

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL SUPERVISION COMMITTEE HELD ON 17.04.2020 AT 3.00 PM THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING**

**Coram:** HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE  
HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE HIMA KOHLI  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIPIN SANGHI  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SIDDHARTH MRIDUL  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MANMOHAN  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RAJIV SAHAI ENDLAW  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE J.R. MIDHA  
HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE SANGITA DHINGRA SEHGAL

**Special Invitee:** HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RAJIV SHAKDHER

In attendance: Manoj Jain, Registrar General.

AGENDA	MINUTES
<p>To consider the letter dated 16.04.2020 of Mr. Mohit Mathur, President, Delhi High Court Bar Association in the wake of extension of the lockdown by the Government of India till 03.05.2020 to prevent spread of coronavirus (2019-nCOV).</p> <p>In the letter, the President of the Bar has made following suggestions:</p> <p><i>(a) Increase the number of Benches which may hear the matter to double figures (i.e around 10-12 Benches), since most of our judges are familiar with the VC technology and are comfortable with the e-Courts working. That way a larger number of cases may be disposed, and the access to Justice does not remain a dream for many. Moreover, it allows our fraternity to make a living, which they desperately need, as it is now an existential issue.</i></p>	<p>This Committee has considered the said letter dated 16.04.2020 received from Mr. Mohit Mathur, President, Delhi High Court Bar Association.</p> <p>After deliberations conducted through videoconferencing and on taking valuable inputs from Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajiv Shakdher, Chairperson, IT Committee of this Court, the Committee resolves as under: -</p> <p>a) Presently, one Division Bench and two Single Benches are hearing urgent matters through videoconferencing. This Committee had already resolved in its meeting dated 15.04.2020 that the number of Benches be increased further.</p> <p>Accordingly, the number of Benches is increased from one Division Bench to two Division Benches and from two Single Benches to four Single Benches.</p>

*(b) Ease the mentioning criteria before all Courts in Delhi, officially, from “extremely urgent” to simply “urgent”, and mentioning be allowed before Judicial Registrars/Officers who can better appreciate the concerns of lawyers/litigants with the case in hand and leaves less to the whims and face values.*

b) All the designated Benches of this court have already started hearing not only 'very urgent matters ' but all kind of 'urgent matters'. The Court shall continue hearing 'urgent matters' during the lockdown period.

The directions issued to subordinate courts are also on the same lines. However, fresh direction be issued to the subordinate courts highlighting said aspect in clear terms. It be also directed that a final decision on the aspect of urgency be taken only by a judicial officer.

Matters that are mentioned before this court for listing are initially examined by the Registrars/Joint Registrars. If the request is declined, then on receiving a request for reconsideration through a link developed by the IT Committee of this Court, the same are re-examined by J-1 i.e. Hon'ble Ms. Justice Hima Kohli. Thus, the aspect of urgency in a matter is finally decided by the Court itself.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajiv Shakhder, Chairperson, IT Committee has apprised that in the meeting of the IT Committee held on 15.4.2020, it has been resolved that even the concerned Registrars/Joint Registrars ought to decide the aspect of urgency by having access to a link. In case any matter is declined for being listing by any of them, then the matter may be further put up, through the separate link already created, to the designated Hon'ble Judge for re consideration, based on the same information as furnished by the counsel/ party.

This Committee resolves that the IT Team may proceed to re-develop such a link. Once the said link is made operational, a Circular to the said effect be got uploaded by the Registrar General.

*(c) Matters which have been pending in the past, may also be allowed to be listed, though they stand adjourned en-bloc. Bail(s) & Stay(s) need to be given due precedence in listing.*

c) The Registrar General has apprised that besides fresh urgent matters, urgency in pending matters is also being scrutinized and wherever any request for urgent listings is received, such matters are also being taken up for hearing.

<p><i>(d) Assign a room in Court complexes, to allow such lawyers to use, who are technologically challenged, and are incapable of handling VC hearings.</i></p>	<p>d) Two courtrooms i.e court rooms no. 20 and 23 situated on the ground floor of the Main Building (A-Block) be permitted to be used for video conferencing by those advocates/litigants whose matters have been permitted to be listed, being urgent in nature and who are not in a position to handle VC hearings from their respective homes/offices.</p> <p>Mr. Mohit Mathur, President, Delhi High Court Bar Association be informed accordingly.</p>
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Submitted please.

(MANOJ JAIN)  
REGISTRAR GENERAL

HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE

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