

ATMAN

(A Biannual News Bulletin of the Gauhati High Court)

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

Events organized during April, 2024 to September, 2024

- ⇒ The 76th Establishment Day of the Gauhati High Court on 5th April
- ⇒ Annual Sports Meet at Gauhati High Court
- ⇒ Laying of Foundation Stone for the New Judicial Court Building at Majuli on 6th April, 2024
- ⇒ MACT Portal Launch on 11th May, 2024
- ⇒ 40 hrs. Mediation Training Programme for the Advocates Practicing in the District Courts of Assam
- ⇒ World Environment Day on 5th June, 2024
- ⇒ Inauguration of New Judicial Court Building in Sivasagar on 15th June, 2024
- ⇒ Swearing-in Ceremony of Justice Susmita Phukan Khaund and Justice Mitali Thakuria
- ⇒ Yoga Day Celebrated at Gauhati High Court on June 21, 2024
- ⇒ Independence Day Celebration at Gauhati High Court
- ⇒ Distribution of Refurbished Computer Sets to Grade-IV Employees of Kohima Bench of Gauhati High Court on 78th Independence Day
- ⇒ National Lok Adalat held on 14th September, 2024 at Gauhati High Court premises
- ⇒ Programmes organized by ASLSA
- ⇒ Programmes organized by Judicial Academy

From the Chief Justice



It is indeed a happy moment for me to announce the publication of the 31st issue of 'ATMAN', the Biannual News Bulletin of the Gauhati High Court, which has stepped into its sixteen years of its relentless quest for making readers aware about various activities of the Gauhati High Court.

Events which enrich the vibrancy of our High Court as an institution of justice such as conferences, construction of new courts, training programmes, plantation drives, Independence Day celebration, promotion of ICT outreach, National Lok Adalats, legal awareness drives, orientation programmes, sports meet etc., are well resonated in the pages of 'ATMAN'.

I feel immensely privileged to be a part of this institution. I am confident that 'ATMAN' will continue to enlighten people about Gauhati High Court. I congratulate the editorial board for their sincere and dedicated effort in bringing about the bulletin and convey my best wishes to 'ATMAN' in its journey ahead.

- Chief Justice Vijay Bishnoi

Editor speaks



The Gauhati High Court proudly marks a significant milestone in enhancing access to justice and modernizing judicial infrastructure across Assam. With the laying of the foundation stone for new court building and judicial quarters in Majuli—the only river island district—alongside the inauguration of a new court building in Sivasagar, we embark on an era of renewed dedication to timely, equitable justice. Majuli, celebrated for its cultural and ecological uniqueness, has long needed improved judicial accessibility. This new infrastructure would bring justice closer to the residents of Majuli. The state-of-the-art court building at Sivasagar will meet the district's evolving needs and reflect the High Court's dedication to strengthening access to justice across the state.

Additionally, the Gauhati High Court has made significant strides in leveraging technology to support efficient justice delivery. With digital case management, e-filing and video-conferencing facilities, we are building a system that transcends geographical and logistical barriers, fostering transparency and expediting case proceedings. The launch of the MACT portal is another step towards increased accessibility.

- Justice Manish Choudhury

The 76th Establishment Day of the Gauhati High Court on 5th April

The 76th Establishment Day of the Gauhati High Court was commemorated on April 5, 2024, with a significant event held at the Kalaguru Bishnuprasad Rabha Auditorium of Cotton University, Panbazar, Guwahati. The event was marked by an oration from the chief guest, Former Chief Justice of India, Justice Ranjan Gogoi, who delivered his lecture on the topic, "Role of Judiciary in the Economic Life of the Nation".



Chief Justice Vijay Bishnoi felicitating Justice Ranjan Gogoi, the chief guest



Smt. Suman Bishnoi presenting a gift to Smt. Rupanjali Gogoi

Addressing a distinguished gathering, Justice Ranjan Gogoi highlighted the crucial role the judiciary plays in shaping the economic landscape of India, emphasizing the importance of judicial decisions in promoting economic stability and growth. He also reflected on the historical contributions of the Gauhati High Court to the legal system and its impact on the region's socio-economic development.

The event began with a warm welcome address by Justice Vijay Bishnoi, the Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court, setting the tone for a day of reflection on the High Court's rich legacy and its contributions over the past seven decades. The programme was attended by a host of dignitaries, including judges, former judges, members of the bar, educators, law students and other esteemed guests from various fields.



Chief Justice Vijay Bishnoi lighting the ceremonial lamp

The 76th Establishment Day of the Gauhati High Court not only celebrated the court's past achievements but also looked forward to its continuing role in upholding justice and contributing to the nation's progress.

The event concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by Justice Lanusungkum Jamir, Judge Administration, Gauhati High Court.



An oration presented by Former CJI Justice Ranjan Gogoi on the topic "Role of the Judiciary in the Life of a Nation"

Annual Sports Meet at Gauhati High Court

To mark the 76th Foundation Day of the Gauhati High Court, a Tennis ball cricket tournament was held on 24th & 25th February. The tournament was started with a friendly match between Chief Justice XI and Registrar General XI where Chief Justice XI emerged as the winner. This was followed by the main tournament where 8 teams comprising the officers and staff of



Chief Justice Vijay Bishnoi poised to take the shot



Justice LS Jamir setting the tournament in motion



Justice Suman Shyam in action

Gauhati High Court, participated. The winner team was the Information Technology XI and the runner up team was Chauffeur XI. Hitesh Das was awarded the 'Man of the Match' trophy and Hirak Jyoti Neog was selected for the 'Man of the Tournament' award. Along with the cricket tournament, several other sports events were organized including Tug of War, Arm Wrestling, 100m race, Musical Chair, etc. The prizes amongst the winners were distributed by the Gauhati High Court Employees Association in its annual day celebration on 18th May, 2024.

Laying of Foundation Stone for the New Judicial Court Building at Majuli on 6th April, 2024

On April 6, 2024, Chief Justice Vijay Bishnoi laid the foundation stone for the new Judicial Court Building and Judicial Officers' Residential Quarters at Majuli in the esteemed presence of Justice Lanusungkum Jamir, Judge (Administration) of the Gauhati High Court and Justice Suman Shyam, Judge, Gauhati High Court and Portfolio Judge of Majuli District. The District and Sessions Judge and other Judicial Officers of the Majuli District Judiciary were also present on the occasion. A *Bhumi Pujan* was performed prior to the foundation-laying ceremony.



Chief Justice Vijay Bishnoi being welcomed to the largest river island, Majuli



Chief Justice Vijay Bishnoi laying the foundation stone for the new Judicial Court Building and Judicial Officers' Residential Quarters at Majuli in presence of Justice Lanusungkum Jamir

This infrastructure will equip the smallest river island district with all the necessary amenities for swift delivery of justice in the region as well as meet the residential requirements of the Judicial Officers.

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Chief Justice Vijay Bishnoi along with Justice Lanusungkum Jamir and Justice Suman Shyam taking part in the Bhumi Pujan



Chief Justice Vijay Bishnoi unfurling the plaque in the presence of Justice Lanusungkum Jamir and Justice Suman Shyam

MACT Portal Launch on 11th May, 2024

On the 11th day of May, 2024, Chief Justice Vijay Bishnoi inaugurated the Motor Accident Claim Information Portal. The event took place in the Judges' Conference Room, coinciding with the eve of the National Lok Adalat. The inauguration ceremony was graced by the presence of other



Chief Justice Vijay Bishnoi launching the MACT portal in presence of Judges

esteemed Judges. The Motor Accident Claim Information Portal stands as a beacon of citizen-centric service, providing a comprehensive platform for accessing vital information pertaining to motor accident claim litigations. This initiative reflects the judiciary's commitment to leveraging technology for the betterment of legal processes and ensuring access to justice for all. One of the portal's notable features is its claim calculator which provides advocates and litigants with a tentative compensation amount. This invaluable tool serves as a reference point for MACT (Motor Accident Claim Tribunal) cases, aligning meticulously with the prevailing guidelines set forth by the Supreme Court of India. Notably, it draws inspiration from landmark cases such as Sidram vs. The Divisional Manager UIIC Ltd, Sarla Verma, Pranay Sethi, and Magma General Insurance Co Ltd. One of the notable features of the portal is its bilingual interface, catering to the diverse linguistic landscape of the State. Additionally, the portal elucidates the rights of victims in a clear and concise manner, empowering them with



Chief Justice Vijay Bishnoi and other Judges during the programme

knowledge and understanding of their entitlements in the aftermath of a motor accident. To enhance user experience and comprehension, the portal also features an informative bilingual video elucidating its functionalities and utility. This video serves as a valuable resource for users,

offering visual clarity and step-by-step guidance on navigating through the portal's offerings. In essence, the Motor Accident Claim Information Portal symbolizes a paradigm shift in dissemination of legal information and facilitation of MACT cases. By amalgamating technology with legal expertise, it not only streamlines processes but also democratizes access to legal resources, thereby, upholding the principles of justice and equity.

40 hrs. Mediation Training Programme for the Advocates Practicing in the District Courts of Assam

A 40-hour mediation training programme for advocates practicing in the district courts of Assam was held at the Don Bosco Institute in Kharghuli, Guwahati, Assam from May 28 to June 1, 2024. The inaugural ceremony took place in the esteemed presence of Justice Vijay Bishnoi, Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court, along with other Judges of the Gauhati High Court. A total of 48 advocates from district courts across Assam successfully completed the training programme.



Chief Justice Vijay Bishnoi speaking on the occasion



Chief Justice Vijay Bishnoi with other Judges and participating advocates

World Environment Day on 5th June, 2024

On the occasion of World Environment Day, the Gauhati High Court Legal Services Committee organized a plantation drive on June 5, 2024. Justice Vijay Bishnoi, Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court, along with other judges of the Gauhati High Court, participated in the plantation drive, which took place in the road divider adjacent to the Ropeway terminal in Panbazar and within the office premises of the Gauhati High Court Legal Services Committee.



Chief Justice Vijay Bishnoi planting a sapling

Inauguration of New Judicial Court Building in Sivasagar on 15th June, 2024

In a significant development for the legal community of Sivasagar, Justice Vijay Bishnoi, Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court, accompanied by Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, Chief Minister of Assam formally inaugurated the newly constructed judicial court building at Bishnu Nagar in Sivasagar town on 15th June, 2024.



Chief Justice Vijay Bishnoi and Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurating the new court building



Chief Justice Vijay Bishnoi and Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma lighting the ceremonial lamp

Sivasagar District besides numerous dignitaries from the legal fraternity. The new judicial court building is expected to provide a conducive environment for the delivery of timely justice and to facilitate legal proceedings in the Sivasagar district. The court building is a G+3 building with 12 court rooms.



Chief Justice Vijay Bishnoi, Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma and fellow judges captured together in a single frame following the inauguration ceremony

Swearing-in Ceremony of Justice Susmita Phukan Khaund and Justice Mitali Thakuria

On 18th June, 2024, the swearing-in ceremony for Justice Susmita Phukan Khaund and Justice Mitali Thakuria, Additional Judges, Gauhati High Court was held in Court No. 1 of the New Block of the Gauhati High Court on their elevation as Judges. Justice Vijay Bishnoi, Chief Justice, administered



Justice Vijay Bishnoi administering the oath of office to Justice Mitali Thakuria



Justice Vijay Bishnoi administering the oath of office to Justice Susmita Phukan Khaund

the oath of office to both the additional judges as judges.

The ceremony was attended by judges, former judges, members of the bar, judicial officers and other dignitaries. Members of both esteemed judges' families also attended the swearing-in ceremony.

Yoga Day Celebrated at Gauhati High Court on June 21, 2024

On June 21, 2024 on the occasion of International Yoga Day, the Gauhati High Court marked an enthusiastic yoga session, bringing together judges, members of the Registry and the Bar, officers and staff. The event, held within the premises of the High Court (New Block), saw active participation from all sections of the legal community. Experienced yoga instructors guided the attendees through various asanas, emphasizing the importance of yoga for physical and mental well-being. Chief Justice Vijay Bishnoi along with other judges took part in the yoga session.



Chief Justice Vijay Bishnoi practicing yoga with Justice Michael Zothankhuma, Justice Manish Choudhury and Justice Kardak Ete



Yoga Instructors and Registry Officials during the yoga session

This year the theme for the International Day of Yoga was "Yoga for Self and Society". The theme was chosen to highlight the dual role of yoga in promoting both individual and societal well-being.

Independence Day Celebration at Gauhati High Court

The Gauhati High Court celebrated the 78th Independence Day with great enthusiasm at its Old Block. Chief Justice Vijay Bishnoi hoisted the National Flag to mark the occasion. The event witnessed the



Justice Vijay Bishnoi hoisting the National Flag during the ceremonial event.



Justice Vijay Bishnoi receiving the Guard of Honour during the Independence Day celebration.

presence of several esteemed guests, including sitting judges, former judges, Advocate Generals and members of the Bar, along with the members of the Gauhati High Court Registry.

A cultural programme was organized on the occasion, showcasing the talent and patriotic spirit of the participants. During the celebration, awards were announced for the best officers and staff of the Registry and the same was distributed among them by Justice Vijay Bishnoi, the Chief Justice and Justice L. S. Jamir, Judge Administration, Gauhati High Court. The event highlighted the unity and commitment of the legal fraternity towards the nation and its democratic values.



Justice Vijay Bishnoi along with his Lordships's spouse Suman Bishnoi distributing sweets among the children.



Glimpses of the cultural programme

Distribution of Refurbished Computer Sets to Grade-IV Employees of Kohima Bench of Gauhati High Court on 78th Independence Day

In keeping with the vision of eCourts Mission Mode Project to enhance judicial productivity and promote ICT outreach among its stakeholders, the Gauhati High Court Kohima Bench undertook a unique initiative to distribute refurbished computer sets to Grade-IV employees and contingency staff of Kohima Bench on the occasion of India's 78th Independence Day held at Kohima, Nagaland on 15th August, 2024.



Justice Kakheto Sema and Justice Mitali Thakuria distributing refurbished computers to the Grade-IV employees of Gauhati High Court Kohima Bench

The special initiative was undertaken for the first time at Kohima Bench under the vision of the Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court with an aim to promote computer literacy and intended for the benefit of the children and wards of Grade-IV employees and staff considering the necessity of IT knowledge and skills in the present day. The fully refurbished and ready-to-use computer sets were awarded to 25 (twenty-five) Grade-IV employees and contingency staff of Gauhati High Court Kohima Bench in acknowledgement of their noble services to the institution of justice by Justice Kakheto Sema, senior Portfolio Judge of Kohima Bench and Justice Mitali Thakuria, Judge, Gauhati High Court.

The solemn programme was graced by the presence of the Judges of the Gauhati High Court, senior Government Counsels, senior members from the High Court Bar Association, official dignitaries, advocates and family members of the employees.

National Lok Adalat held on 14th September, 2024 at Gauhati High Court premises



Justice Sanjay Kumar Medhi and Justice Mitali Thakuria during the National Lok Adalat

The third National Lok Adalat of 2024 was held on September 14 at the premises of the Gauhati High Court. The event was presided over by Justice Sanjay Kumar Medhi and Justice Mitali Thakuria, Judges, Gauhati High Court, addressing various legal matters and promoting speedy resolution of cases in line with the goals of the National Lok Adalat.

Programmes organized by ASLSA

Awareness Programme on the Schemes of National Legal Services Authority Held at Majuli on 6th April, 2024

The Assam State Legal Services Authority, in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority, Majuli, organized an awareness programme on the schemes of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) on April 6, 2024. The programme was held in the esteemed presence of Justice Vijay Bishnoi, Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court and Patron-in-Chief of ASLSA, along with other dignitaries, including Justice Lanusungkum Jamir, Executive Chairman of ASLSA and Justice Suman Shyam, Judge, Gauhati High Court and Portfolio Judge for Majuli.



Chief Justice Vijay Bishnoi lighting the ceremonial lamp in the presence of Justice Suman Shyam

Approximately one thousand participants attended the programme including college students, ASHA workers, officials from the Social Welfare Department, women working at the grassroots level under the Assam State Rural Livelihoods Mission Society (ASRLMS), Gaon Pradhans, members of Village Defence Parties, local residents, para-legal volunteers, members of the bar and media persons.



Dignitaries on the dais during the programme

Cluster Wise Capacity Building Programme for the Legal Aid Defense Counsels of Assam on 23rd & 24th August, 2024 and on 7th & 8th September, 2024

Assam State Legal Services Authority in collaboration with Judicial Academy, Assam conducted a "Two Days Capacity Building Programme for the Chief and Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsels of Assam" on 23rd and 24th August, 2024 and another "Two Days Capacity Building Programme for the Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsels" on 7th and 8th September, 2024. The



Justice Kalyan Rai Surana delivering his speech

aforesaid refresher training programmes for capacity building of the Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsels and Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsels, and for the Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsels have been conducted cluster wise across the State of Assam on the same date as mentioned above.

Justice Kalyan Rai Surana, Judge, Gauhati High Court graced the DLSA, Cachar with his Lordship's august presence in the training programme hosted by the cluster DLSA, Cachar on 23rd and 24th August, 2024.

Programmes organized by Judicial Academy

Three-day Orientation Programme on New Criminal Laws on 13th, 14th & 15th May, 2024

On 13th, 14th & 15th May, 2024, a three - day Orientation Programme on New Criminal Laws - Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, was organized by the Judicial Academy for the Judicial Officers of Assam, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh. The resource



Justice Dinesh Maheshwari, Former Judge, SCI flanked by Chief Justice Vijay Bishnoi, Justice LS Jamir and Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak on the dais

persons of the said programme were Justice Dinesh Maheshwari, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India, Ms. Divya Salim, Assistant Professor, NLIU, Bhopal, Shri S.P. Moitra, Faculty, Judicial Academy, Assam, Dr. Amol Deo Chavhan, Associate Professor, NLUJAA and Dr. Nandini C P, Associate Professor, DSNLU, Andhra Pradesh. In the three-day orientation programme, there were 12 sessions in total and each session was followed by an interactive session. The said orientation programme was organized for the judicial officers of Assam, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh. Justice Vijay Bishnoi, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, Justice Lanusungkum Jamir and Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak, Judges, Gauhati High Court also graced the programme.



Justice Dinesh Maheshwari, Former Judge, SCI, speaking on the occasion

Assam, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh. Justice Vijay Bishnoi, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, Justice Lanusungkum Jamir and Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak, Judges, Gauhati High Court also graced the programme.



Participants posing for a group photo with Chief Justice Vijay Bishnoi, Justice Dinesh Maheshwari and other Judges.

Consultation Meet for Principal Magistrates Working in Juvenile Justice Boards of the States of Assam, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram on 10th August, 2024

On 10th August, 2024, a Consultation Meet for Principal Magistrates working in Juvenile Justice Boards of the States of Assam, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram was organised by National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development in collaboration with Judicial Academy, Assam at Judicial Academy, Assam. The resource persons of the programme were Justice Deepak Gupta, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India, Shri Nasim Akhtar, Judge, NDPS Court, Assam-cum-Faculty, Judicial Academy, Assam, Dr. Sanghamitra Barik, Joint Director, NIPCCD and Shri Apurba Saha, Assistant Director, NIPCCD. Justice Deepak Gupta spoke on the topic ‘Care, Protection and Rehabilitation of Children in Conflict with Law: Role of Principal Magistrates working in Juvenile Justice Boards’. A discussion was held on latest landmark judgments of High Courts and Supreme Court of India. There was a valedictory session followed by vote of thanks.



Justice Deepak Gupta speaking on the occasion

IN THE GAUHATI HIGH COURT

[THE HIGH COURT OF ASSAM, NAGALAND, MIZORAM AND ARUNACHAL PRADESH]

Statement showing INSTITUTION, DISPOSAL & PENDENCY of cases in Respect of GAUHATI HIGH COURT

FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01.04.2024 to 30.09.2024

Name of Benches	Total pendency as on 01.04.2024	Institution for the period from 01.04.2024 to 30.09.2024	Disposal for the period from 01.04.2024 to 30.09.2024	Total pendency as on 30.09.2024
Principal Seat	48539	6768	6756	48551
Kohima Bench	843	303	362	784
Aizawl Bench	560	214	200	574
Itanagar Bench	1591	542	593	1540
Total	51533	7827	7911	51449

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

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 Vijay Bishnoi	08.01.2013	
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 Kalyan Rai Surana	15.11.2016	12.12.2027
7.	Justice Nelson Sailo	15.11.2016	08.10.2030
8.	Justice Sanjay Kumar Medhi	19.11.2018	06.03.2033
9.	Justice Manish Choudhury	18.01.2019	29.02.2034
10.	Justice Soumitra Saikia	26.11.2019	24.07.2031
11.	Justice Parthivjyoti Saikia	26.11.2019	17.04.2027
12.	Justice Robin Phukan	21.06.2021	28.02.2028
13.	Justice Kakheto Sema	13.10.2021	05.07.2025
14.	Justice Devashis Baruah	13.10.2021	21.02.2035
15.	Justice Malasri Nandi	13.10.2021	23.06.2025
16.	Justice Marli Vankung	13.10.2021	03.03.2026
17.	Justice Arun Dev Choudhury	05.11.2021	28.10.2033
18.	Justice Susmita Phukan Khaund	16.08.2022	21.11.2026
19.	Justice Mitali Thakuria	16.08.2022	31.12.2026

Additional Judges

Sl.No.	Name of Additional Judges	Date of Birth	Date of Elevation	Current Tenure Till
1.	Justice Kardak Ete	09.04.1975	13.03.2023	12.03.2025
2.	Justice Mridul Kumar Kalita	02.07.1968	20.04.2023	19.04.2025
3.	Justice Budi Habung	06.04.1969	12.09.2023	11.09.2025
4.	Justice N. Unni Krishnan Nair	28.07.1971	10.11.2023	09.11.2025
5.	Justice Kaushik Goswami	04.09.1975	10.11.2023	09.11.2025