



**OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM**

Sub: Courts & Judges – Spread of Corona Virus Pandemic – Limited functioning of the Subordinate Courts in the State of Tamil Nadu due to lockdown in the State of Tamil Nadu - Summer Vacation of the Subordinate Civil Courts in the State of Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Puducherry from the 1<sup>st</sup> of May, 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> of May, 2020 kept in abeyance and adjourned – Further modification - Orders issued.

Ref: 1. High Court's Official Memorandum in Roc.No.88001-A/2019/C3, dt.12.12.2019.  
2. High Court's Official Memorandum in Roc.No.88001-A/2019/C3, dt.13.12.2019  
3. High Court's Official Memorandum in Roc.No.23991-C/2020/C3, dated 18.04.2020 (For T.N & Puducherry)

.....

As resolved by the Hon'ble Full Court in its Video Conferencing Meeting dated 30<sup>th</sup> of April, 2020, looking to the peculiar grim situation of the State of Tamil Nadu in relation to the existing status of the threat of Corona Virus, High Court is of the opinion that in order to meet the situation which is likely to continue in the month of May, 2020 as predicted, it may not be

...2..

appropriate to resume regular and normal functioning as notified in the Official Memorandum third cited, as that may invite the possibility of congregation of lawyers and litigants, and violation of physical distancing norms keeping in view the large number of lawyers practising in the State, together with their staff, and the number of Subordinate Courts and Taluk Courts spread over throughout the 32 Districts of the State.

However, this continued state of lockdown should also not impede the functioning of the Courts beyond a limit, yet in order to ensure physical distancing norms, threats of spread of the endemic by physical contact and to avoid any complications arising therefrom, the system of hearing of matters through remote video conferencing be continued.

In view of the above, and considering the various suggestions that have been made by the State Bar Council; the respective Bar Associations of the High Court, whose opinions have been received; the opinion of the Advocate General, and the views of certain other District Bar Associations and individual lawyers, including Senior Advocates, it is directed that the level and volume of functioning be enhanced in a limited staggered manner for the time being till 31<sup>st</sup> of May, 2020, which will continue till the lockdown is lifted or relaxed or a decision is taken otherwise for resumption of normal functioning.

...3...

With the availability of the hardware to all concerned and the software appliances, coupled with the existing manpower, the Subordinate Courts shall resume staggered functioning with limited subject matters requiring urgent or expedient hearing till 31<sup>st</sup> of May, 2020, and subject to any further decision by the High Court. The ministerial and subordinate staff to be deployed for the said purpose shall be divided in shifts in proportions as per requirement, the total deployment not beyond 33% of the total strength.

The subject matters may range from Matrimonial cases; POSCO cases; Motor Accident Claims; Domestic Violence cases; Bails and Anticipatory Bails; Injunctions matters; Ex-parte Motions, Rent Control and such related matters, which may be conveniently handled through video-conferencing. The adjustment of subject matters to be spread over proportionately to the respective jurisdictions of Presiding Officers by the Principal District Judges/Principal Judge/Chief Judge allocating work to the Judicial Officers rank-wise and by turns, accommodating cases as per the limited staff available.

In the event of any further necessity, the Principal District Judges/Principal Judge/Chief Judge concerned may contact the High Court for further instructions and requirements. The Subordinate Courts are further directed to await further advisories from the High Court.

...4...

Today, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi, vide Notification No.40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 1<sup>st</sup> of May, 2020 has further announced the extension of the lockdown for a period of further two weeks with effect from 4<sup>th</sup> of May, 2020. The said Notification along with new Guidelines issued by the Central Government today (1<sup>st</sup> of May, 2020) on lockdown measures was placed before the Hon'ble Chief Justice, who was pleased to issue further directions that since movement restrictions and measures for safety of persons with specifics regarding Containment Zones in the Red, Orange and Green have been issued, the Principal District Judges / Principal Judge, City Civil Court, Chennai / Chief Judge, Court of Small Causes, Chennai / Chief Judge, Puducherry may ensure that the said lockdown guidelines are strictly observed while deploying staff for carrying out the essential judicial services to the bare minimum that may be required in this given circumstance of lockdown being continued. It has been clarified by the Hon'ble Chief Justice that deployment of staff need not be necessary to the maximum limit of 33% and may be kept at the minimum level. This should be accompanied by all strict norms pertaining to Sanitation, Social Distancing and all such measures as notified earlier.

...5...

The functioning in the month of May, 2020 of the Subordinate Civil Courts in the State of Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Puducherry as notified in R.O.C.No.23991-C/2020/C3 dated 18.04.2020 stands modified as mentioned above.

HIGH COURT, MADRAS  
DATED: 01.05.2020.

SD/- C.KUMARAPPAN  
REGISTRAR GENERAL

To

01. All the Hon'ble Judges (for information).
02. All the Registrars, High Court, Madras and Madurai Bench of Madras High Court, Madurai.
03. All the Principal District Judges/District Judges
04. The Principal Judge, City Civil Court, Chennai
05. The VIII Additional Judge/IX Additional Judge/XI Additional Judge/XII Additional Judge/XIII Additional Judge/XIV Additional Judge (CBI cases), Chennai
06. The Chief Judge, Court of Small Causes, Chennai
07. The Administrator General and Official Trustee, Chennai
08. The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Egmore, Chennai
09. The Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (E.O.I), Egmore, Chennai
10. The Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (E.O.II), Egmore, Chennai
11. The Presiding Officer, Principal Labour Court/I Additional Labour Court/ II Additional Labour Court/III Additional Labour Court, Chennai
12. The Presiding Officer, Labour Court, Coimbatore/ Cuddalore/ Madurai/ Salem/Tiruchirappalli/Tirunelveli
13. The Presiding Officer, Principal/Additional Labour Court, Vellore
14. The Presiding Officer, Industrial Tribunal Chennai.
15. The Additional District Judge and Presiding Officer, Special Court under Essential Commodities Act, Chennai/Coimbatore /Madurai/ Pudukottai/ Salem/ Thanjavur
16. The Judge, Additional Special Court for Exclusive trial of cases under NDPS Act, Chennai.

...6...

17. The Principal Judge and I to VII Additional Principal Judges Family Courts, Chennai
18. The Judge, Family Court, Coimbatore/ Dharmapuri/ Dindigul/ Erode/ Madurai/Udhagamandalam/Salem/Sivagangai/Tiruchirappalli/Tirunelveli/ Tiruvallur/ Vellore/Virudhunagar @Srivilliputhur
19. The City Government Pleader, City Civil Court Buildings, Chennai.
20. All the Chief Judicial Magistrate.
21. The Special Judge, Special Court under TNPID Act, Chennai/ Coimbatore/ Madurai
22. The Sessions Judge, Sessions Court for Trial of Bomb Blast Cases, Chennai at Poonamallee/Coimbatore.
23. The Director/Additional Director, Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy, Chennai, Coimbatore and Madurai
24. The Chairman, (Tamil Nadu) Sales Tax Appellate Tribunal, Chennai
25. The Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Legal Services Authority, Chennai
26. The Secretary, High court, Legal Services Committee, Chennai.
27. The Member Secretary, Pondicherry Legal Services Authority, Pondicherry
28. The State Transport Appellate Tribunal Chennai 104, by its Chairman
29. The Chairman,/Judicial Officer, Taxation Appeals Tribunal, Corporation of Chennai, Chennai
30. The II Additional District Judge (CBI Cases), Coimbatore/Madurai.
31. The III Additional District Judge (PCR), Madurai/II Additional District Judge (PCR), Tirunelveli
32. The I Additional District Judge (PCR), Thanjavur/Tiruchirappalli
33. The Sessions Judge, Sessions Court for Trial of Cases relating to Communal Clashes, Madurai
34. The Chief Judge, Puducherry.
35. The Chief Judicial Magistrate, Puducherry.
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.

...7...

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. The Chairman, Federation of District and Subordinate Courts Bar Associations of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry, No.1-A6, Trichy Main Road, Namakkal 637 001.
48. The Official Liquidator, 'Corporate Bhavan', 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, No.29, Rajaji Salai, Chennai-1.
49. All Law Officers including the Administrator General and Official Trustee And Central Law Officers in the City.
50. The Registrar, Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, Rajaji Bhavan, Chennai 90.
51. The Secretary, Railway Rates Tribunal of India, No.5, Dr.P.V.Cherian Crescent Road, Egmore, Chennai-105.
52. The Registrar, Central Administrative Tribunal, City Civil Court Bldgs, Chennai
53. The Registrar, Railway Claims Tribunal, No.50, Mc.Nicholas Rd, Chetpet, Chennai-31.
54. The Registrar, State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Slum Clearance Board Buildings, II Floor, 212, R.K.Mutt Road, Chennai-4.
55. The Registrar, Armed Forces Tribunal, Regional Bench, No.1A, (Old MH Complex), Rudhra Road, St. Thomas Mount, Chennai-16.
56. The Curator, High Court Museum, High Court, Madras.
57. The Accountant General, Anna Salai, Chennai- 18.
58. The Editors, The Hindu, Indian Express, Dinathanthi, Dinamani, Dinakaran, Dinamalar, Malaimurasu, Madras Times and UNI Madras.
59. The Press Trust of India, United India Colony, Kodambakkam, Chennai-24.
60. The Press Reporters, High Court, Madras.
61. The Pay and Accounts Officer, High Court Campus, Madras.

...8...

62. The Sub Pay and Accounts Officer, Madurai Bench of Madras High Court, Campus, Madurai.
63. The Post Master General, Anna Salai, Chennai-2.
64. The Director of Stationery and Printing, Government Press, Chennai.
65. The Works Manager, Govt. Central Press, Chennai -79.
66. The Dy. Works Manager, Government Press, High Court Buildings, Madras.
67. The Director, All India Radio, Chennai-4 (News Division).
68. The Director, Doordarshan, Chennai-5 (News Division).
69. The Official Liquidator, 'Corporate Bhavan', 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, No.29, RajajiSalai, Chennai-1.
70. The Registrar, Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, RajajiBhavan, Chennai 90.
71. The Secretary, Railway Rates Tribunal of India, No.5, Dr.P.V.Cherian Crescent Road, Egmore, Chennai-105.
72. The Registrar, Central Administrative Tribunal, City Civil Court Bldgs, Chennai
73. The Registrar, Railway Claims Tribunal, No.50, Mc.Nicholas Rd, Chetpet, Chennai -31.
74. The Registrar, State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Slum Clearance Board Buildings, II Floor, 212, R.K.Mutt Road, Chennai-4.
75. The Registrar, Armed Forces Tribunal, Regional Bench, No.1A, (Old MH Complex), Rudhra Road, St. Thomas Mount, Chennai-16. .
76. The Director of Stationery and Printing, Government Press, Chennai.
77. The Works Manager, Govt. Central Press, Chennai -79.
78. The Dy. Works Manager, Government Press, High Court Buildings, Madras.
79. The Director, All India Radio, Chennai-4 (News Division).
80. The Secretary, Law Clerks Association, High Court, Madras.

**(All the Heads of Units are requested to communicate this Official Memorandum to all the Subordinates under their control)**

Copy to :

01. The Section Officers, B, B5, F& Protocol Sections, High Court, Madras and Madurai Bench of Madras High Court, Madurai.
02. The Section Officer, "C" Section, Madurai Bench of Madras High Court, Madurai
03. The Chief Posting Clerk, Appellate Side, High Court, Madras.
04. The Record Keeper, A.D. Records, High Court, Madras.

Spare +15

\*\*\*\*\*