

THE GAUHATI HIGH COURT AT GUWAHATI
(THE HIGH COURT OF ASSAM, NAGALAND, MIZORAM AND ARUNACHAL PRADESH)

NOTIFICATION NO. 28

Dated Guwahati, the 22nd May, 2020

Whereas the Hon'ble Chief Justice has been pleased to issue directions vide Notification No.18 dated 24th March, 2020, regulating Court working of the Gauhati High Court in the Principal Seat at Guwahati as well as in the outlying Benches and also the subordinate Courts in the States of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh, for avoidance of mass gatherings, and for maintaining the norms of social distancing till Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) disease spread is contained;

And whereas such regulation of Court functioning was extended till 26th May, 2020 vide a Notification No.23 dated 02.05.2020;

And whereas the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India vide an order No.40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 29.04.2020 has allowed interstate travel for migrant workers, pilgrims, tourists, students and other persons, resulting the sharp rise in number of Coronavirus infected persons;

And whereas restrictions on movement and gatherings have been extended till 31.05.2020 vide an Order No.40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 17th May, 2020 by the Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs.

And whereas the COVID-19 positive cases have been rising day-by-day resulting declaration of "*Containment Zones/Red Zones/Orange Zones*" by the Government of Assam;

Now, considering the emerging circumstances in the country, and in North Eastern States in particular, it has become imperative to maintain social distancing for continued period of time so as to avoid spread of Coronavirus in Court Complexes amongst Judges, staff, lawyers, litigants, etc.

In view of the above, Hon'ble the Chief Justice has been pleased to issue the following directions, which would apply to all the Courts functioning under the jurisdiction of the Hon'ble Gauhati High Court, in continuance and partial modification of the directions earlier issued vide Notifications and orders from time to time.

This Notification shall remain effective till 30.06.2020.

- (1) There shall be "*restricted Court functioning*" with "*Staggered Roster*" in all the Courts, so as to maintain social distancing.

- (2) All the Courts functioning under the jurisdiction of the Hon'ble Gauhati High Court, including outlying Benches at Kohima (Nagaland), Aizawl (Mizoram) and Naharlagun (Arunachal Pradesh) and the Subordinate Courts in the four States shall employ the mode of video-conferencing for transaction of Court works.

The Concerned District & Sessions Judges as well as other Presiding Officers of Special Courts and Tribunals shall ensure that appropriate steps are taken for employing "Jitsi" through Local Area Network (LAN) for the purposes of video-conferencing. Whenever request is received from an advocate for joining Court proceedings from remote location, "Vidyo Desktop/Vidyo Mobile" be employed with internet connection.

- (3) The concerned District & Sessions Judges shall ensure that Bar Rooms and Canteens in all the Court premises shall remain closed so as to avoid gathering, and avoiding spread of Coronavirus.
- (4) The concerned District & Sessions Judges and other Presiding Officers of Special Courts and Tribunals shall ensure that only the advocates, or litigants (where necessary), whose cases are listed on a particular date are allowed to enter the Court premises, so as to minimise the footfalls to maintain the norms of social distancing.

The Judicial Officers shall prepare cause-lists for pre-lunch session, and separate cause-lists for post-lunch session, with limited number of cases, so as to ensure "*restricted Court functionings*" with "*Staggered Roster*".

- (5) The District & Sessions Judges and other Presiding Officers, as the case may be, are directed to regularly monitor, and restrict wherever necessary, accumulation of persons in Court room, Corridors and Court Complexes, so as to maintain social distancing.
- (6) The District & Sessions Judges and other Presiding Officers are directed to ensure that persons residing in "*Containment Zones/Red Zones*" and "*Orange Zones*" do not enter any Court Complex.

By order,
Sd/- Raktim Duarah
REGISTER GENERAL

Memo No. HC. III - 06/2020 /1074-1101/G Dated 22nd May, 2020

Copy to:

1. The Secretary General, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi.
2. The Secretary, Law Department, Government of Nagaland, Kohima/ Government of Mizoram, Aizawl/ Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar.
3. The Registrar (Vigilance/Judicial/Administration/Establishment), Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
4. The Registrar, Gauhati High Court, Kohima Bench, Kohima / Aizawl Bench, Aizawl/ Itanagar Permanent Bench, Naharlagun. *They are requested to forward this order amongst the respective District/ Subordinate Courts within their jurisdiction.*
5. The Registrar-cum-Principal Secretary to Hon'ble the Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, Guwahati. Guwahati.
6. The L.R.-cum-Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Judicial Department, Dispur, Guwahati, Assam.
7. The District & Sessions Judge, _____ Assam.
8. The Principal Judge, Family Court, _____ Assam.
9. The Member, MACT, _____ Assam.
10. The Presiding Officer, Special Court _____ Assam.
11. The Presiding Officer, Labour Court _____ Assam.
12. The President/ Secretary General, Gauhati High Court Bar Association, Guwahati.
13. The President/ General Secretary, Gauhati High Court Advocates' Association, Guwahati.
14. The President/ Secretary, All Assam Lawyers' Association, Guwahati.
15. The President/ Secretary, Lawyers' Association, Guwahati.
16. The Joint Registrar (_____), Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
17. The Deputy Registrar (_____), Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
18. The Librarian-cum-Research Officer, Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
19. The Asstt. Registrar (_____), Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
20. The Special Officer, Translation Wing, Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
21. The Project Manager, Gauhati High Court, Guwahati. *He is requested to upload this Notification in the website of the Gauhati High Court with a scroll in the Homepage.*
22. The P.S. to Hon'ble Mr. /Mrs. Justice _____, Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
23. The A.O. (Judicial), _____ Section, Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
24. The Court Master(s), Court No. _____, Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
25. The Court Manager, Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
26. The Court Officer Nos. 1 & 2, Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
27. The Chief Security Officer, Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
28. The C.A. to the Registrar General, Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
29. Notice Boards, Gauhati High Court Old Block & New Block, Guwahati.


22/5/2020
REGISTRAR GENERAL