

Letter No. 05/R.G./2020, Dated:07.04.2020

From:

**Nawneet Kumar Pandey
Registrar General
High Court of Judicature at Patna**

Off.-0612-2504111
Fax No.0612-2504088

To,

All the District and Sessions Judges of Bihar

Dated, the 7th April, 2020

Sir,

The judgment of the Hon'ble Apex Court dated 06.04.2020 in Suo Motu (Civil) No. 5/2020 has already been circulated to you vide letter no. 19550-19586, dated 7th April, 2020. In continuation thereof, I have been directed to request you to implement the directions contained therein in letter and spirit.

Pursuant to the order of the Hon'ble Apex Court containing directions issued in exercise of jurisdiction under Article 142 of the Constitution of India, to begin with you can formulate the procedure for the video conferencing, to be adopted by the District Courts, and the sub-divisional courts.

One administrator email ID has already been provided to the District Judges by the NIC. The District and Sessions Judges should set up a virtual courtroom using the administrator email ID provided (BSLSA) to them to facilitate proceedings through videoconferencing. Since only one administrator ID is available in a district, the same may be made available by the District Judges to the sub-divisional courts within their jurisdiction, to enable them to set up a virtual courtroom using the same administrator ID, for considering matters deemed urgent at the sub-divisional level.

Since the same administrator email ID is to be used by rotation, the same may be done in different pre-determined timeslots, duly notified for information of all stakeholders to be fixed by the concerned District Judge, having regard to the local requirement.

Hearing can thus be done by the subordinate Courts through videoconferencing by sending a link to the concerned advocate/litigant, along with a unique PIN, to allow them access to the virtual courtroom through "VidyoMobile" app, which will have to be downloaded by the advocate/litigant in their smart phones, which is now commonly available with almost all stakeholders. Description of the presiding officers shall however not be limited, and if considered necessary, hearing may be done also through Skype, Zoom, or other available app.

However, In case an advocate or litigant does not have a smart phone/laptop/desktop, the same should not be a handicap in access to justice. For such litigants/advocates the concerned district Judge/presiding officer at the subdivisional level should set up audiovisual access through laptops, which may be installed in one or more courtroom in the district Court or subdivisional court, observing the requisite norms of social distancing, using which such advocate/litigants would be able to argue their case in the virtual courtroom set up by the concerned presiding officer. The laptops made available to the Presiding Officers may be used by rotation for this purpose.

Insofar as filing of matters found urgent by the concerned presiding officer, a temporary email account may be set up and duly notified, to enable litigants/advocates to send applications by email.

In this connection the notice on the official website of the Patna High Court may be guidance, and shall not come in the way of discretion of the presiding officer concerned to adopt a modus, suitable to his requirement in the local context.

The CPC, OSD computer committee, or Senior Systems operator, at the High Court may be contacted in case of any queries or difficulties being faced in this regard.

This is for strict compliance.


Registrar General