

HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA, BENGALURU

December 16, 2020

MODIFICATION IN THE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR THE DISTRICT JUDICIARY WITH EFFECT FROM DECEMBER 21, 2020

- 1. Standard Operating Procedure was partially modified in relation to the ten districts i.e., 1) Bagalakot, 2) Bidar, 3) Chamarajanagar, 4) Chikkaballapura, 5) Gadag, 6) Haveri, 7) Kodagu, 8) Koppala, 9) Raichuru and 10) Yadagiri, by virtue of modification dated 12.11.2020.**

In addition to the above ten districts, the following nine districts namely, 1) Ballari, 2) Chikkamagaluru, 3) Davanagere, 4) Dharwad, 5) Kolar, 6) Ramanagara 7) Udupi and 8) U.K. Karwar, 9) Vijayapura shall be also governed by modified SOP dated 12th November 2020.

In the above 19 districts,

- i) Filing will be allowed to the members of the Bar without fixing prior appointment. However, as per the practice being followed today, the filing counters will continue to be located outside the main Court complexes. In short, in these 19 districts, regular filing shall be permitted without fixing prior appointment, but at the places designated for filing by prior appointment at present.**

The filing can be made during the same hours within which filing was permitted before March 2020.

- ii) However, parties-in-person shall not be allowed to enter the Court precincts for filing and they will have to seek prior appointment by following existing Standard Operating Procedure.
- iii) For their own safety and for the safety of the staff members, the members of the Bar shall not be permitted from entering the offices of the Court.
- iv) For the sake of clarity, it is made clear that the entry of the litigants to Court Complexes shall remain prohibited, except as permitted under the existing Standard Operating Procedure.

Partial modification for all Districts.

- i) **Ceiling in respect of recording of evidence of maximum 10 witnesses per day is removed.**
- ii) **Ceiling with respect to postings not more than 40 matters per day is hereby removed and the Courts shall take up all categories of cases as per the CIS Cause list.**
- iii) **The suspension of itinerary Courts as per Notification dated March 20, 2020 stands revoked and all the itinerary Courts will start functioning as per earlier assignments.**

2. Partial modification to the earlier Spl. SOP 18.09.2020 for all districts:

- i) The Clause No. 25 of SOP dated 18.09.2020, reads as under:

“25. Canteens/any other outlets located within the court precincts, shall be kept closed until further orders.”

The same has been modified and substituted as under:

“Permission is hereby accorded to open a small Tea Stall on working days between 10.00 am to 4.00 pm, outside or near the every Bar Association of the District/Trail Courts in the State to serve only Tea/Coffee and Biscuits on following conditions:

- a) The place of the stall shall be fixed by the Principal District Judge or In-charge Judge after consulting Bar Associations.
- b) The Stall shall be opened on temporary basis preferably by either the existing license holder or any other person as found suitable by the Principal District & Sessions Judge, on such other terms and conditions found necessary, subject to condition that boards shall be displayed near the stall calling upon the members of the Bar to follow social distancing.
- c) No articles/eatables shall be served except Tea, Coffee and Biscuits.
- d) Photo identity cards shall be issued to those who are going to operate the stalls and they shall be subjected to RAT (Rapid Antigen Test) after every five days.
- e) The permission will be liable to be cancelled if it is misused or if it is found that the rules of social distancing are not followed.
- f) Stall shall be sanitized daily before its opening or after its closure.

ii) Permission is accorded to open Nandini Milk Parlor where ever in the Districts it is situated within the precincts of Court premises subject to following conditions:

- a) They shall display boards near the Milk Parlor calling upon the members of the Bar to follow social distancing.
- b) No articles/eatables shall be served except Hot/Cold beverages.
- c) Photo identity cards shall be issued to the license holder who is going to open the shop and he shall be subjected to RAT (Rapid Antigen Test) after every five days.
- d) The permission will be liable to be cancelled if it is misused or if it is found that the rules of social distancing are not followed.
- e) Stall shall be sanitized daily before its opening or after its closure.

iii) Partial modification to Clause No.38A, 8th & 9th line:

As per clause 38A, 8th & 9th line “Typists and Xerox operators will not be given entry into the Court complexes under any circumstances”.

Now it is partially modified as here under.

Maximum Two Xerox machine operators are permitted to enter the court complex per day for operation of their Xerox machines as may be decided by the PDJ on rotation basis on the following conditions:-

- a) They shall display the boards near the shops/stalls, calling upon the members of the Bar to follow social distancing.

- b) Photo identity cards shall be issued to those who are going to operate Xerox machines and they shall be subjected to RAT (Rapid Antigen Test) after every five days.
- c) The permission will be liable to be cancelled if it is misused or if it is found that the rule of social distancing are not followed.
- d) Shops shall be sanitized daily before its opening or after its closure.

3. Except the above modifications, all other provisions of the existing Standard Operating Procedure shall continue to operate. The above changes shall be effective from 21st December 2020 purely on experimental basis, subject to further changes which may be made from time to time and circumstances may warrant. A call will be taken to make further relaxations in all Districts in the first week of January 2021.”

BY ORDER OF HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE

Sd/-
(RAJENDRA BADAMIKAR)
REGISTRAR GENERAL