

ATMAN

(A Biannual News Bulletin of the Gauhati High Court)

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Guwahati

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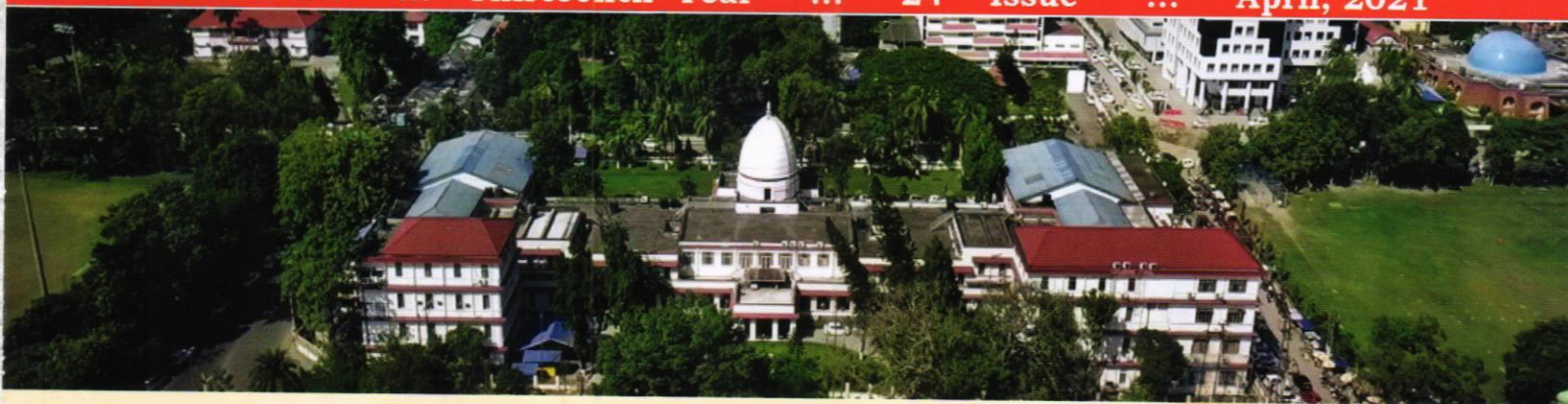
Thirteenth Year

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24th Issue

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April, 2021



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

From the Chief Justice

At this time when I write this letter to you, we are in these strange and difficult times of COVID-19, which is presently in its second wave. We have all been through this journey of fear, pain and sorrow. All of us have faced some difficulties, many even tragedies, where lives of dear ones have been lost. Some amongst us are still struggling to get out of the post COVID trauma. I know how hard it has been for all of us.



I pay my heartfelt condolences to those members of our large fraternity of the Bar and the Bench and the Registry who have lost a dear one during this pandemic. May God give them strength to bear the loss. In this moment of great crisis, our patience, endurance and our courage is being tested. I have absolutely no doubt in my mind that when all this will be over, each one of us will be able to say with satisfaction that he or she did well under the circumstances.

I say this because my Brothers and Sister Judges in the Bench, the entire Registry of the High Court and all the employees, members of the Bar and our entire legal and judicial fraternity have shown great courage, resilience and above all great adaptability in meeting this difficult challenge. The Bar and the Bench and our entire support staffs took very little time in adapting to the virtual mode in the Court works. It is creditable since many were unfamiliar with this system.

The Bench, the Bar and the Registry later came together to undertake the task of vaccinating all the Judges, members of the Registry and the Advocates of the Bar. Justice Sanjay Kumar Medhi and Justice Soumitra Saikia and their dedicated team under the charge of Shri Romen Baruah, Registrar (Administration) have done a wonderful job, and by now we have given more than 4000 vaccines in High Court Campus, to our staff and Lawyers as well as their family members who are eligible for the vaccination. Similarly Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak and Justice Kalyan Rai Surana and their team under the charge of Shri Gautam Baruah, Registrar (Vigilance) have been monitoring all the districts in the State and have ensured that as far as possible, Judges, Member of the Registry and our lawyers are vaccinated.

The Hon'ble Judges in the Bench of Aizawl, Kohima and Itanagar, I am sure are also giving a lead in this area.

A word about 'Atman' now. When I went through the present and the past few issues of 'Atman', I find that it is working primarily like a 'news letter', which is very useful of course, but in my view this itself will not justify the name of the journal, which is 'Atman'. Atman is now being edited by Justice Manish Choudhury, with whom I had discussed the matter and we are both of the opinion that from now on we must also reserve a space in 'Atman' for scholarly articles on law. Even when scholarly articles are not possible, we must explore possibilities of publishing essays on law & justice, reminiscences or short biographies of famous Judges or Lawyers, and such subjects.

I hope that when the Courts open after the summer vacations on July 12, 2021, things should be better. Like all of us, I am looking forward to work from our Court rooms, in full strength as usual.

- Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia

Editor speaks

We are privileged to have Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia as the Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court on and from 10th January, 2021 and on behalf of ATMAN and my brother Judges, we congratulate His Lordship for his adorning the office. His soft-spoken nature, vast knowledge and experience in all branches of law, deep concern for the needy and downtrodden, steely resolve to provide access to justice to all and insistence for transparency have augured well for the times to come and we all are looking forward to reach new vistas under His Lordship's stewardship in these trying times of Covid-19 pandemic.



We were under the belief that the turbulent times we had faced during the year 2020 for Covid-19 pandemic, was over but we are again staring at a second wave of the pandemic with a rapid surge in number of cases all over the country. We hope and trust that just like the first wave we would be able to overcome this trying phase also with the assistance and cooperation of all the stakeholders by observing all the requisite norms.

I have been given the responsibility of editing this esteemed news bulletin of this prestigious High Court after the earlier editor, Justice Manojit Bhuyan demitted his office as Judge of this High Court on 4th February, 2021. Having seen the legacy left by all the earlier illustrious editors, Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Justice Arup Kumar Goswami and Justice Bhuyan I have realized that though it will be a herculean task for me there is no other option for me but to leave no stone unturned to maintain its high standard.

- Justice Manish Choudhury

Events organized during October, 2020 to March, 2021

- ⇒ Inauguration of Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre at Udalguri on 16th October
- ⇒ SOP Introduced in Gauhati High Court on 19th October
- ⇒ Swearing-in ceremony of Justice Sanjay Kumar Medhi, Justice Nani Tagia and Justice Manish Choudhury as Permanent Judges on 10th November
- ⇒ Inauguration of Virtual Court (Traffic) and e-challan on 12th November
- ⇒ Additional Court Building inaugurated at Dima Hasao on 28th November
- ⇒ 3rd Zonal Consultation Programme (Meet) of DLSA Secretaries and PLVs
- ⇒ Valedictory Programme for 24 newly appointed Judicial Officers in Grade-III of Assam Judicial Service on 8th December
- ⇒ Programmes organized by ASLSA
- ⇒ Additional Court Building inaugurated at Dibrugarh on 12th December
- ⇒ Orientation Programme on Protection of Wildlife at Guwahati on 19th December
- ⇒ Swearing in Ceremony of Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia on 10th January
- ⇒ 72nd Republic Day Celebration at the Principal Seat of Gauhati High Court
- ⇒ Farewell of Justice Manojit Bhuyan on 4th February
- ⇒ Inauguration of Judicial Officers' Residential Complex at Rangia on 8th February
- ⇒ Skill Development Programme for the Staff of Subordinate Courts of Assam on 12th, 13th & 26th February & on 13th & 14th March
- ⇒ Inauguration of District Judiciary of Charaideo on 27th February
- ⇒ Inauguration of Court of District and Sessions Judge and Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate at Hojai on 6th March
- ⇒ Webinar on Media Reporting on Children held on 10th March
- ⇒ Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony at Hailakandi on 13th March
- ⇒ Inauguration of Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre & Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of New Additional Court Building at Goalpara on 27th March

Inauguration of Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre at Udalguri on 16th October, 2020

On 16th October, 2020, Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice (Acting) inaugurated a Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre (VWDC) at Udalguri in the district of Kokrajhar.

The Centre has been specially designed for the victims of sexual offences and child witnesses of various heinous crimes as they need to be protected from possible undue influence or pressure from the accused. This Centre has a court hall attached to the waiting room with pantry, toys and deposition rooms having facility for audio-video transmission between the room and the court hall.

The Centre has an exclusive entry to the courtroom for the child witness or victim to save him or her from any pressure or influence. Also, it has been ensured that the child visiting the court does not get the experience of having visited a conventional court as the room has an attached pantry and washroom and is also equipped with a collection of toys and television set with a set-top box and separate child castle built therein.



Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak, lighting the ceremonial lamp.



Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice (Acting), Gauhati High Court, inaugurating the Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre in presence of Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak and Justice Ajit Borthakur, Judges, Gauhati High Court.

The Centre has been designed in a way wherein there will be no direct physical communication with the judge, advocate or the accused with child witness and victim. The child witness and the victim will have a support person sitting beside her or him to assist the court in communicating with the child. The inaugural function was attended by Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak, Judge (Administration), Gauhati High Court and Justice Ajit Borthakur, Judge, Gauhati High Court & Portfolio Judge, Udalguri district. The function was also attended by Registry Officials of Gauhati High Court and District Judiciary, Udalguri.

SOP Introduced in Gauhati High Court on 19th October, 2020



The above pictures shows the Court No. 4 with all amenities following the SOPs recommended by the Health and Family Welfare Department, Government of Assam

As the deadly virus is still hovering over the human lives with all its deadly probabilities of attacking people and spreading infections from person to person, it is the need of the hour to follow some strict protocols to keep all the people safe. So, in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee for taking decisions for opening the Courts, or imposing restrictions on court functioning of the Gauhati High Court, Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) recommending necessary health guidelines of physical courts had been prepared in consultation with the Health and Family Welfare Department, Government of Assam. Initially, the Court No. 4 of the Principal Seat of the Gauhati High Court and, thereafter, several other court rooms were made ready with all necessary amenities for maintaining physical distance.

Swearing-in ceremony of Justice Sanjay Kumar Medhi, Justice Nani Tagia and Justice Manish Choudhury as Permanent Judges on 10th November, 2020



Justice Sanjay Kumar Medhi being administered oath by Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice (Acting).



Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice (Acting), administering oath to Justice Nani Tagia.

On 10th November, 2020, Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice (Acting), Gauhati High Court administered oath of Office to Justice Sanjay Kumar Medhi, Justice Nani Tagia and Justice Manish Choudhury, Additional Judges, Gauhati High Court as Permanent Judges. The swearing-in ceremony, held in Court No. 1 of Gauhati High Court (New Block), was attended by the Judges, former Judges of Gauhati High Court, learned Members of the Bar and Officers and Staff of Gauhati High Court.



Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice (Acting), administering oath to Justice Manish Choudhury.

Inauguration of Virtual Court (Traffic) and e-challan on 12th November, 2020

On 12th November, 2020, Chief Minister of Assam Sri Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the Virtual Court (Traffic) and e-challan Project in Assam in the august presence (through virtual mode) of Dr. Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud, Judge, Supreme Court of India, and Chairperson, e-Committee, Supreme Court of India, Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Judge, Supreme Court of India, Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice (Acting), Gauhati High Court, Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak, Judge-in-charge, Administrative Department, Gauhati High Court, Justice Suman Shyam, Judge, Gauhati High Court & Chairman, ICT Committee.



Dr. Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud, Judge, Supreme Court of India, attending the programme virtually



*(From top left)
Justice Hrishikesh
Roy, Judge,
Supreme Court of
India,
Justice N. Kotiswar
Singh, Chief
Justice (Acting),
Gauhati High Court,
Chief Minister
Sarbananda
Sonowal and
Justice Suman
Shyam, Judge,
Gauhati High Court
& Chairman, ICT
Committee, speak-
ing on the occasion.*



The inaugural programme was held at Assam Administrative Staff College, Khanapara.

The inaugural programme was started with a Saraswati Vandana. The dignitaries were felicitated on the dais. Sri Jishnu Barua, Chief Secretary, Assam delivered the welcome address. Justice Suman Shyam, Judge, Gauhati High Court & Chairman, ICT Committee delivered the introductory address. Sri Bhaskarjyoti Mahanta, Director General of Police, Assam presented a brief on the project with a power-point presentation.

Justice Hrishikesh Roy and Justice N. Kotiswar Singh also spoke on the occasion. Dr. Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud delivered the keynote address on the occasion through virtual mode. Sri Harmeet Singh, Additional DGP (Administration) & Nodal Officer, ICJS Project offered the vote of thanks.

The programme was organized by the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Committee of the Gauhati High Court in association with the Home Department, Government of Assam & Assam Police, in collaboration with NIC Assam, SBI and under the aegis of the e-Committee, Supreme Court of India. The primary objective of this project is to promote greater accountability and transparency in Traffic Police Department.

Additional Court Building inaugurated in Dima Hasao District on 28th November, 2020

On 28th November, 2020, Chief Justice (Acting) of Gauhati High Court, Justice N. Kotiswar Singh inaugurated an Additional Court building in Dima Hasao District Judiciary in presence of Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak, Judge-in-charge, Administration, Gauhati High Court and Justice Manish Choudhury, Portfolio Judge, Dima Hasao and other dignitaries of the district. The additional circuit house of the Dima Hasao District Administration has been renovated as the new court building. The building comprises of four court halls out of which three court rooms will be made operational immediately. The additional court



Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak and Justice Manish Choudhury lighting the ceremonial lamp.

The inaugural function was also attended by Sri Abhijit Bhattacharyya, District & Sessions Judge, Sri Paul Barua, Deputy Commissioner, Smti. Ranu Langthasa, Chairperson of NCHAC and Sri Ajay Chakraborty, Public Prosecutor & President, Dima Hasao Bar Association and officials from various State Government departments and other dignitaries.

complex has provision for office room, server room-cum-proposed library, bar room and a legal aid clinic.

This Additional Court building at Haflong is a milestone for the district and will be helpful in fast disposal of the pending cases. It will help improve access to independent and expeditious justice delivery to the people in the district.



Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak and Justice Manish Choudhury after unveiling the plaque.

3rd Zonal Consultation Programme (Meet) of DLSA Secretaries and PLVs of Zone- III (District: Baksa, Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Chirang, Dhubri, Goalpara, Kokrajhar and South Salmara) on 30th November, 2020

On 30th November, 2020, the 3rd Zonal Consultation Programme (Meet) of DLSA Secretaries and PLVs of Zone-III (District : Baksa, Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Chirang, Dhubri, Goalpara, Kokrajhar and South Salmara) was organised by the District Legal Services Authority, Bongaigaon under the aegis of the Assam State Legal Services Authority, Guwahati at the Conference Hall, 2nd Floor, District Judicial Court Building, Bongaigaon.

The welcome address was delivered by Sri Satya Nath Sarma, District & Sessions Judge-cum-Chairman, DLSA, Bongaigaon. The inaugural address was delivered by Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice (Acting), Gauhati High Court-cum-Executive Chairman, ASLSA via video conferencing. The consultation programme was held in two sessions. The resource person for Session-I was Sri N. S. Baruah,



Justice N. Kotiswar Singh attending the programme virtually while Sri S. N. Sarma, District & Sessions Judge, Bongaigaon, speaking on the occasion

Member Secretary, ASLSA and for Session-II, it was Sri S. P. Moitra, Secretary, Gauhati High Court Legal Services Committee. A book titled "Hand Book on Legal Services Authorities Act with Regulations and Schemes of NALSA and others" was also launched by the dignitaries during the said programme. The concluding remarks were made by Smti. Tripti Ari, Deputy Secretary, ASLSA and the vote of thanks was proposed by Sri C. P. Talukdar, Secretary, DLSA, Bongaigaon.



Resource persons & participants

Valedictory Programme for 24 newly appointed Judicial Officers in Grade-III of Assam Judicial Service on 8th December, 2020

On 8th December, 2020, Valedictory Programme was held for 24 newly appointed Judicial Officers in Grade-III of Assam Judicial Service on the completion of One Year Induction Training conducted by Judicial Academy, Assam & NEJOTI. The said programme was held at the Conference Hall, Judicial Academy, Assam. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice (Acting)



Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice (Acting), Gauhati High Court, Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak and Justice Manojit Bhuyan, Judges, Gauhati High Court attending the programme.



Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice (Acting), Gauhati High Court delivering his speech with Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak, Judge, Gauhati High Court on the dais.

delivered the keynote address and also administered oath to the Judicial Officers. Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak and Justice Manojit Bhuyan, Judges, Gauhati High Court also spoke on the occasion. In the course of the programme certificates and books were distributed to the Judicial Officers, who completed the training.

Programmes organized by ASLSA

Inauguration of Front Office and Legal Aid Clinic at DLSA, Dibrugarh on 12th December, 2020

On 12th December, 2020, Hon'ble Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court-cum-Executive Chairman, Assam State Legal Services Authority (ASLSA) inaugurated a Front Office-cum-Legal Aid Clinic at the office of the District Legal Services Authority, Dibrugarh through virtual means. Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak and Justice Manojit Bhuyan, Judges, Gauhati High Court also graced the occasion with their presence in person.



Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak and Justice Manojit Bhuyan, Judges, Gauhati High Court attending the programme

Legal Awareness Programme at Namphake Village, Naharkatia on 13th December, 2020



Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak and Justice Manojit Bhuyan, Judges, Gauhati High Court attending the Legal Awareness Programme at Namphake Village, Naharkatia

On 13th December, 2020, DLSA, Dibrugarh organised a Legal Awareness Programme at Namphake Village under the aegis of Assam State Legal Services Authority (ASLSA). Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak and Justice Manojit Bhuyan, Judges, Gauhati High Court were kind enough to encourage the villagers with their esteemed presence. The Member Secretary, the Deputy Secretary and the Under Secretary of ASLSA and the officers of Dibrugarh Judiciary also attended the Programme.

Awareness Programme *Xonjug* (Connect) by ASLSA at Guwahati on 22nd December, 2020

The Assam State Legal Services Authority (ASLSA) organised a programme, namely, *Xonjug* (Connect) to reach out to the people at grass-root level in five different districts of Assam by creating awareness through display on the Mobile

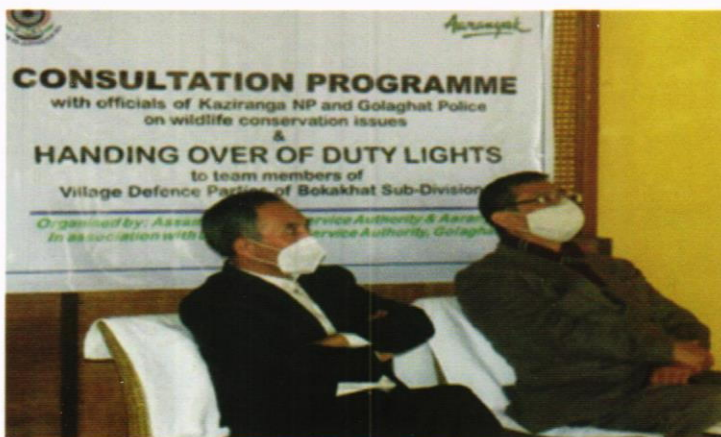
Utility Van. The said programme was flagged off by Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court-cum-Executive Chairman, Assam State Legal Services Authority (ASLSA), accompanied by Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak and Justice Suman Shyam, Judges, Gauhati High Court.



Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court flagging off the Awareness Programme Xonjug, in presence of Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak and Justice Suman Shyam, Judges, Gauhati High Court

Consultation Programme and Handing Over of Duty Lights at Kaziranga on 17th January, 2021

On 17th January, 2021, the Assam State Legal Services Authority (ASLSA), in collaboration with *Aaranyak*, organised a Consultation Programme at Kaziranga with the officials of Kaziranga National Park and Golaghat Police on wildlife issues. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court-cum-Executive Chairman, ASLSA and



Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court and Justice Tashi Rabstan, Judge, High Court of Jammu and Kashmir during the programme

Justice Tashi Rabstan, Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir also graced the occasion. The Member Secretary, ASLSA and the Deputy Secretary, ASLSA also attended the Programme. The team members of Village Defence Parties of Bokakhat Sub-division were handed over duty lights during the said Programme.

Sensitization Programme on Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 at Silchar on 7th February, 2021

On 7th February, 2021, DLSA, Cachar organised a Sensitization Programme on Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 for the stakeholders. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court-cum-Executive Chairman, Assam State Legal Services Authority (ASLSA) and Justice Suman Shyam, Judge, Gauhati High Court attended the Programme. The Member Secretary and the Deputy Secretary of the ASLSA were also present on the occasion.



Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Justice Suman Shyam, Judges, Gauhati High Court, during the Sensitization Programme

Additional Court Building inaugurated at Dibrugarh on 12th December, 2020



Justice Manojit Bhuyan inaugurating the court building in presence of Justice M. R. Pathak



Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak lighting the ceremonial lamp in presence of Justice Manojit Bhuyan

Infrastructure is the lynchpin of a vibrant judiciary. The Gauhati High Court is committed to building robust judicial infrastructure in the Courts under its jurisdiction. Towards fulfilment of the said commitment, the High Court is putting relentless effort to ameliorate infrastructural facilities in the Courts.

As a part of this endeavour, an Additional Court Building was built at Dibrugarh and the same was inaugurated on 12th December, 2020. The inaugural ceremony was held in the august presence of Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak, Judge (Administration), Gauhati High Court and Justice Manojit Bhuyan, Judge, Gauhati High Court & Portfolio Judge for the district of Dibrugarh, Binod Kumar Chetri, District & Sessions Judge, Dibrugarh, Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent of Police, members of the Bar and other dignitaries. Due to some unavoidable circumstances, Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice (Acting), Gauhati High Court could not attend the programme but his Lordship virtually inaugurated the building and remained connected throughout the meeting.



Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak, JAD, Gauhati High Court, speaking on the occasion.



Justice Manojit Bhuyan addressing the gathering.

Later in the same evening, a Front Office room of the District Legal Services Authority was also inaugurated virtually before the conclusion of the meeting.

The Court building has provisions for Court rooms, Chambers for Judges, Conference Hall, Video Conferencing Hall, Record room, Office rooms for Court and District Legal Services Authority, Library, CC TV surveillance system, two lifts and parking facilities.

Orientation Programme on Protection of Wildlife at Guwahati on 19th December, 2020

Judicial Academy, Assam, in collaboration with WWF-India, organized an Orientation Programme on Protection of Wildlife at Assam Administrative Staff College, Khanapara, Guwahati on 19th December, 2020. The day-long programme was divided into an introductory session and six technical sessions, followed by a valedictory session held in the august presence of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India, Sharad Arvind Bobde.



Hon'ble Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde, Chief Justice of India, addressing the gathering.

The inaugural address was delivered by Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice (Acting), Gauhati High Court which was followed by the opening remarks by Dr. A. M. Singh, IFS, PCCF & HoFF, Assam. The first technical session held on the topic – Introduction to Biodiversity & Wildlife of Assam was chaired by Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak, JAD & Judge-in-charge, Training. Sri M.K. Yadava, IFS, APCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam participated in the session as the resource person.



Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Judge, Supreme Court of India speaking on the occasion.

The second technical session was held on the topic – Illegal Wildlife Trade : Concerns and Efforts to Mitigate and was chaired by Justice Manish Choudhury, Judge, Gauhati High Court. Dr. Saket Badola, IFS, virtually participated in the session as the resource person. The third technical session held on the topic – Rhino Horn DNA Indexing System (RhoDIS), a wildlife forensic tool for addressing rhino-horn trade was chaired by Justice Rumi Kumari Phukan, Judge, Gauhati High Court and Mr. Amit Sharma (WWF India) participated in the session as the



Justice Arup Kumar Goswami, Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim, speaking on the occasion.

resource person. The fourth technical session was held on the topic – Wildlife Laws: Overview and Interpretation explained through forest and wildlife cases and was chaired by Justice Achintya Malla Bujor Barua, Judge, Gauhati High Court. Sri Saurabh Sharma (LIFE) participated virtually in the session as the resource person. The fifth technical session held on the topic– Overview on conservation challenges and impact in the State of Assam, with special reference to challenges during the present pandemic was chaired by Justice Suman Shyam, Judge, Gauhati



Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice (Acting), Gauhati High Court delivering his speech.



Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak, JAD, Gauhati High Court, speaking on the occasion

High Court. Dr. Anupam Sharma (WWF India) participated in the session as the resource person. With emphasis on case experience sharing and an open discussion, the sixth technical session was chaired by Justice Mir Alfaz Ali, Judge, Gauhati High Court.

The valedictory session was started with the welcome address delivered by Justice Manojit Bhuyan, Judge, Gauhati High Court. Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Judge, Supreme

Court of India, Justice Arup Kumar Goswami, Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim and Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice (Acting), Gauhati High Court also spoke on the occasion.

Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, Sharad Arvind Bobde delivered the valedictory address. Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak proposed the vote of thanks.

Apart from the Grade-I Judicial Officers of the Assam Judicial Service, Nagaland Judicial Service, Mizoram Judicial Service and Arunachal Pradesh Judicial Service, Registry Officials of the Gauhati High Court and other dignitaries also attended the programme. Many Grade-I Judicial Officers participated in the programme virtually.



Justice Manojit Bhuyan, Judge, Gauhati High Court, delivering his speech.

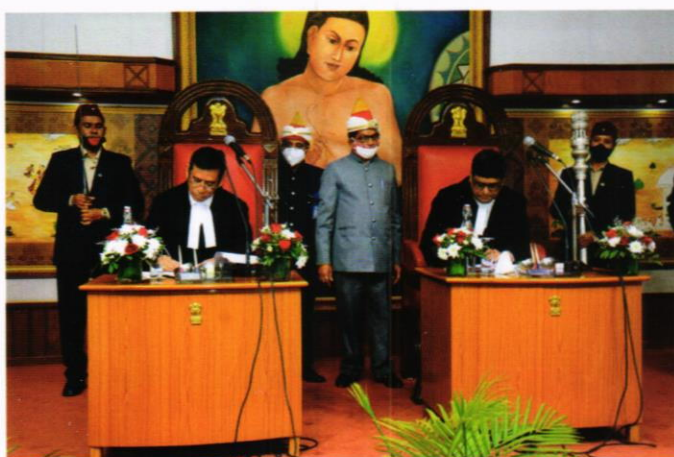
Swearing-in ceremony of Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia as the Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court on 10th January, 2021

Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, senior Judge of Uttarakhand High Court sworn in as the Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court on 10th of January, 2021. The oath was made and subscribed before Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice (Acting), Gauhati High Court on behalf of the Governor of Assam.

The swearing-in ceremony was attended by Chief Minister of Assam Sri Sarbananda Sonowal and Sri Siddhartha Bhattacharyya, Law Minister of Assam, Judges of the Gauhati High Court, Advocate



Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice (Acting), Gauhati High Court, administering oath of Office to Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, senior Judge of Uttarakhand High Court as the Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court.



Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, after subscribing the oath.

Court of Judicature at Allahabad. Later, he shifted his practice to the newly created Uttarakhand High Court at Nainital, where he was appointed as the first Chief Standing Counsel of the Government and later, as Additional Advocate General. He was designated as Senior Advocate in June, 2004. Justice Dhulia was elevated as a Permanent Judge of Uttarakhand High Court on November 01, 2008.

Generals of Assam and Nagaland and a host of other dignitaries.

Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia was born on August 10, 1960. He did his schooling from Dehradun, Allahabad and Lucknow, and graduated from Allahabad University in the year 1981. After that, he completed his masters in Modern History in the year 1983 and LL.B. in the year 1986. He initially practised on the Civil and Constitutional side before the High



Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, receiving guard of honour from security personnel.

72nd Republic Day Celebration at the Principal Seat of Gauhati High Court



Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, hoisting the National Flag in presence of other judges

As the deadly virus has not been contained yet and vaccination process is at its primary stage, Gauhati High Court celebrated the 72nd Republic Day in a restricted manner. On the occasion, Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, 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' spouses,



Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, Chief Justice and other judges of the Gauhati High Court receiving guard of honour from the security personnel.

learned members of the Bar, members of the Registry and other distinguished guests attended the occasion.

Ceremonial parades were taken out by the NCC Cadets as well as by security personnel followed by a musical band. A limited number of cultural programmes were performed showcasing the rich culture and heritage of the State. Members of the Gauhati High Court Bar Association and the Gauhati High Court Employees' Association performed group songs while Sri Dhan Kumar



Glimpses of cultural programme during Republic Day celebration



Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, Chief Justice and Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, JAD, Gauhati High Court, distributing appreciation letters among the officers and staff of Gauhati High Court Registry.

Baishya and his group performed *Bhortal Nritya*. It is to be mentioned here that *Bhortal Nritya* was originated in the district of Barpeta and was introduced by Narahari Burha Bhakat. The performance captivated the audience. The Bihu dance performed by Sri Baba Konwar and his team also enthralled the audience. Appreciation letters among the officers and staff were also distributed during the programme.

Farewell of Justice Manojit Bhuyan on 4th February, 2021



Full Court reference in honour of Justice Manojit Bhuyan on his superannuation



Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia presenting a gift to Justice Manojit Bhuyan

The Judges of the Gauhati High Court and members of the Registry bid farewell to Justice Manojit Bhuyan on 4th February, 2021, on his retirement. A Full Court farewell reference was held on that day in the Court No. 1 of Gauhati High Court, New Block. On 3rd February, 2021, a dinner was also hosted in honour of Dr. (Smti) Bornali Bhuyan and Justice Manojit Bhuyan at the Judges



Smti. Vaishali Dhulia presenting a gift to Dr. (Smti) Bornali Bhuyan.

Lobby, Gauhati High Court (New Block). The dinner was attended by the Judges, their spouses, retired Judges and members of the Registry.

Justice Manojit Bhuyan was elevated as Judge of Gauhati High Court on 07.01.2015. Justice Bhuyan served as a Judge of Gauhati High Court for six years till his superannuation. Justice Bhuyan also served as the editor of ATMAN, the biannual news bulletin of Gauhati High Court.



Justice Manojit Bhuyan with Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia and other Judges of Gauhati High Court

Inauguration of Judicial Officers' Residential Complex at Rangia on 8th February, 2021

As a part of its mission for creating robust infrastructure for the judiciary, the Gauhati High Court has completed another project at Rangia by building the Judicial Officers' Residential Complex. On 8th February, 2021, Justice Rumi Kumari Phukan, Judge, Gauhati High Court inaugurated the Judicial Officers' Residential Complex at Rangia in presence of Selina Begum, District & Sessions Judge, Kamrup, Amingaon. The programme was also attended by the Registry officials of the Gauhati High Court and other dignitaries.



Justice Rumi Kumari Phukan, Judge, Gauhati High Court, unveiling the plaque

Skill Development Programme for the Staff of Subordinate Courts of Assam on 12th, 13th & 26th February and 13th & 14th March, 2021

Skill Development programme for the staff of Subordinate Courts of Assam was held in three phases. On the First Phase, Judicial Academy, Assam organised a Skill Development Programme on 12th & 13th February, 2021 for the Staff of Subordinate Courts of Assam (Bongaigaon, Goalpara, Barpeta, Kokrajhar,

Chirang, Dhubri). The inaugural address was delivered by Sri Satya Nath Sarma, District & Sessions Judge, Bongaigaon.

The Second Phase of the programme was organised on 26th February, at Tezpur in the Sonitpur district. The programme was organised for Sonitpur, Nagaon, Darrang, Udalguri and Golaghat Districts. The inaugural address was made by District and Sessions Judge, Sonitpur.

The Third Phase of the programme was held on 13th and 14th March, 2021 at the Conference Hall, Judicial Academy, Assam. Kamrup (M), Nalbari, Morigaon, Baksa, Jorhat, Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao districts were covered under this Phase. Several Technical Sessions were held on various topics for flawless functioning of the district courts. The sessions were addressed by Sri S. P. Moitra, Secretary, Gauhati High Court Legal Services Authority.



Dr. Manash Baruah, Faculty, Judicial Academy, addressing the participants



Sri Satya Nath Sarma, District & Sessions Judge, Bongaigaon, speaking on the occasion

Ms Ipsita Borthakur, Dr. Manash Baruah and Sri Roushan Lal, faculty members, Judicial Academy, Assam and Sri Tafiqur Rahman, Chief Administrative Officer, O/O the District & Sessions Judge, Kamrup, Mr. A. K. Saha, Chief Administrative Officer, District Court, Bongaigaon, Mr A. Haque, Retd. Chief Administrative Officer, District Court, Goalpara and Sri C. P. Talukdar, Secretary, DLSA, Bongaigaon attended the sessions as Resource persons.

Inauguration of District Judiciary of Charaideo on 27th February, 2021

On 27th February, 2021, Justice Prasanta Kumar Deka, Judge, Gauhati High Court inaugurated the District Judiciary of Charaideo. After Charaideo has been declared as a district, court functioning is the most awaited phenomenon for the people of the district. With the inauguration of the District Judiciary, a desire of the people of that area has been fulfilled. The



Justice Prasanta Kumar Deka, Judge, Gauhati High Court, inaugurating the Charaideo District Judiciary

inaugural function was also attended by Sri Vinod Kumar Chandak, District & Sessions Judge, Golaghat; Sri Chandan Das, District & Sessions Judge, Tinsukia; Sri Madhurjya Narayan, District & Sessions Judge, Sivasagar apart from Sri Rockta Lal Das, District & Sessions Judge, Charaideo District and members of District Judiciary.



Justice Prasanta Kumar Deba, Judge, Gauhati High Court, unfurling the plaque

Inauguration of Court of District & Sessions Judge and Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate at Hojai, on 6th March, 2021

On 6th March, 2021, Justice Suman Shyam, Judge, Gauhati High Court & Portfolio Judge for Nagaon District inaugurated the Court of District & Sessions Judge and Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate at Sankardev Nagar, Hojai.



Justice Suman Shyam, Judge, Gauhati High Court, unfurling the plaque



Sri Aditya Hazarika, District & Sessions Judge, Hojai, inaugurating the Court

The inaugural function was organized by the District Judiciary, Nagaon. The officers and staff of District Judiciary, Nagaon, Officers from Gauhati High Court and other dignitaries attended the programme.

Webinar on Media Reporting on Children on 10th March, 2021

Judicial Academy, Assam, in collaboration with the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Tezpur University, organized a Webinar on Media reporting on Children with Vulnerabilities : Perspectives from JJ Act and POCSO Act and Reporting of Cases under the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge Administration, Gauhati High Court made the opening remarks. Sri Satya Prakash, Legal Editor, The Tribune/ Hindustan Times and Sri Sushanta Talukdar, Senior Journalist took part in the Webinar as resource persons. Sri Satya Prakash spoke on the subject of the webinar while Sri Sushanta Talukdar spoke on the local scenario.



Sri Satya Prakash, Legal Editor, The Tribune/Hindustan Times, speaking during the webinar

Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of the Judicial Officers' Residential Quarters at Hailakandi on 13th March, 2021

On 13th March, 2021, the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Judicial Officers' Residential quarters, Hailakandi was held at Hailakandi. The foundation stone was laid by Justice Kalyan Rai Surana, Judge, Gauhati High Court & Portfolio Judge, Hailakandi District. The ceremony was also attended by the officers of the Registry, Gauhati High Court, members of the District Judiciary and other dignitaries.



Justice Kalyan Rai Surana, Judge, Gauhati High Court, laying the foundation stone

It is to be mentioned here that acute shortfall of quarters for the Judicial Officers has been a major cause of concern and taking notice of the same, the Gauhati High Court had already issued an order directing the Deputy Commissioners of all the districts and Chief Executive Members of all the Autonomous District Councils of Assam to explore possibilities for providing accommodation to the Judicial Officers and this addition, on completion, will be a great relief for the Judicial Officers working in the district.



Justice Kalyan Rai Surana, Judge, Gauhati High Court, speaking on the occasion

Inauguration of Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre & Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of New Addl Court Building at Goalpara on 27th March

On 27th March, Justice Mir Alfaz Ali, Judge, Gauhati High Court, inaugurated a Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre (VWDC) at Goalpara in the district of Goalpara. The Centre has been specially designed for the victims of sexual offences and child witnesses of various heinous crimes as they need to be protected from possible undue influence or pressure from the accused.



Justice Mir Alfaz Ali, Judge, Gauhati High Court, inaugurating the Additional Court Building at Goalpara

On the same day, Justice Mir Alfaz Ali, Judge, Gauhati High Court & Portfolio Judge for the district of Goalpara laid the Foundation Stone of the new Additional Court Building at Goalpara. To mark the occasion, a function was held in the court premises. The function commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp, followed by laying of the first brick.

The functions were attended by Registry Officials of Gauhati High Court and District Judiciary, Goalpara.

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 Sudhanshu Dhulia	01.11.2008	09.08.2022
2.	Justice N. Kotiswar Singh	17.10.2011	28.02.2025
3.	Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak	22.05.2013	27.08.2027
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
15.	Justice Sanjay Kumar Medhi	19.11.2018	06.03.2033
16.	Justice Nani Tagia	19.11.2018	15.05.2031
17.	Justice Manish Choudhury	18.01.2019	29.02.2034

Additional Judges				
Sl.No.	Name of Additional Judges	Date of Birth	Date of Elevation	Current Tenure Till
1.	Justice Soumitra Saikia	25.07.1969	26.11.2019	25.11.2021
2.	Justice Parthivjyoti Saikia	18.04.1965	26.11.2019	25.11.2021
3.	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 01.10.2020 to 31.03.2021

Name of Benches	Pendency as on 01.10.2020	Institution for the period from 01.10.2020 to 31.03.2021	Disposal for the period from 01.10.2020 to 31.03.2021	Total pendency as on 31.03.2021
Principal Seat	37747	6437	4923	39261
Kohima Bench	556	252	163	645
Aizawl Bench	479	175	156	498
Itanagar Bench	1277	361	423	1215
Total	40059	7225	5665	41619

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