

GAUHATI HIGH COURT
(THE HIGH COURT OF ASSAM; NAGALAND; MIZORAM AND ARUNACHAL PRADESH)

ORDER

Dated : Guwahati the 15th day of March, 2020

Hon'ble Gauhati High Court is pleased to issue the following instructions for prevention, and spread of Novel Corona Virus (COVID-19) disease:-

- a. The Outlying Benches of Gauhati High Court (Kohima, Aizawl and Itanagar), and subordinate Courts of all the four States within the jurisdiction of the Gauhati High Court shall take all possible measures as provided vide Notification No. 11 dated 15.03.2020 for prevention and control of Novel Corona Virus (COVID-19) disease.
- b. Registries of the outlying Benches and the subordinate courts of all the four States shall take necessary measures for procuring and using sanitizers in the offices.

Entry of litigants and outsiders in court complex be restricted as far as possible.

- c. Subordinate courts should not insist on the presence of the parties until and unless it is inevitable. All the District and Sessions Judges and Principal Judges of Family Courts, Members of Motor Accident Claims Tribunals, Judges of Special Courts as well other Courts and Tribunals shall take appropriate measures to regulate entry of the litigants and the general public in the court complex to avoid crowding.
- d. Thermal scanner (no touch) may be procured at the earliest. Handlers be trained and they be deputed at the existing checkpoints.
- e. The video conferencing facility may be put to optimum use for the purpose of recording of evidence.
- f. Instead of physical production of under trial prisoners (UTPs) from jails, facility of video-conferencing may be availed.


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- g. Unnecessary crowding in the lock-up is to be curtailed and appropriate steps in this regard be taken by all the concerned judges, in consultation with the jail authorities.
- h. In final argument matters, as far as possible, written submissions may be called for to be submitted in court, and the time for oral arguments be reduced to the extent possible.
- i. The District and Sessions in-charge of the court complex shall ensure that medical dispensaries in the court complex are well equipped to tackle the present emergent situation.
- j. It is to be ensured by all the District and Sessions Judges that the sanitizers are available in all the Courts in Sessions Divisions, for the visitors as well as the staff, particularly those manning windows where there is constant public dealing. Housekeeping agency/staff are to be asked to ensure that highest level of hygiene is maintained in the court complex and disinfectants are sprayed on a regular basis.
- k. A dedicated team comprising of senior judicial officers, administrative civil judge and senior ministerial staff be constituted in each district court complex to ensure compliance of these instructions.
- l. The President and General Secretary of the respective district court bar associations may be requested to issue necessary directions in order to ensure that there is no crowding in the court complex, including the chambers of learned advocates. Bar would also ensure that interns are not permitted in the court complex till the present situation persists.
- m. No function/election or any other event is to be permitted to be held/ conducted in the court complex till further orders.
- n. The Judge in-charge, Mediation Centre of all district court complexes would also ensure that mediation proceedings are held only in cases that are of urgent nature.
- o. As far as possible holding of camps and other programs of Legal Services Authorities may be avoided till the present situation persists.
- p. Considering the importance of the safety measures for health, all concerned are requested to cooperate with the instructions of the staff on duty.


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- q. In case of suppliers, vendors, visitors etc. who frequent the offices of the subordinate courts, strict vigil is directed to be maintained regarding their health; and their entry in the offices may be restricted, until and unless it is of utmost necessity.
- r. The entry of any foreign national in courts and offices is strictly restricted till further order(s).


15/3/2020
REGISTRAR GENERAL