

**ORDER**

**Re: Situation arising due to outbreak of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

Keeping in view the outbreak of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and after considering the prevailing situation in the States of Punjab, Haryana and UT Chandigarh; in continuation of earlier orders passed regarding restrictive working of the all the District and Sub-Divisional Courts, the Hon'ble Administrative Committee has resolved as under:-

- (i) The District and Sessions Judges in the States of Punjab, Haryana and Union Territory, Chandigarh in addition to the urgent cases, may allow the filing of non-urgent cases which do not require immediate relief, in their respective Sessions Division.

However, while regulating the filing of such cases, the learned District and Sessions Judges shall ensure that there is no over-crowding in the courts and adequate measures be taken at their own level, while utilizing their resources to the optimum use, to regulate the foot-fall. Such filing shall be staggered in such a way that there is no over-crowding at the filing counter also.

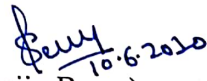
- (ii) The category of non-urgent cases which are to be allowed for filing, at the first instance or in the phased manner, shall be decided by the learned District and Sessions Judge, keeping in view the nature of litigation in the said Sessions Division/Sub-Division.

Further, the concerned District and Sessions Judge shall be at liberty to allow or not to allow such filing, keeping in view the prevalent situation, arising out of COVID-19 in the respective Sessions Division, at a

given time.  
*[Signature]*  
10.6.2020

- (iii) The learned District and Sessions Judges shall also take into consideration the situation prevalent in the concerned Sessions Division and also the location of the courts i.e. in Red, Orange or Green Zones or the area being in containment zones, while taking such decision.
- (iv) The learned District and Sessions Judge shall depute the requisite number of Judicial Officers and their staff as may be deemed necessary, keeping in view the guidelines/advisories issued by the authorities from time to time. The remaining officers as well as the staff shall work from Home. They will not leave the station except by taking requisite permission from the Competent Authority and will also make themselves available immediately as when their services are required.
- (v) All the Officers/Officials attending the office/court shall strictly adhere to Government and health Advisories/ guidelines issued from time to time. They shall compulsorily take all precautionary measures to maintain safe social distancing and use the masks, hand sanitizer etc. The Court Building shall be got sanitized regularly. All the entrants in the court building should be got screened at the time of entry and any of the Officers/Officials showing the symptoms of high fever/cold /cough/sneezing etc. should not be asked to attend the office.

BY ORDER OF HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE

  
(Sanjiv Berry)  
Registrar General  
10.06.2020