

ATMAN

[A Biannual News Bulletin of the Gauhati High Court]

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

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EVENTS ORGANISED DURING APRIL, 2011 TO SEPTEMBER, 2011

- Launching of Video Conferencing with Permanent Benches
- Laying down of office by Hon'ble Justice A. Potsangbam
- Inauguration of legal aid clinics at Central Jail, Guwahati and at Jorhat Jail and Legal aid and awareness programme
- Judicial Education in different States under the Permanent Benches of the Gauhati High Court
- Para-legal volunteers training by Gauhati High Court Legal Services Committee
- Visit of Hon'ble Chief Justice at District Court, Nagaland
- Visit of Hon'ble the Chief Justice at District Court, Mizoram
- Mega Holiday Courts all over Assam
- Swearing-in ceremony of Hon'ble Justice A.K. Goel
- Infrastructure development of Judiciary under the Gauhati High Court
- Introduction of Information Technology in Judiciary.
- Other programmes

From Hon'ble the Chief Justice



Once again ATMAN brings you the developments that have taken place in the recent past in all the states under the jurisdiction of the Gauhati High Court.

With the active co-operation and assistance of all the Hon'ble Judges of the Gauhati High Court and the Judicial officers of all the States, considerable progress has been made in all aspects of justice

delivery.

One of the major issues facing the judiciary at all levels in the North East is lack of adequate infrastructure. Steps have been taken in this direction and the response of all the State Governments has been extremely positive. For a start, the Govt. of Assam has already budgeted an amount of Rs. 63 crores which is over and above the share of the State under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme. This single step will make a considerable difference to justice delivery in the North East particularly in Assam and with various other steps mentioned in ATMAN, I am sure that Gauhati High Court will take a giant leap forward in delivering quality and responsive justice.

Madan Lokur
Justice Madan B Lokur
The Chief Justice

Editor Speaks

This issue of ATMAN showcase the multiple developmental activities in the Gauhati High Court of the past six months. The current efforts we believe, will certainly optimize the justice delivery system of the region and ATMAN will continue to chronicle the unfolding events, in the days to come.



Justice Hrishikesh Roy

INAUGURATION OF VIDEO CONFERENCING BETWEEN THE PRINCIPAL SEAT AND THE PERMANENT BENCHES OF THE GAUHATI HIGH COURT



Video conferencing is conducted by a set of telecommunication technologies which allows two or more locations to interact via two-way video and audio transmissions simultaneously. First time in the Gauhati High Court, Video Conferencing between the principal Seat and the Agartala permanent Bench of the Gauhati High Court was inaugurated by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Madan B. Lokur, the Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court in presence of other Hon'ble Judges from the Principal Seat on 2nd May, 2011. At the Agartala end, Hon'ble Mr. Justice U.B. Saha, Hon'ble Mr. Justice C.R. Sarma, the Chief Secretary of the State of Tripura along with Members of the High Court Bar Association, were present.

Next, the facility was extended to the Shillong Bench on 01.06.11 where at the Shillong end, Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. Vaiphei and Hon'ble Mr. Justice B. K. Sharma were present. Hearing of a case through Video Conferencing was done by the Hon'ble Mr. Justice B. K. Sharma and Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. C. Upadhyaya from the Principal Bench, Guwahati for the first time while the advocates argued the case from Shillong.

On 11th September, 2011, Imphal Bench launched its official Websites and the Video conferencing facility in presence of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, Hon'ble

Mr. Justice T. N. K. Singh, the State's Advocate General, N. Kotiswar Singh and other members of the Judicial fraternity at Imphal. On the same day, an e-kiosk machine was installed at the Imphal permanent Bench for the benefit of the litigants and the lawyers. Hon'ble Chief Justice in presence of Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. N. K. Singh speaking to the officers of the Principal Seat during inaugural session of Video Conference at Imphal Bench.

Triangular video conferencing facility was also formally inaugurated on 28th September, 2011 by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Madan B. Lokur, the Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court, among the Gauhati High Court, Principal Seat with its Permanent Benches at Kohima, Nagaland and Aizawl, Mizoram. On this occasion, Hon'ble the Chief Justice along with Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.K. Goel, Hon'ble Mr. Justice I.A. Ansari, Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.K. Sharma, Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.P. Katakey and Hon'ble Mr. Justice P.K. Musahary had a live conversation with Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.K. Goswami and Advocates at Kohima and Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.D. Agarwal and Hon'ble Mr. Justice H. Baruah along with Advocates at Aizawl Bench, Mizoram.



VIDEO CONFERENCING :

1. Mizoram and Nagaland on 28th September, 2011 attended by Bar President and other lawyers and Judges of Mizoram. Attended by Advocate General and other lawyers and Judges of Nagaland.
2. Arunachal Pradesh on 20th September, 2011 attended by Advocate General, Bar President and other lawyers and Judges of Arunachal Pradesh.
3. Manipur on 11th September, 2011 attended by Advocate General, Bar President and other lawyers and Judges of Manipur.
4. Meghalaya on 1st June, 2011 attended by Advocate General, Bar President and other lawyers and Judges of Meghalaya.
5. Tripura on 2nd May, 2011 attended by Advocate General, Bar President and other lawyers and Judges of Tripura.



LAYING DOWN OF OFFICE BY HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE A. POTSANGBAM

In a farewell reference held at Imphal on 21st April, 2011, the High Court bid adieu to Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashoke Potsangbam on his superannuation. His Lordship's adjudicating skills would surely be missed by the institution as he leaves behind a fine legacy of judicial works.

Registrar, Imphal Permanent Bench of the Gauhati High Court offers a flower bouquet to Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. Potsangbam, as a token of affection.

LEGAL AID CLINIC AND LEGAL AWARENESS PROGRAMME

1. Legal awareness programme held on 09.04.2011 on the importance of customary laws in Ziro for Gaon Burahs of Lower Subansiri District of Arunachal Pradesh. Inaugurated by the then Chief Minister Dorjee Khandu and attended by Hon'ble Justice K. Meruno, President Ete of High Court Bar Association, Itanagar Bench and other learned advocates.
2. Legal awareness programme held on 11.06.2011 at Yachuli for Gaon Burahs of Lower Subansiri District of Arunachal Pradesh on the importance of customary laws. The programme was attended by Hon'ble Justice K. Meruno, President Ete of High Court Bar Association, Itanagar Bench and other learned advocates.
3. Inauguration of Legal aid clinic at Central Jail, Guwahati on 23rd June, 2011 by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Altamas Kabir, Judge, Supreme Court of India and the Executive Chairman, National Legal Services Authority.



Legal aid is intended to provide legal relief easily accessible to the indigent and desiring sections of our society.

In an initiative to give effect to the policy and direction of the National Legal Services Authority, a specialised legal aid clinic was set up in the Central Jail, Guwahati and the Jorhat Jail to assist the inmates of the jails to get easy access to justice and the legal system.

Pictures above shows inauguration of Legal Aid Clinic at Jail by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Altamas Kabir and his Lordship's wife Mrs. Mina Kabir in presence of the Hon'ble Chief Justice and other officials.

4. Legal awareness programme held on the importance of customary laws in Pasighat on 30.07.2011 for Gaon Burahs of East Siang District of Arunachal Pradesh. The meeting was attended by the President Ete of the High Court Bar Association, Itanagar Bench and other advocates.
5. Legal awareness programme held on the importance of customary laws in Along on 31.07.2011 for Gaon Burahs of West Siang District of Arunachal Pradesh. The meeting was attended by the President Ete of the High Court Bar Association, Itanagar Bench and other advocates.

6. Legal awareness programme held on 06.08.2011 on the importance of customary laws in Phek District of Nagaland. The programme was attended by the President T. Koza of High Court Bar Association, Kohima Bench and other advocates.
7. On 20/07/2011, the Meghalaya State Legal Services Authority had organized a legal awareness programme at U So So Auditorium (State Central Library) with special emphasis on Customary and Traditional Laws of the State. In the inaugural session of the said programme, His Excellency Shri R.S. Mushahary, Governor of Meghalaya, Dr. Mukul Sangma, Hon'ble the Chief Minister, Government of Meghalaya, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Madan B. Lokur, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court & Patron-in-Chief, Meghalaya State Legal Services Authority, Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. Vaiphei, Judge, Gauhati High Court, Shillong Bench & Executive Chairman, Meghalaya State Legal Services Authority, Advocate General Kynjing of Meghalaya, President of the High Court Bar Association, Shillong Bench and other advocates graced the occasion.



8. News Letter of Assam Legal Services Authority was launched on 30.09.2011.
9. Training of advocates as Family Counsellors was conducted by Mind India in association with the Indian Law Institute (Assam Unit).
10. Family Counselling Brochures was launched by Indian Law Institute (Assam Unit) on 30.09.2011.



11. PARA-LEGAL VOLUNTEERS TRAINING

Following the direction of National Legal Services Authority, Gauhati High Court Legal Services Committee had organized a Para Legal Volunteers training Programme among the identified groups of people as specified in the scheme on 28th, 29th and 30th July 2011 at the Circuit House, Guwahati.

JUDICIAL EDUCATION TO IMPROVE THE FUNCTIONING OF SUBORDINATE JUDICIARY

A. Manipur

1. An orientation programme for Judicial officers in Manipur on Wild Life Conservation was held from 23rd to 24th July, 2011 at the Conference Hall, Imphal Hotel. The event was jointly organised by the Imphal Bench of Gauhati High Court, WWF - India and Traffic India. Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. N. K. Singh gave the key note address. Mr. Kharsing, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, experts from WWF, Traffic, Forest Department, made their presentation in the programme.



2. A two day training Programme for Judicial officers & Public Prosecutors (Manipur) on "Case Load, Time & Stress Management" was held on 10th & 11th Sept. 2011 at Cheirap Court Complex, Uripok, Imphal. On the first day, Hon'ble Dr. Justice MK Sharma, Judge Supreme Court of India, on the second day Hon'ble Chief Justice Madan B. Lokur, Mr. Justice T.N.K. Singh and Dr. R.K. Lenin, Associate professor, Deptt. Of Psychiatry (RIMS), Imphal made their valuable presentation.



B. Mizoram

1. On 30th and 31st July, 2011, programme on Court management, case load management and providing timely justice was held. Justice Sanjib Banerjee of Calcutta High Court, Justice Pradeep Nandrajog of Delhi High Court, Justice Amitava Roy and Justice B.D. Agarwal of Gauhati High Court were Resource persons.
2. An orientation programme on wild life conservation for judicial officers was held at Aizawl on 10th and 11th September, 2011. The event was jointly organised by the Aizawl Bench of the Gauhati High Court in association with WWF-India.
3. An orientation programme for judicial officers in respect of principles for granting bail, cancellation of bail and appreciation of evidence was held on 24th and 25th September, 2011. Justice Navin Sinha of Patna High Court, Justice Mukta Gupta of Delhi High Court and Justice H. Baruah of Gauhati High Court were the Resource Persons.



c. Assam

1. Management Development Programme for Judicial Officers of Assam started from 9th June, 2011, 4 days in every moth. Since the Judicial Officers are required to shoulder several administrative responsibilities, introduction of management practices in the judiciary has been in the focus in the region.

In continuation to the earlier management training programme at IIM, Shillong, the Gauhati High Court in association with the Assam

Institute of Management, Guwahati has designed a specific training programme for the Judicial Officers of Assam for Management of Judicial Administration.

2. Sensitization programmes have been held on juvenile justice issues. All judicial officers have been given sensitization training.
3. Training has been imparted to all judicial officers for use of Manupatra online.
4. Training has also be given to the staff of the subordinate court in all the districts of Assam on various aspects of court administration including Financial Accounts in association with the Director of Accounts and Treasuries, Assam to improve their capabilities and make them more efficient in their day-to-day functioning.

A glimpse of subordinate staff training programme at Guwahati is seen in the picture.



VISIT OF HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE MADAN B. LOKUR TO PHEK DISTRICT COURT OF NAGALAND ON 5TH AUGUST,2011



The Hon'ble Chief Justice accompanied by Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. K. Goswami, the Registrar Mr. LN Sema, the Bar President Mr. T. Koza and other officials of Kohima Bench, inspected the Courts at Phek District at a distance of 145 kms from the State capital.

Hon'ble Chief Justice and Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. K. Goswami along with the other officials at the court room is seen in the picture.

VISIT OF HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MADAN B. LOKUR, CHIEF JUSTICE OF GAUHATI HIGH COURT TO THE DISTRICT COURTS OF THE STATE OF MIZORAM

Visit of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Madan B. Lokur, Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court to the District Courts of the State of Mizoram on 22nd August, 2011.

His Lordship had also met with the Governor and Chief Minister of Mizoram for improvement of infrastructure for Judiciary in the State of Mizoram.



MEGA HOLIDAY COURTS IN ALL THE DISTRICT COURTS OF ASSAM ON 27TH AND 28TH AUGUST, 2011

The Mega Holiday Court organized by the Gauhati High Court and the Assam State Legal Service Authority on 27th and 28th August, 2011 in all districts and sub-divisional Judicial courts in Assam was a major event of this size where 31,539 cases were disposed off. Petty compoundable cases were disposed in the Mega Holiday Courts. The disposal of cases in the district-wise are:

Barpeta – 1782, Bongaigaon – 507, Cachar – 1939, Dirugarh – 1046, Dhemaji – 541, Dhubri – 1836, Hailakandi – 1402, Jorhat – 2342, Kamrup – 3695, Lakhimpur – 944, Darrang – 1653, Morigaon – 836, Nagaon – 2584, Nalbari – 565, Goalpara – 1343, Golaghat – 1465, Kokrajhar – 444, Karimganj – 2183, Sonitpur – 1061, Sibsagar – 1176 and Tinsukia – 2195.

"I had learnt the true picture of law. I had learnt to find out the better side of human nature and to enter men's heart. I realised that the true function of a lawyer was to unite parties riven asunder. The lesson was so indelibly burnt in to me that a large part of my time during the twenty years of my practice as a lawyer was in bringing about private compromises of hundred of cases. I lost nothing thereby-not even money-certainly not my soul."

---- Mahatma Gandhi

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY OF HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE A.K. GOEL ON 12TH SEPTEMBER, 2011 AS A SENIOR JUDGE OF THE GAUHATI HIGH COURT

Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. K. Goel, Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, Chandigarh, has been sworn in as Judge of the Gauhati High Court on 12th September, 2011, by the Hon'ble Chief Justice Madan B. Lokur in Court No. 1 in a solemn and simple function in presence of the other Hon'ble Judges, Members of the Bar, invited guests and staff of the Registry.



INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT OF JUDICIARY UNDER THE GAUHATI HIGH COURT



1. INAUGURATION OF NEW COURT BUILDING AT LAMPHEI COURT COMPLEX on 20th APRIL, 2011

Hon'ble the Chief Justice in presence of Hon'ble Justice T.N.K. Singh, Law Minister, Minister of works, Advocate General, Manipur inaugurated the newly constructed Court complex at Lamphei, Manipur. The building has two floors with two Court rooms at Ground floor & one at First floor.

2. INAUGURATION OF NEW JUDICIAL COURT BUILDING AT NAGAON

As a part of infrastructural development, a new Judicial court building was inaugurated at Nagaon on 5th May, 2011 by the Hon'ble Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court in presence of Hon'ble Judges, members of the Bar, the Judicial Officers and general public. The new court building will provide for Courts, library, waiting hall for litigants etc.

3. INAUGURATION OF SHILLONG BAR ASSOCIATION BUILDING ON 27.09.2011

Hon'ble the Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, Justice Madan B. Lokur, while inaugurating the Shillong Bar Association building had said that setting up of separate High Courts in the North Eastern States would reduce the burden of the Gauhati High Court.



4. INAUGURATION OF JUDICIAL SERVICE CENTRE IN KAMRUP DISTRICT ON 27.09.2011

Hon'ble the Chief Justice Gauhati High Court inaugurated the Judicial Service Centre in Kamrup District on 27.09.2011 at District and Sessions Judge's Court Complex in presence of Hon'ble Mr.

Justice B.K. Sharma, Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.P. Katakey, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Hon'ble Mr. Justice P.K. Musahary, Learned members of the Bar, Judicial Officers and staff and public in a simple but solemn function. The Chief Justice expressed the hope that the litigant and the lawyers will be benefited as they will get quick information in respect of their cases from the service centre.

5. INAUGURATION OF THE COURT OF DISTRICT & SESSIONS JUDGE AT UDALGURI DISTRICT.

To take the justice delivery system to the door step of the litigant public, the Court of the District and Sessions Judge at Udalguri was inaugurated on 29th September, 2011, by Hon'ble the Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court. The meeting was attended by Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.K. Sharma, Hon'ble Mr. Justice P.K. Musahary of the Gauhati High Court, local M.L.A. Sjt. Rihon Daimari, President of the Udalguri Bar Association Sri Keshab Chandra Dutta and other members of the Bar Association, newly appointed District & Sessions Judge and other Judicial Officers, Deputy Commissioner and a large number of public. Deputy Commissioner, Udalguri district and the President of the Bar Association also spoke on the occasion.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

1. Website of all Permanent Benches of the Gauhati High Court are inaugurated, which makes easier to know about the Benches.
2. Information kiosk has been inaugurated in all States. Litigant public as well as learned advocate will get information quickly as regard case status of the Gauhati High Court and its Permanent Benches.
3. Data entry of all cases in all Permanent Benches of the Gauhati High Court is complete.
4. Website of the Kamrup District was launched on 27th September, 2011. Websites of other districts are also almost ready which will make Assam the first State in the Country, to have website of all districts.
5. Inauguration of information kiosk in the District Judges' Court complex, Kamrup district on 27th September, 2011.

OTHER LAUDABLE EFFORTS

1. Overhaul of the Registry in the Principal Seat of the Gauhati High Court with appointment of Registrar (Project Management and Planning) and appointment of 4 (four) Joint Registrars.
2. New unit system has been introduced for judicial officers from 1st July, 2011, to improve justice delivery system at grass root level by giving incentives for disposal of old pending cases of 5 (five) years or more and also disposal of more cases than required number.
3. Creation of new posts in Grade – I by the State Government on the request of Hon'ble the Chief Justice.
4. Allocation of Rs. 63 Crores by the State Government in the budget for 2011 – 12 for infrastructure development of the District Judiciary.

FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE GAUHATI HIGH COURT APPOINTED AS JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT

Hon'ble Justice Jasti Chelameswar, former Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court was sworn as Judge of the Supreme Court of India on Monday, the 10th October, 2011.

"discourage litigation, persuade your neighbours to compromise whenever you can. Point out to them how the normal winner is often a loser in fees, expenses, cost and time."

--- Abraham Lincoln