From the Chief Justice

‘ATMAN’ is not a new name for me. This Biannual News Bulletin has successfully crossed a decade and has concreted its own image during the last decade. I never thought that I shall ever write a message for this News Bulletin.

Hon’ble Mr. Justice Manojit Bhuyan is an able editor with all the qualities an editor should possess and I am confident that under his able guidance, the News Bulletin will explore and conquer new horizons.

— Justice Ajai Lamba

Editor speaks

The baton has changed hands. Bigger responsibility dawns to preserve and maintain the high standards set down by my predecessors in ensuring quality and timely publication of ATMAN. My solemn pledge would be to keep the flag flying high.

The Gauhati High Court has a new Chief Justice and within no time Hon’ble Chief Justice Mr. Ajai Lamba has already endeared himself to us. A fresh innings has begun. Administration of justice on a more effective mode, shared in equal proportion by the Hon’ble Judges of the Gauhati High Court, is now the clarion call. As a team we are to follow our leader without let or hindrance – aimed at the betterment of this august Institution.

My endeavour would be to ensure that ATMAN shall continue to portray and chronicle the events and activities involving the High Court in its best tradition. This is all for now. My regards and respects to all.

— Justice Manojit Bhuyan
On 23rd September, 2019 Hon’ble Justice Ranjan Gogoi, Chief Justice of India administered oath of office to Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Chief Justice, High Court of Kerala on his elevation as the Judge, Supreme Court of India. He was a former Judge of Gauhati High Court. He was transferred from the Gauhati High Court to Kerala High Court as the Acting Chief Justice on 29th May, 2018. He became the permanent Chief Justice of the High Court on 8th August 2018 following the superannuation of Justice Antony Dominic. With his elevation, along with three other Judges, the total number of Judges in the Supreme Court of India increased to 34.

On 25th April, 2019, Justice Ajjikuttira Somaiyah Bopanna, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, administered oath of Office to Justice Hitesh Kumar Sarma and Justice Mir Alfaz Ali as Permanent Judges on 25th April, 2019. Hitesh Kumar Sarma and Justice Mir Alfaz Ali, Additional Judges, Gauhati High Court, on their elevation as Permanent Judges of the Court. The
swearing-in ceremony held in Court No. 1 of Gauhati High Court (Old Block) was attended by the Judges, former Judges of Gauhati High Court, learned Members of the Bar and officers and staff of the Gauhati High Court.

**Inaugural Ceremony of Family Court at Nalbari on 30th April, 2019**

On 30th April, 2019, Justice Kalyan Rai Surana, Judge, Gauhati High Court, inaugurated the Family Court, Nalbari. The programme was attended by the Registry officials of Gauhati High Court, Judicial Officers of the District Judiciary, Nalbari, learned Members of the Nalbari Bar Association and other dignitaries. It is expected that the establishment of the Family Court will help in expeditious disposal of cases.

**Farewell of Chief Justice Ajjikuttira Somaiah Bopanna on 22nd May, 2019**

On 22nd May, 2019, the Gauhati High Court fraternity bid farewell to Justice Ajjikuttira Somaiah Bopanna, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court on his elevation as Judge of Supreme Court. The farewell ceremony was held at the Chief Justice’s bungalow and was attended by the Judges of Gauhati High Court and members of the Registry.
Gender Sensitization Training for Empanelled Legal Aid Counsel on 26\textsuperscript{th} May, 2019

On 26\textsuperscript{th} May, 2019, Gender Sensitization Training for Empanelled Legal Aid Counsel was organised by UN Women, in collaboration with Assam State Legal Services Authority at Hotel Radisson Blu, Guwahati. Justice Arup Kumar Goswami, Chief Justice (Acting), Gauhati High Court, attended the programme as resource person. The programme had participation of Legal Aid Counsels of Assam State Legal Services Authority, District Legal Services Authority, Darrang and District Legal Services Authority, Udalguri and others.

Orientation programme for the Members of Foreigners Tribunals, Assam on 18\textsuperscript{th} May & 1\textsuperscript{st} June, 2019

On 18\textsuperscript{th} May, 2019, Orientation programme for the Members of Foreigners Tribunal, Assam (Phase I) was organised by Political (B) Department, Government of Assam, in collaboration with Judicial Academy, Assam at the Administrative Staff College, Khanapara, Assam. Justice
On 15th June, 2019, Orientation programme for the Assistant Government Pleaders of Foreigners Tribunals, Assam (Phase I) was organised by Political (B) Department, Government of Assam, in collaboration with Judicial Academy, Assam, at the Administrative Staff College, Khanapara, Assam. Shri Niranjan Baruah, Secretary, Home and Political Department, Government of Assam, presented the welcome address.

Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, Judge, Gauhati High Court, spoke on the “Role of Government Pleaders” and “Amended provisions of the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964 and Role of Government Pleaders”. Justice Prasanta Kumar Deka, Judge, Gauhati High Court, spoke on “Documents: Admissibility, Types of objections, Exhibiting documents” and “Additional Evidence”, which was followed by interactive session. The programme was also attended by Sri Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta, Special DGP (Border), Sri S. C. Keyal, Assistant Solicitor General of India and Sri U. K. Nair, Senior Advocate, Gauhati High Court.

On 29th June, 2019, the 2nd Phase of the programme was held at the Judicial Academy, Assam, with the same agenda.
On 20th & 21st June, 2019, the North East Regional Consultation on Addressing Human Trafficking in the Region was organised by Global Organization for Life Development (GOLD) under the aegis of Assam State Legal Services Authority (ASLSA) at Hotel Pragati Manor, Guwahati. Justice Arup Kumar Goswami, Chief Justice (Acting), Gauhati High Court, Dr. L. R. Bishnoi Addl DGP (CID), Assam, Sri Kamal Agarwal, Senior Advocate, Gauhati High Court, & Working President, GOLD and Debadit Hazarika, IPS Retd, attended the programme as resource persons. The programme had participation of Judicial Officers, NGO's, Government Officials, Child Rights Activists and Law Enforcement Agencies.

On 24th June, 2019, an official dinner was hosted in honour of Justice Dinesh Maheswari, Judge, Supreme Court of India at the Judge's lounge of Gauhati High Court. Justice Maheswari was accompanied by His Lordship's spouse and son. The Judges of the Gauhati High Court and members of the Registry were present on the occasion.
On 2\textsuperscript{nd} \& 3\textsuperscript{rd} August, Judicial Knowledge Enhancement Programme was organised at Administrative Training Institute, Aizawl, Mizoram by Judicial Academy, Assam \& NEJOTI, in collaboration with Aizawl Bench, Gauhati High Court. Dr. Manash Baruah and Sri Roushan Lal, both faculty, Judicial Academy, Assam and Smt. Ipsita Borthakur, Research Officer, Judicial Academy, Assam, attended the programme as Resource Persons. Grade-II and Grade-III Judicial Officers of Mizoram Judicial Service participated in the programme.

On 4\textsuperscript{th} August, 2019, Hon'ble Justice Ranjan Gogoi, the Chief Justice of India, laid the foundation stone of the Auditorium of Gauhati High Court. To mark the occasion, a function was held in the Gauhati High Court premises (Old Block). Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Chief Justice, High Court of Kerala, Justice Arup Kumar Goswami, Chief Justice (Acting), Gauhati High Court, Justice Ajit
Singh, former Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, Judges and former Judges of the Gauhati High Court along with members of the Bar, dignitaries from across the State and government officials were present on the occasion.

The function commenced with lighting of the ceremonial lamp. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge Administration, Gauhati High Court, delivered the welcome address. Speaking on the occasion, Hon’ble Justice Ranjan Gogoi, Chief Guest, said that the Gauhati High Court is set to make the much needed addition to its infrastructure and it was his privilege to initiate the process by laying the first brick. He said, “A state-of-the-art auditorium was felt by the high court when I was a judge here. Today, the dream has been fulfilled. Though I wish we could have a bigger size auditorium which, however, is not possible for several constraints.” He also said that the auditorium would be helpful for organizing seminars, conferences, programmes, and above all, cultural events to be organized by the legal fraternity of this part of the country to be held in this centrally located state-of-the-art auditorium. “Judicial process involves constant process of learning and education and adequate opportunities for relaxation and leisure is a must. It is my earnest belief that the auditorium once complete, will take care not only the academic needs of institution but will provide opportunities to the Hon’ble Judges, their families and the members of the Registry as well as the members of the Bar to spend their favourite pastime by engaging themselves
in various cultural activities”, he said. Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Chief Justice, High Court of Kerala, Justice Arup Kumar Goswami, Chief Justice (Acting), Gauhati High Court, Justice Ajit Singh, former Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, Shri Atul Chandra Buragohain, President, Gauhati High Court Bar Association, Shri Putul Chandra Deka, President Gauhati High Court Advocates’ Association, also spoke on the occasion. Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, Judge, Gauhati High Court, proposed the vote of thanks.

It is to be mentioned that the proposed auditorium, a long felt dream of the Gauhati High Court, will be constructed adjacent to the Gauhati High Court (New Block), over which the office of Assam State Legal Services Authority is also located, with a ground coverage area of 657 sq. metres (7070 sq ft) and will be well-equipped with all modern amenities. With the capacity to accommodate 340 persons at a time, the auditorium will have provisions for lobby, lounge and circulation space.

An official dinner was also hosted in honour of Justice Ranjan Gogoi, Hon’ble the Chief Justice of India, on that day at the Banquet Hall of Hotel Radisson Blu, Guwahati.
On 10th of August, 2019, Judicial Academy, Assam & NEJOTI organised a Judicial Knowledge Enhancement Programme at Judicial Academy, Assam. The programme was attended by Justice Mir Alfaz Ali and Justice Manish Choudhury, Judges, Gauhati High Court as resource persons. Justice Mir Alfaz Ali spoke on various aspects of Disciplinary Proceedings while Justice Manish Choudhury spoke on various aspects of Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881. The presentations were followed by interactive sessions where Judicial Officers posed queries before the Hon'ble Judges. Judicial Officers, members of the Registry of Gauhati High Court and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

On 10th August, 2019, Training and Sensitization Programme on Human Trafficking for Public Prosecutors of Zone III Judicial Districts of Assam was organised by Assam State Legal Services Authority at Don Bosco Institute, Kharghuli, Guwahati. The programme was attended by Judicial Officers, Public Prosecutors and Additional Public Prosecutors of the districts of Kamrup (M), Kamrup, Amingaon, Nagaon, Morigaon, Karbi Anglong, Nalbari, Baksa & Barpeta.
On 15th August, 2019, the 73rd Independence Day was celebrated in the Gauhati High Court with much pomp and gaiety. Justice Arup Kumar Goswami, Chief Justice (Acting) hoisted the National Flag in presence of Judges, former Judges of Gauhati High Court, officers of the Registry, Judicial Officers, learned Members of the Bar and staff of the Registry. Parades were taken out by NCC Cadets as well as by
Like every year, a number of programmes were performed showcasing the rich culture and heritage of the north-eastern region. A special tribute to Dr. Bhupen Hazarika, the singing bard and the golden voice of Assam, who has been posthumously conferred the nation's highest Civilian Award 'Bharat Ratna' this year, was offered through a cultural programme, which was a mélange of dance and music. The programme enthralled the audience. Gifts were also distributed among the children on the occasion.
On 23rd and 24th August, 2019, a Judicial Knowledge Enhancement Programme was organised by Judicial Academy, Assam & NEJOTI, in collaboration with Kohima Bench, Gauhati High Court, for Grade II & Grade III Judicial Officers of Nagaland Judicial Service at Conference Hall, Law Guest House, Dimapur. Dr Manash Baruah, Sri Roushan Lal and Sri S P Moitra graced the programme as resource persons. They spoke on various aspects of law. The programme concluded with an interactive session where the resource persons answered to the queries made by the participants.

On 28th August, 2019, a Court room inauguration programme was held at Sivasagar. The court room was inaugurated by Sri Sunil Kumar Poddar, District and Sessions Judge, Sivasagar, in presence of Dr. Lakshmanan S, Deputy Commissioner, Sivasagar, Judicial Officers of Sivasagar District Judiciary, learned Members of the Sivasagar Bar and others.
On 7th September, 2019, the Court Complex of District Judiciary of West Karbi Anglong at Hamren was inaugurated by Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Gauhati High Court, in presence of Justice Hitesh Kumar Sarma, Judge, Gauhati High Court, Judicial Officers of the District Judiciary, members of the Registry, other dignitaries and Members of the Bar. With the functioning of the courts at Hamren, Judiciary of the State of Assam is now completely separated from the Executive.

"Dharma is law in its widest sense—spiritual, moral, ethical and temporal. Every individual, whether the ruler or the ruled, is governed by his or her own dharma. To the extent that society respected dharma, society protected itself; to the extent society offended it, society undermined."

- Kautilya
Inauguration of the Court of Judicial Magistrate at Boko, Kamrup on 7th September, 2019

On 7th September, 2019, Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, Judge, Gauhati High Court and Portfolio Judge, Kamrup, Amingaon, inaugurated the Court of Judicial Magistrate at Boko. The programme was attended by the Registry officials of Gauhati High Court, Judicial Officers of the District Judiciary, Kamrup, learned Members of the Bar Association of Kamrup District and other dignitaries.

Inauguration of the Court of Sub-divisional Judicial Magistrate at Bokajan, Karbi Anglong on 7th September, 2019

On 7th September, 2019, Justice Mir Alfaz Ali, Judge, Gauhati High Court and Portfolio Judge, Karbi Anglong District, inaugurated the Court of Sub-divisional Judicial Magistrate at Bokajan, Karbi Anglong. The programme was attended by the Registry officials of Gauhati High Court, Judicial Officers of the District Judiciary, learned Members of the Karbi Anglong Bar Association and other dignitaries.
First National Conclave at Guwahati, on 21st September, 2019

The first National Conclave on challenges before the Judiciary—Road Map for the Future was held on 21st September, 2019, at Hotel Radisson Blu, Guwahati. The Conclave was chaired by Hon’ble Justice Ranjan Gogoi, Chief Justice of India, along with Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde, Judge, Supreme Court of India, Justice Arup Kumar Goswami, Chief Justice (Acting), Gauhati High Court.

A host of Judges from different High Courts of the country deliberated on the following topics— (i) Impact of Social Media on Judiciary; (ii) Improving Bar & Bench Relationship; (iii) Empowering the Judges for Better Handling of Judicial and Administrative Work; (iv) Leveraging IT for Increasing Efficiency of the Court System and (v) Ways to Tackle the Growing Negative Perception Concerning the Judiciary. Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde, Judge, Supreme Court of India, summarised the deliberations of the day in his concluding remarks.

Terming the Conclave as intensely satisfactory, Justice Bobde pointed out that the Judiciary, at present, has been facing some serious problems which are affecting the function of delivering justice. In that context, Justice Bobde said
that if the functioning of the Judges is affected, it affects the administration of justice and when administration of justice is affected it affects everything in the country, including rights and comfort of the citizens.

**Consultation on Alternative Care and Child Protection System organised on 28th September, 2019**

On 28th September, 2019, Juvenile Justice Committee, Gauhati High Court, in collaboration with State Child Protection Society (SCPS), Social Welfare Department, Government of Assam and UNICEF organised a Stakeholders Consultation of the States under the jurisdiction of Gauhati High Court on Alternative Care and Child Protection System at Hotel Vivanta by Taj. The Welcome Address was given by Sri Rupak Kumar Mazumdar, IAS, Commissioner and Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Government of Assam, followed by a
film on Alternative Care, opening remarks by Dr. Madhulika Jonathan, Chief of Field Office, UNICEF, Assam and address by Sri Jishnu Baruah, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Government of Assam. Justice Arup Kumar Goswami, Chief Justice (Acting), Gauhati High Court, spoke on the occasion, which was followed by vote of thanks. The Technical Session-I was chaired by Justice Mr Songkhupchung Serto, Judge, Gauhati High Court on the topic 'Focus on State’s Initiatives on Promotion of Alternative Care'. The Technical Session – II, which was chaired by Justice Mr Nelson Sailo, Judge, Gauhati High Court, was on 'Implementation of Flagship Programme with Specific Reference to SSA, ICPS, ICDS, NHM; and any other State Specific initiatives and scope for strengthening alternative care initiatives at State Level'. The Technical Session-III was chaired by Mr. Justice Nani Tagia, Judge, Gauhati High Court, on ‘Group Work on Development of State Alternative Care Roadmap’. This was followed by Technical Session-IV, chaired by Sri Surendra Kumar, IPS, IG, CID, Assam Police, with deliberations on ‘Strengthening, Monitoring and Review Mechanism’. The Closing Remarks were made by Mrs. Justice Rumi Kumari Phukan, Judge, Gauhati High Court.

Two-day Orientation Programme for Newly Recruited Members Of Foreigners Tribunal held on 28th & 29th September, 2019

On 28th & 29th September, 2019, Orientation programme for the newly recruited members of Foreigners Tribunal, Assam was organised by Political Department, Government of Assam, in collaboration with Judicial Academy, Assam at Administrative Staff College, Khanapara, Assam. Justice Arup Kumar Goswami, Chief Justice (Acting), Gauhati High Court, Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, Judge, Gauhati High Court, Sri Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta, IPS, SPL DGP (Border) and Kumar Sanjay Krishna, Additional Chief Secretary, Home & Political Department, Government of Assam spoke on the occasion. The programme was attended by the judges of Gauhati High Court, the newly recruited members of Foreigners Tribunal, Registry officials of Gauhati High Court and other dignitaries.
Old and New block of the Principal Seat of the Gauhati High Court at Guwahati

Kohima Bench of the Gauhati High Court at Kohima

Aizawl Bench of the Gauhati High Court at Aizawl

Itanagar Bench of the Gauhati High Court at Itanagar
## 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Name of Chief Justice /Judges</th>
<th>Date of Elevation</th>
<th>Date of Retirement</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Chief Justice Ajai Lamba</td>
<td>22.03.2006</td>
<td>20.09.2020</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Justice N. Kotiswar Singh</td>
<td>17.10.2011</td>
<td>28.02.2025</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Justice Manas Pathak</td>
<td>22.05.2013</td>
<td>27.08.2027</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Justice Manojit Bhuyan</td>
<td>07.01.2015</td>
<td>04.02.2021</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Justice Michael Zothanlhumma</td>
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<td>22.10.2027</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Justice Suman Shyam</td>
<td>07.01.2015</td>
<td>11.06.2031</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Justice Rumi Kumari Phukan</td>
<td>07.01.2015</td>
<td>30.06.2022</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Justice Songkhumchung Serto</td>
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<td>14.</td>
<td>Justice Hitesh Kumar Sarma</td>
<td>19.05.2017</td>
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#### Additional Judges

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<td>1.</td>
<td>Justice Sanjay Kumar Medhi</td>
<td>07.03.1971</td>
<td>19.11.2018</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Justice Manish Choudhury</td>
<td>01.03.1972</td>
<td>18.01.2019</td>
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### IN THE GAUHATI HIGH COURT

**PENDENCY, INSTITUTION AND DISPOSAL STATEMENT OF GAUHATI HIGH COURT**

**FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01.04.2019 to 30.09.2019**

#### Name of Benches

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Benches</th>
<th>Pendency as on 01.04.2019</th>
<th>Institution for the period from 01.04.2019 to 30.09.2019</th>
<th>Disposal for the period from 01.04.2019 to 30.09.2019</th>
<th>Total pendency as on 30.09.2019</th>
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*Excluding Misc. Cases/B.A./A.B., pendency as on 30-09-2019*

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