

GAUHATI HIGH COURT AT GUWAHATI

1. Post lockdown on 24th March, 2020 notification (Annexure-A) was published on the official website of the High Court indicating the mobile numbers of the concerned Registrars to be contacted for filing of cases.

Consequent to such publication, the lawyers have been contacting the Registrars. The Registrars have been guiding the lawyers in regard to the process of filing the cases during this period.

Skeleton staff has been deployed for processing the cases. Only the cases involving urgency, and liberty are being filed, and entertained.

On filing of cases and processing/numbering them, advance copy of the petition/application is sent to the Office of the Public Prosecutor/Government Advocate.

The Office of the Public Prosecutor/Government Advocate had been advised in advance to take relevant instructions/reply vide e-mail/WhatsApp etc., to the petition, for assistance of the Court.

The Public Prosecutor/Government Advocate informs the concerned Registrars that relevant instructions have been taken. By this process, the case is mature for arguments, and a date of hearing is conveyed to both the sides telephonically.

The Judge(s) sit at different location(s). A virtual Court has been created in the Court Complex with adequate spacing, for the lawyers arguing the matters, as also for the lawyers waiting for their turn.

The cases are heard and decided through video conferencing. So as to minimize the footfalls and movement of the lawyers, copies of the orders are supplied under signature of the Court Master/Bench Secretary.

2. Similar procedure is followed in the Outlying Benches in the States of Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh.

3. Under instructions of the Gauhati High Court (Annexure-B), the District courts are also following the same process in respect of matters of remand and production of under trial prisoners only.

NOTE: High Court is using the following video conferencing applications based on the requirements and situations –

- VidyoDesktop
- Skype
- Zoom
- Lifesize

a. Skype is being used in the High Court for dealing with judicial/court work. Hon'ble Judges and Counsels sit at remote/different locations.

b. Skype is also used for other administrative meetings among Hon'ble Judges, Judicial Officers and other stakeholders having good connectivity and participants numbering upto fifty (The free version of Skype is used).

c. VidyoDesktop application is also used for administrative meetings between the Principal Seat of the Gauhati High Court, Outlying Benches of the High Court and District Courts.

d. Lifesize application has also been explored for administrative meetings between the Principal Seat of the Gauhati High Court, Outlying Benches of the High Court and District Courts.

e. From Police Stations, where no video conferencing facility exists, WhatsApp video calls are used for remand matters.

VidyoDesktop application is also used by jail personnel, who have been trained to use the application.

f. Other inter Courts VC from Court premises are also being held using VidyoDesktop.

g. Zoom free application is used for meetings among the Hon'ble Judges, Judicial Officers and other stakeholders stationed at remote locations having internet connectivity.

- E-filing rules have not been framed by the High Court.
- For the purposes of e-payment, Court Fee Act is required to be amended. Proposal has been sent to the Government, however, the necessary amendment has not been brought in force.

THE GAUHATI HIGH COURT AT GUWAHATI

(HIGH COURT OF ASSAM, NAGALAND, MIZORAM AND ARUNACHAL PRADESH)

NOTIFICATION NO. 18*Dated Guwahati the 24th March, 2020*

Whereas the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India vide Office Memorandum dated 05.03.2020 has advised avoidance of mass gatherings; or postponement of mass gatherings, till Novel Corona Virus (COVID-19) disease spread is contained;

And whereas the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared Novel Corona Virus (COVID-19) a pandemic;

And whereas prevention and precaution appear to be the only redress against Novel Corona Virus (COVID-19) disease;

And whereas the Government of Assam has issued Notification No. HLA 248/2020/35 dated 23.03.2020 imposing restrictions of movement of public;

And whereas the Government of Nagaland has issued Notification No. CSO/GAB-I/COM/GEN-1/2020 dated 22.03.2020 imposing restrictions of movement of public;

And whereas the Government of Mizoram has issued Notification No. PHQ/IGP(L&O)/73/COVID-19/2020/1095 dated 21.03.2020 imposing restrictions of movement of public;

And whereas the Government of Arunachal Pradesh has issued Notification No. Secy(H&FW)/5/1/2020 dated 22.03.2020 imposing restrictions of movement of public;

Now, therefore, in continuation of Notification No.11 dated 15.03.2020, and Notification No.14 dated 19.03.2020, as also Office Orders dated 15.3.2020 and 17.03.2020 issued for regulating the Court working, Hon'ble the Chief Justice has been pleased to issue the following directions:

- 1) The functioning of the Gauhati High Court, Principal Seat, as well as its Outlying Benches at Kohima, Aizawl and Itanagar; and all the District Courts working under the jurisdiction of the Gauhati High Court in the said four States, shall remain restricted with effect from 25.03.2020 till 04.04.2020.
- 2) Only the cases involving extreme urgency involving liberty would be taken up.



3) In case, any matter involving extreme urgency is required to be filed in the Principal Seat at Guwahati or in any of the outlying Benches, the same may be filed between 10.00 AM and 1.00 PM on Court working days.

(a) For the purpose of filing, listing and hearing of such matters in the Principal Seat of Gauhati High Court, Registrar (Judicial)/Joint Registrar (Judicial) of the Gauhati High Court may be contacted for detailed instructions on the following numbers:

Registrar (Judicial)	:	7637026558
Joint Registrar (Judicial)	:	7637026567

(b) In respect of the Outlying Benches, the concerned Registrars may be contacted for urgent listing and hearing of cases.

The contact numbers of the Registrars are as follows :

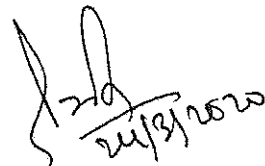
Registrar, Kohima Bench	:	9436810520 / 8787745160
Registrar, Aizawl Bench	:	9436151019 / 8787404757
Registrar, Itanagar Bench	:	9436055545

4) The matters which are already fixed for listing and hearing in the Principal Seat as well as Outlying Benches upto 04.04.2020, shall stand deferred, unless extreme urgency is shown for immediate hearing of the matter.

5) For filing and hearing of cases involving extreme urgency in the District Courts in all the four States working under the jurisdiction of the Gauhati High Court, the concerned District and Sessions Judges shall prepare a roster of Judicial Officers for dealing with such cases, including remand matters related to fresh arrest and extension of remand.

(a) For filing, listing and hearing of fresh matters involving such urgency, the District and Sessions Judges in consultation with the Chief Judicial Magistrate, shall nominate Nodal Officer(s) from the Ministerial Staff of the Establishment, whose contact number(s) shall be uploaded on the respective official Website of the District.

(b) Similarly, the respective District & Sessions Judges in consultation with the seniormost officer of the Sub-Division shall appoint Nodal Officer(s) from the ministerial staff of the establishment, whose contact number(s) shall be uploaded on the respective official Website of the district.

Handwritten signature and date: 24/3/2020

6) In the case of Family Courts, Industrial Tribunals, MACT, Special Courts, Labour Courts, respective Presiding Officers shall appoint Nodal Officer(s) from the Ministerial Staff of the establishment, whose contact number(s) shall be uploaded on the respective Official Website, for filing, listing and hearing of matters involving extreme urgency.

7) Matters which are already fixed for listing and hearing in the District Courts upto 04.04.2020, shall stand deferred, unless extreme urgency is shown for immediate hearing of the matter.

By Order,
Sd/ Raktim Duarah
REGISTRAR GENERAL

Memo No. HC.III-06/2020/819-844/G, Dated: 24th March, 2020.

Copy to:

1. The Registrar (Admn. / Vig. /Judl. /Estt.), Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
2. The Registrar, Gauhati High Court, Kohima Bench, Kohima / Aizawl Bench, Aizawl/Itanagar Bench, Naharlagun.
They are requested to forward the Notification among the respective District/subordinate Courts within their jurisdiction.
3. The Registrar-cum-Principal Secretary to Hon'ble the Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
4. The District & Sessions Judge, _____, Assam
5. The L.R.-cum-Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Judicial Department, Dispur, Guwahati-6.
6. The Principal Judge, Family Court, _____
7. The Member, MACT, _____
8. The Presiding Officer, Special Court, _____
9. The Presiding Officer, Labour Court, _____
10. The President / Secretary General, Gauhati High Court Bar Association, Guwahati.
11. The President / General Secretary, Gauhati High Court Advocates' Association, Guwahati.
12. The Chairman, N.E. Bar Council, Guwahati.
13. The President/Secretary, All Assam Lawyers' Association
14. The Joint Registrar (_____), Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
15. The Deputy Registrar, (_____), Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
16. The Asstt. Registrar, (_____), Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
17. The Librarian-cum-Research Officer, Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
18. The Special Officer, Translation Wing, Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
19. The Project Manager, Computer Section, Gauhati High Court, Guwahati. *He is requested to upload this Order in the website of the Gauhati High Court.*
20. The P.S. to Hon'ble Mr. /Mrs. Justice _____ Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
21. The Admn. Officer (J) (_____), Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
22. The Court Master, Court No. _____, Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.


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23. The Court Officer, No.1 & 2, Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
24. The C.A. to the Registrar General, Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
25. The Court Manager, Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
26. The Chief Security Officer, Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.


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REGISTRAR GENERAL

THE GAUHATI HIGH COURT AT GUWAHATI
(HIGH COURT OF ASSAM, NAGALAND, MIZORAM AND ARUNACHAL PRADESH)

ORDER NO. 19

Dated Guwahati, the 24th March, 2020

Whereas, Hon'ble the Chief Justice has been pleased to issue directions vide Notification no. 18 dated 24th March, 2020, regulating the court working of the Gauhati High Court in its Principal Seat at Guwahati, as well as its outlying benches and the subordinate courts in the states of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh, for avoidance of mass gatherings or postponement of mass gatherings till Novel Corona Virus (COVID-19) disease spread is contained;

Now, in terms of the aforesaid notification, Hon'ble the Chief Justice has been pleased to issue the following directions:

- 1) District Courts of all the four States under the jurisdiction of the Gauhati High Court shall deal with matters of extreme urgency involving liberty, only.
- 2) (a) The concerned District & Sessions Judges shall prepare a roster of Judicial Officers for dealing with matters of urgency involving liberty and remand matters related to fresh arrests and extension of remands, only.
- 2) (b) Respective District & Sessions Judges in consultation with Chief Judicial Magistrates/senior-most officer of the Sub-Division shall appoint a Nodal Officers from the ministerial staff of the establishment, whose contact number shall be uploaded on the respective official websites of the district.
- 3) In case of Family Courts, Industrial Tribunals, MACT, Special Courts, Labour Courts, the Presiding Officers shall nominate one Nodal Officers from the ministerial staff of the establishment, whose contact details shall be uploaded on the official websites for dealing with matters of extreme urgency.
- 4) Matters which are already fixed for listing and hearing in the District Courts upto 04.04.2020, shall stand deferred, unless extreme urgency is shown for immediate hearing of the matter.
- 5) The concerned District & Sessions Judges shall ensure that in view of the above directions, only those ministerial staff who are residing within close vicinity of the court premises and are using own conveyance shall be instructed/called for duty to handle indispensable services as aforesaid.
- 6) All the Judicial Officers are directed to remain present and not to leave their respective stations except in extreme urgency with due permission.
- 7) All those ministerial staff who are not required to report for duty on any given day, shall not leave the station headquarter under any circumstance without prior permission. They


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will have to make themselves available for duty on call and they shall be deemed to be on duty during the entire period as indicated in the Notification no. 18 dated 24.03.2020.

8) In case of any urgency, the District & Sessions Judges/Presiding Officers may call upon such off-duty staff to report back for duty immediately. The roster duty of the ministerial staff shall be maintained by each District & Sessions Judge/Presiding Officer.

By Order,

Sd/- Raktim Duarah,
REGISTRAR GENERAL

Memo No.HC.III-06/2020/845-855 /G, dated Guwahati the 24th March, 2020.

Copy to:

- 1) The Registrar (_____), Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
- 2) The Registrar, Gauhati High Court, Kohima Bench, Kohima / Aizawl Bench, Aizawl/ Itanagar Bench, Naharlagun.
- 3) The Registrar-cum-Principal Secretary to Hon'ble the Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
- 4) The District & Sessions Judge, _____, Assam.
- 5) The Chief Judicial Magistrate, _____, Assam.
- 6) The Presiding Officer, _____, Assam.
- 7) The Joint Registrar (_____), Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
- 8) The Deputy Registrar, (_____), Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
- 9) The Asstt. Registrar, (_____), Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
- 10) The Librarian-cum-Research Officer, Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
- 11) The Special Officer, Translation Wing, Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
- 12) The Project Manager, Computer Section, Gauhati High Court, Guwahati. *He is requested to upload this Notification in the website of the Gauhati High Court.*
- 13) The P.S. to Hon'ble Mr./Mrs. Justice _____ Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
- 14) The Admn. Officer (J) (_____), Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
- 15) The Court Master, Court No. _____, Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
- 16) The Court Officer, No.1 & 2, Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
- 17) The Court Manager, Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
- 18) The Medical Officer-I, In-charge, GHC Medical Unit, Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
- 19) The C.A. to the Registrar General, Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
- 20) The Chief Security Officer, Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
- 21) Notice Board, Gauhati High Court (New Block & Old Block), Guwahati.


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REGISTRAR GENERAL