

All communications should be addressed to the Registrar, Supreme Court by designation, NOT by name
PIN Code:- "110001"

SUPREME COURT

INDIA

NEW DELHI

F.No.212/Corona-PH/2020/SCA(G)

18th August, 2020

From : Mahesh T. Patankar
Additional Registrar (AG)

To : The President,
Supreme Court Advocates on Record Association,
Supreme Court Compound,
New Delhi.

Sir,

Kindly note that at the meeting held on 11.08.2020, the Hon'ble Judges of the Committee to look into the suggestions and requests being received regarding resumption of physical hearing of cases in the Court Rooms, have been pleased to resolve to the following effect:-

1. On an experimental basis, and as a pilot scheme, three amongst the bigger Court Rooms may be got prepared, within a week's time through the concerned agencies, strictly adhering to the prescribed distancing and other norms and as per medical advice with regard to physical infrastructure required in these Court Rooms;
2. Subject to the decision of the Competent Authority, it has been suggested that a limited number of cases be listed for physical hearing on experimental basis after ten days in such readied Court Rooms upon prior consent and willingness in writing of all parties to such matters/cases;
3. Subject to the directions of the Competent Authority, only a limited category/number of matters for final hearing may be listed for physical hearing inside such Court Rooms, and the numbers may be gradually increased if the ground situation so warrants and permits;

Contd....

4. All other matters, including miscellaneous matters which are listed on Mondays and Fridays, shall continue to be heard through Video/Tele Conferencing mode, as per existing SOP till further orders in that regard;
5. Considering the vulnerability, in medical terms, of some stake-holders and their family members to the Covid-19 infection, particularly in the absence of a preventive vaccine or medicine/procedures to mitigate, cure or overcome the disease resulting from such infection, it has been recommended that requests from stakeholders for exemption from participation in any such limited physical hearing inside the Court Rooms may be considered favorably;
6. Steps would be taken to improve and strengthen e-filing and such other components of hearing through Video/Tele Conferencing mode.

In view of demands made by certain sections of the Bar, it has also been clarified that the recommendations, as aforesaid, relate only to the requests and suggestions received in respects of the functioning of the Supreme Court of India and such recommendations shall not apply nor made to apply in respect of any other Court, Tribunal or adjudicatory authority in the country.

This is for your kind information and necessary action.

M. J. Jaisankar
18/08/2020
Additional Registrar (AG)