VULNERABLE WITNESS DEPOSITION COMPLEX (VWDC)

To respond effectively to the needs of the vulnerable witnesses more particularly the victims of sexual offences in the criminal justice process and to respond pro-actively with sensitivity in an appropriate manner so that the trial process is less traumatic for them, the *"Committee to monitor proper implementation of several guidelines laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court as well as Hon'ble High Court of Delhi for dealing with matters pertaining to Sexual Offences, child witnesses and other vulnerable witnesses",* Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, New Delhi had undertaken the task of establishing ***'Vulnerable Witness Deposition Complexes'*** in all the District Courts of Delhi.

The victims / witnesses are being provided conducive atmosphere in **Vulnerable Witness Deposition Complexes** (VWDC) to enable them to comfortably depose without any fear or intimidation. The vulnerable witnesses are being provided free pick & drop transportation facility from their respective residences. Support persons are also provided to the vulnerable witnesses to support, accompany and assist them for attending the judicial proceedings. A pre-trial tour of the court room to familiarize vulnerable witnesses with the environment is also arranged where every effort is made to explain the court process to the witnesses. Vulnerable witnesses are served with tea/flavoured milk, biscuits, chips, juices, cupcakes etc. Separate and safe waiting areas with a safe passage is provided to all vulnerable witnesses. The Vulnerable Witnesses are examined in such a way that the accused and his counsel can see the witness by video link during the recording of testimony of the vulnerable witness by protecting all fair trial rights of the accused. There is also a separate room for the accused which is attached to the court room in such a manner that accused can watch the entire proceedings through antelo glass/one way glass.

The first Vulnerable Witness Deposition Complex (VWDC), at **Tis Hazari Courts**, Delhi was inaugurated on **26.04.2016** by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Madan B. Lokur, Judge, Supreme Court of India in the august presence of Hon'ble Ms. Justice G. Rohini, Chief Justice, High Court of Delhi, New Delhi and Hon'ble Ms. Justice Gita Mittal (Chairperson), Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.K. Gauba (Member) *of the* ***"Committee to monitor proper***

implementation of several guidelines laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court as well as Hon'ble High Court of Delhi for dealing with matters pertaining to Sexual Offences, child witnesses and other vulnerable witnesses", **Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, New Delhi.**

Three (03) additional new Vulnerable Witness Court Rooms were created and made functional w.e.f. 01.10.2020 at Tis Hazari Court Complex, Delhi during Covid-19.

Four (04) more VWDCs were created in the year 2022 on the directions of the Hon'ble "Committee to monitor proper implementation of several guidelines laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court as well as Hon'ble High Court of Delhi for dealing with matters pertaining to Sexual Offences, child witnesses and other vulnerable witnesses", Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, New Delhi which were inaugurated on 06.09.2022 by the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Satish Chandra Sharma, Chief Justice of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi with other Hon'ble Companion Judges of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, New Delhi and made functional w.e.f. 15.09.2022 for Central & West District, Tis Hazari Court Complex, Delhi.

Presently, 08 VWDCs are functional in Tis Hazari Court Complex, out of which 04 (four) Vulnerable Witness Deposition Courtrooms (VWDCs) Nos. 13, 15, 18, 24 are allocated to Central District and 04

(four) VWDCs Nos. 13A, 14, 19, 25 are allocated to West District which are being utilized in Tis Hazari Court Complex for recording of Vulnerable Witnesses. All witness waiting rooms are equipped with a digital **"Case Number Display Monitor"** that shows the updation of the real-time status of case hearing in the court.

Information with regard to Vulnerable Witness Deposition Complex (VWDC), Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

Sr. No.	Name of the Court Complex	District	Functional VWDC's	Total VWDC's in Tis Hazari Court Complex

1	**Tis Hazari Court Complex**	Central	4	8
		West	4	

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