

# HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT

## PRESS NOTE

Date: 24/03/2020

**Subject: Successful implementation of video conferencing based hearing and e-filing of matters by High Court of Gujarat**

To address the present CoronaVirus pandemic challenged situation and to substantially curb the footfall in the High Court premises, under the guidance of Honourable the Chief Justice of High Court of Gujarat, Mr. Justice Vikram Nath, the High Court of Gujarat has, today, successfully implemented video conferencing based hearing of matters and soft copy filing of matters for the High Court Gujarat during the present crisis period.

Honourable the Chief Justice of High Court of Gujarat issued order dated 22.03.2020 directing to switch to soft copy filing of matters and video conferencing based hearing of matter using Zoom Cloud Meeting portal, Today, all the matters listed in the High Court of Gujarat were taken up for hearing through video-conferencing. Judgements were also pronounced through video conferencing.

In the Court of Honourable Mr. Justice AY Kogje, 4 matters listed in the causelist were all taken up through video call; wherein the advocates of the matter represented their parties through video conferencing while sitting at their homes/offices. Similarly 1 matter was also taken up through video conferencing in the Court of Honourable Mr. Justice J. B. Pardiwala and Honourable Ms. Justice Bela M. Trivedi. This is also noteworthy that, all these matters were filed through e-filing mode by the concerned advocates/parties.

Also that, the Bench of Honourable Chief Justice Mr. Justice Vikram Nath and Honourable Mr. Justice Ashutosh J. Shastri pronounced judgements in two connected matters through video conferencing.

Along with the learned advocates of parties of the matters, Ld. Government Pleader and Ld. Public Prosecutor of the State of Gujarat also

participated in the hearing of cases and the pronouncement of the judgment through video conferencing from their offices only.

The method of initiating the video call(conference) and joining thereof by the concerned advocates was very user friendly. Whenever a particular matter was taken up for hearing, through a specially developed programme by the I. T. Cell of High Court, the server sent an automatically generated SMS to all the advocates of the matter, containing the link of the video conferencing to be joined by the advocates. The quality of audio & video was also very satisfactory and Honourable Judges as well as the advocates found the video conferencing mode of hearing the matters very useful, easy and particularly substantially beneficial in today's trying times of Covid-19 pandemic spread.

While implementing this system by the High Court, it has been ensured that, no lawyer or party-in-person is required to enter the Court Premises. Only the staff and that too, in minimum number as required, entered the Court Premises.

The photographs taken during the hearing and a small video taken during the pronouncement of judgment by Honourable the Chief Justice of High Court of Gujarat Mr. Justice Vikram Nath are being made available through website of the High Court of Gujarat.

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(R. K. DESAI)

**REGISTRAR GENERAL**