ATMAN

(A Biannual News Bulletin of the Gauhati High Court)

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

Events organized during April, 2020 to September, 2020

- Inauguration of Court of Munsiff at Bilasipara on 27th April
- ASLSA Provides Wheelchair to a Needy Girl on 20th June
- Online Refresher Training Programme on 4th July
- Online Refresher Training Programme on 8th July
- Inauguration of Grade-III Judicial Officers' Quarters at Barpeta on 16th July
- 74th Independence Day Celebration at Principal Seat of Gauhati High Court
- Inauguration of Legal Aid Clinic at Golaghat on 5th September
- Farewell of Chief Justice Ajai Lamba on 18th September
- e-Courts Service at Gauhati High Court
- Webinars organised by Judicial Academy, Assam from 18th August to 19th September

From the Chief Justice

As we gradually tread to acclimatize ourselves with the new norm of life after the Covid-19 pandemic, with most of the normal activities at a low ebb, ATMAN continues to highlight some of the activities of the Gauhati High Court during this critical period to the public at large. As we switch from manual to virtual working mode, the High Court has been constantly monitoring the functioning of the courts in the Principal Seat at Guwahati and the outlying Benches at Kohima, Aizawl and Itanagar including the subordinate courts under the jurisdiction of the High Court, from time to time.

This Covid-19 pandemic also witnessed active participation of Judicial Officers of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh through various webinars organized by the Judicial Academy, Assam, thereby paving a new pattern for imparting training and organizing conferences through online mode. The Assam State Legal Services Authority has also maintained its momentum in these pandemic times in providing yeoman services to the marginalized sections of the society at large.

I congratulate the efforts of the ATMAN in showcasing the activities of the High Court, with the positive hope that 2021 will usher in a new year with optimism to start the beginning of the new year and to make the conditions as perfect as one can hope, with the wonderful saying of Melody Beattie,"The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written."

Jai Hind.

– Justice N. Kotiswar Singh (Acting)

Editor speaks

On behalf of ATMAN and my brother Judges, it is our privilege to congratulate Justice N. Kotiswar Singh on His Lordship's adorning the office of the Chief Justice (Acting) of Gauhati High Court. His endearing trait, utmost belief in transparency, deep concern for strengthening the judiciary, ever readiness to lend an ear, makes him deserving of a long tenure in the exalted position.

There has to be light at the end of a tunnel. The dreaded virus is on the wane. We in the judiciary devised ways to overcome the palpable threat and kept the doors of the court open to those in need. Judges braved the pandemic, rose to the call of duty, endured adversity, cultivated new craft through technology, suffered casualties and, in the process, not one soul can be heard to say that access to justice was denied during these trying days.

Life marches on. Our hearts only need to believe that a gem cannot be polished without friction, nor man perfected without trials.

ATMAN wishes all a very Happy New Year. Jai Hind.

– Justice Manojit Bhuyan

Inauguration of Court of Munsiff at Bilasipara on 27th April

On 27th April, Mr. Thaneswar Kalita, District and Sessions Judge, Dhubri inaugurated the Court of Munsiff at Bilasipara. The inaugural function was attended by the Judicial Officers, members of the Bar and officers and staff of the District Judiciary, Dhubri. With the inauguration of the newly built court of Munsiff, a long pending demand of the locality has been fulfilled. Infrastructure being lynchpin of a vibrant justice delivery system, this addition will contribute to the existing set up of District Judiciary, Dhubri.

Mr. Thaneswar Kalita, District & Sessions Judge, inaugurating the Court of Munsiff

The Court of Munsiff at Bilasipara

ASLSA Provides Wheelchair to a Needy Girl on 20th June

On 20th June, Justice N Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court and Executive Chairman, ASLSA, accompanied by Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak and Justice Suman Shyam, Judges, Gauhati High Court, provided a wheelchair to a 19 year old needy girl, Sonika Boro by name, who had lost her leg in an accident. Her brother Biki started helping her by carrying her on his shoulder. They had lost their parents long back. But as Biki has lost his livelihood during the lockdown due to COVID-19 pandemic , he

Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, JAD, Gauhati High Court, handing over a wheelchair to the victim girl

Justice Suman Shyam, Judge, Gauhati High Court, showing an encouraging gesture to the victim girl

was forced to beg on the streets. When the Member Secretary ASLSA learnt of their plight and enquired as to how ASLSA might provide them with some assistance, they expressed that a wheelchair would be of immense help to them. Accordingly, on 20th June they were provided with a wheelchair at the Office of ASLSA.

Online Refresher Training Programme organized by Judicial Academy Assam on 4th July

On 4th July, an online training programme was held for training of Judicial Officers. The programme was organized by Judicial Academy, Assam.

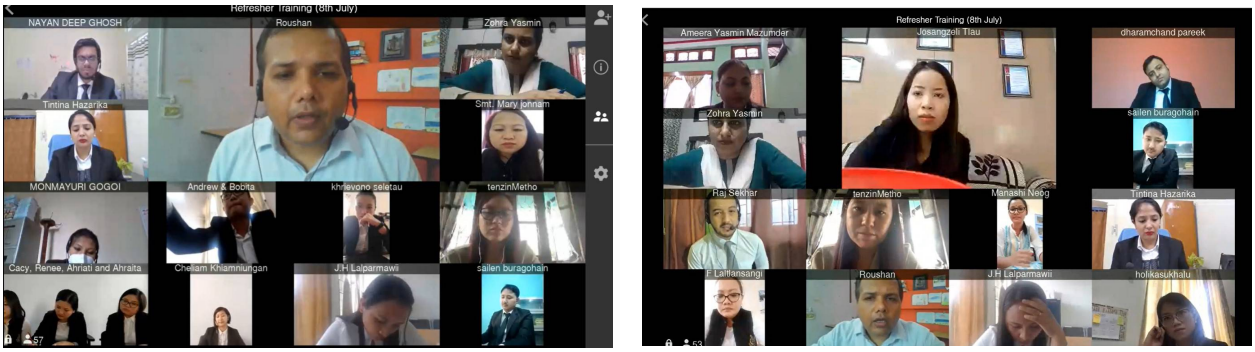
Glimpses of the Refresher Training Programme carried out by Judicial Academy, Assam

On approval of the Hon'ble Gauhati High Court, all the Grade III Judicial officers of Assam Judicial Service (who underwent training in Judicial Academy Assam w.e.f. 01-11-2018 to 31-10-2019) participated in the online Refresher Training Programme on 4th July, 2020. The duration of the programme was one and half hours and the topic of discussion was 'Civil Execution: Substantive and Procedure'.

Because we have sought to cover up past evil, though it still persists, we have been powerless to check the new evil of today. Evil unchecked grows, Evil tolerated poisons the whole system. And because we have tolerated our past and present evils, international affairs are poisoned and law and justice have disappeared from them.

—Jawaharlal Nehru

Online Refresher Training Programme on 8th July



Participants of Online Refresher Training Programme

On 8th July, an online training programme was held for training of Judicial Officers. This programme was organized by Judicial Academy, Assam.

On approval of the Hon'ble Gauhati High Court, a total of four batches of Judicial Officers were directed to join and participate in the online Refresher Training Programme comprising of 31Judicial Officers from Assam, 7 from Nagaland, 16 from Mizoram and 8 from Arunachal Pradesh. The topic of the programme was 'Techniques to dispose of old Pending cases'. As it was an online programme, all the participants were provided extension code or link to participate in the programme via Whatsapp.

Inauguration of Grade-III Judicial Officers' Quarters at Barpeta on 16th July

Mr. V. K. Chandak, District & Sessions Judge, Barpeta, inaugurating the Grade-III Judicial Officers' quarters

On 16th July, Mr. Vinod Kumar Chandak, District and Sessions Judge, Barpeta, inaugurated the quarters for the Grade III Judicial Officers in presence of Judicial Officers of District Judiciary, Barpeta. The programme was held under strict Covid-19 protocol. The newly built quarters will provide accomodation to the Judicial Officers of the District Judiciary, Barpeta thereby solving the long pending problem faced by them due to the shortfall of quarters.

74th Independence Day Celebration at Principal Seat of Gauhati High Court

The 74th Independence Day celebration was held at the Old Block premises of the Principal Seat of the Gauhati High Court under strict Covid -19 protocols. Apart from Hon'ble Judges and their spouses, officials of the Registry and few others attended the programme. Chief Justice Ajai Lamba unfurled the National Flag in presence of other judges. It was followed by National Anthem and Guard of Honour.

Commendation certificates were distributed among Corona Warriors which included the Medical team, two groups of Safai Karmis who have rendered their relentless and commendable services in the Old as well as New Block of Gauhati High Court and the Electricians. This was followed by light refreshment.

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, hoisting the National Flag at the Old Block Premises of the Principal Seat of Gauhati High Court

Justice Ajai Lamba, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, handing over Commendation Certificates to the Covid Warriors

Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, JAD, Gauhati High Court, distributing Commendation Certificates to the Safai Karmis and Electricians for their relentless services during the Covid pandemic

Inauguration of Legal Aid Clinic at Golaghat on 5th September

Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge (Administration), Gauhati High Court, inaugurating the Legal Aid Clinic at Golaghat

On 5th September, Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court and Executive Chairman, Assam Legal Services Authority, inaugurated the Legal Aid Clinic under the aegis of the District Legal Services Authority, Golaghat, in presence of Shri Nayan Shankar Baruah, Member Secretary, Assam State Legal Services Authority and Shri Sanjeev Kumar Sharma, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Golaghat. This clinic will cater to the legal needs of the deprived, poor and downtrodden people of Bokakhat Sub Division. Anyone can avail of the service of the clinic free of cost.

Farewell of Chief Justice Ajai Lamba on 18th September

On 18th September, the Gauhati High Court fraternity bid farewell to Justice Ajai Lamba, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court on his superannuation. The farewell ceremony was held at the Judges' Lounge and was attended by the Judges of Gauhati High Court and members of the Registry. This time due to Covid-19 pandemic a Full Court farewell reference could not be held.

Justice Manojit Bhuyan, Judge, Gauhati High Court, presenting a gift to Justice Ajai Lamba, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court

Judges, Advocates, Officers and staff of the judicial institutions. He stressed on maintaining constant vigil by making physical inspection and by gathering inputs from subordinate courts through serial video conferencing.

Justice Rumi Kumari Phukan presenting a gift to Smt. Seema Lamba

Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, JAD, Gauhati High Court, presenting a 'xarai' to Justice Ajai Lamba, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court

Justice Ajai Lamba will be remembered for his quick action for minimising footfalls in the Gauhati High Court premises as well as in the district courts premises during the rise of the deadly virus. He was always proactive and took every possible measure for ensuring safety and protection of the

Justice Suman Shyam, Judge, Gauhati High Court, presenting a photo collage to Justice Ajai Lamba, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, during his farewell

In his tenure and at the time of the pandemic, introduction of the Virtual Court for hearing urgent matters is the most remarkable attempt made by the judiciary, which proved that judiciary can protect the rights of the citizens even during such a crucial time. Due to introduction of the virtual courts

Security personnel offering Guard of Honour to Justice Ajai Lamba, the Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court.

it was possible to pass orders which are made available to the parties instantly, while strictly maintaining social/physical distance amongst parties and the Court. During this time, the Gauhati High Court also started e-sewa kendras as a one-stop centre for all court related matters for strengthening 'access to justice' to all.

e-Courts Service at Gauhati High Court

Due to the exigency caused by COVID-19 pandemic, Gauhati High Court took various steps for conducting court proceedings through video conferencing. Virtual courts were created so that learned Advocates could present their cases through video conferencing before the Hon'ble Judges sitting at remote locations. For smooth functioning of the virtual courts and to minimize the load on the available internet bandwidth, Jitsi open source application was installed in the High Court server and virtual courts were being run within the High Court complex in LAN with the help of Jitsi video conferencing solution. Participation in the court proceeding by the learned Advocate from their residences/chambers was arranged with the help of Vidyo desktop/Vidyo mobile application.

Live hearing in Virtual Court-1

Intra-court hearing are being held without internet through JITSI Open Source VC application installed in Server at the High Court premises

Gauhati High Court adopted the Model Rules on Video Conferencing given by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and notified the Gauhati High Court Rules for Video Conferencing for Courts on 18.05.2020.

District Courts were also using Jitsi open source application in their respective court premises. But restrictive court functioning also resumed with staggered roster by following the norms of social distancing in the district Courts.

The Benches of High Court at Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh, along with District Courts of Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh, were also requested and guided to use video conferencing for conducting cases.

Even though connectivity remains a challenge for the North-Eastern States in availing online facilities over Internet, Gauhati High Court has held hearings for number of cases during the Covid Pandemic.

Only 12 chairs are placed inside the court rooms maintaining strict norms of social distancing

Limited chairs for the Learned Advocates are placed in the corridors. Excess chairs removed.

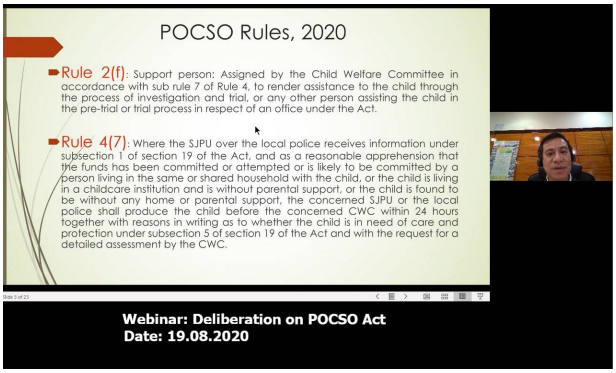
Webinars organised by Judicial Academy, Assam from 18th August to 19th September

A series of webinars was organized from 18th August to 19th September on various topics. The target groups of the webinars are the various sections of the Judicial Officers of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh.

On 18th August, Dr. Harish Shetty spoke on Stress Management. This webinar was organized for all Judicial Officers of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh.

On 19th August, Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh spoke on the topic – 'Deliberation on POCSO Act'. The target group of this webinar was the entire Grade-I & Grade-II Judicial Officers of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh.

On 21st August, Sri S. P. Moitra, Faculty, Judicial Academy, Assam, spoke on 'Deliberation on Injunction [Sec 36 to 42, Specific Relief Act and 94, 151, O 39 CPC]'. The target group of the webinar was all Grade-II & Grade-III Judicial Officers of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh.



Slides displayed during the deliberation on Injunction

Justice K. R. Surana, Judge, Gauhati High Court, addressing the Judicial Officers

On 25th August, Hon'ble Mr. Justice B. K. Sharma, Former Judge, Gauhati High Court, spoke on the topic – 'Disciplinary Proceedings– Role and Duties of Presenting Officer, Enquiry Officer and Disciplinary Authority.' The webinar was organized for all Judicial Officers of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh.

On 26th August, Sri Roushan Lal, Faculty, Judicial Academy, Assam, spoke on the topic – 'On Complaint Cases– Types, Cognizance, Enquiry & Trial.' The target group for the webinar was all Grade-III Judicial Officers of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh.

On 27th August, Dr. Jagadish Narayan Reddy spoke on 'Interpretation of injuries in justice delivery system'. The webinar was organized for all Judicial Officers of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh.

On 2nd September, Dr. Manash Baruah, Faculty, Judicial Academy, Assam, spoke on First Hearing [Sec 89 CPC, O 10 R 1(A) CPC]. The webinar was organized for all Grade-III Judicial Officers of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh.

Justice B. K. Sharma, Former Judge, speaking on Disciplinary Proceedings

On 3rd September, Sri Darak Ullah, District & Sessions Judge, Cachar, spoke on 'Administration and Management of Courts'. The target group of the webinar was all Grade-II & Grade-III Judicial Officers of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh.

On 4th September, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kalyan Rai Surana, spoke on 'Judgment Writing'. The target group for the webinar was all the Grade-I Judicial Officers of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. In the webinar organized for all Grade-II & III Judicial Officers of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and

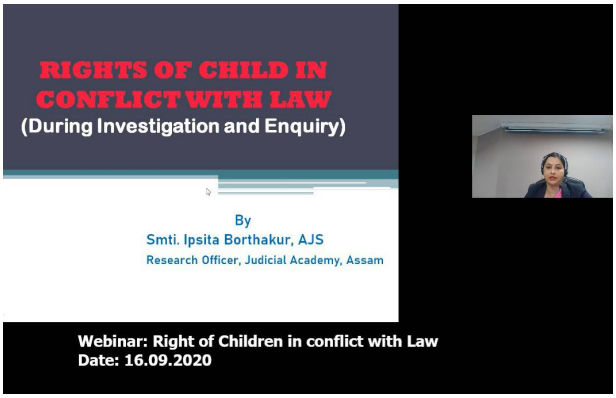
Justice Nelson Sailo, Judge, Gauhati High Court, speaking during the webinar

Justice Mir Alfaz Ali, Judge, Gauhati High Court, addressing the Grade-I Judicial Officers of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh

Arunachal Pradesh on 10th September, Sri S. K. Poddar, District & Sessions Judge, Morigaon, spoke on the topic, 'Role of Magistrates under NDPS Act'.

On 11th September, addressing all Grade-I Judicial Officers of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mir Alfaz Ali, spoke on 'Sampling and certification under NDPS Act: with special context to the Judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court in Mohanlal'. On 14th September, Harold D'Costa, CEO & Principal Consultant, Intelligent Quotient Security System, addressing the Judicial Officers of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh, spoke on 'Electronic Evidence- Admissibility & Appreciation'. On 16th September, Ms. Ipsita Borthakur, Faculty, Judicial Academy Assam, addressing the Grade-II & Grade-III (upto Additional Chief Judicial Magistrates) Judicial Officers of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh, spoke on 'Right of Children in conflict with Law (During Investigation and Trial)'. On 18th September, Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. R. Surana again spoke on Judgment Writing for all Grade-II & Grade-III Judicial Officers of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh.

On 19th September, Sri Bharat Sangal, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India, addressing all Grade-I Judicial Officers of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh, spoke on 'Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 2015 (as amended), with reference to functioning of District Judges'.



Ipsita Borthakur speaking on 'Rights of Child in Conflict with Law'.

Shri Bharat Sangal, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India, speaking on Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 2015

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 (Acting) N. Kotiswar Singh	17.10.2011	28.02.2025
2.	Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak	22.05.2013	27.08.2027
3.	Justice Manojit Bhuyan	07.01.2015	04.02.2021
4.	Justice Michael Zothankhuma	07.01.2015	22.10.2027
5.	Justice Suman Shyam	07.01.2015	11.06.2031
6.	Justice Rumi Kumari Phukan	07.01.2015	30.06.2022
7.	Justice Songkhupchung Serto	03.10.2016	28.02.2023
8.	Justice Achintya Malla Bujor Barua	15.11.2016	14.12.2023
9.	Justice Kalyan Rai Surana	15.11.2016	12.12.2027
10.	Justice Prasanta Kumar Deka	15.11.2016	04.11.2021
11.	Justice Nelson Sailo	15.11.2016	08.10.2030
12.	Justice Ajit Borthakur	15.11.2016	30.11.2023
13.	Justice Hitesh Kumar Sarma	19.05.2017	30.06.2022
14.	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 01.04.2020 to 30.09.2020

Name of Benches	Pendency as on 01.04.2020	Institution for the period from 01.04.2020 to 30.09.2020	Disposal for the period from 01.04.2020 to 30.09.2020	Total pendency as on 30.09.2020
Principal Seat	36264	2851	1368	37747
Kohima Bench	462	178	84	556
Aizawl Bench	468	102	91	479
Itanagar Bench	1168	220	111	1277
Total	**38362**	**3351**	**1654**	**40059**

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