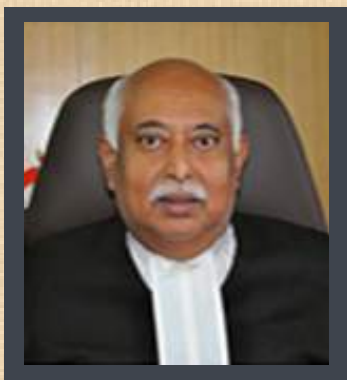




SIKKIM JUDICIAL ACADEMY

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Hon'ble Mr. Justice Biswanath Somadder,
Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim &
Patron-In-Chief, Sikkim Judicial Academy



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bhaskar Raj Pradhan,
Judge, High Court of Sikkim & Chairperson /
Judge-In-Charge, Sikkim Judicial Academy



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Sikkim Judicial Academy conducted 25 programmes from July - December 2024. Of the total programmes, some were exclusively for the Judicial Officers, while rest were conducted for other stakeholders of the Justice Delivery System.

Orientation Programme on New Criminal Laws for Officers and Staff of the Registry of Hon'ble High Court and District Judiciary of Sikkim on July 6th 2024

Resource Persons: Mr. K. W. Bhutia, Ld. Principal District & Sessions Judge, Gangtok; Mr. Benoy Sharma, Ld. Central Project Coordinator, High Court of Sikkim; and Ms. Ranjeeta Pradhan, Ld. District & Sessions Judge, Pakyong



The programme opened with the importance of the introduction of three new criminal laws effective from 1st July 2024. The laws were discussed in detail, with emphasis on their implications for case handling and the need for all stakeholders of the judiciary to understand and apply them effectively.

The second session highlighted the Indian Evidence Act of 1872 changes that were brought in Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA), 2023. The distinction between substantive and procedural law was clarified, showing how rights, duties, offenses, and trial procedures together ensure justice. Challenges in the criminal justice system such as delays, witness availability, and procedural lapses were addressed, with emphasis on reforms and modern practices. Judicial officers were urged to remain proactive, adapt to changes, and engage in continuous learning.

In conclusion, the session called for collective responsibility, collaboration, and unity among all stakeholders of criminal justice system to embrace the new laws, overcome challenges, and strengthen justice delivery in Sikkim.

ECT_8_2024 eCourts Programme for Administrative Heads, Nazarat and Process Servers of District Judiciary of Sikkim on July 12th 2024

Resource Person: Mr. Yoland Z. Christopher, Section Officer (Systems),
District & Sessions Court, Gangtok



The programme focused on the National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP), a digital initiative aimed at modernizing the service of legal documents such as summons, notices, and other court processes across India. The Resource Person informed the participants that NSTEP facilitates real-time tracking of these documents, ensuring greater transparency, efficiency, and a reduction in delays caused by manual errors or inefficiencies. He discussed the significance of NSTEP in streamlining judicial processes, highlighting its role in integrating technology to improve the speed and accuracy of document processing. One of the key features of NSTEP is the use of handheld devices by process servers, which capture on-site data that are instantly uploaded to the system. This ensures that the service of process is properly recorded and is able to be tracked by all concerned parties.

Additionally, the session highlighted the transition of Courts in Sikkim from typewriters to computers, marking a significant technological leap that improved processing speed and accuracy. A demonstration using a dummy server illustrated how data is exchanged between NSTEP and the Case Information System (CIS), offering practical insights into the system's integration. Overall, the session provided valuable insights into how NSTEP is enhancing the functioning of the judiciary, improving efficiency, accountability, and transparency across India's legal system.

ECT_7_2024 eCourts Programme for Bar Members and Clerks of Sikkim on July 20th 2024

Resource Person: Mr. Shakil Karki, Ld. Advocate, High Court of Sikkim



Mr. Karki focused on the importance of soft skills like communication, teamwork, and adaptability in the legal profession. He highlighted how training in these areas, alongside the use of technology, can improve problem-solving and expedite the administration of justice. He emphasized the need for lawyers to adapt to the rapidly changing landscape of technology, noting how digital tools such as e-signatures and easier petition filing have improved efficiency and creativity in legal work. The resource person also discussed the importance of embracing change, particularly in adopting eco-friendly, paperless practices.

Mr. Karki further noted the dynamic shift in the legal field, driven by technological advancements that have made tasks like research, contract drafting, and case management faster and more efficient. The rise of virtual hearings, mobile apps, and live-streamed Supreme Court proceedings has made legal services more accessible and improved client-lawyer communication.

In conclusion, he highlighted how technology has enhanced lawyers' skills through online training, making them more tech-savvy and better equipped to serve their clients effectively.

Cyber Forensic Tools and Investigation for Police Officers of Sikkim on July 29th 2024

Resource Persons: Dr. Tenzing Jampel Bhutia, HoD, Forensic Medicine, STNM Hospital, Gangtok & Ms. Zamyang Choden Bhutia, Deputy Director, SJA



The programme was attended by police officers from across the state, focusing on enhancing the understanding of cyber forensic techniques and their application in modern criminal investigations. Key topics included identification and preservation of digital evidence, use of forensic tools for investigation, challenges in cybercrime detection, and maintaining the integrity of electronic records for judicial proceedings.

Dr. Bhutia highlighted practical demonstrations of cyber forensic tools, illustrating their significance in solving complex digital crimes. The session also stressed interagency coordination, legal compliance, and adherence to procedural safeguards while conducting cyber investigations.

Interactive discussions enabled participants to clarify doubts, explore case studies, and learn best practices for handling cybercrime effectively. The programme concluded with a consensus on the importance of continuous skill development in cyber forensics, empowering police officers to effectively combat cyber threats and contribute to a robust justice delivery system in Sikkim.

ECT_9_2024 Refresher Programme for Officers and Staff Members of District Judiciary on August 3rd 2024

Resource Person: Mr. Yoland Z. Christopher, Section Officer (Systems), District & Sessions Court, Gangtok



Mr. Yoland Z. Christopher provided an in-depth overview of the Judicial Service Center, highlighting its role in the adoption of the Case Information System (CIS) across Indian courts. He emphasized the importance of categorizing case types and aligning them with national codes to ensure uniformity in the judicial system. The session also covered key features of the CIS dashboard that aid in case management and improve accessibility.

The discussion then shifted to the Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS), explaining how it enhances the justice system's efficiency by facilitating the accurate processing and verification of FIRs and chargesheets. Mr. Christopher also highlighted the ICJS dashboard, which provides a centralized platform for managing case data and improving coordination among law enforcement agencies, judiciary, and other stakeholders.

The resource person concluded the session with discussion on the provision of Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 which deals with electronic documents, and its impact on admissibility of evidence. He informed that the new legislation expands the scope of evidence to include digital records, ensuring that the legal framework aligns with modern technological advancements and supports more efficient justice delivery in today's digital era.

Training Programme on Note and Draft for Officers and Staff Members of District Judiciary and Sikkim Judicial Academy on August 9th 2024

Resource Person: Mr. Bhim Thatal, Director (Higher Education), Education Department, Government of Sikkim



The session focused on understanding government hierarchy, roles, and responsibilities, spanning from lower-level employees like LDCs and UDCs to senior officials such as Secretaries, Ministers, the Chief Minister, and the Governor.

Mr. Thatal emphasized the importance of following instructions carefully, completing tasks in order, maintaining clarity in communication, and adhering to proper formats for documents, notes, and reports. The training highlighted the significance of procedure, documentation, and effective interdepartmental communication for smooth administration.

While the session included anecdotes, and informal elements that occasionally distracted from the main content, the key takeaway was the necessity of understanding bureaucratic roles, strictly following official procedures, and ensuring clarity and precision in government correspondence and reporting.

The interactive nature of the training allowed for active participation, where officers and staff members could ask questions and share their own experiences. This exchange of ideas not only reinforced the learning objectives but also fostered a sense of responsibility among participants.

ECT_10_2024 eCourts Programme for Technical Staff and NIC Coordinator of the Registry of Hon'ble High Court of Sikkim on August 16th 2024

Resource Person: Mr. Deependra Dixit, Section Officer (Systems),
District & Sessions Court, Namchi



The Resource Person commenced the session with discussion on the ongoing efforts to enhance the efficiency of the Indian judicial system through the eCourts Project, emphasizing the need for a centralized Judicial Digital Repository at the High Court level. He elaborated on the second phase of the eCourts project, which aims to improve judicial infrastructure through cloud computing and integration among various judicial bodies.

He stressed the importance of collaboration among government departments and the adoption of Free and Open Source Solutions (FOSS) for efficient service delivery. He outlined the structure of CIS Masters, emphasizing the need for unification and mapping of national codes for consistency across jurisdictions. He also highlighted the role of the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) as a centralized repository to improve transparency and efficiency within the judicial system.

The resource person also deliberated on topics like digitization, metadata, remote server access, and PGAdmin, concluding by stressing that the focus on digitization, automation, and performance assessment demonstrates a commitment to modernizing the judicial process and improving service delivery nationwide.

Session on Law of Partition for Judicial Officers of District Judiciary on August 23rd 2024

Resource Person: Mr. Suman Dutt, Ld. Senior Advocate, Calcutta High Court



The programme focused on the legal principles governing partition of property, rights of co-owners, modes of partition, and procedures under Hindu Succession Act, 1956. Mr. Dutt presented a detailed discourse on the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, its amendments, and the law of partition, with particular focus on its applicability in the State of Sikkim. He also discussed on judicial interpretation of partition disputes, key provisions of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 and related civil laws, and practical considerations for adjudicating complex cases.

The interactive nature of the discussion allowed participants to clarify doubts and explore case studies, highlighting challenges faced in the valuation of the suit property in Sikkim. Emphasis was also placed on ensuring timely justice while maintaining fairness and legal precision.

The session concluded with a consensus on the importance of having sound knowledge in partition law for judicial officers, enabling them to adjudicate property disputes efficiently and equitably. Participants appreciated the session for its practical insights and applicability in everyday judicial practice, reinforcing the Academy's commitment to continuous legal education and professional development.

ECT_11_2024 eCourts Programme for Technical Staff, System Administrators and System Officers of District Judiciary of Sikkim on August 23rd 2024

Resource Person: Mr. Deependra Dixit, Section Officer (Systems),
District & Sessions Court, Namchi



At the outset, the Resource Person informed the gathering that the eCourts project is structured in multiple phases: Phase I (2007) focused on basic computerization of District Courts; Phase II (2015) introduced e-filing systems and video conferencing; and Phase III (2021), which is ongoing, aims for paperless courts, AI integration, and enhanced data accessibility. A key component of eCourts is the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), a centralized repository that provides real-time case information, promoting transparency and improving judicial efficiency.

The resource person then discussed NSTEP (National Service & Tracking of Electronic Processes), a system for streamlining the service of notices and summons via web and mobile apps. He stated that this initiative enhances transparency, reduces delays, and improves process serving across jurisdictions. He briefly covered topics like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), and server security, concluding that eCourts has revolutionized court operations by providing digital services to litigants, lawyers, and the judiciary. He also highlighted the JUSTIS app, a secure, 24/7 digital repository of court details accessible via a username/password.

**Session on Consumer Disputes and its Redressal under Consumer Act for
President & Members of District Consumer Disputes Redressal
Commissions on August 24th 2024**

Resource Person: Mr. Suman Dutt, Ld. Senior Advocate, Calcutta High Court



The programme focused on enhancing participants' understanding of consumer rights and legal remedies available under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. The program highlighted the evolution of the current Act from the earlier 1986 Act, the significant amendments introduced in 2019, and the expanded scope designed to better protect consumers in India and also focused on procedural aspects of filing and adjudicating consumer complaints. The key topics of the programme included jurisdiction and powers of the District Commissions, time-bound disposal of cases, principles of natural justice, insurance sector jurisprudence, compensation and damages, and practical strategies for effective dispute resolution.

Mr. Dutt highlighted the importance of fair, impartial, and efficient redressal mechanisms, emphasizing the need to ensure accessibility and awareness for consumers. Interactive discussions included case studies, practical challenges faced by commissions, and best practices for speedy disposal of consumer disputes.

The session concluded with a consensus on the critical role of District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions in safeguarding consumer rights and promoting confidence in the justice system. Participants were encouraged to adopt innovative approaches to enhance efficiency while maintaining procedural fairness in dispute resolution.

**Administrative Training for Officers and Ministerial Staff of the Registry of
Hon'ble High Court, District Judiciary and Sikkim Judicial Academy on
August 27th, 28th, & 30th 2024**

Resource Person: Dr. Bhaskar Bose, Kolkata



The first day of the program focused on improving key administrative skills like communication, time management, decision-making, and problem-solving. Participants learned about record-keeping and data analysis as crucial components of effective administration. Through interactive sessions, attendees explored techniques to optimize organizational operations, gaining insights into the detailed nature of administrative work.

On the second day, the emphasis was on leadership and team dynamics, distinguishing between administrative and management roles. Attendees explored leadership skills such as emotional intelligence and strategic planning, learning how to foster collaboration within teams. Participants also discussed grievance handling and the importance of empathetic responses to boost employee morale. Practical tools were provided to create an environment that encourages innovation and productivity.

The final day covered advanced time management and decision-making models, offering techniques for task prioritization and goal setting.

Orientation on Domestic Violence Act, 2005 and other related issues for Chief Judicial Magistrates, Judicial Magistrates and Protection Officers of Sikkim on August 31st 2024

Resource Person: Dr. Durga Khaitan, Ld. District & Sessions Judge, Kalimpong



The orientation aimed to strengthen the understanding of the provisions of the Domestic Violence Act, 2005, protection mechanisms available to victims, and the role of courts in ensuring timely justice by the Judicial Officers. Key discussions included the definition and types of domestic violence, issuance of protection orders, reliefs under the Act, and coordination with support services for victims.

The Resource Person shared insights from her extensive experience, practical challenges, and legal interpretations, emphasizing the holistic and unique nature of the Domestic Violence Act, 2005. She also emphasized on the importance of sensitivity in handling cases, adherence to procedural safeguards, and the importance of ensuring victim safety while maintaining judicial impartiality. Participants engaged in interactive discussions, clarifying doubts and exploring practical scenarios to better apply the provisions in real-life cases.

The session concluded with a consensus on the critical role of judicial officers in effectively implementing the Domestic Violence Act, 2005, and the importance of continuous training to address emerging challenges in protecting the rights of victims and promoting a just and equitable legal framework.

Programme on Diagnosing Road Traffic Accidents and Sustainable Mobility for Judicial Officers of District Judiciary of Sikkim on September 13th 2024

Resource Person: Dr. Rohit Baluja, Director, Institute of Road Traffic Education,
College of Traffic Management, Faridabad, Haryana



The programme on Sustainable Mobility and Traffic Management highlighted the crucial role of judicial officers in addressing road safety and traffic management. The resource person introduced the College of Traffic Management, comprising six departments that focus on road safety audits, enforcement training, post-crash management, forensic investigations, and drafting regulations for judicial training.

He discussed the importance of judicial training and multidisciplinary collaboration, where police, prosecutors, engineers, toxicologists, and judicial officers must work together for effective case disposal and legislation. A case study of a bus accident in Himachal Pradesh, which claimed 14 lives and injured 31, demonstrated the importance of thorough investigations. In that incident, the poor road conditions, rather than solely rash driving, contributed to the tragedy, underscoring the need for infrastructure improvements alongside legal enforcement.

The resource person concluded by emphasizing that judicial officers must adopt a proactive role in road safety, balancing preventive measures with accountability, and engaging in continuous training to uphold sustainable mobility and justice on the roads.

Programme on Online Legal Research Databases and Artificial Intelligence for Staff of High Court and District Judiciary of Sikkim on September 13th 2024

Resource Persons: Mr. Nithil Raika Thapa, Asst. Registrar (Library);
Ms. Panita Lama, Asst. Registrar (IT), & Mr. Tenzing Norbu Bhutia, Senior System Officer,
High Court of Sikkim



Mr. Thapa began the session by discussing the significance of online legal research databases, which are crucial for legal practitioners. He highlighted the organized nature of these databases, particularly focusing on resources from various courts, including the Supreme Court. The session was designed with both theoretical and practical components to demonstrate their utility in legal work, allowing participants to gain a comprehensive understanding of these essential tools.

During the session, several key databases were introduced. LexisNexis was highlighted for its extensive collection, offering access to over 700 law reviews, and numerous statutes. Other notable databases, such as Westlaw International and HeinOnline, were mentioned, each catering to specific legal needs, thereby providing participants with a broad toolkit for legal research.

The second session, led by Ms. Panita Lama and Mr. Tenzing Norbu Bhutia, focused on AI's transformative role in legal research. They explained how AI enhances search efficiency and accuracy, enabling quicker research and better decision-making in legal contexts. Additionally, the session covered the ethical implications of AI, stressing the importance of maintaining unbiased data. It concluded with a discussion on AI's expanding role in the judiciary, encouraging participants to harness these advancements for improved legal practices.

Programme on Law of Eviction in Sikkim for District & Sessions Judges and Chief Judicial Magistrates of District Judiciary of Sikkim on September 21st 2024

Resource Person: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bhaskar Raj Pradhan, Hon'ble Judge, High Court of Sikkim, Chairperson / Judge-In-Charge, Sikkim Judicial Academy



His Lordship opened the session by introducing eviction laws in Sikkim, referencing Notification No. 6326-600/h&WB from 1949, the Gangtok Rent Control & Eviction Act of 1956, and the Transfer of Property Act, 1882. Mrs. K.C. Barfungpa, District & Sessions Judge, Gyalshing, discussed about the absence of a formal judicial mechanism for rent control in Sikkim, while Ms. Bebika Chhetri elaborated on the significance of the 1949 notification. Discussions raised questions about the definition of "Gangtok" in the Gangtok Rent Control & Eviction Act, 1956 and interpretations of its sections.

The second session focused on the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, with Ms. Jyoti Kharka and Ms. Subarna Rai, District & Sessions Judges, explaining the relevant provisions for eviction, particularly Sections 105 to 117 of the Act. These provisions, they noted, govern the relationship between landlords and tenants, as well as eviction processes. Ms. Ranjeeta Pradhan, District & Sessions Judge, then gave a presentation on some of the judgments passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Sikkim on rent control and eviction.

His Lordship led an engaging discussion, posing complex questions regarding the interpretation and application of the laws and judgments. The session was interactive, active dialogue helped to clarify doubts.

Programme on Computer Skill Enhancement Level I and II for Advocates and Advocate Clerks of Sikkim on September 21st 2024

Resource Person: Mr. M. N. Dhungel, Ld. Advocate, Hon'ble High Court of Sikkim



The Resource Person provided an introduction to computer fundamentals such as the CPU, RAM, and storage devices, ensuring that participants, regardless of their prior knowledge, could understand. To enhance understanding, he included a practical demonstration of Microsoft Word, focusing on its key features and how these can be particularly useful for lawyers in their day-to-day tasks.

Mr. Dhungel discussed the significance of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in streamlining the creation, processing, storage, and transmission of information. He highlighted the increasing integration of ICT in the legal field, emphasizing how it transforms legal practice. The session then transitioned to the practical applications of technology in law, particularly focusing on eFiling and ePayment systems. Mr. Dhungel provided a detailed, step-by-step demonstration on how to navigate the eFiling system, highlighting its advantages and guiding participants on making ePayments for court-related fees.

Finally, the session covered the concept of neutral citation, a standardized method for citing legal cases. Mr. Dhungel explained how this system facilitates uniform referencing of judgments, thereby enhancing the accessibility of case law for legal professionals without the need to rely on specific publishers or report series.

Orientation Programme on Medico Legal Jurisprudence for Medical Officers of District Hospitals and Police Officers of Sikkim on October 19th 2024

Resource Person: Dr. Karma Mingur Diki Bhutia, Associate Professor, Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology (FMT), Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences (SMIMS), Gangtok



The programme aimed to enhance understanding of medico-legal principles and their application in the justice delivery system. The key topics of the orientation included documentation of medico-legal cases, forensic examination procedures, collection and preservation of evidence, and collaboration between medical and law enforcement personnel. Dr. Bhutia emphasized the critical role of medical officers in providing accurate forensic reports and the responsibilities of police officers in preserving the chain of evidence.

Interactive sessions during the programme included case-based discussions and practical guidance on handling medico-legal cases, enabling participants to better navigate the interface between medical science and law.

The session concluded with a shared commitment to strengthen coordination between medical and judicial authorities, ensuring timely, accurate, and legally sound handling of medico-legal cases. Participants appreciated the programme for its practical insights, knowledge enhancement, and relevance to their professional responsibilities.

ECT_12_2024 Refresher Programme on Effective use of ICT for Staff Members of Hon'ble High Court and District Judiciary of Sikkim on October 21st 2024

Resource Person: Mr. Khagendra Sharma, Scientist 'D', National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology, Gangtok



Mr. Khagendra Sharma, Scientist 'D' at the National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology, Gangtok emphasized the transformative potential of ICT in the judiciary. He discussed how the integration of ICT can enhance transparency, reduce delays, and improve access to justice. Highlighting the challenges of digitization, he underscored the importance of ICT skills in re-engineering judicial processes and the necessity for a shift toward paperless courts, advocating for tools and websites that improve communication with the public.

The second session delved into Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its growing role in judicial administration. Mr. Sharma introduced key concepts such as AI, Machine Learning, and Deep Learning, and explained their potential to transform judicial processes. However, he also raised concerns about the "Black Box" problem, where AI models, particularly those based on deep learning, lack transparency, raising trust issues in AI-generated outcomes. To address this, he proposed the development of Explainable AI (XAI), which seeks to make AI decisions more understandable, accountable, and transparent. Concluding the programme, Mr. Sharma stressed the importance of collaboration between technologists and legal experts to develop ethical AI systems that respect judicial values while addressing societal concerns. The programme ended with an engaging Q&A session, providing participants with a well-rounded and thought-provoking experience.

Play on POCSO Act, 2012 by students of Tashi Namgyal Academy, Gangtok on October 25th 2024

Resource Person: Students of Tashi Namgyal Academy



On October 25th, 2024, students from Tashi Namgyal Academy, Gangtok, performed a play on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 which was written and directed by teachers from Tashi Namgyal Academy. The play aimed to raise awareness of the provisions of the POCSO Act, 2012 and highlighted the importance of protecting children from sexual abuse. It focused on educating the audience about the legal frameworks that are in place for safeguarding children, emphasizing the significance of recognizing, reporting, and preventing such crimes.

Through the play, the students effectively conveyed the gravity of child sexual abuse and the support systems provided under the POCSO Act, 2012 for victims. The play not only underscored the legal rights of children but also reinforced the importance of community vigilance and responsibility in protecting vulnerable minors. It served as both an educational tool and a call to action, urging the community to take a stand against child abuse while reinforcing the importance of creating a safe environment for children. The students' portrayal of this sensitive topic was both impactful and thought-provoking, with the aim to foster a deeper understanding of the POCSO Act, 2012 and its role in ensuring justice for children.

Lecture/Talk by Shri Kapil Sibal on October 26th 2024

Resource Person: Shri Kapil Sibal, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India, and President of the Supreme Court Bar Association



The event was attended by Mr. Biswanath Somadder, the Hon'ble Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim and Patron-in-Chief, Sikkim Judicial Academy, Mrs. Meenakshi Madan Rai, Hon'ble Judge, High Court of Sikkim, Mr. Bhaskar Raj Pradhan, Hon'ble Judge, High Court of Sikkim and Chairperson/Judge-in-Charge, Sikkim Judicial Academy, Hon'ble Former Judges of the High Court of Sikkim, Judicial Officers, members of the Bar, law students and other stakeholders of the justice delivery system.

Mr. Sibal highlighted the need to protect democracy and justice for the marginalized. He drew attention to the disconnect between law and justice, arguing that legal procedures often fall short of delivering true justice. Tracing the historical demand for judicial independence—from the Simon Commission to the Government of India Act, 1935—he questioned the use of the term “subordinate judiciary” and emphasized the need for autonomy at all levels of the judicial system.



In his concluding remarks, Hon'ble Chief Justice Mr. Biswanath Somadder described the session as "food for thought and contemplation," lauding Mr. Sibal's calm, incisive style of oratory. Quoting the poet Rumi, His Lordship remarked, "*Raise your words, not your voice,*" praising Mr. Sibal's ability to convey profound ideas without raising his tone, calling it a mark of true wisdom. Reflecting on Mr. Sibal's illustrious lineage, he noted that Mr. Sibal's father, the late H.L. Sibal, was hailed as a "*living legend of law*" by the International Bar Association in 1994, and that Mr. Sibal himself was conferred the Padma Bhushan. He expressed gratitude for Mr. Sibal's presence, and hoped his words would inspire deeper reflection at a critical juncture for India's judicial system.

ECT_13_2024 Computer Skill Enhancement Programme - Level I & II for Judicial Officers of District Judiciary on November 16th 2024

Resource Person: Mr. K. W. Bhutia, Ld. Principal District & Sessions Judge, Gangtok



The program covered key platforms like eSCR, N-STEP, CIS, and the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), each designed to streamline judicial processes and boost efficiency. The Electronic Supreme Court Records (eSCR) platform was introduced to provide digital access to Supreme Court case files, reducing the need for physical records. This platform ensures quicker access to apex court precedents, aiding officers in their duties. Meanwhile, the N-STEP initiative offers structured e-learning modules aimed at equipping judicial officers and court staff with vital digital skills, paving the way for a more informed and capable judiciary.

To prepare officers for the upcoming launch, a dummy version of CIS 4.0 was presented, allowing them to gain familiarity with the system in advance. Additionally, training on the NJDG enabled participants to access real-time case statuses, analyze delays, and generate judicial performance insights.

The session concluded with a strong emphasis on embracing these digital tools to foster a more technologically advanced judiciary. By embracing digital tools, the judiciary can enhance access, transparency, and the timely delivery of justice, ultimately creating a more efficient and responsive system.

Program on Witness Protection Scheme, 2018 and Victim Compensation for Judicial Officers of District Judiciary of Sikkim on November 30th 2024

Resource Person: Hon'ble Dr. Justice Kaushal Jayendra Thaker, Chairperson,
Gujarat State Human Rights Commission



The program began by emphasizing the core purpose of the criminal justice delivery system, highlighting the importance of witness protection as a critical but often neglected component. His Lordship stressed that criminal justice system's effectiveness hinges on securing truthful evidence through protected witnesses.

Witness protection is essential, as witnesses provide primary evidence, yet it lacks a clear statutory definition and uniform implementation in India. The Witness Protection Scheme, 2018 addresses this by categorizing threats and prescribing measures such as identity concealment, relocation, security escorts, and a dedicated fund for protection. His Lordship discussed the various limitations and implementation challenges of the Witness Protection Scheme, victim compensation and its legal framework.

The discussion also highlighted the evolution of victim compensation beyond monetary awards, including reparations, rehabilitation, and empowerment, recognizing victims' trauma and social consequences. Legal provisions like Section 416 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Samhita (BNSS), 2023 (357 CrPC, 1973), Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA), 2023 (Indian Evidence Act, 1872), POCSO Act, 2012, and the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2015, provide support but face implementation challenges. Judges, NGOs, legal aid, and social support are crucial for effective protection and justice delivery.

Programme on Administrative Training for Officers and Staff of Registry of High Court of Sikkim on November 30th 2024

Resource Person: Dr. Bhaskar Bose, Kolkata



The session began with a discussion on enhancing manpower through a combination of knowledge, skills, and a supportive culture. Dr. Bose emphasized that effective administration involves clarity, consistency, and commitment, focusing on key areas like communication, decision-making, and problem-solving, which are essential for judicial offices.

One of the key points highlighted was the importance of record keeping and resource allocation. Dr. Bose pointed out the direct link between administrative and judicial efficiency, stressing the need for training Registry staff. Participants were introduced to modern tools aimed at streamlining procedures and reducing paperwork, alongside encouragement for adopting sustainable practices.

Later, the session shifted focus to time management, conflict resolution, and team collaboration. These areas were promoted as vital for fostering proactive contributions to an organized Registry. The program concluded with a reminder that commitment and a positive attitude are crucial for a thriving administrative system, leaving participants with actionable insights.

ECT_15_2024 Refresher Programme for Officers and Staff members of the Registry of High Court of Sikkim and District Judiciary on December 7th 2024

Resource Persons: Mr. Milan Rai, Sr System Officer, District & Sessions Court, Gangtok; Mr. Pempa Lepcha, Sr System Officer & Mr. Amir Gurung, Software Programmer, District & Sessions Court, Namchi; Ms. Sringkala Subba, System Officer, District & Sessions Court, Mangan



The program consisted of four sessions aimed at improving court administration and digital skills. Mr. Milan Rai, the resource person, discussed about the Case Information System (CIS). He taught participants how to manage court proceedings efficiently, correct errors, handle judge leave management, and manage case delays effectively.

In the second session, Mr. Pempa Lepcha addressed system accessibility and establishment transfers. He demonstrated how to manage simultaneous logins in multi-user environments and execute data transfers accurately. This practical exposure helped participants gain confidence in handling backend administrative functions. The third session, led by Mr. Amir Gurung, aimed to enhance digital literacy using LibreOffice Writer. He showcased formatting techniques and document management tailored for court documentation, empowering participants to improve the efficiency and presentation of official correspondence and reports.

The final session was conducted by Ms. Sringkala Subba, who provided an overview of CIS technical features. She covered case number navigation and tools for data analytics, helping participants understand data-driven decision-making and court performance monitoring. Overall, the program delivered practical training to boost efficiency, accuracy, and transparency in court operations.

ECT Outreach Programme for Bar Members of Namchi, Gyalshing and Soreng Districts of Sikkim on December 21st 2024

Resource Persons: Mr. Jigmee Bhutia, Asst. Registrar (IT), and
Mr. Sherap Bhutia, System Administrator,
District & Sessions Court, Gyalshing



The ECT Outreach Programme for lawyers in Namchi, Gyalshing, and Soreng Districts of Sikkim aimed to enhance digital skills and case management efficiency. Led by Mr. Jigmee Bhutia and Mr. Sherap Bhutia, the program comprised two sessions. In the first session, participants were introduced to the Electronic Case Tracking (ECT) system. The focus was on accessing case details, monitoring ongoing cases, and using features to reduce delays and improve communication between the Bar and judiciary. The second session offered hands-on training for e-filing cases and resolving technical issues. Participants were also introduced to additional digital tools for case management and legal research. This session aimed to build confidence among the Bar members in using technology to support their daily legal work and contribute to the smooth functioning of the judicial system.

Overall, the sessions provided practical knowledge and encouraged Bar members to embrace technology. The programme fostered greater awareness about the advantages of technology in ensuring transparency, speeding up case resolution, and strengthening the overall justice delivery system in the districts of Namchi, Gyalshing, and Soreng.



VIDEO LINKS

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. 6 th July 2024 | - https://youtu.be/ZvIZXx-rYq0 |
| 2. ECT 12 th July 2024 | - https://youtu.be/TVzuGm7RIxk |
| 3. ECT 20 th July 2024 | - https://youtu.be/t0RBF8bYeDc |
| 4. 29 th July 2024 | - N/A |
| 5. ECT 3 rd August 2024 | - https://youtu.be/swR4GedUSX4 |
| 6. 9 th August 2024 | - https://youtu.be/ThyVbYF9RVU |
| 7. ECT 16 th August 2024 | - https://youtu.be/x4cV2uX7h3A |
| 8. 23 rd August 2024 | - https://youtu.be/kfDzRhqBBVI |
| 9. ECT 23 rd August 2024 | - https://youtu.be/ABQnJULqOwE |
| 10. 24 th August 2024 | - https://youtu.be/2j3jdNZVBjY |
| 11. 27 th - 30 th August 2024 | - N/A |
| 12. 31 st August 2024 | - https://youtu.be/zz_fZyt1X5c |
| 13. 13 th September 2024 | - https://youtu.be/HSWKHgYRv2c |
| 14. 13 th September 2024 | - https://youtu.be/NsqEFVv3pNM |
| 15. 21 st September 2024 | - https://youtu.be/EMr4Wx7JCIA |
| 16. ECT 21 st September 2024 | - https://youtu.be/q2mMYGqJFBc |
| 17. 19 th October 2024 | - https://youtu.be/wfLm7wvQ0IQ |
| 18. ECT 21 st October 2024 | - https://youtu.be/T65fJa5e7iA |
| 19. 25 th October 2024 | - https://youtu.be/te5xXHFE9DI |
| 20. 26 th October 2024 | - https://youtu.be/UHAh7lISAjk |
| 21. ECT 16 th November 2024 | - https://youtu.be/NklvIGgCe70 |
| 22. 30 th November 2024 | - https://youtu.be/Ry8vsWyGDgs |
| 23. 30 th November 2024 | - N/A |
| 24. ECT 7 th December 2024 | - https://youtu.be/XhxnNuKJ9PE |
| 25. ECT 21 st December 2024 | - N/A |