

# ATMAN

(A Biannual News Bulletin of the Gauhati High Court)

Published from Guwahati for private circulation

Guwahati

::: Twelfth Year

::: 22<sup>nd</sup> Issue

::: April, 2020



(The High Court of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh)

## Events organized during October, 2019 to March, 2020

- ⇒ Farewell of Justice Ujjal Bhuyan on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2019
- ⇒ Farewell of Justice Arup Kumar Goswami on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2019
- ⇒ Swearing-in Ceremony of Justice Ajai Lamba as Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2019
- ⇒ Official Dinner in Honour of Justice Arup Kumar Goswami, Chief Justice, Sikkim High Court on 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2019
- ⇒ Judicial Knowledge Enhancement Programme for Grade-II & Grade-III Officers of Arunachal Pradesh Judicial Service on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2019
- ⇒ Judicial Knowledge Enhancement Programme for Grade-III Officers of Assam Judicial Service on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2019
- ⇒ Judicial Knowledge Enhancement Programme for Grade-III Officers of Assam Judicial Service on 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2019
- ⇒ Launching of the book 'Courts of India : Past to Present' (Assamese Version) on 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2019
- ⇒ Awareness Programme Against Witchcraft, Superstition and Child Marriage at Goalpara on 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2019
- ⇒ Legal Awareness Programme at Dibrugarh on 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2019
- ⇒ Inauguration of newly furnished room of Gauhati High Court (Principal Seat) Employees' Association on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2019
- ⇒ Swearing-in Ceremony of Justice Soumitra Saikia, Justice Parthivjyoti Saikia and Justice S. Hukato Swu on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2019
- ⇒ Observance of Constitution Day on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2019
- ⇒ Skill Development Programme on POC SO Act on 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2020
- ⇒ Celebration of 71<sup>st</sup> Republic Day at Gauhati High Court
- ⇒ Friendly Cricket Match between Hon'ble Judges and Members of the Bar, Gauhati High Court on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2020
- ⇒ Inauguration of Family Court Building at Barpeta, Assam on 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2020
- ⇒ Skill Development Training for Deputy Superintendent of Police in Charge of Special Juvenile Police Unit on 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> and on 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 at Guwahati
- ⇒ Orientation Programme for Newly enrolled Advocates of North East on 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 at Guwahati
- ⇒ Skill Development Programme for the Staff of Subordinate Courts of Assam on 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 at Judicial Academy, Assam
- ⇒ Skill Development Training for Investigating Officers of Assam Police from 24<sup>th</sup> February to 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2020 at Judicial Academy, Assam
- ⇒ Preparation of Templates and Circulation of those among Judicial Officers
- ⇒ Release of short film "Ghore Ghore e-Courts" on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2020
- ⇒ Hon'ble Judges of Gauhati High Court Contribute to PM CARE, AAN and Chief Minister Relief Fund

## From the Chief Justice

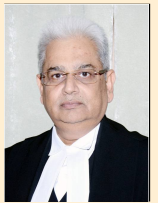
"ATMAN" has been doing an excellent task by portraying multifarious activities of the Gauhati High Court to the stakeholders.

At this critical juncture when the tentacles of this deadly contagion has engulfed the entire humanity in its clutches, the Gauhati High Court, with some of its timely and innovative actions, with active cooperation from the members of the Bar stood as a wall of defiance and continued to hold courts at all levels. During this hour of crisis, Gauhati High Court has made smooth progression from the conventional courts to virtual courts.

I am happy that the High Court, with the active involvement and co-operation of all the sister and brother Judges as well as the Registry, has displayed exemplary sense of comradeship and responsibility. The Gauhati High Court and all outlying Benches and subordinate Courts interacted at short intervals through video conferencing to share concerns and provide innovative solutions by way of issuing guidelines and operational procedures so as to ensure that this institution remains available when a litigant approaches it to seek justice.

I salute the unrelenting effort of the IT team and commitment exhibited by the Registry collectively during this period of crisis to ensure uninterrupted functioning of the Courts. Jai Hind.

– Justice Ajai Lamba



## Editor speaks

Even as the contagion reared its ugly head and spread far and wide, procedures and mechanisms were evolved to abate the virulent wave, lest crowding in the court premises would add to the frightful propagation of the virus. Administration of justice cannot be fettered. Doors of the courts must remain open for those in need. In this crusade, the protagonist is unmistakably our Chief Justice, whose formidable, quick thinking and proactive role in ensuring the safety and protection of the Officers and staff, in minimising foot-falls in the court premises and in maintaining constant vigil by making physical inspection and by gathering inputs from subordinate courts through serial video conferencing without, however, compromising on the justice delivery system, has been most laudable. Most remarkable has been the introduction of the virtual Court for hearing urgent matters, passing orders which are made available to the parties instantly, while strictly maintaining social/physical distance amongst parties and the Court.

The role of the judges of the Gauhati High Court as well as of the Judicial Officers in the State in displaying grit and tenacity by responding to the call of duty despite all odds, has also been most admirable. Thank you all.

Signing off today with an optimistic note – "If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?"

To all of you, stay positive, stay healthy, stay safe, Jai Hind.

– Justice Manojit Bhuyan



## Farewell of Justice Ujjal Bhuyan on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2019

The Judges of the Gauhati High Court and Members of the Registry bid farewell to Justice Ujjal Bhuyan on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2019, on his transfer as Judge, Bombay High Court. A Full Court farewell reference was held on that day in the Court No. 2 of Gauhati High Court



*Justice Arup Kumar Goswami, Chief Justice (Acting) Gauhati High Court, presenting a memento to Justice Ujjal Bhuyan*



*Justice Ujjal Bhuyan delivering his farewell speech during his farewell reference*

(New Block). The Judges, learned Members of the Bar, members of the Registry were present on the occasion. A dinner was also hosted on the same day at the Judges' lobby in honour of Smt. Sanghamitra Das Bhuyan and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan.

## Farewell of Justice Arup Kumar Goswami on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2019

The Judges of the Gauhati High Court and Members of the Registry bid farewell to Justice Arup Kumar Goswami on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2019, on his elevation as the Chief Justice of Sikkim High Court. A Full Court farewell reference was held on that day



*Justice Arup Kumar Goswami delivering his farewell speech*



*Justice Arup Kumar Goswami with his brother Judges of Gauhati High Court*

in the Court No. 2 of Gauhati High Court (New Block). The Judges, learned Members of the Bar, members of the Registry were present on the occasion. His Lordship's spouse Dr. (Smt.) Nilakshi Goswami was also present on the occasion.



## Swearing-in Ceremony of Justice Ajai Lamba as Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2019

On October 7, 2019, Justice Ajai Lamba, Judge, Allahabad High Court, was sworn in as the Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court. Shri Jagdish Mukhi, the Governor of Assam, administered the oath of office to Justice Ajai Lamba, in presence of Shri



*Sri Sarbananda Sonowal, Chief Minister of Assam, presenting a bouquet to Justice Ajai Lamba, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court*



*His excellency Prof. Jagdish Mukhi, Governor of Assam, administering oath of office to Justice Ajai Lamba as Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court*

Sarbananda Sonowal, Chief Minister of Assam, Judges and Retired Judges of Gauhati High Court, Senior Officers of the Government of Assam, learned Members of the Bar, members of the Registry and other dignitaries. The swearing-in ceremony was held at the Darbar Hall, Raj Bhavan, Guwahati.

## Official Dinner in Honour of Justice Arup Kumar Goswami, Chief Justice, Sikkim High Court on 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2019

On October 29, 2019, an official dinner was hosted in honour of Justice Arup Kumar Goswami, Chief Justice, Sikkim High Court at the Judges' lounge of Gauhati High Court. Justice Goswami was accompanied by His



*Justice Ajai Lamba, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, presenting a gift to Justice Arup Kumar Goswami*



*Justice Arup Kumar Goswami, Chief Justice, Sikkim High Court being welcomed by Justice Ajai Lamba, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court*

Lordship's spouse Dr. (Smt.) Nilakshi Goswami. The Judges of the Gauhati High Court along with their spouses and members of the Registry were present on the occasion.

## Judicial Knowledge Enhancement Programme for Grade-II & Grade-III Officers of Arunachal Pradesh Judicial Service on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2019

On 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> November, Judicial Knowledge Enhancement Programme was organised by Judicial Academy, Assam & NEJOTI in collaboration with Administrative Training Institute(ATI), Naharlagun at ATI, Naharlagun. Justice Nani Tagia, Judge, Gauhati High Court, attended the programme as the Resource Person. Resource persons spoke on 'Code of Civil Procedure', 'Role and duties of Magistrates during investigation, enquiry and trial', 'Bail' and 'Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015' during the working sessions. The Grade-II and Grade-III Judicial Officers of Arunachal Pradesh Judicial Service participated in the programme.



*Justice Nani Tagia, Judge, Gauhati High Court, addressing the Grade-II & III Judicial Officers of Arunachal Pradesh Judicial Service*

## Judicial Knowledge Enhancement Programme for Grade-III Officers of Assam Judicial Service on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2019

On 9<sup>th</sup> November, Judicial Academy, Assam & NEJOTI, organised a Judicial Knowledge Enhancement Programme at Judicial Academy, Assam. The said programme was attended by Justice Achintya Malla Bujor Baruah, Justice Prasanta Kumar Deka, Judges, Gauhati High Court, Sri Roushan Lal, Faculty, Judicial Academy, Assam and Smt. Ipsita Borthakur, Research Officer, Judicial Academy, Assam, as resource persons. Justice Achintya Malla Bujor Baruah spoke on "Disposal of Miscellaneous Petitions in Civil Cases", while Justice Prasanta Kumar Deka spoke on "Execution in Civil Cases". Sri Roushan Lal and Smt. Ipsita Borthakur spoke on "Duties of Magistrates during investigation, enquiry and trial".



*Justice A. M. Bujor Baruah and Justice P. K. Deka, Judges, Gauhati High Court, speaking during the Judicial Knowledge Enhancement Programme.*



The programme had the participation of the Grade-III Judicial Officers of Assam Judicial Service (1<sup>st</sup> Batch). The members of the Registry of Gauhati High Court and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.



*Justice A. M. Bujur Baruah and Justice P. K. Deka, Judges, Gauhati High Court, along with Grade-III Judicial Officers of Assam Judicial Service (1<sup>st</sup> Batch)*

## Judicial Knowledge Enhancement Programme for Grade-III Officers of Assam Judicial Service on 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2019

On 10<sup>th</sup> November, Judicial Academy, Assam & NEJOTI, organised a Judicial Knowledge Enhancement Programme at Judicial Academy, Assam. The said programme was attended by Justice Hitesh Kumar Sarma, Judge, Gauhati High Court, Sri S. P. Moitra, Dr. Manash Barua, Sri Roushan Lal, all are faculties, Judicial Academy, Assam and Smt. Ipsita Borthakur, Research Officer, Judicial Academy, Assam, as resource persons.



*Justice Hitesh Kumar Sarma, Judge, Gauhati High Court, speaking on the occasion*

Justice Hitesh Kumar Sarma spoke on "Orders passed by Magistrate-vis-a-vis-Criminal Revision", Sri S. P. Moitra, Dr Manash Barua spoke on "(i) Arms Act, (ii) NDPS Act", while Sri Roushan Lal, and Smt. Ipsita Borthakur spoke on "Duties of Magistrates during investigation,



*Justice Hitesh Kumar Sarma, Judge, Gauhati High Court, along with Resource Persons and Grade-III Officers of Assam Judicial Service*

enquiry and trial". The programme was attended by the Grade-III Judicial Officers of Assam Judicial Service (2<sup>nd</sup> Batch). The members of the Registry of Gauhati High Court and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

## Launching of the book '*Courts of India : Past to Present*' (Assamese Version) on 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2019

The translated Assamese version of the book "*Courts of India: Past to Present*", which is titled in Assamese as *ভাৰতবৰ্ষৰ আদালতসমূহ – ওঁতৰ পৰা বৰ্তমানলৈ* "*Bharatborsor Adalatsamuh – Oitor Pora Bartamanoloi*" was released here in Guwahati in a function held at Pragjyotish ITA Centre, Machkhowa on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2019. The book was released by Hon'ble Chief Justice of India Justice Ranjan Gogoi in the august presence of Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde, Chief Justice of India designate and Chief Minister of Assam Shri Sarbananda Sonowal.



*Hon'ble Justice Ranjan Gogoi, Chief Justice of India and Justice Ajai Lamba, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, lighting the ceremonial lamp*

The Welcome Address was delivered by Justice Ajai Lamba, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court.

In the year 2016, the Supreme Court of India published "*Courts of India: Past to Present*", through Publication Division, Government of India. The book is a compilation of glimpses into the rich and complex history of the courts and judicial institutions of India, right from ancient



*Hon'ble Justice Ranjan Gogoi, Chief Justice of India, speaking on the occasion*



*Hon'ble Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde, Chief Justice of India Designate, speaking on the occasion*

times to the modern day. The Court's undertaking was inspired by the idea that the making of the Constitution itself, doubtless of great significance, was a part of a continuing tradition of legal and judicial development, which commenced in ancient times and continues to evolve today. The volume draws upon the plurality and diversity





*Hon'ble Justice Ranjan Gogoi, Chief Justice of India, along with Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde, Chief Justice of India Designate and Sri Sarbananda Sonowal, Chief Minister of Assam releasing the book*

of the nation, reflected in all its institutions, with legal and judicial structures being no exception. The book, in a kaleidoscopic manner, showcases the establishment of justice delivery systems and the task of administration of law including tracing the growth of institutions in the country.

The objective of the publication of this book was to present the rich and diverse part of the heritage of Indian Judiciary to the public for it is part of the history and inheritance of our society itself. As the publication was well received and was accepted as a significant addition to the available literature on India's legal history, the Supreme Court of India decided to publish translations of the work in the



*Sri Sarbananda Sonowal, Chief Minister of Assam, delivering his speech*



*Justice Arun Kumar Mishra, Judge, Supreme Court of India, speaking on the occasion*

regional languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. It is a matter of pride that the Translation Wing of the Gauhati High Court accepted the project of translating the book into Assamese and completed the task within an appreciable time of about five months. Thus, the first translation of the book was rendered in the Assamese vernacular.



*Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Judge, Supreme Court of India, presenting the book to a student*



*Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, JAD, Gauhati High Court, proposing the vote of thanks*

The publication which is a rich fabric of history and literature reflecting the various aspects of Indian Judiciary will be an addition to Assamese literature. It was scheduled that the book would be translated into six languages in the first phase including Hindi, Assamese, Maratha, Kannada, Telugu and Bengali. The Assamese translation of the book is the first one to be published among the regional languages.



*Justice Manojit Bhuyan, Judge, Gauhati High Court, one of the reviewers of the book speaking on the occasion*

It is hoped that this translation of the book into the Assamese language - and those to follow - will serve to bring the treasured past of our courts and judicial institutions closer to the public, and strengthen their faith in our legal systems. At the same time, it reiterates the commitment of our institutions to

realize the Constitutional vision by serving the public interest through the development of the law.

Sharad Arvind Bobde, Chief Justice of India designate, speaking on the occasion, lauded the efforts of the team of the Translation Wing which had labored hard for completing the translation of the book within an appreciable time.



*Justice Shripathi Ravindra Bhat, Judge, Supreme Court of India, felicitating Shri Suresh Sharma (Former Special Officer, Translation Wing) and Ditimoni Gogoi, (Special Officer, Translation Wing) the Special Editor and Translator of the Assamese version of the book respectively*





*A section of the audience during the programme*

Justice Arun Kumar Mishra, Judge, Supreme Court of India, also spoke on the occasion.

On the occasion, Justice Shripathi Ravindra Bhat, Judge, Supreme Court of India felicitated the team of translators.

The release function was also attended by Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Judge, Supreme Court of India, Ajay Kumar Mittal, Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court, officers and staff of the Supreme Court of India, top officers of Government of Assam, Gauhati High Court Officials, Judicial Officers, publishers and distributors of Assam and host of other dignitaries.

## Awareness Programme against Witchcraft, Superstition and Child Marriage at Goalpara on 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2019

An awareness programme against witchcraft belief and superstition and child marriage was held at Lakhipur, Goalpara, on 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2019. The awareness programme was jointly organised by the District Legal Services Authority, Goalpara, the Assam Police, Goalpara, the Mission Birubala, Goalpara and the Law College,



*Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court, being felicitated on the occasion*



*Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court, speaking on the occasion*

Goalpara. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court & Executive Chairman, ASLSA, attended the programme. Members of ASLSA and other dignitaries also attended the programme.

An interactive session with the students of Goalpara Law College was also held on that day.

## Legal Awareness Programme at Dibrugarh on 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2019

A legal awareness programme was held at Dibrugarh on 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2019. The awareness programme was organised by District Legal Services Authority, Dibrugarh in collaboration with Assam State Legal Services Authority, Guwahati. Justice



*Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court, speaking on the occasion*



*Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court & Executive Chairman, ASLSA, addressing the gathering*

N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court & Executive Chairman, ASLSA, attended the programme. An interactive session was also held with Justice N. Kotiswar Singh. The Member Secretary of ASLSA, members of DLSA also attended the programme along with other dignitaries.

## Inauguration of newly furbished room of Gauhati High Court (Principal Seat) Employees' Association on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2019



*Ajai Lamba, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, lighting the ceremonial lamp.*

Shri Raktim Duarah, Registrar-cum-Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Justice, the President and Secretary of Gauhati High Court (Principal Seat) Employees' Association (GHCEA), the officers and staff of the Registry were also present on the occasion.

On 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2019, Justice Ajai Lamba, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court inaugurated the newly furbished room of Gauhati High Court (Principal Seat) Employees' Association at the old block of the Gauhati High Court.



*Justice Ajai Lamba, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, inaugurating the newly furbished room of the GHCEA*



## Inauguration of Legal Aid Clinic at BRM Law College on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2019

On 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2019, Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court & Executive Chairman, ASLSA, inaugurated the Legal Aid Clinic at BRM Law College, Guwahati. A discussion on "Importance of Legal Aid Clinic for law students and Access to



*Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court, lighting the ceremonial lamp*



*Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court, speaking on the inaugural ceremony*

Justice for all" was also held on the occasion. The programme was organised by District Legal Services Authority, Kamrup (M). S. N. Sarma, Member Secretary, ASLSA, members of District Legal Services Authority and the law students attended the programme.

## Observance of Constitution Day at Guwahati on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2019

A meeting in connection with observance of Constitution Day was held at Don Bosco Institute of Management, Kharghuli on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2019. The programme was organised by Assam State Legal Services Authority (ASLSA) in collaboration with Don Bosco Institute, Kharghuli. Justice N.



*Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court, speaking on the occasion*



*Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court, flanked by Sri S. N. Sarma, Member Secretary, ASLSA, during the programme*

Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court & Executive Chairman, attended the programme along with Member Secretary, ASLSA and Dr. (Fr) P. D. John, Director, Don Bosco Institute of Management, students and other dignitaries.

## Swearing-in Ceremony of Justice Soumitra Saikia, Justice Parthivjyoti Saikia and Justice S. Hukato Swu on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2019

On 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2019, Justice Ajai Lamba, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, administered oath of office to Justice Soumitra Saikia, Justice Parthivjyoti Saikia and Justice S. Hukato Swu as Additional Judges of Gauhati High Court. The swearing-in ceremony, held in Court No. 1 of Gauhati High Court (New Block), was attended by the Judges, their spouses, learned members of the Bar, members



*Justice Ajai Lamba, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, administering oath of office to Justice Soumitra Saikia*



*Justice Ajai Lamba, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, administering oath of office to Justice Parthivjyoti Saikia*



*Justice Ajai Lamba, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, administering oath of office to Justice S. Hukato Swu*

of the Registry and officers and staff of the Gauhati High Court. With the appointment of the three Additional Judges, the number of Judges of Gauhati High Court has increased to 21.

## Inauguration of the Court room of SDJM(M) and Munsiff-cum-JMFC at Naharkatia, Dibrugarh on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2019

On 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2019, Smt. Susmita Phukan Khound, District & Sessions Judge, Dibrugarh inaugurated the Court of Sub-divisional Judicial Magistrate (M) and Munsiff-cum-Judicial Magistrate First Class, at Naharkatia, Dibrugarh (Assam). The members of district judiciary along with other dignitaries attended the programme. It is hoped that the improvements done in the infrastructural mechanisms at district level would help the Judiciary to make justice delivery system flawless in the coming days.



*Smt. Susmita Phukan Khound, District & Sessions Judge, Dibrugarh being felicitated during inauguration of the Court of SDJM & Munsiff-cum-JMFC*



## Meeting with the members of DLSA at Nagaon on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2019

A meeting with the members of DLSA, organised by District Legal Services Authority, Nagaon, was held at the Circuit House Conference Hall, Nagaon, on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2019. The meeting was chaired by Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court & Executive Chairman, ASLSA. The members of District Legal Services Authority along with other distinguished guests also attended the programme. An interactive session with Justice N. Kotiswar Singh was also held on the occasion followed by an open quiz contest amongst the students. The interactive session was held at Concept Junior College, Nagaon and organised by DLSA, Nagaon in association with Concept Junior College. The interactive session and the open quiz programme was participated by Concept Junior College, Ramanujan Junior College and Saudipani Vidyamandir, Nagaon. A number of students took part in the programme.



*Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court, interacting with members of DLSA*

## Legal Awareness Programme at Mangaldai on 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2020

A legal awareness programme was held at Mangaldai on 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2020. The programme was organised by Assam State Legal Services Authority & District Legal Services Authority, Darrang. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati



*Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court, speaking on the occasion*

High Court-cum-Executive Chairman, Assam State Legal Services Authority attended the programme as the Chief Guest. The programme was followed by an interactive session with students from various Colleges & Higher Secondary Schools of Darrang in presence of Mr. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh. The interactive session was held at Ranjit Sarma Academy Junior College, Mangaldai, Darrang.

The Member Secretary of ASLSA and members of DLSA, Darrang, along with other dignitaries attended the programme. A number of students from various colleges took part in the programme.

## Skill Development Programme on POCSO Act on 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2020

On 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> January, Judicial Academy, Assam, organised a Skill Development Programme on Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act and Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. The said programme was attended by Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak, Judges, Gauhati High



*Justice M. R. Pathak, Judge, Gauhati High Court, speaking on the occasion*



*Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, JAD, Gauhati High Court, speaking on the occasion flanked by Dr. J. N. Barowalia, former District and Sessions Judge, Himachal Pradesh*

Court and Dr. J. N. Barowalia, former District and Sessions Judge, Himachal Pradesh, as resource persons. The programme had the participation of the Grade-I Judicial Officers of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. The members of the Registry of Gauhati High Court and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

## Inauguration of Family Court Complex at Kamrup (Metro), Assam on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2020

On 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2020, Justice Ajai Lamba, Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court, inaugurated the Family Court complex, Kamrup (Metro) at the erstwhile NEJOTI Building Ulubari, Guwahati, Assam. Smt. Anubha Das,



*Justice Ajai Lamba, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, inaugurating the Court complex in presence of Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, JAD, Gauhati High Court*



*Justice Ajai Lamba, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, unveiling the plaque in presence of Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, JAD, Gauhati High Court*

Principal Judge, Family Court-I, Kamrup (Metro), members of Gauhati High Court Registry and members of district judiciary were also present on the occasion.



## Celebration of 71<sup>st</sup> Republic Day at Gauhati High Court (Principal Seat)

This year, Gauhati High Court, celebrated the 71<sup>st</sup> Republic Day with much pomp and gaiety. On the occasion, Justice Ajai Lamba, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court unfurled the national flag at the Old Block of the Gauhati High Court while the band played the National Anthem in the background. Hon'ble Judges, accompanied by Lordships' spouse, learned members of the Bar, members of the Registry and other distinguished guests graced the occasion.

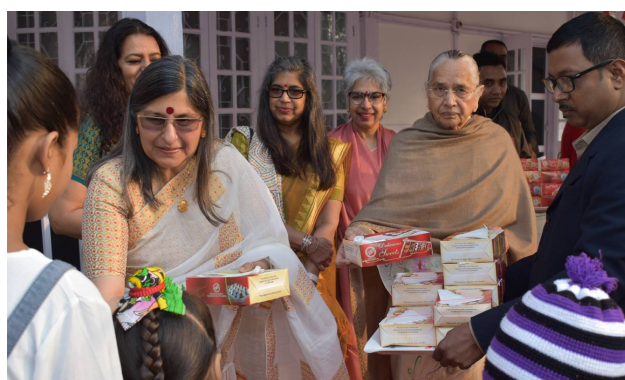
Ceremonial parades were taken out by the NCC Cadets as well as by security personnel followed by a musical band. To mark the occasion, a number of cultural programmes were performed showcasing the rich culture and heritage of the north-eastern region. Apart from group songs performed by



*Justice Ajai Lamba, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, hoisting the National Flag at Chief Justice's Bungalow*



*Justice Ajai Lamba, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, in presence of Hon'ble Judges of Gauhati High Court, receiving Guard of Honour*



*Smt. Kaushalya Lamba & Smt. Seema Lamba, mother & wife of Hon'ble Chief Justice respectively, distributing sweets and gifts among the children*







*Glimpses of cultural programme during the Republic Day celebration*



*Prabhat Sarma, folk exponent, flutist and music composer of Assam being felicitated by Justice Ajai Lamba, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court*

*Bihua Hiren Kumar Sarma of Kalatirtha being felicitated by Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, JAD, Gauhati High Court*

Gauhati High Court Bar Association, Gauhati High Court Advocates' Association and the members of the Registry, a programme titled *Geeta Vadya Nritya:Iti Sangeetam* presented by Regional Outreach Bureau, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, which included programmes like *Ganatantra Hamara Kirtiman* and a *Bhajan – Baishnava Jana* – in commemoration of 150<sup>th</sup> year of Gandhiji's birthday, captivated the audience. Another programme titled *Debogandhar* – a folk instrumental performance led by folk flutist exponent Sri Prabhat Sarma left the audience spell bound. A Bihu dance performed by *Kalatirtha* also added flavour to this year's Republic Day celebration.

Amidst celebration of festivity, gifts were also distributed among children to spread the message of peace and harmony.



## Friendly Cricket Match between Hon'ble Judges and Members of the Bar, Gauhati High Court on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2020



*Justice Ajai Lamba, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, inspecting the ground along with Justice Suman Shyam, Judge, Gauhati High Court*



*Justice Ajai Lamba, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court and Justice Manojit Bhuyan, Judge, Gauhati High Court, in the role of one of the umpires, during the toss*



*Justice A. M. Bujor Baruah, Judge, Gauhati High Court, playing a paddle sweep during the match*



*Justice Manish Choudhury, Judge, Gauhati High Court, playing a square cut during the match*

The Gauhati High Court Bar Association, on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2020, organized a friendly cricket match between Chief Justice XI and President XI at GTC Play-ground, Guwahati. Judges of Gauhati High Court led by Chief Justice Ajai Lamba took part in the friendly match. A number of members of the legal fraternity enjoyed the match and there was a lot of enthusiasm on the ground. The match was won by Gauhati High Court Bar Association President XI. The Chief Justice XI scored 73 runs with the loss of 5 wickets in 12 overs, while The President XI scored 74 runs with the loss of 5 wickets in 10.05 overs.



*A joint photograph of The Chief Justice XI & Gauhati High Court Bar Association President XI with the umpires*



## Inauguration of Family Court Building at Barpeta, Assam on 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2020

On 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2020, Justice Ajai Lamba, Chief Justice Gauhati High Court, inaugurated the Family Court Building, at Barpeta in presence of Justice Hitesh Kumar Sarma, Portfolio Judge, Barpeta District. Shri Vinod



*Justice Ajai Lamba, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, unveiling the plaque*



*Justice Ajai Lamba, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, inaugurating the Court building in presence of Justice Hitesh Kumar Sarma, Judge, Gauhati High Court*

Kumar Chandak, District & Sessions Judge, Barpeta and Smt. Arunima Deka, Principal Judge, Family Court, Barpeta, along with the members of district judiciary, Barpeta were also present on the occasion.

## 40 hours Mediation Training Programme, 2020 (2<sup>nd</sup> Batch) at Guwahati, on 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2020

A 40-hour Mediation Training Programme, 2020 (Second Batch) was held from 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> February at Don Bosco Institute, Kharghuli. The programme was organised by Assam State Legal Services Authority (ASLSA) under the aegis of Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC), Supreme Court of India. Mr. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court & Executive Chairman, ASLSA, attended the programme along with Member Secretary and Deputy Secretary, ASLSA and other dignitaries.



*Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court, speaking on the mediation training programme*

*Yes, we have the judiciary, the Constitution, we're fighting racism on a daily basis, but these are all state efforts and are not the efforts of the individual. The individual has to commit to change, the individual has to look at the past and take accountability of the past; for the wound to heal we have to dress it together.*

**– John Kani**



## Skill Development Training for Deputy Superintendent of Police in Charge of Special Juvenile Police Unit on 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> and on 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 at Guwahati

On 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> and on 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> February, Judicial Academy, Assam, organised a Skill Development Training for Deputy Superintendent of Police in Charge of Special Juvenile Police Unit. During the Inaugural Session, the welcome address was delivered by CFO, UNICEF. Mr. Surendra Kumar, IPS IG-CID, Assam Police and Mr. Ravi Kant, Shakti Vahini, Ms. Indrani Barua, APS SSP-CID, Assam Police and Mr. Miguel Queah, Director, Utsah took part in the programme as resource persons and spoke on various topics related to POCSO Act, Child Trafficking and Missing Children: Legal and Social Framework, Operational Challenges etc. Mr. Isidore Phillips, Director, Divya Disha, Secunderabad also spoke on the occasion on the topic -- 'Child Friendly Policing - what, why, and how SJPU can contribute to



*Mr. Ravi Kant of Shakti Vahini speaking on the occasion*



*Participants of the programme along with the Resource persons*

make police station friendly for children'. Besides the topics mentioned above, Dr. Satyajit Mohanty, IPS, Special DG Police, Intelligence Odisha Police (TBC) spoke on 'Police Investigation: Protocols, Procedures and Documentation'. Both the programmes concluded with distribution of certificates.

## Orientation Programme for newly enrolled Advocates of North East on 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 at Guwahati

Judicial Academy, Assam, in collaboration with Bar Council of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim organized an Orientation Programme for newly enrolled Advocates & distribution of Enrolment Certificates. Dr. Justice Aftab Hussain Saikia, Former Chief Justice, Sikkim High Court and Jammu & Kashmir High Court, Nilay Dutta, Senior Advocate Mr. Hafiz Rashid Ahmed Choudhury, Senior Advocate and Chairman, Bar Council, attended the programme.



*Dr. Justice Aftab Hussain Saikia, Former Chief Justice, Sikkim High Court and Jammu & Kashmir High Court, speaking on the occasion*

## Skill Development Programme for the Staff of Subordinate Courts of Assam on 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 at Judicial Academy, Assam

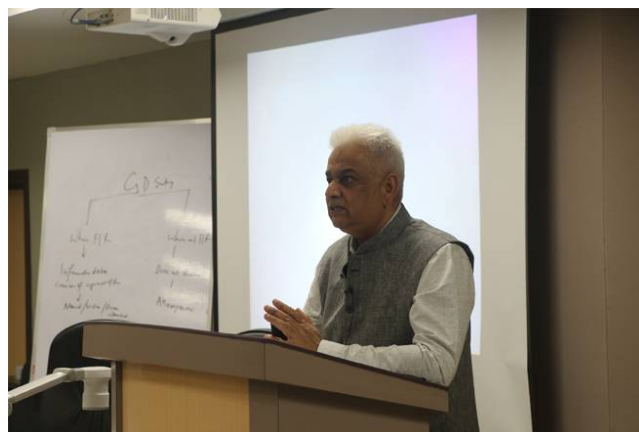
On 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> February, Judicial Academy, Assam organized a skill development programme for the staff of subordinate courts of Assam at Judicial Academy. Resource persons Shri Noor Rahman, Retd. Sheristadar, Office of the District & Sessions Judge, Sivasagar; Shri Nirpendra Nath Das, Sheristadar, Office of the MACT, Sonitpur, and Shri Gajen Barman, Retd. Sheristadar, Office of the District & Sessions Judge, Kamrup (M) spoke on a number of topics relating to maintaining of discipline in the various subordinate courts all over the State. Such programmes will surely encourage the staff of the subordinate courts to keep a track of everything in place.



*The participants along with the resource persons*

## Skill Development Training for Investigating Officers of Assam Police from 24<sup>th</sup> February to 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2020 at Judicial Academy, Assam

The Judicial Academy, Assam introduced an innovative skill development training programme for Investigating Officers of Assam Police. The programme was envisioned by Justice Ajai Lamba, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court with the objective of securing qualitative, systematic and effective investigation in the interest of a robust criminal justice delivery system in the North Eastern part of the country. With a view to ensuring this objective, Judicial Academy, Assam, under the stewardship of Justice Ajai Lamba, prepared a need-based training module incorporating practical and scientific aspects of investigation.



*Justice Ajai Lamba, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, addressing the Investigating Officers of Assam Police*





Justice Mir Alfaz Ali, Judge, Gauhati High Court, speaking on the Valedictory Session

of total 791 Investigating Officers) at the Academy on 24.02.2020.

The Judicial Academy, Assam organized the said skill development programme for the Investigating Officers of Assam Police in a phase-wise manner from 24<sup>th</sup> February to 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2020 – the Batch I from 24<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> February, Batch II from 2<sup>nd</sup> March to 7<sup>th</sup> March and Batch III from 16<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2020. Mr. Justice Mir Alfaz Ali, Judge, Gauhati High Court attended the Valedictory Session and spoke a few words regarding the training programme.



The investigating officers took part in the training programme.

## Preparation of Templates and Circulation of those among Judicial Officers

The idea of preparing "templates" of important judgments of the Supreme Court of India and circulating the same amongst all the Judicial Officers, is another innovative project of Justice Ajai Lamba, the Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, which is implemented by the Judicial Academy, Assam. Justice Ajai Lamba demonstrated how ratio of a judgment is to be highlighted in a gist and relevant paragraphs are extracted to form the template. Along with the template, the pdf file of the judgment is also sent to the Judicial Officers in their personal mails. It is done in order to encourage and develop the habit of regular reading among the Judicial Officers. It is learnt that "templates" are very well received and appreciated by the Judicial Officers.

Citation	: 2020 SCC Online SC 98
Cause Title	: Special Leave Petition (Criminal) Nos. 7281-7282/2017 Sushila Aggarwal and Others v. State (NCT of Delhi) and Another
Bench	: Arun Mishra, Indira Banerjee, Vineet Saran, M.R.Shah and S.Ravindra Bhat, JJ
DoJ	: January 29, 2020

Subject : (i) Whether the protection granted to a person under Section 438 CrPC should be limited to a fixed period so as to enable the person to surrender before the Trial Court and seek regular bail ?

**"No"** – The protection granted to a person under Section 438 CrPC should not invariably be limited to a fixed period (Para 139)

(ii) Whether the life of an anticipatory bail ends at the time and stage when the accused is summoned by the Court ?

**"No"** – The life or duration of an anticipatory bail order does not end normally at the time and stage when the accused is summoned by the Court or when the charges are framed but can continue till the end of the trial unless there are special or peculiar features necessitating the Court to limit the duration of anticipatory bail (Para 139)

(iii) Principles to be kept in mind by Courts while dealing with applications under Section 438 CrPC

**-Direction laid at Para 140**

**139.** In view of the concurring judgments of Justice M.R. Shah and of Justice S. Ravindra Bhat with Justice Arun Mishra, Justice Indira Banerjee and Justice Vineet Saran agreeing with them, the following answers to the reference are set out:

1

Sample of the judgement templates

## Release of short film "*Ghore Ghore e-Courts*" at Guwahati on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2020

On March 4, 2020, the Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court, Justice Ajai Lamba, released a short film of half an hour duration titled "*Ghore Ghore e-Courts*" along with an advertisement film of fifty eight seconds on e-Courts Services. In this connection, a programme was held at the Judges' Conference Hall of the new building of Gauhati High Court.

The short film portrays the journey of a person who hails from a remote area and had to frequently visit the Court in order to resolve his trouble and dilemma and to get his case-related information and later on how he was comforted by the e-Courts Services. Afterwards, his smart daughter involved herself in campaigning the e-Courts Services to the villagers. The purpose of the production made in Assamese with English sub-titles is to popularize and publicise the utility of the e-Court Services among the masses and legal practitioners.



*Justice Ajai Lamba, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, releasing the short film "Ghore Ghore e-Courts" in presence of other Judges of Gauhati High Court*

Both the advertisement and the short film have been directed by Mr. Dip Bhuyan, a renowned documentary film maker of the State assisted by Mr. Mantu Saikia and Smti Sayanika Dutta and edited by Mr. Simanta Sandilya Sarmah, Mr. Bikash Kumar Dutta and Dr. Abhijit Barthakur as co-script writer with Mr. Dip Bhuyan. Mr. Arun Hazarika, a popular Assamese actor, Mr. Mantu Saikia, Ms Junu Nath, Pratibha Chowdhury along with some others have acted in the production.

The project is expected to generate awareness regarding benefits of the e-

Courts Services among common masses. It is expected that this would make the court matters more transparent, easier, cost effective as well as time-saving. This initiative is also expected to enhance digital literacy in legal areas and provide access to legal matters of the people living in remote and rural areas. The short film, in particular, would provide an opportunity to obtain relevant information on cause list, court



*Justice Ajai Lamba, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, watching the short film "Ghore Ghore e-Courts" with other Judges of Gauhati High Court*





*Justice Ajai Lamba, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, along with renowned actor Arun Hazarika and other persons instrumental in the production*

judgments, court-case filing procedure and such others while the advertisement would act as a feeder to the same objective.

Justice Ajai Lamba, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court appreciated the initiative taken by all

those who were instrumental in the production of such an important and socially useful matter. Both the films were conceptualized by the ICT Committee of the Hon'ble Gauhati High Court and produced by the Gauhati High Court.

Along with the Hon'ble Chief Justice, Hon'ble Judges of the Gauhati High Court, Advocate General, Assam, representatives of Bar Associations and High Court officials were present on the occasion. The programme was hosted by Dr. Suresh Kumar Nath, former Registrar, Gauhati University, who was also associated with the production as Script Advisor.

### **Hon'ble Judges of Gauhati High Court Contribute to PM CARE, AAN and Chief Minister Relief Fund**

The Covid-19 Pandemic, and a 40-day lock down has badly hit the economy of the country. Considering the need of the hour, the Hon'ble Chief Justice and the Hon'ble Judges of Gauhati High Court decided to contribute their share of aid and on April 21, 2020, they contributed a total of 4.51 lakh to the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM CARES), Chief Minister Relief Fund and to Assam Aarogya

Nidhi. Hon'ble Chief Justice Ajai Lamba and 17 Hon'ble Judges of Gauhati High Court namely Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Justice Manas Ranjan Pathak, Justice Manojit Bhuyan, Justice Suman Shyam, Justice Rumi Kumari Phukan, Justice Achintya Malla Bujor Barua, Justice Kalyan Rai Surana, Justice Prasanta Kumar Deka, Justice Ajit Borthakur, Justice Hitesh Kumar Sarma, Justice Mir Alfaz Ali, Justice Sanjay Kumar Medhi, Justice Manish Choudhury, Justice Soumitra Saikia, Justice Partivjyoti Saikia and Justice H. N Sarma (Retired) contributed the amount jointly.



*Shri Raktim Duarah, Registrar General, Gauhati High Court handing over the cheque to Sarbananda Sonowal, Chief Minister, Assam*

## IN THE GAUHATI HIGH COURT

[THE HIGH COURT OF ASSAM, NAGALAND, MIZORAM AND ARUNACHAL PRADESH]

### THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUDGES OF THE GAUHATI HIGH COURT

Permanent Judges			
Sl.No .	Name of Chief Justice /Judges	Date of Elevation	Date of Retirement
1.	Chief Justice Ajai Lamba	22.03.2006	20.09.2020
2.	Justice N. Kotiswar Singh	17.10.2011	28.02.2025
3.	Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak	22.05.2013	27.08.2027
4.	Justice Manojit Bhuyan	07.01.2015	04.02.2021
5.	Justice Michael Zothankhuma	07.01.2015	22.10.2027
6.	Justice Suman Shyam	07.01.2015	11.06.2031
7.	Justice Rumi Kumari Phukan	07.01.2015	30.06.2022
8.	Justice Songkhupchung Serto	03.10.2016	28.02.2023
9.	Justice Achintya Malla Bujor Barua	15.11.2016	14.12.2023
10.	Justice Kalyan Rai Surana	15.11.2016	12.12.2027
11.	Justice Prasanta Kumar Deka	15.11.2016	04.11.2021
12.	Justice Nelson Sailo	15.11.2016	08.10.2030
13.	Justice Ajit Borthakur	15.11.2016	30.11.2023
14.	Justice Hitesh Kumar Sarma	19.05.2017	30.06.2022
15.	Justice Mir Alfaz Ali	19.05.2017	20.04.2021

Additional Judges				
Sl.No.	Name of Additional Judges	Date of Birth	Date of Elevation	Current Tenure Till
1.	Justice Sanjay Kumar Medhi	07.03.1971	19.11.2018	18.11.2020
2.	Justice Nani Tagia	16.05.1969	19.11.2018	18.11.2020
3.	Justice Manish Choudhury	01.03.1972	18.01.2019	17.01.2021
4.	Justice Soumitra Saikia	25-07-1969	26.11.2019	25.11.2021
5.	Justice Parthivjyoti Saikia	18.04.1965	26.11.2019	25.11.2021
6.	Justice S. Hukato Swu	01.01.1960	26.11.2019	25.11.2021

## IN THE GAUHATI HIGH COURT

[THE HIGH COURT OF ASSAM, NAGALAND, MIZORAM AND ARUNACHAL PRADESH]

### STATEMENT SHOWING INSTITUTION, DISPOSAL & PENDENCY OF CASES IN RESPECT OF GAUHATI HIGH COURT FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01.10.2019 to 31.03.2020

Name of Benches	Pendency as on 01.10.2019	Institution for the period from 01.10.2019 to 31.03.2020	Disposal for the period from 01.10.2019 to 31.03.2020	Total pendency as on 31.03.2020
Principal Seat	34032	7288	5056	36264
Kohima Bench	429	223	190	462
Aizawl Bench	400	180	112	468
Itanagar Bench	1199	469	500	1168
<b>Total</b>	<b>36060</b>	<b>8160</b>	<b>5858</b>	<b>38362</b>

*N.B. - Excluding Misc. Cases*

All Judicial Establishments under jurisdiction of Gauhati High Court are hereby requested to send all the event details along with photographs relating to Judiciary for publication in the future issues of ATMAN to the following email-ID- newsletteratman@gmail.com

– Editor, ATMAN