

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

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

ORDER

No: 91 of 2022/RG

Dated: 28.01.2022

In continuation to the earlier directions dated 12.01.2022 and keeping in view the alarming surge in new COVID variant Omicron in the Country in general and UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh in particular, 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 shall be conducted as per the following directions:

High Court

1. Hearing of cases listed before a Bench shall be only through virtual mode.
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 on dedicated e-mail addresses made available on the official website of the High Court.

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4. Entry of litigants and public into the Court premises from the very outer gate shall be strictly prohibited.
5. 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. Staff members with known conditions of co-morbidity and pregnant females shall be exempt from attendance.
7. The Registrars Judicial of both wings of the High Court shall ensure regular sanitization of the entire High Court Complexes, particularly on every Saturday and Sunday.
8. The staff on duty shall take necessary precautions, ensure physical distancing, wearing of masks and observance of SOPs and guidelines issued by the Government from time to time.
9. On account of virtual hearing, entry of lawyers in the High Court premises is not required.

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 in such matter especially the bail matter, and

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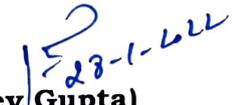
thereafter such matter can be taken up for physical hearing on the date fixed by the Presiding Officer.

2. 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. Entry of general public into the Court premises from the very outer gate shall be strictly prohibited.
4. 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. Ordinarily, the appearance of the accused and the witnesses in the listed matters on a particular day shall be through video conferencing, however, if necessary in a given case, the Presiding Officers in their discretion may permit the entry of accused persons and witnesses to the Court premises and Court rooms provided they are fully vaccinated.
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. Staff members with known conditions of co-morbidity and pregnant females shall be exempt from attendance.
7. The staff on duty in courts shall take necessary precautions, ensure physical distancing, wearing of masks and observance of SOPs and guidelines issued by the Government from time to time.

8. For smooth hearing of the cases through virtual mode, the Presiding Officers of the concerned Courts 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. Entry of lawyers in the District Courts/Subordinate Courts premises shall be permitted only to lawyers whose cases/matters have been listed for physical hearing in the court on a particular day provided the lawyers are fully vaccinated.

These directions shall remain in force till 15th February, 2022 unless reviewed earlier.

By order


(Sanjeev Gupta)
Registrar General

Dated: 28.01.2022

No: 1373-90/RG/GS

Copy of the above forwarded to:

1. Principal Secretary to Hon'ble the Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Jammu.
2. Secretary to Hon'ble Mr./Mrs. Justice _____,
..... for information of their Lordships.
3. Secretary to the Government, Department of LJ&PA, Civil Secretariat, Jammu.
4. Registrar Vigilance, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Jammu.
5. Registrar Computers, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Jammu.
6. Director, J&K Judicial Academy, Jammu.
7. Registrar Judicial, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, 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 respective 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 and Ladakh.
12. Incharge Library High Court of J&K, Jammu/Srinagar for information and keeping the record of the order.
13. Order file.


Registrar General