

HIGH COURT OF TRIPURA
AGARTALA

ORDER

Dated, Agartala, the 24th March, 2020

The Hon'ble Chief Justice and other Hon'ble Judges of the High Court of Tripura took into account the proclamation of lockdown by the State Government across the entire State of Tripura and the emergent situation arising out of such executive decision. Their Lordships also took into account the request of the Tripura Bar Association communicated by the Secretary under his letter dated 23.03.2020 for a total shutdown of the judicial functions in all courts within the State. The Hon'ble Judges were of the opinion that total shutdown of all courts shall not be feasible. However, looking to the overall situation it was necessary to make special arrangements for restricting the court functioning for extremely urgent cases only and to the extent possible avoid human interaction. Bearing in mind these factors, following directions are issued to deal with the situation till 5th April, 2020:

For the High Court :

- (i) The High Court Registry and the premises shall be completely shutdown. Except for the bare minimum necessary security staff, no other members of the Registry shall report for duty. They all may however remain at home on call and shall not leave the Headquarters without the permission of the competent authority.
- (ii) For urgent cases which cannot wait, following arrangements shall be made:
 - a) The concerned lawyer who wishes to file such urgent case, shall contact the Registrar General or the Registrar (Judicial) on their mobile phone numbers which are **9436130099** and **7085558838** respectively.

- b) The Registrar General or as the case may be Registrar (Judicial) shall telephonically get in touch with the Hon'ble Judge of the High Court who on that particular day is assigned for taking up urgent judicial work.
- c) The Registrar General/Registrar (Judicial) shall provide such information regarding the case as may be required by the concerned Judge.
- d) If the concerned Judge permits taking up of the case, the Registrar General/Registrar (Judicial) shall accept the papers for filing and circulate the case for urgent hearing subject to verification of objection and removal of objection in due course.
- e) As far as possible the pleadings will be transmitted to the Hon'ble Judge through email.
- f) Hearing of urgent cases shall take place at the residence of the Hon'ble Judge at the time that may be appointed by the concerned Judge. Arguments shall be heard through any electronic mode or video conferencing.

For the District Courts (including Family Courts):

- (i) In the District Courts also hearing shall be permitted only for urgent cases. For such purpose one Judge of each cadre i.e. District Judge, Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.) and Judicial Magistrate or Judge, Family Court, as may be assigned by the District Judge/Judge, Family Court concerned, for each day, shall remain at his residence on call.
- (ii) Only on request being made for hearing of urgent cases such as production of accused etc., the concerned Judge would at the time that may be suitable, visit the court for hearing of the case.
- (iii) Entry in the District Court compound would be completely restricted only for the concerned lawyers or the police

authorities and immediate litigant. Lawyers' colleagues and juniors who are not appearing in the case shall not be allowed entry. Likewise the relatives of the accused or the litigant shall also not be permitted except for the purpose of providing bail bonds for the accused who might have been granted bail.

- (iv) To make administrative arrangement for the above purposes, in the Districts/Family Courts where there is no Registrar, concerned District Judge/Judge, Family Court shall appoint a member of the Registry as the Nodal Officer and whose name and mobile number shall be circulated amongst the lawyers of the District.
- (v) In all cases in which dates are already given, concerned Judge of the Subordinate Judiciary shall adjourn the cases beyond 5th April, 2020. For such purpose he shall not have to call for the records of the cases or to visit the court. However, he shall ensure that the adjourned date of such cases will be communicated to the concerned Advocate through SMS and such dates would also be uploaded in the NJDG as well as in the CIS.

The days during which this arrangement shall continue i.e. from 24th March, 2020 till 5th April, 2020, shall be for the purpose of Section 4 of the Limitation Act, 1963 be deemed to be the days when the court is closed.

By order,

Sd/-

(D. M. Jamatia)
Registrar General

Copy to:

01. The Secretary General, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, New Delhi;
02. The Registrar Generals of all the High Courts in India;
03. The Secretary, Govt. of India, Ministry of Law & Justice, New Delhi;
04. The Principal Secretary to Hon'ble the Chief Justice, High Court of Tripura, Agartala;
05. The Secretary to Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Talapatra, Judge, High Court of Tripura, Agartala;
06. The Secretary to Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arindam Lodh, Judge, High Court of Tripura, Agartala;
07. The Secretary to Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. G. Chattopadhyay, Judge, High Court of Tripura, Agartala;
08. The Advocate General, Tripura, Agartala;
09. The Secretary, High Court Bar Association, Agartala;
10. The Secretary, Tripura Bar Association, Agartala;
11. The Chairman, Bar Council of Tripura, Agartala;
12. The Assistant Solicitor General of India, Govt. of India, Agartala;
13. The Public Prosecutor, High Court of Tripura, Agartala;
14. The Govt. Advocate, High Court of Tripura, Agartala;
15. The District & Sessions Judge, Dhalai Judicial District, Ambassa/South Tripura Judicial District, Belonia/ Gomati Judicial District, Udaipur/West Tripura Judicial District, Agartala/Unakoti Judicial District, Kailashahar/North Tripura Judicial District, Dharmanagar/Khowai Judicial District, Khowai/Sepahijala Judicial District, Sonamura for information and necessary action. They are requested to circulate the same amongst all the Presiding Officers under their respective judgeships for their information and necessary action. They are also requested to circulate the order to all the Bar Associations under their respective Districts;
16. The Judge, Family Court, Agartala, West Tripura Judicial District/Kailashahar, Unakoti Judicial District/Udaipur, Gomati Judicial District/Ambassa, Dhalai Judicial District/Khowai, Khowai Judicial District/Sonamura, Sepahijala Judicial District for information and necessary action. They are requested to circulate the same amongst all the Presiding Officers under their respective judgeships for their information and necessary action;
17. The Registrar (Vigilance), High Court of Tripura, Agartala;

18. The Registrar (Judicial), High Court of Tripura, Agartala;
19. The Registrar (Admn., P & M), High Court of Tripura, Agartala;
20. The Joint Registrar, High Court of Tripura, Agartala;
21. The Deputy Registrar(s), High Court of Tripura, Agartala;
22. The Chief Librarian, High Court of Tripura, Agartala;
23. The Assistant Registrar(s), High Court of Tripura, Agartala;
24. The System Analyst, Computer Section, High Court of Tripura, Agartala. **He is directed to take necessary steps regarding uploading of this order in the official website of the High Court of Tripura as well as in the official websites of the District Courts of Tripura;**
25. All the Superintendents, High Court of Tripura, Agartala;
26. The Sr. Grade Translator-cum-I/C. Paper Book Section, High Court of Tripura, Agartala;
27. The Court Master(s), High Court of Tripura, Agartala;
28. The Bench Clerk(s), High Court of Tripura, Agartala;
29. Notice Board of the Court-house; and
30. Order File.

D-24/2/20

Registrar General