

DELHI HIGH COURT BAR ASSOCIATION

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17.08.2021

Urgent

To Hon'ble The Chief Justice High Court of Delhi New Delhi.

Sub: Representation regarding resumption of physical functioning of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi

Respected Sir,

Greetings from the Delhi High Court Bar Association.

In its meeting held on 10.08.2021, the Hon'ble full court took the decision that the physical functioning of the High Court shall be resumed, albiet in a phased manner, with effect from 06.09.2021.

Sir, it is a matter of public record that there has been a constant and steady decline in fresh Covid - 19 cases in Delhi since mid May 2021 and the average number of fresh Covid-19 cases per day have been in the vicinity of 50-60. As on today, the positivity rate is less than 0.02% and the number of active cases in a population of more than 2 crores, are a mere 467.

As we have stressed earlier, not only has the closure of physical functioning of the High Court severely financially impacted an overwhelming majority of the members of our Bar especially the yonger members, it has also acted to the grave detrement of the consumers of justice. Its detrimental effect on the justice administration system in as much as the impact on the backlog of cases is concerned, cannot even be assessed at this stage.

Given the above statistics, in the humble opinion of the Bar Association, physical functioning of the Hon'ble Court requires to be resumed without any further delay.

The Bar Association, by the present representation, most respectfully seeks the following:-

- (a) The date of resumption of physical functioning of the Hon'ble Court may kindly be advanced to 31.08.2021.
- (b) In the first phase of resumption of physical functioning, atleast 50% of the Hon'ble Courts may kindly hold physical hearings. All the learned Joint Registrars may also hold physical courts including recording of evidence.

The Bar Association assures the Hon'ble Court that all Standard Operating Procedures and Covid appropriate behavior will be scrupulously maintained. The Bar Association would always be grateful.

With warm regards;

Mohit Mathur Sr. Advocate President Yours truly,

Abhijat Hony, Secretary