

**DELHI INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION CENTRE (DIAC)
HIGH COURT OF DELHI: NEW DELHI**

No.: 03/DIAC/DHC/SR-20
Dated: 01.09.2020

CIRCULAR

Graded resumption of physical functioning of Delhi International Arbitration Centre (DIAC)

The High Court of Delhi has taken a decision to resume the physical functioning in a phased manner w.e.f. 01.09.2020 and has issued Standard Operating Protocol (SoP) to regulate the access to the High Court Complex. The Competent Authority has resolved to resume the functioning of DIAC in the following phased manner:

1. Only urgent matters shall be taken up for hearing in the premises of DIAC. The parties shall file an application for physical hearing before the Coordinator of DIAC who shall consider the urgency and such matters which are considered urgent may be listed for physical hearing in DIAC.
2. The Standard Operating Protocol for Resumption of Physical Functioning in the High Court of Delhi (SoP) shall apply to DIAC to the extent applicable.
3. Entry into DIAC, for the purposes of attending physical hearings, shall be restricted to only one advocate per party whose vakalatnama is on record/ who has been duly authorised by such advocate to appear and senior counsel engaged by such advocate. Registered clerk shall be permitted only for the limited purpose of delivering heavy and bulky case files of such advocates upto the hearing room. Such clerk shall leave DIAC premises and shall again enter only to recollect the files. The arbitrating party shall be allowed only where such party is pursuing the case himself/herself without any legal assistance. No entry shall be allowed to juniors, interns or law students associated with the advocate/arbitrator, non-registered clerks and relative of any arbitrating party.

4. Only hearing rooms on the second floor shall be available for physical hearings for the time being. Refreshments offered by DIAC in the hearing rooms shall remain discontinued until further orders
5. Subject to the above, the earlier Guidance Note issued by DIAC shall continue to remain in force. The arrangements qua hearing of matters by Arbitral Tribunals through videoconferencing shall continue as before.

This issues with approval of the Competent Authority.

Sd/-
Coordinator, DIAC
01.09.2020