



COURT NEWSLETTER

HIGH COURT OF SIKKIM

Golden Jubilee Celebration Year

Vol. 1 Issue No. 2

April-June 2009



EDITORIAL BOARD

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aftab H. Saikia, Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim
Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.P. Subba, Judge, High Court of Sikkim

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

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*Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aftab H. Saikia,
Chief Justice,
High Court of Sikkim*



*Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. P. Subba,
Judge,
High Court of Sikkim*



*Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.P. Wangdi
Judge,
High Court of Sikkim*



**ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF SIKKIM
SHRI BALMIKI PRASAD SINGH,
ON THE OCCASION OF LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF THE INAUGURAL
ISSUE OF THE QUARTERLY COURT NEWSLETTER OF THE HIGH COURT
OF SIKKIM AND MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
SIKKIM STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY ON 29.06.2009**

Chief Minister, Dr. Pawan Chamling, Chief Justice Saikia, Justice Subba, members of the judicial service of the State, ladies and gentlemen.

At the outset, I wish to extend my warm greetings to the Chief Justice Shri Aftab Hussain Saikia, Justice A. P. Subba, Justice S. P. Wangdi and the entire judicial family of the State on this launching ceremony of the **newsletters** of High Court of Sikkim and the Sikkim State Legal Services Authority.

Today is a very significant day for the High Court of Sikkim as it starts the newsletters as a part of its year long Golden Jubilee programme. In this defining moment we look back at the journey that has taken the judicial system in our State through contrasting scenarios.

I would like to take little time and briefly share my thoughts in the perspective of history of our judicial system.

India has one of the oldest legal systems in the world. In ancient India, **dharmā** was regarded as law in itself. The **Vedas** were the supreme source of authority with codes that contained the essence of **dharmā** or law. Administration of civil and criminal law was guided by the Manusmriti.

The modern judicial system began with the Indian High Court Act of 1861 under which the High Courts were established having civil, criminal, admiralty, vice admiralty, testimony, intestate, matrimonial and original as well as appellate jurisdictions. This was also the decade in which the Indian Penal Code (1860) and the Police Act (1861) came into force. This was followed by the adoption of the Indian Evidence Act in 1872 and the Criminal Procedure Code in 1898.

In Sikkim, the State was under the monarchy in which the Chogyals were the fountainheads of justice. The administration of justice was carried out by feudal landlords (Adda Courts), Jongpons (District Officers) and Pipons (Headmen) and Mondols. Under that system, Kazis, Thikadars and Lamas were given judicial powers. The courts of landlord were known as Adda Courts which had the jurisdiction to try some civil and criminal cases. There were First Class, Second Class and Third Class Adda Courts with delineated powers to decide punishment and impose fines in criminal and civil cases.

In 1916, an appellate court by the designation of Chief Court was established with jurisdiction to try important cases and hear appeals from the Adda Courts. The Chief Court was, however, not the final court. The appeals against the decision of the Chief Court would lay with the supreme court of His Highness the Maharaja.

In 1949, the Adda Courts were abolished. The State was divided into four revenue districts and Magistrates with original and appellate jurisdiction for both criminal and civil cases. Likewise, Courts of Assistant Magistrates and the Tehsildars were also created.

With the High Court of Judicature (Jurisdiction and Powers) Proclamation 1955, a High Court was established in Sikkim. It was made the final court for all judicial matters, civil or criminal, subject to the exercise of prerogative of the Maharaja to grant mercy, pardon, remission, commutation and reduction of sentences.

As we look back at the evolution of judicial system from the times of the Chogyals, efforts seems to have been made for delivery of justice at the grassroot level with creation of courts at the lowest rung.

After Sikkim became the 22nd State of the Indian Union in 1975, the High Court of Sikkim also attained the status like that of any other High Court in the country. The High Court of Sikkim, therefore, has witnessed smooth transition from a local body to that of a judicial institution recognized as a constitutional entity.

Jawaharlal Nehru had once quoted a famous English author who had said; ***“If I am stopped by a stranger on the road who demands my gold watch and chain, I will refuse to part with it. If he goes on insistently demanding, I will get very angry. If he wants to fight me on the road, I will fight him, but if he says: I will take you to the court, I will hand over my watch and chain and go away”.***

My reaction is that this epithet does not apply to the apparatus of judiciary in Sikkim. And I hope it continues in that vein. For we take pride in the fact that in its journey, the High Court of Sikkim has played a significant role in administration of justice and in

upholding the solemn principle of independence of judiciary.

The initiatives such as Lok Adalats and Mediation Centers in the districts are commendable steps taken to reach the administration of justice at the doorstep of those who cannot afford to go to courts. This will also help educate the common people about the legal redressal systems and dispel their fears of approaching the Court.

Likewise, the launching of the twin newsletters will not only assist the legal practitioners, but also come to the aid of the teachers and students of law, government officials and those engaged in legal research.

I view this launching of the two newsletters as installation of a mirror for the judicial fraternity as well as for the people of Sikkim. It is, therefore, necessary that the founders of this pioneering venture should invest their energies and intellect in a manner that whenever we have reasons to doubt about what we are doing or how to follow the due processes of law we should go back to the early editions of these two newsletters and see whether we are fulfilling the ambitions of the founders.

These two journals have also to be the journals of hope. It should generate in the minds of the readers that the judicial officers of the State are actuated by a strong desire to establish the rule of law in the State. So long, people feel that only something that is desirable is going to happen that they would have faith in the system.

The Chief Justice of South Africa, Ismail Mohamed, asked to Judge the temper of India pronounced it thus: ***“passionate argument and intense debate, incessant intellectual effervescence and vigorous dissent, fluctuating discourse and continually unfolding horizons, endless consultation and mutating states of consensus, thesis, antithesis and synthesis are central to the Indian character”***. What makes for this fortunate exception? There are several reasons and this is not the occasion to go into these. Suffice it to say that these newsletters will make their contribution in strengthening this process of dialogue and eventual consensus.

Let us also remember on this occasion that the human factor i.e. the quality of political leadership, the executive and judicial functionaries play important role not only in upholding supremacy of rule of law and in efficient delivery of service but also in shaping traditions, customs and institutional culture that are integral parts of the liberal democratic machinery.

Let me conclude by once again congratulating the Chief Justice of Sikkim, the Honourable Judges and all the members of the judicial family in the State for memorable completion of 50 years of the establishment of the High Court of Sikkim and wish them all the very best in the future.



**ADDRESS DELIVERED BY HON'BLE CHIEF JUSTICE
MR. JUSTICE AFTAB H. SAIKIA, HIGH COURT OF SIKKIM
ON 29TH JUNE, 2009 AT THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF THE INAUGURAL
ISSUE OF THE QUARTERLY COURT NEWSLETTER OF
THE HIGH COURT OF SIKKIM AND MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
SIKKIM STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY**

His Excellency the Governor of Sikkim, Shri Balmiki Prasad Singh; Hon'ble the Chief Minister of Sikkim, Dr. Pawan Chamling; Hon'ble Justice Subba, my esteemed colleague in the Bench; Learned members of the Legal Fraternity; Hon'ble Guests and distinguished invitees; Ladies and Gentlemen present.

Today is the great day which will go down in the annals of the history of High Court of Sikkim and Sikkim State Legal Services Authority (hereinafter referred to as 'the High Court' and 'the Authority' respectively). This momentous occasion today witnesses a remarkable event i.e. the launching of “Quarterly Court Newsletter” of the High Court and the “Monthly Newsletter” of the Authority.

This historic moment has been chosen to coincide with the Golden Jubilee Year Celebration of the High Court which has been slated to be celebrated with a year long programme from 17th April, 2009 to 16th April, 2010 as this magnificent High Court has successfully completed 50 years of its dedicated service to the people of Sikkim in general and litigants in particular.

Since the day of inception on 17th April 1955, the High Court represents the seat of Administration of Justice and has been serving as a symbol of hope, trust and confidence of aggrieved, deprived and oppressed one in the State of Sikkim.

It is our proud privilege of having amongst us in this pivotal function, two very important dignitaries of the State of Sikkim, in the personalities of His Excellency the Governor of Sikkim as the Chief Guest and Hon'ble the Chief Minister of Sikkim as the Guest of Honour, who have just graciously launched both the Quarterly Court Newsletter and Monthly Newsletter of the High Court and the Authority respectively. We are, indeed, grateful to you Sirs.

The publication of these two Newsletters carries a solemn purpose.

Judiciary has been playing a vital role in shaping up a well defined democratic polity governed by Rule of Law. The Judiciary, being an elegant mosaic of both Bench and Bar, is said to be performing the divine function. Indian Judiciary, being the best in the world acts as the sentinel in the working of the Executive and Legislature both in the Union and State.

Nevertheless, we are today passing through an age of social questioning. There is all round a spirit of iconoclasm. The Gods we worshipped till yesterday, have been slowly and gradually dethroned from the minds of people. No institution can take for granted the reverence of the society.

The community demands from every Institution the justification of its existence, the proof of its utility, transparency and accountability. Judiciary is no exception. The entire Judicial system including the Judges and Lawyers are now confronting with the criticism day in and day out.

Reasons are manifold, basic reasons to cite are – (a) problem of delay and huge arrears, (b) people are not aware of their basic legal and fundamental rights after 60 years of independence, (c) poor and downtrodden are still complaining the denial of justice to them, (d) lack of infrastructure in delivering justice system, (e) want of moral value and proper mind set and (f) most importantly, the corruption and lack of transparency in the judiciary.

To counter some of such criticism, this exercise of launching of these two Newsletters has been necessitated, although, I take it as a matter of pride, being the Head of State Judiciary, to inform you that complaint or grievance of such nature is yet to touch the Sikkim Judiciary.

The objective of publication of these two Newsletters is lofty one. Not only it is to make its publication a mouthpiece of the Sikkim Judiciary and to enable the general public to have hands-on-information of the status of the judicial working in Sikkim, but it is also to earmark a permanent place of Sikkim Judiciary in the rest of the country.

By launching of these two Newsletters, an attempt has been made to make both the High Court and the Authority transparent and open. In the age of Right to Information, now being an enactment to bring transparency, accountability and openness in the working of the system, we believe that the State Judiciary should not be isolated in this respect and the public must have a right to know as regards the functioning and day to day activities of the Sikkim Judiciary. Both these publications would reflect, exhibit and disclose the working conditions and all informations pertaining to its status, achievements and events.

As a living Institution, the High Court having satisfactorily possessed all requisites, faced the challenge for last 50 years, is facing such challenge and is fully prepared and ready to face any challenge in the backdrop of globalization scenario.

The inaugural issue of the Quarterly Court Newsletter of the High Court throws some light on the background of the establishment of the High Court, discloses institution, disposal and pendency of cases both in the High Court and Subordinate Courts on a quarterly basis besides highlighting important events and judgments of the High Court.

At the same time, the Monthly Newsletter of the Authority is to project the winds of change that are sweeping through the Judiciary. Judiciary is now reaching out to the masses under the slogan of “Access to Justice for all”. It is no longer locked up in its ivory tower but it has come down to the poor at his door-steps by way of legal literacy, awareness and sensitization camp. We have conducted several legal awareness camps at various venues in East and North Sikkim under the aegis of the Authority.

We have already inaugurated two Mediation centres; one at Gangtok for East District and other at Namchi for South District. Shortly, we are going to open similar centres at Mangan and Gyalshing in North Sikkim and West Sikkim respectively.

We have also organized a training camp on Mediation for four judicial officers and eight panel legal aid advocates who are being trained by 3 Delhi based trained Mediators and currently we are having 12 trained Mediators in the State. If the present mechanism works smoothly, adequately and properly, hopefully the State of Sikkim can be projected as the First State to be known as “Litigation Free State”.

We are proud to say that the High Court is the “Zero Arrear Court” because 93 pending cases, as on date, cannot be regarded as “arrears” in comparison to alarming huge arrears of cases in the States outside Sikkim.

The present publication is an endeavour to ensure that the public at large continue to have faith in the dignity of the Judiciary and majesty of the Courts and we are confident that these Newsletters including the future publications will answer all questions relating to the Judiciary of the State.

This is the beginning only. Any suggestion or advice pertaining to any publication of Newsletters is most welcome including constructive criticism, so long it does not border on contempt.

Let me *in fine* once again offer my heartiest gratitude and sincere thanks to His Excellency the Governor of Sikkim and Hon'ble the Chief Minister of Sikkim, who by their kind presence, despite their busy schedule, have made this august function graceful, gorgeous and glorious.

With these few words I would like to take your leave.
God bless this High Court and the Authority.
Thank you very much.



**WELCOME ADDRESS BY HON'BLE JUDGE,
MR. JUSTICE A.P. SUBBA, HIGH COURT OF SIKKIM
AT THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF THE INAUGURAL ISSUE OF THE
“QUARTERLY COURT NEWSLETTER” OF THE HIGH COURT OF SIKKIM AND
“MONTHLY NEWSLETTER” OF THE SIKKIM STATE LEGAL SERVICES
AUTHORITY HELD ON 29TH JUNE, 2009**

Your Excellency, the Governor of Sikkim, Shri Balmiki Prasad Singh; Hon'ble the Chief Minister of Sikkim, Dr. Pawan Chamling; My Lord, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aftab H. Saikia, Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim; Hon'ble Speaker, Shri K.T. Gyaltsen; Mr. R.B. Subba, Legal Advisor to the Hon'ble Chief Minister; Shri N.D. Chingapa, Chief Secretary, Government of Sikkim; Shri C.M. Ravindran, Director General of Police; Mrs. Meenakshi M. Rai, Registrar General, High Court of Sikkim & Member Secretary, Sikkim State Legal Services Authority; Judicial Officers; Secretaries & Heads of Departments and Officers of the Government of Sikkim; Members of the Bar Ex-Officio members of Sikkim State Legal Services Authority; Other Members of the High Court Legal Services Committee and Members of High Court Lok Adalat; Officers and Staff of both the High Court Registry and the Office of State Legal Services Authority; Members from the Media both Print & Electronic; Distinguished Guests; Ladies & Gentlemen.

It is my proud privilege to extend, on behalf of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, on my own behalf and on behalf of brother Judge, Mr. Justice S. P. Wangdi (who is presently out of station) High Court of Sikkim and Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, a very warm welcome to his Excellency the Governor of Sikkim, and to Hon'ble Chief Minister, who is also the Law Minister. We are happy that both the head of the State and head of the Government could spare their valuable time to be with us this afternoon despite their busy schedules. We are, indeed, deeply honoured by their gracious presence.

I also extend a hearty welcome to all the other distinguished guests who are present here to grace the occasion.

It is a matter of great pride and satisfaction that the High Court of Sikkim completed 50 years of its glorious existence in the year 2004. It was in the year 1955 that the High Court of Judicature (Jurisdiction and Powers) Proclamation, 1955, was issued by the then Maharaja establishing a High Court in Sikkim. We have come a long way since then.

Fifty years of dedicated service in preserving, protecting and promoting the rights of the people of the State is something to be very proud of and is a fitting cause for Celebration. It is in commemoration of such completion of 50 years of the dedicated service rendered by the High Court in the Administration of Justice that we have commenced the Golden Jubilee Year Celebration of the High Court on April, 17th last which will continue for the whole year and will conclude on April 16th 2010. It is coinciding with the ongoing jubilee celebrations that today's programme has been organized for release of the "Quarterly Court Newsletter" of the High Court.

As the programme enclosed with the invitation card would indicate, release of a similar "Monthly Newsletter" in respect of the Sikkim State Legal Services Authority has also been included as one of the items. The Sikkim State Legal Services Authority is an establishment constituted in the year 1998 under the provisions of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. This Authority has thus been in existence and has been functional in the State for over 10 years now. The main functions of this Authority include providing Legal Services to persons who fulfill the criteria laid down under the Legal Services Authorities Act, organizing Lok Adalats at all levels and undertaking preventive and strategic legal aid programmes which are formulated by the National Legal Services Authority from time to time.

A judicial Institution by the very nature of the duties it performs is required to maintain a certain degree of aloofness and as a result very often information useful to the general public does not trickle down to the grass root level. Even though such restrictions do not apply to the functioning of Sikkim State Legal Services Authority there is at present no medium through which information regarding the various activities undertaken by the Authority from time to time percolates down to the general mass. It is with the sole object of making information regarding various activities that take place in the legal arena, accessible to the general public that the idea of starting Newsletters of the High Court as well as Sikkim State Legal Services Authority was conceived of. Keeping in view the importance and significance of the occasion we thought it would be most appropriate if the inaugural issues of the "Newsletters" are released by the Head of the State and the Head of the Government at one venue.

A span of 50 years is not a long period in the life of an Institution. Yet it must be acknowledged that the period of 50 years which passed by has been an eventful one. As can be gathered from the available materials the administration of Justice in Sikkim was being carried out till the middle of the last century by Feudal Landlords popularly called Adda Courts, Jongpons (District Officers), Pipons (Headmen) and Mandals. At the top of all these authorities was the Court of the Maharaja which was the final court of appeal in the State.

After the establishment of the High Court in the year 1955, it came to occupy the status of the final Court of appeal in all judicial matters. The Maharaja only retained the prerogative to grant mercy, pardon, remission, commutation and reduction of sentence in case of conviction and to set up a special Tribunal for the review of any case both civil or criminal.

This system of judicial administration continued till the mass revolution which engulfed the State in the year 1973. The Government of Sikkim Act, 1974, which came to be passed in the Sikkim Assembly in the aftermath of the revolution and in pursuance of the historical agreement of 8th May, 1973, between the Chogyal, the leaders of the political parties representing the people of Sikkim and Government of India, provided that all Judges in Sikkim shall be independent in the exercise of their judicial functions.

The abolition of the institution of the Chogyal and the consequent merger of Sikkim with the Union of India in the year 1975 are the other historical events of far reaching consequences. Upon merger, Sikkim which was till then a sovereign State became the 22nd State of India. Under Clause (i) of Article 371F, of the Constitution of the High Court functioning immediately prior to the date of merger became, on and from the appointed day, the High Court for the State of Sikkim under the Constitution like any other High Court in the country. Under Clause (j) of the same Article all Courts of Civil, Criminal and Revenue Jurisdiction, all Authorities and all Officers, Judicial, Executive and Ministerial throughout Sikkim were to continue to exercise their respective powers subject to the provisions of the Constitution and under Clause (k) all laws in force immediately before the appointed day in Sikkim were to continue to be in force until amended or repealed by a competent legislature or other competent authority.

It was in keeping with the set goal as reflected in the Government of Sikkim Act, 1974 and the ideal enshrined in the Constitution that the process of separation of the Judiciary from the Executive started soon thereafter. As a result of the initiatives and steps taken at that time we are proud to say that Sikkim though a small State has today a separate High Court of its own.

The two Newsletters being launched today are the first of their kind in the legal history of Sikkim. These Newsletters will carry statistics on institution, pendency, disposal of cases, gist of judgments of public importance pronounced by court, and important developments relating to administration of justice. Thus the main objective behind launching of these Newsletters is to promote transparency and accountability in the functioning of the Justice Delivery System and its various organs. It is hoped that these Newsletters, with your participation and cooperation will achieve the objective with which they are being launched today.

I welcome you all once again.

Thank you

THE HIGH COURT OF SIKKIM**ROLL OF HONOUR****HON'BLE CHIEF JUSTICES**

1.	Hon'ble Shri Justice Man Mohan Singh Gujral	07.05.1976	14.03.1983
2.	Hon'ble Shri Justice Mohan Lal Shrimal	17.12.1983	03.01.1985
3.	Hon'ble Shri Justice Jugal Kishore Mohanty	21.01.1986	04.01.1989
4.	Hon'ble Shri Justice Braja Nath Misra	20.01.1990	08.11.1992
5.	Hon'ble Shri Justice Surendra Nath Bhargava	20.01.1993	10.02.1996
6.	Hon'ble Shri Justice Krishna Murari Agarwal	15.02.1996	26.10.1996
7.	Hon'ble Shri Justice Kanniappa Arumuga Thanikkachallam	27.08.1997	26.09.1997
8.	Hon'ble Shri Justice Ripusudan Dayal	03.02.1999	17.05.2003
9.	Hon'ble Shri Justice Radha Krishna Patra	09.07.2003	23.11.2004
10.	Hon'ble Shri Justice Binod Kumar Roy	30.09.2005	26.12.2006
11.	Hon'ble Shri Justice Ajoy Nath Ray	27.01.2007	30.10.2008
12.	Hon'ble Shri Justice Aftab H. Saikia	07.03.2009	

THE HIGH COURT OF SIKKIM**ROLL OF HONOUR****HON'BLE PUISNE JUDGES**

1.	Hon'ble Shri Justice Rajinder Sachar	16.5.1975	06.05.1976
2.	Hon'ble Shri Justice Anandamoy Bhattacharjee	16.6.1976	21.01.1986
3.	Hon'ble Shri Justice Ripusudan Dayal	10.5.1984	15.10.1995
4.	Hon'ble Shri Justice Anup Deb	16.12.1994	07.02.1995
5.	Hon'ble Shri Justice Malay Sengupta	16.10.1995	09.11.1998
6.	Hon'ble Shri Justice Anup Deb	27.12.1997	12.03.2002
7.	Hon'ble Shri Justice Nongthombam Surjamani Singh	7.1.2003	12.07.2007
8.	Hon'ble Shri Justice Ananda Prakash Subba	4.10.2004	03.04.2007
9.	Hon'ble Shri Justice Ananda Prakash Subba	10.11.2007	
9.	Hon'ble Shri Justice Sonam Phintso Wangdi	23.06.2009	

APPOINTMENT IN THE HIGH COURT

(From 01.04.09 to 30.06.09)

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	Name of the Hon'ble Judge	Date of Appointment
1.	Sikkim	Sonam Phintso Wangdi	23.06.09

VACANCIES IN COURTS

(i) Vacancies in the High Court of Sikkim as on 30.06.2009

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancies
1.	Sikkim High Court	03	03	0

(ii) Vacancies in the District & Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2009

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancies
1.	SIKKIM	*15	09	06

* Including 2 Fast Track Courts.

INSTITUTION, DISPOSAL AND PENDENCY OF CASES

(1) High Court of Sikkim from 1.4.09 to 30.6.09

Sl. No.	Civil Cases				Criminal Cases				Total Pendency of Civil & Criminal Cases at the end of 30.6.09
	Opening Balance as on 1.4.09	Institution from 1.4.09 to 30.6.09	Disposal from 1.4.09 to 30.6.09	Pendency at the end of 30.6.09	Opening Balance as on 1.4.09	Institution from 1.4.09 to 30.6.09	Disposal from 1.4.09 to 30.6.09	Pendency at the end of 30.6.09	
1.	63	12	13	62	33	7	9	31	93

(2) District & Subordinate Courts from 1.4.09 to 30.6.09 (East & North) & (South & West)

Sl. No.	Civil Cases				Criminal Cases				Total Pendency of Civil & Criminal Cases at the end of 30.6.09
	Opening Balance as on 1.4.09	Institution from 1.4.09 to 30.6.09	Disposal from 1.4.09 to 30.6.09	Pendency at the end of 30.6.09	Opening Balance as on 1.4.09	Institution from 1.4.09 to 30.6.09	Disposal from 1.4.09 to 30.6.09	Pendency at the end of 30.6.09	
1.	216	49	40	225	850	235	222	863	1088

Sl. No.	Civil Miscellaneous Cases				Criminal Miscellaneous Cases				Total Pendency of Civil & Criminal Cases at the end of 30.6.09
	Opening Balance as on 1.4.09	Institution from 1.4.09 to 30.6.09	Disposal from 1.4.09 to 30.6.09	Pendency at the end of 30.6.09	Opening Balance as on 1.4.09	Institution from 1.4.09 to 30.6.09	Disposal from 1.4.09 to 30.6.09	Pendency at the end of 30.6.09	
1.	103	114	119	98	67	338	366	39	137

(3) Family Court (East & North) at Gangtok from 1.4.09 To 30.6.09

Sl. No.	Civil Cases				Criminal Cases				Total Pendency of Civil & Criminal Cases at the end of 30.6.09
	Opening Balance as on 1.4.09	Institution from 1.4.09 to 30.6.09	Disposal from 1.4.09 to 30.6.09	Pendency at the end of 30.6.09	Opening Balance as on 1.4.09	Institution from 1.4.09 to 30.6.09	Disposal from 1.4.09 to 30.6.09	Pendency at the end of 30.6.09	
1.	38	18	33	23	23	8	18	13	36

Sl. No.	Civil Miscellaneous Cases				Criminal Miscellaneous Cases				Total Pendency of Civil & Criminal Cases at the end of 30.6.09
	Opening Balance as on 1.4.09	Institution from 1.4.09 to 30.6.09	Disposal from 1.4.09 to 30.6.09	Pendency at the end of 30.6.09	Opening Balance as on 1.4.09	Institution from 1.4.09 to 30.6.09	Disposal from 1.4.09 to 30.6.09	Pendency at the end of 30.6.09	
1.	0	0	0	0	7	1	6	2	2

(4) Family Court (South & West) at Namchi from 1.4.09 to 30.6.09

Sl. No.	Civil Cases				Criminal Cases				Total Pendency of Civil & Criminal Cases at the end of 30.6.09
	Opening Balance as on 1.4.09	Institution from 1.4.09 to 30.6.09	Disposal from 1.4.09 to 30.6.09	Pendency at the end of 30.6.09	Opening Balance as on 1.4.09	Institution from 1.4.09 to 30.6.09	Disposal from 1.4.09 to 30.6.09	Pendency at the end of 30.6.09	
1.	0	13	0	13	0	11	0	11	24

Sl. No.	Civil Miscellaneous Cases				Criminal Miscellaneous Cases				Total Pendency of Civil & Criminal Cases at the end of 30.6.09
	Opening Balance as on 1.4.09	Institution from 1.4.09 to 30.6.09	Disposal from 1.4.09 to 30.6.09	Pendency at the end of 30.6.09	Opening Balance as on 1.4.09	Institution from 1.4.09 to 30.6.09	Disposal from 1.4.09 to 30.6.09	Pendency at the end of 30.6.09	
1.	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	2

(5) Lok Adalats from 1.4.09 to 30.6.09

Sl. No.	Name of Lok Adalat	Opening Balance	Institution from 1.4.09 to 30.6.09	Disposal from 1.4.09 to 30.6.09	Pendency at the end of 30.06.09
1.	High Court Lok Adalat	41	0	1	40
2.	District Lok Adalat at Gangtok	3	13	10	6
3.	District Lok Adalat at Namchi	24	12	13	23
4.	Taluk Lok Adalats at Ravangla, Gyalshing, Mangan & Soreng	5	67	69	3
	Total	73	92	93	72

SOME RECENT HIGH COURT JUDGMENTS

1. REGULAR FIRST APPEAL NO.07 OF 2006

Sonam Gyatso Bhutia Vs. State of Sikkim & Ors.

Date of Order - 14/05/2009

An appeal against the judgment of dismissal of the suit for declaration, confirmation of possession and consequential reliefs, a miscellaneous application was also filed seeking admission of certain new documents as additional evidence that came into existence after the suit has been disposed of and the decree drawn up. Both appeal and miscellaneous application heard together. Held - Appellant has been able to make out a case for admission of documents. Both appeal and miscellaneous application allowed ordering the Ld. Trial Court to hold a fresh trial according to law giving both parties' due opportunity to test the evidence ordered to be admitted as additional evidence in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Evidence Act.

2. CIVIL REVISION PETITION NO. 02 OF 2009

Lhakila Tongden Lepcha & Ors. Vs. Passang Tongden Lepcha

Date of Order - 26/05/2009

A revision Petition against the order of the Ld. District Judge, Spl. Division - I at Gangtok directing the registration of certain exhibited documents filed by the respondents/defendants on the basis of the two Notifications issued by the Order of his Highness the Maharaja of Sikkim. Prayer was only for grant of permission to deposit fifty times penalty in the form of stamps for validation and admission of those documents as provided by those Notifications. Held - the two Notifications have not become non-est and they still hold good. However, revision allowed quashing the impugned order to the extent of directing the registration of the documents not provided by the Notifications.

3. WRIT PETITION (C) NO. 31 OF 2008

CHIRAN RIZAL VS. STATE OF SIKKIM & ORS.

Date of Order - 05/06/2009

A Writ petition U/A 226 of the Constitution challenging the appointment of two persons belonging to OBC and MBC community to the Junior Grade of Sikkim State Civil Service pursuant to the interview on the ground that they belong to the creamy layer category. Held - no demand for justice made before the competent authority and its refusal before approaching the Court. No conditions necessary for issue of mandamus fulfilled. No records or documents showing the appointed persons as creamy layer or even as OBC and MBC placed before the Court except making certain averments - no relief sought for by the petitioner for his own appointment. Petitioner, an OBC candidate has no right to challenge

the appointment of MBC candidate. No writ will lie if there is statutory remedy available and it has not been exhausted. Petition accordingly dismissed.

4. CRL. REVISION PETITION NO.03 OF 2007

STATE OF SIKKIM VS. NORBU WANGDI BHUTIA

Date of Order - 05/06/2009

Defect in mentioning the correct name of the accused and correct section in the sanction order. Subsequent sanction order filed mentioning the correct section but without correcting the name. Trial Court accepted the subsequent sanction order. Revision petition filed against the order accepting the fresh sanction order, in the court of Ld. Sessions Judge. Ld. Session Judge set aside the order and directed to proceed with the initial sanction order. Trial Court finding mistake in name also in the initial order, discharged the accused U/S 239 Cr. P.C. holding it futile to proceed with the case on invalid sanction. Revision petition against the order of the Ld. Sessions Judge filed in the High Court. Held - there was no application of mind by the sanctioning authority in passing the fresh order and was passed mechanically – No correction of name in the forwarding letter correcting the initial sanction order – no mention of basic facts constituting the offence in the sanction order. Non compliance of S.197 Cr.P.C. – Continuation of proceeding without legal sanction is gross abuse of process of law. Orders of both the courts upheld. Petition accordingly dismissed.

5. Crl. Rev. P No. 4 of 2009

Surendra Prasad Vrs. Niraj Thapa & Ano.

Date of Order - 03/07/2009

Dismissal of appeal by the Ld. Sessions Judge, South and West at Namchi against the judgement and order of conviction passed by the Chief Judicial Magistrate (South & West) under Section 16(1) 'A' of The Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, in absence of the appellant or his counsel, although reducing the quantum of sentence. Appeal filed against the said judgement and order of dismissal. Held - Appellate Court is duty bound to hear the appellant or his pleader when the appeal is taken up for disposal on merits. Impugned order passed without hearing the appellant or his counsel is against the judgement of the Apex Court, as well as the provisions of the Cr.P.C. as contained in Sections 384 and 386. Conviction of the petitioner maintained for the period already undergone by him and set aside for the remaining period. Appellant ordered to be released forthwith if not required in any other case.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS AND EVENTS

1. INAUGURAL CEREMONY OF THE GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION YEAR (17th April, 2009)

The year-long Golden Jubilee Celebration of the High Court of Sikkim began with a simple inaugural ceremony and function at the Indoor Gymnasium Hall, Palzor Stadium, Gangtok on 17th April, 2009.

The function was inaugurated by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aftab H. Saikia, Chief Justice; Madam Sarifa A. Saikia, spouse of Hon'ble Chief Justice; Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. P. Subba, Judge;



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aftab H. Saikia lighting the inaugural Lamp alongwith Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.P. Subba and Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.P. Wangdi (the then Advocate General)

Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. P. Wangdi, Judge (the then Advocate General, Government of Sikkim and President of the Bar Association of Sikkim), alongwith Mrs. Meenakshi M. Rai, Registrar General, Judicial Officers of the State, Members of the Bar Association of Sikkim, Advocates, Officers and staff of the Registry.

In his Welcome Address, Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.P. Subba highlighted the brief history of the Judiciary

and the High Court in Sikkim. His Lordship stated that having completed 50 years of its establishment, the High Court of Sikkim has decided to celebrate five decades of 'commendable service' to the State as well as the nation by 'upholding the majesty of Rule of Law' and protecting the fundamental and legal rights of the people of Sikkim.



Madam Sarifa A. Saikia, spouse of Hon'ble Chief Justice Mr. Justice Aftab H. Saikia, lighting the inaugural lamp

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aftab H. Saikia, Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim in his Inaugural Address extended his best wishes to all the people associated with the High Court and regarded himself fortunate to serve the people of

Sikkim. His Lordship stated that peace and justice were essential necessities of a State and remarked that these were abundantly present in the State of Sikkim and that his Lordship was truly proud of the Sikkim Judiciary. His Lordship added that “although the Sikkim High Court was considered to be the smallest one in the country, the role it plays in providing justice to the people was commendable and pivotal”. His Lordship congratulated all on the Golden Jubilee landmark of the High Court and heralded it as a great day for the legal fraternity and also expressed his gratitude towards the people of Sikkim.



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aftab H. Saikia addressing the gathering

Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. P. Wangdi, on his Lordship's part regarded it an important day in the history of Sikkim's judiciary and concluded the function with a vote of thanks.

A friendly cricket match was also held between the Chief Justices-XI and the President, Bar Association of Sikkim-XI at Paljor Stadium. The Chief Justices-XI defeated the President, Bar Association of Sikkim-XI by 62 runs.



Chief Justices - XI



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aftab H. Saikia during the Cricket Match



President, Bar Association of Sikkim -XI

2. World Environment Day (5th June, 2009)



*Hon'ble Chief Justice Mr. Aftab H. Saikia
planting a sapling on the occasion*



*Hon'ble Justice A.P. Subba
planting a sapling on the occasion*

On the occasion of the World Environment Day on 5th June, 2009 Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aftab H. Saikia, Chief Justice; Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. P. Subba, Judge; Mrs. Meenakshi M. Rai, Registrar General; Mrs. Kesang Chukie Barphungpa, Registrar; Officers and staff of the Registry planted saplings in the High Court premises.



*L to R: Mrs. Meenakshi M. Rai, Registrar General
& Mrs. K.C. Barfungpa, Registrar planting saplings on the occasion*

3. Swearing in ceremony of Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. P. Wangdi as Judge of the High Court of Sikkim (23rd June, 2009)



*Justice S.P. Wangdi being sworn in as Judge of the High Court of Sikkim
by His Excellency the Governor of Sikkim Shri B.P. Singh*

On 23rd June, 2009 Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. P. Wangdi was sworn in as Judge of the High Court of Sikkim. His Excellency Shri Balmiki Prasad Singh, Governor of Sikkim administered the oath of Office during a solemn function held at the Ashirwad Hall, Raj Bhavan. The oath taking ceremony was witnessed by Dr. Pawan Chamling, Hon'ble Chief Minister; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aftab H. Saikia, Chief Justice; Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. P. Subba, Judge; Hon'ble Cabinet Ministers; Members of the State Legislative Assembly, Mrs. Meenakshi M. Rai, Registrar General; Mrs. Kesang Chukie Barphungpa, Registrar, Judicial Officers of the State, Senior Government Officers and Bar members.

4. Launching Ceremony of the Inaugural Issue of the quarterly "Court Newsletter" of the High Court of Sikkim and monthly "Newsletter" of the Sikkim State Legal Services Authority (29th June, 2009)



Quarterly Court Newsletter being launched by His Excellency the Governor of Sikkim



Monthly Newsletter being launched by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim

LIGHTING OF THE INAUGURAL LAMP DURING THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY



*Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim Dr. Pawan Chamling
lighting the Inaugural Lamp*



*His Excellency the Governor of Sikkim Shri B.P. Singh
lighting the Inaugural Lamp*

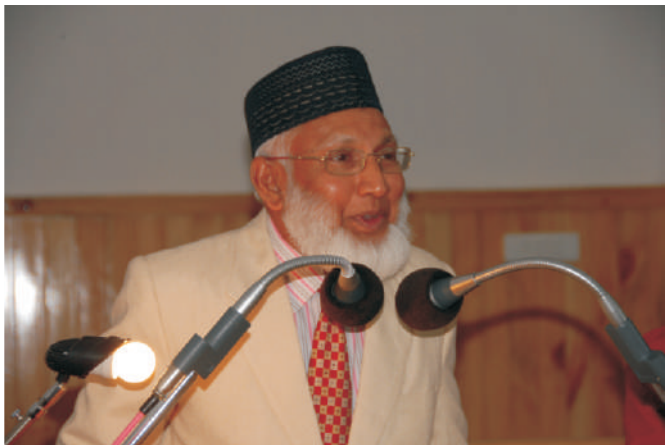


*Hon'ble Chief Justice Aftab H. Saikia
lighting the Inaugural Lamp*



*Hon'ble Justice A.P. Subba
lighting the Inaugural Lamp*

ADDRESSES DURING THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY



Hon'ble Chief Justice Aftab H. Saikia



His Excellency the Governor of Sikkim Shri B.P. Singh



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim Dr. Pawan Chamling



Hon'ble Justice A.P. Subba



*R-L. Shri K.T. Gyaltsen,
Hon'ble Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Shri R.B. Subba, Advisor to Hon'ble Chief Minister
Shri N.D. Chingapa, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Sikkim
Mr. C.M. Ravindran DGP*



Judicial Officers



BAR Members

Hon'ble Chief Justice Mr. Aftab H. Saikia has initiated a year long celebration marked with various programmes for celebrating the Golden Jubilee Year (17th April, 2009 to 16th April, 2010). One such occasion was the launching of the quarterly "Court Newsletter" of the High Court of Sikkim and monthly "Newsletter" of the Sikkim State Legal Services Authority.

In a momentous ceremony graced by His Excellency the Governor of Sikkim Shri B.P. Singh (Chief Guest); Dr. Pawan Chamling, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim (Guest of Honour); Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aftab H. Saikia, Chief Justice; Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. P. Subba, Judge; Mr. K. T. Gyaltsen, Hon'ble Speaker; Mr. Ram Bahadur Subba, Legal Advisor to Hon'ble Chief Minister and Senior Officers and Heads of Departments of the Government of Sikkim, Members of the Bar, Ex-Officio Members of Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, Other Members of the High Court Legal Services Committee and Members of High Court Lok Adalat, the Inaugural Issue of the quarterly "Court Newsletter" was launched by His Excellency the Governor of Sikkim and monthly "Newsletter" by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim.

The Launching Ceremony held in the High Court premises in a simple function witnessed a rare and historic occasion where the Heads of Executive, Judiciary and Legislature shared the same platform to launch the journals.




*L-R: Justice A.P. Subba ,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim Dr. Pawan Chamling,
His Excellency the Governor of Sikkim Shri B.P. Singh,
Hon'ble Chief Justice Mr. Aftab H. Saikia*



***Standing:** Mrs. Meenakshi M. Rai, Registrar General,
High Court of Sikkim proposing the vote of thanks
Sitting L-R: Justice A.P. Subba,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim Dr. Pawan Chamling,
His Excellency the Governor of Sikkim Shri B.P. Singh,
Hon'ble Chief Justice Mr. Aftab H. Saikia*

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

The High Court of Sikkim Designation of Senior Advocates Rules, 2009 was notified on 05.06.2009 in the Sikkim Government Gazette vide Notification No. **8/HCS** dated **05.06.2009** thereafter repealing the Designation of Senior Advocates Rules, 2006. The said Notification is as follows:-

GOVERNMENT	SIKKIM	GAZETTE
		
	EXTRAORDINARY PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY	
Gangtok	Friday 5 th June, 2009	No. 196
THE HIGH COURT OF SIKKIM GANGTOK		
No. 8/HCS		Dated 05.06.2009

NOTIFICATION

In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 34(1) read with Section 16(2) of the Advocates Act, 1961, the High Court of Sikkim makes the following Rules for designation of Senior Advocates.

[1] Short title and commencement:

- (i) These Rules may be called the High Court of Sikkim Designation of Senior Advocates Rules, 2009.
- (ii) These Rules shall extend throughout the jurisdiction of the High Court of Sikkim.
- (iii) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

[2] Definitions: - In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires,

- (a) "The Act" means the Advocates Act, 1961.
- (b) "Advocate" means an Advocate entered in the roll under the provision of the Act.
- (c) "Court" means the High Court of Sikkim and all the Subordinate Courts of Sikkim under the jurisdiction of the High Court of Sikkim.
- (d) "High Court" means the High Court of Sikkim at Gangtok.
- (e) "standing at the Bar" means the position of eminence attained by an Advocate, by virtue of his integrity, seniority, legal acumen and high ethical standards maintained by him both inside and outside the Court.
- (f) "State Bar Council" means the Bar Council of Assam, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim, at Guwahati.

[3] Who may be designated as Senior Advocate:

The High Court may designate an Advocate with his consent, as Senior Advocate, if in its opinion that by virtue of his ability, standing at the Bar or special knowledge or experience in law, he is deserving of such distinction.

[4] Procedure for designation as Senior Advocate:

- (a) Such designation as Senior Advocate shall be considered on the written proposal made by any of the following proposers: -
 - (i) the Chief Justice of the High Court; or
 - (ii) any sitting Judge of the High Court; or
 - (iii) the Advocate General of the State of Sikkim, provided he himself is a Senior Advocate; or
 - (iv) two practising Senior Advocates of the High Court.
- (b) No Advocate shall be eligible to be designated as Senior Advocate unless: -
 - (i) he has completed 35 years of age.
 - (ii) has a minimum of 10 years standing at the Bar as an Advocate in any Court within the jurisdiction of the High Court.

While calculating the aforesaid standing of 10 years, the period spent by a Judicial Officer during his service career shall be taken into consideration.
 - (iii) is a permanent resident of the State of Sikkim under the jurisdiction of the High Court.
 - (iv) has income of not less than Rs. 2,00,000/- (Rupees two lakhs) per annum:

Provided that if such an Advocate is liable to be taxed under the Income Tax Act, 1961; and in case of those who are not liable to pay tax, a statement to the extent of income shall be furnished.

Provided further that the High Court for reasons to be recorded in writing, may grant exemption to any individual member from the requirements of Rule 4 (b) (iv) above, regarding income.

- (c) The proposal shall be in Form 'A' appended to these Rules.

[5] Consent of the concerned Advocate:

Insofar as Clauses (i) and (ii) of Rule 4(a) above are concerned, a proposal may be initiated after ascertaining the inclination of the Advocate concerned.

Insofar as Clauses (iii) and (iv) of Rule 4(a) are concerned, the consent of the Advocate concerned shall be appended along with the proposal.

- [6]** Immediately on receipt of the proposal, the same shall be entered in a Register maintained in the Registry for such purpose.

[7] Consideration of the proposal by the High Court:

- (a) The proposal for designation of an Advocate as Senior Advocate shall be considered at a meeting of the Full Court except in cases mentioned in Rule 10(c) below. It shall be accepted only if at such meeting not less than two third of the total number of Judges present are in favour of accepting the proposal.
- (b) A proposal once rejected, shall not be considered again for designation as Senior Advocate, unless two years have expired since the date of such consideration.
- (c) In case of an Advocate holding the office of Advocate General of the State under the jurisdiction of the High Court, the designation of such Advocate as Senior Advocate may be made by the Chief Justice.

[8] Process on designation as Senior Advocate by the Full Court:

- (i) The name of the concerned Senior Advocate shall be entered in the Register of the Senior Advocates to be maintained by the Registry.
- (ii) The Registrar General shall notify such designation(s) to the following: -

- (a) The Bar Association of Sikkim,
- (b) All District and Sessions Judges in the State of Sikkim,
- (c) All Chief Judicial Magistrate-cum-Civil Judges and Civil Judge-cum Judicial Magistrates in the State of Sikkim,
- (d) The State Bar Council,
- (e) The Bar Council of India, New Delhi,
- (f) The Secretary General of the Supreme Court of India,
- (g) The Secretary, Supreme Court Bar Association, New Delhi.
- (h) Registrar Generals of all other High Courts and
- (i) The concerned designated Senior Advocate.

[9] Withdrawal of the conferment of Senior Advocate:

The designation of Senior Advocate may be withdrawn by the High Court, after due notice in the event it is found that,

- (i) the Senior Advocate has violated any or all of the provisions of the Act and the Rules prescribed by the Bar Council of India under Section 16(3) and Section 49(1) (g) of the Act as provided at Annexure 'A' of that Rules; or,
- (ii) in the event it is reported by the Supreme Court or any other High Court or by any Judge of the High Court of Sikkim; or by any authority or any person, supporting, prima facie, in Rule 9(i) and (ii) above, that by virtue of the Senior Advocates conduct and behaviour, either inside or outside the Court, he/she has forfeited his/her privilege, after due notice to the Senior Advocate concerned.

[10] (i) The Registrar General shall notify the decision of such withdrawal as provided in Rule 8 (ii) of these Rules.

(ii) A record of all such decisions shall be maintained in the Registry of the High Court.

[11] Repeal:

On notification of these Rules in the Official Gazette, the Designation of Senior Advocates Rules, 2006, shall stand repealed.

**FORM OF PROPOSAL FOR DESIGNATION AS SENIOR ADVOCATE
FORM 'A'**

1. Name of the Advocate
2. Permanent Address.....
3. Educational Qualification.....
4. Date of birth
5. Date of enrolment as Advocate
and where enrolled.....
6. Number in the Roll of advocates
maintained by the State Bar Council
and date thereof.....
7. Is the Advocate under proposal
as assessee under the Income Tax Act, 1961
in respect of his professional income;
if so, give details of the income
assessed for the last 3(three) years and
Permanent Income Tax Account Number (PAN).....
8. Other information (s) (optional);
if any, including legal aid work
publication of books, journals,

participation in Seminar/Conference,
association with any Faculty of Law etc. etc.....

Date:

SIGNATURE OF PROPOSER

I hereby express and give my consent to be designated as Senior Advocate by the High Court of Sikkim.

Dated this day of

SIGNATURE OF THE
ADVOCATE CONCERNED

By order,
MEENAKSHI M. RAI
REGISTRAR GENERAL
HIGH COURT OF SIKKIM
DATED:

ANNEXURE 'A'

Restrictions on Senior Advocate

[Rules under Section 16(3) and 49 (1) (g) of the Act]

A Senior Advocate shall, in the matter of practice of the profession of law mentioned in Section 30 of the Act, be subject to the following restrictions:

- (a)** A Senior Advocate shall not file Vakalatnama or act in any Court, or tribunal or before any person or other authority mentioned in Section 30 of the Act.

Explanation:- "To act" means to file an appearance or any pleading or application in any Court or tribunal or before any person or other authority mentioned in Section 30 of the Act, or to do any Act other than pleading required or authorised by law to be done by a party, in such Court, or tribunal, or before any person or other authority mentioned in the said section, either in person or by his recognised agent or by an advocate or an attorney on his behalf.

- (b)** (i) A Senior Advocate shall not appear without an advocate on record in the Supreme Court, or without an advocate enrolled in the State Roll, in any Court, or tribunal or before any person or other authorities mentioned in Section 30 of the Act.
(ii) Where a Senior Advocate has been engaged prior to the coming into force of these Rules, he shall not continue thereafter unless an advocate enrolled in the State Roll is engaged along with him; provided that a Senior Advocate may continue to appear without an advocate enrolled in the State Roll in cases in which he had been briefed to appear for the prosecution or the defence in a criminal case, if he was so briefed before he was designated as Senior Advocate or before the coming into operation of these Rules as the case may be.
- (c)** He shall not accept instructions to draft pleading or affidavits, advice on evidence or to do any drafting work of an analogous kind in any Court, or tribunal or before any person or other authority mentioned in Section 30 of the Act or undertake conveyancing work of any kind whatsoever. This restriction however, shall not extend to settling any such matter as aforesaid in consultation with an advocate enrolled in

the State Roll.

- (cc) A Senior Advocate shall, however, be free to make concessions or give undertakings in the course of arguments on behalf of his clients on instructions from the junior advocates.
- (d) He shall not accept directly from a client any brief or instructions to appear in any Court, or tribunal, or before any person or other authority in India.
- (e) A Senior Advocate who had acted as an advocate (Junior in a case, shall not after he has been designated as a Senior Advocate) advice on grounds of appeal in a Court of appeal or in the Supreme Court, except with an advocate as aforementioned.
- (f) A Senior Advocate may in recognition of the services rendered by an advocate enrolled in the State Roll appearing in any matter, pay him a fee which he considers reasonable.

By order,

MEENAKSHI M. RAI
REGISTRAR GENERAL
DATED: 05.06.2009

IMPORTANT VISITS AND CONFERENCES

1. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aftab H. Saikia, Chief Justice attended the closing ceremony of the Diamond Jubilee Celebration of Gauhati High Court, Guwahati on 4th April, 2009.
2. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aftab H. Saikia, Chief Justice and Patron in Chief, Sikkim State Legal Services Authority accompanied by Mr. Justice A. P. Subba, Hon'ble Judge & Executive Chairman, Sikkim State Legal Services Authority and Mrs. Meenakshi M. Rai, Registrar General, High Court of Sikkim and Member Secretary, Sikkim State Legal Services Authority attended a meet on ***“Role of Legal Services Authorities, Media and Civil Societies in facilitating the implementation of NREGS”*** organised by the Assam State Legal Services Authority on 26th April, 2009 at Guwahati.

LIST OF SIKKIM HIGH COURT JUDGES

(As on 30.06.2009)

Sl. No.	Name of the Hon'ble Judge	Date of Appointment
1.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aftab H. Saikia	07.03.2009 (As Chief Justice)
2.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. P. Subba	04.10.2004
3.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sonam Phintso Wangdi	23.06.2009