Events organized during October, 2016 to March, 2017

- Swearing-in ceremony of Justice S. Serto on 3rd October, 2016
- Capacity Building Programme on Wildlife Crimes and Protection of Endangered Wildlife in North-East India on 13th November, 2016 at Kaziranga
- Swearing-in ceremony of five Additional Judges of Gauhati High Court
- Full Court death reference of Justice N. Chaudhury on 15th Nov, 2016
- 2nd Zonal Administrative Conference at Silchar on 19th November, 2016
- Inauguration of Sub-Divisional Courts at Lakhipur, Cachar on 19th November, 2016
- Protection of Children from drugs on 19th November, 2016 at Aizawl
- Referral Training for Legal Aid Services Lawyers on 20th and 21st November, 2016, Cachar
- 3rd Roundtable Conference of North-Eastern States and Sikkim for effective implementation of Juvenile Justice on 26th and 27th November, 2016 at Guwahati
- Inauguration of NSLSA Stall at Horn Bill Festival on 1st December, 2016 at Kohima, Nagaland
- Swearing-in ceremony of Judges on 03.01.2017
- 68th Republic Day Celebration at Gauhati High Court
- Referral Judges training programme on 9th February 2017 at Judicial Academy, Assam
- Foundation stone of Permanent Court building, Aizawl, Mizoram laid on 04.03.2017
- Sensitization programme on National Court Management System on 04.03.2017
- Programme on "Reach out and Respond" fitment of artificial limbs and distribution of aids and appliances to differently-abled persons on 05.03.2017
- Inauguration of the permanent campus of National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam on 25th of March, 2017 at Amingaon, Guwahati
- Laptops and Printers distributed on 07.03.2017

From the Chief Justice

Journey of this High Court during last six months was turbulent. Death of our near and dear companion-brother Justice Nishtitendu Chaudhury was a thud which suppressed every melody of success and achievement. His absence was much felt whether it was the inauguration of the Sub-Divisional Court at Lakhipur, Cachar or the foundation stone laying ceremony of Permanent Court building at Aizawl, Mizoram or the inauguration ceremony of the permanent campus of the National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam. The limb we all lost permanently, could not be replaced by the "Reach out and Respond" programme. But, life must go on and the system must survive and flourish simultaneously as "life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it" (Charles R. Swindoll). Nature has made us to understand, how we must react to the events happening to us.

I hope 'ATMAN' would be a tribute to the great soul that departed us.

— Justice Ajit Singh

Editor speaks

The recent shifting of the National Law University and Judicial Academy Assam (NLUJA), to its Amingaon campus by the bank of Brahmaputra river, was a joyous moment for all stakeholders. We believe that quality of law education is the key to improve the legal process. When NLUJA as the premier law education institute of the region, performs to its potential, their alumni are expected to set the bench mark, in the legal profession. Through them, we anticipate upgradation of justice delivery, in the N.E. Region. Team ATMAN will thus be a keen observer of the growth and contribution of NLUJA, in the years to come.

— Justice Hrishikesh Roy
The Gauhati High Court in association with Department of Environment and Forest, Government of Assam, Judicial Academy, Assam and North-Eastern Judicial Training Institute (NEJOTI) organized a one day Capacity Building Programme for the Judicial Officers of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh, Public Prosecutors, Forest officials, Police personnel and law students at Kaziranga National Park Centenary Convention Centre, Kohora.

The programme was inaugurated by Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Judge-in-charge, Training, Gauhati High Court. The programme was started by observing one minute silence in memory of Late Justice N.Chaudhury, Former Judge, Gauhati High Court.

There were three working sessions of the programme. The first session was on challenges to wildlife conservation in North East India and the session was chaired by Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Judge, Gauhati High Court. The appointed speakers of the session were Ms. Bano Haralu, Mr. Suvasish Das, IFS, DFO, Kaziranga Forest Range and Mr. Pankaj Sharma, AFS, Senior Wildlife Warden, Assam. The second session of the programme was on protection of wildlife under the existing legal framework. The session was chaired by Justice Manojit Bhuyan, Judge, Gauhati High Court. The designated speakers of the session were Mr. Sanjay Upadhyay, Advocate, Supreme Court of India, Mr.
Hirdesh Mishra, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forest, Assam and Mr. Ziaul Kamar, Advocate, Gauhati High Court. The third working session of the programme was on wildlife crime, investigation and role of wildlife forensic. The session was chaired by Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, Judge, Gauhati High Court. The eminent speakers of that topic were Mr. Valmik Thapar, renowned wildlife conservationist, Mr. Keshav Kumar, IPS, Mr. B.K. Sharma and Mr. Ajit Singh, IPS.

The resource persons highlighted the various facets of wildlife crime, investigation and wildlife forensic. The speakers had a lively interactive session with the participants. Justice Ujjal Bhuyan gave his concluding remarks after the end of the sessions and Mr. Robin Phukan, District and Sessions Judge, Golaghat delivered the vote of thanks. The various key issues that emerged during the programme were noted and on the basis of the report prepared by the Joint Director (Officiating), Judicial Academy Assam, Fast Track courts were constituted in the selected districts of Assam for expeditious disposal of cases relating to Wildlife Act and Forest Act.

Justice Ajit Singh, the Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court administered the oath of office to Justice S. Serto as Judge of the Gauhati High Court on his transfer from the High Court of Manipur on 3rd October, 2016 in a simple ceremony held in Court No. 1 of the Gauhati High Court, New Block.

The Judges of the Gauhati High Court, members of the Bar and officers of the Registry were present during the occasion. Prior to his elevation as Judge of the High Court of Manipur, Justice S. Serto served as the first Registrar General of the High Court of Manipur.
Swearing-in ceremony of five Additional Judges of Gauhati High Court

Justice Ajit Singh, the Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court administered the oath of office to Justice A.M. Bujor Barua, Justice K.R. Surana, Justice P.K. Deka, Justice Nelson Sailo and Justice Ajit Borthakur as Additional Judges of the Gauhati High Court, on 15th November, 2016 for a period of two (02) years.

The Judges of the Gauhati High Court, members of the Bar, Chairperson of Meghalaya State Human Rights Commission and officers of the Registry were present during the function.

Prior to his elevation, Justice A.M. Bujor Barua was a designated Senior Advocate of Gauhati High Court. Justice K.R. Surana practiced mainly in Gauhati High Court and in other Tribunals in Kolkata and New Delhi. Justice P.K. Deka earlier served as an Assistant Engineer in Assam State Electricity Board and after taking voluntary retirement, practiced as a lawyer in the High Court and District Judiciary. Justice Nelson Sailo was a Senior Advocate of the Gauhati High Court and prior to his elevation, he was the Additional Advocate General of Mizoram. Justice Ajit Borthakur prior to his elevation, served as the District and Sessions Judge of Kamrup (Metro).

Judges cannot be accountable to the electorate as politicians are accountable. The duties of judiciary are not owed to the electorate; they are owed to the law, which is there for the peace, order and good government of all the community.

— Justice S Rajendra Babu, former Chief Justice of India
A Full Court death reference was held in Court No.1 of Gauhati High Court due to the sad and sudden demise of Justice N. Chaudhury, Judge, Gauhati High Court. Justice N. Chaudhury was elevated as Additional Judge of the Gauhati High Court on 22nd May, 2013 and was made a permanent Judge of the Gauhati High Court on 20th February, 2016.

The members of the Bar and the Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court during their address recollected the outstanding contributions of Justice N. Chaudhury towards the development of both civil and criminal law. As the Executive Chairman of Nagaland State Legal Services Authority, Justice N. Chaudhury contributed significantly in setting up legal-aid clinics in remote areas of Nagaland and providing prosthetic limbs to differently-abled persons in the State of Nagaland.

Judicial power is meant to be exercised only in public interest and not otherwise. Respect for the judiciary has to be earned, and that can happen only if people believe that we deserve the respect we are given. Personal respect is only a corollary of and incidental to respect of the rule of law.

—— Justice J S Verma, former Chief Justice of India
The Gauhati High Court organized the 2nd Zonal Administrative Conference of the district judiciary and the district and police administration of Barak Valley Division comprising districts of Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi at Silchar on 19th November, 2016.

Justice Ajit Singh, the Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court, Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Judge, Administrative Department, Gauhati High Court and Justice Suman Shyam, Portfolio Judge of the aforesaid districts, the District and Sessions Judges, Chief Judicial Magistrates, Deputy Commissioners, Superintendent of Police of the aforesaid districts and the officers of the Registry attended the Conference.

During the conference, issues relating to Monitoring Committee meeting, appointment of Public Prosecutors, withdrawal of cases, custody of valuables as well as narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, infrastructural needs, the common issues of the Judicial Officers, administrative office and police were discussed in detail. The suggestions which emerged during the conference were noted and resolutions were adopted on the issues that were discussed during the conference.

The law is reason, free from passion.

— Aristotle (384 BC-322 BC) Greek philosopher
Justice Ajit Singh, the Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court inaugurated the first Sub-Divisional Court of Barak Valley at Lakhipur in Cachar District on 19th November, 2016. Also present were Justice Suman Shyam, Portfolio Judge for the district of Cachar, Mr. H.K. Sarma, Registrar General, Gauhati High Court, District and Sessions Judge, Cachar, Joint Registrar (PM&P), Judicial Officers, officials of the District Administration, Members of the Bar and litigant public.

The establishment of Sub-Divisional Courts at Lakhipur will ease the burden of litigation at Silchar and will reduce the hardship of the litigants as courts will be easily accessible to them.

Protection of Children from drugs on 19th November, 2016 at Aizawl

The Mizoram State Legal Services Authority organized a one day awareness programme for protecting children from the abuses of drugs at Aizawl Club, Aizawl on 19th November, 2016.

Justice M.R. Pathak, Judge, Gauhati High Court inaugurated the programme and highlighted the menace of drugs which is prevalent in the State of Mizoram and urged the stakeholders to create awareness so that children can be protected from abuse of drugs. The programme was attended by various stakeholders working on the field.
Referral Training for Legal Aid Services Lawyers on 20th and 21st November, 2016, Cachar

Justice Hrishikesh Roy in the Training programme at Silchar

Justice Suman Shyam addressing the Legal Aid lawyers

The Assam State Legal Services Authority in association with the District Legal Services Authority, Cachar organized a two-day training programme for the Legal Aid Services lawyers from the districts of Cachar, Karimganj and Hallakandi of Assam.

Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Judge cum Executive Chairman, Assam State Legal Services Authority inaugurated the programme. The appointed resource persons addressed 70 nos. of lawyers on the finer legal aspects so that they can conduct both civil and criminal cases proficiently and in order that they would be able to provide quality legal aid to poor litigants.

3rd Round table Conference of North-Eastern States and Sikkim for effective implementation of Juvenile Justice on 26th and 27th November, 2016 at Guwahati

The Gauhati High Court in association with Supreme Court Juvenile Justice Committee and supported by UNICEF, State Child Protection Society, Govt. of Assam and Centre for Child and Law, NLSIU, Bangaluru organized a two-day programme on Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 with special focus on rehabilitation services and linkage with POCSO Act, 2012 on 26th and 27th November, 2016 at Assam Administrative Staff College, Guwahati.

Justice Madan B. Lokur in the Juvenile Justice programme

Chief Justice Ajit Singh with his speech
The programme was attended by Justice Madan B. Lokur, Judge, Supreme Court of India, and in-charge of Supreme Court Juvenile Justice Committee, Justice Ajit Singh, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, and Judges of the Gauhati High Court, Justice M. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, High Court of Manipur, Justice Swapan Ch. Das, Judge, High Court of Tripura, Justice Sudip Sen, Judge, High Court of Meghalaya, Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, Judge, High Court of Sikkim, representatives of the Social Welfare Department, Police personnel, representatives of NGOs, students and Judicial Officers.

Justice Manojit Bhuyan, Judge, Gauhati High Court delivered the welcome address and Justice M.R. Pathak, Judge, Gauhati High Court delivered the vote of thanks during the inaugural programme.

During the technical sessions, the representatives of the Social Welfare Department from the states of Assam, Nagaland, Tripura, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim presented the various activities of their respective department relating to children in conflict with law. The resource persons from the Centre for Child and Law, NLSIU, Bangalore made presentations on key challenges in implementation of Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 in relation to POCSO Act, 2012 and also shared field experiences in dealing with the POCSO cases with focus on key challenges faced in support services to child victims of sexual offences. The resource persons from PRAAJAK, an NGO based at Kolkata made a presentation and shared their field experiences on the key issues and challenges faced while working with children, particularly, boys within and outside the Juvenile Justice system with focus on their rehabilitation.
The participants had a lively interaction during all technical sessions. The participants also had a group discussion on various thematic issues like challenges in Juvenile Justice Act and POCSO Act, rehabilitation of children who are victims of sexual offences, rehabilitation of children alleged and found to have committed sexual offences.

Justice Madan B. Lokur, Judge, Supreme Court of India during the valedictory session gave his concluding remarks on the conference and Justice Rumi Kumari Phukan, Judge, Gauhati High Court, proposed the vote of thanks.

**Inauguration of NSLSA Stall at Horn Bill Festival on 1st December, 2016 at Kohima**

Justice Ajit Singh, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court and Patron-in-Chief of Nagaland State Legal Services Authority inaugurated the stall at Hornbill Festival on 1st December, 2016 at Kohima in presence of Justice Arup Kumar Goswami, Judge, Gauhati High Court, Member Secretary, NSLSA, Judicial Officers and public.

The Hornbill Festival considered by people of Nagaland as the festival of all festivals is a 10 day long event where people from different parts of Nagaland, Northeast and foreign tourists participate every year.

The inauguration of the stall at the popular Festival will strengthen the efforts of NSLSA in creating legal awareness amongst the people of Nagaland.
Swearing-in ceremony of Judges on 03.01.2017

On 3rd January, 2017 Justice Manojit Bhuyan, Justice Michael Zothankhum and Justice Suman Shyam were sworn in as permanent Judges of the Gauhati High Court.

Justice Paran Kumar Phukan and Justice Rumi Kumari Phukan also took oath as Additional Judges of the Gauhati High Court. The oath was administered by Chief Justice Ajit Singh in the refurbished Court No.1 of the Old Block of the Gauhati High Court.
The 68th Republic Day was celebrated in the newly created lawns in the Gauhati High Court Old Block. Chief Justice Ajit Singh unfurled the National Flag in presence of the Judges of the High Court, members of the Bar and officers and staff of the Registry. The flag-hoisting ceremony was followed by a cultural programme performed by the members of the Bar and Court staff.

Referral Judges training programme on 9th February 2017 at Judicial Academy, Assam

On 9.2.2017 a one-day Referral Judges training programme was conducted by the Gauhati High Court in association with Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee, Supreme Court of India and Judicial Academy, Assam, for the 49 pre-appointment trainees in Grade-III and for the Grade-I Judicial Officers of the Assam Judicial Service. Mr. Gurnam Singh, Addl. District & Sessions Judge, Punjab and Mr. Dipak Arora, Addl District & Sessions Judge, Punjab, Master Trainers, acted as Resource persons. The training programme was conducted in the Conference Hall of the Judicial Academy, Assam.
The foundation stone of the permanent court building of Aizawl Bench of Gauhati High Court was laid by Mizoram Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla and Chief Justice Ajit Singh of Gauhati High Court. DoNER Ministry has accorded administrative and financial approval of Rs. 46.42 crores for the building which is scheduled to be completed within 30 months.

The Aizawl Bench of Gauhati High Court was established on July 5, 1990 following signing of the Peace Accord between Mizo National Front and Government of India in 1986.

Sensitization programme on National Court Management System at Guwahati on 04.03.2017

On 4.3.2017 a sensitization programme on National Court Management System was organized by the Gauhati High Court in association with Judicial Academy, Assam. Prof. (Dr.) G. Mohan Gopal, Chairperson of NCMS Committee, Supreme Court of India, was invited as Resource person.

Justice Ujjal Bhuyan delivered the welcome address and the keynote address was delivered by Justice Hrishikesh Roy. All the District & Sessions Judges, Principal Judges of Family Court, Special Judge, CBI, Special Judge, Assam, Presiding Judge, Industrial Tribunal, Presiding Judge, Labour Court and Member, MACT, participated in the sensitization programme.
Project "Reach Out and Respond" (এইনি) for fitment of artificial limbs and distribution of aids and appliances to differently-abled persons was launched under the aegis of Assam State Legal Services Authority in partnership with the Social Welfare Dept., Health & Family Welfare Dept., Govt. of Assam, Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti, Jaipur and Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India from 4th-11th March, 2017 at the Gauhati Medical College and Hospital Auditorium Complex, Guwahati, Assam.

The programme was formally inaugurated in a glittering ceremony in presence of the Chief Minister of Assam, the Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court, the Executive Chairman, Assam State Legal Services Authority, Minister of Social Welfare of Assam, Chief Secretary and Addl. Chief Secretary of Assam and D. R. Mehta, Chairman of BMVSS, Jaipur. During the first phase, a total of 464 limbs and 538 assistive devices were provided to the shortlisted beneficiaries.
The permanent campus of the National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam was inaugurated on 25th March, 2017 at Amingaon, Guwahati in a glittering ceremony in presence of Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Chief Minister of Assam, Justice J. Chelameswar, Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde, Justice Abhay Manohar Sape and Justice Amitava Roy, Judges of the Supreme Court and Justice Ajit Singh, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, other Judges of the High Court, Officials of the District Administration, Judicial Officers and students of NLUJA.

Laptops and Printers distributed on 07.03.2017

New Laptops and printers were distributed to the 49 trainee Grade III Judicial Officers of the Assam Judicial Service in the Gauhati High Court, New Block. Laptops and printers for all the Judicial Officers of the State of Assam were procured from the fund under the 14th Finance Commission Grants.
### 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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<td>1.</td>
<td>Chief Justice Ajit Singh</td>
<td>05.03.2016</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Justice Hrishikesh Roy</td>
<td>12.10.2006</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Justice A.K. Goswami</td>
<td>24.01.2011</td>
<td>10.03.2023</td>
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<td>Justice Ujjal Bhuyan</td>
<td>17.10.2011</td>
<td>01.08.2026</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Justice Manojit Bhuyan</td>
<td>07.01.2015</td>
<td>04.02.2021</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Justice Michael Zothankhuma</td>
<td>07.01.2015</td>
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<td>Justice Suman Shyam</td>
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**Additional Judges**

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<td>Justice M. R. Pathak</td>
<td>28.08.1965</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Justice Rumi Kumari Phukan</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Justice Songkupchung Serto</td>
<td>01.03.1961</td>
<td>03.10.2016</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Justice Prasanta Kumar Deka</td>
<td>05.11.1959</td>
<td>15.11.2016</td>
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### IN THE GAUHATI HIGH COURT

PENDENCY, INSTITUTION AND DISPOSAL STATEMENT OF GAUHATI HIGH COURT
FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01.09.2016 TO 28.02.2017

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<th>Name of Benches</th>
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<th>Institution for the period from 01.09.2016 to 28.02.2017</th>
<th>Disposal for the period from 01.09.2016 to 28.02.2017</th>
<th>Total pendency as on 28.02.2017</th>
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*Excluding Misc. Cases*