

(P.H.C. Sch. 1-6)

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प्रेषक/FROM :

नवनीत कुमार पाण्डेय

महानिबंधक,

उच्च न्यायालय, पटना

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Dated, Patna, the 23rd March, 2020

To

All The District and Sessions Judges of Bihar

Sub.-:Regarding direction for functioning of the sub-ordinate Courts of Bihar in view of Pandemic of COVID-19.

Sir,

I am directed to say that the Hon'ble Court have been pleased to resolve to reiterate the following directions with regard to the functioning of the subordinate courts of Bihar:

- (i) At the level of the district headquarters, at least, one officer of the rank of Superior Judicial Service, one officer of the Subordinate Judicial Service (Sr. Division) and one officer of the Subordinate Judicial Service (Jr. Division) shall function under their respective jurisdictions. They shall be nominated by the District Judge of the respective judgeships and function on rotational basis.
- (ii) At the level of the Sub-Divisional Courts, one officer of the rank of Superior Judicial Service (if available), one officer of the rank of Subordinate Judicial Service (Sr. Division) and one officer of the rank of Subordinate Judicial Service (Jr. Division) shall function on rotational basis, to be nominated by the District Judge of the respective judgeships.
- (iii) Judicial officers, conferred jurisdiction under special powers under any of the special statutes or by virtue of the judicial order, if any, shall continue to function and discharge their duties at their respective places of posting. This they shall do purely as per requirement and convenience.
- (iv) The Judicial Officers on duty shall take up only matters of extreme importance and urgency. Illustratively, cases of remand/production/bail etc.
- (v) The District Judge/Judges shall ensure safety, security and sanitization of respective judicial complex/complexes.

- (vi) The Bar being an important stake-holder in the justice delivery system, the District Judge shall ensure desired communication with the elected members of the Bar through distant communication, such as, video-conferencing/e-mode, with regard to judicial functions in their respective judgeships.
- (vii) The District Judge shall be free to fix roster of staff as per need and requirement, keeping in view the functions, which are/ may be required to be discharged under the various statutes, including the Bihar State Legal Services Authority.
- (viii) In an any emergent situation, the District Judge shall be at liberty to take any decision with regard to the functioning of the courts in their respective judgeships. Such an exercise has to be in concurrence with the High Court, to be obtained through electronic mode.
- (ix) The District Judge shall form a committee of which he himself shall be the Nodal Officer, for coordinating all activities with all the stake-holders, including the High Court.
- (x) In view of the international/national crisis, the judiciary/ subordinate judiciary ought to display complete preparedness for tackling any situation and thereby serve the nation in an affirmative manner.
- (xi) Save and except where circumstances do not warrant or law provides otherwise, all applications for remand shall be dealt with, only through the mode of Video Conferencing.
- (xii) No Officer and Staff shall leave the Station without prior permission of the sanctioning authority.
- (xiii) Wherever and whenever it comes to the notice of the Judicial Officers/Staff of any confirmed or suspected case of CORONA Virus, they shall immediately bring it to the notice of the District Judge, who shall, in turn, take steps of informing the District Administration so as to ensure the safety and security of the person, enabling the authorities to render proper medical treatment.
- (xiv) All Judicial Officers shall study, examine and submit their views as to how soon and in what manner technology can be utilized for the purposes of dispensation of administration of justice.

Yours faithfully,



Registrar General