

HIGH COURT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR AND LADAKH
(Office of the Registrar General)

In Re: Directions for hearing/filing of cases in the High Court and Subordinate Courts.

ORDER

No:18 of 2022/RG

Dated: 12.01.2022

Keeping in view the alarming surge in new COVID variant Omicron infection cases in the Country in general and UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh in particular, Hon'ble the Chief Justice has been pleased to direct that the hearing/filing of cases in the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh as well as in the District and Subordinate Courts and Tribunals in UTs of J&K and Ladakh shall be conducted as per the following directions:

High Court

1. Ordinarily, the hearing of cases listed before a Bench shall be through virtual mode, however, physical hearing in respect of any listed matter will be at the discretion of the Bench concerned subject to the satisfaction of the Bench regarding urgency involved in such matter and thereafter such matter can be taken up for physical hearing on the date fixed by the Bench.
2. For smooth hearing of the cases through virtual mode, the Registrars Judicial of both wings of the High Court in coordination with the CPC e-Courts shall create a link for each Bench in their respective wings and provide the same to the advocates/litigants by making it available on the official website of the High Court or through any appropriate electronic mode.
3. Filing of cases shall be in accordance with *the Electronic Filing (e-Filing) in the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and in Subordinate Courts and Tribunals of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Rules, 2021* either through e-Filing portal of the High Court <https://efiling.ecourts.gov.in/jk/> or

through e-mail address of the respective filing counters of the High Court for which the Registrars Judicial of both wings of the High Court shall create a dedicated e-mail address and notify the same to the advocates and litigants by making it available on the official website of the High Court.

4. The entry of litigants and public into the Court premises from the very outer gate shall be strictly prohibited.
5. The entry of clerks of the advocates shall be restricted to the chambers of advocates and their entry into the court building and sections/offices shall be prohibited.
6. In order to decongest the sections/offices/Courts, the officials shall be permitted to function in batches with 50 percent reduction on rotation basis. The roster in this regard, shall be formulated by the Registrar Judicial of the concerned wing. The officials, who as per the roster are not on duty in the office, shall not leave the station and shall remain available on telephone and electronic means of communication at all times.
7. The Registrars Judicial of both wings of the High Court shall ensure sanitization of the entire High Court Complex on every Saturday and Sunday.
8. The staff on duty and the counsel, if any permitted for physical hearing, shall take necessary precautions, ensure physical distancing, wearing of mask and observance of SOPs and guidelines issued by the respective Governments from time to time.
9. On account of virtual hearing, entry of lawyers in the High Court premises is not required unless any advocate is permitted for physical hearing in any extremely urgent matter.



District and Subordinate Courts and Tribunals in UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh

1. Ordinarily, the Presiding Officers of the Courts shall hear the cases through virtual mode from their respective court rooms/chambers during court hours. However, physical hearing in respect of any such listed matter will be at the discretion of the Presiding Officer concerned subject to the satisfaction of the Presiding Officer regarding urgency involved in such matter and thereafter such matter can be taken up for physical hearing on the date fixed by the Presiding Officer.
2. Filing of cases shall be in accordance with the Electronic Filing (e-Filing) in the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and in Subordinate Courts and Tribunals of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Rules, 2021. For filing of cases, the Presiding Officers shall create a dedicated email address of their respective courts and make it available to the advocates/litigants by posting the same on the website of the District Court concerned or through any appropriate electronic mode.
3. The entry of general public into the Court premises from the very outer gate shall be strictly prohibited.
4. The entry of clerks of the advocates shall be restricted to the chambers of advocates and their entry into the court building and sections/offices shall be prohibited.
5. The entry of accused persons and witnesses to the Court premises and Court rooms shall be permitted subject to the following of all Covid related protocols and production of vaccination certificate.
6. In order to decongest the sections/offices of the Courts, the officials working in the Subordinate Courts, shall be permitted to function in batches with 50 percent reduction on rotation basis. The roster in this regard, shall be formulated by the concerned Presiding Officer of the Court.



The officials, who as per the roster are not on duty in the office, shall not leave the station and shall remain available on telephone and electronic means of communication at all times.

7. The staff on duty in courts and the counsel, if any permitted for physical hearing, shall take necessary precautions, ensure physical distancing, wearing of mask and observance of SOPs and guidelines issued by the respective Governments from time to time.
8. For smooth hearing of the cases through virtual mode, the Presiding Officer of the concerned Court shall create a link and provide the same to the advocates/litigants by making it available on the website of the District Court concerned or through any appropriate electronic mode.
9. On account of virtual hearing of cases, entry of lawyers in the District Courts/Subordinate Courts premises is not required unless any advocate is permitted for physical hearing in any extremely urgent matter.

These directions shall remain in force till 31st January, 2022 unless reviewed earlier.

By Order.


(Jawad Ahmed)
Registrar General

No:- 424-36/RG/GS

Dated: 12.01.2022

Copy of the above forwarded to:

1. Principal Secretary to Hon'ble the Chief Justice, High Court of J&K, Jammu
2. Secretary to Hon'ble Mr./Mrs. Justice _____
for information of their Lordships
3. Secretary to the Government, Department of L&PA, Civil Secretariat, Jammu.
4. Registrar Vigilance, High Court of J&K, Jammu.
5. Registrar Computers, High Court of J&K, Jammu.
6. Director, J&K State Judicial Academy, Jammu.
7. Registrar Judicial, High Court of J&K, Jammu/Srinagar
8. All Principal District Judges of the UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, with the request to circulate the same among the Judicial Officers within their jurisdiction.
9. Administrative Officer, Office of the Advocate General, J&K, Jammu.
10. Presidents, all Bar Associations in UTs of J&K and Ladakh
for information and compliance.
11. Incharge NIC for uploading the same on official website of the High Court of J&K.
12. Incharge Library High Court of J&K, Jammu/Srinagar for information and keeping the record of the order.
13. Order file.


Registrar General