

## HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT ALLAHABAD

### NOTICE

In continuation to the notice dated 06.06.2020 (copy annexed) and the Guidelines dated 30.05.2020 (copy annexed) regarding functioning of the High Court during the Covid-19 pandemic, the Allahabad High Court [AHC] has made the following arrangements for the facilitation of lawyers and litigants in person enabling them to participate in Court proceedings through video conferencing:-

1. Considering the continued gravity of the situation created by the COVID-19 pandemic, AHC has decided to continue the system of enabling counsels to appear in virtual court hearings through the Video Conferencing [VC] mode if so desired. This facility is universally available to be availed by any lawyer/litigant in person.
2. **The above Scheme/Guidelines shall be applicable from 13.07.2020.**

### ONSITE FACILITIES

3. At Gate No. 3A, 3B and 5 and in the Stadium Pavilion VC cubicles have been set up where lawyers may appear in their respective cases. Since these VC cubicles shall be run on the intranet of the AHC, they shall enable seamless VC hearings without the problems of internet connectivity or bandwidth issues.
4. The facility established above shall be able to cater to 30 simultaneous VC sessions during time slots earmarked for Courts separately.
5. Considering the limited number of cabins, a cabin may be used in different time slots for separate sessions of video conferencing for different Courts.
6. The details of specific Court Rooms and their respective time slots will be mentioned outside each cabin and also published on the web portal of the AHC.

## **OFFSITE FACILITIES**

### **IDENTIFIED eSEWA KENDRAS: -**

7. Additionally, VC cubicles at the *identified eSewa Kendras (Annexure 1)* have also been earmarked and exclusively set apart for AHC hearings enabling lawyers to participate in virtual hearings at the Kendra closest to their residence/office without having to travel to the AHC premises.
8. The above facilities are in addition to the existing facility extended to lawyers to avail the facility of video conferencing through their mobile phone/laptop/desktop from their residence or office as the case may be.

## **GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

9. Video conferencing facility for the hearing of a particular case can be availed either **onsite** [i.e., facilities set up at Gates 3A, 3B, 5 or the Stadium Pavilion] or **offsite** [residence/office/designated eSewa Kendra]. *The site map with details of designated Courts, Gate/Cubicle number wise is attached as **Annexure 2**.*
10. If in a particular matter, AHC receives competing requests for onsite/offsite VC hearings, the onsite facilities established and referred to above may be utilized unless counsels for parties subsequently and in such a situation convey their consent to avail of offsite facilities.
11. In partial modification to the notice dated 06.06.2020, it is clarified that the request/option for video conferencing facility onsite or offsite must necessarily be lodged online on the link available on the official website of the High Court not later than by 1.00 P.M., one day before the date of hearing. The request must also specifically mention whether the lawyer/litigant in person proposes to avail of the VC facility **onsite** or **offsite**. The email id (request\_vc\_alld@allahabadhighcourt.in) provided earlier for sending request for joining court proceedings through Video-Conferencing shall discontinue.

12. If option for video-conferencing is not exercised or filed within the time specified above, any subsequent exercise of option will necessarily mean that the matter shall not be taken up that day and shall be taken up on such future date, which the court concerned may fix/indicate.
13. Since the VC facility is entitled to be availed of by all lawyers who convey an option in that regard, no separate order of a Court need be sought and all such requests shall be entertained.
14. It is clarified and made known to all that the weblinks for VC hearings shall be generated and sent only to those lawyers who choose to participate in virtual hearings from **offsite facilities** indicated above. In case the lawyer chooses to participate in a virtual hearing from the **onsite facilities**, no link is required to be sent and he/she shall only be required to be present at the designated facility prior to the time slot allotted.
15. The headsets are available on the above **onsite facilities** for VC hearings. The same shall be sanitised on a regular basis. However, the lawyers are advised to bring their own headset considering the sanitization burden of the said equipment. Preferable Headset should be with single 3.5 mm jack working on UBUNTU operating system with noise cancelling mic to provide crystal-clear communication. Generally the Stereo headset with mic used with mobile phone is compatible.
16. In order to facilitate efficient VC sessions and bearing in mind the requirements of the software deployed, all lawyers are advised to download Google Chrome from the following link: -

[https://www.google.com/chrome/?brand=CHBD&gclid=Cj0KCOjw0YD4BRD2ARIsAHwmKVknUJCxOISgXCyy-XhIHt8lLcpc1w7vISwp8TDpcAuPFj\\_7UJ5oEIYaAhfxEALw\\_wcB&gclsrc=aw.ds](https://www.google.com/chrome/?brand=CHBD&gclid=Cj0KCOjw0YD4BRD2ARIsAHwmKVknUJCxOISgXCyy-XhIHt8lLcpc1w7vISwp8TDpcAuPFj_7UJ5oEIYaAhfxEALw_wcB&gclsrc=aw.ds)

By order of the Court,  
Sd/-  
Joint Registrar (J) (Computer)  
06.07.2020

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to –

1. The Advocate General, U.P., Allahabad
2. The President, High Court Bar Association, High Court, Allahabad
3. The Secretary, High Court Bar Association, High Court, Allahabad
4. The President, Advocate Association, High Court, Allahabad
5. The Secretary, Advocate Association, High Court, Allahabad
6. The Senior Registrar, High Court, Lucknow Bench, Lucknow
7. The Registrar (J) (Listing), High Court, Allahabad
8. The Registrar (Civil), High Court, Allahabad
9. The Registrar (Protocol), High Court, Allahabad
10. The Joint Registrar (J) (Criminal), High Court, Allahabad
11. The Systems Manager, Computer Center, High Court, Allahabad with the request to upload the notice on official website of High Court, Allahabad.

By order of the Court,

**Sd/-**

**Joint Registrar (J) (Computer)**

**06.07.2020**