

ATMAN

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

Events organized during October, 2021 to March, 2022

- ⇒ Swearing-in Ceremony of six Judges on 13th October, 2021
- ⇒ Farewell of Justice Prasanta Kumar Deka on 3rd November, 2021
- ⇒ Inauguration of Court(s) at Hatsingimari-South Salmara-Mankachar on 6th November, 2021
- ⇒ State-level Exhibition on 12th November, 2021
- ⇒ Constitution Day Celebration at the Gauhati High Court on 26th November, 2021
- ⇒ Farewell of Justice Hukato Swu on 23rd December, 2021
- ⇒ 73rd Republic Day celebrated at the Gauhati High Court
- ⇒ In-Service Virtual Training Programme for Judicial Officers on 3rd and 18th December, 2021
- ⇒ Deliberation Programme on 4th December, 2021
- ⇒ Refresher Course for Grade-III Judicial Officers from 21st to 23rd January 2022
- ⇒ Inauguration of E-Sewa Kendra at Gauhati High Court on 3rd March, 2022
- ⇒ Observance of International Women's Day at the Gauhati High Court
- ⇒ Judicial Court Building Inaugurated at Golaghat on 27th March, 2022
- ⇒ Activities Organized by ASLSA:
 - * Legal Services Day
 - * Zonal Meet of DLSA for Zone I
 - * Awareness Programme on free Legal Services
 - * Unveiling of Informative Display Board
 - * Mega Legal Services Camp at Sivasagar
 - * Interaction Programme at Lichubari, Jorhat
 - * Inauguration of Legal Aid Clinic at Sarupathar, Golaghat
- ⇒ The In-service Training Schedule for Judicial Officers
- ⇒ Sensitization Programme for Grade-I, II & III Judicial Officers on 10th and 15th March, 2022
- ⇒ In-Service Training for Judicial Officers

From the Chief Justice

I sincerely hope that the worst of Covid-19 pandemic is now behind us. As we look forward then to regular working in our Court rooms and Chambers, we must now plan and work out methods to best utilize our court hours to decide the pending cases, which have accumulated during this pandemic. I expect the Bar and the Bench to cooperate in this matter and come out with solutions to bring the arrear of cases at a manageable level.



At the same time, I say with some satisfaction that during the past one year or so new judicial districts have been formed and better infrastructure has been created, at least in some places. Hojai, Charaideo and South Salmara are the new judicial districts which became functional last year. Bajali, Majuli and Biswanath will become functional as new district courts very soon.

In Mizoram till very recently out of the nine administrative districts, we had only two judicial districts. We have now a third judicial district in 'Champhai', which became functional on 11th November, 2021. A new Court building is now functional for the District Court at Golaghat in Assam. Similarly, two new court buildings have been constructed and are now functional at 'Wokha' and Zunhebotta districts in Nagaland. The new Court building at Barpeta is also ready. In the High Court construction will soon start for eight new Court Rooms. There is also a proposal for creating clean, hygienic and comfortable cafeteria and rest rooms for senior advocates and advocates, who are practicing in the High Court. A 'Creche' for working mothers in the High Court has just been inaugurated. This may need expansion in future. The basic work for the High Court Museum has also been completed and it should be soon open for public. Looking forward. With Best wishes.

– Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia

Editor speaks

After more than two years which seemed like eternity, it is a high feeling and a sigh of relief all around that the spectre of the contagion is attenuated. All the stakeholders have shown so much resilience, grit, determination, adaptability and perseverance that never at any point of time the administration of justice in the esteemed institution had come to a halt. Now, the functioning of the Court has almost returned to normalcy. With positive vibes and mindsets it is now for all to ensure there is not only the momentum as before but there is also acceleration in every sphere. ATMAN wishes all a very Happy Assamese New Year and Rongali Bihu.



– Justice Manish Choudhury

Swearing-in Ceremony of six Judges on 13th October, 2021



Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia administering oath of office to Justice Soumitra Saikia and Justice Parthivjyoti Saikia as Judges



On 13th October, 2021, Hon'ble Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia administered oath of office to Hon'ble Justice Soumitra Saikia and Hon'ble Justice Parthivjyoti Saikia, Additional Judges of Gauhati High Court as Judges.



Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia administering oath of office to Sri Kakheto Sema, Justice Sri Devashis Baruah, Smti. Malasri Nandi and Smti. Marli Vankung as Additional Judges

On the same day, Hon'ble Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia administered oath of office to Advocates Sri Kakheto Sema and Sri Devashis Baruah and two Judicial Officers i.e. Smti. Malasri Nandi and Smti. Marli Vankung as Additional Judges of the Gauhati High Court. The swearing-in ceremony was held in the Court no. 1 of the New Block of the Gauhati High Court in the august presence of the Hon'ble Judges of the Gauhati High Court. The ceremony was also attended by the officers of the Registry, the learned members of the Bar, the media persons and other dignitaries. This is worthwhile to mention that after the elevation of Malasri Nandi and Marli Vankung to Judgeship, the Gauhati High Court has now three serving women Judges.

Farewell of Justice Prasanta Kumar Deka on 3rd November, 2021

On 3rd November, 2021, a farewell reference was held in the Court no. 1 of New Block of the Gauhati High Court to bid adieu to Justice Prasanta Kumar Deka on his superannuation on 4th November, 2021.

The full court farewell reference was attended by the Judges, the learned members of the Bar and the officers of the Registry of the Gauhati High Court. Mr. S.N. Sarma, President, Gauhati High Court Bar Association; Mr. Satyadhar Matak, President, Gauhati High Court Advocates Association; Mr. P.D. Nair, Vice Chairman of the Bar Council of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim; Mr. Devajit Saikia, Advocate General, Assam; Mr. Diganta Das, Advocate General, Mizoram; Mr. T. J. Mahanta, Standing Counsel, Gauhati High



Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, in presence of other Judges, delivering the farewell speech



Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia and Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, presenting memento & gifts to Justice Prasanta Kumar Deka, on his farewell



Court; Mr. B.D. Goswami, Additional Advocate General, Arunachal Pradesh; Mr. Ranjit Kumar Deb Choudhury, Assistant Solicitor General of India; and Ms. M. Kechi, Government Advocate, Nagaland spoke on the occasion. The members of the Bar recollected the manifold qualities of the long serving Judge of the Gauhati High Court.

Hon'ble Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia addressing the farewell reference praised Hon'ble Justice P. K. Deka for his journey from the career of an engineer to the Bar which he termed as the most courageous move. His Lordship also mentioned that Justice Deka was popular among the members of the legal fraternity for his friendly and amiable nature. Justice Deka was an expert in the field of Civil law. Justice Deka served the Gauhati High Court as Judge for 5 years since His Lordship's elevation to the court as Additional Judge in 2016.

Inauguration of Court(s) of/under the District and Sessions Judge and the Chief Judicial Magistrate at Hatsingimari (Fekamari)-South Salmara-Mankachar on 6th November, 2021

On 6th November, 2021, Justice Achintya Malla Bujor Barua, Judge, Gauhati High Court-cum-Portfolio Judge, District -- Dhubri inaugurated the Court(s) of/under the District and Sessions Judge and the Chief Judicial Magistrate at Hatsingimari (Fekamari)-South Salmara-Mankachar (Assam). Sri Thaneswar Kalita, District and Sessions



Justice Achintya Malla Bujor Barua, Judge, Gauhati High Court, lighting the ceremonial lamp



Justice Achintya Malla Bujor Barua, Judge, Gauhati High Court, speaking on the occasion

Judge, Dhubri; Syed Imdadur Rahman, newly appointed District and Sessions Judge, South Salmara-Mankachar; Sri H.N. Gautam, Deputy Commissioner, South Salmara-Mankachar; the President, Bar Association, Dhubri; and the President, Bar Association, South Salmara-Mankachar were present on the occasion. The officials of the Registry

of the Gauhati High Court, the officials of Office of the District and Sessions Judge, Dhubri and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

State-level Exhibition under Pan India Legal Awareness and Outreach Programme on 12th November, 2021

On the occasion of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Assam State Legal Services Authority, in association with the Gauhati High Court, organized a State-level exhibition as part of the Pan India Awareness Campaign and Outreach programme. The programme was organized with special focus on 75 years history of Judicial Administration, process of justice delivery, achievements of justice delivery system in the last 75 years, legal aid system and various functions. This was held as part of the Legal Services Week i.e. 8th November to 14th November which was planned in such a manner that every person at every level of the society witnessed the presence of legal services network.



Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia inaugurating the exhibition

The exhibition held in the Old Block premises of the Principal Seat of the Gauhati High Court was inaugurated by Hon'ble Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia in the august presence of other Hon'ble Judges of the Gauhati High Court, the officers and staff of the Gauhati High Court Registry and the State Legal Services Authority.



Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia with Justice N. Kotiswar Singh & Justice Suman Shyam inspecting the exhibition



Models of High Court buildings and the 'Living Heritage Building' (Chief Justice's Bungalow)

Various districts were divided into several zones and accordingly, stalls were erected which displayed the history and journey of those particular district courts throughout the years. Photographs, videos, books and models were displayed in the exhibition reflecting the last 75 years of judiciary and its evolution throughout such a long time.

Constitution Day Celebrated at the Gauhati High Court on 26th November, 2021

On November 26, 2021, the Gauhati High Court celebrated the Constitution Day at the Old Block premises of the Principal Seat of the Gauhati High Court to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India. The Programme was organized by the Gauhati High Court in association with the Gauhati High Court Bar Association and the Gauhati High Court Advocates' Association.



Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia delivering his speech on the occasion

Speaking on the occasion, Hon'ble Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court Shri Sudhanshu Dhulia spoke widely on the words used in the Preamble. Apart from hailing on the constitutional developments, he emphasized on two scholarly speeches of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar delivered on 4th November, 1948 (at the time of presentation of the draft Constitution) and on 25th November, 1949 (on the day before adoption of the Constitution). The first speech concentrates on

Constitutional values towards the nation which says that being a flexible and strong Constitution, it is a workable constitution in time of peace as well as in time of war. Describing its importance the Architect of Indian Constitution, His Lordship mentioned that in the times to come, for any non-functioning of the constitutional ideals, people of the nation are blameworthy.

In mentioning the other noteworthy speech of the Father of the Constitution, His Lordship quoted Dr. B.



Justice Michael Zothankhuma, Judge, Gauhati High Court, speaking on the occasion

of justice and all. Moreover, His Lordship mentioned that the Father of our Constitution extracted the Constitutional ideal i.e. fraternity, from Buddhism.

Earlier on the occasion, Hon'ble Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak delivered the welcome address and spoke about the significance of the Constitution Day.

Mr. Surendra Nath Sarma, President, Gauhati High Court Bar Association and Mr. Jagadish Chandra Choudhury, Member, Gauhati High Court Advocates' Association also addressed the gathering on the occasion.

The programme organized on the occasion was attended by the Hon'ble Judges of Gauhati High Court, the learned Advocate General of Assam, the learned Additional Advocate General of Assam, the learned Members of the Bar and the Registry.



Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak, Judge, Gauhati High Court, delivering the welcome address

R. Ambedkar's view that unless and until we have social and economic equality, our quest for equality is incomplete. We are in need of social democracy and in social democracy, liberty, equality and fraternity are a way of life. They work as a trinity. Highlighting on the word used in the Preamble i.e. Fraternity, His Lordship said that although the meaning of the word has never been discussed much in comparison to other words, it is indispensable for the value of winning



Judges of Gauhati High Court and other distinguished guests attending the programme

Farewell of Justice Hukato Swu on 23rd December, 2021

On December 23, 2021, the Gauhati High Court bid farewell to Justice Hukato Swu. In this connection, a farewell reference was held in the Court no. 1 of the New Block of the Gauhati High Court. Although Justice Hukato Swu superannuated from office on 31st December, 2021 the farewell was held on 23rd December, 2021 being the last working day of the Court for the year 2021. Due to Covid related restrictions, the farewell reference was held in hybrid mode and a number of Hon'ble Judges attended the farewell through



Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia presenting a memento to Justice Hukato Swu on his farewell



Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, in presence of other Judges, delivering the farewell speech

virtual mode.

Mr. P.J. Saikia, Vice President, Gauhati High Court Bar Association; Mr. Satyadhar Matak, President, Gauhati High Court Advocates Association; Mr. P.D. Nair, Vice-chairman of Bar Council of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim; Mr. Diganta Das, Advocate General, Mizoram, Mr. Biswajit Goswami, Additional Advocate General, Assam; Mr. B.D. Goswami, Additional Advocate

General, Arunachal Pradesh; Mr. Ranjit Kumar Deb Choudhury, Assistant Solicitor General of India and Ms. T. Aao, Additional Senior Government Advocate, Nagaland; and Mr. H.K. Das, Standing Counsel, Gauhati High Court spoke on the occasion.

The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court Sudhanshu Dhulia talked about the various qualities of Justice Hukato Swu. His Lordship said, 'Swu's judgements are immensely readable. There are no jargons or long winding sentences in his judgements, instead, there is a nice flow of ideas in lucid language with clear cut findings on legal and factual points.'

Justice Swu was deeply sensitive to the ethos, cultures and values of Naga Society. He always tried for the betterment of the Judiciary in the State of Nagaland and he was well-versed in customary laws and dealt various such cases in his long and illustrious career.

73rd Republic Day Celebrated at the Gauhati High Court

The Gauhati High Court (High Court of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh) celebrated the 73rd Republic Day at the Gauhati High Court (Old Block) premises in a restricted manner due to the surge of Covid-19. On the occasion, the Hon'ble Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia hoisted the National Flag in presence of the sitting Judges of



Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia hoisting the National Flag at Chief Justice's Bungalow



Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia hoisting the National Flag at Principal Seat of Gauhati High Court, in presence of other Judges

the High Court, the President and Secretary of Gauhati High Court Bar Association, learned Advocate Generals of Assam and Mizoram and learned Additional Advocate Generals of Assam and Mizoram which was followed by the National Anthem and Guard of Honour. No cultural programme or any other event was organized on the occasion due to rising of Covid-19 cases in the State.



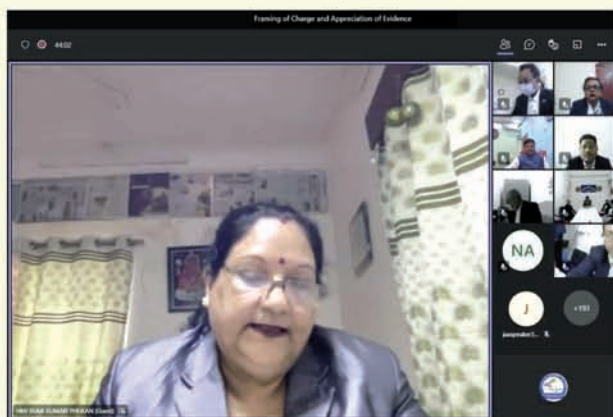
Smt. Vaishali Dhulia distributing sweets among the children on the occasion of 73rd Republic Day

In-Service Virtual Training Programme for Judicial Officers of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh on 3rd and 18th December, 2021

On December 3, 2021, an In-Service Training Programme on the topic 'Execution in Civil Cases' was held virtually for Grade II and Grade III Judicial Officers of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. The said programme was organised by the Judicial Academy, Assam. Hon'ble Justice (Retd.) P. K. Deka, Former Judge, Gauhati High Court attended the



Justice Prasanta Kumar Deka and Justice Mir Alfaz Ali, Former Judges of Gauhati High Court, attending the programme

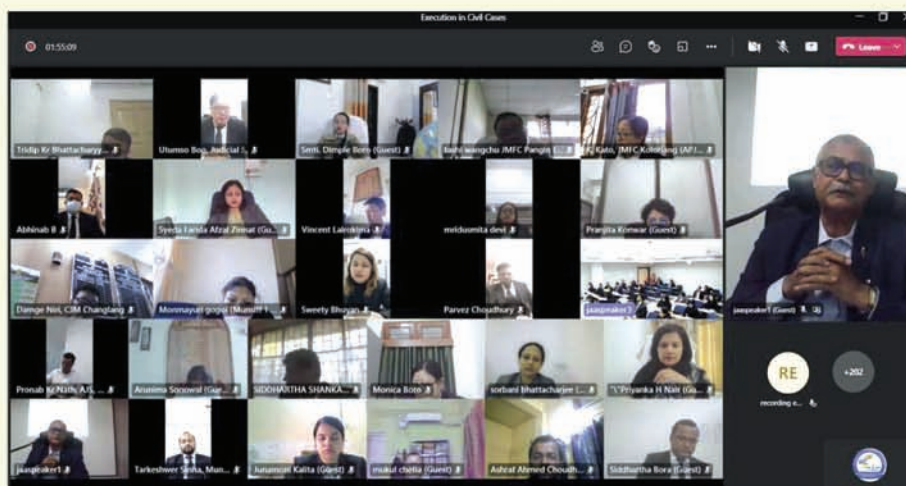


Justice Rumi Kumari Phukan, Judge, Gauhati High Court, speaking as a resource person

programme as the resource person. The training programme covered topics such as 'Execution of Decree; Scope and Ambit of Section 47, CPC; and Execution Court Cannot Go Behind the Decree: an insight; etc'.

On December 18, 2021, a similar programme on the topic 'Framing of Charge & Appreciation of Evidence' was organised through virtual mode by the Judicial Academy, Assam for the Grade-

I, II and III Judicial Officers of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. Hon'ble Justice (Mrs.) Rumi Kumari Phukan, Judge, Gauhati High Court attended the programme as a resource person.



Justice Prasanta Kumar Deka, Former Judge, Gauhati High Court, addressing the Judicial Officers

Deliberation Programme on "The Dilemmas of Implementing Section 15 Preliminary Assessment for Children in Conflict with the Law" on 4th December, 2021

On 4th December, 2021, a deliberation programme on "the Dilemmas of Implementing Section 15 Preliminary Assessment for Children in Conflict with the Law" was organised by the Judicial Academy, Assam. Justice (Retd.) Mir Alfaz Ali, Director, Judicial Academy, Assam delivered the welcome address. The Programme was conducted in three motions. The moderator for the First Motion was Hon'ble Justice Madan B.



Justice Madan B. Lokur, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India, speaking on the occasion



Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court, addressing the participants

Kotiswar Singh, Chairperson, Juvenile Justice Committee, Gauhati High Court was the moderator for the Third Motion and spoke on the topic, 'the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and the Indian Penal Code accord the same meaning to mens rea at the stage of making a preliminary assessment'. Hon'ble Justice Lokur made the concluding remarks while Mr. Ratnadip Bhattacharjee, AJS, Faculty, Judicial Academy, Assam proposed the vote of thanks.

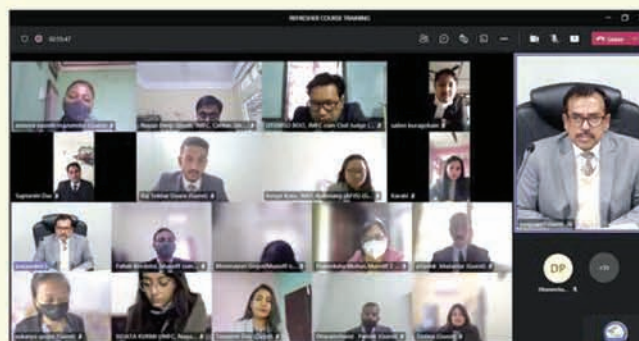
Lokur, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India, Former Chairperson, Juvenile Justice Committee, Supreme Court of India. The first motion covered the topic on Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 through implementation of Section 15 along with certain principles of the Act. The moderator for the Second Motion was Dr. Shekhar Seshadri, Senior Professor, Dept. of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, NIMHANS, Bangalore. Hon'ble Justice N.



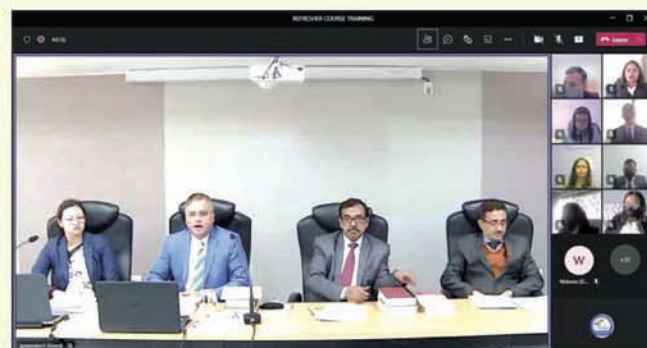
Glimpses of the Deliberation Programme

Refresher Course for Grade-III Judicial Officers of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh Held from 21st January to 23rd January 2022

A three-day Refresher Course for Grade - III Judicial Officers of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh was organized from 21st January to 23rd January, 2022. The programme was held through virtual mode. The Resource Persons of the said programme were Justice (Retd.) Mir Alfaz Ali, Director, Judicial Academy, Assam; Sri Ratnadip Bhattacharjee, Smti. Shivani Handique and Dr. Manash Boruah. The Refresher Course covered a host of topics



Justice (Retd.) Mir Alfaz Ali, Director, Judicial Academy, Assam, addressing the Judicial Officers



Justice (Retd.) Mir Alfaz Ali, Director, Judicial Academy, Assam, with resource persons attending the programme

such as Summary Trial in NI Act Cases vis-a-vis the practice directions issued by Hon'ble High Court; Bail, zimma petitions with specific reference to Special Laws, Right of the complainant in case of Final reports and not sent-up accused in charge sheeted cases; Recording of statement of victim u/s 164, CrPC with special reference to child victims and persons with disability; Interim relief in maintenance cases with special reference to the recent Hon'ble Supreme Court's direction; Execution of final order under Section 125, CrPC and PWDV Act; How to deal with cross examination, contradictions and objections with focus on the guidelines of the Hon'ble Supreme Court; Procedure of declaring a witness as hostile and evidentiary value of hostile witness; Mode of proving a document; Trial of suits involving counter-claim/ set-off with emphasis on framing of issue, judgment; Decree on Admission, Substitution of parties (Order 22 CPC), Addition of parties Order 1, Rule 10; Directions issued by Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Rahul Shah v. Jinendra Kumar Gandhi* and the subsequent directions of the Hon'ble Gauhati High Court relating to trial of Civil suits; Execution of decree with special reference to specific performance of contract and Execution of sale deed through Court; Adjustment of decree (O. 21, R. 2 CPC); Case and Court Management, Case filing and court diary, Priority cases, Calendar trial, Adjournment, Mode of issue and service of processes, substituted service (Civil and Criminal cases), NSTEP (use of technology), Procedure to declare an accused as absconder and Evaluation of Judgments and Orders, Bail, Jimma Petitions etc.

Inauguration of E-Sewa Kendra at the Principal Seat of Gauhati High Court on 3rd March, 2022

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India took an initiative to create e-Sewa Kendras in all the High Courts of India on a pilot basis in order to enable the litigants to obtain information with respect to case status and to obtain copies of judgments and orders. As a part of this initiative taken by the Supreme Court of India, the Gauhati High Court has also created an e-Sewa Kendra for rendering hassle free services to the litigants.



Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia inaugurating 'e-Sewa Kendra' at the Principal Seat of Gauhati High Court



Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia in presence of Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Justice Suman Shyam, unfurling the plaque

On 3rd March 2022, Hon'ble Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia of the Gauhati High Court inaugurated an e-Sewa Kendra in the Old Block of the Principal Seat of the Gauhati High Court in presence of Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Administrative Department, Gauhati High Court; Justice Suman Shyam, Judge, Gauhati High Court and Chairperson, ICT Committee, Gauhati High Court, other Hon'ble Judges of the Gauhati High Court, learned Advocate General of

Mizoram, the Standing Counsel of the Gauhati High Court, Chairman, Bar Council of NE States, Lawyers and officials of the Registry.

The main objective of the e-Sewa Kendra is to facilitate those services to the litigants as well as the lawyers which are vital for the better functioning of the Court. The e-Sewa Kendras shall initially roll out following services for litigants and lawyers--

- o Handling inquiries about case status, next date of hearing and other details.
- o Facilitate online Applications for certified copies.
- o Facilitate e-filing of petitions right from the scanning of hard copy petitions, appending e-signatures, uploading them onto CIS and generation of filing number.
- o To assist in online purchase of e-Stamp papers/e-Payments.
- o To help in applying and obtaining Aadhaar based digital signature.
- o Publicize and assist in downloading the Mobile App of e-Courts for Android and IOS.
- o Facilitate in the booking of e-Mulakat appointments for meeting relatives in jail.
- o Handling queries about Judges on leave.
- o Guide people on how to avail free legal services from the District Legal Services

Authority, High Court Legal Services Committee and Supreme Court Legal Services Committee.

- o Facilitate disposal of traffic challans in virtual Courts as also online compounding of traffic challans and other petty offences.
- o Explaining the method of arranging and holding a video conference court hearing.
- o Provide soft copies of judicial orders/judgments via email, WhatsApp or any other available mode.

The creation of the e-Sewa Kendra, in brief, stands out as a significant step for the lawyers in handling the cases and for the common man in his claim for justice.

Observance of International Women's Day at the Gauhati High Court

Along with the other parts of the globe, the Gauhati High Court also observed International Women's Day on 8th March, 2022. A series of programmes were organized on the occasion by the Gauhati High Court Legal Services Committee in collaboration with the Gender Sensitization Internal Complaints Committee, Gauhati High Court. On the occasion, a meeting was held in the Old Block premises of the Principal Seat of Gauhati High Court.

Hon'ble Justice Suman Shyam, Chairman, Gauhati High Court Legal Services Committee delivered the welcome address. Hon'ble Justice Michael Zothankhuma, Judge, Gauhati High Court, also spoke on the occasion. Hon'ble Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, Gauhati High Court, explained the importance of observance of Women's Day. His Lordship also stressed on the importance of empowering women – the fair sex of the society.



Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia speaking on the occasion



Justice Suman Shyam, Judge, Gauhati High Court, delivering his speech

Smti. Vaishali Dhulia, spouse of Hon'ble Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia felicitated the members of the SmallWish International Foundation which is a non-profit organization and has been working to solve the toughest challenges towards eradicating poverty from this region of the globe. Speaking on the occasion, Hon'ble Justice Rumi Kumari Phukan, Judge, Gauhati High Court and the Chairperson, Gender Sensitization Internal Complaints

Committee (GSICC), explained the significance of the day and said that the day



Justice Michael Zothankhuma, Judge, Gauhati High Court, delivering his speech



Justice Rumi Kumari Phukan, Judge, Gauhati High Court, proposing vote of thanks

was to mark the celebration of female power and the bounce of strength they have given to themselves. Her Lordship also delivered the vote of thanks on this auspicious occasion. As an encouraging move for the entrepreneurs, an exhibition-cum-sale of chocolates and cakes, prepared by the NGO, was also organized and the same was inaugurated by Hon'ble Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia.

The programme was also attended by the learned Advocate Generals of Assam and Mizoram, the members of the Bar, Judicial Officers and the officers and staff of the Registry.

Judicial Court Building Inauguration at Golaghat on 27th March, 2022

As a part of infrastructural development for speeding up the justice delivery system, a state of the art judicial court building was constructed at Golaghat so that the infrastructural needs of the district could be fulfilled. On 27th March, 2022, Hon'ble the Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court Sri Sudhanshu Dhulia inaugurated the court building in the august presence of Justice Suman Shyam, Judge, Gauhati High Court and the Portfolio Judge of Golaghat District. Sri Vinod Kumar Chandak, District and Sessions Judge, Golaghat; Sri Mridul Kumar Kalita, District and Sessions Judge, Jorhat; Sri Binod Kumar Chetri, Legal Remembrancer & Secretary, Assam, Mrigesh Narayan Baruah, Deputy Commissioner, Golaghat, Judicial Officers, Officers of the Registry of the Gauhati High Court, members of the Bar and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.



Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia lighting the ceremonial lamp



Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia inaugurating the Judicial Court Building at Golaghat

Activities Organized by ASLSA

Legal Services Day on 9th November, 2021



Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court lighting the ceremonial lamp and delivering his speech on the occasion

On the occasion of "the Legal Services Day" as part of the Pan India Awareness & Outreach Programme, All Assam Moot Court Competition was organised by the ASLSA in collaboration with the DLSA, Kamrup (M) & J. B. Law College.

Zonal Meet of DLSA for Zone I on 19th November, 2021



Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court, addressing the participants

Under the aegis of the ASLSA, on 19th November 2021, the Zonal Meet of District Legal Services Authorities for Zone-I districts of Assam was organized by the DLSA, Dibrugarh.

The meet was chaired by Hon'ble Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court and Executive Chairperson, ASLSA. The participating districts were Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Sivasagar, Charaideo, Lakhimpur and Dhemaji. A total of 26 nos. of participants comprising of Chairpersons, Secretaries and Paralegal Volunteers of DLSAs of Zone-I districts attended the programme. The deliberations culminated in the identification of areas requiring further strengthening of legal aid and legal services programmes and activities.

Awareness Programme on free Legal Services on 20th November, 2021

Under the aegis of the ASLSA, an awareness programme on free legal services was organized by the DLSA, Dibrugarh on 20th November 2021 at Namphake village, Naharkatia.

Hon'ble Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court and Executive Chairman, ASLSA graced the programme as the chief guest. Addressing the gathering of around 150 nos. of participants, the EC, ASLSA highlighted the legal aid and schemes of the NALSA and the ways in which those can be accessed by the disadvantaged sections of the society. Alongside the programme, a legal services camp was also organized wherein 71 nos. of beneficiaries were registered under the e-shram portal.



Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court and Executive Chairman, ASLSA, interacting with the participants

Unveiling of Informative Display Board in connection with NALSA's Collaborative Project on 3rd of December, 2021

In pursuance of the NALSA's project, "Collaboration with Post Offices under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication, Government of India for spreading awareness about the free legal aid services to the common citizens of the country", Hon'ble Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court & Executive Chairman, ASLSA, unveiled an Informative Display Board on 3rd December, 2021. The Display Board has been installed at the premises of GPO (Meghdoot Bhawan).



The Informative Display Board at the premises of GPO (Meghdoot Bhawan)

Mega Legal Services Camp at Sivasagar on 24th & 25th Day of December, 2021

Hon'ble Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court and Executive Chairman, Assam State Legal Services Authority, Guwahati visited the district of Sivasagar on a three-day programme w.e.f. 24th December to 25th December, 2021.

On 24th December, 2021, the EC, ASLSA visited the Mental Rehab Centre



Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court, addressing the gathering

at Mekipur, Nazira and interacted with the inmates there. His Lordship took note of the difficulties faced by the inmates of the Rehab Centre and advised the District Administration to take necessary action accordingly. The EC, ASLSA also held a meeting with all the Stakeholders of the JJB, Sivasagar. The major issues discussed in the meeting included setting up of Observation Home, appointment of DCPO and providing training to JJB members, probation officers and SJPU's.

On 25th December, 2021, the EC, ASLSA attended the Mega Legal Services Camp held at Kharahat, Demow. About 3500 people gathered in the mega camp. About 21 Govt. Departments participated and provided benefits of their schemes to about 3125 beneficiaries.

Interaction Programme at Observation Home, Lichubari, Jorhat on 26th December, 2021

On 26th December, 2021, the District Legal Services Authority, Jorhat organized an interaction programme with the children of Observation Home, Lichubari, Jorhat. Hon'ble Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court and Executive Chairman, Assam State Legal Services Authority, Guwahati visited the same. During the programme, the EC, ASLSA had an interaction with the counsellor & children of the Observation Home.

Various recreational items like Ludu, Chess, Carrom, Drawing Books, Colour pencils etc. were distributed among the children by the EC, ASLSA. The Children were very much thrilled to have Justice N. Kotiswar Singh among them and they handed over a craftwork as a sign of gratitude and joy to His Lordship.



Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court, interacting with the counsellor & children of the Observation Home

Inauguration of Legal Aid Clinic at Sarupathar, Golaghat

On 27th December, 2021, Hon'ble Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court and Executive Chairman, Assam State Legal Services Authority inaugurated a Legal Aid Clinic at Sarupathar in Dhansiri Sub-division in the district of Golaghat, Assam in the presence of Sri Vinod Kumar Chandak, District & Sessions Judge, Golaghat-cum-Chairman, District Legal Services Authority and Sri Nayan Shankar Baruah, Member Secretary, ASLSA.



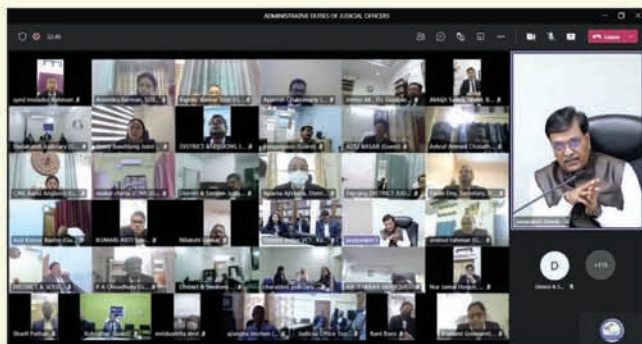
Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court & Executive Chairman, ASLSA, unfurling the plaque at Sarupathar, Golaghat

The In-service Training Schedule for Judicial Officers of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh

The in-service training schedule for Judicial Officers of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh was held on 4th, 8th, 12th & 26th February and on 5th March, 2022. The programme was held through Microsoft Teams VC.

On 4th February, Sri Rakesh Ch. Shukla, Zonal Director, NCB, NE Zone spoke on NDPS Sampling/preparation of inventory for the Grade-II & III Judicial Officers.

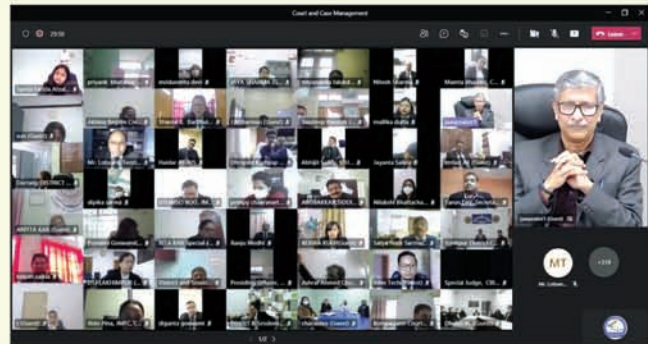
On 8th February, addressing the Grade-I, II & III Judicial Officers, Hon'ble Justice B.P. Katakey, Former Judge, Gauhati High Court spoke on several aspects on the topic, 'Court and Case Management- Bar and Bench relation, Relationship with administrative staff, Relationship with colleagues, Civil & Criminal Docket Management' etc.



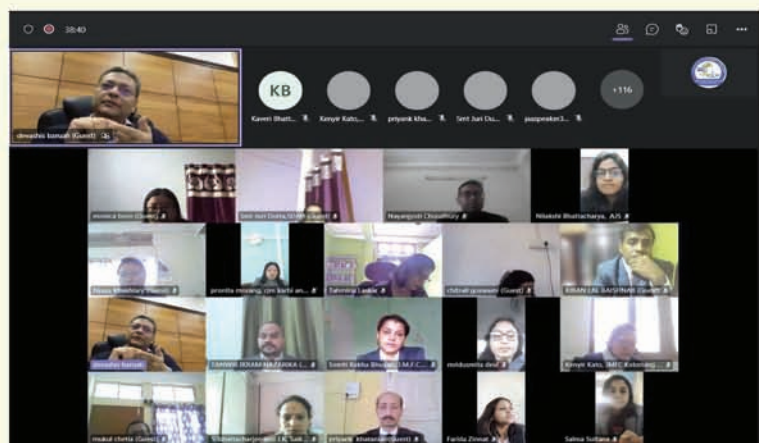
Justice Hitesh Kumar Sarma, Judge, Gauhati High Court, addressing the participants

On 26th February, addressing the Grade-I, II & III Judicial Officers, Hon'ble Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court spoke on 'Reverse burden : - Section 106 of the Indian Evidence Act - Presumptions under Special Statutes viz. POCSO Act, NDPS Act etc.'

On 5th March, addressing the District Judges, CJMs, Secretaries, DLSAs, and SDJMs, Hon'ble Justice Hitesh Kumar Sarma, Judge, Gauhati High Court spoke on the topic, 'Administrative Duties of Judicial Officers - Role as Leader of the Team - Role and Responsibilities as DDO - Resource Management - Recruitment & Promotion of ministerial staff - Role of Disciplinary Authority (Assam Discipline & Appeal Rules, 1964)'.



Justice B.P. Katakey, Former Judge, Gauhati High Court, speaking on the occasion



Justice Debashis Baruah, Judge, Gauhati High Court, speaking on the occasion

Sensitization Programme for Grade-I, II & III Judicial Officers of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram & Arunachal Pradesh on 10th and 15th March, 2022

On 10th March, a Sensitization Programme was organized by the Judicial Academy, Assam through Microsoft Teams VC - which is a two-way audio-video interaction platform, where participants would be able to view each other and interact directly with the Resource Person at the end of the deliberation, in addition to posting queries in the chat box. Justice (Retd.)

Mir Alfaz Ali, Director, Judicial Academy, Assam was the resource person of the said programme and he spoke on the topic, 'Sensitization Programme on Amended Criminal Rules and Orders'. The programme was organized for the Grade - I, II & III Judicial Officers of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram & Arunachal Pradesh as well as all the Public Prosecutors, Additional Public Prosecutors and Assistant Public Prosecutors of Nagaland, Mizoram & Arunachal Pradesh.

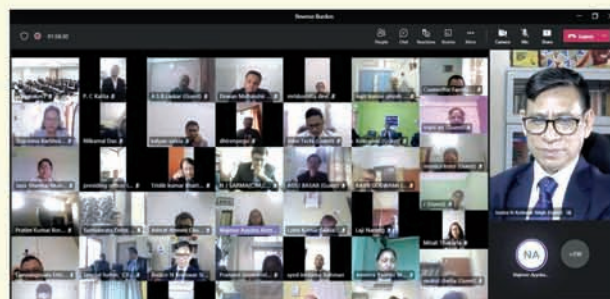
On 15th March, Sri Bivas Chatterjee, Special Public Prosecutor, West Bengal, as a resource person spoke on the topic, 'Cyber Crime'. The target group of the said programme was the Grade-I, II & III Judicial Officers of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram & Arunachal Pradesh.



A glimpse of the sensitization programme

In-Service Training for Judicial Officers of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh

On 26th March, an in-service training for Judicial Officers of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh was held through virtual mode. The resource person of the programme Hon'ble Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court spoke on the topic, 'Reverse burden: Section 106 of the Indian Evidence Act, Presumptions under Special Statutes, viz, POCSO Act, NDPS Act etc. The said training session was attended by Grade-I, II and III Judicial Officers of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. The second session of the day was organized for the Grade-I Judicial Officers and Dr. Birendra Saraf, Advocate, Bombay High Court as a resource person spoke on, "Commercial Courts Act : Salient features of the Act, Determination of specified value, Concept of Commercial dispute, jurisdiction of Courts, Various amendments to CPC in context of the Commercial Courts Act".



Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court, addressing the participants

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 Nelson Sailo	15.11.2016	08.10.2030	
11.	Justice Ajit Borthakur	15.11.2016	30.11.2023	
12.	Justice Hitesh Kumar Sarma	19.05.2017	30.06.2022	
13.	Justice Sanjay Kumar Medhi	19.11.2018	06.03.2033	
14.	Justice Nani Tagia	19.11.2018	15.05.2031	
15.	Justice Manish Choudhury	18.01.2019	29.02.2034	
16.	Justice Soumitra Saikia	26.11.2019	24.07.2029	
17.	Justice Parthivjyoti Saikia	26.11.2019	17.04.2027	
Additional Judges				
Sl.No.	Name of Additional Judges	Date of Birth	Date of Elevation	Current Tenure Till
1.	Justice Robin Phukan	01.03.1966	21.06.2021	20.06.2023
2.	Justice Kakheto Sema	06.07.1963	13.10.2021	12.10.2023
3.	Justice Devashis Baruah	22.02.1973	13.10.2021	12.10.2023
4.	Justice Malasri Nandi	24.06.1963	13.10.2021	12.10.2023
5.	Justice Marli Vankung	04.03.1964	13.10.2021	12.10.2023
6.	Justice Arun Dev Choudhury	29.10.1971	05.11.2021	04.11.2023

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 01.10.2021 to 31.03.2022

Name of Benches	Pendency as on 01.10.2021	Institution for the period from 01.10.2021 to 31.03.2022	Disposal for the period from 01.10.2021 to 31.03.2022	Total pendency as on 31.03.2022
Principal Seat	41115	7181	5434	42862
Kohima Bench	733	283	240	776
Aizawl Bench	487	159	157	489
Itanagar Bench	1350	459	451	1358
Total	43685	8082	6282	45485

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