

ATMAN

[A Biannual News Bulletin of the Gauhati High Court]



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

Guwahati ::: First year ::: 1st issue ::: September, 2009

Highlights of events since Dec., 2008

Apart from celebrating Diamond Jubilee Year (2008-09) of the Gauhati High Court, starting on 5th April, 2008, the Gauhati High Court took initiatives for organising various legal activities amongst the public in general and the Judicial Officers in particular.

1. Sensitization Programme on **Disability Laws** for Judicial Officers on 16th December, 2008, organized by 'Shishu Sarothi' – a Disability Law Unit – North East.
2. Legal workshop and Seminar on **Plantation Labour Act**, held on 23rd and 24th December, 2008 at Dibrugarh organized by the Assam Chapter of the Indian Law Institute.
3. **Lok Adalat** held in the Gauhati High Court premises in January, 2009 organised by Gauhati High Court Legal Services Committee.
4. Legal workshop on **Alternative Disputes Redressal : Available options** held on 28th February, 2009 at Vivekananda Kendra, Guwahati and organized by Indian Law Institute, Assam Chapter.
5. **Closing ceremony** of the Diamond Jubilee Year, Gauhati High Court held on 4th April, 2009 at Rabindra Bhavan, Guwahati, where Her Excellency the President of India was the Chief Guest.
6. North East Regional workshop on **"Reporting of Court Proceeding by Media & Administration of Justice"** and interaction on **"Implementation of NREGS"** held on 26th April 2009, organized by ASLSA, IGNOU, ILI (Assam Chapter), PCI and EGI.
7. Refresher course for Grade – I officers of Assam Judicial Service held on 27th June, 2009.
8. Pre-appointment Training for Grade – III Officers of the Assam Judicial Service.



From Hon'ble the Chief Justice

Founded on 5th April, 1948, (The High Court of Assam) with passage of time and occurrence of profound political events metamorphosed into the Gauhati High Court. A common High Court of the Seven North Eastern States. It is a unique judicial institution in the country. A news letter containing information on the activities of the High Court is not only expected to mark the events but would also enable everyone associated with the High Court, to take stock and march ahead. Beyond an opportunity for reminiscence and introspection, the publication of 'ATMAN' in my view, can be a medium of productive change in administration of justice by the Gauhati High Court.

--- Jasti Chelameswar
Chief Justice

About the Gauhati High Court

The 61 years old Gauhati High Court administers justice in an area having enormous variations. Geographically, it is an assortment of hills and valleys. Ethnically, it is an extraordinary mosaic. The legal and judicial scenario is diverse as assorted laws govern the people of the region. Administration of justice in such a diverse scenario may appear overwhelming at times. The Gauhati High Court has not only fulfilled the peoples' expectations but over the decades, has also evolved into a justice dispensing institution unparalleled in the country.



Editor speaks

The unique feature of the North East India is that it has a solitary High Court for seven states. When the idea of starting a newsletter of this High Court was mooted, we searched for a befitting name for the publication. In our view, the Gauhati High Court being at the centre of the region represents the *Atma*, ATMAN being an acronym for Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland, was found to be an evocative and umbilically connected name with all these States in that order.

ATMAN will mirror the activities of the High Court and is expected to be the vehicle of information on the administration of justice by the Gauhati High Court.

--- Justice Hrishikesh Roy
Editor

Gauhati High Court celebrated its Diamond Jubilee Year during 2008 – 09. Inaugural function was held on 5th April, 2008 at ITA center, Machkhowa. Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India Mr. Justice K.G. Balakrishnan inaugurated the celebration by lighting the ceremonial lamp. On the occasion of its Diamond Jubilee, all the former Judges, senior advocates, aged employees and advocates clerks were felicitated. A memento, a badge and a souvenir were also released to mark the occasion. The closing ceremony was held on 4th April, 2009, where Her Excellency the President of India, Mrs. Pratiba Devi Singh Patil was the Chief Guest. Some of the lively moments captured by our photographer Rahul Biswas of the various Diamond Jubilee events :

Diamond Jubilee Celebration of the Gauhati High Court



Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India, Mr. Justice KG Balakrishnan inaugurated the Diamond Jubilee Celebration by lighting the ceremonial lamp. Mr. Justice HK Sema, Judge, Supreme Court of India, Hon'ble Justice PP Naolekar, Judge, Supreme Court of India, Hon'ble Justice J. Chelameswar, Chief Justice and Hon'ble Justice Aftab H. Saikia (now Chief Justice of Sikkim High Court) are also seen.



Her Excellency the President of India Hon'ble Mrs. Pratibha Devi Singh Patil attended as the Chief Guest in the closing ceremony of the Diamond Jubilee celebration on 4th April, 2009.

Some of the glimpses of Diamond Jubilee Celebrations -



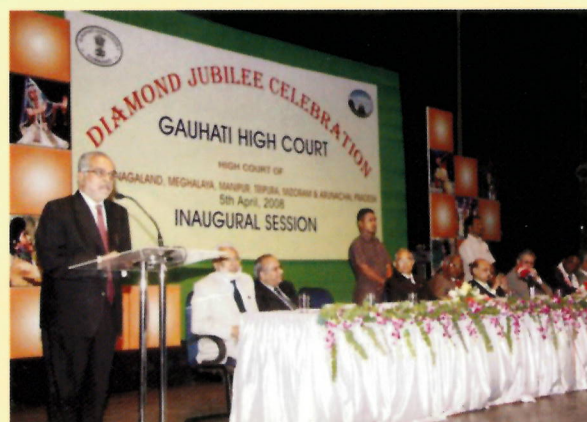
Felicitations of Mr. Justice J. Chelameswar, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court



Felicitations of Mr. Justice Dr. M.K. Sharma, Judge, Supreme Court of India



Release of ATMAN on the occasion of Diamond Jubilee Celebration of the Gauhati High Court.



Justice B.S. Reddy, Judge, Supreme Court, delivered speech in the inaugural function at ITA complex, Machkhowa, on 5th April, 2008.

To deliberate on the various disability specific legislations with the Judicial Officers of seven North Eastern states, the Disability Law Unit - North East of Shishu Sarothi organised a sensitisation programme for Judicial Officers on 16th Dec, 2008. Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.P. Katakey, Judge, Gauhati High Court was the Chief Guest of the inaugural session. Altogether sixty officers participated in the programme. Mr. S.S. Dey, Advocate spoke on Mental Health Act, 1987 and discussed various provisions of the Act. Officials of Shishu Sarothi Mrs. Angira Mimani, Mrs. Diba Nahin, Mrs. Rakhee Sirauthia Chowdhury and Dr. P.K. Hazarika spoke and interacted. Vishal and Victor, students of Shishu Sarothi shared their feelings and difficulties with the participants in the session.



Disable students shared their feelings with the participants. Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.P. Katakey is also seen in the pic.

Gauhati High Court Legal Services Committee organised Lok Adalat in the Gauhati High Court premises on 10th, 11th, 18th and 24th January, 2009. Hon'ble Justice Amitava Roy (Chairman, Gauhati High Court Legal Service Committee), Hon'ble Justice H.N. Sarma and Hon'ble Justice B.P. Katakey presided over the Lok Adalats, wherein 63 cases were settled and a total amount of Rs. 1,44,04,788/- awarded as compensation. Hon'ble Justice Aftab H. Saikia (now Hon'ble the Chief Justice, Sikkim High Court), Hon'ble Justice B.K. Sharma, Hon'ble Justice A.C. Upadhyay and Hon'ble Justice C.R. Sarma also assisted in settling the cases. Gauhati High Court Legal Services Committee in association with Legal Cell for Human Rights (LCHR) an NGO and the District Legal Services Authority has been organising "Legal Awareness Camps" in remote villages in ten districts of Assam on holidays where Judicial Officers of the respective districts are taking part as Resource Persons.

Highlights of Lok Adalats held on 10th, 11th, 18th & 24th Jan, 2009.



Hon'ble Justice Amitava Roy, Hon'ble Justice CR Sarma and other conciliators in settling disputes on 10th Jan., 2009



Hon'ble Justice Amitava Roy is holding Lok Adalat held on 11th Jan., 2009



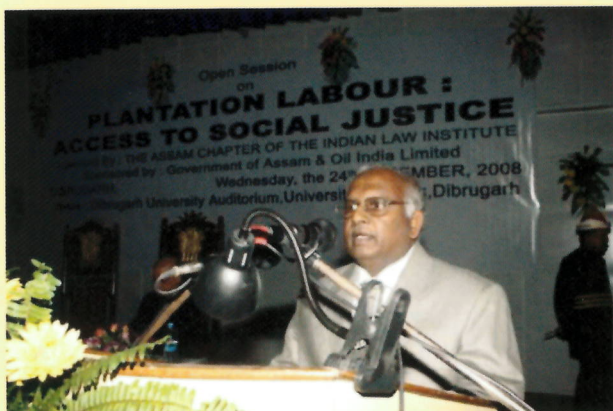
Hon'ble Justice H.N. Sarma and other conciliators in the Lok Adalat on 18th Jan., 09



Hon'ble Justice B.P. Katakey is holding Lok Adalat held on 24th January, 2009.

Assam Chapter of the Indian Law Institute had organised a Legal Workshop cum Seminar on 23rd and 24th Dec., 2008 at Dibrugarh on different topics concerning the rights of the plantation labourers. The two-day programme was divided into three sessions. Two working sessions on "Protection of Child Rights in Plantation" and "Role of Labour and management in Tea Industry" were held in the Oil India Lecture hall of the Assam Medical College on 23rd December and the seminar cum open session was held at the Dibrugarh University auditorium on 24th December, 2008. The topic of the seminar was "Plantation Labour : Access to Social Justice. Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India was the Chief Guest of the function. Judges from the Supreme Court Hon'ble Justice Dr. Arijit Pasayat and Hon'ble Justice Dr. M.K. Sharma, the Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court Hon'ble Justice J. Chelameswar, Hon'ble Justice Aftab H. Saikia (now Chief Justice of the Sikkim High Court), Hon'ble Justice Ranjan Gogoi, Hon'ble Justice B.K. Sharma, Hon'ble Justice B.P. Katakay, Hon'ble Justice Anima Hazarika and Hon'ble Justice Hrishikesh Roy graced the sessions. The various sessions were also addressed by the representatives from the Management as well as the Tea labourers and were attended by a large number of participants from tea labourers community, representatives of the Management, Judicial Officers, Legal professionals and public in general.

Some of the highlights of the Legal Workshop & Seminar held on 23rd and 24th Dec. 2008 at Dibrugarh, organized by the Assam Chapter of the Indian Law Institute.



Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India Mr. Justice K.G. Balakrishnan addressed the gathering at Dibrugarh.



(From R to L) Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dr. M.K. Sharma, Judge, Supreme Court and Hon'ble the Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court are on the dias.



Mr. Justice Dr. Arijit Pasayat, Judge, Supreme Court of India delivered speech in the legal workshop.



Mr. Justice Dr. M.K. Sharma addressed the gathering on 'Protection of Child Rights in Plantations' in the Legal Workshop.



Mr. Justice Ranjan Gogoi, Judge, Gauhati High Court addressed on the subject 'Role of Labour & Management in the Tea Industry'.



'Jhumur' dance of the tea tribe in the cultural function.

To minimise the huge arrears of cases pending in the Courts of our country, the Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanism has been introduced. For effective implementation of this system in the Courts under the Gauhati High Court, a legal workshop on "Alternative Dispute Redressal: Available options" was organised by the Assam Chapter of the Indian Law Institute, on 28th February, 2009 at Guwahati. Hon'ble Justice S.B. Sinha & Hon'ble Justice Dr. M.K. Sharma Judge(s), Supreme Court of India, Hon'ble Justice Madan Lokur, Judge, Delhi High Court attended the workshop and explained how effective the system is to dispose certain category of cases. The workshop was also attended by some present and past Hon'ble Judges of the Gauhati High Court, Judicial Officers and members of the legal profession. Workshop concluded with active interaction with the audience present at the workshop.

Highlights of the Workshop held on 28th February, 2009.



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ranjan Gogoi delivering the Welcome address in the ADR Workshop.



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dr. M.K. Sharma addressing the ADR workshop participants



Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.B. Sinha addressing the participants in the ADR workshop



Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. Lokur, Judge, Delhi High Court addressing in the ADR workshop



(From L to R) Hon'ble Justice B.P. Katakey, Hon'ble Justice Hrishikesh Roy & Hon'ble Justice Mutum BK Singh, Judges of the Gauhati High Court along with a section of audience in ADR workshop.



Mr. Monojit Bhuyan, Advocate addressing the Participants in the ADR workshop

National Rural Employment Guarantee (NREG) Act introduced by the Central Govt. is definitely a laudable task to provide employment to the rural people. For smooth implementation of NREG Act, National Legal Services Authority and Assam State Legal Services Authority in association with IGNOU, ILI Assam Chapter, Press Council of India and Editors' Guild of India organized a North Eastern Regional Workshop. Reporting of Court Proceeding by Media & Administration of Justice was the other topic discussed in the workshop organized at Assam Administrative Staff College on 26th April, 2009.

Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India, Mr. Justice K.G. Balakrishnan inaugurated the workshop. Hon'ble Justice Dr. A. Pasayat and Hon'ble Justice Dr. M.K. Sharma, Judges of the Supreme Court, Hon'ble Chief Justice and other Hon'ble Judges of the Gauhati High Court along with Hon'ble Chief Justices of Jharkhand High Court, Orissa High Court, Calcutta High Court, Sikkim High Court, Advocates, educationists, public workers, media persons attended and participated in the different working sessions of the workshop.

Highlights of the different Sessions in the Workshop held on 26th April, 2009.



Welcome address by Mr. Justice Ranjan Gogoi, Judge, Gauhati High Court. Other dignitaries are seen on the dais.



Inaugural address by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India, Mr. Justice K.G. Balakrishnan.



Session – I : “Issues & Challenges in implementing NREGS”
Hon'ble Justice S.S. Nijjar, Chief Justice, High Court of Calcutta is on the chair. Mr. Niloy Dutta, Sr. Adv., Dr. CK Sarma of Tezpur University & Dr. AR Dutta of Gauhati University are the Speakers.



Session – I : “Freedom of Press/Media in reporting (Print and Electronic) Use and Abuse”. Hon'ble Justice Dr. B.S. Chauhan, Chief Justice, Orissa High Court (now in the Supreme Court) is on the chair.
Hon'ble Justice Amitava Roy, Judge, Gauhati High Court, Sri SG Kashyap & Sri Wasbir Hussain are the Speakers.



Session – II : “Role of Legal Services Authorities, Media and Civil Societies in facilitating the implementation of NREGS”.
Mr. Justice Aftab H. Saikia, Chief Justice, Sikkim High Court was on the chair and Mr. Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Judge, Gauhati High Court, Mr. Justice GM Akbar Ali, Judge, High Court of Tamilnadu were the Speakers.



Session – II : “Reasonableness of Restrictions on reporting Sub-Judice matters”. Mrs. Justice Gyan Sudha Mishra, Chief Justice, Jharkhand High Court was on the chair. Mr. Justice B.K. Sharma, Judge, Gauhati High Court, Prof. Deven Dutta, Public activist, Shri Mrinal Talukdar of UNI and Shri G. Pathak, Asst. Editor, Assam Tribune were the speakers.



Keynote address by Mr. Justice J. Chelameswar, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, at the Valedictory session.



Address by Mr. Justice Ranjan Gogoi, Judge, Gauhati High Court, at the Valedictory session.



Hon'ble Judges along with a section of the audience



Hon'ble Judges at the Valedictory session.

Gauhati High Court has organized Pre-appointment Training for the candidates selected for appointment to Grade – III of Assam Judicial Service. The period of training is one year. First phase of the training was held at National Law School University, Delhi from 28.12.2008 to 31.05.2009 and the second phase has commenced at J.B. Law College, Guwahati from 05.06.2009 and will continue till 16.09.2009. The classes on various legal topics in the second phase have been taken by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court, other Hon'ble Judges, former Hon'ble Judges of the Supreme Court and Gauhati High Court, faculty members of the NEJOTI, serving and retired Judicial Officers of Assam, experts from other specified field. Thereafter, trainees will have to undergo practical training in the District level Courts.



Pre-appointment trainee Judicial Officers along with Hon'ble Justice HN Sarma, Hon'ble Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Hon'ble Justice AC Upadhyay, Hon'ble Justice C.R. Sarma and members of the Registry.

Permanent Benches of the Gauhati High Court



High Court Building, Kohima Bench



High Court Building, Shillong Bench.



High Court Building, Imphal Bench



High Court Building, Agartala Bench.



High Court Building, Aizawl Bench



High Court Building, Itanagar Bench

Present Hon'ble Judges of the Gauhati High Court

1. Hon'ble the Chief Justice Mr. Justice J. Chelameswar
2. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ranjan Gogoi
3. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Amitava Roy
4. Hon'ble Mr. Justice I.A. Ansari
5. Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. Vaiphei
6. Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.K. Sharma
7. Hon'ble Mr. Justice H.N. Sarma
8. Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.P. Katakey
9. Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Anima Hazarika
10. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Maibam B.K. Singh
11. Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. Nandakumar Singh

12. Hon'ble Mr. Justice U.B. Saha
13. Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. Meruno
14. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Hrishikesh Roy
15. Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.D. Agarwal
16. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mutum B.K. Singh
17. Hon'ble Mr. Justice H. Baruah
18. Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. Potsangbam
19. Hon'ble Mr. Justice P.K. Musahary
20. Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.C. Upadhyay
21. Hon'ble Mr. Justice C.R. Sarma