

Railway Claims Tribunal, Principal Bench, Delhi

**Minutes of the Meeting held via Video Conferencing with
Representatives of the Bar Associations and
Advocates practising at RCT Delhi, Ghaziabad and Lucknow
Benches on 20.04.2021 at 2.00 p.m.**

Present:

S.No.	Name	Designation
1.	Sh. K. S. Ahluwalia	Hon'ble Chairman, RCT, Delhi
2.	Sh. Sunil Mathur	Hon'ble Member (Tech.)
3.	Sh Vijay Kumar	Hon'ble Member (Tech)
3.	Smt. Aashima Mehrotra	Registrar
4.	Sh. K.P.S Nirwal	Asstt. Registrar
5.	Sh. N.L. Gandhi	PS to Hon'ble Chairman
6.	Sh. Devinder Bhardwaj	Chief Office Supdt
7.	Smt. SonalBehl	Court Master
8.	Sh. Jitender Vikram Singh	Court Master
9.	Sh. Shashi Bhushan Gupta	Sr. Clerk
Advocates and Representatives of Railway Claims Tribunal Bar Associations		
S.No.	Name	Designation
1.	Smt. AshimaSood	Treasurer, Bar Association of RCT/Delhi
2.	Sh. Dushyant Swaroop	Member, Bar Association of RCT/Delhi
3.	Sh. Anupam Srivastava	Railway Advocate
4.	Sh. Saurabh Gupta	Railway Advocate
5.	Smt. Anju Bagai	Advocate

6.	Sh. N.K. Gupta	President, RCT Bar Association, Delhi
7.	Sh. Upjeet Singh	Advocate
8.	Sh. M.S Bhatia	Advocate
9.	Sh. Rajesh Sharma	Advocate
10.	Sh. Sukhdev Singh	Advocate
11.	Sh. Subhash Sachdeva	Advocate
12.	Sh. B.S Mahur	Advocate
13.	Sh. H.K. Gautam	Advocate
14.	Shri Nitesh Sharma	Advocate
15.	Shri Rajesh Panda	Advocate
16.	Sh. Salek Chand	Advocate
17.	Shri Satdev Singh	Advocate
18.	Shri Surendra Suryan	Advocate
19.	Shri C.P Singh	Advocate
20.	Sh. Muneesh Gupta	Advocate
21.	MsSamta Jain	Advocate

1. A meeting was organised on 20.04.21 with the advocates practicing at RCT, Delhi which included the office bearers of the three Bar Associations namely Bar Association of RCT/Delhi, Bar Association of erstwhile RCT/ Ghaziabad and the Association of Railway Advocates. The main agenda of the meeting was to take a considered decision in view of lockdown declared in Delhi area and the recent order of Hon. High Court of Delhi to allow hearings in urgent matters only and adjourning other matter *en bloc*.
2. The meeting commenced with the Registrar, RCT, Smt. Aashima Mehrotra, extending a warm welcome to all the participants. She briefed the

participants about the agenda of the meeting and Bar Association representatives were requested to express their view on the matter.

3. Advocates namely, Shri Dushyant Swaroop, Shri M.S. Bhatia, Smt Ashima Sood, Smt Anju Bagai, Shri Nitesh Sharma, Shri Saurabh Gupta and Shri B.S Mahur stated that since Covid-19 situation has reached to an alarming stage, it would be better if virtual court hearings are suspended for the time being atleast up to 30th April, 2021. Citing recent orders of Hon. High Court of Delhi. Railway advocates expressed difficulty in movement of court files and receipt/submission of WS and DRM's report on account of the prevailing lockdown situation in Delhi and Railway staff and advocates being found Corona positive in numbers. Shri Mahur stated that final arguments and execution matters can be taken up through virtual mode, if deemed proper.

4. However, other advocates namely, Shri N.K. Gupta, Shri Subhash Sachdeva and Shri H.K. Gautam expressed their views that virtual Court hearings should continue as is being held at present stating that WS etc., can be filed digitally in PDF form and that the cause of the litigant should not suffer. They also raised the issue of pendency of execution applications and their timely/immediate listings before Benches.

5. Shri C.P Singh, advocate from Lucknow informed that at RCT, Lucknow court proceedings have already been suspended till 30th April, 2021.

6. After listening to views of advocates on the issue from both sides and discussing the matter with Shri Sunil Mathur, Hon. Member (Tech) and Mrs Aashima Mehrotra, Registrar, Hon'ble Chairman issued the following directions: -

- a) From 23.04.2021 till 30.04.2021, two regular Benches shall function at RCT, Delhi virtually through video conferencing.
- b) Till 23rd April, cause list will remain as it is, however from 26th April onwards 3 cases of Final Arguments and 11 cases of Misc Applications involving decision on condonation of delay, execution applications, corrections in judgment/orders, release of FDRs etc shall be listed before each Bench.

- c) Court Masters concerned shall give dates in remaining all cases of WS, framing of issues, applicant's evidence, respondent's evidence and further proceedings cases.No case shall be left without being given a further date.
- d) Registry shall make all efforts to put in place a system so that any execution application and miscellaneous applications of all nature filed by an advocate is listed before the concerned Bench within 48 hours of its filing.
- e) No adverse orders shall be passed for non-appearance of litigant/advocate concerned.

The proceedings of the meeting concluded with the Vote of thanks to the Chair and all the attendees.



(Aashima Mehrotra)
Registrar

Dated: 20.04.2021

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Officer, RCT
Delhi

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