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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

+ W.P.(C) 3227/2020, CM APPL. 4629/2021, CM APPL. 4630/2021,
CM APPL. 4632/2021 & CM APPL. 4631/2021

MR. ANAND VAID

..... Petitioner

Through Mr. Ankur Mahindro, Ms. Sanjoli
Mehrotra & Mr. Ankush Satija, Advs.

versus

MS. PREETY VAID & ORS.

..... Respondents

Through Mr. Santosh Kumar Tripathi, ASC,
GNCTD.
Mr. Sanjay Ghose & Mr. Naman Jain,
Advs. for High Court of Delhi

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIPIN SANGHI

HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE REKHA PALLI

ORDER

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25.02.2021

1. The present petition came to be filed when the COVID-19 Pandemic was at its peak and the functioning of the Courts, including the Family Courts, was severely impacted. The petitioner had primarily sought directions for taking up of matters virtually, including recording of evidence through online mode.

2. From time to time, this Court has passed several orders in the present petition to deal with the issues raised by the petitioner including directions passed on the administrative side for filing of cases through online mode as

well. With the passage of time, the situation improved, resulting in resumption of physical filing of documents and pleadings.

3. We may note that the Delhi High Court has decided to resume full-fledged physical functioning of Courts from 15.03.2021 onwards, which would mean that all Courts, including the Family Courts, would be able to take up matters including recording of evidence in physical mode.

4. During the Pandemic, the State also provided substantial infrastructure to enable the Courts to function through online mode. The lawyering community has also got reasonably adept at filing of cases during this period through the online/ electronic mode, and the Courts have also been proficiently taking up cases through online mode. The learning and experience derived during this period, in our view, should be capitalised upon, and apart from filing in the physical mode, the filing of digital pleadings and documents should also be encouraged. The same would save the resources, which the Court would have to otherwise deploy in digitizing the pleadings, documents, and records.

5. Mr. Mahindro, learned counsel for the petitioner has proposed a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in this regard, which, according to him, will help in dealing with this aspect.

6. Considering the fact that Courts are resuming normal functioning from 15.03.2021, we do not see any need to keep this petition pending any further. We, therefore, dispose of this petition with a direction to the respondent/state and the Delhi High Court to examine the SOP provided by Mr. Mahindro, and take their own decisions with regard to simultaneous filing of digital pleadings/records, and digitization of pending cases, in the light of our observations hereinabove.

7. The petition alongwith pending applications stands disposed of in the above terms.

VIPIN SANGHI, J

REKHA PALLI, J

FEBRUARY 25, 2021/kk