

**ITEM NO.301 Court 1 (Video Conferencing)**

**SUPREME COURT OF RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

**SMW (C) No(s). 5/2020  
IN RE GUIDELINES FOR COURT FUNCTIONING THROUGH VIDEO  
CONFERENCING DURING COVID 19 PANDEMIC**

**VERSUS**

**(IA No. 48252/2020 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION)**

**SECTION PIL-W INDIA**

**Petitioner(s)**

**Respondent(s)**

**Date : 26-10-2020 These matters were called on for hearing today.**

**CORAM : HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE HON'BLE DR. JUSTICE  
D.Y. CHANDRACHUD**

**HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE L. NAGESWARA RAO**

**For Petitioner(s) For Respondent(s)**

**By Courts Motion, AOR**

**Mr. K.K. Venugopal, AGI Mr. Tushar Mehta, SGI Mr. Ankur Talwar, Adv. Mr.  
Rajat Nair, Adv. Ms. Swati Ghildiyal, Adv. Mr. B.V. Balram Das, AOR**

**Mr. Vikas Singh, Sr. Adv. Ms. Deepika Kaalia, Adv. Mr. Mrityunjay Singh, Adv.  
Mr. Satwik Mishra, Adv. Mr. Jayant Mohan, AOR**

**Mr. Harish Salve, Sr. Adv.**

**Mr. Chirag M. Shroff, Adv. Ms. Abhilasha Bharti, Adv.**

**Mr. Abhimanyu Tewari, AOR**

**UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following ORDE R**

**Application for intervention is allowed.**

**Heard Mr. K.K. Venugopal, learned Attorney General for India, Mr. Tushar  
Mehta, learned Solicitor General of India, Mr. Vikas**

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**Mehta, learned senior counsel and Mr. Harish Salve, learned senior counsel.**

**By our order dated 06.04.2020, we had issued certain directions in furtherance of  
the commitment to the delivery of justice. Those directions were intended  
primarily to cover the measures which this Court had to adopt to meet the  
challenge posed by the COVID Pandemic. There has been a change in the  
situation since April, 2020. In many States, the situation has eased and it has  
been possible to even commence hearings in congregation. We must say that the  
system of Video Conferencing has been extremely successful in providing access  
to justice.**

**Be that as it may, we find that the directions issued earlier need not be altered except as follows :-**

**We propose to substitute sub-para (vii) of Paragraph 6 with the following :**

**The Video Conferencing in every High Court and within the jurisdiction of every High Court shall be conducted according to the Rules for that purpose framed by that High Court. The Rules will govern Video Conferencing in the High Court and in the district courts and shall cover appellate proceedings as well as trials.**

**We are given to understand that several High Courts have framed their rules already. Those High Courts that have not framed such Rules shall do so having regard to the circumstances prevailing in the State. Till such Rules are framed, the High**

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**Courts may adopt the model Video Conferencing Rules provided by the E-Committee, Supreme Court of India to all the Chief Justices of the High Court.**

**List after Diwali Holidays.**  
**(GULSHAN KUMAR ARORA) (INDU KUMARI POKHRIYAL)**  
**AR-CUM-PS ASSISTANT REGISTRAR**