

HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA, BENGALURU

July 16, 2021

THE MODIFIED STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR THE DISTRICT JUDICIARY WITH EFFECT FROM JULY 19, 2021

A. Since total COVID-19 Active Cases in the following 20 districts are less than 1000 for the last 7 days, the existing Standard Operating Procedure stands withdrawn for the following 20 districts with effect from 19th July, 2021

Sl. No.	Name of the Districts
1	Bagalkot
2	Ballari
3	Bidar
4	Chamarajanagar
5	Chikkaballapura
6	Chitradurga
7	Dharwad
8	Gadag
9	Haveri
10	Kalaburagi
11	Kolar
12	Koppal
13	Raichur
14	Ramanagara
15	U.K. Karwar
16	Vijayapura
17	Yadgir

18	Bengaluru Rural (except Bengaluru Rural Courts functioning in the City Civil Court Complex)
19	Davanagere
20	Mandya

subject to the following restrictions:

- a) At the entry points of all Court complexes, every person, including the members of the Bar, shall be subjected to thermal scanning. If at the time of scanning, it is revealed that any one has the symptoms of COVID-19, he/she shall be denied entry into the Court Complex.
- b) If possible, separate entrances be provided to all the Court Complexes, one will be for entry of Judicial Officers, Advocates and Staff Members and the other one will be for the entry of litigants, witnesses, police/ Government Officers etc. Hand sanitizers shall be provided at all entry points in the corridors.
- c) Inside the Court Complexes, all the existing rules prescribed by the Central/State Governments, such as wearing of proper face masks, maintaining physical distance and washing of hands with sanitizer/soap, shall be strictly adhered to. The members of the Bar are well advised to wear double mask all the time.

- d) The Principal District and Sessions Judge or the Senior-most Judge in the Court Complex shall have a power to remove any person/s from the Court Complex if it is found that the person/s is/are not using proper face masks and/or not adhering to physical distancing norms.
- e) Daily cause list shall be divided into two parts. One will be for morning session and the other will be for afternoon session. This will reduce the footfall of Advocates and litigants at a time in the Court Halls and Court Premises. However, all cases which are due shall be listed.
- f) Advocates, Litigants, Witnesses, Police personnel etc., shall maintain social distancing in the Court premises, Court offices, Bar Association Premises as well as in the Court rooms.
- g) It is the responsibility of the Members of the Bar to ensure that the litigants are not unnecessary called to visit the Courts/Court premises. The members of the Bar should ensure that their clients visit the Court only if their presence is absolutely mandatory. The Court officials shall have right to refuse entry to a litigant if it is found that he or she has come to visit the Court without any reason.
- h) The Bar Associations shall appeal to the litigants not to come to Court unless and until their presence is absolutely necessary.

- i) The restriction imposed on Bar Associations, Library, Canteens, Xerox Operators, Job Typists, Notaries/Oath Commissioners are completely relaxed subject to condition that the staff members of the Bar Associations, Xerox Operators, Job typists and staff members working in canteens shall be given entry in the Court Complexes only if they produce certificates showing administration of both the doses of vaccines.

- j) The Advocates'/Bar Associations premises within the Court complexes shall be permitted to be opened, subject to the condition that the members of the Bar shall strictly follow the rules regarding wearing of masks and maintaining physical distancing of six feet. In order to avoid congestion in the premises of the Bar Association half of the chairs in the Association premises shall be removed. If it is found that members of the Bar are not following the norms of physical distancing and wearing of masks inside the Advocate/Bar Associations, the Principal District and Sessions Judge/Principal Judge concerned will have the discretion to immediately close down the Advocates'/Bar Associations premises. If any member of the Bar who has entered the Bar Association premises is tested positive, the premises shall be kept closed for 24 hours for sanitisation. It is also responsibility of Bar Associations to report Principal District and Sessions Judge/Principal Civil Judge if any member of the Bar is tested positive immediately for further needful action.

- k) No recreation activity, playing of games, cultural activities, programs shall be allowed in the Bar Associations. Bar Association premises shall be sanitized once in a week.
- l) The suspension of itinerary Courts as per SOP dated May 21, 2021 stands revoked and all the itinerary Courts in the above twenty districts will start functioning as per earlier assignments.
- m) The decision of withdrawing the existing Standard Operating Procedure is based on the present status of the COVID-19 cases and therefore, the decision is liable to be changed in future. If any in particular Court Complex, it is found that the Advocates are not following COVID-19 norms, the Chief Justice shall have power to restrict the functioning of the Courts.

B. In the following 10 Districts, SOP dated 25.06.2021 shall continue to be applicable subject to following changes:

Sl. No.	Name of the Districts
1	Belagavi
2	Bengaluru Urban
3	Chikkamagaluru
4	D.K. Mangaluru
5	Hassan

6	Kodagu-Madikeri
7	Mysuru
8	Shivamogga
9	Tumakuru
10	Udupi

- a) In the above 10 districts, the ceiling/upper limit of recording evidence 5 witnesses per day is removed. The witnesses can be examined in both the sessions.
- b) Subject to pendency, each court in the above 13 districts shall not post more than 40 matters per day. The ceiling of posting 30 cases per day is hereby enhanced to 40 cases per day.

The Principal District Judge/Principal Judges shall inform the Bar Associations, Job Typists, Xerox Operators and Staff Members of Canteens to ensure that all of them take both the doses of vaccine which will facilitate functioning in immediate future.

Except the above modifications, all other guidelines and restrictions under the existing modified SOP dated 25.06.2021 shall continued to operate.

C. Common restrictions to all the District and Trial Courts:

- a) In all the District and Trial Courts, the present arrangements for filing of cases at places outside the main Court Buildings shall continue till further orders.

- b) Direction shall be given to all the Canteen license holders to get their entire staff vaccinated, so as to consider the relaxation in opening of canteens.

The above modifications are only on experimental basis, subject to further changes which may be made from time to time and circumstance may warrant. A call will be taken to make further relaxation in all the districts in the next week of July-2021.

BY ORDER OF HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE

Sd/-

**(T.G. SHIVASHANKARE GOWDA)
REGISTRAR GENERAL**