

Overview of ICT achievements and milestones in the year 2024





FOREWORD



HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE DEVASHIS BARUAH JUDGE, GAUHATI HIGH COURT & ICT IN-CHARGE OF KOHIMA BENCH

As we draw close to the year 2024, it is important to recount the progress made towards access to justice which is a fundamental principle of Rule of Law. I am happy to say that the year 2024 has been a landmark period for the Gauhati High Court Kohima Bench in its journey toward harnessing the transformative potential of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Guided by a passionate and steadfast commitment to efficiency and innovation, the Gauhati High Court Kohima Bench has set an exemplary benchmark for digital best practices in the State of Nagaland.

Among the standout achievements of 2024 is the launch of the Online RTI Portal, a pioneering digital initiative empowering the common citizen to seamlessly file and track RTI applications. Complementing this is the rollout of the Online eServices Portal, which consolidates a wide array of online services such as Leave Management System, Recruitment Portal and Inventory Management System. The implementation of CIS Periphery Services marks another milestone, offering additional functionalities such as 1) eCauselist, 2) Case Status & 3) Neutral Citation that integrate seamlessly with the existing Case Information

System (CIS). Under the eCourts Project Phase-III, the Kohima Bench of the Gauhati High Court has undertaken substantial ICT projects, completing solar installation works, computer upgradation and capacity-building programmes. These efforts have led to the deployment of state-of-the-art courtrooms equipped for virtual hearings, robust ICT infrastructure and enhanced digital training for judicial staff. The Kohima Bench of the Gauhati High Court had also introduced a dedicated WhatsApp service and YouTube channel, ensuring access to justice for citizens in even the most remote corners of Nagaland.

These milestones represent a collective effort to build a judiciary that is not only robust and efficient but also responsive to the needs of the present generation. The strides made by the eCourts Team of Gauhati High Court, Kohima Bench underscores its role as a torchbearer of judicial excellence in the region. This newsletter, *ICT Milestones 2024*, is a celebration of these accomplishments and a reflection of our shared commitment to delivering justice through technology. I hope it serves as an inspiration and a digital roadmap for continued progress in the years to come.

Season's Greetings and Happy New Year.

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LAUNCH OF ONLINE RTI PORTAL AT GAUHATI HIGH COURT KOHIMA BENCH ON 29-02-2024



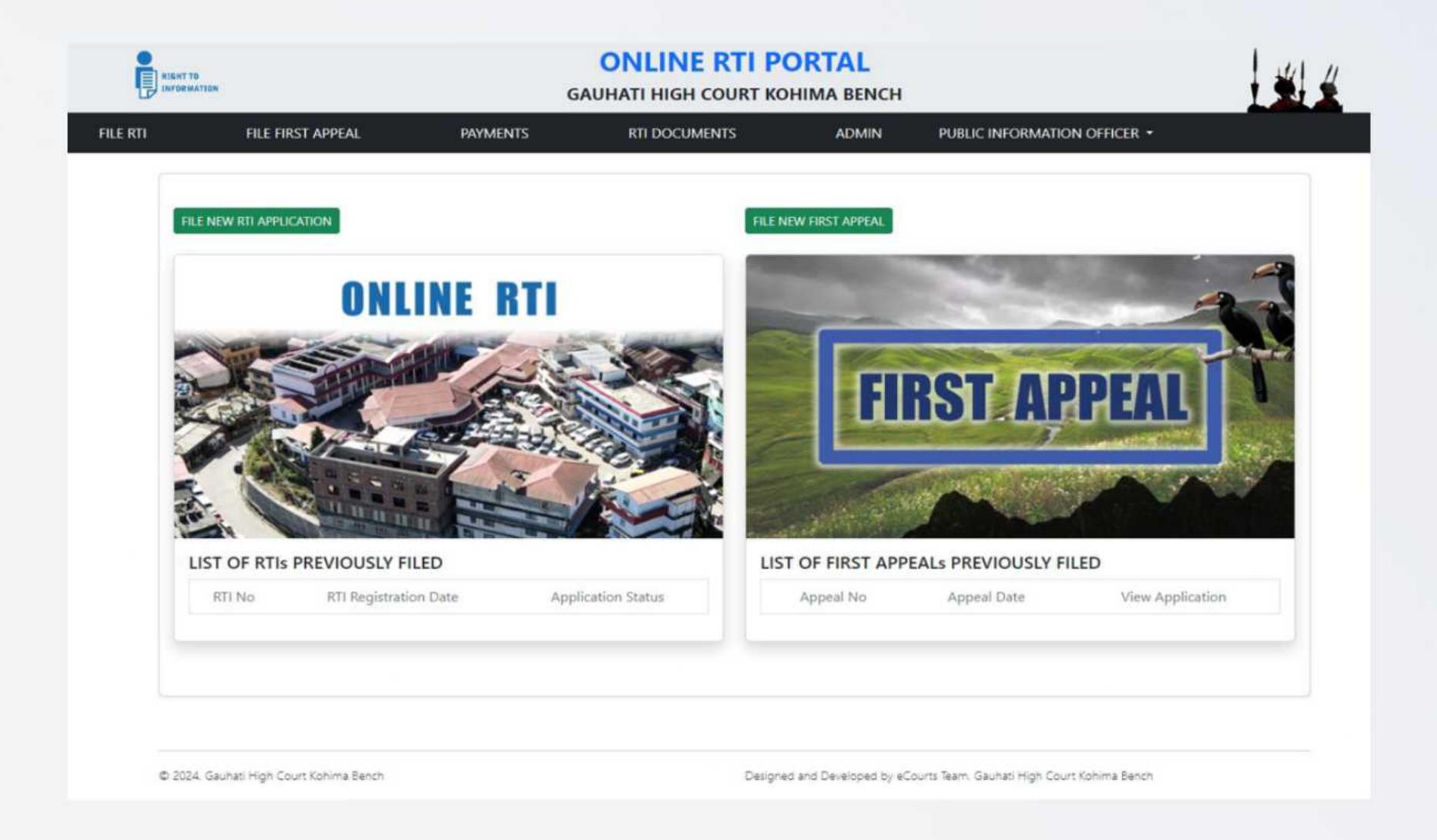
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE DEVASHIS BARUAH (SITTING 2nd FROM RIGHT) & HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE SUSMITA PHUKAN KHAUND (SITTING 2nd FROM LEFT) ALONG WITH REGISTRY OFFICIALS AT THE LAUNCH OF ONLINE RTI PORTAL OF GAUHATI HIGH COURT KOHIMA BENCH

In a move towards transparency and efficiency, the Gauhati High Court Kohima Bench took a significant step by launching its online Right to Information (RTI) portal. In a first for the State of Nagaland, the online RTI portal was formally launched on 29th February, 2024 by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Devashis Baruah, Judge Gauhati High Court and ICT In-charge of Kohima Bench in the presence of Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Susmita Phukan Khaund, Judge Gauhati High Court and officials of the High Court Registry.



To mark the event, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Devashis Baruah symbolically filed the first online, paperless e-RTI application at Kohima Bench through the online web portal and dedicated the same to the citizens of the state.

It is pertinent to mention that Section 6 (1) of the Right to Information Act, 2005 stipulates that an information seeker had a statutory right to move an application through electronic means. So far, RTI applications could be filed only through the physical mode. The online RTI portal has been initiated to make it convenient for people to access information about the Gauhati High Court and its outlying Benches. Through the web portal, Indian citizens can file their RTI Application and First Appeal online and make e-payment of Fees etc., through Internet Banking or UPI facility.



To access the online RTI portal, citizens can simply click on the dedicated "RTI" tab available on the official website of the Gauhati High Court Kohima Bench. Upon successful registration on the RTI portal, the status of e-RTI application will be intimated to the user electronically via SMS facility and registered E-mail address. The web portal has user-friendly interface and operates on an end-to-end paperless mode. The online RTI facility will be scaled up to all District Courts of Nagaland in near future.

LIVE STREAMING OF STATE LEVEL WORKSHOP ON POCSO ACT AND NDPS ACT HELD ON 27-04-2024



JUDICIAL OFFICERS, PROSECUTORS, POLICE OFFICERS & MEDICAL FRATERNITY ATTENDING THE 1-DAY STATE-LEVEL WORKSHOP ON THE POCSO ACT AND NDPS ACT ORGANIZED BY GAUHATI HIGH COURT KOHIMA BENCH AT POLICE COMPLEX IN CHUMOUKEDIMA ON 27-04-2024





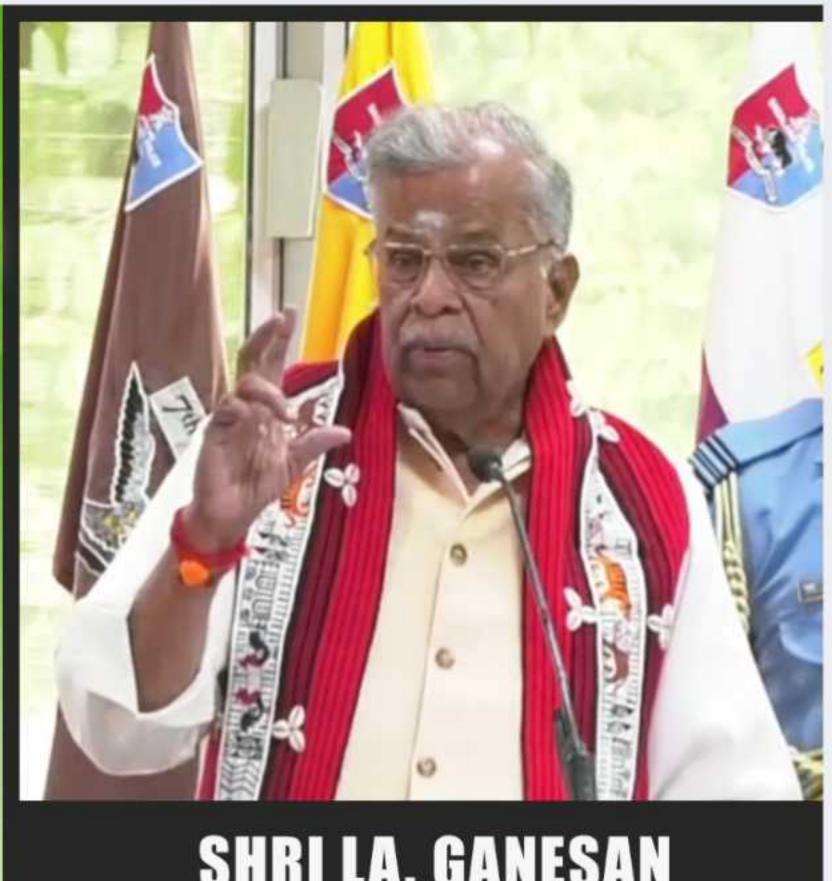
In a first, the eCourts Division of Gauhati High Court Kohima Bench successfully live streamed the proceedings of the State Level Workshop on POCSO Act & NDPS Act for the benefit of general public on YouTube platform.

SNAPSHOTS OF RECORDED LIVE STREAM FOOTAGE UPLOADED ON THE OFFICIAL YouTube CHANNEL eCOURTS NAGALAND

GAUHATI HIGH COURT KOHIMA BENCH

LIVE STREAM
RECORDED FOOTAGE

INAUGURAL ADDRESS
BY GOVERNOR AT THE
STATE LEVEL WORKSHOP
ON POCSO & NDPS ACTS
HELD ON 27-04-2024



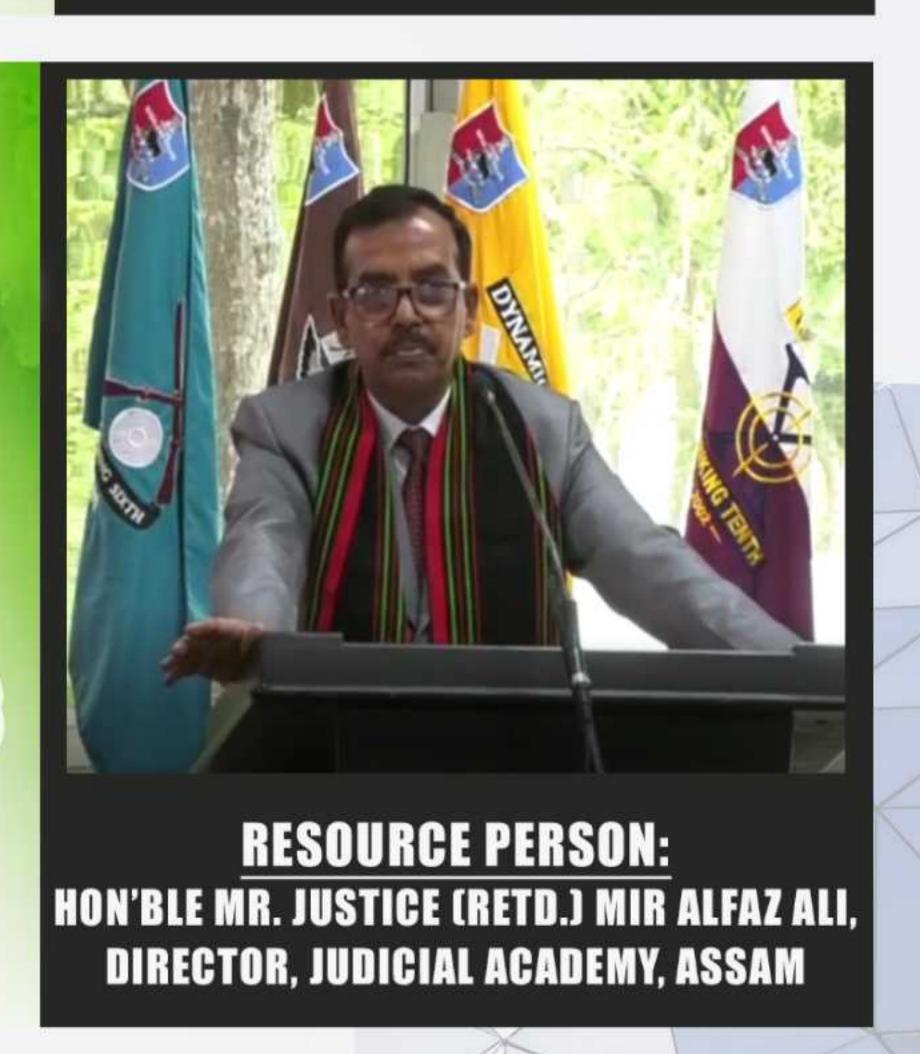
SHRI LA. GANESAN HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF NAGALAND

GAUHATI HIGH COURT KOHIMA BENCH

LIVE STREAM
RECORDED FOOTAGE

PRESUMTION UNDER
SECTIONS 29 & 30
OF POCSO ACT 2012:
APPLICATION AND CHALLENGES

STATE LEVEL WORKSHOP ON POCSO & NDPS ACTS HELD ON 27-04-2024

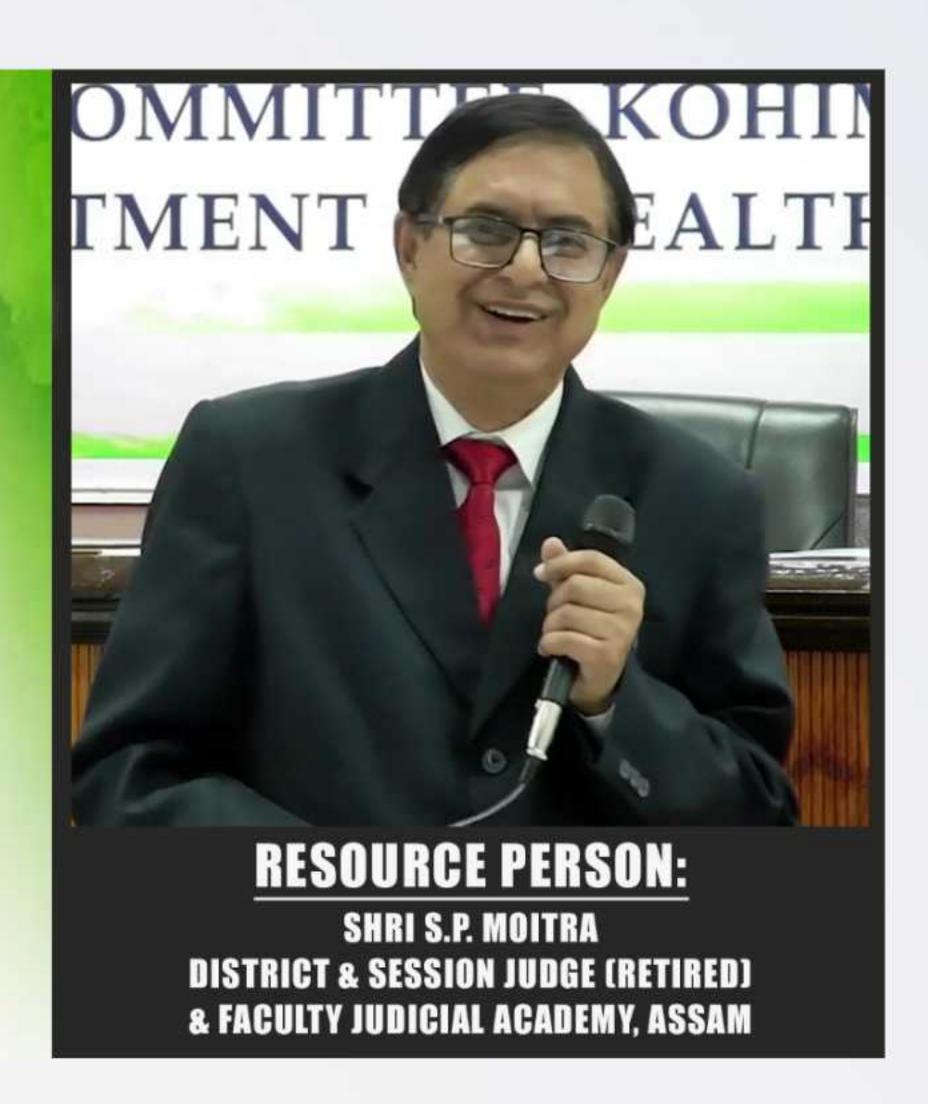


GAUHATI HIGH COURT KOHIMA BENCH

LIVE STREAM
RECORDED FOOTAGE

SALIENT FEATURES OF NARCOTIC DRUGS & PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES ACT, 1985

8 NDPS ACTS HELD ON 27-04-2024



GAUHATI HIGH COURT KOHIMA BENCH

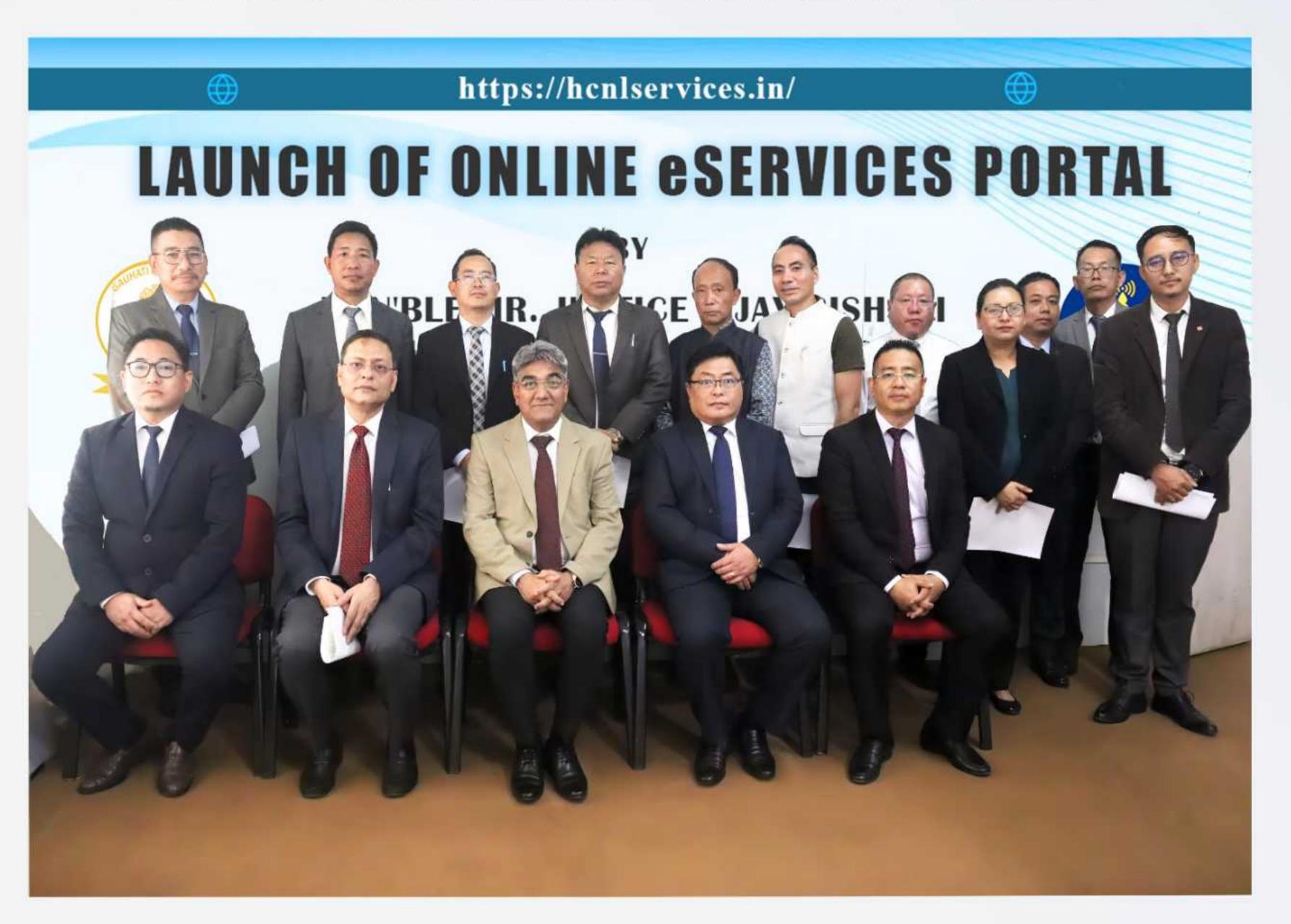
LIVE STREAM
RECORDED FOOTAGE

IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE POCSO ACT 2012:
CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

STATE LEVEL WORKSHOP ON POCSO & NDPS ACTS HELD ON 27-04-2024



HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF GAUHATI HIGH COURT LAUNCHES WEB-BASED ONLINE eSERVICES PORTAL FOR KOHIMA BENCH ON 13-06-2024

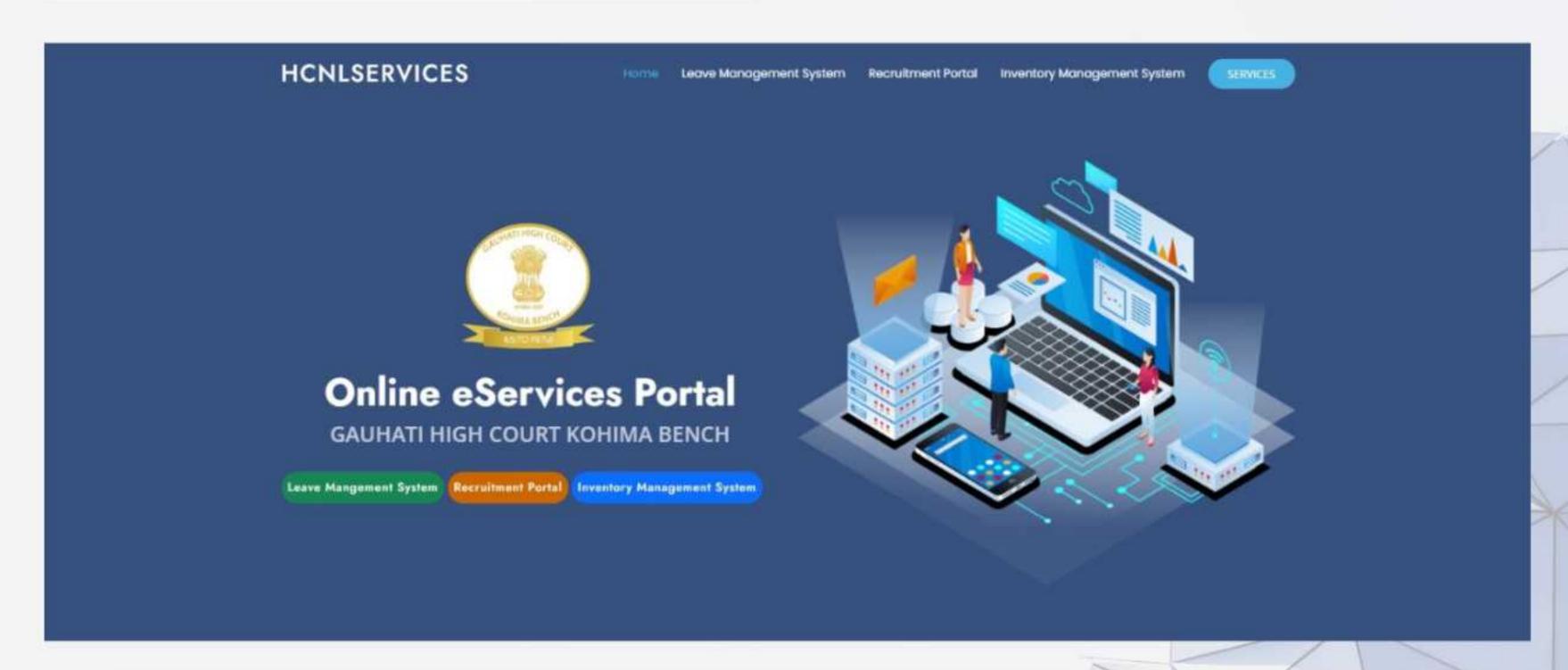


HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIJAY BISHNOI, THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF GAUHATI HIGH COURT (SITTING 3rd FROM LEFT), HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE LANUSUNGKUM JAMIR (4th FROM LEFT) & HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE DEVASHIS BARUAH (2nd FROM LEFT) JUDGES OF GAUHATI HIGH COURT WITH REGISTRY OFFICIALS OF KOHIMA BENCH AT THE LAUNCH OF ONLINE eSERVICES PORTAL

In a significant move towards transparency and efficiency, the Gauhati High Court Kohima Bench launched its own Web Based "Online eServices Portal" https://hcnlservices.in/ designed and developed by the eCourts Team of Kohima Bench.



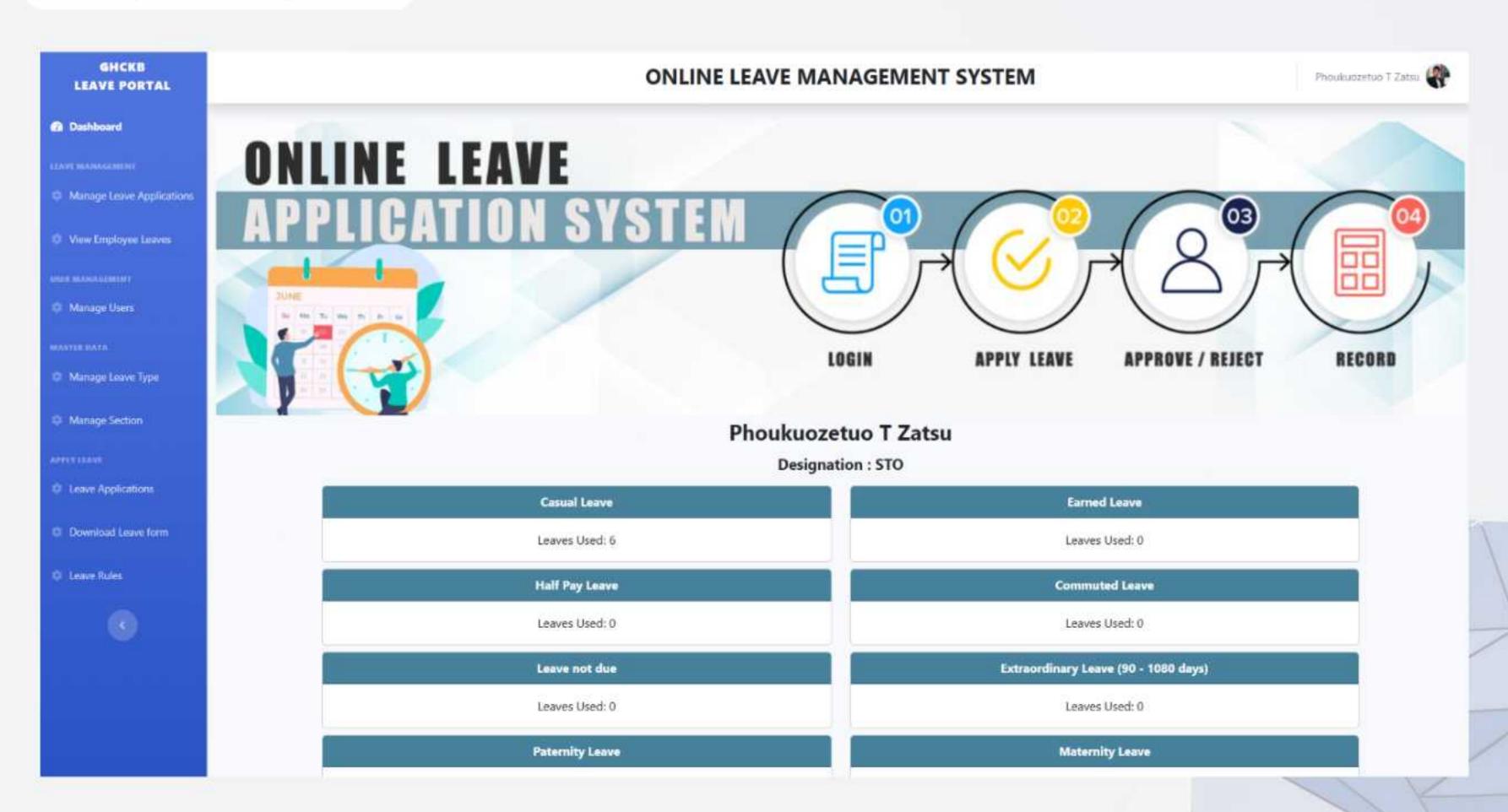
The "Online eServices Portal" was formally launched on 13th June 2024 by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vijay Bishnoi, The Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court in the presence of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Lanusungkum Jamir, Judge In-Charge, Administrative Department (JAD) Gauhati High Court and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Devashis Baruah, Judge Gauhati High Court and ICT In-charge of Kohima Bench amid officials of the Registry.



SCREENSHOT OF HOME-PAGE OF ONLINE eSERVICES PORTAL OF GAUHATI HIGH COURT KOHIMA BENCH DESIGNED & DEVELOPED BY eCOURTS TEAM OF KOHIMA BENCH

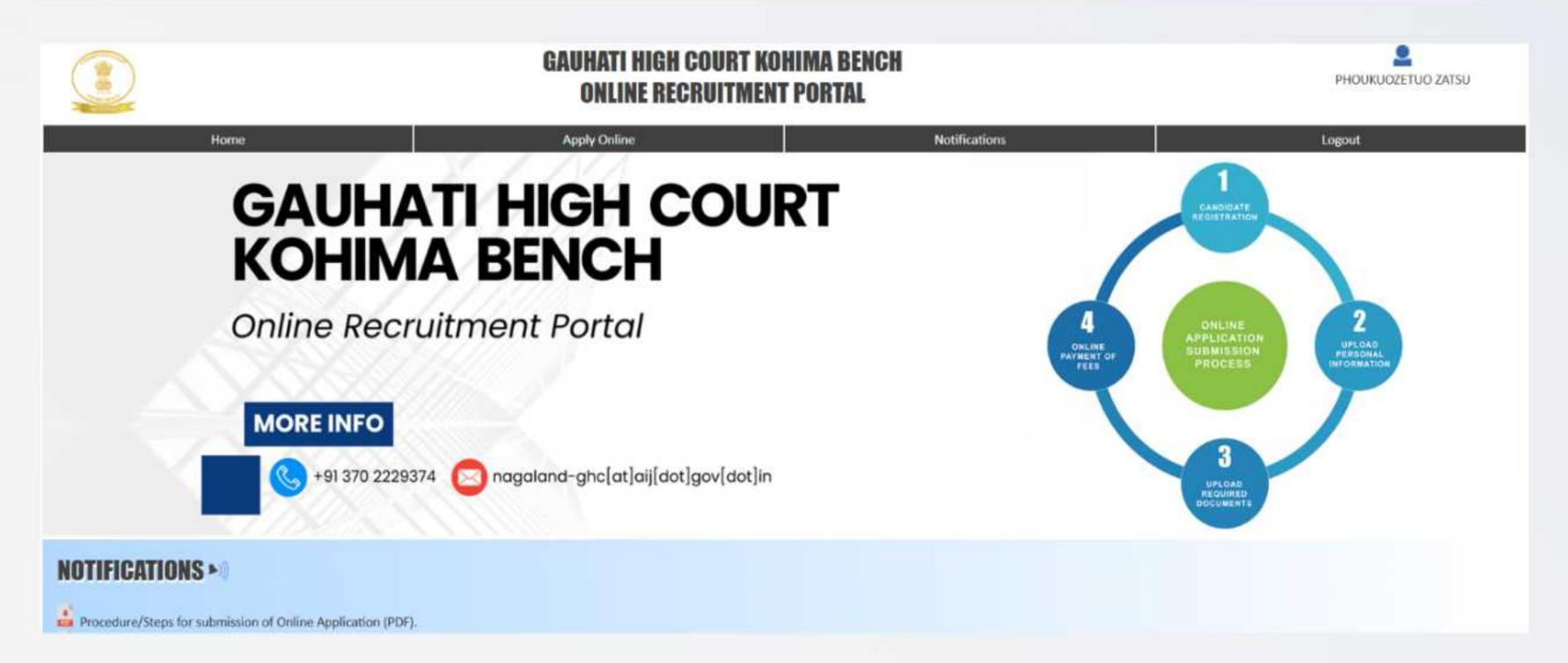
This innovative platform marks a significant leap towards modernizing our judicial administration and enhancing our service delivery. The online facility is designed to enhance efficiency, transparency, and convenience for employees, job applicants, advocates and stakeholders. The key features of the portal are as follows:

1) Online Leave Management System: This system simplifies the leave application process for employees, allowing them to apply for leave, check leave balances, and track the status of their applications seamlessly. This results in a streamlined workflow, reduced paperwork, and improved management of leave records, thereby ensuring a more efficient and transparent system.



2) Online Recruitment Portal. This portal streamlines job applications, data collection and candidate screening processes. Applicants can easily submit their resumes and required documents online leading to a faster, more

organized recruitment process. The portal will maintain a centralized database of applications and candidate information for easy access and management.



3) Online Inventory Management System. This system is designed for the meticulous record-keeping, tracking, and management of ICT assets and hardware procured by the High Court. By maintaining accurate inventory records and monitoring asset usage, resource allocation is optimized, reducing wastage, and ensuring that technological resources are effectively utilized.



DISTRIBUTION OF REFURBISHED COMPUTER SETS TO GRADE-IV EMPLOYEES OF GAUHATI HIGH COURT KOHIMA BENCH ON 78th INDEPENDENCE DAY

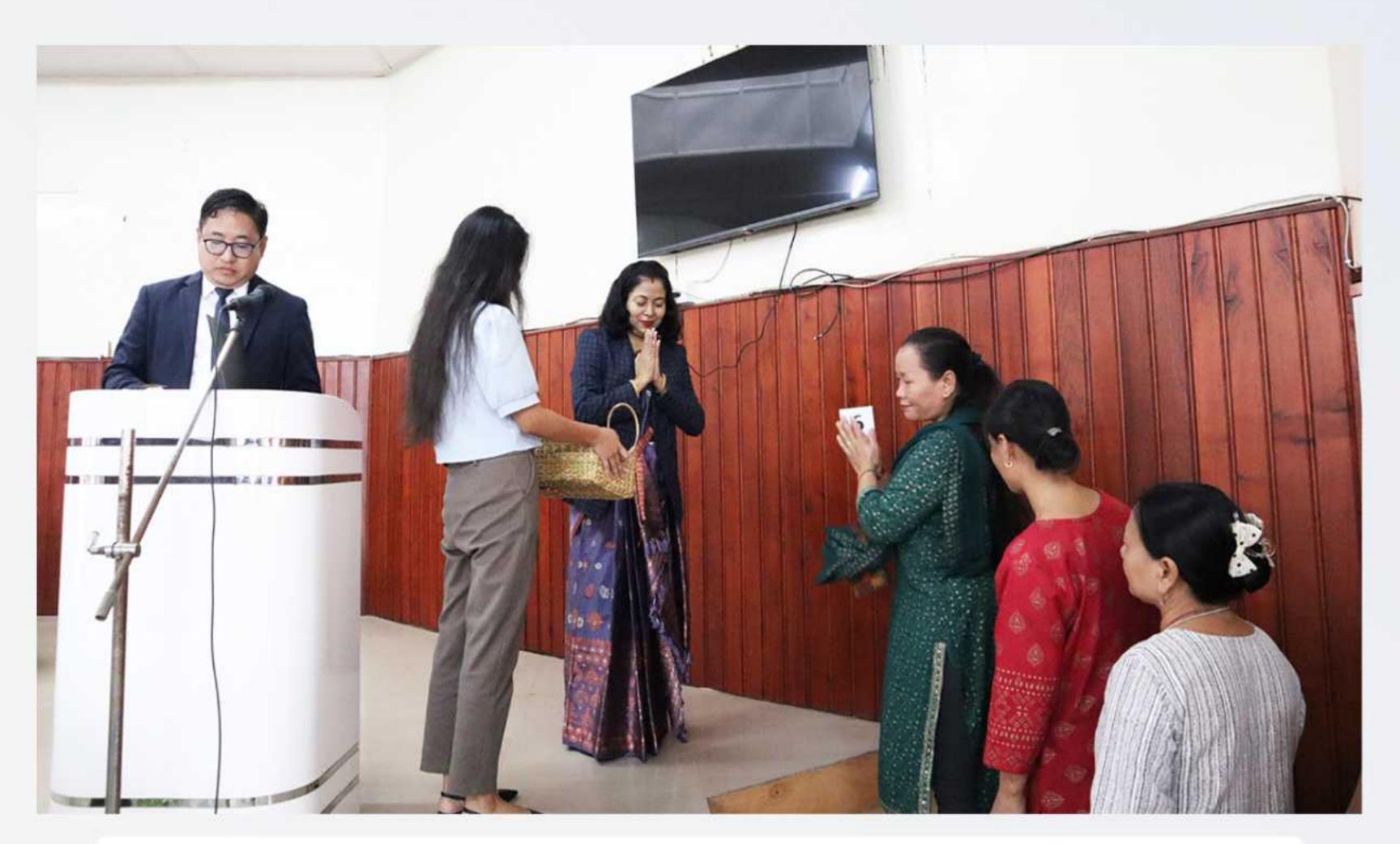


In keeping with the vision of eCourts Mission Mode Project to enhance judicial productivity and promote ICT outreach among its stakeholders, the Gauhati High Court Kohima Bench undertook a unique initiative to distribute refurbished computer sets to Grade-IV employees and contingency staff of Kohima Bench on the occasion of India's 78th Independence Day held at Kohima, Nagaland on 15th August, 2024. The special initiative was undertaken for the first time at Kohima Bench under the vision of Hon'ble The Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court with an aim to promote computer literacy and intended for the benefit of the children and wards of Grade-IV employees and staff considering the necessity of IT knowledge and skills in the present day.

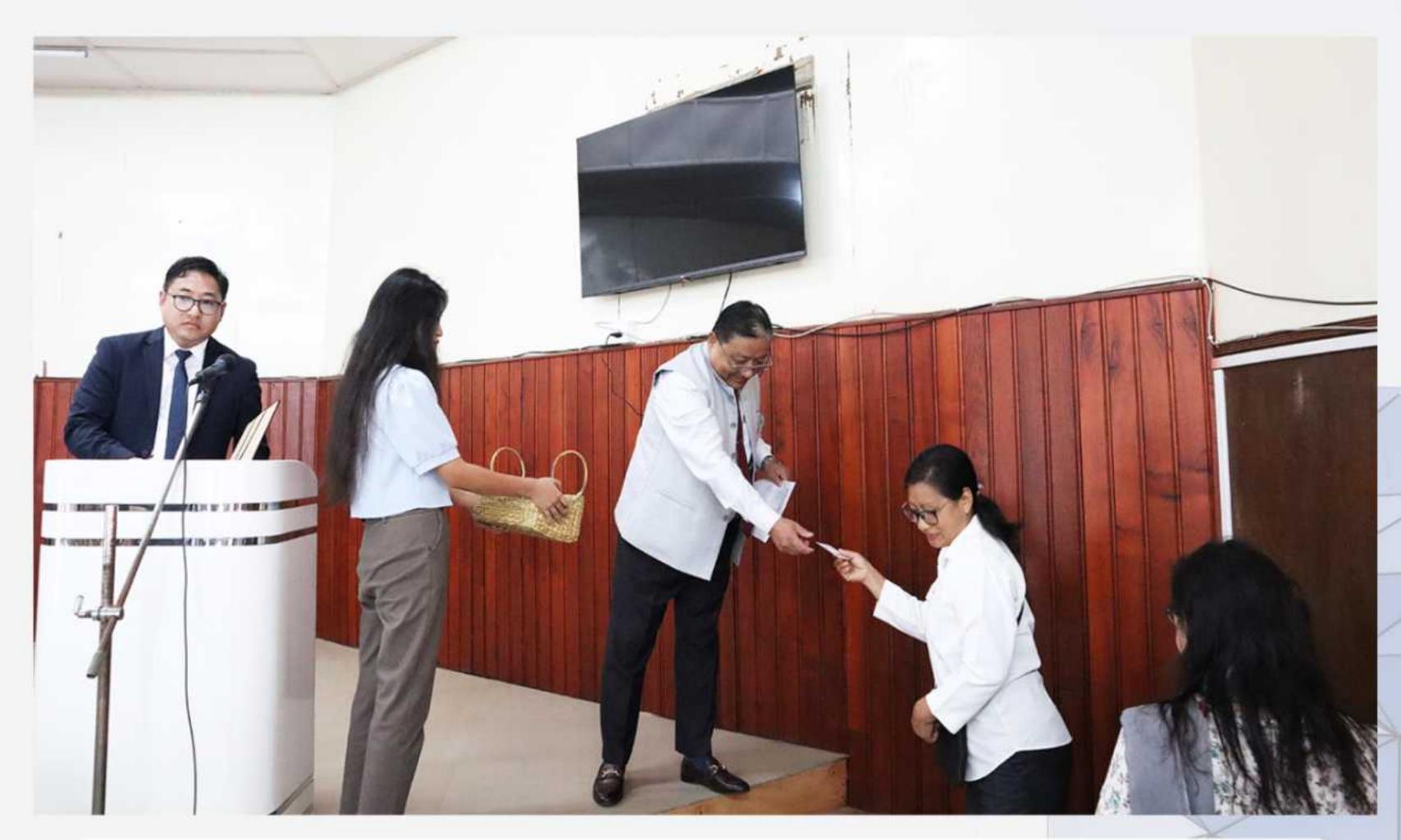
The fully refurbished and ready-to-use computer sets were awarded to 25 (twenty-five) Grade-IV employees and contingency staff of Gauhati High Court Kohima Bench in acknowledgement of their noble services to the institution of justice by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kakheto Sema, senior Portfolio Judge of Kohima Bench and Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Mitali Thakuria, Judge of Gauhati High Court. The solemn program was graced by the presence of the Hon'ble Judges of the Gauhati High Court, senior Government Counsels, senior members from the High Court Bar Association, official dignitaries, advocates and family members of the employees. The program concluded with sumptuous lunch for all attendees sponsored by the Registry of Kohima Bench.



SNAPSHOT OF GRADE-IV EMPLOYEES AND CONTINGENCY STAFF OF GAUHATI HIGH COURT KOHIMA BENCH ACKNOWLEDGED FOR THEIR SERVICES ON INDEPENDENCE DAY



HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MITALI THAKURIA, JUDGE GAUHATI HIGH COURT AWARDING COMPUTER SETS TO GRADE-IV EMPLOYEES AND STAFF OF KOHIMA BENCH



HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE KAKHETO SEMA, SENIOR PORTFOLIO JUDGE OF KOHIMA BENCH AWARDING COMPUTER SETS TO GRADE-IV EMPLOYEES AND STAFF OF THE REGISTRY

ECT TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR ADVOCATES HELD AT CITY LAW COLLEGE, DIMAPUR ON 2-11-2024



RESOURCE PERSONS, JUDICIAL OFFICERS, REGISTRY OFFICIALS, ADVOCATES AND OTHER ATTENDEES AT THE ECT TRAINING PROGRAMME HELD AT CITY LAW COLLEGE, DIMAPUR

A one-day training session on the eCourt programme, focusing on Electronic Case Management Tools, ICT, and computer skills enhancement at Levels I and II, was held at City Law College, Dimapur. The training aimed to equip advocates and advocate clerks across Nagaland with essential skills in digital case management.

The programme featured Akito Zhimomi, President of the Nagaland Bar Association, as the Special Guest, and was chaired by Atoka Achumi, Joint Registrar and CPC of the eCourts Project at the Gauhati High Court's Kohima Bench. Ajongba Imchen, Registrar at the Kohima Bench, delivered the welcome address, followed by remarks from Dr. T. Limanochet Jamir, Principal of City Law College, and N. Longshithung Ezung, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Dimapur.



The training was structured into two sessions, led by resource persons Wonchibeni V Patton, Chief Judicial Magistrate of Peren, and Mahbub Ali Ahmed, Systems Officer from Morigaon, Assam. Participants received guidance on topics such as e-filing of court cases, virtual court procedures, and accessing judgments and orders through the eCourt system. The sessions highlighted the benefits of e-governance, accessibility, and transparency in judicial processes, emphasizing seamless access to case status and judgments for advocates and the public alike. Over 100 advocates from Dimapur and Peren as well as law students attended the day-long event.



REFRESHER PROGRAMME & NSTEP TRAINING FOR ADMINISTRATIVE HEAD, NAZARAT, PROCESS SERVERS HELD AT KOHIMA ON 22-11-2024





REFRESHER PROGRAMME ON eCOURT SERVICES FOR THE STAFF OF THE DISTRICT COURTS OF NAGALAND HELD AT KOHIMA, NAGALAND ON 23-11-2024





BATCH PHOTOS OF DISTRICT COURT STAFF ATTENDING THE 2-DAY ECT TRAINING PROGRAMMES HELD ON 22 & 23 NOVEMBER 2024 AT KOHIMA BENCH





NAGALAND ACHIEVED THE RARE DISTINCTION OF BEING ADJUDGED THE FIRST STATE IN INDIA TO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE MIGRATION PROCESS FROM CIS 3.2 TO CIS 4.0



THE CENTRAL CIS CORE TEAM AT NATIONAL INFORMATICS CENTRE, PUNE CONVEYED VIDE EMAIL DATED 24-10-2024 THAT NAGALAND IS THE FIRST STATE IN INDIA TO FULLY MIGRATE TO CIS NC 4.0

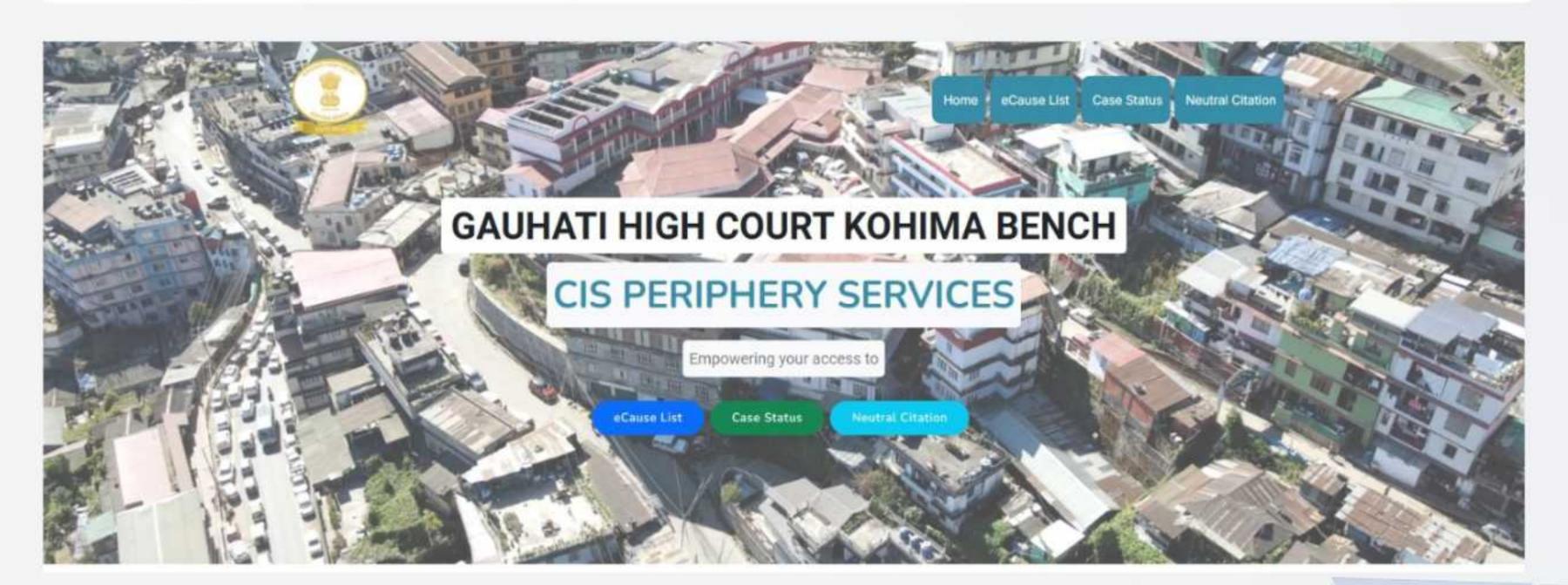
HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF GAUHATI HIGH COURT LAUNCHED A DEDICATED WHATSAPP CHANNEL "GHC KOHIMA BENCH INFO CHANNEL" ON 13-06-2024



A WhatsApp Channel namely "GHC Kohima Bench Info Channel" was officially launched by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court on 13th June, 2024 which will broadcast crucial information such as daily cause lists, case status, important notifications, VC links and news related to the High Court. Hereinafter, all important notifications and updates with regard to Gauhati High Court Kohima Bench will be communicated only through this WhatsApp Channel. Interested users are requested to follow the WhatsApp Channel by clicking on the link provided on the official website of Kohima Bench at https://kohimahighcourt.gov.in

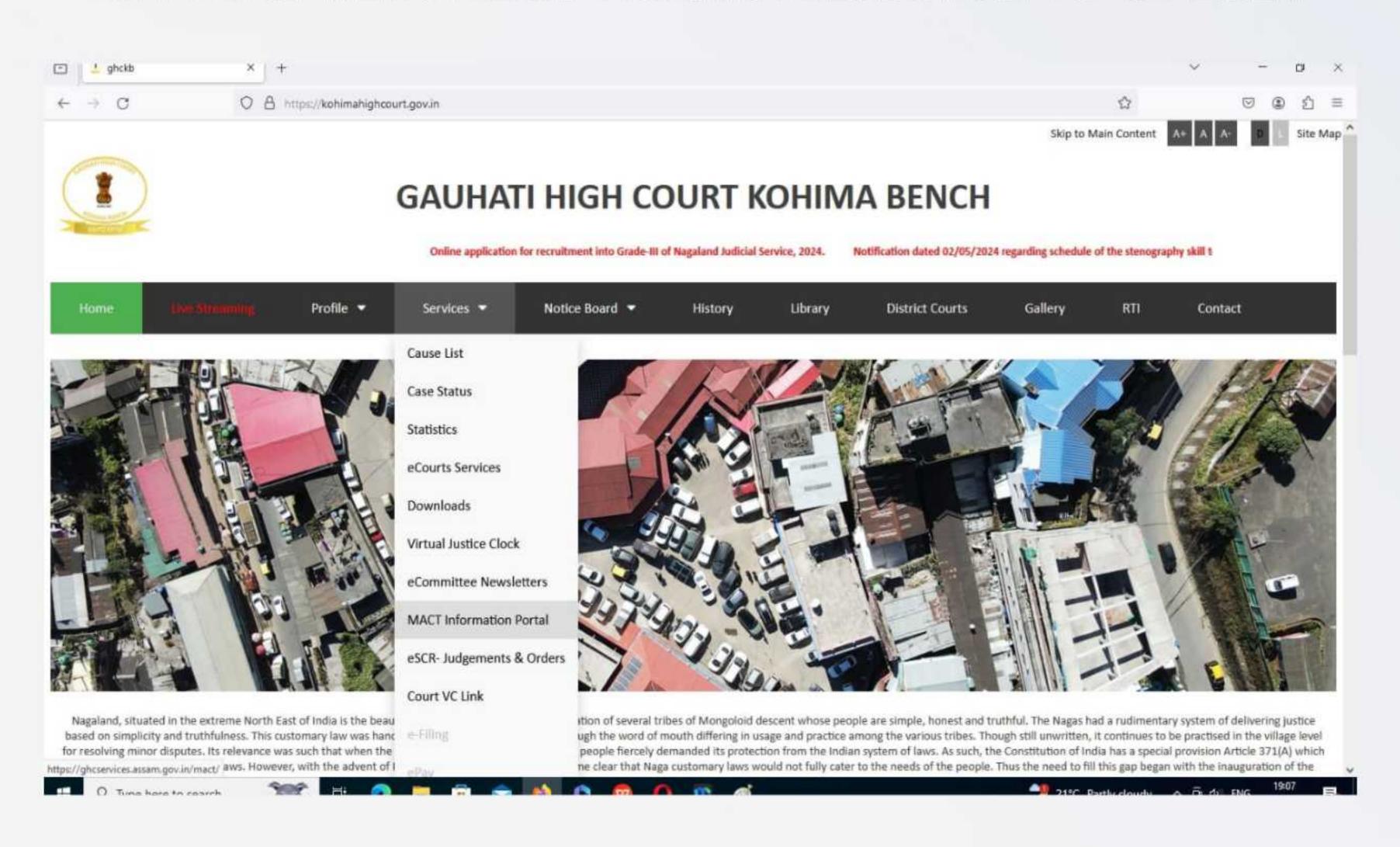
LAUNCH OF CIS PERIPHERY SERVICES AT GAUHATI HIGH COURT KOHIMA BENCH ON 24-10-2024

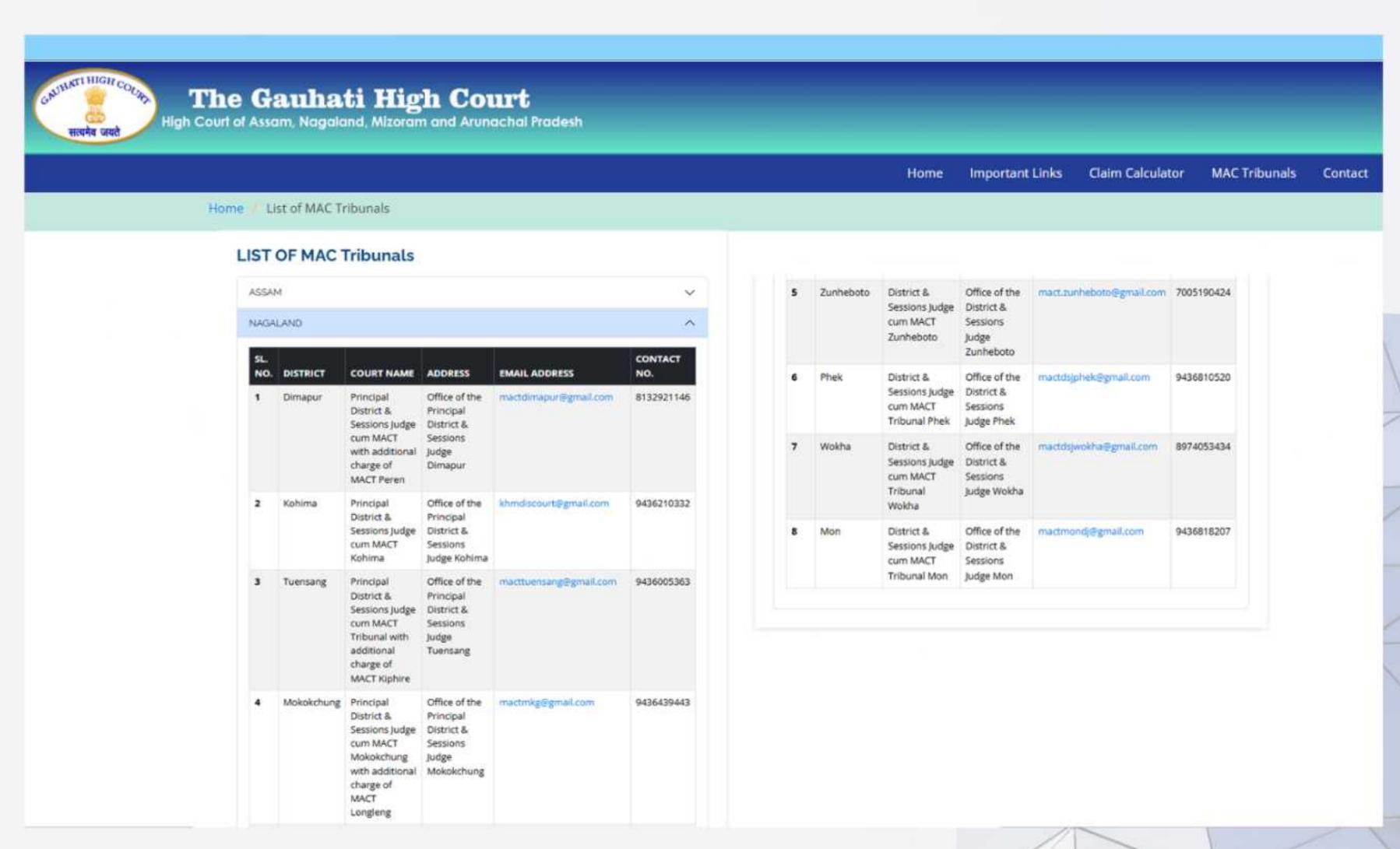
Under the noble initiative of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Devashis Baruah, Judge Gauhati High Court & ICT in-charge of Kohima Bench, the Principal Seat on 10-06-2024 was pleased to share the source code and scripts for CIS Periphery software, designed and developed by the IT Team of Gauhati High Court. With the technical support and assistance provided by the Principal Seat, the Gauhati High Court Kohima Bench was able to successfully launch CIS Periphery Services, namely 1) eCauselist, 2) Case Status & 3) Neutral Citation on 24-10-2024. The CIS Periphery Services are hosted at Nagaland State Data Center (NSDC) maintained by the Directorate of IT&C, Government of Nagaland.



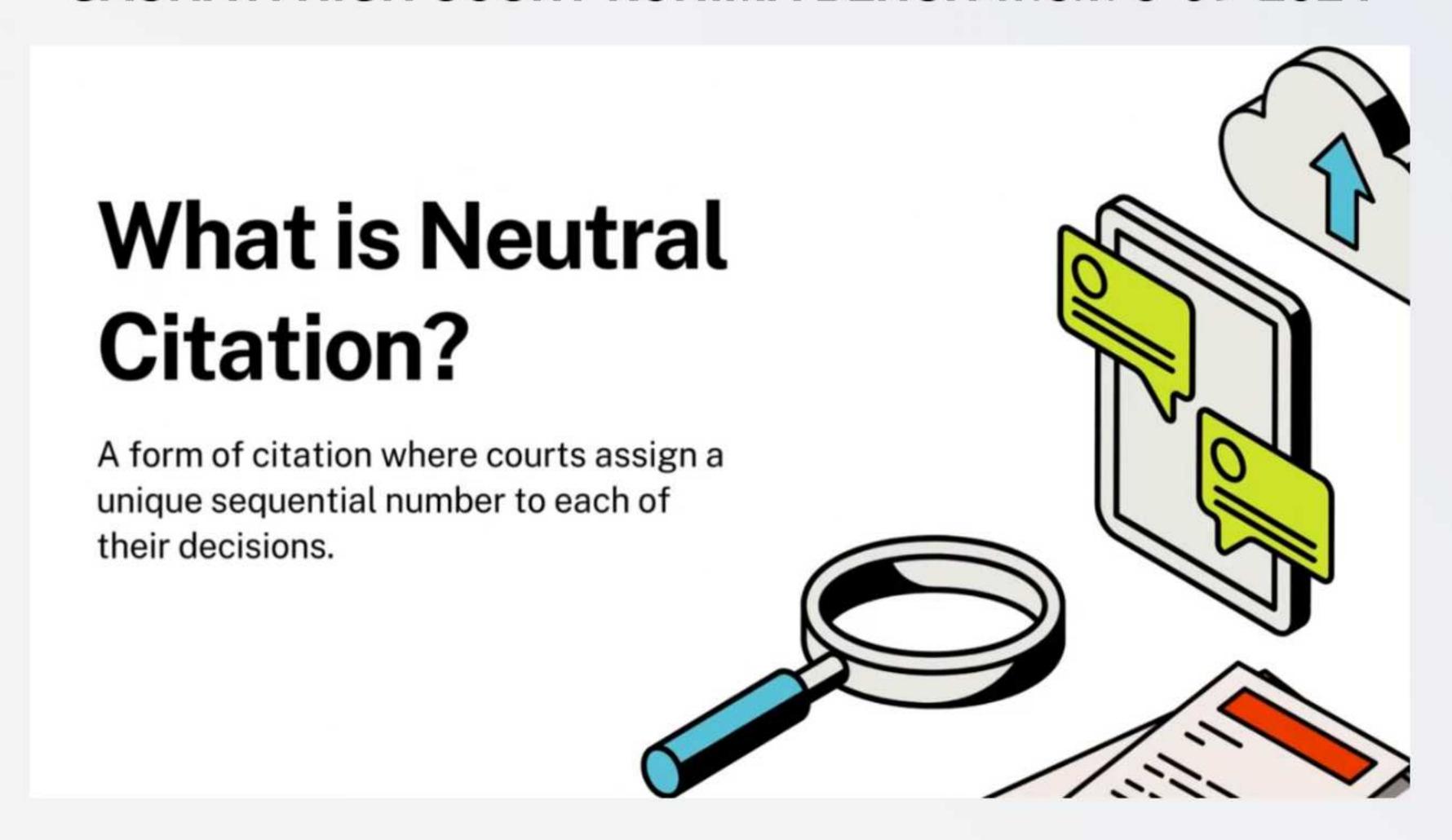
The CIS Periphery is designed to streamline access to critical legal information, empowering users with efficient tools for case tracking and research. It offers a comprehensive suite of features, including detailed case information, real-time status updates, and access to the cause list for scheduled hearings. Users can easily retrieve judgment orders, case records, and party details, ensuring transparency and convenience. Additionally, the portal provides neutral citations for standardized legal referencing. With its user-friendly interface, this platform serves as an indispensable resource for legal professionals.

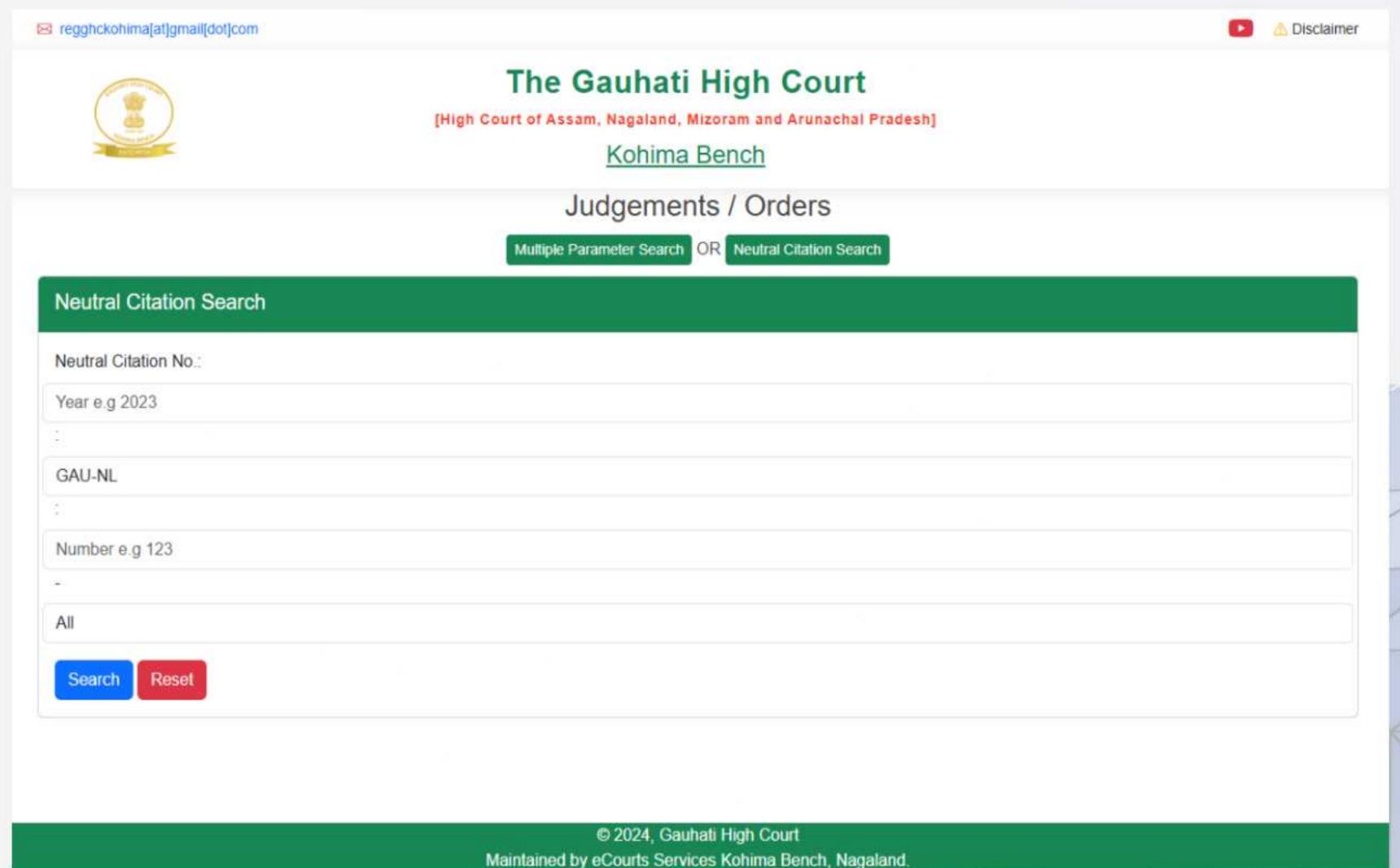
MACT INFORMATION PORTAL INCORPORATED IN THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF KOHIMA BENCH ON 10-06-2024





IMPLEMENTATION OF NEUTRAL CITATION PHASE-II AT GAUHATI HIGH COURT KOHIMA BENCH w.e.f. 5-09-2024





SCREENSHOT OF NEUTRAL CITATION ONLINE SEARCH FACILITY IMPLEMENTED AT GAUHATI HIGH COURT KOHIMA BENCH UNDER CIS PERIPHERY SERVICES

10 kWp HYBRID SOLAR POWER PLANT INSTALLED AND COMMISSIONED AT DISTRICT COURT COMPLEXES OF WOKHA, ZUNHEBOTO, MOKOKCHUNG AND TUENSANG UNDER PHASE-III of eCOURTS PROJECT IN 2024

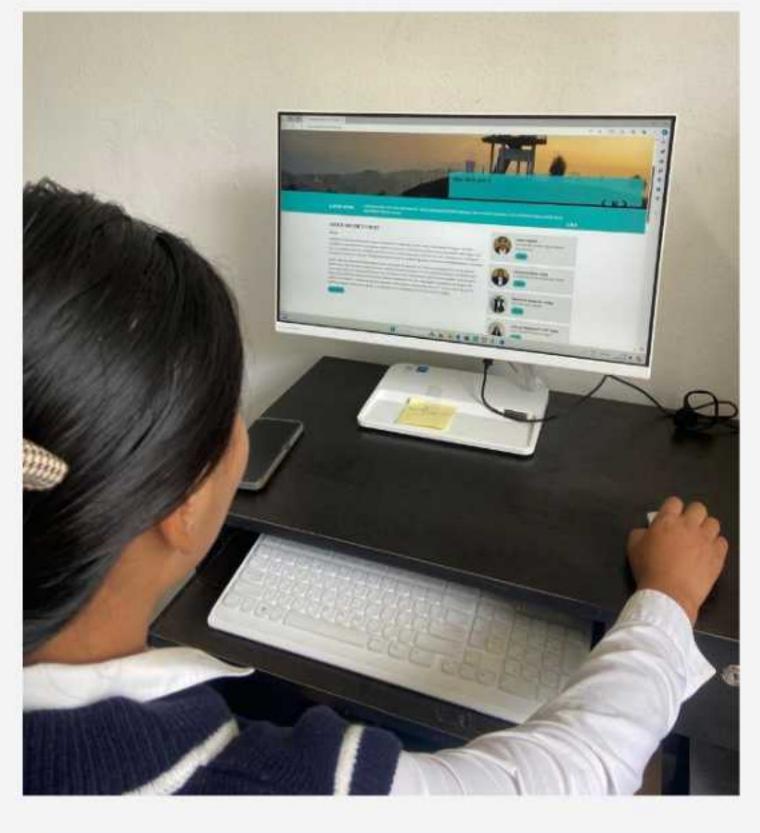


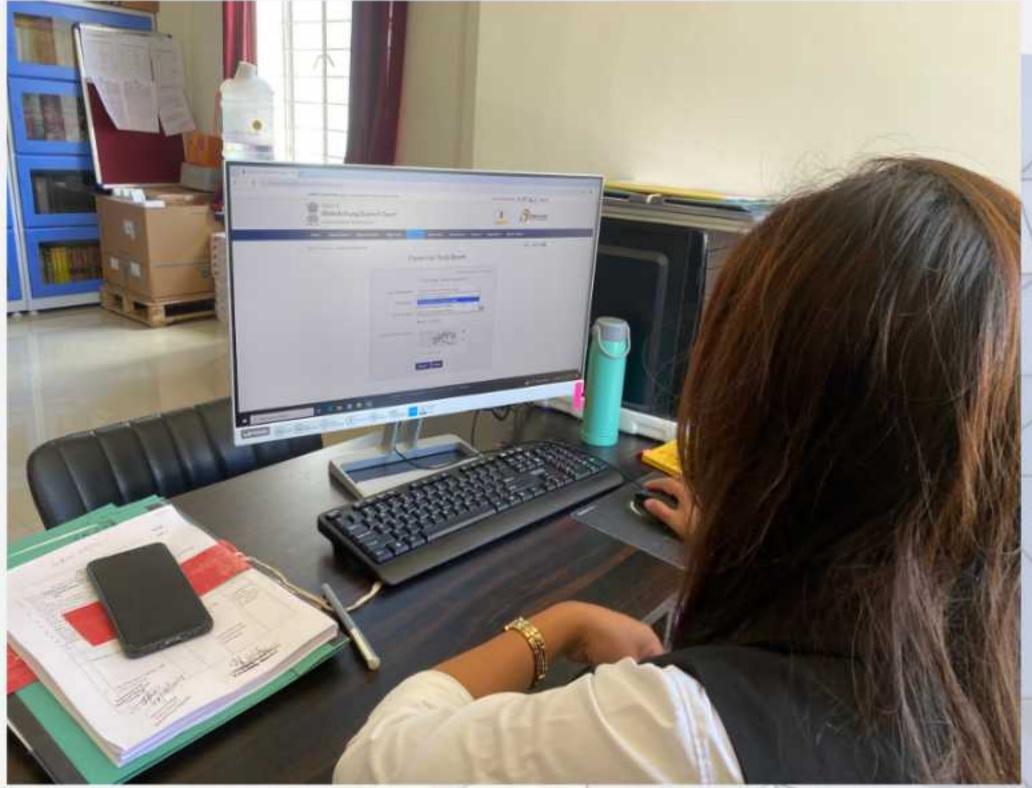




DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF 104 AIO DESKTOP COMPUTERS AND 37 SCANNERS AT 11 DISTRICT COURT COMPLEXES OF NAGALAND COMPLETED UNDER PHASE-III of eCOURTS PROJECT IN 2024





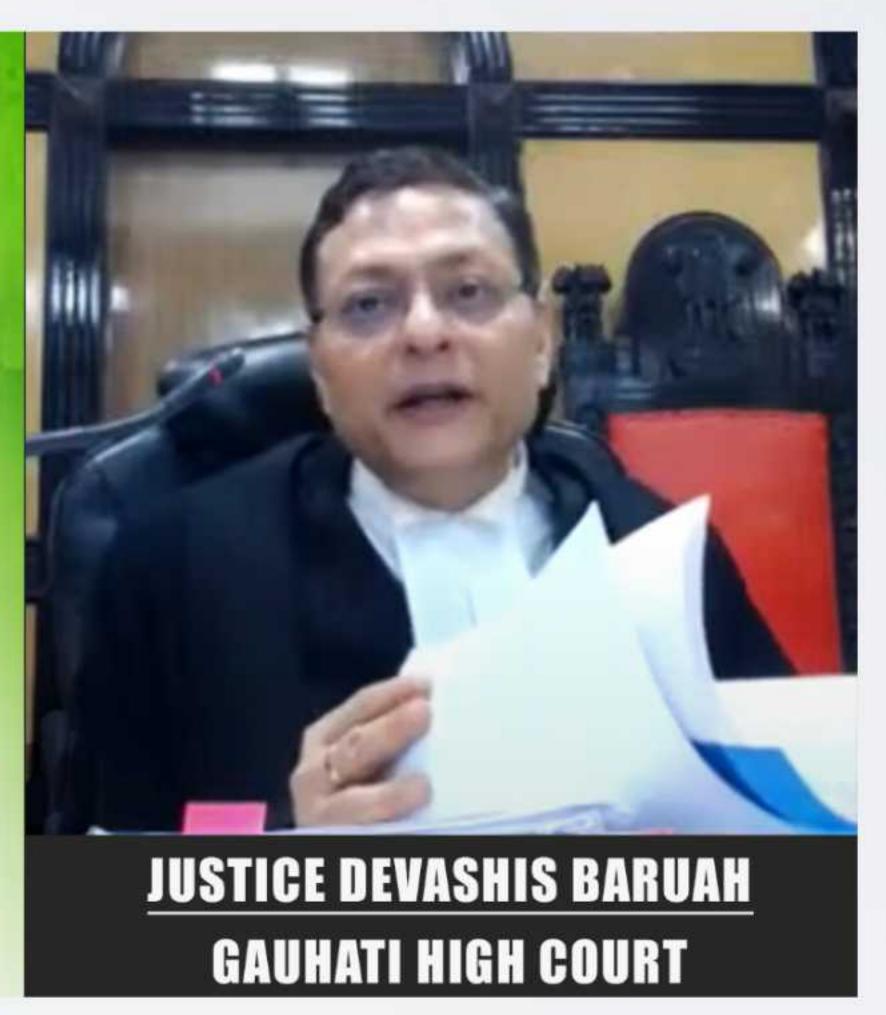


SNAPSHOTS OF VIRAL VIDEO CLIPS OF COURT PROCEEDINGS ON THE OFFICIAL YOUTUBE CHANNEL COURTS NAGALAND

GAUHATI HIGH COURT KOHIMA BENCH

LIVE STREAM
RECORDED FOOTAGE

APPOINTMENT OF 935
POLICE CONSTABLES
WITHOUT ADVERTISEMENT
SET ASIDE & QUASHED BY
GAUHATI HIGH COURT



GAUHATI HIGH COURT KOHIMA BENCH

LIVE STREAM
RECORDED FOOTAGE

APPOINTMENT OF 163
POLICE CONSTABLES &
40 ASI, UBSI, SI (HG), HAV.
WITHOUT ADVERTISMENT
SET ASIDE AND QUASHED



M THE MORUNG EXPRESS



PROMINENT LOCAL DAILY OF NAGALAND "THE MORUNG EXPRESS" IN ITS FRONT PAGE PUBLICATION DATED 16-12-2024 ACCREDITED THE WEBSITE OF GAUHATI HIGH COURT KOHIMA BENCH AS ONE OF THE BEST MANAGED GOVERNMENT WEBSITES IN NAGALAND

ANNEXURE

NEWS REPORTS & MEDIA PUBLICATIONS
ON ICT INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN BY THE
GAUHATI HIGH COURT KOHIMA BENCH



Launch of online RTI Portal at Gauhati High Court, Kohima Bench on 29th February, 2024

In a move towards transparency and efficiency, the Gauhati High Court Kohima Bench took a significant step by launching its online Right to Information (RTI) portal. In a first for the State of Nagaland, the online RTI portal was formally launched on 29th



Unlocking transparency: Peek into the online RTI portal where information meets empowerment

February, 2024 by Justice Devashis Baruah, Judge, Gauhati High Court and ICT In-charge of Kohima Bench in the presence of Justice Susmita Phukan Khaund, Judge Gauhati High Court and officials of the High Court Registry. To mark the event, Justice Devashis Baruah symbolically filed the first online, paperless e-RTI application at Kohima Bench through the dedicated web portal.



Capturing the moment : After the launch of the RTI portal paving the way for transparency

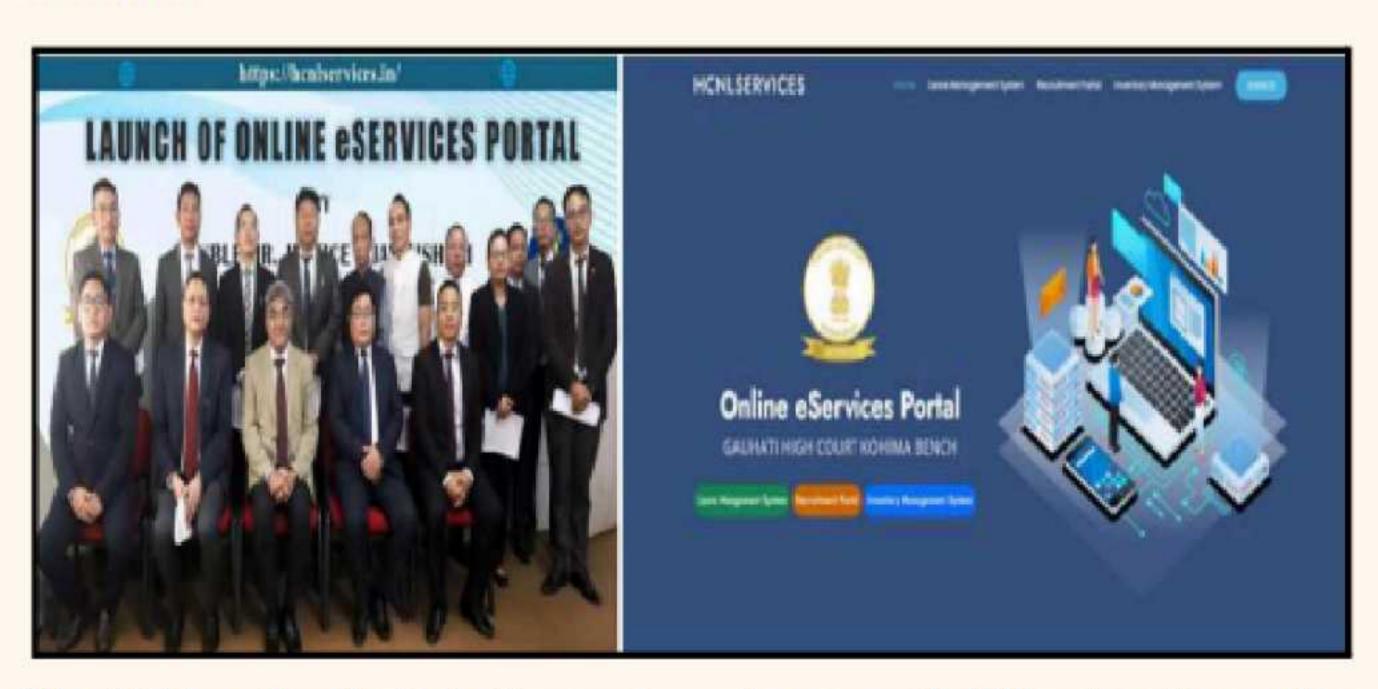
It is pertinent to mention that Section 6 (1) of the Right to Information Act, 2005 grants the right to file RTI applications electronically, a departure from the previous requirement of physical filing. The online RTI portal facilitates easy access to information about

the Gauhati High Court and its Benches. Indian citizens can file RTI applications and appeals online, with options for electronic fee payment via Internet Banking or UPI. Accessing the portal is straightforward through the dedicated "RTI" tab on the Gauhati High Court Kohima Bench website. After registration, users receive electronic updates on their application status via SMS and email. Operating in a user-friendly, paperless mode, the online RTI facility will soon expand to all District Courts of Nagaland.

Newsletter

e-Committee, Supreme Court of India

Gauhati High Court Launches Online eServices Portal for Kohima



The Kohima Bench High Court of Gauhati has launched a new online portal to improve efficiency, transparency, and convenience for employees, job applicants, advocates and stakeholders. The portal offers a variety of features including an Online Leave Management System, an Online Recruitment Portal, an Online Inventory Management

System, and a WhatsApp Channel for broadcasting important information.

These features will streamline workflows, reduce paperwork, and improve access to information for all users of the court system. The link of portal is:

https://hcnlservices.in/home/index.html

e-Committee Newsletter, June 2024

4

Newsletter

e-Committee, Supreme Court of India

Distribution of Refurbished Computer Sets To Grade-IV Employees of Gauhati- Nagaland





In keeping with the vision of eCourts
Mission Mode Project to enhance
judicial productivity and promote
ICT outreach among its stakeholders,
the Gauhati High Court Kohima
Bench undertook a unique initiative
to distribute refurbished computer
sets to Grade-IV employees and
contingency staff of the Registry on
the occasion of India's 78th
Independence Day held at Kohima,
Nagaland on 15th August, 2024. The
special initiative was undertaken

with an aim to promote computer literacy. The fully refurbished and ready-to-use computer sets were awarded to 25 (twenty-five) GradeIV employees and contingency staff of Gauhati High Court Kohima Bench in acknowledgement of their noble services to the institution of justice by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kakheto Sema, Portfolio Judge for Gauhati-Nagaland and Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Mitali Thakuria, Judge of Gauhati-High Court.

e-Committee Newsletter, August 2024

Thursday, 19th December, 2024

A THE MORUNG EXPRESS

HOME NAGALAND EDITORIAL NORTH-EAST INDIA ENTERTAINMENT WORLD PUBLIC SPACE

Online e-services portal for Gauhati High Court Kohima Bench launched















Justice Vijay Bishnoi, Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court (sitting 3rd from left) Justice Lanusungkum Jamir (4th from left) & Justice Devashis Baruah (2nd from left), Judges of Gauhati High Court with registry officials at the launch of online eservices portal.

NAGALAND m 14th June 2024

Thursday, December 19, 2024



State v

Regional v

National ~

International ~

Business v

Infotainment ~

Sport v

HC launches web-based online eservices portal

June 15, 2024













Justice Bishnoi with others at the launch of e-services portal. (DIPR)



Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court launches 'Online eServices Portal' for Kohima Bench to enhance efficiency, transparency, convenience

Kohima: WhatsApp Channel "GHC Kohima Bench Info Channel" launched











TOP NEWS



Upgraded Dimapur Town Hall inaugurated Wednesday, 18 December, 2024



NTPRADAO impeaches its members for tarnishing image of organisation Tuesday, 17 December, 2024



Chukitong Range Students' Union celebrates 50 years; pioneers honored Wednesday, 18 December, 2024



NTPRADAO issues public statement and clarification to WATSAN Committee Wednesday, 18 December, 2024



GOC of Spear Corps visits NCC National Integration Camp in Wokha Tuesday, 17 December, 2024



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BreakingNews

Nagaland: Gauhati High Court Kohima Bench Introduces Online RTI Portal

A Historic Move Towards Transparency and Efficiency



Sentinel Digital Desk

Published on: 01 Mar 2024, 10:42 am



JOURNALISM FOR JUSTICE

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LIFESTYLE

SCIENCE AND TECH

SPORTS OPINION

FEATURE

PHOTO GALLERY

Home > Nagaland > Gauhati High Court Kohima Bench embraces technology with new portal

NAGALAND

Gauhati High Court Kohima Bench embraces technology with new portal



By EMN

Updated: Jun 14, 2024 7:24 pm



Vijay Bishnoi with officials during the launch of a portal on Thursday. (DIPR)



State ~

Regional ~

National ~

International >

Business 🗸

Infotainment >

Spc

Gauhati High Court Kohima Bench launches online RTI portal

March 1, 2024













Justice Devashis Baruah, justice Susmita Phukan Khaund and others.

Nagaland: Kohima HC e-governance sustained, with minor strain; NMC and NSCW stalled

NIC remains forerunner among websites of judicial, statutory, and regulatory bodies

Moa Jamir

Dimapur | December 15

After setting a benchmark for best practices during the last assessment on September 17, 2023, the website of the Gauhati High Court Kohima Bench (GHCKB) has managed to sustain its progress, albeit with minor slippages in some sections.

rung Express of the websites of judicial, statutory, and regulatory bodies in Nagaland, as of Decem- and news reports. ber 15, indicates that while some have shown improvement, others sionally lags in publishing the have either stalled or fallen behind.

Apart from the GHCKB's website, the Nagaland Information Commission (NIC) continues to reflect commendable e-gover- Status' section has frequently disnance practices. The Nagaland Lokayukta website also showed significant improvement since the last assessment, although the quality of its data remains average.

Pollution Control Board (NPCB) 26, 2023. display regular updates, while the Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority (NSDMA) had intermittent updates.

The State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD), Robust NIC Nagaland State Legal Services Authority (NSLSA) and Nagaland Police websites remains largely unchanged barring few updates.

However, the websites Nagaland Medical Council (NMC) and Nagaland State Commission for Women (NSCW) have shown no

GHCKB's good practices, albeit minor strain

As noted last year, the HC Kohima Bench's website (https://kohimahighcourt.gov.in/) meets all necessary transparency require- Lokayukta revamps ments, providing access to valuable resources, historical information, profiles, public notifications, and up-to-date disclosures.

Sections such as General Notices, Transfers & Postings, Recruitment, and Miscellaneous were updated as of December 13.

More importantly, updates appear to follow a consciously stream-A re-assessment by The Mo- information channel on WhatsApp, court proceedings, daily cause lists, ous forms, viewing closed cases,

> 'Case Status,' typically made avail- Events' section was updated on able to the public by the evening of February 18, 2024, regarding an each proceeding.

played the message, "Orders are Decentbut needs improvement notuploaded..."

section still contains the 2022-2023 The websites of the Nagaland RTI Manual, last modified on July disclosures.

> one of the few government websites in Nagaland with a relatively recent RTI Manual.

under the RTI Act, the NIC website continues to showcase robust data Towns, are absent. and regular updates.

tures the Annual Administrative Disabilities Act, 2016, provides rel-Reports (AAR) for 2022-23, along evant data, including Acts & Rules,

updates since the previous review. 2024-25. An RTI Manual created on November 9, 2023, is also available.

> However, the 'Notifications' section lacks updates, and recruitment or circular-related information is missing.

The Nagaland Lokayuktawebsite has undergone noticeable changes, improving in design, information, and the addition of new sections.

The 'About Us' section now includes details on the profiles of the Lokayukta and UPA Lokayukta, their powers and functions, and organisational structure.

A new RTI section with the lined policy measure. On June 10, 2023 manual has been added, 2024, the GHCKB also launched an though the Annual Report section remains empty. Sections for filing providing links to live streaming of complaints, downloading variand Frequently Asked Questions However, the website occa- (FAQs) have also been introduced.

However, while the 'News & October 2023 event, archives for fi-Since November 29, the 'Case nalised cases remain missing.

The websites of the NPCB, NS-Additionally, the Rightto Infor- DMA, SCPD, and Nagaland Police mation (RTI) Act 2005 disclosure are functional but continue to lack quality data and comprehensive

For instance, the NPCB website, Nevertheless, GHCKB remains updated as of December 12, 2024, features prominently displayed public complaints and contact details for all members. However, the RTI section remains blank, and reports on water, air, and noise moni-Established on March 14, 2006, toring, such as Action Plans for River Rejuvenation and Non-Attainment

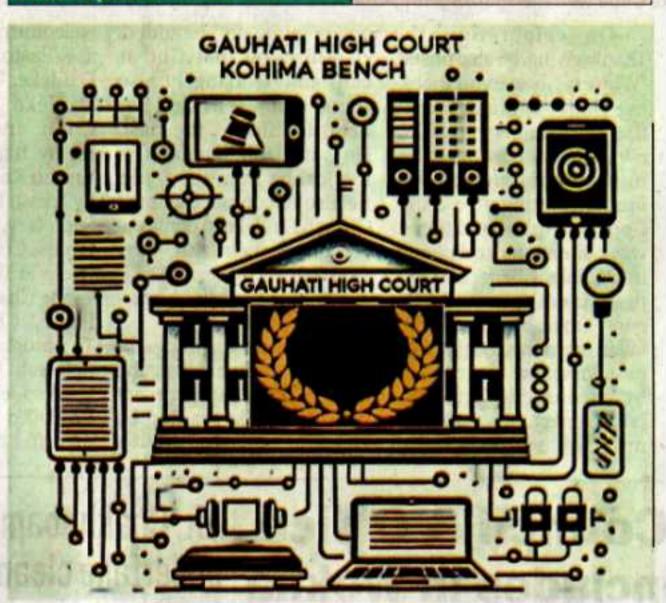
The SCPD website, created As of October 15, 2024, it fea- under the Rights of Persons with with Complaints and Appeals for instructions, schemes, and sign content.

GHCKB's Good practices

- · Robust resources Regular and streamlined notices
- and updates WhatsApp channel
- . Live streaming
- Case updates

Minor slippage

- Same RTI as last year
- · 'Case Status' not uploaded for few days



The website of the Gauhati High Court Kohima Bench continues to be one of the best managed government websites in Nagaland. (Image for representational purpose only)

language videos. However, it remains largely unchanged from the last assessment. While its X (formerly Twitter) links now function, the linked You Tube account directs users to the Election Commission No progress for NMC and NSCW of India, and the Facebook link is non-functional.

Similarly, the NSDMA website remains outdated, with its AAR still showing 2013-2014 data, and it lacks an RTI disclosure section. The NSDMA appears to remain preoccupied with COVID-19-related

Meanwhile, apart from a few advertisements posted in July, the NSLSAwebsite has shown no significant updates since the last review.

The websites of the NMC and NSCW continue to suffer from serious digital gaps. The NMC's last notable update was on May 22, 2023, while the NSCW's website last updated its 'News & Updates' section on August 28, 2023. Both websites have shown no significant progress since the September 2023 review.

SCANNED IMAGE OF FRONT PAGE PUBLICATION OF NAGALAND LOCAL DAILY "THE MORUNG EXPRESS" DATED 16-12-2024

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Editorial

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Moa Jamir

Gauhati Kohima Bench sets precedent

In a pioneering move, the Gauhati High Court Kohima Bench has become the first in Nagaland to launch an online Right to Information (RTI) portal, marking a significant stride towards transparency and efficiency. Justice Devashis Baruah, a Judge at the Gauhati HC and the ICT Incharge of the Kohima Bench officially inaugurated the portal on February 29 by symbolically filing the first online, paperless e-RTI application through the dedicated web portal.

This move aligns with Section 6 (1) of the Right to Information Act, 2005, which mandates that information seekers have a statutory right to submit applications through electronic means. Until now, RTI applications could only be filed through physical means. The introduction of the online RTI portal seeks to enhance convenience for accessing information about the Gauhati High Court and its outlying Benches, highlighted in a press release by Ajongba Imchen, Registrar of Gauhati HC Kohima Bench.

The user-friendly web portal empowers Indian citizens to file their RTI applications and First Appeals online, facilitating payments for fees and

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copying charges through an online payment gateway, including options for Internet Banking or UPI transactions, it said.

Accessing the online RTI portal is as simple as clicking on the dedicated "RTI" tab available on the official website of the Gauhati High Court Kohima Bench. Detailed guidelines for its usage are given on the portal.

Operating in an end-to-end paperless mode, the portal is set to be extended to all District Courts of Nagaland in the near future, the release informed, adding that this move is a testament to the Kohima Bench's commitment to leveraging technology for enhanced transparency and access to information in the realm of e-governance.

This is not the first instance of the Kohima Bench embracing technology to advance transparency and access to information. An assessment by The Morung Express in September last year, focusing on the digital initiatives of Nagaland State Government websites, found that the Gauhati High Court Kohima Bench website can be used as a benchmark for best practices in the State.

The website, accessible at a glance, fulfils all the necessary requirements for transparency, offering valuable resources, historical information, profiles, public notifications, and up-to-date disclosures. Key features of the website

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include a regularly updated Notice Board, a Recruitment Section providing the latest information and links to online applications, compliance with the Right To Information (RTI) Act 2005, including Sou Motu disclosures with the latest RTI Manual for 2022-2023, live streaming of court proceedings on YouTube every working day, and a Case Status section with information available in the public domain.

This stands in stark contrast to numerous moribund government websites in Nagaland, which appear to merely fulfil specific directives rather than serving as endeavours to promote accountability, accessibility, and egovernance. In light of these commendable practices by the Kohima Bench, it is imperative for other State departments to follow suit. The seamless integration of technology in promoting transparency not only sets a precedent for best practices but also ensures that citizens can access information efficiently.

While lauding Kohima Bench's action, other government bodies should embrace digital initiatives and uphold the principles of transparency, accountability, and accessibility in the digital age.

For any comment, drop a line to jamir.moa@gmail.com



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GAUHATI HIGH COURT KOHIMA BENCH