



COURT NEWSLETTER

HIGH COURT OF SIKKIM

Vol.5 Issue No. 1

January to March, 2013



*Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pius C. Kuriakose being sworn in as the Chief Justice of High Court of Sikkim
by his Excellency the Governor of Sikkim, Shri B.P. Singh.*

EDITORIAL BOARD

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pius C. Kuriakose, Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim
Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.P. Wangdi, Judge, High Court of Sikkim

COMPILED BY

Mrs. K.C. Barphungpa, Registrar General, High Court of Sikkim

A quarterly newsletter published by High Court of Sikkim, Gangtok.
Also available on our website: www.highcourtofsikkim.nic.in

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VACANCIES IN COURTS**(i) Vacancies in the High Court of Sikkim as on 31.03.2013**

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancies
1.	Sikkim High Court	03	02	1

(ii) Vacancies in the District & Subordinate Courts as on 31.03.2013

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancies
1.	SIKKIM	17	10	07

INSTITUTION, DISPOSAL AND PENDENCY OF CASES**(1) High Court of Sikkim from 1.01.13 to 31.03.13**

Sl. No.	Civil Cases				Criminal Cases				Total Pendency of Civil & Criminal Cases at the end of 31.03.13
	Opening Balance as on 1.01.13	Institution from 1.01.13 to 31.03.13	Disposal from 1.01.13 to 31.03.13	Pendency at the end of 31.03.13	Opening Balance as on 1.01.13	Institution from 1.01.13 to 31.03.13	Disposal from 1.01.13 to 31.03.13	Pendency at the end of 31.03.13	
1	52	19	22	30	13	101	127	99	69

**(2) District & Subordinate Courts from 1.01.13 to 31.03.13
(East & North) & (South & West)**

Sl. No.	Civil Cases				Criminal Cases				Total Pendency of Civil & Criminal Cases at the end of 31.03.13
	Opening Balance as on 1.01.13	Institution from 1.01.13 to 31.03.13	Disposal from 1.01.13 to 31.03.13	Pendency at the end of 31.03.13	Opening Balance as on 1.01.13	Institution from 1.01.13 to 31.03.13	Disposal from 1.01.13 to 31.03.13	Pendency at the end of 31.03.13	
1.	315	23	36	302	674	315	292	697	999

Sl. No.	Civil Miscellaneous Cases				Criminal Miscellaneous Cases				Total Pendency of Civil Misc. & Criminal Misc. Cases at the end of 31.03.13
	Opening Balance as on 1.07.12	Institution from 1.01.13 to 31.03.13	Disposal from 1.01.13 to 31.03.13	Pendency at the end of 31.03.13	Opening Balance as on 1.01.13	Institution from 1.01.13 to 31.03.13	Disposal from 1.01.13 to 31.03.13	Pendency at the end of 31.03.13	
1.	132	74	53	153	09	351	338	22	175

(3) Family Court (East & North) at Gangtok from 1.01.13 to 31.03.13

Sl. No.	Civil Cases				Criminal Cases				Total Pendency of Civil & Criminal Cases at the end of 31.03.13
	Opening Balance as on 1.01.13	Institution from 1.01.13 to 31.03.13	Disposal from 1.01.13 to 31.03.13	Pendency at the end of 31.03.13	Opening Balance as on 1.01.13	Institution from 1.01.13 to 31.03.13	Disposal from 1.01.13 to 31.03.13	Pendency at the end of 31.03.13	
1.	53	27	15	65	17	09	6	20	85

Sl. No.	Civil Miscellaneous Cases				Criminal Miscellaneous Cases				Total Pendency of Civil Misc. & Criminal Misc. Cases at the end of 31.03.13
	Opening Balance as on 1.01.13	Institution from 1.01.13 to 31.03.13	Disposal from 1.01.13 to 31.03.13	Pendency at the end of 31.03.13	Opening Balance as on 1.01.13	Institution from 1.01.13 to 31.03.13	Disposal from 1.01.13 to 31.03.13	Pendency at the end of 31.03.13	
1.	3	0	1	2	9	1	1	9	11

(4) Family Court (South & West) at Namchi from 1.01.13 to 31.03.13

Sl. No.	Civil Cases				Criminal Cases				Total Pendency of Civil & Criminal Cases at the end of 31.03.13
	Opening Balance as on 1.01.13	Institution from 1.01.13 to 31.03.13	Disposal from 1.01.13 to 31.03.13	Pendency at the end of 31.03.13	Opening Balance as on 1.01.13	Institution from 1.01.13 to 30.09.12	Disposal from 1.01.13 to 31.03.13	Pendency at the end of 31.03.13	
1.	12	13	8	17	5	0	3	2	19

Sl. No.	Civil Miscellaneous Cases				Criminal Miscellaneous Cases				Total Pendency of Civil Misc. & Criminal Misc. Cases at the end of 31.03.13
	Opening Balance as on 1.01.13	Institution from 1.01.13 to 31.03.13	Disposal from 1.01.13 to 31.03.13	Pendency at the end of 31.03.13	Opening Balance as on 1.01.13	Institution from 1.07.12 to 31.03.13	Disposal from 1.07.12 to 31.03.13	Pendency at the end of 31.03.13	
1.	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	0

(5) Lok Adalat Cases from 1.01.13 to 31.03.13

Sl. No.	Name of Lok Adalat	Opening Balance as on 1.01.13	Institution from 1.01.13 to 31.03.13	Disposal from 1.01.13 to 31.03.13	Pendency at the end of 31.03.13	Cases returned
1.	High Court Lok Adalat	3	4	3	4	0
2.	District Lok Adalat at Gangtok	82	113	61	128	06
3.	District Lok Adalat at Namchi	8	9	4	8	5
4.	Taluk Lok Adalats at Gyalshing	2	23	24	1	0
5.	Taluk Lok Adalats at Ravangla	0	32	32	0	0
6.	Taluk Lok Adalats at Mangan	0	1	1	0	0
	Total	95	182	125	141	11

SOME RECENT HIGH COURT JUDGMENTS OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

1. Presence of physical injury is not a sine qua non in an offence under Section 354 IPC:

On 25.03.2013, a Single Bench of the Court in Criminal Appeal No 09 of 2012 (State of Sikkim vs Sangay Sherpa) has held that the ultimate test for ascertaining whether the modesty of a woman has been outraged or not is that the action of the offender should be such that it may be perceived as one which is capable of shocking the sense of decency of a woman. The culpable intention of the accused is the crux of the matter and that the reaction of the woman is relevant but its absence is not always decisive. In other words, presence of physical injury is not a sine qua non in an offence under Section 354 IPC.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS AND EVENTS

(1) REPUBLIC DAY

On 26th January, 2013 the High Court of Sikkim celebrated Republic Day in its premises. The National Flag was unfurled by Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.P. Wangdi, Judge, High Court of Sikkim. Thereafter, Guard of Honour was given to His Lordship by the guards attached to the High Court followed by the National Anthem.

Also present on the occasion were Judicial Officers of East District, Members of the Bar, Officers & staff of the Registry, Press and Media.

(2) LAYING OF FOUNDATION STONE OF DISTRICT COURT EXTENSION BUILDING AT SICHEY, GANGTOK.

On 19th February, 2013 the Foundation Stone of the District Court Extension Building at Sichey, Gangtok was laid by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Permod Kohli, Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim in the presence of Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.P. Wangdi, Judge, High Court of Sikkim.

While addressing the function, Hon'ble the Chief Justice said that creation of more infrastructure was to make courts even more accessible to the people. He hoped for timely completion of the building and also wished the legal fraternity success in their careers. Justice Kohli reiterated his request to the State Government to accept the sanctioned strength of Judicial Officers recommended by the Sikkim High Court, something, which he stated had fetched no response thus far.



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Permod Kohli, Chief Justice lighting the Lamp



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Permod Kohli, Chief Justice & Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.P. Wangdi laying the Foundation Stone.

Without infrastructure and administrative strength, justice cannot be delivered in a time-bound manner & hence his Lordship stressed that limited number of Judicial Officers in Sikkim was leading to a situation where these officers were managing multiple tasks from administrative to public awareness to routine hearing of cases along with special duties vested on them.

As for infrastructure, he stated that when he had visited the District and Sessions Courts last year, he had found documents and articles overflowing into the corridors and the Malkhana (storeroom), packed beyond capacity. Thereafter his Lordship along with Justice S.P. Wangdi had requested the State and Central Governments to provide additional funds for construction of an extension for the court building, along with another building i.e. the Alternative Disputes

Redressal Centre which will help to accommodate the Bar and the Bench for dispensation of justice.



The Secretary, Buildings & Housing Department, M.B. Gurung, presented a brief technical report on the building, informing that the building will be constructed on an 18,590 sq. ft. plot on a projected cost of Rs.1.05 crore.

Mrs. Meenakshi M. Rai, District & Sessions Judge (East & North) delivered the welcome address while Mr. Prajwal Khatiwada, Chief Judicial Magistrate-cum-Civil Judge (East & North) proposed the vote of thanks.

3) INAUGURATION OF ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE REDRESSAL CENTRE (ADR) AT NAMCHI, SOUTH SIKKIM



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Permod Kohli, Chief Justice lighting the Lamp

On 23rd February, 2013 Hon'ble Mr. Justice Permod Kohli, Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim inaugurated the Alternative Dispute Redressal Centre (ADR) for South District in the District Court premises, Namchi in the presence of Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.P. Wangdi, Judge, High Court of Sikkim. The Foundation Stone of which was laid on 28th April, 2012 by His Lordship.



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Permod Kohli delivering his Inaugural Address

the inauguration significantly marked the development of delivery of justice in the State.

Mr. M.B. Gurung, PCE-cum-Secretary, Buildings & Housing Department presented the technical details and said that the Project has been completed in conformity with the National Building Code, 2005 with adequate provisions for earthquake safety adopted in the design and with required amenities for differently abled persons.

In her Welcome Address, Mrs. Lakchung Sherpa, District & Sessions Judge (South & West) informed that the foundation stone of the ADR

In his Inaugural Address, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Permod Kohli stated that ADR centre helps people in getting timely justice and appreciated the concerned department for completing the centre well before time. He also urged the Buildings & Housing Department to establish two Courts of Chief Judicial Magistrates in the West and North Districts.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.P. Wangdi pointed out that



Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.P. Wangdi addressing the gathering



centre was laid on 28th April, 2012 by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Permod Kohli and highlighted the ADR system's role in speedy disposal of cases.

Ms. Sonam Denka Wangdi, Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate (South) proposed the vote of thanks.

The function was also attended by the Sanga MLA, Advisor (Ecclesiastical Department), Judicial Officers of South

Sikkim, Chairman of Namchi Municipal Corporation, Members of NGOs, Panchayat Members, Officials of various Government Departments, Paralegal Volunteers and Members of Bar Association of Namchi.

4) **FAREWELL OF HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PERMOD KOHLI, CHIEF JUSTICE, HIGH COURT OF SIKKIM**

On 28th February, 2013 a Full Court Farewell Reference was held in honour of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Permod Kohli, Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim. Present at the Farewell Reference were Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.P. Wangdi, Judge, High Court of Sikkim, Senior Advocates, President, Bar Association of Sikkim, Members of the Bar, Judicial Officers of East District, Officers and staff of the Registry.

In his opening speech Mr. A. Moulik, Sr. Advocate stated that he felt both honoured and saddened to attend the farewell of Hon'ble the Chief Justice on his Lordship's superannuation. He highlighted how Lordship's pleasant personality has touched the hearts of one and all.

Further, Mr. Moulik also highlighted the profile and achievements of Hon'ble the Chief Justice and his Lordship's love for Bar Members. He spoke of how Hon'ble Mr. Justice Permod Kohli has a down-to-earth attitude, firmness in judicial decision, generosity, soft spoken behaviour and smiling presence and how he has never witnessed his Lordship lose his temper in the court room. He also highlighted his impartiality and achievements in speedy disposal of the old cases and patience with which he heard the Junior Advocates. It was also stated that due to the constant efforts and guidance of the Chief Justice, Permod Kohli and Justice Wangdi, the ADR Centre, Judicial Academy and the Annex Building in District Court Complex have been taken up.

While addressing the farewell reference, Mr. A.K. Upadhyaya, Learned Sr. Advocate remembered that day not long ago when all had gathered to welcome Hon'ble Justice Permod Kohli and how today, all were gathered to bid farewell of Hon'ble Chief Justice. He recalled it was a Monday, the 12.12.2011 when the Chief Justice filled in the vacuum in the State Judiciary. He frankly submitted that being a practicing lawyer, he had certain apprehensions about his Lordship but how, he soon came to realise how accommodative and free people can be before his Lordship. After his Lordship's joining they came to learn how genuine and down to earth, learned person and friendly man with a pleasant personality his Lordship is. He described the Chief Justice as a master of constitutional, service, civil, criminal and even revenue matters. The Bar learnt a great deal from Lordship. Mr. Upadhyaya relayed how his Lordship's concern was justice and only justice. That in pro bono matters, his Lordship sitting with Justice Wangdi had shown genuine public interest and how his Lordship developed the infrastructure of the judiciary as well as Sikkim State Legal Services Authority. He also brought to light how the Sikkim Judicial Academy, which is the brain child of Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.P. Wangdi could germinate only after joining of the Chief Justice Permod Kohli. He submitted that all the members of the judicial family

will always remember the Chief Justice when the Judicial Academy finally opens. He concluded by wishing the Chief Justice and family members peace and happiness.

Mr. J.B. Pradhan, Learned Additional Advocate General in his speech described the journey of Hon'ble the Chief Justice which began 40 years ago. He highlighted the establishment of High Court of Judicature on 17th April, 1955 by a Royal Proclamation and completion of 57 years of its glorious existence. He also remembered the contributions made by Hon'ble the Chief Justice towards the development of Judiciary in the state of Sikkim. In his concluding speech he shared the thought expressed by His Holiness the Dalai Lama on justice, truth and humanity in his book 'The Dalai Lama's Book of Wisdom', wherein his Holiness had said "I believe in justice and truth, without which there would be no basis for human hope." He finally wished His Lordship and family members a long and happy life.

Mr. D.R. Thapa, Sr. Advocate and President, Bar Association of Sikkim also described the outstanding and diverse career of the Hon'ble Chief Justice both at the Bar and the Bench, he recalled how his Lordship had treated the members of the Bar with kindness, patience and guided them whenever and wherever required. One quality which the Advocates value more than any other in a Judge is willingness and capacity to give a patient hearing he said and stressed how his Lordship has been eminently blessed with these qualities. His Lordship always believed in speedy trial and good infrastructure of the institution, which has resulted in disposal of numerous back logged cases which is a necessity to augment the confidence and repose the faith of the people in the judicial system according to Mr. D.R. Thapa. He brought to light how it was due to his Lordship's initiative that an Advocates Welfare Fund for the welfare of the Bar Members as also a subscription of SCC online and Manupatra to the Bar Members was started in Sikkim. He expressed his sincere gratitude on behalf of the Bar Association of Sikkim to His Lordship for his immense and invaluable contribution to the development of the judiciary of the State and the Bar.

In his Farewell Reference, Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.P. Wangdi gave a brief outline of the long and illustrious career of Hon'ble Shri Justice Permod Kohli. His Lordship spoke of how being elevated as a Judge in the year 2003, Justice Kohli preferred to get himself transferred outside the State of J & K, as his own son was a practicing counsel in the High Court, thereby reflecting his Lordship's high standard of integrity and how we were fortunate to have been enriched with Hon'ble Shri Justice Kohli at the helm of an affairs. Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.P. Wangdi spoke of how during his Lordship's tenure the following significant events that took place in Sikkim"-

- (i) Laying of foundation stone of the ADR Centre at District Court premises, Sichey,

- Gangtok on 6.3.2012 by Hon'ble Mr. Justice D.K. Jain the then Judge, Supreme Court of India.
- (ii) Laying of foundation stone of Sikkim State Legal Services Authority building on 27.04.2012 by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim.
 - (iii) Laying of foundation stone of the ADR Centre at Namchi on 28.04.2012 by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Permod Kohli and on its completion its inauguration by his Lordship himself on 23.02.2013.
 - (iv) Another landmark event was the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Sikkim Judicial Academy on 14.05.2012 by none other than Hon'ble Mr. Justice Altamas Kabir, the present Chief Justice of India and the then Chairman, NALSA.
 - (v) The High Court Guest House was set up under the sole initiative of his Lordship.
 - (vi) An ATM Counter of State Bank of India was opened in the High Court premises.
 - (vii) Full-fledged District Courts have been created for the North District at Mangan and at Gyalshing for West Sikkim apart from the Sub-Divisional Courts at Chungthang and Soreng.
 - (viii) Foundation stone of the District Court Building extension at Gangtok was laid by His Lordship on 19.02.2012.
 - (ix) Inspired by his Lordship the Subordinate Courts have successfully disposed of several old pending cases which restored the faith of the general public in the justice delivery system.

Being sensitive to issue of public interest his Lordship related how Hon'ble Shri Justice Permod Kohli most unhesitatingly took up on the judicial side vital issues like Education, Health care and improvement in the road connectivity.

His Lordship, it has highlighted, is a stalwart in the cause of independence of the Judiciary and remained firm on this to the last day even in the face of intimidating circumstances. During the Court proceedings his Lordship was calmness personified but firm at the same time. Being from the Bar himself, his Lordship had been ever encouraging to the Members of the Bar, particularly to the young ones. Hon'ble Shri Justice S.P. Wangdi spoke of how he has inspired him immensely to deal with matters without fear or favour, malice or ill-will in keeping with the oath of Office that was taken in the name of God in the dispensation of justice. His Lordship, it was stated, has been a true Captain for us in the High Court taking all on board in the decision-making processes. His calm and pleasant disposition has exuded positive energy and the High Court vibrated with constructive activities. His Lordship stated how like a prodigal son, he will return to his much loved profession at the Bar.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.P. Wangdi wished the Hon'ble Chief Justice and Madam Kohli long lives

with the best of health, cheer and success in his Lordship's new ventures.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Permod Kohli, Chief Justice in his reply stated how overwhelmed he was by the compliments made by Mr. Justice S.P. Wangdi, Judge, Mr. A. Moulik and Mr. A.K. Upadhyaya, Learned Senior Advocates, Mr. J.B. Pradhan, Learned Sr. Advocate and Addl. Advocate General and Mr. D.R. Thapa, learned Sr. Advocate and President Sikkim Bar Association. His Lordship felt that these are the customary words which are made when a person departs from his office. His Lordship, however, but said he accepted the same with all his humility and stated how he is only demitting the office and not laying down his robes. Demitting office is as important as joining an office his Lordship said. This is the time for preparing the balance sheet and how till now he had been delivering judgments on the performance of the Bar but how at the end of the day, we have to judge his Lordship's performance. He recalled how during the initial years, practice was very tough and it was after one and half years of practice his Lordship was paid 30 rupees by his Senior. Though his Lordship was never deterred by financial difficulties, he carved out a place in this competitive profession by his firm determination. Today he stated that he is demitting the office with full satisfaction and how revealed when his name was first proposed as Chief Justice of Sikkim, he was little disturbed not because he was going to a small State but because of the limited judicial work here. However, after joining as Chief Justice, his Lordship said he enjoyed every bit of his stay here including his professional satisfaction. His Lordship recalled how he received fullest cooperation from Hon'ble Mr. Justice Wangdi and the Bar. His Lordship also said that he tried to discharge his constitutional duties to the best of his ability and that if while discharging his duties he might have unwittingly hurt anyone, he assured that it was not a deliberate act to hurt somebody's feelings. "A judge is after all a human being" he said and while discharging his duties there is every possibility that he could be harsh at times but it is purely related to the discharge of duties. In conclusion, his Lordship said that he will always remember his stay in Sikkim with fondness and carry its memories with him.

5) MEETING HELD ON MARCH 16, 2013 AT THE CONFERENCE HALL, HIGH COURT OF SIKKIM ON "REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE E-COURTS PROJECT FOR THE SUBORDINATE COURTS OF SIKKIM".

A meeting chaired by Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.P. Wangdi, Judge, High Court of Sikkim and Chairman, Steering Committee was held on 16.03.2013. In attendance were the Registrar General, also the Central Project Coordinator, e-Courts Project; Judicial Officers and Technical Manpower of all Districts in the Conference Hall of the High Court.

The Hon'ble Chairman addressed the gathering and briefed them about the developments in the judiciary in Sikkim. His Lordship commended all the Judicial Officers of Sikkim for discharging their duties to their best of their abilities despite the other additional charges entrusted to them, especially the District Judges. Lordship also encouraged the Judicial Officers to carry out legal awareness programmes more often, especially in rural areas where such programmes had not been taken up till date in the North and West Districts of the State.

Hon'ble Chairman also gave a brief history on the e-courts project which will expire in the year 2014, its implementation & its necessity in the present.

Mrs. K.C. Barphungpa, Registrar General & Central Project Coordinator, e-Courts Project presented a Power Point presentation on the status of e-Courts project in the Sikkim Judiciary. The presentation highlighted the following:-

- (1) The object and purpose of the e-Courts project.
- (2) The details of fund received for site preparation of Judicial Service Centres (JSCs) in all four districts from NIC, New Delhi.
- (3) The details of hardware provided to all the Judicial Service Centers – server, desktops, thin clients, printers, scanner.
- (4) Establishment of LAN and installation of Court Information System (CIS) software in all the four JSCs.

It was also brought to notice of all present that the Hon'ble Acting Chief Justice & Chairman, Steering Committee had been generous enough to provide additional hardware such as Multifunction Laser Printer for all the JSCs and computers, UPS & Printer for the Subordinate Courts as per the requisitions submitted by the respective Courts.

After the presentation, the participants were requested to put forth their suggestions and grievances.

The Meeting concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Mrs. K.C. Barphungpa, Registrar General & Central Project Coordinator, e-Courts Project.

6) SWEARING IN CEREMONY OF HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PIUS C. KURIAKOSE AS CHIEF JUSTICE OF HIGH COURT OF SIKKIM.



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pius C. Kuriakose being sworn in as the Chief Justice of High Court of Sikkim by his Excellency the Governor of Sikkim, Shri B.P. Singh.



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pius C. Kuriakose with the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim, Shri Pawan Chamling.

On 28th March, 2013 Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pius C. Kuriakose, Judge, High Court of Kerala was sworn in as the Chief Justice of High Court of Sikkim. The Oath of Office was administered by His Excellency the Governor of Sikkim, Shri B.P. Singh in the presence of Hon'ble the Chief Minister of Sikkim, Hon'ble Speaker, Cabinet Ministers, Hon'ble Judge, Chief Secretary, Dignitaries of the State Government, Advocate General, Judicial Officers, Senior Advocates, Members of the Bar and local gentry. Also present in the function were Hon'ble Judges from Kerala High Court, Advocate General of Kerala and several members from the Kerala High Court Advocates' Association, Supreme Court Bar Association and Members from the Bombay and Pondicherry Bar Associations.

Hon'ble Justice Pius was born in Tripunithura and completed his School education in Tripunithura and Alappuzha. He graduated from Maharaja's College, Ernakulam and got his Law Degree from the Government Law College, Ernakulam. His Lordship enrolled as an Advocate in the year 1974 and practiced mainly on the civil side, where he established himself as an expert in the field. Justice Pius was elevated as Judge of High Court of Kerala in September, 2002. During his tenure as a Judge in the High Court of Kerala, his Lordship was actively involved in various activities. He was the first President of the Kerala Mediation Centre as

well as Chairman of the Kerala High Court Legal Services Committee. His Lordship was also the President, Kerala Judicial Academy where he was instrumental in contributing to the Academy.

After the Swearing-in ceremony a special meeting was organized in the High Court Auditorium to welcome Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pius C. Kuriakose, Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim. Present in the function were Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.P. Wangdi, Judge, High Court of Sikkim, Hon'ble Judges from Kerala High Court, Advocate General of Kerala and several members from the Kerala High Court Advocate's Association, Supreme Court Bar Association and Members from the Bombay and Pondicherry Bar Associations as well as with the Advocate General of Sikkim, Additional Advocate General, Senior Advocates and Members of the Bar Associations of Sikkim.

The Registrar General on behalf of the Officers and staff of the Registry extended a warm welcome to the Hon'ble Chief Justice and other Hon'ble Judges and dignitaries from the High Court of Kerala.

Shri D.R. Thapa, Senior Advocate and President, Bar Association of Sikkim while extending a warm welcome to the Hon'ble Chief Justice said that since his Lordship was elevated from the Bar, he believed that Lordship would also understand the problems of the Bar here in Sikkim. He further added that besides being a good Judge, his Lordship was also a good human being.

Mr. B.R. Pradhan, Senior Advocate & Advisor, Bar Association of Sikkim also extended a hearty welcome to the Hon'ble Chief Justice and stated that the bar looked forward to appearing before his Lordship.

Shri Babu Paul, President, Kerala High Court Advocates' Association, Shri K.P. Danda Pani, Ld. Advocate General, Kerala and Hon'ble Shri Justice C.K. Abdul Rehim, Judge, Kerala High Court also spoke on the Meeting and expressed how they were sorry to see Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pius C. Kuriakose leave their High Court but at the same time were happy to see him join the High Court of Sikkim as the Hon'ble Chief Justice.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.P. Wangdi, Judge, High Court of Sikkim in his address welcomed the Hon'ble Chief Justice and assured all dignitaries from Kerala that his Lordship would be well taken care of in Sikkim by the High Court of Sikkim and the Bar.

7) BASIC TRAINING IN CHANGE MANAGEMENT & UBUNTU OPERATING SYSTEM ON 27th AND 28th MARCH, 2013.



Judicial Officers of Sikkim with the Resource Persons from West Bengal

On 27th and 28th March, 2013, basic training in Change Management & Ubuntu Operating System was imparted to all the Judicial Officers of Sikkim.

The training was organized by the eCommittee of the High Court of Sikkim under the aegis of eCommittee, Supreme Court of India. The Resource Persons/Master Trainers for the training were Mr. Saikh Taj Mohammad and Ms. Anamitra Bhattacharya, both Civil Judges (Junior Division) of West Bengal.



L-R : Mrs. Lakchung Sherpa, District & Sessions Judge (S & W) and Mrs. Menakshi M. Rai District & Sessions Judge (E & N)

The participants were apprised about the significance of Ubuntu Operation System (software), which has been installed in the laptops provided to the Judicial Officers in the discharge of their judicial duties. The Master Trainers highlighted special features and benefits of the Ubuntu Operating System.



L-R : Mr. Benoy Sharma, CJJM (N) & Mr. Suraj Chettri CJJM (E)



*L-R : Ms. Sonam Denka Wangdi, CJJM (S), Ms. Subarna Rai, CJJM (W)
and Mr. Prajwal Khatriwada CJM-cum-Civil Judge (E&N)*

The participants were also provided with Ubuntu-Linux video tutorials and user guide material in the said training programme. At the end of the programme, feedback and suggestions were given by the participants.

IMPORTANT VISITS & CONFERENCES

1) Hon`ble Mr. Justice S.P. Wangdi, Judge High Court of Sikkim and Chairman, Steering Committee attended a meeting with regard to the E-Courts project of the Chairpersons of the Computer Committee of the High Courts at Supreme Court Judges Lounge, New Delhi on 9th February 2013.

Similarly, on 23rd March, 2013 his Lordship also participated in the Inaugural Session and the first round of Moot Court proceedings of the “All India Moot Court Competition” held at Gagapur, Matigara, Siliguri as “Guest of Special Honour”.
