

ATMAN

(A Biannual News Bulletin of the Gauhati High Court)

Published from Guwahati for private circulation

Guwahati

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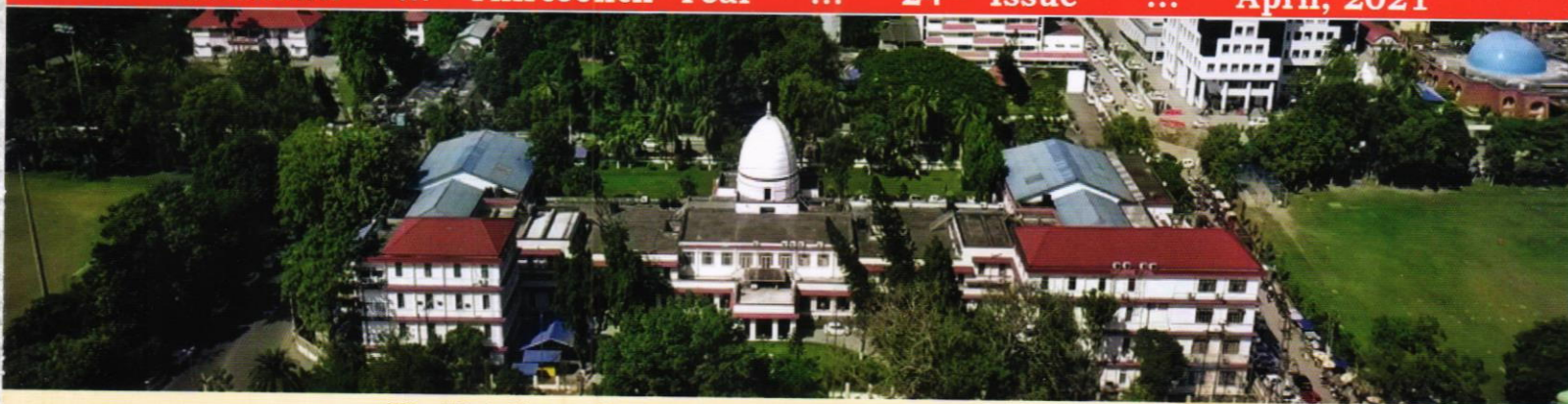
Thirteenth Year

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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

