Events organized during
October, 2014 to March, 2015

- Seminar on Sensitization of stakeholders on issues relating to Drug Abuse and Drug Trafficking organized by Mizoram State Legal Services Authority.
- Inauguration of Induction Training Programme on 12th November, 2014 in the Judicial Academy.
- Training on Cyber Crime Related Capacity Development on 8th and 9th November, 2014 at Dibrugarh.
- Judicial Discourse at Silchar on 22nd and 23rd November, 2014.
- Inauguration of Library and Museum at Tezpur Court complex by Justice B.K. Sharma.
- National Lok Adalat held on 06.12.2014.
- Swearing-in ceremony of 5 Additional Judges of Gauhati High Court on 07.01.2015.
- Visit of Union Law Minister Mr. D.V. Sadananda Gowda to Gauhati High Court on 03.02.2015
- Inauguration of Family Court at Barpeta on 27.01.2015.
- Inauguration of Judicial Court in Chirang District on 13.02.2015.
- Foundation Laying Ceremony of the Judicial Academy, Assam at Amingaon on 22.02.2015.
- Regional Conference on Cyber Laws (Issues and Challenges) held on 21st and 22nd March, 2015 at Guwahati.

From the Chief Justice (Acting)

The performance of the Legal Services Authority and the Judicial Academy is of high standards. The Legal Services Authority has been launching several programmes for legal awareness and legal education in the society. The Judicial Academy is also organizing seminars and programmes and inviting Judges and other professional people connected with law to address at the seminars and conferences. The ATMAN in this regard is giving requisite publicity to the activities of the Judicial Academy and the Legal Services Authority and I thank the services of the ATMAN and I wish that the readership of ATMAN shall grow in numbers and strength.

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Justice K. Sreedhar Rao

Editor speaks

While delayed justice in the Indian system is often spoken about, the quality of justice must also receive due attention of the stakeholders. This issue of ATMAN highlights the steps undertaken by the Gauhati High Court to meet the emerging challenges facing our judiciary and we hope these initiatives will facilitate delivery of quality justice for the litigants in North East India.

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Justice Hrishikesh Roy
The Mizoram State Legal Services Authority organized a seminar on Issues Relating to Drug Abuse and Drug Trafficking at the Aizawl Club on 20th October, 2014. The programme was attended by Justice T.S Thakur, the Executive Chairman, National Legal Services Authority, Justice Anil R. Dave, Judge Supreme Court of India, Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, Executive Chairman, Mizoram State Legal Services Authority, Justice L.S. Jamir, Portfolio Judge for the State of Mizoram, Mr. Lalswta, Law Minister, Government of Mizoram.

Justice T.S. Thakur in his address urged all stakeholders to introspect on the Problem of Drug Abuse and on the availability of seized drugs recycled to market from Malkhana by corrupt officers. Justice A.R. Dave in his speech highlighted the growth of drug trafficking and stressed on the importance of education to stem it. Justice Ujjal Bhuyan spoke on the problems of drug trafficking and its prevalence in the state of Mizoram. Justice L.S. Jamir addressed the audience in the valedictory session.

Drug abuse is a social evil. It destroys not only vitals of the society but also adversely affects the economic growth of the country because this is a trade which generates large un-accounted money which, in turn, leads to adoption of several means of money laundering.

--- Justice Y.K. Sabharwal, former Chief Justice of India
Inauguration of Induction Training Programme on 12th November, 2014 in the Judicial Academy

Justice K. Sreedhar Rao, Chief Justice (Acting), Gauhati High Court inaugurated the Induction Training programme of newly recruited Grade III Judicial Officers of Assam Judicial Service. Justice A.C. Upadhyay (retd.), Director, Judicial Academy, delivered the welcome address. Justice Hrishikesh Roy and Mr. S.M. Deka, Academic Adviser, NEJOTI addressed the newly recruited Judicial Officers of Assam.

Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Judge In-charge, Training in his speech emphasized that induction training is necessary for new recruits as role of judges require different skills. Mr. S.M. Deka, Academic Adviser, urged the trainee officers to be always inquisitive so that they enhance their skills of judging.

Justice K. Sreedhar Rao, Chief Justice (Acting) advised the trainee Judicial Officers to maintain professional ethics during adjudication of disputes in the court. The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks.

We need a new kind of a judge who considers judicial career as a way of life and not merely a means of making a living: who regards it as a priceless possession that should be loved and nurtured through the years through dint of hard work, continued judicial education, coupled with self-directed learning, values enhancement and personal development.

— Justice Ameurfina A. Melencio Herrera, former Judge, Supreme Court of Philippines
Training on Cyber Crime Related Capacity Development on 8th and 9th November, 2014 at Dibrugarh

District and Sessions Judge with her Inaugural address

A section of participants of the programme

The Judicial Academy, Assam in association with C-DAC, Kolkata and Dibrugarh District Judiciary organized the cluster training programme for the judicial officers of Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Sivasagar and Jorhat districts at Dibrugarh on 8th and 9th November, 2015 on Cyber Crime and Cyber Forensics. The programme was inaugurated by Mrs. R. K. Phukan, the District and Sessions Judge, Dibrugarh (Now Judge, Gauhati High Court).

Judicial Discourse at Silchar on 22nd and 23rd November, 2014

The Judicial Academy, Assam in association with Cachar District Judiciary organized two days programme at Silchar, for the judicial officers of Barak Valley districts namely Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi. In this cluster training programme the Judicial Academy formulated various questions related to everyday court works and administration of Justice. The Officers themselves suggested solutions and after they were verified by the Judicial Academy, the learning process was done through an inter active exercise.

Justice A.C Upadhyay, Director, Judicial Academy, Mr. S.M. Deka, Academic Adviser, NEJOTI, and Mr. S.K. Dhar, Faculty, NEJOTI guided the Judicial Officers during the programme.
Inauguration of Library and Museum at Tezpur Court complex by Justice B.K Sharma

Justice B.K. Sharma inaugurating the Library at Tezpur

A machine which served the cause of justice

Justice B.K Sharma, Portfolio Judge for the district of Sonitpur, Tezpur inaugurated the library and museum at District Court Complex on 29th November, 2014 in presence of the District and Sessions Judge, Sonitpur, Tezpur, Judicial Officers of the District, Members of the Bar and Staff. The museum has been set up to preserve and showcase historically significant documents, judgments, machines, etc.

Full Court Death Reference of Justice V.R Krishna Iyer on 5.12.2014

A full court death reference was held on 5.12.2014 to pay homage to Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer, former Judge, Supreme Court of India, a jurist and a legendary figure of Indian Judiciary. In a rare gesture, the Judges of the Gauhati High Court, members of the Registry and Bar remembered this legendary Judge and recollected the outstanding contributions of Justice Krishna Iyer. The Chief Justice (Acting) in his address recollected his personal association with Justice Krishna Iyer.

Chief Justice (Acting) addressing during Full Court death reference

A Section of Lawyers during death reference
The Gauhati High Court Legal Services Committee, the Assam State Legal Services Authority in association with National Legal Services Authority, organized the Mega Lok Adalat in the Gauhati High Court and also in district courts of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. The Mega Lok Adalat was inaugurated by Justice H.L. Dattu, the Chief Justice of India in presence of Justice T.S. Thakur and other Judges of the Supreme Court.
The event was conducted under the leadership of the Patron in Chief of ASLSA, Justice K. Sreedhar Rao and the Executive Chairman. In the Mega Lok Adalat 1,01,677 cases were taken up in Assam for consideration out of which 68,655 cases were settled.

**Swearing-in ceremony of 5 Additional Judges of Gauhati High Court on 07.01.2015**

On 7th January, 2015 the Judges Strength in the Gauhati High Court increased to 17 with swearing-in of five additional Judges. The new Judges are Justice Manojit Bhuyan, Justice Michael Zothankhuma, Justice Suman Shyam, Justice Paran Kumar Phukan and Justice Rumi Kumari Phukan.

Justice Manojit Bhuyan is a Senior Advocate and also a trained mediator. Justice Michael Zothankhuma was a senior Advocate of Mizoram and standing counsel of Gauhati High Court.

The Lok Adalat system provides an approachable forum to the poor, weaker and ignorant people who are often intimidated and confused by the greasy substantive and procedural laws. It is a voluntary mechanism and a major tool of legal aid programme which is mainly concerned with providing a quick, easy, non-technical and disputant friendly forum to the people.

— Justice P Sathasivam, former Chief Justice of India
Justice Suman Shyam was associated with the activities of Indian Law Institute, Assam chapter and was also a standing Counsel of Gauhati High Court. Justice P.K. Phukan prior to his elevation was Presiding Officer, STAT and Member, MACT and he as a Sessions Judge delivered the Judgment in the sensational murder case of Sanjay Ghosh. Prior to her elevation Justice R.K. Phukan was the District and Sessions Judge, Dibrugarh. Earlier she also served as Registrar General of Gauhati High Court. The Judges of the Gauhati High Court, their spouses, members of the Bar, members of the Registry, and representatives of print and electronic media were present during the occasion. Mr. H.K. Sarma, the Registrar General, Gauhati High Court conducted the oath ceremony.

We judges swear a very moving oath, 'to do right to all manner of people, after the laws and usages of this realm, without fear or favour, affection or ill will.' These are the underlying values of a democratic society: a democracy which values each person equally even if the majority do not.

— Lady Hale, Deputy President, Supreme Court of UK
Visit of Union Law Minister Mr. D.V. Sadananda Gowda to Gauhati High Court on 03.02.2015

Mr. D.V. Sadananda Gowda, Union Minister of Law and Justice visited the Gauhati High Court on 03.02.2015 and had a meeting with the Director, Judicial Academy, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam, the Registrar General, Gauhati High Court, L.R. and Secretary, Judicial, Member Secretary, Assam State Legal Services Authority, Central Project Co-ordinator, Joint Director (Officiating), Judicial Academy and discussed various issues relating to fund allocated under the 13th Finance Commission Award, matters relating to e-project, construction of ADR centre, etc. A lunch was hosted in honour of the Union Law Minister where Judges of the Gauhati High Court, the Chief Secretary and members of the Registry were present.

Inauguration of Family Court at Barpeta on 27.1.2015

Justice K. Sreedhar Rao, Chief Justice (Acting), Gauhati High Court inaugurated the family court at Barpeta, a culturally vibrant town associated with Srimanta Shankardeva, the great saint of Assam. The Portfolio Judge, Justice A.K. Goswami, Judicial Officers, Members of the Bar, and Litigants of Barpeta district were present during the occasion. The opening of Family Court will facilitate amicable resolution of matrimonial disputes.
The Chirang district was created on 30.10.2003. But the Judicial district was inaugurated on 13th February, 2015 by Justice K. Sreedhar Rao, Chief Justice (Acting), Gauhati High Court, in presence of Justice T. Vaiphei, Judge Administrative Department, Gauhati High Court, the Registrar General, Judicial Officers, Members of the Bar and Litigants. The opening of Judicial Courts will enable the litigants to have easy access to courts in the Bodoland Territorial Area District (BTAD).

The Foundation Laying Ceremony of the Judicial Academy, Assam at Amingaon on 22.02.2015

The Foundation Laying Ceremony of the Academic Building was organized on 22.02.2015 at the permanent campus at Amingaon, Kamrup. The Judicial Academy is a statutory entity created by the National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam Act, 2009. The special feature of the Institution is that it will be housed in the same campus with the National Law University at Amingaon.
Justice Ranjan Gogoi with his speech on 22.02.2015 at Amingaon

Justice Ranjan Gogoi placing the first mortar for new building

The Foundation stone of the Academic Building was laid by Justice Ranjan Gogoi, Judge, Supreme Court of India. In his address Justice Ranjan Gogoi stressed upon the importance of training to the Judicial Officers.

Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Judge in-charge Training in his welcome address highlighted the activities of the Judicial Academy and pointed out the facilities which will be available in the new campus at Amingaon. Justice K. Sreenadh Rao also asked everyone to strive for excellence and high values. Justice A.C Upadhyay (Retd.), Director, Judicial Academy proposed the formal vote of thanks.

Ms. Ajanta Neog, Minister, PWD & Law at the foundation laying ceremony

Justice K. Sreenadh Rao addressing the gathering

Justice Hrishikesh Roy delivering the welcome address

Justice A.C. Upadhyay (Retd) offering the vote of thanks
The Gauhati High Court in association with the Judicial Academy, Assam and North Eastern Judicial Officers Training Institute (NEJOTI) organized a two day Regional Conference at Assam Administrative Staff College, Guwahati on 21st and 22nd March, 2015. The Judicial Officers, Public Prosecutors and Investigating Officers from the N.E. States of Assam, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim participated in the said Conference. The Conference was inaugurated by Justice Madan B. Lokur, Judge, Supreme Court of India.
Justice Lokur in his address pointed out that cyber crimes are increasing day by day and highlighted the importance of this conference as it would provide an opportunity to understand Cyber Forensics. Justice Lokur further added that such conference is the need of hour so as to keep ourselves abreast with the first pace of technological advancement. Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Judge in-charge Training welcomed everyone to the Guwahati conference.

In the Guwahati event, Justice Amitava Roy, Judge, Supreme Court of India, Judges from other High Courts, eminent Cyber Law Experts participated. The first technical session was chaired by Justice Madan B. Lokur, Judge, Supreme Court of India. In this session, Mr. Pavan Duggal, Advocate, Supreme Court of India in a lucid way spoke on appreciation of electronic evidence. The second session was chaired by Justice Amitava Roy, Judge, Supreme Court of India where Dr. Gulshan Rai, Director General, ICERT, spoke on Computer Forensics and Cyber Crime.
The third session was chaired by Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Judge, Gauhati High Court. In this session, Ms. Shubhamangala Sunil, a Cyber security expert spoke on Cyber world and crimes against women. The fourth session was chaired by Justice C. R. Sarma. In this session Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva, Judge, High Court of Delhi and Mr. S. Sai Sushanth, Director, Cyber Laws Knowledge Centre, Hyderabad spoke on Social Networking- Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, etc.- legal challenges. The fifth session was chaired by Justice (Dr.) Indira Shah. In this session Mr. Biswajit Saha, Engineer, C-DAC, Kolkata and Mr. Aswini Kalita, Inspector, CID, Assam spoke on Mobile Forensics and Cyber Crime. The sixth session was chaired by Justice P.K. Saikia. In this session, Justice S. Talapatra, Judge, High Court of Tripura and Mr. Debasis Nayak, Director, Asian School of Cyber Laws spoke on Judicial perspectives on Digital Evidence. The seventh session was chaired by Justice A.K. Goswami, Judge, Gauhati High Court. In this session, Justice V. Ramasubramanian, Judge, Madras High Court and Mr. Pavan Duggal spoke on Legal Issues relating to jurisdiction in Cyber Space. The eighth session was chaired by Justice Manojit Bhuyan, Judge, Gauhati High Court. In this session, Mr. Mukesh Sahay, IPS, Additional DG (CID), Assam spoke on Investigation of Cyber Crimes- Challenges.

Section 66A of the Information Technology Act creates an offence which is vague and overbroad and, therefore, unconstitutional under Article 19(1)(a) and not saved by Article 19(2)........the wider range of circulation over the internet cannot restrict the content of the right under Article 19(1)(a) nor can it justify its denial.

— Justice Rohinton F Nariman, Judge, Supreme Court of India
Justice Madan B. Lokur with his concluding remarks

In the Valedictory Session, Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Judge in-charge, Training, Gauhati High Court summarized the key issues and challenges that were deliberated during the two day event. Justice K. Sreedhar Rao, Chief Justice (Acting) spoke in the Valedictory Session and stated that there is dire need for the investigators, public prosecutors and judges to become technosavvy which would help them in appreciating digital evidence. Justice Madan B. Lokur in his concluding remarks appreciated the efforts of Gauhati High Court and the Judicial Academy in organizing such an event on cyber laws.

The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) in association with CID, Assam Police and the Judicial Academy organized an exhibition of Cyber Forensic Tools during the Conference. The Exhibition was inaugurated by Justice Uma Nath Singh, Chief Justice, High Court of Meghalaya.

Chief Justice Uma Nath Singh inaugurating the exhibition

A view of the exhibits of Cyber Crime Forensic tools

[Left to right] Justice (Dr.) I. Shah, Justice R.K. Phukan, Justice S. Talapatra, Justice A.K. Goswami and Justice S. Shyam

## THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUDGES OF THE GAUHATI HIGH COURT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No</th>
<th>Name of Chief Justice / Judges</th>
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## IN THE GAUHATI HIGH COURT

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

STATEMENT SHOWING INSTITUTION, DISPOSAL AND PENDENCY
OF CASES (EXCLUDING MISC. CASES) IN RESPECT OF THE
GAUHATI HIGH COURT FOR THE PERIOD FROM
01.09.2014 to 31.03.2015

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<th>Name of Benches</th>
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<th>Institution for the period from 01.09.2014 to 31.03.2015</th>
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*Excluding Misc. Cases*