



# SUPREME COURT BAR ASSOCIATION (Regd.)

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

Mr. Dushyant A. Dave (Sr.)  
President

SCBA/CJI.9/2020

June 3<sup>rd</sup>. 2020

Mr. Kallash Vasdev (Sr.)  
Vice President

To,

Mr. Ashok Arora  
Hony. Secretary

Hon'ble Mr Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde,  
The Chief Justice of India,  
Supreme Court of India,  
Tilak Marg , New Delhi.

Mr. Rohit Pandey  
Acting Hony. Secretary

Mr. Meenesh Kumar Dubey  
Treasurer

Subject: Proposal to resume normal working of the Supreme Court of India.

Ms. Shamsravish Rein  
Joint Treasurer

*Respected Chief Justice,  
Namaskar !*

**SENIOR EXECUTIVE MEMBERS :**

Ms. Mahalakshmi Pavani (Sr.)  
Dr. Adish Chandra Aggarwala (Sr.)  
Mr. Chander Uday Singh (Sr.)  
Mr. Arijit Prasad (Sr.)  
Col. R. Balasubramanian (Sr.)  
Mr. Anip Sachthey (Sr.)

I write to you on behalf of the Supreme Court Bar Association, the Executive Committee and Myself. Supreme Court Bar Association, represents over 14,000 Members, young and old, junior and senior, AOR and arguing Counsels.

**EXECUTIVE MEMBERS :**

Mr. Amrendra Kumar Singh  
Dr. Ritu Bhardwaj  
Ms. Anjali Chauhan  
Ms. Purna Kumari  
Ms. K.V. Bharathi Upadhyaya  
Mr. Upendra Narayan Mishra  
Mr. R. Anand Padmanabhan  
Mrs. Alka Agarwal  
Ms. Reena Rao

First and foremost, I must gratefully acknowledge the cautious approach taken by you, My Lord, and entire Court to steer the functioning of the highest Court keeping in mind the well being of all the stakeholders including the Members of our Bar. This has helped us keep all concerned healthy and safe.

I must also place on record our appreciation for working of the Court in last ten weeks. Despite technological challenges, work has gone on, though on moderate basis . But this was fine during this period. Supreme Court Bar Association acknowledges the work of the Registry of this Court and all the staff members under the guidance of the Registrar General and expresses its gratitude to them as well.

But the challenge of COVID 19 is far from over and there is no sign of it going away soon. It must therefore be faced in a sensible and safe manner. But at the same time, Court's normal functioning may begin, though in a gradual way. Supreme Court is not just the Highest Court of the Country but is the one of the most Respected Institution of the Country, perhaps the most respected if I may be permitted to say proudly. It's glory must remain for all times, including during crisis period that we are going through.

The Executive Committee has been deliberating on ways and means to move forward and a Sub-Committee under it headed by the Vice President Shri Kallash Vasdev has prepared a blueprint in this regard.



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I am happy to enclose the same for your kind consideration and consideration by Hon'ble Judges of the Supreme Court of India. Supreme Court Bar Association hopes and trusts that the same will receive due consideration by the Court.

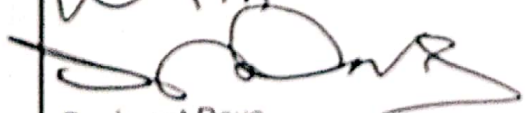
My Lord, time has come to start an intensive interaction between the Bar and the Bench. I would sincerely urge you to call office bearers of the Supreme Court Bar Association and Supreme Court Advocates On-Record Association at the earliest convenience. The meeting may be arranged on Zoom or other platform, which we will be happy to arrange if so directed. Such a meeting will pave way for moving forward.

My Lord, if it is difficult for you to find time due to your extremely busy schedule, Your Lordship May direct meeting between the two associations representatives and Committee for Suggestions of Hon'ble Judges, presided by Hon'ble Mr Justice R.F. Nariman (Committee 33 if I am right), at an early date. My Lord, the Bar and the Litigants are extremely anxious to restart the regular functioning of the Supreme Court as early as possible. Members of the Bar, especially Young Members are facing grave difficulties on account of lack of work and their financial condition is worsening day by day. Though Supreme Court Bar Association as also Supreme Court Advocates On-Record Association are making strong efforts to extend financial help to them, but it cannot compensate them for loss of work even moderately. Equally, Litigants are getting impatient waiting to get Justice from this Hon'ble Court in their pending or future matters. Our Members are being pressurized by them on daily basis but they have nothing to pacify them.

My Lord, Bar has waited patiently since third week of March considering the times. Now that even Government of India has allowed graded opening of the Country, I do hope and pray that Bar's just request will indeed receive a positive and immediate response.

I must reassure, on behalf of the SCBA, that we will cooperate in any measures that may have to be taken to ensure well being and safety of all stakeholders towards this end.

With Respects.

  
Dushyant Dave  
President, SCBA

Encl. A copy of report of Sub Committee of SCBA

CC :-

To Hon'ble Judges of the Supreme Court of India. (Through Registry of the Supreme Court).

REPORT OF THE SUB COMMITTEE OF THE SUPREME COURT BAR ASSOCIATION ON MEASURES FOR LISTING AND HEARING CASES ON THE REOPENING OF THE SUPREME COURT POST LOCK DOWN AND MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITHAS APPROVED AND ACCEPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

1. Mr. Kailash Vasdev (Sr.), Chairman
2. Mr. Rohit Pandey, Acting Hony. Secretary
3. Mr. Meenesh Kumar Dubey, Treasurer
4. Mr. Chander Uday Singh (Sr.)
5. Col. R. Balasubramanian (Sr.)
6. Mr. Anip Sachthey (Sr.)
7. Dr. Ritu Bhardwaj
8. Ms. K.V. Bharathi Upadhyaya
9. Mr. R. Anand Padmanabhan.

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. The Supreme Court of India had suspended regular working in view of the pandemic caused following the spread of the COVID19/Corona virus from 16.03.2019. In the meantime a lockdown was announced by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India on 24.03.2020 and extended vide order dated 14.04.2020 till 03.05.2020. This has continued since.
- 1.2. On 01.05.2020, The Ministry of Home Affairs issued an order under the Disaster management Act extending the lockdown upto 18.05.2020 with modifications. It provided guidelines for identification of the RED (hotspots), GREEN (corona free) and ORANGE Zones, depending on the severity of COVID-19 cases record in that zone. It specified permissible and prohibited activities in these zones. The lock down continues with or without relaxations depending on the zone. As presently advised it will be several weeks, if not months before decision makers can confidently assess the risk of Covid-19 as negligible.
- 1.3. The continued lockdown is adversely impacting the administration of justice as courts are compelled to work in a curtailed manner. Courts have restricted entry into the court's premises and use of court halls to conform to the directions of the government to reduce and/or control the spread of this contagious virus. The pandemic has caused global panic. It has necessitated caution and prescribed precautionary steps to be followed. The continuance of this pandemic has to be accepted till such time as a cure is discovered.

- 1.4. The ensuing pandemic following the corona virus has exposed serious fractures in the existing systems warranting a relook at the current norms and for bringing about radical changes in all jurisdictions. The present situation manifest that a radically new multipronged approach to the working of this Institution is the order of the day. These reforms will have to be both immediate and long terms as the new systems have to be tried and tested
- 1.5. The skeletal working of the Courts cannot be indefinite. This has to change and the system has to accept that working norms have to be altered to ensure that recourse to the justice system is available to all. The functioning of a few court rooms cannot be a panacea for the many litigants who are waiting for their cases to be heard.
- 1.6. The present hearings of cases over the electronic systems and media i.e. through the virtual mode is fraught with technical short falls. A system with manifest imperfections cannot be a lasting solution in an all pervading system which is accessed by all – the have nots or the haves.
- 1.7. The Courts are presently adapting a cautionary approach to reduce foot falls in their premises which is affecting the need to hear cases. There has been a virtual shut down of the Court since the first cases of swine flu were noticed in February followed by the present absolute lock down. For almost twelve weeks the Supreme Court has not functioned to its normal capacity. This has scuppered all working systems. The number of case being filed has reduced considerably. These figures will have alarming consequences with time drastic reduction in case volumes does not augur well for the judicial system.
- 1.8. Taking into account the latest order of Ministry of Home Affairs dated 01.05.2020 wherein regular functioning of all government offices has been ordered albeit on reduced scale of staff, it is imperative that the Supreme Court of India should commence functioning in full force. At the same time necessary precautions ought to be taken by all stake holders with working in the Supreme Court.

Towards this end it is necessary to formulate an action plan for resumption of working of the Court post lockdown. In order to suggest appropriate measures for early opening of the Court the Executive Committee of the SCBA constituted a Committee to study all aspects and suggest measures both for the present and the future working of this remarkable institution.

This Report has been prepared for the aforesaid purposes and is submitted for consideration.

## 2. MEASURES TO REGULATE ENTRY INTO SUPREME COURT.

It is needless to emphasise that first and foremost entry of all persons entering the Supreme Court has to be strictly regulated. Towards this, the following measures are recommended:

- i. All stake holders be notified well in advance through public notices, audio/video announcement and social media including litigants and visitors about the importance and strict observance of social distancing, wearing mask, maintaining hygiene etc. The Supreme Court web sites, the SCBA web site and those of available public media can be used for this purpose.
- ii. Only advocates/ court and their court clerks having cases listed for hearing should be permitted entry to the Court premises. Body temperature scanning of all individuals must be done by trained security / para medical staff at entry points before entry into of the core areas of Supreme Court i.e before entering the restricted zone. All scanning should be done as per guidelines issued by the Government of India.
- iii. Entry of visitors and litigants into court halls to be temporarily suspended except in case of parties appearing in person or in cases where court has directed personal appearance of parties.
- iv. All persons entering court premises must carry weekly self declaration that the individual does not suffer from cold or cough and has not had fever over the last fortnight. Entry into the Court premises must be permitted **ONLY** after a preliminary test for fever and coughs/colds by paramedics at the entry points i.e. the security gates points where the proximity cards are checked.
- v. Such medical equipment (Mist tunnels/sanitising booths *et al*) as may be advised by the Health Departments must be installed at the entry points i.e. at the security gates both at the peripheral gates for entry to the Court premises and then at the security booths where the proximity cards/identification of persons takes place.
- vi. Social distance marking at areas for parking areas, chamber blocks, bank, post office, registry, in court corridors should be ensured to aid social distancing. There should be markings in common areas also.
- vii. Sanitisation at the Supreme Court premises. All areas including chamber blocks, ramps, fore court areas, court corridors and registry offices area including trollies used by staff, counters, security, screening areas, touch screens, lifts should be disinfected. All trollies and lawyers bags must be sanitised by in disinfection tunnel before and after returning to their respective locations.

- viii. Queue managers with social distance marking at all the areas should be stationed to avoid long queues at the gates, clustering of people at court and chamber areas. Strict and stringent SOP for entering court rooms to ensure safety, health and hygiene.
- ix. Any person entering the court rooms must sanitise hands before entry. Sanitisers are being placed outside the Court halls. Fumigation of files being taken inside court room should be done strictly and without fail. Sanitisers for use by persons across various touch points in the court premises and chamber buildings must be kept at the entry doors of all court halls.
- x. Wherever crowding is expected within the premises, alignment of queues to ensure social distance among the clerks/staff etc.
- xi. Requisite Personal Protection Equipment [PPE] for security staff to be provided. Queue managers with social distance markings before security check to avoid crowding at entrance gates.
- xii. Chauffer driven vehicles shall not be parked inside the premises as chauffeurs congregate in groups during their idle hours.
- xiii. All person entering court premises must have the AarogyaSetu application installed on their smart phones.
- xiv. Persons with any respiratory condition/fever or the like should voluntarily refrain from coming to court..
- xv. Wearing of a mask be made compulsory for every person entering any area of the Supreme Court and chamber premises.

### **3. FILING INCLUDING E-FILING**

The Court has already put in place an e-filing system for the present. It is now in its infancy and will take its own time to be used by all. Advocates will have to acquire the requisite equipment and software and train their staff to work in this system. This will take its own time. The system of filing paper-books must continue till such time the e-filing system stabilises and becomes user friendly.

- 3.1. On the reopening of the Court there will be voluminous filing which has been kept in abeyance has built up during this period. There will be a surge for filing at the filing counters. To avoid the breach of the social distancing norm, it is suggested that a large number of filing counters be set up where social distancing is to be maintained.
- 3.2. For the purposes of physical filing of cases several counters can be put up outside the Court premises e.g. in the lawns (where functions are held) or in the New Complex where each counter shall be at a social distance from the other. The Registry shall stamp the copy of the petition confirming receipt.

- 3.3. There must be at least four dedicated counters for accepting cases where urgent relief is sought. Cases in which urgent reliefs are sought must be scrutinised immediately and listed within twenty four hours and listed for hearing.
- 3.4. To avoid the rush for physical filing, an e-token system may be resorted to. On a case being filed, an email must be sent to the advocate on record in token of confirmation of the filing. This will be in addition to the acknowledgement to be given at the filing counter.
- 3.5. Limitation should not expire during the period that regular filing has remained suspended. Limitation should be computed by excluding the period of the lock outs.
- 3.6. To avoid teething problems once an AOR logs in for e-filing and commence the process of filing that day should be taken for the purposes of stopping the period of limitation with an outer limit of three days to complete the process of filing.
- 3.7. The Officers of the registry at the filing counters will receive the paper-books against valid receipts. These will be scrutinised in the order of their filing. Defects can be cured after scrutiny. There must be a relaxation in the 'defects' in filing so that the scrutiny of files is done with due dispatch and cases are listed at the earliest.
- 3.8. To reduce the usage of paper it has now been prescribed that A4 sheets shall be used. In order to ensure that minimal paper is used it is suggested that all pleadings/documents presented to the Court shall printed or reproduced on both sides preferably in font size 12 on non-gothic script – preferring to use true type fonts (Verdana/Tahoma/Arial/Times Roman) and one and a half line spacing. All addresses, quotations, salutations should be in single line.
- 3.9. Till August, 2020 this stipulation of paper size be relaxed as old filing have been on legal size paper. These papers books may have been prepared before the lock down and/or lying in the defect in the Registry.
- 3.10. All affidavits in support can be attested at the place where the litigant resides with proof of identity. Scanned affidavits and Vakalatnamas should be acceptable. As and when required affidavits in print form can be produced. With the first filing of any pleading – special leave petitions; writs; or appeals a BRIEF synopsis of the case illuminating the issues and contentions be filed along with the dates and events in chronological sequence. Contentions of law can be detailed in the grounds of challenge. A list of key dates must be mentioned.

- 3.11. The introduction of the e-filing system is aimed at promoting paperless filing, cut time & bring about cost saving/ efficiency, and make provision to file from home locations by adopting technological solution to file cases in the Supreme Court. It will take time for all to acquaint themselves with this system as one will have to get equipment and train staff for this. In any event physical filing cannot be done away with.
- 3.12. To achieve this, detailed guidelines as approved by the Supreme Court Software Committee should be widely published in the form of user hand books and online material kept on its Website in order to provide all the necessary information regarding how to use online features of e-Software. The **Users Manual** should enable users to understand the step by step process involved in e-filing, facilitate use of the e-filing system and offer support to users. The e-filing system should be capable of being used by any AOR or his authorised advocate and/or his registered clerk in the Supreme Court. The user should be able to read the user manual carefully and follow by its terms and follow its step by step as guidance
- 3.13. The wi-fi/web accessing systems in the Court premises be improved and made available to all state holders within the Court's premises as a local area network. This will facilitate access to filing and enable advocates to respond to the Registry without any delay. The LAN should be available without any charges. Access to the LAN will be to all stake holders against identifications.
- 3.14. The software developed by Registry of the Supreme Court and demonstrated in the webinar held on 15.05.2020 is quite comprehensive and advanced both in terms of its contents and technology. It will be improved upon with time.
- 3.15. The SCBA suggests that apart from helping AORs to regulate and standardise e-filing, provision should also be made for Senior Advocates engaged in a particular case and Advocates to have access to the data on case to case basis so that it could be put to optimum use. In a given situation advocates/senior advocates engaged in the cause may find it necessary to access these documents electronically rather than in a physical form. It was demonstrated during the Webinar that Judges/Court Masters may refer to documents during the course of hearing digitally whereas advocates other than AORs if they don't have access to those in digital format it may present avoidable difficulty during hearing.



- 3.16. Advocates who settle or draft petitions often represent the clients and engage the services of advocates on record to file the case in the Supreme Court. The original case files are available with the instructing advocate who is the face of the client. Access to the files in the e-systems may be granted to the instructing or drafting advocates with the permission of the Advocate-on-record.
- 3.17. Similarly, having access to the dash board by advocates other than AORs may also enable them to have access to High Court and Trial court records and data available on the national grid during the hearing. The list of cases relied upon etc. can also be loaded on the dash board platform to facilitate the Court Masters/Readers to keep relevant judgements ready for the Hon'ble Judges.
- 3.18. The Registry should issue a detailed user manual of the software explaining aspects of the dash board system. Such manual should provide detailed instructions with pictorial examples. Importantly, it should provide for procedure for filing, getting started, user registration, filing procedure in respect of various petitions, respondent details, document upload procedure, petition preview, fee payment, receipt generation e-help desk details etc. on its part the SCBA is willing to extend its co-operation and organise practical training for developing soft skills for Members of the Bar on large scale in coordination with the e- team of the Registry.
- 3.19. A team of officials from the Registry who are well acquainted with the e-filing procedure should be available on telephone and or at the counters to held and guide advocates in meeting any difficulties being faced with advocates.
- 3.20. The Advocates on record and/or their nominated advocates are finding it very difficult to have their cases cleared for listing. Defect removal in fresh filings is indeed a very difficult task. Officers of the Registry are more often not contactable. Defects plague early and urgent hearings. They defeat the relief sought. It is a judicially accepted fact that technicalities in procedure defeat the very purpose of justice. The registry must simplify the procedures for remedying defects and have the cases listed without harassment to the advocate and in turn to the litigants.

#### **4. LISTING AND HEARING OF CASES**

- 4.1 The Registry shall issue a list of matters adjourned between the first day of closure and till the reopening of the Court indicating the proposed day of listing of each case. This list shall include all cases which were listed for hearing and not taken up for unforeseen circumstances. This list must be circulated preferably by afternoon to enable effective preparation and avoidance of deferment except for *bona fide* reasons.

- 4.2 The cause list must detail the Courts that will function and hear cases listed for that day. Advocates must be permitted admittance to their chambers on the lifting of the lock down to enable them to collect their files, inform the clients and take supportive steps. The cases will be listed in sequence with cases filed after the lock down in the ratio 60:40 to enable due hearing of all cases. The Benches hear and dispose of the adjourned cases with fresh filings to ensure that the litigant is not denied his priority in the hearing of the case. In order to enable Advocates to have access to their files kept in the chamber and or office, which is currently forbidden due to lock down and movement restrictions from NCR to Delhi, old cases should be listed after taking concurrence from AOR concerned like it is being done listing of regular cases during vacation period.
- 4.3 Matters which had been directed to be listed for hearing and final disposal in the last two years should be listed as per orders passed in each cause as they were found to be of an urgent nature and could be taken on non-miscellaneous days (NMD cases).
- 4.4. Hearing of old pending cases by the virtual mode to begin with may be restricted only to those cases where the AOR consents. The reason being that sudden listing will result in problem of accessing of files, problems of travel from outside Delhi both in case of advocates and clients concerned, technical knowhow to take part in e- hearing, easy accessibility of technology etc. once the e-system hearing stabilises the old cases may be listed in normal manner. To achieve this it is suggested that e-hearing of old cases may be listed after taking consent of the AOR to begin with.
- 4.5. All Courts must function and hear cases. The cases listed for hearing must be taken up in two stages – half in the pre lunch session and the remaining post lunch.
- 4.6. Cases should be heard in batches of FIVE. To avoid crowding and to maintain the social distance norm ONLY the advocate on record, the instructing advocate and where engaged the arguing or senior advocates for each party shall be allowed to enter the court hall. Advocates must leave the court room on completing their address and order being recorded/pronounced. This will make room for the next set of advocates.
- 4.7. On the conclusion of the hearing of these five cases, the second set of Advocates will be allowed to enter the Court Room after the court has been disinfected.

- 4.8. Post the relaxation of the Covid lock down, only 10 Regular Hearing/ old matters could be taken up for hearing in a day, 5 in the morning session and 5 in afternoon session and Advocates appearing in the next 2 matters could be allowed inside the Court room at one point of time.
- 4.9. The hearing of other cases could be discharged if the Court opines that the matters are likely to take longer time then the slots allotted.
- 4.10. During the recess i.e. lunch recess the Court rooms will be disinfected. List of books must be circulated in advance for reference at the hearing.
- 4.11. *Till such time as regular sittings are not held an **alternate suggestion** has also been mooted as follows: The Benches could hold hearings in 2 shifts with alternate court rooms functioning on Mondays and Fridays and hear cases in batches of 10 matters to avoid crowding in courts. The number of courts hearing cases on this pattern on a trial basis could be in the configuration court rooms 1,3,5,7,9,11,13,15 first session and the remaining in the post lunch session.*
- 4.12. Advocates must carry their own books as the Bar library facilities will remain closed and will not be available immediately after the relaxation of the lock down.
- 4.13. In order to minimise time, at the final hearing, a Statement of Case as presently provided in the Rules should be prepared by all the contesting parties in consultation with each other setting out the arguments in brief referring to available supporting cases. It will narrow the contentions to the essentials of the case. Additional submissions can be made at the addressing of arguments.
- 4.14. The Court can specify the time frame for hearing of a case in consultation with the advocate(s) appearing in the cause. To save judicial time this can also be done before the Registrar.
- 4.15. During the period that there are restrictions on movement and social distancing is to be maintained, if the schedule for hearing cases is arrived at and notified in the cause list, entry passes to the Court halls for litigants can be issued on an electronic system fixing the time for entry for the concerned pass holder. This will avoid crowding and reduce foot falls.
- 4.16. Listing of appeals should be done year wise with advance notice of at least four weeks to the advocate on record. Cases aged over ten years must be given priority. In every cause list these cases must be listed in priority.

## **POST PANDEMIC LISTING OF APPEALS**

- 4.17. A large number of cases have been referred to larger benches and are pending. In order to avoid crowding of the court without being obtrusive, larger benches should be constituted as the number of visitors to the Court will reduce when these benches are in session. Cases have been referred to benches of 9, 7 and 5 Judges.
- 4.18. A bench of 9 judges and two/three benches of 5 judges each could be constituted so that these references will be heard and disposed of – bringing uniformity in the law; enabling the Court to decide causes as a Constitutional Court [Article 143(5)]; which judgments in terms will reduce the cases pending in the High Courts and Subordinate Courts as there are differences in judicial opinions expressed in similar factual matrix.
- 4.19. While constituting larger benches an attempt must be made to ensure that the Judges constituting the bench have an existing term of at least six months so that judgments are not rushed. This will also avoid causes being left heard in part.

## **5. COURT HEARINGS OVER ELECTRONIC APPS/SYSTEMS**

As of date of hearing of cases by using the video conferencing facility 'VIDYO' is a time consuming and difficult task. This system is not free of glitches. Hearings are interrupted, counsel addressing the court is suddenly blanked out, the audio is inaudible *et al*. This causes dismay and defeats fair and open hearings. Our Registry and Court staff is not particularly well versed or savvy with the new technology now being used. This new technology is presently a challenge to the working of the Court. Other video conferencing facilities can be open to (computer) hackers and can be causes of serious security concerns. It is imperative that the programmes which regulate virtual hearings be developed to be used in the Courts and launched on the Supreme Court Server so that they can be regulated and managed by the in-house E-team of the Court. Such an application must be developed at the earliest to ensure fact and open hearings and system which will be vital in future. As far as possible hearings should be in open court to avoid miscarriage of justice.

- 5.1. The facility of hearing of cases over the Vidyo App is indeed becoming very difficult. The link is not available to more than a certain number of participants. During the hearing the link snaps and the arguments of Counsel cannot be heard. This is a travesty. Immediate remedial measures must be taken to ensure a full and fair hearing.


- 5.2. To achieve this and improve the procedure for hearing of cases the following steps be taken on urgent basis:
- i. All misc. matters and fresh cases should be listed on all days and pending cases which are likely to take time should only be adjourned.
  - ii. The cause list for hearing Misc. old and fresh cases should be circulated preferably three days in advance. In addition supplementary listed cases should be notified at least 12 hours in advance. Similarly, for final hearing cases at least seven days notice may be given. Urgent cases may be listed as per current practice.
  - iii. Advocates may be given an option to attend hearings in virtual mode either from their place of work and where they do not have the facility from places designated for this purpose in the Supreme Court premises duly equipped with video link facilities for the use of advocates and parties in person who find it convenient to present cases by video link from the Court premises. For this purpose few rooms in the new circular building presently housing the offices of the Registry should be converted into studio rooms so that problem of link band width etc.do not becomes hindrances.
  - iv. All short disposal matters which were listed hitherto before on Tuesdays irrespective of the subject matter should be listed for hearing.
  - v. Hearing of old cases through virtual mode to begin with may be restricted only to those cases where the AOR consents. The reason being that sudden listing will result in problem of accessibility of files, problems of travel from outside Delhi both in case of advocates and clients concerned, technical knowhow to take part in e- hearing, easy accessibility of technology etc. once the e-system hearing stabilises the old cases may be listed in normal manner. To achieve this it is suggested that e-hearing of old cases may be listed after taking consent of the AOR to begin with.
  - vi. The Registry with the help of its cyber technical team should regularly conduct on line classes for benefit of Advocates and support staff about the practice and procedure of e filing, conduct of court proceedings through virtual mode and subject to availability of resources practical classes may also be arranged.

## 6. SANITATION OF THE COURT PREMISES AND OTHER REKLATED AREAS

The Court has remained closed since 06.03.2020 barring few days functioning in third week of March 2020. The chamber blocks have also remained since then without being properly cleaned.

- 6.1. The buildings housing the chambers should be cleaned thoroughly and disinfected. All areas including wash room need to be cleaned and disinfected and soap dispenser be installed as far as possible. Regular cleaning and mopping of floors with disinfectants should be arranged.
- 6.2. All chambers be disinfected from inside and thoroughly sanitised. For the time being use of chambers beyond a notified hour should be avoided. On Sundays necessary disinfection maintenance work on regular basis till such time the situation improves.
- 6.3. At any given point of time the chambers will be not be used and occupied by more than three persons i.e. the advocate, the clerk and where necessary an advocate colleague. This will ensure social distancing.
- 6.4. All public areas including those occupied by photocopying machines, public stenographers, vendor *set al* must work on a regulated basis maintaining social distancing and cleanliness. Their hours should be regulated.
- 6.5. The canteens will continue to remain closed. To provide basic amenities like water, coffee, tea and biscuits kiosks/counters may be made available for take away services.
- 6.6. Libraries and consultation rooms under the control of the bar Association will not be available to members till resumption of regular working. They shall remain closed excepting for maintenance and being disinfected.

28<sup>th</sup> May 2020

  
(ROHIT PANDEY)  
Acting Hony. Secretary

. 12 .