

ATMAN

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



Events organized during October, 2022 to March, 2023

- ⇒ National Judicial Seminar on 29th October, 2022 at Kaziranga
- ⇒ Celebration of Constitution Day at Gauhati High Court on 26th November, 2022
- ⇒ State Level Consultation on Implementation of the POCSO Act, 2012
- ⇒ Farewell of Chief Justice R. M. Chhaya on 10th January, 2023
- ⇒ Visit of Parliamentary Delegation on 21st January, 2023
- ⇒ 74th Republic Day Celebration at the Gauhati High Court
- ⇒ Inauguration of Justice Clock at Silchar on 11th February, 2023
- ⇒ Farewell of Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, on 13th February, 2023
- ⇒ Swearing-in Ceremony of Justice Sandeep Mehta as Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court on 15th February, 2023
- ⇒ Farewell of Justice Songkhupchung Serto, Judge, Gauhati High Court on 28th February, 2023
- ⇒ Swearing-in Ceremony of Justice Kardak Ete as Additional Judge of Gauhati High Court on 13th March, 2023
- ⇒ Programmes Organized by Legal Services Authorities
- ⇒ Programmes organized by Judicial Academy, Assam
- ⇒ Programmes Organized by Gauhati High Court Legal Services Committee (GHCLSC)

PLATINUM JUBILEE SPECIAL FEATURE

The Gauhati High Court – Journey from its Inception



The Gauhati High Court, as it is presently known, was initially established as the Assam High Court. The Government of India Act, 1935 sanctioned the establishment of a High Court in Assam. After India's independence, the Assam Legislative Assembly resolved on 9th September, 1947, to set up a separate High Court for Assam, leading to promulgation of the Assam High Court Order on 1st March, 1948. Sir Ronald Francis

Lodge was appointed as its first Chief Justice. The inaugural function, held on 5th April, 1948, was presided over by Sir Harilal Kania, the first Chief Justice of India. By order dated 31st May, 1948, Justice Lodge ordered that the Assam High Court would sit at Shillong and the sittings of the High Court started at the Council House, Shillong. On 5th August, 1948, Gauhati



came to be notified as the seat of the High Court of Assam from 14th August, 1948. Having shifted to Gauhati, the High Court began functioning from the Old Commissioner's Building near Dighalipukhuri, before it started functioning from the present dome-

another change in nomenclature took place with the coming into force of the North Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971 and from thereon, it came to be known as the Gauhati High Court (The High Court of Assam, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura) with jurisdiction also over the two newly created Union Territories of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh.



On and from 20th February, 1987, the nomenclature changed again with the creation of the two new States, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh and its nomenclature became the Gauhati High Court (The High Court of Assam, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram

structured building on and from 20th February, 1957.

The first change in nomenclature came about on 1st December, 1963, with the formation of the State of Nagaland, when became the High Court of Assam and Nagaland. On 21st January, 1972, after the breakup of undivided Assam and creation of the new states of Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura,

and Arunachal Pradesh) with jurisdiction over these 7 (seven) States. With the establishment of the High Courts in Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura in 2013, it has become the Gauhati High Court (The High Court of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh), with its Principal Seat at Guwahati, Assam and a bench in each of the three States.

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From the Chief Justice

The Gauhati High Court has had a deep impression on me ever since I had the opportunity to work with Justice Amitava Roy, who joined as the Chief Justice of High Court of Rajasthan, whom I regard to be one of the most extraordinary individuals I've ever met. Since the day I discovered the extra-ordinary feature of the Gauhati High Court in ensuring justice for the seven North-Eastern states, I have been curious to learn more about it. Now, I have the wonderful opportunity to know more about this judicial institution operating in the most diverse region, to get to know its people, and to take in the beauty of these lovely states filled with green valleys, hilly terrain, and gushing rivers. Even though the jurisdiction of the Gauhati High Court is restricted to only four states now, it still excels in administering justice in the most diversified area.



When I learnt about the name ATMAN and that it is an acronym for the seven north-eastern states, it pleased me a lot. The Gauhati High Court's responsibility of upholding the rule of law in the most diverse region of the nation has grown more onerous due to the rise in cases brought about by population growth as well as the numerous changes brought about by the use of various digital platforms. Yet as the institution's head, I can affirm that the Gauhati High Court has never wavered in the excellence of its single task of delivering justice and safeguarding individuals' rights. Writing for ATMAN at this momentous occasion when the Gauhati High Court is commemorating its Platinum Jubilee is undoubtedly a wonderful feeling. The Gauhati High Court's activities have really been successfully replicated by the ATMAN, which is now in its fifteenth year. This institution might well be glad of it, for certain. I've noticed that it has been documenting information on the judiciary for the past 14 years and has since established itself as a trustworthy source of information. I believe ATMAN will proceed on its voyage as it has been doing for so many years in the future also.

With the cuckoo's song and the emergence of new leaves on the trees, we are now prepared to celebrate the spring festivities and the magnificent Platinum Jubilee of the Gauhati High Court. I send my warmest wishes to everyone on this joyous occasion of the Platinum Jubilee and Rongali Bihu.

- Chief Justice Sandeep Mehta

Editor speaks

Jubilees mark a major milestone in the establishment of an institution. Starting its transcendental journey of dispensation of justice from the auspicious day of 5th April, 1948, the Gauhati High Court will reach the milestone of 75 years of its glorious existence on 5th of April, 2023. After celebrating the Silver Jubilee in the year 1973, the Golden Jubilee in the year 1998 and the Diamond Jubilee in the year 2008, moves are afoot to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of this glorious institution with all grandeur. The process was set into motion by Justice Rashmin Manharbhai Chhaya, the former Chief Justice during his tenure and after demitting of office by Justice Chhaya in January, 2023, the process was ably carried forward by Justice N. Kotiswar Singh as the Acting Chief Justice till his elevation as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh in February, 2023. With the assumption of office of the Chief Justice of the High Court by Justice Sandeep Mehta on and from 15th of February, 2023, the preparations have received impetus under the dynamic leadership of Justice Mehta. A series of programmes are being lined up from 5th April, 2023 onwards to celebrate the momentous occasion of the Platinum Jubilee of the Gauhati High Court, which had, over a substantial period of time, the unique distinction of being the solitary High Court for the seven states in the north-eastern region of India – Assam, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh, and at present, nonetheless, is the High Court for four of those states – Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. Dignitaries in large numbers, are likely to be a part of the celebration, which is to be celebrated across all the four states in different forms throughout the Platinum Jubilee year, on its commencement at the Principal Seat at Guwahati on 5th day of April, 2023. Apart from the release of a commemorative postal stamp especially designed for the occasion by the Department of Posts, Government of India, a souvenir and the Assamese Edition of the book, 'Gauhati High Court – History & Heritage' to be published by the Gauhati High Court will be released during the year of the Platinum Jubilee celebration. The two publications chronicling the immense contributions made by this esteemed institution during the past 75 years to the growth and development of law in the judicial landscape would definitely be valuable additions for all to carve out and decide on the journey ahead.



- Justice Manish Choudhury

National Judicial Seminar on 29th October, 2022 at Kaziranga

The Gauhati High Court and the Government of Assam organized a National Seminar at Kaziranga, Assam on 29th October, 2022. The two main agenda of the seminar were Environment & Sustainable Development – Role of Judiciary and Digitization of Indian Judiciary – Its Impact in Dispensation of Justice. The Seminar was inaugurated by Sri Kiren Rijiju, Union Minister of Law &



Dignitaries on the dias during the inaugural function.



Dignitaries lighting the ceremonial lamp.

Justice R. M. Chhaya, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court and the Chief Justices, Judges of many High Courts and Distinguished Guests.

The inaugural programme on the 29th started with a *Mangala Charan* followed by lighting of the

Justice, Government of India, in the august presence of Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, Chief Minister, Assam, Justice M. R. Shah, Justice Surya Kant, Justice A. S. Bopanna, Justice S. Ravindra Bhat, Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Justice Vikram Nath, Justice C. T. Ravikumar, Justice M. M. Sundresh, Justice P. S. Narasimha, Judges, Supreme Court of India and



Justice M.R. Shah addressing the gathering during the inaugural session



Chief Justice R. M. Chhaya delivering the welcome address

ceremonial lamp. Justice R. M. Chhaya, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court delivered the welcome address. After the felicitation of the dignitaries on the dais, Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Judge, Supreme Court of India, delivered his valuable speech.

The Special Edition of ATMAN was released on the occasion by all

the dignitaries on the dais. Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, the Chief Minister of Assam, also spoke on the occasion and lauded the decision of holding the seminar at Kaziranga which according to him conveys a powerful message on conservation of the Biodiversity. Sri Kiren Rijiju, the Union Minister for Law and Justice also spoke on the occasion. Justice



Mr. Kiren Rijiju delivering the keynote address.



Justice Suman Shyam offering the vote of thanks

Suman Shyam, Judge, Gauhati High Court, offered the vote of thanks at the end of the inaugural programme.

The agenda for the first working session was Environment & Sustainable Development – Role of Judiciary. The session was chaired by Justice M. R. Shah, Judge, Supreme Court of India. The other panelists of

the session were Justice Arup Kumar Goswami, Chief Justice, Chhattisgarh High Court and Justice Rajiv Shakdher, Judge, Delhi High Court. The resource person of the programme was Padmashree Sri Jadav Payeng, Environmentalist.

The agenda for the second session was Digitization of Indian Judiciary – Its Impact in



Justice A.K. Goswami speaking on sustainable development



Justice Rajiv Shakdher speaking during the first working session

Dispensation of Justice. This session was chaired by Justice Surya Kant, Judge, Supreme Court of India. The co-members of the session were Justice Rajesh Bindal, the Chief Justice, Allahabad High Court and Justice Subhasis Talapatra, Judge, High Court of Orissa. Sri A. T. Ukrani, Registrar (SCMS & ICT) & Central Project Coordinator (CPC), e-Courts



Dignitaries on the dias releasing the Special Edition of ATMAN



Justice S.R. Bhat handing over a special copy of ATMAN to Forestman of Assam.



Justice Surya Kant, Judge, Supreme Court of India, interacting with the delegates



Justice Michael Zothankhuma proposing the vote of thanks.



Artists performing during the cultural programme on 28th & 29th October

Project, Gujarat High Court attended the programme as resource person. The session was followed by a brief interaction session. Justice Michael Zothankhuma, Judge, Gauhati High Court offered the general vote of thanks.

In the evening on 28th October, a cultural programme was organized. During the cultural programme, artists from various quarters enthralled the audience by their beautiful performances.



Celebration of Constitution Day at Gauhati High Court on 26th November, 2022

On 26th November, 2022, the Gauhati High Court celebrated the Constitution Day at the Gauhati High Court (Old Block) in association with the Gauhati High Court Bar Association and the Gauhati High Court Advocates' Association. The programme was organized to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India. The welcome address was given by Justice Lanusungkum Jamir, Judge, Gauhati High Court.



Judges paying respect to the National Anthem

On this occasion, 4 (four) short plays on the theme "Constitution of India" were performed by the students of 4 (four) law institutions, namely, JB Law College, Dispur Law College, NEF Law College and the National Law University. The plays emphasized on the principles of equality, right to education, curbing of child labour, Article 14, abolition of caste system, prevalence of Article 15, Article 17 and accessibility of fundamental rights by the citizens so on. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh appreciated the performance of the students and spoke on the challenges faced by the basic principles of our constitution. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak, along with some members of the Bar, felicitated the mentors as well as the law students with mementos and certificates, for participating in the Constitution Day celebration of the Gauhati High Court.

Mr. Dilip Choudhury, President, Gauhati High Court Bar Association & Mr. Satyadhar Matak, President, Gauhati High Court Advocates' Association addressed the gathering with their valuable words. The Constitution Day celebration programme was concluded with vote of thanks proposed by Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak, Judge Gauhati High Court.



A skit performed during the programme

The programme was attended by the Judges of the Gauhati High Court, their spouses, learned members of the Bar, the members of the Registry and the faculty members along with law students.

State Level Consultation on Implementation of the POCSO Act, 2012

A State Level Consultation on Implementation of the Prevention of Child from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 was held on 26th and 27th November, 2022 at the Administrative Staff College, Khanapara, Guwahati. The programme was organized by the Juvenile Justice Committee, Gauhati High Court, in collaboration with Department of Women and Child Development, Govt. of Assam and UNICEF, Assam.



Justice Achintya Malla Bujor Barua and Priti Patkar interacting with the delegates

The consultation began with an opening remark by Justice A. M. Bujor Barua, Member, Juvenile Justice Committee, Gauhati High Court who also chaired the Session-I – Prevention, Rehabilitation, Reintegration of POCSO Survivors - Practices, Gaps and Opportunities. Smt. Priti Patkar, PRERNA, Mumbai was the Resource Person of the session.

The topic of the Session-II was “Child-friendly Court Procedures during prosecution for POCSO survivors – Practices, Gaps, and Opportunities”. The session was chaired by Justice Nani Tagia, Executive Chairman, Arunachal Pradesh State Legal Services Authority and co-chaired by Justice Malasri Nandi, Member, Juvenile Justice Committee, Gauhati High Court. The Resource Person of the session was Sri Vipul Yash, Protsahan India Foundation.

The topic for the Session-III was “Investigation of Cases under POCSO Act 2012 – Role of Police, Medical Officer, Special Public Prosecutors, Probation Officer, and Support Person”. The session was chaired by Justice Ajit Borthakur, Member, Juvenile Justice Committee, Gauhati High Court and co-chaired by Sri Makhan Phukan, Public Prosecutor, Government of Assam, Gauhati High Court. Resource Persons for the session were Smt. Indrani Baruah, IPS, DIG, CID, Assam Police and Sri Miguel Das



Justice Nani Tagia & Justice Malasri Nandi interacting with the delegates

Queah, UTSAH, Child Rights Organization.

The Session-IV of the consultation was “Capacity Building of the Functionaries under POCSO Act, 2012 and the role of State-run training Institutions”. The session was chaired by Justice Soumitra Saikia, Member, Juvenile Justice Committee, Gauhati High Court and co-chaired by Justice (Retd.) Mir Alfaz Ali, Director, Judicial Academy, Assam. The Resource Persons were Dr. Gitanjali Ghosh, Assistant Professor of Law, NLUJA and Sri Debasish Sarma, Principal, Police Training College, Dergaon.



Smt. Ajanta Neog, Minister, Women and Child Development, Govt. of Assam watering the ceremonial plant

The day-2 was started with a plenary session. The welcome address was delivered by Sri Mukesh Chandra Sahu, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development, Govt. of Assam followed by an address by Dr. Madhulika Jonathan, Chief, UNICEF Field Office for Assam and North-East States.



Justice Soumitra Saikia addressing the participants

Sri Alo Libang, Minister, Women and Child Development, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh addressed the gathering which was followed by an address by Smt. Ajanta Neog, Minister, Women & Child Development and Finance, Govt. of Assam.

Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chairperson, Juvenile Justice Committee, Gauhati High Court delivered the keynote address and Sri Rafique Ahmed Tapadar, Secretary,

Juvenile Justice Committee, Gauhati High Court offered the vote of thanks.

Panel discussions were held on various issues. The key speaker for the topic, “Ten years of Implementation of POCSO Act, 2012 - National Perspective (Trends, gaps, challenges, and way forward)” was Sri Ananta Kumar Asthana, Child Rights Lawyer, who took part in the discussion virtually.

While Smt. Swagata Raha, Director, ENFOLD, Proactive Health Trust, Bangalore spoke on the topic 'Presentation on analysis of Special (POCSO) Court judgment on "Romantic Cases" in Indian States with special reference to Assam'. Dr. Jagadeesh



Justice N. Kotiswar Singh interacting with the participants

Reddy, Vydehi Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Centre Department of Forensic Medicine, Bangalore spoke virtually on the topic 'Importance of Medical Examination and Forensic Lab under POCSO Act'.

Dr. N. Janardhana, NIMHANS, Bangalore, spoke on the topic, “Mental Health and Psycho Social Counselling support to POCSO Victims – Scope, current practices and way forward”. The session was chaired by Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chairperson, Juvenile Justice Committee, Gauhati High Court.



Justice Ajit Borthakur addressing the participants

Another session was held on the topic, “Ten Years of POCSO: Revisiting commitments and priorities”. In this session various examples/good practices

were shared by the States in connection with Child Friendly Court Procedures, Case Investigation and Legal Documentation, Victim Compensation, Support Person, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, Monitoring and Coordination Mechanism, etc. The session was followed by presentations by the representatives of the States of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. The session was



Justice M.A. Ali, Judge (Retd.), Gauhati High Court, speaking on the occasion

chaired by Justice Lanusungkum Jamir, Executive Chairman, Nagaland State Legal Services Authority. The session was followed by an interactive session.

The concluding session of the programme was attended by Justice Lanusungkum Jamir, Justice Achintya Malla Bujor Barua, Justice Ajit Borthakur, Justice Nani Tagia, Justice Soumitra Saikia, Justice Malasri Nandi, Judges, Gauhati High Court, representatives from the participating States and representatives from the UNICEF. The session was Chaired by Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chairperson, Juvenile Justice Committee, Gauhati High Court.



A group photo of the Judges, Resource Persons and participants from various states

Farewell of Chief Justice R. M. Chhaya on 10th January, 2023

On January 10, 2023, the legal fraternity of the Gauhati High Court bid farewell to Justice R. M. Chhaya, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court on his demitting office of the Chief Justice. In that connection, a Full Court Farewell Reference was held in Court no. 1 of the New Block of the Gauhati High Court.

The farewell reference was attended by Smt. Hitakshi R. Chhaya, other members of His Lordship's family, the Judges, members of the Bar, Advocate Generals of Assam and Mizoram.

The members of the legal fraternity spoke about various qualities of Justice R. M. Chhaya who was very kind and courteous towards the advocates and caring



Full Court farewell reference in honour of Justice R. M. Chhaya



Justice R.M. Chhaya receiving the guard of honour

towards the staff attached to the court. They also spoke about several important projects accomplished during His Lordship's tenure which included the Vidyarth – School on Wheels for providing free education to the underprivileged students with the support of the State Government. Chief Justice Chhaya took initiative for inauguration of the New Court building at Barpeta, Museum at the Gauhati High Court and Live Streaming of the court proceedings.

On that day, an official dinner was also hosted in honour of Smt. Hitakshi R. Chhaya and Justice R. M. Chhaya which was attended by both the sitting and former Judges, along with their spouses, the Advocate Generals of Assam and Mizoram, the officers and staff of the Registry and other dignitaries.



Justice N. Kotiswar Singh presenting a memento to Justice R.M. Chhaya



Dr. Vijaylakshmi Brara presenting a phulam gamosa to Mrs. Hitakshi R. Chhaya

Visit of Parliamentary Delegation on 21st January, 2023

On 21st January, 2023, the Departmental – related Parliamentary Standing Committee (DRPSC) on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice visited the Gauhati High Court, Guwahati as a part of their study-visit and interacted with Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Acting Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court as well as the other Judges. Sri Sushil Kumar Modi, the Chairman of the Committee, accompanied by a section of the members of the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha had a discussion on the topics, Strengthening of Judicial Infrastructure, vacancies in the District Judiciary, etc. A powerpoint presentation was made by the Registry highlighting the infrustructural deficiencies of the District Judiciary in the States under the jurisdiction of the Gauhati High Court. During the deliberations, the suggestions made by the Acting Chief Justice and other judges were taken note of by the Parliamentary delegation.



Judges present during the deliberation

74th Republic Day Celebration at the Gauhati High Court

The Gauhati High Court, along with the other part of the Nation, also celebrated the 74th Republic Day at the Gauhati High Court with much pomp and gaiety. On the occasion, Acting Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh hoisted the National Flag which was followed by the National Anthem and Guard of Honour. A colourful parade was taken out on the occasion by the NCC cadets and police personnel, accompanied by a musical band which kept the crowd enthralled. The sitting and former Judges of the Gauhati 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, the officers and staff of the Gauhati High Court Registry and other people attended the celebration. A beautiful cultural programme was held on the occasion which enthralled the gathering. An eye check up and a blood donation camp was also organized on the occasion by Gauhati High Court Employees Association.



Justice N Kotiswar Singh, Acting Chief Justice hoisting the National Flag.



Parade taken out (left) & artists performing on the occasion (right)



Sattriya dance performed on the occasion



An eye check-up camp organized by GHEA.

Inauguration of Justice Clock at Silchar on 11th February, 2023

Justice Clock – an electronic display database, which will provide real-time information regarding disposal and pendency of cases within the Cachar District Judiciary, was inaugurated by Justice Suman Shyam, Chairperson, ICT Committee of the Gauhati High Court, within the premises of District Court Complex, Silchar on 11th February, 2023 in the august presence of the District & Sessions Judge, Cachar, Judicial Officers, representatives of the District Administration and the members of the Bar.



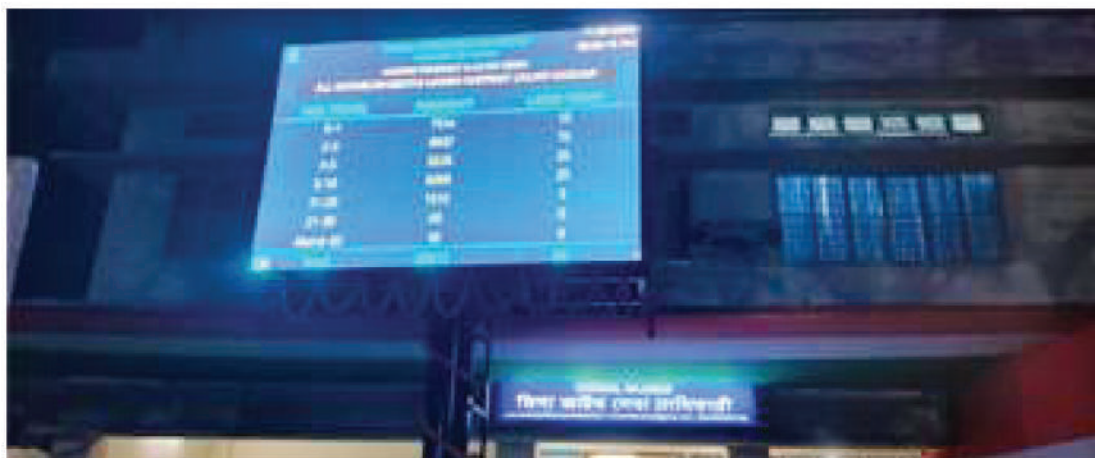
Justice Suman Shyam uncurling the plaque during the inauguration of the Justice Clock in presence of Sri D. K. Das, District & Sessions Judge, Cachar



Justice Suman Shyam addressing the audience during the inaugural programme of Justice Clock

The programme was also attended by the District & Sessions Judges and Chief Judicial Magistrates of Karimganj and Hailakandi Districts. Addressing the gathering, Justice Suman Shyam observed that the Judiciary is undergoing a change as a result of the advent of technology and stakeholders may witness a new judiciary within the next two to three years.

The Justice Clock will continuously give the general public access to real-time information on the pendency and disposal of cases and various schemes of e-courts. Cachar takes pride in being the first district in the State of Assam to install and inaugurate a Justice Clock for the benefit of the litigants and the society at large.



The real-time database of disposal and pendency of cases on display

Farewell of Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, on 13th February, 2023

On 13th February, 2023, a Full Court reference was held at Court No.1 in the New Block of Gauhati High Court to bid farewell to Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Acting Chief Justice on being elevated as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. The reference was attended by the Judges, the learned members of the bar and the officers of the Registry. The



A view of the full court farewell reference of Justice N. Kotiswar Singh



Justice M.R. Pathak presenting a gift to Justice N. Kotiswar Singh

Judges of the Gauhati High Court, the former Judges, their spouses and the members of the Registry attended the programme.



Justice N. Kotiswar Singh honoured with a gift on behalf of the Registry



Smt. Moushumi Dutta Pathak presenting a gift to Dr. Vijaylakshmi Brara

Swearing-in Ceremony of Justice Sandeep Mehta as Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court on 15th February, 2023

On 15th February, 2023, His Excellency the Governor of Assam Sri (Prof.) Jagdish Mukhi administered the oath of office to Justice Sandeep Mehta, Judge, Rajasthan High Court as the Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court at the Durbar Hall of Raj Bhavan, Guwahati.

The Chief Minister of Assam, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, the sitting as well as the former Judges of the Gauhati High Court, their spouses, a number of Judges of the Rajasthan High Court, the Advocate Generals of Assam and Mizoram, Senior Govt. officials and officials of the Gauhati High Court Registry were present on the occasion. The swearing-in-ceremony was followed by dinner hosted in honour of Justice Sandeep Mehta at the Chief Justice's bungalow.



Shri (Prof.) Jagdish Mukhi administering the oath of office to Justice Sandeep Mehta as the Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court (left). A section of the dignitaries present on the occasion (Right)

Farewell of Justice Songkhupchung Serto, Judge, Gauhati High Court on 28th February, 2023

On 28th February, 2023, the Gauhati High Court fraternity bid farewell to Justice Songkhupchung Serto, Judge, Gauhati High Court on his Lordship's demitting office. A Full Court Farewell Reference was held at Court No.1 in the New Block of Gauhati High Court which was attended by the Judges, the learned members of the Bar and the officers of the Registry.

The legal fraternity highlighted the various facets of his personality and his contributions in the development of infrastructure



A view of the full Court farewell reference of Justice S. Serto

of the district judiciary in the States of Manipur and Nagaland.

An official dinner was also hosted in honour of Justice Songkhupchang Serto on 27th February, 2023. Smt. Lalfakpuii Fanai, spouse of his Lordship, Judges of the Gauhati High Court, the former Judges, their spouses and the members of the Registry attended the programme.



Chief Justice Sandeep Mehta presenting a memento to Justice S. Serto in presence of other Judges

Swearing-in Ceremony of Justice Kardak Ete as Additional Judge of Gauhati High Court on 13th March, 2023

On 13th March, 2023, Justice Sandeep Mehta, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court administered the oath of office to Sri Kardak Ete as Additional Judge of Gauhati High Court. The swearing-in ceremony was held at Court No. 1, Gauhati High Court (New Block). Before his elevation, Sri Ete was a Senior Advocate practising at Itanagar Bench of the Gauhati High Court and also served as Acting Advocate General,



Chief Justice Sandeep Mehta administering the oath of office to Sri Kardak Ete as Additional Judge of the Gauhati High Court



A section of the members of the bar attending the swearing-in ceremony

Arunachal Pradesh. The swearing-in ceremony was attended by the sitting Judges, the Advocate Generals of Assam and Mizoram, members of the Bar which includes a large number of lawyers from Itanagar Bench, members of Sri Ete's family and officials of the Gauhati High Court Registry.

"NIRMAL": Menstrual Hygiene Awareness programme inside Jails on 2nd October, 2022

The Assam State Legal Services Authority, in collaboration with Prison Department, Government of Assam and NGOs, have introduced a Menstrual Hygiene Awareness Programme in six Central Jails of the State. On the 2nd of October, 2022, six Central Jails of Assam have installed vending machines and incinerators of sanitary napkins at the women cells. The initiative is aimed for preserving the health and self-esteem of the inmates.

Dibrugarh:

In Dibrugarh, the project was inaugurated by Sri Biswajit Pegu, Deputy Commissioner, in presence of the Secretary, DLSA and the Superintendent and jailors of Central Jail, Dibrugarh. Two vending machines and an incinerator have been installed as part of the project for the proper distribution and disposal of the sanitary napkins in the Central Jail, Dibrugarh. It is also worth mentioning herein that one



Sri Biswajit Pegu, Deputy Commissioner inaugurating the Menstrual Hygiene Awareness programme at Dibrugarh

vending machine has been provided by the Assam Prison Headquarters and the other by the District Administration, Dibrugarh and the incinerator has been provided by the Assam Prison Headquarters.

Nagaon:

The vending machines and incinerator were installed in Central Jail as well as Special Jail, Nagaon in the presence of Sri Raktim Duarah, District & Sessions Judge, Nagaon, the CEO, Nagaon Municipal Board, the Superintendent, Special Jail, Nagaon, the Secretary DLSA, Nagaon and all the staff members of DLSA, Nagaon and staff of Jail Authorities of Nagaon district.



Inauguration of NIRMAL at Nagaon

In Central Jail, the machines have been provided by the Government of Assam and in Special Jail, the machines were donated by advocate Smti. Sahina Khanam of Nagaon Bar Association in memory of late Rofan Nessa.



Inauguration of NIRMAL at Sonitpur

Sonitpur:

The District Legal Services Authority, Sonitpur, in collaboration with Social Welfare Department, Sonitpur; Assam Prison Headquarters, Guwahati and Central Jail, Tezpur have installed and inaugurated one sanitary napkin vending machine and one sanitary napkin incinerator machine within the Central Jail premises at Tezpur. Additional Deputy Commissioner, Sonitpur;

Additional Superintendent of Police; Secretary, DLSA, Sonitpur; District Social Welfare Officer; Superintendent of Central Jail, Tezpur; Jailor, Central Jail, Tezpur, along with other staff of Central Jail, Tezpur and District Legal Services Authority, Sonitpur were present in the inaugural programme.

Cachar:

The District Legal Services Authority, Cachar, in collaboration with Lions Club *Smile*, Silchar had organized the launch and installation of two sanitary napkin vending machines and two sanitary napkin incinerator machines in the Central Jail, Silchar under the project, 'Nirmal'. The said programme was attended by the DIG, Southern Region; the Superintendent of Police, Cachar, Silchar. The Superintendent, Central Jail, Silchar; the President,



Inauguration of NIRMAL at Cachar

Lions Club *Smile*, Silchar, along with the Secretary, DLSA, Cachar where the said machines were set to function after installation. The machines have been installed in the female ward of Central Jail, Silchar and would be operated by the jail inmates for which, necessary training shall be provided to them.



Inauguration of NIRMAL at Jorhat

Jorhat:

Under the project, Nirmal, two sanitary pad vending machines and two sanitary pad incinerator machines have been installed at the Central Jail, Jorhat. One pair of the machines was provided by the Manthan Ladies Group of Jorhat town and other pair of machine provided by the Assam Prison Headquarters, Guwahati. The machines were

inaugurated by the Additional District & Sessions Judge, Jorhat and Chief Judicial Magistrate, Jorhat, in the presence of officials from Central Jail, Jorhat and District Legal Services Authority, Jorhat. Members from the Manthan Ladies group and all the female inmates were present in the programme.

Kamrup (Metro):



Inauguration of NIRMAL at Kamrup

Similarly, in Central Jail, Kamrup (Metro), such unit comprising of sanitary pad vending machine and incinerator have been installed. The ceremony was inaugurated by Member Secretary, ASLSA and IG, Prisons in presence of Additional District & Sessions Judge, Kamrup (Metro), Secretary, DLSA, Kamrup (Metro), Deputy Secretary and Under Secretary, ASLSA, Superintendent of jail, jailor and other officers and

officials of different departments of Government of Assam. Sri Jyoti Talukdar, Retd. Law Officer, Gauhati University and Dr. Barnali Das, Pediatrician, GMCH who donated one of the vending machines and incinerators, also attended the programme.

Child Friendly Zone & e-Sewa Kendra Inaugurated at District Court Complex, Phek in Nagaland on 15th October, 2022

On 15th October, 2022, Justice Lanusungkum Jamir, Judge, Gauhati High Court and Executive Chairman, Nagaland State Legal Services Authority (NSLSA) inaugurated a Child Friendly Zone and e-Sewa Kendra at District Court Complex, Phek in Nagaland.

Gracing the function as the chief guest, Justice Lanusungkum Jamir appreciated the efforts of the Deputy Commissioner, Phek and Phek District Legal Service Authority (PDLISA) in setting up the Child Friendly Zone under *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)* scheme at Phek. Justice Jamir said that Child Friendly Zone has been set up to provide conducive child friendly environment for the child victims of sexual abuse whereby the child can feel at home when their statements are recorded during trial, without the presence of the accused and without any pressure. He further stated that the e-Sewa Kendra is a one-stop centre for the litigants, lawyers and the public to get information and know about the status of the case, judgment, order of case, etc.



Justice L.S. Jamir inaugurating the Child Friendly Zone

Programmes organized by the Judicial Academy, Assam

Skill Development Training Programme for the staff of District Courts of Nagaland on 21st and 22nd October, 2022

On 21st and 22nd October, 2022, a Skill Development Training Programme for the Staff of District Courts of Nagaland was organized by the Judicial Academy, Assam in collaboration with Gauhati High Court, Kohima Bench and Department of Law & Justice, Government of Nagaland at the Law Guest House, 3rd Mile, Dimapur (Nagaland). The welcome address was



Justice S. Serto addressing the participants

delivered by Sri Neiko Akami, Registrar, Kohima Bench, Gauhati High Court. Justice Songkhupchung Serto, Judge, Gauhati High Court also delivered his speech. Sri S.P. Moitra, Faculty, Judicial Academy, Assam proposed the vote of thanks. The Resource Persons of the said programme were Sri S. P. Moitra & Smti. Mridu Chanda Bordoloi, Faculty members of the Judicial Academy, Assam and Smti. Shivani Handique, Research Officer, Judicial Academy, Assam.

Refresher Training Programme (cluster-wise) for the Grade-II & Grade-III Judicial Officers of Assam on 8th November, 2022

On 8th November, 2022, a Refresher Training Programme (Cluster-Wise) for the Grade - II & Grade - III Judicial Officers of Assam (Kamrup (M), Kamrup, Nalbari, Bajali, Baksa, Darrang, Morigaon, South Salmara-Mankachar, West Karbi Anglong) was held at Judicial Academy, Assam. The Resource Persons of the said programme were Justice K.R. Surana, Judge, Gauhati High Court, Shri Sunil Kumar Poddar, District & Sessions Judge, Morigaon and Sri Ratnadip Bhattacharjee Faculty, Judicial Academy, Assam. Justice K.R. Surana spoke on the topic Injunction (with special focus on Temporary Injunction). Sri Sunil Kumar



Justice K. R. Surana, flanked by Justice(Retd.) M. A. Ali and Sri S.K. Poddar, speaking on the occasion

Poddar spoke on the topic 'Recording of statement of accused under section 313 Cr.P.C and its use while appreciating evidence, while Sri Ratnadip Bhattacharjee spoke on the topic 'Recording of statements of victim under Section 164 Cr.P.C in sexual offence cases, with special reference to child and women victims, use of such statement during trial and appreciation by Court. All the sessions were followed by an interactive session.

Sensitization Training Programme on matters relating to disposition of Election Petition on 11th November, 2022



Justice (Retd.) B.P. Katakey addressing the participants on virtual mode

On 11th November, 2022, a Sensitization Training Programme on Matters Relating to Disposition of Election Petition was organized by the Judicial Academy, Assam virtually for Grade-I Judicial Officers of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. Justice (Retd.) B. P. Katakey, former Judge, Gauhati High Court was the Resource Person of the said programme.

Refresher Training Programme (cluster-wise) for the Grade-II & Grade-III Judicial Officers of Assam on 13th November, 2022

On 13th November, 2022, a Refresher Training Programme (Cluster-Wise) for the Grade -II & Grade -III Judicial Officers Of Assam (Dibrugarh, Sivasagar, Tinsukia, Charaideo, Lakhimpur, Dhemaji) was organized by the Judicial Academy, Assam, in collaboration with Dibrugarh District Judiciary at Dibrugarh. The Resource Persons of the said programme was Justice K.R. Surana, Judge, Gauhati High Court, Shri S.P. Moitra, Faculty, Judicial Academy, Assam and Sri Jaspal Singh, Addl. District & Sessions Judge, Dibrugarh. The Resource Persons spoke on the topics –'Injunction', 'Recording of statement of accused under section 313 Cr.P.C and its use while appreciating evidence' and 'Recording of statements of victim under Section 164 Cr.P.C in sexual offence cases, with special reference to child and women victims, use of such statement during trial and appreciation by Court'.

An interactive session was held after the Resource Persons had spoken on each of the topics.



Justice K.R. Surana along with Resource Persons and participants

One day Training Programme for Referral Judges at National Law University on 19th November, 2022

One day training programme for Referral Judges was inaugurated on 19th November, 2022. The inaugural function was attended by Justice Suman Shyam, Judge, Gauhati High Court-cum-Chairman, Mediation Monitoring Committee, Gauhati High Court, Judges of the Gauhati High Court, Vice Chancellor, National Law University and other dignitaries. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge-in-charge, Administrative Department, Gauhati High Court, virtually inaugurated the programme.



Justice Suman Shyam lighting the ceremonial lamp



Justice (Retd.) Mir Alfaz Ali, delivering the welcome address

One-day Refresher Training Programme for the Grade-II & Grade-III Judicial Officers of Assam organized by the Judicial Academy, Assam on 20th November, 2022

A One-Day Refresher Training Programme for the Grade -II & Grade-III Judicial Officers of Assam was organized by the Judicial Academy, Assam at the Conference Hall of Judicial Academy, Assam. Justice (Retd.) P. K. Deka, former Judge,



Justice (Retd.) P. K. Deka addressing the participants



Justice (Retd.) P. K. Deka along with the Judicial Officers

Gauhati High Court, Guwahati and Sri Abdus Sattar, Advocate were the Resource Persons. Sri Abdus Sattar, Advocate, spoke on Preliminary and Final Decree, Justice (Retd.) P.K. Deka spoke on Execution of Decree : Issues and Challenges. Both the sessions were followed by an interactive session.

Sensitization Training Programme on 21st January, 2023

On 21st January, 2023, a sensitization training programme was organized by Judicial Academy, Assam on virtual mode. Justice Manish Choudhury, Judge, Gauhati High Court was the Resource Person of the said programme and he spoke on the topic 'Adjudication and Disposal of the Negotiable Instruments Act Cases in the Light of Practice Directions Issued by the Gauhati High Court'. The said training programme was attended by the Grade II and Grade III Judicial Officers.



Justice Manish Choudhury speaking on NI Act on virtual mode

Judicial Knowledge Enhancement Programme for Newly Promoted Grade-I Judicial Officers from 6th-11th February, 2023

A Judicial Knowledge Enhancement Programme for Newly Promoted Grade-I Judicial Officers was organized by Judicial Academy, Assam & NEJOTI from 6th February to 11th February, 2023. The resource persons of the said programme were Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak and Justice Sanjay Kr. Medhi, Judges, Gauhati High Court, Justice B.P. Katakey, Judge (Retd), Gauhati High Court, Justice Hitesh Kumar Sarma, Judge (Retd.), Gauhati High Court, Justice (Retd.) Mir Alfaz Ali, Director, Judicial Academy, Assam, Sri S.P. Moitra, Faculty, Judicial Academy, Assam, Dr. Gunajit Das, Professor and Dr. Anurupa Choudhury, MD, Associate Professor, both of them are from Dept. of Forensic Medicine, Dhubri Medical College & Hospital and Vijeta Jain, Art of Living. The topics of discussion were Trial of Sessions Cases-Part 1, Trial of Sessions cases- Part 2, Recording of Statement under Section 313, CrPC, Trial of Sessions Cases-Part 3, Sentence, Compensation and rehabilitation of victim including Mental Health Counseling hearing, Victimology, Appreciation of Evidence, Narcotics & Psychotropic Substance Act, 1985, Role of Forensic Medicine with respect to offences against the human body, Motor Vehicle Accident Claim Tribunal, Adjudication of Matrimonial Disputes, Family Courts Act, Criminal Appeals, Section 372 to 394,



Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak and Justice Sanjay Kr. Medhi with the Judicial Officers during the programme

Bail: Recent Development, Appreciation of Evidence – Part 2, Leading to Discovery, Confession, Criminal Revision, Appreciation of Evidence – Part 3, Expert evidence, Hostile witness, How to record and prove contradiction, Overview of POCSO Act and POSCO Rules, 2020, Bail - important aspects, Arbitration and Conciliation Act, Section 8, 9, 17, 28 and 34 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, (Applicability and approach), Land Acquisition etc. Vijeta Jain of Art of Living conducted a Wellness Workshop. The said programme was followed by an interactive session. The participants of this programme were the newly promoted Grade-I Judicial Officers.

Inauguration Ceremony of the Induction Training programme on 1st March, 2023

On 1st March, 2023, Justice Sandeep Mehta, the Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court inaugurated the induction training programme of the newly appointed Grade-III Judicial Officers of Assam and Mizoram organised by the Judicial Academy, Assam. Chief Justice Sandeep Mehta in his keynote address welcomed



Chief Justice Sandeep Mehta speaking during the inaugural session.

the learned trainee Judicial Officers, advised them to hone their legal acumen, sharpen their skills, imbibe a judicial culture and to utilize the training period to the fullest. Justice L. S. Jamir, Judge-in-charge, Administrative Department, Gauhati High Court, Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak, Judge-in-charge, Training, Gauhati High Court and Justice (Retd.) Mir Alfaz Ali, Director, Judicial Academy, Assam, also spoke on the occasion. Justice Suman Shyam, Justice Kalyan Rai Surana, Justice Arun Dev Choudhury, Judges, Gauhati High Court were also present during the inaugural programme.



Chief Justice Sandeep Mehta along with other Judges and Judicial Officers

Programmes Organized by Gauhati High Court Legal Services Committee (GHCLSC)

The National Lok Adalats held in November, 2022 and February, 2023 at the Principal Seat, Gauhati High Court

The 4th National Lok Adalat for the year 2022 was held on 12th of November in the Principal Seat, Gauhati High Court, Guwahati. Accordingly, three benches comprising of Justice Sanjay Kumar Medhi, Justice Susmita Phukan Khaund and Justice Mitali Thakuria, Judges, Gauhati High Court were constituted. A total number of 48 cases were disposed of during the Lok Adalat. Another National Lok Adalat was held on 11th February, 2023. Justice Soumitra Saikia, Justice Devashis Baruah and Justice Susmita Phukan



*Justice Sanjay Kumar Medhi presiding over the
National Lok Adalat*

Khaund, Judges, Gauhati High Court presided over the Lok Adalats. A total number of 53 cases were disposed of during the Lok Adalat.



*Justice Soumitra Saikia presiding over the
National Lok Adalat*



*Justice Devashis Baruah presiding over the National
Lok Adalat*



*Justice Susmita Phukan Khaund presiding over the
National Lok Adalat*



*Justice Mitali Thakuria presiding over the National
Lok Adalat*

40 hours Mediation Training Programme for Judicial Officers at Guwahati on 29th November to 3rd December, 2022

40 hours Mediation Training Programme for Judicial Officers of Assam was held on 29th November to 3rd December, 2022, at the conference hall, Judicial Academy, Assam at Amingaon. Justice Nani Tagia, Member, Mediation Monitoring Committee, Gauhati High Court, inaugurated the programme in presence of Justice Kakheto Sema, who is also a member of the Mediation Monitoring Committee, Gauhati High Court, other dignitaries and the participants of the training programme.



Justice Nani Tagia lighting the ceremonial lamp.

40 hours Mediation Training Programme for Advocates at Don Bosco Institute of Management, Guwahati on 20th to 24th January, 2023



Justice L.S. Jamir, delivering the keynote address

40 hours Mediation Training Programme for Advocates of Assam organized by Gauhati High Court Legal Services Committee was held at Don Bosco Institute of Management, Kharghuli, Guwahati from 20th January to 24th January, 2023. The keynote address was delivered by Justice Lanusungkum Jamir, Judge-in-charge, Administrative Department (JAD), Gauhati High Court. Welcome address was delivered by the Secretary,

Gauhati High Court Legal Services Committee. The vote of thanks was proposed by the Deputy Secretary, Assam State Legal Services Authority, Assam.



Justice Lanusungkum Jamir, Judge-in-charge, Administrative Department (JAD), Gauhati High Court with Resource Persons and the Participants of the programme.

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 Sandeep Mehta	30.05.2011	10.01.2025
2.	Justice Lanusungkum Jamir	22.05.2013	28.02.2026
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 Achintya Malla Bujor Barua	15.11.2016	14.12.2023
7.	Justice Kalyan Rai Surana	15.11.2016	12.12.2027
8.	Justice Nelson Sailo	15.11.2016	08.10.2030
9.	Justice Ajit Borthakur	15.11.2016	30.11.2023
10.	Justice Sanjay Kumar Medhi	19.11.2018	06.03.2033
11.	Justice Nani Tagia	19.11.2018	15.05.2031
12.	Justice Manish Choudhury	18.01.2019	29.02.2034
13.	Justice Soumitra Saikia	26.11.2019	24.07.2031
14.	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
7.	Justice Susmita Phukan Khaund	22.11.1964	16.08.2022	15.08.2024
8.	Justice Mitali Thakuria	01.01.1965	16.08.2022	15.08.2024
9.	Justice Kardak Ete	09.04.1975	13.03.2023	12.03.2025

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 01.10.2022 to 28.02.2023

Name of Benches	Total pendency as on 01.10.2022	Institution for the period from 01.10.2022 to 28.02.2023	Disposal for the period from 01.10.2022 to 28.02.2023	Total pendency as on 28.02.2023
Principal Seat	44115	5217	4405	44927
Kohima Bench	841	209	119	931
Aizawl Bench	481	118	106	493
Itanagar Bench	1187	439	344	1282
Total	46624	5983	4974	47633

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