sufficient reasons for urgency to hear the matter. The matter fixed for final argument (including time bound matters) shall be adjourned to date beyond 31.03.2020.
- II. Whenever prayed, the Court shall consider the exemption applications sympathetically and shall avoid personal appearance, as far as practicable, in order to avoid human footfall in the Court Complex.
- III. Every effort be made by the Judicial Officers to avoid the crowding in the respective Court Room(s) while avoiding passing of adverse/default orders.
- IV. No under-trial prisoner would be produced before the subordinate courts till further orders and facility of video Conferencing be utilized for the said purposes including extension of remand. Sufficient number of Duty Magistrates shall be deputed by the concerned District & Sessions

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Judge(s) for the purpose of remand work, in case the same is not feasible through Video Conferencing.

- V. In all the matters endeavour would be made by the concerned Courts to use Video Conferencing facilities, thereby avoiding human contact.
- VI. The District & Sessions Judge(s) shall forthwith coordinate with the District Administration, Health Authorities, Bar Association for ensuring the cleanliness/sanitization in the Court Premises. The representatives of the Bar Association be also requested to avoid crowding in the Bar Rooms and further considering the closure of the Bar Rooms and Canteens during this period.
- VII. The Advocates be instructed through the representatives of the Bar Association to advise their clients not to visit Court Complex unless their presence so directed by the Court or is unavoidable.
- VIII. The unit criteria and Action Plan applicable to all subordinate courts would remain suspended from 16.03.2020 till 31.03.2020.
- IX. The Chandigarh Judicial Academy would suspend all its Institutional Training programmes, till further orders.
- X. All precautionary measures as advised by the Government Authorities in the matter be strictly adhered to and followed in letter and spirit.
- XI. The District & Sessions Judges in order to meet out any eventuality with regard to precautionary measures in wake of pandemic novel coronavirus (covid-19) may take suitable administrative measures at their own level with prior intimation to the respective Hon'ble Administrative Judge.

BY ORDERS OF HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE


(Sanjiv Berry)
Registrar General
17.03.2020