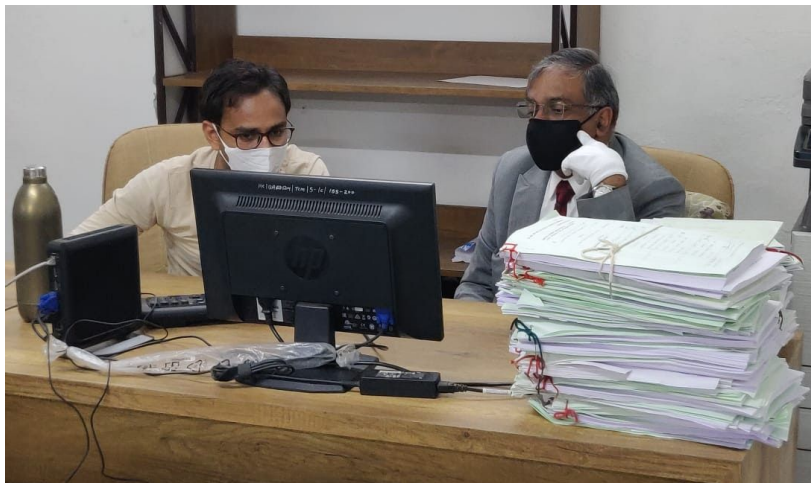


## SURPRISE VISIT BY HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE AT CENTRAL FILING CENTRE (CFC) OF THE HIGH COURT

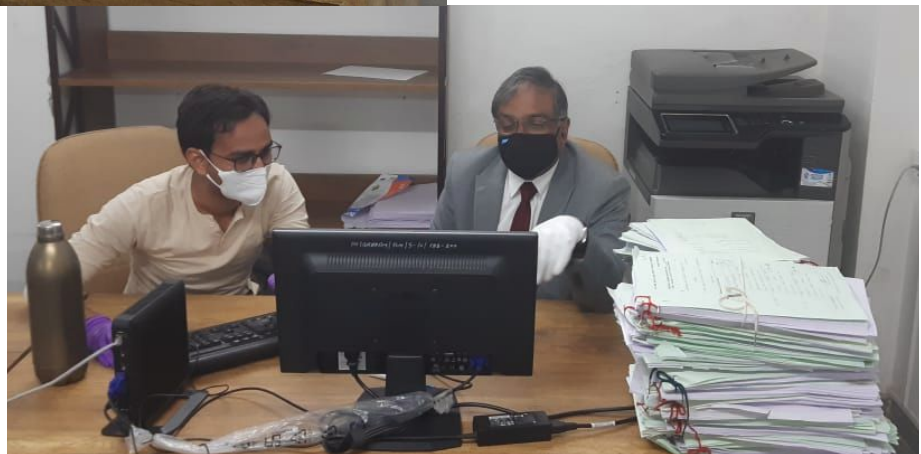
On 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2020; Honourable the Chief Justice of High Court of Gujarat, Mr. Justice Vikram Nath, paid an impromptu visit at the newly relocated Central Filing Centre (CFC) in the campus of High Court of Gujarat, at the time of start of the office hours. As disclosed by His Lordship after reaching there, the main purpose was to have a first hand understanding of the processes followed in the Central Filing Centre, more particularly on the matters filed through recently started e-Filing portal.

His Lordship sat with different filing centre personnel starting with the official attending to the matters received through e-Filing. Right from



the receipt of the documents through e-Filing, thereafter, if no initial technical issues are found in the documents, its printing by the concerned official and forwarding of the same to the section of the CFC dealing with allotting

Filing number to the matter; were demonstrated to His Lordship. It was found that, on the seat of the concerned official, during this surprise visit, all the matters filed till the previous day



afternoon were processed and the matter received the previous day at the end of the office time, was processed during the demonstration given to His Lordship.

Thereafter, His Lordship proceeded to see the process of raising objections by the concerned Officials of the Central Filing Centre, in the

regular as well as e-Filed matters. A couple of matters were processed in presence of Honourable the Chief Justice while also explaining why and how a particular objection was being raised in the matter. It was also confirmed by Honourable the Chief Justice that, as already directed by His Lordship, the objections so raised are soon reflected on the case status website of the High Court and also



auto-transmitted through email to the concerned Ld. Advocate of the filing party, within half an hour of updation of objections. The process, how an objection so raised is cleared by the concerned

Ld. Advocate either through hard copy delivered at the physical filing counter or through document uploading on e-Filing portal, was briefed to His Lordship. The information about the matters where objections were already raised long ago and the same were not yet cleared by the Ld. Advocates was apprised to His Lordship. The timeline of stages of receipt, filing, scrutiny, registration and thereafter circulation, if objections raised, if any, are cleared; was understood in detail by His Lordship.

Before leaving the premises, His Lordship made it a point to also visit the room from where the Helpline calls are being attended to.



During the visit to the place, His Lordship, himself attended a telephone call from a Ld. Advocate about his sent document still not having been taken up for clearing the objection in his filed matter. His Lordship also ascertained from the Ld. Advocate when the objection was raised and how and when the document was sent to the Registry and the said details were noted for attending to the grievance. It was instructed to the concerned personnel to ensure that maximum calls are attended to and issues reported are resolved as expeditiously as possible.



For being concerned with litigants and lawyers to ensure smooth and seamless processes in newly introduced citizen oriented service of e-Filing, unscheduled visit of His Lordship was made. It was felt and expressed by His Lordship during the visit that, in order to obviate the unavoidable precautionary time-gap of processing the hard copies received at the physical counter in view of the present pandemic; and for expeditious filing, scrutiny, registration and circulation of matters, the only panacea is that, maximum number of matters should be encouraged to be filed through the e-Filing portal. Also that, the main benefit of the e-Filing, amongst many other benefits, is that the status of the filed matter starts reflecting immediately to the Ld. Advocate of the filing party, in addition to the SMS and Email update sent by the e-Filing portal.

As desired by Honourable the Chief Justice and also the Honourable Judges of the Committee examining the concerns raised by the Bar Association with regard to the expressed delays in the circulation of matters, an online training cum awareness program for select Ld. Advocates of the Bar has been arranged. The details of such participants, who would then be Trainers and Guides for the other Ld. Advocates of the Bar, as shortlisted by the Bar Association, has been received. Accordingly, as directed by His Lordship and the Judges of the Committee; the first such Online Session will be conducted for this group of Ld. Advocates on 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 at 06.00 pm.

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