

HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT

PRESS NOTE

INAUGURATION OF FORMAL WITNESS DEPOSITION CENTERS (FWDC) AT ALL DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS OF THE GUJARAT STATE

As directed by Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Sunita Agarwal, the Chief Justice of the High Court of Gujarat, this is to inform for the benefit of all the stakeholders that:-

In a significant move to align with the new criminal laws issued by the Government of India and to strengthen the Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS), the Gujarat High Court is pleased to announce the inauguration of Formal Witness Deposition Centers (FWDCs) at District Headquarters across the State. The virtual inauguration will take place at 5:30 PM on August 21st, 2025, by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of the High Court of Gujarat with her companion Judges of the High Court of Gujarat, marking the expansion of a successful initiative aimed to streamline and ease the deposition process for formal witnesses. This initiative is a continuation of the earlier establishment of FWDCs in five major districts—Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Surat, Vadodara, and the State Capital, Gandhinagar.

These FWDCs represent a major step forward in modernization of Judiciary, specifically designed to streamline and ease the deposition process for formal witnesses such as Police Officers, Medical Officers, and Forensic Experts etc. By leveraging technology, the centers will facilitate use of Video Conferencing for witness depositions, thereby enhancing the speed and efficiency of trials.

The establishment of these centers is a crucial component of the ICJS, ensuring that trials are not hindered by the physical location or transfer of a formal witness, i.e. not delayed due to their physical unavailability at the particular place. Through the FWDC network, a witness who has been transferred or has retired and is living anywhere in the State of Gujarat will be able to depose from the nearest district-level FWDCs, ensuring speedy trials as well as ease of witnesses.

This initiative underscores the commitment of the High Court of Gujarat to implement key judicial reforms and utilizing technology to create a more efficient, transparent, and accessible justice system for all citizens.

The details of these Formal Witness Deposition Centers (FWDCs) are available at <https://gujarathighcourt.nic.in/fwdcentres>.

The Proceedings of the function will be live streamed on the Official YouTube Channel of the High Court of Gujarat at <https://www.youtube.com/c/GujaratHighCourtLive> at 5:30 PM on August 21st, 2025.

Sd/-

Date: 20/08/2025

REGISTRAR GENERAL