HIGH COURT
सत्यमेव जयते
ORISSA

ANNUAL REPORT
2024




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ANNUAL REPORT

2024

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From the desk of the Chief Justice

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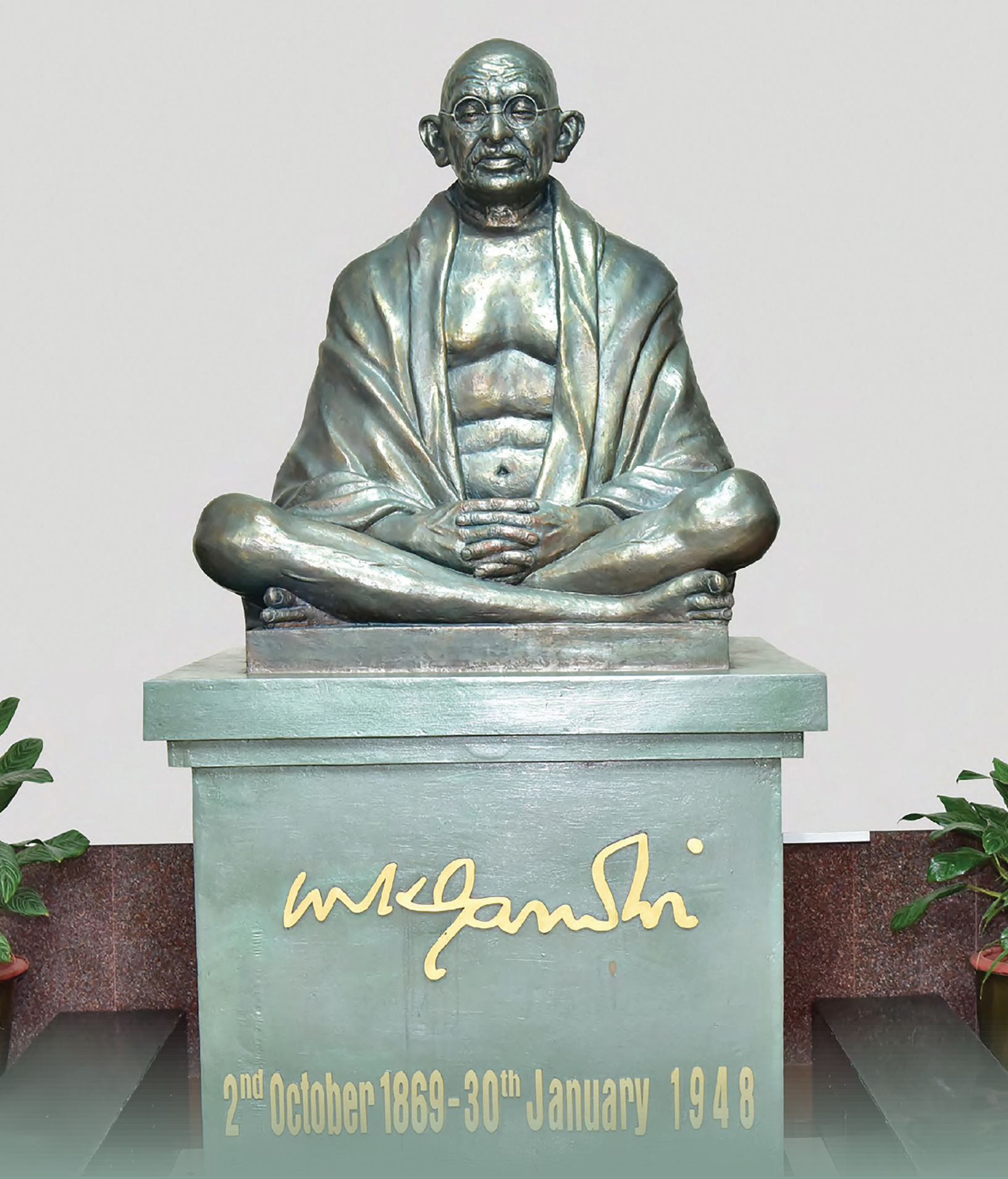


Statue of Mahatma Gandhi installed at the ground floor of the New Building, High Court of Orissa

HIGHL

- 2,629 judgments delivered by the High Court in 2024 compared to 2,813 in 2023. 1,57,593 judgments delivered by the District Courts in 2024 compared to 1,44,103 in 2023.



- 90,464 cases disposed of by the High Court in 2024 compared to 1,19,544 cases in 2023- a decrease of 24.32%. Case clearance rate decreased to 100.92% from 112.11% in 2023. 4,56,352 cases disposed of by the District Courts in 2024 compared to 4,26,422 cases in 2023- an increase of 7.02% . Case clearance rate increased to 91.455% from 90.03% in 2023.



- Launching of Judicial Officer's Grievance Redressal Portal.



- Inauguration of the Warrant Management System (WMS) in 23 Districts of Odisha.



- Launching of Internal Complaints Committee portal of the High Court of Orissa.



IGHTS

- Inauguration of 95 paperless courts in the districts of Odisha.
- Laying of foundation stone for construction of 550 Nos. of Flats for High Court Staff Quarters.
- Inauguration of Refurbished Judges' Library.
- Inauguration of Judicial Court Complex at Bhubaneswar, Khurda Judgeship by Hon'ble President of India.
- Inauguration of e-Filing Centre of the High Court of Orissa.



Wooden Carving of National Emblem in Chief Justice's Court

From the desk of the Chief Justice



To write a message for significant accomplishments and achievements in the past year when I adorned the position of a Chief Justice on 26th March 2025, is a daunting task, yet the Draft Annual Report 2024 forwarded to me containing the dissemination of resolute efforts to uphold the justice gives me a sense of courage and confidence to write few words with the sense of pride.

The edifice of justice delivery system is reassurance of commitment towards upholding the justice and reposition of trust and faith in such system. The Annual Report 2024 is the repository of the success and the challenges, which the system encountered to the adversities with the pledge to improve in the next year. The disparity between the institution of cases and the disposal in time-bound manner is an aspiration of the citizenry reposing trust in the system. The infrastructure facilities were improved in the last year to enhance the efficiency of the stakeholders of the judicial system but the disposal of the cases vis-à-vis the institution of the cases showed a remarkable disparity. The judges manning the High Court resolutely worked with their potentials and, therefore, the disposal rate is perceived to give succor with a further commitment to improve the data in the coming years. The epitome of justice fosters the access of justice as a primary obligation. The spreading of awareness on the legal rights is concomitant to an access to justice to the beneficiaries or seekers thereof.

The last year was an eventful year where several seminars, discourse and symposiums were organized at a grass root level to inculcate the legal rights and the remedy to the people of the State. The collation of the statistical data after empirical studies reassures the commitment to achieve better. The land mark judgments delivered by the eminent jurists adorning the Bench conveys their unwavering and tirelessly discharge of the solemn duties reiterating their oath to the office.

There are many milestones to achieve, many icebergs to break and I hope and trust that this year would be a remarkable year of achievements to reshaping the system with an avowed object of promoting the access to justice and the justice delivery system.

I once again congratulate the Committee for releasing the Annual Report 2024 with the profound belief that it would continue for all time to come.

Cuttack
18th August, 2025

Justice Harish Tandon
Chief Justice,
High Court of Orissa











INTRODUCTION



Welcome statue at the entrance of New Building

Introduction



(L-R) : Justice Chittaranjan Dash, Justice B.P. Routray, Justice K.R. Mohapatra (Chairman) and Justice Sashikanta Mishra of the Committee for preparation of the Annual Report, 2024

Presenting the Annual Report of the High Court to all concerned has become a regular feature. Like the previous years this year also we have prepared the report of all our activities of the past year with the object of ushering in more transparency in the working of the judiciary of the state. Apart from furnishing the usual information regarding statistics of cases disposed of by the High Court and the District Courts, the report also showcases all important events and activities held in the past year.

The past year was a year of numerous activities held at different levels, be it inauguration of several new courts, paperless courts, new court buildings or celebration of important days like the Republic Day, High Court Foundation Day, Independence Day, Lawyers' Day and Constitution Day etc. Among the major highlights was inauguration of the new Judicial Court Complex at Bhubaneswar by Her Excellency, the President of India.

The segregation of the Annual Report into different sections such as, Judges, Registry, Administrative Committees, District Courts, Allied Organs, Case Statistics, Accounts etc. has been maintained and so also specific sections highlighting the other activities and infrastructure developments and e-initiatives have been given special emphasis.

As in the previous years, an honest attempt has been made to introspect on the performance of judiciary in the past year-to highlight how the challenges facing the system were addressed, the successes and shortcomings faced, along with the plan for future. The idea is to convey to the reader that the institution remains committed to fulfil its Constitutional obligation to dispense justice to the citizens more effectively.

The report contains photographs of the judges, registry officers, all important events, and buildings etc. It has been designed aesthetically with the object of making it appealing to the reader. The web version of the Annual Report has also been prepared to be uploaded in the website of the High Court for wider accessibility. We wish to thank Hon'ble the Chief Justice for his guidance and encouragement and the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court for their unstinted cooperation and support as well as the District Judges and other officers of the district judiciary for promptly submitting the necessary data, information, materials etc.

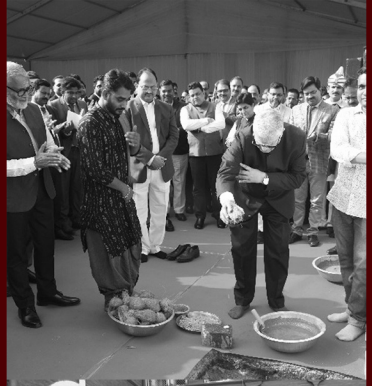
The Committee wishes to place on record its appreciation for the efforts put in by the officers of the Registry associated with publication of the Annual Report as also to the designer and publisher, M/s Diganta, Bhubaneswar for painstaking efforts.

We sincerely hope and trust, this Annual Report shall be received positively in all quarters.

Chairman and Members,
Committee for preparation of Annual Report.



Artist's impression of Paika Rebellion, 1817 displayed at Museum of Justice











CHAPTER I

THE HIGH COURT



The High Court of Orissa-At a glance



Odisha was annexed by the East India Company in 1803. By Regulations IV & V of 1793 the Criminal and Civil Laws applicable to the province of Bengal were extended to Odisha (then known as province of Cuttack) in 1806 then comprised of the present districts of Puri, Cuttack and Balasore. The laws framed under the aegis of the East India Company for Bengal were similarly extended to Odisha from time to time. With the establishment of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Calcutta, Odisha came under its jurisdiction. A new province, Bihar and Odisha was created in 1912 but the jurisdiction of the Calcutta High Court continued over the new province. The situation continued till 1916 when Patna High Court was established with Odisha coming under its jurisdiction. As ordained in its letter patent, a Circuit Court of Patna High Court for Odisha started functioning at Cuttack from 18th May 1916 exercising jurisdiction over four districts namely, Puri, Cuttack, Balasore and Angul. The separate province of Odisha was created on 1st April 1936 with addition of districts of Ganjam, Koraput and Sambalpur. Two District Judges functioned, one exercising jurisdiction over Puri, Ganjam and Koraput and the other, over Cuttack, Balasore and Sambalpur. The demand for a separate High Court

grew over time. A Committee was constituted by the Government to look into the feasibility of the proposal that gave its report in 1943 suggesting setting up of a separate High Court. However, it took another five years for the suggestion to bear fruition as the High Court of Orissa was established on 26th July 1948.

The High Court started with four Judges including the Chief Justice. Today it has Bench strength of 33 with actual strength of 19 judges. From a total pendency (Civil and Criminal) of 7,057 cases at the time of its establishment, the High Court had a total pendency of 1,46,320 cases (Civil and Criminal) till the end of 2024. Beginning with only two District Judges in respect of six districts, presently, Odisha has thirty District Judges for all thirty districts. The district judiciary has also expanded over the years. Starting from 10 District Judge cadre officers,11 Subordinate Judges and 36 Munsifs in 1948, the number has grown steadily over the years to 265 District Judge cadre officers, 288 Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.) Cadre officers (erstwhile Subordinate Judge) and 470 Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.) cadre officers (erstwhile Munsif) till the end of 2024.

The High Court started functioning from the existing Civil Court premises from 26th July 1948, where the Circuit Court also used to function. Gradually with the increase in number of Judges and advocates as also the support staff, need was felt for a bigger building. Accordingly, a bigger building was constructed adjacent to the old one being inaugurated on 11th November 2012. The new building, made functional from 2nd January 2014 is an eight-storied structure with a carpet area of 1.68 lakh square meters and houses 23 Court rooms besides chambers of the Chief Justice and puisne Judges, Judges' Lounge, Senior Advocates' lounge, Advocate General's chamber, Video Conferencing Hall etc. To meet the ever-growing need for office space a new Administrative Block and an Annexe Building have been constructed, while another Annexe Building is under construction. The old building, declared as a heritage structure, continues to function as before.

The High Court as well the district judiciary has seen exponential growth in terms of pendency and disposal of cases and judicial infrastructure. As such, it remains committed to its goal of delivering justice to the citizens.



Frames of Court Fee and Official Seal of erstwhile princely states of Odisha, displayed at Museum of Justice.



Chief Justice and Judges of the High Court of Orissa

Sitting from left to right : Justice Sashikanta Mishra, Justice M.S. Sahoo, Dr. Justice S.K. Panigrahi, Justice K.R. Mohapatra, Justice Dixit Krishna Shripad, Justice Harish Tandon, Chief Justice, Justice S.K. Sahoo, Justice B.P. Routray, Justice Savitri Ratho and Justice R.K. Pattnaik

Standing from left to right : Justice A.C. Behera, Justice Chittaranjan Dash, Justice B.P. Satapathy, Justice S.K. Mishra, Justice A.K. Mohapatra, Justice V. Narasingh, Justice G. Satapathy, Justice S.S. Mishra and Justice M.S. Raman


JUDGES
ONLY

JUDGES

The High Court of Orissa has a sanctioned strength of 33. In the beginning of 2024, the working strength of the Court was 20. On 7th February, 2024 Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh assumed the office of Chief Justice and the working strength rose to 21.



Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh taking oath as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Orissa on 7th February, 2024

On transfer of Dr. Justice B.R. Sarangi on 04th July, 2024 and elevated as Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court, the working strength stood at 20. On superannuation of Justice D. Dash on 11th October, 2024, the working strength reduced to 19.



Dr. Justice B.R. Sarangi



Justice D. Dash

On superannuation of Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, the Chief Justice on 19th January, 2025, the working strength reduced to 18. On 26th March, 2025, Justice Harish Tandon assumed the Office of the Chief Justice and the working strength rose to 19.



Justice Harish Tandon taking oath as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Orissa on 26th March, 2025

Justice Chitta Ranjan Dash, who was elevated on 07th October, 2009 as Judge of the High Court of Orissa and transferred from the High Court in 2022, retired on 20th May, 2024 as Judge of Calcutta High Court.

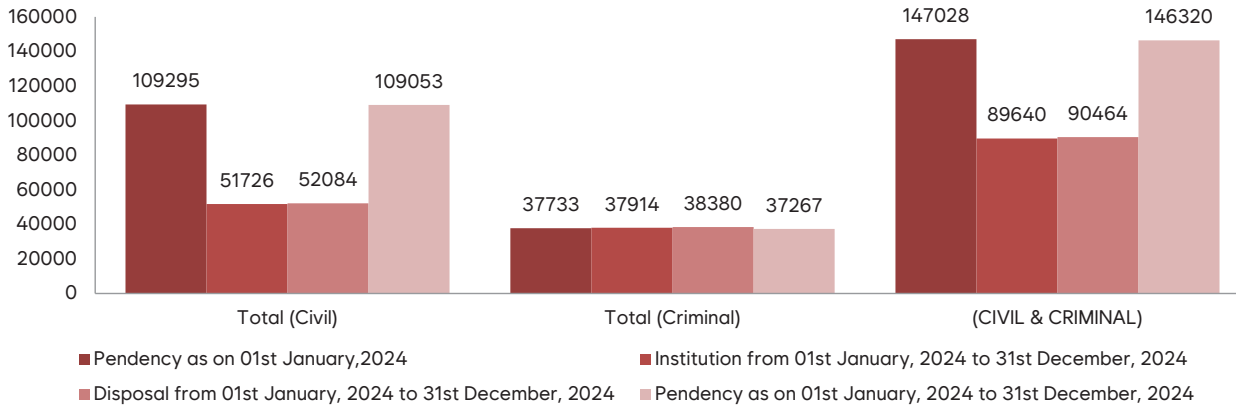


Justice Chitta Ranjan Dash

CASE STATISTICS OF THE HIGH COURT

The High Court of Orissa continued the previous year practice of uploading the case statistics on a monthly basis on the official website with an avowed objective of placing the performance of state judiciary in the Public Domain. The case statistics has been prepared in a simplified manner to inculcate all possible parameters in minute details including pendency, institution vis-à-vis disposal statistics, time devoted to judicial work including loss of Judicial hours due to references held on account of sad demise of Advocates and Judges, Judges on leave, administrative duties, training, etc. Further, the case statistics reveals the Case Clearance Rate (CCR) which provides the rate at which the cases are disposed of taking into account the institution of the cases for a given period. The working hours for a given period has been computed taking into account the number of hours required to be devoted in a working day multiplied by the working strength of the judges and the number of working days during the period. At times, it may be noticed that there is minor discrepancy in the statistics in respect of closing balance of a period and the opening balance of the succeeding period. Such marginal discrepancy occurs due to subsequent updation of disposal and restoration of some cases in the Case Information System (CIS). In order to analyze the rate of disposal in comparison with the previous year, a detail comparative analysis chart has also been prepared and uploaded as part of the case statistics to provide various parameters for a deeper insight and analysis of the progress of disposal.

The statistics is based on the information available in Case Information System (CIS) developed by the e-Committee, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India for the High Courts. The decision to upload the case statistics on the website is to make the stakeholders aware of the functioning of the State judiciary and to lay a foundation for better understanding of the institution from a common man's perspective by inviting inclusiveness and participation. The format of the case statistics have been simplified as far as possible for better appreciation of data analysis. The different information provided in the case statistics has been tailor made considering the requirement of different stakeholder to have better appreciation of the real time performance and functioning of the Courts. Both positives and loopholes have been highlighted in a scrupulous manner with a quest to improve the performance even better in future.



Institution, disposal and pendency of different types of civil and criminal cases in the High Court are indicated below:

Sl.	Nature	Pendency as on 01st January,2024	Institution from 01st January, 2024 to 31st December, 2024	Disposal from 01st January, 2024 to 31st December, 2024	Pendency as on 01st January, 2024 to 31st December, 2024
CIVIL MATTERS					
1	Writ Petitions	64050	33361	36933	60478
2	Company Matters	235	1	48	188
3	Contempt (Civil)	9997	8299	7623	10673
4	Review (Civil)	2358	317	267	2408
5	Matrimonial Matters	1290	458	273	1475
6	Arbitration Matters	266	148	124	290
7	Civil Revisions	225	53	116	162
8	Tax Matters (Direct & Indirect)	794	138	98	834
9	Civil Appeals	13060	1146	2357	11849
10	Land Acquisition Matters	847	47	219	675
11	MACT Matters	5530	1327	1086	5771
12	Civil Suits (Original Side)	2			2
13	Other than above	10641	6431	2940	14248
Total (CIVIL)		109295	51726	52084	109053
CRIMINAL MATTERS					
1	Writ Petitions	1306	1945	2419	832
2	Criminal Revisions	10050	759	976	9833
3	Bail Applications	5139	28233	28808	4564
4	Criminal Appeals	13667	1579	971	14275
5	Death Sentence Reference	6	5	3	8
6	Contempt (Criminal)	320	42	51	311
7	Misc. Criminal Application	4632	4944	4560	5016
8	Other than above	2613	407	592	2428
Total (CRIMINAL)		37733	37914	38380	37267
GRAND TOTAL					
(CIVIL & CRIMINAL)		147028	89640	90464	146320

The detailed case statistics of the High Court along with relevant information for 2024 are available on the website and given at **Appendix-A.**

The Case statistics uploaded in the High Court of Orissa throws light on the following parameters:

1. Institution, disposal and the case clearance rate at a glance

The opening balance at the beginning of the year of 2024 was 1,47,028, while the closing balance at the end of the year came down to 1,46,320. Total institution during the year was 89,640 and the disposal was 90,464 cases at a Case Clearance Rate of 100.92%. The disposal of cases had surpassed the institution in 4 months of the year. There were lesser number of working days in the month of June, October and December due to Summer vacation, Durga Puja Holidays and Winter holidays of the Court respectively for which the disposal is relatively less in comparison to other months though there was filing of fresh cases during the vacations. There has been steady disposal in all the months with the highest case clearance rate being in the month of January at the rate of 163.55%.

2. Judges' working strength and loss of working hours

The judge's strength was highest at 21 in the months from February to June and hovered around 20 and 19 thereafter. However, the judges' strength remained 19 at the end of the year. While 22,093.5 hours were devoted towards judicial working of the High Court in the year 2024, 1,644.875 working hours were lost on account of various reason like absence of judges due to leave, training and administrative duties, references held due to demise of Advocates/ Judges and farewell to judges. As such there was no loss of working hours due to cease work by the Bar as experienced in previous years. Further, references on account of demise of Advocates/Judges were held only once in a month thereby significantly cutting down the loss of working hours due to references. It is apt to reflect here that the loss of judicial working hours has considerably gone down in the year 2024 in comparison to the previous year.

3. Comparative analysis of 2023 and 2024

In 2023, 1,19,544 cases were disposed of which came down to 90,464 cases in the year 2024. There has been a decrease of 24.33% in disposal in 2024 as compared to the disposal in 2023. The rate of decrease has been calculated taking into account the disposal of 2024 deducted by the disposal of 2023, divided by the disposal of 2023, multiplied by 100. There has been a moderate decrease in delivery of judgments in the year 2024 as compared to 2023. While 2813 judgments were delivered in 2023, 2629 judgments were delivered in 2024.

Out of the 90,464 cases disposed of in 2024, 386 cases were more than 30 years old, 1,383 cases were 20-30 years old and 2,879 cases were 10-20 years old. Further, 79,826 cases were disposed of in Single Benches, 10,638 cases in Division Benches , while no cases were disposed of in Larger Benches.

The age wise disposal of cases in Single Benches, Division Benches and Larger Benches is indicated below:

Bench Type									
(SB, DB, LB)	Less than 1 Year	1-2 Years	2-5 Years	5-10 Years	10-15 Years	15-20 Years	20-30 Years	More than 30 Years	Total Disposal
Disposal in Single Bench	61,641	2,887	6,685	4,484	1,919	515	1,309	382	79,826
Disposal in Division Bench	7,524	802	976	813	324	121	74	4	10,638
Disposal in Larger Bench	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Disposal	69,165	3,689	7,661	5,297	2,243	636	1,383	386	90,464

The institution and disposal statistics of the High Court for the last 5 years are indicated below for a comparative analysis.

Year	Institution	Disposal	Comparative rate of increase in disposal with previous year (%)	Case Clearance Rate (%) (Disposal vis-à-vis institution)
2020	83,499	61,335	-34.20	73.45
2021	1,28,786	1,05,182	+71.48	81.67
2022	1,04,321	1,36,599	+29.86	130.94
2023	1,06,629	1,19,544	-12.49	112.11
2024	89,640	90,464	-24.32	100.92



Bust of "Utkala Gaurav" Madhusudan Das installed at the Exhibition Room, Centre for Judicial Archives.

Administrative Committees

The Chief Justice of the High Court has constituted 33 committees to deal with the administrative work of the High Court. A summary of the work done by each of the committees is given below.

Standing Committee

Chairman	Members
The Chief Justice	Justice Arindam Sinha, Justice S.K. Sahoo, Justice K.R. Mohapatra, Justice B.P. Routray, Dr. Justice S.K. Panigrahi, Justice Savitri Ratho

During 2024, Dr. Justice B.R. Sarangi, former Acting Chief Justice, was the Chairman of this Committee till14th February, 2024 and its member till 05th July, 2024. Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh was the Chairman of the Committee as the Chief Justice from 15th February, 2024 for the remaining part of the year. Dr. Justice S.K.Panigrahi was the member of the Committee till 14th February, 2024 and again became a member on 06th July, 2024. Justice D. Dash was the member of the committee till 11th October, 2024. Justice Savitri Ratho became member of this committee from 26th October, 2024.

The Standing Committee deals with all service-related matters like promotion, transfer, disciplinary matters etc of Judicial Officers belonging to the cadres of Civil Judge (Jr.Divn.) and CivilJudge(Sr. Divn.). In 2024, 25 officers from the cadre of Civil Judge(Jr. Divn.) were promoted to the cadre of Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.) on the recommendation of this Committee.

Review Committee

Chairman	Members
Justice Arindam Sinha	Justice S.K. Sahoo, Justice K.R. Mohapatra, Justice B.P. Routray, Dr. Justice S.K. Panigrahi, Justice Savitri Ratho

During 2024, Dr. Justice B.R. Sarangi, former Acting Chief Justice was the Chairman of this Committee till 18th June, 2024 and its member till 05th July, 2024. Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, the Chief Justice was the Chairman from 19th June, 2024 till 05th July, 2024. Justice Arindam Sinha, was a member of the Committee till 05th July, 2024.

Dr. Justice S.K. Panigrahi was member of this Committee till 18th June, 2024 and again became its member on 06th July, 2024. Justice D. Dash was the member of the committee till 11th October, 2024. Justice Savitri Ratho became member of this committee on 26th October, 2024. The Review Committee reviews the performance of judicial officers immediately prior to their completing the ages of 50 years, 55 years and 58 years. The Committee recommends whether they should continue in service beyond those ages. In the process, the Committee may even recommend, for the reasons to be recorded, compulsory retirement of officers found inefficient or of doubtful integrity. The performance of 34 Judicial Officers was reviewed by Committee during 2024 and out of them, one officer was given compulsory retirement.

Permanent Committee for the designation of Advocates as Senior Advocates

Chairman
The Chief Justice

Members
Justice Arindam Sinha, Justice S.K. Sahoo, Advocate General, Odisha, S.P. Mishra, Sr. Advocate

During 2024, Dr. Justice B.R. Sarangi, former Acting Chief Justice was the Chairman of this Committee till 14th February, 2024 and its member till 05th July, 2024. Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh became the Chairman of the Committee as the Chief Justice from 15th February, 2024.

Justice D.Dash was the member of the Committee till 14th February, 2024 and again became its member on 06th July, 2024 till 11th October, 2024. Justice S.K. Sahoo became member of the Committee from 26th October,2024 and continued till the remaining part of the year.

This Committee was constituted on 25th March, 2019 under Rule-3 of High Court of Orissa (Designation of Senior Advocates) rules, 2019 and examines the applications received from advocates and makes recommendations as per the High Court of Orissa (Designation of Senior Advocates) rules, 2019.

In exercise of the power conferred by the sub-section (1) of Section 34 read with sub-section (2) of Section 16 of the Advocates Act, 1961 (Act No. 25 of 1961) and in pursuance of Judgment dated 12th May, 2023 passed in M.A. Nos. 709/2022, 1502/2021 in W.P. (C) No. 454 of 2015 (Indira Jaising-vrs- Supreme Court of India through Secretary General) by the Supreme Court of India, necessary amendments of the High Court of Orissa (Designation of Senior Advocates) Rules, 2019 have been carried out vide Gazette No. 2852 dated 15.12.2023. The Amended Rules shall be called the "The High Court of Orissa (Designated of Senior Advocates) Amendment Rules, 2023".

During 2024, 29 applications were received from Advocates for designation as Senior Advocates. The Committee examined those applications, out of which 4 applications were rejected. The remaining applications are under active consideration, however, till the end of the year, no advocates were designated as Senior Advocates.

Vigilance and Disciplinary Committee

Chairman
The Chief Justice

Members
Justice S.K. Sahoo, Justice B.P.Routray, Justice R.K. Pattanaik

This committee examines complaints received against judicial officers and recommends whether they should be proceeded with by way of a disciplinary action or the complaints should be dropped. Complaints that are anonymous or unsupported by an affidavit or unverified are usually not entertained.

During 2024, Dr. Justice B.R. Sarangi, former Acting Chief Justice was the Chairman of this Committee till 18th June, 2024. Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh became the Chairman of the Committee as the Chief Justice from 19th June, 2024. Justice K.R. Mohapatra was member of the Committee till 18th June, 2024. Justice D. Dash was member of the Committee till 11th October, 2024. Justice S.K. Sahoo became member of this Committee on 26th October, 2024.

Building Committee

Chairman	Members
Justice S.K. Sahoo	Justice M.S. Sahoo, Justice V. Narasingh, Justice S.S. Mishra, Justice A.C. Behera

During 2024, Dr. Justice B.R. Sarangi, former Acting Chief Justice was the Chairman of the Committee till 18th June, 2024. Justice R.K. Pattanaik, Justice A.K. Mohapatra, Justice B.P. Satapathy and Justice C. Dash were the members of the Committee till 18th June, 2024.

A Building Committee has been formed for dealing with infrastructure matters of both- the High Court and the District Judiciary. In order to meet the requirement of the present and that of the future, the infrastructure projects of the High Court is mainly undertaken under State Sector Scheme (SSS), whereas, the infrastructure projects of the District Judiciary of the State are undertaken under the two schemes i.e. State Sector Scheme (SSS) and Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS).

Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)

Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) has been introduced and implemented by the Government of India since the financial year 1993-94 for infrastructural development of the Judiciary to augment the resources of the State Government. Recently, the Central Government have been pleased to extend the Scheme till the F.Y.-2025-26.The Govt. of India has implemented the SNA-SPARSH Model for Just-in-Time release of CSS funds and the High Court of Orissa has been onboarded in the SNA-SPARSH platform for the scheme viz. development of infrastructure facilities for judiciary.

Under the CSS, the fund sharing pattern is in the ratio of 60:40 between the Centre and the State as far as the State of Odisha is concerned i.e. 60 % of the funds are to be released by the Central Government while the commensurate State share of 40% are to be provided by the State Government.

Funds to the tune of Rs. 52.80 Crore (Rs. 31.68 Crore as Central Share + Rs. 21.12 Crore as State Share) have been allotted under the CSS during the 1st Quarter i.e. January, 2024 to March, 2024 of the calendar year, 2024. During the next two quarters i.e. from April, 2024 to December, 2024, funds to the tune of Rs. 57.4667 Crore (Rs. 34.48 Crore as Central Share + Rs. 22.98667 Crore as State share) in toto have been allotted under the CSS.

Further, funds to the tune of Rs. 8,33,33,333/- (Rs. 5,00,00,000/- Central share (mother sanction) + Rs. 3,33,33,330/- State share) have been sanctioned in the fourth quarter of the calendar year, 2024 under the CSS in SNA-SPARSH model.

State Sector Scheme (SSS)

The funds are being provided every financial year under the State Sector Scheme (SSS) for infrastructural Development of the State Judiciary, which are fully funded by the State Government.

Funds to the tune of Rs. 406,00,00,000/- (Rupees Four Hundred Six Crore only) has been allocated by the State Government in favour of the judiciary for provision of funds in the annual budget for the entire financial year, 2024-25 for the purpose of infrastructure development of the High Court and District Courts. In addition to this, funds amounting to Rs. 40,01,00,000/- (Rupees Forty Crore One Lakh Only) has been proposed to be sanctioned in favour of Judiciary in the supplementary budget for the FY, 2024-25. Further, during the entire year, 2024, 150 nos. of new projects of the district judiciary have been accorded administrative approval by the Govt. of Odisha, Home Dept. under the scheme.

Repair/ Renovation/Improvement and Maintenance of buildings pertaining to the District Judiciary-

In order to meet the needs of repair/ renovation/improvement and maintenance of the existing infrastructure of the District Judiciary, the State Government have allocated Rs. 90,00,00,000/- (Rupees Ninety Crores only) for fulfilling the requirement of repair/ renovation/improvement of the infrastructure of the District Judiciary of the State in the financial Year 2024-25, the details about the allocation of funds to the respective Executing Agencies for the completion of the approved revenue nature projects till the end of December, 2024 are as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of the Executing Agency	Funds earmarked for execution of Revenue Outlay Projects of the District Judiciary in the Financial Year, 2024-25
NON-RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS		
1.	C.E. (Buildings)	52,00,00,000
2.	C.E. (Rural Works)	7,00,00,000
3.	E.I.C. (P.H.)	5,00,00,000
	TOTAL (in Rs.)	**64,00,00,000**
RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS		
1.	C.E. (Buildings)	20,00,00,000
2.	C.E. (Rural Works)	3,00,00,000
3.	E.I.C. (P.H.)	3,00,00,000
	TOTAL (in Rs.)	**26,00,00,000**

In the entire year, 2024, the Court has approved 857 Nos. of revenue nature projects in total i.e. 340 nos. of non-residential & 517 nos. of residential projects pertaining to the District Judiciary of the State.

The details of such projects are as follows:

Sl. No.	Executing Agency	No. of Non- Residential projects approved by the Court	No. of Residential Projects approved by the Court	Total
1	C.E. (Buildings), R&B	308	435	743
2	C.E. (Rural Works)	29	73	102
3	E.I.C. (P.H.)	3	9	12
TOTAL		340	517	857

Major policy decisions relating to the High Court Infrastructure

- There is a proposal for construction of 550 nos. of flats for staff of the High Court of Orissa over 10 acres of land at Sector- 13, CDA, Cuttack and foundation stone for the project was laid by the then Chief Minister, Odisha. Provision of funds was made in the financial year, 2024-25 for the project;
- Provision of funds was made for construction of 5 nos. of new Bungalows for Hon'ble Judges at Cantonment Road, Cuttack;
- Construction of new building of Court Guest House at Puri was completed and made functional;
- Provision of funds was made for construction of a new building (B+G+2 floors) for Centre for Judicial Archives of High Court of Orissa;
- Renovation of a toilet at the ground floor of the new Building of High Court was made for persons with disability and for transgender and provision of sanitary napkin vending machine and incinerator was made in the Court's premises;
- Provision of funds was made for Construction of New Annexe Building (B+G+5) in the premises of High Court of Orissa;
- Provision of funds was made for construction of Foot Over Bridge over the Kathajodi Ring Road for safe mobility of Lawyers between the 3rd lane parking area and the High Court premises;
- Provision of funds was made for remodeling of the Judges' Library;
- Provision of funds was made for upgradation of the Chiller Plant of Central Air Conditioning System in the new multi-storied building of the High Court;

Major policy decisions relating to the infrastructure of District Judiciary:

1. Keeping in view the menstrual hygiene of the female litigants and female stakeholders and for compliance of the directions imparted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide order dated 08.05.2023 in W.P. (Civil) No. 538/2023 (Rajeeb Kalita vs Union of India & Others), where it is decided to install at least one sanitary napkin dispense and sanitary napkins incinerator in each of the Court Complex of the State. 162 court complexes across the State already have adequate facilities for sanitary napkins dispensers. These Court Complexes also have the facility of Sanitary Napkins Incinerators. In these Court Complexes, at least one Sanitary Napkins dispenser and one Sanitary Napkins Incinerator have already been installed. In the rest Court Complexes, steps are being taken for installation of the same at the earliest. In this regard, necessary instructions have already been issued to all the District Judges by the High Court of Orissa.

2. The High Court of Orissa in its Administrative side have already laid down the schematics of CCTV Camera installation in all the District Courts of the State for compliance of directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India imparted in W.P. (Crl.) No. 99/2015 (Pradyuman Bisht Vs. Union of India and Ors.). The High Court of Orissa have instructed to all the District Judges across the State for making provision of audio and video storage facility for 90 days in all the appropriate places except inside the common washrooms and chambers of presiding officers of all the Courts of their Judgeships concerned. In the Financial year, 2023-24 (till December, 2023), 166 nos. of estimates have been received from various District courts of the state relating to supply & installation/upgradation of CCTV cameras system/ facilities and also have been approved & accorded administrative approval by the High Court of Orissa under the State Sector Scheme at total estimated cost amounting to Rs. 30,50,35,527/- (Rupees Thirty Crore Fifty Lakh Thirty Five thousand One Hundred Sixty Five only) have already been released against such projects. Meanwhile, the numbers of estimates relating to supply & installation/up-gradation of CCTV cameras system/ facilities have been received by the Court from the various Judgeships of the District Courts in the period from 1st January to 30th June, 2024 and the same will be included in the Annual Action Plan, 2024-25.

3. Having observed that no uniform colour is being applied by the Executing Agencies to the residential quarters officially allotted to the judicial officers and staff in the District Judiciary and in order to have uniformity in the appearance of all the residential quarters owned by the Judiciary in the District Courts of the State for the purpose of safety and security; it is decided that the outer walls of all such residential buildings in occupation of the Judicial Officers/Staff shall be painted with brick red colour with lemon yellow borders. The High Court of Orissa have also instructed to all the District Judges across the State to submit the estimates for such purpose from the appropriate Executing Agency to the Court. During the period from 1st January to 30th June, 2024, nos. of estimate have been received by the Court from the various Judgeships of the District Judiciary of the State and the same has been accorded Administrative Approval under the Revenue nature projects and necessary funds has been released by the concerned Agency for execution of work involved therein.

4. It is decided to prepare a Compendium of circulars, instructions, rules, guidelines etc. issued pertaining to infrastructure of the District Judiciary including VWDCs of the State for information and use by the District Courts and other stakeholders in the year-2023. The process for preparation of the same has already been completed and already handed over to the Rules Section for publication of the same soon.

5. Striving for some degree of uniformity in the design of Judicial buildings and to have standardized plans and designs in the District Judiciary after taking into account its present and future requirements, the Court has been pleased to approve and adopt the following Model Plans (Designs & Drawings) for construction of Non-Residential and Residential Building projects pertaining to the District Judiciary:-

   i. Taluk Court Buildings (Single-Storied) having one functional Court.

   ii. Taluk Court Buildings (Double-Storied) having two or more functional Courts.

   iii. Bar Association-cum-Canteen Building for Taluk Courts having one or two functional courts.

iv. B-type Judicial Quarters (Duplex) for Principal District Judge at Headquarters Station.

v. B-type Judicial Quarters (Duplex) for officers of the cadre of District Judge other than Principal District Judge.

vi. B-type Judicial Quarters (Stilt + 3 floors) at District Headquarters Stations.

vii. C-type Judicial Quarters (Duplex) at District Headquarters and Outlying stations having one unit.

viii. C-type Judicial Quarters (Stilt + 3 floors) at District Headquarters Stations.

ix. E-type Judicial Staff Quarters (Stilt + 2 floors) at Single/Outlying Stations.

x. E- type Judicial Staff Quarters (Stilt + 3 floors) at District Headquarters Stations.

xi. F-type Judicial Staff Quarters (Stilt + 1 floor) at Single/Outlying Stations.

xii. F-type Judicial Staff Quarters (Stilt + 3 floors) at District Headquarters Stations.

6. It is felt that the Government residential quarters (both Judiciary owned and spared by the Govt.) occupied by the Judicial Officers are also being used as residential office on regular basis which needs minimum facilities with proper maintenance. The advocates, litigants, police officers, officers of different departments of Government are visiting such residential offices in different official works during holidays and before & after office hours during working days also. Considering the fact that residential office of every officer exists in the residential quarters, it is decided that Air Conditioners of reputed brand shall be installed in all the residential office-cum-quarters occupied by the Judicial Officers of all cadres of the District Judiciary of the State. The High Court of Orissa have also instructed to all the District Judges across the State to submit the estimates for such purpose from the appropriate Executing Agency to the Court. During the year,2024 several estimates have been received by the Court from the various Judgeship of the District Judiciary of the State and the same has been accorded Administrative Approval under the Revenue nature projects and necessary funds has been released by the concerned Agency for execution of work involved therein.

7. One of the major obstacles behind the smooth functioning of the Court's office work was the lack of communication between the officers & staffs of the Court's establishment. In order to facilitate smooth functioning of the office work, in the District Judges' conference, 2024, it was resolved that the District Judges as per feasibility, shall take immediate steps for installation of wired/ wireless intercom in the chamber of the Judicial Officers, offices of the Courts, all other Sections of the Court's Establishment, Steno rooms etc. in all the Court Buildings of the State for seamless communication between the officers & staff.

The list of completed Court buildings, completed Residential quarters and new projects undertaken is at **Appendices- B, C & D** respectively.

Appeal Committee for subordinate Courts

Chairman
Justice K.R. Mohapatra

Members
Justice S.K. Mishra, Justice Chittaranjan Dash, Justice A.C. Behera

The Committee has been constituted in terms of Rule 10 of Chapter - II of the Rules of the High Court of Orissa, 1948. It deals with appeals and representations made on the administrative side by the Judicial Officers and staff of the District Judiciary against the orders passed by the Appointing Authority and Disciplinary Authority.

The provisions contained in Rules 22 & 23 of the Odisha Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1962, permit the non-gazetted staff of the District Judiciary to prefer appeal against the penalties imposed on them by the Disciplinary Authority and orders passed by the Appointing Authority respectively.

At the beginning of 2024, 19 appeals were pending. During the year, 10 new appeals were preferred and 25 appeals were disposed of by the Committee. Accordingly, 4 appeals are pending.

Judicial Academy and Training Committee

PatroninChief
The Chief Justice
Chairman
Justice K.R. Mohapatra

Members
Dr. Justice S.K. Panigrahi, Justice S. Ratho, Justice A.K. Mohapatra, Justice R.K. Pattanaik, Justice A.C. Behera

During 2024, Dr. Justice B.R. Sarangi, former Acting Chief Justice was the Patron-in-Chief till 14th February, 2024. Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh became the Patron-in-Chief as the Chief Justice from 15th February, 2024. Justice D. Dash was the Chairman of the Committee till 09th July, 2024.Justice S.K. Sahoo served as Chairman of the Committee from 10th July, 2024 till 25th October, 2024. Justice K.R. Mohapatra became Chairman of the Committee on 26th October,2024 Justice K.R. Mohapatra and Justice G. Satapathy were members of the Committee till 18th June, 2024.

This Committee is entrusted with the responsibility of taking decisions regarding the training to be imparted to newly recruited judicial officers as well as continuing education to the serving ones. It finalizes the calendar of training workshops, seminars, conferences and events for the entire year. The Committee elicits feedback from the participants at every workshop and training session.

A central focus of the Committee is to update the knowledge of judicial officers on judicial ethics, judicial skills, sensitization in the areas of gender, disabilities, social issues, poverty, access to justice and environment.

Infrastructure Review Committee

Chairman
The Chief Justice

Members
The Chairman, Building Committee, The Executive Chairman, OSLSA, The Chairman, Judicial Academy & Training Committee, The Chairman, RRDC and High Court Museum Committee, The Chairman, VWDC Committee, The Chairman, Library Committee, The Chairman, IT & AI Committee, The Chairman, Purchase Committee, Convenor, The Registrar General

This Committee was formed on 10th June, 2024 to review the progress of different infrastructural projects of the High Court and its allied organs i.e. Odisha Judicial Academy, Odisha State Legal Services Authority so also to review all infrastructural work of district judiciary of the state

Information Technology (IT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Committee

Chairman
Justice K.R. Mohapatra

Members
Dr.Justice S.K. Panigrahi, Justice S. Ratho, Justice M.S.Raman, Justice Chittaranjan Dash

Justice S. Ratho became a member of this Committee on 06th July, 2024.

This Committee is assigned the tasks of implementing various initiatives of the e-Committee of the Supreme Court of India under the e-Courts project, Information & Communication Technology (ICT) initiatives of The High Court of Orissa, AI related initiatives under the guidance of the AI Committee of the Supreme Court. Some of the notable works carried under the supervision of this Committee in 2024 include inauguration of 95 paperless courts in various districts of the state, launching of e-RTI service for District Court of the state, launching of Judicial Officers' Grievance redressal portal, paperless movement of case records in judicial sections of the High Court and launching of e-HCR portal, Warrant Management System and Internal Complaints Committee portal of the High Court.

Rules Committee for all Rules (except under Section 123 CPC)

Chairman
Justice B.P. Routray

Members
Justice R.K. Pattanaik, Justice A.K. Mohapatra, Justice S.K. Mishra, Justice G. Satapathy

Registrar (Judicial) acts as Secretary of the committee for making rules relating to High Court Establishment and Registrar (Vigilance) acts as Secretary of the committee for all other matters.

The Committee constituted under Rule- 7 of the Rules of the High Court of Orissa, 1948, considers proposals to annul, alter or add or to make new Rules for the High Court of Orissa as well as for the District Judiciary of the State.

In 2024, the Committee recommended amendments to various Rules and schemes. Significant among the suggested amendments were the amendments to the High Court of Orissa (Appointment of Staff and Conditions of Service) Rules, 2019 regarding Scheme of selection and appointment of Research Assistants and change in qualification and syllabus of examination for the post of Translator, e-Filing Rules of the High Court of Orissa, 2024, e-Filing Rules for District Courts and Tribunals under control and supervision of the High Court of Orissa, 2024, The High Court of Orissa Guidelines for Recording Evidence of Vulnerable Witnesses and Functioning of Vulnerable Witnesses Deposition Centre, 2024, the Rules of the High Court of Orissa, Vol-I & Vol-II and Scheme for Retention and Purchase of Furnishing Articles of Judges of the High Court of Orissa. The other important recommendations include amendment in the High Court of Orissa Guest House Rules, the Orissa professional Typists for Civil and Criminal Courts (Registration) Rules, 1981 and the Odisha Superior Judicial Service and Odisha Judicial Service Rules etc.

A list of the recommendations of the Committee made during the said period is at the **Appendix- E** attached herewith.

Departmental Promotion Committee for the staff of the High Court (Other than Group-D)

Chairman
Justice B.P.Routray

Members
Justice R.K. Pattanaik, Justice Chittaranjan Dash, Justice Sibo Sankar Mishra

This Committee deals with promotion of the employees of the High Court other than the Group-D employees. Besides, it also deals with the recruitment of Assistant Section Officers (ASOs) in the High Court and all other recruitment except for which other Committees are constituted. It also deals with matters relating to Court Managers.

In 2024, the Committee took up promotion of various cadres and 37 employees were promoted to different cadres as indicated in **Appendix-F**. In comparison, 49 employees in 2019, 62 employees in 2020, 72 employees in 2021, 108 employees in 2022 and 273 employees in 2023.

The Committee initiated the recruitment for 19 posts of Translators in the Court's establishment for the year 2024. An advertisement was made for 19 posts of Translator for which 232 applications were received. Out of them, 132 candidates appeared in the Preliminary Examination and 34 candidates qualified. 33 candidates appeared in the Main Written Examination out of which 31 candidates qualified. These qualified candidates appeared in the Computer Application Test and out of them 30 candidates qualified. These 30 candidates appeared in the Viva-Voce Test and out of them only 12 candidates were provisionally selected for the post of Translator.

The Committee initiated the process of recruitment for Junior Grade Typist/D.E.O. An advertisement was made for 34 posts of Junior Grade Typist/D.E.O. for which 1424 applications

were received. Out of them, 632 candidates appeared in the Preliminary Examination and 185 candidates qualified. 178 candidates appeared for the Language Test and 135 candidates qualified. 133 candidates appeared in the Computer Application Test out of them 122 candidates qualified. 121 candidates appeared in the Typewriting Test out of them only 17 candidates qualified. These candidates appeared in the Viva-Voce Test and all of them were provisionally selected for the posts of Junior Grade Typist/D.E.O.

The number of employees recruited during the year has been indicated at **Appendix-G**.

Examination Committee for recruitment of Officers in the Cadre of District Judge by way of Direct recruitment from the Bar and the Limited Competitive Examination

Chairman
Justice K.R. Mohapatra

Members
Justice B.P. Routray, Justice R.K. Pattanaik, Justice V. Narasingh, Justice M.S. Raman

During 2024, Dr. Justice B.R. Sarangi, former Acting Chief Justice was the Chairman till 18th June, 2024. Justice K.R. Mohapatra, was a member of this Committee till 18th June, 2024.

This Committee deals with the examination for recruitment of Officers in the cadre of District Judge by way of direct recruitment from the Bar and through the Limited Competitive Examination. Consequent upon directions of the Supreme Court of India in Malik Mazhar Sultan -Vs- U.P. Public Service Commission (C.A.No.1867/2006), an Examination Cell has been constituted and is functioning from 17th August, 2021 onwards, under the supervision of Registrar (Examination), a Senior Judicial Officer in the cadre of District Judge who has been brought to the High Court on deputation. Two Superintendents with one S.O. and three A.S.Os and one Class-IV staff are working in the Cell. Other recruitment examinations are also entrusted to the Recruitment Cell by the Chief Justice from time to time.

For filling up 23 vacancies of 2023 in the cadre of District Judge by way of direct recruitment from the Bar, 390 applications were received pursuant to the advertisement issued on 30th August, 2023. 237 candidates appeared in the written test held on 05th November, 2023 and only 5 candidates qualified for the Interview held on 05th January, 2024. However, none of these 5 candidates who were interviewed could qualify. For filling up 12 vacancies of 2023 in the cadre of District Judge through Limited Competitive Examination, 72 applications were received. Out of them 64 candidates appeared in the written test and 2 candidates qualified for the Interview held on 05th January, 2024. Out of the 2 candidates, only 1 candidate qualified in the Recruitment Examination.

For filing up 31 vacancies of 2024 in the cadre of District Judge by way of direct recruitment from the Bar, 339 applications were received pursuant to the advertisement issued on 29th October, 2024. Similarly, for filing up of 14 vacancies of 2024 in the cadre of District Judge through Limited Competitive Examination, 83 applications were received. List of candidates (283-BAR & 83-LCE) who are eligible to appear in the Written Examination was published in the Court's website on 06.12.2024. The Main Written Examination is scheduled to be held on 05th January, 2025.

Every effort is made to ensure that the new recruits meet the rigorous standards of quality.

Disposal Review Committee

Chairman
Justice S.K. Sahoo

Members
Justice M.S. Sahoo, Justice S.K. Mishra, Justice G. Satapathy

During 2024, Justice Arindam Sinha was the Chairman of the Committee until 18th June, 2024. Justice S.K.Sahoo, was a member of the Committee until 18th June, 2024,

This committee has been constituted to come up with plausible case management and court management measures to tackle the issue of pendency of cases in the High Court. It also takes into account the relevant resolutions passed in this context by the Chief Justice's conference as well as the "Arrear Eradication Scheme" suggested in the report of the Malimath Committee. Discussion between Committee for Model Case Flow Management Rules of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and Chairperson of Disposal Review Committee along with Chairperson of the SCMS Committee was held on 02.04.2024 via online platform for preparation of Action plan for Arrears reduction in the High Court as well as District Court. The suggestions of this Committee are conveyed to the Judges of the High Court as well as the District Courts. While the High Court recorded a decrease of 24.32% disposal in 2024 in comparison to the previous year, the District Judiciary recorded an increase of 5.63%. In 2024 the case clearance rate in High Court stood at 100.92% and that in the District Judiciary at 88.90%.

Disposal statistics of High Court for last 5 years

Year	Institution	Disposal	Comparative rate of increase in disposal with Previous year (%)	Case Clearance Rate (%) (Disposal vis-à-vis institution)
2020	83,499	61,335	-34.20	73.86
2021	1,28,786	1,05,182	+71.48	81.67
2022	1,04,321	1,36,599	+29.86	130.94
2023	1,06,629	1,19,544	-12.49	112.11
2024	89,640	90,464	-24.32	100.92

Disposal statistics of District Judiciary for last 5 years

Year	Institution	Disposal	Comparative rate of increase in disposal with Previous year (%)	Case Clearance Rate (%) (Disposal vis-à-vis institution)
2020	2,84,805	1,26,077	-57.48	44.26
2021	4,34,810	2,38,588	+89.23	54.87
2022	5,52,948	5,15,392	+116.01	93.20
2023	4,73,634	4,26,422	-17.26	90.03
2024	4,99,030	4,56,352	+7.02	91.45

Committee for Family Court Matters including selection of Candidates for filling up the posts of Principal Counsellor/ Counsellor in different Family Courts

Chairman
Justice Savitri Ratho

Members
Justice A.K. Mohapatra, Justice V. Narasingh, Justice M.S. Raman, Justice A.C. Behera

This Committee was constituted in view of the directions issued by the Supreme Court of India, in a letter dated 9th June, 2016. The Registrar (Administration) is the Convenor of the Committee. A database of the cases pending in the Family Courts has been prepared under the supervision of this Committee.

This Committee oversees the various steps involved in the filling up the vacancies in the posts of counselors in the Family Courts. An expert is associated in the interviews conducted with the shortlisted candidates by the Committee. The Select lists as recommended by the Committee are placed before the High Court for approval. The Committee considered various matters including allegations, grievances and other ancillary matters concerning the Principal Counsellors and Counsellors of the Family Courts.

In 2024, no new appointments of Principal Counsellors and Counsellors were made.Till the end of the year 2024, out of 30 posts of Principal Counsellors, 12 were working and 18 were lying vacant. Likewise, out of 30 posts of Counsellors, 25 were working and 5 were lying vacant.

Mediation Monitoring Committee

Chairman
Justice S.K. Sahoo

Members
Justice K.R. Mohapatra, Justice R.K. Pattanaik, Justice S.S. Mishra

Convenor
Coordinator, High Court Mediation Centre

Justice Arindam Sinha was the Chairman of the Committee till 25th October, 2024. Justice S. Ratho and Justice M.S. Sahoo were members of this Committee till 18th June, 2024.

This Committee oversees the functioning of the High Court of Orissa Mediation Centre, which was inaugurated on 3rdJanuary, 2015 which has been catering to the needs of the litigating parties by bringing about settlement between them. As of date, 62 trained mediators have been empanelled.

A whole range of issues including family disputes, commercial matters, civil and criminal both in pending cases and at the pre- litigation stage are referred to the Mediation Center. The services of Child Psychologist are also enlisted in select cases. Four well- equipped ICT-enabled mediation rooms have been made available for this purpose at a newly inaugurated state-of-the-art mediation Center.

In litigation cases, at the beginning of 2024, 31 cases were pending at the Centre. In the year 2024, 402 mediation proceedings were registered, 353 proceedings were disposed of and 80 proceedings are pending at the end of the year. Out of the disposed of proceedings, in 72 proceedings mediation was successful and in 281 proceedings it was unsuccessful.

In pre-litigation cases, at the beginning of 2024, 21 mediation proceedings were pending at the Centre. In 2024, 73 pre- litigation mediation proceedings were registered, 78 were disposed of and 16 such proceedings are pending. Out of the 78 disposed of cases, in 5 proceedings mediation was successful and in 6 proceedings mediation was unsuccessful and in 67 proceedings mediation was non-starter.

Arbitration Committee

Chairman
Justice B.P.Routray

Members
Justice Sashikanta Mishra, Justice B.P. Satapathy, Advocate General, Odisha, Deputy Solicitor General of India for the High Court of Orissa, President, High Court Bar Association, Cuttack, Coordinator, Arbitration Centre (Ex-Officio Member)

Justice S.K. Sahoo was the Chairman of this Committee till 18th June, 2024. Justice B.P. Routray, was a member of this Committee till 18th June, 2024,

This Committee oversees the functioning of the High Court of Orissa Arbitration Centre. There is a panel of arbitrators consisting of former Judges of the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts, former District Judges, Senior Advocates, Advocates and Technical experts of different fields. It has its own set of rules and a fee structure. At the end of the year 2024, 130 Arbitrators were empanalled. Apart from cases referred to it by the High Court of Orissa and the District Courts under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996, parties by mutual agreement can have their disputes resolved through arbitration at the Centre.

At the beginning of 2024, 127 arbitration cases were pending at the Centre. In 2024, 58 Arbitration cases were registered, 40 case were disposed of by pronouncement of awards and at the end of the year, 145 cases are pending.

Committee for Service Conditions of the District Judiciary

Chairman
Justice B.P. Routray

Members
Justice A.K.Mohapatra, Principal Secretary, Law Department, Government of Odisha, B.K. Dash, OSJS (Retd.)

Ex-Officio Secretary
Registrar General

Justice D. Dash was the Chairman of the Committee till 11th October, 2024.

This committee was constituted on 12th January, 2024 in pursuance to the direction of the Hon'ble Apex Court in case of W.P. (Civil) No. 643 of 2015, All India Judges' Association vrs Union of India and Ors. for overseeing the implementation of the recommendations of the SNJPC as approved by the Hon'ble Apex Court .

The functions of the Committee is to oversee the proper implementation of the recommendations of the SNJPC, including pay, pension, allowances

and allied matters as approved by the Hon'ble Apex Court by its order. It also acts as a single point nodal agency for the redressal of the grievances of the judicial officers, both serving and retired to secure the implementation of the recommendations of the SNJPC which has been approved by the Hon'ble Apex Court.

Juvenile Justice Committee

Chairman
Justice S. Ratho

Members
Justice A.K. Mohapatra, Justice M.S. Raman

Convenor
Secretary, Juvenile Justice Committee

Justice D. Dash was the Chairman of the Committee till 11th October, 2024. Justice S.K.Sahoo was a member of the Committee till 18th June, 2024.

This Committee was constituted in 2013 pursuant to the resolution adopted by the Chief Justices' Conference. The mandate of this Committee is to review and monitor the functioning of all juvenile justice institutions which would include the Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) and the Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) constituted under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of the Children) Act, 2015. The Committee has been overseeing the efforts at reducing the pendency of cases before the JJBs and the CWCs.

The Committee periodically convenes meetings of all stakeholders. As per the direction of the Hon'ble Committee, all the stakeholders were impressed upon to dispose of the year old Juvenile and POCSO cases expeditiously and a slew of specific instructions to different stakeholders were imparted in this regard. Review of progress in the arrangement of Court complex for smooth functioning of JJBs was discussed and the stakeholders were instructed to eradicate the infrastructural issues. Considering the difficulties faced by the inmates of the Child Care Institutions in taking admission in schools and availing benefits of govt. schemes, the Women and Child Development Department, Government of Odisha was instructed to take steps to issue AADHAAR Cards to all the inmates. The Hon'ble committee also gave emphasis for quick disposal of victim compensation applications by the DLSAs.

The Committee had undertaken a series of impactful initiatives in 2024, which include:

1. Suo Motu Writ Petition on Missing Child
2. Enhanced Digital Accessibility of the JJC Website
3. Review & monitoring action of Chief Justice regarding the JJ institutions
4. State-Level Consultation on Juvenile Justice Act Implementation:

A State Level Juvenile Justice Consultation was held on 01st September, 2024 in collaboration with the Odisha Judicial Academy, Department of Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD), Department of Women & Child Development (WCD), and UNICEF. The consultation was dedicated for exploring the effective implementation of the Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, with a specific focus on the rights of children with disabilities (CwD).

RRDC, Digitization, Preservation, and Destruction of case records in the High Court and Subordinate Courts, Centre for Judicial Archives and Museum of Justice Committee.

Chairman
Dr. Justice S.K. Panigrahi

Members
Justice M.S.Sahoo, Justice Sashikanta Mishra, Justice B.P.Satapathy, Justice S.S.Mishra

Justice D. Dash was the chairman of the Committee till 18th June, 2024.. Justice Sashikanta Mishra became the member of the Committee on 19th June, 2024.

The Committee deals with matters relating to digitization, preservation and destruction of records of disposed of cases of the High Court and the District Courts. It also oversees the functioning of the RRDC, the 4 District Court Digitization Centers (DCDCs), the 10 District Court Digitization Hubs, the Centre for Judicial Archives and the Museum of Justice.

02 (Two) No. of posts were advertised for recruitment to the posts of Law Researcher (Law) for which 63 applications were received. The written examination for the said posts is scheduled to be held on 15.01.2025. Also, 1 (One) post was advertised for recruitment to the post of Consultant, Law for the Centre for Judicial Archives of Odisha, Cuttack. The recruitment process is going on.

State Court Management System (SCMS) Committee

Chairman
Dr. Justice S.K. Panigrahi

Members
Justice M.S. Sahoo, Justice Sashikanta Mishra, Justice B.P. Satapathy, Registrar General, Registrar (Administration), Principal Secretary, Law Department, Government of Odisha, District and Sessions Judge, Cuttack, Soura Chandra Mohapatra, Sr. Advocate

Convenor
Member Secretary, SCMS Committee

This Committee was constituted in terms of the resolution adopted in the Chief Justice's Conference held in April 2013. The mandate of this Committee is to implement the National Plan for enhancing the quality, responsiveness and timeliness (QRT) of Courts of Orissa on uniform basis and to provide valuable input and suggestions to the National Court Management Systems (NCMS) Committee for better execution of the plan. The Committee is convened by its Member Secretary, who is a judicial officer of the District Judge cadre.

Pursuant to the Action Plan for Arrears Reduction in District Judiciary (APAaR-DJ) received from Hon'ble the Supreme Court of India, the same has been circulated to all the District Judges of the State and to the Member Secretary, OSLSA for necessary action. Accordingly, District Case Management Committees (DCMCs) have been formed in all the Judgeships having District Judge as its Chairperson, to accelerate the progress of case disposal and prioritizing the long pending cases.

Nodal Officers from Police Department to oversee service of summonses and warrants, and Senior Nodal Officers from Revenue Department to expedite final decree proceedings, have been assigned for all the judgeships of the State.

The Action Plan elaborately explains the steps to be taken by the District Case Management Committees (DCMCs) for preparation of targeted case lists, regular review, coordination with judicial officers and engaging with duty holders like bar association and Police administration etc.

Judge Mediators are assigned with yardsticks of 50% for successful Mediation and 25% for unsuccessful Mediation assigned/ prescribed for contested disposal of that category of case.

In collaboration with the State Crime Records Bureau (SCRB), the High Court of Orissa has implemented the Warrant Management System (WMS) in all the judgeships of the State in the year 2024 for online transmission of warrants to police and tracking the execution thereof.

Pursuant to the directions from Hon'ble the Supreme Court of India in *Yashpal Jain v. Sushila Devi & Ors.*, the Committee is ensuring compliance with the execution of summons under Order V Rule (2) of the CPC within the District Judiciary and monitoring cases pending for more than 5 years bi-monthly to expedite their resolution.

The Committee also supervises the annual upload of data related to the "Average Time Taken for Disposal of Cases" in the District Judiciary. This includes Family Courts, M.A.C. Tribunals, and other designated Courts, with the data being uploaded to the portal developed by the Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India.

The monthly report regarding the disposal and pendency of 25 years old cases are being furnished by the District Judges every month and it is being monitored by the Administrative Judges of the respective judgeships on monthly basis.

By the end of December 2024, a total of 3213 cases (Civil-525, Criminal-2688) which were pending for more than 25 years had been disposed of. Currently, the number of pending cases stands at 2020 (Civil-648, Criminal-1372).

Additionally, the Committee focused on tracking the disposal of cases pending for more than 5/ 10 years, as part of the Action Plan, and issued directives to ensure compliance.

The disposal of 'beyond 5 years old cases' is 1,33,235 (Civil-35,367 & Criminal-97,868) during 2024 and the pendency stands at 6,66,526 (Civil-1,01,117 & Criminal-5,66,617) by 31.12.2024.

Judicial Calendar Committee

Chairman	Members
Justice S.K.Sahoo	Justice S. Ratho, Justice V. Narasingh, Justice G. Satapathy

The Committee was constituted by the Chief Justice for the purpose of release of Judicial Calendar of Odisha, 2025. Under the supervision of the Committee, on 10th November, 2024 painting competitions were held among the school children of Class-VII to X across the State on the theme "Rights of Differently Abled Children" by the District Courts under aegis of the High Court of Orissa. 1819 children participated in the competitions and 3 paintings were selected from each district.

The 90 paintings adjudged 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the districts were brought to Cuttack and out of them 12 paintings were selected by the Committee being assisted by Eminent Artist Shri Gajendra Prasad Sahu.

The 12 paintings were of Subha Ommkar Rath of Kalahandi, Ashribad Das of Anugul, Basudev Gamango of Gajapati, Ananta Behera of Jagatsinghpur, Shriyansh Panda of Cuttack, Sandeep Kumar Dubey of Nuapada, Bishnupriya Mohapatra of Mayurbhanj, Tuna Muduli of Koraput, Sibashis Das of Kendrapara, Suman Naik of Keonjhar, Dolbee Rani Parida of Jajpur and Shreya Mohanty of Puri. Those paintings have found place in the Judicial Calendar of Odisha, 2025.

In a function in Odisha Judicial Academy the calendar was released by Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa in the presence of the Judges of High Court of Orissa. Eminent Odia Film Actor, Director, Script Writer & Columnist Dr. Shri Prashant Nanda and Eminent Artist Shri Gajendra Prasad Sahu were the special guests. The 12 children artists were felicitated by the Chief Justice, Judges and guests with certificates of appreciation, medals and prizes in presence of their parents.

Rules Committee under Section 123 C.P.C

Chairman
Dr. Justice S.K. Panigrahi

Members
Justice Sashikanta Mishra, Justice V. Narasingh, Goutam Misra,Senior Advocate, Pami Rath, Senior Advocate, District and Sessions Judge, Cuttack

Secretary
Registrar(Vigilance)

This Committee considers proposals to annul, alter or add to the Rules in the First Schedule of the CPC or to make new Rules. The Committee submits its recommendations in the form of a report to the High Court. Pursuant to the judgment dated 22nd April, 2021 of the Supreme Court of India in Rahul S Shah -vs-Jinendra Kumar Gandhi and batch of cases, Civil Appeal Nos. 1659-1660 of 2021, the Committee recommended significant amendments in the relevant provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 to facilitate expeditious execution of decrees in respect of immovable properties. This Committee considers proposals to annul, alter or add to the Rules in the First Schedule of the CPC or to make new Rules. The Committee submits its recommendations in the form of a report to the High Court. Relevant information is at **Appendix-E**.

High Court Library Committee

Chairman
Justice S.K. Sahoo

Members
Justice M.S.Sahoo, Justice V. Narasingh, Justice S.S Mishra, Justice A.C. Behera

This Committee oversees the functioning of the Judges' Library in the High Court. It may also deal with the stocking of the books in the libraries for the District Courts. As per the recommendation of the Committee, SCC Online journal was supplied to every judicial officer in the State. Further, AIR

database www.aironline.in plus ILR Orissa Series (On-line) were provided to 205 existing officers of the cadre of District Judge. On the recommendation of the Committee, e-libraries for the Bar were opened in 30 District Court headquarters and 26 outlying stations of the State. Online journals of AIR Online Professional, Manupatra Online and OLT-CD were provided to the e-libraries of the Bar. Online Journals of SCC Online Web Edition-Platinum, AIR Online Professional, Manupatra, EBC Reader Platinum Edition and OLT-CD were provided to newly inaugurated Digital Reference Library in the eastern part of the Convention Hall of the High Court.

VWDC Committee

Chairman
Justice S.K.Sahoo

Members
Justice R.K.Pattanaik, Justice S.K.Mishra, Justice G.Satapathy, Justice A.C Behera

Justice V. Narasingh was a member of this Committee till 18th June, 2024. The VWDC Committee has been constituted in terms of the direction imparted vide Judgment dated 11th January, 2022 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Misc. Application No. 1852 of 2019 in Criminal Appeal No. 1101 of 2019 in the case of Smruti Tukaram Badade vs. State of Maharashtra & Anr., in order to continuously supervise the implementation of the directions of Hon'ble the Supreme Court of India and to ensure establishment of the VWDCs and the matters connected thereto, etc. Besides, the Committee monitors and assesses the performance of the thirty (30) VWDCs, currently functioning in the District Headquarters Stations of all the Judgeships of the State.

Further, on 16th January,2024, the High Court has formulated "The High Court of Orissa Guidelines for Recording Evidence of Vulnerable Witnesses and Functioning of Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centres, 2024" on repeal of "The High Court of Orissa Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centres (VWDC) Scheme, 2022" and the same have been notified vide Notification No. 331/R dated 06.04.2024 of the High Court of Orissa, published in the Odisha Gazette vide No. 892 dated 06.04.2024, which have come into force w.e.f. 06.04.2024 vide notification no. 332/R dtd. 06.04.2024 of the High Court of Orissa, published in the Odisha Gazette vide No. 893 dated 06.04.2024.

In year 2024, a total of 14,913 numbers of Vulnerable Witnesses have been examined in the 30 VWDCs functioning in the District Courts of the State.

Annual Report Committe

Chairman
Justice K.R.Mohapatra

Members
Justice B.P. Routray, Justice Sashikanta Mishra, Justice Chittaranjan Dash

This Committee monitors the work relating to the publication of the Annual Report. Three sub committees have been formed to assist the Committee. The sub-committee for collection, collation and synchronization of data formed having the Member Secretary, OSLSA, Registrar

(Judicial), Editor-in-Chief, ILR Chapter, Cuttack, Special Officer (Special Cell) and the Special Officer (Administration) as its members. The sub-committee for designing, editing and printing of the report formed having the Director, Odisha Judicial Academy,Coordinator, High Court of Orissa Arbitration Centre, Registrar (Records) and the Central Project Coordinator as its members. The sub-committee for selection and preparation of synopsis of significant judgments formed having three Research Assistants as its members. The Annual Report of the High Court for the year 2024 has been published under the supervision of the Committee.

Purchase Committee

Chairman
Justice B.P.Routray

Members
Justice S.Ratho, Justice A.K. Mohapatra, Justice M.S. Raman, Justice A.C. Behera

This Committee deals with matters relating to purchase/maintenance of articles for the Court's Establishment in accordance with the prevailing Rules and Circulars of the Finance Department of the State Government. Besides, this Committee also deals with the matter relating to the disposal of moveable assets of the High Court. In 2024, the Committee carried out the disposal of different articles of the Court i.e. the Committee has decided to distribute Metal Racks, Steel Almirahs and Metal Bookshelves of good condition, phased out from the High Court after modernization, among the District Courts of the State. The Committee has further decided to dispose of the left-out articles of the Court through auction after their distribution to different District Courts of the State. Accordingly, a total of 35 nos metal racks, 104 nos. steel almirahs and 22 nos of metal bookshelves of good condition were distributed to different judgeships of the state. Further, the Committee ordered the disposal of left out 99 nos. of condemned metal furniture and other miscellaneous items of the Court i.e. the Committee decided to take steps for disposal of those condemned articles in consonance with Rule-281(ii) of O.G.F.R, 2023. Thus, after distribution of metal racks, steel almirahs and metal bookshelves as per the requirement of the District Courts, the remaining articles were disposed of and the sale proceeds of Rs.1,84,899/- (Rupees One Lakh Eighty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Nine) only was deposited in the appropriate head of account of the Government. Also the GST @5% towards it i.e. Rs.9,245/- (Rupees Nine Thousand Two Hundred Forty Five) only has already deposited in the appropriate Govt. Head through Treasury by the successful scrap dealer.

RCM Committee

Chairman
Dr. Justice S.K. Panigrahi

Members
Justice B.P. Satapathy, Justice M.S.Raman, Justice S.K.Mishra

The Committee deals with matters relating to reimbursement claims of medical expenses of sitting and former Judges and employees of the High Court. A total of Rs.1,05,79,000/- was reimbursed to the sitting and former Judges and the employees against their reimbursement claims during the financial year 2024.-25, till end of December,2024.

Internal Complaints Committee (Sexual Harassment Committee)

Presiding Officer
Justice S.Ratho

Members
Saswata Patnaik, Advocate, Director,Odisha Judicial Academy,
Sangyansubala Bhuyan, Addl. Registrar (Establishment) Retd.
(Under Re-employment)

Convenor
Registrar(Vigilance)

This Committee has been constituted under Section-4(1) of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. In the year 2024, one complaint was received and the inquiry into the same was conducted. The said complaint was disposed of on 11th September, 2024 under section 10(1) of the Sexual Harassment of women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal) Act, 2013. Similarly, an Internal Complaints Committee portal was launched in the Court's Establishment on 03.12.2024.

Committee to consider all promotional matters from Group-D cadre to the entry level Group-C Cadre

Members
Registrar (Vigilance), Registrar (Inspection)

This Committee deals with matters relating to promotion of Group-D employees to the entry-level Group-C posts i.e., Treasury Sarkar, Jamadar, Duftary, Attender, Cook- cum-Care taker and Mali-cum-Chowkidar. In the year 2024, the matter for considering the promotion from Group-D cadre to the entry level Group-C was not taken taken up as there was no significant vacancies in the Group-C cadre during the said period.

Committee to oversee the progress of cases under PC & PNDT Act

Chairman
Justice Arindam Sinha

Members
Justice Sashikanta Mishra, Justice B.P. Satapathy, Justice G. Satapathy, Justice S.S.Mishra

At the beginning of the year, 2024, 14 cases under the PC & PNDT Act were pending in the State. During the year 2024, 7 cases were disposed of and 12 cases were pending at the end of the year. This Committee also deals with matters relating to (a) Setting up of Commercial Courts, Commercial Division & Commercial Appellate Division and (b) Disposal of NDPS cases in the State of Odisha.

Accessibility Committee

Chairman
Dr. Justice S.K. Panigrahi

Convenor
Registrar, Record

Members
Hara Prasad Padhy, Registrar (Records), Mrutunjaya Dash, Assistant Registrar-cum- Establishment Officer, Abhijit Kumar Mitra, Assistant Registrar (Judicial), Sujit Ranjan Sahoo, System Officer, Alekh Kumar Mohanty, Superintendent, Biswajit Mohapatra, Advocate.

This Committee was constituted on 26th December, 2023. This committee serves as the Nodal Authority for taking pro-active measures to ensure greater accessibility of judicial process/ infrastructure within the Court and for putting in place a system to ensure that every stakeholder in the justice delivery system who is affected by a disability is given a reasonable accommodation, which they need. The Committee ensures that the cause list of a Court is not inaccessible to any person with disability.

The Committee consulted different stakeholders for consideration of recommendations made by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India for enhancing the physical and functional accessibility for the person with disabilities within Court premises.

AI Translation Committee

Members
Dr.Justice S.K.Panigrahi, Justice Sashikanta Mishra

Convenor
Editor-in- Chief, ILR-Cuttack Series

The Committee deals with matters concerning translation of reportable Supreme Court and High Court judgments/records through the AI tool called SUVAS (Supreme Court Vidhik Anuvaad Software) into vernacular language i.e., Odia. The Editor-in-Chief, ILR, Cuttack Series is the Convenor of this Committee.

The AI Assisted Legal Translation Advisory Committee of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, headed by Hon'ble Sri Justice Abhay S. Oka, is monitoring the progress of the AI translation work. A dedicated Translation Cell having 14 translators is strenuously working for translation of the Supreme Court and High Court reportable judgments and records, being validated by retired Judicial Officers in the cadre of District Judge. Till the end of 2024, 275 Supreme Court and 206 High Court judgments have already been translated into Odia and uploaded in the websites of the Supreme Court and High Court. Besides, the judgments are also being uploaded in the eSCR (eSupreme Court Records). All the sites are accessible to the public.

The availability of judgments in Odia is a great step for popularizing the Supreme Court and High Court judgments in Odia language. It will not only increase the accessibility of the people to the "Justice Dispensation System," but also will be a great step toward the concept of justice at the doorstep.

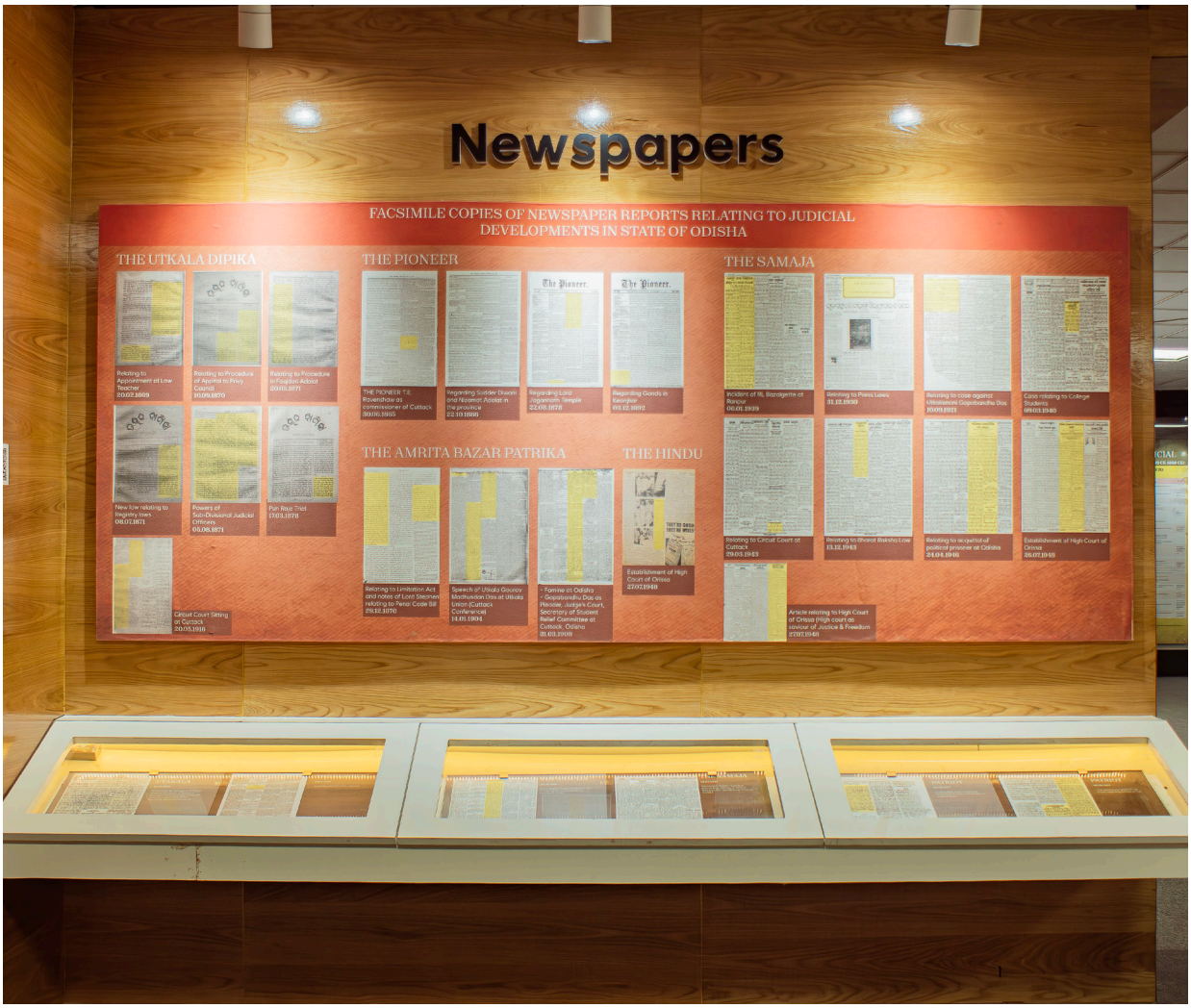
Judicial Officers' Grievance Redressal Committee

Chairman
Justice K.R. Mohapatra

Members
Justice B.P. Routray, Justice R.K. Pattnaik

Convenor
Registrar (Administration)

The Committee was constituted on 21st May, 2024 for redressal of the grievances received from the Judicial Officers of the state. In this regard a portal named as "Judicial Officer's Grievance Redressal Portal" has been opened and same is available on the website of the High Court. In the year, 2024, 85 grievance petitions were received from Judicial Officers and all have been disposed of.



Section "Facsimile copies of newspaper reports relating to Judicial Developments in State of Odisha" displayed at Centre of Judicial Archives.

REGISTRY

The Rules of the High Court of Orissa, 1948 lays down the procedures for functioning of the different branches of the Court. The High Court has two major wings: Judicial and Administrative. The Administrative wing otherwise known as the Registry of the High Court has different departments further divided into various sections manned by High Court officials. The organizational structure is depicted on the facing page. The Registrar General of the High Court heads it. The Registrar General oversees the functioning of every wing.

In 2024, several posts in different cadres were created by the State Government on the recommendation of the High Court. Details of the posts created in the year are at **Appendix- H.**

There are different categories of officers and staff in the Registry;

1. Judicial Officers from the Odisha Superior Judicial Service and Odisha Judicial Service;
2. Ministerial officers and staff (Additional Registrar, Joint Registrars, Additional Deputy Registrars, Assistant Registrars, Superintendents, Section Officers, Assistant Section Officers, Court Managers, System Analyst, Programmer, Peripatetic Stamp Reporters, Judicial Indexer, Translators, Librarian, Assistant Librarian and Technical Assistants, staff of Typist, Copyist and Diarist cadres, staff of Driver cadres, Treasury Sarkar, Jamadars, Attenders, Duftaries, Cook-cum-Caretaker, Mali-cum-Chowkidar and Group-D staff);
3. Secretarial officers and staff (Additional Registrar-cum-Principal Secretary, Joint Registrar- cum-Principal Secretary, Additional Deputy Registrars-cum-Additional Principal Secretaries, Assistant Registrars-cum-Senior Secretaries, Secretaries, Personal Assistants, Senior Stenographers and Junior Stenographers);
4. Government Officers and staff on deputation (Senior Technical Director and Scientist(F) of National Informatics Centre, the Chief Accounts Officer, the Medical Officers (Allopathy) and staff of the High Court Dispensary, the Medical Officer (Homeopathy) and staff of the High Court Homeopathy Dispensary and Physiotherapist;
5. Technical personnel for e-Courts project (Senior System Officer, System Officers and System Assistants);
6. Persons holding tenure posts in the High Court (Law Reporter, Research Assistants and Assistant Editor)

The Judicial Officers and the Ministerial Officers supervise the functioning of the offices in the Registry. The Secretarial officers and staff are attached to the Chief Justice and the Judges. The officers working on deputation discharge specific functions-the Senior Technical Director and Scientist (F), National Informatics Centre (NIC) look after implementation of the e-Courts projects through NIC, the Chief Accounts Officer deputed by the Finance Department of the Government looks after the budget of District Judiciary and acts as a Financial Advisor, the Medical Officer (Allopathy) and the Medical Officer (Homeopathy), both deputed by the Health Department of the Government manage the High Court Dispensary and Homeopathy Dispensary respectively.



Registry of the High Court

Sitting from left to right : Rudra Prasad Mahapatra, Secretary, Juvenile Justice Committee & Member Secretary, State Court Management System (SCMS)I/C, Satyabrata Mishra, Co-ordinator, Arbitration Centre, Santosh Kumar Dash Ray, Officer on Special Duty (Vigilance), Dr. Jeevanjyoti Rath, Registrar(Administration), Pravat Kumar Rajguru, Registrar (Judicial), Asanta Kumar Das, Registrar General, Pradyumna Kumar Nayak, Registrar (Vigilance), Pravakar Ganthia, Editor-in-Chief of ILR-Cuttack Series, Hara Prasad Padhy, Registrar Records and Bikram Pattanaik, Registrar (Inspection).

Standing from left to right : Soumya Sourav, Central Project Coordinator, Asish Kumar Parichha, Special Officer (Special Cell), Gagan Sahu, Deputy Registrar, Records, Jibanananda Padhy, Officer on special duty, C.A. Desapriya Barik, Deputy Registrar (Admn. & Protocol), Sibasish Giri, Deputy Registrar (Judicial), Biswajit Nayak, Addl. Coordinator, Arbitration Centre, Jitendra Das, Assistant Registrar (Admn.) and Ramakanta Mohanty, Special Officer (Administration).



Ministerial Officers of the High Court of Orissa

Sitting from left to right : Abhjit Kumar Mitra, Assistant Registrar(Judicial), Rama Chandra Tudu, A.D.R. (J&E), Subrat Ghose, A.D.R. (J&E), Paranjaya Mishra, Joint Registrar(Establishment), Chittaranjan Dash, Joint Registrar(Judicial), Nibedita Panda, A.R-cum-Additional Stamp Reporter & Oath Commissioner, MamataPaikray, Joint Registrar(Judicial), Namita Behera, A.D.R(J&E), Sanjukta Parida, Asst. Registrar(Judicial), Anjana Kar, A.R.-cum-Addl. Stamp Reporter & Oath Commissioner, Prativa Sahoo, A.R.-cum-Stamp Reporter & Oath Commissioner, Geetanjali Mukhi, 3rd Asst. Registrar (Judicial) and Prasanta Kumar Nayak, Court Officer-cum-Assistant Registrar

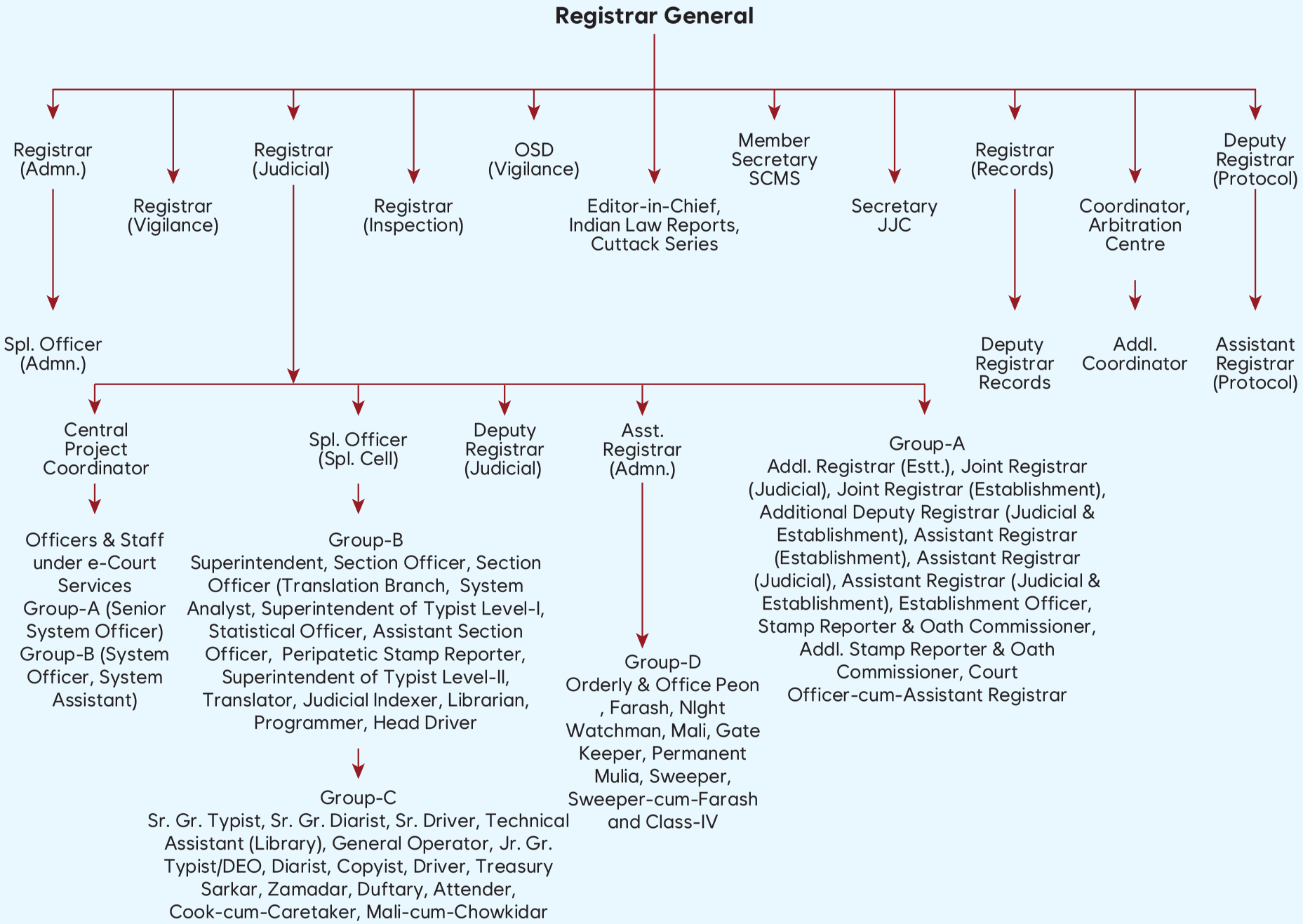
Standing From left to right : Pitabas Das, Assistant Registrar(Judicial), Nityananda Behera, A.R-cum-Additional Stamp Reporter & Oath Commissioner, Pravakar Sing, A.R.-cum-Addl. Stamp Reporter & Oath Commissioner, Kali Ch. Hansdah, A.R-cum-Additional Stamp Reporter & Oath Commissioner, DebendranathMurmu, A.R-cum-Additional Stamp Reporter & Oath Commissioner, Ashis Kumar Sahoo, 1st Assistant Registrar(Judicial), Nabin Kumar Parida, Assistant Registrar(J&E), Dinabandhu Rath, A.R.-cum-Addl. Stamp Reporter & Oath Commissioner, Mahesh Prasad Dash, 2nd Asst. Registrar (Judl.), Mrutyunjay Dash, Assistant Registrar-cum-Establishment Officer and Kailash Ch. Barik, Assistant Registrar(Estt.)



Secretarial Officers of the High Court of Orissa

Sitting from the left to right : Krushna Ch. Bisoi, A.R-cum- Senior Secretary, Ashok Kumar Behera,A.D.R-cum-Additional Principal Secretary, Arun Kumar Mishra, A.D.R-cum-Additional Principal Secretary, Gayadhar Samal, Joint Registrar-cum-Principal Secretary, Anand Dash, Additional Registrar-cum-Principal Secretary, Samir Kumar Parida, A.D.R-cum-Additional Principal Secretary, Ashish Kumar Kar, A.D.R-cum-Additional Principal Secretary, Manoja Kumar Rout, A.R.-cum-Senior Secretary, Bhabagrahi Jhankar, A.R-cum- Senior Secretary,

Standing from left to right : Ranjan Kumar Sethi, A.R-cum- Senior Secretary, Sasanka Sekhar Satapathy, A.R-cum- Senior Secretary and Chittaranjan Biswal, A.R-cum- Senior Secretary


Registrar General
Registrar (Admn.)
Registrar (Vigilance)
Registrar (Judicial)
Registrar (Inspection)
OSD (Vigilance)
Editor-in-Chief, Indian Law Reports, Cuttack Series
Member Secretary SCMS
Secretary JJC
Registrar (Records)
Coordinator, Arbitration Centre
Deputy Registrar (Protocol)
Spl. Officer (Admn.)
Deputy Registrar Records
Addl. Coordinator
Assistant Registrar (Protocol)
Central Project Coordinator
Spl. Officer (Spl. Cell)
Deputy Registrar (Judicial)
Asst. Registrar (Admn.)
Group-A
Addl. Registrar (Estt.), Joint Registrar (Judicial), Joint Registrar (Establishment), Additional Deputy Registrar (Judicial & Establishment), Assistant Registrar (Establishment), Assistant Registrar (Judicial), Assistant Registrar (Judicial & Establishment), Establishment Officer, Stamp Reporter & Oath Commissioner, Addl. Stamp Reporter & Oath Commissioner, Court Officer-cum-Assistant Registrar
Officers & Staff under e-Court Services Group-A (Senior System Officer) Group-B (System Officer, System Assistant)
Group-B
Superintendent, Section Officer, Section Officer (Translation Branch, System Analyst, Superintendent of Typist Level-I, Statistical Officer, Assistant Section Officer, Peripatetic Stamp Reporter, Superintendent of Typist Level-II, Translator, Judicial Indexer, Librarian, Programmer, Head Driver
Group-C
Sr. Gr. Typist, Sr. Gr. Diarist, Sr. Driver, Technical Assistant (Library), General Operator, Jr. Gr. Typist/DEO, Diarist, Copyist, Driver, Treasury Sarkar, Zamadar, Duftary, Attender, Cook-cum-Caretaker, Mali-cum-Chowkidar
Group-D
Orderly & Office Peon , Farash, Nlght Watchman, Mali, Gate Keeper, Permanent Mulia, Sweeper, Sweeper-cum-Farash and Class-IV

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE REGISTRY

Incumbency of Judicial Officers in the Registry during 2024

Sl. No.	Name of the post	Name of the officer	Tenure
1.	Registrar General	Pratap Kumar Patra	Till 25.07.2024
		Asanta Kumar Das	From 25.07.2024 till end of the year
2.	Registrar (Vigilance)	Akhil Kumar Paschimakabat	Till 01.07.2024
		Santosh Kumar Dash Ray (in-charge)	From 01.07.2024 till 05.07.2024
		Pradyumna Kumar Nayak	From 05.07.2024 till end of the year
4.	Registrar (Inspection)	Pravakar Ganthia	Till 05.07.2024
		Bikram Pattnaik	From 05.07.2024 till end of the year
6.	Registrar (Judicial)	Suman Kumar Mishra	Till 01.07.2024
		Pravakar Ganthia (in-charge)	From 01.07.2024 till 05.07.2024
		Pravat Kumar Rajguru	From 05.07.2024 till end of the year
3.	Registrar (Administration)	Akhil Kumar Paschimakabat (in-charge)	Till 01.07.2024
		Santosh Kumar Dash Ray (in-charge)	From 01.07.2024 till 05.07.2024
		Dr. Jeevanjoti Rath	From 05.07.2024 till end of the year
5.	Editor-in-Chief, Indian Law Reports, Cuttack Series	Pravakar Ganthia	From 06.09.2024 till end of the year (newly created post)
7.	Officer-on-Special Duty (Vigilance)	Santosh Kumar Dash Ray	For the entire year
8.	Coordinator, Arbitration Centre	Satyabrata Mishra	For the entire year
9.	Member-Secretary, State Court management System (SCMS)	Pravakar Ganthia (in-charge)	Till 05.07.2024
		Pravakar Ganthia	From 05.07.2024 till 05.09.2024
		Rudra Prasad Mohapatra (in-charge)	From 05.09.2024 till 23.12.2024
		Anupam Patra	From 23.12.2024 till 26.12.2024
		Rudra Prasad Mohapatra (in-charge)	From 26.12.2024 till end of the year

10.	Secretary, Juvenile Justice Committee (JJC)	Hara Prasad Padhy (in-charge)	Till 27.03.2024
		Rudra Prasad Mohapatra	From 27.03.2024 till end of the year
11.	Registrar, Records	Hara Prasad Padhy	For the entire year
12.	Special Officer (Administration)	Santosh Kumar Dash Ray	Till 19.01.2024
		Ashish Patttanaik	From 19.01.2024 till 01.07.2024
		Soumya Sourav (in-charge)	From 01.07.2024 till 05.07.2024
		Ramakanta Mohanty	From 05.07.2024 till end of the year
16.	Deputy Registrar (Judicial)	Amaresh Nayak	Till 01.07.2024
		Biswajit Nayak (in-charge)	From 01.07.2024 till 05.07.2024
		Sibasish Giri	From 05.07.2024 till end of the year
14.	Central Project Coordinator	Satya Prakash Ray Choudhury	Till 19.01.2024
		Soumya Sourav	From 19.01.2024 till end of the year
17.	Addl. Coordinator, Arbitration Centre	Ashish Pattanaik	Till 19.01.2024
		Soumya Sourav (in-charge)	From 19.01.2024 till 22.01.2024
		Biswajit Nayak	From 22.01.2024 till end of the year
13.	Deputy Registrar (Administration & Protocol)	Debasish Mohanty	Till 01.07.2024
		Sibasish Giri (in-charge)	From 01.07.2024 till 05.07.2024
		C.A. Desapriya Barik	From 05.07.2024 till end of the year
15.	Special Officer (Special Cell)	Soumya Sourav	Till 19.01.2024
		Ashish Kumar Sahoo	From 19.01.2024 till 01.07.2024
		Soumya Sourav (in-charge)	From 01.07.2024 till 05.07.2024
		Asish Kumar Parichha	From 05.07.2024 till end of the year
18.	Deputy Registrar, Records	Ashish Kumar Sahoo	Till 19.01.2024
		Soumya Sourav (in-charge)	From 19.01.2024 till 22.01.2024
		Sibasish Giri	From 22.01.2024 till 05.07.2024
		Gagan Sahu	From 05.07.2024 till end of the year
19.	Assistant Registrar (Administration)	Jitendra Das	For the entire year

Job description of Judicial Officers in the Registry

Registrar General	• Oversees the work of all other officers of the Registry and handles the important matters entrusted by the Chief Justice; • Represents the High Court in administrative and judicial matters before the Supreme Court; • Handles the correspondences with the Supreme Court, the other High Courts, the Central Government, the State Government and the other authorities; • Guides the Deputy Registrar (Protocol) in protocol matters.
Registrar (Vigilance)	• Deals with allegations and enquiries against Judicial Officers as well as the staff of the District Judiciary; • Deals with matters relating to the infrastructure of the district judiciary, in respect of which he coordinates with the concerned committee constituted by the Chief Justice as well as with the District Courts and the executing agencies like PWD; • Deals with the matters relating to rules of procedure applicable to the District Judiciary.
Registrar (Judicial)	• Discharges the functions assigned to him in the High Court Rules; • Deals with matters relating to budget and accounts, buildings and vehicles of the High Court; • Deals with the matters relating to service of the employees of the High Court; • Coordinates and sends replies to questions relating to the High Court raised in the Parliament and State Legislative Assembly; • Supervise the Administrative and Judicial Sections of the High Court function under his supervision; • Also deals with the matters relating to framing of rules governing procedures meant for the High Court. • Places before the Committee the appeals filed by staff of the District Judiciary against orders passed in administrative side in matters concerning their service; • Looks after matters relating to the District Judges' Conference; • Coordinates and sends replies to Parliament questions and Assembly questions with regard to District Judiciary; • Deals with the budget, the allotment of funds and the accounts relating to District Judiciary.

Registrar (Inspection)	• Coordinates the inspection of Civil and Criminal Courts of District Judiciary by the Chief Justice and Judges; • Looks after compilation of statements and returns received by the Statistics section of the High Court from District Judiciary; • Is designated as the COVID Compliance Officer and looking after the COVID Care Centres of the High Court meant for the Judges, the Officers and Staff; • Is designated by the Chief Justice as Nodal Officer for Digitization of Records.
Editor-in-Chief, Indian Law Reports, Cuttack Series	• Looks after the work of the Indian Law Reports Section of the Court. • Validates the headnotes prepared by the Law Reporter, Judicial Indexer etc.; • Ensures the publication of the ILR monthly journal and uploading of Judgments in the eHCR portal; • Looks after the compilation of statements and returns received by the statistics section of the High Court from the District Judiciary of the State; • Submits monthly, quarterly and other statistical returns to the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, Ministry of Law and Justice and to other authorities; • Looks after the AI assisted translation of the High Court of Orissa and Supreme Court of India judgments into vernacular language i.e. Odia;
Coordinator, Arbitration Centre	• Supervises the functioning of the Arbitration Centre and Mediation Centre of the High Court; • Coordinates the sittings of Arbitrators and Mediators for Arbitration and Mediation proceedings; • Is In-charge of the Judges' Library, discharges the functions of the Secretary, High Court Legal Services Committee.
Officer on Special Duty (Vigilance)	• Assists the Registrar (Vigilance) in matters relating to allegations and enquiries; • Deals with the files regarding sanction of leave of the Judicial Officers; • Is designated as Registrar (Examination) for dealing with examinations relating to recruitment to posts of the various cadres of the High Court. • Is designated as Registrar (Examination) for dealing with examinations relating to recruitment to posts of the various cadres of the High Court.

Secretary, Juvenile Justice Committee	• Assists the High Court Juvenile Justice Committee (HCJJC); • Provides information on issues pertaining to children and issues communications on behalf of the HCJJC to concerned departments; • Organizes conferences, seminars and consultations on the direction of HCJJC, drafts its agenda, prepares minutes and coordinates with the concerned departments; • Maintains necessary information which may be relevant for HCJJC for its robust functioning.
Member Secretary, State Court Management System	• Deals with preparation of vision document for the High Court and the District Courts and preparation of action plan for disposal of old cases. • Places information about the District Court Management Systems before the SCMS Committee constituted for the purpose and ensures implementation of the policies formulated from time to time.
Registrar (Records)	• Oversees the functioning of RRDC including movement of legacy records to Record Rooms, digitization and verification of legacy records and shredding of digitized records; • Oversees functioning of the District Court Digitization Hubs (DCDHs); • Oversees the judicial history project in coordination with Centre for Judicial Archives of Odisha and the other libraries and archives; • Oversees the High Court Museum.
Central Project Coordinator	• Looks after computerization of offices in the High Court and the District Judiciary under e-Courts Project; • Oversees the digitization of records and e-filing of the cases; • Oversees the functions of virtual hearing in the High Court and the District Courts; • Provides technical assistance for the functioning of the High Court and District Courts.
Special Officer (Administration)	• Oversees the functioning of Appointment Section of the Court which deals with matters relating to service of the Judicial Officers; • Works under the supervision of Registrar (Administration) and assists in matters relating to District Judges' Conference; • Assists Registrar (Judicial) in matters concerning appointment of the Law Reporter and in-service matters of the Gazetted officers of the Ministerial and Secretarial cadres in the Registry.
Special Officer (Special Cell)	• Oversees the preparation of the budget and accounts and deals with the service matters of the Gazetted and Non-gazetted employees of the High Court, except the Ministerial Officers; • Looks after matters relating to the Rules, General Rules, Circulars and orders of the High Court relating to the practice and procedure of the District Judiciary; • Issues General letters, circulars and other instructions of general nature on behalf of the High Court.

Deputy Registrar (Judicial)	• Discharges judicial functions delegated by the Registrar (Judicial) in accordance with Rule-2 of Chapter-V of the Rules of the High Court of Orissa, 1948 subject to the orders of the Chief Justice; • Oversees the work of sections in Judicial Department of the High Court including the filing section and the listing section; • Oversees preparation of the Cause Lists for Benches of the High Court according to the roster of assignment decided by the Chief Justice.
Deputy Registrar (Protocol)	• Coordinates the tours and visits of the Chief Justice and Judges of the High Court of Orissa within and outside the State; • Coordinates the tours and visits to Odisha of the Chief Justices and Judges of other High Courts as well as of the Supreme Court to Odisha; • Coordinates with the State Government and the Police authorities in the matter of security of the High Court premises and the bungalows of the Chief Justice and the Judges apart from their security during tours; • Deals with telephone connections of the High Court building and residential buildings of the Court.
Deputy Registrar (Records)	• Assists the Registrar, Records in supervision of functioning of RRDC and Museum of Justice; • Keeps track of the activities in the District Court Digitization Hubs; • Assists the Registrar (Judicial) of the Court in supervision of the infrastructures of the High Court establishment;
Additional Coordinator, Arbitration Centre	• Deals with the matters relating to Arbitration and Mediation Centre; • Deals with Appeals filed by the staff of the District Judiciary against orders passed on administrative side in matters concerning their service; • Sends replies to questions relating to the High Court raised in the Parliament and the State Legislative Assembly; • Deals with matters relating to buildings of District Judiciary and such other matters as are entrusted to him by the Chief Justice; • Is designated as Nodal Officer for records received from the State Administrative Tribunal after its abolition
Assistant Registrar (Administration)	• Is in-charge of matters relating to buildings of the High Court, Court Guest House at Cuttack, Community Centre and the High Court Museum; • Looks after the Class-IV establishment, matters relating to the vehicles, stock and stores of the High Court. • The sanctioned strength, present sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancy of the posts presently coming under all Group cadres are indicated in Appendix- I.

The sanctioned strength, present sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancy of the posts presently coming under all Group cadres are indicated in **Appendix-I**.

OVERALL STAFF STRENGTH OF THE HIGH COURT

Group A	Sanctioned 67	
	Working 53	
Group B (Gazetted)	Sanctioned 210	
	Working 200	
Group B (Non-Gazetted)	Sanctioned 661	
	Working 349	
Group C	Sanctioned 438	
	Working 296	
Group D	Sanctioned 295	
	Working 81	

INFRASTRUCTURE

1. Renovation of toilet in High Court catering to differently-abled and transgender persons

The Hon'ble Apex Court in case of Rajive Raturi Vs. Union of India in Writ Petition (Civil) No.243 of 2005 issued guidelines for formation of Accessibility Committee for enhancing physical and functional accessibility for persons with disability. In compliance with the said guidelines, a toilet located at the ground floor of the New Building of the High Court was renovated on 17th April, 2024, meant for differently-abled and transgender persons by promoting social inclusion, access to hygiene and dignity.

2. Inauguration of e-filing centre of High Court of Orissa

The e-filing centre in the High Court premises was inaugurated by the Chief Justice, in presence of the companion Judges on 05th July, 2024. In the e-filing Centre case filing process has been digitized in order to facilitate easy and hassle free filing of cases with a vision for taking a step towards "Paperless Courts" as envisioned by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.



The Chief Justice and companion judges at the inauguration of e-filing Centre.



Inside view of the e-filing Centre.



The Chief Justice inaugurating the e-filing Centre.



Entrance door of the e-filing Centre.

3. Inauguration of cafeteria at Museum of Justice

The Chief Justice, in presence of the companion Judges, inaugurated the Cafeteria in the Museum of Justice inside Killa Fort, Cuttack on 26th July, 2024 on the foundation the High Court of Orissa in order to provide delicious food to the visitors who are visiting the Museum of Justice.



The Cafeteria premises decorated on the occasion of inauguration.



The Chief Justice and companion judges at the inauguration of cafeteria at the Museum of Justice.

4. Construction and renovation of E-Type and F-Type Quarters for High Court Staff

There are existing 93 E-Type staff quarters out of which 22 quarters were renovated. The Roads & Building Division-1, Cuttack handed over 12 newly constructed E-Type quarters to the High Court on 06th August, 2024.

Similarly, there are existing 28 F-Type Group-D staff quarters out of which 15 nos. of vacant quarters were renovated. The R & B Division-1 Cuttack handed over 6 newly constructed F-Type quarters to the High Court on 06th August, 2024. The keys of 18 F-Type quarters were handed over by the High Court to the Group-D staff on 30th August, 2024. The staff occupied the same and are residing there.

5. Inauguration of Gymnasium at Court Guest House Complex

The Chief Justice in presence of the companion Judges inaugurated the Gymnasium at the High Court Guest House Complex on 16th November, 2024 to provide physical exercise facilities to the dignitaries during their visit to the Guest House.



Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, the Chief Justice inaugurating the Gymnasium along with Justice S.K. Sahoo.





Left: Entrance of the Gymnasium, Right: Interiors of the Gymnasium.

6. "Bhoomi Puja" for construction of Staff quarters

"Bhoomi Puja" for commencement of construction of 550 nos. of flats of staff quarters was performed at Sector-13, CDA, Cuttack on 11th December, 2024 by the Chief Justice in presence of Companion Judges of the High Court.



Entrance arch at the site of "Bhumi Puja" for construction of staff quarters.



Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, the Chief Justice performing "Bhoomi Puja".



The Chief Justice and companion Judges at the "Bhoomi Puja" ceremony.



The Chief Justice laying the ceremonial brick at the construction site.

7. "Bhoomi Puja" for Construction of High Court Annex Building

The "Bhoomi Puja" for commencement of construction of New Annex Building (B+G+5) in the premises of the High Court was performed on 11th December, 2024 by the Chief Justice in presence of Companion Judges of the High Court, President and Office bearers of the High Court Bar Association, Senior Advocates and members of the High Court Bar Association.



Entrance arch at the site of "Bhumi Puja" for construction of High Court Annex Building



Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, the Chief Justice and companion Judges at the "Bhoomi Puja" Ceremony.



The Chief Justice laying the ceremonial brick at the construction site.



Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, the Chief Justice performing "Bhoomi Puja".

8. Renovation and remodeling of Judges' Library

The Judges' Library is functioning in the Old Court building. With the passage of time, space created for keeping books became inadequate for which it became indispensable to redesign the library to get more space. The existing space where library is functioning, was redesigned with new model having all facilities, which provides adequate space for keeping books. The Chief Justice in presence of other companion judges, former judges, members of the Bar Association, Advocate General of Odisha, Deputy Solicitor General for High Court of Orissa and senior advocates inaugurated the refurbished Judges' Library on 23rd December, 2024.



Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, the Chief Justice inaugurating the Refurbished Judges' Library.



The remodeled and renovated entrance of the Judges' Library.



Interiors of the Refurbished Judges' Library.



The Chief Justice and Companion Judges at the inauguration of the Refurbished Judges' Library.

ICT INITIATIVES

Inauguration of 20 (Twenty) Paperless Courts in Phase-VIII in various Judgeships

On 22nd January, 2024, 20 Paperless Courts in Phase-VIII were inaugurated through virtual mode by Dr. Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi, Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa in presence of Justice Krushna Ram Mohapatra, Chairperson, Information Technology & Artificial Intelligence Committee of the High Court of Orissa, Dr. Justice Sanjeeb Kumar Panigrahi, Member, Information Technology & Artificial Intelligence Committee of the High Court of Orissa and the Judges of the High Court of Orissa. District Judges and judicial officers of the state joined the event through virtual mode.






HIGH COURT OF ORISSA
S. RATHO
M.S. SAHOO


Hon'ble The Acting Chief Justice
K.R. MOHAPATRA


HIGH COURT OF ORISSA

Inauguration of 25 (Twenty Five) Paperless Courts in Phase-IX

On 26th February, 2024, 25 Paperless Courts in Phase-IX were inaugurated through virtual mode by Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa in presence of Justice Krushna Ram Mohapatra, Chairperson, Information Technology & Artificial Intelligence Committee and Companion Judges of the High Court of Orissa. District Judges and judicial officers of the state joined the event through virtual mode.






High Court Of Orissa
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Mayurbhanj Plaque (POCS...
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NABARANGPUR, PLAQUE
Nayagarh Plaque
PURI, Plaque Point(CJSD)
BOUDH,PLAQUE
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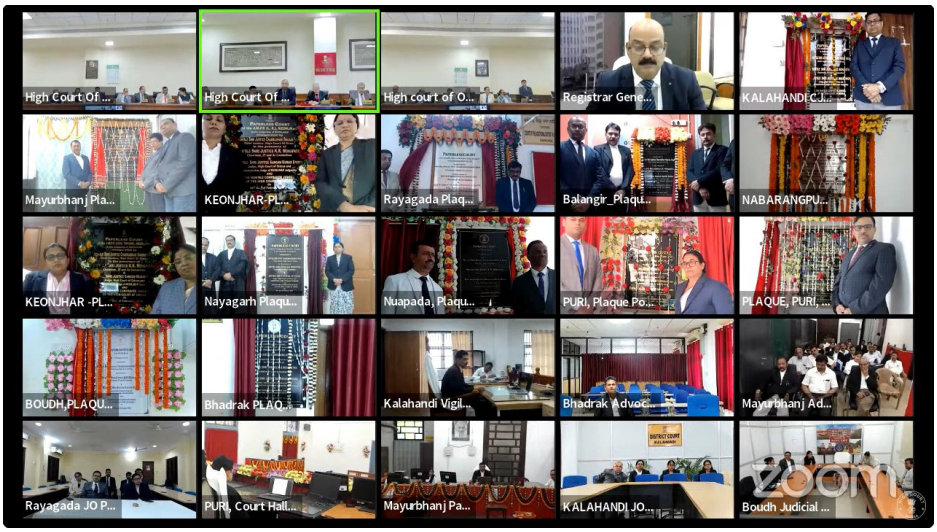
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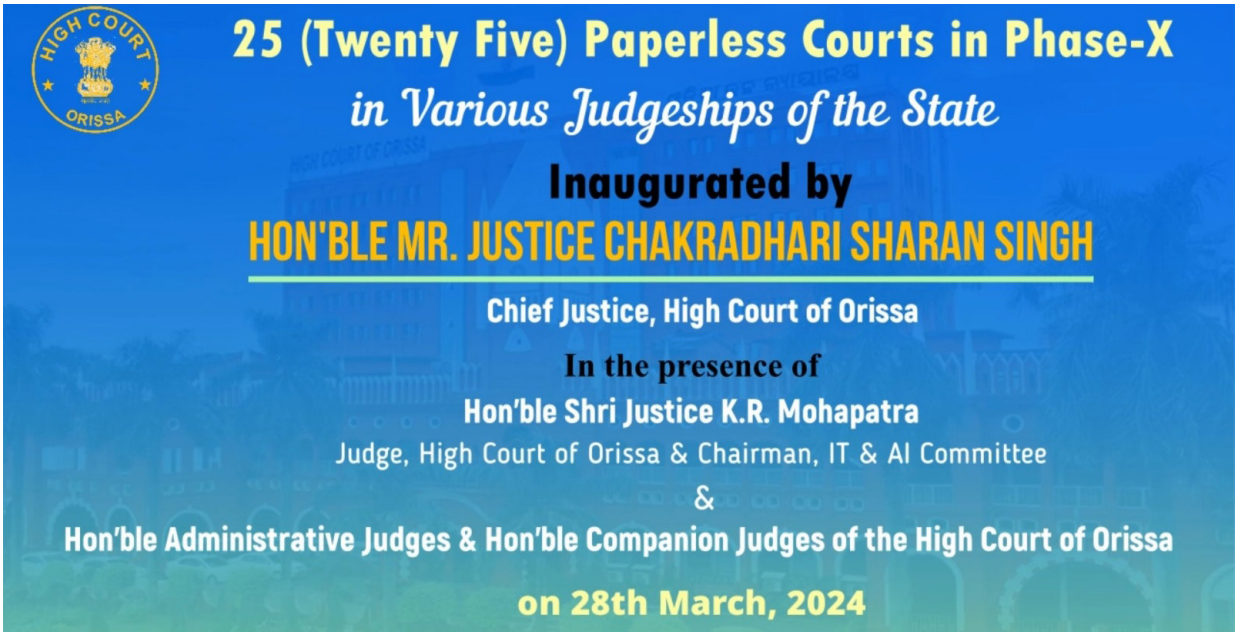
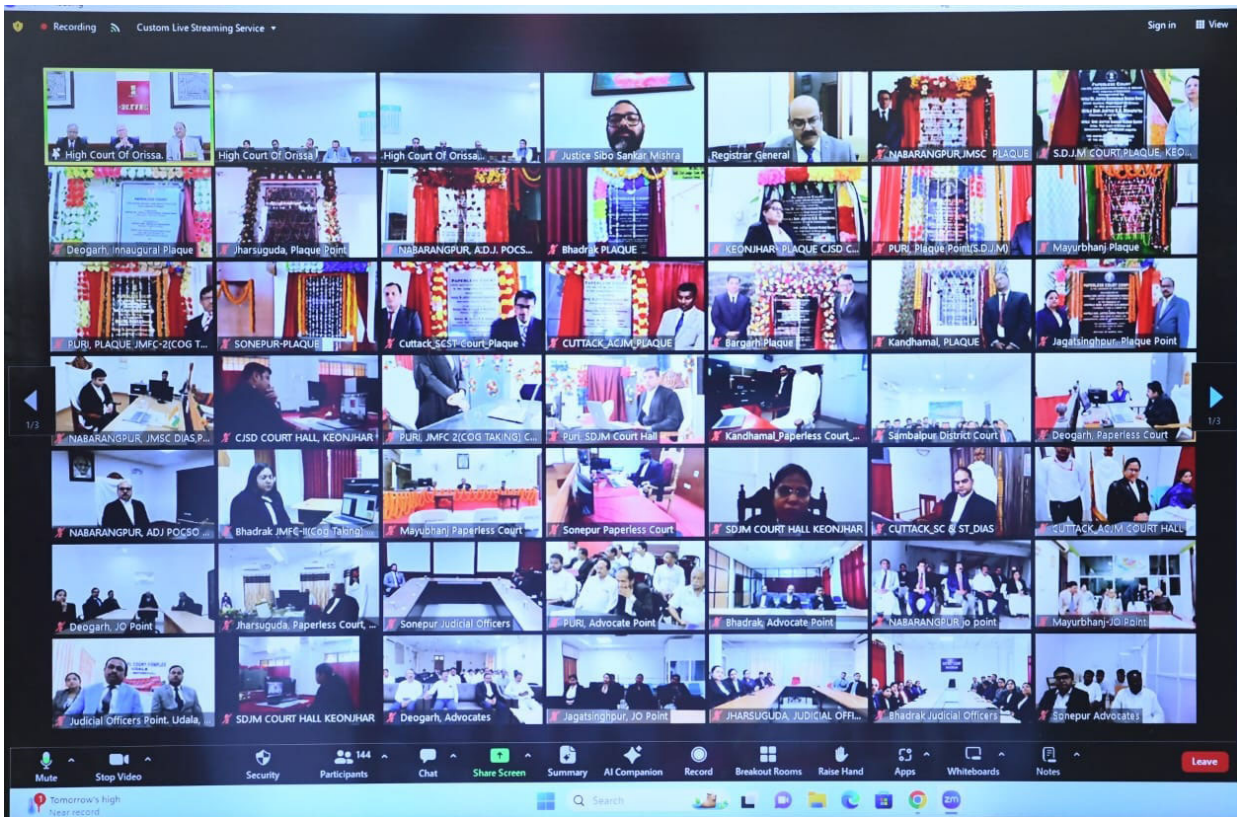
Inauguration of 25 (Twenty Five) Paperless Courts in Phase-X

On 28th March, 2024, 25 Paperless Courts in Phase-X were inaugurated through virtual mode by Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa in presence of Justice Krushna Ram Mohapatra, Chairperson, Information Technology & Artificial Intelligence Committee and Companion Judges of the High Court of Orissa. District Judges and judicial officers of the state joined the event through virtual mode.



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Registrar General
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S.D.J.M COURT PLAQUE, KEO...
Deogarh, Innaugural Plaque
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NABARANGPUR, A.D.J. POCS...
Bhadrak PLAQUE
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PURI, SDJM Court Hall
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Sambalpur District Court
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Bhadrak JMFC-II(Cog Taking)...
Mayurbhanj Paperless Court
Sonepur Paperless Court
SDJM COURT HALL KEONJHAR
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Deogarh, JO Point
Jharsuguda, Paperless Court, ...
Sonepur Judicial Officers
PURI, Advocate Point
Bhadrak, Advocate Point
NABARANGPUR,Jo point
Mayurbhanj-JO Point
Judicial Officers Point, Udala,
SDJM COURT HALL KEONJHAR
Deogarh, Advocates
Jagatsinghpur, JO Point
JHARSUGUDA, JUDICIAL OFFI...
Bhadrak Judicial Officers
Sonepur Advocates
Mute
Stop Video
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Raise Hand
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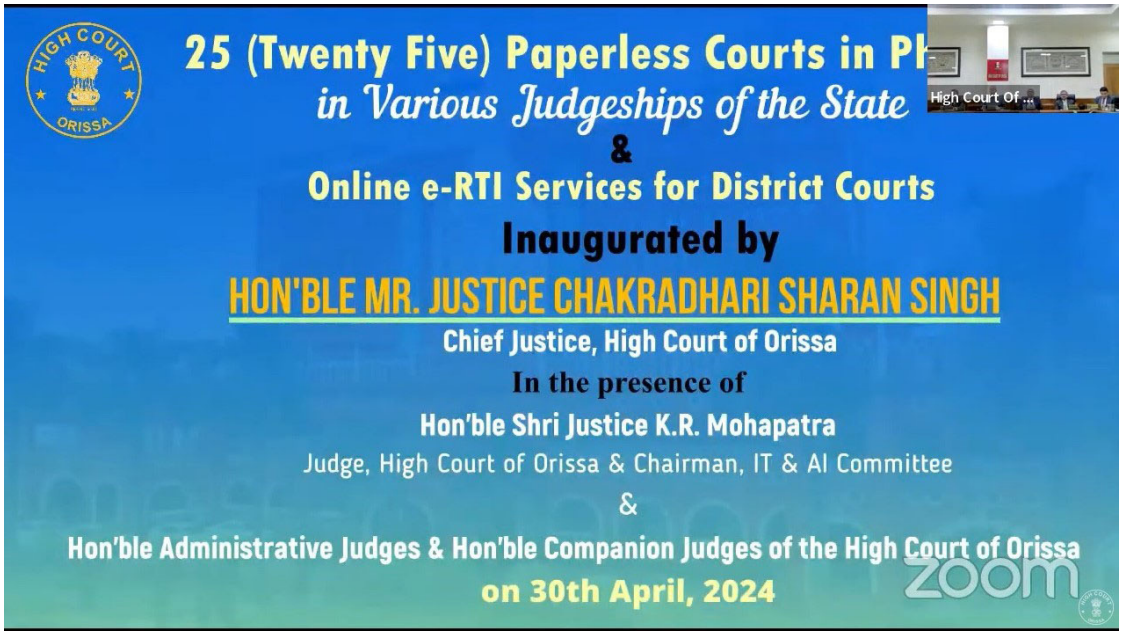
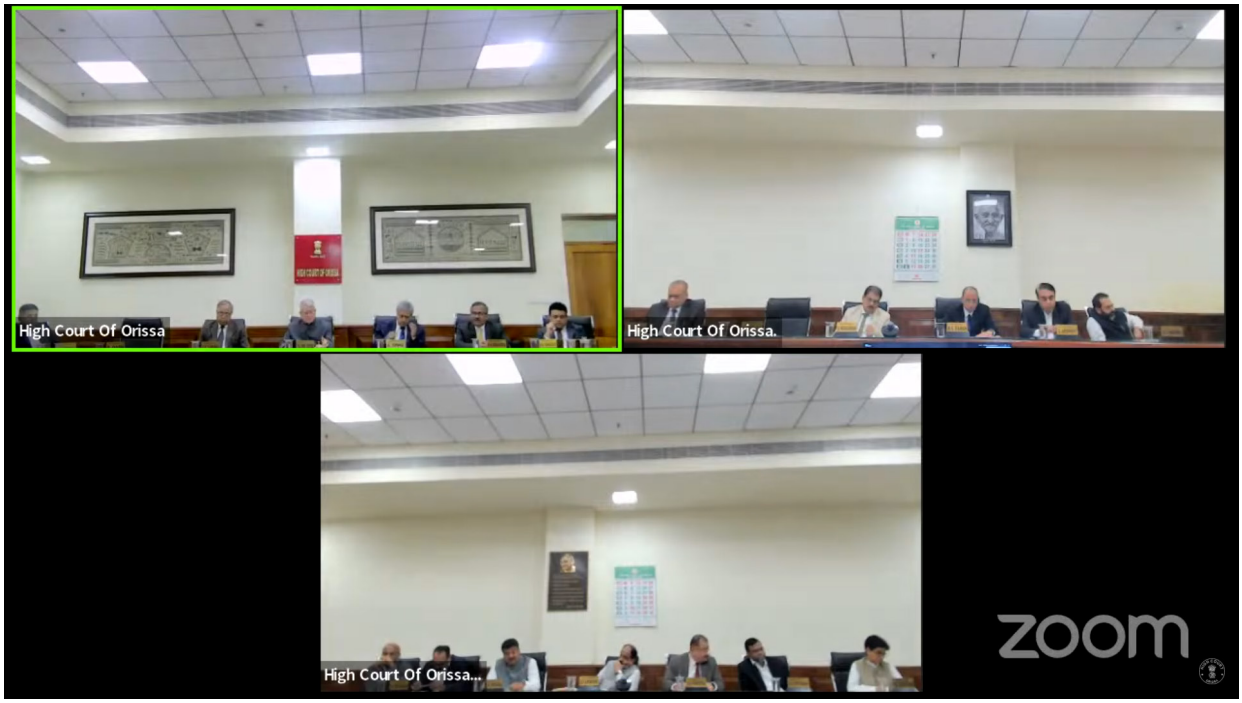
HIGH COURT OF ORISSA
S.K. SAHOO
B.P. ROUTRAY

Inauguration of 25 (Twenty Five) Paperless Courts in Phase-XI and Launching of e-RTI Service for the District Courts

On 30th April, 2024, Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa inaugurated 25 (Twenty-five) Paperless Courts in Phase-XI in various Judgeships and launched the e-RTI Services for the District Courts through virtual mode, in presence of Justice K.R. Mohapatra, Chairperson, Information Technology & Artificial Intelligence Committee and Companion Judges of the High Court of Orissa. The District Judges and Judicial Officers of the state joined the event through virtual mode. The inauguration took the total number of paperless courts across the State to 341.



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High Court Of Orissa
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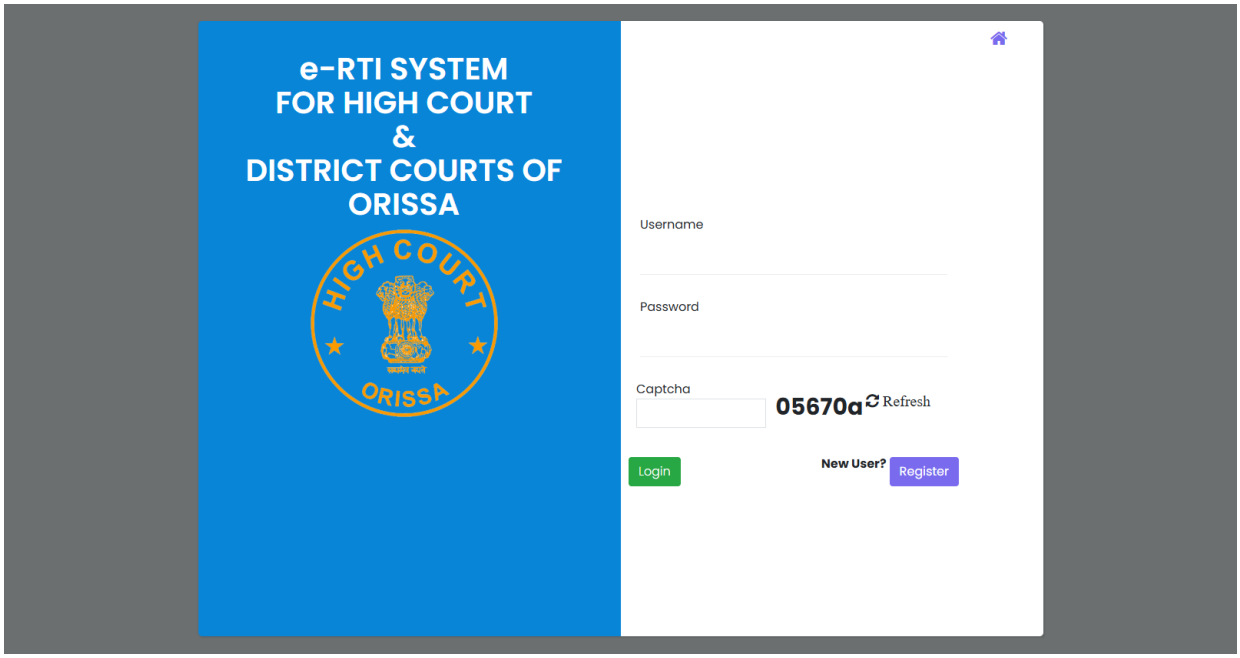
Online RTI Portal for District Courts

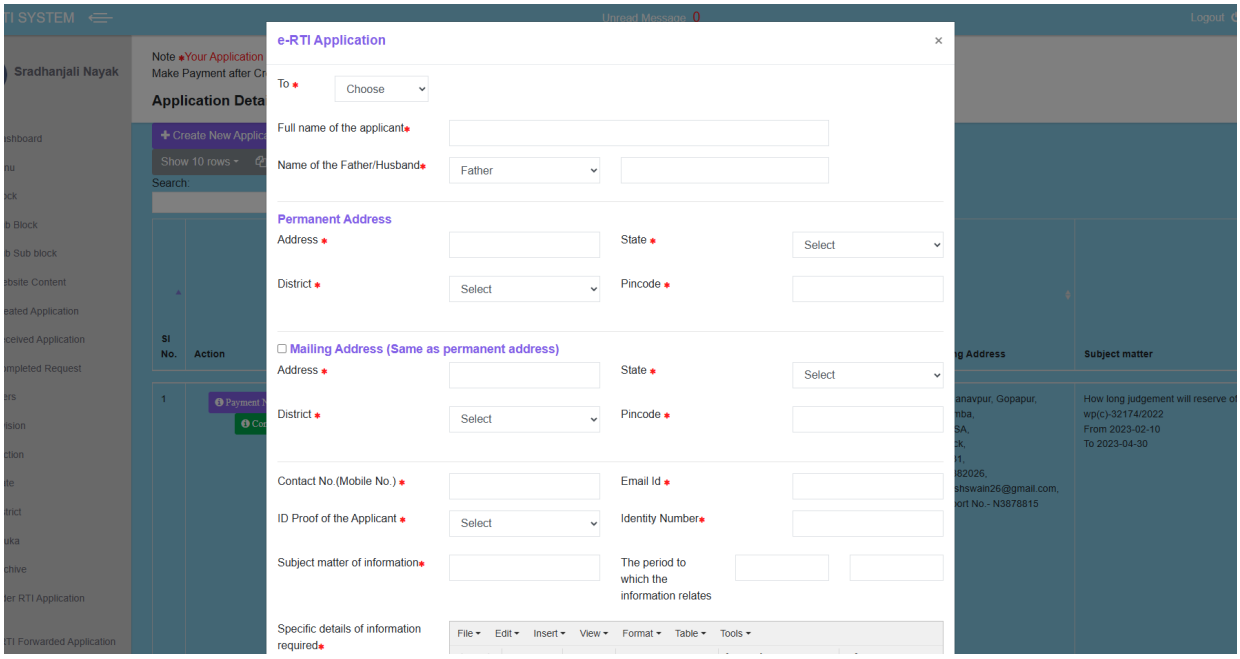
Online e-RTI Services for District Courts of the State of Odisha has been launched on 30th April, 2024 to assist the public to seek information under RTI Act and RTI Cell of the District Courts for the compliance against RTI queries. The e-RTI portal allows users to register and submit requests for information related to the Odisha District Courts. Citizens can track the status of their applications, ensuring a more efficient and timely response. This system improves public access to information, making the process more transparent and user-friendly.

Additionally, the RTI Cell of the District Courts benefits from this digital platform, which helps them to manage and respond to RTI queries more effectively. By streamlining the process, the portal ensures that the statutory deadlines under the RTI Act are met, reinforcing accountability within the judicial system.

https://www.orissahighcourt.nic.in/onlinerti/



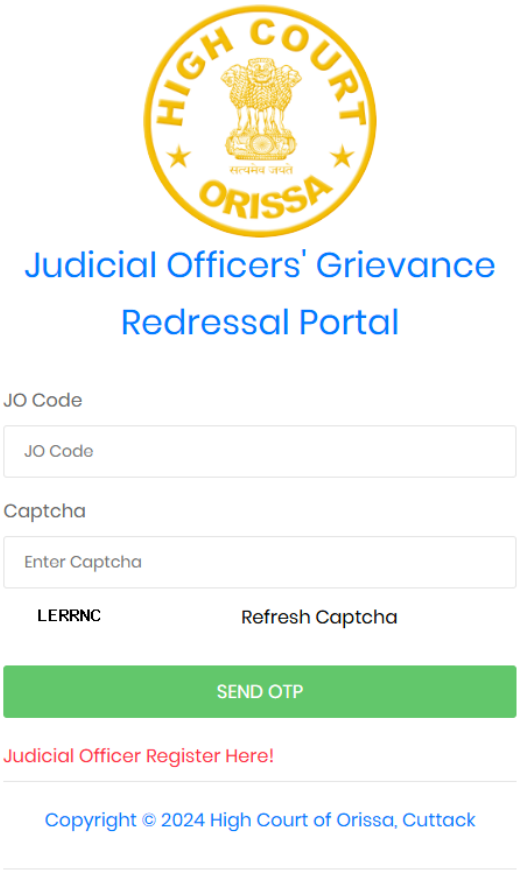




Launching of Judicial Officers' Grievance Redressal Portal

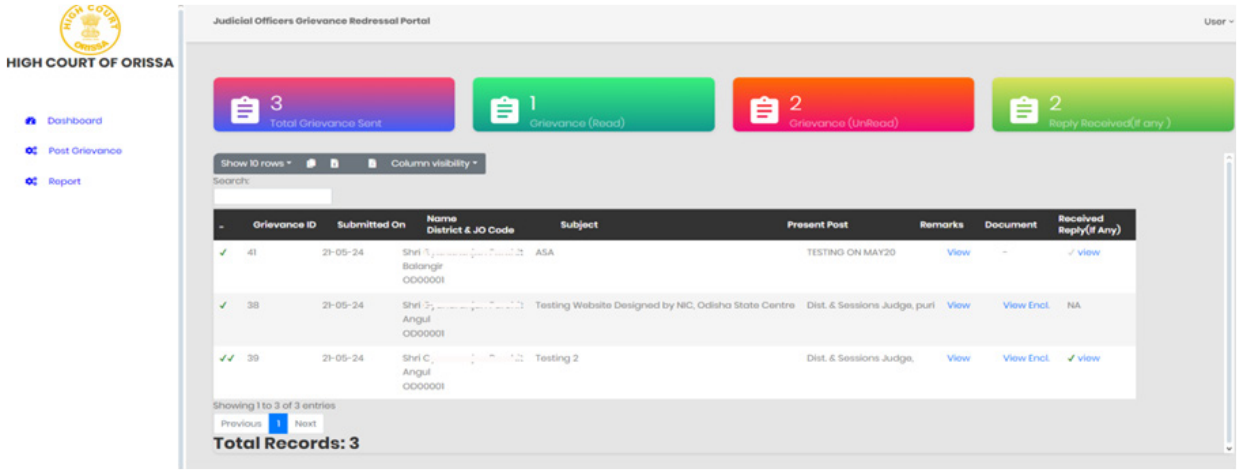
On 24th May, 2024, Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa launched the Judicial Officer's Grievance Redressal Portal. A dedicated portal has been created to enable the judicial officers to put forth their grievances which can help redressal of the genuine problems faced by them. The initiative aims at putting in place an effective mechanism to address the grievances of the judicial officers of the state at the level of the High Court. In addition, a comprehensive Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) / User Manual has been created to guide judicial officers in effectively using the portal. This SOP has been circulated across the state to ensure wide awareness and understanding among judicial officers.

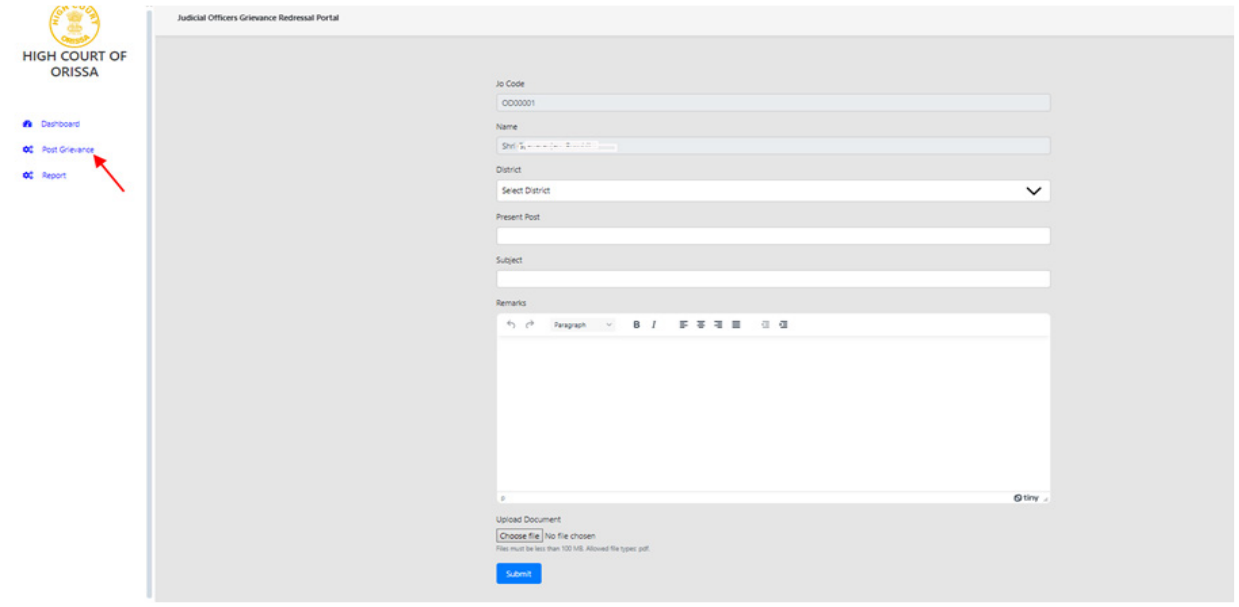
This initiative reinforces the commitment to a transparent, accountable and responsive judicial system, ensuring that the grievances of judicial officers are addressed in a timely and efficient manner.



Salient features of the Grievance Redressal Portal for Judicial Officers

- User-friendly Interface: Intuitive design and navigation to facilitate ease of use for all judicial officers.
- Secure Login: Access restricted to authorize personnel through secure authentication measures to protect the confidentiality of information.
- Grievance Submission: A structured form for judicial officers to submit their grievances, including details such as nature of the issue, supporting documents etc.
- Tracking System: Each grievance is assigned a unique identifier, allowing officers to track the progress of their complaints and receive updates in real-time.
- Documentation Repository: Centralized storage for all correspondence and documentation related to grievances for easy reference and audit purposes.

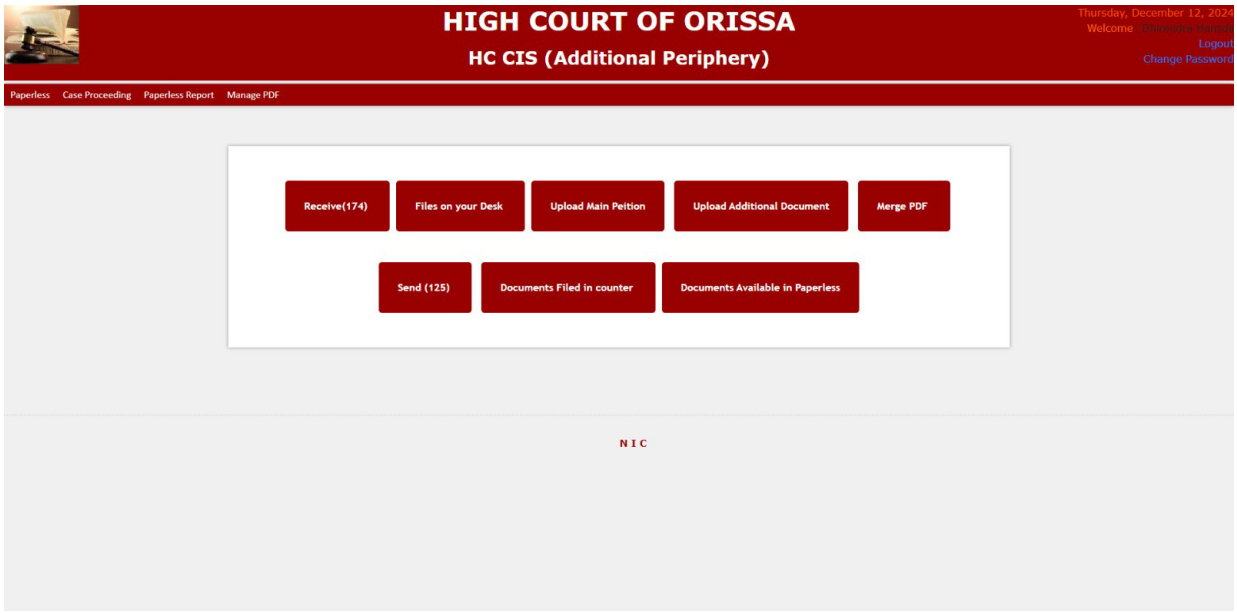


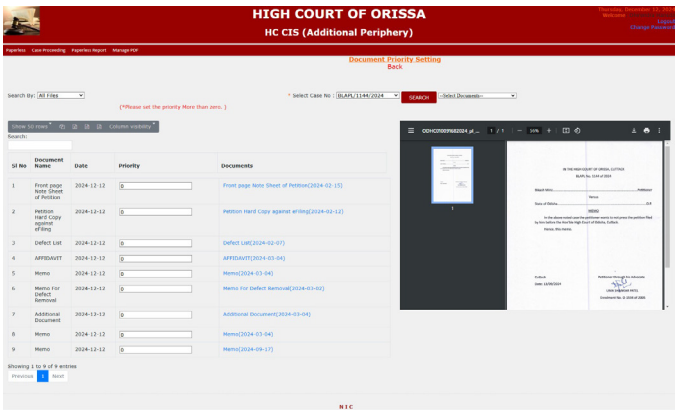


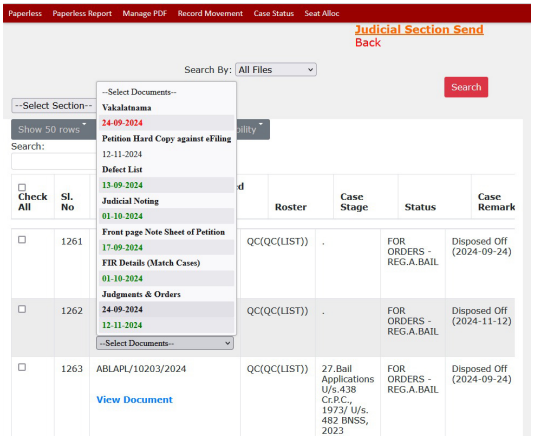
Paperless Movement of Case Records in Judicial Sections in the High Court

The implementation of paperless record movement in the judicial sections of the High Court of Orissa started from 11th July 2024, which marks a significant step towards improving the efficiency, transparency and sustainability of the judicial system in the High Court of Orissa. By reducing reliance on paper books, the Court aims to streamline case management, enhance security and promote a more environmentally responsible approach to justice administration. The transition not only benefits the Court's operations but also ensures better service to the public and legal professionals alike.

A web-based application has been developed for seamless access to the digital case records and to facilitate the movement within various sections, branches of the High Court. This system runs in the local network (LAN) and secured access has been provided to the officials and staffs through login credentials. This portal serves as the primary platform for moving, managing, and accessing case files electronically. All staff of the Judicial Sections have been provided training on this system to ensure a smooth transition to the paperless mode.







Launching of e-HCR (e-High Court Records) Portal

On 29th August, 2024, Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa launched the e-HCR Portal through virtual mode, in the presence of Hon'ble Companion Judges of the High Court of Orissa.

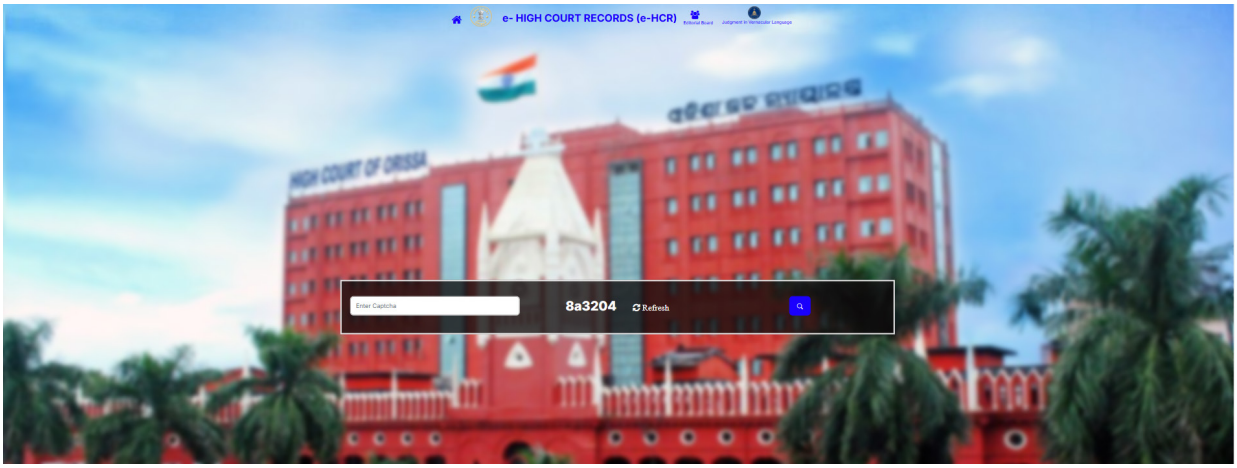
The e-HCR (e-High Court Records) Web Portal has been designed as per the instructions of the AI Assisted Legal Translation Advisory Committee, Supreme Court of India.

The e-HCR portal is user friendly, unrestricted and accessible to all users. The e-HCR portal provides access to the Honourable Courts judgments in bilingual mode that is English and Odia for free.

The portal's feature includes:

- Search engine: A free text search engine that can find judgments based on keywords.
- Filter criteria: Users can filter results by using a combination of criteria, such as:
- Act, Sections, Names of the parties, Judge name, Judgment date, Case type, Case year and Citation number.

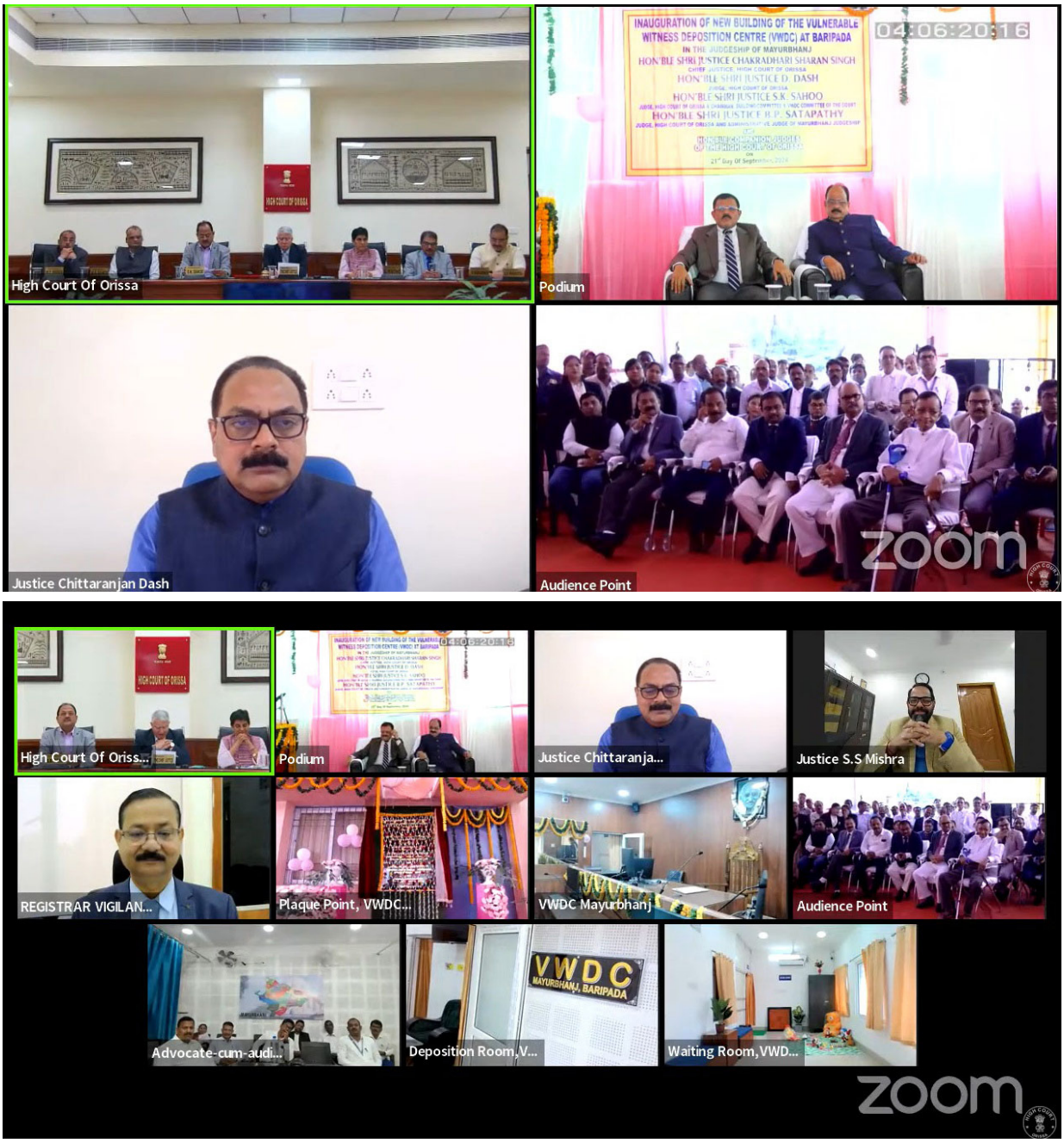
Apart from the above uploading, the Judgments in Odia are also being uploaded in the National Judicial Data Grid. The e-HCR portal will not only increase the legal literacy of the people but will also go a long way for participation of the judicial stake holders in the judicial process.





Inauguration of New Building of the Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre (VWDC) at Baripada in the Judgeship of Mayurbhanj

On 21st September, 2024, Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa inaugurated the New Building of the Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre (VWDC) at Baripada in the Judgeship of Mayurbhanj through virtual mode, in presence of the Hon'ble Companion Judges of the High Court of Orissa.



Warrant Management System (WMS)

On 3rd October, 2024, Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa inaugurated the Warrant Management System (WMS) in 23 Districts of Odisha through virtual mode, in presence of the Hon'ble Companion Judges of the High Court of Orissa.

After successful implementation at 8 pilot locations of the State, the Warrant Management System was launched on 03.10.2024 across the State i.e. in rest of the 23 Judgeships of the State of Odisha (421 no. of warrant issuing Courts).

The Warrant Management System portal represents a significant advancement in the collaboration between the judiciary and law enforcement. This platform has been designed to streamline the process of issuing warrants to the police for execution against various warrantees, providing a comprehensive system for acknowledgment and tracking the status of those warrants. The portal supports the issuance of multiple types of warrants, including bailable warrants, non-bailable warrants, distress warrants and recommitments. This flexibility ensures that the judiciary can effectively respond to a range of legal situations with the appropriate measures.

One of the key features of the portal is its integration with the Crime & Criminal Tracking Network and System (CCTNS). When a warrant is issued, relevant details about the warrantee are automatically fetched from the CCTNS database. This automation minimizes the risk of data entry errors and significantly reduces the time required to process warrants. By enhancing data accuracy and operational efficiency, the portal facilitates a more effective judicial system.

The Warrant Management System (WMS) has been developed and implemented in coordination between the State Crime Records Bureau, Odisha (SCRB) and the Hon'ble High Court of Orissa.

https://wms.odisha.gov.in/WarrantManagement/_layouts/Login.aspx




सत्यमेव जयते
HIGH COURT OF ORISSA
S.K. SAHOO
THE CHIEF JUSTICE


S.S. MISHRA
G. SATAPATHY

Launching of Internal Complaints Committee portal of the High Court of Orissa

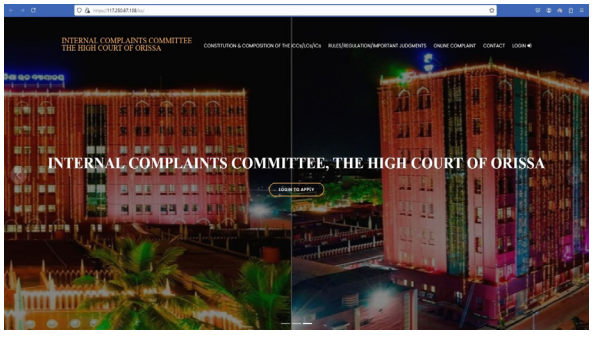
On 3rd December, 2024, Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa launched the Internal Complaints Committee portal, in presence of Hon'ble Companion Judges of the High Court of Orissa. The Internal Complaint Committee on Sexual Harassment of the High Court of Orissa has launched an online portal to provide a secure, confidential and efficient platform for lodging grievances related to incidents of sexual harassment within the High Court campus. This initiative aims to create a safe space for individuals to report any harassment they may experience, ensuring a transparent and timely grievance redressal mechanism. The Internal Complaints Committee portal has been designed to facilitate the staff of the High Court of Orissa to lodge grievance before the Committee for its consideration.

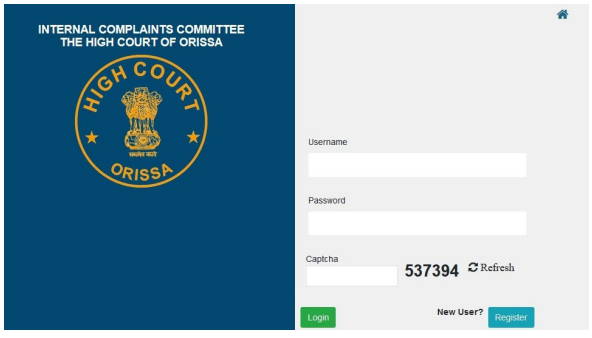
Key Features:

- Confidential Reporting: The portal ensures privacy and security for all users reporting grievances.
- Comprehensive Grievance Process: The portal includes a user-friendly interface for submitting detailed complaints, with an option to upload supporting documents.
- Clear Guidelines: Information regarding the Constitution and Composition of the Committee and the grievance process is readily available, allowing users to understand the procedures and ensure a smooth filing process.
- Efficient Processing: Once a complaint is submitted, it undergoes a verification process by the Court's administration, where the complaint is reviewed, and appropriate actions are taken based on its validity.

The portal provides users to create an account, file their grievances with full details, and track the progress of their complaints securely. The High Court's Internal Complaint Committee is committed to addressing complaints with confidentiality and effectiveness, promoting a safe and respectful environment within the Court.

This initiative reflects the High Court of Orissa's commitment for ensuring that all individuals working within its premises are treated with respect and dignity.











ACTIVITIES

New Year Meet of the Bar & Bench

On 4th January, 2024, like the previous year, the High Court organized a friendly meet for the Bar and Bench on the occasion of New Year in front of the New Building of the High Court. Dr. Justice B.R. Sarangi, Acting Chief Justice, and the Judges of the High Court of Orissa were present on the occasion. The Advocate General, Odisha, the Deputy Solicitor General of India for the High Court of Orissa, the President and Office Bearers of the High Court Bar Association also attended on the occasion, along with the Senior Advocates, the Law Officers for the State Government and the Union of India, as well as other departments. This initiative was made to foster a cordial relationship between the Bar and Bench, who are two sides of the same coin, and for better prospects of future endeavors.

On the occasion, the Acting Chief Justice, the Advocate General, the former Advocate General and other Senior Advocates had delivered speech sharing their experiences of the struggle in the legal profession and how they were able to reach the pinnacle of glory, which was a guiding force for the young practitioners who have chosen the legal profession as their careers.





Judges, Senior Advocates and Bar members in the New Year Meet, 2024

Celebration of Republic Day

The 75th Republic Day was celebrated on 26th January, 2024 in the premises of the High Court of Orissa. Dr. B.R. Sarangi, Acting Chief Justice hoisted the National Flag. The event was attended by other companion judges of the Court, members of the Bar and staff of the Court. On the said occasion, the ambulance service of the High Court Dispensary was flagged off by the Acting Chief Justice as a token of dedication to the services of patients.



The Acting Chief Justice hoisting the National Flag on Republic Day in the High Court premises.



Inauguration of ambulance service of High Court dispensary.

Visit of the Chief Justice of Nepal to the High Court of Orissa

The Chief Justice of Nepal, Shri Bishowambhar Prasad Shrestha, along with his spouse, visited the High Court of Orissa on 02nd February, 2024 and he was felicitated with a memento and guard of honour. During his visit, he had a glance at the premises of the High Court and interacted with the Acting Chief Justice and other companion Judges of the Court.



The Chief Justice of Nepal receiving Guard of Honour.



The Chief Justice of Nepal along with Acting Chief Justice of High Court and other companion judges.

Bench versus Bar Cricket Match

A friendly twenty20 cricket match between the Judges and members of the Bar was held on 16th March, 2024 in the Barabati Stadium, Cuttack. In the said match, the Chief Justice and other companion judges from the side of the bench and the senior and junior advocates led by the President of the Bar Association from the side of the Bar took part in the event. The match was won by the bench, with the winner's trophy being presented by the President, Bar Association to the Chief Justice. The Man of the Match award was won by Justice S.K. Sahoo.





The post-match presentation ceremony of Bench versus Bar Cricket match.

Visit of Justice Sanjay Karol, Judge, Supreme Court to the High Court

Justice Sanjay Karol, Judge, Supreme Court of India had visited the High Court of Orissa on 03rd March,2024. He was felicitated with a memento and guard of honour. During his visit, he had a glance at the premises of the High Court and interacted with the Chief Justice and other Companion Judges of the Court.



Justice Sanjay Karol, Judge, Supreme Court of India receiving Guard of Honour.



Justice Sanjay Karol along with Chief Justice of High Court and other companion judges.

Celebration of Madhu Jayanti

The birth anniversary of Shri Madhusudan Das, also known as Lawyer's Day, was celebrated on 28th April, 2024. On the said occasion, the Chief Justice, other companion judges and members of the Bar had garlanded the statue of Shri Madhusudan Das installed in the premises of the High Court





Celebration of Madhu Jayanti in the High Court premises

Yoga Day Celebration

The International Yoga Day was observed on 21st June, 2024 where the Chief Justice, other Companion Judges, officers of registry and other staff of the Court took part in the event held in the premises of the High Court.The invited yoga guru had taught various yoga asanas which have positive impacts in our day-to-day life and emphasized on the importance of yoga for good physical and mental health.





Observance of International Yoga Day in the premises of the High Court with participation from the Chief Justice and other companion judges

Celebration of High Court Foundation Day

On 26th July, 2024, the 77th Foundation the High Court of Orissa was celebrated. The Chief Justice and other companion Judges along with Bar members had participated in the event. To commemorate the event, a drama (on SAHEED LAKHAN NAIK) was staged by the staff of the Court at the Justice Gati Krushna Auditorium, OJA, Cuttack. The members of the team involved in preparation and staging of the drama were presented with Certificates of Appreciation by the Chief Justice. On the same day, the death anniversary of Justice Bira Kishore Ray, the first Chief Justice of the High Court of Orissa was also observed.





Observance of High Court Foundation Day in the premises of the High Court









(Middle & Bottom Row) Drama : *SAHEED LAKHAN NAIK staged by the High Court Staff*

East Zone-I Regional Conference on Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law and Technology

On 3rd & 4th August, the "East Zone-1 Regional Conference on Contemporary and Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law and Technology" was conducted by the High Court of Orissa at the Odisha Judicial Academy, Cuttack. Justice Surya Kanta, Judge, Supreme Court presided over the Conference as its Chief Guest. Justice Abhay S. Oka, Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Judges, Supreme Court of India, Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, Chief Justice and Companion Judges of High Court of Orissa, Justice Aniruddha Bose, former Judge of Supreme Court of India and Director, National Judicial Academy, Bhopal and Judges of other High Courts had participated in the programme. The nominated Judicial Officers from states of Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha had participated in the conference.

Felicitation of retired and retiring employees of the Court and handing over of keys of F-type quarters to Group-D employees of the High Court



Chief Justice and companion judges attending the felicitation ceremony.



Keys of quarters being handed over to the Group-D staff of the Court

A felicitation ceremony for the employees of the Court who had retired between January to August 2024 was held on 30th August, 2024 in the premises of the High Court. The Chief Justice and other Companion Judges graced the event and felicitated the retired and retiring employees. On the said occasion, keys of 18 F-Type quarters were handed over to the Group-D employees of the Court.

Participation of Judicial Officers from District Judiciary in the "National Conference of District Judiciary", New Delhi



Dr. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, the Chief Justice of India, Justice Surya Kant, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Chief justice of High Court of Orissa alongwith other judicial officers from the State at the National Conference held in New Delhi.

The National Conference of the District Judiciary was organized by the Supreme Court of India from 31st August to 1st September, 2024 at Convention Centre at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. 27 Judicial Officers from the state of Orissa having the cadre of District Judge, Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.) and Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.), nominated by the High Court, had physically participated in the conference. All other Judicial Officers of the state had also joined in the conference virtually.

State Level Consultation on Effective Implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act & POCSO Act with specific focus on children with disabilities

The Juvenile Justice Committee of High Court of Orissa and Odisha Judicial Academy in collaboration with Department of Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Department of Women and Child Development and UNICEF had organized a State Level Consultation on Juvenile Justice on 1st September, 2024 at Odisha Judicial Academy, Cuttack. The consultation was dedicated to explore the effective implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act and Protection of Children from sexual offences Act, with a specific focus on the rights of children with disabilities.



The State Level Consultation programme organised at the Odisha Judicial Academy, Cuttack



Participants of the State Level Consultation made for effective implementation of JJ Act & POCSO Act.

Observance of Gandhi Jayanti

The birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi was observed on 02nd October, 2024. The Chief Justice, other companion Judges of the Court and members of the Bar garlanded the statue of Mahatma Gandhi installed in the premises of the High Court.





Observance of Gandhi Jayanti in the premises of the High Court.

Inauguration of the High Court pavilion at the Baliyatra Ground, Cuttack

The historic Baliyatra Festival was held at Cuttack from 15th November, 2024 to 23rd November, 2024. In the said fair, the High Court opened a stall named as "High Court Pavilion" which was inaugurated by Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, the Chief Justice in presence of companion Judges on 16th November, 2024. In the said pavilion various activities and citizen centric initiatives undertaken by the High Court and its allied organs such as O.J.A (Odisha Judicial Academy), OSLSA (Odisha state Legal Services Authority), RRDC (Record Room Digitization Centre) and Judicial Archives were portrayed for the awareness of the general public. The book viz. "The Judicial History of Odisha Volume-I" was also made available for the general public.



The High Court Pavilion in Baliyatra Festival, Cuttack



The Chief Justice and other companion judges inaugurating the High Court Pavilion in Baliyatra Festival, Cuttack



The Chief Justice and other Judges visiting the pavilion

Observance of Constitution Day

Since the year, 2024 marked as the 75th year of the adoption of the constitution of India,on 26th November, 2024 all the officers of the Registry and the staff of the High Court observed the Constitution Day at the New Conference Hall of the Old Court building. In the said occasion, all the participants read out the "Preamble" of the Constitution of India to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India and to honour and pay tribute to the contribution of its founding fathers.





The officers of Registry and staff of the High Court participated on the occasion of "Samvidhan Diwas"

Release of Judicial Calendar

On 22nd December, 2024, for the fourth consecutive year, the High Court of Orissa released the Judicial Calendar of Odisha featuring paintings of school children in Justice Gati Krushna Auditorium of the Odisha Judicial Academy.

On 10th November, 2024 painting competitions were held among the school children of Class-VII to X across the State on the theme "Rights of Children with disabilities" by the District Courts under aegis of the High Court of Orissa. 1819 children participated in the competitions and 3 paintings were selected from each district. The 90 paintings adjudged 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the districts were brought to Cuttack and out of them 12 paintings were selected by the Committee of Justice Sangam Kumar Sahoo, Justice Savitri Ratho, Justice V. Narasingh and Justice Gourishankar Satapathy. The 12 paintings were of Subha Ommkar Rath of Kalahandi, Ashribad Das of Anugul, Basudev Gamango of Gajapati, Ananta Behera of Jagatsinghpur, Shriyansh Panda of Cuttack, Sandeep Kumar Dubey of Nuapada, Bishnupriya Mohapatra of Mayurbhanj, Tuna Muduli of Koraput, Sibashis Das of Kendrapara, Suman Naik of Keonjhar, dolbee Rani Parida of Jajpur and Shreya Mohanty of Puri. Those paintings have found place in the Judicial Calendar of Odisha, 2025.



Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, the Chief Justice felicitating one of the child artists.

In a function in Odisha Judicial Academy the calendar was released by Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, the Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa in the presence of the Judges of High Court of Orissa. Eminent Odia Film Actor, Director, Script Writer & Columnist Dr. Shri Prashant Nanda and Eminent Artist Shri Gajendra Prasad Sahu were the special guests. The 12 children artists were felicitated by the Chief Justice, Judges and guests with certificates of appreciation, medals and prizes in presence of their parents.



Judicial Calendar, 2025 being released by Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, the Chief Justice, Judges and other dignitaries,

The High Court Cricket Carnival, 2024

The Orissa High Court Cricket Carnival 2024, held from 28th December, 2024 to 31st December, 2024, witnessed active participation from 17 teams, including 15 men's and 2 women's teams. The event was inaugurated by Justice K.R. Mohapatra and Justice Savitri Ratho. The league matches took place on 28th and 29th December, followed by the quarterfinals on 30th December, and the semi-finals and final matches on 31st December. In the women's final, the Yellow Jaguars triumphed over the Pink Panthers, while in the men's final, the Accounts Elite Warriors defeated List United. The closing ceremony was graced by Justice Sashikanta Mishra, Justice A.K. Mohapatra, Justice V. Narasingh, and Justice M.S. Raman.



Justice K.R. Mohapatra and Justice Savitri Ratho unveiling the winner's trophies of the Men's and Women's category for the High Court Cricket Carnival, 2024.



Captains of the participating Men's and Women's teams.



Justice Sashikanta Mishra, Justice A.K. Mohapatra and Justice V. Narasingh presenting the Winner's trophy in Men's category to "Accounts Elite Warriors".



Justice Sashikanta Mishra presenting the Winner's trophy in Women's category to "Yellow Jaguars".

Employees who retired in 2024

- Binaya Kumar Behera, Head Driver
- Badruddin Khan, Head Driver
- Gopinath Jena, Assistant Registrar (Judicial)
- Sanjaya Kumar Barik, Jamadar
- Prabodha Dash, Diarist
- Surya Narayan Parija, Additional Registrar (Establishment)
- Ranjit Kumar Mohanty, Assistant Registrar-cum-Stamp Reporter & Oath Commissioner
- Trilochan Guru, Assistant Registrar-cum-Additional Stamp Reporter & Oath Commissioner
- Gagan Bihari Sahoo, Duftary
- Sangyanshubala Bhuyan, Additional Registrar (Establishment)
- Amulya Behera, Cook-cum-Caretaker
- Pravas Kumar Mallik, Senior Garde Diarist
- Gyana Ranjan Das, Additional Deputy Registrar (J&E)
- Pradipta Kumar Pattanaik, Additional Deputy Registrar (J & E)
- Surendranath Patra, Duftary
- Onkar Nath Ghose, Assistant Registrar-cum-A.S.R. & O.C.

OBITUARY

Former Judges of the High Court of Orissa

- Justice Pradyumna Kumar Mohanty
- Justice Choudhury Pratap Kishore Mishra
- Justice Susanta Chatterji

Members of the High Court Bar Association

- Debi Prasad Sarangi
- Amitav Bagchi
- Sagarika Panda
- Somadarshan Mohanty
- Bibhu Prasad Kar
- Gokulananda Mohapatra
- Rita Roy
- Shantanu Kumar Nayak
- Durllabha Ranjan Mishra
- Uma Charan Panda
- Biram Kishore Beura
- Jugal Kishore Tripathy
- Ramesh Chandra Das
- Banshidhar Das
- Braja Mohan Biswal
- Biswanath Joshi
- Dinabandhu Mishra
- Srikant Kumar Sahoo
- Dipti Ranjan Mohapatra
- Bidyadhar Pradhan
- Sarat Chandra Dash
- Pravas Kumar Behera
- Dhruba Charan Routray
- Mahendra Kumar Das
- Samir Prasad Dey
- Bansidhar Das
- Ramesh Chandra Das
- Jugal Kishore Tripathy

Judicial Officers of the State

Sashi Rekha Mishra, Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)

Employees of the High Court

Padma Charan Das, Personal Assistant

ACCOUNTS

In every financial year, the establishment of the High Court of Orissa places demands before the State Government for making necessary provision of funds under two different heads of account: Infrastructure Development and Administrative Expenses.

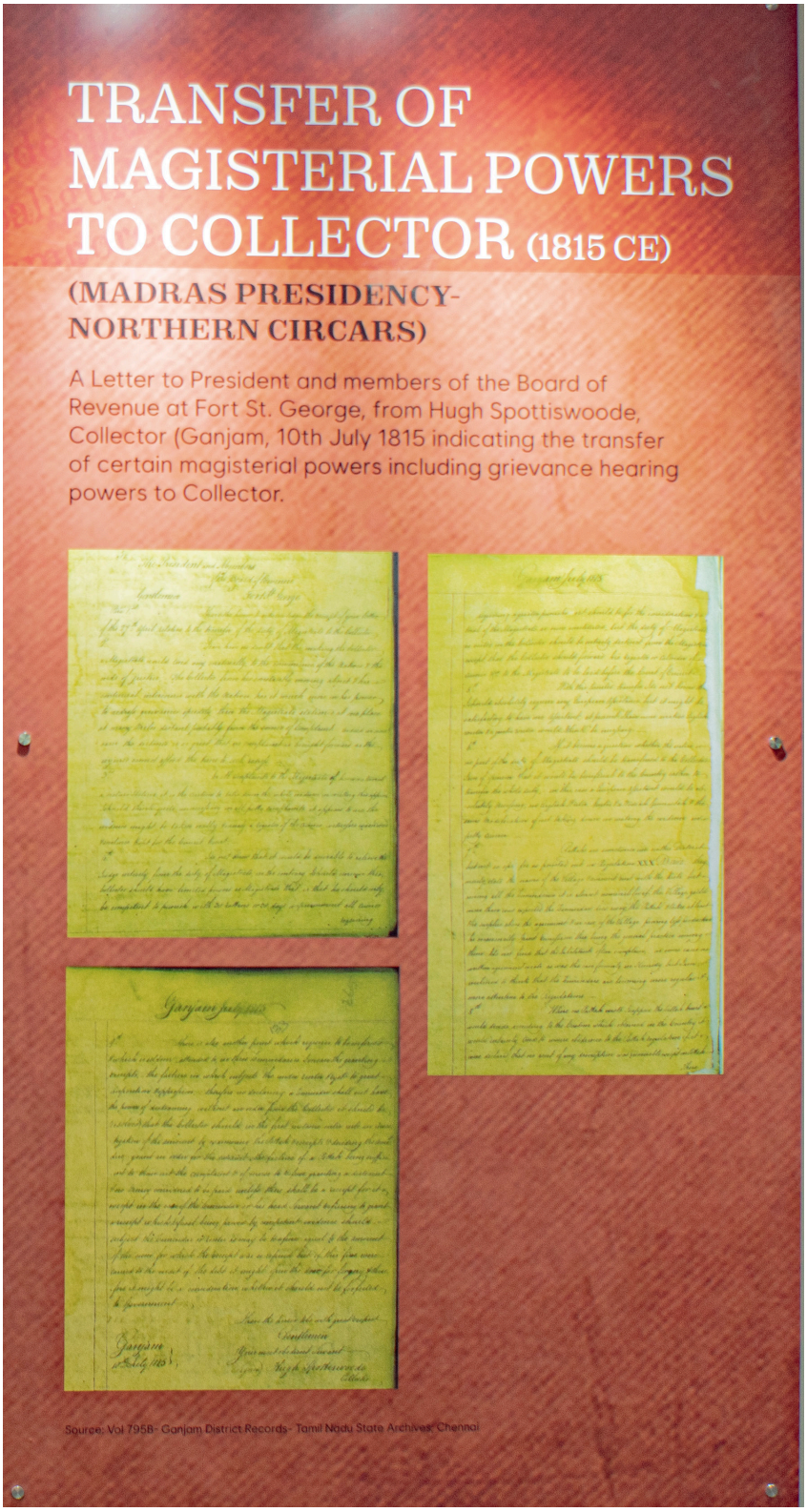
Infrastructure Development covers construction of new Court and office buildings, residential bungalows, quarters, Court Guest Houses repair and renovation of such buildings and up-gradation of the existing infrastructure. Pursuant to a proposal by the High Court, the State Government makes provision of funds for such projects on annual basis. The buildings meant for Courts, Offices and Guest Houses are classified as "Non-Residential Buildings". The bungalows and quarters are classified as "Residential Buildings".

During the financial year 2024-25, funds of Rs. 62,36,27,000 /- were made available by the State Government for new construction of non-residential projects and Rs.16,30,63,800 /- for repair and renovation of residential buildings of Judges, officers and staff. While Rs. 57,32,93,800 /- has been released in favour of the executing agencies by the end of December, 2024, the entire amount for new construction, repair and renovation has been released in their favour for execution of work. The remaining amount will be utilized within the financial year 2025-26. The projects undertaken during the year have been indicated in a separate chapter titled 'Infrastructure'.

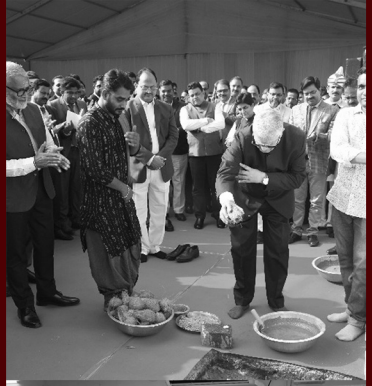
Administrative expenditure includes salary and emoluments, transport expenses, leave travel concession, electricity, water charges, telephone, motor vehicles, other contingencies, up gradation of computer facilities and sumptuary allowance etc. Pursuant to a proposal submitted by the High Court, the State Government makes provision of funds in the above sub-heads under the major head 'Administrative Expenditure for Establishment'.

During the financial year 2024-25, there has been a budgetary provision of Rs.223,15,21,000/- towards administrative expenses of the High Court, out of which a sum of Rs.131,68,41,000/- was spent under different heads from 1st April, 2024 to 31st December, 2024, Rs.92,90,27,000/- towards salaries and allowances, Rs.3,40,04,000/- towards electricity charges, Rs.23,000/- towards water charges, Rs.13,89,42,000/- towards telephone charges, Rs.1,71,37,000/- towards purchase and maintenance of vehicles, Rs. 10,80,40,000/- towards computer upgradation and maintenance, and Rs.13,96,68,000/- towards other contingencies.

The details of the budgetary allocation and expenditure for infrastructure development and establishment of the High Court and the Budget of the High Court have been indicated in a tabular form at **Appendix- J.**



Panel depicting archival records on transfer of magisterial powers, displayed at Centre for Judicial Archives.











CHAPTER II

ALLIED ORGANS


ARBITRATION CENTRE
ODISHA STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

Odisha State Legal Services Authority



From left to right : Sudipta Acharya, Member Secretary, Justice Arindam Sinha, Executive Chairman, *Chittaranjan Mishra,* Deputy Secretary *and Srujan Saraswat,* Assistant Secretary

Justice Arindam Sinha, Judge, High Court of Orissa is the Executive Chairman of Odisha State Legal Services Authority (OSLSA) since 10th July, 2024. Prior to Justice Arindam Sinha, Dr. Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi, Judge, High Court of Orissa was the Executive Chairman, OSLSA. Justice Sangam Kumar Sahoo, Judge, High Court of Orissa is the Chairman, High Court Legal Services Committee since 21st October, 2024. Prior to Justice Sangam Kumar Sahoo, Justice Arindam Sinha, Judge, High Court of Orissa and Justice Debabrata Dash, Judge, High Court of Orissa were the Chairman, High Court Legal Services Committee.

Access to justice for all is not just a constitutional goal but it is the driving force behind all the legal services institutions in India. With the passage of time, dynamic roles and responsibilities have been assigned to legal services institutions and OSLSA and its field units are not behind in discharging its pious obligation.

The prime objective of OSLSA is to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society; and to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disability. OSLSA periodically organises Lok Adalats to facilitate expeditious disposal of cases. OSLSA is functioning through its state-wide network of legal services institutions in all the 30 Districts and 114 Taluks of the State.

1. Lok Adalat

- National Lok Adalat

As per the National Lok Adalat Schedule for the year 2024 received from National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), New Delhi, 04 National Lok Adalats were organized on **09.03.2024/17.03.2024**,

11.05.2024, 14.09.2024 and 14.12.2024 in the High Court of Orissa and in the District & other Subordinate Courts including Debts Recovery Tribunal, other Tribunals/Forums during the period from 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2024. As many as 2646 cases including motor accident claim appeals, service matters, N.I. Act U/s.138 matters, land acquisition appeals, electricity matters, criminal compoundable matters, matrimonial matters and other matters were placed in the High Court of Orissa. 466 cases involving compensation in motor accident claim appeals of Rs. 34,13,56,544/- have been settled.

Similarly, in the District and other Subordinate Courts including other Tribunals/Forums, as many as 1,66,546 cases including criminal compoundable, N.I. Act cases, money recovery, motor accident claims, labour, civil, matrimonial, consumer, Debts Recovery Tribunals cases, and other criminal cases were placed in the aforesaid Lok Adalat. 60,787 cases involving realization of fines in criminal compoundable cases, money recovery cases, MAC Cases, labour, Civil, Debts Recovery Tribunal cases, matrimonial and award of compensation etc. of Rs. 423,49,68,300/-were settled. Further, 22677 no. of pre-litigation disputes involving Rs.68,46,26,056/-have been settled.

Details of National Lok Adalat in the High Court

Date of Lok Adalat	Cases placed	Cases settled	Amount involved (In Rs.)
1st National Lok Adalat held on 17th March, 2024	660	133	9,15,94,200/-
2nd National Lok Adalat held on 11th May,2024	594	63	3,85,95,209/-
3rd National Lok Adalat held on 14th September, 2024	567	132	10,51,58,000/-
4th National Lok Adalat on 14th December,2024	828	138	10,60,09,135/-
Total	**2646**	**466**	**34,13,56,544/-**

Details of National Lok Adalat in the District Judiciary

Nature of cases	Cases placed	Cases settled	Amount involved (In Rs.)
Pending Cases	166546	60787	423,49,68,300/-
Pre-litigation disputes	390919	22677	68,46,26,056/-
Total	**557465**	**83464**	**491,95,94,356/-**

2. Permanent Lok Adalat (PUS)

Total 22 Permanent Lok Adalats (PLAs) (Public Utility Services) established by this Authority are functioning. During the year, 2024, 2205 nos. of pre-litigation disputes were registered in those PLAs out of which 1839 disputes have been settled.

3. Legal Aid

During the aforesaid period, 5189 applications seeking legal aid were received and out of the same, 4804 were disposed of by the State Authority, High Court Legal Services Committee and other field units. In 2713 matters, Panel Advocates were engaged and in 2091 applications, other services which include legal assistance were provided to the beneficiaries for availing the benefits of Centre/ State Govt. Schemes.

4. Legal Aid Defense Counsel System

In order to provide effective, competent and quality legal services to the disadvantaged and unprivileged sections of the society in court-based criminal matters vis-a-vis to Public Defender System, steps have been taken by OSLSA to implement Legal

Aid Defense Counsel System in all 30 DLSAs of the State.

During the 2nd Phase, steps were taken by OSLSA to establish Legal Aid Defense Counsel System Offices in the remaining 15 districts of our State. In this regard, necessary permission has also been obtained from the High Court of Orissa for establishment of LADCS Offices in the District Court Buildings at Bhadrak, Boudh, Gajapati, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara and Nabarangpur as there are no ADR Buildings available. On 22nd February, 2024, the Chief Justice of Orissa High Court and Patron-in-Chief of OSLSA had inaugurated LADCS Offices in 10 districts of our State i.e. Bargarh, Bhadrak, Boudh, Gajapati, Jagatsinghpur, Jharsuguda, Kendrapara, Nabarangpur, Puri & Sonepur.

So far as in remaining 5 districts i.e. Deogarh, Jajpur, Keonjhar, Nayagarh and Rayagada, LADCS Offices are not functional due to non-availability of office spaces. Now, NALSA has intimated vide e-mail dated 16.05.2024 to stop incremental expansion of LADCS Offices during the current financial year 2024-25 with immediate effect.

Total 17 Nos. of Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel, 37 Nos. of Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel and 40 Nos. of Assistance Legal Aid Defense Counsel have been appointed in the aforementioned LADCS. During the aforesaid period, the following no. of cases received and disposed of in 25 LADCS.





Inauguration of Legal Aid Defense Counsel System (LADCS) Offices in 10 districts by the Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa-cum-Patron-in-Chief, OSLSA on 22.02.2024

Number of Districts where LADC Office functional as on 31.12.2024	Number of Sessions cases assigned	Number of Magistrate Courts' cases assigned	Number of bail applications assigned	Number of Sessions cases disposed of	Number of Magistrate Courts cases disposed of	Number of bail applications disposed of
25	1332	1775	2952	417	527	2613

5. ADR Centres and Mediation

ADR Centres are functioning in 16 districts. In the districts where ADR Centres have not been established, the District Mediation Centres are taking up mediation and other ADR activities.

As on 31.12.2023, 301 cases were pending before the different Mediation Centres for mediation. During the year, 2024, 1863 cases were received and 150 cases were settled through successful mediation. In 1405 cases, mediation failed and in 225 cases, mediation could not commence. Till 31.12.2024, 384 cases are pending for mediation.

6. Awareness and Outreach Programme

During the year, 2024, 2865 Legal Literacy/ Awareness Camps were organized by the DLSAs and TLSCs through physical and virtual mode across the State on different legal themes, welfare schemes and on the occasion of observance of different Days such as "International Women's Day" on 8th March, 2024, "International Labour Day" on 1st May, 2024, "World Environment Day" on 5th June, 2024, "World Day against Child Labour" on 12th June, 2024,"International day for the Older Person" on 1st October,2024, "National Legal Services Day" on 9th November 2024, "Children's day" on 14th November 2024,"Constitution day" on 26th November 2024,"International Day for Person with Disabilities" on 3rd December,2024, and "Human Rights Day" on 10th December 2024, as per the Calendar of Activities-2024 of OSLSA. Total 2,49,078 people had participated in these awareness programmes.



Legal Literacy/Awareness Camps organised by different DLSAs

- Pan-India Campaign-'Restoring the Youth Pan-India Campaign for identifying juveniles in prisons and rendering legal assistance-2024'

As per the instruction of National Legal Services Authority, New Delhi communicated under e-mail Dated 11.01.2024, a Pan-India Campaign-'Restoring the Youth Pan-India Campaign for identifying juveniles in prisons and rendering legal assistance-2024' has been conducted by this Authority in the State w.e.f.25.01.2024 involving Secretaries of 30 District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs), Jail Visiting Lawyers and Para-Legal Volunteers (PLVs).

The Campaign aimed at identifying persons currently in prison who were potentially minors at the time of offence and assisting them in filing necessary applications for claim of juvenility along with the supporting documents. In order to carry out the aforesaid Pan-India Campaign, orientation programmes as well as awareness programmes on the Juvenile Justice law for prisoners in the jails were organised by the DLSAs.

During the aforesaid Campaign from 24.01.2024 to 27.02.2024, 818 no. of persons (Under trials or Convicts) were identified and out of the same, 383 no. of applications were received and out of the same, 242 no. of applications were disposed of which includes release of 242 no. of persons on bail (including transfer of 12 no. of applications to Child Care Institutions (CCIs).

7. Victim Compensation Scheme

During the year, 2024, 1993 no. of applications under the Victim Compensation Scheme were received by DLSAs throughout the State. 1822 (including previous pending applications) applications were decided and Rs. 33,57,36,647/- was disbursed towards compensation to the beneficiaries by the District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs).

8. Training Programmes for Panel Lawyers and Para-legal Volunteers (PLVs)

The training module devised by NALSA was followed for training of panel lawyers. During the year, 2024, 30 nos. of training programmes for panel lawyers were organized by the field units, wherein, 836 Panel Lawyers were given training. Similarly, 63 nos. of induction/refresher training programmes were also organized for PLVs and total 1485 PLVs were imparted training.






Training programmes for Panel lawyers organized by the DLSAs

9. Student Legal Literacy Club

Following the guidelines issued by NALSA, total 746 no. of Student Legal Literacy Clubs have already been established in the State, each consisting not more than 25 student members. There is one Teacher-in-Charge being nominated by the Head Master/Principal of the concerned school for each club. The Club functions under the supervision of the Secretary, DLSA and District Education Officer of the concerned district. The student members of the Student Legal Literacy Clubs are being involved in the legal literacy/awareness camps as and when organized by the DLSAs/TLSCs as well as in the outreach campaign launched by NALSA.

10. Mobile Legal Services Van :

To create awareness about legal rights among general public of far-flung areas of the State, OSLSA has deployed Mobile Legal Services Van with the prime objective of propagation of the legal aid schemes, spreading awareness through public interaction in order to make people aware of their legal rights, and the role, activities and functioning of legal services institutions including various legal services schemes formulated by NALSA as well as the various social welfare schemes of both Central & State Government. DLSAs have been deputing Panel Lawyer, PLVs during the visit of Mobile Legal Services Van with an aim to create awareness and to provide instant legal aid & assistance to general public and also to receive legal aid applications from general public. In the Mobile Legal Services Van, awareness through audio visual display system on NALSA theme song, Schemes of NALSA, various provisions of Law and various social welfare schemes of both Central & State Govt. were being displayed during its visits.

During the year, 2024, Mobile Legal Services Van was deployed at Angul, Balasore, Bhadrak, Cuttack, Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Phulbani, Puri, Nayagarh, and Sundargarh Districts of Odisha for creating legal awareness among the general Public of far-flung areas.





Awareness camp by deployment of Mobile Legal Services Van

11. Visits of Jails and CCI by DLSAs

The DLSA Secretaries are regularly visiting jails in every month in order to ascertain the living conditions of UTPs. They are also paying un-scheduled visits to the jails and detecting irregularities in basic facilities provided in jails and they are making necessary intimation to the concerned jail authority for its rectification. One of the major objects of jail visit is also to find out the UTPs who are languishing in jail custody due to non-furnishing of bail bond. In these circumstances, DLSAs are engaging panel lawyers for interaction with those UTPs and also

taking necessary steps towards filing of applications for modification of their bail conditions before the concerned Court and in obtaining socio-economic report for those UTPs. In those circumstances if it is found that the concerned UTP has engaged private lawyer, personal interactions are being done by Secretary, DLSA and that concerned private lawyer for early release of UTP.

Similarly, DLSAs are visiting Child Care Institutions in order to ascertain the basic needs and requirements of a child and they are also ensuring implementation of all necessary guidelines which are framed for protection of interest of a child residing in a child care institution

12. Nyaya Sanjog

A State level Legal Assistance Establishment namely, "Nyaya Sanjog" is functioning in the office of the OSLSA since 21st June, 2017 with the aim and objective of providing multiple legal services under one roof. There is a dedicated Help Line number-9438578586/1516.

During the year, 2024, 1847 persons approached (In person-281 and Over phone-1566) the Legal Assistance Establishment (Nyaya Sanjog) and they were provided with the required legal aid, assistance and consultation.

13. Front Office

144 Front Offices are functioning under the DLSAs and TLSCs. During the year, 2024, 3857 persons approached the Front Offices and 3179 persons were provided assistance in the aforesaid Front Offices.

14. Jail Legal Services Clinics and Village Legal Aid Care and Support Centres

86 Jail Legal Services Clinics are functioning in the DLSAs and TLSCs. During the year, 2024, 18,532 inmates approached the Jail Legal Services Clinics. Out of them, 9326 inmates were provided with assistance. Similarly, 132 nos. of Village Legal Aid Care & Support Centres are functioning under the DLSAs and TLSCs. During the year, 2024, 8029 persons approached those Centres and 4593 persons were provided assistance in the Centres.

15. Other activities

(i) Observance of 'Van Mahotsav Week' (Plantation drive)

In order to instill sense of awareness on "Protection of Environment", the Odisha State Legal Services Authority (OSLSA) in association with Forest and Environment Department, Govt. of Odisha, a State-wide Plantation Drive was organized in the 1st week of July, 2024 on the occasion of observance of "Van Mahotsav Week" by involving 30 District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs), 114 Taluk Legal Services Committees (TLSCs), Panel Lawyers, Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) along with the Schools having Student Legal Literacy Clubs (SLLCs) run in the State of Odisha. The objective of the plantation programme was to generate awareness amongst the general public as well as the School students regarding protection of environment.

The Odisha State Legal Services Authority organized a Plantation Programme in the premises of "Record Room Digitization Centre" (RRDC), High Court of Orissa, Cuttack and in the premises of "Aain Seva Bhawan", Cuttack on 04.07.2024, on the occasion of observance of "Van Mahotsav Week". Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa & Patron-in-Chief, OSLSA, Dr. Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi, Former Judge, High Court of Orissa & the then Executive Chairman, OSLSA and other Judges of High Court of Orissa graced the aforesaid plantation programme and planted saplings.

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CELEBRATION OF VAN MAHOTSAV
BY ODISHA STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY






CELEBRATION OF VAN MAHOTSAV















Observance of 'Van Mahotsav Week' (Plantation drive) in the premises of Record Room Digitisation Centre (RRDC), High Court of Orissa and "Aain Seva Bhawan', OSLSA

(ii) VISIT OF HON'BLE SHRI JUSTICE SANJIV KHANNA, JUDGE, SUPREME COURT OF INDIA AND EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, NALSA

Shri Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA had visited different legal services institutions in the districts of Khurda and Puri and presided over Odisha Conference of District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) held at Cuttack, Odisha from 16.08.2024 to 18.08.2024.



Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA planting a tree in the premises of Special Jail, Bhubaneswar.

Visit to Special Jail, Bhubaneswar

On 16.08.2024, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Judge, Supreme Court of India-cum-Executive Chairman, NALSA visited the Special Jail, Bhubaneswar.

During visit, he inaugurated a vocational training programme on electronics and distributed certificates to the jail inmates who have passed the courses of Journalism and Mass Communication, Higher Secondary Education. He also delivered a speech on the importance of vocational training and its significance and encouraged the prisoners. He emphasized that the prisons should not be called as "Jails" rather they should be called as "Correctional Centres".





Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA delivering a speech in vocational training programme at Special Jail, Bhubaneswar

He interacted with the prisoners and ascertained the success rate of legal aid and the prisoners were also apprised that not only legal aid deals with legal needs or representation of prisoners, but also, legal aid is there for them and for their family's social needs.

He encouraged the prisoners to obtain a second opinion from the Legal Aid Defense Counsel about the tits and bits of their cases. He also emphasized to organize awareness programmes in jails on compounding cases, stages of trial, provision of bail, plea bargaining, premature release, etc.

He visited the kitchen in order to ascertain its cleanliness and also inspected the food which had been prepared and was ready to be served to the prisoners. He inaugurated the Vocational Training programme for Data Entry Operator and interacted with the prisoners.

Justice Sanjiv Khanna also visited the community radio centre of the jail meant for the jail inmates only. During such visit, he interacted with one UTP Radio Jockey, who requested him for a small talk-show and he was pleased to join. During the talk show, he apprised the prisoners about their rights, rights to be released on bail. He also apprised the prisoners that Legal Aid Counsels are not Government Counsels. Legal Aid Counsels are counsels at par with counsels who are defending the accused in the Courts. Thereafter, Justice Sanjiv Khanna proceeded to visit the Hospital and inaugurated the Health Camp and he interacted with the Jail Medical Officers and enquired about the footfall of the patients to the Hospital. He proceeded to the Jail Legal Aid Clinic and interacted with the Legal Aid Defense Counsel. He visited the female ward and inaugurated the Sewing Machine Operator programme and interacted with the female prisoners.



Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA distributing certificates to jail inmates in Special Jail, Bhubaneswar



Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA interacting with Jail Medical Officers and female prisoners in Special Jail, Bhubaneswar



Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA ascertaining the cleanliness of the Jail Kitchen and also inspecting the food which has been prepared for the inmates during his visit to the Special Jail, Bhubaneswar

Visit to LADCS Office of DLSA, Khurdha

Justice Sanjiv Khanna reached at the Office of DLSA, Bhubaneswar and proceeded to the conference hall of DLSA for interaction with the Legal Aid Defense Counsels, Panel Lawyers and Para Legal Volunteers.

He emphasized to impart training to PLVs on Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and on different labour laws and other statutes which will be instrumental for the PLVs to serve the cause of people coming from different backgrounds.







Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA visiting the LADCS Office of DLSA, Khurda at Bhubaneswar and also attending different activities.

He also emphasized on ADR mechanism, specifically on mediation and encouraged Panel Lawyers and PLVs to make people aware about the cost effectiveness and other benefits of mediation.

He also suggested the PLVs and Panel Lawyers to spread awareness on NALSA's National Helpline Number 15100 among people and to encourage them for its optimum use.





Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA interacting with the Legal Aid Defence Counsels, Panel Lawyers and Para-legal Volunteers (PLVs) in the office of DLSA, Khurda at Bhubaneswar.

Odisha Conference of District Legal Services Authorities under the aegis of NALSA :

On 17th August, 2024, the Odisha Conference of District Legal Services Authorities under the aegis of NALSA was held at Odisha Judicial Academy, Cuttack. The said conference was presided by Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA in the presence of Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa and Patron-in-Chief, OSLSA , Justice Arindam Sinha, Judge, High Court of Orissa and Executive Chairman, OSLSA and Judges of High Court of Orissa. The District Judges-cum-Chairpersons and the Secretaries of 30 DLSAs of Odisha and PLVs from different districts participated in this Conference.

The Conference started with inaugural session in which Justice Arindam Sinha, Judge, High Court of Orissa and Executive Chairman, OSLSA delivered welcome address. Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa and Patron-in-Chief, OSLSA delivered his address and shared his experience in legal services institution and encouraged the participants and PLVs. Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA delivered his inaugural address by Power Point presentation and highlighted different aspects of legal services institutions like legal aid, what is justice and access to justice, legal aid at the stage of arrest, legal aid to prisoners specifically to UTPs and discussed the data relating to disposal of bail applications in India and in State of Odisha.



Odisha Conference of District Legal Services Authorities(DLSAs) under the aegis of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) held at Odisha Judicial Academy, Cuttack



Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa and Patron-in-Chief, OSLSA delivering his address in the Odisha Conference of DLSAs





Justice Arindam Sinha, Judge, High Court of Odisha and Executive Chairman, OSLSA (Left) and Justice Debabrata Dash, Judge, High Court of Odisha and Chairman, Orissa High Court Legal Services Committee (Right) delivering their address in the Odisha Conference of DLSAs.

In the interactive session, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA interacted with Secretaries of different DLSAs like Angul, Deogarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj on topics like legal aid at the stage of pre-arrest, arrest and remand stage, performance of LADCS, strength of PLVs in their districts and their utilization in legal services, meeting of DLSAs. He also highlighted training of PLVs on different labour laws and Workman Compensation Act.

During the course of interaction, he suggested that telephone number of PLVs should be mentioned at each police station so that if anybody gets arrested, the PLVs can be informed and they can interact with the family members of the person arrested. He suggested display of NALSA Helpline No. "15100" in every police station of Odisha. He advised the PLVs to have the phone number of Secretary, DLSAs and to contact them in case of necessity and similarly advised Secretary, DLSAs to have regular interaction with PLVs and to arrange interaction of PLVs with Panel Lawyers and LADC Counsel.

He advised DLSAs to apprise and convince the parents of those children who are not letting their children to go to school about benefits of education for the betterment of future of their children.

He concluded by stating that access to justice is our objective. It is our duty to ensure that everybody has access to justice.



Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Judge, Supreme Court of India, delivering the inaugural address in the Odisha Conference of DLSAs



Participants of the Odisha Conference of DLSAs

Visit to Village Legal Aid Clinic at Satyabadi Village, Puri

On 18th August, 2024, Justice Sanjiv Khanna visited Village Legal Care and Support Centre, Satyabadi in the District of Puri along with Member Secretary, OSLSA, District Judge-cum-Chairman, DLSA, Puri, Secretary, DLSA, Puri. A meeting was organized in the conference hall of Satyabadi Block office where villagers of Athaisa village participated. In the meeting, He interacted with the legal aid beneficiaries of Satyabadi block.

He also visited Village Legal Care and Support Centre and interacted with the Para Legal Volunteers and advised them to redress the grievances of the local people who are eligible to get free legal aid services and also visited nearby village namely Athaisa and interacted with the local people relating to their problems and advised them to contact the local Para Legal Volunteers whenever they needed legal aid.







Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA interacting with the para-legal volunteers and local villagers during his visit to Village Legal Aid Clinic at Satyabadi Village, Puri

(iii) Interaction of Executive Chairman, OSLSA with Para Legal Volunteers/Adhikar Mitra, Legal Aid Defense Counsel/Nyaya Rakshak, Police Personnel, Panel Lawyers and other stake holders :

The Executive Chairman, OSLSA undertook an exercise to interact with the Para Legal Volunteers/ Adhikar Mitra, Legal Aid Defense Counsel/Nyaya Rakshak, Police Personnel, Panel Lawyers and other stake holders. Such interaction had already been held in Sambalpur, Angul and Khurda comprising of Districts of Angul, Dhenkanal, Boudh, Deogarh, Khurda, Puri, Cuttack and Nayagarh and altogether 303 nos. of PLVs/ Adhikar Mitra, Police Personnel, Panel Lawyers, LADCs/Nyaya Rakshak and other stake holders etc. attended the interaction on the topic of "Para Legal Volunteers and their roles specifically at the stage of pre-arrest arrest and remand".











Glimpses from interaction programme at Sambalpur, Angul and Khurda at Bhubaneswar

(iv) Observance of 'World Mental Health Day' by OSLSA

As per the Calendar with Common Minimum Programme-2024, OSLSA in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority, Cuttack observed "World Health Mental Day" on 10.10.2024 in Psychiatric Ward of SCB Medical College & Hospital, Cuttack. On this occasion, fruits etc. were distributed to the indoor and outdoor patients of the said ward. The said event was graced by the Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa & Patron-in-Chief, OSLSA.

The Member-Secretary, OSLSA, District Judge-cum-Chairman, DLSA, Cuttack, Deputy Registrar (Protocol), High Court of Orissa, Registrar, Civil Courts, Secretary, DLSA, Cuttack, and Deputy Secretary & Assistant Secretary, OSLSA including Director and Doctors of Mental Health Institute of SCB Medical and Hospital, Cuttack were also present and extended cooperation for successful organisation of the aforesaid event.







Glimpses from observance of 'World Health Mental Day'

(v) Awareness during Historic Baliyatra

In order to create awareness amongst the general public during the Baliyatra Festival-2024, a Legal Services Stall was set up by the Odisha State Legal Services Authority at High Court Pavilion from 16.11.2024 to 23.11.2024 on the occasion of Historic Baliyatra. In the said stall different sections representing different institutions of Legal Services like Front Office, Nyaya Sanjog, Mediation Centre were created and those were manned by Panel Lawyers, PLVs/Adhikara Mitras, Student Adhikara Mitra for providing instant legal services as well as awareness to the general public. The awareness materials like leaflets & pamphlets were also distributed among the visitors to sensitize them on various legal aid & services. A video on the rights of differently-abled persons was played with sign language.

A special focus had been given to spread awareness on NALSA Toll Free Helpline Number (15100) and LSMS portal by preparing a pocket calendar-2025 and one "Selfie stand" in which information on "15100", LSMS portal and OSLSA's Website and You Tube channel was depicted. Also, students from different schools visited the OSLSA stall during this period and they were enlightened on different legal services activities; specifically on mediation procedure. More than fifty thousand people had visited the stall.

























Glimpses from Legal Services Stall of OSLSA at High Court Pavilion in Historic Baliyatra Ground

(vi) Observance of 'Constitution Day' by OSLSA, DLSAs and TLSCs of Odisha

On 26th November, 2024 Constitution Day had been observed by Legal Services Institutions of State of Odisha by organizing Talks/Conferences/ Seminars focusing on Citizen's Fundamental Duties to create awareness about the same across the State.













Observance of "Constitution Day" by OSLSA, DLSAs and TLSCs of Odisha.

16. Success Stories

(i) An abandoned 22 days' infant restored to her parents

The Secretary, DLSA, Khurda came to know from a newspaper published in the Times of India that an infant of 22 days had been abandoned by her parents. Pursuant to which, the DLSA, Khurda vide letter No. 5559/Dtd.29. 01.2024 sought for a status report of the infant from the Director, Capital Hospital as it had been published in the newspaper that the child was admitted in SNCU, Capital Hospital in a critical condition and instructed the Chairman, CWC to take necessary steps. The Secretary, DLSA immediately visited the hospital along with the DCPO, Khurda and found that the baby weighed only 860 gm. for which she had been admitted in SNCU being referred by Nayagarh, DHH. Immediately thereafter, the admission register was seen for finding the whereabouts of her parents. Thereafter, the S.P., Nayagarh was requested by the DLSA, Khurda to know the whereabouts of her parents and after her parents were traced out, the S.P. Nayagarh and CWC, Nayagarh interacted with the parents and finally her parents came to Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar to look after their baby girl. Due to the intervention of DLSA Khurda an infant was saved from being abandoned.

(ii) Three Orphans Rehabilitated

It came to notice of the DLSA, Koraput-Jeypore through a Newspaper publication in the daily Newspaper "Sambad" dtd. 28.01.2024 titled (Andharare Tini Anatha Sishu (Three Orphans in Dark) that the children namely Kumari Ramita Saunta, aged about 13 years, Niranjan Saunta, aged about 09 years and Rahul Saunta aged about 6 years of Marchiguda village Pindapadar GP, under Dasmantapur Block, District-Koraput after back to back death of their parents were living with their grandmother at Marchiguda in distressed condition. The grandmother was facing many difficulties in taking care of the children. Accordingly, one trained PLV was deputed to look into the matter and ascertain the condition of the family. Accordingly, the PLV submitted the report to the Secretary, DLSA, Koraput about their miserable condition. Immediately, the Secretary, DLSA Koraput communicated the matter to the District Child Protection Officer, District Welfare Officer & BDO Dasmantpur for their rehabilitation. In response to that the District Child Protection Officer, Koraput vide letter no 214 Dtd. 02.03.2024 intimated that all three orphan children had already been produced before the CWC, Koraput and as per the direction of CWC, Koraput they were rehabilitated at Child Care Institution IDS, Dasmantpur, Koraput.

(iii) Maternity Leave ensured to a contractual employee

The DLSA, Khurda was intimated by OSLSA to redress the grievance of the petitioner namely Smt. Arpita Bhuyan who had just delivered a baby and was on maternity leave. The lady was working as Management Expert-I, SBA Cell under Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, Bhubaneswar who was deprived of her maternity benefits on the ground that she was a contractual employee. On being harassed from pillar to post, she finally approached the DLSA, Khurda on 16.03.2024 seeking necessary legal assistance. Taking into consideration the grievance of Smt. Bhuyan, the Secretary, DLSA, Khurda made a request to the Commissioner, BMC, Bhubaneswar and the Secretary, Housing and Urban Development, Government of Odisha to consider the case of the applicant Smt. Bhuyan. In response, BMC, Bhubaneswar submitted an action taken report to the DLSA, Khurda stating therein that 4 months of maternity benefits to the tune of Rs.1,87,000/- had been approved by the Board in favour of the applicant Smt. Bhuyan.

(iv) Rehabilitation of children of UTPs

During the jail visit by the Secretary, DLSA, Koraput to Special Jail, Jeypore on 14.05.2024 that two

female UTPs namely Smt. Bondai Khondha and Smt. Radama Harijan submitted before the Secretary, DLSA that as they were in jail custody, their children namely Sunam Khondha (13yrs), Nandini Khondha (7yrs.) and Amita Khondha (7yrs.) were leaving in a helpless and distressed condition at their village. There was no one at their home to look after their livelihood and education. Hence, they prayed for rehabilitation of their children and to provide educational facilities for the helpless children. Accordingly, the Secretary, DLSA, Koraput made a correspondence with the DCPO, Koraput and CWC, Koraput for taking appropriate steps for rescue, rehabilitation and education of the minor children. In response to the same, the children of the aforementioned UTPs were rescued by the team of CWC, Koraput and DCPO, Koraput and were produced before Chairman, DLSA, Koraput and later on they were rehabilitated at ASTHA, Children Home on 19.05.24 under the supervision of Secretary, DLSA, Koraput-Jeypore.

(v) Rescue and Rehabilitation of the Mentally ill

One applicant namely Tarabati Dila filed an application before DLSA, Jharsuguda & prayed for proper medical treatment and rehabilitation of her daughter namely Rita Dila as she was suffering from mental illness. Thereafter her application was forwarded to the District Social Security Officer, Jharsuguda requesting him to provide necessary medical treatment and rehabilitate the patient. Further, DLSA, Jharsuguda approached the People's Forum NGO, Jharsuguda for her rehabilitation & treatment. The patient was rehabilitated at Mission Ashra, H. Katapali, Jharsuguda on 18.07.2024 and now, the patient is residing there with proper care and treatment.

(vi) Providing benefits to the children of construction workers

As per the instruction of the Chairman, DLSA, Phulbani, the Secretary, DLSA, Phulbani had a visit to the construction site of New Civil Courts Building, Phulbani on 10.06.2024. During visit, it was found that five numbers of children namely Rama Hansda, Sai Hansda, Rohit Singh, Bina Soren, & Rina Soren were found residing with their parents, who worked as construction workers in the sites, devoid of all basic amenities available for children of their age like health, food, education, hygiene, drinking water. The children were residing in temporary cabin with their parents amidst dust, dirt affecting their overall development and depriving them of their basic rights. In this regard, the Secretary DLSA, Phulbani requested the DCPO, Phulbani to provide necessary benefits of Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) to the above-mentioned children as per law. On dtd.02.08.2024 the DCPO, Phulbani intimated that all five numbers of children had been enrolled in nearby Anganwadi Centre.

(vii) Justice to a Distressed Family

As per the intimation of Smt. Snehalata Patel, Social Worker-cum- Member, DLSA, Sundargarh and Secretary, Astha Gruha, Sundargrh, two children namely Shiva Bag, aged about 10 years and Bishnu Bag, aged about 8 years S/o-Lt. Gurubari Munda and Ram Kumar Bagh of Village-IB Nagar, PS-Town, PS/Dist- Sundargarh, were staying in distressed condition. Both these boys had lost their mother in the year 2020. Their father, Ram Kumar Bag is a mentally ill person. The Grand Mother of the said two children is aged about more than 75 yrs and she was also mentally ill and was not able to take care of the two children. They had no financial means for their education, care, treatment, protection and nutrition etc. and also were not able to meet their daily house hold expenses for their survival. No abled persons/family members were there to take care of them. Accordingly, a letter of request was made to the Chairperson, CWC, Sundargarh at Rourkela for their rehabilitation, safety, security protection, nutrition, education, treatment, survival and for their up-liftment and the children have been rehabilitated in Adruta Children's Home, Subalaya, Sundargarh.

(viii) Children from red light area were facilitated for issuance of Aadhar cards

On the door-to-door campaign by DLSA Khurda, it was brought to light that around 44 number of children from redlight area and its peripheral slum areas were kept deprived of Aadhaar Card as because they did not have their birth certificates which ultimately kept them out of from their basic Right to Education. Hear-felling this, DLSA Khurda instructed the District Education Officer of Khurda to take immediate steps and efficacious steps for issuing them with Aadhaar Cards and on such intervention the children were enrolled to their classes and have been issued with Aadhaar Cards.

(ix) Ensuring shelter to an elderly lady

On 14.08.2024, an elderly woman named Malati Pradhan from Puri, who had been kicked out of her house by her sons, was sitting at the Aadhar Kendra near the ADR building having found no other recourse. A PLV (Para-Legal Volunteer) named Rajani Panda noticed her and approached her to understand the situation. The woman broke down in tears and requested shelter. Subsequently, the PLV brought her to the office of the DLSA (District Legal Services Authority), Khurda where her son was contacted by telephone. However, her son bluntly refused to take her back. Acting promptly, the Secretary of DLSA, Khurda, contacted the District Social Security Officer (DSSO), Khurda, and arranged shelter for the elderly woman at an Old Age Home.

(x) Mediation as an instrument for bridging caste barrier and social ostracisation

A Pre-litigation Mediation Case was filed by Subhadra Sahu & Chinmaya Kumar Pradhan against the President & Secretary of Panchakusha Sundhi Samaj of Village-Balandapada, Block-Phiringia, PS-Gochhapada as the applicants were not permitted to enter into their village after they got married in different caste. The case was assigned to a trained mediator and after issuance of notice, the respondents appeared before the mediation centre, Phulbani. After conducting several sittings, both the parties arrived at a mutual agreement to allow the applicants to enter into their village and let them live peacefully without any caste restrictions with an undertaking from the respondents to not to interfere with the applicants' peaceful married life in future on the basis of caste.

(xi) Rehabilitation of a widow and her children

From the daily newspaper The Samaj dated 16.02.2024, it came to the notice of the DLSA, Ganjam, that a widow named Srimanti Dakua from Village Haladibada, under Ankuli G.P., Block Patrapur, District Ganjam, had sought assistance for the education and safety of her children under a government scheme.

In this connection, the DLSA, Ganjam, promptly informed the Chairman of the TLSC, Patrapur, the Block Development Officer, Patrapur, and the District Child Protection Officer, Ganjam, at Chatrapur to take necessary steps to provide assistance to the said widow under the government scheme to uphold social justice.

Following the intervention of the DLSA, Ganjam, and as directed by the Chairman of the TLSC, Patrapur, the Inspector-In-Charge (IIC) of the local police station immediately rescued the widow and her children and produced them before the Child Welfare Committee, Berhampur.

Subsequently, the widow and her children were shifted to the Swadhar Gruha at Berhampur. One child was placed in the Child Care Institution, Special Adoption Agency, Utkal Balashram, Gosaninuagaon, while the other four children were shifted to the Child Care Institution, Utkal Balashram, Gosaninuagaon.



Entrance of New Building


ORISSA JUDICIAL ACADEMY
ଓଡ଼ିଶା ନ୍ୟାୟିକ ଏକାଡେମୀ

ODISHA JUDICIAL ACADEMY, CUTTACK



From left to right : Sanjib Panda, Assistant Director, Bidyut Kumar Mishra, Director, Justice K.R. Mohapatra, Chairman, Akankhit Mishra, Additional Director and Swapna Sagaraika Mishra, Deputy Director.

The Odisha Judicial Academy (in short the Academy), which functions under the patronage of the High Court of Orissa, is a premier training institute of the Country. It has over the years helped, not only the newly recruited and in-service judicial officers, in sharpening their legal knowledge and judicial acumen, but also various other stakeholders of the justice delivery system, viz. staff of the High Court & District Courts, Advocates, Public Prosecutors, members of the investigating agencies, advocates' clerks, etc., in enhancing their proficiency and efficiency. Not only does it work as a center of learning for optimizing the performance and efficiency level of judicial officers across the State by imparting periodical training on the nuances of different facets of law, but training programmes designed and conducted by it for the other stakeholders, such as advocates, investigating officers, advocates' clerks, members of JJBs etc., also shows its commitment for overall strengthening of the justice delivery system as a whole. It takes on the onerous responsibility of inculcating both judicial and administrative skills and etiquette amongst judicial officers of all cadres. Simultaneously it is also not oblivious towards its duty and obligations towards different other wings of the judiciary and administration, and as such it also organizes training programmes for OFS officials, members & mediators of the Consumer Forums, and the likes. To add to all these it also organizes Conferences, Seminars, Symposiums and Interactive Sessions under the aegis of the High Court of Orissa in order to provide a platform for discussion and deliberation on intricate questions of law, which in a way or the other helps the judicial officers and other stakeholders attending such programmes to return back home with substantial and valuable addition to their knowledge, experience & wisdom.

To further widen its scope and to increase the number of training programmes for the benefit of judicial officers and court staff of far off places, without compromising in the quality of training

programmes to be imparted, five Regional Judicial Academies (in short RJAs) have been established at five different parts of the State, the same being Angul, Balasore, Ganjam at Berhampur, Koraput at Jeypore and Sambalpur. Each Regional Judicial Academy comprises of 4 to 8 numbers of cluster districts, and facilitates training programmes for officers, staff, advocates and other stakeholders of such Districts. Establishment of the RJAs have not only taken the training activities of the Academy to the grass root level in letter and spirit, but it has also substantially reduced wastage of judicial man days, in as much as the judicial officers and staff are no longer required to travel long distances during working days to attend the regular training programmes scheduled at Odisha Judicial Academy, Cuttack. The Regional Judicial Academies at different places are functioning with the same ethos, objective and mission with which the Academy functions at Cuttack.

The Academy as well as the five RJAs function under the direct supervision of the Judicial Academy & Training Committee of the High Court of Orissa. The said Committee is headed by Justice K.R. Mohapatra, Judge High Court of Orissa, as its Chairman, whereas Dr. Justice S.K. Panigrahi, Justice S. Ratho, Justice R. K. Pattanaik, Justice A. K. Mohapatra, and Justice A. C. Behera, Judges of the High Court of Orissa, function as its members. The Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa is the Patron-in-Chief of the Academy.

The Academy has got an annual training calendar, approved by the National Judicial Academy, and different training activities at the Academy as well as the five RJAs are conducted as per such approved calendar. The training module of the Academy is designed with a vision to make the trainees professionally skilled, sensitive, empathetic, and responsive. It, over and above the special programmes organized from time to time, broadly includes-

» Induction training programmes for the newly recruited Civil Judges (Junior Division) as well as the officers appointed in the cadre of District Judge by direct recruitment from the bar,

» Foundation training programmes for the officers promoted to the cadre of District Judge by usual promotion (UP) and limited competitive examination (LCE),

» Refresher training programmes for in service Judicial Officers of different cadres, i.e. early career training for Civil Judges (Jr. Divn.), mid-career training for Civil Judges (Sr. Divn.) and advanced career training for officers in the cadre of the District Judges, and

» Refresher training programmes for staff of the High Court of Orissa and District Courts.

Apart from the above, training programmes on the following leading decisions of the Apex Court, besides others, were also organized by the Academy periodically;

- **Aureliano Fernandes Vs. State of Goa & Others, AIR Online 2023 SC 423,** in the matter of Sexual Harassment at Workplace, the duty and responsibility of the employer, especially in Court's establishments,
- **Gohar Mohammed Vs. UPSRTC and Others – CA 9322 / 2022,** in the matter of cases dealt with by the Motor Accident Claims Tribunals and the application of the MV Act to such cases,
- **Triple method of pendency reduction in view of Suo Moto Writ Petition (Crl.) No. 04/2021 of Supreme Court,** in the matter of scope of application of Plea Bargaining, Compounding and Probation of Offenders Act as effective tools for case load reduction,
- **Satender Kumar Antil Vs. CBI, (2022) 10 SCC 51 and Siddharth Vs. State of UP, (2022) 1 SCC**

676, in the matter of arrest, remand, custody, and bail to accused persons,

- **Aditi Alias Mithi vs. Jitesh Sharma, Crl. Appeal No. 3446 of 2023,** in the matter of duties and responsibilities of the Courts dealing with family disputes and proper implementation of guidelines of Supreme Court in the case of Rajnesh v. Neha & Anr, (2021) 2 SCC 324, and
- **Raj Kumar @ Suman v. State (NCT of Delhi), Criminal Appeal No. 1471 of 2023** in the matter of proper application of Sec.313 of CrPC while recording the statement of accused.

With the advent of information & technology in all the fields, judiciary has taken keen interest in introducing many e-initiatives, which amongst many others include establishment of paperless courts, live streaming of court proceedings, virtual & hybrid mode of hearing in courts, N-STEP, etc., for making the justice delivery system more transparent & efficient. In fact, the High Court of Orissa is the pioneer & torchbearer amongst different High Courts of the Country on this count. To enable the officers, staff, advocates & for that matter all the stakeholders of the justice delivery system, to keep pace with the changing work culture because of introduction of information and technology in the day to day work of the courts, the Academy also conducts regular training programmes on different ICT training modules covering all the activities under the e-Courts project as well as the unique initiatives by the High Court, and hands-on training programmes on VC Rules, paperless Courts, recording of evidence of vulnerable witness and functioning of VWDCs, etc.

The physical & mental wellbeing of the trainee officers as well as the need for sensitizing them on social issues, which besides others include rights of specially abled persons, gender discrimination, poverty, environmental pollution and access to justice for the marginalized and downtrodden, are given prime importance while preparing training modules for the trainee officers. To enhance their judicial and administrative abilities and to make them sensitive and responsive to the challenges they face during their service career, subjects like time and resource management, stress management, docket-management & court management are included in the training curriculum for the judicial officers. The Academy aims at overall development of the trainee officers, and as such provisions for yoga classes, gymnasium, and library having different books, newsletters and journals, have been made at the academy for the trainee officers. In addition to all these, special visit programmes for the newly recruited judicial officers to different judicial academies of different States of the Country are arranged so as to facilitate sharing of best practices, which gives them a wide exposure and broadens the horizon of their vision and knowledge.

Highlights of Important Programmes at Odisha Judicial Academy during the Year 2024

1. Induction Programmes: - The Induction training of the 54 Civil Judges (Jr. Division) of 2022 batch commenced on 30th March 2024 with the oath taking ceremony, wherein Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa and Patron-in-Chief, Odisha Judicial Academy, administered oath to the trainee officers, in presence of the Judges of High Court of Orissa. The training activities continued throughout the year. Similarly, the induction/institutional training of the three Judicial Officers in the cadre of District Judge, appointed by way of direct recruitment from the Bar was conducted from 1st June to 31st August 2024.



Newly recruited Civil Judges (Junior Division) on probation 2022 batch



Visit of Civil Judges (Junior Division) on probation of 2022 batch to State Judicial Academy, Gujarat for sharing of best practices



Visit of Civil Judges (Junior Division) on probation of 2022 batch to National Forensic Science University, Gandhinagar for sharing of best practices

2. **Foundation Training Programmes:** - Practical training sessions for the 10 Judicial Officers in the cadre of District Judges appointed through Usual Promotion & Limited Competitive Examination (UP & LCE) during 2023 were conducted from 08.01.2024 to 12.01.2024. Similarly, the institutional training of the newly promoted 16 Judicial Officers (UP & LCE) of the year 2024 was conducted from 18.11.2024 to 07.12.2024 through virtual mode, and their practical training was conducted at ROTI and SFSL, Bhubaneswar from 16.12.2024 to 20.12.2024.



3. **Refresher Training Programmes for Judicial Officers: -** Eighteen (18) Refresher training programmes for Judicial Officers of different cadres in the district judiciary were conducted during year 2024. All the programmes were of two-day duration during which various important topics of law were covered by erudite resource persons benefitting 401 numbers of Judicial Officers.



4. **Refresher Training Programmes for Staff :** - During the year 2024, the Academy conducted four (4) numbers of Refresher training programmes for staffs of District Courts as well as High Court as per the approved training calendar.

5. Hands-on and ICT & e-Courts Training Programmes: -

During the year 2024, 3 nos. of Hands-on Training programmes on "Paperless Court" and "Examination of vulnerable witness", and 6 nos. of training programmes on the subject "ICT & Hands-on training on various e-services" for Civil Courts staff were organised by the Academy. Similarly, 23 nos. of e-Courts Phase-III capacity building training programmes for Judicial Officers, Staff & Advocates were conducted by the Academy during this year. These programmes benefitted a good number of Advocates, Advocates' clerks, Court Staff and Judicial Officers of the State.

6. Achievements of the Regional Judicial Academies

During the year 2024, a total of 50 nos. of refresher training programmes, 50 nos. of Hands-on training programmes and 30 nos. of ICT & Hands-on training programmes on various e-services for judicial officers and staff have been conducted in the five RJAs of the State, in which 629 Judicial Officers and 1843 District Courts Staff have been benefitted.

7. Special Programmes organised at Odisha Judicial Academy during the year 2024

a. On 6th January 2024, the Valedictory ceremony of 48 Civil Judges (Junior Division) on probation of 2021 batch was organized at the Odisha Judicial Academy after completion of their one-year induction training, and they were relieved from the Academy on 06.01.2024 to join at their respective places of posting.





b. From 2nd to 4th February 2024, three days Residential Capacity Building special training programme was organized for the Empanelled Mediators of the State and District Consumer Redressal Commissions by Odisha Judicial Academy in collaboration with Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Department, Govt. of Odisha. In this programme, 22 numbers of empanelled Mediators were present from different districts of the State.

c. On 28th February 2024, a special programme titled as "Remembering Fali Sam Nariman, Senior Advocate & Jurist, and his contribution to the growth of Justice Delivery system in India" was conducted at Chief Justice Gati Krushna Misra Auditorium of Odisha Judicial Academy, in the august presence of Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa and all the Judges of the High Court of Orissa. Respected Advocate General, Deputy Solicitor General, President, Secretary & Executive Body Members of Orissa High Court Bar Association, President & Members of Odisha State Bar Council, designated Senior Advocates of High Court of Orissa, Officers of the Registry, High Court of Orissa, Officers of OSLSA & Judicial Officers working at the Headquarters station of Cuttack participated in this programme.

d. From 15th to 17th March 2024, a three-day Orientation-cum-Induction training programme was conducted at OJA for the 32 Principal Magistrates of Juvenile Justice Boards (PMJJBs) of the State as per the three days training module of the SAMVAD, NIMHANS.

e. On 24.03.2024, a one-day training programme on "PC & PNDT Act, 1994" was conducted at Odisha Judicial Academy for 50 SDJMs and JMFCs (Cog.) of the State as per the request of the Directorate of Family Welfare, Govt. of Odisha.

f. On 30.03.2024, the Oath taking Ceremony of newly recruited Civil Judges (Junior Division) on Probation of 2022 Batch was organized at the Academy, wherein Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa and Patron-in-Chief, Odisha Judicial Academy, administered oath to the trainee officers in presence of the Judges, High Court of Orissa. As per the direction of Court, Civil Judges (Junior Division) of 2021 batch (at that time posted as JMSCs at different stations of the State) participated physically in the aforesaid oath taking ceremony, which was followed by an interactive session.

g. On 28.04.2024, a one-day special training programme on newly enacted three criminal laws, i.e. the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, the

Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023, was conducted on hybrid mode. 90 Judicial Officers comprising of Principal District Judges, Judges of Family Courts, and Chief Judicial Magistrates participated in the training programme physically, whereas the other judicial officers of the State participated in it through online mode (Zoom Link). The newly recruited trainee Civil Judges (Jr. Divn.) of 2022 batch, who were undergoing institutional training at the Academy during that period, also participated in the aforesaid special training programme.

h. In obedience to the letter of Chief Justice of India, three numbers of Capacity Building Training Programmes were conducted in the months of June 2024 on newly enacted three criminal laws, namely the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) 2023 and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) 2023, for the Judicial Officers, Prosecutors and Advocates of the State. The programmes were conducted by CAPT, Bhopal, CDTI, Kolkata and BPR & D, Govt. of India. The first training programme involving physical presence of 113 nos. of Judicial Officers was conducted on 1st & 2nd June 2024, which was attended by all other Judicial Officers of the State through virtual mode. The second training programme involving 30 nos. of Prosecutors was conducted through physical mode on 8th & 9th June 2024 and all the other Prosecutors of the State attended the said programme through virtual mode. The third training programme involving 288 nos. of Advocates was conducted through virtual mode on 23rd June 2024.

i. From 28th June 2024 to 30th June 2024, the District Judges' Conference was organized at the Odisha Judicial Academy by the High Court of Orissa, Cuttack.

j. On 26th July 2024, the foundation day of High Court of Orissa was observed by the Court at Chief Justice Gati Krushna Misra Auditorium of Odisha Judicial Academy. The Chief Justice as well as Judges of the High Court of Orissa had graced the event. A drama, titled as "Saheed Lakhan Nayak" was presented by the Cultural Society of High Court of Orissa and this drama was organised by the Judicial Archives of the Court.

k. On 3rd & 4th August 2024, the East Zone-I Regional Conference on "Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice Through Law & Technology" was held at Odisha Judicial Academy, Cuttack, by the High Court of Orissa and the Odisha Judicial Academy, under the aegis of National Judicial Academy, Bhopal. The event was graced by the Judges of the Supreme Court of India, the Chief Justices and Judges of different High Courts, as well as the Chief Justice and Judges of the High Court of Orissa. 70 Judicial Officers of all cadres from the States of Odisha, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, as well as Officials of National Judicial Academy, Bhopal, also attended the aforementioned Regional Conference.

l. On 17.08.2024, the State Conference of DLSAs of Odisha was held at Odisha Judicial Academy, Cuttack, by the Odisha State Legal Services Authority under the aegis of NALSA. The event was graced by Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Judge Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, National Legal Services Authority (As he then was). All the Chairpersons and Secretaries of DLSAs of Odisha participated in this Conference.

m. On 01.09.2024, a one-day "State level Consultation on Effective Implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act and POCSO Act with specific focus on Children with Disabilities" was held at Odisha Judicial Academy, Cuttack. The



East Zone-I Regional Conference on "Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice Through Law & Technology" held at Odisha Judicial Academy, Cuttack



Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA, delivering the inaugural address in the State Conference of DLSAs of Odisha.



Participants of the State Conference of DLSAs of Odisha.



Participants of the East Zone-I Regional Conference on "Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice Through Law & Technology"

event was organized jointly by the Department of SSEPD, Department of W & CD and UNICEF, under the aegis of the Juvenile Justice Committee, High Court of Orissa. The event was graced by the Chief Justice and Judges of High Court of Orissa. Judicial Officers nominated by the Court from across the State of Odisha and other stake holders of Govt. of Odisha participated in the aforesaid programme.

n. A half-day Interactive Session was held on 09.10.2024 from 02.00 PM onwards for the Judicial Officers of 2021 batch, trainee Judicial Officers of 2022 batch and other nominated Judicial Officers of the State at Chief Justice Gati Krushna Misra Auditorium of Odisha Judicial Academy. In this session, Justice K. V. Viswanathan, Judge, Supreme Court of India, presided over the session and interacted with the young judicial officers, clarified their queries, and gave valuable suggestions and guidance to them. The Chief Justice and other Judges of the High Court of Orissa also graced the session. 150 nos. of Judicial Officers in the cadres of Civil





Intercative session with Judicial Offiers presided over by Justice K.V. Viswanathan held at Odisha Judicial Academy, Cuttack

Judge (Jr. Divn.) and Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.) of the State participated physically in the aforesaid programme, whereas all other judicial officers of the State participated through virtual mode (YouTube Link and Zoom Link).

o. On 26.11.2024, a one-hour online Talk Session (from 4.30 PM to 5.30 PM) was organized by the Odisha Judicial Academy for judicial officers of all cadres of the State through virtual mode on the occasion of 'Constitution Day'. 90 Judicial Officers of the State participated in the aforesaid programme through virtual mode (Zoom Link).

p. On 22nd December, 2024, a programme for release of Judicial Calendar of Odisha, 2025, was organized by the High Court of Orissa at Chief Justice Gati Krushna Misra Auditorium of the Academy, in which top 12 student artists, whose paintings were selected to be displayed in the Judicial Calendar, 2025, were felicitated.



Panel showcasing eminent Judges and Lawyers and their contribution to the Judicial History of Odisha, displayed at Centre for Judicial Archives.


ନ୍ୟାୟିକ ଅଭିଲେଖାଗାର
CENTRE FOR JUDICIAL ARCHIVES

CENTRE FOR JUDICIAL ARCHIVES, HIGH COURT OF ORISSA

Established on 10 May 2022, the Centre's main functions are acquisition, preservation, digitization and cataloguing of records. With these four basic principles of archival system, the Centre, therefore, immediately after its inception, has taken up these steps on priority basis.

Cataloguing of Records:

I. 5912 files have been catalogued during the period from 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2024. (Total cataloguing till 31.12.2024 is 27493).

II. Acquisition: The private papers of Bachu Jagannadh Das, ex-Judge of Supreme Court and Raja Madhusudan Dev, the former zemindar of Tekali and an eminent lawyer of Supreme Court were collected from Prof Lalit Kumar Dev, the custodian of those papers. Besides, Mr Gautam Kumar Acharya, Advocate, Supreme Court and grand nephew of late Justice Harihar Mohapatra donated the attires used as court uniform by Justice Mohapatra and copy of his will and a portrait of Justice Harihar Mohapatra was donated by Shri Anant Mohapatra to Centre for Judicial Archives/ Museum of Justice.

III. Preservation: 1625 files(29,486 sheets) have been conserved during the period from 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2024. (Total number of files conserved till 31.12.2024 is 4132).

IV. Digitization: 50 fragile records (1105 sheets) have been digitized during the period from 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2024. (Total number of records digitized till 31.12.2024 is 1151)

V. Translation into Odia of 'Judicial History of Odisha, Vol I'. The Odia translation of above piece of works have been checked and vetted by the Centre.

VI. Sale of Judicial History of Odisha, Vol- 1: 211 books of 'Judicial History of Odisha', Vol 1 were sold in Odisha History Congress, Balijatra, Bhubaneswar book fair, Centre for Judicial Archives, Museum of Justice, ILR section and E-Sewa Kendra of High Court of Orissa.

VII. Judicial History of Odisha, Vol-II: Drafting of 'Judicial history of Odisha, Vol II' has been completed and approved by the RRDC Committee and Editorial Board of three historians nominated by the RRDC Committee, vetted the draft.

VIII. Research and Collection of relevant materials:

- The Consultants and Law Researchers visited Odisha State Archives in February, 2024 for collection of materials for Judicial History of Odisha, Vol - II.
- Dr. Justice S.K. Panigrahi, Prof. Basanta Kumar Mallik, Consultant (History) and Rahul Vikram Pathy, Law Researcher (Law) also visited Tamil Nadu State Archives, Chennai March, 2024 for collection of materials. (approximately 103 old records and several rare books were collected)
- Law Researchers collected relevant data from Abhilekh Patal website of National Archives of India and shared with the Director and Consultants for writing judicial history.
- Several relevant judgments and statistical data were collected from British Library, London.

Important Events of Centre for Judicial Archives, High Court of Orissa

1. **Odisha History Congress:**

The Centre for Judicial Archives became an institutional member of Odisha History Congress vide Membership No. IM-1/2023. In the 43rd Session of Odisha History Congress held from 20th January 2024 to 22nd January 2024, a special academic session was dedicated to various aspects of "Judicial History of Odisha" at Ravenshaw University, in which Dr. Lalatendu Das Mohapatra, Director-cum-OSD, Dr. Bijoy Chandra Mohapatra, Consultant (Law) and Prof. Basanta Kumar Mallik, Consultant (History) presented papers on different subjects and aspects of Judicial History of Odisha. The session was presided over by Prof. Sushmit Prasad Pani, Former Director, Distance Education, Utkal University.





2. **A drama titled "Saheed Lakhana Nayak"** by Centre for Judicial Archives was presented in the ceremony of 76th foundation day of the High Court of Orissa on 26th July 2024 at Odisha Judicial Academy, Cuttack. The drama was performed by the Orissa High court Cultural Society.





3. **"Preserving the Legacy", Pavilion at Balijatra, Cuttack**

The Centre showcased their activities through audio visual and pictorial formats in the High Court pavilion in ' Balijatra fair, Cuttack on 15th-22nd November 2024. Seventy One (71) pieces of ' Judicial History of Odisha, Vol 1' were sold.



MUSEUM OF JUSTICE

1. Footfall

The Museum experienced a total footfall of 18,572 (2898 Children, 15644 adults), with a revenue amounting to Rs.3,42,880/- (Rupees Three Lakh Forty-Two Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty only) earned by sale of tickets.

2. Academic Visits to Museum of Justice

Date	Children	Adults	Total Visitors	School/Institute
22.08.2024	0	20	20	ASBM College 15 students and 5 faculty members
29.08.2024	0	110	110	Madhusudan Law University 105 students and 5 faculty
24.09.2024	55	5	60	Ashelles Public School, Cuttack 55 students and 5 faculty
1.10.2024	0	125	125	Madhusudan Law University 120 students and 5 faculty
2.11.2024	0	46	46	OFS Officers on Probation
14.11.2024	20	6	26	Wizkids Play School 20 students and 6 faculty members
23.11.2024	0	54	54	Civil Judges (Junior Division) on Probation
Total	**75**	**366**	**441**	



Visit of OFS officers to the Museum of Justice, High Court of Orissa, Cuttack (2nd November 2024)



Visit of Judicial officers on probation to Museum of Justice, High Court of Orissa on 29th November 2024



Study tour of 107 Students of Madhusudan Law University, Cuttack accompanied by faculties, to the Museum of Justice, High Court of Orissa on 29th August 2024.



Students of Ashelles Public School visited the Museum of Justice. (24th September 2024)



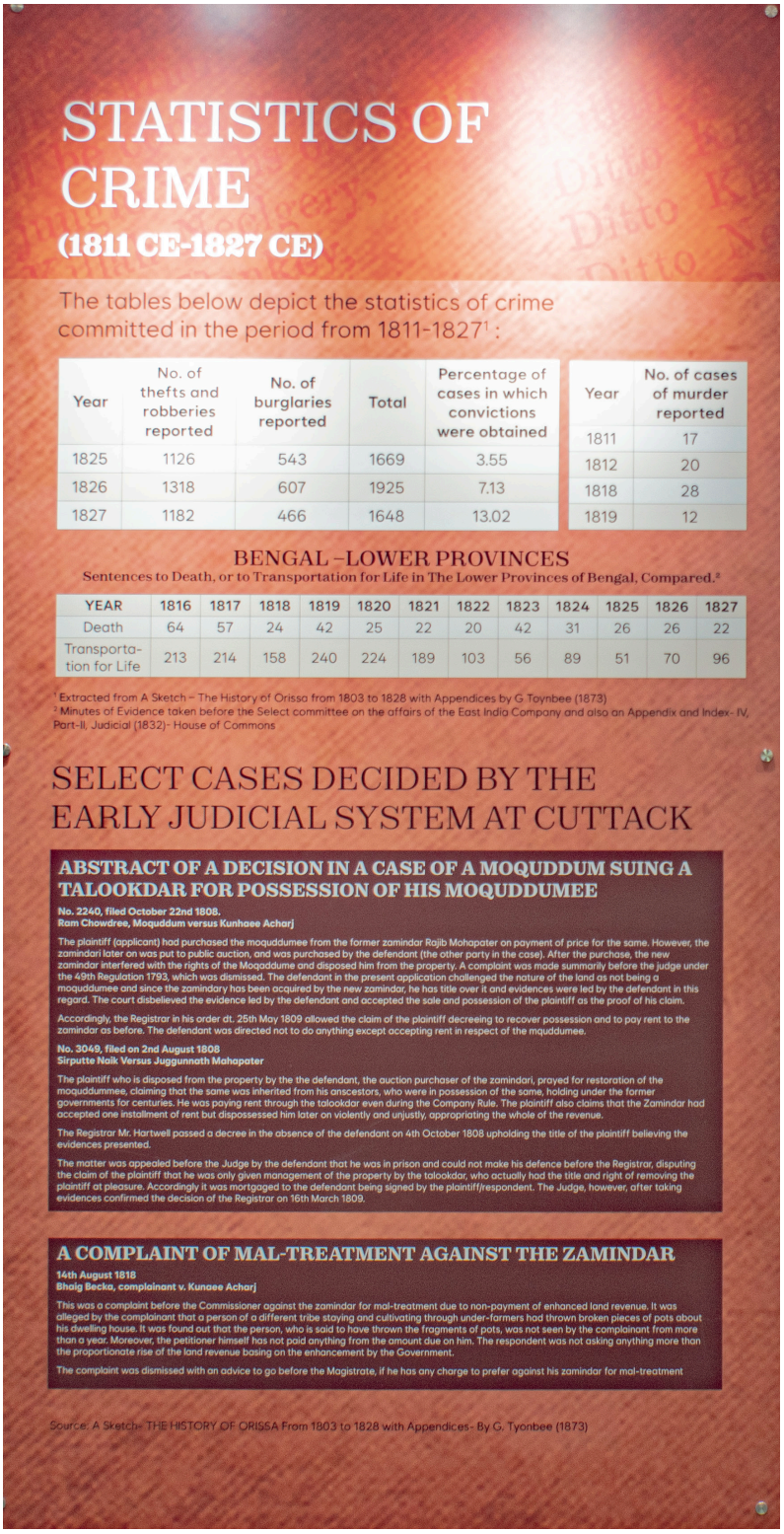
Visit of DAV Public School to Museum of Justice,
High Court of Orissa



Visit of MS Law University to Museum of Justice,
High Court of Orissa



Visit of Senior Citiizens to Museum of Justice,
High Court of Orissa



STATISTICS OF CRIME
(1811 CE-1827 CE)

The tables below depict the statistics of crime committed in the period from 1811-1827[1] :

Year	No. of thefts and robberies reported	No. of burglaries reported	Total	Percentage of cases in which convictions were obtained
1825	1126	543	1669	3.55
1826	1318	607	1925	7.13
1827	1182	466	1648	13.02

Year	No. of cases of murder reported
1811	17
1812	20
1818	28
1819	12

BENGAL –LOWER PROVINCES

Sentences to Death, or to Transportation for Life in The Lower Provinces of Bengal, Compared.[2]

YEAR	1816	1817	1818	1819	1820	1821	1822	1823	1824	1825	1826	1827
Death	64	57	24	42	25	22	20	42	31	26	26	22
Transportation for Life	213	214	158	240	224	189	103	56	89	51	70	96

[1] Extracted from A Sketch – The History of Orissa from 1803 to 1828 with Appendices by G Toynbee (1873)
[2] Minutes of Evidence taken before the Select committee on the affairs of the East India Company and also an Appendix and Index- IV, Part-II, Judicial (1832)- House of Commons

SELECT CASES DECIDED BY THE EARLY JUDICIAL SYSTEM AT CUTTACK

ABSTRACT OF A DECISION IN A CASE OF A MOQUDDUM SUING A TALOOKDAR FOR POSSESSION OF HIS MOQUDDUMEE

No. 2240, filed October 22nd 1808.
Ram Chowdree, Moquddum versus Kunhaee Acharj

The plaintiff (applicant) had purchased the moquddumee from the former zamindar Rajib Mohapater on payment of price for the same. However, the zamindari later on was put to public auction, and was purchased by the defendant (the other party in the case). After the purchase, the new zamindar interfered with the rights of the Moqaddume and disposed him from the property. A complaint was made summarily before the judge under the 49th Regulation 1793, which was dismissed. The defendant in the present application challenged the nature of the land as not being a moquddumee and since the zamindary has been acquired by the new zamindar, he has title over it and evidences were led by the defendant in this regard. The court disbelieved the evidence led by the defendant and accepted the sale and possession of the plaintiff as the proof of his claim.

Accordingly, the Registrar in his order dt. 25th May 1809 allowed the claim of the plaintiff decreeing to recover possession and to pay rent to the zamindar as before. The defendant was directed not to do anything except accepting rent in respect of the mquddumee.

No. 3049, filed on 2nd August 1808
Sirputte Naik Versus Juggunnath Mahapater

The plaintiff who is disposed from the property by the the defendant, the auction purchaser of the zamindari, prayed for restoration of the moquddummee, claiming that the same was inherited from his anscestors, who were in possession of the same, holding under the former governments for centuries. He was paying rent through the talookdar even during the Company Rule. The plaintiff also claims that the Zamindar had accepted one installment of rent but dispossessed him later on violently and unjustly, appropriating the whole of the revenue.

The Registrar Mr. Hartwell passed a decree in the absence of the defendant on 4th October 1808 upholding the title of the plaintiff believing the evidences presented.

The matter was appealed before the Judge by the defendant that he was in prison and could not make his defence before the Registrar, disputing the claim of the plaintiff that he was only given management of the property by the talookdar, who actually had the title and right of removing the plaintiff at pleasure. Accordingly it was mortgaged to the defendant being signed by the plaintiff/respondent. The Judge, however, after taking evidences confirmed the decision of the Registrar on 16th March 1809.

A COMPLAINT OF MAL-TREATMENT AGAINST THE ZAMINDAR

14th August 1818
Bhaig Becko, complainant v. Kunaee Acharj

This was a complaint before the Commissioner against the zamindar for mal-treatment due to non-payment of enhanced land revenue. It was alleged by the complainant that a person of a different tribe staying and cultivating through under-farmers had thrown broken pieces of pots about his dwelling house. It was found out that the person, who is said to have thrown the fragments of pots, was not seen by the complainant from more than a year. Moreover, the petitioner himself has not paid anything from the amount due on him. The respondent was not asking anything more than the proportionate rise of the land revenue basing on the enhancement by the Government.

The complaint was dismissed with an advice to go before the Magistrate, if he has any charge to prefer against his zamindar for mal-treatment

Source: A Sketch- THE HISTORY OF ORISSA From 1803 to 1828 with Appendices- By G. Tyonbee (1873)

Panel illustrating ancient crime records and extracts of cases decided by the early Judicial System at Cuttack, displayed at Centre for Judicial Archives.











CHAPTER II

LAW OFFICERS AND THE BAR



Preamble of the Constitution of India inscribed in Odia at Judges' Library

OFFICE OF THE ADVOCATE GENERAL, ODISHA



Sri Pitambar Acharya

Advocate General, Odisha

The office of the Advocate General was established on 1st April, 1936 along with creation of the separate province of Odisha. Justice Bira Kishore Ray, who later became the first Chief Justice of the High Court after its establishment, was the first Advocate General of the province. The province was then within the jurisdiction of High Court of Patna, with a circuit bench functioning at Cuttack. After establishment of the High Court of Orissa on 26th July, 1948 Swami Bichitrananda Das became the first Advocate General. The present Advocate General Sri Pitambar Acharya assumed office on 19th July 2024.

After establishment of High Court, the Office of the Advocate General started functioning within the High Court premises in the building provided for the purpose by the High Court of Orissa. In the meantime, the extension office of the Advocate General has been shifted to another building near the High Court. Besides, a separate building for the office of the Advocate General is being constructed by the State Govt. in front of the High Court. At present, only the first floor of the building of the High Court has been occupied by the office.

Office of the Advocate General, Odisha is a permanent establishment; it has two wings viz. Judicial and Administrative–cum-Accounts. The Judicial Wing has been subdivided by five Sections namely Writ, Civil, Criminal, Contempt, and State Case. Each Branch has been allotted with ministerial staff and supervising officers to supervise the branch. The administrative wing apart from general administration of the Office looks after maintenance of the office building, creation and appointment of staff and Law Officer and other ancillaries. The accounts section deals with all accounts matter, budget estimate etc. The confidential section which is under direct control of the Advocate General deals with all opinion files referred to by Government Departments for rendering opinion. Office of the Advocate General is well equipped with IT infrastructure to maintain database and information of all legal cases before the Hon'ble Supreme Court and Orissa High Court in the greater interest of the State.

The office of the Advocate General monitors the Litigation Management System (LMS) of the State Government devised for easy access of the pleadings and orders by the Government offices for preparation of counter affidavits and replies and for compliance of the direction of the High Court by judicial orders. The office was instrumental in facilitating digitization of the pending case records of the High Court which has been completed in the meantime. Filing of all types of cases by the Office of Advocate General is done through the e-Filing Portal of the High Court.

The Advocate General being the Chief Legal Advisor of the State is assisted by a panel of Lawyers viz. GA, AGA, SC & ASC who represent the State Govt. concerning the state litigation before the High Court of Orissa. The appointment, conditions of service, duties, rights and liabilities of Law Officers other than Advocate General for conducting cases in the High Court of Orissa and the procedure for the conduct of Government cases are governed by the Law Officers of the High Court (Recruitment, Remuneration and Duties) Rules, 1974. As on 31st December 2024, there are 81 Law Officers in the panel to assist the Advocate General.

Law Officers

Government Advocate

- Kailash Chandra Kar

Additional Government Advocates

- Debendra Kumar Sahoo
- Bibekananda Nayak
- Sanjib Kumar Swain
- Saroj Kumar Jee
- Jayant Kumar Bal
- Bimbisar Dash
- Umesh Chandra Behura
- Sarbeswar Behera
- Ajodhya Ranjan Dash
- Gopal Kumar Agarwal
- Dayanidhi Lenka
- Satya Brata Mohanty
- Jateswar Nayak
- Surya Narayan Patnaik
- Debashis Tripathy
- Subha Bikash Panda
- Bibhu Prasad Nayak
- Udit Ranjan Jena
- Manas Ranjan Mohanty
- Gautam Tripathy
- Prabir Kumar Ray
- Partha Sarathi Nayak
- Debasis Nayak
- Arabinda Tripathy
- Babita Sahu
- Saswat Das
- Sanjay Rath
- Chandrakanta Pradhan
- Chitta Ranjan Swain
- Debaranjan Mohapatra

- Tapan Kumar Dash
- Suman Pattanayak
- Rajani Bhusan Mishra
- Debraj Mohanty
- Ashok Kumar Apat

Standing Counsel

- Gyanaloka Mohanty

Additional Standing Counsels

- Siva Mohanty
- Bijaya Laxmi Tripathy
- Usharani Padhi
- Prem Kumar Mohanty
- Pradipta Satapathy
- Sasmita Nayak
- Pravat Kumar Panda
- Sachidananda Nayak
- Sobhan Panigrahi
- Tapas Kumar Acharya
- Satyabrata Panda
- Amitabh Pradhan
- Santosh Kumar Brahma
- Aurobinda Mohanty
- Chandra Madhab Singh
- Anshuman Sethy
- Suvalaxmi Devi
- Manas Ranjan Patra
- Prabhu Prasanna Behera
- Unmesh Chandra Jena
- Akshaya Kumar Pati
- Rajabhusan Dash
- Sonak Mishra
- Sarathi Jyoti Mohanty
- Manoj Mohanty
- Jayant Kumar Khandayatray
- Siba Narayan Biswal
- Sidharth Prasad Das
- Tej Kumar
- Aishwarya Dash
- Sarat Chandra Pradhan
- Surya Kanta Parhi
- Shantanu Das
- Jyotsnamayee Sahoo
- Pradeep Kumar Sahoo
- Swayambhu Mishra
- Chiranjaya Mohanty
- Gayatri Patra
- Sarita Moharana
- Rajdeep Pradhan
- Soumya Suchetan Routray
- Saroj Kumar Rout
- Surya Narayan Das
- Samaresh Jena



Advocate General of Odisha and Law officers

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA FOR THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA



Prasanna Kumar Parhi

Deputy Solicitor General of India for the High Court of Orissa

The Central Government has its dedicated panels of lawyers to represent it in litigations before the High Courts. The heads of such panels have been designated as Deputy Solicitor General of India (previously Assistant Solicitor General of India). Prasanna Kumar Parhi assumed office as Assistant Solicitor General of India for the High Court of Orissa on 7th October, 2020 and has been re-designated as the Deputy Solicitor General of India for the High Court of Orissa.

As on 31st December 2024, there are 2 Senior Panel Counsel and 16 Central Government Counsel in the panel of lawyers representing the Central Government before the High Court of Orissa and before the Central Administrative Tribunal, Cuttack Bench, Cuttack.

Senior Panel Counsel

- Achyutananda Routray
- Pradip Kumar Pattnaik

Central Government Counsel

- Debasis Satapathy
- Satya Sindhu Kashyap
- Biswajit Maharana
- Deepak Gochhayat
- Prasanta Kumar Das
- Dilip Kumar Sahu
- Debabrata Rath
- Alok Kumar Mohanty
- Birendra Kumar Pardhi
- Manoj Kumar Pati
- Bhabani Shankar Rayaguru
- Dipti Ranjan Bhokta
- Ms. Sulochana Patro
- Dulal Satyanarayan Jethi
- Mahendra Kumar Pradhan
- Banidutta Rai Mohapatra



Deputy Solicitor General of India for the High Court of Orissa and Law Officers

THE HIGH COURT BAR ASSOCIATION, ORISSA, CUTTACK



Sri Bijoy Kumar Dash

Advocate, President of the High Court Bar Association
Assumed Office on 03rd April, 2024

The High Court Bar Association, Orissa, Cuttack was registered on 5th September, 1961 under Societies Registration Act, 1860. Mr. L.K. Das Gupta was the first President and Mr Gangadhar Rath was the first Secretary of the Association. Presently, the Bar Association is headed by Sri Bijoy Kumar Dash, Advocate as the President and Sri Ranjan Kumar Nayak, Advocate as the Secretary of the Association.

The office bearers of the High Court Bar Association were elected on 30.03.2024 for a term of one year.



PRESIDENT

Sri Bijoy Kumar Dash

VICE-PRESIDENT

Sri Karunakar Rath

SECRETARY

Sri Ranjan Kumar Nayak

JOINT SECRETARY

Sri Ashok Kumar Apat

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Sri Sarada Prasad Tripathy

ASST. SECRETARY (LIBRARY)

Sri Bhawani Sankar Panigrahi

EXECUTIVE BODY MEMBERS

- Miss Agnisikha Ray
- Miss Amrita Mishra
- Mrs. Madhusmita Kanungo
- Miss Rita Singh
- Sri Braja Bhusan Sahoo
- Sri Shyam Sundar Tripathy
- Sri Susampad Hota
- Sri Snehasish Behera
- Sri Pratap Naik

Activities during the year 2024

Oath Taking Ceremony of newly elected office bearers of the High Court Bar Association- 2024-2025



Lawyers' Day Celebration

The 176th Birth Anniversary of Utkal Gourav Madhusudan Das (Madhu Jayanti) & Lawyers' Day Function was celebrated on 28th April, 2024 in the Convention Hall of the High Court Bar Association. His Excellency the Governor of Odisha Shri Raghubar Das graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, the Chief Justice of Orissa High Court, also graced the occasion & inspired the learned members of the Bar through his valuable speech. Dr. Justice B.R. Sarangi, Judge, High Court of Orissa was the Guest of Honour, Mr. Ashok Kumar Parija, Sr. Adv., the then Advocate General, Odisha, was the chief speaker, and the event was presided over by Mr. Bijoy Kumar Das, Advocate, President of the High Court Bar Association.







Traditional Get-together Lunch "Dahi Pakhala" organized by the High Court Bar Association on 17th May 2024 in the High Court Bar Association Hall.







Observation of 32nd Death Anniversary of Justice R.C. Patnaik on 30th May, 2024



International Yoga Day on 21st June, 2024 in the High Court Bar Association Hall.



Symposium on the three new criminal laws

A Symposium on three New Criminal Laws "(i) The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, (ii) The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023 and (iii) The Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023" was organized on 29th June, 2024 by High Court Bar Association, Orissa, Cuttack in collaboration with Odisha State Bar Council in the Convention Hall of the High Court Bar Association.





Farewell Ceremony of Dr. Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi on 04th July, 2024 in the High Court Bar Association Hall



Independence Day observed in the High Court Bar Association Premises.



35th Commemorative Day of Barrister Ranjit Mohanty on 02nd September, 2024.



Felicitation of newly appointed Advocate General of Odisha, Sri Pitambar Acharya, Senior Advocate.



Felicitation of Hon'ble Revenue Minister of Odisha Sri Suresh Pujari.



Celebration of Gandhi Jayanti on 02nd October, 2024 in the premises of the High Court of Orissa.







Farewell Ceremony of Hon'ble Shri Justice D. Dash on 09th October, 2024 in the High Court Bar Association Hall.





Viswanath Pasayat Memorial Function on 10th October, 2024

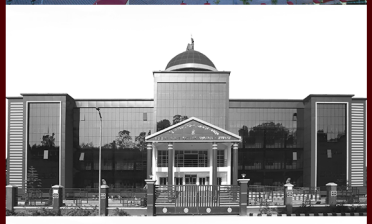




President and other members of the High Court Bar Association for the year 2024









CHAPTER IV
THE DISTRICT COURTS



Court Hall of District Judge, Khurda at Bhubaneswar

Case Statistics of the District Courts

The District Judiciary improved its performance as compared to the previous years. The institution and disposal statistics of the District Courts for the last 5 years are indicated below for a comparative analysis.

Disposal statistics of District Judiciary for last 5 years

Year	Institution	Disposal	Comparative rate of increase in disposal with previous year (%)	Case Clearance Rate (%) (Disposal vis-à-vis institution)
2020	2,84,805	1,26,077	-57.48	44.27
2021	4,34,810	2,38,588	+89.24	54.87
2022	5,52,948	5,15,392	+116.01	93.21
2023	4,73,634	4,26,422	-17.26	90.03
2024	4,99,030	4,56,352	7.02	91.45

Institution, Disposal and the Case Clearance Rate at a glance

While the opening balance at the beginning of 2024 was 18,73,312, the closing balance at the end of the year was 19,20,825. Total institution during the year was 4,99,030 and the disposal was 4,56,352 cases at a Case Clearance Rate of 91.45%. The disposal of cases in District Courts increased by 7.02% in 2024 as compared to the disposal in 2023. The institution and disposal figure of both 2023 and 2024 includes the cases received from and transferred to other Courts. The institution of Criminal cases increased due to filing of 42,819 cases under the M.V. Act as a result of automatic challan based on CCTV image capture. Disposal in the months of March, May, September and December, 2024 was comparatively higher due to disposal in Lok Adalat held in those months. Disposal in the month of June, 2024 decreased due to less number of working days. Similarly, disposal in the month of October, 2024 decreased on account of Durga Puja Holidays.

Judicial Officers' working strength and loss of working hours

240 working days are allotted for judicial working of the District Courts and each working day consists of 6 working hours. Average working strength of the district court judges against the average sanctioned strength of 1028 in 2024 was 837.5. Average loss of working days in 2024 was 0.011 days due to cease work. The cumulative loss of judicial working hours of all the district courts was 55.275 hours (6 hours x 0.011 days x 837.5 active strength of Judicial Officers = 55.275 hours). Detailed case statistics of the District Courts along with relevant information for 2024 is available on the website and given at **Appendix-K.**

No. of Judgments pronounced / delivered in the year - 2024

Civil			Criminal		
Contested	Un- Contested	Total	Contested	Un- Contested	Total
18,432	13,950	32,382	1,04,863	20,348	1,25,211

Number of judgments pronounced in the year 2024

During the year 2024 Judgments have been pronounced in 32,382 Civil cases, out of which 18,432 are contested cases and 13,950 are un-contested cases. Similarly, Judgments have been pronounced in 1,25,211 Criminal cases, out of which 1,04,863 are contested cases and 20,348 are un-contested cases. In toto judgments delivered in the year 2024 both in Civil and Criminal cases were 1,57,593.

Disposal of over 40 Years old Cases (from 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2024)

TOTAL (All 30 Districts)	CIVIL						CRIMINAL					
	OPENING BALANCE as on 01.01.2024	Became over 40 years from 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2024	Received from other Courts	Transferred to other Courts	DISPOSAL from 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2024	CLOSING BALANCE as on 31.12.2024	OPENING BALANCE as on 01.01.2024	Became over 40 years from 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2024	Received from other Courts	Transferred to other Courts	DISPOSAL from 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2024	CLOSING BALANCE as on 31.12.2024
	23	39	3	3	28	34	3	11	0	0	12	2

Details of over 40 years old cases in the year 2024

In the beginning of the year 2024, 23 numbers of civil cases and 03 numbers of criminal cases over 40 years old were pending. During the year, 28 Civil cases of more than 40 years old and 12 criminal cases of more than 40 years old have been disposed of. At the end of the year 2024, in toto 40 numbers of both Civil and Criminal Cases were disposed of and 36 cases were pending.

Disposal of 25 to 40 Years old Cases (from 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2024)

TOTAL (All 30 Districts)	CIVIL						CRIMINAL					
	OPENING BALANCE as on 01.01.2024	Became 25 to 40 years from 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2024	Received from other Courts	Transferred to other Courts	DISPOSAL from 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2024	CLOSING BALANCE as on 31.12.2024	OPENING BALANCE as on 01.01.2024	Became 25 to 40 years from 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2024	Received from other Courts	Transferred to other Courts	DISPOSAL from 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2024	CLOSING BALANCE as on 31.12.2024
	812	328	30	51	505	614	1357	2558	112	110	2547	1370

Details of 25 to 40 years old cases in the year 2024

In the beginning of the year 2024, 812 numbers of civil and 1357 numbers of criminal cases of 25 to 40 years old cases were pending. During the year 505 Civil cases of 25 to 40 years old and 2547 Criminal cases of 25 to 40 years old were disposed of. In toto 3052 numbers of Civil and Criminal Cases of 25 to 40 years old were disposed of and 1984 cases were pending.


INAUGURATION OF
DISTRICT JUDGES' CONFERENCE, 2024


INAUGURATION OF
DISTRICT JUDGES' CONFERENCE, 2024
&
RELEASE OF
ANNUAL REPORT, 2023
BY
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE CHAKRADHARI SHARAN SINGH
CHIEF JUSTICE , HIGH COURT OF ORISSA
IN THE PRESENCE OF

District Judges' Conference, 2024

Like the previous year, the District Judges' Conference was held by the High Court of Orissa in 2024. The two and half day's conference was held at Odisha Judicial Academy, Cuttack where 49 agenda items were taken for deliberation. It was inaugurated on 28th June, 2024 by Justice Chakradhari Saran Singh, Chief Justice, The High Court of Orissa in presence of all sitting and former Judges of the High Court of Orissa, Cuttack. The Annual Report, 2023 published by the High Court of Orissa was released in the inaugural function of the Conference.

Interactions were held with Special Judge, Special Court, Cuttack & Bhubaneswar, Judge, CBI Court No. 1, Director-cum-Addl. D.G. of Police (Vigilance), Odisha, all presiding Officers of the Tribunals of the State, Commissioner of Endowments, Bhubaneswar on 26th June, 2024 through virtual mode as a part of the District Judges' Conference, 2024. Issues relating to the functioning such as "pendency and delay in disposal of cases", "fast-tracking the trial of vigilance cases", "Implementation of instruction imparted in the District Judges' Conference, 2023" etc. were discussed. After detailed deliberations, suitable instructions were imparted to all concerned including the Director, State Vigilance Organization, Odisha, Cuttack. The Presiding Officers were advised interalia to take up old cases on board on priority basis. The Presiding Officers of all the Tribunals were instructed to impress upon different aspects like infrastructural facilities, digitization of case records, filling up the vacant posts in different Tribunals, submission of list of stayed cases, allocation of land for construction of court buildings and provision of budget to meet contingency etc.

The Conference was held on 29th June, 2024 and 30th June, 2024 in seven sessions imparting a number of resolutions in various aspects.

The Chief Development Commissioner, Govt. of Odisha, the Addl. Chief Secretary, Home Department, the Addl. Chief Secretary, G.A. & P.G. Department, the Addl. Chief Secretary, Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Principal Secretary, Law Department, Principal Secretary, Finance Department, Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department, Principal Secretary, Labour & ESI Department, Principal Secretary, Commerce & Transport Department, Principal Secretary, Works Department, Principal Secretary, ST & SC, Minority & Backward Classes Department, Principal Secretary, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Department of Cooperation and other Govt. officials also attended the session on 30th June, 2024.

The Conference

All sitting Judges of the High Court of Orissa, all the Principal Dist. & Sessions Judges & all Chief Judicial Magistrates of the State, Principal Secy. to Govt., Law Department., Odisha, Bhubaneswar, Director, OJA, Cuttack & Member Secretary, OSLSA, Cuttack had attended the Conference. Various issues related to judicial administration were discussed. The broad heads of issues discussed in the conference and the resolutions adopted & concurred by the High Court of Orissa in the administrative side are indicated below.

I. Issues pertaining to E-initiatives

- Creation of software for District Court Guard Files.
- Online certified copy application for District Courts.
- Disposal/removal of video recordings of the evidence of witnesses as per V.C. Rules, 2020.
- Creation of Software/ Platform for e-service of summons on the official witnesses.

- Provision of digitization room in each District Court Complex and Dragon Legal Speech recognition software to Judicial Officers.
- Challenges faced in the functioning of paperless courts.
- Provision of Wireless Fidelity (Wi-Fi) in the campus of the District Courts.
- Effectiveness and challenges in e-service of the summons through NSTEP.
- Uploading of daily orders in Case Information System.
- Implementation of paperless office in the District Judiciary for inter/intra District Communication as well as communication between High Court and District Courts and to integrate leave management system through OJWAS.

Suitable instructions were imparted to the District Judges pursuant to the resolutions passed.

II. G.R.C.O (Civil and Criminal) and Practice Directions

- Proposed amendments/deletions of rules under GR & CO (Criminal) & (Civil).
- Incorporation of specific provisions for the staff of the District Courts of the State including the retired staff for not making any direct correspondence with the High Court.
- Incorporation of the specific form of register of Writs for Salaried Amins as per rule 186-A of G.R. & C.O (Civil) Vol-I.
- Destruction of case records of the District Courts after digitization, accessing the DMS (Document Management System) for issuance of certified copies and necessary amendment to be made in the G.R. & C.O (Civil & Criminal).
- Amendments in the rules of G.R. & C.O. (Criminal) & (Civil) Vol-I relating to destruction and preservation of records.
- Admissibility of T.A. to the guardian adlitem both in original suit and in appeal as admissible to the officers of the Second Grade under ORSP Rules, 2017 for the days for which he may be away from Headquarters in consonance with rule 219 of G.R. & C.O. (Civil) Vol-I.
- Computer System or other suitable method for recording depositions and memoranda of evidence and each page must be signed by the Presiding Judge under rule 111 of G.R. & C.O. (Civil) Vol-I.
- Enhancement of value/charge of photocopy paper under rule 254-A (4) and (5) G.R. & C.O. (Criminal) Vol-I.
- For placing of records into dormant file awaiting execution of memo of apprehension against the CICLs under Rule -326 Sub- rule (b) and (d) of G.R. & C.O. (Criminal) Vol-I.

III. Miscellaneous Issues

- Maintenance of CCRs of all District and Civil Court Staff except those belonging to Group-D cadre appended in the guidelines at Annexure-II.
- Determination of mechanism in relation to the advance copies of appeals received from staff working in the District and Civil Court including retired staff.
- Guidelines to deal with the complaints received against the staff of the District Courts:-

- Not to entertain complaints/allegations unless it is accompanied by duly sworn affidavit.
- If complaints not accompanied with affidavit are received and action is deemed to be necessary; further steps to be taken after satisfaction of the High Court.
- If complaints received having grave and serious allegation but not accompanied with affidavit and action is deemed to be necessary; further steps to be taken after satisfaction of the District Judge.
- Nomination of District Judges as members of the Review Committee for different Judgeships to review performance of employees attaining the age of 50/55/58 years, as the case may be.
- Introduction of biometric system of attendance for the staff of District Judiciary.
- To adopt uniform logo for the District Judges, Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.), Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.) working in the District Courts for making official correspondence.
- Creation of leave reserve posts in Ministerial Service Cadre of the District Courts i.e. 10% of the sanctioned strength at the base level.
- Creation of different posts in ministerial cadre in District Courts.
- Creation of dedicated posts in establishment of District & Sessions Judge for the purpose of statistical data.
- Provision of separate statistical section in the District Judges' Administrative Office along with creation of different posts in the establishment of all District & Sessions Judges.
- Creation of a dedicated team of staff for inspection of the Courts by the District Judges and CJMs.

IV. Proposed Amendments

- Proposal for amendment of the Odisha District and Subordinate Courts' Non-Judicial Staff Services (Method of Recruitment and Conditions of Services) Rules, 2008.
- To fill up 25% vacancies in the posts of Jr. Clerks of that particular recruitment year from the Group-D Employees who possess requisite qualification in ratio of 1:2 for Process Servers and other Group-"D" employees respectively as per method of selection to be decided by District Recruitment Committee under Rule 4(a) of Odisha District and Civil Courts' Judicial Staff Services (Method of recruitment and Conditions of Service), Rules, 2008.
- Substitution of word "Administrative Officer" with "Chief Administrative Officer" other than the court of District Judges of all the Judgeship in Rule 17(2) of "The Odisha District and Civil Courts' Judicial Staff Services (Method of Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 2008.
- No enhancement of minimum age of candidates for recruitment to different posts under "The Odisha District and Civil Courts' Judicial Staff Services (Method of Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 2008.
- Inclusion of word "/other" after the word "Female" in Serial No. 3 of Form-A (Format of Application) of The Odisha District and Civil Courts' Judicial Staff Services (Method of Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 2008.

V. Inspection, Yardstick & Statistical Returns of Courts

- Consideration of the proposal to take suo moto steps by the District Judge for transfer of

cases involving UTPs and other cases targeted by the higher forums from the vacant courts.

- Fixation of two days for annual inspection for all courts and amendment thereto in Rule 524 of G.R. & C.O (Civil) Vol-I and Rule 368 of G.R. & C.O. (Criminal) Vol-I.
- Modified yardstick prescribed for the Judge, Family Court in the year 2020 vide notification No. 906/R dtd. 17.08.2020, the word "except the cases dismissed for default" to be added after the word "Family Courts Act" in serial No. A 14(2).
- The Addl. District & Sessions Judge at the outlying station has been entrusted with the work of inspection of the subordinate courts at the discretion of District & Sessions Judge under Rule 581 of G.R. & C.O. (Civil) Vol-I.
- Disposal of Sessions cases under Section 232 Cr.P.C. be treated as contested case and 3 days yardstick to be given.
- Calculation sheet of yardstick shall be attached with quarterly, half-yearly and annual statements for the Judicial Officers.

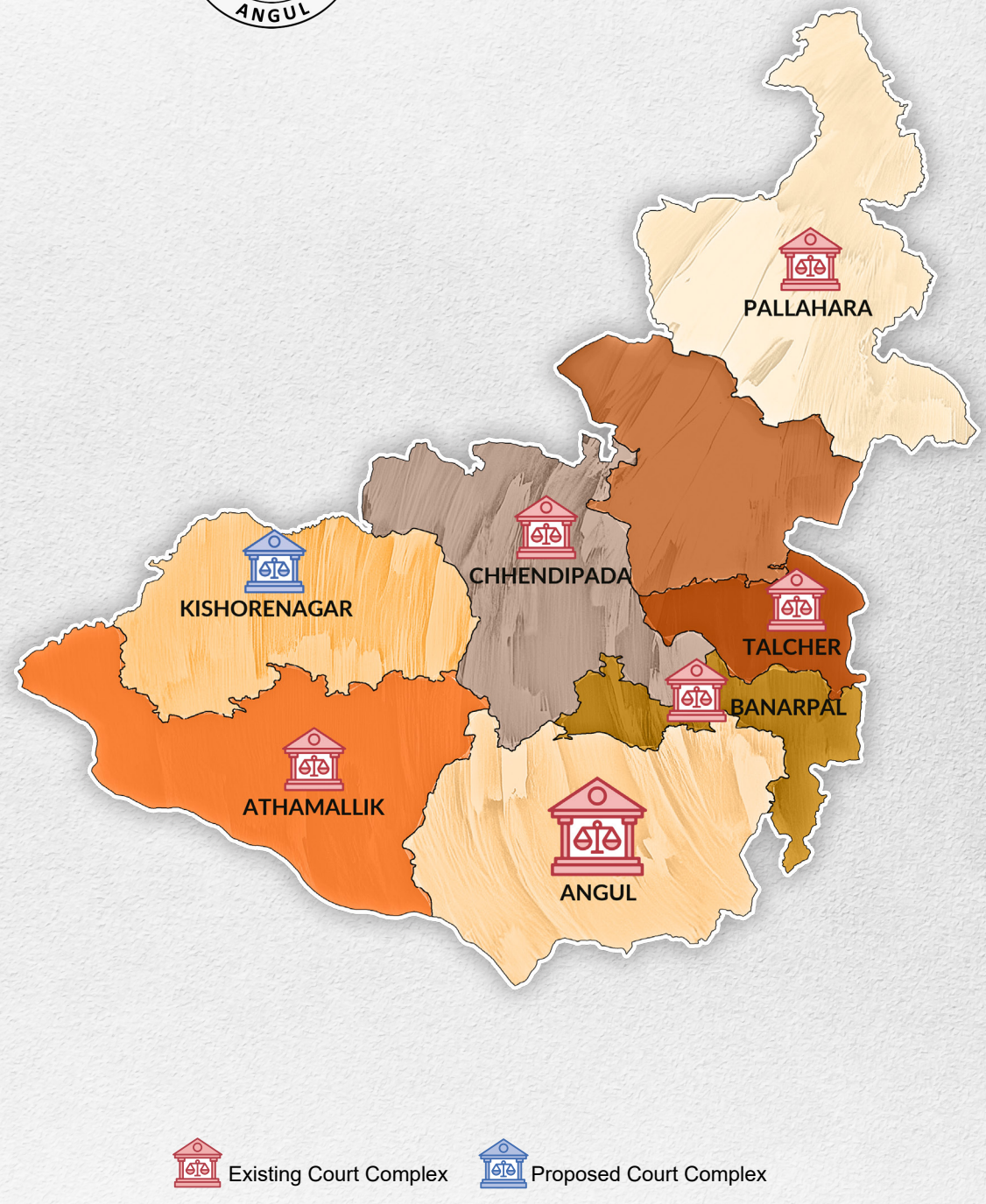
VI. Budget, Planning and Expenditure

- Grant of permanent advance/ imprest to District Courts to meet contingent and emergency expenditure of their respective establishment under Rule 459 of O.G.F.R, 2023.
- Declaration of Special Judge (Vigilance), Judge, Family Court and Civil Judges of Taluk Courts as Heads of Offices/ DDOs and allotment of DDO code to move State Govt. online in DDO Management Module.
- Enhancement of Interpreter fees in the scale of skilled person as declared by the Govt. of Odisha in Labour Department notification and amendment to be made in G.R. & C.O. (Civil and Criminal) Vol-I.
- Preparation of budget, practice and procedure and bottleneck in utilization of funds. Madhusudan Das Regional Academy of Financial Management shall impart seven days refresher training to DDOs on the above aspects.

VII. Infrastructure

- Provision of wired/wireless intercom facilities in the Court Buildings of all the Judgeships of the State for smooth functioning of the official work along with formulation of modalities for installation thereof.
- The District Judge has been authorized to declare the senior most Judicial Officer at the outlying station and C.J.(JD)-Cum-JMFC of the single station as Judge-in-Charge, Buildings of their respective establishments in consonance with Rule 527-A G.R. & C.O. (Civil) Volume-I.

District Judiciary Map
Angul



Angul Judgeship with its headquarters at Angul was separated from its parent judgeship of Dhenkanal on 31st July, 2012. 30 different courts are functioning in this judgeship with five outlying stations situated at Talcher, Athmallik, Pallahara, Chhendipada, and Banarpal. The Old District Court complex started functioning in 1996.

The New Court complex was inaugurated on 21st April, 2018. It includes one Virtual Centre of High Court of Orissa, e-Sewa Kendra, V.C. cabin, e-prosecution, and record room. Construction of 3rd floor of District Court Building was completed. Construction of residential quarters for ADJ-cum-Spl. Judge (Vigilance) & Judge, Family Court, Angul, Court Building of J.M.F.C., Banarpal & Chhendipada, residential quarters at Chenndipada, Athmallik and Talcher are under progress. The Regional Judicial Academy, Angul imparted regular training to the Judicial Officers and ministerial staff posted in the cluster districts of Angul, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, and Deogarh.

Legal awareness programmes and awareness programmes regarding enrolment of drop out students in school and other such topics were organized by DLSA, Angul in the year 2024.

District Judges during the year 2024



Shri Damodar Rath
for the entire year

Digitization

Digitization of records at DCDH, Angul

Digitised Records of District Record Room	**1,86,890**
Pages	**1,07,25,231**

Work in Progress

Court building of JMFC, Banarpal & Chhendipada, residential quarters at Angul, Chhendipada, Athmallik and Talcher.



INAUGURATION OF STALL OF DLSA SERVICES AT ANGUL MAHOSTAV-2024



AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON PoSH ACT. AT D.H.H, ANGUL









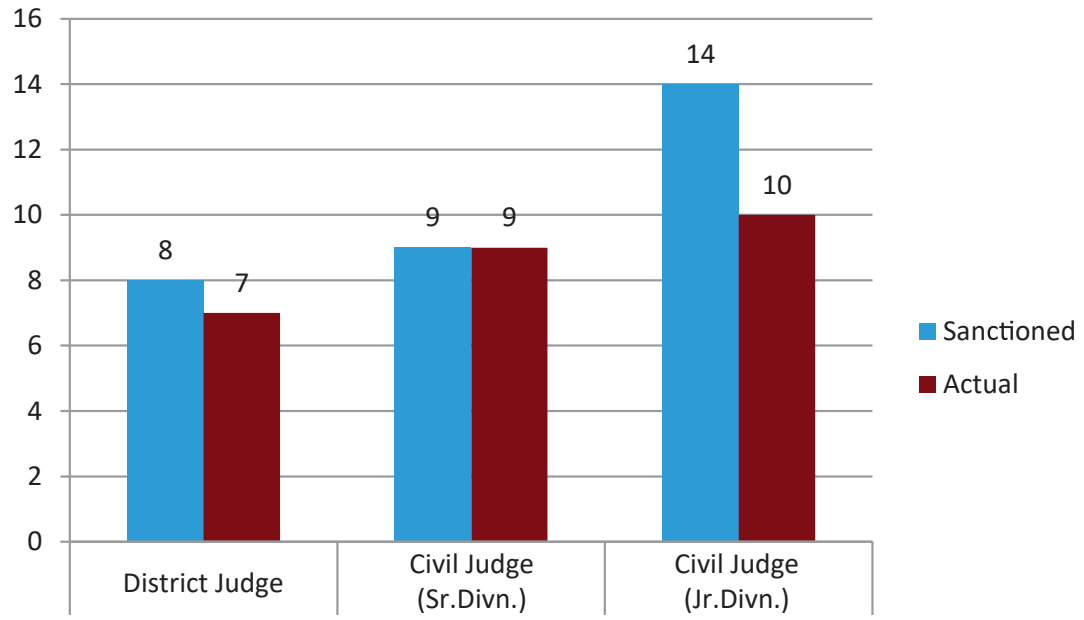
Top row (left to right) : Inauguration of stall of DLSA services at Angul Mahotsav-2024, Awareness programme on PoSH Act.

Middle row (left to right) : National Lok Adalat at District Court Complex, Plantation programme on "Van Mahotsav" by DLSA, Angul.

Bottom row : Observance of "Constitution Day" at Jadunath Sanskrit College, Angul by the DLSA, Angul.

Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Judge, Family Court	1
Addl. District and Sessions Judge	5 (includes one Court of ADJ (LR& LTV) and ADJ -cum- Special Judge (Vigilance))
Special Court under POCSO Act	1
Ad-hoc ADJ (FTSC)	1
Chief Judicial Magistrate	1
A.S.J.-cum-Registrar, Civil Courts	1
Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)	5 [includes 1 Court of Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.) -cum- Asst. Sessions Judge (Women's Court) and 1 Court of Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.) (LR & LTV)]
Addl. Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)	1
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	4
Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)-cum-J.M.F.C.	3[includes one cognizance taking Court of Civil Judge (Jr.Divn.)-cum-J.M.F.C]
Addl. C.J. (Jr. Divn.)-cum-J.M.F.C.	2
J.M.F.C	4[includes 2 Courts of JMFC (LR & LTV)]

Number of judges in each court

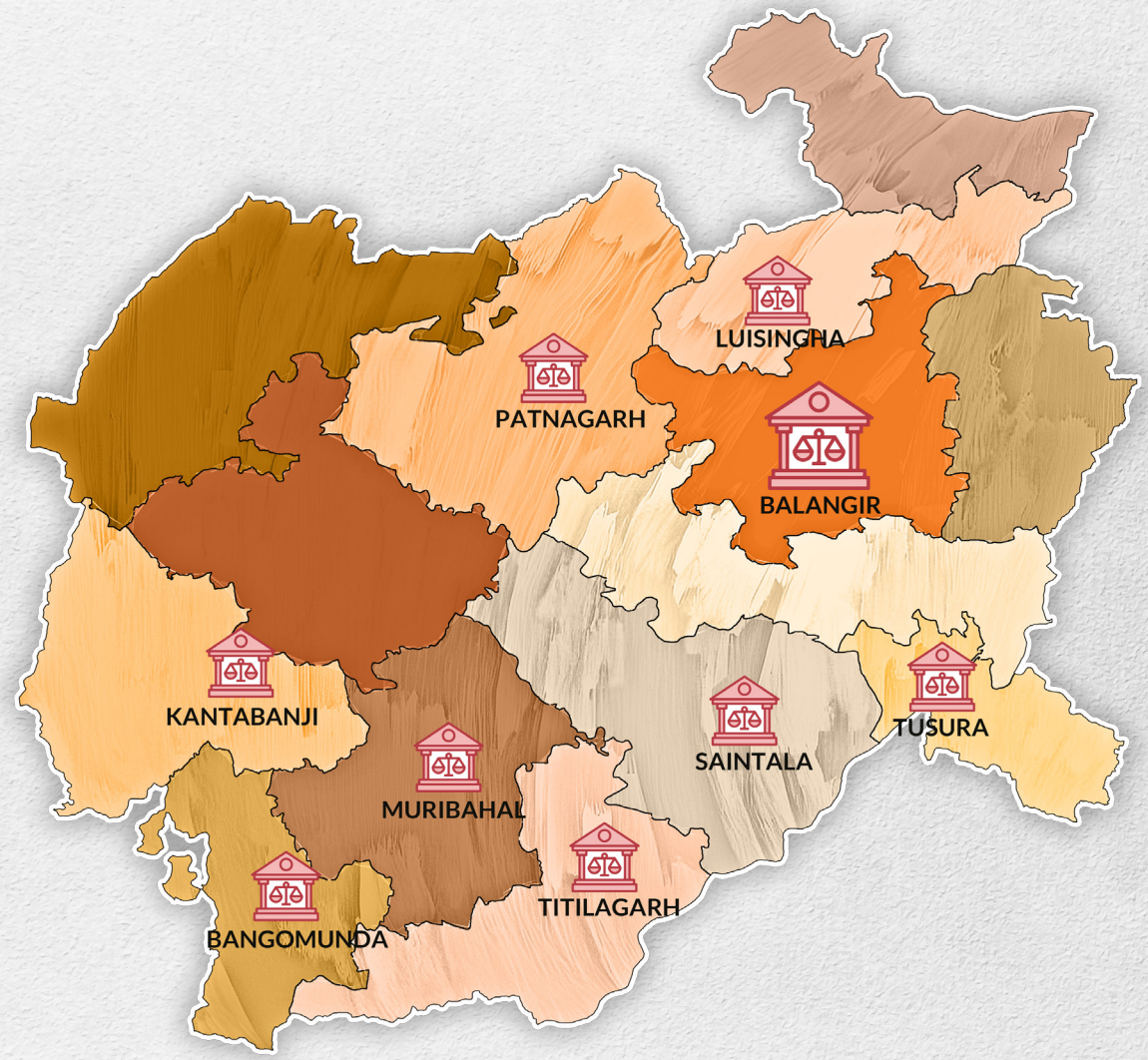


Case Statistics

Year	Opening Balance as on 1st January			Institution during the year			Disposal during the year			Pending Cases at the end of 31st December		
	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total
2023	9,439	81,419	90,858	1,877	18,320	20,197	2,534	14,732	17,266	8,782	85,007	93,789
2024	8,782	85,007	93,789	1,675	16,847	18,522	2,921	14,279	17,200	7,549	83,010	90,559

District Judiciary Map

Balangir



Existing Court Complex Proposed Court Complex

The combined judgeship of Balangir-Kalahandi started functioning with effect from 17th June, 1948 with its headquarters at Balangir. The Judgeship of Kalahandi was separated from Balangir on 28th February, 1982. After demarcation of Sonepur (Subarnapur) as a separate district, the Balangir and Sonepur Judgeship continued to function in a combined manner till 22nd June, 2012, when the judgeship of Sonepur was separated.

37 different courts are functioning in this judgeship with outlying stations at Kantabanji, Titilagarh, Luisingha, Saintala, Muribahal, Patnagarh, Bangomunda, and Tusara.

District Judges during the year 2024



Shri Pabitra Mohan Samal
for the entire year

New court / new court building

- Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)-cum-JMFC at Tusara on 18.09.2024
- Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)(Commercial Court) at Balangir on 05.07.2024
- Counselling Centre at Family Court at Balangir on 18.09.2024

Digitization

Paperless Courts estd. in 2024	**9**
Digitization of records at DCDH, Sonepur	
Digitised Records of District Record Room	**24,172**
Pages	**27,78,610**













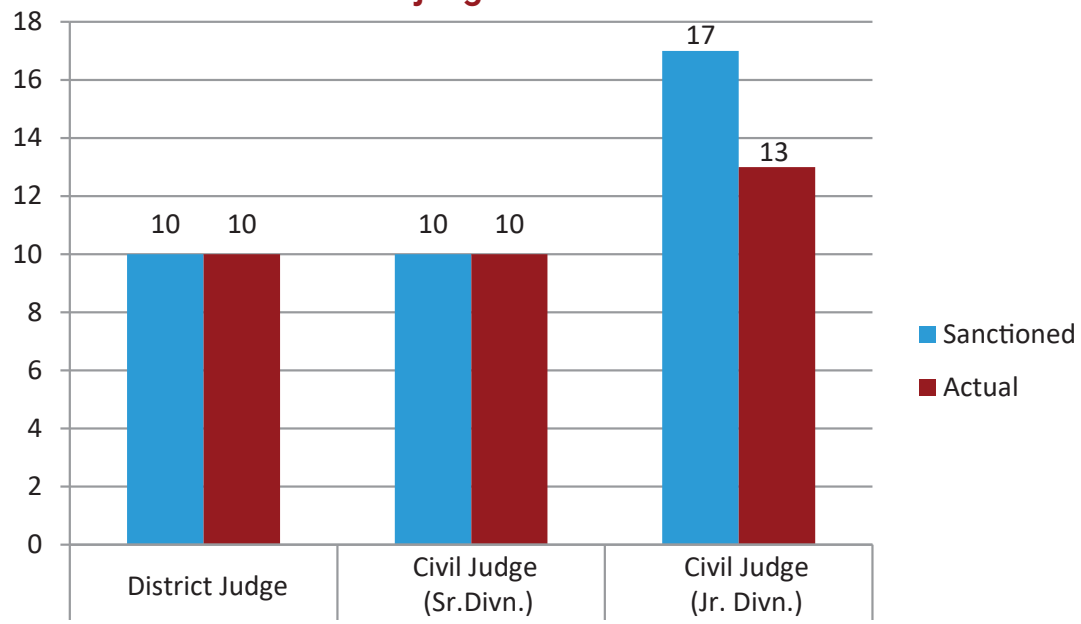


Top Row (left to right) : Inauguration of Court of Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.) (Commercial Court) at Balangir, Inauguration of Paperless court complex at Balangir.
Middle Row (left to right) : Interaction of Judicial Officers with court staff, Observance of "Van Mahotsava" Week.
Bottom row (left to right) : Observance of International Yoga Day, Inauguration of Court of Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)-Cum-J.M.F.C. at Tusara

Apart from the District and Sessions Judge, the judgeship consists of the following courts:

Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Judge, Family Court	1
Addl. District and Sessions Judge	5
Addl. District Judge-cum-Special Judge (Vig.)	1
Special Court under POCSO Act	1
Special Court under SC & ST (PoA) Act	1
Chief Judicial Magistrate	1
A.S.J.-cum-Registrar,Civil Courts	1
Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)	6 [includes 1 Court of Civil Judge (Sr.Divn.) (LR & LTV)+ 1 court of Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.) (Commercial Court)]
Addl. Civil Judge(Sr.Divn.)	1
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	3
Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)-cum-J.M.F.C.	6
Special Railway Magistrate	1
J.M.F.C.	7 [includes 1 Court of J.M.F.C. (LR & LTV)]
Special Judicial Magistrate	1

Number of judges in each court

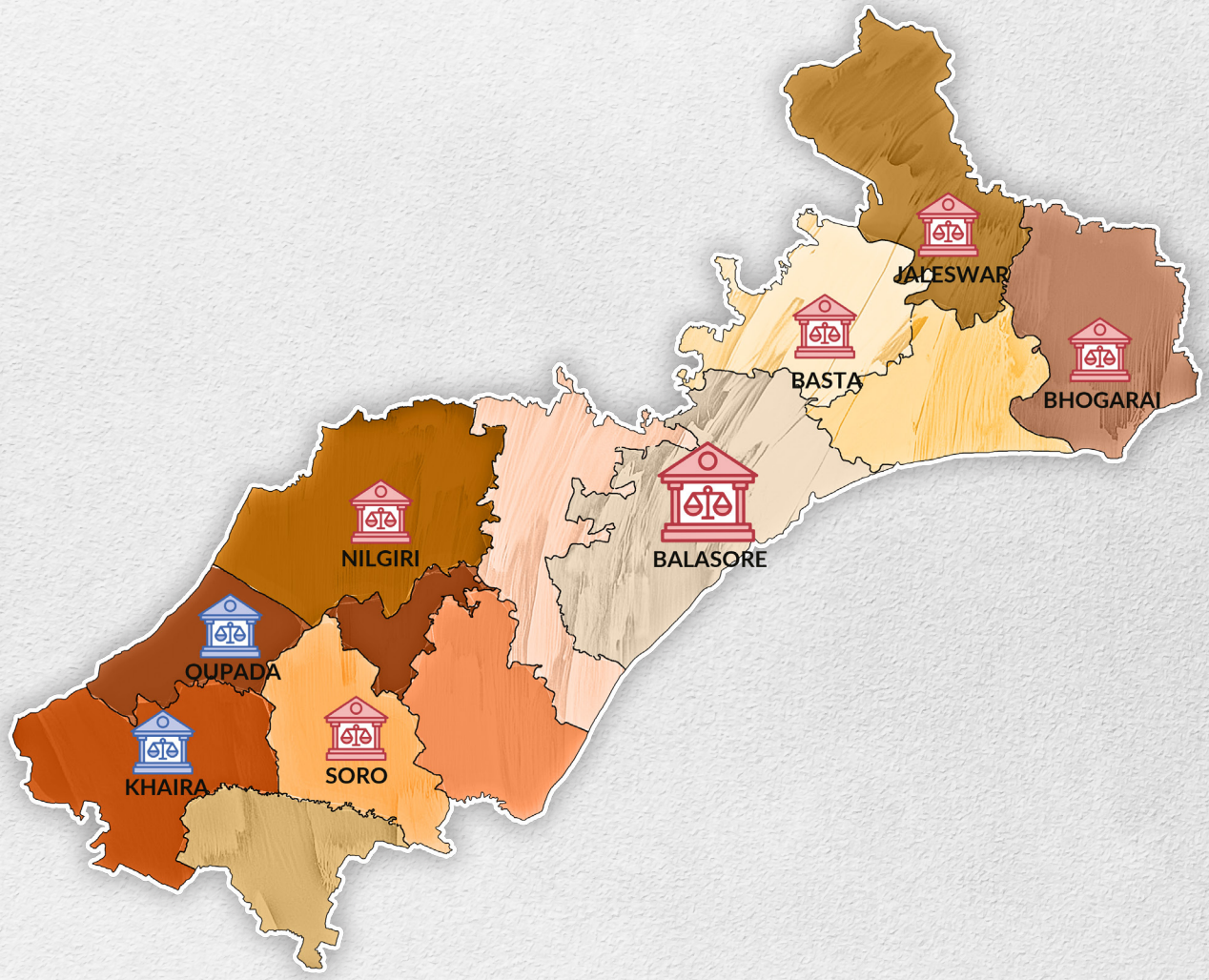


Case Statistics

Year	Opening Balance as on 1st January			Institution during the year			Disposal during the year			Pending Cases at the end of 31st December		
	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total
2023	6,751	42,067	48,818	1,767	18,733	20,500	1,770	15,516	17,286	6,748	45,284	52,032
2024	6,748	45,284	52,032	1,728	21,107	22,835	2,239	17,397	19,636	6,202	49,501	55,703

District Judiciary Map

Balasore



Existing Court Complex Proposed Court Complex

Till 1948, this judgeship was under the combined judgeship of Cuttack-Balasore-Sambalpur. After the merger of princely states in 1948, it came under Keonjhar judgeship. When the ex-State of Mayurbhanj merged with the state of Orissa in 1949, it remained under the Mayurbhanj judgeship with its headquarters at Baripada till 1949. The District Judge stationed at Baripada was holding a Circuit Court at Balasore from 1915 till 1957-58. A post of Additional District and Sessions Judge, Mayurbhanj was created in 1957-1958 with headquarters at Balasore. Balasore became an independent judgeship on 15th January, 1959. 44 different courts are functioning in this judgeship with outlying stations at Jaleswar, Nilgiri, Basta, Bhograi and Soro.

The Regional Judicial Academy, Balasore imparted regular training to the Judicial Officers and ministerial staff posted in the cluster districts of Balasore, Jajpur, Mayurbhanj, and Bhadrak.

The Court and Office of the District and Sessions Judge was inspected on 21.12.2024 by Justice B.P. Routray, Administrative Judge of Balasore Judgeship.

District Judges during the year 2024



Shri Asanta Kumar Das
till 23.07.2024



Shri Satya Narayan Mishra
01.08.2024-till end of year

Digitization

Digitization of records at DCDC, Balasore

Digitised Records of District Record Room	**2,53,783**
Pages	**2,42,51,355**

Upcoming Projects

Civil Court Complex at Basta and Jaleswar. Foundation stone laid on 20.03.2024







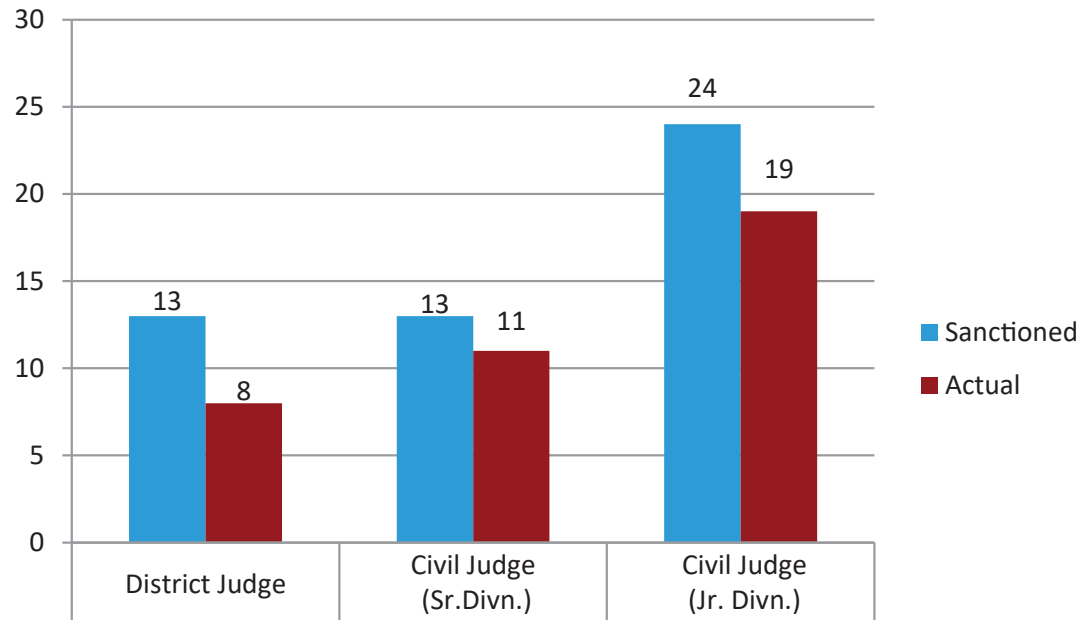
Top to Bottom : Laying of foundation stone for new Civil Court Complex at Basta and Jaleswar

Apart from the District and Sessions Judge, the judgeship consists of the following courts:

Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Judge, Family Court	1
Addl. District and Sessions Judge	4 [includes 1 Court of ADJ (LR & LTV)]
Special Court under POCSO Act	1
Ad-hoc ADJ (FTSC)	1
ADJ -cum- Special Judge (Vigilance)	1
Designated Court under OPID Act	1
Special Court under SC & ST (PoA) Act	1
Chief Judicial Magistrate	1
A.S.J.-cum-Registrar, Civil Courts	1

Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)	5 [Includes one court of Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.) (LR & LTV)]
Addl. Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)	3
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	2
Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)	1
Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)-cum-J.M.F.C.	3
Addl. Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.) - cum-JMFC	4
JMFC	11 [includes 2 Courts of JMFC (LR & LTV), 1 Court of JMFC (Rural) and 1 Court of JMFC (City)]
Special Judicial Magistrate	1
Gram Nyayalaya	1

Number of judges in each court

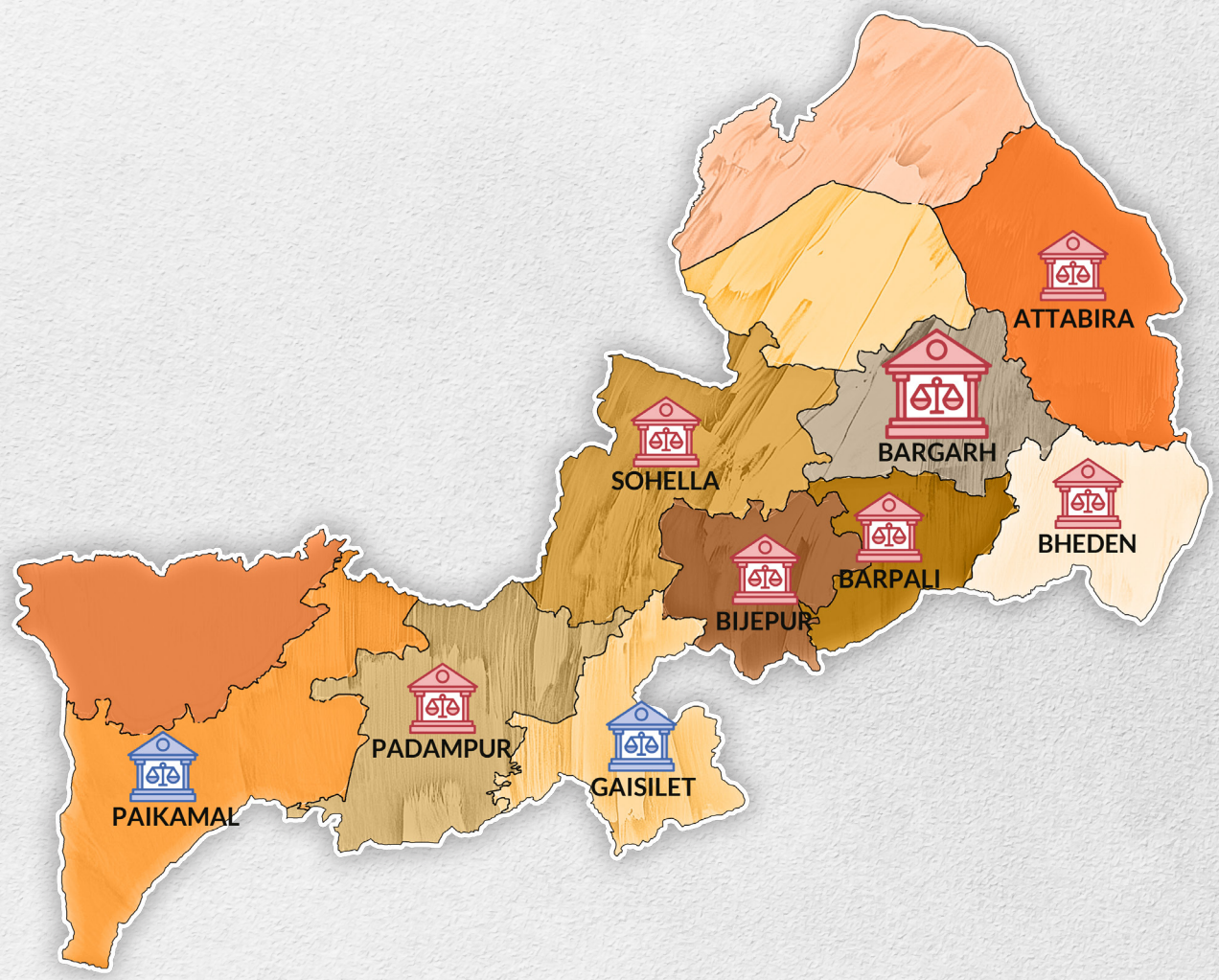


Case Statistics

Year	Opening Balance as on 1st January			Institution during the year			Disposal during the year			Pending Cases at the end of 31st December		
	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total
2023	39,454	85,418	1,24,872	11,190	18,810	30,000	11,950	15,505	27,455	38,694	88,723	1,27,417
2024	38,694	88,723	1,27,417	10,194	19,698	29,892	10,480	15,309	25,789	38,131	93,872	1,32,003

District Judiciary Map

Bargarh



Existing Court Complex Proposed Court Complex

With the formation of a separate province of Odisha in 1936, Bargarh district was carved out incorporating the areas of two sub-divisions, Bargarh and Padmapur from the erstwhile district of Sambalpur in March 1993. The Judgeship of Bargarh was separated from its parent judgeship Sambalpur with effect from 12th July, 2011, and the Court of District and Sessions Judge started functioning at Bargarh. A total of 26 different courts are functioning in the judgeship with outlying stations at Padampur, Sohela, Barpali, Attabira, Bheden and Bijepur.

District Judges during the year 2024



Smt. Luna Mohanty
for the entire year

New court / new court building

- ADJ-cum-Special Judge (Vigilance) at Bargarh on 18.09.2024
- Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)-cum-JMFC at Bijepur on 18.09.2024

Digitization

Paperless Courts estd. in 2024	**3**

Digitization of records at DCDH, Sambalpur

Digitised Records of District Record Room	**68,806**
Pages	**73,81,299**

Upcoming Projects

Civil Court Complex at Attabira and Barpali. Foundation stone laid on 20.03.2024















Top row (left to right) : Laying of foundation stone for new Civil Court complex at Attabira, Observance of World Environment Day

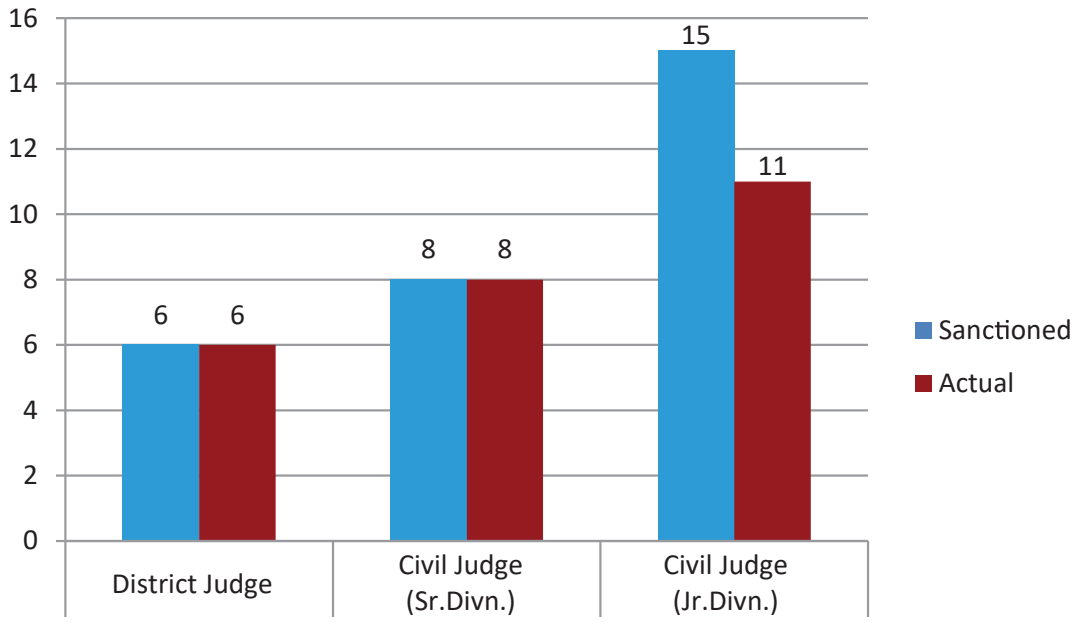
Middle row (left to right) : Observance of International Yoga Day, Inauguration of Court of Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)-cum-J.M.F.C at Bijepur

Bottom Row (left to right): School students participating in Drawing Competition on the eve of "Children's Day", Observance of "Samvidhan Divas"

Apart from the District and Sessions Judge, the judgeship consists of the following courts:

Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Judge, Family Court	1
Addl. District and Sessions Judge	2
ADJ-cum-Spl. Judge (Vigilance)	1
Special Court under POCSO Act	1
Chief Judicial Magistrate	1
A.S.J.-cum-Registrar, Civil Courts	1
Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)	5 [includes 1 Women's Court, 1 Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.) (LR & LTV) and 1 Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)-cum-A.S.J.]
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	2
Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)	1
Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)-cum-J.M.F.C.	4
JMFC	5 [includes 1 Court of JMFC (LR & LTV)]
Gram Nyayalaya	1

Number of judges in each court

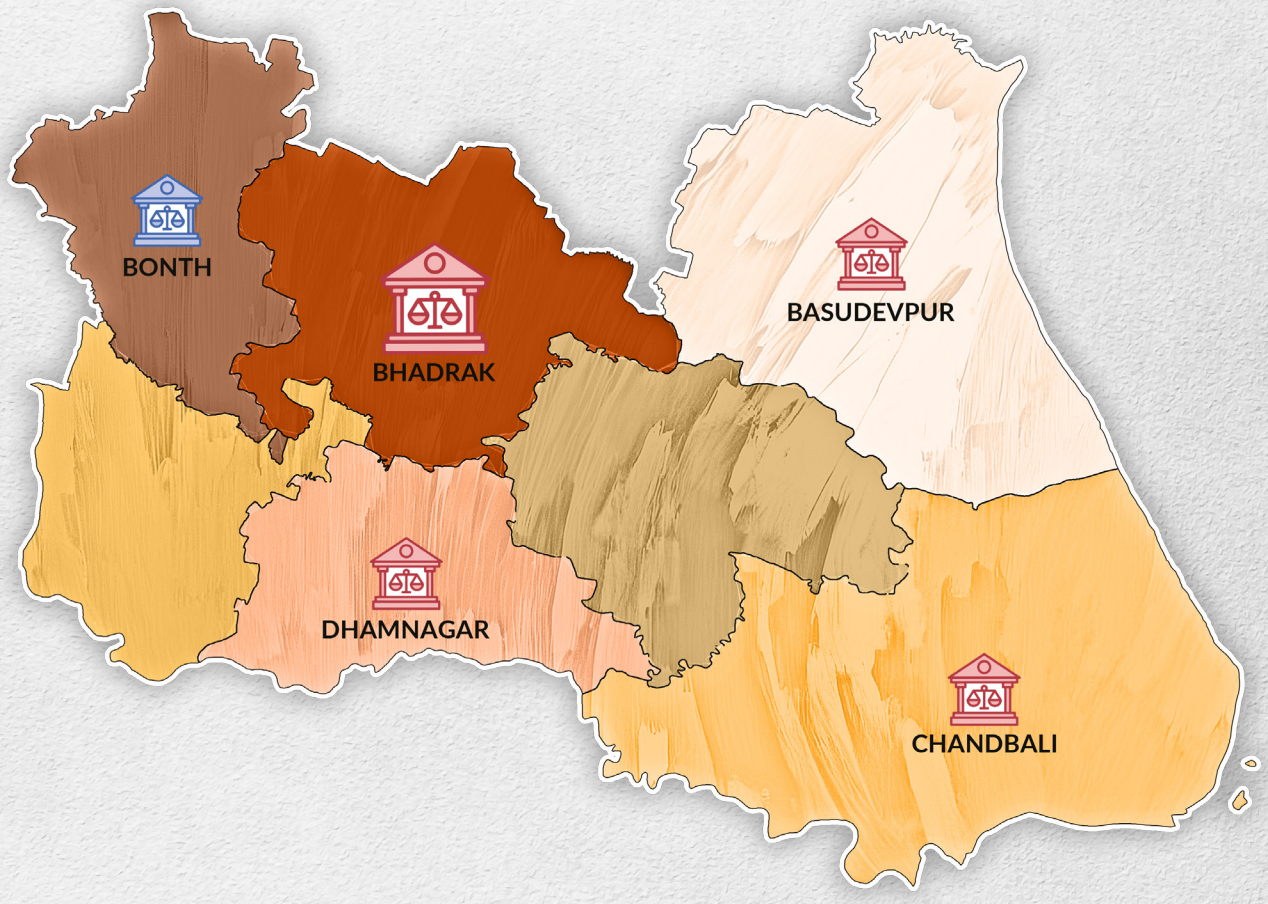


Case Statistics

Year	Opening Balance as on 1st January			Institution during the year			Disposal during the year			Pending Cases at the end of 31st December		
	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total
2023	6,218	45,843	52,061	1,535	7,815	9,350	1,800	5,991	7,791	5,953	47,667	53,620
2024	5,953	47,667	53,620	1,640	8,884	10,524	1,655	6,548	8,203	5,938	50,003	55,941

District Judiciary Map

Bhadrak



Existing Court Complex Proposed Court Complex

In 1901, a Munsif Court was established in the region. Until 1900, the litigants had to go to Jajpur for filing Civil Cases. The Court of Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.), Bhadrak and Additional District Judge, Bhadrak were established in the year 1966 and 1987 respectively. After the reconstitution of the districts in the State, the new revenue district of Bhadrak was constituted in 1993. Subsequently, the court of District and Sessions Judge, Bhadrak was established on 21st May, 2011 after being separated from Balasore judgeship. 25 different courts are functioning in this judgeship with outlying stations at Basudevpur, Chandbali, and Dhamnagar.

District Judges during the year 2024



Shri Sangram Keshari Pattanaik
for the entire year

New court / new court building

Gram Nyayalaya
at Dhamnagar on 18.09.2024

Digitization

Paperless Courts estd. in 2024	**4**

Digitization of records at DCDH, Bhadrak

Digitised Records of District Record Room	**1,42,806**
Pages	**89,86,201**

Upcoming Projects

Transit House at Bhadrak. Foundation stone laid on 20.03.2024











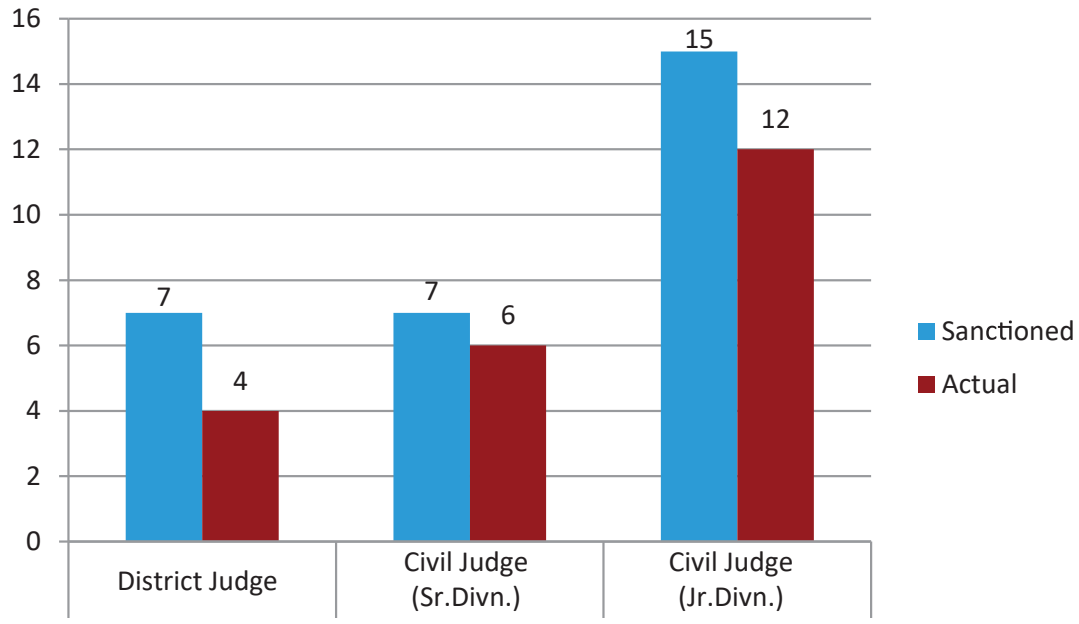
Top row (Left to right) : Laying of foundation stone of Transit House, Bhadrak, Inauguration of Gram Nyayalaya, Dhamnagar

Bottom row (left to right) : School students participating in drawing/painting competition on occasion of "Children's Day" , One of the winners of the drawing competition being presented with the prize.

Apart from the District and Sessions Judge, the judgeship consists of the following courts:

Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Judge, Family Court	1
Addl. District and Sessions Judge	1
Special Court under POCSO Act	1
Ad-hoc ADJ (FTSC)	1
Chief Judicial Magistrate	1
A.S.J.-cum-Registrar, Civil Courts	1
Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)	2
Addl. Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)	1
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	1
Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)	1
Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)-cum-J.M.F.C.	3
Addl. Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)-cum-JMFC	1
JMFC	7 [includes 2 Courts of JMFC (LR & LTV), and 2 cognizance taking JMFC Courts]
Special Judicial Magistrate	1
Gram Nyayalaya	1

Number of judges in each court

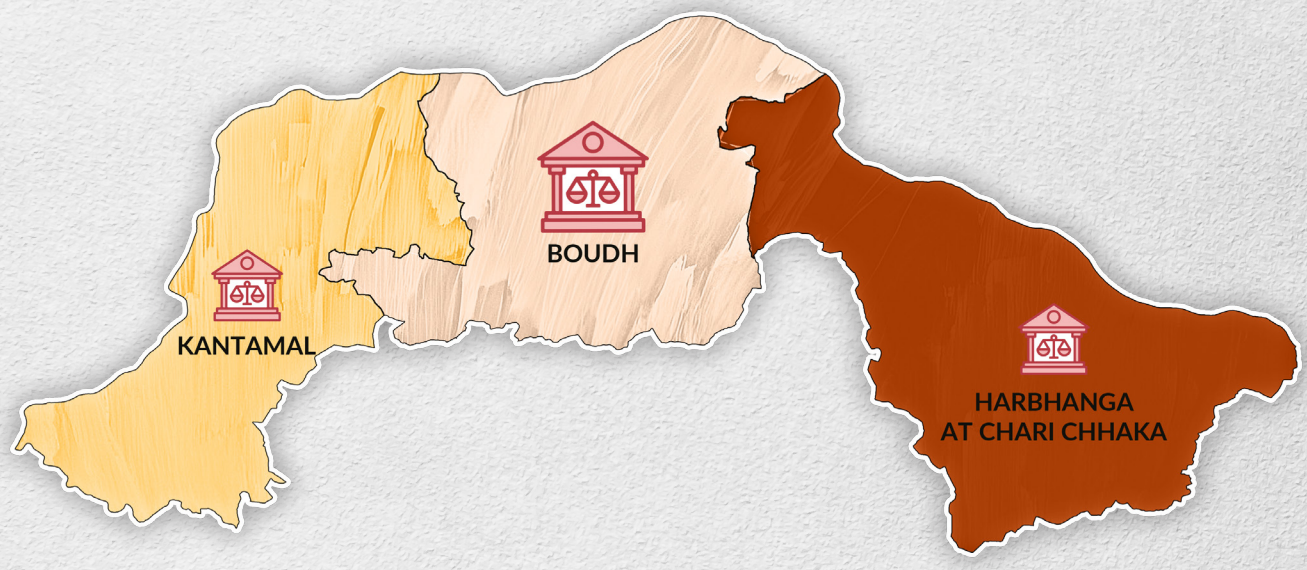


Case Statistics

Year	Opening Balance as on 1st January			Institution during the year			Disposal during the year			Pending Cases at the end of 31st December		
	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total
2023	29,757	66,527	96,284	4,502	13,959	18,461	5,561	12,300	17,861	28,698	68,186	96,884
2024	28,698	68,186	96,884	4,391	13,686	18,077	6,128	9,131	15,259	25,396	71,501	96,897

District Judiciary Map

Boudh



Existing Court Complex Proposed Court Complex

Boudh was a sub-division of the erstwhile Boudh-Kandhamal District. On 2nd January, 1994, it became the district headquarters of a separate district called Boudh that was carved out of the Boudh-Kandhamal district. Earlier, the consolidated Judgeship of Kandhamal-Boudh and Phulbani was part of the undivided Judgeship of Ganjam. The judgeship of Kandhamal-Boudh and Phulbani was separated from the undivided Judgeship of Ganjam-Berhampur on 11th August, 1984.

The Boudh judgeship was finally separated from Kandhamal-Boudh and began operating with effect from 6th October, 2012. 15 different courts are functioning in the judgeship with outlying stations at Kantamal and Harabhanga at Charichhaka.

In the year 2024, Swachchta camps, Cybersecurity awareness camps, Plantation drives, and Street plays were organized for the awareness of the people.

District Judges during the year 2024



Shri Bikram Pradhan
Till 31.07.2024



Shri Pratap Kumar Patra
01.08.2024-till end of year

Digitization

Paperless Courts estd. in 2024 | **2**

Digitization of records at DCDH, Sonepur

Work in Progress

Transit Houses at Boudh, Kantamal and Charichhak, Residential quarters at Kantamal













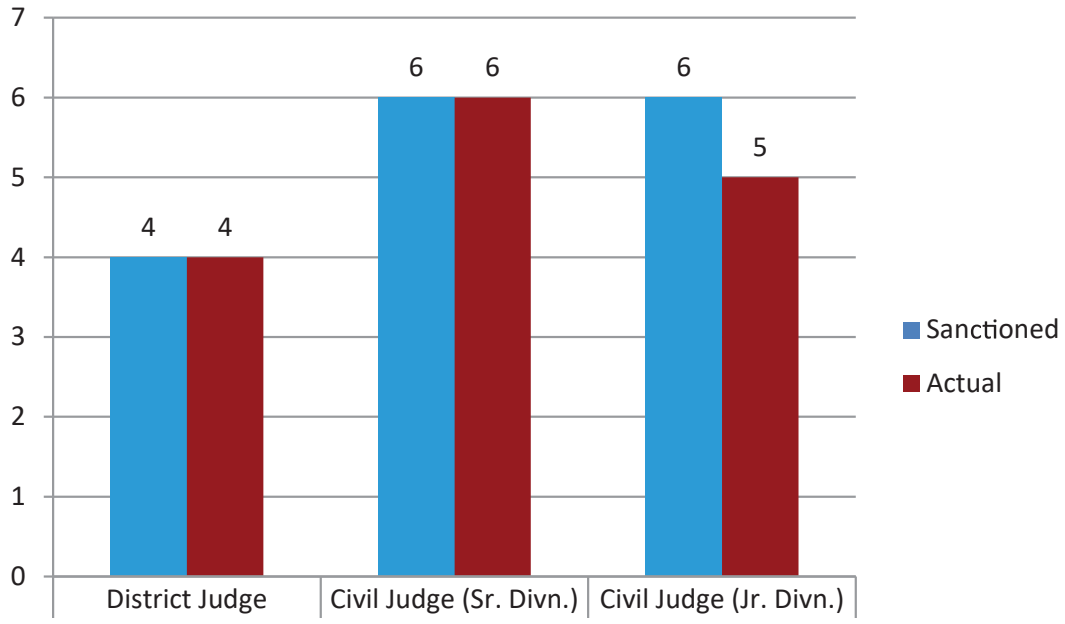


Top row (left to right) : Observance of "Van Mahotsava" week, Observance of International Yoga Day.
Middle row (left to right) : Street Play organized under NALSA (Legal Services to Victims of Acid Attacks) Scheme, 2016, Awareness programme on cyber safety
Bottom row (left to right) : Seminar organized by DLSA, Boudh on the occasion of "Constitution Day", Awareness programme and observance of "Human Rights Day"

Apart from the District and Sessions Judge, the judgeship consists of the following courts:

Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Judge, Family Court	1
Addl. District and Sessions Judge	2
Chief Judicial Magistrate	1
A.S.J.-cum-Registrar, Civil Courts	1
Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)	1
Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)-cum-Asst. Sessions Judge	2 (includes 1 Court of Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)-cum-A.S.J. (Women's Court)
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	1
Civil Judge (Jr.Divn.)-cum-J.M.F.C.	2
JMFC	3 [includes 1 Court of JMFC (LR & LTV)]

Number of judges in each court

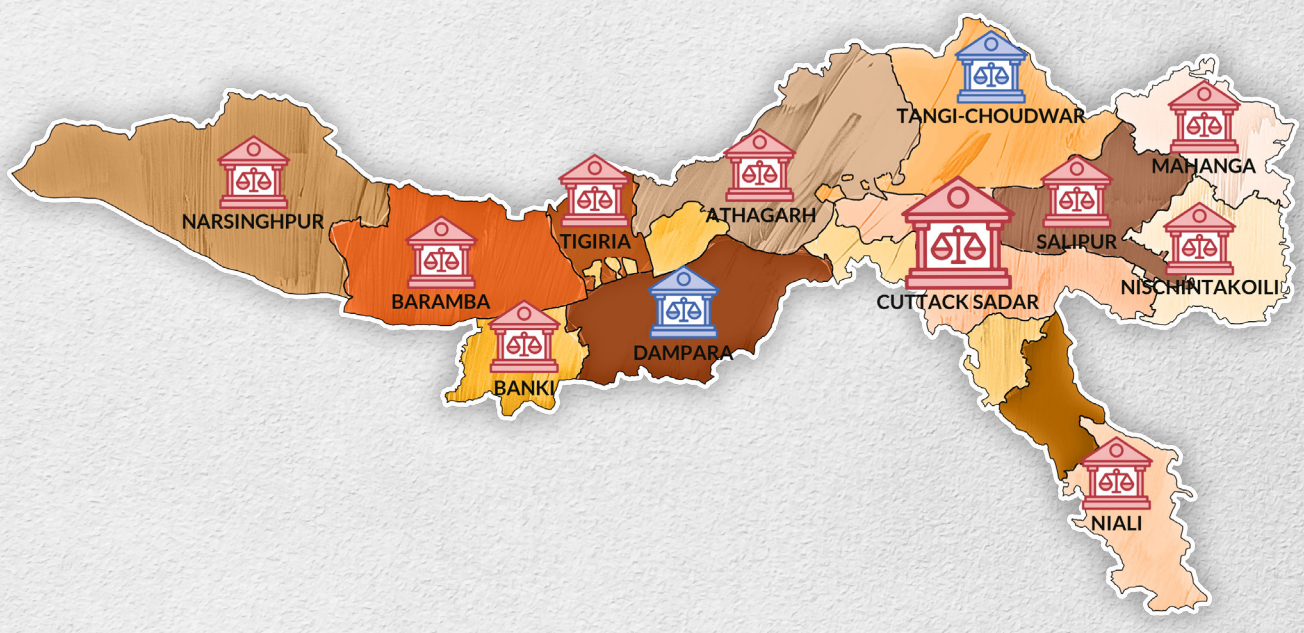


Case Statistics

Year	Opening Balance as on 1st January			Institution during the year			Disposal during the year			Pending Cases at the end of 31st December		
	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total
2023	1,183	15,920	17,103	411	5,720	6,131	483	3,401	3,884	1,111	18,239	19,350
2024	1,111	18,239	19,350	355	4,847	5,202	576	3,303	3,879	890	19,545	20,435

District Judiciary Map

Cuttack



Existing Court Complex Proposed Court Complex

The Judgeship of Cuttack started functioning in 1936. It covered a huge area encompassing the Revenue Districts of Cuttack, Balasore, and Puri as well as the Princely State of Dhenkanal. Subsequently, Puri and Balasore had their separate Judgeships and therefore, Cuttack Judgeship was confined to the Revenue District of Cuttack and Dhenkanal till 1977, when the Judgeship of Dhenkanal was separated. The then Judgeship of Cuttack extended to the Revenue Districts of Cuttack, Kendrapara, Jajpur, and Jagatsinghpur from the year 1977. On 26th and 28th June, 2012, Kendrapara and Jajpur became separate Judgeships respectively. Today, Cuttack is the largest judgeship of the State in terms of number of courts with 76 different functioning courts with outlying stations at Athagarh, Narsinghpur, Baramba, Banki, Salipur, Tigiria, Niali, Mahanga and Nischintakoili. The District Court is functioning in the old building comprising old District Court building, Civil Court extension building, and Track Court Building in the District Court Complex.

District Judges during the year 2024



Shri Sanjay Ranjan Bohidar
till 02.07.2024



Shri Hiranmay Bisoi
05.07.2024-17.09.2024



Shri Sitikantha Samal
18.09.2024- till end of the year

New court / new court building

- Court of Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)-cum-JMFC at Mahanga
- Court of Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)-cum-JMFC at Nischintakoili

Digitization

Paperless Courts estd. in 2024	**6**

Digitization of records at DCDH, Cuttack

Digitised Records of District Record Room	**3,47,345**
Pages	**2,94,27,871**

Upcoming Projects

Court Complex at Niali. Foundation stone laid on 10.01.2024













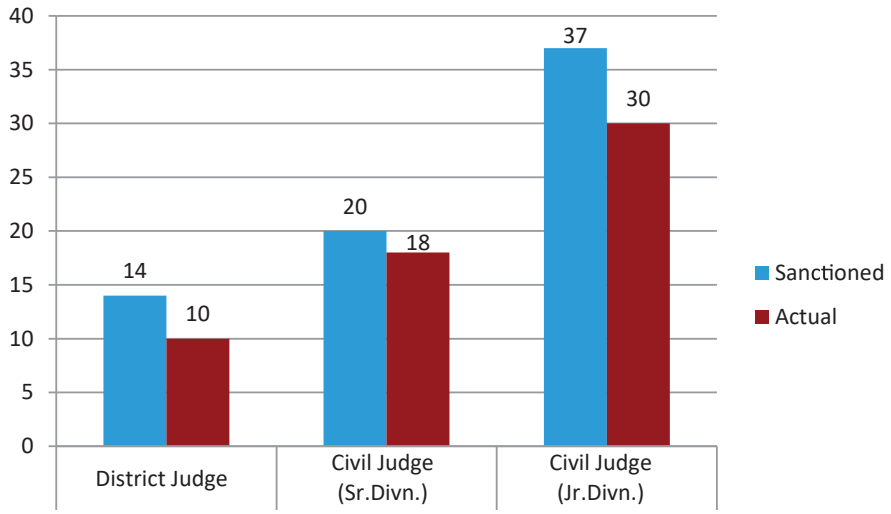
Top row (left to right) : Observance of "Van Mahotsava" Week, Awareness programme on road safety.
Middle row (left to right) : Awareness programmes for persons with mental illness, Observance of International Women's Day.
Bottom row (left to right) : Training on fire safety and extinguishing, Observance of International Yoga Day

Apart from the District and Sessions Judge, the judgeship consists of the following courts:

Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Judge, Family Court	1
Addl. District and Sessions Judge	6 [includes 1 Court of ADJ (LR & LTV)]
Special Court under POCSO Act	1
Ad-hoc ADJ (FTSC)	2
Special Judge (Vigilance)	2
Special Judge, Special Court	1
Authorized Officer, Special Court	1
Designated Court under OPID Act	1
Special Court under SC & ST (PoA) Act	1
Sales Tax Tribunal (members)	2
Chairman, Sales Tax Tribunal	1
Member, State Transport Appellate Tribunal	1
LAR & R Authority	1
P.O, Wakf Tribunal	1

Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Chief Judicial Magistrate	1
Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate (Special Court)	1
Special Judicial Magistrate	2
A.S.J.-cum-Registrar, Civil Courts	1
Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)	4 (includes one Commercial Court)
Addl. Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)	5
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	3
Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)	2
Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)-cum-Asst. Sessions Judge	4
Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)-cum-J.M.F.C.	5
Addl. Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)-cum-J.M.F.C.	2
JMFC	23 [includes 1 Court of JMFC (City), 1 Court of JMFC (Rural), 1 Court of Transport Magistrate, 4 cognizance taking JMFC Courts and 2 Courts of JMFC (LR & LTV)]

Number of judges in each court

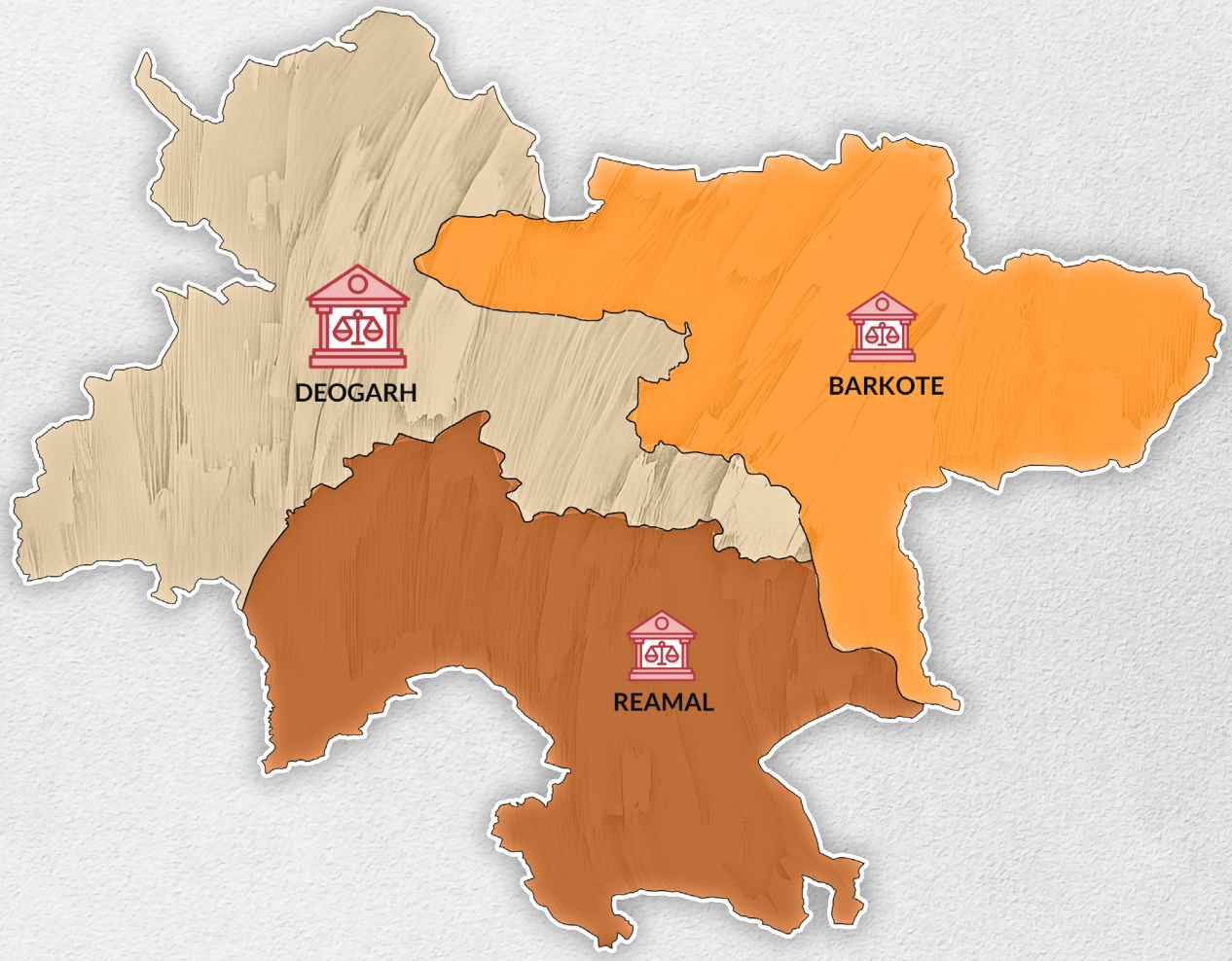


Case Statistics

Year	Opening Balance as on 1st January			Institution during the year			Disposal during the year			Pending Cases at the end of 31st December		
	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total
2023	40,213	1,58,704	1,98,917	10,554	29,031	39,585	12,311	31,220	43,531	38,456	1,56,515	1,94,971
2024	38,456	1,56,515	1,94,971	9,915	43,151	53,066	11,242	37,641	48,883	37,129	1,62,025	1,99,154

District Judiciary Map

Deogarh



Existing Court Complex Proposed Court Complex

The Judgeship of Deogarh came into existence on 20th April, 2013, after being separated from the parent Judgeship of Sambalpur. The District Court is functioning in the New Building at Purunagarh, Deogarh. The new District Court building was constructed at the cost of nearly Rs. 17 crores. There are 12 Court rooms in the New Court Building. The other facilities available in the building are 6 lifts, Air Conditioners in all Court Halls, Chambers of the Presiding Officers and Offices, Bar hall, and offices. A total of 12 different courts are functioning in the Judgeship with outlying stations at Reamal and Barkote.

Awareness programs on Social Media and Cyber Laws, responsible usage of social media and on other topics were organized in 2024. The DLSA, Deogarh opened a stall at Utsav Pradhanpat ground to raise awareness among people about different legal services facilities.

District Judges during the year 2024



Shri Goutam Sharma
for the entire year

New court / new court building

- Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)-cum-ASJ (Women's Court) at Deogarh on 05.07.2024
- Addl. Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)-cum-JMFC at Barkote on 12.11.2024

Digitization

Paperless Courts estd. in 2024	**1**
Digitization of records at DCDH, Sambalpur	
Digitised Records of District Record Room	**14,156**
Pages	**6,73,976**















Top row (left to right) : Skill development training programme for jail inmates, Observance of International Day of elderly people

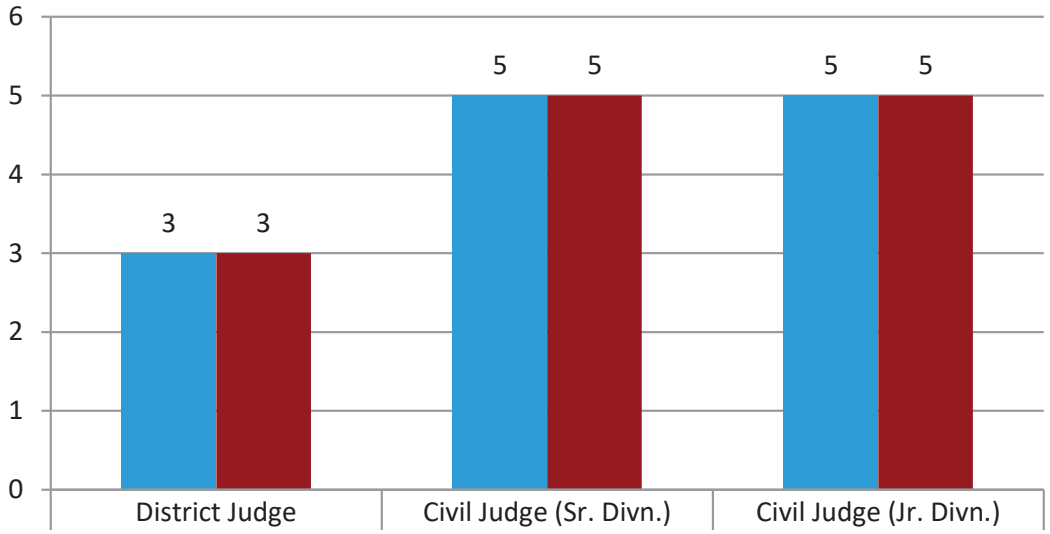
Medium row (left to right) : Training session for court staff, Legal awareness programme on safety on social media platforms

Bottom row (left to right) : Drawing/painting competition organized on eve of "Children's Day", Blood Donation Camp on occasion of "Constitution Day".

Apart from the District and Sessions Judge, the judgeship consists of the following courts:

Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Judge, Family Court	1
Addl. District and Sessions Judge	1
Chief Judicial Magistrate	1
A.S.J.-cum-Registrar, Civil Courts	1
Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)	2 [includes 1 court of Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)-cum-ASJ (Women's Court)]
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	1
Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)-cum-J.M.F.C.	2
J.M.F.C.	2 [includes 1 Court of JMFC (LR & LTV)]

Number of judges in each court

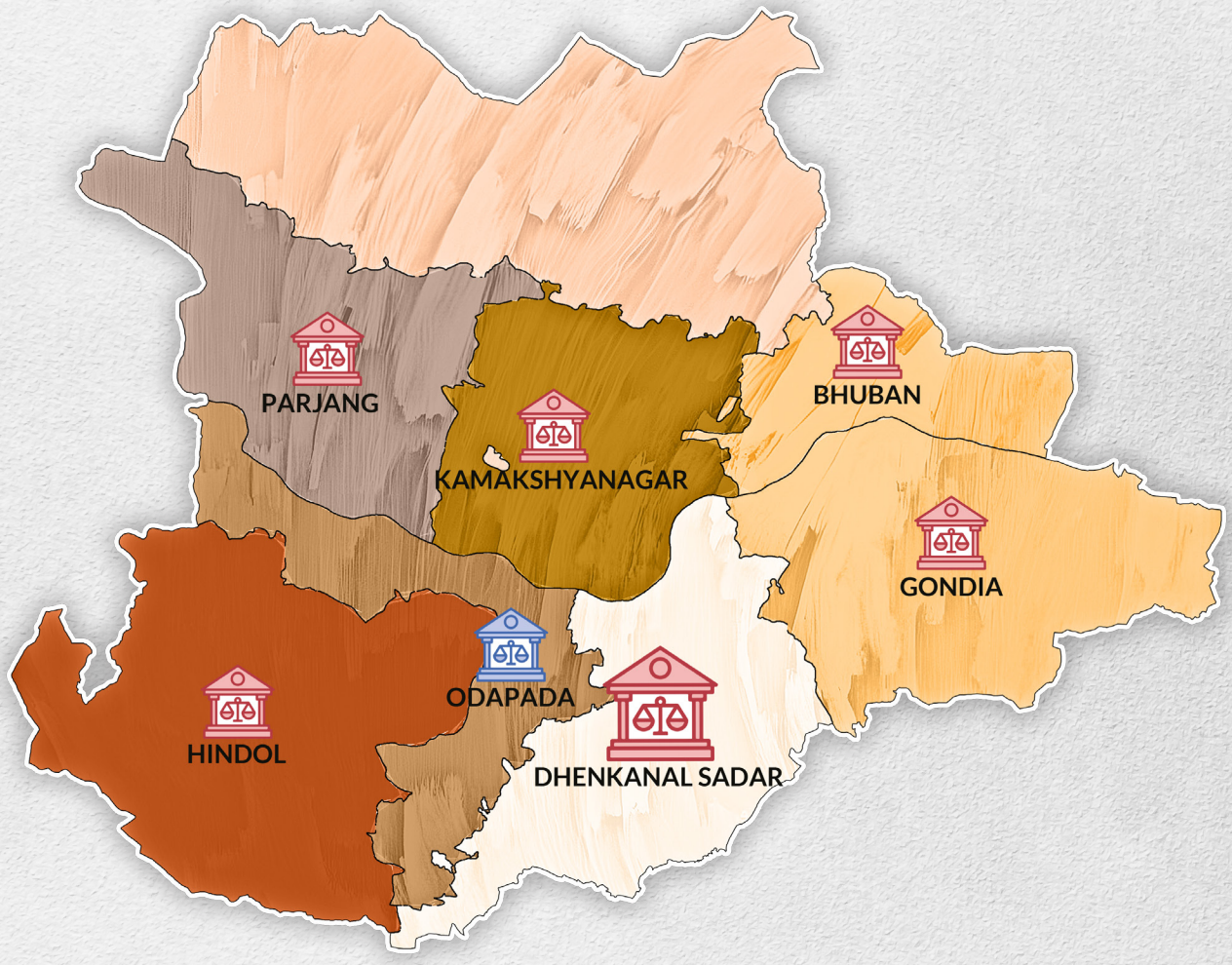


Case Statistics

Year	Opening Balance as on 1st January			Institution during the year			Disposal during the year			Pending Cases at the end of 31st December		
	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total
2023	843	14,555	15,398	373	4,138	4,511	437	2,654	3,091	779	16,039	16,818
2024	779	16,039	16,818	352	4,728	8,080	350	2,052	2,402	776	18,183	18,959

District Judiciary Map

Dhenkanal



Existing Court Complex Proposed Court Complex

The judgeship of Dhenkanal was constituted into a District Judgeship and Sessions Division on 22nd December, 1976. After separation of the Angul Judgeship, the administrative jurisdiction of the District and Sessions Court, Dhenkanal extended to the Subordinate Courts at the outlying stations. 27 different courts are functioning in the Judgeship with outlying stations at Hindol, Kamakshyanagar, Bhuban, Parjang, and Gondia. The District Court is functioning in a two- storied old building which has 12 Courtrooms.

Digital initiatives like e-filing and examination of witnesses through video conferencing system were adopted. 123 cases were filed through e-filing portal and 233 witnesses were examined through video conferencing system. Moreover, evidence of 195 witnesses were recorded at Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre in 2024. Also, details of 4505 law books/ journals were entered in the e-Granthalaya portal.

District Judges during the year 2024



Shri Jagdish Prasad Mohanty
for the entire year

Digitization

Paperless Courts estd. in 2024	**2**

Digitization of records at DCDH, Angul

Upcoming Projects

New court buildings at Hindol and Gondia. Foundation stone laid on 20.03.2024







Inauguration of Paperless Court of Addl. District & Sessions Judge-cum-Spl.Court Under POCSO Act, Dhenkanal





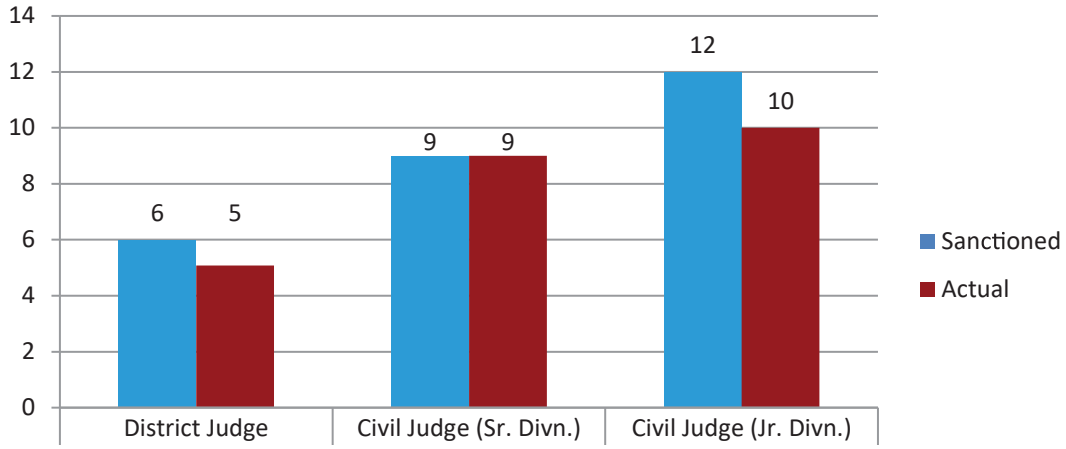
Top row (left to right): Observance of International Yoga Day, Inauguration of paperless court of Addl. Dsitrict & Sessions Judge-cum-Spl. Court under POCSO Act, Dhenkanal

Middle row (left to right): Inauguration of paperless court of Addl. Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.), Dhenkanal, Court hall of the newly inaugurated paperless court

Apart from the District and Sessions Judge, the judgeship consists of the following courts:

Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Judge, Family Court	1
Addl. District and Sessions Judge	2
Special Court under POCSO Act	1
Ad-hoc ADJ (FTSC)	1
Special Judge, (Vigilance)	1
Chief Judicial Magistrate	1
A.S.J.-cum-Registrar, Civil Courts	1
Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)	5 [includes one women's Court and 1 Court of Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.) (LR & LTV)]
Addl. Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)	1 (OEAT)
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	3
Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)-cum-J.M.F.C.	3
J.M.F.C.	5 [includes 1 cognizance taking JMFC and 1 Court of JMFC (LR & LTV)]
Special Judicial Magistrate	1

Number of judges in each court

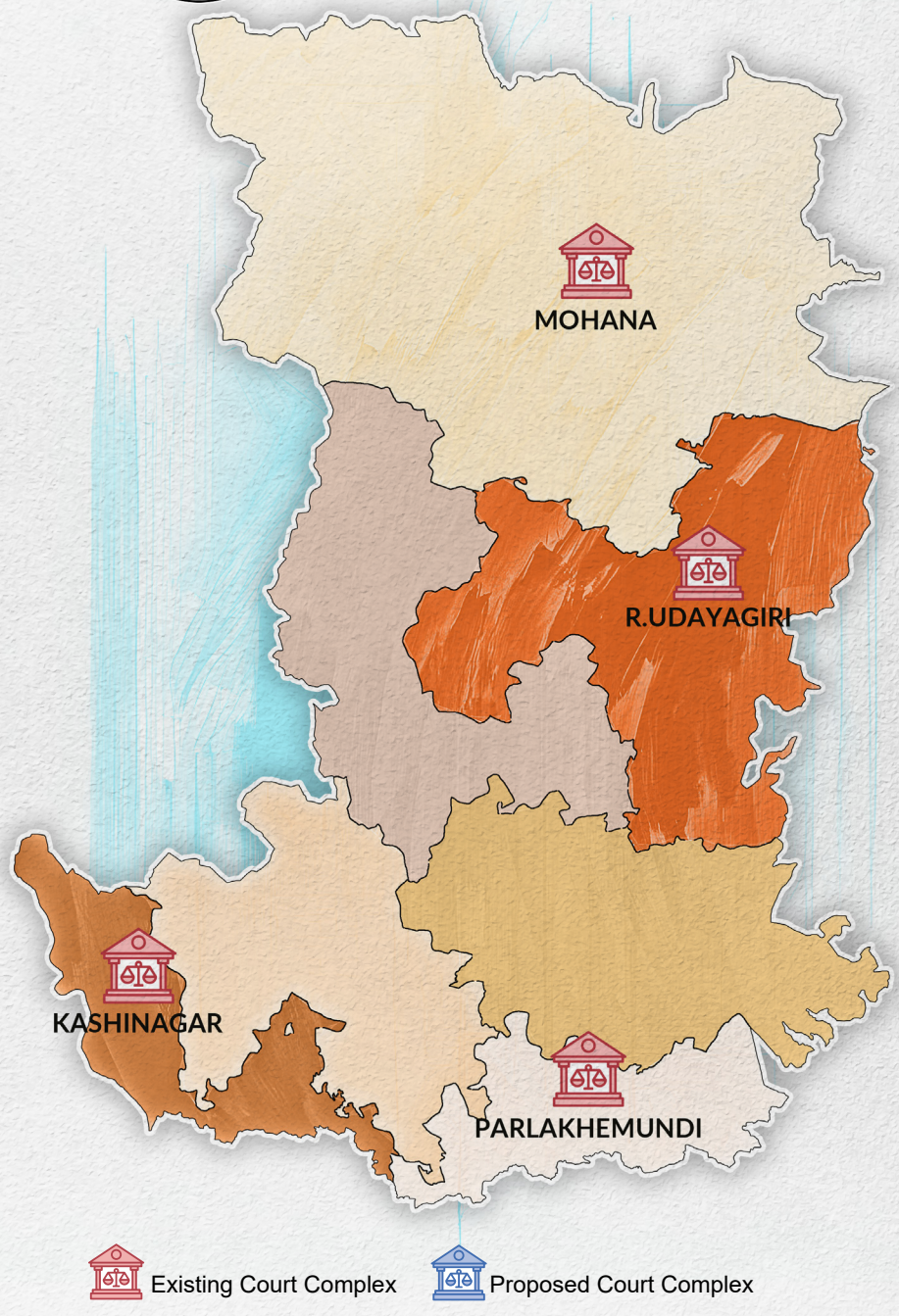


Case Statistics

Year	Opening Balance as on 1st January			Institution during the year			Disposal during the year			Pending Cases at the end of 31st December		
	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total
2023	8,818	35,062	43,880	2,310	12,705	15,015	2,385	8,177	10,562	8,743	39,590	48,333
2024	8,743	39,590	48,333	2,139	12,197	14,336	2,344	7,931	10,275	8,483	43,785	52,268

District Judiciary Map

Gajapati



The Judgeship of Gajapati came into existence on 30th July, 2011 after the bifurcation of the Judgeship of Ganjam-Gajapati and started functioning with headquarters at Paralakhemundi. 16 different courts are functioning in the Judgeship with outlying stations at R. Udayagiri, Mohana, and Kashinagar. The new District Court building was inaugurated on 20th November, 2020.

The Court and Office of the District and Sessions Judge was inspected on 24.08.2024 by Justice Sibo Sankar Mishra, Administrative Judge of Gajapati Judgeship.

District Judges during the year 2024



Shri Pranab Kumar Routray
for the entire year

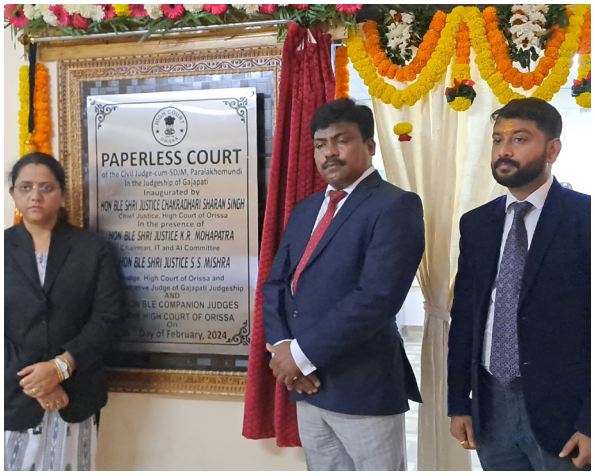
New court / new court building

- Office of Legal Aid Defence Counsel at Gajapati on 22.02.2024
- Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)-cum-ASJ (Women's Court) at Parlakhemundi on 05.07.2024

Digitization

Paperless Courts estd. in 2024	**2**
Digitization of records at DCDH, Ganjam	
Digitised Records of District Record Room	**68,431**
Pages	**35,97,063**











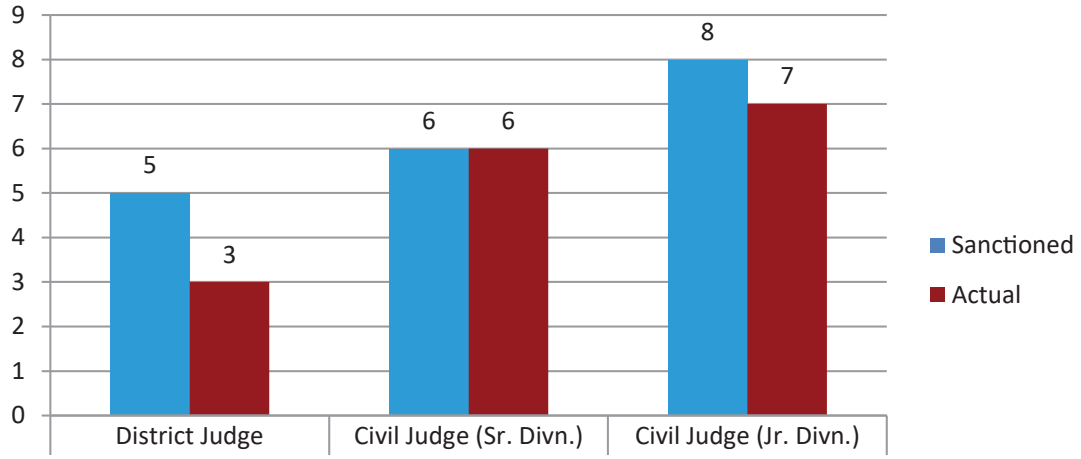


Top row (left to right): Inauguration of paperless court of Civil Judge-cum- SDJM, Parlakhemundi, Inauguration of Office of Legal Aid Defence Counsel.
Middle row (left to right): Observance of International Women's Day and International Yoga Day
Bottom row: Awareness programme on road safety.

Apart from the District and Sessions Judge, the judgeship consists of the following courts:

Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Judge, Family Court	1
Addl. District and Sessions Judge	1
Chief Judicial Magistrate	1
A.S.J.-cum-Registrar, Civil Courts	1
Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)	3 [includes 1 court of Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)-cum-A.S.J. (Women's Court)]
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	1
Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)-cum-J.M.F.C.	1
JMFC	5 [includes 1 Court of JMFC (LR & LTV)]
Gram Nyayalaya	1

Number of judges in each court

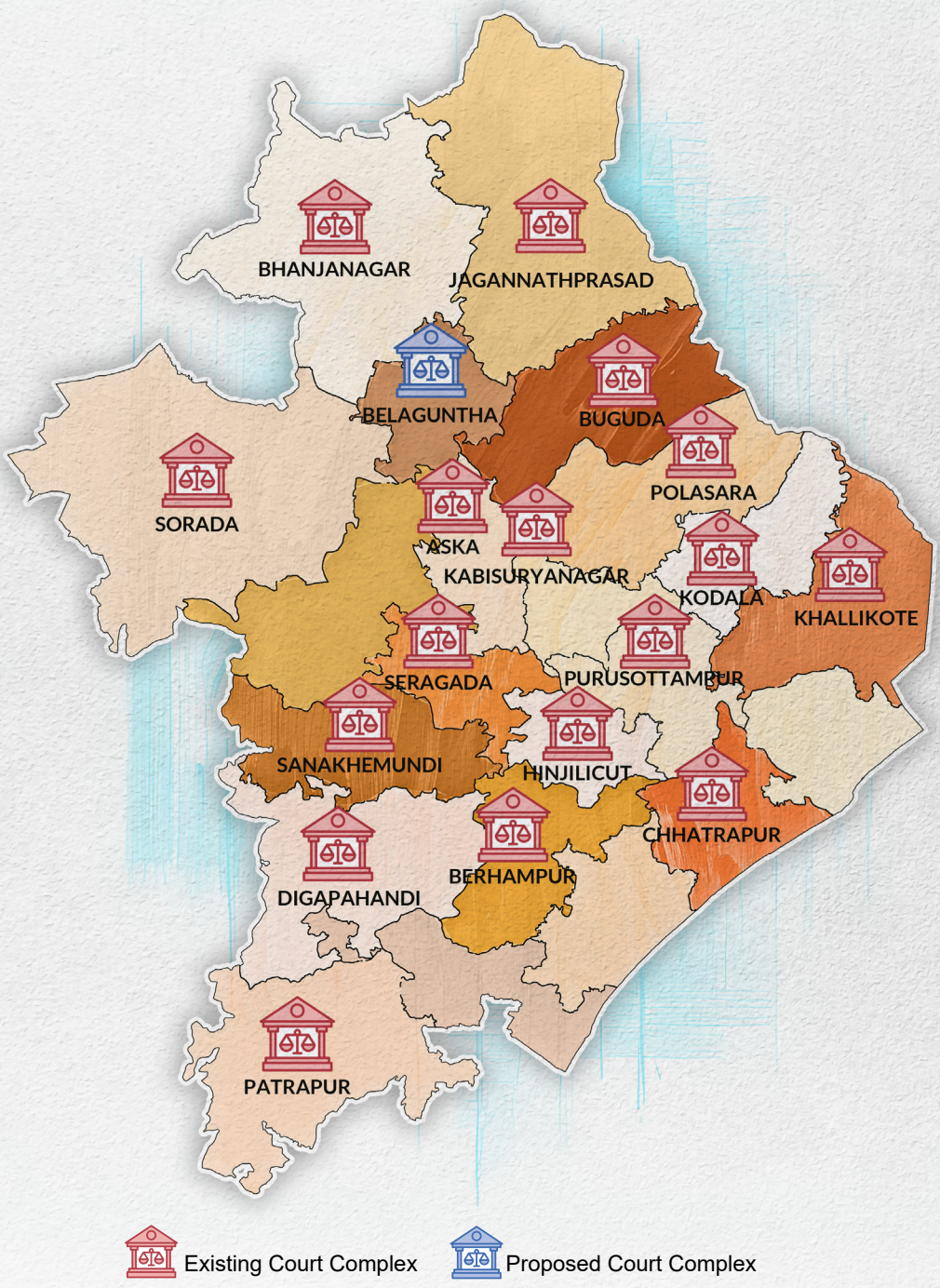


Case Statistics

Year	Opening Balance as on 1st January			Institution during the year			Disposal during the year			Pending Cases at the end of 31st December		
	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total
2023	581	8,881	9,462	384	3,578	3,962	462	4,287	4,749	503	8,172	8,675
2024	503	8,172	8,675	307	3,967	4,274	343	3,612	3,955	467	8,527	8,994

District Judiciary Map

Ganjam



After the bifurcation of Ganjam & Puri districts on 10th June, 1957, the reorganized Judgeship came to be known as Ganjam. In 1984, Phulbani District was carved out. On 2nd October, 1992, a new district, viz. Gajapati, was constituted, and the name of the Judgeship was changed to Ganjam-Gajapati. On 30th July, 2011, when Gajapati District was separated from this Judgeship, it came to be known as Ganjam Judgeship. The headquarters of Ganjam is located at Berhampur.

68 different courts are functioning in the district with outlying stations at Sanakhemundi, Digapahandi, Chhatrapur, Sorada, Bhanjanagar, Buguda, Kodala, Aska, Patrapur, Purusottampur, Hinjlicut, Seragada, Kabisuryanagar, Polasara, Khallikote, and Jagannathprasad. The District Court is functioning in an old building at Berhampur, which was constructed in 1948 with 8 courtrooms. In 1948, another building housing 10 courtrooms, was constructed adjacent to the old building.The Regional Judicial Academy, Ganjam, at Berhampur imparted regular training to the Judicial Officers and ministerial staff posted in the cluster districts of Ganjam, Gajapati, Nayagarh, and Kandhamal.

District Judges during the year 2024



Smt. Rupashree Chowdhury
for the entire year

Digitization

Digitization of records at DCDH, Ganjam

Digitised Records of District Record Room	**2,40,573**
Pages	**20,370,493**

Upcoming Projects

- E-Type staff quarters at Khallikote. Foundation stone laid on 20.03.2024
- Court building at Kodala. Foundation stone laid on 20.03.2024







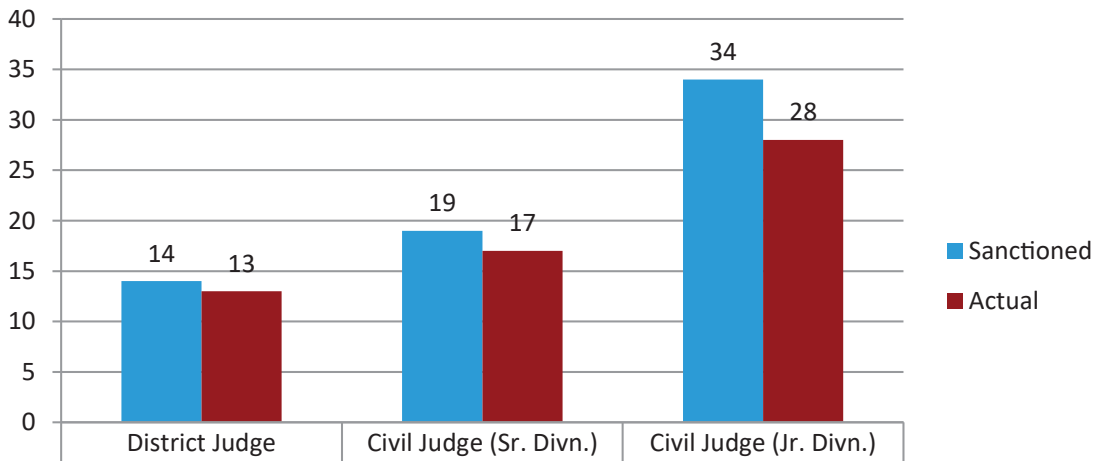
Top to bottom : Laying of foundation stone of new Court Complex at Kodala and resiential quarters for Judicial Officers at Khallikote

Apart from the District and Sessions Judge, the judgeship consists of the following courts:

Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Judge, Family Court	1
Addl. District and Sessions Judge	9 [includes 1 Court of ADJ (LR & LTV)]
Special Court under POCSO Act	1
Ad-hoc ADJ (FTSC)	1
Special Judge (Vigilance)	1
Designated Court under OPID Act	1
2nd MACT(S.D.)	1
LAR & R Authority	1
Chief Judicial Magistrate	1

Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate	1
A.S.J.-cum-Registrar, Civil Courts	1
Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)	11 [includes one Commercial Court and 1 Court of Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.) (LR & LTV)]
Addl. Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)	2
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	3
Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)	2
Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)-cum-J.M.F.C.	9
J.M.F.C	18 [includes 2 Courts of J.M.F.C. (LR & LTV),1 cognizance taking Court of JMFC (Rural), 1 Court of Transport Magistrate and 1cognizance taking JMFC Court].
Special Judicial Magistrate	2
Gram Nyayalaya	1

Number of judges in each court

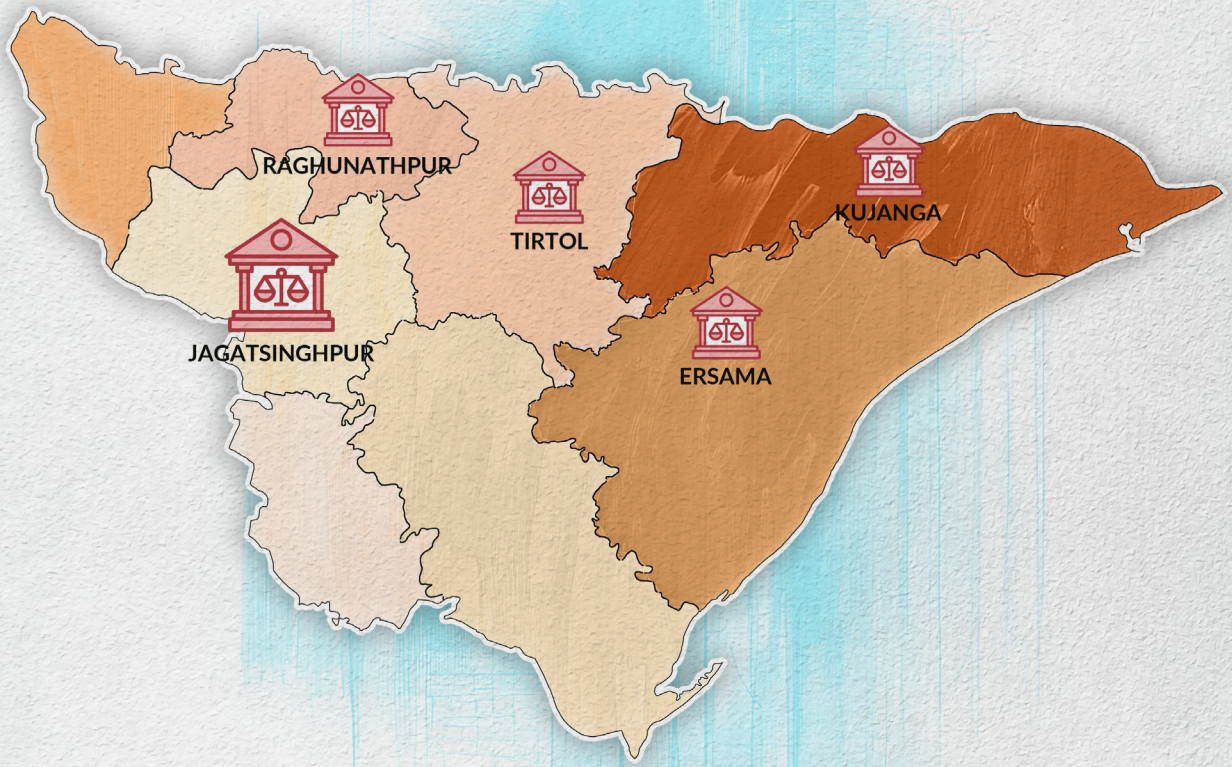


Case Statistics

Year	Opening Balance as on 1st January			Institution during the year			Disposal during the year			Pending Cases at the end of 31st December		
	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total
2023	11,805	73,825	85,630	4,946	32,640	37,586	5,564	29,015	34,579	11,187	77,450	88,637
2024	11,187	77,450	88,637	4,907	33,644	38,551	5,099	29,017	34,116	10,957	87,878	98,835

District Judiciary Map

Jagatsinghpur



Existing Court Complex Proposed Court Complex

After its separation from the parent judgeship of Cuttack, the Judgeship of Jagatsinghpur started functioning from 17th May, 2013. 22 different Courts are functioning in the Judgeship with outlying stations at Kujanga, Tirtol, Raghunathpur, and Ersama.

The new District Court building was inaugurated on 2nd November, 2019. There are 15 Courtrooms in the building. It has various facilities like the Bar Hall, ramp for differently abled persons, conference hall etc.

District Judges during the year 2024



Shri Anup Kumar Chandan
till 02.07.2024



Shri Srinibash Pratihari
05.07.2024-till end of the year

Digitization

Paperless Courts estd. in 2024	**9**
Digitization of records at DCDH, Cuttack	
Digitised Records of District Record Room	**77,991**
Pages	**54,95,165**















Top row (left to right): Inauguration of paperless court complex at Jagatsinghpur, Stall of DLSA, Jagatsinghpur at Book Fair

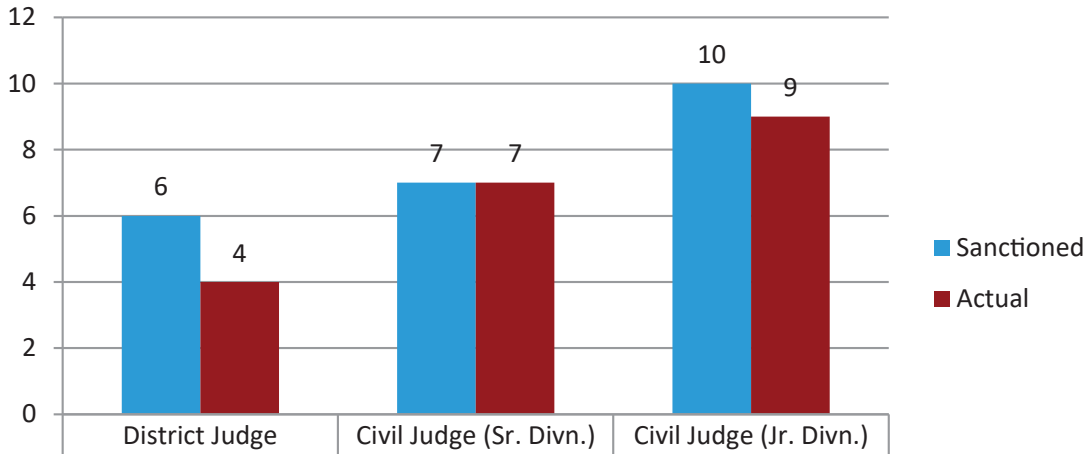
Middle row (left to right): Awareness programme on usage of AI in translating judgments of Hon'ble Apex Court from English into regional language and awareness programme on issues of migrant workers.

Bottom row (left to right): Plantation drive organized by DLSA, Jagatsinghpur, Mass Legal Awareness stall by DLSA at Kalinga Baliyatra at Paradip

Apart from the District and Sessions Judge, the judgeship consists of the following courts:

Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Judge, Family Court	1
Addl. District and Sessions Judge	2
Special Court under POCSO Act	1
Ad-hoc ADJ(FTSC)	1
Chief Judicial Magistrate	1
A.S.J.-cum-Registrar,Civil Courts	1
Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)	4 [includes one Women's Court and 1 Court of Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.) (LR & LTV)]
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	1
Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)	2
Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)-cumJ.M.F.C.	2
J.M.F.C.	4 [includes 1 Court of J.M.F.C.(LR & LTV) and 1 Cognizance taking Court].
Gram Nyayalaya	1

Number of judges in each court

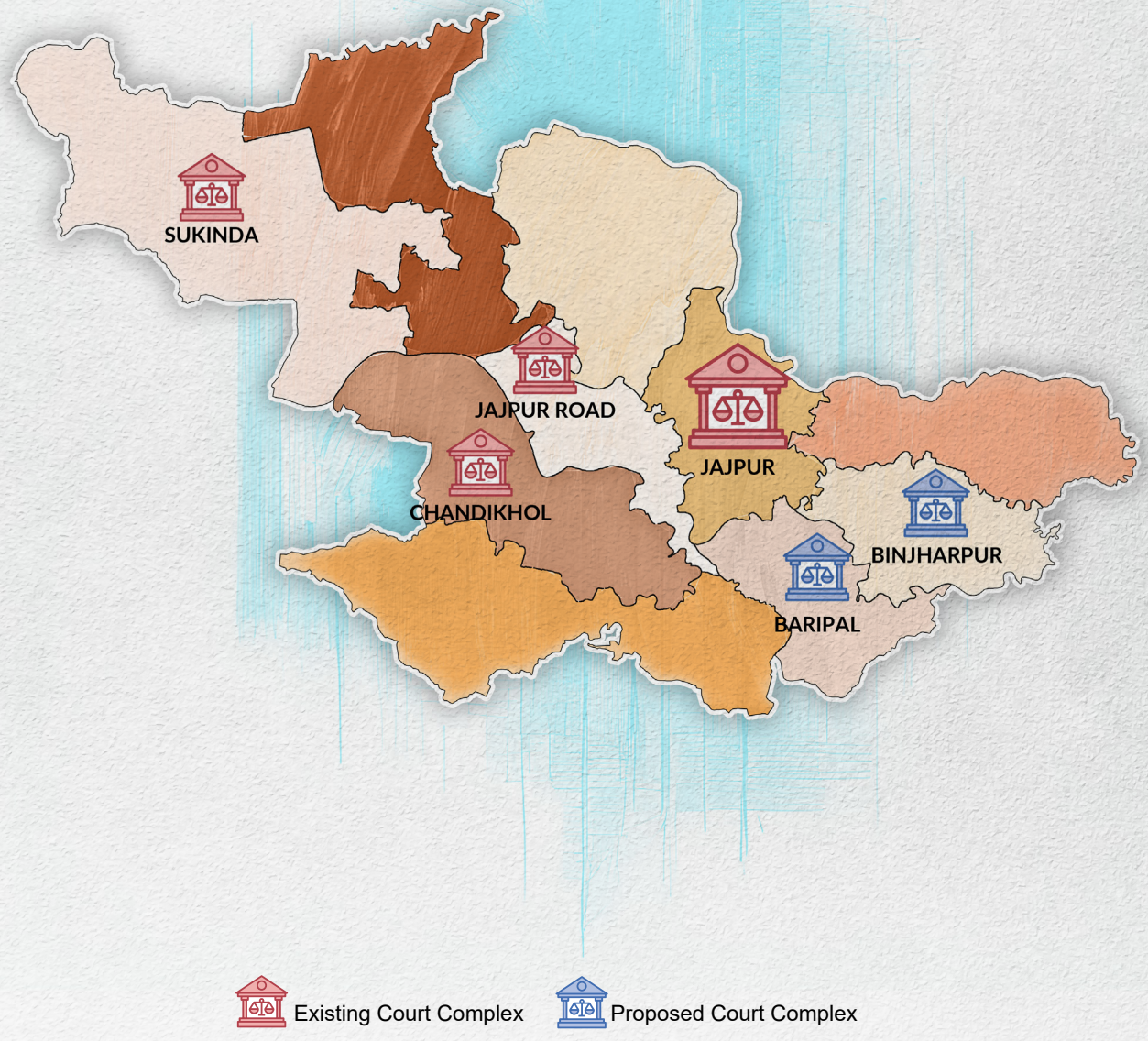


Case Statistics

Year	Opening Balance as on 1st January			Institution during the year			Disposal during the year			Pending Cases at the end of 31st December		
	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total
2023	11,317	33,230	44,547	3,601	9,459	13,060	4,113	6,847	10,960	10,805	35,842	46,647
2024	10,805	35,842	46,647	3,585	10,020	13,605	3,926	8,223	12,149	10,159	36,903	47,062

District Judiciary Map

Jajpur



Jajpur Judgeship started functioning with effect from 28th June, 2012 after being separated from the erstwhile composite Judgeship of Cuttack, Jagatsingpur, Jajpur and Kendrapara. 27 different Courts are functioning in the Judgeship with outlying stations at Jajpur Road, Sukinda and Chandikhol. Since 2012, the Court of the District and Sessions Judge is functioning in a single storied old Town Hall, Jajpur having 6 rooms. The said building with an approximate plinth area of 2400 sq.ft. was constructed in 1933. The 12 other Courts of Jajpur are functioning in scattered buildings in the Civil Court Complex. Construction work for three numbers of non-residential projects and six numbers of residential projects at headquarters station Jajpur, three numbers of non-residential projects and five numbers of residential projects at Jajpur Road are going on.

540 witnesses were examined in the Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre and 152 witnesses were examined through Video Conferencing in 2024. 92 cases were heard by the High Court through video conferencing facility at the Virtual Centre of the High Court at Jajpur in 2024.

District Judges during the year 2024



Dr. Jeevanjyoti Rath
till 02.07.2024



Shri Amruta Ranjan Nanda
05.07.2024-till end of the year

Digitization

Paperless Courts estd. in 2024	2

Digitization of records at DCDH, Bhadrak

Work in Progress

Residential and non-residential buildings at Jajpur and Jajpur Road





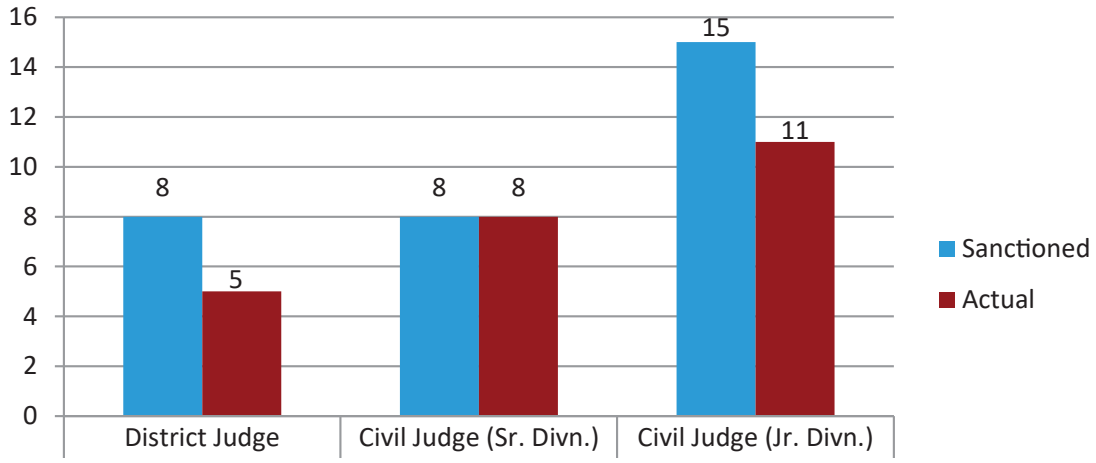


(Top to bottom): Inauguration of Paperless Court of Additional Senior Civil Judge and Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.), Jajpur

Apart from the District and Sessions Judge, the judgeship consists of the following courts:

Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Judge, Family Court	1
Addl. District and Sessions Judge	2
Special Court under POCSO Act	1
Ad-hoc ADJ (FTSC)	2
Chief Judicial Magistrate	1
A.S.J.-cum-Registrar, Civil Courts	1
Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)	4 [includes one Court of Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.) (LR & LTV)]
Addl.Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)	1
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	1
Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)	1
Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)-cum-J.M.F.C.	2
J.M.F.C.	7 [includes 2 Courts of J.M.F.C. (LR & LTV)]
Special Judicial Magistrate	1
Gram Nyayalaya	1

Number of judges in each court

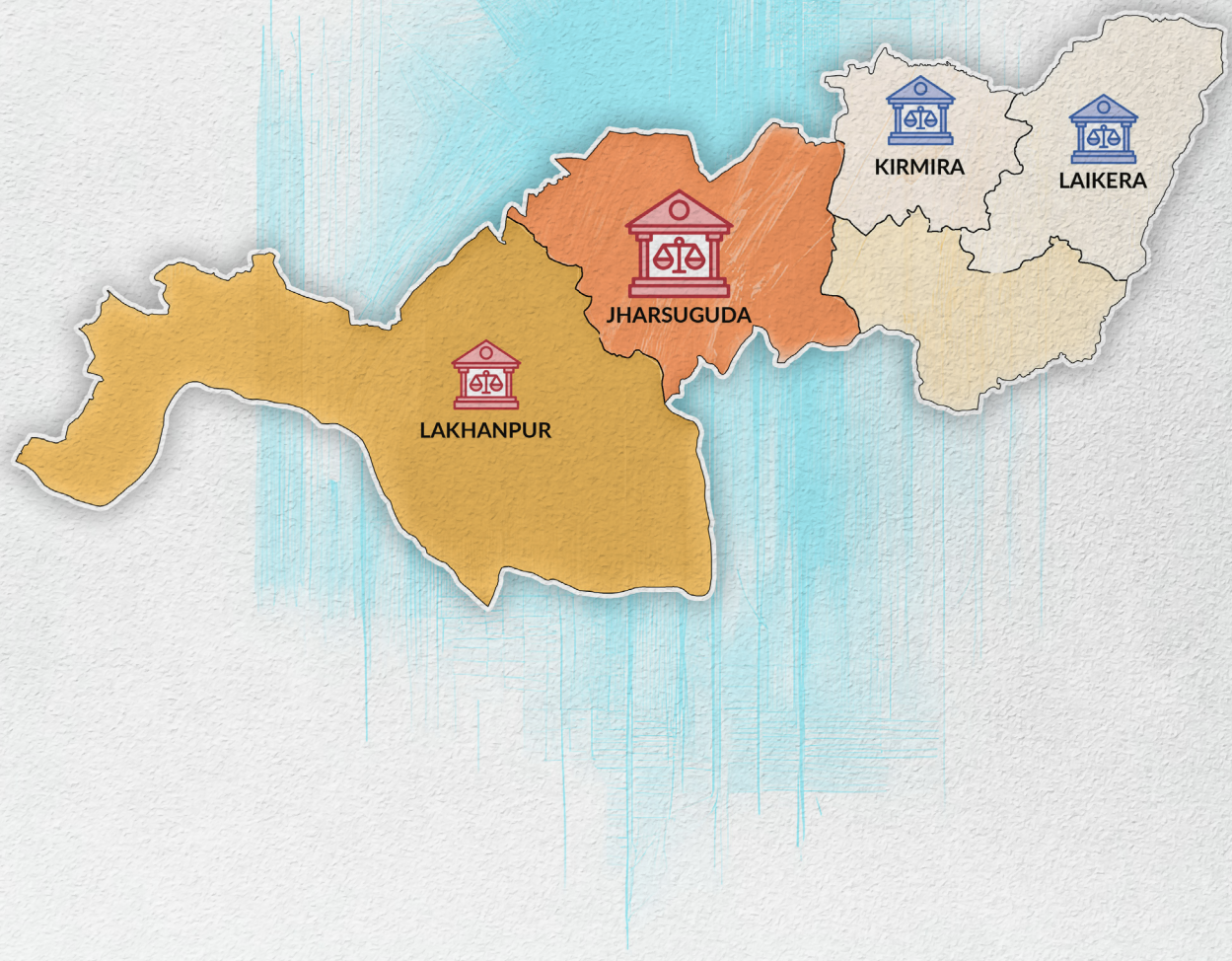


Case Statistics

Year	Opening Balance as on 1st January			Institution during the year			Disposal during the year			Pending Cases at the end of 31st December		
	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total
2023	23,274	66,267	89,541	4,539	13,700	18,239	5,074	8,631	13,705	22,739	71,336	94,075
2024	22,739	71,336	94,075	4,279	15,514	19,793	5,615	9,536	15,151	20,656	80,638	1,01,294

District Judiciary Map

Jharsuguda



Existing Court Complex Proposed Court Complex

The Judgeship of Jharsuguda commenced on 24th November, 2011. Until 23rd September, 2011, it was under the jurisdiction of undivided Sambalpur. The District Court is functioning in a new building having 11 Courtrooms. The facilities available in the building include lift, ramp for differently abled persons, e-Sewa Kendra, and VC Cabin. 16 different Courts are functioning in the Judgeship with one outlying station at Lakhanpur.

The Court and Office of the District and Sessions Judge was inspected on 26.12.2024 by Justice S.K. Mishra, Administrative Judge of Jharsuguda Judgeship.

District Judges during the year 2024



Shri Digambar Prusty
till 10.09.2024



Shri Prasanta Kumar Nayak
12.09.2024-till end of the year

New court / new court building

Office of Legal Aid Defence Counsel at Jharsuguda on 22.02.2024

Digitization

Paperless Courts in 2024	**2**
Digitization of records at DCDH, Jharsuguda	
Digitised Records of District Record Room	**89,116**
Pages	**75,34,888**













Top row (left to right): Inauguration of paperless courts of Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.) (LR & LTV) and Judge, Family Court at Jharsuguda

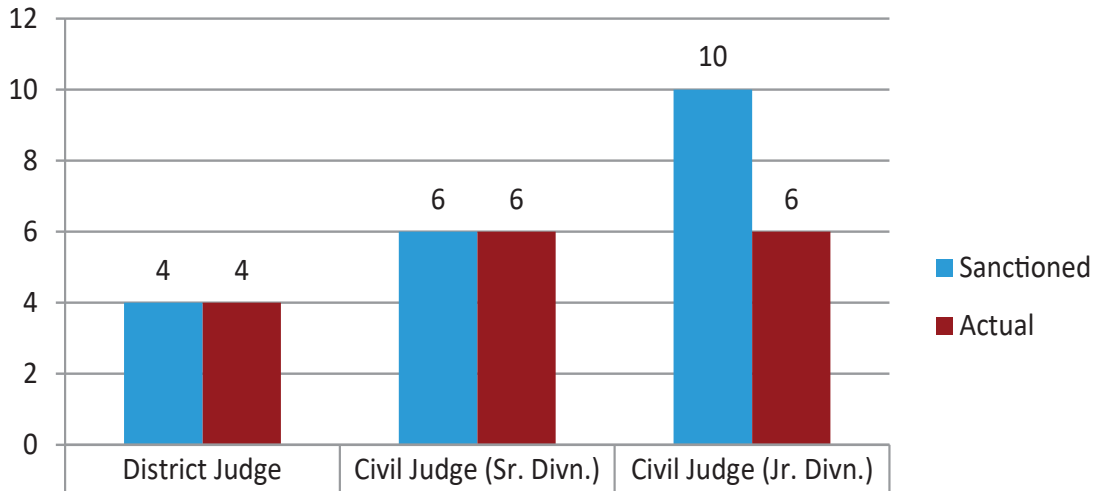
Middle row (left to right): Legal awareness on constitutional rights and duties of citizens, Observance of International Yoga Day

Bottom row: Observance of "Van Mahotsava" Week

Apart from the District and Sessions Judge, the judgeship consists of the following courts:

Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Judge, Family Court	1
Addl. District and Sessions Judge	1
Special Court under POCSO Act	1
Chief Judicial Magistrate	1
A.S.J.-cum-Registrar, Civil Courts	1
Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)	3 [includes 1 Court of Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.) (LR & LTV and 1 Women's Court)]
Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)	1
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	1
JMFC	4 [includes 1 Court of J.M.F.C. (LR & LTV) and 1 Cognizance taking Court]
Gram Nyayalaya	1

Number of judges in each court

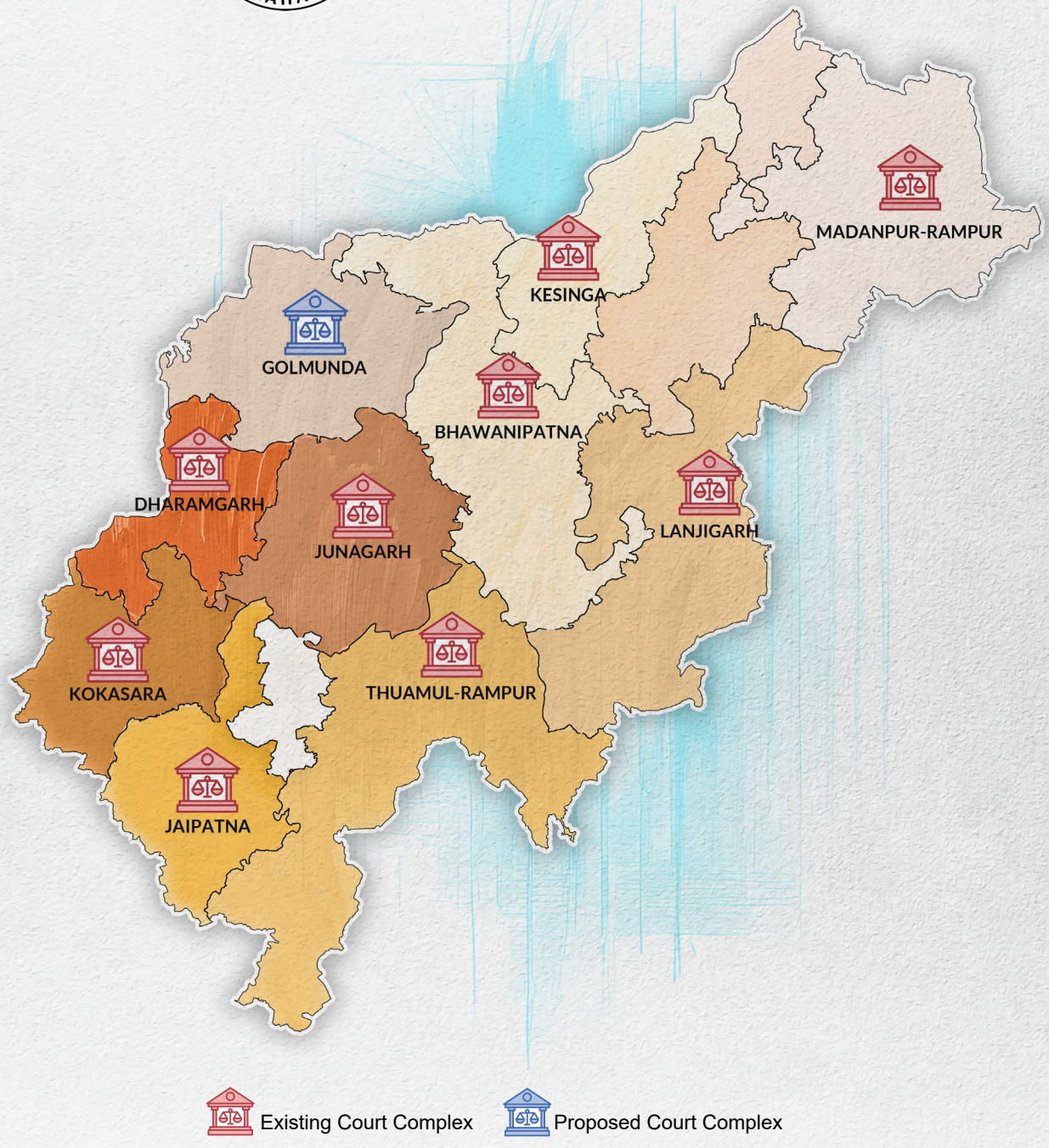


Case Statistics

Year	Opening Balance as on 1st January			Institution during the year			Disposal during the year			Pending Cases at the end of 31st December		
	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total
2023	3,676	37,126	40,802	948	9,322	10,270	1,080	6,601	7,681	3,544	39,847	43,391
2024	3,544	39,847	43,391	848	8,462	9,310	1,509	8,120	9,629	2,883	40,189	43,072

District Judiciary Map

Kalahandi



Kalahandi was a princely state in British India and merged with Orissa State. At the time of merging, the Kalahandi District comprising the current Kalahandi and Nuapada Districts. The judgeship of Nuapada was separated from Kalahandi on 7th July, 2012. The District Court is functioning in a new building at Bhawanipatna. It has 11 well-furnished Court Halls having facilities like office, library, waiting hall for the witnesses, Bar Hall, lift, drinking water, ramp for differently abled persons and separate washroom facilities for differently abled persons. The building was inaugurated on 6th March, 2021. 32 different Courts are functioning in the Judgeship with outlying stations at Kesinga, Madanpur-Rampur, Dharamgarh, Junagarh, Kokasara, Jaipatna, T.Rampur and Lanjigarh.

678 witnesses were examined in Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centres in 2024.

The Court and Office of the District and Sessions Judge was inspected on 20.04.2024 by Justice V. Narasingh, Administrative Judge, Kalahandi Judgeship.

District Judges during the year 2024



Shri Dipti Ranjan Kanungo
till 02.07.2024



Shri Anup Ranjan Pattnaik
05.07.2024-till end of the year

New court / new court building

Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)-cum-JMFC at Lanjigarh on 12.11.2024

Digitization

Digitization of records at DCDH, Kalahandi

Digitised Records of District Record Room	**75,647**
Pages	**92,90,193**

Upcoming Projects

- Civil Court Complex at Dharamgarh and Koksara. Foundation stone laid on 20.03.2024













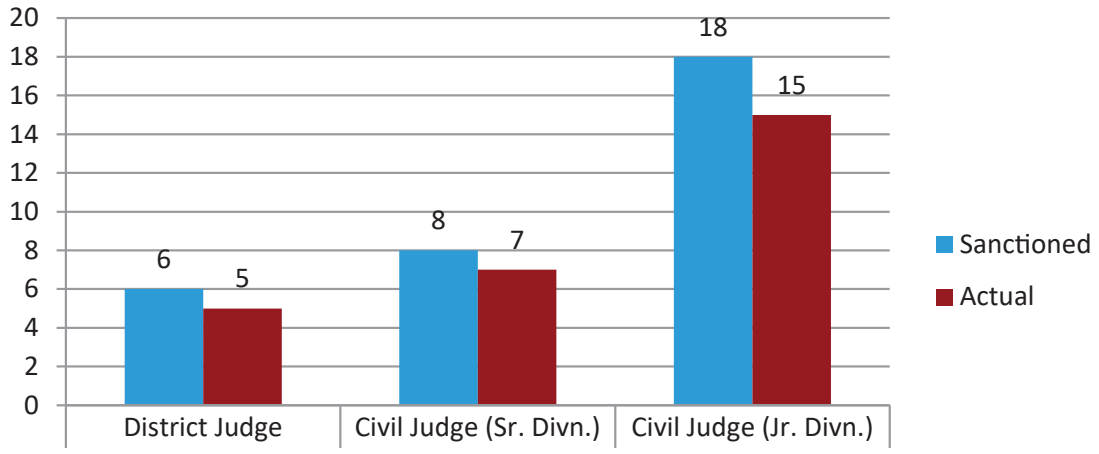


Top row (left to right): Observance of International Yoga Day, Awareness programme on Juvenile Justice (CPC) Act, Right to Compulsory Education.
Bottom row (left to right): Observance of "Van Mahotsava" Week, Legal awareness programme for school students.
Bottom row (left to right): School students participating in the drawing competition on the eve of "Children's Day", Observance of "Samvidhan Divas".

Apart from the District and Sessions Judge, the judgeship consists of the following courts:

Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Judge, Family Court	1
Addl. District and Sessions Judge	2
Special Court under POCSO Act	1
Ad-hoc ADJ (FTSC)	1
Special Judge (Vigilance)	1
Chief Judicial Magistrate	1
A.S.J.-cum-Registrar, Civil Courts	1
Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)	5 [includes 1 Court of Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.) (LR & LTV) and one Women's Court]
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	2
Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)-cum J.M.F.C.	6
Addl. Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)-cum J.M.F.C.	1
J.M.F.C.	7 [includes 1 Court of J.M.F.C. (LR & LTV)]
Special Judicial Magistrate	1
Gram Nyayalaya	1

Number of judges in each court

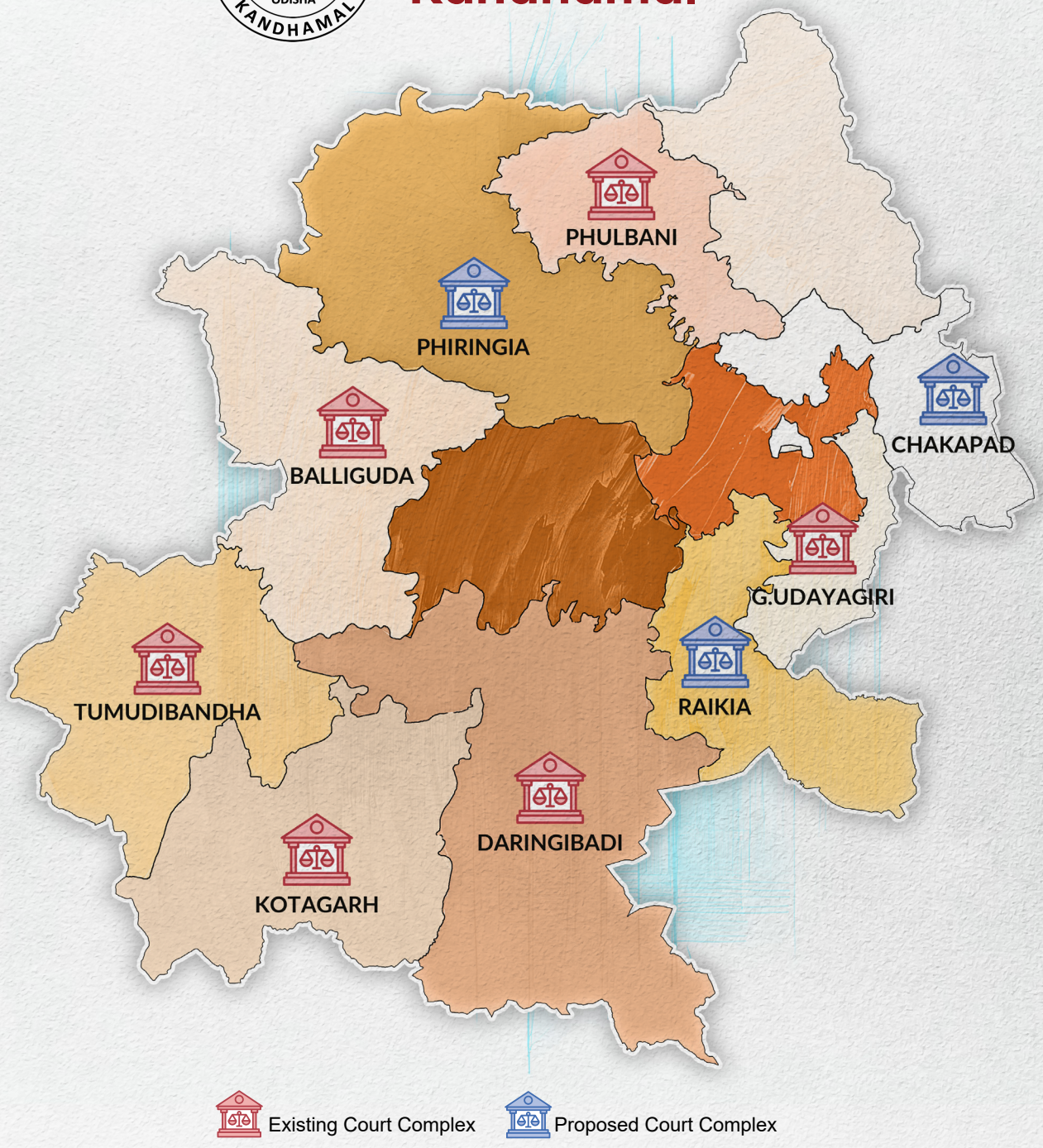


Case Statistics

Year	Opening Balance as on 1st January			Institution during the year			Disposal during the year			Pending Cases at the end of 31st December		
	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total
2023	4,072	40,173	44,245	1,809	10,741	12,550	2,019	11,513	13,532	3,862	39,401	43,263
2024	3862	39,400	43,263	1,691	11,907	13,598	1,892	12,784	14,676	3,661	38,524	42,185

District Judiciary Map

Kandhamal



The district of Kandhamal was constituted on 1st January, 1994 from the former Boudh-Kandhmal District with its headquarters at Phulbani. Since 11th April, 1984, the Judgeship of Phulbani was separated from the combined Judgeship of Ganjam-Boudh, constituting its territorial jurisdiction over three sub-divisions: Phulbani, Boudh & Balliguda, with 7 subordinate Courts. After the separation of Boudh, the Judgeship of Phulbani is presently functioning with 23 different Courts with outlying stations at Balliguda, G. Udayagiri, Daringibadi, Kotagarh, and Tumudibandha. The District Court is functioning in an old building constructed in 1999, having two floors with 9 Courtrooms, of which 2 are in the ground floor and the other 7 are in the first floor. Adjacent to this old building, there exists another Court Building with 2 other Courtrooms having facilities like Video Conferencing (VC) Hall, VC Cabin, and E-Sewa Kendra.

District Judges during the year 2024



Shri Satyapira Mishra
for the entire year

Digitization

Paperless Courts estd. in 2024 | **2**

Digitization of records at DCDH, Nayagarh

Work in Progress

Construction of New District Court Building, Transit House and Residential quarters for Judicial Officers











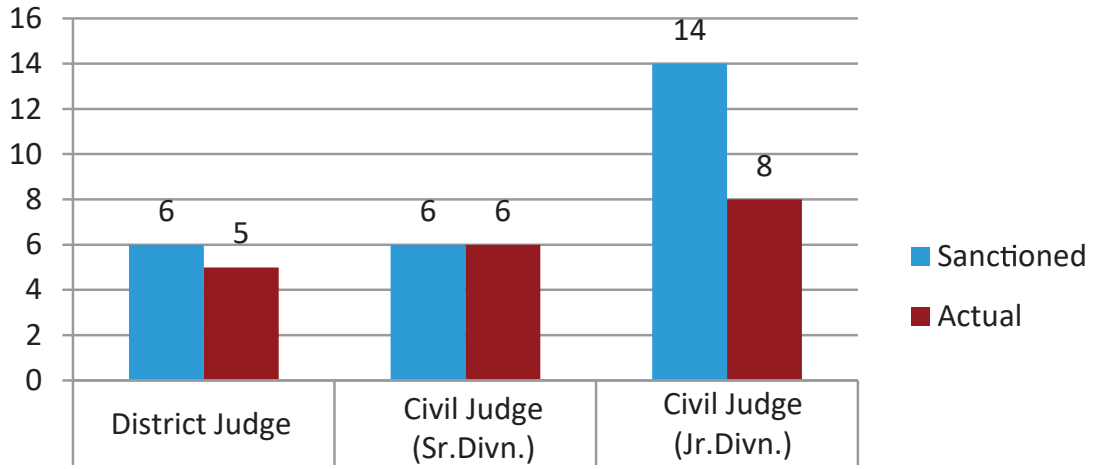
Top Row (left to right): Inauguration of paperless court of Additional District & Sessions Judge, Phulbani, Health check-up of court staff

Bottom row (left to right): Organization of Blood Donation & Health Camp, Observance of International Yoga Day

Apart from the District and Sessions Judge, the judgeship consists of the following courts:

Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Judge, Family Court	1
Addl. District and Sessions Judge	2
Special Court under POCSO Act	1
Ad-hoc ADJ(FTSC)	1
Special Judge (Vigilance)	1
Chief Judicial Magistrate	1
A.S.J.-cum-Registrar,Civil Courts	1
Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)	3 (includes 1 Court of Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)-cum-A.S.J. (Women's Court))
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	2
Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)-cum-J.M.F.C.	3
J.M.F.C.	6 [includes 1 Court of J.M.F.C.(LR & LTV)]

Number of judges in each court

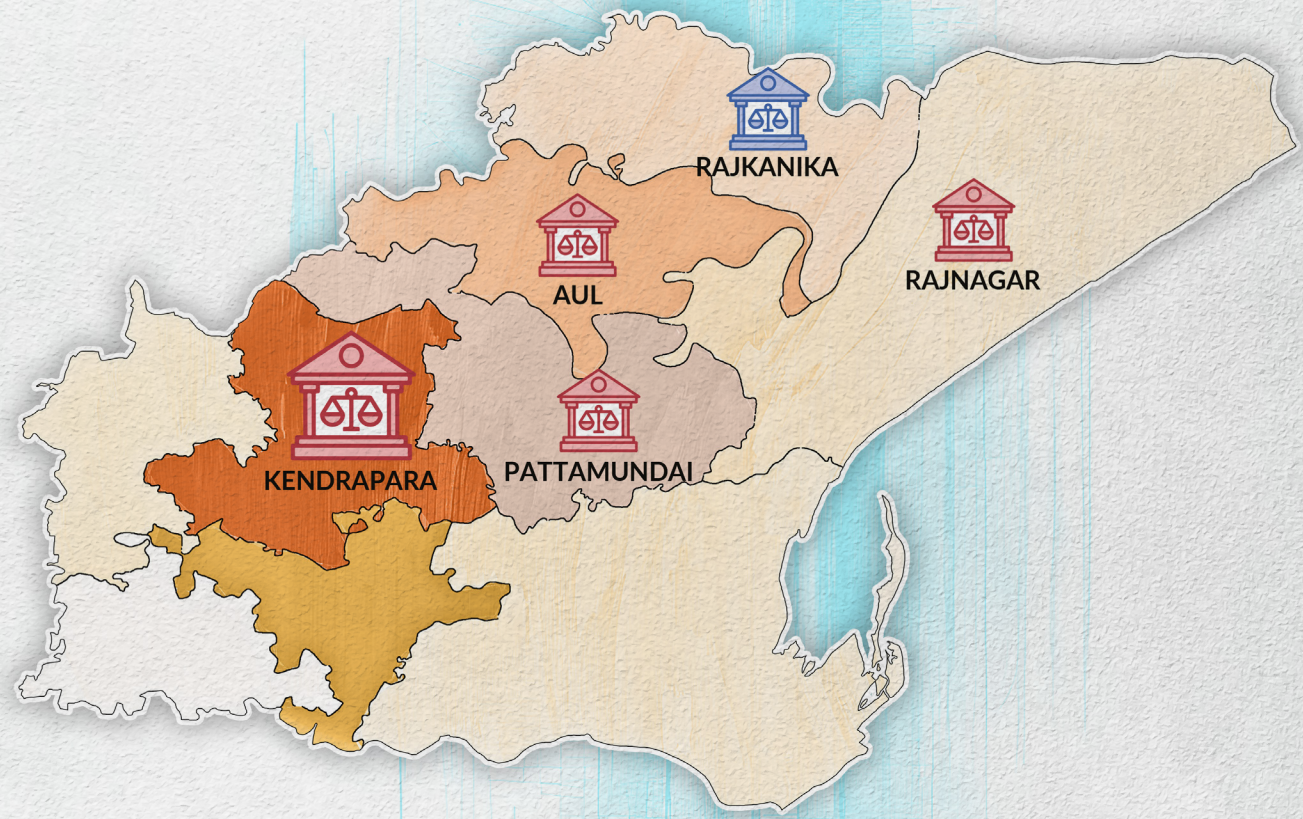


Case Statistics

Year	Opening Balance as on 1st January			Institution during the year			Disposal during the year			Pending Cases at the end of 31st December		
	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total
2023	916	15,385	16,301	435	6,407	6,842	527	5,962	6,489	824	15,830	16,654
2024	824	15,830	16,654	478	6,648	7,126	549	5,327	5,876	753	17,151	17,904

District Judiciary Map

Kendrapara



Existing Court Complex Proposed Court Complex

The judgeship of Kendrapara was separated from Cuttack Judgeship and was established on 26th June, 2012. 22 different courts are functioning in the Judgeship with outlying stations at Pattamundai, Rajnagar and Aul. The new building was inaugurated on 20th February, 2020. It has 16 Courtrooms along with facilities like lift, V.C room, Advocate V.C. Point, Firefighting system, e-Sewa Kendra, Ramp for differently- abled persons etc.

Awareness programmes were organized to combat cancer, about women issues and importance of legal support in women empowerment by involving Judicial Officers, Advocates and Court staff. The District Legal Services Authority, Kendrapara in collaboration with National Law University Odisha, Cuttack organized a workshop on Tobacco control. In the Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre 210 witnesses and in the Virtual Court room 27 witnesses were examined in 2024.

District Judges during the year 2024



Shri Biswajit Mahanty
for the entire year

New court / new court building

Gram Nyayalaya
at Rajnagar on 16.03.2024

Digitization

Paperless Courts estd. in 2024	**5**
Digitization of records at DCDH, Bhadrak	
Digitised Records of District Record Room	**69,723**
Pages	**67,86,095**















Top Row (Left to right): Organization of Drama on International Women's Day, Session on cancer disease organized by DLSA, Kendrapara.

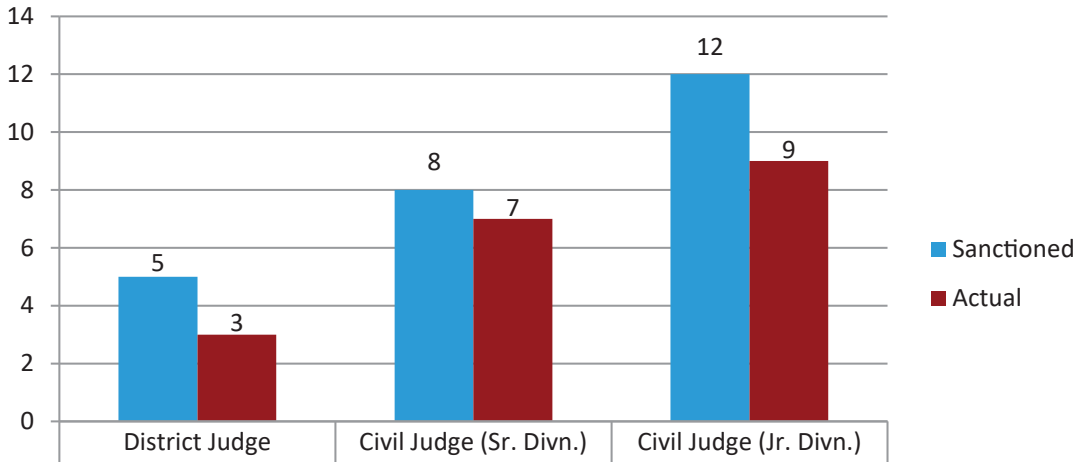
Bottom Row (left to right): Internship Programme on professional Development of legal practitioners organized by DLSA, Kendrapara, Inauguration of new court building of Gram Nyayaadhikari, Rajnagar.

Bottom row (left to right): Training programme on "Computer Skill Enhancement" for advocates and their clerks, Training programme on e-Courts Phase-III Capacity Building for Court Staff.

Apart from the District and Sessions Judge, the judgeship consists of the following courts:

Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Judge, Family Court	1
Addl. District and Sessions Judge	1
Special Court under POCSO Act	1
Ad-hoc ADJ (FTSC)	1
Chief Judicial Magistrate	1
A.S.J.-cum-Registrar, Civil Courts	1
Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)	3 [includes 1 Court of Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.) (LR & LTV)]
Addl.Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)	1
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	1
Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)	1
Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)-cum J.M.F.C.	2
Addl.Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)-cum-J.M.F.C.	1
JMFC	5 [includes 1 Court of J.M.F.C. (LR & LTV) and 1 cognizance taking J.M.F.C.]
Gram Nyayalaya	1

Number of judges in each court

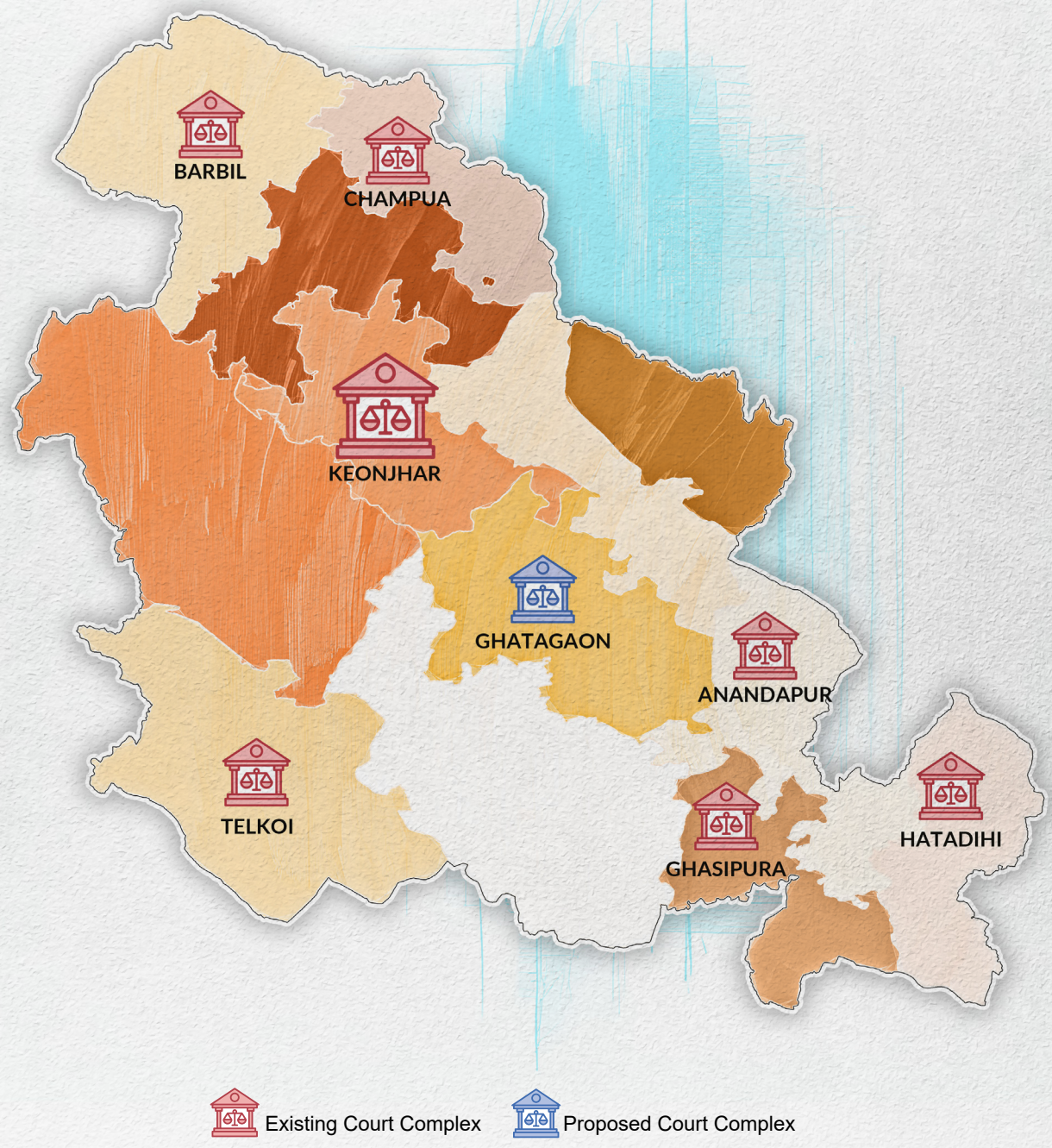


Case Statistics

Year	Opening Balance as on 1st January			Institution during the year			Disposal during the year			Pending Cases at the end of 31st December		
	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total
2023	18,576	42,220	60,796	3,441	7,603	11,044	4,158	6,030	10,188	17,859	43,793	61,652
2024	17,859	43,793	61,652	3,365	7,282	10,647	3,784	6,381	10,165	17,054	45,382	62,436

District Judiciary Map

Keonjhar



The judgeship of Keonjhar was separated from the Mayurbhanj judgeship on 28th February 1982. Currently, 29 different courts are functioning in the judgeship with outlying stations at Anandapur, Ghasipura, Hatadihi, Champua, Telkoi, and Barbil. Initially, the Court functioned at the Collectorate building and was shifted to a new building on 21st April 2004. There are 14 courtrooms in the building. It has facilities like e-Sewa Kendra, e-Filing Centre, e-Meeting help desk, video conferencing room, and e-Kiosk.

Awareness programmes for mentally challenged and on topics like POCSO & JJ (CPC) Act, different government schemes were organized in 2024.

In 2024, 122 witnesses were examined at the Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centreand 52 witnesses were examined in the Virtual Court room in 2024.

District Judges during the year 2024



Shri Ashok Kumar Panda
for the entire year

Digitization

Paperless Courts estd. in 2024	**7**
Digitization of records at DCDC, Keonjhar	
Digitised Records of District Record Room	**70,595**
Pages	**69,72,160**









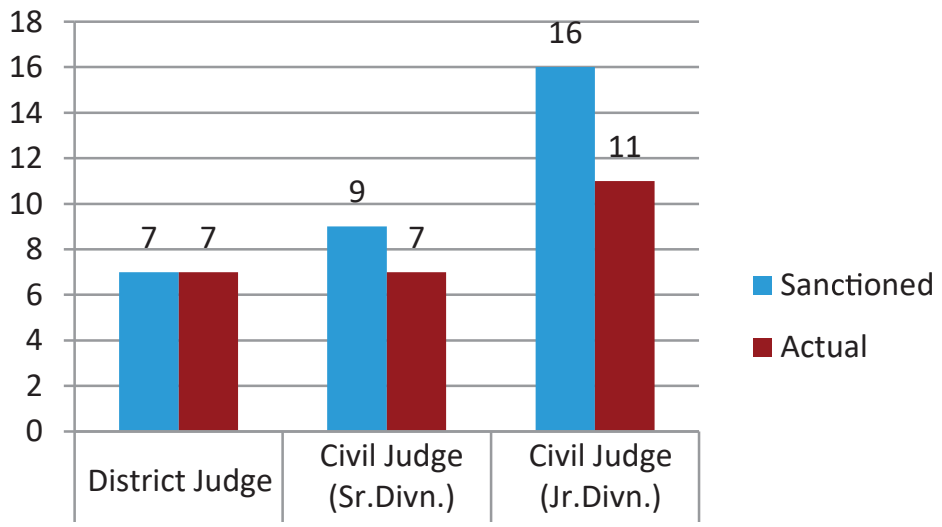


Top row (Left to right): Inauguration of paperless court of the Judge, Family Court and J.M.F.C. at Keonjhar
Bottom row (left to right): Awareness programme on Fundamental Duties and on POCSO Act & J.J. (CPC) Act on the occasion of observance of "Constitution Day", 4th National Lok Adalat being held in the District Court at Keonjhar.

Apart from the District and Sessions Judge, the judgeship consists of the following courts:

Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Judge, Family Court	1
Addl. District and Sessions Judge	3
Special Court under POCSO Act	1
Ad-hoc ADJ (FTSC)	1
Special Judge (Vigilance)	1
Chief Judicial Magistrate	1
A.S.J.-cum-Registrar, Civil Courts	1
Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)	4 [includes 1 Court of Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)-cum-A.S.J. (Women's Court)]
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	3
Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)-cum J.M.F.C.	3 [including 2 Courts of (LR & LTV)]
JMFC	8 [includes 1 Court of J.M.F.C. (LR & LTV) and 1 cognizance taking J.M.F.C.]
Gram Nyayalaya	1

Number of judges in each court

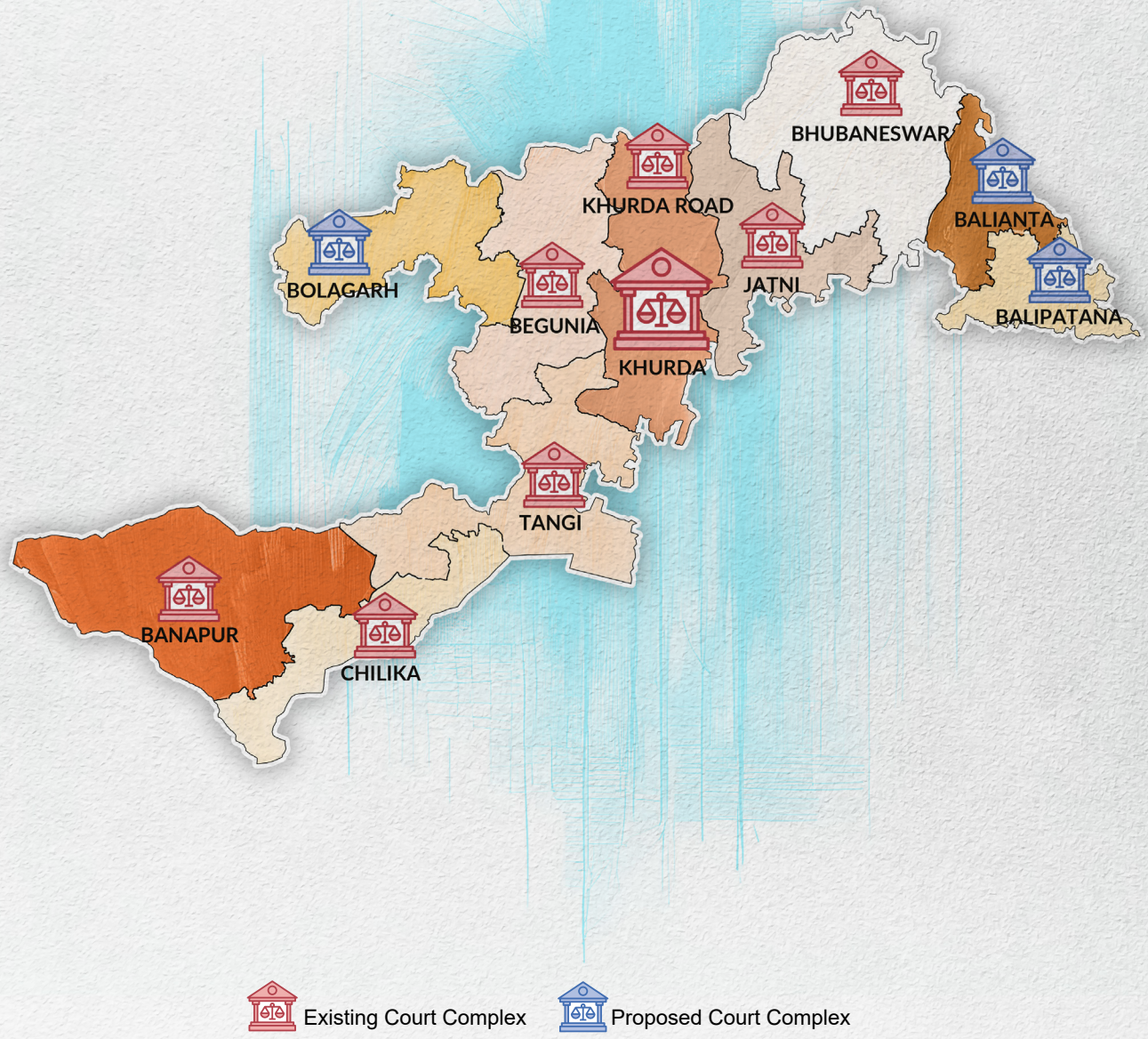


Case Statistics

Year	Opening Balance as on 1st January			Institution during the year			Disposal during the year			Pending Cases at the end of 31st December		
	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total
2023	9,294	44,556	53,850	2,050	10,213	12,263	1,942	7,342	9,284	9,402	47,427	56,829
2024	9,402	47,427	56,829	1,922	11,081	13,003	2,134	8,597	10,731	9,169	49,433	58,602

District Judiciary Map

Khurda



The Judgeship of Khurda was inaugurated on 1st May 1997 after being bifurcated from the Judgeship of Puri. 57 courts are functioning under it with outlying stations at Khurda, Khurda Road, Banapur, Tangi, Jatni, Chilika, and Begunia. The newly constructed Judicial Court Complex at Bhubaneswar was inaugurated on 05.12.2024 by Smt. Droupadi Murmu, Hon'ble President of India in presence of Shri Raghubar Das, Hon'ble Governor of Odisha, Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, Chief Justice, Justice Sangam Kumar Sahoo, Administrative Judge, Khurda Judgeship and companion judges of the High Court.

Initiatives were taken to promote social justice and skill development by involving community participation. An augmentation camp was organized to provide different benefits to transgenders. A skill development training programme on renewable energy for jail inmates was organized.

District Judges during the year 2024



Shri Nisith Nisank
for the entire year

New court / new court building

Judicial Court Complex at Bhubaneswar on 05.12.2024

Digitization

Digitization of records at DCDH, Cuttack











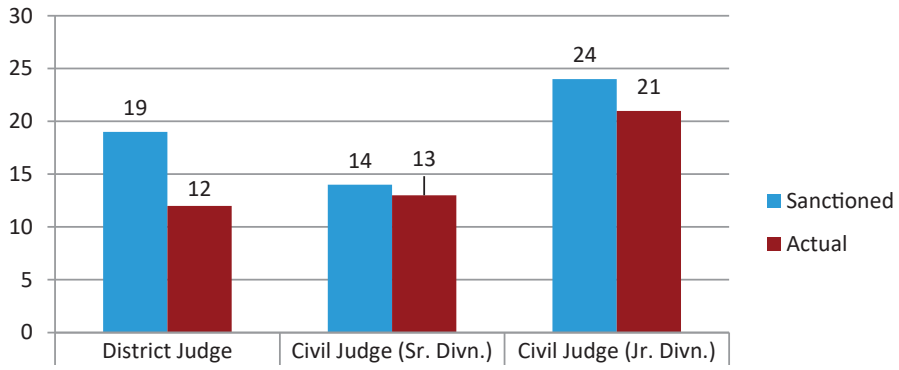
Top Row: Smt. Droupadi Murmu, Hon'ble President of India inaugurating the Judicial Court Complex at Bhubaneswar
Middle Row (left to right): Legal awareness camp on rights of the Transgenders, Vocational training for jail inmates.
Bottom Row: Observance of International Women's Day

Apart from the District and Sessions Judge, the judgeship consists of the following courts:

Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Judge, Family Court	3
Addl. District and Sessions Judge	4 [includes 1 Court of ADJ (LR & LTV)]
Ad-hoc ADJ (FTSC)	2
Special Judge (Vigilance)	1
Addl. Special Judge (Vigilance)	2
Special Judge, Special Court	1
Authorized Officer, Special Court	1

Name of the Court	No. of Courts
CBI Court	4
P.O., Labour Court	1
P.O., Industrial Tribunal	1
P.O., Educational Tribunal	1
P.O., Co-operative Tribunal	1
Chairman, Arbitration Tribunal	1
Chief Judicial Magistrate	1
Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate	1 (Special Court under Delhi Special Police Establishment Act)
A.S.J.-cum-Registrar, Civil Courts	1
Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)	6 [includes one Women's Court, 1 Court of Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.) (LR & LTV) and one Commercial Court]
Addl.Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)	2
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	2
Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)	2
Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)-cum-J.M.F.C.	4
Special Railway Magistrate	1
JMFC	11[includes 2 Courts of JMFC (LR & LTV), 1 Court of JMFC (Outskirt) and 6 cognizance taking JMFC Courts]
Special Judicial Magistrate	1
Gram Nyayalaya	1

Number of judges in each court

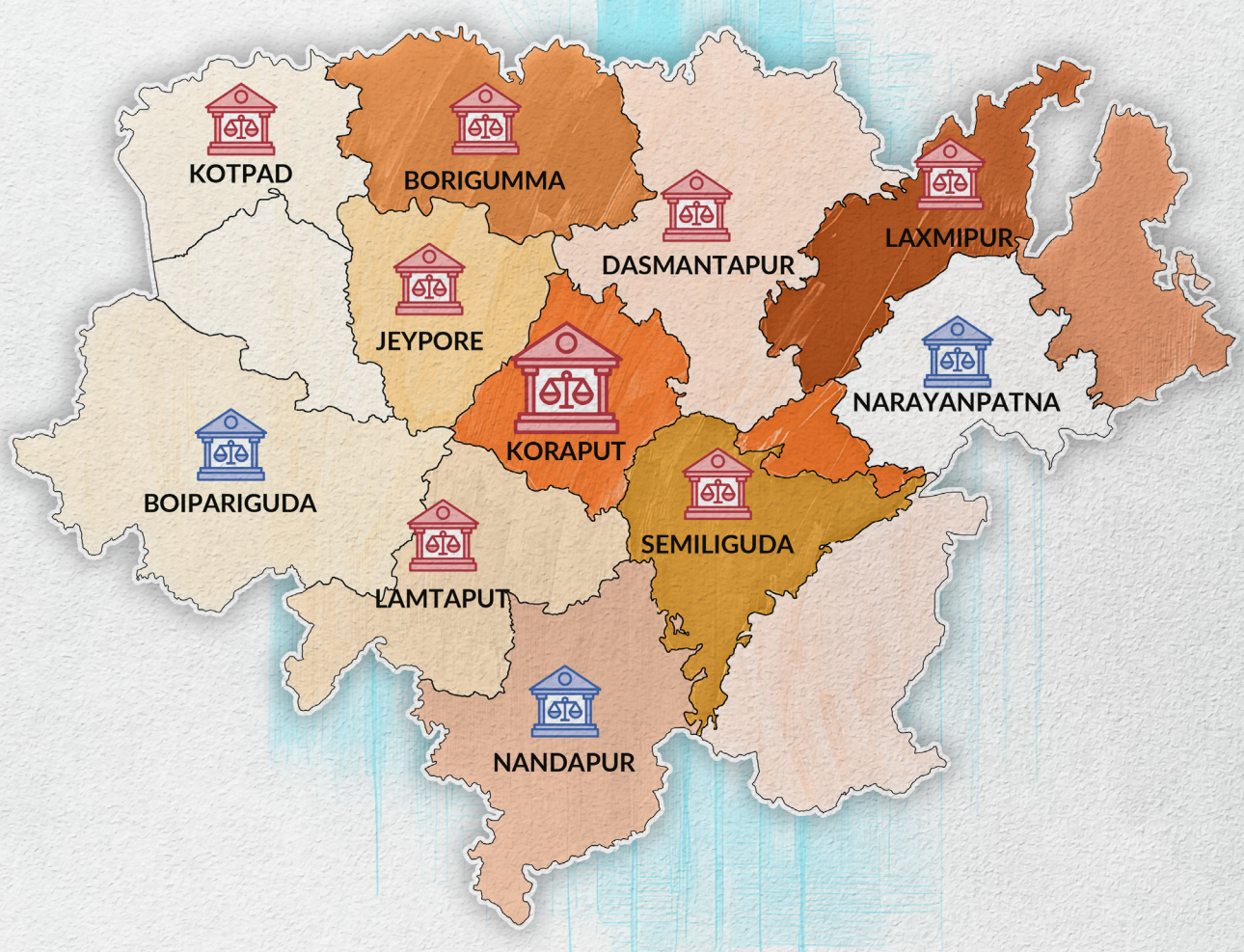


Case Statistics

Year	Opening Balance as on 1st January			Institution during the year			Disposal during the year			Pending Cases at the end of 31st December		
	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total
2023	55,810	1,41,600	1,97,410	9,259	40,610	49,869	12,265	36,536	48,801	52,804	1,45,674	1,98,478
2024	52,804	1,45,674	1,98,478	8,962	55,212	64,174	12,970	44,515	57,485	46,142	1,61,922	2,08,064

District Judiciary Map

Koraput



The new District Court building of the district Koraput-Jeypore was inaugurated on 10th September 2021. 31 different courts are functioning in the judgeship with outlying stations at Koraput, Semiliguda, Lamtaput, Dasmantpur, Kotpad, Borigumma, and Laxmipur.

The Regional Judicial Academy, Koraput at Jeypore imparted regular training to the Judicial Officers and ministerial staff posted in the cluster districts of Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Kalahandi and Rayagada.

The Court and Office of the District and Sessions Judge was inspected on 27.07.2024 by Justice K.R. Mohapatra, Administrative Judge, Koraput Judgeship.

District Judges during the year 2024



Shri Satya Narayan Mishra
till 27.07.2024



Shir Pradeep Kumar Mahanta
28.07.2024-till end of the year

Digitization

Paperless Courts estd. in 2024	**3**

Digitization of records at DCDH, Koraput

Digitised Records of District Record Room	**114,160**
Pages	**91,92,408**

Upcoming Projects

- New Civil court Complex at Lamtaput. Foundation stone laid on 20.03.2024
- Transit House at Kotpad











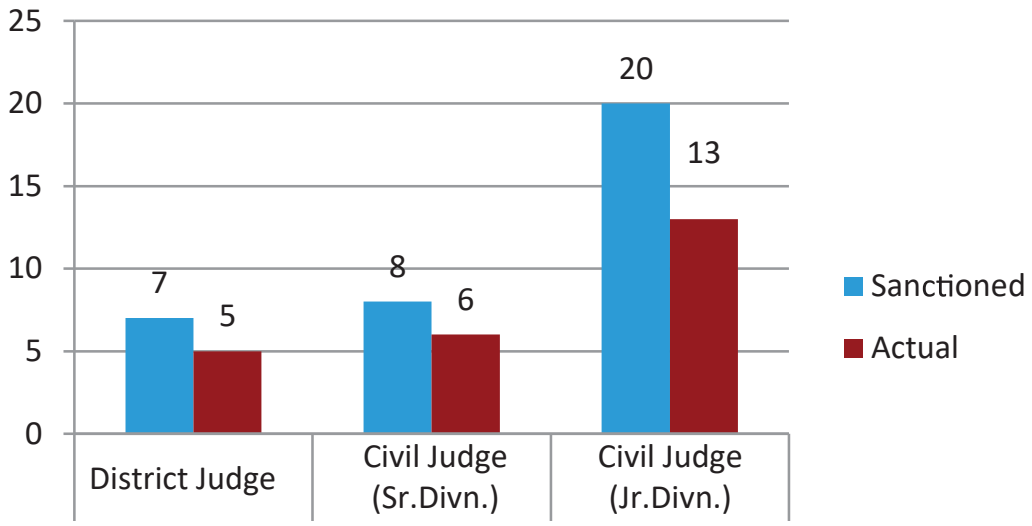
Top (left to right): Plantation of palm seeds at District Court premises, Laying of foundation stone of transit house at Kotpad

Bottom (left to right): Laying of foundation stone of new Civil Court Complex at Lamtaput, legal service help desk at Panchayat Level

Apart from the District and Sessions Judge, the judgeship consists of the following courts:

Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Judge, Family Court	1
Addl. District and Sessions Judge	2
Special Court under POCSO Act	1
Ad-hoc ADJ (FTSC)	1
Special Judge (Vigilance)	1
P.O., Labour Court	1
Chief Judicial Magistrate	1
A.S.J.-cum-Registrar, Civil Courts	1
Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)	3 (includes one Women's Court)
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	2
Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)	1
Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)-cum J.M.F.C.	4
J.M.F.C.	9 [includes 1 Court of J.M.F.C. (LR & LTV)]
Special Judicial Magistrate	1
Gram Nyayalaya	1

Number of judges in each court

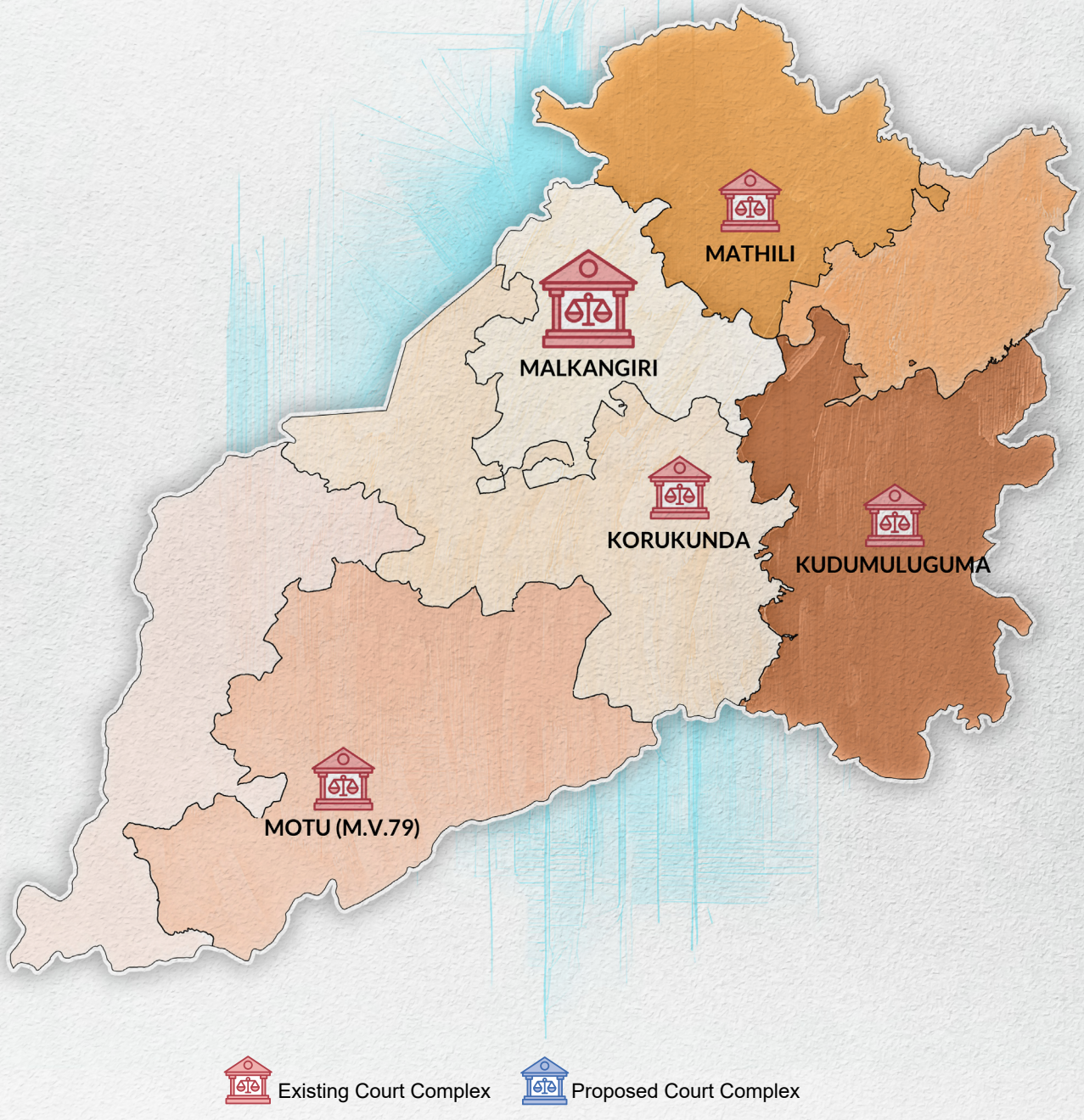


Case Statistics

Year	Opening Balance as on 1st January			Institution during the year			Disposal during the year			Pending Cases at the end of 31st December		
	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total
2023	3,734	34,041	37,775	1,119	8,613	9,732	951	7,463	8,414	3,902	35,191	39,093
2024	3,902	35,191	39,093	1,082	9,877	10,959	986	8,194	9,180	3,998	36,874	40,872

District Judiciary Map

Malkangiri



Malkangiri was carved out from Koraput Judgeship on 2nd October 1992. The Judgeship started functioning independently from 20th April 2013. 14 different Courts are functioning in the Judgeship with outlying stations at Motu (MV-79), Mathili, Kudumuluguma, and Korukunda at Malkangiri. The new District Court building was inaugurated on 10th September 2021.

All courts in the headquarters at Malkangiri were functioning as paperless courts in 2024.

Various legal awareness programmes were organized, such as "Rights of Transgenders," Road Safety Programme, and other topics.

District Judges during the year 2024



Shri Bikram Pattnaik
till-02.07.2024



Dr. Prasanna Kumar Panda
from 05.07.2024 till end of the year

Digitization

Digitization of records at DCDC, Malkangiri

Digitised Records of District Record Room	**39,681**
Pages	**36,86,422**











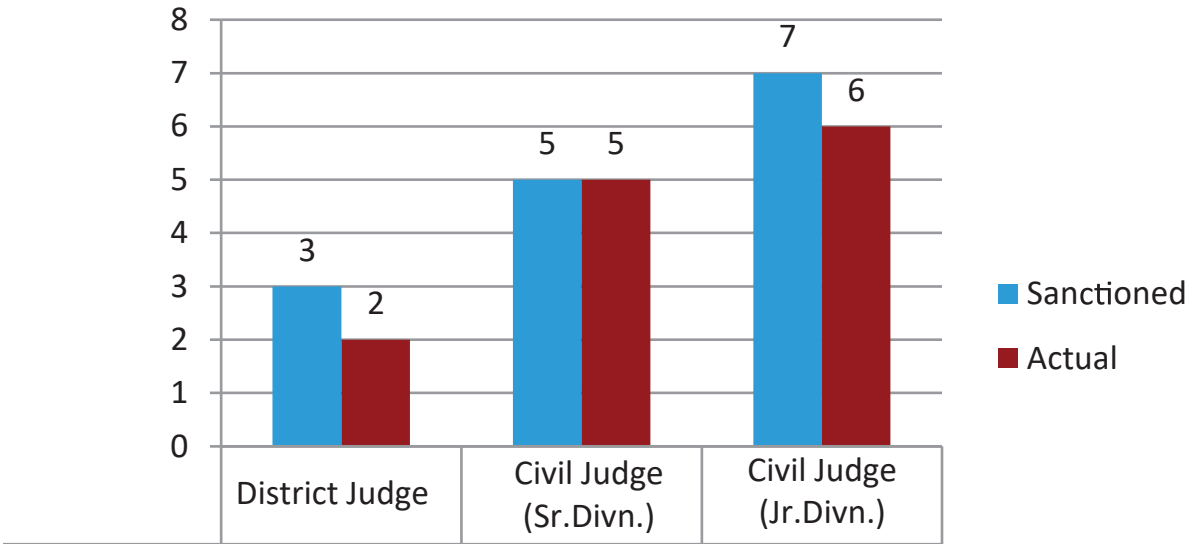


Top Row (Left to Right): Awareness programme on DISHA project under guidance of NALSA organized by DLSA, Malkangiri, Awareness Programme on road safety, MACT & MV Act organized by DLSA, Malkangiri.
Middle Row(Left to Right): Observation of Yoga Day at District Court Complex, Malkangiri, Plantation Drive at OAV, Malkangiri.
Bottom Row: Training programme on creating accessible court documents at District Court Complex, Malkangiri.

Apart from the District and Sessions Judge, the judgeship consists of the following courts:

Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Addl.District and Sessions Judge	1
Chief Judicial Magistrate	1
A.S.J.-cum-Registrar, Civil Courts	1
Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)	2 [includes 1 Court of Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)-cum-A.S.J. (Women's Court)]
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	1
Civil Judge (Jr. Div.)-cum-J.M.F.C.	3
JMFC	2 [includes 1 Court of J.M.F.C. (LR & LTV)]
Special Judicial Magistrate	1
Gram Nyayalaya	1

Number of judges in each court

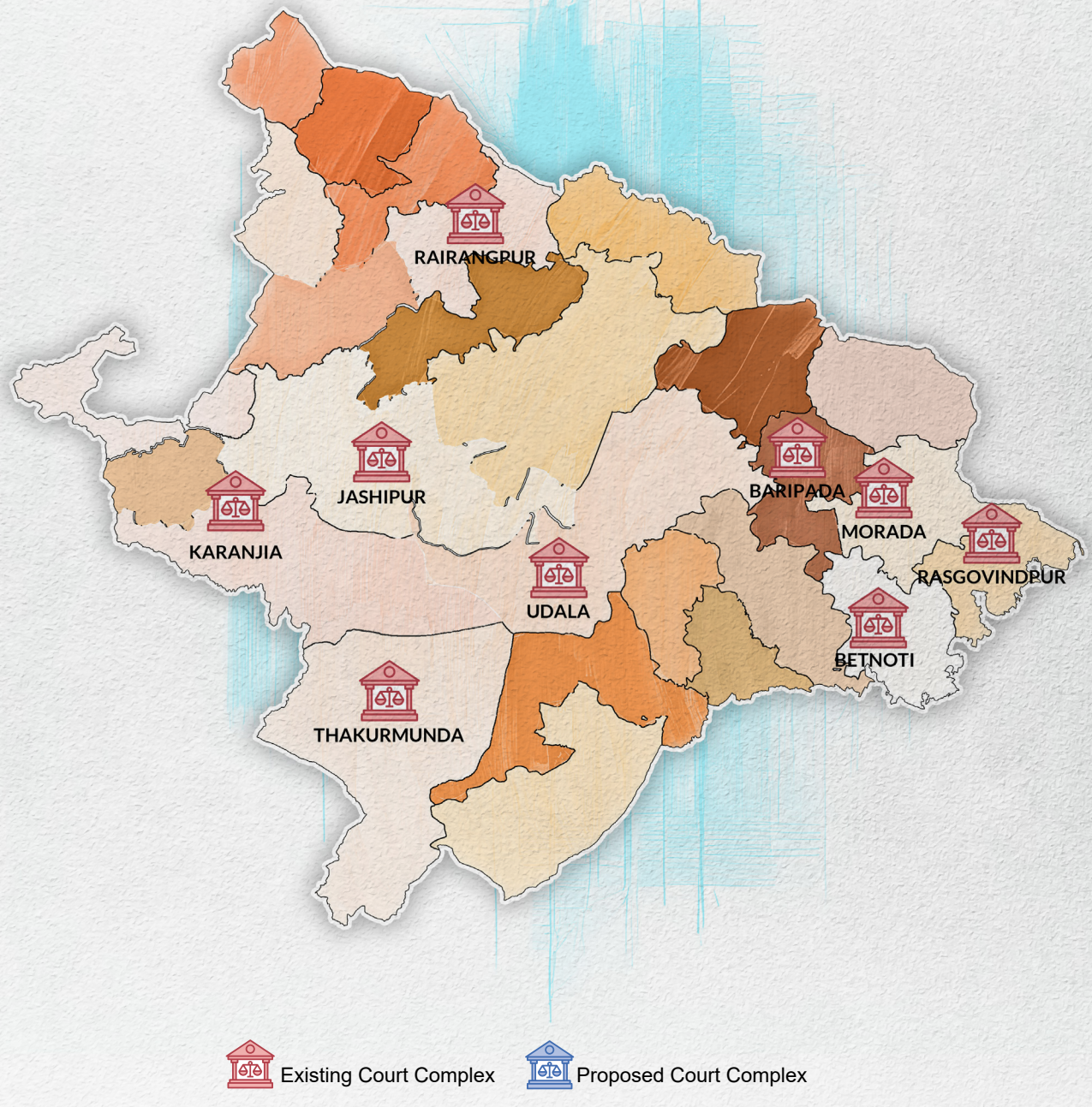


Case Statistics

Year	Opening Balance as on 1st January			Institution during the year			Disposal during the year			Pending Cases at the end of 31st December		
	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total
2023	422	9,951	10,373	235	3,414	3,649	259	3,096	3,355	398	10,269	10,667
2024	398	10,269	10,667	222	5,314	5,536	237	3,928	4,165	383	11,655	12,038

District Judiciary Map

Mayurbhanj



The erstwhile Princely State of Mayurbhanj was merged into the state of Odisha on 1st January, 1949, and the Court of the District & Sessions Judge, Mayurbhanj, was established simultaneously.

The District Court is functioning in a two-storied heritage building on an area of 9,072 sq. ft. There are 16 courtrooms, five of which are functioning in the heritage building, and the rest are functioning adjacent to the said building in the premises of the Civil Court. 36 different Courts are functioning in the Judgeship with outlying stations at Rairangpur, Udala, Karanjia, Betnoti, Morada, Thakurmunda, Rasgovindpur, and Jashipur.

The Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre was inaugurated at Baripada on 21.09.2024 for ensuring the safety and dignity of vulnerable witnesses while recording their evidence.

District Judges during the year 2024



Shri Aurobindo Pattnaik
for the entire year

Digitization

Paperless Courts in 2024	**4**
Digitization of records at DCDC, Mayurbhanj	
Digitised Records of District Record Room	**1,49,158**
Pages	**1,76,25,327**

Upcoming Projects

- Civil Judge-cum-JMFC at Morada, Thakurmunda and Jashipur. Foundation stone laid on 13.01.2024









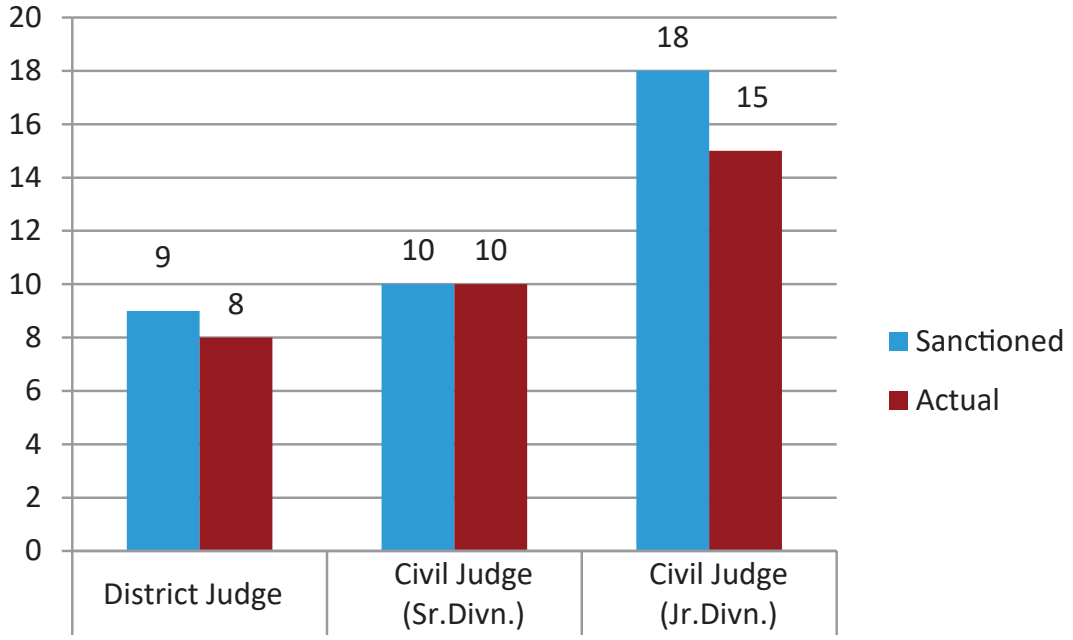


Top Row: Laying of foundation of new civil court complex at Jashipur.
Middle Row: Inauguration of VWDC at Baripada.
Bottom row (left to right): Laying of foundation of new civil court complex at Thakurmunda, Winners of the Drawing Competition organized on the occasion of Children's Day.

Apart from the District and Sessions Judge, the judgeship consists of the following courts:

Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Judgeb Family Court	1
Addl. District and Sessions Judge	4
Special Court under POCSO Act	1
Ad-hoc ADJ (FTSC)	1
Special Judge (Vigilance)	1
Chief Judicial Magistrate	1
A.S.J.-cum-Registrar, Civil Courts	1
CivilJudge (Sr. Divn.)	5 [includes 1 Court of Civil Judge (Sr.Divn.) (LR & LTV)]
Addl. Civil Judge (Sr.Divn.)	2
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	4
Civil Judge (Jr.Divn.)-cum-J.M.F.C.	5
JMFC	9 [includes 1 Court of J.M.F.C. (LR & LTV), 1 Cognizance Taking Court of JMFC]

Number of judges in each court

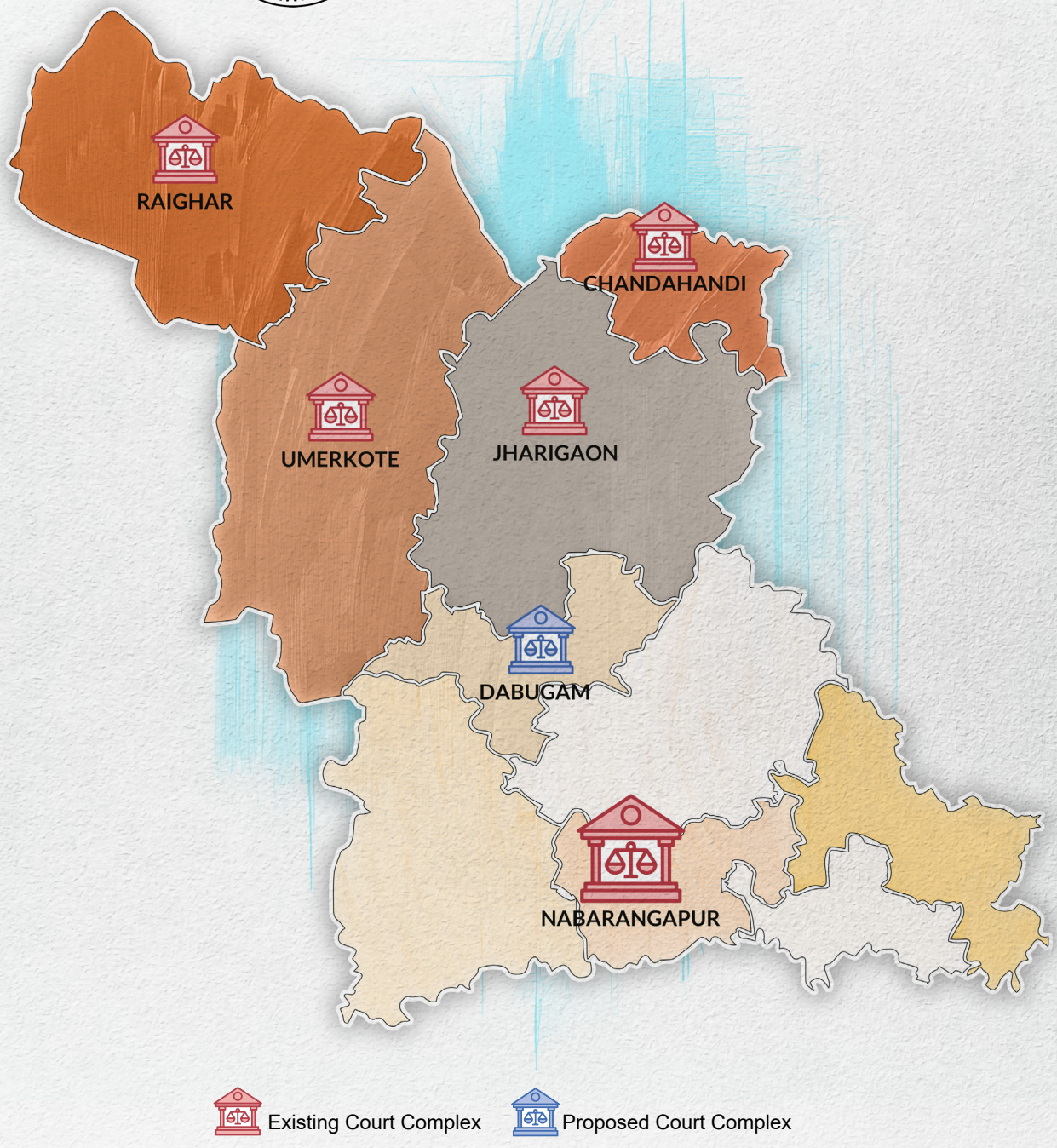


Case Statistics

Year	Opening Balance as on 1st January			Institution during the year			Disposal during the year			Pending Cases at the end of 31st December		
	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total
2023	12,490	55,284	67,774	3,662	16,793	20,455	3,650	11,681	15,331	12,502	60,396	72,898
2024	12,502	60,396	72,898	3,337	15,533	18,870	4,132	15,050	19,182	11,728	61,835	73,563

District Judiciary Map

Nabarangpur



The Court of District & Sessions Judge, Nabarangpur, started functioning with effect from 22nd October 2011 after being separated from its parent Judgeship of Koraput.

The building has 11 courtrooms, including Children's Court, Judges' library, Bar hall, VC cabin, and lift. It also has modern amenities like kiosks to ascertain the case status and display boards. 19 different Courts are functioning in the Judgeship with outlying stations at Umerkote, Raighar, Chandahandi, and Jharigaon.

In 2024, 37 cases were taken up by the Office of the Legal Aid Defence Counsel System out of which 16 were disposed of.

District Judges during the year 2024



Shri Sanjib Dubey
till 06.07.2024



Shri Subrat Mohanty
from 11.07.2024 till end of the year

New court / new court building

Office of Legal Aid Defence Counsel System at Nabarangapur on 22.02.2024

Digitization

Paperless Courts in 2024	5

Digitization of records at DCDH, Koraput















Top Row (left to right): Observation of International Yoga Day, Inauguration of paperless court of District Judge at Nabarangpur

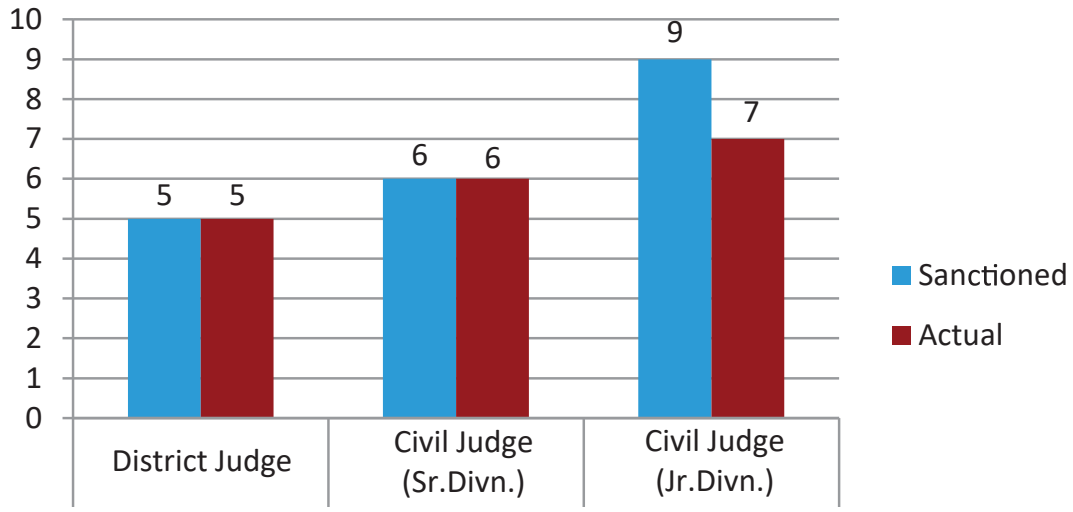
Middle Row (left to right): Cleanliness Programme on "Swachhata Hi Seva", Plantation drive on World Environment Day

Bottom Row (left to right): Legal awareness camp on "Human Rights Day", Stall by DLSA at Nabarangpur local cultural festival "MONDEI"

Apart from the District and Sessions Judge, the judgeship consists of the following courts:

Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Judge, Family Court	1
Addl.District & Sessions Judge	2
Special Court under POCSO Act	1
Chief Judicial Magistrate	1
A.S.J.-cum-Registrar,Civil Courts	1
Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)	3 [includes 1 Court of Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)-cum-A.S.J. (Women's Court)]
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	1
Civil Judge (Jr.Divn.)-cum-J.M.F.C.	2
JMFC	4 [includes 1 Court of JMFC (LR & LTV)]
Special Judicial Magistrate	1
Gram Nyayalaya	1

Number of judges in each court

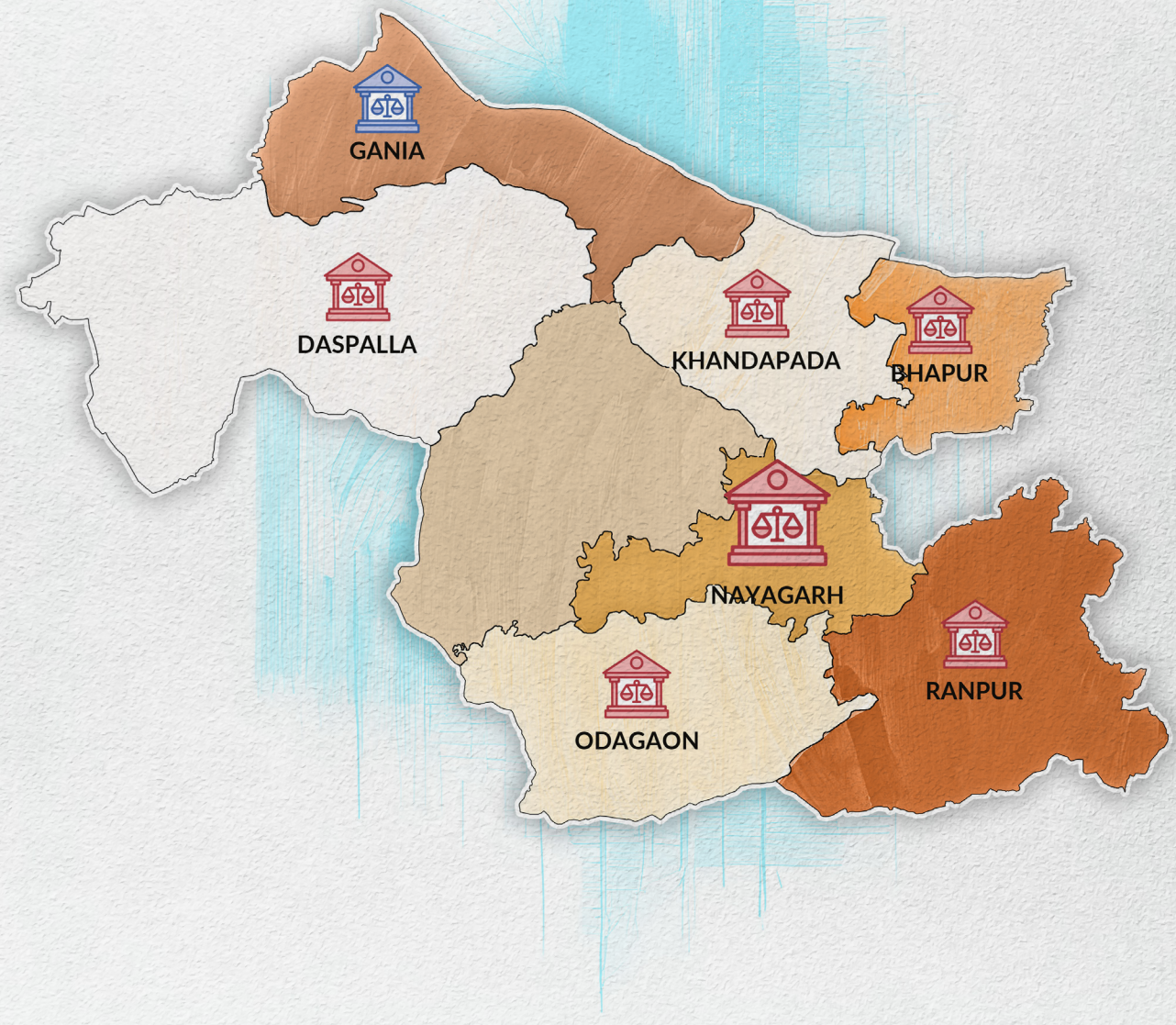


Case Statistics

Year	Opening Balance as on 1st January			Institution during the year			Disposal during the year			Pending Cases at the end of 31st December		
	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total
2023	1,090	24,847	25,937	422	4,904	5,326	517	4,262	4,779	995	25,489	26,484
2024	995	25,489	26,484	425	4,978	5,403	602	7,004	7,606	818	23,463	24,281

District Judiciary Map

Nayagarh



On 8th July 2011, the Judgeship of Nayagarh was carved out from Puri Judgeship as an independent Judgeship. The District Court started functioning in the new building from 22nd April 2018. 24 different Courts are functioning in the Judgeship with outlying stations at Daspalla, Khandapada, Ranpur, Odagaon, and Bhapur.

In the Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre, 52 witnesses were examined in 2024.

District Judges during the year 2024



Shri Anand Narayan Maharana
for the entire year

Digitization

Paperless Courts estd. in 2024	**4**
Digitization of records at DCDH, Nayagarh	
Digitised Records of District Record Room	**96,627**
Pages	**76,62,547**





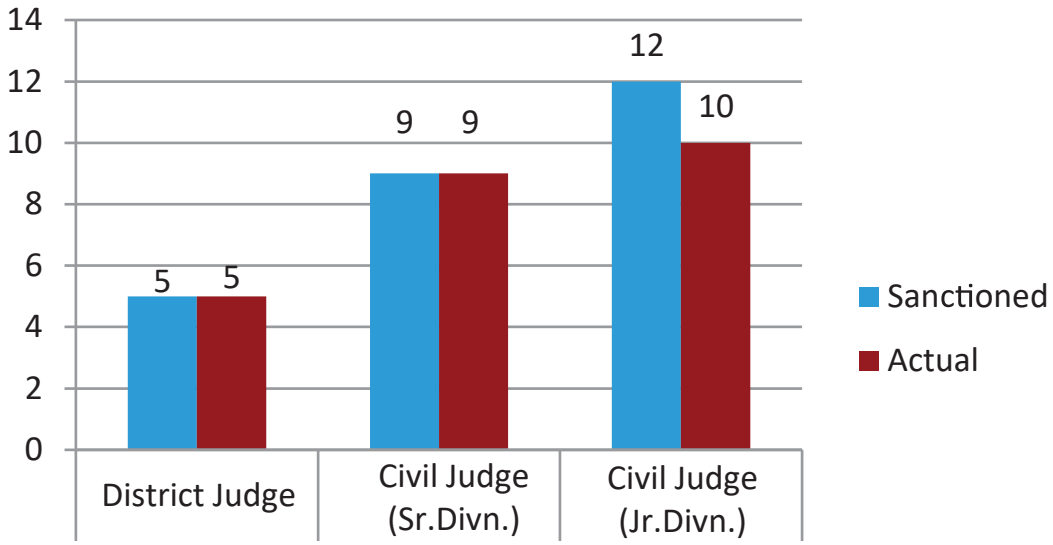


(Top to bottom): Inauguration of paperless court of District & Sessions Judge at Nayagarh, Inauguration of paperless court of Judge, Family Court at Nayagarh

Apart from the District and Sessions Judge, the judgeship consists of the following courts:

Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Judge, Family Court	1
Addl. District & Sessions Judge	2
Special Court under POCSO Act	1
Chief Judicial Magistrate	1
A.S.J.-cum-Registrar, Civil Courts	1
Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)	6 [includes 1 Court of Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)-cum-A.S.J. (Women's Court) and 1 Court of Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)(LR & LTV)]
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	1
Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)-cum-J.M.F.C.	4
JMFC	5 [includes 1 Court of JMFC (LR & LTV)]
Gram Nyayalaya	1

Number of judges in each court

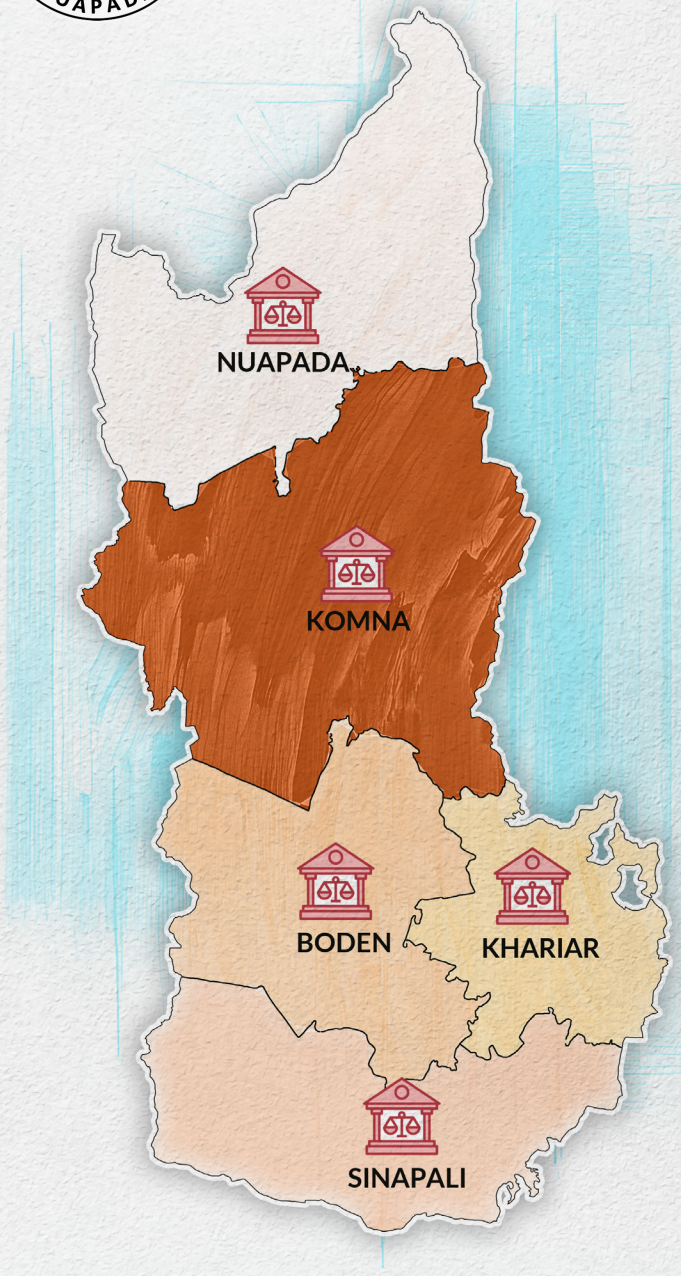


Case Statistics

Year	Opening Balance as on 1st January			Institution during the year			Disposal during the year			Pending Cases at the end of 31st December		
	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total
2023	4,694	24,685	29,379	2,356	6,768	9,124	2,280	5,789	8,069	4,770	25,664	30,434
2024	4770	25,664	30,434	2,373	9,028	11,401	2,361	7,208	9,569	4,797	27,791	32,588

District Judiciary Map

Nuapada



Existing Court Complex Proposed Court Complex

The Nuapada Judgeship was inaugurated on 7th July 2012 after being bifurcated from the Kalahandi Judgeship. The combined Judgeship of Kalahandi-Nuapada-Bolangir started functioning with effect from 17th June 1948 with its headquarters at Balangir. The Judgeship of Kalahandi-Nuapada was separated with effect from 28th February 1982 from the Balangir Judgeship.

After the creation of Nuapada as a separate district, the Kalahandi-Nuapada Judgeship continued until 6th July 2012, when the Judgeship of Nuapada was separated on 7th July 2012 from the Kalahandi-Nuapada Judgeship. Presently, the Judgeship is functioning with 14 different Courts with outlying stations at Khariar, Sinapali, Boden, and Komna.

"Swachata Hi Seva" – fortnight campaign was organized from 17.09.2024 to 02.10.2024 with the participation of Judicial Officers and court staff. Legal awareness camps were also organized on different topics in 2024.

District Judges during the year 2024



Shri Niranjan Panda
for the entire year

Digitization

Paperless Courts estd. in 2024 | **1**

Digitization of records at DCDH, Kalahandi

Work in Progress

Extension of floors of the District Court Building















Top Row (Left to Right): Inauguration of paperless court of SDJM at Nuapada, Training Programme for Legal Aid Defense Counsels

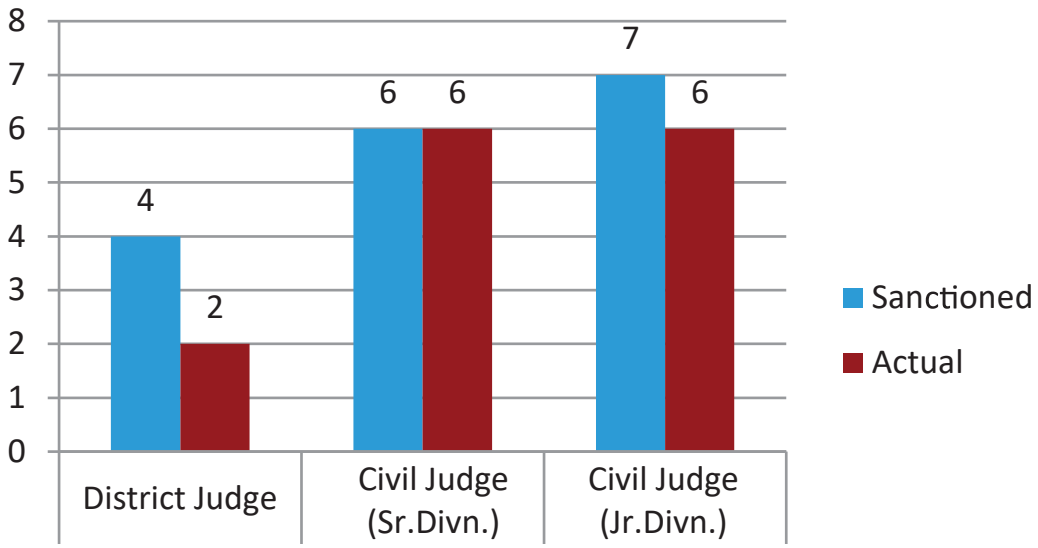
Middle Row (Left to Right): Observance of International Yoga Day, Legal Awareness camp on SC & ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act

Bottom Row (Left to Right): Training Programme on para-legal volunteers, Plantation Drive on occasion of observance of "Van Mahotsav"

Apart from the District and Sessions Judge, the judgeship consists of the following courts:

Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Addl. District & Sessions Judge	1
Chief Judicial Magistrate	1
A.S.J.-cum-Registrar, Civil Courts	1
Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)	3 [includes 1 Court of Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)-cum-A.S.J. (Women's Court)]
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	1
Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)-cum-J.M.F.C.	2
Addl. Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)-cum-J.M.F.C.	1
JMFC	2 [includes one JMFC (LR & LTV)]
Gram Nyayalaya	1

Number of judges in each court

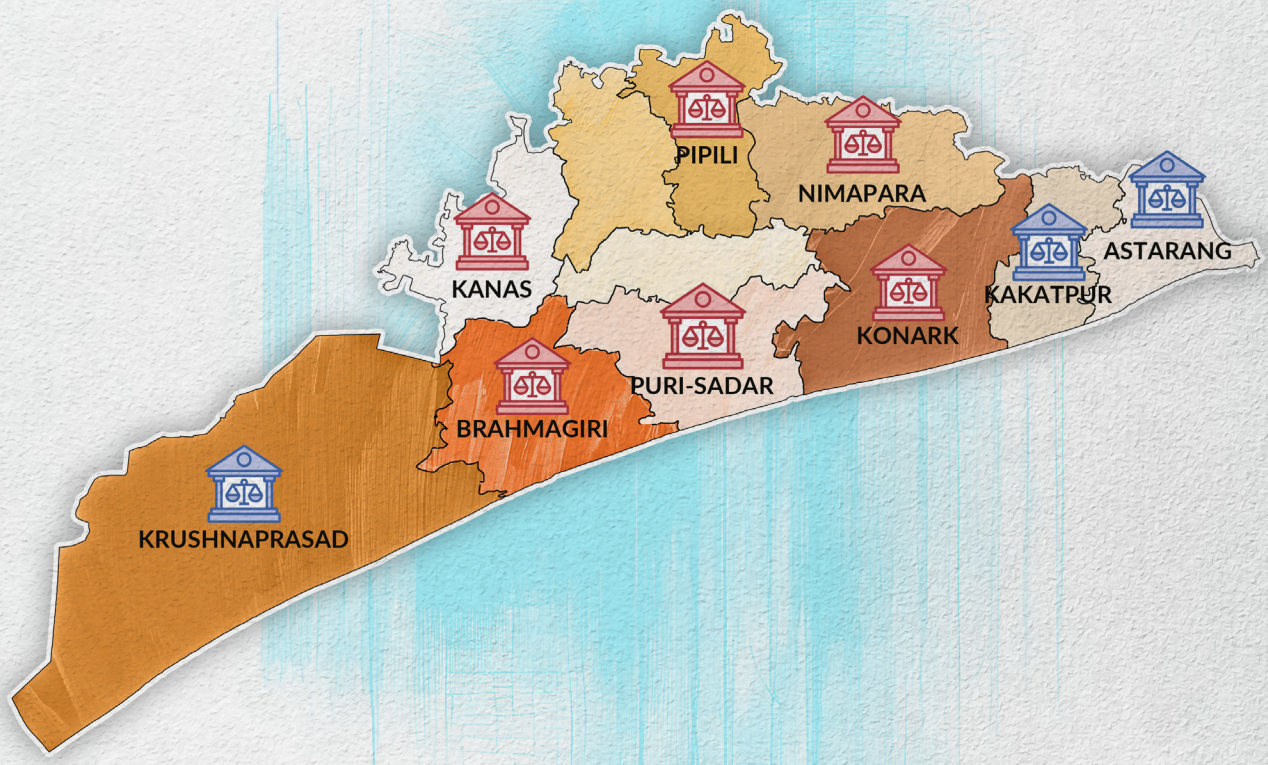


Case Statistics

Year	Opening Balance as on 1st January			Institution during the year			Disposal during the year			Pending Cases at the end of 31st December		
	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total
2023	2,762	16,926	19,688	715	4,784	5,499	977	4,438	5,415	2,500	17,272	19,772
2024	2,500	17,272	19,772	710	4,465	5,175	1,075	4,225	5,300	2,135	17,512	19,647

District Judiciary Map

Puri



Existing Court Complex Proposed Court Complex

The Judgeship of Puri started functioning from 15th July 1957 with its headquarters at Puri. The District Court building was established on 25th April 1971. 35 different courts are functioning in the Judgeship with outlying stations at Nimapara, Pipili, Brahmagiri, Kanas, and Konark.

The Court and Office of the District and Sessions Judge was inspected on 30.11.2024 by Justice K.R. Mohapatra, Administrative Judge of Puri Judgeship.

Training Programmes on Standard Operating Procedure for creating accessible court documents and e-court capacity building were organised in 2024 to train and sensitise the court staff with evolving changes.

A legal awareness stall was set up during the Rath Yatra Festival in Puri to gain wider outreach and sensitise more people regarding various legal schemes and services.

District Judges during the year 2024



Smt. Ajanta Sarangi
for the entire year

Digitization

Paperless Courts estd. in 2024	**6**
Digitization of records at DCDH, Cuttack	
Digitised Records of District Record Room	**52,369**
Pages	**30,86,001**









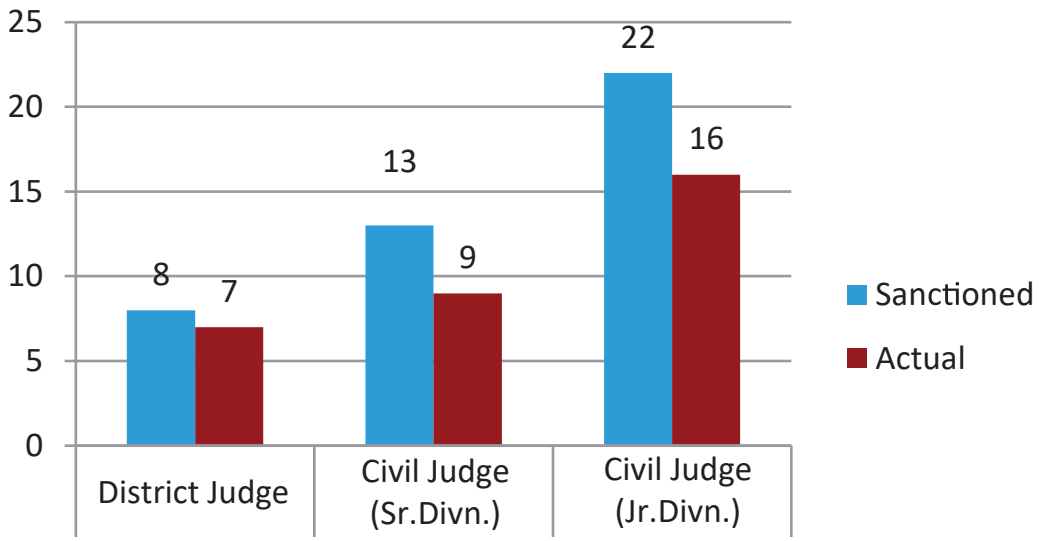


Top Row : Inauguration of new Civil Court Complex at Konark
Middle Row : Inauguration of new Civil Court Complex at Puri
Bottom Row (Left to Right): Awareness programme organized by DLSA, Puri at Satyabadi Block, Legal Aid Stall at Rath Yatra Festival, 2024

Apart from the District and Sessions Judge, the judgeship consists of the following courts:

Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Judge, Family Court	1
Addl. District & Sessions Judge	4
Ad-hoc ADJ (FTSC)	1
Special Court under POCSO Act	1
Chief Judicial Magistrate	1
A.S.J.-cum-Registrar, Civil Courts	1
Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)	3
Addl. Civil Judge (Sr.Divn.)	2
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	1
Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)	2
Civil Judge (Jr.Divn.)-cum-J.M.F.C.	4
JMFC	10 [Includes 2 Cognizance taking Courts & 2 Courts of (LR & LTV)]
Special Judicial Magistrate	1
Gram Nyayalaya	2

Number of judges in each court

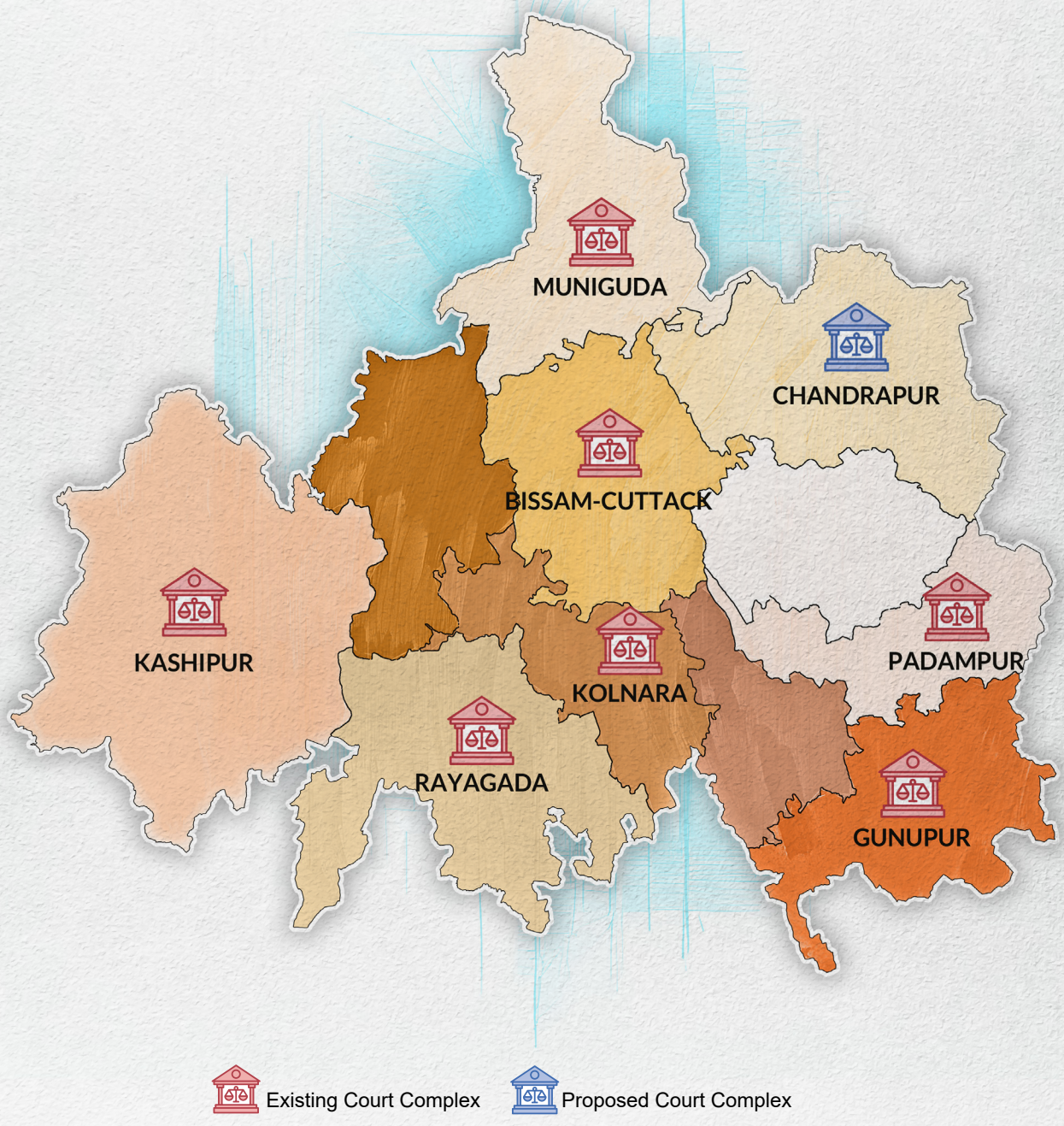


Case Statistics

Year	Opening Balance as on 1st January			Institution during the year			Disposal during the year			Pending Cases at the end of 31st December		
	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total
2023	24,109	62,152	86,261	4,550	11,341	15,891	6,804	11,582	18,386	21,855	61,911	83,766
2024	21,855	61,911	83,766	4,756	12,404	17,160	6,504	13,391	19,895	19,956	61,658	81,614

District Judiciary Map

Rayagada



The Rayagada Judgeship was carved out from the Judgeship of Koraput and started functioning from 7th July 2012. 22 different courts are functioning in the Judgeship with outlying stations at Kashipur, Bissam Cuttack, Gunupur, Muniguda, Kolnara, and Padampur. The District Court is functioning in the existing Civil Courts premises at Rayagada.

District Judges during the year 2024



Shri Satya Narayan Sarangi
for the entire year

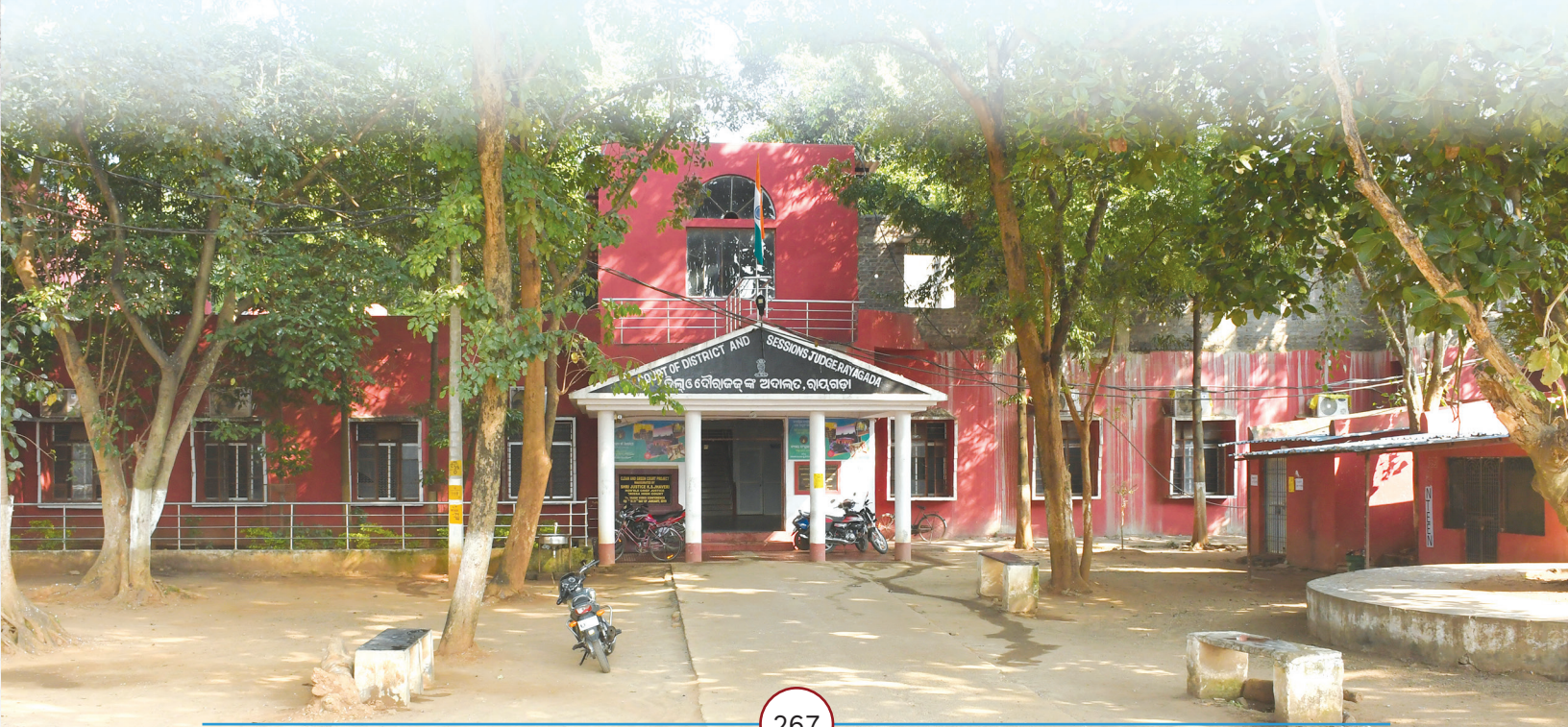
Digitization

Paperless Courts estd. in 2024 | **2**

Digitization of records at DCDH, Koraput

Work in Progress

Costruction of new District Court Building





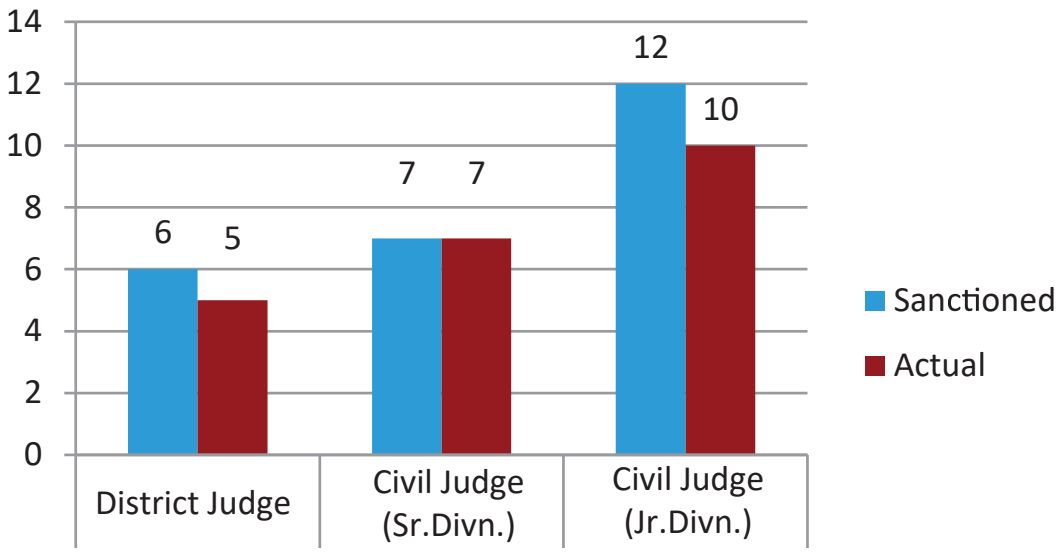


Top: Inauguration of paperless court of Addl. District Judge at Rayagada.
Bottom: Inauguration of Paperless Court of the A.D.J.-cum-Spl .Court Under POCSO Act at Rayagada

Apart from the District and Sessions Judge, the judgeship consists of the following courts:

Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Judge, Family Court	1
Addl. District & Sessions Judge	2
Special Court under POCSO Act	1
Chief Judicial Magistrate	1
A.S.J.-cum-Registrar, Civil Courts	1
Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)	4 [includes 1 Court of Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)-cum-A.S.J. (Women's Court)]
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	2
Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)-cum-J.M.F.C.	3
JMFC	5 [includes 1 Court of JMFC (LR & LTV)]
Gram Nyayalaya	1

Number of judges in each court

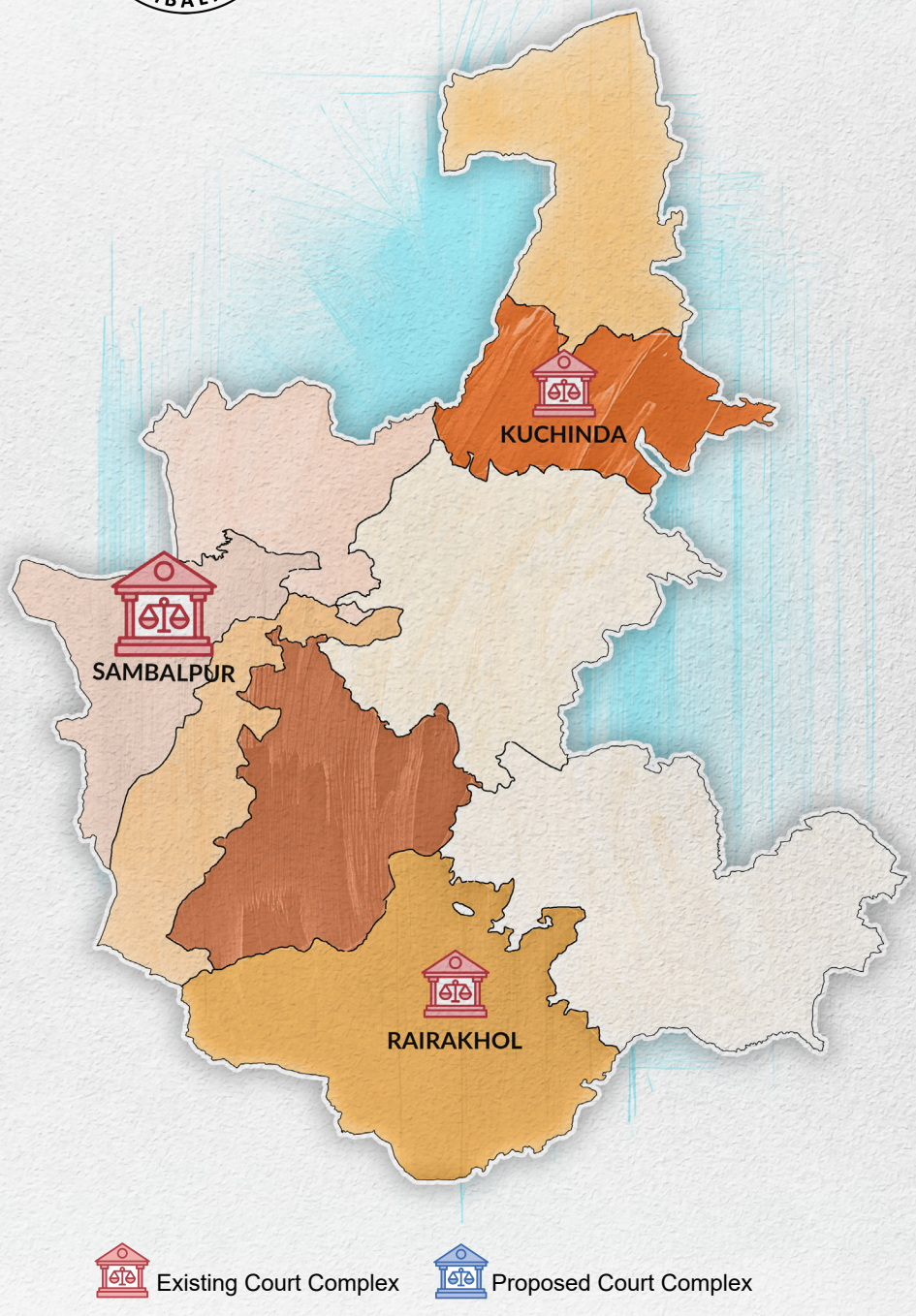


Case Statistics

Year	Opening Balance as on 1st January			Institution during the year			Disposal during the year			Pending Cases at the end of 31st December		
	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total
2023	1,738	19,012	20,750	855	5,478	6,333	821	7,421	8,242	1,772	17,069	18,841
2024	1,772	17,069	18,841	617	6,732	7,349	709	6,287	6,996	1,680	17,514	19,194

District Judiciary Map

Sambalpur



After creation of the separate State of Odisha in 1936, a new Judgeship named Cuttack-Sambalpur came into being with its headquarters at Cuttack under the jurisdiction of the Patna High Court. The Sambalpur District was subsequently divided into four separate Districts. Bargarh District was separated in 1993, and Jharsuguda and Deogarh districts were separated in 1994. Initially, the Courts of Sambalpur were functioning in the old Court building constructed prior to 1947. A new Court building was constructed in 1951, which has two floors and houses 13 Courtrooms. 38 different courts are functioning in the judgeship with outlying stations at Kuchinda and Rairakhol.

The Regional Judicial Academy, Sambalpur imparted regular training to the Judicial Officers and ministerial staff posted in the cluster districts of Sambalpur, Bargarh, Sonepur, Bolangir, Boudh, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh and Nuapada.

In the VWDC in 2024, 199 witnesses were examined in 150 cases.

District Judges during the year 2024



Shri Pradyumna Kumar Nayak
till 01.07.2024



Smt. Pragnya Panigrahi
from 05.07.2024 till the end of the year

Digitization

Paperless Courts estd. in 2024	**2**
Digitization of records at DCDH, Sambalpur	
Digitised Records of District Record Room	**1,21,462**
Pages	**1,41,08,861**











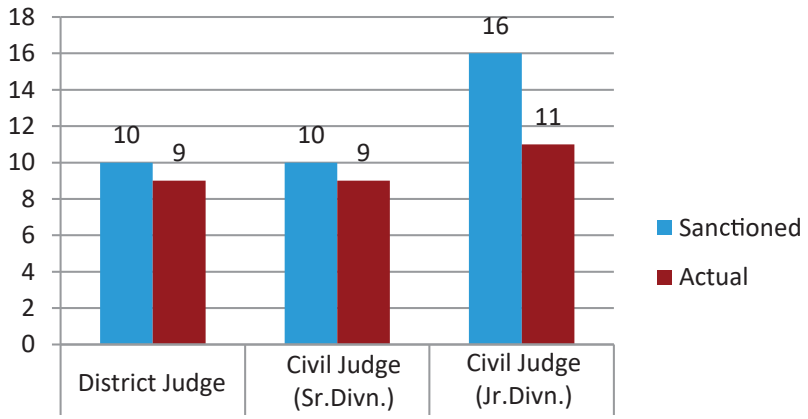


Top Row(Left to Right): Celebration of Van Mahotsav At Sambalpur, Observance of Yoga Day
Middle Row(Left to Right): Drawing competition on Rights of Children with Disabilities, Inauguration of First Aid room
Bottom row : Observance of "Samvidhan Diwas" at District Court at Sambalpur

Apart from the District and Sessions Judge, the judgeship consists of the following courts:

Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Judge, Family Court	1
Addl. District & Sessions Judge	5 [includes 1 Court of ADJ (LR & LTV)]
Special Court under POCSO Act	1
Ad-hoc ADJ (FTSC)	1
Special Judge (Vigilance)	1
Designated Court under the OPID Act	1
2nd MACT (N.D.)	1
LAR & R Authority	1
P.O., Labour Court	1
Chief Judicial Magistrate	1
A.S.J.-cum-Registrar, Civil Courts	1
Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)	5 [includes 1 Commercial Court & 1 Court of Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.) (LR & LTV)]
Addl.Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)	1
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	3
Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)	1
JMFC	12 (includes 1 Court of JMFC (LR & LTV), 1 JMFC (T) and 2 Cognizance Taking Courts)

Number of judges in each court

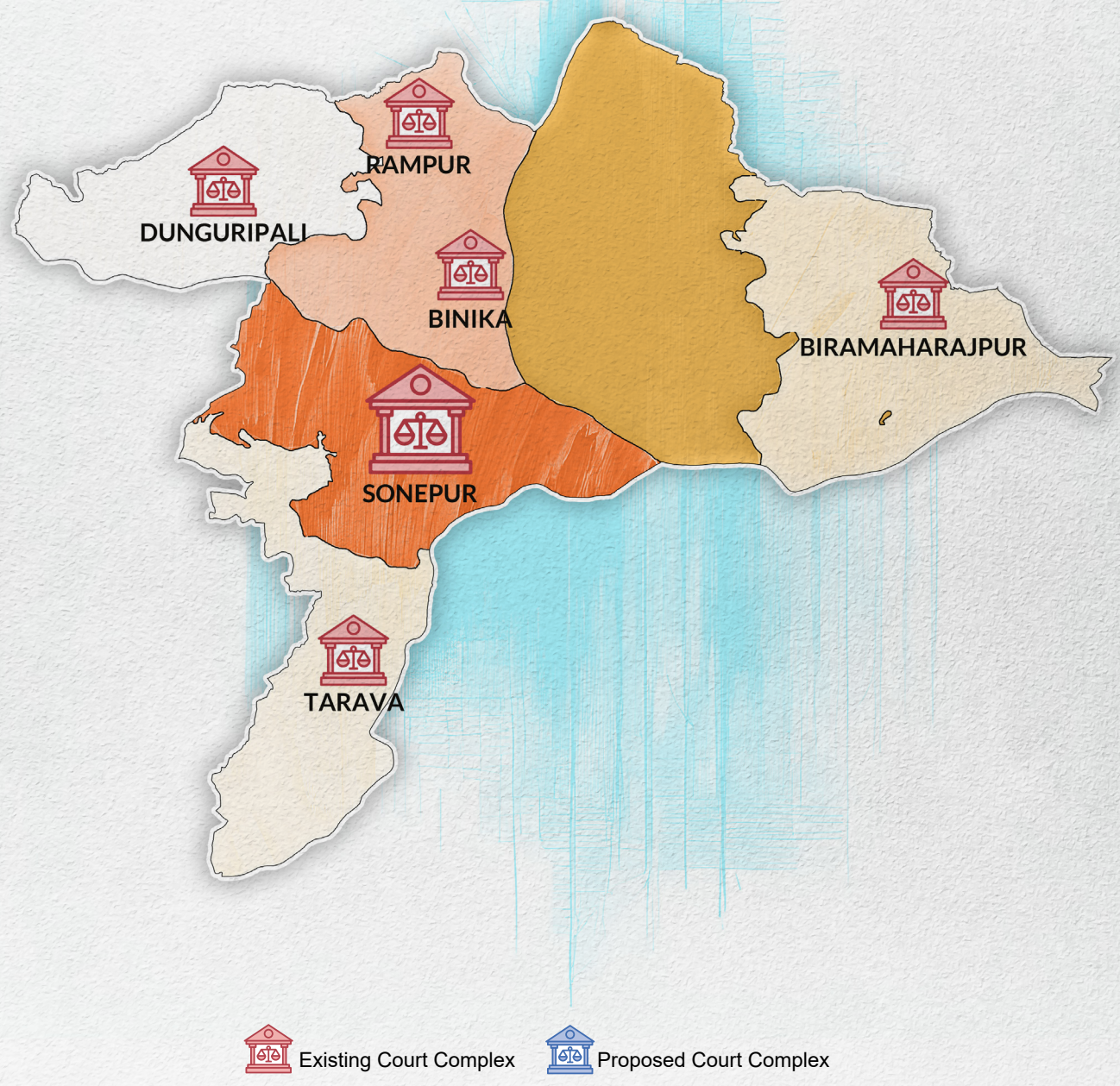


Case Statistics

Year	Opening Balance as on 1st January			Institution during the year			Disposal during the year			Pending Cases at the end of 31st December		
	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total
2023	7,233	71,981	79,214	1,828	26,768	28,596	2,837	19,722	22,559	6,224	79,027	85,251
2024	6,224	79,027	85,251	1,941	17,868	19,809	2,726	18,091	20,817	5,450	79,517	84,967

District Judiciary Map

Sonepur



The Sonepur Judgeship was established being separated from the Balangir-Sonepur Judgeship on 23rd June 2012. The new District Court building was inaugurated on 9th October 2021. The building has 15 Courtrooms including a Children's Court complex and a vulnerable Courtroom. It is also having e-filing counter, e-Sewa Kendra and Help Desk, conference room, V.C. cabin for advocates, remote V.C. point, crèche, lactation room, and a Bar hall. Additionally, facilities of canteen, post office, ATM counter, and separate C.S.I. office are available. 17 different courts are functioning in the Judgeship with outlying stations at Biramaharajpur, Rampur, Binika, Tarava, and Dunguripali.

The Court and Office of the District and Sessions Judge was inspected on 02.03.2024 and 16.11.2024 by Justice Anand Chandra Behera, Administrative Judge, Sonepur Judgeship.

District Judges during the year 2024



Shri Rasmi Mohan Acharya
for the entire year

New court / new court building

Civil Judge (Sr. Dvn.) (Women's Court) at Sonepur on 05.07.2024

Digitization

Paperless Courts estd. in 2024	**3**
Digitization of records at DCDH, Sonepur	
Digitised Records of District Record Room	**63,612**
Pages	**75,52,403**











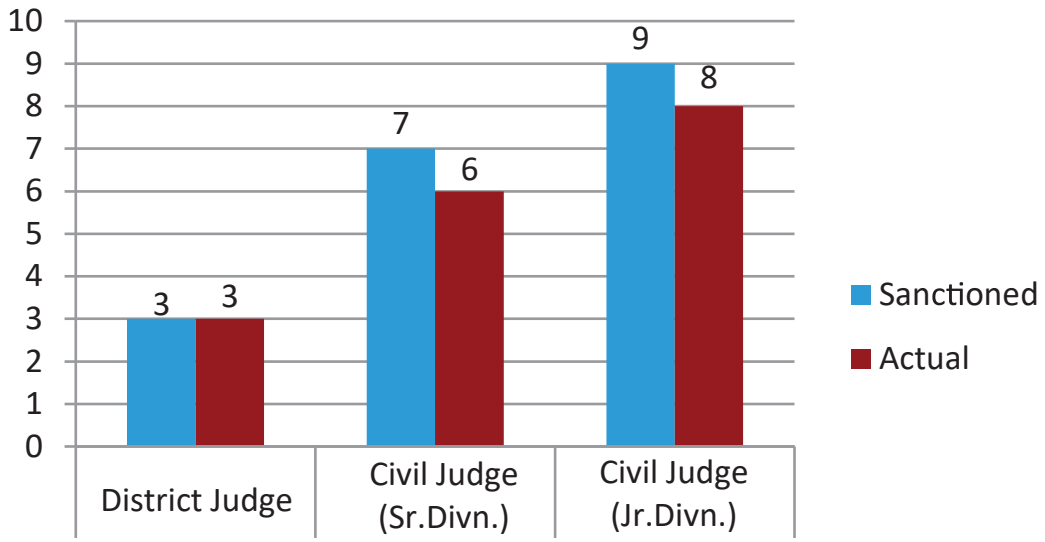
Top row (left to right): Observance of International Yoga Day, Drawing Competition on "Children's Day" organized for school students

Bottom row (left to right): Prize distribution of drawing competition, Observance of "Constitution Day"

Apart from the District and Sessions Judge, the judgeship consists of the following courts:

Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Judge, Family Court	1
Addl. District & Sessions Judge	1
Chief Judicial Magistrate	1
A.S.J.-cum-Registrar, Civil Courts	1
Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)	3 [includes 1 court of Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.) (Women's Court)]
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	2
Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)-cum-J.M.F.C.	3
JMFC	3 [includes 1 Court of JMFC (LR & LTV)]
Gram Nyayalaya	1

Number of judges in each court

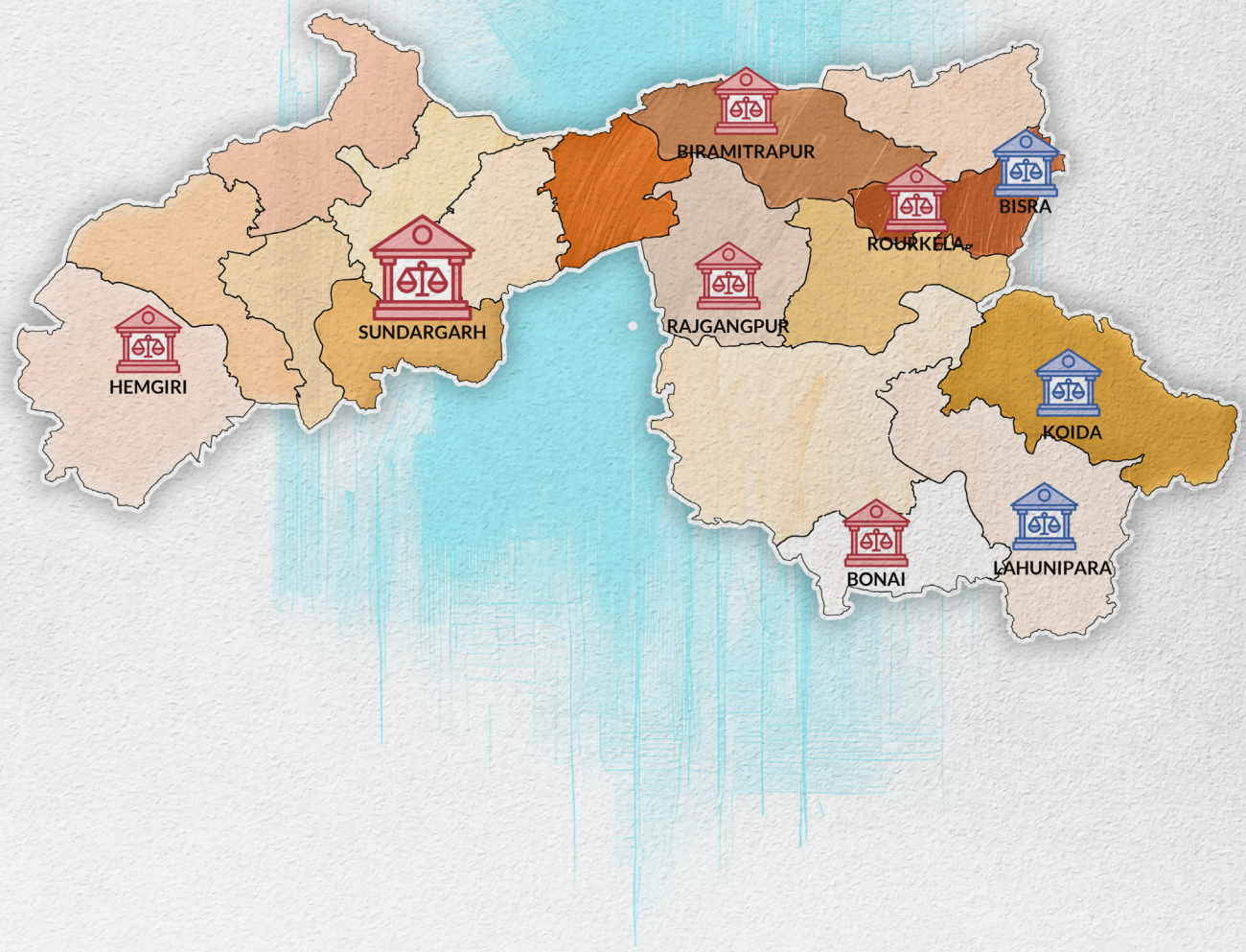


Case Statistics

Year	Opening Balance as on 1st January			Institution during the year			Disposal during the year			Pending Cases at the end of 31st December		
	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total
2023	3,023	22,185	25,208	555	8,502	9,057	810	5,966	6,776	2,768	24,721	27,489
2024	2,768	24,721	27,489	543	4,637	5,180	795	7,965	8,760	2,529	21,489	24,018

District Judiciary Map

Sundargarh



Existing Court Complex Proposed Court Complex

Sundargarh District was carved out from two former Princely states namely Gangpur and Bonai, which integrated with Odisha on 1st January 1948. After 1st April 1978, Sundargarh Judgeship was separated from Sambalpur Judgeship. 38 different courts are functioning in the judgeship with outlying stations at Bonai, Rajgangpur, Hemgiri, Biramitrapur, and Rourkela. The District Court is functioning in its old building from 1st April 1985. It has 9 Courtrooms, offices of different Courts, a Video Conferencing Room, e-Sewa Kendra, and V.C. cabin.

The Court and Office of the District and Sessions Judge was inspected on 07.12.2024 by Dr. Justice S.K. Panigrahi, Administrative Judge of Sundargarh Judgeship.

District Judges during the year 2024



Shri Subhadarshi Pattnaik
till 30.06.2024



Smt. Shikha Rani Rath
From 05.07.2024 till end of the year

Digitization

Paperless Courts estd. in 2024	**6**

Digitization of records at DCDH, Jharsuguda

Digitised Records of District Record Room	**19,331**
Pages	**34,68,398**

Work in Progress

Construction of New Court Building, Biramitrapur





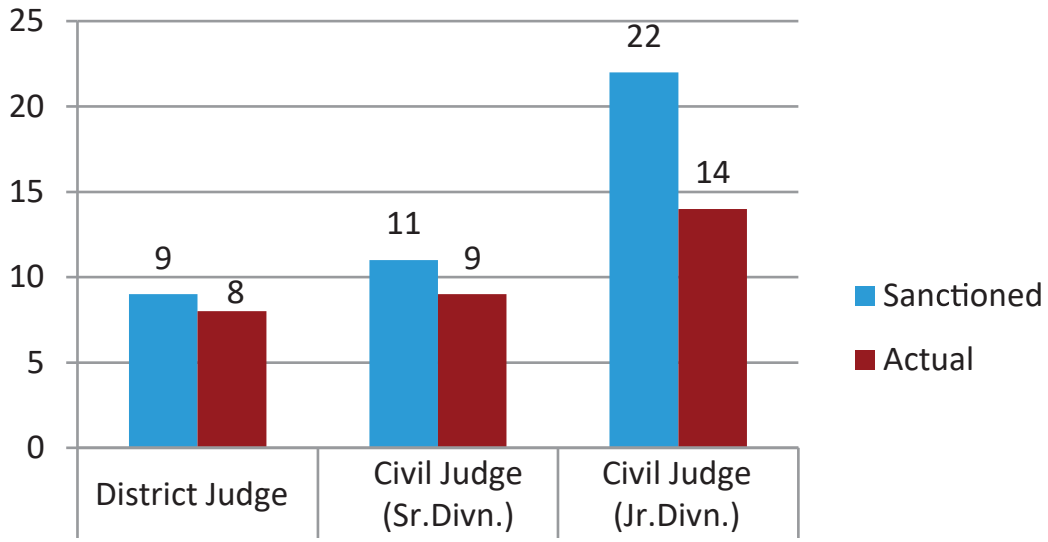


Top : Celebration of "Van Mahotsav", 2024
Bottom : Drama under "Swachhata Hi Seva 2024" campaign organized by District Court, Sundargarh

Apart from the District and Sessions Judge, the judgeship consists of the following courts:

Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Judge, Family Court	1
Addl. District & Sessions Judge	4
ADJ-cum-Special Judge (Vigilance)	1
Ad-hoc Addl. District & Sessions Judge (FTSC)	1
Special Court under POCSO Act	1
P.O. Industrial Tribunal	1
Chief Judicial Magistrate	1
Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate	1
A.S.J.-cum-Registrar, Civil Courts	1
Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)	5 [includes 1 Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)-cum-A.S.J. (Women's Court)]
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	3
Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)	1
Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.)-cum-J.M.F.C.	2
JMFC	13 [includes 2 Courts of JMFC (LR & LTV) and 2 Courts of JMFC (R)]
Special Judicial Magistrate	1

Number of judges in each court



Case Statistics

Year	Opening Balance as on 1st January			Institution during the year			Disposal during the year			Pending Cases at the end of 31st December		
	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total	Civil	Crl	Total
2023	11,679	81,287	92,966	2,685	17,852	20,537	3,301	13,100	16,401	11,063	86,039	97,102
2024	11,063	86,039	97,102	2,275	18,298	20,573	2,893	16,530	19,423	10,188	87,488	97,676


nents (1900-1950)
1920-1930
1930-1940
1940-1950
STATISTICS OF CRIME
TRANSFER OF MAGISTERIAL POWERS TO COLLECTOR
Judgments (1800-1900)
1800-1810
1810-1820
1820-1830
1830-1840
1840-1850
1850-1860
186











CHAPTER V

SIGNIFICANT JUDGMENTS



The National Emblem at entrance of Judges' Library



Justice
Chakradhari Sharan Singh
The Chief Justice

CASE TITLE : **M/S. ROSMERTA TECHNOLOGIES LTD. V. STATE OF ODISHA & ORS.**
CASE NO : **W.P. (C) NO. 7776 of 2024**
DATE OF JUDGMENT : **June 18, 2024**
CORAM : **The Chief Justice, Justice Murahari Sri Raman**

Disqualifying a legal person/bidder from participating in a tender process on the basis of litigation/arbitration history with the Government is arbitrary and violative of Article 14 of the Constitution.

The Commissioner of Transport had floated a tender in the form of 'Request For Bid' (RFB) for selection of successful bidder for *'Design, Construction of Automated Testing Stations, Procurement, Supply, Installation of vehicle testing equipment and Operation and Maintenance at 21 locations in Odisha State'.*

It provided certain pre-qualification conditions which were required to be fulfilled by the prospective bidders. One of such conditions was that to qualify for the bidding process the bidder had to compulsorily give an undertaking to the effect that it did not have any litigation, or arbitration history with any Government/Public Sector Undertaking/ or any other agency during the last ten years.

Therefore, the said provision excluded such companies from participating in the bidding process that have any litigations/arbitration history with any Government Department/Public Sector Undertaking/ private sector or any other agency during the last ten years.

The prime legal questions which cropped up for consideration were as to whether the pre-qualification condition which restricts the competition to such parties only which do not have any litigation/arbitration history with the Government during the last ten years, is violative of Article 14 of the Constitution of India and whether pendency of a litigation or arbitration at the instance of or against a legal person can itself be a ground for disqualification in the matter of award of a

Government contract in favour of such person.

While answering the aforesaid questions, the Court deemed it pertinent to rely upon the observations made by the Hon'ble Apex Court in the cases of ***Ramana Dayaram Shetty v. International Airport Authority of India***, reported in ***(1979) 3 SCC 489*** and ***Tata Cellular v. Union of India***, reported in ***(1994) 6 SCC 651*** wherein it was held that the State cannot act arbitrarily in entering into relationship, contractual or otherwise with a third party and its action must conform to some standard or norm which is rational and non-discriminatory.

Against the aforesaid legal backdrop, the Court held that the impugned pre-qualification condition essentially introduces an arbitrary classification between such companies, who have litigation history and those who do not have. Thus, the Bench observed as follows:

"Litigation history itself initiated by or against a legal person cannot incur a disqualification from participating in a tender process. Such classification, thus, does not have any intelligible differentia and nexus with the object to be achieved. Apparently, the purpose of issuance of public notice inviting tender is to select the best from the market. In the present case, by introduction of such clause, the very purpose of fair competition stands defeated."

As a corollary, the Court declared the pre-qualification condition as unconstitutional being violative of Article 14 of the Constitution of India.

CASE TITLE : **DR. PANKAJ KUMAR PARHI V. NIVA NAYAK & ORS.**
CASE NO : **W.A. NO. 3103 of 2023**
DATE OF JUDGMENT : **July 31, 2024**
CORAM : **The Chief Justice, Justice S.S. Mishra**

Court cannot sit as an Appellate Authority over Selection Committee to adjudge merit and suitability of candidates for appointment to a certain post.

The Fakir Mohan University, Balasore had come out with an advertisement inviting applications from the eligible candidates for two posts of Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry. Admittedly, both the posts belonged to Unreserved (UR) category. However, as per Rule 4 of the Orissa Civil Services (Reservation of Vacancies for Women in Public Services) Rules, 1994, one of those two seats was reserved for women candidates.

It was made clear in the said advertisement that in case of non-availability of suitable women candidates, the post shall be filled up by male candidates from the same category. The respondent no.1 had applied for selection to the said post, claiming the female reservation. However, after the interview, the appellant and another male candidate were found eligible by the selection committee for appointment.

The committee also concluded that no female candidate was found suitable for appointment to the advertised post and therefore, two male candidates were given appointment. Being aggrieved by non-selection, the respondent no.1 filed a writ petition challenging the appointments. The said writ petition was disposed of by a Single Judge with an observation that the Court cannot sit as a Super Selection Committee to decide suitability of candidates. Nevertheless, it asked the University to have a relook into the selection process, having regard for the reservation prescribed for women.

As per the above direction, the University re-examined the case of respondent no.1 and communicated to her that there was no irregularity/ indiscretion in the selection process. It was further conveyed that the Selection Committee had decided to have a cut off score of 50% or more in aggregate and since respondent no.1 had not secured 50% of marks, she was not suitable.

Assailing the aforesaid communication, the respondent no.1 filed another writ petition whereby the Single Judge quashed the impugned communication and held respondent no.1 to be suitable for appointment against the vacancy meant for UR-W category and accordingly, directed the University to appoint her in place of the appellant. The appellant challenged the order of the Single Judge in this writ appeal.

After hearing the submissions of the respective parties, the Court framed three questions to be answered in this appeal. The core moot question which arose for consideration was whether the Court while exercising the power of judicial review can sit as an appellate authority over the decision of a duly constituted Selection Committee.

To answer this question of law, the Court examined the precedents set by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. It went through the observations made by the top Court in the cases of ***Dalpat Abasaheb Solunke and others v. Dr B.S. Mahajan & Ors.***, reported in ***(1990) 1 SCC 305*** and ***Tajvir Singh Sodhi v. State of Jammu & Kashmir*** reported in ***2023 SCC Online SC 344***, wherein it was commonly held that it is not within the domain of the Courts, to enter into the merits of a selection process, a task which is the prerogative of and is within the expert domain of a selection committee.

Having considered the aforesaid position of law, the Division Bench set aside the order passed by the Single Judge and observed as follows:

"The selection committee consisting of experts evaluated suitability of the candidates including that of respondent No.1. In the opinion of the selection committee, the respondent no.1 was not found suitable for the post of Associate Professor to teach at the Post-Graduation level. This Court exercising power of judicial review cannot go into the assessment done by the selection committee of experts on the question of suitability of respondent No.1."



Wooden Seal used in Bhadrak Judgeship



Justice
Arindam Sinha

CASE TITLE : **HEMANTA SHARMA & OTHERS V. THE REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES, ORISSA, CUTTACK ET AL**

CASE NUMBER : **COA Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of 2023**

DATE OF JUDGMENT : **January 30, 2024**

CORAM : **Justice Arindam Sinha, Justice M.S. Sahoo**

Corporate Law – Appointment of Woman Directors – Compliance and Vicarious Liability – Appellants, non-executive directors of electricity distribution companies, were prosecuted under Section 172 of the Companies Act, 2013, for failure to appoint woman directors as required by Section 149(1)(b) read with Rule 3(ii) of the Companies (Appointment and Qualification of Directors) Rules, 2014 – High Court held that the companies had been taken over by GRIDCO, a government company, prior to the compliance deadline of 31.03.2015 under an OERC order dated 04.03.2015, and further protected by a government notification dated 05.06.2015 exempting government companies from certain provisions of the Act – The court found no specific acts of omission attributable to the appellants as non-executive directors, negating vicarious liability – Convictions and penalties were quashed, and the appeals allowed – Companies Act, 2013, Sections 149(1)(b), 149(2), 172, 437; Government Notification dated 5-6-2015; OERC Order dated 4-3-2015.

The appeals arose from judgments passed by the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate (Special Court)-cum-Assistant Sessions Judge, convicting the appellants under Section 172 of the Companies Act, 2013, for non-compliance with Section 149(1)(b) and Rule 3(ii) of the Companies (Appointment and Qualifications of Directors) Rules, 2014. The appellants, who were non-executive directors of three electricity distribution companies (NESCO, WESCO, and SOUTHCO), were prosecuted for failing to appoint at least one woman director by the prescribed deadline of 31st March 2015. The prosecution was initiated by the Registrar of Companies (RoC) following show-cause notices issued in June 2015. The appellants contended that the companies were government-controlled by GRIDCO, a government company, as of 04.03.2015, based on an order by the Odisha Electricity Regulatory Commission (OERC). They argued that the prosecution lacked legal foundation due to the companies' transition into government entities and the lack of specific acts of liability attributed to them.

The appellants argued that the companies had been placed under GRIDCO's management as per the OERC order dated 04.03.2015. They emphasized that this order, coupled with a notification dated 05.06.2015, excluded the applicability of certain provisions of the Companies Act to government companies. Citing *Sunil Bharti Mittal v. CBI* **(2015),** they stressed that there must be a specific act attributed to directors to impose criminal liability, which was absent in their case. They further submitted that the compliance period under Section 149(2) allowed until 31.03.2015 had not expired when the companies transitioned to GRIDCO's control.

The RoC, through government counsel, countered that the companies retained private ownership and failed to demonstrate timely compliance with the statutory provisions. They argued that the management's composition remained unchanged until the compliance deadline, thus rendering the non-compliance prosecutable. They also claimed that the prosecution and penalties were justified as per the Companies Act, 2013.

The High Court analyzed the Companies Act, 2013, and the interplay with the OERC order and subsequent notification exempting government companies from certain obligations. The court observed that the companies came under GRIDCO's management and control by 04.03.2015, prior to the compliance deadline of 31.03.2015. The prosecution, based on alleged non-compliance by 31.03.2015, was deemed unfounded since the companies had effectively transitioned into government entities by then, making them subject to different compliance obligations.

The court referred to ***Sunil Bharti Mittal v. CBI,*** emphasizing that criminal liability under corporate law requires specific acts attributable to individual directors. The appellants, as non-executive directors, had no role in the day-to-day management or statutory compliance of the companies. The court also noted the absence of mens rea or evidence of direct involvement in the alleged non-compliance. Given the transition of management to GRIDCO, the companies' actions during the compliance period could not be solely attributed to the appellants. The court further underscored the statutory provision under Section 149(2), granting a one-year period from the effective date of the Companies Act, 2013, to ensure compliance with the rule for appointing a woman director. This deadline aligned with the companies' integration into GRIDCO, absolving the appellants of liability for the alleged infraction.

The High Court held that the prosecution and penalties imposed were legally unsustainable. It found that the prosecution failed to establish specific acts of non-compliance attributable to the appellants, who were non-executive directors with no operational control. The court reversed the convictions, set aside the penalties, and allowed the appeals.

Case Title: **M/s. Orissa Stevedores Ltd. V. Designated Committee, Central GST and Customs, Bhubaneswar and others**

Case No: **W.P.(C) No. 26408 of 2020**

Date of Judgment: **November 11, 2024**

CORAM: **Justice Arindam Sinha, Justice M.S. Sahoo**

Taxation Law – Legacy Dispute Resolution – Input Tax Credit Adjustment – Sabka Vishwas (Legacy Dispute Resolution) Scheme, 2019 – Petitioner sought issuance of discharge certificate (SVLDRS-4) under the scheme for settling disputed demand of ₹5,19,28,080 related to wrongly availed ITC during financial years 2010-11 to 2013-14 – Petitioner claimed adjustment of entire disputed amount through ITC, as permitted under circular dated 27.08.2019 – Revenue denied issuance of discharge certificate, arguing that no deposit was made as required under the scheme – High Court held petitioner eligible for the scheme and confirmed applicability of ITC adjustment for tax disputes under the circular – Revenue circulars held binding, and petitioner's demonstrated ITC adjustment satisfied the scheme's requirements – Directed issuance of SVLDRS-4 within four weeks – Finance (No. 2) Act, 2019, Chapter V, Sections 124(2) and 125(1).

The case involved M/s Orissa Stevedores Ltd., which filed a writ petition seeking a mandamus directing the revenue authorities to issue a discharge certificate (SVLDRS-4) under the Sabka Vishwas (Legacy Dispute Resolution) Scheme, 2019. The dispute originated from a show cause notice dated 15.10.2015, demanding ₹5,19,28,080 as wrongly availed Input Tax Credit ("ITC") during the financial years 2010-11 to 2013-14. Before the adjudication of the notice, the petitioner applied for settlement under the scheme by submitting Form SVLDRS-1. In its application, the petitioner claimed to have paid the entire disputed amount through adjustment of the disputed ITC. However, the revenue authorities contended that no actual deposit was made, and the petitioner did not qualify for a discharge certificate. An adjudication order was subsequently passed, confirming the demand along with interest and penalty.

The petitioner argued that its application under the Sabka Vishwas scheme was valid and complied with the provisions of the Finance Act, 2019. It claimed that the disputed ITC was already paid by adjustment, as permitted under Section 124(2) of the Act and Circular dated 27.08.2019. The petitioner emphasized that the scheme allowed adjustment of ITC towards tax liability in cases of dispute. The petitioner contended that revenue's refusal to acknowledge the ITC adjustment contradicted the scheme's provisions and purpose, which aimed at resolving legacy disputes and providing amnesty.

The revenue authorities submitted that the petitioner wrongly availed ITC and did not deposit any amount under the scheme as required. Revenue pointed out that Forms SVLDRS-2 and SVLDRS-3, issued to the petitioner, clarified the obligation to pay 50% of the disputed tax amount to qualify for relief under the "Litigation" category. Revenue maintained that

the petitioner failed to meet this requirement and was therefore ineligible for a discharge certificate. It argued that the petitioner's reliance on adjustment of ITC was misplaced as the disputed ITC could not be treated as valid payment under the scheme.

The Court analyzed the provisions of the Sabka Vishwas Scheme, 2019, particularly Sections 124 and 125 of the Finance Act, 2019, and the associated circular dated 27.08.2019. The court noted that the scheme was intended to liquidate legacy tax disputes and provided for two components: dispute resolution and amnesty. The petitioner's eligibility to apply under the scheme was not disputed, and the issue hinged on whether the petitioner had fulfilled the payment requirements through adjustment of ITC.

The court emphasized Clause (c) of the revenue's circular, which explicitly stated that tax already paid through input credit in disputed cases must be adjusted by the Designated Committee at the time of determining the final payable amount. The court observed that the petitioner had demonstrated that the exact amount demanded in the notice had been claimed as paid through ITC adjustment. Revenue's argument that no deposit had been made overlooked the scheme's provision allowing ITC adjustment for disputed tax amounts. The court further held that the adjudication order issued after the petitioner's application under the scheme could not nullify its entitlement to settlement benefits.

Relying on *Merino Panel Product Limited*, the court reaffirmed that revenue circulars are binding and must be followed in implementing statutory schemes. The court concluded that the revenue's refusal to adjust the ITC and issue a discharge certificate violated the scheme's provisions and principles of fairness.

This judgment clarifies the scope of ITC adjustment under the scheme and sets a precedent for the interpretation of similar provisions in future cases. The judgment aligns with the broader objective of reducing litigation and facilitating settlement of legacy disputes in the indirect tax regime.



An artist's impression of the justice delivery system during the pre-3rd century BCE displayed at Museum of Justice



Justice
Sangam Kumar Sahoo

CASE TITLE : SRI BANSHIDHAR BAUG V. ORISSA HIGH COURT & ORS.
CASE NO : WP(C) NO. 14219 of 2022
DATE OF JUDGMENT : September 19, 2024

Permanent Committee for designation of Senior Advocates is not empowered to withhold/ defer/reject candidature of certain Advocates by not placing them before the Full Court.

Mr. Banshidhar Baug, an Advocate having standing of about 43 years in the Bar filed this writ petition seeking a direction to the Permanent Committee for Designation of Senior Advocates, constituted under **Rule 3(1)** of the High Court of Orissa (Designation of Senior Advocate) Rules, 2019 [hereinafter 'the 2019 Rules'], to submit his name along with a comprehensive assessment report to the Full Court for consideration of his candidature for designation as a 'Senior Advocate'.

Initially, the petitioner had applied for such designation in the year 2013-14 but his application was deferred and while the matter stood thus, the Hon'ble Supreme Court laid down a set of elaborate guidelines for designation of Senior Advocates in the case of ***Ms. Indira Jaising v. Supreme Court of India through Secretary General & Ors, [2017] 10 SCR 478.***

Pursuant to such guidelines, the 2019 Rules were framed and under such Rules, an advertisement was published by the Court on 22.04.2019 calling application from eligible candidates for designation as Senior Advocates. The petitioner alleged that before compliance of the procedure prescribed under Rule 6(3) of the 2019 Rules, some candidates were designated as Senior Advocates on 19.08.2019.

Being aggrieved by such designation of some candidates, the petitioner had challenged the same by filing a writ petition and the Court therein declared **Rule 6(9)** of the 2019 Rules as ultra vires

but upheld designation of the Advocates, subject to fresh decision by the Full Court taking into account the candidatures of all the applicants.

Pursuant to such order, a notice was issued to the petitioner, along with other candidates, to appear before the Permanent Committee for fresh interaction as per **Rule 6(5)** of the 2019 Rules. The petitioner appeared before the Committee for interaction on 18.10.2019, but strangely his application was deferred on 23.10.2019.

The prime issue which arose for consideration was whether the Permanent Committee has the authority to withhold or defer an Advocate's name from being submitted to the Full Court following the stage of interaction as prescribed by Rule 6(5) of the 2019 Rules and whether the Committee possesses the authority to exclude the names of certain Advocates from consideration based on the points they secured in the overall assessment.

The Court proceeded on to interpret the directive given by the Hon'ble Apex Court in ***Indira Jaising*** *(supra)* which provided that all the names that are listed/cleared by the Permanent Committee will go to the Full Court. Thus, it held that discretion has been conferred upon the High Courts to frame rules and to carve out jurisdiction of Permanent Committees.

Interpreting Rule 6(6) of the 2019 Rules, the Court held that the same does not grant any authority to the Permanent Committee to set a cut-off score nor does it empower the Committee to forward only those names who meet such a cut-off. Therefore, it came to the conclusion that ultimate authority to designate Advocates as Senior Advocates lies with the Full Court and thus, the Permanent Committee cannot withhold/defer/reject names without forwarding the same to the Full Court.

Resultantly, the Court disposed of the writ petition holding that the withholding of candidature of the petitioner by the Committee was illegal and thus, the petitioner was directed to submit a fresh application within two weeks and upon receipt of such application, the Committee was directed to conduct an overall assessment and submit the petitioner's name to the Full Court along with its assessment report.

CASE TITLE : DR. KANISHKA DAS V. UNION OF INDIA & ORS.
CASE NO : WP(C) NO. 14616 of 2021
DATE OF JUDGMENT : October 04, 2024

It is not mandatory to give opportunity of hearing to delinquent employee in a 'Fact Finding Inquiry'.

The petitioner Dr. Kanishka Das was working as the Head of the Department (HOD) in the Department of Pediatric Surgery, AIIMS, Bhubaneswar. While posted as such, some complaints were made against him for which a Fact Finding Committee (FFC) was constituted to ascertain the facts.

The FFC submitted its report and on the basis of such report, a show-cause notice was issued to the petitioner. Being aggrieved by issuance of show-cause notice, he approached the Central Administrative Tribunal impugning both the show-cause notice as well as the FFC report.

However, the Tribunal did not find any fault either with the FFC report or the show-cause notice. Rather, it ordered the respondent authorities to provide relevant documents to the petitioner, if he seeks the same. Impugning such order of the Tribunal, the petitioner filed this writ petition.

The Court held that a person can challenge the show-cause notice in the High Court under Article 226 of the Constitution, if it is ex facie within its jurisdiction. It can be challenged if the issuance of show-cause is per se arbitrary and is of mala fide character.

The moot question which came before the Court for consideration was whether the report of the FFC is in violation of the Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1965 [hereinafter 'the 1965 Rules']. After perusing the 1965 Rules, the Court was of the view that inquiry conducted by the FFC is not an inquiry contemplated under Rule 14 of such Rules.

It further held that the report of the FFC provides a prima facie factual underpinning on the basis of which the disciplinary authority considers either to initiate a further 'disciplinary inquiry' as provided under Rule 14 of the Rules for imposing major penalties or to drop the proceedings all together. Thus, the FFC inquiry at best can be said to be in the nature of a 'preliminary inquiry'.

Referring to numerous decisions of the Supreme Court, the Court observed that it is only at the stage of inquiry under Rule 14 that an opportunity of hearing has to be granted. As the FFC merely produced the facts for consideration before the disciplinary authority, such authority has to take an appropriate call and to grant reasonable opportunity of hearing to the petitioner.

Therefore, it held that there was no violation of the Rules in constituting the FFC for finding out the facts and issue show-cause notice on the basis of its report. Accordingly, the order passed by the Tribunal was upheld and the writ petition was dismissed.



Bust of "Utkal Gaurav" Madhusudan Das at Judges' Library



Justice
Krushna Ram Mohapatra

CASE TITLE : **KAUPIN DHARI MAHIMA SAMAJ AND ORS. VS. SATYA MAHIMA DHARMA DHAM PARICHALANA SAMITI & ORS.**

CASE NO : **CMP NO.1036 of 2022**

DATE OF JUDGMENT : **April 05, 2024**

CIVIL PROCEDURE CODE (5 of 1908), Sec.47 – Article 137 LIMITATION ACT, 1963 – Restoration application was dismissed earlier on ground that the application u/s47 was time barred – When separate suit challenging decree would be barred under limitation, the Petition u/s 47 would certainly not be maintainable – Held, Executing Court was correct in not restoring the time barred application u/s 47 – CMP was dismissed and earlier interim order was vacated.

In the present case, while hearing the Interlocutory Application filed for extension of earlier interim order, the Hon'ble court found merit that the case has to be gone into. Therefore, with the consent of the parties, the present CMP was taken up for final disposal. The background in which the present CMP has been filed is that a TS No.33 of 1988 was filed by Plaintiffs for declaration of joint title and confirmation of possession of the Plaintiffs-Opposite Parties over the suit land in Plot No.1443 and for permanent injunction against the Defendants restraining them from constructing any wall or construction over any part of the said plot and from disturbing the very passage of the Plaintiffs over the said Plot No.1443 under Khata No.13 in village Joranda, Dhenkanal. The said suit was decreed on contest against the defendant vide Judgement dated 31st July, 1990. Thereafter, once the decree was unsuccessfully challenged by the Defendants, the and Plaintiffs filed Execution Case No.3 of 2001 alleging that the Defendants have constructed a wall over Plot No.1443 and obstructed passage of the Plaintiffs/ Opposite Parties. The Defendants/JDrs. appeared and filed an application in CMA No.8 of 2009 under Section 47 CPC, which was dismissed for being not moved. To restore the CMA No.8 of 2009, CMA No.10 of 2022 was filed, which has been dismissed by the Executing Court for being grossly time barred.

At this point, the Petitioners have challenged the rejection of the CMA No.10 of 2022 by the Executing Court by arguing that The scope of Section 47 CPC is very wide and all the issues which could have been raised by filing a separate suit can be raised in a petition under Section 47 CPC. Therefore, learned executing Court should not have rejected the petition casually without delving into the merit of the said petition. The Petitioners have also put forth the argument that Article 137 of the Limitation Act is not applicable to a proceeding under Section 47 CPC and there is no provision either in CPC or in the Limitation Act prescribing time limit for filing of an application under Section 47 CPC. Moreover, the CMA No.8 of 2009 was dismissed for default, which was beyond the control of the Petitioners.

Controverting the arguments advanced by the Petitioners, the Decree Holders/Opposite Parties argued that even though the Limitation Act is applicable to execution proceedings, Section 5 thereof has no application to an execution proceeding. They have also argued that Article 137 of the Limitation Act governs an application under Section 47 CPC which is only three years from the date the right to file such petition accrues, i.e., the date of appearance of the JDrs. Therefore, given the gross delay in the present case, no purpose would be served by restoring the said application, when the said application was itself, time barred. To buttress their arguments, the Opposite parties have relied upon the decision in ***Rasomay Mitra Vs. Smt. Lachmi Todi (AIR 1982 Cal 178).***

The Hon'ble Court, after considering the arguments advanced and case laws cited, has arrived at the conclusion that learned executing Court has rightly held that no purpose will be served by restoring the application under Section 47 CPC (CMA No.8 of 2009), since there has been a delay of more than seven years in filing the petition under section 47 in the present case (as against the permissible time limit of three years, in light of Article 137 of the Limitation Act). Moreover, it has been held that the Petitioners, having stepped into the shoes of the Judgement Debtors, are bound by the decree to be executed as well as the legal action taken by their predecessors. Therefore, no fault can be attributed to the Learned Executing Court in rejecting the CMA No.10 of 2022. As such, the Hon'ble court has dismissed the current CMP on the ground that it lacked merit and vacated the earlier interim order.

CASE TITLE : **RAJASHREE GAJENDRA VS. DISTRICT SUB-REGISTRAR, KHORDHA & ANR.**
CASE NO : **W.P.(C) NO. 32589 of 2023**
DATE OF JUDGMENT : **January 31, 2024**

REGISTRATION ACT, 1908 – Section 17 – Whether Registering Officer can discharge any quasi-judicial function while registering a document? – Held, No. It is a purely administrative job – cannot justify order by setting forth the grounds in the counter – Section 17 r/w Section 22-A(1)(b) of the Odisha Amendment Act – Purposive interpretation supplied – the Section covers any kind of registered deed of conveyance – impugned orders set aside and O.P.No.1 directed to reconsider registration of cancellation deed in light of observations made herein.

The Petitioner has challenged the Endorsement dated 13.04.2023 and the Appellate order dated 11.09.2023, containing the refusal to register the cancellation deed of a registered Joint Venture Agreement dated 11.01.2013 ('JVA') by the District Sub-Registrar, Khordha at Bhubaneswar-Opposite Party No.1 and the confirmation thereof respectively. The issue pertains to JVA executed between the Petitioner and one Unique Mercantile India Pvt. Limited ('UMIL'). The Petitioner presented a deed of cancellation of such JVA which was refused by the District Sub-Registrar on the ground that the cancellation of Agreement Deed cannot be registered in the event of a one-sided cancellation.

It is the Petitioner's case that the JVA was not required to be registered under Section 17 of the Registration Act, 1908 ('the Act'). Ergo, there was no legal impediment for registering the deed of cancellation. Additionally, as per Section 22-A(1)(b) (Odisha Amendment) of the Act and Rule 148 of the Odisha Registration Rules, 1988, there is no restriction for registering deed of cancellation of JVA unilaterally. On the other hand, the District Sub-Registrar has contended that the JVA created interest in the scheduled property in favour of both the parties concerned. Therefore, the Petitioner cannot unilaterally cancel the deed of registration of JVA. The Petitioner has controverted the aforesaid contention on the ground that the Sub-Registrar's order cannot be supplemented by reasons not spelt out in the endorsement, and has relied on ***Popcorn Entertainment and another vrs. City Industrial Development Corporation and another (2007) 9 SCC 593, JVPD Scheme Welfare Trust vrs. Chief Officer Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority and others (2019) 11 SCC 361, and Mohinder Singh Gill and another vrs. Chief Election Commissioner, New Delhi and others (1978) 1 SCC 405.***

The Petitioner has also stated that the Letter No.3700/IGR, dated 23.05.2011, relied upon by the District Sub-Registrar relates to registration of deed of cancellation of a registered sale deed only and the deed in question not being a registered sale deed, is not influenced by the same. On the contrary, the Opposite Party has claimed that the recital of the JVA discloses that it is an agreement for sale. Therefore, it is compulsorily registerable under Section 17 of the Act (which it has been) and it can only be cancelled following due procedure of law and not unilaterally. The District Sub-Registrar has relied upon P***. Venkata Ravi Kishore and another vrs. JMR Developers Pvt. Ltd. and others reported in 2022 SCC OnLine TS 3387, to support his Contention.***

In final adjudication of the matter, the JVA has been held to be a deed of conveyance relaying certain rights by the Petitioner to UMIL. Regarding Section 22-A(1)(b) (Odisha Amendment) of the Act, which refers to cancellation of registered sale deed only, it has been held that the provision is inclusive in nature and covers any other deed of such nature, and a purposive interpretation of the same is required to achieve the object of its introduction. Since, a sale deed is essentially a deed of conveyance, the provision under Section 22-A(1)(b) (Odisha Amendment) of the Act also brings within its ambit any kind of registered deed of conveyance. In this context, the Hon'ble court has referred to P. Venkata Ravi Kishore and another vrs. JMR Developers Pvt. Ltd. and others reported in 2022 SCC OnLine TS 3387 and Satya Pal Anand Vs. State of Madhya Pradesh and others, reported in (2016) 10 SCC 767.

Ultimately, the Hon'ble Court has concluded that although the Opposite Party No.1 has rightly held that registration of the deed of cancellation of a

registered deed of JVA cannot be done unilaterally, but the letter which formed the basis of such opinion has no application to this case. Similarly, the letter dated 18.12. 2012 has also been held to inapplicable to the present case. Additionally, in light of ***Mohinder Singh Gill (supra)***, it has been held that the statutory Authority cannot justify its order by supplementing reasons by an affidavit, which are not spelt out in the order itself. Thus, the grounds set out in the Counter Affidavit of Opposite Party No. 1 cannot be taken into consideration to justify the said order of refusal. Consequently, the Writ has been allowed, the impugned orders have been set aside, and the District Sub-Registrar, Bhubaneswar-Opposite Party No.1 has been directed to consider the registration of deed of cancellation of registered deed of JVA afresh, in light of the observations and discussions made in the judgment.



Diaroma showing scene of traditional justice system of Dongaria Kandha at Museum of Justice



Justice
Bibhu Prasad Routray

CASE TITLE : **BISWANATH DAS V. STATE OF ODISHA, REPRESENTED THROUGH ITS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, EXCISE DEPARTMENT & ORS.**

CASE NO : **W.P.(C) NO. 16479 of 2022**

DATE OF JUDGMENT : **October 23, 2024**

A duly qualified person appointed against vacant contractual post and continuing as such for decades cannot be denied regularization merely because his initial appointment was irregular.

The core question which arose for consideration in this case was whether a duly qualified employee, who was recruited against a vacant contractual post and continued in such position for more than two decades, can be denied regularization only on the ground that his initial appointment was irregular.

The petitioner claimed regularization in the post of driver in the Office of Superintendent of Excise, Kendrapara. He contended that he was validly appointed to such post on 16th October, 2001 against the sanctioned vacant post and is continuing as such in temporary contractual basis.

He earlier approached the Administrative Tribunal, pursuant to the direction of which his case for regularization was taken up by the Government. However, by the impugned order dated 20th June, 2022 his claim was rejected mainly on the ground that the Finance Department did not approve the proposal for regularization.

During the course of argument, it was submitted for the State that the petitioner was not appointed as per the due process of selection, but it did not dispute that he was given appointment in a sanctioned vacant post wherein he still continues on temporary contractual basis. It was also not disputed that the petitioner has the qualification to be appointed to the post of driver and he had such qualification on the date of appointment.

The Single Bench referred to the observations made by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of

Amarkant Rai v. State of Bihar & Ors., (2015) 8 SCC 265 wherein the petitioner, who was working as a night guard on contractual temporary basis for over two decades, was given benefits of regularization as he had the requisite qualification to hold such post. Merely because he was initially appointed against an unsanctioned post, did not become a hindrance for him to get financial benefits of regularization.

In the instant case, the Court was of the view that when the post was sanctioned and lying vacant on the date of appointment of the petitioner and he was allowed to continue for last 23 years uninterruptedly, the question of his initial appointment being irregular, can be ignored since he was having the requisite qualification to hold the post.

CASE TITLE : **E. CHINA BABU V. ODISHA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, REPRESENTED THROUGH ITS SECRETARY & ORS. AND BATCH OF CASES**

CASE NO : **W.P.(C) NO. 24337 of 2022 & Batch**

DATE OF JUDGMENT : **October 28, 2024**

In the absence of merit list and any specific rule regarding fixation of seniority, the date of entry into service may be taken as criterion for ascertaining inter se seniority.

This batch of writ petitions revolved around the question as to what should be the criterion for fixation of inter se seniority amongst the employees in the absence of merit list or any specific rule prescribing modality for ascertaining the same.

All the petitioners as well as the private opposite parties are the employees of the Odisha Legislative Assembly Secretariat and were initially appointed as Junior Assistants or in similar posts, who have now been re-designated as Assistant Section Officers.

It was submitted by the Secretariat that in the matter of finalization of inter se seniority of the employees, the opinion of the Advocate General was sought for and based on his opinion, the gradation list has been finalized taking into account the select list prepared on 17th August, 1998 for two batches of employees, i.e. 1997 and 1998. It was further submitted that the said select list was treated as merit list for fixation of inter se seniority.

After perusal of the select list vis-à-vis **Rule 10(3) of the Orissa Legislative Assembly Secretariat (Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 1983,** the Court was reluctant to accept the select list as merit list, more particularly because the said list was kept in the order of unreserved candidates, then SEBC candidates, then ST candidates and then SC candidates and hence, it held as follows:

"Therefore, the interpretation advanced by the employer as well as the private Opposite Parties that this is the merit list, but named as select list, is found unacceptable for the simple reason that candidates cannot be expected to be placed in merit serially according to the categories like UR, SEBC, ST and SC."

Therefore, the moot question cropped up as to what should be the appropriate criteria to determine inter se seniority among the employees in absence of any merit list. To answer this question, the Bench

referred to the decision of the Hon'ble Apex Court in the case of K. Meghachandra Singh & Ors. v. Ningam Siro & Ors., (2020) 5 SCC 689 and held that date of joining of the respective employees can be safely taken into account to fix seniority, as they borne into the service from that date.

Accordingly, having regard for the aforesaid precedent of the Highest Court, the High Court came to the following denouement:

"The principles, as settled in the afore-cited case, that the date of entry in the service is the safest criterion for fixing seniority inter se in absence of specific rule in the particular service regarding seniority. When the date of entry of respective candidates into the service is remaining an undisputed fact, the safest procedure would be to rely upon such undisputed fact to fix the inter se seniority between the parties."



Diaroma showing Court trial scene of Lakhan Naik at Museum of Justice



Dr. Justice
Sanjeeb Kumar Panigrahi

CASE TITLE : **M/S MAHAVIR MEDICINE STORE, RAIRAKHOL V. STATE OF ODISHA &ORS.**
CASE NO : **W.P.(C) No. 5136 of 2015 and Batch**
DATE OF JUDGMENT : **April 19, 2024**

Administrative Law – Judicial Review – Policy Decisions – Non-renewal of licenses for private On-Campus Medicine Stores vide the Office Order dated 27.02.2015 for establishment of Nirmaya free medicine distribution centers by Government of Odisha-Doctrine of Legitimate Expectation – Applicability limited by overriding public interest – Lease vs. License – Nature of Agreements – The agreements under which the petitioners operated were found to be licenses, not leases, granting temporary occupancy without transferring any property interest – Temporary and revocable – Fundamental Rights – Articles 19(1)(g) and 21 – Reasonable restrictions for securing larger public purpose – Public Interest – Supremacy over private commercial interests – Equitable healthcare access and affordability

The case involves a challenge to the Office Order dated 27.02.2015 issued by the Health and Family Welfare Department of the Government of Odisha, which directed that licenses for private On-Campus Medicine Stores within government healthcare institutions not be renewed. This decision was taken as part of the implementation of the *Niramaya* Scheme, under which the government established Drug Distribution Counters (DDCs) to provide free medicines to patients at public hospitals. The petitioners, who operated such medicine stores, argued that the non-renewal of their licenses violated their fundamental rights under Articles 19(1)(g) (freedom to practice trade) and 21 (right to livelihood). They contended that the government's scheme lacked the capacity to address urgent healthcare needs, especially during emergencies, as it failed to stock all required medicines. Additionally, they claimed a legitimate expectation of continuation based on their long-

standing operations and previous license renewals. The petitioners also highlighted the economic impact of the policy, asserting that the closure of their stores would lead to unemployment and significant financial losses.

The government defended its decision as a policy measure intended to prioritize public welfare over private interests. It argued that the licenses were temporary, contractual arrangements with no inherent right to renewal. The spaces occupied by the medicine stores were needed for the operation of the *Niramaya* Scheme, which aimed to provide equitable access to medicines and reduce healthcare costs for the public. The government maintained that its actions were rooted in public interest, emphasizing that the petitioners could continue their trade outside the hospital campuses.

The Orissa High Court analyzed the case by first addressing the scope of judicial review in policy matters. The court reiterated that it could interfere with policy decisions only if they were arbitrary, capricious, or unconstitutional. It highlighted that judicial review should not extend to second-guessing executive decisions grounded in public welfare.

The court also examined the nature of the agreements between the petitioners and the government. Citing decisions like *Associated Hotels of India Ltd. v. R.N. Kapoor (1959) and Yazdani International (P) Ltd. v. Auroglobal Comtrade (P) Ltd. (2014),* it concluded that the agreements were licenses rather than leases. These licenses granted temporary occupancy rights, contingent upon public need, and did not create any vested or perpetual rights in favor of the petitioners.

The court examined the doctrine of legitimate expectation, which the petitioners relied upon. It acknowledged the principle but noted that in this case, no legitimate expectation arose, as the licenses were explicitly contingent on public interest. The court referred to the Supreme Court dictums in *Union of India v. Hindustan Development Corporation (1993), Madras City Wine Merchants Association v. State of Tamil Nadu (1994), and Monnet Ispat & Energy Ltd. v. Union of India (2012),* emphasizing that this doctrine applies only when there is an express promise, established practice, or legal sanction creating a justifiable expectation. Even if the petitioners had formed an expectation based on past renewals, such an expectation was overridden by the larger public welfare objective of the *Niramaya* Scheme.

The court found the government's decision reasonable and necessary to achieve the objectives of the *Niramaya* Scheme. It noted that the scheme sought to address healthcare disparities by reducing out-of-pocket expenses and ensuring access to essential medicines for economically weaker sections could not be derailed to safeguard private commercial interests. The decision to terminate the petitioners' licenses was deemed neither arbitrary nor discriminatory but a sound measure in public interest.

This judgment has a significant impact on the socio-economic and legal framework surrounding public healthcare in India. It underscores the principle that public interest can override private commercial rights when state policies are aimed at improving social welfare. The court's ruling supports the government's prerogative to implement equitable healthcare measures without fear of excessive judicial interference, provided such policies are reasonable and transparent. Socio-economically, the decision strengthens efforts to reduce healthcare inequities and expand access to affordable medicines, particularly for marginalized communities.

CASE TITLE : **SUPRIYA JENA V. STATE OF ODISHA AND OTHERS**
CASE NO : **W.P.(C) No. 30616 of 2020**
DATE OF JUDGMENT : **June 25, 2024**

Service Law – Maternity Leave – Grant of maternity leave to a government employee for a child born through surrogacy – Petitioner, a government servant, attained motherhood through surrogacy and was initially granted maternity leave for 180 days, followed by earned leave – Finance Department later questioned the validity of the leave, citing the absence of specific provisions for surrogacy under Rule 194 of the Odisha Service Code – held that the term "maternity" must be interpreted to include all forms of motherhood, including surrogacy, to align with advancements in medical science and societal norms – Denial of maternity leave for surrogacy-born children violates Articles 14, 16, and 21 of the Constitution, as it discriminates against commissioning mothers and undermines the welfare of the child – Directed the State to sanction maternity leave for the petitioner and update relevant rules to ensure equal treatment for surrogacy, natural birth, and adoption – Odisha Service Code, Rule 194; Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act, 2021; Constitution of India, Articles 14, 16, 21.

In this case, the petitioner, a female government employee, sought judicial intervention against the denial of maternity leave benefits for a child born through surrogacy. The petitioner, a member of the Orissa Finance Service, entered into a gestational surrogacy agreement and became the mother of a child born on 25.10.2018. She initially applied for and was granted maternity leave for 180 days, which was followed by earned leave. However, the Finance Department later questioned the validity of the leave on the grounds that the Odisha Service Code did not explicitly provide for maternity leave in cases of surrogacy. Citing the lack of specific provisions for surrogacy-related maternity leave, the department declined to formalize her leave request and referred the matter for further examination. Consequently, the petitioner sought legal recourse, arguing that the denial of maternity leave was discriminatory and violative of her constitutional rights under Articles 14 and 16.

The petitioner contended that the term "maternity" under Rule 194 of the Odisha Service Code must include all forms of motherhood, including surrogacy. She emphasized that surrogacy, like natural conception and adoption, entails significant caregiving responsibilities, particularly during the early stages of a child's development. Denying maternity leave to commissioning mothers, she argued, was arbitrary, discriminatory, and contrary to the principles of gender justice. Furthermore, she asserted that the right to maternity leave was rooted in Article 21, encompassing the right to life and motherhood, and the denial of such benefits undermined the well-being of both mother and child.

The respondents, represented by the State, submitted that the existing rules and office memoranda provided maternity leave for natural and adoptive mothers but were silent on surrogacy. They maintained that the absence of explicit provisions precluded the petitioner from claiming such leave. However, they acknowledged that the matter was under consideration by the relevant departments for future inclusion in the rules.

The court analyzed the issue in light of constitutional principles, judicial precedents, and the evolving

understanding of motherhood. The court observed that maternity leave provisions are beneficial in nature and must be interpreted in a progressive manner, considering advancements in medical science and societal changes. The court underscored that surrogacy, as a recognized means of attaining motherhood, entitles commissioning mothers to the same benefits as biological or adoptive mothers. The court emphasized that the term "maternity" encompasses the caregiving responsibilities and emotional bonding that follow childbirth, irrespective of how the child is conceived.

The court relied on the Supreme Court's decision in *B. Shah v. Presiding Officer, Labour Court, Coimbatore,* which advocated a liberal interpretation of maternity benefit laws to uphold social justice. It also referenced the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act, 2021, which recognizes the rights of commissioning mothers in surrogacy arrangements. The court held that denying maternity leave to commissioning mothers violated Articles 14, 16, and 21 of the Constitution. Furthermore, it highlighted the importance of supporting women's workforce participation through inclusive maternity benefits.

The judgment marks a progressive step toward recognizing the evolving concept of parenthood in Indian society. By extending maternity benefits to commissioning mothers, it addresses a significant gap in law and acknowledges the transformative role of medical advancements such as surrogacy. This decision promotes inclusivity, ensuring that all mothers, irrespective of the means by which they attain motherhood, are treated equitably. It sets a strong precedent for eliminating discrimination against commissioning mothers, thereby fostering greater acceptance of alternative reproductive methods in a culturally diverse society. The ruling also emphasizes the critical early bonding period between a mother and child, highlighting the shared responsibility of employers and the state in nurturing familial ties. By advocating policy reforms, the judgment encourages workplaces to be more supportive of women, facilitating their sustained participation in the workforce while balancing their familial roles.



Heritage Clocks used in the High Court of Orissa displayed at Museum of Justice



Justice
Savitri Ratho

CASE TITLE : **CHHABILA NAYAK @ CHHABI VS. STATE OF ODISHA AND ORS.**
CASE NO : **BLAPL NO. 12411 of 2023**
DATE OF JUDGMENT : **January 16, 2024**

Section 439 of THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE, 1973 – Section 40 of the POCSO Act, 2012 – Rules 4(13) and 4(15) of the POCSO Rules, 2020 – Held, not mandatory to issue notice to the informant/victim while dismissing application for regular bail under Section 439 Cr.P.C. – Held, notice must be issued to the informant/victim while allowing the bail application under Section 439 Cr.P.C.

While hearing the BLAPL where the petitioner was alleged to have committed offences under Sections 363, 366, 294, 506, and 376(2)(n) of the Indian Penal Code ("IPC") and Section 6 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 ("POCSO Act"), the Court dealt with the submission with regard to requirement of service of notice on the informant while dealing with BLAPLs involving offences under the POCSO Act. The Hon'ble Court for adjudication of the aforesaid issue, has taken note of the following provisions - Rules 4(13)/4(15) of the POCSO Rules, 2020, section 439 of the Cr.P.C, sections 376(3)/376AB/37DA/376DB of the IPC, and section 29 of the POCSO Act. The Hon'ble Court also referred to the Bombay High Court's decision in the case of *Arjun Kishanrao Malge vs. The State Of Maharashtra reported in 2021 SCC Online 551* and the Delhi High Court's decision in of *Miss G (Minor) v. State of NCT of Delhi : 2020 SCC OnLine Del 629 : (2020) 270 DLT 516.*

The Court, after analysing the aforesaid provisions and judgments, has observed that the objectives of the POCSO Act and Rules can be better achieved if prior notice is issued to the informant/guardian of the victim at the stage of hearing bail applications under Section 439 Cr.P.C. involving offence under the POCSO Act. The Hon'ble Court has opined that in a scenario where the learned Court is not inclined to allow the bail application, the issuance of notice to the victim/informant may not be necessary since

the informant/victim would not be prejudiced if the prayer for bail is rejected. The prayer for bail of the accused should however not be allowed, without affording a chance of hearing to the victim/ informant. The Court has further held that this interpretation according to the Court would be in consonance with object of Section 40 of POCSO Act, Rules 4(13) & 4(15) of POCSO Rules, and the spirit of Section 439 (1A) Cr.P.C. Ultimately, with the aforesaid observations, the Hon'ble directed the matter to be listed before the appropriate assigned bench for disposal.

CASE TITLE : **SMT. SMITARANI MOHANTY VS. STATE OF ODISHA AND ORS.**
CASE NO : **W.A. NO. 1935 OF 2024**
DATE OF JUDGMENT : **September 18, 2024**
CORAM : **The Chief Justice, Justice Savitri Ratho**

THE ODISHA MUNICIPAL ACT, 1950 – Section 54(1) Proviso (ii) - A resolution recording want of confidence in the Chairperson or the Vice-Chairperson shall not be moved more than once during a calendar year – Held, The judgment of the learned Single Judge is not liable for interference – Held, Appeal dismissed.

The Appellant (the Chairperson) of the Municipal Council was aggrieved by the direction of the Single Judge to the authorities to convene a fresh meeting of the Phulbani Municipal Council ("Council") for voting on a no-confidence motion against her, on the ground of violation of provisions of the Odisha Municipal Act, 1950 ("the Act").

The Court examined the proviso (ii) to Section 54 (1) of the Act and observed that the aforesaid provision contains an embargo for holding a meeting for recording a want of confidence in the Chairperson or the Vice-Chairperson, only once during a calendar year. As the interim order passed in the writ petition, continued till final disposal of the writ, no meeting on the proposed 'No Confidence Motion' had been held. Therefore, the Court held that the question of moving the resolution more than once during a calendar year did not arise, as in effect the resolution had not been moved till date. Therefore, the Appellant's contention was held to be devoid of merit and the Writ Appeal was dismissed.



Replica of the original Constitution of India displayed at Judges' Library



Justice
Mruganka Sekhar Sahoo

CASE TITLE : **DR. RUDRA NARAYAN PRADHAN V. STATE OF ODISHA & ANR.**
CASE NO : **WPC (OAC) NO. 309 of 2015**
DATE OF JUDGMENT : **May 15, 2023**

Act of delinquent must be within the parameters of Rule 46 of the OCS (Pension) Rules, 1992 for consideration of his entitlement to 'compassionate allowance'.

The petitioner joined as Medical Officer in the year 1977 under the Govt. of Odisha. He was removed from service on 05.10.2003 pursuant to a departmental proceeding instituted against him for remaining absent from service unauthorizedly from 01.01.1988 till the date of removal. Being aggrieved, he filed an original application before the erstwhile Odisha Administrative Tribunal impugning the order of removal. The Tribunal, however, did not deem it proper to interfere with the order of removal but asked the authorities to consider granting 'compassionate allowance' to the petitioner as per the provision under **Rule 46 of the Odisha Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1992.**

The aforesaid order of the Tribunal was further challenged by the petitioner before the High Court but the Division Bench did not interfere with the order of the Tribunal and reiterated that the removal of the petitioner from the service cannot be interfered with. It, however, asked the authorities to consider for grant of *compassionate allowance* as provided under **Rule 46 of the Odisha Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1992.**

The appropriate authority considered the case of the petitioner for sanction of compassionate allowance but found him ineligible. Therefore, petitioner challenged such rejection order in this petition, mainly on the ground that the authority did not take into account relevant material while passing such order and acted arbitrarily in rejecting the claim.

After hearing the submissions and perusing the pleadings, the Bench referred to the relevant provision i.e. Rule 46 of the 1992 Rules and also relied upon the law laid down in *Mahinder Dutt Sharma v. Union of India and others; (2014) 11*

SCC 684. Upon examination of the law vis-à-vis the facts of the case at hand, the Court held as follows:

"... ... the determination of the claim made by the petitioner under Rule 46 of the OCS (Pension) Rules, 1992 has not been sieved through an evaluation based on series of distinct considerations as illustratively expressed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Mahinder Dutt Sharma (supra). The act of the petitioner herein, which resulted in infliction of punishment of removal from service was not an act of moral turpitude, not an act of dishonesty towards his employer, the act may be that of insincerity but something sort of being unscrupulous or untrustworthy or that the petitioner cheated the employer. The act of delinquency was not aimed at deliberately harming a third party interest."

It was held :

"This Court is of the view that by applying the criterion illustratively expressed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in paragraph-14 of Mahinder Dutt Sharma (supra), there can be no doubt that the order of dismissal from service of the petitioner from the post was justified, but for determining the question of grant of compassionate allowance, the act of delinquency has to be within the parameters laid down in rule 46 of the OCS (Pension) Rules, 1992."

Accordingly, the Court came to the conclusion that the reasoning given by the authority in the impugned order denying the petitioner compassionate allowances failed judicial scrutiny and the order was set aside. The authority was asked to decide the claim of the petitioner for compassionate allowance afresh, applying the principles laid down in *Mahinder Dutt Sharma* (supra), in terms of Rule 46 of OCS (Pension) Rules, 1992 as expeditiously as possible.

CASE TITLE : **BANSIDHAR MANDAL & ORS. V. STATE OF ODISHA & ORS.**
CASE NO : **W.P.(C) NO. 15026 of 2014**
DATE OF JUDGMENT : **April 10, 2024**

Opinion/decision of competent authority cannot be termed as 'Government order' unless sanctified as per Articles 77 and 166 of the Constitution, as the case may be.

On 07.02.2013, the Department of School and Mass Education, Government of Odisha communicated its decision to take over the management of the petitioner's school and declare the same as Project Upper Primary School under Sarva Siksha Abhiyan. Another letter was issued on 19.03.2013 whereby the aforesaid decision was acted upon and the school was declared as such.

While the matter stood thus, the government passed an order dated 30.06.2014 recalling the earlier orders dated 07.02.2013 and 19.03.2013. Therefore, being aggrieved by such modified stance of the government, the petitioners impugned the order by filing writ petition.

The moot questions which arose for consideration were :

i. Whether in terms of Government Odisha Rules of Business the orders dated 07.02.2013 and 19.03.2013 of the State Government can be termed/treated; as orders of the Govt., thereby the consequences thereof have to follow;

ii. Whether the order dated 29.01.2013 of the Minister of State (Independent Charge) heading the Department of School & Mass Education is to be treated as orders of the Government;

iii. Whether the said orders being orders of the Government confer any rights on the petitioners;

iv. Whether in terms of the Govt. Rules of Business the order dated 30.06.2014 issued by the Secretary-in-charge of the Government Department can be treated as a order of Government;

v. If the order dated 30.06.2014 by the Secretary to the Govt is treated as the order of the Government, by the said order, can the earlier order of the Govt. dated 29.01.2013 and letters dated 07.02.2013 and 19.03.2013 could have been recalled and a fresh order could have been passed ?

The Court considering the facts of the case and relying on the law laid down in ***Sethi Auto Service Station v. Delhi Development Authority: AIR 2009 SC 904: (2009) 1 SCC 180*** (paragraph-14 of SCC) held that the notes in the file culminated in an executable order affecting rights of the parties after the Minister (Independent Charge) who is the final decision making authority in the Department, gave his approval by his order dated 21.01.2013 and final order got communicated by letter no.3326 dated 07.02.2013.

The Court relied upon the observations made by the Hon'ble Apex Court in the case of ***Municipal Corporation of Delhi v. Birla Cotton Spinning & Weaving Mills, AIR 1968 SC 1232*** to hold that read along with the Article 166 of the Constitution. Rules of the Odisha Government Rules of Business, 1956 (OGRB), i.e., Rules 4A, 5, 7, 9 (1), First Schedule of the OGRB; entries 2, 3, 4 of Table VI(A), and the instructions issued by the Governor under the Rules: para 1.IV, would lead to an irresistible conclusion that the 'Business of Govt.' regarding the petitioners' claim pertains to the department of School and Mass Education, i.e., in-charge of the Minister of State (independent charge), department of School and Mass Education, it was placed before him for obtaining 'Govt. Orders' and he dealt with it by passing order dated 29.01.2023. Therefore, it has to be held that said decision of the Minister was the decision and order of the State Government.

The Court held that the Rules 8(1) and Rule 4A OGRB, 1956 provide that the matter(s) involving the present lis belong to the First Schedule and is not ordinarily required to be considered at a meeting of the Cabinet. The Rule-5 of the OGRB, 1956 further clarifies that the business of the Government in the Department of School & Mass Education has been assigned by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister to the charge of a Minister of State. Therefore, as per the principles laid down in ***Municipal Corporation of Delhi*** (supra) the order of the Minister dated 29.01.2013 is Government Order and not a noting in the file as argued by opposite parties.

The Court further placed reliance upon the decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in ***State of Uttaranchal v. Sunil Kumar Vaish, (2011) 8 SCC 670*** wherein it was categorically held that even if the competent authority records its opinion in the file on the merits of the matter under consideration, the same cannot be termed as a decision of the Government unless it is sanctified and acted upon by issuing an order in accordance with Articles 77(1) and (2) or Articles 166(1) and (2).

Against this legal backdrop, the Court held that orders dated 07.02.2013 and 19.03.2013 can be said to have been issued in accordance with Articles 166 (1) and (2). Further, it observed as hereunder:

"As already indicated, it is evident that no order by Government, supported by reasons, modifying the decision of the Government order dated 29.01.2013 was ever made after communication of the Government order dated 29.01.2013 to petitioners, other stakeholders and various Government authorities. Therefore, the subsequent 'reconsideration' stated in the file and initiated

with notes of an Officer, the notings of the Minister following the notes of the officer cannot be held to be order of the Government."

Applying the tests laid down in *Commissioner of Police v. Gordhan Das Bhanji : AIR 1952 SC 16: 1951 SCC 1088 and Mohinder Singh Gill v. Chief Election Commission : (1978) 1 SCC 405 reiterated in Opto Circuits (India) Ltd. v. Axis Bank : (2021) 6 SCC 707: AIR 2021 SC 753* Para-12 of SCC), the Court held supplementary/subsequent reasons those may have been furnished before the Court for so called 'reconsideration' would not come to aid of sustaining the 'reconsideration' and the purported 'reconsideration' was held to be bad in law and set aside.

Resultantly, the recall order dated 30.06.2014 passed by the Commissioner-cum-Secretary was held to be invalid and accordingly, set aside. The authorities were directed the entitlements that would accrue to the petitioners as consequences of the orders dated 07.02.2013 and 19.03.2013, the further benefits that are to follow were to be determined forthwith. The monetary benefits were to be calculated and the current benefits were to be granted within eight weeks. The arrears of admissible monetary benefits, if any, that would be due in terms of the orders dated 07.02.2013 and 19.03.2013 were to be calculated by the appropriate authority and released to the petitioners within a period of eight weeks from the date of release of the current dues.



Heritage typewriter used in Koraput judgeship displayed at Museum of Justice



Justice
Radha Krishna Pattanaik

CASE TITLE : **M/S. B.R. SPONGE (P) LTD. VS. MICRO SMALL ENTREPRENEUR FACILITATION COUNCIL, CUTTACK AND ANOTHER**

CASE NO : **W.P.(C) NO.8006 of 2017**

DATE OF JUDGMENT : **May 06, 2024**

(A)MICRO SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2006 Sections 18, 19 – O.P.No.1 did not conduct proper conciliation – Held, Section 18 not followed – impugned order set aside.

(B) Maintainability of the writ petition questioned in view of alternate remedy under the MSMED Act – Law pertaining to maintainability of writ in presence of alternate remedy explained – matter remanded to O.P.No.1 to adjudicate on the issue of jurisdiction.

The petitioner (a private limited company) sought for quashing of the order of opposite party No.1, i.e. the Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council dated 30.12.2016 and all consequential orders including the proceeding in connection with MSEFC Case No.27 of 2014. The dispute was between the petitioner and opposite party No.2 and the proceeding was disposed by learned Civil Judge, Senior Division, Rourkela for not availing the statutory remedy under section 19 of the Micro Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006. The issue was then referred to the Council, whose order dated 30.12.2016 is under question.

The petitioner's primary contention is that opposite party No.2 is not a 'supplier' as per Section 2(n) of the MSMED Act and in support of it and relief asked for, the following decisions, such as, **Silpi Industries Etc. Vrs. Kerala State Road Transport Corporation and Another (2021 SCC Online SC 439), Vaishno Enterprises Vrs. Hamilton Medical AG and Another (2022 SCC Online SC 355), Nitesh Estates Ltd. Vrs. Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council of Haryana and Others (2022 SCC Online SC 1198) and Bridge and Roof Company (India) Ltd. Vrs. State of Odisha and Others (MANU/OR/0313/2022:2022(I) OLR 1046**

were referred to. It was contended that opposite party No. 1 has not passed the impugned order as per the provisions under the MSMED Act. The mandatory procedure under 18(3) of the said Act has not been adhered to since no real attempt was made for conciliation.

On the contrary, the opposite parties raised a question as to the maintainability of the writ petition in view of the alternate remedy available under Section 34 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act and have relied on an order of this Court dated 26.04.2017 in W.P.(C) No. 20768 of 2016 and the decision of the Apex Court in **M/s. India Glycols Limited and Another Vrs. Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council Medchal-Malkajgiri and Others dated 06.11.2023 in Civil Appeal No.7491 of 2023.** The petitioner challenged the aforesaid contention by placing reliance on **M/s Magadh Sugar and Energy Limited Vrs. State of Bihar and others (Civil Appeal No. 5728 of 2021 dated 24.09.2021; Radha Krishan Industries Vrs. State of Himachal Pradesh and Others (2021)6 SCC 771 and State of Uttar Pradesh and Another Vrs. Ehsan and Another** in Civil Appeal No.5721 of 2023 dated 13.10.2023.

After consideration of the contentions from both sides, the Hon'ble Court answered on the following issues. Firstly, maintainability of reference under section 18 before the Council, since opposite party No2 is alleged to be not a supplier. Secondly, whether the Council exercised the jurisdiction under section 18 of MSMED Act regarding conciliation and arbitration. Thirdly, maintainability of the challenge before this Court since there is an alternative remedy by way of appeal available. While dealing with the issues, the Hon'ble Court observed that no real attempt at conciliation was made by the Council and as such, the necessary formalities under section 18 of the MSMED Act have not been complied with. So far as the claim of the petitioner that opposite party No.2 is not a 'supplier' within the confines of the Act is concerned, the Hon'ble Court further observed that the issue was not raised in the earlier stages, hence, the said question is required to be examined. Taking a wholesome approach and not intending to delay resolution of the matter, the Hon'ble Court remanded the matter back to the Council with a direction to adjudicate the matter with respect to the point of jurisdiction and other issues emanating therefrom.

CASE TITLE : **DILIP KUMAR SINGH VS. STATE OF ODISHA AND ORS.**
CASE NO : **W.P.(C) NO.9029 of 2013**
DATE OF JUDGMENT : **May 13, 2024**

(A)CONSTITUTION OF INDIA, 1950 – Article 243-W r/w 12th Schedule – pertaining to urban & town planning – Whether, it should be dealt with Municipal Law/Local Act or O.D.A Act? – Held, under the Municipal Law.

(B)Jurisdiction – Whether, the question of Jurisdiction can be challenged at any stage, even if not raised before? – Held, Yes.

The petitioner has assailed the orders dated 10.11.2009 (Annexure-3) passed in Misc. Case No.07 of 2009 and 19.01.2013 (Annexure-7) in Appeal Case No.02 of 2010 by opposite party Nos.2 and 3 respectively under the Orissa Development Authorities Act, 1982 (hereinafter referred as to 'the O.D.A. Act'). The central issue related to the alleged construction over a plot with encroachment over Railways land.

The issue arose when the petitioner was alleged of encroaching upon some Railways land. Proceedings were initiated against the petitioner and opposite party No.3 passed an ex parte order on 10.11.2009 (Annexure-3) directing the petitioner to remove the encroachment. The aforesaid order was confirmed by opposite party No.2 vide order dated 19.01.2013 (Annexure-7). It is the petitioner's case that the proceeding under the O.D.A. Act by opposite party No.3 sans jurisdiction and the action in respect of encroachment of the Railways land must be under the Odisha Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act. However, no notice has been issued to him by the Railway Administration in that regard. Moreover, the opposite party No.3, with the commencement of the Constitution (Seventy-fourth Amendment) Act, 1992, lost its jurisdiction and lacks the authority to take action against him under the O.D.A Act, since such power now lies with the Rourkela Municipal Corporation in view of the order dated 30.03.2010 of the Government of Odisha in Housing and Urban Development Department and Articles 243-ZD, 243-ZE, 243-ZF and Article 243-W of the Constitution of India. Therefore, the exercise of power under Section 91 of the O.D.A. Act at the instance of opposite party No.3 is void ab initio. To buttress such argument, the petitioner relied on the decision of this court in **Bijaya Krushna Das, President, Hotel Association of Puri Vrs. State of Odisha and others 2015(I) OLR 588.**

Petitioner's stance is refuted on the ground that that delegation of powers regarding urban and town planning to the Rourkela Municipal Corporation was pending consideration of the Government and could be processed in 2019 only, therefore, till such time, opposite party No.3 exercised jurisdiction regarding unauthorized and illegal constructions. The petitioner has not only made unauthorized construction over the set-back area of the approved plan but also covered the adjacent land of the Railways.

The Hon'ble Court first adjudicated, whether, the jurisdictional challenge to opposite party No.3 can be entertained now, despite the same not being raised initially. Referring to **Pioneer Traders Vrs. Chief Controller of Imports and Exports AIR 1963 SC 734, Cantonment Board, Ambala Vrs. Pyare Lal AIR 1966 SC 108, Rex Vrs. Williams [(1914) 1 KB 608,** it was observed that an inherent lack of jurisdiction affecting the root of the issue can be challenged at any stage. Since a patent lack of jurisdiction has been alleged in the present case, the Hon'ble Court opined that such an issue is to be examined. Furthermore, after introduction of Part IX-A of the Constitution of India, powers relating to the matters in 12th Schedule, i.e. urban and town planning, shall have to be dealt with as per the law of the Local Bodies and not under the O.D.A. Act.

In ultimate analysis, the Hon'ble Court held that opposite party No.3 erroneously invoked the authority under the O.D.A Act and the exercise of authority under the Municipal law is distinct from the delegation of power under Section 111 of the O.D.A. Act. As such, the very initiation of the action against the petitioner never had the sanction of law and accordingly, the writ petition was allowed with the impugned orders being set aside.



Justice
Sashikanta Mishra

CASE TITLE : **SANJAY KUMAR SARANGI Vs. STATE OF ODISHA AND ANOTHER ET AL**
CASE NO : **ABLAPL No. 11777 of 2023, 13978 of 2023&13980 of 2023**
DATE OF JUDGMENT : **April 10, 2024**

Criminal Procedure Code – Anticipatory Bail – Maintainability of anticipatory bail applications by persons already in custody – Petitioners in custody for prior IPC and NDPS Act cases apprehending arrest in newly registered cases – Question raised whether Section 438 Cr.P.C. permits such applications – Held, anticipatory bail is maintainable for persons in custody, provided it becomes effective only upon their release and subsequent arrest in the new case, safeguarding liberty under Article 21 – Cr.P.C., 1973, S. 438. Criminal Law – Arrest versus Remand – Distinction between arrest as physical custody by police and remand as judicial custody for investigation – Petitioners argued remand equates to de facto arrest and can be countered with anticipatory bail; State contended remand does not invoke apprehension of arrest – Held, remand differs from arrest but can result in deprivation of liberty akin to arrest; anticipatory bail effective only if petitioner is released and then arrested in the subsequent case – Cr.P.C., 1973, Ss. 41, 46, 167.

Whether a person in custody in connection with a case can seek anticipatory bail in another case registered against him is the point decided in this cases. The three anticipatory bail applications under Section 438 of the Criminal Procedure Code pertain to distinct but related circumstances involving the petitioners Sanjay Kumar Sarangi and Pratham Patra. Each petitioner was apprehending arrest in connection with specific criminal cases despite being in custody for different cases. The primary question before the court was whether anticipatory bail could be sought by individuals already in custody in other cases. The petitioner in ABLAPL No. 11777 of 2023 was facing charges under Sections 419, 420, 467, 468, 471, and 120B IPC related to fraudulent land transactions. He was

in custody for a separate case involving similar charges. The petitioners in ABLAPL Nos. 13978 and 13980 of 2023 were apprehending arrest under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and allied IPC sections. They were in custody for different NDPS-related cases.

It was argued on behalf of the petitioners that the right to liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution should not be curtailed merely because the accused is already in custody in another case. Tracing the legislative history of Section 438 Cr.P.C., it was emphasized that the provision was introduced to prevent undue harassment and humiliation. It was stressed that anticipatory bail provisions should be liberally construed to protect personal liberty. For specific cases, the counsel highlighted that the petitioners had no direct involvement in the alleged offenses or that evidence linking them was inadmissible.

Conversely, it was argued on behalf of the State that anticipatory bail is inapplicable to those already in custody. The judgment of Rajasthan High Court in the case of *Sunil Kallami v. State of Rajasthan* (2021) was cited and argued that a person in custody could not seek anticipatory bail for subsequent cases. The State also emphasized the potential misuse of such protection to evade interrogation and investigation.

The court embarked on an analysis of the legislative intent behind Section 438 Cr.P.C. and the constitutional principles underpinning personal liberty. The court acknowledged that anticipatory bail aims to shield individuals from undue harassment, humiliation, and the misuse of arrest powers, aligning with the spirit of Article 21. The statutory provisions were analyzed, highlighting the procedural distinctions between "arrest" and "remand." The court noted that while a person already in custody cannot technically be "arrested" again, they can be remanded in connection with another case, which would technically curb his liberty.

Referring to the Supreme Court's decisions in *Gurbaksh Singh Sibbia and Sushila Aggarwal*, the court emphasized that the right to anticipatory bail cannot be curtailed without express statutory limitations. It distinguished the present cases from the judgment in *Narinderjit Singh Sahni v. Union of India*, where the petitioners were detained across multiple cases and anticipatory bail was deemed inapplicable under those specific circumstances.

The court concluded that anticipatory bail applications are maintainable even for individuals already in custody for another case. However, such an order would have effect only on the accused being "arrested" upon their release in the first case. The court rejected the State's contention that granting anticipatory bail undermines investigative agencies, clarifying that conditions can be imposed to ensure cooperation during the investigation.

This judgment has significant implications for criminal jurisprudence and personal liberty. By affirming the maintainability of anticipatory bail applications for those in custody in unrelated cases, the court has reinforced the constitutional guarantee of personal liberty and limited the scope for arbitrary actions by investigative agencies. This ensures protection against potential misuse of arrest powers, particularly for individuals facing multiple accusations. Legally, the judgment harmonizes the procedural rights of the accused with the investigative prerogatives of the State, balancing individual rights and public interest.

CASE TITLE : **ARNAPURNA PRADHAN Vs. TRINATH BARIK AND OTHERS.**
CASE NO : **RSA No. 301 of 2014**
DATE OF JUDGMENT : **September 27, 2024**

Property Law – Succession – Legal heirship – Inheritance by female Hindu after remarriage – Plaintiff, daughter of Sumitra Barik from her second marriage, claimed inheritance to the properties inherited by her mother from her first husband, Prahallad – Defendant, claiming to be Sumitra's adopted son, sought to inherit the property – Trial Court ruled in favor of the plaintiff, rejecting the adoption claim – First Appellate Court reversed, stating the property should revert to Prahallad's heirs under Section 15(2)(b) of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 – High Court, analyzing Sections 14 and 15, upheld that Sumitra's remarriage did not affect her absolute ownership of the inherited property, and the plaintiff, as her daughter from the second marriage, was entitled to inherit – Adoption claim rejected – High Court reaffirmed that under Section 14, a female Hindu's ownership of inherited property is absolute and unaffected by remarriage – Property of a widow without issue reverts to the heirs of her first husband under Section 15(2)(b) only if she has no issue from the second marriage.

Whether a child born out of re-marriage of a widow has any right over the property inherited by her mother from her husband of the first marriage is the question decided in this appeal. The appeal arose from a judgment by the First Appellate Court that partly reversed the decision of the Trial Court in a property dispute involving the inheritance rights of the plaintiff, Arnapurna Pradhan, over the properties of her mother, Sumitra Barik. Sumitra inherited the properties from her first husband, Prahallad, and subsequently remarried Rameswar Das, from whom she had a daughter, the plaintiff. After Sumitra's death, the plaintiff claimed absolute ownership of the properties under Section 14 of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, while the defendant, TrinathBarik, asserted inheritance rights as Sumitra's adopted son and as a legal heir of Prahallad. The Trial Court ruled in favor of the plaintiff, rejecting the defendant's adoption claim. However, the First Appellate Court reversed the decision, holding that the properties would revert to the heirs of Prahallad under Section 15(2)(b) of the Hindu Succession Act. The plaintiff appealed to the High Court.

The plaintiff argued that under Section 14(1) of the Hindu Succession Act, Sumitra had become the absolute owner of the properties inherited from Prahallad and that her remarriage did not affect her rights. Consequently, upon Sumitra's death, the properties devolved to the plaintiff as her sole heir. The plaintiff contended that remarriage does not divest a widow of her absolute ownership.

The defendants, on the other hand, relied on *Bhagat Ram v. Teja Singh* (2002), arguing that under Section 15(2)(b), properties inherited by a female Hindu from her husband would revert to her husband's heirs in the absence of any issue from the first marriage. They maintained that the plaintiff, being the daughter from Sumitra's second marriage, could not claim inheritance from Prahallad's estate.

The High Court extensively analyzed the interplay between Sections 14 and 15 of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956. It observed that Section 14(1) grants

absolute ownership to a female Hindu over any property possessed by her, regardless of its source. The court underscored that remarriage does not restrict or negate the rights conferred under Section 14(1), as per *Cherotte Sugathan v. Cherotte Bharathi* (2008). It held that Sumitra's absolute ownership of the properties remained unaffected by her remarriage to Rameswar.

The court also addressed Section 15(2)(b), which governs the devolution of property inherited from a husband. It clarified that this provision applies only if the widow dies intestate without any issue. In this case, since Sumitra had a daughter, the plaintiff, the properties would not revert to Prahallad's heirs but devolve upon the plaintiff as Sumitra's legal heir under the general rules of succession in Section 15(1). The court emphasized that denying inheritance to children from a widow's second marriage would render Section 14 redundant and contradict its intent to ensure a widow's independent ownership.

The High Court further rejected the defendant's adoption claim, affirming the Trial Court's finding that no valid adoption had occurred. It noted that the First Appellate Court erred by disregarding the plaintiff's legitimate claim as Sumitra's sole heir while incorrectly prioritizing the inheritance rights of Prahallad's extended family.

The High Court set aside the judgment of the First Appellate Court and restored the Trial Court's decision, declaring the plaintiff the rightful heir to Sumitra's properties. It held that Sumitra's absolute ownership under Section 14(1) remained unaffected by her remarriage and that Section 15(2)(b) did not apply due to the presence of a surviving issue.

This judgment reinforces the rights of female Hindus to absolute ownership of inherited property under Section 14(1) of the Hindu Succession Act, ensuring gender equity in property succession laws. It clarifies the nuanced application of Section 15(2)(b), distinguishing cases of intestate death with and without issue. By upholding the inheritance rights of children from a widow's subsequent marriage, the decision reflects the progressive intent of the Act to empower women and eliminate archaic limitations on their property rights. This ruling has significant socio-economic implications, safeguarding the property rights of widows and their children, thereby promoting financial stability and gender justice within the family structure.



Heritage stamps and seals of erstwhile princely states of Odisha displayed at Centre for Judicial Archives



Justice
Aditya Kumar Mohapatra

CASE TITLE : **AMARESH BEHERA & ORS. VS. STATE OF ODISHA & ORS.**
CASE NO : **W.P.(C) NO.35563 of 2020**
DATE OF JUDGMENT : **April 26, 2024**

ODISHA PHARMACIST SERVICE (METHODS OF RECRUITMENT AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) RULES, 2019 – Rule 4 is the deeming provision – Held, the Petitioners are qualified under the applicable provisions and a valuable right had accrued in their favour – Writ is allowed and Opposite Parties are directed to regularize the service of the Petitioners as a one-time measure.

The Petitioners, Pharmacists under the Opposite Party No.4, have challenged the action of the Opposite Parties in not regularizing/absorbing their services and consequently not inducting them in the cadre of Pharmacist under the Odisha Pharmacist Service (Methods of Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 2019 ("2019 Rules"). It is the Petitioner's Case that the Opposite Parties unjustly denied the Petitioners regularization on the ground that they are working in Mobile Health Unit (MHU) hence, their services are not covered under the 2019 Rules. The Petitioners have made specific prayer for quashing of the clarificatory letter dated 20.03.2019 by the Opposite Party No.1 (Annexure-9) and letter dated 23.03.2019 by the Opposite Party No.3 (Annexure-10), along with a further prayer to direct the Opposite Parties to include the Petitioners' names in the gradation list, regularize their services and extend all service and financial benefits to the Petitioners.

The central issue in the present matter revolves around the 2019 Rules, specifically Rules 4 and 5 therein. The issue arose when the advertisement dated 11.08.2011 was issued pursuant to Resolution dated 29.10.2008. The Resolution provides that on completion of six (6) years of uninterrupted contractual service, the Pharmacists engaged on a contractual basis, including the Pharmacists who are working under MHUs, will be eligible for appointment as regular Pharmacists. Later, following the 11.08.2011 advertisement, the present Petitioners participated in the recruitment process and were eventually appointed as Pharmacists

in M.H.Us under N.R.H.M. in Mayurbhanj District. Furthermore, Clause-9 of Resolution dated 13.05.2013, issued by the Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Odisha, specifically provides that the past services of contractual Pharmacists working under various project/schemes like M.H.U. etc. shall also be counted for computation of six years of service at the time of regularization. Additionally, The C.D.M.O., Mayurbhanj, vide his letter dated 19.08.2014, has categorically stated that the present Pharmacists have been appointed by following a due recruitment procedure and the O.R.V. Act and Rules.

It is after the aforesaid development that the 2019 Rules were framed by the State Government. The Hon'ble Court, after analyzing the specific Rules 4, 5, 6, 7 & 10 of the aforesaid rules, has concluded that the Petitioners are qualified as per the Rules and as such, they fall under the deeming provision enshrined in Rule 4. Therefore, the services of the Petitioners ought to have been treated as regularized w.e.f. the date on which the rule came into force, i.e. on 13.03.2019. The Hon'ble court has also referred to the cases of similarly situated candidates who had approached the Odisha Administrative Tribunal, Bhubaneswar by filing O.A. No.744 of 2017. The said ruling was in favour of the candidates and attained finality vide the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 12.01.2021 in SLP (C) No(s). 13077 of 2020 (which was filed by the state authorities). So far as the amended Rules of the year 2020 (which amended the 2019 Rules) are concerned, they do not apply to the present case since the present batch of writ applications were filed prior to the date on which the amended rules came into force. Therefore, the case of the present Petitioners has been held to be governed by the 2019 Rules. As to the judgements relied by the Opposite Parties, the Hon'ble Court has opined that the said judgements do not apply to the facts of the present case since they pertain to cases where there was no governing rule or executive instruction, as opposed to the case at hand where the Petitioners are clearly governed under Government Resolutions under Annexures 3 & 4 and the 2019 Rules.

Ultimately, the Hon'ble court has held that a valuable right had accrued in favour of the Petitioners for their absorption against regular vacant posts of Pharmacists, initially under the Resolutions under Annexure-3 and 4 and under the 2019 Rules, particularly Rule-4(1) of the aforesaid rules. Therefore, the Writ application was allowed with a direction to the Opposite Parties to regularize the service of the Petitioners as an one-time measure. As under Rule-4(1) of the 2019 Rules.

CASE TITLE : **B.AJAYA PATRO VS. STATE OF ODISHA & ORS.**
CASE NO : **W.P.(C) NO.40936 of 2023**
DATE OF JUDGMENT : **March 01, 2024**

THE ODISHA GRANT OF WEIGHTAGE IN MARKS IN THE RECRUITMENT FOR SHORT-TERM COVID-19 HEALTHCARE WORKERS RULES, 2022 – Rule 2(C) – Purposive Interpretation supplied – Held, unreasonable classification made between the two groups of health workers – Writ Petition allowed and Opposite Parties directed to grant weightage mark to Petitioners.

The present Petitioners are candidates who had applied pursuant to an advertisement for appointment as Group-C Nursing Officers in the district cadre. The present petitioners, who are qualified Nursing staff possessing relevant educational certificates from recognized institutions,

were engaged as Short-term Covid-19 Health Workers during the Covid-19 Pandemic. The principal resentment of the present Petitioners is that having performed their duties for a minimum period of 3 months, the present Petitioners satisfy the eligibility criteria for being awarded an extra 5% weightage mark, on the total marks secured, in the recruitment examination. However, they have not been awarded such 5% weightage marks. Aggrieved, the Petitioners seek to quash the rejection-list dated 08.08.2023 and for a direction to the Opposite Parties to consider their case for the grant of the 5% weightage mark.

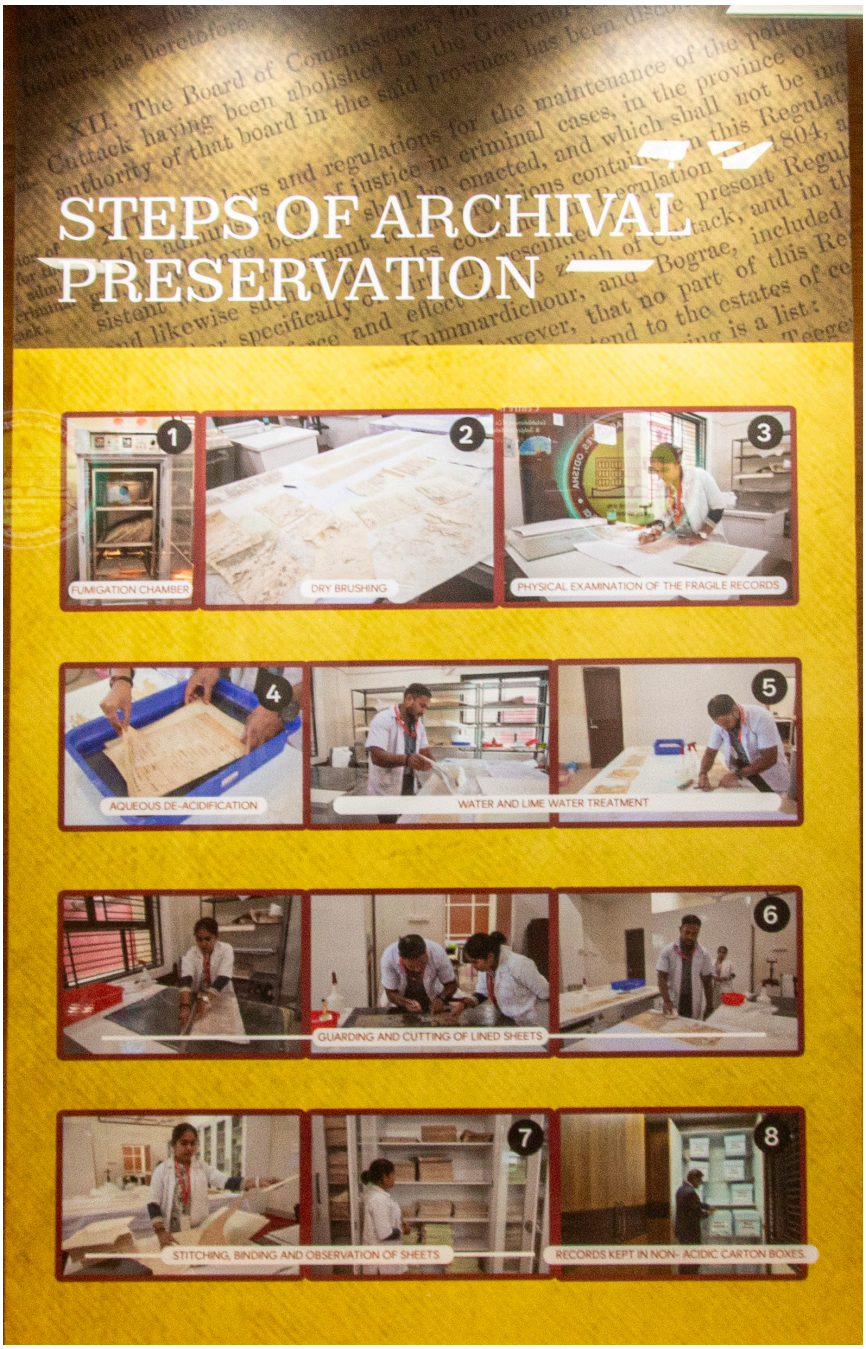
It is the Petitioners' case that they have worked as Short-term Covid-19 Health Workers for more than three months in different healthcare institutions in the State. Since the covid-19 healthcare operation was being conducted under the direct supervision of the local Government, all the private and government hospitals followed a common protocol for treating Covid-19 patients. Since the Odisha grant of weightage in marks in the Recruitment for Short-Term COVID-19 Healthcare workers Rules, 2022 i.e. Rules, 2022 (providing a 5% weightage mark) were intended to reward the valuable service rendered by the short-term Covid-19 healthcare workers (including the present petitioners), the Petitioners claim that they are entitled to such 5% weightage marks. Moreover, the Government cannot discriminate amongst the applicants and create a sub-class by denoting one group as health workers in the Government hospitals and the other as health workers in private hospitals (i.e. the present Petitioners). Such a distinction is unreasonable and violative of Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution of India.

The backbone of the Opposite Party's contention is that the definition of "short term Covid-19 health workers" under Rule 2(C) of the Rules, 2022 does not include the present Petitioners, therefore, they do not merit the benefit of 5% weightage, as provided under Rule 3. The Petitioners, on the other hand, claim that the definition in Rule 2(C) has been given a restrictive interpretation and such sub-classification within a broader class is unreasonable since it has no nexus with the object sought to be achieved through the Rules, 2022.

While finally adjudicating the matter, The Hon'ble court has first observed that the Rules in question were enacted in exercise of the power under the proviso to Article-309 of the Constitution of India. Therefore, they must adhere to the constitutional guarantee in the shape of Articles 14, 16, 19 and 21, in order to prevail. It has also been held that there is no difference between Health Workers engaged by H&FW Dept and those engaged in private hospitals (i.e. the present Petitioners). Additionally, the State authorities have given the concerned Rule a restrictive interpretation. In so doing, the present Petitioners, who risked their lives to render valuable service during the Covid-19 pandemic, have been discriminated against. As such, there is no valid ground/justification for creation of such a sub-class amongst the short-term Covid-19 healthcare workers.

Finally, after taking into account a catena of judgements of the Hon'ble Apex Court, viz-a-viz *A.K. Krishna Vs. State of Karnataka (AIR 1998 SC 1050), Distt. Registrar v. M.B. Koyakutty (AIR 1979 SC 1060), S.L. Sachdev v. Union of India (AIR 1981 SC 411), Ajay Hasia Vs. Khalid Mujib Sehravardi (AIR 1981 SC 487), E.P. Royappa Vs. State of T.N. (AIR 1974 SC 555), Maneka Gandhi Vs. Union of India (AIR 1978 SC 597), Sharma Transport Vs. Govt. of A.P. [(2002) 2 SCC 188]* etc., the Hon'ble Court has concluded that Rule-2(C) of the Rules, 2022 is not in compliance with Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution of India. However, the rule has not been

struck down altogether, instead, the golden rule of interpretation has been applied. Ultimately, the Hon'ble Court has held that by removing the words "by health and family welfare department" and reading down Rule-2(C), it can be made compliant of Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution of India. Accordingly, the batch of Writ Petition has been allowed with a direction to the Opposite Parties to end the disparity between the two classes of Healthcare Workers, and grant the 5% weightage of mark, as per Rule-3, to the deserving Petitioners.



Panel on "Steps of Archival Preservation" displayed at Centre for Judicial Archives



Justice V. Narasingh

CASE TITLE : **SANGRAM KESHARI SWAIN Vs. UNION OF INDIA & ORS.**
CASE NO : **W.P.(C) NO. 26063 of 2022**
DATE OF JUDGMENT : **October 09, 2024**
CORAM : **Justice D. Dash, Justice V. Narasingh**

"Currency of punishment ends on the date when the order of penalty is passed and it cannot be deemed to last till a future date when authority actually executes order at its whims."

This case emanates from the writ petition filed by the petitioner who was an Officer belonging to the Odisha Administrative Service (OAS). He, being aggrieved by non-selection to the cadre of Indian Administrative Service (IAS), had filed an application before the Central Administrative Tribunal, Cuttack, which was rejected. Being aggrieved, he knocked the portals of this Court.

The petitioner, though had the required seniority for getting promoted to the cadre of IAS, was not recommended by the Selection Committee and declared 'unfit' for such promotion merely because a minor penalty was imposed upon him in the nature of 'censure' and 'recovery' way back in 2012.

Censure had no bearing upon consideration of the candidature of the petitioner by the Selection Committee, but the petitioner was penalized with an amount of Rs.39,675.95 which was ordered to be recovered in twenty installments. Though the currency of the penalty was due to expire by January, 2024, the amount could not be recovered till 2018.

Since the last portion of the penalty amount was recovered only in 2018, the petitioner was deemed unfit for promotion as his performance from 2014-15 till 2018-19 was assessed for the said purpose. As the last amount was recovered in 2018, it was deemed by the authority that the currency of the penalty lasted till 2018, rendering the petitioner ineligible for promotion.

However, the petitioner challenged such stance taken by the Selection Committee and submitted

that it was the responsibility of the competent authority to deduct the recovery amount from his salary and thus, any failure on the part of the authority to recover the penalty amount/installment amount, without any fault of his own, would not render him ineligible.

The Court countenanced this contention of the petitioner that it was the authority who was at fault in not recovering the amount and held as follows:

"This Court is of the firm view that the word "Recovery" itself puts a responsibility on the competent authority to recover the amount and no discretion is neither left nor can be exercised by the delinquent to deposit the same."

Furthermore, it held that the currency of the punishment is on the date when the order was passed and under no circumstances it can be till a future date depending upon the execution of the order as per discretion and whims of the authority in recovering the last pie. Thus, it observed, currency of the both punishments ought to be construed to be co-terminus on the date on which it is imposed.

As a result, since the currency of the punishment was held to have ended in the year 2012 itself, it was held that the same cannot affect the performance assessment of the petitioner which was done for a later period, i.e. 2014-15 to 2018-19.

Accordingly, the opposite parties were directed to convene a Review Selection Board for considering the candidature of the petitioner for promotion to the cadre of IAS on the basis of aforesaid assessment matrix and in case, he is found eligible, he was directed to be promoted retrospectively i.e. from the date on which the private opposite parties were promoted.

CASE TITLE : **M/S. MAGNUM POLYMERS PRIVATE LIMITED V. INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION AND INVESTMENT CORPORATION OF ODISHA LIMITED & ORS.**

CASE NO : **W.P.(C) NO. 513 of 2017**

DATE OF JUDGMENT : **October 08, 2024**

Borrower/guarantor has no vested right to claim One Time Settlement (OTS); Financial institutions cannot be directed by Court to grant benefit of OTS to borrowers.

The petitioner company had taken loan from the respondent-IPICOL, by mortgaging and hypothecating all its assets, to set up a PP Rope and HOPE twine manufacturing unit. The company had made an agreement to repay the loan along with interest as per schedule but for some compelling reasons, it could not clear the debt.

Subsequently, a One Time Settlement (OTS) scheme was floated by the respondent to give relief to the loss-making industrial units. The petitioner, being an eligible loss-making unit, accepted the promise/ offer of IPICOL for settlement of the outstanding loans as per the MDF-OTS-07 Scheme.

However, before the finalization of settlement, the respondent-IPICOL introduced a new scheme under the name of OTS Scheme, 2016. The petitioner filed this writ petition assailing such stance taken by the respondent and pleaded that when its application was pending as per the 2007 scheme, the respondent could not have introduced a new scheme for settlement of dues.

Thus, the legal question which cropped up for consideration is that whether the petitioner has a vested right to claim for OTS and whether a direction can be passed by the Court to the opposite party to implement MDS-OTS 2007 when admittedly

the said scheme is not in vogue being superseded by OTS-2016.

After discussing the law laid down by the Hon'ble Apex Court in ***The Bijnor Urban Cooperative Bank Limited, Bijnor v. Meena Agarwal & Ors., (2023) 2 SCC 805,*** the Court held that a borrower/guarantor has no vested right to claim OTS and financial institutions/banks should not be directed to positively grant benefit of OTS to a borrower nor can extension of time granted in terms of an OTS be directed to be afforded, as it would tantamount to rewriting/ modification of contract.

Accordingly, the Court dismissed the writ petition by rejecting the prayer of the petitioner to get benefit of OTS under the 2007 scheme and held as follows:

"By applying the aforesaid principle of law, the petitioner's prayer seeking a direction to consider its application under the One Time Settlement Scheme-2007, which has been admittedly suspended in the year 2011 and superseded by OTS-2016, cannot be entertained."



District-wise classification of fragile records at Centre for Judicial Archives



Justice
Biraja Prasanna Satapathy

CASE TITLE : **BAIJAYANTI NAYAK V. STATE OF ODISHA AND OTHERS**
CASE NO : **W.P.(C) No. 34453 of 2021**
DATE OF JUDGMENT : **January 03, 2024**

Service Law – Suspension – Competence of authority to initiate disciplinary proceedings – Dissolution of Governing Body – Applicability of rules to block grant employees – Petitioner, a Lecturer in an aided college, challenged her suspension by the Additional District Magistrate (ADM), acting as President of the dissolved Governing Body (GB), contending lack of statutory competence to initiate disciplinary actions or suspend her – High Court held that under the Orissa Education Act, 1969, and 1991 Rules, only a duly constituted GB could initiate disciplinary proceedings and the ADM, as an individual, lacked such authority – Suspension orders were further invalidated for non-compliance with Rule 21 of the Odisha Education (Recruitment & Conditions of Service of Teachers & Members of the Staff of Aided Educational Institutions) Rules, 1974, requiring approval within 30 days – Court affirmed applicability of 1974 Rules to employees in block grant institutions, rejecting arguments of exclusion – Disciplinary actions were declared void ab initio, suspension orders lapsed, and petitioner was directed to be reinstated – Notification upheld in part but limited to procedural functions of President, excluding substantive powers of GB

The petitioner, a lecturer in History at Biju Patnaik Women's Degree College in Odisha, was appointed in 1993 and subsequently served as Principal-in-Charge of the college. Following the dissolution of the college's Governing Body ("GB") by a state government notification in January 2020, the Additional District Magistrate (ADM) was appointed as the President of the Governing Body. Subsequently, the petitioner was suspended by the ADM, acting in this capacity, under a disciplinary proceeding initiated against her. The petitioner contested this suspension, arguing that the

ADM, as the President, lacked the authority to take disciplinary actions in the absence of a duly constituted GB.

The petitioner argued that the ADM, as the President of the GB, could not exercise the GB's collective powers. Relying on *Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organization v. State of Odisha* (2008), the petitioner emphasized that the President, as an individual, could not act in place of a GB, which is statutorily defined as a body of individuals. Further, the petitioner contended that the initiation of disciplinary proceedings was void since the 1974 Rules applied only to fully aided institutions and not to institutions receiving block grants, like her college.

The State, represented by the Additional Government Advocate, argued that the notification of January 2020 explicitly empowered the ADM to act as the President of the GB and that the petitioner had failed to challenge the ADM's appointment under this notification. It was further submitted that the ADM's authority included the power to suspend employees and initiate disciplinary proceedings. They also contended that prior decisions, such as Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organization, were inapplicable due to differing facts.

The court examined the statutory framework under the Orissa Education Act, 1969, and the Orissa Education (Establishment, Recognition and Management of Private Colleges) Rules, 1991. It noted that the GB, under Section 7 of the Act and Rule 29 of the 1991 Rules, is responsible for the institution's management and disciplinary matters. The President's role, as defined in Rule 31, was limited to implementing decisions made by the GB, and no provision allowed the President to act independently in disciplinary matters.

The court heavily relied on Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organization, which invalidated similar actions by a single individual acting as the GB. The judgment clarified that the President could not assume the GB's functions, even under extraordinary circumstances like dissolution.

The court addressed whether the 1974 Rules applied to block grant institutions, referencing its earlier judgment in October 2023. It concluded that the 1974 Rules apply equally to institutions under the grant-in-aid and block grant schemes. Since the petitioner was employed under such rules, the ADM's actions lacked the necessary procedural compliance mandated by Rule 21, which requires Director approval for suspensions.

The court ruled that the President of the GB, as an individual, lacked the statutory competence to initiate disciplinary proceedings or suspend employees. Even the notification empowering the ADM as President did not delegate the GB's substantive powers to the ADM. The principle of per incuriam was applied to invalidate earlier decisions supporting the ADM's authority, as they overlooked relevant statutory provisions and judicial precedents. Consequently, the court quashed the government's order authorizing disciplinary actions by the ADM and directed the reinstatement of the petitioner.

This judgment has significant implications for governance in aided educational institutions in Odisha. Legally, it reinforces the principle that statutory functions requiring collective decision-making cannot be delegated to individuals, preserving the integrity of administrative procedures. The court's application of the per *incuriam* principle ensures that past deviations do not perpetuate flawed governance structures.

CASE TITLE : **PRIYANKA GOUDA V. STATE OF ODISHA AND OTHERS**
CASE NO : **W.P.(C) Nos. 22656 & 22661 of 2024**
DATE OF JUDGMENT : **October 09, 2024**

Municipal Law – No-confidence motion – Procedural compliance and delegation – Petitioners challenged a notice dated 4-9-2024 for a no-confidence motion against the Chairperson of Purusottampur NAC, alleging non-compliance with Section 54(2)(c) of the Odisha Municipal Act, 1950, improper service, and lack of requisite attachments – High Court held that the notice, along with the requisition and resolution, was validly served on councillors and affixed on the petitioners' doors after refusal, satisfying procedural requirements; delegation of service to the Executive Officer was lawful – Petitioners' concealment of prior knowledge of the requisition and resolution barred them from equitable relief – Clean hands doctrine – Suppression of material facts – Petitioners alleged procedural irregularities in the no-confidence motion notice but failed to disclose prior knowledge of the requisition and resolution – High Court held that suppression of material facts disentitles petitioners to equitable relief.

The writ petitions were filed by the Chairperson and two councillors of Purusottampur Notified Area Council (NAC) challenging a notice issued by the Collector and District Magistrate, Ganjam, calling for a no-confidence motion against the Chairperson. The notice, dated 04.09.2024, was based on a requisition signed by nine councillors. The petitioners contended that the notice violated Section 54(2)(c) of the Odisha Municipal Act, 1950, as it was not properly served and lacked the requisite accompanying documents, namely the requisition and proposed resolution. Additionally, it was argued that seven of the nine signatories had defected to another political party before the notice was issued, rendering the requisition invalid. The petitioners sought quashing of the notice and argued procedural irregularities in its service.

The petitioners asserted that the impugned notice was issued in violation of Section 54(2)(c) of the Act, which mandates that the notice must include a copy of the requisition and the proposed resolution. They claimed that the notice served on them lacked these attachments and was affixed on their doors after their refusal to accept it, raising questions about its validity.

The respondents argued that the notice was properly served in accordance with the law. They submitted that the notice, along with the requisition and resolution, was affixed on the petitioners' doors after their refusal to accept it, which constitutes valid service under the law. They asserted that factual disputes, such as the validity of service, cannot be adjudicated under writ jurisdiction. They also invoked the principle that petitioners must come to court with clean hands, citing *K.D. Sharma v. Steel Authority of India Ltd.* (2008), and argued that the petitioners concealed material facts, including their knowledge of the requisition.

The court examined the procedural requirements under Section 54(2)(c) of the Odisha Municipal Act, which mandates that a no-confidence motion notice must be served along with the requisition and resolution. Based on the original records, it was

found that the notice, requisition, and resolution were duly served to ten of the thirteen councillors on 05.09.2024. For the petitioners, who refused to accept the notice, it was affixed on their doors as per the law. The court rejected the petitioners' claim that only the notice, and not the accompanying documents, was affixed. This factual dispute was deemed unsuitable for determination under writ jurisdiction. The court relied on *Mahinder Singh Gill*, which states that orders must stand on their stated reasons, but found the petitioners' objections unsubstantiated.

The court also observed that the petitioners failed to disclose their prior knowledge of the requisition and resolution in their petitions. Referring to *K.D. Sharma*, the court reiterated that suppression of material facts disentitles litigants to relief in equity. Consequently, it ruled that the petitioners did not approach the court with clean hands.

Finally, the court addressed the procedural validity of delegating service of the notice to another authority, as permitted under the Act. It concluded that the Collector's authorization of service through the Executive Officer was lawful and consistent with Section 54(2)(c).

The court dismissed both writ petitions holding that the notice dated 04.09.2024 was validly issued and served in compliance with the Odisha Municipal Act, 1950. It vacated the interim order preventing consequential actions on the no-confidence motion and allowed the results of the vote to proceed.

This judgment reaffirms the principle that statutory procedures, while mandatory, should be evaluated pragmatically in cases involving disputed facts. The ruling strengthens accountability in local bodies by discouraging frivolous challenges to no-confidence motions, ensuring smoother functioning of democratic institutions.



Section showcasing working of the Judicial System of Princely States of Odisha



Justice
Murahari Sri Raman

CASE TITLE : **PRASANTA KUMAR PANI VS. MD & CEO, INDIAN BANK AND ANOTHER**
CASE NO : **W.P.(C) NO.2334 of 2021**
DATE OF JUDGMENT : **September 24, 2024**

Initial order of Punishment against the Petitioner was quashed and direction was issued to bestow upon him all consequential benefits – Authorities dis-entitled the Petitioner from availing the benefits under the Pension Regulations, 1995 and the Instruction Circular dated 15.09.2010 since he had not exercised his option within 60 days from the date of offer – Held, from the date of removal from service till dismissal of the order of punishment, Petitioner was outside the Bank Service – He had no control of the events – Held, Petitioner entitled to all benefits – Matter remanded to O.P.No.1-Bank to reconsider Petitioner's claim.

The present Writ Petition has been filed by the Petitioner challenging the order dated 28.06.2020 passed by the Opposite Party No.1-Bank and with a prayer to direct the Opposite Party No.1-Bank to allow the petitioner to join the pension scheme in terms of Allahabad Bank Employees' Pension Regulations, 1995 and the Instructions Circular No.11143/PA/2010-11/27 dated 15.09.2010 under Annexure-3 ("the Circular") with all pensionary benefits as is due and admissible to him.

The Petitioner had initially joined in service of the Bank in 10.01.1978. Later, disciplinary proceeding was initiated against the Petitioner on 17.03.1997 with respect to transactions during the period form 12.10.1991 to 02.07.1995. Eventually, a penalty of "removal of service" was imposed on the Petitioner vide order dated 19.08.1999. It is the aforesaid order that is at the heart of the issue at hand. The aforesaid order of the Disciplinary Authority imposing punishment, which was confirmed by the Appellate and the Reviewing Authorities, was assailed before this court in W.P.(C) No.5845 of 2003. The Learned Single Judge, vide judgement dated 04.08.2015 quashed the assailed orders on the ground of non-compliance with the principles of natural justice

and the law governing the field. The said order of the Learned Single Judge was confirmed in W.A. No.543 of 2015 (vide judgment dated 04.08.2015) and thereafter in SLP(C) No.35985 of 2016 (vide order dated 16.12.2016). Pursuant to the aforesaid development, the Petitioner submitted a representation before the Opposite Parties, which was dismissed on the ground that the Petitioner has not exercised the option under the Instruction Circular. As such, the pertinent benefits were not extended to the Petitioner.

The foremost contention of the Petitioner is that had he not been burdened with the order of removal of service, he would have continued in service till 10.01.1978, i.e. the date of his retirement. Therefore, it was stated that the Petitioner fulfills the conditions stipulated in the circular dated 15.09.2010. As such, the Petitioner be granted an opportunity to exercise the option with regard to such circular. On the contrary, the main thrust of the contention of the Bank is that the Instruction Circular dated 15.09.2010 is binding on the parties and therefore, no condition laid therein can be waived/relaxed in favour of the Petitioner. To bolster their stance, the Opposite Parties, referring to a judgement of this court dated 20.11.2019 in W.P.(C) No.7326 of 2012 *(Dhirendra Kumar Behera v. Indian Bank)*, have submitted that in a similar scenario the cut-off date stipulated for exercising option from the date of offer to become a member of the Pension Fund was not relaxed.

Finally, adjudicating the issue, the Hon'ble Court has first observed that since the petitioner was treated as being in service since 19.08.1999 and he suffered a legal disability due to no fault of his own, he could be extended with the benefit under the Pension Regulations by condoning the period stipulated in the Instruction Circular dated 15.09.2010. Thereafter referring to a catena of judgements and pronouncements, the Hon'ble Court has enumerated the law with respect to the 'doctrine of Impossibility' and has held that the Petitioner could not comply with the terms of the Circular since he was contesting the penalty imposed against him. As such, the petitioner cannot be denied his legitimate entitlement of becoming a member of the Pension Fund by dint of the stipulation as to period in terms of paragraph 1.2.1(b) of the Circular. No one can be supposed to perform that which is not possible due to prevailing circumstances beyond the control of the person. Additionally, referring to *Anantdeep Singh Vrs. The High Court of Punjab and Haryana, 2024 INSC 673,* the Hon'ble Court has held that after the quashment of the punishment inflicted by the Disciplinary Authority attained finality, the petitioner is relegated to the position as on 19.08.1999 and he is to be treated as if he were not removed from service. Therefore, he is entitled to all benefits conferred on the employees who were continuing at that point in time.

Furthermore, it has been observed that in light of the judgement dated 04.05.2015 in W.P.(C) No.5845 of 2003, the Opposite Parties ought to have extended the benefits under Instruction Circular dated 15.09.2010 to the Petitioner. Consequently, the Hon'ble Court has set aside the impugned order dated 28.09.2020 and remitted the matter to the Opposite Party No.1 to reconsider the claim of the Petitioner in light of the present judgement.

CASE TITLE : **KANSARI BEHERA VS. STATE OF ODISHA & ORS.**
CASE NO : **W.P.(C) NO.28593 of 2022**
DATE OF JUDGMENT : **October 09, 2024**

THE ODISHA CIVIL SERVICES (CLASSIFICATION, CONTROL AND APPEAL) RULES, 1962 – Rules 29, 30 – Rule 91 of the ODISHA SERVICE CODE was held to be not applicable to the present case – Held, in the face of the appellate order the Disciplinary Authority cannot pass orders restricting payments to the Petitioner

The Petitioner has assailed the Office Order No. 1610-Con.VI-3/2021/BBE dated 05.04.2021, where the Collector, Kandhamal has passed orders restricting the payments to the Petitioner from the date of suspension (30.09.2000) to the date of reinstatement (30.09.2013).

The issue arose when a criminal case (Berhampur Vigilance P.S. Case No.36 dated 04.11.1999) was instituted against the Petitioner and he was placed under suspension vide Order dated 30.09.2000, under Rule 12(2)(b) of the Odisha Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1962 ("OCS (CCA) Rules"). This was followed by a departmental proceeding vide Memo No.4312 dated 03.11.2000. The said proceeding was directed (by the learned OAT in O.A. No.1182 of 2001) to be held up till the disposal of the criminal case. In the meanwhile, the Petitioner was acquitted in the criminal case. The said acquittal was challenged by the Vigilance Authority, but it was dismissed by this court vide order dated 11.12.2018. Thereafter, the Petitioner was reinstated in service but, the period from 30.09.2000 to 30.09.2013 has been treated as the period of suspension.

It is the Petitioners case that the order of the Disciplinary Authority being nullified in appeal, it cannot bestow upon itself the jurisdiction and assume powers to pass fresh/further orders in furtherance of the Appellate Order, specifically in absence of any further direction to that effect. Therefore, the Disciplinary Authority transgressed his authority by passing further order directing to abandon the claim of pay minus subsistence allowance for the period of suspension inasmuch as there is categorical observation of the Appellate Authority that "the Collector, Kandhamal passed final order vide Order No.286, dated 15.02.2016, with the penalty that the period of suspension from 30.09.2000 to the date of reinstatement, i.e., on 30.09.2013 may be treated as such which was unwarranted and unjustified". Furthermore, the punishment imposed by Order No.286 dated 15.02.2016 was set aside by the Appellate Authority vide communication dated 23.12.2019, therefore, the order dated 05.04.2021 abandoning payment ought not to have been passed. Such an order would tantamount to imposition of penalty. The backbone of the rival contentions by the Opposite Parties was that since the Appellate Authority merely set aside the order of the Disciplinary Authority without any instruction as to further action to be taken, the Collector, Kandhamal was justified in approaching the Government for advice and passing the Order dated 05.04.2021 in consonance with Rule 91 of the Odisha Service Code.

In adjudication of the matter at hand, the Hon'ble court has placed reliance on *Mohd. Yunus Khan Vrs. State of Uttar Pradesh, (2010) 10 SCC 539 and Roop Sing Negi Vrs. Punjab National Bank,*

(2009) 2 SCC 570 to observe that disciplinary proceedings are quasi-judicial in nature. The Appellate Order in Annexure-12 has not been challenged and/or varied by any other competent court of law, therefore, the Collector, Kandhamal was bound by the quasi-judicial order-in-appeal, and in defiance thereof he was not competent to pass fresh orders by adhering to directive of the Revenue and Disaster Management Department on the administrative side. Such a course, in flagrant violation of provision of Rule 30 of OCS (CCA) Rules, 1962, is impermissible. Therefore, it is obligatory on the part of the Disciplinary Authority to comply with the Order dated 13.10.2015 of the Odisha Administrative Tribunal, Bhubaneswar passed in O.A. 1066 of 2014.

As far as Rule 91 of the Odisha Service Code (which was relied upon by the Opposite Parties to buttress their stance) is concerned, the Hon'ble Court has held that the present case does not fit into clause (1) of the said rule. As a result, the authority concerned was not competent to make any order regarding the payment and allowances to the Government Servant, and could not decide whether the said period is to be treated as time spent on duty. Finally, the order dated 05.04.2021 has been quashed and the Opposite Parties have been directed to extend all consequential service benefits to the Petitioner within three months.



Diorama showing the scene of a traditional justice system of Santals, displayed at Museum of Justice.



Justice
Sanjay Kumar Mishra

CASE TITLE : **M/S BANSAL INFRA PROJECTS PVT. LTD., BOLANGIR Vs. M/S JINDAL STEEL & POWER LTD. AND OTHERS**

CASE NO : **W.P.(C) No.11848 of 2024**

DATE OF JUDGMENT : **August 20, 2024**

Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 – Section 9 r/w Order 39 Rule 3 of the Code of Civil Procedure - Petitioner sought ex-parte interim injunction to restrain respondent from encashing unconditional bank guarantee during arbitration proceedings – Commercial Court rejected the application to grant ex parte ad interim injunction against invocation of bank guarantee – Scope of judicial interference against invocation of bank guarantee- High Court held injunction against invocation of unconditional bank guarantee is permissible only in cases of egregious fraud, irretrievable harm, special equities in favour of the applicant so also when the invocation is not in accordance with the agreed stipulations.

Whether rejection of interlocutory application filed under Order 39 Rule 3 of CPC is appealable under Section 37(1) (b) so also Section 13 of the Commercial Courts Act,2015?- High Court held interlocutory order passed in a Section 9 application moved before District Judge/ Commercial Court under the Act,1996 rejecting the prayer of the applicant to exempt notice to the Opposite Party and pass an ex parte ad interim injunction is not an appealable order and the aggrieved party has to approach the writ court under Article 227 of the Constitution of India.

The case involved M/s Bansal Infra Projects Pvt. Ltd. (the petitioner) and M/s Jindal Steel & Power Ltd. (JSPL) (the Opposite Party). A work order dated 24.01.2022, was issued to the petitioner for constructing 400 flats at JSPL's site. The contract value was approximately ₹ 43.99 crores, with an advance of ₹ 3.73 crores secured by a bank guarantee. Issues arose as JSPL delayed supplying construction materials and payments for running bills, which adversely affected the petitioner's performance. Allegedly, due to failure by JSPL, including delayed supply of materials, withheld

payments, and unilateral reduction of work scope, the petitioner faced financial difficulties. JSPL, citing non-performance, issued notice to terminate the contract and invoke the bank guarantee, leading to the petitioner seeking judicial intervention under Section 9 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 along with applications under Order 39 Rule 1 & 2 and 3 for granting ex-parte injunction to prohibit the Opposite Party from encashing the bank guarantee. The Senior Civil Judge (Commercial Court) rejected the petitioner's plea for an ex-parte interim injunction against encashment of the bank guarantee.

The petitioner argued that JSPL had failed to fulfill its reciprocal obligations under the contract, causing delays and financial losses. It contended that invoking the bank guarantee was unjustified and arbitrary, as pending dues far exceeded the amount of the bank guarantee furnished by it to secure the advance given by JSPL. The petitioner relied on precedents to argue for interim relief to prevent irreparable harm.

The Opposite Parties countered that the bank guarantee was an independent contract between the bank and JSPL, enforceable on demand irrespective of disputes under the main contract. They argued that the writ petition challenging the order passed by the Commercial Court was not maintainable as the said order passed by the Commercial Court is appealable under section 37 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, and judicial interference in bank guarantee invocation was permissible only under exceptional circumstances, such as fraud or irretrievable harm, which were not present.

The judgment explored the jurisdiction of Commercial Courts under the Commercial Courts Act, 2015, and clarified those procedural applications, such as those under Order 39, Rules 1 & 2 and 3 of the CPC, must be considered as part of the main proceedings under Section 9 of the Arbitration Act.

The Court began its analysis with the issue of bank guarantee invocation, emphasizing the independent and autonomous nature of such guarantees as financial instruments pivotal to commercial confidence. Relying on *Hindustan Steelworks Construction Ltd. v. Tarapore & Co. and SBI v. Mula Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd.,* the Court reaffirmed that judicial interference in the encashment of a bank guarantee is permissible only under exceptional circumstances, such as egregious fraud or irretrievable harm, special equities in favour of the person seeking injunction also in case of improper invocation when it is not in accordance with the agreed stipulations. The Court observed that there are special equities in favour of the Petitioner and if the Opposite Parties are permitted to encash the BG, it may cause irretrievable injustice to the Petitioner Company. Moreover, the Court underscored that the petitioner's allegations, including claims of delayed payments and non-fulfillment of contractual obligations, were purely contractual disputes, which can be appropriately resolved through arbitration rather than judicial intervention.

The Court also examined the precedents cited by JSPL, including Vinitec Electronics Pvt. Ltd. v. HCL Infosystems Ltd., which upheld the beneficiary's right to invoke an unconditional Bank Guarantee. Referring to *National Highways Authority of India v. Ganga Enterprises,* the Court noted that any deviation from the terms of the Bank Guarantee would render its invocation invalid.

It was observed that, interlocutory order passed in a section 9 application moved before the District Judge/ Commercial Court under the Act, 1996, rejecting the prayer of the Applicant to exempt notice to the Opposite Party and pass an ex parte ad interim injunction is not an appealable order and the party aggrieved has to approach the writ court under Article 227 of the Constitution of India.

The judgment reinforces the autonomy of bank guarantees in commercial transactions, signaling a pro-business stance in favor of contractual sanctity. It underscores that judicial intervention in Bank Guarantee encashment is an exception rather than a norm, aligning with global commercial practices. Socio-economically, this decision provides clarity on the enforceability of Bank Guarantees, promoting confidence among financial institutions and corporate entities. Legally, it delineates the scope of writ jurisdiction in commercial disputes, reaffirming the primacy of arbitration as a dispute resolution mechanism.

CASE TITLE : **THE SR. BRANCH MANAGER, THE NATIONAL SMALL INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LTD., BHUBANESWAR AND ANOTHER V. THE DEPUTY CHIEF LABOUR COMMISSIONER (CENTRAL), BHUBANESWAR-CUM-THE APPELLATE AUTHORITY AND OTHERS**

CASE NO : **W.P.(C) No.20160 of 2019**

DATE OF JUDGMENT : **March 15, 2024**

Service Law – Section 7(3), 7(3-A) of Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 r/w Rule 3(3) of N.S.I.C. Ltd (Control & Appeal Rules, 1968) – Forfeiture of Gratuity -Pendency of disciplinary proceedings – Opposite Party No.3 retired on superannuation on 30.11.2016, with disciplinary proceedings initiated prior to retirement alleging financial irregularities involving `173.50 crores – Controlling Authority under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 directed payment of gratuity with interest – Appellate Authority upheld the decision – Whether the employer has a right to impose punishment of forfeiture of gratuity in a disciplinary proceeding? – Held, there is no such provision under the said rule to impose the punishment of forfeiture of gratuity. The Petitioners-Employer had a right to continue with the disciplinary proceeding instituted before retirement of the Opposite Party No.3 High Court examined interplay of the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, and NSIC (Control and Appeal) Rules, 1968, emphasizing adherence to natural justice and statutory requirements for forfeiture so also withholding gratuity – Held Misconduct must involve moral turpitude proven in the Court, not to be decided by the Employer.

The Petitioners in this case are the employer, National Small Industries Corporation Ltd., Bhubaneswar, who challenged the orders of the Controlling Authority and the Appellate Authority under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 ("P.G. Act"). These orders directed the petitioners to release gratuity of ₹ 10,00,000 with interest to Opposite Party No. 3, an ex-employee. Opposite Party No. 3 joined the Corporation in 1981 and retired in 2016. Before retirement, a disciplinary proceeding was initiated against him due to alleged financial irregularities involving ₹ 173.50 crores. Despite being suspended and charged under the Corporation Rules, Opposite Party No. 3 opposed the inquiry proceedings on the ground that the same is not permissible after retirement and failed to cooperate, resulting in an ex-parte inquiry report concluding misconduct. Subsequently, the disciplinary authority terminated his services and forfeited his gratuity and other retirement benefits.

The petitioners contended that the forfeiture of gratuity was justified under Section 4(6) of the P.G. Act due to the employee's misconduct and

the financial loss caused to the organization. They argued that under Rule 3(3) of the NSIC (Control and Appeal) Rules, 1968, an employee is deemed to continue in service if disciplinary proceedings were initiated prior to retirement. Citing precedents like *Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. v. Rabindranath Choubey,* they claimed the right to withhold gratuity during pending disciplinary proceedings. Additionally, they emphasized the principles laid out in *Allahabad Bank v. Deepak Kumar Bhola,* where acts involving moral turpitude warranted forfeiture. They also argued procedural fairness, claiming sufficient opportunities were provided to the employee to defend himself, and highlighted that the appellate authority's decision under the P.G. Act, 1972 was influenced by outdated precedents.

Opposite Party No. 3 refuted the allegations of financial misconduct and emphasized that he was not convicted in the related criminal case. He stressed that forfeiture of gratuity is permissible only if misconduct constitutes an offense involving moral turpitude and is accompanied by a court conviction. He argued that the employer failed to notify him formally about the forfeiture, violating natural justice principles under Rule 8(ii) of the Payment of Gratuity (Central) Rules, 1972. Moreover, he highlighted that the disciplinary inquiry did not establish a direct quantification of financial loss attributable to him, making the forfeiture arbitrary.

The court examined the interplay between the provisions of the P.G. Act, 1972, and the NSIC (C&A) Rules, 1968. It acknowledged that, the Petitioners-Employer had a right to continue with the disciplinary proceeding instituted before retirement of the Opposite Party No.3 so also to impose the major penalty of dismissal with retrospective effect i.e. the date when the Opposite Party No.3 was superannuated, and legality of punishment imposed is subject to judicial scrutiny.

However, it was held that, the P.G. Act is a comprehensive code governing gratuity, and its provisions override inconsistent rules. The Court highlighted procedural lapses in the employer's approach, particularly the absence of formal communication about the forfeiture of gratuity to Opposite Party No. 3.

The Court also delved into the nature of moral turpitude, noting that while the allegations against the Opposite Party No.3 were serious, there was no conviction in criminal proceedings and the inquiry failed to establish direct financial loss attributable solely to him. It also observed that, the requirements of the statute is not the proof of misconduct of acts involving moral turpitude, but the acts should constitute an offence involving moral turpitude and such offence should be duly established in a Court of law. It is not for the Petitioners-Employer to decide whether the offence has been committed amounting to involving moral turpitude.

Further, the Court discussed the evolving jurisprudence on gratuity forfeiture, distinguishing between procedural non-compliance and substantive grounds, referencing the overruling of *Jaswant Singh Gill in Rabindranath Choubey*.

This judgment underscores the supremacy of the P.G. Act in disputes involving gratuity and highlights the procedural safeguards mandated under it. It reinforces that forfeiture of gratuity cannot be arbitrary and must align with statutory provisions and principles of natural justice. Socio-economically, this ruling protects employees' post-retirement entitlements from being forfeited without due process, offering reassurance to retirees about the inviolability of gratuity. Legally, it clarifies the procedural rigor required in employer-employee disputes under the P.G. Act and delineates the boundaries of employers' authority in forfeiture cases, thus contributing to labor law jurisprudence.



Justice
Gourishankar Satapathy

CASE TITLE : **PRATAP KUMAR JENA @ PRATAP JENA V. STATE OF ORISSA AND ANOTHER**
CASE NO : **CRLREV No.587 of 2023**
DATE OF JUDGMENT : **October 01, 2024**

Criminal Law – Cognizance – Second Protest Petition – Filing of, after commitment of the case to Sessions Court – FIR lodged on 03.01.2021 for the murder of two individuals – Petitioner, an MLA, named but excluded from the charge sheet – Informant filed two protest petitions – Magistrate took cognizance twice – Petitioner challenged Magistrate's jurisdiction to take second cognizance post-commitment to Sessions Court– Magistrate's Power – Jurisdiction after case commitment – Held, Magistrate cannot entertain second protest petition or take cognizance for the second time without order of first cognizance being set aside or varied – Only Sessions Court empowered to add persons as accused under Section 319 CrPC based on evidence or materials emerging during trial – Investigation – Further Investigation – Direction for further investigation by Magistrate after taking cognizance – Legal propriety – Held, further investigation permissible under Section 173(8) CrPC even after taking cognizance, provided specific reasons are recorded – Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 – Ss. 173(8), 190, 202, 209, 319.

The case stems from a brutal incident on 02.01.2021, where two individuals, Kulamani Baral and Dibyasingh Baral, were fatally attacked with lethal weapons in Mahanga, Odisha. The attack allegedly occurred due to a conspiracy involving multiple individuals. The petitioner, Pratap Kumar Jena, was named in the FIR filed by the son of one of the deceased, alleging that the petitioner had threatened the deceased days before the attack. However, the police investigation did not find sufficient evidence against the petitioner, excluding him from the charge sheet filed against 13 accused.

Dissatisfied with the exclusion, the complainant filed a protest petition in August 2021. The Magistrate

directed further investigation, but the final report again found no evidence implicating the petitioner. Subsequently, a second protest petition was filed in January 2023 by the deceased's brother. After examining the complainant and witnesses, the Magistrate took cognizance of the offenses against the petitioner and issued summons.

The counsel for the petitioner contended that the Magistrate's powers are substantially curtailed post-committal and argued that, upon committing a case to the Sessions Court, the Magistrate becomes *functus officio* and is consequently barred from taking cognizance of the same offense again. It was further argued that the second protest petition and the subsequent cognizance lacked jurisdiction and violated established legal principles.

Conversely, the complainant's counsel argued that filing a second protest petition is permissible under the law, particularly when the initial investigation is tainted by bias or is demonstrably inadequate. It was submitted that a Magistrate retains the authority to summon additional accused persons even post-committal, as supported by judicial precedents such as *H.S. Bains v. State (Union Territory of Chandigarh).* Furthermore, the complainant pointed to prima facie evidence of the petitioner's complicity, particularly threats allegedly made to the deceased.

The Court distilled the case into two pivotal legal questions. First, it considered whether a Magistrate can take cognizance of an offense for a second time based on a protest petition. The Court held that such an action is impermissible, as it violates the principle that cognizance of an offense can be taken only once, unless the original order is set aside by a higher court. Referring to the judgments in *Dharam Pal v. State of Haryana and Krishna Lal Chawla v. State of Uttar Pradesh,* the Court underscored that permitting multiple cognizances would lead to procedural irregularities and undermine the integrity of criminal proceedings. Second, the Court examined whether a Magistrate retains jurisdiction after committing the case to the Sessions Court. It clarified that once a case is committed, the Magistrate's role becomes predominantly administrative, and the authority to summon or add new accused persons lies exclusively with the Sessions Court under Section 319 of the CrPC. The Court, citing *Jile Singh v. State of Uttar Pradesh,* emphasized the statutory limitations on the Magistrate's jurisdiction post-committal.

While the Court acknowledged the complainant's right to contest investigative deficiencies, it found no substantial new evidence to justify the filing of a second protest petition. The allegations regarding threats made by the petitioner had already been examined during earlier investigations and were dismissed for lack of corroborative evidence.

This judgment reaffirms key procedural principles in criminal law, ensuring a delicate balance between protecting the rights of the accused and safeguarding the complainant's access to justice. By delineating the respective powers of Magistrates and Sessions Courts, the ruling prevents judicial overreach and safeguards the integrity of the trial process. Moreover, the judgment discourages repetitive litigation based on the same set of facts, promoting judicial efficiency and shielding individuals from harassment through frivolous criminal proceedings.

CASE TITLE : **BHARAT KUMAR JANI AND ANOTHER V. STATE OF ODISHA AND OTHERS; STATE OF ODISHA V. RAJESWAR BISOYI AND OTHERS**

CASE NO : **W.P.(C) Nos.8290 and 15877 of 2016**

DATE OF JUDGMENT : **March 14, 2024**

CORAM : **Dr. Justice B.R. Sarangi, Justice G. Satapathy**

Service Law – Recruitment – Retrospective Amendments – Reservation Ceiling – Procedural Fairness – Recruitment for Assistant Executive Engineer posts under various departments – Corrigenda issued by OPSC extending age relaxation for in-service candidates, introducing reservations for sports persons – Tribunal quashed corrigenda as being retrospective and beyond the permissible reservation ceiling of 50% – High Court upheld corrigenda, holding they were issued before the extended application deadline and aligned with the Odisha Engineering Service Rules, 2015 – Held, procedural amendments benefitting candidates may have retrospective effect if consistent with fairness and no prejudice is caused – Affirmed 50% reservation ceiling as constitutionally mandated, upheld Tribunal's directions – Directed appointments to proceed based on revised merit list without quashing the recruitment process entirely.

The aforementioned writ petitions were filed to challenge the common order dated 22.03.2016, passed by the Orissa Administrative Tribunal, Cuttack Bench, which dealt with the recruitment process initiated by the Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) for the posts of Assistant Executive Engineers in Civil and Mechanical branches under various departments of the State of Odisha. The OPSC issued Advertisement No. 03 of 2015-16 for the post of Assistant Executive Engineers in the Civil and Mechanical branches under various departments. The original advertisement was amended by two corrigenda issued on 29.05.2015 to extend the upper age limit for in-service candidates, allow reservations for sports persons, and update other conditions. The Tribunal struck down the corrigenda, holding that their issuance after the initial application deadline violated the principles of fairness and reservation limits.

The petitioners, including in-service engineers and the State of Odisha, contended that the corrigenda were essential for fair consideration of in-service candidates, particularly those adversely affected by the original age restrictions. They sought to uphold the corrigenda to ensure equitable recruitment, while respondents opposed them as retroactively benefiting certain candidates and violating the 50% reservation ceiling. It was argued that the corrigenda were issued before the extended deadline for applications, thereby complying with procedural fairness. They emphasized that the corrigenda aligned with the Odisha Engineering Service (Methods of Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Amendment Rules, 2015, which permitted age relaxation for in-service candidates and introduced other revisions.

The respondents opposed the corrigenda relying on the Supreme Court in *Y.V. Rangaiah V. J. Sreenivasa Rao and A.A. Calton v. Director of Education,* asserting that vacancies must be filled under the rules applicable at the time they arose. They argued that the corrigenda unjustly favored in-service candidates at the expense of others and exceeded the permissible reservation limit of 50%. Additionally, they highlighted alleged procedural irregularities and discrepancies in the

examination process, such as inclusion of out-of-syllabus questions and alleged use of electronic devices for malpractice.

This Court examined the Tribunal's decision and disagreed with it noted that the corrigenda did not materially alter the eligibility conditions but sought to provide relief to in-service candidates through age relaxation and procedural adjustments. The Court drew extensively from *Raj Kumar v. State of Himachal Pradesh,* which clarified that amendments to rules can apply prospectively or retrospectively, depending on the legislative intent and the principle of fairness.

The Court found that the issuance of corrigenda before the extended application deadline did not prejudice other candidates, as sufficient time was provided to avail the benefits of the amendments. It also held that the principle of fairness justified retrospective application of procedural rules aimed at benefitting candidates, particularly when no vested rights were infringed. The Court distinguished between substantive rights, which require strict adherence to existing rules, and procedural adjustments, which can be made to address anomalies or omissions.

Regarding the reservation ceiling, the Court upheld the Tribunal's observation that reservations must not exceed 50%, consistent with constitutional mandates. It also endorsed the Tribunal's directions for excluding faulty or out-of-syllabus questions from evaluation and awarding pro-rata marks to ensure fairness. However, it disagreed with the Tribunal's decision to quash the corrigenda, holding that they were consistent with legislative intent and procedural fairness.

This judgment highlights the judiciary's role in balancing procedural fairness with legislative intent in recruitment processes. It underscores that procedural amendments aimed at expanding eligibility or rectifying anomalies should not be invalidated if they cause no prejudice to existing candidates. This ruling serves as a critical precedent for resolving conflicts between procedural amendments and fairness in recruitment, advancing administrative efficiency while safeguarding constitutional principles.



Coat of Arms displayed at Centre for Judicial Archives



Justice
Chittaranjan Dash

CASE TITLE : **ARANYA KUMAR SAHOO V. ARPITA SAHOO**
CASE NO : **CRLMP NO. 2365 of 2023**
DATE OF JUDGMENT : **February 01, 2024**

Welfare of child is the paramount consideration in cases of grant of custody and rights of natural guardian have to yield to the best interest of the child.

The opposite party in this case is the daughter of the petitioner, who was residing in the care and custody of her maternal uncle following the death of her mother. The maternal uncle of the opposite party had filed an FIR against the petitioner and his family alleging murder of his (petitioner's) wife.

When the opposite party claimed maintenance, the petitioner all of a sudden sought custody of the opposite party, which was rejected by the learned Judge, Family Court, Kendrapara as per the impugned order. Being aggrieved, the petitioner filed this revision petition before the High Court.

It was contended on behalf of the petitioner that he, being the natural guardian of his daughter, is entitled to have her custody as per the provision under Section 6 of the Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, 1956 ['HMG Act']. However, such contention was refuted by the counsel for the opposite party who submitted that it is the 'welfare of the child' which is the paramount consideration in cases of grant of custody and not the rights of the parents under a statute for the time being in force.

Upon considering the submissions of both the sides, the Court at the outset examined the stipulations made under Section 6 of the HMG Act and Section 17 of the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890, which provide for natural guardian of a Hindu minor and factors for consideration before grant of custody respectively.

The Single Bench further relied upon the observations made by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of *Anjali Kapoor v. Rajiv Baijal, (2009) 7 SCC 322* and the Madras High Court in the case of *Muthuswami Moopanar v. K. M. Chinna Muthuswami Moopanar, AIR 1935 Mad 195,* wherein it was commonly held that right of parents for custody of their minor child

is not absolute, rather it is subject to the welfare of the child.

Against the backdrop of the aforesaid legal position, the Court examined the facts of the case. It was found that the opposite party was only two months and twenty days old when the maternal uncle took her custody upon the death of her mother. The petitioner did not care for his minor daughter for long ten years, rather got married for the second time and begot a child from that wedlock.

"It is evident from the submissions and evidence that the Petitioner has not provided basic maintenance for the daughter since 2012 and has only applied for custody in response to a maintenance petition filed against him, potentially out of concern for having to provide regular maintenance for his own child," the Court observed.

The Bench further took into account the interaction held by the trial Court with the minor girl (opposite party), who unequivocally expressed her desire to reside with her maternal uncle and also stated that he has been properly taking care of her needs and amenities which makes her feel safe only in his custody.

Therefore, the Court was of the considered view that the maternal uncle must retain the custody of the child as it may not be apposite at this stage for diverting the environment to which the child is used to. It further held –

"It could be detrimental to the minor's welfare if she is left in the care of someone she does not know, even though that person is her legal guardian. She cannot be uprooted from a supportive environment that is well equipped to provide her growth just to give effect to the father's legal claim to natural guardianship. Given the circumstances, the child will remain in the care of her maternal uncle."

CASE TITLE : **SUDAM PATTANAIK V. STATE OF ORISSA**
CASE NO : **CRLA NO. 293 of 2009**
DATE OF JUDGMENT : **April 09, 2024**

Proof of 'demand' and 'acceptance' of bribe is a sine qua non for recording conviction under Section 7 and Section 13(2) r/w Section 13(d) of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

The complainant was working as a male health worker at CHC, Tentulikhunti in the district of Nabarangapur, who retired from service on 31.07.2006. Prior to his retirement, he had submitted all the requisite documents for drawing provisional as well as regular pensions. However, the clerk of the CHC (the appellant in the instant case), who was dealing with the pension papers, demanded a bribe amount to the tune of Rs. 3000/-.

As the complainant was not willing to pay the amount, he lodged a written report before the Superintendent of Police, Vigilance, Koraput Division, Jeypore. Accordingly, a trap was laid wherein the complainant acted as the decoy and another witness was sent with the complainant to overhear the conversations.

As per the prosecution version, when the complainant reached at the office of the appellant, the latter asked the former as to whether he has brought the bribe money. Getting the answer in affirmative, the appellant asked the complainant-decoy to keep the cash in the drawer of his table. Subsequently, the

trap team arrived and recovered the GC notes and the fingers of right hand of the appellant were put in a sodium carbonate solution which turned pink.

Investigation was carried out and charge-sheet was submitted against the appellant after obtaining sanction order. After examining the versions of witnesses and other evidence on record, the trial Court found the appellant guilty under Section 7 and Section 13(2) read with Section 13(d) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. Impugning the trial Court order, this appeal was filed before the High Court.

To decide the appeal, the Court went through the aforesaid provisions and ingredients thereof as well as relevant judicial precedents including the judgment of the Hon'ble Apex Court in *Neeraj Dutta v. State (Govt. of NCT of Delhi), (2023) 4 SCC 731* wherein it was observed that to bring home the above-stated charges, demand and acceptance of bribe is a sine qua non.

But perusal of the evidence on record canvassed certain fatal contradictions in the prosecution evidence. It was also found that the versions of witnesses recorded under Section 164, Cr.P.C. contradicted with their testimonies given in Court. The extent of inconsistencies was of such magnitude that the Deputy Superintendent of Police, who accompanied the trap team, deposed that the tainted notes were recovered from the hands of the complainant, whereas some other prosecution witnesses stated that the same were recovered from the table drawer of the appellant.

The Court was of the view that the appellant unintentionally and unknowingly coming in contact with the tainted notes, while extracting some documents from the same drawer, cannot be ruled out. Furthermore, it found credence in the defence plea that the pension papers were already forwarded to the CDMO for necessary action and since the appellant did not have the papers on the alleged date of demand of bribe or trap, it is probable that he had never demanded such bribe at all.

Therefore, taking into account the factual scenario vis-à-vis the legal position, the Court deemed it proper to extend benefit of doubt to the appellant and accordingly, held as follows:

"On a perspicacious analysis of the evidence on record and the settled principles of law in the decisions referred to above, the ingredients of offence under Section 7 of the P.C. Act are not found established. Consequently, the offence under Section 13(1)(d) will not be attracted. Hence, it is irresistible to hold that the prosecution has not been able to prove the charges against the Appellant beyond all reasonable doubt and the Appellant as such is entitled to an acquittal."



Heritage calculator used in the High Court of Orissa, displayed at Museum of Justice



Justice
Sibo Sankar Mishra

CASE TITLE : **ROJALIN ROUT & ANR. V. STATE OF ODISHA & ANR.**
CASE NO : **CRLMC NO. 3460 OF 2023 and Batch of Cases**
DATE OF JUDGMENT : **April 22, 2024**

"POCSO Act has led to increase in vindictive litigation and has caused widespread injustice in tribal hamlets and rural India causing uncalled-for arrests and incarnations."

The Court was hearing a batch of petitions filed under Section 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure with identical prayers to quash FIRs and pending criminal proceedings under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act ('POCSO Act') against a number of persons in different cases of sexual intercourse arising out of adolescent romantic relationships or promises of marriage. A common thread ran across all the cases, i.e., in every such case the victim was under the age of majority at the time of commission of alleged offences.

The Bench took into account the fact that in each of these cases, the parties claimed to have settled the disputes between them mutually and they were not interested to carry on the litigation anymore. Thus, the important legal question which cropped up for consideration is that whether the High Court is empowered to quash criminal proceedings, especially in heinous cases like rape and POCSO offences, on the basis of mutual settlement between the concerned parties.

To answer the aforesaid question, the Court examined relevant statutory provisions and judgments of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and various High Courts. From a conspectus of the legal precedents, the Single Bench observed that adolescent romantic and sexual relationships have been judicially recognized to be normal and criminalization thereof has been viewed as averse to the objectives of the POCSO Act.

The Court went a step further to recognize the rising numbers of such relationships and how criminal cases are often filed against male partners over

petty issues. Underlining the objective behind enactment of the POCSO Act, it observed as follows:

"The aim of the POCSO Act is to protect minors from rapacious sexual offences and sexual violence by predators and criminals but does not aim to criminalize consensual sex of teenagers who have not attained the age of majority. The object is certainly not to punish teenagers who have not attained the age of majority in romantic or consensual relationship and accused them as offenders under the POCSO Act."

The Court also flagged a very pertinent practical issue relating to the effect of the POCSO Act vis-à-vis rural and tribal people and it observed thus:

"In the Rural India as well, particularly in tribal hamlets, the provisions of the POCSO Act have caused widespread injustice, resulting in the uncalled-for arrest and incarcerations. Adivasi and the tribal have their unique customs and traditions with girls and boys marrying and living together after reaching puberty. The marriage in these communities marked as a tradition from adolescence to adulthood and men are considered ready for marriage based on their physical fitness. Unfortunately, many grooms over the age of 21 years have been arrested for marrying brides under the age of 18 years. The tribal population in India is mostly illiterate. Hence, they often fall into the grips of the POCSO Act."

Basing on the aforesaid observations, the Court deemed it justified to quash the pending criminal proceedings in all the cases except the one where sexual intercourse was found to be non-consensual and forceful.

CASE TITLE : **DR. PRIYANK TAPURIA V. STATE OF ORISSA & ANR.**
CASE NO : **CRLMC NO. 385 of 2023**
DATE OF JUDGMENT : **June 20, 2024**

Merely rejecting to marry a girl after being engaged to her does not amount to abetment of suicide under Section 306 of the IPC.

The Court was hearing a petition under Section 482, Cr.P.C. filed by a doctor who was charge-sheeted under Section 306, IPC for allegedly abetting the suicide of his fiancé. The brief fact leading to the criminal prosecution is that, both the families of the petitioner as well as the deceased girl had decided to get the couple married in 2019. However, as the petitioner was still pursuing his medical education, he insisted for postponing the marriage for two years.

The family members of the girl were not prepared to wait for such a long time and thus, fixed her marriage with another man. Though the ring ceremony was held but the marriage could not be solemnized for some reasons. Subsequently, the proposal of marriage between the petitioner and the deceased girl reconvened and accordingly, both got engaged in May, 2021.

Surprisingly, the petitioner started showing reluctance to get married to the deceased after the engagement. In the night of 12/13 September 2021, both had a long telephonic conversation after which the deceased informed her mother that she went to bed with a 'heavy heart' after talking to the petitioner. At about 08:00 AM, the complainant-mother found the room of the deceased locked

from inside and when she peeped into the room from the window, she found the deceased hanging from the ceiling with a wearing garment.

She informed the matter to the police immediately and accordingly, an unnatural death case was registered. She again went to the police on 20.09.2021 and lodged an FIR implicating the petitioner for the death of the deceased. The police carried out investigation pursuant to which charge-sheet was filed against the petitioner and cognizance was also taken for the aforesaid charge.

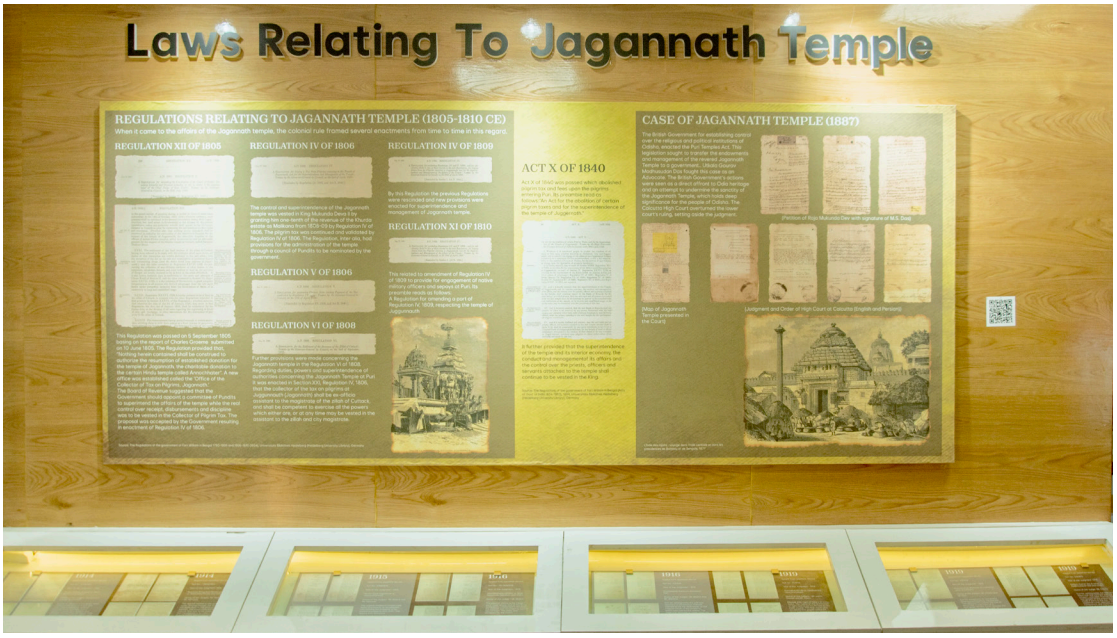
Impugning the cognizance order, the petitioner approached the High Court. After taking note of the entire factual gamut, the Court posed a question to itself as to whether the petitioner can be held liable for abetment of suicide of the deceased girl only because he rejected to marry her subsequent to the ring ceremony.

To such answer such question, the Bench examined various judgments of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and observed that it was expected from the petitioner to be very clear about his stand in the relationship and if he did not wish to marry the deceased, he should have conveyed the same to her at the very first instance without any caveats. Getting himself engaged with reluctancy to marry the deceased was even worse.

At the same time, it held that every relationship carries heavy emotional burden and feelings and hence, in these matters, rationality and objectivity take a backseat. Therefore, the Court was convinced that though the petitioner was at fault in not having a clear stand about the marriage from the beginning but it was not his criminal intention which culminated in the suicide of the deceased.

Resultantly, while setting aside the order taking cognizance and the entire criminal proceeding, the Single Bench held as follows:

"...this court feels that act of entering into the engagement with the deceased by the petitioner with reluctancy to marry her alone cannot be made a penal offence, much less under Section 306 IPC. Reluctance to give irrevocable commitment for life-time and to take responsibility cannot culminate into mens rea to commit a criminal offence."



Panel on "Laws relating to Jagannath Temple" displayed at Centre for Judicial Archives describing significant regulations and cases relating to Jagannath Temple at Puri, Odisha



Justice
Ananda Chandra Behera

CASE TITLE : **BHIKARI CHARAN SAMANTRAY (DEAD) & ORS. VS. GAJENDRA KUMAR SAMANTRAY (DEAD) & ORS.**

CASE NO : **SA NO.72 of 1996**

DATE OF JUDGMENT : **September 06, 2024**

CIVIL PROCEDURE CODE, 1908—Order-32, Rules-3 and 4—Law regarding appointment of guardian–ad-litem to represent minor defendant in a suit. If a court guardian is appointed for the minor-defendant as a guardian-ad-litem upon the application made by the plaintiff without any notice of such an application of the plaintiff having been served upon the minor-defendant and his guardian as required under Sub-rule (4) of Rule-3 of Order-32 of the C.P.C., an order appointing a guardian-ad-litem for such a minor-defendant by the Court would be a nullity and without jurisdiction and such a guardian-ad-litem cannot legally represent the minor, so as to bind him by his acts. In that situation, as per law, minor-defendant will not be considered to be a party to such a proceeding or suit notwithstanding that, his name appears on the record as a defendant and if any order or decree is passed or any proceeding is taken against him(minor-defendant) on the basis of appointment of guardian-ad-litem, the same will be null and void and minor-defendant is not bound by such order or decree.

The present 2nd Appeal has been preferred against the Judgment and Decree dated 21.12.1995 & 12.01.1996 of the 1st Appellate Court in T.A. No.60 of 1993, which was partly allowed in favour of the present Respondents. The original Appellant (Bhikari Charan Samantaray) and the original Respondents (Gajendra Kumar Samantaray and his mother Kamala Dei) have passed away in the meantime and have been duly substituted by their LRs.

The genesis of the present dispute relates to the relationship between the present Respondents (Gajendra Kumar Samantaray and his mother Kamala Dei) and the present Appellant (Bhikari Charan Samantaray). Initially, a suit bearing T.S No.17 of 1985-I which was filed by the present

Respondents, against the present Appellant, for setting aside the ex parte judgment and decree passed on 24.09.1977 in O.S No.58 of 1976-I. The suit bearing T.S No.17 of 1985-I was dismissed by the Trial Court, leading to the present Respondents filing a 1st Appeal vide T.A. No.60 of 1993, which was allowed by declaring the Judgment and Decree of O.S. No.58 of 1976-I as void and non-est, held the present Respondents (Gajendra and Kamala Dei) as the Son and the mistress of the present Appellant, and granted a monthly maintenance of Rs.300/- in favour of Kamala Dei. The present 2nd Appeal has been preferred against the aforesaid judgement of the 1st Appellate Court.

The present 2nd Appeal has been admitted on two substantial questions of law, vis-à-vis; firstly, Whether, the lower appellate court's finding that, the "Ex parte Judgment and Decree in O.S. No.58 of 1976-I was obtained by suppressing summons" suffers from non-consideration of the material evidence on record and as such raises a question of law being vitiated by perversity? Secondly, whether the suit filed by plaintiff-respondent was completely barred by limitation as per Articles 58 and 59 of the Limitation Act in as much as the suit was not filed within 3 years from the date of the knowledge about the passing of the decree in the previous suit?

The Appellants, relying on a string of judgements (in para 14), have assailed the judgement and decree of the 1st Appellate Court and supported the judgement and decree of the Trial Court. On the contrary, the Respondents, by placing reliance on a few judgements (in para 15) have controverted the Appellants' stance.

In final adjudication, regarding the first issue, the Hon'ble Court has observed that Order 32 of the CPC protects the interest and the minor and ensures that they are properly represented in a suit. Accordingly, Rule 3 (4) & (4-A) of Order 32, that are mandatory in nature, provide that the wishes of the minor and his guardian, ascertained through issuance of notices to them, are to be obtained before any guardian for the minor is appointed by the Court. In such background, the Hon'ble Court has perused the order sheets of the suit bearing O.S. No.58 of 1976-I and held that no notice has been served on the minor defendant (Gajendra) or his natural guardian mother (Kamala Dei). Additionally, no notice was issued to the minor defendant upon his attaining majority during pendency of the suit, as is the prerogative of the Court. This defeats the object of Order 32 of the CPC. As such, the Hon'ble Court (citing the decisions in para 19, 20 and 21) has held that the appointment of the Guardian-Ad-Litem is a nullity, the proceedings of the aforesaid suit starting from 16.06.1976 till its Judgment and Decree are unlawful and the orders passed in O.S. No.58 of 1976-I starting from 16.06.1976 onwards are null and void. Consequently, it has also been held that the plaintiff in O.S. No.58 of 1976-I (i.e. Bhikari Charan Samantaray) has obtained the decree in O.S. No.58 of 1976-I by practising fraud.

So far as the second issue is concerned, it has already been held that the original suit was obtained by practicing fraud – which is a continuing wrong – and suppressing service of notice/summons. The initial actions in O.S. No. 58 of 1976-I were not in accordance with the law. Consequently, all subsequent or related proceedings are rendered invalid because illegality undermines the very foundation of the order. As the maxim Sublato fundamento cadit opus states, when the foundation is removed, the structure or work collapses. Therefore, the Hon'ble Court (referring to various judgements in Para 25) has held that the suit bearing T.S. No.17 of 1985-I (filed by the present Respondents against the original suit) cannot be considered to be barred by limitation.

Ultimately, the Hon'ble Court has allowed the 2nd Appeal in part, set aside the judgement and decree in T.S. No.17 of 1985-I, partly set aside the Judgment and Decree passed by the 1st Appellate Court in T.A. No.60 of 1993, and directed the Civil Judge to proceed in the matter (O.S. No.58 of 1976-I) de novo since the previous stage of the Order No.2 dated 16.06.1976 and dispose of the same.

CASE TITLE : **STATE OF ORISSA AND ANOTHER VS. M/S. B. ENGINEERS AND BUILDERS PRIVATE LIMITED.**

CASE NO : **S.A. NO.127 of 1995**

DATE OF JUDGMENT : **December 03, 2024**

CIVIL PROCEDURE CODE, 1908—Section 80—Plaintiff cannot be non-suited on ground of non-service of statutory notice under Section 80 C.P.C., when State waived it by its conduct without raising objection about the same in written statement.

The State and Executive Engineer (Appellants) have preferred this 2nd appeal arraying the judgment and decree of the dismissal of the 1st appeal vide T.A. No.04 of 1993 dated 14.02.1995 and 22.02.1995 respectively, which confirmed the judgment & decree of the trial court dated 09.09.1993 & 17.10.1993 respectively in T.S. No.04 of 1992.

The Appellants and the Respondent-Company had an agreement to construct a bridge over the river Vansadhara, near Gunupur, in the district of Rayagada. Due to some delay in completion of the project, the present Appellants, as per letter No.1165 dated 27.01.1992 and letter No.1312 dated 29.01.1992, unilaterally cancelled the agreement and adjusted the security deposit, in the shape of Bank guarantees for Rs.8,85,000/- , by the Company towards the losses incurred by them. Aggrieved, the Company sought relief before the trial court in the shape of T.S. No.04 of 1992. The trial, vide its judgment and decree dated 09.09.1993 and 17.10.1993 respectively, decided the issues framed therein in favour of the company by declaring the aforesaid letters as illegal and permanently restraining the present Appellants from enchasing the Bank guarantees until final settlement of accounts. The present Appellants preferred a 1st Appeal vide T.A. No.04 of 1993 against the aforesaid unfavourable judgment, which again went in favour of the Company. Consequently, the present 2nd appeal has been preferred by the Appellants on two substantial questions of law; firstly, maintainability of the original suit on the ground that the pleading did not contain any reference to a notice under section 80 C.P.C. being served on the present Appellants and secondly, probable waiver of the notice under section 80 C.P.C. in view of the particular facts and circumstances of the present case.

The backbone of the Appellants' arguments is that the original suit is not maintainable since notice under section 80 of C.P.C. was not served upon the State and Executive Engineer (the Appellants). To substantiate their contention, the Appellants have relied upon the judgements in Abhimanyu Nayak and others vrs. Basanta Mohanty and others (W.P.(C) No.15161 of 2008), Gangappa Gurupadapa Gugwad Gulbarga vrs. Rachawwa and others (Civil Appeal No.1732 (N) of 1966 decided on 23.10.1970), Bishandayal and sons vrs. State of Orissa and others (Civil Appeal No.2522 of 1992 decided on 07.12.2000). On the Respondent-Company's side, there was no participation in the hearing. Respondent-Company

In ultimate analysis, the Hon'ble Court has dealt with the two substantial questions of law, being interlinked, analogously. While doing so, the Hon'ble Court, placing reliance upon a catena of judgments (in paragraph 16), has expounded upon the law regarding serving of notice under section 80(1) of C.P.C. It has been observed that the primary rationale behind issuance of notice under section 80(1) of C.P.C. is to afford the noticee (i.e. state authority) an opportunity to reconsider the claims of the notice and make attempts to settle/resolve the same without engaging in litigation. Furthermore, although the service of notice is mandatory in nature, the said requirement can be considered as waived if no objection to the maintainability of the suit in question was raised by the state authority on the ground of non-service of the notice, at the stage of trial. This being the scenario in the present matter, the Hon'ble Court has observed that the contention of the present Appellants that the original suit is not maintainable on account of non-service of section 80(1) notice, is not valid. Additionally, the judgements relied on by the Appellants have been held to be not applicable to the present case.

Finally, the Hon'ble Court has held that there is no justification for interfering with the concurrent findings of the learned trial court and the 1st Appellate Court. As such, the present 2nd appeal was dismissed and the judgements and decrees passed in n T.S. No.04 of 1992 and T.A, No.04 of 1993 were confirmed.



Fragile Record Room at Centre for Judicial Archives



Judges' Library











CHAPTER VI
INTROSPECTION



Artist's impression of the Ghumsar Rebellion (1834-1836) displayed at Museum of Justice

INTROSPECTION

Introspection results in improvement. It is the mirror which reflects the achievements and drawbacks. For such reason, a whole chapter on "Introspection" is consciously made part of the annual report published every year.

Looking back at the year gone by, it becomes evident that while sincere efforts were made in terms of case disposal and infrastructure development, considerable challenges still remain. Given below is an honest attempt to highlight the above.

Challenges

I. Judge-population ratio

As against pendency of 1,46,320 cases in the High Court, there are presently 19 Judges against the sanctioned strength of 33 Judges. No judges were appointed in the current year and the strength of Judges was reduced from 21 to 19 due to transfer, superannuation etc. The per Judge caseload at present is 7701 cases.

So far as the District Courts is concerned, there were 799 Judicial Officers at the beginning of the year 2024. During the year 11 Judicial Officers superannuated and one Judicial Officer expired. 54 Judicial Officers in cadre of Civil Judge (Junior Division) joined the service due to fresh recruitment. The per capita caseload was 2284 cases at the end of the year.

The judge-population ratio is 1 : 48,807 (Total No. of Judges/Total population).

II. Docket explosion

The total pendency of cases (both Civil and Criminal) was 18,73,312 at the beginning of 2024, which increased to 19,20,825 at the end of December 2024.The total pendency of civil cases at the beginning of the year 2024 was 3,40,242 and it came down to 3,16,057 at the end of December 2024 with 121.92% CCR (Disposal/ Institution x 100). However, the cases in criminal side increased from 15,33,070 at the beginning of the year 2024 to 16,04,768 at the end of December 2024 with 85.54% CCR.

81,104 civil cases were instituted in 2024 and 98,776 cases were disposed of. In the criminal side, 4,18,016 cases were instituted in 2024 and 3,57,576 cases were disposed of. The high institution of criminal cases is due to filing of 42,819 cases under the Motor Vehicles Act. As such, 100% or more CCR could not be achieved in the criminal side. However, despite all odds, the judgeships of Jharsuguda, Kalahandi, Mayurbhanj, Nabarangpur, Nuapada, Puri, Sambalpur and Sonepur have achieved more than 100% CCR.

1,57,593 judgments (Civil and Criminal) have been delivered till December 2024 in comparison to 1,44,103 judgments delivered in 2023.

III. Loss of court working hours

Loss of court working hours is one of the important factors contributing delayed justice. In the year 2021, 25 working days were lost in the High Court due to reasons such as, abstention from court work on strike by lawyers and suspension of court hours due to death of their colleagues and other issues and demands. The corresponding figure of loss of working days due to the above reasons is 15.69 for the District Courts.

In 2022, 3118 working hours (reference – 1,537; leave /official tour = 1,395 and Covid-19 – 185) out of 23,736 working hours were lost in the High Court. [Working hour =Total working hour per day (5 hours 15 minutes) x No. of working days x working strength of Judges]. Likewise the cumulative loss

of court working hours of the District Courts during 2022 was 2,22,447, primarily due to cease work, picketing and strike by lawyers. [Working hour =Total working hour per day (6 hours) x No. of average loss of working days xaverage working strength of Judicial Officers in the State]

The loss of court working hours was 2009 hours in High Court in 2023 and 19.37 hours in the District Courts. In 2024, the loss of court working hours in High Court is 1644.875 hours and in District Court it is 55.275 hours.

IV. Disposal of year old cases

Pendency of year old cases is a headache for the system. 4,637 cases in the category of 25- 40 years old were pending at the beginning of the year 2023 which was reduced to 2,169 at the end of the year 2023, which was further reduced to 1,984 at the end of December 2024.

Similarly, 32 cases in the category of 40 years old was pending at the beginning of 2023, which was reduced to 26 at the 2023. However, pendency of 40 year old cases has increased to 36 at the end of the year 2024.

The pendency of more than 25 years old cases is being monitored by the Administrative Judges monthly. Besides, these cases are also monitored by the State Court Management System (SCMS) Committee of the Court in conformity with the directions of the Supreme Court of India imparted in Action Plan for Arrears Reduction in District Judiciary (APAaR-DJ). The pace of disposal of year old cases has however been better.

Various steps are being taken to lessen the burden of the year old cases. Virtual interactions at regular intervals are being held with the district judiciary to monitor the progress of the year old cases. Targets are fixed on the quarterly statistical files. Discussion is held in the District Judges Conference on the ways and means for enhancing disposal of year old cases and instructions are imparted. The Administrative Judges also hold interactions with the judicial officers at the time of inspection of District Courts and at regular intervals and targets are fixed for the Judicial Officers to prioritize the targeted year old cases for time bound disposal.

V. Non-execution of Warrants

One of the conventional challenges facing the District Judiciary is long abscondence of accused persons, which predominantly lingers the cases for years together. Fortunately, technology has come to the rescue in the form of Warrant Management System (WMS) in collaboration with the State Crime Records Bureau (SCRB), Govt. of Odisha, Bhubaneswar. In the first phase WMS was piloted in seven judgeships- Angul, Balasore, Khurda, Ganjam, Koraput, Rourkela in the judgeship of Sundargarh and Sambalpur. On its success, it was extended to other twenty three judgeships. By dint of the WMS portal, it is now possible for the district courts to instantly transmit bailable warrants (B.W.), non-bailable warrants (N.B.W.), distress warrants (D.W.) and warrants for the recommitment of convicts to police stations across the State. It rules out possibility of misplacement of warrants and provides scope for real-time tracking of warrants issued to police stations. The most significant aspect is that the warrant issuing courts and the executing agency i.e. police can monitor the progress of execution of warrants. As at the end of the year, 2024, 13420 warrants have been issued, out of which 1,874 warrants have been executed, 911 warrants were recalled and 10,635 warrants are yet to be executed.

VI. Infrastructure

In order to meet the requirement of the present and future, massive expansion of Judicial Infrastructure is the need of the hour for smooth functioning of Courts in the State. In recent years, significant attention has been directed towards enhancing

the infrastructure of the district judiciary, which includes the development of accessible court complexes and suitable residential facilities for judicial officers and staff. In 2024, the New Judicial Court Complex at Bhubaneswar, three Taluk Court Buildings and one Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre-cum-Virtual Court and construction of ten residential quarters for judicial officers have been completed.

Besides, foundation stones for 79 new projects were laid.

To ensure consistency in the design of residential and non-residential buildings of the judiciary throughout the state, Model Plans for the construction of Taluk Court Buildings, Bar Association halls-cum-Canteens, Residential Quarters for Judicial Officers and Staff and Transit Houses have been formulated and adopted.

In order to address the financial requirements for the ongoing and new infrastructural projects of the district judiciary of the State, budget allocations are being made under two distinct schemes: the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) and the State Sector Scheme (SSS).

Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)

Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) has been introduced and implemented by the Government of India since the financial year 1993-94 for infrastructural development of the Judiciary to augment the resources of the State Government. Recently, the Central Government has extended the Scheme till the F.Y.-2025-26. The Government of India has implemented the SNA-SPARSH Model for Just-in-Time release of CSS funds and the High Court of Orissa has been onboarded in the SNA-SPARSH platform for the scheme viz. development of infrastructure facilities for judiciary.

Under the CSS, the fund sharing pattern is in the ratio of 60:40 between the Centre and the State as far as the State of Odisha is concerned i.e. 60 % of the funds are to be provided by the Central Government while the commensurate State share of 40% to be provided by the State Government.

Construction of Lawyer Halls, Digital Computer Rooms, Toilet Complexes besides Court halls & residential units for Judicial Officers have been incorporated in the Action Plan of the CSS in 89 projects adhering to the guidelines of letter No. J-11017/01/2017/e-file 4175 or 2314 dated 19.08.2021 of the Ministry of Law & Justice (Department of Justice), Government of India.

Funds to the tune of Rs.52.80 Crore (Rs. 31.68 Crore as Central Share + Rs. 21.12 Crore as State Share) have been allotted under the CSS during the 1st Quarter i.e. January, 2024 to March, 2024 of the calendar year, 2024. During the next two quarters i.e. from April, 2024 to September, 2024, funds to the tune of Rs. 57.4667 Crore (Rs. 34.48 Crore as Central Share + Rs. 22.98667 Crore as State share) have been allotted under the CSS.

Further, funds to the tune of Rs.8,33,33,333/- (Rs.5,00,00,000/- Central share (mother sanction) + Rs.3,33,33,330/- State share) have been sanctioned in the fourth quarter of the calendar year, 2024 under the CSS in SNA-SPARSH model.

State Sector Scheme (SSS)

The funds are being provided every financial year under the State Sector Scheme (SSS) for infrastructural Development of the State Judiciary, which are fully funded by the State Government.

Rs.406,00,00,000/- (Rupees Four Hundred Six Crore only) have been allocated by the State Government in the annual budget for financial year, 2024-25 for the purpose of infrastructure

development of the High Court and District Courts. In addition to this, Rs. 40,01,00,000/- (Rupees Forty Crore One Lakh Only) has been proposed to be sanctioned in favour of Judiciary in the supplementary budget for the FY, 2024-25.

Further, during 2024, 150 new projects for the district judiciary have been accorded administrative approval by the Government of Odisha, Home Department under the scheme.

Repair/ Renovation/Improvement and Maintenance of buildings pertaining to the District Judiciary-

The State Government has allocated Rs. 90,00,00,000/- (Rupees Ninety Crores) for repair/ renovation/improvement of the infrastructure of the District Judiciary of the State in the financial Year 2024-25. Details of the allocation of funds to the respective Executing Agencies for completion of approved revenue outlay projects till the end of December, 2024 are:

Sl. No.	Name of the Executing Agency	Funds earmarked for execution of Revenue Outlay Projects of the District Judiciary in the Financial Year, 2024-25
NON-RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS		
1	C.E. (Buildings)	52,00,00,000
2	C.E. (Rural Works)	7,00,00,000
3	E.I.C. (P.H.)	5,00,00,000
TOTAL (in Rs.)	**64,00,00,000**	
RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS		
1	C.E. (Buildings)	20,00,00,000
2	C.E. (Rural Works)	3,00,00,000
3	E.I.C. (P.H.)	3,00,00,000
TOTAL (in Rs.)	**26,00,00,000**	

In 2024, High Court has approved 857 revenue outlay projects for District Judiciary, out of which 340 are non-residential & 517 are residential projects. Following agencies will execute the work:

Sl. No.	Executing Agency	No. of Non- Residential projects approved by the Court	No. of Residential Projects approved by the Court	Total
1	C.E. (Buildings), R&B	308	435	743
2	C.E. (Rural Works)	29	73	102
3	E.I.C. (P.H.)	3	9	12
	TOTAL	**340**	**517**	**857**

These steps are expected to enhance efficiency of the judiciary by providing better and efficient working conditions for stakeholders. What is intended to convey is - Judiciary is conscious of its accountability and has been constantly striving with all sincerity to fulfill its constitutional obligations despite the challenges.











CHAPTER VII

APPENDICES



Judges' Library

APPENDIX-A

DETAILED CASE STATISTICS OF THE HIGH COURT FOR THE YEAR 2024

Month-wise Institution, Disposal and Case Clearance Rate

1st January - 31st December, 2024

Month	Opening balance			Institution			Disposal			Closing Balance			Case Clearance Rate (%) (Disposal vis-à-vis institution)			Judges' Working strength	working days
	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	CCR		
January	109,020	38,008	147,028	3,076	2,211	5,287	5,480	3,167	8,647	106,616	37,052	143,668	178.15	143.24	163.55	20	19
February	106,753	37,075	143,828	4,088	3,051	7,139	6,142	3,612	9,754	104,699	36,514	141,213	150.24	118.39	136.63	21	20
March	104,755	36,531	141,286	4,347	3,064	7,411	4,697	2,686	7,383	104,405	36,909	141,314	108.05	87.66	99.62	21	17
April	104,331	36,596	140,927	5,828	3,730	9,558	5,664	3,452	9,116	104,495	36,874	141,369	97.19	92.55	95.38	21	20
May	104,481	36,827	141,308	5,065	3,310	8,375	4,322	3,765	8,087	105,224	36,372	141,596	85.33	113.75	96.56	21	14
June	105,252	36,374	141,626	3,060	2,720	5,780	2,333	1,983	4,316	105,979	37,111	143,090	76.24	72.90	74.67	21	9
July	106,074	37,085	143,159	4,279	3,320	7,599	4,611	3,289	7,900	105,742	37,116	142,858	107.76	99.07	103.96	20	22
August	105,805	37,140	142,945	5,202	3,583	8,785	4,274	4,202	8,476	106,733	36,521	143,254	82.16	117.28	96.48	20	20
September	106,749	36,507	143,256	4,549	3,419	7,968	4,779	3,634	8,413	106,519	36,292	142,811	105.06	106.29	105.58	20	20
October	106,514	36,305	142,819	3,401	2,676	6,077	2,461	2,464	4,925	107,454	36,517	143,971	72.36	92.08	81.04	20	14
November	107,564	36,534	144,098	4,570	3,580	8,150	3,863	2,805	6,668	108,271	37,309	145,580	84.53	78.35	81.82	19	20
December	108,277	37,311	145,588	4,261	3,250	7,511	3,484	3,295	6,779	109,054	37,266	146,320	81.76	101.38	90.25	19	18
Cumulative figures from 1st January, 2024 to 31st December, 2024																	
Total	1,09,020 (As on 1.1.2024)	38,008 (As on 1.1.2024)	1,47,028 (As on 1.1.2024)	51,726	37,914	89,640	52,110	38,354	90,464	1,09,054 (As on 31.12.2024)	37,266 (As on 31.10.2024)	1,46,320 (As on 31.10.2024)	100.74	101.16	100.92	19	18

Total no. of Judgments delivered: 2629 (This is excluding the cases disposed of by orders)

N.B.: Total working hours during the period: 22,093.5 (Total working hours = 5.15 hours × No. of working days in the given period × Working strength of the Hon'ble Judges during the period)

Total working hours lost: 1,644.875

Hours lost on account of reference held by Court due to sad demise of learned Advocates/Judges: 240

Hours lost due to Judges being on leave/official tour: 1,404.875

No. of reference held from 1st January - 31st December, 2024- 8 (Eight)

- Closing balance as on 29.02.2024 is reflected as 1,41,213 instead of 1,41,053 due to updation of status regarding disposal/transfer of 160 cases in the Case Information System (CIS) after physical verification.
- Closing balance as on 31.03.2024 is reflected as 1,41,314 instead of 1,41,081 due to updation of status regarding disposal/transfer of 233 cases in the Case Information System (CIS) after physical verification.
- Closing balance as on 30.04.2024 is reflected as 1,41,369 instead of 1,41,523 due to updation of status regarding disposal/transfer of 154 cases in the Case Information System (CIS) after physical verification.
- Closing balance as on 31.05.2024 is reflected as 1,41,596 instead of 1,41,811 due to updation of status regarding disposal/transfer of 215 cases in the Case Information System (CIS) after physical verification.
- Closing balance as on 30.06.2024 is reflected as 1,43,090 instead of 1,43,275 due to updation of status regarding disposal/transfer of 185 cases in the Case Information System (CIS) after physical verification.
- Closing balance as on 31.07.2024 is reflected as 1,42,858 instead of 1,42,974 due to updation of status regarding disposal/transfer of 116 cases in the Case Information System (CIS) after physical verification.
- Closing balance as on 31.08.2024 is reflected as 1,43,254 instead of 1,43,283 due to updation of status regarding disposal/transfer of 29 cases in the Case Information System (CIS) after physical verification.
- Closing balance as on 30.09.2024 is reflected as 1,42,811 instead of 1,42,838 due to updation of status regarding disposal/transfer of 27 cases in the Case Information System (CIS) after physical verification.
- Closing balance as on 31.10.2024 is reflected as 1,43,971 instead of 1,43,990 due to updation of status regarding disposal/transfer of 19 cases in the Case Information System (CIS) after physical verification.
- Closing balance as on 30.11.2024 is reflected as 1,45,580 instead of 1,45,472 due to updation of status regarding disposal/transfer of 108 cases in the Case Information System (CIS) after physical verification.
- Closing balance as on 31.12.2024 is reflected as 1,46,320 instead of 1,46,204 due to updation of status regarding disposal/transfer of 116 cases in the Case Information System (CIS) after physical verification.
- The Court had summer vacation from 22nd MAY to 15th JUNE, 2024

The difference between the closing balance of a month and opening balance of the succeeding month is due to subsequent updation of disposal and restoration of some cases in CIS.

CASE STATISTICS
(1st January, 2024 to 31st December, 2024)
INSTITUTION AND DISPOSAL

Opening Balance (As on 01.01.2024)	Institution	Disposal	Closing Balance (As on 31.12.2024)
1,47,028	89,640	90,464	1,46,320*

MONTH WISE STATISTICS

Month	Institution	Disposal	Case Clearance Rate (%) Disposal vis-à-vis Institution
January	5,287	8,647	163.55
February	7,139	9,754	136.62
March	7,411	7,383	99.70
April	9,558	9,116	95.37
May	8,375	8,087	96.56
June	5,780	4,316	74.67
July	7,599	7,900	103.96
August	8,785	8,476	96.48
September	7,968	8,413	105.58
October	6,077	4,925	81.04
November	8,150	6,668	81.81
December	7,511	6,779	90.25
Total	89,640	90,464	100.92

DISPOSAL OF OLD CASES

Age of the cases	Disposal
More than 40 years	1
25 – 40 years	1,033
10 – 25 years	3,612
Less than 10 years	85,814
Total	90,460

* Closing balance as on 31.12.2024 is reflected as 1,46,320 instead of 1,46,204 due to updation of status regarding disposal/transfer of 116 cases in the Case Information System (CIS) after physical verification.

APPENDIX-B

NEW COURT BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED AT THE DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS AND OUTLYING STATIONS

Sl.	Name of the Judgeship	Name of Court Building	Date of Inauguration	Number of Court Halls	Estimated Cost (in Rs.)	Name of the Executing Agency	Projects included under which Scheme (CSS/SSS)
1	Puri	Construction of Court Building at Pipili (By adding another floor to the newly constructed Court Building)	09.01.2024	2	78,54,000	R&B	SSS
2	Kendrapara	Construction of Court Building for Gram Nyayadhikari at Rajnagar	16.03.2024	2	7,14,33,000	R.W.	CSS
3	Puri	Construction of Court Building of Civil Judge-cum-JMFC building at Konark (including Lawyer's Hall Building, Digital Computer room and Toilet Complex)	27.04.2024	2	7,99,81,229	R&B	CSS
4	Sambalpur	First-Aid room at Headquarter Satation, Sambalpur	31.08.2024	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A
5	Mayurbhanj	Construction of Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre-cum-Virtual Court at Baripada	21.09.2024	N.A	1,05,11,200	R&B	SSS
6	KHURDA	Construction of New Judicial Court Complex at Bhubaneswar	05.12.2024	55	2,04,78,02,900	R.W.	SSS

APPENDIX-C

NEW RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS CONSTRUCTED AT THE DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS AND OUTLYING STATIONS

Sl.	Name of the Judgeship	Name of Court Project	Estimated Cost (in Rs.)	Name of the Executing Agency	Date of Completion
1	BALASORE	Construction of 2 Nos. of C-Type duplex Quarter for Judicial Officers at Station Square, Balasore	1,70,32,800	R&B	22.04.2024
2	PURI	Construction of 'D'-type quarters for the Civil Judge-Cum-JMFC at Konark	42,55,000	R&B	08.04.2024
3	SAMBALPUR	Construction of C-Type Quarters for the Registrar, Civil Courts, Sambalpur	94,33,800	OSPH & WC	30.04.2024
4	RAYAGADA	Construction of 'D' type quarters for Nyayadhikari, Gram Nyayalaya at Kolnara	44,57,000/-	R.W.	30.05.2024
5	SONEPUR	Construction of C Type Quarters for Senior Civil Judge at Sonepur in the District of Subarnapur for the year, 2021-22	81,28,600	R&B	22.06.2024
6	SONEPUR	Construction of 2 Nos. of D-Type Quarter for JMFC at Sonepur in the District of Subarnapur for the year, 2021-22	1,08,57,000	R&B	22.06.2024
7	SUNDARGARH	Construction of 8 nos. of D-type quarters (G+2) for Judicial Officers at Uditnagar, Rourkela	2,93,40,500	R&B	27.06.2024
8	KORAPUT	Construction of Approach Road, Boundary wall, Guard wall, for D-type quarter meant for Civil Judge (JD)-cum-JMFC at Dasamantapur	32,60,000	OSPH & WC Ltd.	31.08.2024
9	KORAPUT	Construction of one D-type quarter for Civil Judge (JD)-cum-JMFC at Dasamantapur	64,64,300	OSPH & WC Ltd.	31.08.2024
10	SONEPUR	Construction of C-Type Quarters (Duplex) for Civil Judge (SD),Birmaharajpur	66,79,000	R&B	08.10.2024

APPENDIX-D

ONGOING RESIDENTIAL AND NON-RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS OF THE DISTRICT JUDICIARY, WHEREIN FOUNDATION STONE LAID BY THE COURT

Sl. no	Name of the District	Name of the station		Name of the Project	Date on which Foundation Stone has been laid	Estimated Cost of the project (in Rs.)	Name of the Executing Agency	Projects included under which Scheme (CSS/SSS)
	Angul	Civil Court Complex at Banarpal						
1		i.	Banarpal	Construction of JMFC Court Building at Banarpal	20.03.2024	9,77,01,000	C.E (Bldg.)	SSS
	Angul	Civil Court Complex at Chhendipada						
2		i.	Chhendipada	Construction of JMFC Court Building at Chhendipada (2nd revised)	20.03.2024	7,45,72,000	C.E (R.W)	SSS
3		ii.		Construction of D-Type Qtr for JMFC at Chhendipada	20.03.2024	81,61,000	C.E (R.W)	SSS
4		iii.		Construction of 7 nos E-Type Qtr for Staff at Chhendipada	20.03.2024	2,31,72,000	C.E (R.W)	SSS
5		iv.		Construction of 3 nos F-Type Qtr for Staff at Chhendipada	20.03.2024	1,10,01,000	C.E (R.W)	SSS
6		v.		Construction of Transit House for JMFC Court at Chhendipada	20.03.2024	1,40,52,000	C.E (R.W)	SSS
	Balasore	Civil Court Complex at Basta						
7		i.	Basta	Construction of JMFC Court Building at Basta	20.03.2024	7,63,08,553	C.E (R.W)	SSS
8		ii.		Construction of Canteen cum Bar Association for Judicial Deptt. At Basta (REVISED)	20.03.2024	2,18,28,000	C.E (R.W)	SSS
	Balasore	Civil Court Complex at Jaleswar						
9		i.	Jaleswar	Construction of New Court Building at Laxmanath Jaleswar	20.03.2024	13,26,79,000	C.E (Bldg.)	CSS

Sl. no	Name of the District	Name of the station		Name of the Project	Date on which Foundation Stone has been laid	Estimated Cost of the project (in Rs.)	Name of the Executing Agency	Projects included under which Scheme (CSS/SSS)
10		ii.		Construction of Canteen cum Bar Association Hall for Judicial Deptt at Laxmannath , Jaleswar in the District of Balasore	20.03.2024	1,92,80,000	C.E. (Bldg).	SSS
	Bargarh	Civil Court Complex at Barpali						
11		i.	Barpali	Construction of Court Building for JMFC at Barpali	14.01.2024	6,94,89,000	C.E (Bldg.)	SSS
12		ii.		Construction of Canteen-cum-Bar Association Hall for JMFC at Barpali	14.01.2024	1,65,46,000	C.E (Bldg.)	SSS
13		iii.	Barpali	Construction of Transit House for JMFC Court at Barpali	14.01.2024	1,35,98,000	C.E (Bldg.)	SSS
14		iv.		Construction of 1 No. D- type quarter for JMFC at Barpali	14.01.2024	87,84,000	C.E (Bldg.)	SSS
	Bargarh	Civil Court Complex at Attabira						
15		i.	Attabira	Construction of Court Building at Attabira	14.01.2024	7,52,54,000	C.E (Bldg.)	SSS
16		ii.		Construction of Canteen-cum-Bar Association Hall at Attabira	14.01.2024	1,67,98,000	C.E (Bldg.)	SSS
17		iii.		Construction of Transit House at Attabira	14.01.2024	1,37,29,000	C.E (Bldg.)	SSS
18		iv.		Construction of 1 No. D- type quarter for JMFC at Attabira	14.01.2024	93,39,000	C.E (Bldg.)	SSS
19	Bhadrak	i.	Nalanga	Construction of Transit House at Nalanga, Bhadrak	20.03.2024	4,68,47,000	S.E Bhadrak (R&B)	SSS
20	Boudh	i.	Kantamal	Construction of Transit House at Kantamal	20.03.2024	91,66,000	C.E (R.W)	SSS
	Cuttack	Civil Court Complex at Niali						

Sl. no	Name of the District	Name of the station		Name of the Project	Date on which Foundation Stone has been laid	Estimated Cost of the project (in Rs.)	Name of the Executing Agency	Projects included under which Scheme (CSS/SSS)
21		i.	Niali	Construction of JMFC Court Building at Niali	10.01.2024	7,90,72,000	C.E (Bldg.)	SSS
22		ii.		Construction of Canteen-cum-Bar Association Hall at Niali	10.01.2024	1,58,41,000	C.E (Bldg.)	SSS
23		iii.		Construction of Transit House at Niali	10.01.2024	80,67,000	C.E (Bldg.)	SSS
24		iv.		Construction of D- type quarter for JMFC at Niali	10.01.2024	30,33,000	C.E (Bldg.)	SSS
25		v.		Construction of 7 Nos. of E-type Quarter at Niali	10.01.2024	2,73,50,000	C.E (Bldg.)	SSS
26	Cuttack	i.	Banki	Construction of Transit House at Durgapur, Banki	20.03.2024	88,88,000	C.E (R.W)	SSS
27	Cuttack	i.	Baramba	Construction of Transit House At Baramba	20.03.2024	89,78,000	C.E (R.W)	SSS
28	Cuttack	i.	Narasinghpur	Construction of Transit House At Narasinghpur	20.03.2024	87,72,000	C.E (R.W)	SSS
29	Cuttack	i.	Salipur	Construction of Transit House At Salipur	20.03.2024	1,23,22,000	C.E (R.W)	SSS
30	Cuttack		Salipur	Construction of Bar Association at Salipur	06.12.2024	2,54,58,000	C.E (Bldg.)	SSS
	Deogarh	Civil Court Complex at Reamal						
31		i.	Reamal	Construction of Court Building at Reamal	20.03.2024	6,23,62,000	C.E (Bldg.)	SSS
32		ii.		Construction of Transit House at Reamal	20.03.2024	1,12,70,000	C.E (Bldg.)	SSS
	Dhenkanal	Civil Court Complex at Hindol						
33		i.	Hindol	Construction of New Court Building at Hindol	20.03.2024	7,80,35,000	C.E (Bldg.)	SSS
	Dhenkanal	Civil Court Complex at Gondia						

Sl. no	Name of the District	Name of the station		Name of the Project	Date on which Foundation Stone has been laid	Estimated Cost of the project (in Rs.)	Name of the Executing Agency	Projects included under which Scheme (CSS/SSS)
34		i.	Gondia	Construction of New Court Building at Gondia	20.03.2024	6,19,50,000	C.E (R.W)	SSS
35	Gajapati	i.	Parlakhemundi	Construction of 02 nos. of "B" type quarters (G+1) for the Judge, Family Court, Paralakhemundi & Addl. District & Sessions Judge, Paralakhemundi	20.03.2024	2,31,35,473	C.E (Bldg.)	SSS
36	Ganjam	i.	Khallikote	Construction 24 nos. of Judicial E-Type staff quarters at Khallikote	20.03.2024	7,61,00,000	C.E (Bldg.)	SSS
	Ganjam	Civil Court Complex at Kodala						
37		i.	Kodala	Construction of Court Building at Kodala	20.03.2024	8,82,63,000	C.E (Bldg.)	SSS
38	JAJPUR		Chandikhole	Construction of Bar Association Hall-cum-Canteen at Chandikhole	06.12.2024	1,55,73,465	C.E (Bldg.)	SSS
	Jagatsinghpur	Civil Court Complex at Tirtol						
39		i.	Tirtol	Construction of Court building for JMFC and Civil Judge at Tirtol (Revised)	20.03.2024	6,64,80,000	C.E (R.W)	SSS
	Kalahandi	Civil Court Complex at Koksara						
40		i.	Koksara	Construction of JMFC Court Building at Koksara	20.03.2024	5,30,50,000	C.E (R.W)	SSS
	Kalahandi	Civil Court Complex at Dharamgarh						
41		i.	Dharamgarh	Construction of Court Building at Dharamgarh	20.03.2024	3,13,38,000	C.E (Bldg.)	CSS
42		ii.		Construction of Trasit for Sub-divisional Court at Dharamgarh	20.03.2024	1,13,95,000	C.E (Bldg.)	SSS

Sl. no	Name of the District	Name of the station		Name of the Project	Date on which Foundation Stone has been laid	Estimated Cost of the project (in Rs.)	Name of the Executing Agency	Projects included under which Scheme (CSS/SSS)
43	Khurda	i.	Banpur	Construction of Court Building for JMFC Court at Banpur	01.01.2024	10,83,08,000	OSPH & WC Ltd.	SSS
	Koraput	Civil Court Complex at Lamtaput						
44		i.	Lamtaput	Construction of Court Building for JMFC Court at Lamptaput	20.03.2024	4,53,71,000	C.E (R.W)	CSS
45		ii.	Lamtaput	Construction of Transit House for JMFC Court Building at Lamtaput	20.03.2024	1,12,69,000	C.E (R.W)	SSS
46	Koraput	i.	Kotpad	Construction Transit House at Kotpad, Koraput	20.03.2024	1,44,28,000	C.E (Bldg.)	SSS
	Malkangiri	Civil Court Complex at Kudumuluguma						
47		i.	Kudumuluguma	Construction of JMFC Court Building at Kudumuluguma	20.03.2024	7,51,65,000	C.E (R.W)	CSS
48		ii.		Construction of Bar Association Hall & Canteen at Kudumuluguma	20.03.2024	1,47,76,000	C.E (R.W)	CSS
49		iii.		Construction of Transit House in JMFC Court Complex at Kudumuluguma	20.03.2024	1,59,17,000	C.E (R.W)	SSS
50		iv.		Construction of D- type qtr for JMFC at Kudumuluguma	20.03.2024	60,49,000	C.E (R.W)	CSS
	Malkangiri	Civil Court Complex at Mathili						
51		i.	Mathili	Construction of JMFC Court Building at Mathili	20.03.2024	7,52,22,000	C.E (R.W)	SSS
52		ii.		Construction of Transit House for JMFC Court Building at Mathili	20.03.2024	1,64,09,000	C.E (R.W)	SSS
53		iii.	Mathili	Construction of Bar Association Hall & Canteen at Mathili	20.03.2024	1,46,53,000	C.E (R.W)	CSS

Sl. no	Name of the District	Name of the station		Name of the Project	Date on which Foundation Stone has been laid	Estimated Cost of the project (in Rs.)	Name of the Executing Agency	Projects included under which Scheme (CSS/SSS)
54		iv.		Construction of 'D' type staff quarter JMFC Court Complex at Mathili	20.03.2024	59,88,000	C.E (R.W)	SSS
	Mayurbhanj	Civil Court Complex at Morada						
55		i.	Morada	Construction of Court Building at Morada	13.01.2024	6,65,88,000	C.E (R.W)	SSS
56		ii.		Construction of Transit House for JMFC at Morada	13.01.2024	1,51,65,000	C.E (R.W)	SSS
57		iii.		Construction of 1 No. of 'D' type Residential quarter for Civil Judge at Morada	13.01.2024	80,46,000	C.E (R.W)	SSS
	Mayurbhanj	Civil Court Complex at Jashipur						
58		i.	Jashipur	Construction of JMFC Court Building at Jashipur	13.01.2024	7,31,19,000	C.E (R.W)	SSS
59		ii.		Construction of Transit House for JMFC at Jashipur	13.01.2024	1,47,29,106	C.E (R.W)	SSS
60		iii.		Construction of 1 No. of 'D' type quarter for JMFC at Jashipur	13.01.2024	75,93,390	C.E (R.W)	SSS
	Mayurbhanj	Civil Court Complex at Thakurmunda						
61		i.	Thakurmunda	Construction of JMFC Court Building at Thakurmunda	13.01.2024	7,40,30,000	C.E (R.W)	SSS
62		ii.		Construction of Transit House for JMFC at Thakurmunda	13.01.2024	1,48,30,208	C.E (R.W)	SSS
63		iii.		Construction of 1 No. of 'D' type quarter for JMFC at Thakurmunda	13.01.2024	76,11,240	C.E (R.W)	SSS
	Nabarangpur	Civil Court Complex at Jharigaon						
64		i.	Jharigaon	Construction of JMFC Court Building at Jharigaon	20.03.2024	5,65,60,000	C.E (R.W)	SSS

Sl. no	Name of the District	Name of the station		Name of the Project	Date on which Foundation Stone has been laid	Estimated Cost of the project (in Rs.)	Name of the Executing Agency	Projects included under which Scheme (CSS/SSS)
65		ii.		Construction of 1 no. D-type Quarter for presiding officer within Court premises at Jharigaon in the district of Nabarangpur	20.03.2024	64,02,000	C.E (R.W)	SSS
	Sambalpur	Rairakhol						
66		i.	Rairakhol	Construction of "B" type quarter for ADJ at Rairakhol	20.03.2024	1,26,85,000	C.E (Bldg.)	SSS
67		ii.	Rairakhol	Construction of Transit House at Rairakhol (Revised)	20.03.2024	1,35,59,405	C.E (Bldg.)	SSS
	Sonepur	Civil Court Complex at Tarava						
68		i.	Tarava	Construction of JMFC Court Building at Tarava, Sonepur	20.03.2024	8,74,10,947	C.E (Bldg.)	SSS
	Sundargarh	Civil Court Complex at Biramitrapur						
69		i.	Biramatrapur	Construction of Court Building for Civil Judge-cum- JMFC Court at Biramitrapur	20.03.2024	6,68,44,605	C.E (Bldg.)	SSS
70		ii.	Biramatrapur	Construction of Transit House for JMFC Court at Biramitrapur	20.03.2024	85,68,829	C.E (Bldg.)	SSS
71		iii.		Construction of 1 No. 'D' Type quarter for JMFC with approach road, drain and compound wall at Biramitrapur	20.03.2024	76,27,000	C.E (Bldg.)	SSS
	Sundargarh	Sundargarh						
72		i.	Sundargarh	Construction of 3 nos. B1-Type quarter for Judicial Officers of Sundargarh	20.03.2024	3,58,53,000	C.E (Bldg.)	SSS
73		ii.		Construction of 2 nos. C-Type quarter for Judicial Officers of Sundargarh	20.03.2024	1,92,42,315	C.E (Bldg.)	SSS

Sl. no	Name of the District	Name of the station		Name of the Project	Date on which Foundation Stone has been laid	Estimated Cost of the project (in Rs.)	Name of the Executing Agency	Projects included under which Scheme (CSS/SSS)
	Sundargarh			Bonai				
74		i.	Bonai	Construction of 1 'B-1' type quarter for the Addl. District & Sessions Judge at Bonai in the district of Sundargargh	20.03.2024	1,14,88,790	C.E (Bldg.)	SSS
75		ii.		Construction of 1 No. 'D' Type quarter for JMFC with approach road, drain and compound wall at Bonai	20.03.2024	74,36,000	C.E (Bldg.)	SSS
76		iii.		Construction of 6 nos. of F-type judicial staff quarters at Bonai, Sundargarh	20.03.2024	1,58,05,342	C.E (Bldg.)	SSS
77		iv.		Construction of 12 nos. of E-type judicial staff quarters at Bonai, Sungargarh	20.03.2024	4,05,54,000	C.E (Bldg.)	SSS
78		v.		Construction of Transit House at Bonai, Sundargarh	20.03.2024	1,36,46,000	C.E (Bldg.)	SSS
79		vi.		Construction of Bar Association Hall with Canteen at Bonai, Sundargarh	20.03.2024	1,87,02,000	C.E (Bldg.)	SSS

APPENDIX-E

RECOMMENDATIONS OF RULES COMMITTEE

Sl.	Rules/ Amendments	Notification No.	Odisha Gazette Notification No.	Related Rules
1.	The High Court of Orissa Guidelines for Recording Evidence of Vulnerable Witnesses and Functioning of Vulnerable Witnesses Deposition Centres, 2024	331/R, Dtd.06.04.2024	892, Dtd. 06.04.2024	New guidelines formulated
2.	The High Court of Orissa (Appointment of Staff and Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Rules, 2024.	447/R, Dtd.13.05.2024	1107, dtd.14.05.2024	Amendment of Appendix-7
3.	The e-Filing Rules for the High Court of Orissa, 2024	461/R, Dtd.30.05.2024	1195, Dtd.03.06.2024	New Rules formulated
4.	The e-Filing Rules for District Courts and Tribunals under control and supervision of the High Court of Orissa, 2024	462/R, Dtd.01.06.2024	1196, Dtd. 03.06.2024	New Rules formulated
5.	The High Court of Orissa (Appointment of Staff and Conditions of Service) (2nd Amendment) Rules, 2024	1308/R, Dtd.29.06.2024	1283, dtd.02.07.2024	Amendment of sub-rule-(8) of Rule 12, sub-rule-(4) of Rule 13, Appendix-1 and insertion of a new Appendix-2-L.
6.	The Rules of the High Court of Orissa, Vol-I (Amendment), 2024	No. 1326/R dtd. 09.07.2024	No. 1348 dtd. 12.07.2024	Amendment of the corresponding sections in the rules Consequent upon enactment of three new Criminal laws, namely, BNSS, 2023, BNS, 2023 and BSA, 2023.

Sl.	Rules/ Amendments	Notification No.	Odisha Gazette Notification No.	Related Rules
7.	The Rules of the High Court of Orissa, Vol-II (Amendment), 2024.	No. 1327/R dtd. 09.07.2024	No. 1349 dtd. 12.07.2024	Amendment of the corresponding sections in the rules Consequent upon enactment of three new Criminal laws, namely, BNSS, 2023, BNS, 2023 and BSA, 2023.
8.	The High Court of Orissa Guest House (Amendment) Rules, 2024	No. 1349/R dtd. 16.07.2024	No. 1360 dtd. 16.07.2024	Repeal of The High Court of Orissa Guest House (Amendment) Rules, 2023 notified vide Court's Notification No.1287/R Dated 16th October, 2023
9.	Scheme for Retention and Purchase of Furnishing Articles of Judges of the High Court of Orissa, 2024	No. 1404/R dtd. 12.08.2024	No. 1530 dtd. 13.08.2024	New scheme formulated
10.	The Arbitration Handbook	No. 1446/R dtd. 05.09.2024	No. 1650 dtd. 06.09.2024	Withdrawal of Court's Notification no. 1526 dated 08.12.2023 and restoration of Court's Notification No. 954 dated 08.10.2014
11.	The Orissa Professional Typists for Civil and Criminal Courts(Registration) (Amendment) Rules, 2024	No. 1430/R dtd. 28.08.2024	No. 1606 dtd. 30.08.2024	Amendment of the provision contained in Clause (ii) of Rule-6
12.	Implementation of three newly enacted Criminal Laws	No. 1493/R dtd. 27.09.2024	No. 1853 dtd. 01.10.2024	Interpretation of any reference of erstwhile the IPC, CrPC or the Indian evidence Act, 1872 in any Rules framed by this Court in line with the reference to three newly enacted Criminal laws.
13.	The Odisha Superior Judicial Service and Odisha Judicial Service (Amendment) Rules, 2024.	S.R.O. No. 532 dtd. 03.10.2024	No. 1908 dtd. 08.10.2024	Substitution of Appendix-A, B & D and amendment of Appendix-E & F Consequent upon enactment of three new Criminal laws, namely, BNSS, 2023, BNS, 2023 and BSA, 2023

APPENDIX-F

PROMOTION OF EMPLOYEES OF VARIOUS CADRES IN THE HIGH COURT FROM 01.01.2024 TO 31.12.2024

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Vacancies	Date of D.P.C.	No. of candidates appeared	Vacancies filled up
1.	Addl. Registrar (Establishment)	01	25.04.2024	01	01
		01	27.06.2024	01	01
2.	Joint Registrar	03	21.08.2024	10	03
3.	ADR (J&E)	03	27.08.2024	09	03
4.	Asst. Registrar	07	19.09.2024	15	07
5.	Secretary	14	18.01.2024	11	03
6.	Section Officer (Translation Branch)	01	22.01.2024	01	01
		03	17.12.2024	03	03
7.	Superintendent	10	11.11.2024	13	08
8.	Section Officer	08	17.12.2024	31	07
	Total	51		95	37

APPENDIX-G

NO. OF CANDIDATES RECRUITED IN THE YEAR 2024 (FROM 01.01.2024 TO 31.12.2024)

Sl.	Name of the Post	Total No. of Posts Advertised	No. of Candidates Joined	Vacancy
1.	Translator	23	04	19
		19	*12	Date of joining – 02.01.2025
2.	Jr. Grade Typist	34	01	33
		35	*17	Date of joining – 02.01.2025
3.	Junior Stenographer	35	10	25
4.	Research Assistant	20	19	01
5.	Assistant Section Officer (Special Recruitment Drive for S.T. category candidates)	53	24	29
6.	Assistant Section Officer	147	Recruitment is under process.	
7.	Court Manager	22	Recruitment is under process.	

*12 Nos. of candidates selected in the posts of Translator and 17 Nos. of candidates selected in the post of Jr. Grade Typist will join in the Court's Establishment on 02.01.2025 as per the Court's Office Order No.24319 dated 11.12.2024 and Office Order No. 24322 dated 11.12.2024 respectively. The final number of vacancies for the posts of Translator and Jr. Grade Typist will be contingent upon the actual number of candidates who will join in the Court's Establishment.

APPENDIX-H

POSTS CREATED IN THE YEAR 2024 FOR THE HIGH COURT

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Total No. of Posts Created	Created vide Home Department, Govt. of Odisha's Letter No. with date
1.	Editor-in-Chief (in the cadre of District Judge)	01	Vide letter No. 30615 dated 23rd August, 2024 (For the ILR Cuttack Series in the Court's Establishment)
2.	Translator	04	
3.	Desk Top Printing Operator	02	
A.	**Ministerial Cadre**		Vide letter No. 31853 dated 2nd September, 2024 (For the High Court Establishment)
4.	Assistant Registrar (Establishment)	01	
5.	Assistant Registrar (Inspection)	01	
6.	Assistant Section Officer	115	
7.	Junior Grade Typist (Computer Knowing)	11	
8.	Copyist	04	
9.	Generator Operator	01	
10.	Treasury Sarkar	01	
B.	**Secretarial Cadre**		
11.	Joint Registrar – cum – Principal Secretary	01	
12.	Additional Deputy Registrar – cum – Additional Principal Secretary	01	
13.	Assistant Registrar – cum – Senior Secretary	02	
14.	Senior Stenographer	03	
C.	**Group-D/Class-IV Cadre**		
15.	Cook-cum-Caretaker	10	
16.	Night Watchman	04	
17.	Class-IV	20	
18.	Assistant Registrar (Translation Branch)	01	Vide letter No. 39778 dated 28th October, 2024 (Promotional posts in the cadre of Translator in the Court's Establishment)
19.	Superintendent (Translation Branch)	02	
20.	Section Officer (Translation Branch)	05	
	Total Posts	190	

APPENDIX-I

SANCTIONED STRENGTH, WORKING STRENGTH AND VACANCY POSITION OF THE OFFICERS AND STAFF IN THE HIGH COURT

Group-A

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Sanctioned strength (After creation of posts)	Working Strength	Vacancy
1.	Additional Registrar (Estt.)	01	0	01
2.	Joint Registrar (Estt.)	01	01	0
3.	Joint Registrar(Judicial)	02	02	0
4.	Additional Deputy Registrar(J&E)	05	03	02
5.	Assistant Registrar (Estt.)	03	03	0
6.	Assistant Registrar (Judicial)	06	06	0
7.	Assistant Registrar (J&E)	01	01	0
8.	Assistant Registrar-cum-E.O.	02	02	0
9.	Assistant Registrar-cum-Stamp Reporter & Oath Commissioner	01	01	0
10.	Assistant Registrar-cum-Additional Stamp Reporter & Oath Commissioner	15	14	01
11.	Court Officer-cum-Asst. Registrar	01	01	0
12.	Assistant Registrar (Protocol)	03	0	03
13.	Assistant Registrar (Inspection)	01	0	01
14.	Assistant Registrar (Translation Branch)	01	0	01
	Total	43	34	09

Group-B

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Sanctioned strength (After creation of posts)	Working Strength	Vacancy
1.	Superintendent	57	55	02
2.	Superintendent (Translation Branch)	02	0	02
3.	Section Officer	137	136	01
4.	Section Officer (Translation Branch)	06	04	02
5.	Statistical Officer	01	0	01
6.	Superintendent (Typist) Level-I	06	05	01
7.	System Analyst	01	0	01

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Sanctioned strength (After creation of posts)	Working Strength	Vacancy
8.	Assistant Section Officer	598	318	280
9.	Librarian	01	01	0
10.	Superintendent (Typist) Level-II	12	10	02
11.	Programmer	01	01	0
12.	Peripatetic Stamp Reporter	02	02	0
13.	Translator	30	04	26
14.	Judicial Indexer	01	01	0
15.	Head Driver	10	08	02
16.	Diary Superintendent	03	03	0
17.	Court Manager	02	0	02
18.	Assistant Curator	01	01	0
	Total	871	549	322

Group-C

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Sanctioned strength (After restructure and creation of posts)	Working Strength	Vacancy
1.	Junior Librarian	01	0	01
2.	Desk Top Printing Operator	02	0	02
3.	Senior Grade Typist	38	17	21
4.	Senior Grade Diarist	15	14	01
5.	Senior Driver	10	10	0
6.	Technical Assistant (Judge's Library)	04	04	0
7.	Generator Operator	02	00	02
8.	Junior Grade Typist/ D.E.O.	49	03	46
9.	Diarist	37	36	01
10.	Copyist	10	01	09
11.	Driver	37	20	17
12.	Treasury Sarkar	02	01	01
13.	Jamadar	91	90	01
14.	Duftary	43	39	04

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Sanctioned strength (After restructure and creation of posts)	Working Strength	Vacancy
15.	Attender	09	09	0
16.	Cook-cum-caretaker	26	15	11
17.	Mali-cum-Chowkidar	03	03	0
	Total	379	262	117

Group-D

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Sanctioned strength (After restructure and creation of posts)	Working Strength		Vacancy
			Regular	Contractual	
1.	Orderly Peon	143	32	14	97
2.	Class-IV	107	11	16	80
3.	Gate Keeper	01	0	0	01
4.	Mali	25	01	02	22
5.	Night Watchman	07	0	0	07
6.	Farash	07	01	0	06
7.	Sweeper	01	01	0	0
8.	Sweeper-cum-Farash	01	01	0	0
9.	Permanent Mulia	01	0	0	01
10.	Medical Attendant	02	02	0	0
	Total	295	49	32	214
			81		

Sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancy position of the Secretarial Officer and Staff

Group-A

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Sanctioned strength (After creation of posts)	Working Strength	Vacancy
1.	Additional Register-cum Principal Secretary	01	01	0
2.	Joint Registrar-cum-Principal Secretary	02	01	01
3.	Additional Deputy Registrar-cum- Additional Principal Secretary	05	04	01

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Sanctioned strength (After creation of posts)	Working Strength	Vacancy
4.	Assistant Registrar-cum-Senior Secretary	12	10	02
	Total	20	16	04

Group-B

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Sanctioned strength (After creation of posts)	Working Strength	Vacancy
1.	Secretary	25	14	11
2.	Personal Secretary	43	19	24
3.	Senior Stenographer	38	16	22
	Total	106	49	57

Group-C

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Sanctioned strength (After restructure and creation of posts)	Working Strength	Vacancy
1.	Junior Stenographer	55	30	25

Sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancy position of the Officers and Staff on Deputation from the Government

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Group	Sanctioned strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
1.	**Chief Accounts Officer**	A	1	1	0
2.	**Orissa High Court Dispensary**				
	a) Medical Officer	A	1	1	0
	b) Physiotherapist	B	1	1	0
	c) Pharmacist	C	1	1	0
	d) Junior Laboratory Technician(Path)	C	1	1	0
	e) Health Worker (Female)	C	1	1	0
3.	**Orissa High Court Homeopathy Dispensary**				
	a) Homeopathy Medical Officer	B	1	1	0
	b) Homeopathy Assistant	C	1	1	0
	Total		8	8	0

Sanctioned Strength and vacancy position of the e-Courts Project Staff

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Group	Sanctioned strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
1.	Senior System Officer	A	02	01	01
2.	System Officer	B	24	18	06
3.	System Assistant	B	48	30	18
	Total		**74**	49	25

Sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancy position of the Centre for Judicial Archives of Odisha

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
1.	Director-cum-OSD	01	01	0
2.	Consultant, History	01	01	0
3.	Consultant, Law	01	01	0
4.	Law Researchers	04	04	0
	Total	**07**	**07**	0

Sanctioned Strength, working strength and vacancy position of the posts carrying Consolidated Pay /Honorarium

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
1.	Law Reporter	01	01	0
2.	Research Assistant	49	32	17
3.	Assistant Editor	01	0	01
	Total	**51**	**33**	**18**

Sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancy position of the posts carrying remuneration for copying out documents

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Sanctioned strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
1.	Remunerated Copyist	06	0	06
	Total	06	0	06

APPENDIX-J

BUDGETARY ALLOCATION AND EXPENDITURE OF THE HIGH COURT

Budget of the High Court (Comparative Status)

	2022- 23 (Rs.)	2023-24 (Rs.)	2024-25 (Rs.)
Plan	28,53,78,000	80,73,63,000	78,66,90,800
Non-Plan	186,60,25,000	211,90,72,000	223,15,21,000
Total	215,14,03,000	292,64,35,000	301,82,11,800

Budgetary Allocation and expenditure for infrastructure Development of the High Court for the period 1st April, 2024 to 31st December, 2024

Sl. No.	Heads of Account	Amount Sanctioned (in Rs.)	Amount Utilized (in Rs.)
1.	Non-Residential	62,36,27,000	41,02,30,000
2.	Residential	16,30,63,800	16,30,63,800
	Total	78,66,90,800	57,32,93,800

Budgetary Allocation and expenditure for Establishment of the High Court for the period 1st April, 2024 to 31st December, 2024

Sl. No.	Heads of Account	Amount Sanctioned (in Rs.)	Amount Utilized (in Rs.)
1.	01-2014-00-102-0632	223,15,21,000	131,68,41,000

*Break-up of administrative expenses for the period 1st April, 2024 to 31st December, 2024

Pay & Allowance	92,90,27,000
Electricity	3,40,04,000
Water	23,000
Telephone (incl. FTTH connection costing Rs. 5 cr)	13,89,42,000
Purchase of Motor Vehicle and Maintenance	1,71,37,000
Upgradation of Computer and Maintenance	10,80,40,000
Other Contingencies	13,96,68,000

APPENDIX-K

CASE STATISTICS OF THE DISTRICT COURTS FOR THE YEAR 2024

Institution, Disposal, Pendency and Case Clearance Rate in the District Courts of Odisha from 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2024

Months	Opening Balance			Institution			Disposal			Pendency			Case Clearance Rate of disposal w.r.t. institution		
	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total
January	3,40,242	15,33,070	18,73,312	7,128	37,913	45,041	7,821	25,835	33,656	3,39,549	15,45,148	18,84,697	109.72	68.14	74.72
February	3,39,549	15,45,148	18,84,697	6,918	34,396	41,314	7,662	26,515	34,177	3,38,805	15,53,029	18,91,834	110.75	77.09	82.72
March	3,38,805	15,53,029	18,91,834	6,634	36,092	42,726	11,225	33,626	44,851	3,34,214	15,55,495	18,89,709	169.20	93.17	104.97
April	3,34,214	15,55,495	18,89,709	7,039	35,395	42,434	7,895	29,833	37,728	3,33,358	15,61,360 *	18,94,718 *	112.16	84.29	88.91
May	3,33,358	15,61,360	18,94,718	7,087	37,830	44,917	9,244	34,165	43,409	3,30,144 **	15,75,923 **	19,06,067 **	130.44	90.31	96.64
June	3,30,144	15,75,923	19,06,067	4,814	31,788	36,602	3,517	20,006	23,523	3,27,322 ***	15,87,830 ***	19,15,152 ***	73.06	62.94	64.27
July	3,27,322	15,87,830	19,15,152	8,230	36,226	44,456	8,204	27,481	35,685	326113 ****	15,96,745 ****	19,22,858 ****	99.68	75.86	80.27
August	3,26,113	15,96,745	19,22,858	7,288	36,555	43,843	8,097	28,086	36,183	3,25,304	16,04,976 *****	19,30,280 *****	111.10	76.83	82.53
September	3,25,304	16,04,976	19,30,280	6,410	33,823	40,233	11,868	39,271	51,139	3,19,846	15,99,528	19,19,374	185.15	116.11	127.11
October	3,19,846	15,99,528	19,19,374	5,832	28,857	34,689	5,608	22,176	27,784	3,20,058 ******	16,06,209	19,26,267 ******	96.16	76.85	80.09
November	3,20,058	16,06,209	19,26,267	6,525	32,401	38,926	7,665	28,854	36,519	3,18,918	16,09,756	19,28,674	117.47	89.05	93.82
December	3,18,918	16,09,756	19,28,674	7,109	36,740	43,849	9,970	41,728	51,698	3,16,057	16,04,768	19,20,825	140.24	113.58	117.90
Total	3,40,242	15,33,070	18,73,312	81,014	4,18,016	4,99,030	98,776	3,57,576	4,56,352	3,16,057	16,04,768	19,20,825	121.92	85.54	91.45

Institution of Criminal cases increased due to filing of 42,819 cases under M.V. Act as a result of automatic challan based on CCTV image capture.

One working day consists of 6 working hours.

Average loss of working days in 2024 (till 31st December) is 0.011 days .

Average working strength of Judicial Officers against average sanctioned strength of 1028in 2024 (till 31st December) is 837.5.

So, cumulative loss of judicial hours of all Courts in 2024 (till 31st December) is 6 x 0.011 x 837.5 = 55.275 hours .

* Due to physical verification, pendency of Criminal cases increased by 303 cases in the Court of Gram Nyayalaya, Odagaon of Nayagarh Judgeship in the month of April, 2024.

** Due to physical verification, there is discrepancy of pendency in the Judgeships of Deogarh, Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Khurda, Puri & Sundargarh for which total pendency increased by 9841 cases. (Civil pendency decreased by 1057 cases & Criminal pendency increased by 10,898 cases during the month of May, 2024)

*** Due to physical verification, there is discrepancy of pendency in the Judgeships of Angul, Balangir, Balasore, Bhadrak, Dhenkanal, Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Keonjhar, Khurda, Mayurbhanj, Nayagarh, Puri, Sambalpur, Sonepur & Sundargarh for which total pendency decreased by 3994 cases. (Civil pendency decreased by 4119 cases & Criminal pendency increased by 125 cases during the month of June, 2024)

**** Due to physical verification, total pendency decreased by 1065 cases (Civil pendency decreased by 1235 cases & Criminal pendency increased by 170 cases during the month of July, 2024) in the Judgeship of Khurda.

***** Due to physical verification, Criminal pendency so also total pendency decreased by 238 cases during the month of August, 2024 in the judgeship of Boudh.

****** Due to physical verification, Civil pendency so also total pendency decreased by 12 cases during the month of October, 2024 in the judgeship of Ganjam.

Due to physical verification, total pendency increased by 4835 cases (Civil pendency decreased by 6423 cases & Criminal pendency increased by 11,258 cases) as on 31.12.2024.

Institution, Disposal, Pendency and Case Clearance Rate in the District Courts of Odisha

DISTRICT-WISE CASE PENDENCY from 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2024

Months	Opening balance as on 01.01.2024			Institution from 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2024			Disposed of from 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2024			Pending cases as on 31.12.2024		
	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total
Angul	8782	85007	93789	1675	16847	18522	2921	14279	17200	7549	83010	90559
Balangir	6748	45284	52032	1728	21107	22835	2239	17397	19636	6202	49501	55703
Balasore	38694	88723	127417	10194	19698	29892	10480	15309	25789	38131	93872	132003
Bargarh	5953	47667	53620	1640	8884	10524	1655	6548	8203	5938	50003	55941
Bhadrak	28698	68186	96884	4391	13686	18077	6128	9131	15259	25396	71501	96897
Boudh	1111	18239	19350	355	4847	5202	576	3303	3879	890	19545	20435
Cuttack	38456	156515	194971	9915	43151	53066	11242	37641	48883	37129	162025	199154
Deogarh	779	16039	16818	352	4728	5080	350	2052	2402	776	18183	18959
Dhenkanal	8743	39590	48333	2139	12197	14336	2344	7931	10275	8483	43785	52268
Gajapati	503	8172	8675	307	3967	4274	343	3612	3955	467	8527	8994
Ganjam	11187	77450	88637	4907	33644	38551	5099	29017	34116	10957	87878	98835
Jagatsinghpur	10805	35842	46647	3585	10020	13605	3926	8223	12149	10159	36903	47062
Jajpur	22739	71336	94075	4279	15514	19793	5615	9536	15151	20656	80638	101294
Jharsuguda	3544	39847	43391	848	8462	9310	1509	8120	9629	2883	40189	43072
Kalahandi	3862	39401	43263	1691	11907	13598	1892	12784	14676	3661	38524	42185

Months	Opening balance as on 01.01.2024			Institution from 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2024			Disposed of from 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2024			Pending cases as on 31.12.2024		
	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total
Kandhamal	824	15830	16654	478	6648	7126	549	5327	5876	753	17151	17904
Kendrapara	17859	43793	61652	3365	7282	10647	3784	6381	10165	17054	45382	62436
Keonjhar	9402	47427	56829	1922	11081	13003	2134	8597	10731	9169	49433	58602
Khurda	52804	145674	198478	8962	55212	64174	12970	44515	57485	46142	161922	208064
Koraput	3902	35191	39093	1082	9877	10959	986	8194	9180	3998	36874	40872
Malkangiri	398	10269	10667	222	5314	5536	237	3928	4165	383	11655	12038
Mayurbhanj	12502	60396	72898	3337	15533	18870	4132	15050	19182	11728	61835	73563
Nabarangpur	995	25489	26484	425	4978	5403	602	7004	7606	818	23463	24281
Nayagarh	4770	25664	30434	2373	9028	11401	2361	7208	9569	4797	27791	32588
Nuapada	2500	17272	19772	710	4465	5175	1075	4225	5300	2135	17512	19647
Puri	21855	61911	83766	4756	12404	17160	6504	13391	19895	19956	61658	81614
Rayagada	1772	17069	18841	617	6732	7349	709	6287	6996	1680	17514	19194
Sambalpur	6224	79027	85251	1941	17868	19809	2726	18091	20817	5450	79517	84967
Sonepur	2768	24721	27489	543	4637	5180	795	7965	8760	2529	21489	24018
Sundargarh	11063	86039	97102	2275	18298	20573	2893	16530	19423	10188	87488	97676
TOTAL	**3,40,242**	**15,33,070**	**18,73,312**	**81,014**	**4,18,016**	**4,99,030**	**98,776**	**3,57,576**	**4,56,352**	**3,16,057**	**16,04,768**	**19,20,825**

- **Due to physical verification, total pendency increased by 4835 cases (Civil pendency decreased by 6423 cases & Criminal pendency increased by 11,258 cases) as on 31.12.2024.**

Comparative figures of Institution & Disposal of 2023 & 2024

Months	2023		2024		Comparative rate of increase in disposal with previous year in percentage
	Institution	Disposal	Institution	Disposal	
January	49839	30947	45041	33656	8.75
February	39435	51256	41314	34177	-33.32
March	37698	39269	42726	44851	14.21
April	34226	28606	42434	37728	31.89
May	40031	34760	44917	43409	24.88
June	31134	17372	36602	23523	35.41
July	42508	37584	44456	35685	-5.05
August	42254	34978	43843	36183	3.45
September	40391	45437	40233	51139	12.55
October	34085	29118	34689	27784	-4.58
November	42568	33754	38926	36519	8.19
December	39465	43341	43849	51698	19.28
TOTAL	**4,34,169**	**3,83,081**	**4,99,030**	**4,56,352**	**19.13**

District Courts of Odisha

No. of Judgments pronounced /delivered for the year - 2024

Month	Civil			Criminal		
	Contested	Un-Contested	Total	Contested	Un-Contested	Total
January	1,476	895	2,371	7,957	1,216	9,173
February	1,689	1,007	2,696	9,094	939	10,033
March	1,670	1,225	2,895	9,064	1,612	10,676
April	1,634	1,120	2,754	9,382	1,510	10,892
May	1,547	1,480	3,027	9,022	1,999	11,021
June	859	694	1,553	6,862	1,048	7,910
July	1,476	1,153	2,629	8,878	1,382	10,260
August	1,658	1,262	2,920	9,283	1,685	10,968
September	1,777	1,679	3,456	9,480	2,371	11,851
October	1,285	1,060	2,345	7,260	1,223	8,483
November	1,709	1,158	2,867	9,498	2,631	12,129
December	1,652	1,217	2,869	9,083	2,732	11,815
TOTAL	**18,432**	**13,950**	**32,382**	**1,04,863**	**20,348**	**1,25,211**

25 to 40 Years old cases (from 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2024)

	CIVIL						CRIMINAL					
	OPENING BALANCE as on 01.01.24	Became 25 to 40 years from 01.01.24 to 31.12.2024	Received from other Courts	Transferred to other Courts	DISPOSAL from 01.01.24 to 31.12.2024	CLOSING BALANCE as on 31.12.2024	OPENING BALANCE as on 01.01.24	Became 25 to 40 years from 01.01.24 to 31.12.2024	Received from other Courts	Transferred to other Courts	DISPOSAL from 01.01.24 to 31.12.2024	CLOSING BALANCE as on 31.12.2024
Angul	11	6	0	0	14	3	48	62	0	0	92	18
Balangir	25	8	1	1	18	15	3	2	0	0	3	2
Balasore	191	45	2	2	75	161	26	42	1	1	37	31
Bargarh	32	6	5	9	11	23	24	29	11	10	35	19
Bhadrak	14	37	8	8	26	25	15	50	2	2	32	33
Boudh	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cuttack	158	39	0	0	105	92	322	705	0	0	715	312
Deogarh	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	CIVIL						CRIMINAL					
	OPENING BALANCE as on 01.01.24	Became 25 to 40 years from 01.01.24 to 31.12.2024	Received from other Courts	Transferred to other Courts	DISPOSAL from 01.01.24 to 31.12.2024	CLOSING BALANCE as on 31.12.2024	OPENING BALANCE as on 01.01.24	Became 25 to 40 years from 01.01.24 to 31.12.2024	Received from other Courts	Transferred to other Courts	DISPOSAL from 01.01.24 to 31.12.2024	CLOSING BALANCE as on 31.12.2024
Dhenkanal	6	1	0	1	3	3	7	11	0	0	9	9
Gajapati	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Ganjam	1	5	0	0	3	3	0	6	1	0	6	1
Jagatsinghpur	1	2	0	0	1	2	1	3	0	0	2	2
Jajpur	8	25	1	2	25	7	98	159	70	70	200	57
Jharsuguda	95	4	0	0	44	55	60	122	7	7	152	30
Kalahandi	1	3	0	0	3	1	9	1	0	0	2	8
Kandhamal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	0

	CIVIL						CRIMINAL					
	OPENING BALANCE as on 01.01.24	Became 25 to 40 years from 01.01.24 to 31.12.2024	Received from other Courts	Transferred to other Courts	DISPOSAL from 01.01.24 to 31.12.2024	CLOSING BALANCE as on 31.12.2024	OPENING BALANCE as on 01.01.24	Became 25 to 40 years from 01.01.24 to 31.12.2024	Received from other Courts	Transferred to other Courts	DISPOSAL from 01.01.24 to 31.12.2024	CLOSING BALANCE as on 31.12.2024
Kendrapara	10	13	1	1	13	10	4	60	0	0	60	4
Keonjhar	87	12	4	19	13	71	1	92	0	0	15	78
Khurda	30	31	0	0	41	20	629	837	4	4	796	670
Koraput	1	0	0	0	1	0	10	9	0	0	13	6
Malkangiri	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mayurbhanj	21	50	1	1	38	33	41	63	1	1	70	34
Nabarangpur	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nayagarh	1	1	0	0	2	0	5	17	12	12	12	10

	CIVIL						CRIMINAL					
	OPENING BALANCE as on 01.01.24	Became 25 to 40 years from 01.01.24 to 31.12.2024	Received from other Courts	Transferred to other Courts	DISPOSAL from 01.01.24 to 31.12.2024	CLOSING BALANCE as on 31.12.2024	OPENING BALANCE as on 01.01.24	Became 25 to 40 years from 01.01.24 to 31.12.2024	Received from other Courts	Transferred to other Courts	DISPOSAL from 01.01.24 to 31.12.2024	CLOSING BALANCE as on 31.12.2024
Nuapada	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puri	69	33	5	5	36	66	10	156	0	0	156	10
Rayagada	3	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	0
Sambalpur	30	1	0	0	15	16	20	11	2	2	13	18
Sonepur	5	5	2	2	9	1	1	15	0	0	6	10
Sundargarh	8	1	0	0	6	3	23	101	1	1	116	8
TOTAL	**812**	**328**	**30**	**51**	**505**	**614**	**1357**	**2558**	**112**	**110**	**2547**	**1370**
Pendency of 25 to 40 Years Cases (Civil + Criminal)						**614+1370=1984**						

Over 40 Years old cases (from 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2024)

	CIVIL						CRIMINAL					
	OPENING BALANCE as on 01.01.24	Became 25 to 40 years from 01.01.24 to 31.12.2024	Received from other Courts	Transferred to other Courts	DISPOSAL from 01.01.24 to 31.12.2024	CLOSING BALANCE as on 31.12.2024	OPENING BALANCE as on 01.01.24	Became 25 to 40 years from 01.01.24 to 31.12.2024	Received from other Courts	Transferred to other Courts	DISPOSAL from 01.01.24 to 31.12.2024	CLOSING BALANCE as on 31.12.2024
Angul	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balangir	4	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balasore	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bargarh	4	4	1	1	6	2	1	0	0	0	0	1
Bhadrak	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Boudh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cuttack	6	5	2	2	10	1	1	2	0	0	3	0
Deogarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dhenkanal	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gajapati	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ganjam	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

	CIVIL						CRIMINAL					
	OPENING BALANCE as on 01.01.24	Became 25 to 40 years from 01.01.24 to 31.12.2024	Received from other Courts	Transferred to other Courts	DISPOSAL from 01.01.24 to 31.12.2024	CLOSING BALANCE as on 31.12.2024	OPENING BALANCE as on 01.01.24	Became 25 to 40 years from 01.01.24 to 31.12.2024	Received from other Courts	Transferred to other Courts	DISPOSAL from 01.01.24 to 31.12.2024	CLOSING BALANCE as on 31.12.2024
Jagatsinghpur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jajpur	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jharsuguda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kalahandi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kandhamal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kendrapara	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Keonjhar	6	15	0	0	3	18	0	1	0	0	0	1
Khurda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	8	0
Koraput	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malkangiri	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mayurbhanj	0	8	0	0	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nabarangpur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	CIVIL						CRIMINAL					
	OPENING BALANCE as on 01.01.24	Became 25 to 40 years from 01.01.24 to 31.12.2024	Received from other Courts	Transferred to other Courts	DISPOSAL from 01.01.24 to 31.12.2024	CLOSING BALANCE as on 31.12.2024	OPENING BALANCE as on 01.01.24	Became 25 to 40 years from 01.01.24 to 31.12.2024	Received from other Courts	Transferred to other Courts	DISPOSAL from 01.01.24 to 31.12.2024	CLOSING BALANCE as on 31.12.2024
Nayagarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nuapada	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puri	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rayagada	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sambalpur	2	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
Sonepur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sundargarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	**23**	**39**	**3**	**3**	**28**	**34**	**3**	**11**	**0**	**0**	**12**	**2**
Pendency of Over 40 Years Cases (Civil + Criminal)							**34+2=36**					










HIGH COURT OF ORISSA