



SUPREME COURT BAR ASSOCIATION (Regd.)

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA, TILAK MARG, NEW DELHI-110001 (INDIA)

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Mrs. Alka Agarwal
Mr. Tanveer Ahmed Khan

January 18, 2021

Dear Ranishankarji,

We are currently passing through an unparalleled crisis caused by COVID. To deal with this scourge caused by the pandemic, your Government has launched the world's largest vaccination programme. It has shown that the 'Make in India' movement has been a fantastic success. What makes this vaccination programme laudable is the fact that the vaccines presently released are manufactured in our Country.

Presently the vaccination programme is confined to defined frontline workers and will extend to others in a phased manner.

The judicial system - a sacrosanct limb in the Constitutional scheme, is second to none in rendering service to the people. Judges, members of the staff and lawyers who work the judicial system are frontline workers. The courts have not functioned to their full capacity due to the restrictions imposed in the pandemic. Restricted audience, absence of examination of witnesses, limited hearing of cases (bar classified urgent causes), malfunctioning of software programmes operating the video system and delays in hearing are leading to a crisis not only for the litigants and lawyers but also to many who draw their sustenance from the courts - small canteen workers, couriers, photostat shops, stationers *et al.* Many are being driven to penury and are deprived of their rights *esp* those in custody and others seeking relief in long pending cases.

We request that the present vaccination programme be extended to all who work in the judicial system at the immediate earliest to usher in normalcy in the working of the judicial system. This will restore the faith of the people in the judiciary. Opening court halls and hearings in physical form are of seminal importance.

Received
[Signature]



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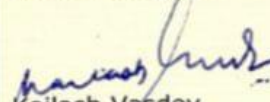
We would request you to include Judges, judicial staff and members of the legal fraternity in the category of frontline workers so that appropriate remedial measures are taken to prioritise and extend this vaccination programme to this class of our citizenry.

As a respected and senior member of our fraternity you are well versed with the prevailing situation and would use your good offices to ensure that the vaccination program is extended to the judicial system at the immediate earliest. This would be in the larger interests not only of the litigating public but also in the history of the administration.

We eagerly look forward to your taking appropriate action in this regard. It will assuage a system which has been fractured by the pandemic.

Thanking you in advance.

We remain yours most sincerely,


Kailash Vasdev
Vice President

Hon'ble Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad
Union Minister for Law & Justice,
Communications, Electronics and
Information Technology
21, Mother Teresa Crescent
New Delhi -110011.