



भारतीय विधिज्ञ परिषद् BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA

(Statutory Body Constituted under the Advocates Act, 1961)

21, Rouse Avenue Institutional Area, Near Bal Bhawan, New Delhi - 110002

BCI:D:.....7008...../2025

Date: 25.08.2025

To,

The Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor,
Government of NCT of Delhi,
Raj Niwas, Delhi - 110054.
Email ID: pstolg.delhi@nic.in

Sub.: Protest Against the notification dated 13.08.2025 allowing the Police Stations of Delhi to be the designated places for recording of evidence of the police officials through Video Conferencing.

Respected Sir,

The Bar Council of India, as the statutory body under the Advocates Act, 1961, wishes to express its serious concern regarding the recent notification issued by your office, which mandates that police witnesses give evidence from their designated police stations via electronic means.

Although we recognise the importance of expeditious trials and the benefits of technology in alleviating the burden on law enforcement, implementing this measure in its current form would significantly compromise the rights of the accused and the integrity of trial proceedings. Evidence can only be recorded in the court in the physical presence of the witness.

We feel it's crucial to bring the following points to your attention:

Fair Trial: The right to a fair trial is a cornerstone of our legal system. Part of that fairness is the physical presence of a witness in court. When a witness testifies from a police station—a space controlled by the very same department that's investigating the case— it can undermine the credibility and spontaneity of their testimony.

Effective cross-examination: Effective cross-examination is vital for uncovering the truth. It's difficult to properly question a witness, identify and confront documents, or even note their expressions and body language over a video conference. A witness's demeanour tells a lot.

Lack of Judicial Control: Moving testimony outside the courtroom diminishes the judge's control over the proceedings and creates a risk of procedural mistakes.

We were surprised and disappointed that the Bar Council, a major stakeholder in the justice system, was not consulted before this notification was issued. We are committed to technological progress, but we firmly believe that such significant changes to our criminal procedure should only be made after a collaborative discussion involving the Bar, the Judiciary, and other key stakeholders. This ensures that we find a balance between efficiency and fairness.

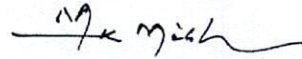
We therefore request the immediate withdrawal of the said notification and ensure that all police officials' evidence is recorded with their physical presence in the court.

Thanking you

Yours sincerely



(Ved Prakash Sharma)
Co-Chairman
Bar Council of India



(Manan Kumar Mishra)
Sr. Advocate, Supreme Court of India
Chairman, Bar Council of India
Member of Parliament
(Rajya Sabha)