



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

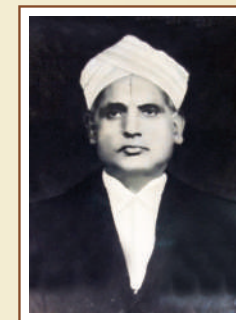




THE JUDGES



Justice Bira Kishore Ray
Chief Justice



Justice Bachu Jagannath Das
Justice



Justice Lingaraj Panigrahi
Justice



Justice Ramaswamy
Laxman Narasimham
Justice



FIRST DAY OF ORISSA HIGH COURT
(26TH JULY 1948)



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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Justice Sashikanta Mishra
Justice Chittaranjan Dash

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There are still milestones to be achieved and this is not the time for the judiciary in Odisha to become complacent but to build on the achievements.

HIGHLIGHTS



- 3158 Judgments delivered by the High Court of Orissa in 2025 compared to 2629 in 2024.
- 1,71,636 judgments delivered by the District Courts in 2025 compared to 1,57,593 in 2024.



Launching of e-Guard File Management System for District Judiciary

- 80,254 cases disposed of by the High Court in 2025 compared to 90,464 cases in 2024- a decrease of 11.28%.
- Case clearance rate decreased to 85.50% in 2025 compared to 100.92% in 2024.
- 4,91,712 cases disposed of by the District Courts in 2025 compared to 4,56,352 cases in 2024-an increase of 7.74%.
- Case clearance rate decreased to 88.16 % in 2025 from 91.45% in 2024.



Inauguration of the Centre for Judicial Archives, High Court of Orissa.

Implementation of CIS 4.0 at District Courts



Release of the book "Judicial History of Odisha", Vol-II

Establishment of on-campus cloud storage facility and HCI server setup for the High Court of Orissa



Settlement of 972 cases in the campaign "Mediation for the Nation, Drive 1.0"



Chamber of the Chief Justice at Heritage Building

From the desk of the Chief Justice



The High Court of Orissa releases the Annual Report for the year 2025 reaffirming its commitment in the delivery system in encapsulating its endowment towards the cause of justice.

It is not a mere collation of the work done during the year 2025, but a testament to an unwavering support in shaping the judicial system with the intricacies of the laws to benefit a section of the society and to render justice to them.

During the entire year, the Court has tirelessly made its endeavour to uphold the constitutional mandate in strengthening the Rule of Law not only to dispense quality justice, but also to promote the alternative dispute resolution mechanism in the diverse field of law. Several judgments delivered by the judges adorning the bench are encapsulated to pave the path to enhance

the access to justice in a time bound manner.

The technologies have been duly embraced through e-Court initiatives to enhance the efficiency and accessibility to the people at the door step. The virtual hearing process have enhanced the efficiency and transparency in the judicial system.

The report is not a mere dissemination of statistical data; but reaffirmation of commitment which the judiciary posed to the people of the country with various initiatives undertaken during the year to build confidence into the system.

The live streaming of the Court proceedings is another step to make the people understand the functioning of the Courts in a fair and transparent manner.

I am confident that the Annual Report would stand sacrosanct in offering insight in the functioning of the judicial system and shall be a useful tool of information in shaping the law and the system in future.

Cuttack
24th July, 2026

I congratulate all the stake holders of the system for their contribution in making the Annual Report and their tireless efforts in documenting their achievement during the year with avowed object to do better in future.

Justice Harish Tandon
Chief Justice,
High Court of Orissa

INTRODUCTION





New extension building of Orissa High Court

Introduction



(L-R) Justice Chittaranjan Dash, Justice B.P. Routray, Justice K.R. Mohapatra (Chairman) and Justice Sashikanta Mishra of the Committee for the preparation of the Annual Report, 2025

It is indeed a privilege to present the Annual Report of the High Court for the year gone by. The Committee considers this publication as a reflection of the institution's continuing commitment to transparency, accountability and openness in its functioning, with the ultimate objective of strengthening public confidence in the administration of justice.

The present Report encapsulates the significant judicial, administrative and infrastructural developments during the year 2025 and provides a comprehensive overview of the functioning of the High Court and the subordinate judiciary.

The statistical information relating to the institution, disposal and pendency of cases before the High Court and the District Courts has been compiled from data collected at the end of each quarter and duly updated and collated at the close of the year.

The Report highlights the important events, initiatives and achievements of the year. It chronicles the various measures undertaken to strengthen judicial administration, improve access to justice, enhance court infrastructure and further the process of technological advancement in the justice delivery system.



The year 2025 witnessed several noteworthy developments. New judicial infrastructure was created, technological initiatives were expanded, and sustained efforts were made towards modernisation of court processes. Various national and institutional events, including Republic Day, Independence Day, Lawyers' Day and Constitution Day, were observed with due solemnity and enthusiasm. The Report also records the important conferences, seminars, training programmes and other activities that contributed to the continued strengthening of the judicial institution.

As in the past years, the present Report has been organized into separate sections dealing with the Hon'ble Judges, the Registry, Administrative Committees, District Judiciary, Allied Institutions, Case Statistics, Accounts and other important aspects of judicial administration. Special emphasis has also been laid on infrastructure development, digital initiatives, capacity-building programmes and other significant institutional achievements during the year.

Like its previous editions, the Report represents a sincere endeavour to review the performance of the judiciary during the past year. The chapter titled '*Introspection*' reflects upon both the accomplishments of

the institution and the challenges encountered in the course of discharging its constitutional responsibilities.

To make the Report both informative and engaging, it incorporates carefully selected photographs of the Hon'ble Judges, officers of the Registry, important judicial events, court buildings and other noteworthy activities, presented in an aesthetically designed format.

The Committee expresses its sincere gratitude to Hon'ble the Chief Justice and the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court for their constant guidance, encouragement and support. The Committee also acknowledges the valuable cooperation extended by the District Judges, Judicial Officers and officers of the Registry constituting different sub-committees in promptly furnishing the necessary information, statistics and other materials required for preparation of this Report.

The Committee also acknowledges the painstaking work of the designer and publisher, M/s Canonfire, Bhubaneswar, in bringing out the Report in its present form.

It is our earnest hope that this Annual Report will provide a meaningful account of the institution's work during the year and will be of value to all stakeholders and readers interested in the administration of justice.

Chairman and Members Committee
for preparation of Annual Report

I CHAPTER — HIGH COURT —





Sculpture by Padma Vibhushan Sudarshan Sahoo at the entrance of the new building of 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 1,58,519 cases (Civil and Criminal) till the end of 2025.

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 266 District Judge Cadre Officers, 288 Civil Judge (Senior Division) Cadre Officers (erstwhile Subordinate Judge) and 472 Civil Judge (Junior Division) Cadre Officers (erstwhile Munsif) till the end of 2025.

The High Court of Orissa 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, which became functional on 2nd January 2014, is an eight-storeyed 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.



Model Courtroom displayed at Museum of Justice



Chief Justice and Judges of the High Court of Orissa

Sitting from left to right : Justice M. S. Sahoo, Justice S. K. Panigrahi, Justice K. R. Mohapatra, Justice M. R. Pathak, Justice Harish Tandon, Chief Justice, Justice S. K. Sahoo, Justice D. K. Shripad, Justice B. P. Routray and Justice Savitri Ratho

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



Send off ceremony of Sri Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, Chief Justice



Judges

The High Court of Orissa has a sanctioned strength of 33 Judges. In the beginning of 2025, the working strength of the Judges was 19. 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 of Judges rose to 19.

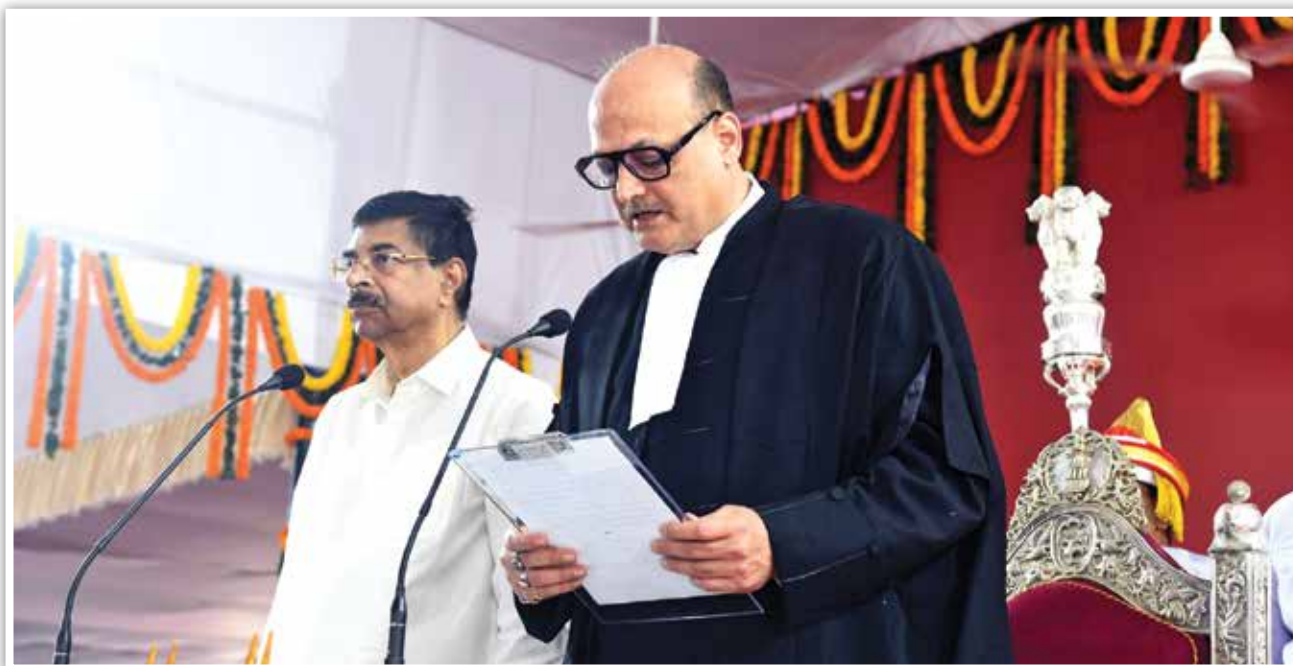


Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh



Justice Arindam Sinha

Thereafter, on transfer of Justice Arindam Sinha on 06th April, 2025 to the Allahabad High Court, the working strength further reduced to 18.



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



Justice Dixit Krishna Shripad and Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak took oath as Judge of the High Court of Orissa on 12th May, 2025 and

21st July, 2025 respectively. Consequently, the working strength of Judges rose to 20.



Justice D.K. Shripad being sworn in on 12th May, 2025



Justice M.R. Pathak being sworn in on 21st July, 2025

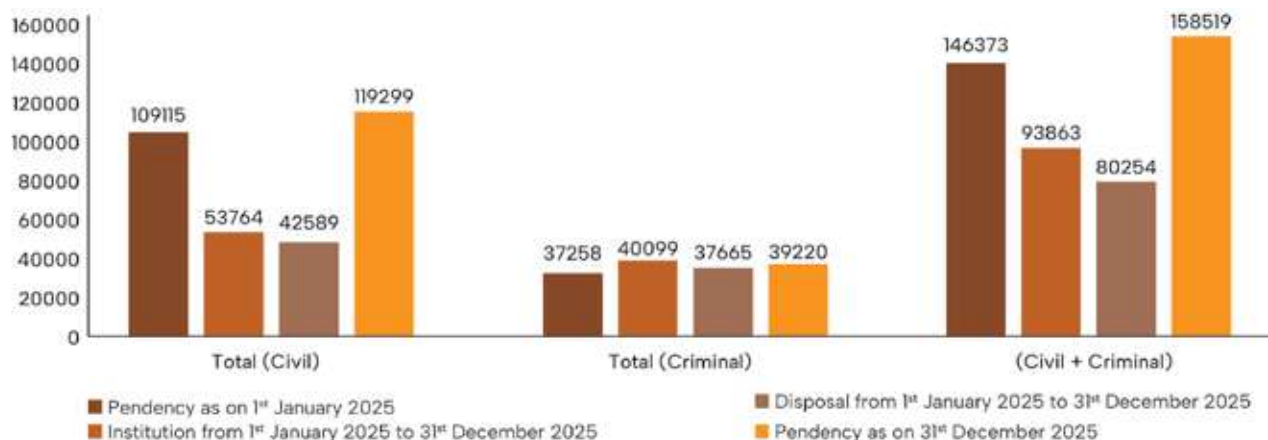


Case Statistics of the High Court

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 reveal 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 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 stakeholders 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 of Orissa are indicated below:

Types of Cases	Pendency as on 1 st January 2025	Institution from 1 st January 2025 to 31 st December 2025	Disposal from 1 st January 2025 to 31 st December 2025	Pendency as on 31 st December 2025
CIVIL MATTERS				
Writ Petitions	61003	37856	29574	68294
Company Matters	175	1	21	155
Contempt (Civil)	10585	6446	6270	10761
Review (Civil)	2378	307	300	2385
Matrimonial Matters	1425	506	325	1606
Arbitration Matters	287	163	94	356
Civil Revisions	139	59	75	123
Tax Matters (Direct & Indirect)	733	182	43	872
Civil Appeals	11771	1241	1673	11339
Land Acquisition Matters	631	77	69	639
MACT Matters	5649	1359	1020	5988
Civil Suits (Original Side)	2	0	0	2
Other	14337	5567	3125	16779
Total (Civil)	109115	53764	42589	119299
CRIMINAL MATTERS				
Writ Petitions	803	1922	1814	911
Criminal Revisions	9747	1139	972	9914
Bail Applications	4449	29108	28875	4621
Criminal Appeals	14684	1776	905	15144
Death Sentence Reference	8	0	4	4
Contempt (Criminal)	212	32	16	228
Misc. Criminal Application	4948	5708	4490	6166
Other	2407	414	589	2232
Total (Criminal)	37258	40099	37665	39220
GRAND TOTAL				
(Civil + Criminal)	146373	93863	80254	158519

The detailed case statistics of the High Court along with relevant information for 2025 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:

Institution, disposal and the case clearance rate at a glance

The opening balance at the beginning of the year of 2025 was 1,46,373, while the closing balance at the end of the year increased to 1,58,519. Total institution of cases during the year was 93,863 and the disposal was 80,254 cases at a case clearance rate of 85.50%. The overall case clearance rate of criminal cases was higher than that of civil cases in 2025, with monthly CCR of criminal cases exceeding 100% in six out of twelve months. The disposal

of cases had surpassed the institution in 4 months of the year. The disposal of cases was relatively lower in months of June and October due to Summer Vacation and Puja Holidays respectively, though there was fresh filing of cases during the vacations. There has been steady disposal in all the months with the highest case clearance rate being in the month of August at the rate of 99.43%.

Judges' working strength and loss of working hours

The Judge's strength was highest at 20 in the months from July to December, preceding which it hovered around 18 and 19. The Judges' strength remained 20 at the end of the year. While 21,789.65 hours were devoted towards judicial working of the High Court of Orissa in the year 2025, 1,881.025 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. 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.

Comparative analysis of 2024 and 2025

In 2024, total 90,464 cases were disposed of, which came down to 80,254 cases in the year 2025. There has been a decrease of 11.29% in disposal in 2025 as compared to the disposal in 2024. The rate of decrease has been calculated taking into account the disposal of 2025 deducted by the disposal of 2024, divided by the disposal of 2024, multiplied by 100. There has been a significant increase in delivery of judgments in the year 2025 as

compared to 2024. 3158 judgments were delivered by the High Court in 2025 compared to 2629 in 2024.

Out of the 80,254 cases disposed of in 2025, 159 cases were more than 30 years old, 607 cases were 20-30 years old and 1,681 cases were 10-20 years old. Further, 74,789 cases were disposed of in Single Benches, 5,762 cases in Division Benches and 03 cases were disposed of in Larger Benches.



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

(SB, DB, LB)	Bench Type								Total
	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	
Disposal in Single Bench	63107	2756	3415	3094	972	488	507	150	74489
Disposal in Division Bench	4353	436	381	262	147	74	100	9	5762
Disposal in Larger Bench	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Total Disposal	67463	3192	3796	3356	1119	562	607	159	80254

The institution and disposal statistics of the High Court of Orissa 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)
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	-24.33	100.92
2025	93,863	80,254	-11.29	85.50



Heritage calculator used in the High Court of Orissa, displayed at Museum of Justice



Heritage Wig used in the High Court of Orissa, displayed at Museum of Justice



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 The Chief Justice	Members Justice M.R. Pathak, Justice S.K. Sahoo, Justice K.R. Mohapatra Justice Dixit Krishna Shripad

During 2025, Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, the Chief Justice, was the Chairman of this Committee till 19th January, 2025. Justice Arindam Sinha, the Acting Chief Justice, was the Chairman from 20th January, 2025 till 25th March, 2025. Justice Harish Tandon, the Chief Justice, has since remained as the Chairman of the Committee till the end of the year.

Justice Savitri Ratho was a member of this Committee till 15th April, 2025 and Justice B.P.

Routray and Dr. Justice S.K. Panigrahi remained as members of this Committee till 10th August, 2025.

The Standing Committee deals with all service-related matters like promotion, transfer, disciplinary matters etc. and so on of Judicial Officers belonging to the cadres of Civil Judge (Junior Division) and Civil Judge (Senior Division). In 2025, 15 officers from the cadre of Civil Judge (Junior Division) were promoted to the cadre of Civil Judge (Senior Division) on the recommendation of this Committee.

Permanent Committee for the designation of Advocates as Senior Advocates

Chairman The Chief Justice	Members Justice M.R. Pathak, Justice S.K. Sahoo, Advocate General, Odisha S.P. Mishra, Senior Advocate
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During 2025, Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, the Chief Justice, was the Chairman of this Committee till 19th January, 2025. Justice Arindam Sinha was a member of the Committee till 19th January, 2025 and thereafter served as the Chairman, as the Acting Chief Justice, till 25th March, 2025. Justice Harish Tandon, the Chief Justice, has since remained as the Chairman of the Committee till the end of the year.

In exercise of the power conferred by Section 34(1) read with Section 16(2) of the Advocates Act, 1961 and in accordance

with the guidelines laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its Judgment dated 12th October, 2017 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 454 of 2015, the High Court of Orissa framed the Rules for designation of Senior Advocates i.e. High Court of Orissa (Designation of Senior Advocates) Rules, 2019.

This Committee was constituted on 25th March, 2019 under Rule-3 of 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 Hon'ble 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 and thereafter vide Gazette No. 3390 Dated 10.09.2025. The amended rules are called as the "High Court of Orissa (Designation of Senior Advocates) Amendment

Rules, 2025. The Committee examines the applications received from Advocates and makes recommendations as per the said rules.

At the beginning of the year, applications of 25 Advocates were under active consideration for designation as Senior Advocates. On 15th January, 2025, on the recommendation of the Committee, the Chief Justice designated 13 Advocates as Senior Advocates. Thereafter, another advertisement dated 28th October, 2025 was published inviting applications from eligible Advocates for designation as Senior Advocates, for which 30 applications were received.

Vigilance and Disciplinary Committee

Chairman

The Chief Justice

Members

Justice S.K. Sahoo, Justice D.K. Shripad, Justice R.K. Pattanaik

During 2025, Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, Chief Justice, was the Chairman of this Committee till 19th January, 2025. Justice Arindam Sinha, the Acting Chief Justice, was the Chairman from 20th January, 2025 till 25th March, 2025. Justice Harish Tandon, the Chief Justice, was the Chairman of the Committee from 26th March, 2025 till the end of the year. Justice B.P. Routray was a member of this

Committee till 10th August, 2025

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.



Heritage clocks used in the High Court of Orissa, displayed at Museum of Justice



Judicial Academy and Training Committee

Patron in Chief The Chief Justice Chairman Justice K.R. Mohapatra	Members Justice D.K. Shripad, Dr. Justice S.K. Panigrahi Justice S. Ratho, Justice R.K. Pattanaik Justice A.K. Mohapatra
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During 2025, Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, Chief Justice, was the Patron-in-Chief till 19th January, 2025. Justice Arindam Sinha, the Acting Chief Justice, was the Patron-in-Chief from 20th January, 2025 till 25th March, 2025. Justice Harish Tandon became the Patron-in-Chief as the Chief Justice from 26th March, 2025. Justice A.C. Behera was a member of this Committee till 10th August, 2025.

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

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 The Chief Justice	Members Justice S.K. Sahoo, Justice K. R. Mohapatra Justice D.K. Shripad, Justice B.P. Routray
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During 2025, Justice K.R. Mohapatra was the Chairman of this Committee till 10th August, 2025 and thereafter served as its member till the end of the year. Justice R.K. Pattanaik, Justice V. Narasingh and Justice M.S. Raman were members of this Committee till 10th August, 2025.

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. Other recruitment examinations are also entrusted to the Recruitment Cell by the



Chief Justice from time to time. The Committee is also entrusted with the finalization of inter-seniority of Officers in the cadre of District Judge and preparation of Civil list of Judicial Officers of the state.

During the year 2025, for filling up of 31 vacancies in the cadre of District Judge by way of direct recruitment from the Bar and 14 vacancies through Limited Competitive Examination, the recruitment process was underway. For filling up of aforesaid 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, 193 candidates appeared in the written test held on 05th January, 2025 and no candidate qualified for the interview stage. For filling up of 14 vacancies of 2024 in the cadre of District Judge through Limited Competitive Examination, 83 applications were received. Out of them 57 candidates appeared in the written test and no candidate qualified for the interview stage. Every effort is made to ensure that the new recruits meet the rigorous standards of quality.

Building Committee

Chairman

Justice M.R. Pathak

Members

Justice M.S. Sahoo, Justice G. Satapathy
Justice C. Dash, Justice A.C. Behera

During 2025, Justice S.K. Sahoo was the Chairman of this Committee till 10th August, 2025. Justice V. Narasingh and Justice S.S. Mishra were members of this Committee till 10th August, 2025.

This Committee has been formed for dealing with infrastructure matters of both- the High Court of Orissa 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 of Orissa 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.

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.

Major policy decisions taken by the Building Committee of the Court for the infrastructural development of the High Court during the period from 1st January, 2025 to 30th December, 2025



In order to upgrade and strengthen the infrastructure of the High Court, as per the proposal of the Court, the State Government has made budgetary provision of Rs. 114,30,73,389/- in the financial year, 2025-26 and Rs. 92,96,76,389/- has been released in favour of the Executing Agencies by the High Court of Orissa for various projects as follows:

1. Construction of new Annex Building (B+G+5) in the premises of High Court of Orissa.
2. Remodelling of Judges' Library.
3. Renovation of Central Air - Conditioning System and up-gradation of Chiller Plant of the multi-storied building of the High Court.
4. Construction of Caretaker Rooms attached to the Court Guest House at Puri.
5. Improvement of Convention Hall of High Court of Orissa including additional construction of 5 new Bungalows for Judges of High Court and construction of 550 nos. of staff quarters.
6. Besides the above, steps are being taken for making provision of stairs with hand railings and tactile warning strips, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of visual/vibrating alarm and readable LED signages for persons having low vision and hearing impairment in the premises of High Court of Orissa, construction of disabilities pathway in different building existing in premises of High Court of Orissa, water supply provisions for persons with disabilities in different buildings existing in the premises of High Court of Orissa and in view of fire safety measures

steps are also being taken for making provision of automatic fire detection, fire alarms, sprinklers, fire hydrants, public address system and signages in Administrative Block, Annex Building and 2nd Extension(OJC) Building of the Court.

Major policy decisions taken by the Building Committee of the High Court for the infrastructural development of the District Judiciary during the period from 1st January, 2025 to 30th September, 2025

The High Court of Orissa in its Administrative side have already laid down the modalities/ policy regarding the management and maintenance of canteens in Court Complexes across the State which is described as follows;

Key Policy Details

The policy was initially formulated for functioning of canteens wherever the same is available in the ground floor of Bar Association Buildings (vide Court's Letter No. 11553, dated 28.07.2022),

a. Management Entrustment:

- i) **Primary Responsibility:** The management and maintenance of the canteen should first be offered to the Bar Association of the respective station, subject to their willingness.
- ii) **Multiple Bar Associations:** If there are multiple Bar Associations, they must reach a consensus on which one will manage the canteen.
- iii) **Default Manager:** If Bar Associations cannot agree or decline the offer, the canteen will be managed and maintained in the manner as decided by the District Judge.



b. Bar Association Responsibilities (If Entrusted):

- i) The entrusted Bar Association is independently responsible for payment of electricity bills, water charges, statutory dues, and other fees.
- ii) Maintenance of furniture, fixtures, PH fittings, and electrical/electronic fittings (including Air Conditioners, if fitted), funded out of their own resources.
- iii) Making necessary inside and outside civil repairing.

Further, it is to be noted that the aforementioned modalities/policy

regarding the management and maintenance of canteens in Court complexes across the State which was communicated to all the District Judges of the State vide Court's Letter No. 11553 dated 28.07.2022 further extended for functioning of canteen operated in the premises of Court complexes. The same was communicated to all the District Judges vide Court's Letter No. 3412 dated 11.02.2025.

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

Appeal Committee for subordinate Court

Chairman

Justice M.R. Pathak

Members

Justice B.P. Satapathy, Justice S.K. Mishra,
Justice C. Dash

During 2025, Justice K.R. Mohapatra was the Chairman of this Committee till 10th August, 2025. Justice A.C Behera was the member of this Committee till 10th August, 2025.

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 employees of the District Judiciary against the orders passed by the Appointing Authority and Disciplinary Authority.

The provisions contained in Rules 22 and 23 of the Odisha Civil Services (Classification, Control and 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 2025, 4 appeals were pending. During the year, 23 new appeals were instituted and 4 appeals were disposed of by the Committee. Accordingly, 23 appeals were pending by the end of 2025.



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

Chairman	Members
Justice M.R. Pathak	Justice R.K. Pattanaik, Justice C. Dash, Justice S.S. Mishra

During 2025, Justice B.P. Routray was the Chairman of this Committee till 10th August, 2025.

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 of Orissa and all other recruitment except for which other Committees are constituted. It also deals with matters relating to Court Managers.

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

The Committee had initiated the recruitment for 147 posts of Assistant Section Officer in the Court's establishment in the year 2024 which was carried out in the year 2025.

A total of 32,189 applications were received. Out of them, 20,260 candidates appeared in the preliminary examination on 04th May, 2025 and 7,113 candidates qualified. The main written examination was held on 07th December, 2025 in which 5,100 candidates appeared.

The Committee initiated the process of recruitment of Junior Stenographers. Advertisement was made for 25 posts of Junior Stenographer for which 604 applications were received. The qualifying test in English was held on 02nd November, 2025 in which 509 candidates appeared and out of which 327 candidates qualified. Out of the qualified candidates, 301 appeared in the computer application test on 20th December, in which all appearing candidates qualified for the skill test. 300 candidates appeared in the skill test on the same day. At the end of the year 2025, recruitment to the posts of Assistant Section Officer and Junior Stenographer are under process. The number of employees recruited during the year has been indicated at **Appendix-G**

Hospitality Committee

Chairman	Members
Justice M.R. Pathak	Justice D.K. Shripad, Dr. Justice S.K. Panigrahi Justice Savitri Ratho

The Hospitality Committee was constituted on 11.08.2025 to supervise and monitor the various programmes and events celebrated under

the aegis of High Court of Orissa. Further to ensure that the scheduled programmes have been organized smoothly and hassle-free.



Committee constituted in pursuance of the judgment dated 15.01.2025 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 538 of 2023 (*Rajeeb Kalita Vrs. Union of India*)

Chairman	Members
Justice M.R. Pathak	The Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha, The Registrar General of High Court of Orissa, The Principal Secretary, Government of Odisha, Finance Department, The Principal Secretary, Government of Odisha, Works Department, The President, Orissa High Court Bar Association

Pursuant to the directions imparted by the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in W.P.(C) No.538 of 2023 (Rajeeb Kalita Vrs. Union of India & Ors.) dated 15.01.2025, this Committee was duly constituted on 04.03.2025 in the High Court of Orissa to oversee the construction and availability of separate toilet facilities for males, females, PwDs, and transgender persons in all Court premises and Tribunals across the State of Odisha. A Notification to that effect was issued on 04.03.2025.

The Committee held its first meeting on 19.03.2025 and formulated a comprehensive action plan for implementing the directions of the Apex Court.

The Action Plan formulated by the Committee for implementation of the same was circulated to all the District & Sessions Judges of the State of Odisha and the Presiding Officers of the functional Tribunals vide Court's Letter No. 6419 dated 07.04.2025 for information and necessary action at their end.

Requisite survey regarding the availability of toilet facilities, lacunae thereof was carried out and the concerned executing agencies were instructed by the District Judges and the Presently Officers of the functional Tribunals to make necessary provision of toilet facilities categorically. The construction/renovation/maintenance work was undertaken promptly.

Review Committee

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

During 2025, Justice Arindam Sinha was the Chairman of this Committee till 06th April, 2025

The 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 42 Judicial Officers was reviewed by the Committee and all of them were found suitable to continue in service.



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

Chairman	Members
Justice S. K. Sahoo	Justice Sashikanta Mishra, Justice B.P. Satapathy Justice G. Satapathy, Justice S.S. Mishra

During 2025, Justice Arindam Sinha was the Chairman of the Committee till 06th April, 2025.

This Committee deals with matters relating to Setting up of Commercial Courts, Commercial Division & Commercial Appellate Division and Disposal of NDPS cases in the

State of Odisha.

In the beginning of the year, 2025, 11 cases under the PC & PNDT Act were pending in the State. During the year 2025, 1 case was instituted and 7 cases were disposed of/ transferred. Hence, by the end of the year, 5 cases were pending.

Disposal Review Committee

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

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 of Orissa. 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. The suggestions of this Committee are conveyed to the Judges of the High Court as well as the District Courts.

During the year 2025, the Committee convened and deliberated on the Model Action Plan for reduction of arrears in the High Court. The Committee, thereby resolved to follow the Model Action Plan prepared for the Model Case Flow Managements constituted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India for reduction of arrears in the High Court and District Courts. The Action Plan has three phases. Phase-I involves physical verification of cases

as well as identification of targeted cases and preparation of list of targeted cases which are more than 30 years old, 20 years old and 10 years old as per the parameters provided by the Committee for Model Case Flow Management. The timeline for phase-I was from March-2025 to June-2025. Thereafter, the Committee resolved to implement Phase-II of the Action Plan by giving priority to cases which are over 40 years, 30 years & 20 to 30 years and cases to be expedited as directed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The timeline for Phase-II is from July 2025 to June-2026. The recommendations of the Committee have been approved by the Chief Justice.

While the High Court recorded a decrease of 11.29% disposal in 2025 in comparison to the previous year, the District Judiciary recorded an increase of 7.75%. In 2025 the case clearance rate in High Court stood at 85.50% and that in the District Judiciary at 88.16%.



Disposal statistics of High Court for last 5 years

Year	Institution	Disposal	Comparative rate of case disposal with previous year (%)	Case Clearance Rate (%) (Disposal vis-à-vis institution)
2021	1,28,786	1,05,334	+71.73	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
2025	93,863	80,254	-11.29	85.50

Disposal statistics of District Judiciary for last 5 years

Year	Institution	Disposal	Comparative rate of case disposal with previous year (%)	Case Clearance Rate (%) (Disposal vis-à-vis institution)
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
2025	5,57,771	4,91,712	+7.75	88.16

Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre Committee

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

The VWDC Committee has been constituted in terms of the directions 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 Supreme Court of India and to ensure establishment of the

VWDCs and the matters connected thereto. 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 Witnesses Deposition Centre, 2024” and the same have been amended with respect to introduction of new criminal laws namely Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nyaya Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023. Accordingly, the said guidelines have been termed as “The High Court of Orissa Guidelines for Recording Evidence of Vulnerable Witnesses and Functioning of Vulnerable Witnesses Deposition Centres

(Amendment), 2025” and the same have been notified Vide Notification No. 239/R dated 20.01.2025 of the High Court of Orissa, published in the Odisha Gazette Notification No. 202 dated 22.01.2025, which has come into force with effect from 20.01.2025.

In the calendar year 2025, 12,947 numbers of vulnerable witnesses have been examined in the thirty (30) VWDCs functioning in the District Courts of the State.

Mediation Monitoring Committee

Chairman	Members
Justice K.R. Mohapatra	Justice M.S. Sahoo, Justice R.K. Pattanaik Justice S.S. Mishra
	Convenor
	Coordinator, High Court Mediation Centre

During 2025, Justice K.R. Mohapatra was a member of this Committee till 10th August, 2025 and thereafter became its Chairman.

This Committee oversees the functioning of the District Mediation Centre and the High Court of Orissa Mediation Centre, which was inaugurated on 3rd January, 2015 catering to the needs of the litigants parties by bringing about settlement between them. At the end of the year 2025, total 51 trained mediators from the High Court of Orissa and 517 trained mediators from the 30 district mediation centers 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 are made available

for this purpose at the Mediation Center.

In litigation cases, at the beginning of 2025, total 80 cases were pending at the Centre. In the year 2025, total 941 mediation proceedings were registered, out of which 913 proceedings were disposed of and 108 proceedings were pending at the end of the year. Out of the disposed of proceedings, mediation was successful in 175 proceedings and in 730 proceedings, it was unsuccessful.

In pre-litigation cases, in the beginning of 2025, 16 mediation proceedings were pending at the Centre. In 2025, total 85 pre-litigation mediation proceedings were registered. During 2025, total 81 were disposed of and 20 such proceedings were pending. Out of the 81 disposed of cases, mediation was successful in 7 proceedings and it was unsuccessful in 8 proceedings. 66 nos. of mediation proceedings were disposed of as non-starter.



High Court Library Committee

Chairman

Justice K.R. Mohapatra

Members

Justice D.K. Shripad, Justice V. Narasingh
Justice S.S. Mishra, Justice A.C. Behera

During 2025, Justice S.K. Sahoo was the Chairman of this Committee till 10th August, 2025. Justice M.S. Sahoo was a member of this Committee till 10th August, 2025.

This Committee oversees the functioning of the Judges' Library in the High Court. It deals with the stocking of the books in the libraries for the District Courts. As per the recommendation of the Committee, SCC Online Law Journal and Live Law were supplied to every Judicial Officer in the State. Further, AIR database www.aironline.in plus ILR Orissa Series (On-line) was provided to 214 existing Officers of the cadre of District Judge. EBC

Reader Platinum Edition was also supplied to all 30 District Court libraries. On the recommendation of the Committee, E-libraries for the Bar are functioning in 30 District Court headquarters and 27 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 of Orissa.

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 C. Dash

This Committee is assigned with the tasks of implementing various initiatives of the e-Committee of the Hon'ble 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 Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Some of the notable works carried under the supervision of this Committee in 2025

include implementation of CIS 4.0 in District & Taluka Courts, adoption of MeghRaj 2.0 for Cloud-Enabled Judicial Services, on-campus Cloud Storage Facility and HCI Server Setup for the High Court of Orissa, e-Guard File Management System, e-Inventory (District Court Inventory System), Judicial Officers' Redressal Portal and OJWAS (Odisha Judicial Workflow and Automation System) implementation for the District Courts.



Annual Report Committee

Chairman	Members
Justice K.R. Mohapatra	Justice B.P. Routray, Justice Sashikanta Mishra Justice Chittaranjan Dash

This Committee monitors the work relating to the publication of the Annual Report. Two Sub Committees have been formed to assist the Committee. The Sub-Committee for collection, collation and synchronization of data formed having the Member-Secretary, Odisha State Legal Services Authority, Registrar (Judicial), 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 Annual Report of the High Court for the year 2025 has been published under the supervision of the Committee.

State Court Management System (SCMS) Committee

Chairman	Members
Justice K.R. Mohapatra	Justice D.K. Shripad, Justice B.P. Routray, Dr. Justice S.K. Panigrahi Justice Savitri Ratho, Justice M.S. Raman, Justice S.S. Mishra Director, Odisha Judicial Academy, Cuttack, District & Sessions Judge, Cuttack, Coordinator, Arbitration & Mediation Centre, High Court of Orissa, Cuttack, Central Project Coordinator, High Court of Orissa, Registrar, District Court, Cuttack, Technical Director, NIC, Superintending Engineer, PWD, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar, P.K. Rath, Senior Advocate, High Court of Orissa Member Secretary, SCMS Committee-Nodal Officer

Dr. Justice S.K. Panigrahi was the Chairman of this Committee till 10th August, 2025 and is presently serving as a member of this 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 uniformly and 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 is the convenor of this Committee.

The 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 judgeship on monthly basis. By the end of 2025, a total of **2,666 (Civil- 311, Criminal- 2355)** 25 years old cases had been disposed of. Currently, the number of pending cases stands at **1,839 (Civil- 622, Criminal - 1217)**.

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.



By the end of September 2025, a total of 91,266 (Civil- 23531, Criminal- 67735) more than 5 years old cases and 41,662 (Civil- 8953, Criminal- 32709) more than 10 years old cases have been disposed of. Currently, the pendency of more than 5 years old cases stands at 6,94,346 (Civil- 95166, Criminal - 599180) and pendency of more than 10 years old cases stands at 2,57,361 (Civil- 34178, Criminal - 223183).

The Committee also supervises the annual uploading 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.

It has been suggested by the Committee that a proposal be moved to the Government for sanction of the post of Court Sub-Inspector (CSI) whenever any proposal for sanction of new cognizance-taking courts is made to the Government and the Government has been intimated accordingly.

The Vision Document 2025-29 has been approved by the Committee, awaiting

the nod of Full Court. The vision documents envisages suggestions for next 5 years with respect to case clearance, human resources, infrastructure, training etc. The ideas have been gathered from various stakeholders such as members of the Registry, and Odisha Judicial Academy as well as the District Judiciary.

In pursuance to the directions from Hon'ble 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 Civil Procedure Code within the District Judiciary and monitoring cases pending for more than 5 years bi-monthly to expedite their resolution.

To address the issue of case arrears, the Hon'ble Supreme Court issued an Action Plan for Arrears Reduction in District Judiciary (APAAr-DJ). Acting on recommendations from this plan, the State Court Management Systems (SCMS) Committee has instructed all District & Sessions Judges to establish District Case Management Committees (DCMCs) across the 30 judgeships in Odisha. The Action Plan was circulated among these judgeships to ensure prompt and effective implementation.

Arbitration Committee

Chairman	Members
Justice D.K. Shripad	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 B.P. Routray was the Chairman of this Committee till 10th August, 2025.

This Committee oversees the functioning of the High Court of Orissa Arbitration Centre. It has on its panel of arbitrators i.e. former Judges of the Supreme Court of India and the

High Courts, former District Judges, Senior Advocates, Advocates, retired Chief Engineers and retired Bureaucrats. It has its own set of rules and an administrative cost structure. At the end of the year 2025, 139 no. of Arbitrators were empanelled. Apart from cases referred



to it by the High Court of Orissa under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996, parties by mutual agreement can have their disputes resolved through arbitration at the Centre.

In the beginning of 2025, 145 arbitration

proceedings were pending at the centre. In 2025, 34 proceedings were registered and 27 were disposed of. At the end of the year 2025, 142 proceedings were pending.

Rules Committee under Section 123 C.P.C

Chairman Justice D.K. Shripad	Members Justice Sashikanta Mishra, Justice V. Narasingh Goutam Misra, Senior Advocate, Pami Rath, Senior Advocate District and Sessions Judge, Cuttack Secretary Registrar (Vigilance)
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During 2025, Dr. Justice S.K. Panigrahi was the Chairman of this Committee till 10th August, 2025.

This Committee considers proposals to annul, alter or add to the rules in the First Schedule of the Civil Procedure Code or to make new Rules. The Committee submits its recommendations in the form of a report to the High Court of Orissa.

Pursuant to the judgment dated 22nd April, 2021 of the Hon'ble 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.

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
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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 was constituted in terms of 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 2025, the Committee formulated the High Court of Orissa and District Courts Use

of Electronic Communication and Audio-Video Electronic Means Rules, 2025 and the High Court of Orissa (Designation of Senior Advocates) Rules, 2025. The Committee also recommended amendments to various rules and schemes, significant among which are; The Odisha District and Civil Courts Judicial Staff Services (Method of Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Amendment Rules, 2025, Family Courts (Odisha) Amendment Rules, 2025, The Odisha District and Civil Courts Judicial Staff Services (Method of Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Amendment Rules,



2025, The High Court of Orissa (Appointment of Staff and conditions of service) (1st Amendment) Rules, 2025, The Rules of the High Court of Orissa, Vol-I, (1st Amendment, 2025), The Odisha Superior Judicial Service and Odisha Judicial Service (2nd Amendment)

Rules, 2025 and the General Rules and Circular Orders (Criminal) Vol-I 1977 Edition.

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

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
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This Committee was constituted on 12th January, 2024 in pursuance of 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 Second National Judicial Pay Commission as approved by the Hon'ble Apex Court.

The functions of the Committee are to oversee the proper implementation of the recommendations of the Second National

Judicial Pay Commission, 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 Second National Judicial Pay Commission which was approved by the Hon'ble Apex Court.

Committee for vetting the pleadings and affidavits required to be submitted in the litigations before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and other forums, where the High Court of Orissa is a party

Members Justice B.P. Routray, Justice V. Narasingh
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Initially, the vetting of pleadings and affidavits was being undertaken by Justice B.P. Routray. Subsequently, a Committee was constituted comprising Justice B.P. Routray and Justice V. Narasingh for the purpose of vetting the pleadings and affidavits required to be submitted in litigations before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and other forums where the High Court of Orissa is impleaded as a party, vide Court's Notice No. 8112 dated 22.04.2025.

The objective of the Committee is to vet and scrutinize all pleadings and affidavits proposed to be filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and other judicial or quasi-judicial forums in cases where the High Court of Orissa is a party, so as to ensure legal soundness, factual accuracy, procedural compliance, consistency of institutional stand, and safeguarding of the dignity, credibility, and interests of the High Court of Orissa.



Purchase Committee

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

During the year 2025, Justice B.P. Routray was the Chairman of this Committee till 10th August, 2025.

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. The Committee also deals with the matter relating to the disposal of moveable assets of the High Court. Apart from the decisions taken on regular purchases of different articles for the Court, in June 2025 the Committee carried out the disposal of 426 fully damaged metal and wooden furniture and miscellaneous articles and 13 lots of curtains, at the total sale of Rs. 1,67,786/- only against the upset value of Rs. 76,150/- only in consonance with Rule-281(ii) of O.G.F.R, 2023 and the total amount was deposited in the appropriate Head of

Account of the State Government. In July 2025, a total of 155 electronics and electrical articles being declared as e-Waste and were disposed of in consonance with the "Guidelines for Disposal of E-Waste from Government offices / state Government undertaking as per e-waste (Management) Rules, 2016" at the total sale proceed of Rs.2,31,196/- only as against the upset value of Rs. 88,620 only by way of sale to a registered e-waste recycler and the amount so realized was deposited in the appropriate Heads of Account of the State Government. Further, a total of 32 nos. of fully damaged batteries (Inverter batteries and server batteries @16 nos. each) piled up in the central store were handed over to IT Cell of the Court for disposal at their end in consonance with Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022, Government of India, as per Resolution of the Purchase/ Disposal Committee.

RRDC, Digitisation, Preservation and Destruction of Case Records in the High Court and Subordinate Courts, Centre for Judicial Archives and Museum of Justice

Chairman	Members
Dr. Justice S.K. Panigrahi	Justice M.S.Sahoo, Justice A.K. Mohapatra Justice B. P. Satapathy, Justice S. S. Mishra

Justice Sashikanta Mishra was the Chairman of this Committee till 10th August, 2025.

The Committee deals with matters relating to digitisation, preservation and destruction of records of disposed of cases of the High Court and the District Courts. It also oversees the functioning of the Record Room Digitization Centre, the District Court Digitization Centres (DCDCs), the District Court Digitization

Hubs, the Centre for Judicial Archives and the Museum of Justice.

01(one) post was advertised for recruitment to the post of Law Researcher (History) for which 23 applications were received. The written test was held on 25.02.2025 in which 05 candidates appeared and 03 candidates were selected. The viva voce test was conducted on the same day for the 03 candidates, out of which 01 candidate was selected.



Further recruitment to the post of Law Researcher (History) was carried out where 01 (one) post was advertised for which 09 applications were received. The written test was held on 18.09.2025 in which 08 candidates appeared and 05 candidates were selected. The viva voce test was conducted on the same day for the 05 candidates, out of which 01 candidate was selected.

01 (one) post was advertised for recruitment to the post of Law Researcher (History) (Law) for which 92 applications were received. The written test was held on 02.09.2025 in which 65 candidates appeared and 07 candidates were selected. The viva voce test was conducted on the same day for the 07 candidates, out of which 01 candidate was selected.

RCM Committee

Chairman	Members
Dr. Justice, S.K. Panigrahi	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. 2,55,54,000/- was

reimbursed to the sitting and former Judges and the employees against their reimbursement claims during the year 2025.

AI Translation Committee

Chairman	Members
Dr. Justice S.K. Panigrahi	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 Registrar (Inspection) works as the Secretary of the Committee.

The AI Assisted Legal Translation Advisory Committee of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, headed by a Judge of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, is monitoring the progress of the AI translation work. A dedicated Translation Cell having 27 translators is strenuously working for translation of the Supreme Court and High Court reportable judgments and records are being validated by retired Judicial

Officers in the cadre of District Judge. Till the end of 2025, 1,361 Supreme Court and 689 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 to the concept of justice at the doorstep.



Accessibility Committee

Chairman Dr. Justice S.K. Panigrahi	Convenor Registrar, Records Members Mrutunjaya Dash, ADR (J&E), Ashish Ku. Sahoo, AR (J&E) Sujit Ranjan Sahoo, System Officer, Alekh Kumar Mohanty, Superintendent, Biswajit Mohapatra, Advocate
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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 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. Taking a step in this direction, the Committee ordered installation of tactile and anti-skid flooring on the ground floor of the old building and on the ground floor and first floor of the new Administrative Building of the High Court, with a view to ensuring enhanced accessibility for differently abled persons.

Juvenile Justice Committee

Chairman Justice S. Ratho	Members Justice A.K. Mohapatra, Justice M.S. Raman Convenor Secretary, Juvenile Justice Committee
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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 objectives of the Committee include:

1. Review and monitor the functioning of all Juvenile Justice institutions which includes the Juvenile Justice Boards, Child Welfare Committees, Special Juvenile Police Units and support structures like DCPU, CCIs, Child line etc. constituted under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of the Children) Act, 2015.
2. Oversee the efforts at reducing the pendency of cases before the JJBs and the CWCs.
3. Address various issues on Juvenile Justice with regard to:



- i. Enhancement of knowledge of key stake holders.
- ii. Reviewing and monitoring the performance of the Juvenile Justice Institutions.
- iii. Dissemination of best practices in order to strengthen Juvenile Justice System in the State of Odisha.

The functions of the Committee include:

1. Regularly hold meetings with the concerned departments, functionaries, NGOs, and others for monitoring the implementation of the J.J Act, 2015
2. Resolve systemic, operational and attitudinal challenges that hinder linkages between the Juvenile Justice functionaries and other Government agencies.
3. Evaluate
 - (i) quarterly reports from concerned stakeholders on the existing status of the setting-up of the institutions/ authorities/ units as per the JJ Act, 2015 and the guiding JJ Rules
 - (ii) quarterly reports from the District

Judges on the pendency and disposal of cases.

4. Conduct regular training programmes and seminars on Juvenile Justice issues of different stakeholders for better implementation of the objectives of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

The Committee had undertaken a series of impactful initiatives in 2025, which include:

1. Publication of a "Ready-reckoner"
2. Publication of Newsletter "SISHU SURAKSHA 2025"
3. State-Level Consultation on Juvenile Justice Implementation:

A State Level Juvenile Justice Consultation was held on 13th September, 2025 in collaboration with the Odisha Judicial Academy, Department of Women & Child Development (WCD), and UNICEF. The consultation was organized on the theme and specific focus on "Safeguarding the Girl Child : Towards a Safer and Enabling Environment for her in India".

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

Chairman	Members
Justice Savitri Ratho	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 Hon'ble 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 of the vacancies in the

posts of Counselors in the Family Courts.

In 2025, 18 Counsellors functioning in different Family Courts of the State were selected and recommended for appointment to the post of Principal Counsellors. Accordingly, 28 Principal Counsellors and 06 Counsellors are functioning in 30 Family Courts of the State. Further, only 02 posts of Principal Counsellor and 24 posts of Counsellors are lying vacant in the State.



Internal Complaints Committee

Presiding Officer

Justice Savitri Ratho

Members

Director, Odisha Judicial Academy, Saswata Patnaik, Advocate,
Namita Behera, ADR (J&E)

Convenor

Registrar (Vigilance)

This Committee has been constituted under Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. At the beginning of the year 2025, 01 complaint was pending. During the year, 04

complaints were received. Inquiry into all 05 complaints was conducted and all complaints were disposed of. No complaints was pending by the end of 2025.

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.

During the year 2025, the Committee took up promotion and 06 employees were promoted from Group-D cadre to the posts of Cook-cum-Caretaker and Treasury Sarkar.



Signatures of some members of the Constituent Assembly including members from Odisha displayed at Museum of Justice



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 2025, 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, Typist, Copyist and Diarist cadres, 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, Financial Advisor, 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 Financial Advisor 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 : Satyabrata Mishra, Co-ordinator, Arbitration Centre, Santosh Kumar Dash Ray, Officer on Special Duty (Vigilance),

Dr. Jeevanjyoti Rath, Registrar (Administration), Srinibash Pratihari, Registrar (Vigilance), Dr. Bhagyalaxmi Rath, Registrar General, Bikram Pattanaik, Registrar (Inspection), Satya Ranjan Pradhan, Registrar (Judicial), Rudra Prasad Mahapatra, Secretary, Juvenile Justice Committee and Hara Prasad Padhy, Registrar, Records

Standing from left to right : Asish Kumar Parichha, Specil Officer (Special Cell), Shibasish Giri, Deputy Registrar (Judicial), Nitisha Chandak, Addl. Co-ordinator, Arbitration Centre, Sishir Kumar Sahoo, Assistant, Registrar (Admin.), C.A. Desapriya Barik, Deputy Registrar (Admin. & Protocol), Soumya Sourav, Central Project Coordinator and Biswajit Nayak, Special Officer (Administration)



Ministerial Officers of the High Court of Orissa

Sitting from left to right : Nibedita Panda, A.R-cum-Addl. Stamp Reporter & Oath Commissioner, Anasuya Patra, A.R-cum-Addl. Stamp Reporter & Oath Commissioner, Sanjukta Parida, Asst. Registrar (Judicial), Prativa Sahoo, 2nd Asst. Registrar (Judicial), Gitanjali Mukhi, 3rd Asst. Registrar (Judicial), Anjana Kar, A.R-cum-Addl. Stamp Reporter & Oath Commissioner, Namita Behera, A.D.R. (J & E), Paranjaya Mishra, Joint Registrar (Establishment), Kailash Chandra Barik, A.D.R. (J&E), Mahesh Prasad Dash, A.D.R. (J&E), Gangadhar Tarai, A.R-cum-Stamp Reporter & Oath Commissioner, Nabin Kumar Parida, Asst. Registrar (J&E), Subash Chandra Sahoo, A.R-cum-Addl. Stamp Reporter & Oath Commissioner, Mrutyunjaya Dash, A.D.R. (J&E) and Aditya Narayana Mahana, A.R-cum-Addl. Stamp Reporter & Oath Commissioner

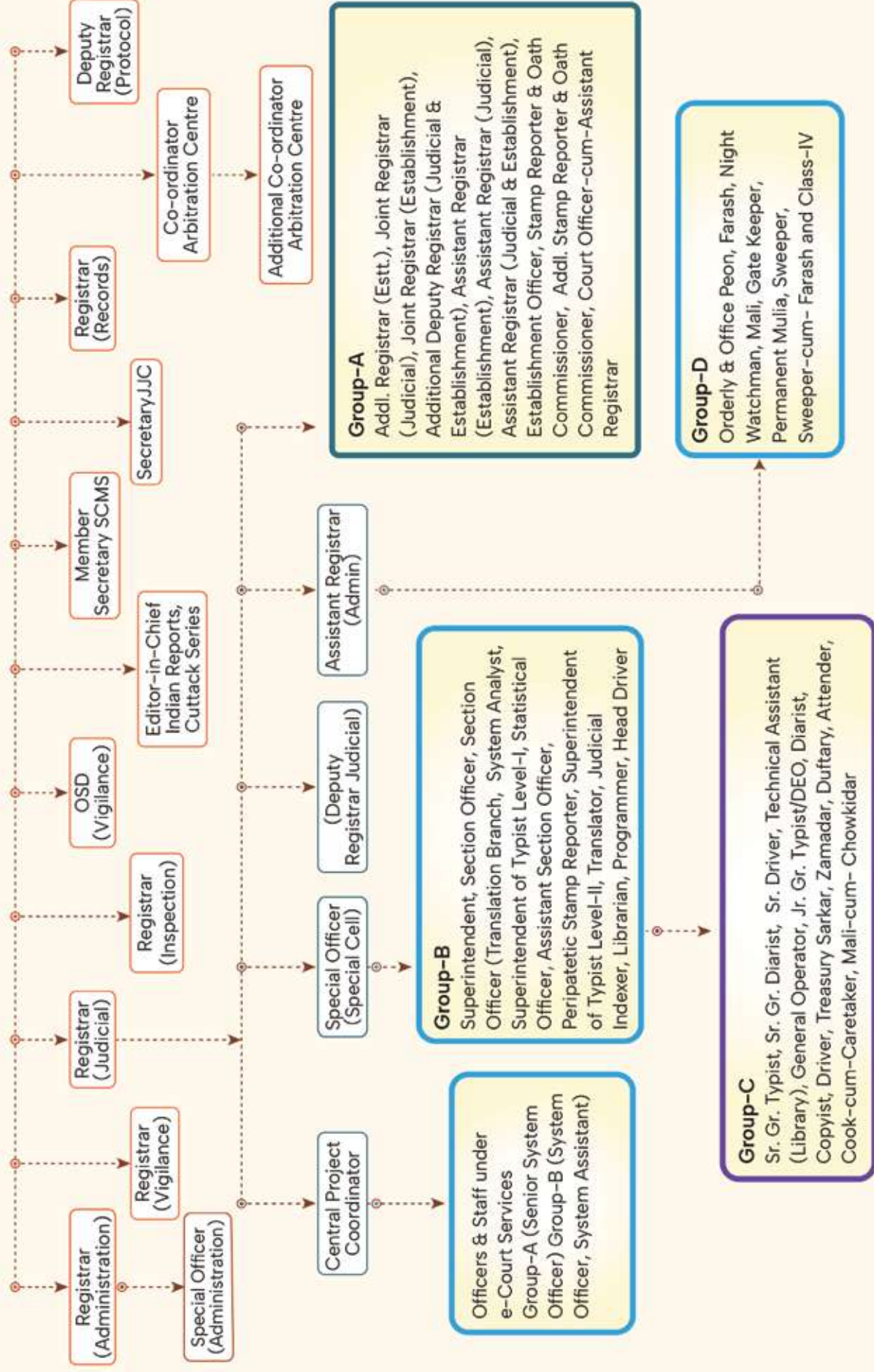
Standing From left to right : Jayanta Kumar Mohapatra, Asst. Registrar-cum-Estt. Officer, Pradipa Kumar Das, Asst. Registrar (Protocol), Ramachandra Tudu, A.D.R. (J&E), Debendra Nath Murmu, A.R-cum-Addl. Stamp Reporter & Oath Commissioner, Asish Kumar Sahoo, 1st Asst. Registrar (Judicial), Kali Ch. Hansdah, A.R-cum-Additional Stamp Reporter & Oath Commissioner, Rabindra Nath Mallick, A.R-cum-Additional Stamp Reporter & Oath Commissioner, Pravakar Sing, A.R-cum-Addl. Stamp Reporter & Oath Commissioner, Santosh Kumar Sethy, Pravakar Sing, A.R-cum-Addl. Stamp Reporter & Oath Commissioner, Ashutosh Lenka, Pravakar Sing, A.R-cum-Addl. Stamp Reporter & Oath Commissioner, Chakradhar Naik, Pravakar Sing, A.R-cum-Addl. Stamp Reporter & Oath Commissioner, Dinabandhu Rath, A.R-cum-Addl. Stamp Reporter & Oath Commissioner, Gautam Kumar Marandi, Asst. Registrar (Protocol) and Laxmidhar Mohapatra, Asst. Registrar (Estt.)



Secretarial Officers of the High Court Orissa

From left to right : Gayadhar Samal, Joint Registrar-cum-Principal Secretary, Alok Ranjan Sethy, A.R.-cum-Senior Secretary, Ranjan Kumar Sethi, A.R.-cum- Senior Secretary, Chittaranjan Biswal, A.R-cum- Senior Secretary, Arun Kumar Mishra, A.D.R-cum-Additional Principal Secretary, Manoj Kumar Rout, A.D.R-cum-Additional Principal Secretary, Anand Dash, Additional Registrar-cum-Principal Secretary, Ashish Kumar Kar, Joint Registrar-cum-Principal Secretary, Samir Kumar Parida, A.D.R-cum-Additional Principal Secretary, Basudev Nayak, A.D.R-cum-Additional Principal Secretary, Pravakar Nayak, A.R-cum- Senior Secretary, Bhabagrahi Jhankar, A.R-cum- Senior Secretary and Sasanka Sekhar Satapathy, A.R-cum- Senior Secretary

REGISTRAR GENERAL





ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE REGISTRY

Incumbency of Judicial Officers in the Registry during 2025

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Name of the Officer	Tenure
1.	Registrar General	Asanta Kumar Das	Till 29.10.2025 (A.N.)
		Bikram Pattnaik (In-charge)	29.10.2025
		Hara Prasad Padhy (In-charge)	From 30.10.2025 till 01.11.2025 (F.N.)
		Dr. Bhagyalaxmi Rath	From 01.11.2025 (F.N.) till the end of the year
2.	Registrar (Vigilance)	Pradyumna Kumar Nayak	Till 29.10.2025 (A.N.)
		Dr. Jeevanjyoti Rath (In-charge)	From 29.10.2025 (A.N.) till 01.11.2025 (F.N.)
		Srinibash Pratihari	From 01.11.2025 (F.N.) till the end of the year
3.	Registrar (Inspection)	Bikram Pattnaik	For the entire year
4.	Registrar (Administration)	Dr. Jeevanjyoti Rath	For the entire year
5.	Registrar (Judicial)	Pravat Kumar Rajguru	Till 15.01.2025 (F.N.)
		Satya Ranjan Pradhan	From 15.01.2025 (F.N.) till the end of the year
6.	Officer-on-Special Duty (Vigilance)	Santosh Kumar Dash Ray	For the entire year
7.	Co-ordinator, Arbitration Centre	Satyabrata Mishra	For the entire year
8.	Secretary, Juvenile Justice Committee	Rudra Prasad Mahapatra	For the entire year
9.	Registrar (Records)	Hara Prasad Padhy	For the entire year
10.	Member-Secretary, S.C.M.S	Rudra Prasad Mahapatra (In-charge)	For the entire year
11.	Editor-in-Chief of ILR Cuttack Series	Pravakar Ganthia	Till 19.08.2025 (F.N.)
		Hara Prasad Padhy (In-charge)	From 19.08.2025 (F.N.) till the end of the year
12.	Deputy Registrar (Judicial)	Sibasish Giri	For the entire year
13.	Central Project Co-ordinator	Soumya Sourav	For the entire year



Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Name of the Officer	Tenure
14.	Special Officer (Administration)	Ramakanta Mohanty	Till 17.01.2025 (F.N.)
		Biswajit Nayak	From 17.01.2025 (F.N.) till end of the year
15.	Deputy Registrar (Admn. & Protocol)	C.A. Desapriya Barik	For the entire year
16.	Special Officer (Special Cell)	Asish Kumar Parichha	For the entire year
17.	Addl. Coordinator, Arbitration Centre	Biswajit Nayak	Till 17.01.2025 (F.N.)
		Ramakanta Mohanty	From 17.01.2025 (F.N.) till 16.05.2025 (F.N.)
		Biswajit Nayak (In-charge)	From 16.05.2025 (F.N.) till 18.05.2025 (A.N.)
		Soumya Sourav (In-charge)	From 19.05.2025 (F.N.) to 20.05.2025 (F.N.)
		Ms. Nitisha Chandak	From 20.05.2025 (F.N.) till the end of the year
18.	Deputy Registrar (Records)	Gagan Sahu	Till 23.07.2025 (A.N.)
		Asish Kumar Parichha (In-charge)	From 23.07.2025 (A.N.) till the end of the year
19.	Asst. Registrar (Administration)	Jitendra Das	Till 24.01.2025 (F.N.)
		Sishir Kumar Sahoo	From 24.01.2025 (F.N.) till the end of the year



Coat of Arms displayed at Centre of Judicial Archives



Heritage typewriter used in Koraput Judgeship displayed at Museum of Justice



Job description of Judicial Officers in the Registry

Registrar General	• Oversees the work of all 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 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.
Registrar (Administration)	• Deals with matters relating to the District Judiciary and Judicial Officers except allegations, enquiries, buildings and statistics; • 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; • 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.
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 Group-A 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.



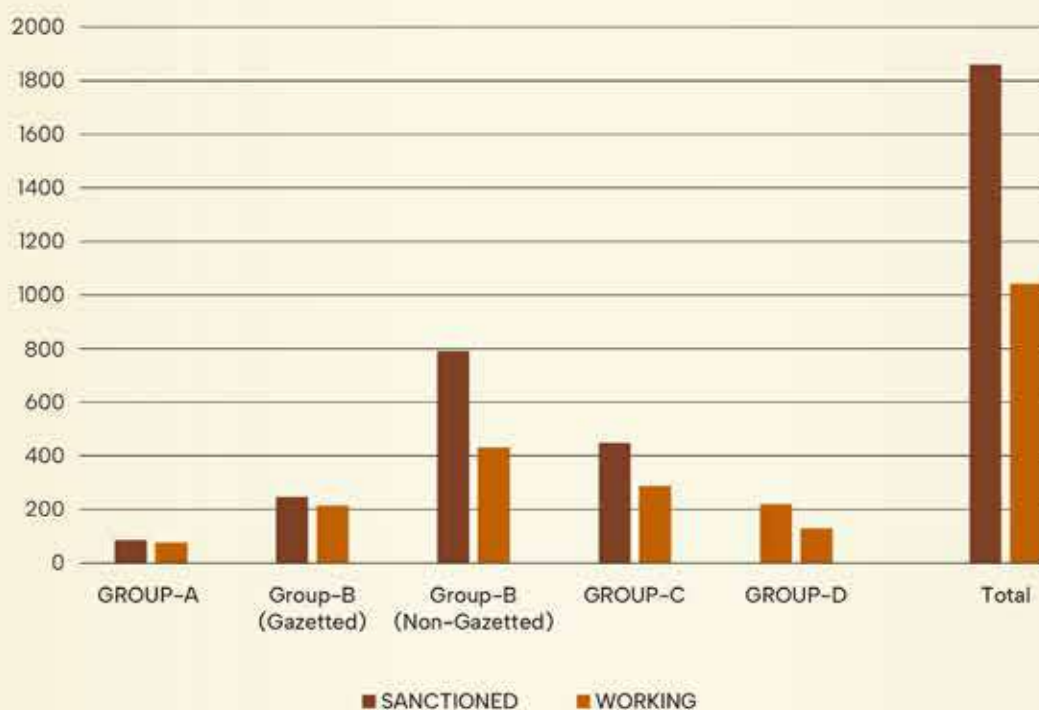
Deputy Registrar (Judicial)	• Discharges judicial functions delegated by the Registrar (Judicial) in accordance with Rule-2 of Chapter-V of the Rules of the High Court of Orissa, 1948 subject to the orders of the Chief Justice; • Oversees the work of Judicial sections of the High Court including the filing and the listing sections. • 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, 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 TILL END OF 2025



Sanctioned	1855
Working	1073





Infrastructure

Inauguration of Centre for Judicial Archives

The Centre for Judicial Archives, High Court of Orissa was inaugurated on 11th January, 2025 by Shri Mohan Charan Majhi, Hon'ble the Chief Minister, Odisha in the presence of Shri Justice

Chakradhari Sharan Singh, Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa, Shri Prithviraj Harichandan Minister, Law, Government of Odisha and the Companion Judges of the High Court of Orissa.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha inaugurating the Centre for Judicial Archives



The Hon'ble Chief Minister being shown the premises of the Centre.

Inauguration of cafeteria in High Court premises

The cafeteria in the High Court premises was inaugurated on 11th February, 2025 by Acting Chief Justice Arindam Sinha, in presence of other companion Judges of the Court and the

Members of the High court Bar Association. The cafeteria facility provided for the Bar Members and the litigants



Inauguration of cafeteria in the High Court premises

Inauguration of refurbished High Court Bar Association premises

The refurbished High Court Bar Association Building was inaugurated on 27th March, 2025 by Chief Justice, in presence of other companion Judges of the Court and the

Members of the High Court Bar Association. The existing building was redesigned having adequate facilities to meet the requirements of the Bar members.



The Chief Justice inaugurating the refurbished High Court Bar Association premises



Refurbished High Court Convention Hall

Inauguration of Exhibition Hall dedicated to Utkal Gaurav Madhusudan Das in the Centre for Judicial Archives

On the occasion of the foundation day of the Centre for Judicial Archives, the Exhibition Hall dedicated to Utkal Gaurav Madhusudan Das was inaugurated on 10th May, 2025 in the 1st Floor of the Centre for Judicial Archives by

Shri Justice Harish Tandon, Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa in presence of companion Judges of the Court. The section depicts the illustrious life of Shri Madhusudan Das through colourful display boards



Inauguration of the Exhibition Hall dedicated to Utkal Gaurav Madhusudan Das.



Inauguration of "Yoga Kendra"

On the occasion of International Yoga Day, the "Yoga Kendra" was inaugurated on 21st June, 2025 in the premises of the High Court Guest House by the Chief Justice in presence of other

companion Judges of the Court. The purpose of "Yoga Kendra" is to provide a dedicated facility for visitors and guests to practice Yoga.



Inauguration of "Yoga Kendra" by the Chief Justice and Companion Judges.

Inauguration of Halls of Judges' Library

Hall No. 2 & 3 of the refurbished Judges' Library were inaugurated on 1st July, 2025, by the Chief Justice in presence of other companion Judges of the Court. Both the halls are created

adequate space for keeping more number of books in the library for use of both Bar and Bench.



Dedication of Hall No. 2 & 3 of Judges' Library.



Entrance to the New Building of the High Court



Judges' lounge

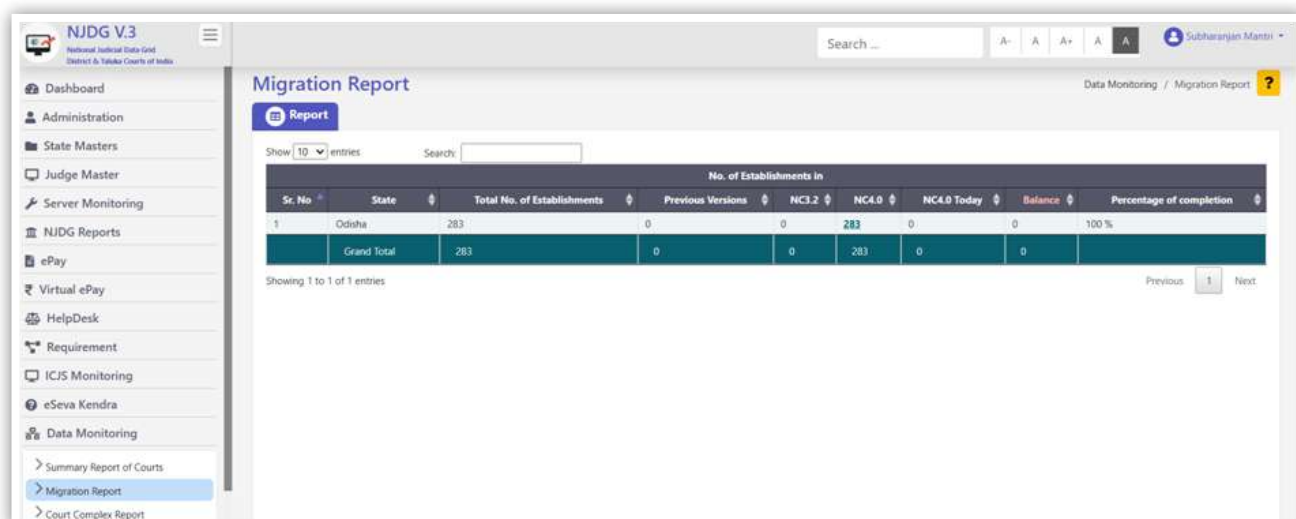
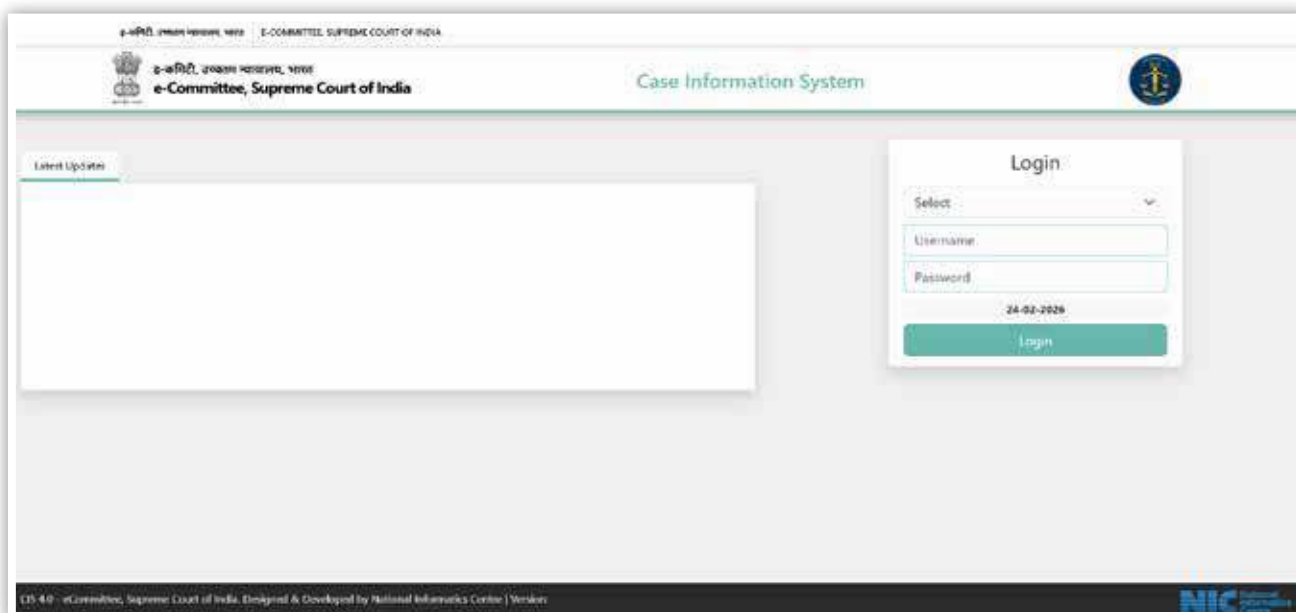


ICT Initiatives

Implementation of CIS 4.0 at District Courts

By 07.02.2025, all Court establishments in District and Taluk Courts across the State, previously operating under older versions of the Case Information System (CIS), have successfully transitioned to the upgraded

CIS 4.0. This transition leverages the latest technological advancements to enhance operational efficiency and accessibility in the judicial process.



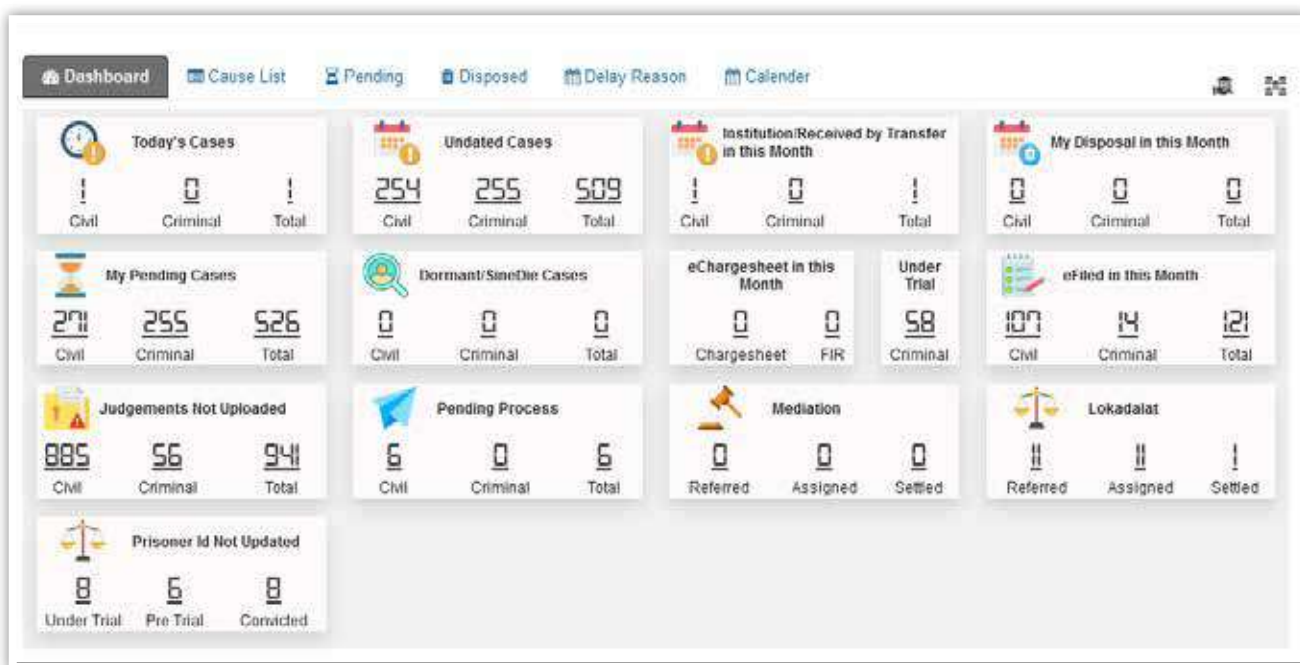
CIS 4.0 builds on the strong foundation of CIS 3.2, ensuring continuity and ease of transition

for existing users while introducing significant upgrades in security, scalability and user-



centric design. Reflecting the e-Committee's continued commitment to technological advancement in the District Judiciary, CIS 4.0 marks a decisive move towards a secure, integrated and future-ready judicial system. It is cloud-enabled, compliant with modern

security standards and built on an latest technology stack (PHP 7.4.15 and PostgreSQL 13.3), ensuring improved performance, enhanced privacy through encryption, role-based access and detailed login audit trails.



A major highlight of CIS 4.0 is its comprehensive dashboard offering a centralised view of Court functioning, including case status, pendency, disposals, delays, mediation, Lok Adalat matters, cause lists, and judicial calendars. Functional enhancements extend across orders and judgments (including bulk upload and pre-publication warnings), streamlined judicial processes from filing to conviction,

strengthened administrative modules, and seamless integration with allied systems such as ePrisons, ICJS, e-Filing, NSTEP, and Virtual Courts. Additional features like Advocate management, masking of sensitive data, Appellate Court visibility, multiple hearing dates, prisoner case history, notifications and customised reports collectively enhance efficiency in judicial administration.

Adoption of MeghRaj 2.0 for Cloud-Enabled Judicial Services

To enhance judicial digital infrastructure and support future-ready services, the High Court of Orissa has taken significant strides toward modernizing and securing its digital infrastructure by leveraging MeghRaj 2.0, the

Government of India's pioneering hybrid cloud management solution.

MeghRaj 2.0 has been adopted for the following strategic initiatives:



1. Replication of Courts Data
2. Hosting of Periphery Services
3. Pilot Implementation of Judicial Trusted Digital Repository (JTDR)

Key developments include:

- **Provisioning of Cloud Resources:** MeghRaj 2.0 cloud resources have been provisioned for three key categories:
 - o **Category I :** Case Information System (CIS)
 - o **Category II :** Periphery Services
 - o **Category III :** Judicial Trusted Digital Repository (JTDR)
- **Infrastructure Setup:** Post-provisioning activities for newly created databases and application virtual machines (VMs) have been successfully completed. Security audits and migration of databases and applications are currently underway.
- **Pilot locations for JTDR:** The High Court of Orissa at Cuttack and the District Court of Sambalpur have been identified as pilot locations for Phase I of JTDR implementation, under the guidance of the Hon'ble eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India.
- **JTDR Portal Setup:**
 - o A dedicated sub-domain, <https://orissa.jtdr.gov.in>, has been provisioned.
 - o The JTDR portal has been developed by C-DAC and successfully tested for the uploading of case records to support the pilot phase rollout.
- **Digitization and Upload Mechanism:** The agency responsible for scanning and digitization at the High Court of Orissa is in the process of developing a Push Client mechanism, which utilizes APIs to upload metadata and associated PDF documents to the JTDR platform.





On-Campus Cloud Storage Facility and HCI Server Setup for the High Court of Orissa

To strengthen the digital infrastructure and ensure uninterrupted delivery of judicial services, the High Court of Orissa has successfully established an On-Campus Cloud Storage Facility supported by a Hyper-Converged Infrastructure (HCI) Server Environment. This initiative has been undertaken as part of the Court's ongoing efforts towards modernization, digital transformation, and adoption of secure private cloud technologies.

The on-premises private cloud has been designed to support Court Information System (CIS), e-Filing, Paperless Court initiatives, Document Management System (DMS), server virtualization, centralized backups, and other critical services of the High Court. The infrastructure ensures high availability, fault tolerance, data security, scalability and simplified management, thereby enabling smooth day-to-day operations with readiness for future expansion.



Core Infrastructure Components

- **HCI Servers:** Deployed with integrated clustering software providing high availability, fault tolerance, virtual server management, thin provisioning, and centralized storage services for critical court applications.
- **Layer-3 Network Switches:** High-performance fully managed L3 switches with 10G connectivity to provide low-latency, high-bandwidth communication across the data center.
- **Structured Cabling:** CAT-6A LAN cabling deployed to support high-speed and reliable network connectivity between servers, storage, and network devices.
- **All-Flash Scale-Out Storage:** 500 TB usable NVMe-based storage system delivering high-performance, redundant, and scalable storage for judicial data and digital records.
- **Data Center Racks, Power & Cooling:** Dedicated racks with adequate power and cooling capacity to support high-density IT equipment and ensure stable data center operations.



- **Backup Software:** Backup solution implemented for secure data protection, recovery.
- **Next-Generation Firewall:** Advanced security appliance deployed to protect the on-premises cloud infrastructure from threats and unauthorized access.
- **Installation & Commissioning:** Complete professional installation and integration of all components to ensure seamless functionality within the existing IT environment.
- **Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC):** Ongoing maintenance support to ensure system health, performance optimization and timely issue resolution.



SDWAN Connectivity for 24 Court Locations

Under Phase II of the e-Courts Project, the Department of Justice, Government of India, provisioned Managed MPLS VPN-based Wide Area Network (WAN) connectivity for 156 Court Complexes across the State of Odisha. This initiative was taken under the Digital India programme, aimed to ensure reliable, secure, and real-time access to digital judicial services throughout the country.

As part of Phase-III of the e-Courts Project, work order was issued to BSNL for the deployment of SD-WAN solutions at 24 additional Court Complexes, including the High Court of Orissa. The installation and commissioning activities for these locations are currently underway, further strengthening the digital backbone for seamless judicial operations.



Strengthening Digital Judicial Infrastructure across District Judiciary in the State

In a significant step towards strengthening the digital infrastructure of the District Judiciary, a large-scale procurement and deployment of servers has been undertaken across Court complexes in the State for the effective implementation of the Case Information System (CIS) 4.0.

As part of this initiative, 70 servers have been procured and installed in various Court complexes across the State to support the implementation of CIS 4.0 configured with a customised Ubuntu Server 20.04 operating system. These servers are intended to host critical judicial applications and services, ensuring improved performance, reliability and security of digital Court operations.

Further, 33 additional servers have been procured and provisioned as backup infrastructure at various Court complexes. These servers are dedicated to hosting backups of the CIS application, databases, and other related services, thereby enhancing data redundancy, system resilience and disaster recovery capabilities.

In addition to the above, keeping in view the expansion of judicial infrastructure, 21 servers have been provisioned for newly established Court complexes across the State. These servers will facilitate the seamless rollout of CIS 4.0 in the new Courts, ensuring uniform

adoption of digital systems throughout the judicial network.

The deployment of these servers marks a major milestone in the modernization of Court infrastructure. It is expected to significantly improve system availability, data security and service delivery, thereby supporting the judiciary's commitment to efficient, transparent and technology-driven justice delivery.





e-Guard File Management System

The e-Guard File Management System is a secure, web-based application developed to digitally manage Guard Files of Courts in an organized, searchable, and efficient manner. The system enables District Courts to record, store, retrieve, and monitor official letters,

circulars, and communications received from the High Court and State Government/other authorities, thereby ensuring transparency, accountability, and long-term preservation of judicial records.

The screenshot displays the e-Guard File Management System interface. At the top, there is a login form titled "e-Guard File Management System" with the subtitle "Login to Your Account". The form includes a "District" dropdown menu, a "Username" field, and a "Password" field, followed by a "SIGN IN" button. Below the login form, the dashboard is visible, featuring a sidebar menu with options: Dashboard, Add Details, Modify details, Booking Entry, and Report. The main content area includes a "Find Letters by" search bar, a "Receipts" section with a bar chart showing counts for High Court of Orissa and Others, and a "Receipts in Current year" section with a table showing details for High Court of Orissa and Others.



Application Form

Online Entry Form For e-Guard File

Form where Received: High Court of Orissa

No. of the General Letter/Circular: Letter No. / Circular

Date of the General Letter/Circular: MM/DD/YYYY

Subject: Enter subject

No. of Pages: Enter number of pages

Upload PDF: Choose File No file chosen

Remark: Enter remark

Submit Form

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Search From

High Court of Orissa Orders

Other Department: Select Department

From Date: From date DD/MM/YYYY To Date: To Date DD/MM/YYYY

Search Reset

Department Wise Summary

10 records per page

Guard File Sl.	Year	Letter No.	Form where received	Letter Subject	No. of Pages or Sheets	Remarks	Entry Date	PDF
No entries found								

e-Guard File Management System

The e-Inventory system assists the IT Cell of the High Court and District Courts in maintaining, monitoring and managing IT assets and other inventory systematically.

System benefits include:

- Accurate recording of inventory assets.
- Centralized and standardized data management.
- Enhanced transparency and accountability in the issue and return of items





DISTRICT COURT STOCK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Select District

--Select District--

Select Place

--Select Court Complex--

User Name

Enter Name

Password

Enter Password

LOGIN

*** USER MONITOR ***

 **HIGH COURT OF ORISSA**

Search by Purchase Order No Or Model or Item Name...

 Angul

Dashboard

- Add Court Complex
- Add User
- Item Receive From High Court
- Item Send To District Court
- Monitor Data
- New Item Entry
- Old Item Entry
- Issue on Item
- Report
- User Manual

Overview

 Total Item in Stock

 Name Add Today

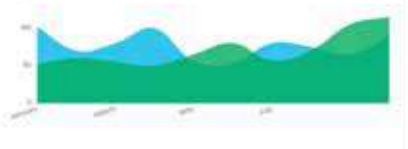
 Item Issued

 Received From Highcourt

Recent Reports

Product Service

25% Product 10% Service



Char By %

In Stock Issued



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Judicial Officers' Redressal Portal

The Judicial Officers' Redressal Portal is a secure, web-based grievance management system developed to provide Judicial Officers with a structured and transparent mechanism for submission, monitoring, and resolution of grievances. The portal facilitates seamless interaction between Judicial Officers, District & Sessions Judges, and the High Court, ensuring timely redressal and effective administrative oversight.

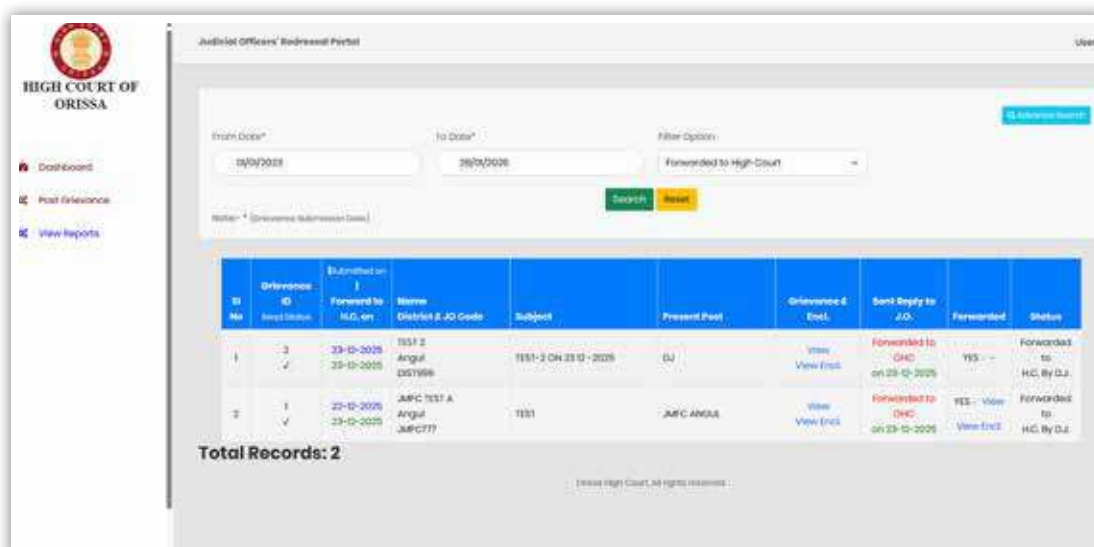
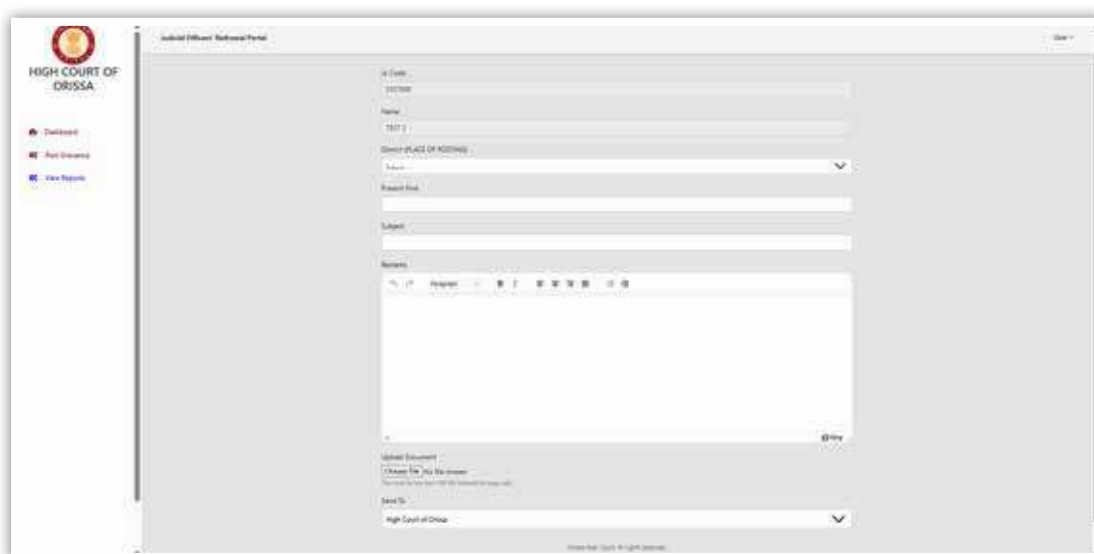
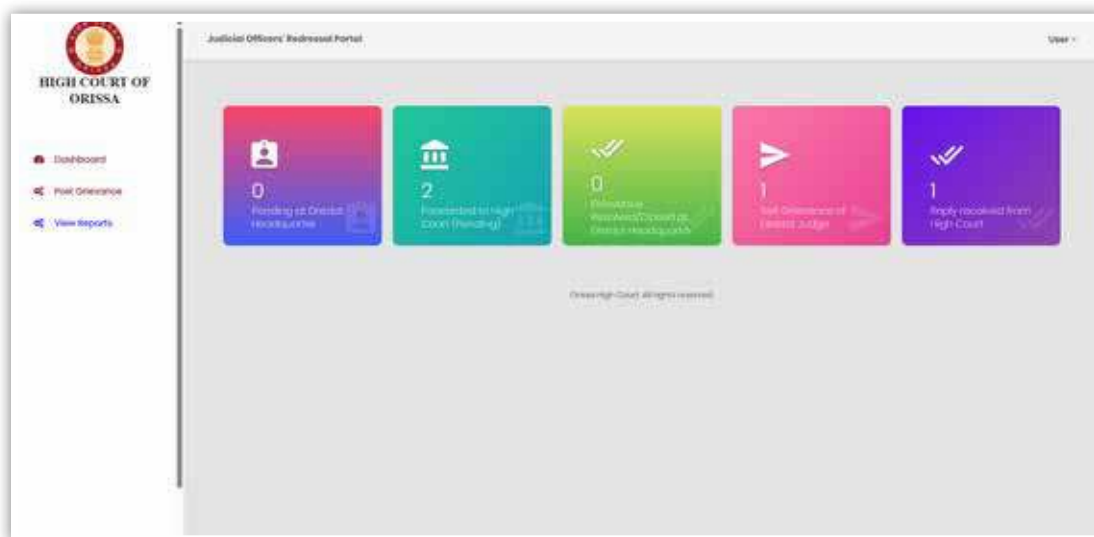
The system follows a role-based workflow,

supported by OTP-based authentication, ensuring confidentiality, authenticity, and accountability at every stage.

The Judicial Officers' Redressal Portal is a significant step towards strengthening judicial administration through digital governance. By enabling structured grievance handling and real-time monitoring, the portal enhances transparency, efficiency, and responsiveness across all levels of the judiciary.

The screenshot shows the login page of the Judicial Officers' Redressal Portal. At the top is the High Court of Orissa logo. Below it, the title "Judicial Officers' Redressal Portal" is displayed, followed by the subtitle "Judicial Officers' Redressal Portal". The login form includes a "JO Code" field, a "Captcha" field with a "Refresh Captcha" link, and a "SEND OTP" button. At the bottom, there is a link "Judicial Officer Register Here!" and a copyright notice "Copyright © 2026 High Court of Orissa, Cuttack".

The screenshot shows the registration page of the Judicial Officers' Redressal Portal. The title "Judicial Officer Registration" is at the top. Below it, the instruction "Enter the Following Details" is shown. The registration form includes fields for "District" (a dropdown menu), "First Name", "Last Name", "Judicial Officer Code", and "Mobile Number". A "REGISTER" button is at the bottom. A "Sign in" link is located at the bottom left of the page.



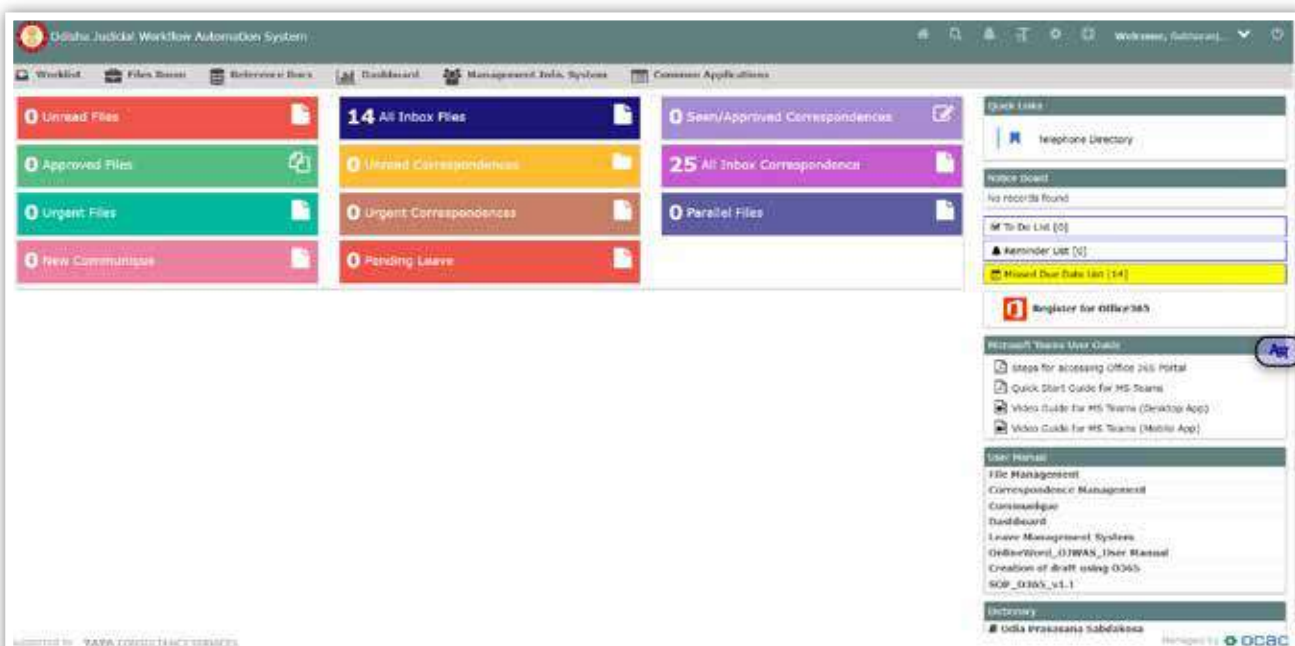


OJWAS (District Courts)

The OJWAS (Odisha Judicial Workflow and Automation System) streamlines the management of office files and official correspondence, aiming to improve efficiency and accountability within judicial office administration. Key features include file creation, notings, draft preparation, file movement,

attachment of daks, and monitoring pendency.

OJWAS is already operational at the High Court and is now being extended to the pilot District Courts of Cuttack, Khordha, Puri, Dhenkanal, and Boudh, bringing greater efficiency to the system.





DHC-COMP-ECF-0002-2022-1 - XXXIV/09/2020

File Details

All notes: My Notes: Verify notes: Load All Notes

Ref. Files: Linked Files: Correspondence Side: Drafts: Ref. Docs: Reminders: Correspondence: Summary

Add New Correspondence: Add Existing Correspondence: Details

Please Select: Please Select: [1 - 19 / 30]

In / Out	Correspondence No.	No. Of Attachments	Description	Letter Date	Correspondence Status In File
☐ Outgoing	10404	(1)		25-Jun-2025	
☐ Incoming	15795/DHC/2023	(1)		17-Jun-2025	In Process
☐ Incoming	23330/DHC/2024	(1)		05-Aug-2024	In Process
☐ Incoming	23330/DHC/2023	(1)		16-Mar-2023	In Process
☐ Outgoing	4288	(1)		13-Mar-2023	
☐ Outgoing	1379	(1)		27-Jan-2023	
☐ Outgoing	14287/23	(1)		25-Jan-2023	
☐ Outgoing	14991/20	(1)		25-Jan-2023	
☐ Incoming	28821985/2023	(1)		06-Jan-2023	In Process
☐ Outgoing	10404	(1)		16-Jan-2023	

Add new Correspondence: Add existing correspondence: Details

Nothing in: Approved: 07-Jan-2026 13:04:13

Attach File(s) (Max: 100 MB)

Odisha Judicial Workflow Automation System

Worklist: Files Books: Reference Docs: Dashboard: Management Info. System: Common Applications

Common Applications > Leave > Apply Leave

Apply For Leave

Combination Leave: Yes No

Leave Type: Casual Leave

Leave Details

Contact No.: 9778266118

Start Date: 28-Jan-2026

End Date: 28-Jan-2026

From Duration: Please Select

To Duration: Please Select

Total No. Of Leave Days: 1.0 Balance: 15.0 Leaves Awaiting Approval: 0.0

Leave Reason:

Attachment: Upload: Track: Report

Leave Hierarchy

Recommending Authority:

Approving Authority:





Activities

1st All India Judges' Badminton Championship, 2025

The 1st All India Judges' Badminton Championship 2025 was held on 4th and 5th January, 2025 at Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium, Cuttack. The event was inaugurated by Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, Chief Justice in presence of all participating Judges of different High courts. The event, a first-of-its-kind, witnessed participation of Judges from several High Courts, along with their family members. The competition was held

among the participating Judges in Singles and Doubles events. The Singles event was won by Justice Raja Vijayaraghavan of Kerala High Court and runner-up was Justice Bechu Kurian Thomas of Kerala High Court. Similarly, the Doubles event was won by Justice Bechu Kurian Thomas and Justice Raja Vijayaraghavan of Kerala High Court and runner-up was Justice G.K. Ilanthiraiyan and Justice N. Satish Kumar of Madras High Court.



The 1st All India Judges' Badminton Championship, 2025 being inaugurated by the Chief Justice



Participating Judges of different High Courts in the Championship



Felicitation of retired employees and employees who have completed 25 years of service.

A felicitation ceremony for the employees of the High Court, who had retired from service in between August to December, 2024 and who had completed 25 years of service was organized on 16th January, 2025 in the

premises of the High Court in presence of the Chief Justice and other companion Judges of the court who had graced the occasion and felicitated the employees.



Top: Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, Chief Justice and companion Judges with the felicitated employees.

Bottom: Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, Chief Justice felicitating one of the retired employees

Observance of Foundation Day of Museum of Justice

The Foundation Day of the Museum of Justice was observed on 25th February, 2025 in presence of Justice Arindam Sinha, Acting

Chief Justice and other companion Judges of the Court who had graced the occasion.



Foundation Day of the Museum of Justice observed in the premises of the Museum of Justice, Cuttack



Bench versus Bar Cricket Match

A friendly T20 cricket match was held on 31st March, 2025 between the Judges of the court and the members of the High Court Orissa Bar Association at the Barabati Stadium, Cuttack. In the said match, the Bench was led by Justice Arindam Sinha Acting Chief Justice and the

Bar was led by the President, High Court Bar Association. The Bar won the match and the winner's trophy was presented by Justice Arindam Sinha to the President, High Court Bar Association. The Man of the Match award was won by Justice R.K. Pattanaik.



Presentation ceremony of the Bench Versus Bar Cricket Match

Handing over of keys of the quarters to the employees of the High Court

An event for handing over of keys of the quarters to the employees of the High Court was held on 25th April, 2025 in the premises of the High Court. The Chief Justice and other

companion Judges graced the event and handed over keys to different employees of the Court.



*Left- Chief Justice and companion Judges of the Court attending event.
Right- Keys of quarters being handed over to the staff of the High Court*



Celebration of Madhu Jayanti

The birth anniversary of Shri Madhusudan Das, known as Lawyer's Day, was celebrated on 28th April, 2025 in the premises of the High Court. On the said occasion, the Judges of

the Court and members of the High Court Bar Association garlanded the statue of Shri Madhusudan Das installed in the premises of the High Court.

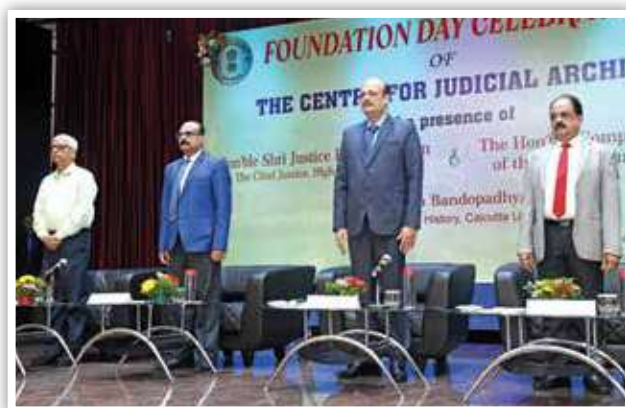


Celebration of Madhu Jayanti in the High Court premises

Observance of Foundation Day of Centre for Judicial Archives

The Foundation Day celebration of the Centre for Judicial Archives was organized in the Odisha Judicial Academy on 10th May, 2025. The event was graced by Justice Harish Tandon, the Chief Justice along with other

companion Judges of the High Court. Shri Arun Bandopadhyay, retired Professor of History, Calcutta University was the Chief Guest of the function. A book "The Judicial History of Odisha Vol-II" was released.



Foundation day celebration of Centre for Judicial Archives at Odisha Judicial Academy on 10th May, 2025



International Yoga Day Celebration

The International Yoga Day was observed on 21st June, 2025 in the premises of the High Court where the Chief Justice, companion Judges of the court, officers of the Registry and other staff of the Court actively participated in the event. 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. The Chief Justice and companion Judges also participated in a plantation drive held at the premises of the High Court Guest House.



Observance of International Yoga Day in the premises of the High Court with participation of the Chief Justice and other Companion Judges



Plantation event to commemorate International Yoga Day



Observance of Foundation Day of the High Court of Orissa

On 26th July, 2025, the 78th Foundation Day of the High Court of Orissa was celebrated. The Chief Justice and other companion Judges of the court and members of the High Court Bar

Association participated in the event. 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

Visit of students of Shree Krishna International School to the High Court

As a part of High Court's initiative and in order to raise awareness of the Judiciary among the school students, an event was organized on 31st August, 2025 where the students of Shree Krishna International School, and their teachers

had visited the High Court. The Registry made interaction with the students and explained them about the history and functioning of the High Court followed by a doubt clearing session.



Visit of students of Shree Krishna International School to the High Court



State-level consultation on Safeguarding the Girl Child: Towards a safer and enabling Environment

A State-Level Juvenile Justice Consultation was organized by Juvenile Justice Committee, High Court of Orissa on 13th September, 2025 in collaboration with the Odisha Judicial Academy, Department of Women & Child Development (WCD) and UNICEF at Odisha Judicial Academy, Cuttack. The consultation was organized on the theme and specific focus on "Safeguarding the Girl Child: Towards

a Safer and Enabling Environment for her in India". The consultation concluded with several critical recommendations namely: Education, Empowerment & Inclusion, Community Vigilance & Local Governance, Health, Protection & Justice, Rehabilitation, reintegration & Support Services and Convergence Accountability & Monitoring.



State level consultation on safeguarding the Girl Child: Towards a safer and enabling Environment organized at Odisha Judicial Academy.

Observance of Gandhi Jayanti

The birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi was observed on 02nd October, 2025. The Judges of the High Court, Registry and the members

of the Bar Association of High Court of Orissa 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.

Observance of Constitution Day

On 26th day of November, 2025 "Constitution Day" was celebrated at the New Conference Hall of the Old Court building on the theme "From the Preamble to the Court Room: Enforcing the Nations Ideals & Aspirations" in presence of Chief Justice and companion Judges of the High Court. In the said occasion

other dignitaries i.e the learned Advocate General of Government of Odisha, Deputy Solicitor General of India for the state of Odisha, Chairman, Odisha State Bar Council and members of the High Court Bar Association, Odisha were also present.



Top: Justice Harish Tandon, Chief Justice along with other dignitaries on the occasion of "Samvidhan Divas"

Bottom: The Officers of Registry and staff of the High Court participated on the occasion of "Samvidhan Divas"



Visit of The Chief Justice of India to the High Court of Orissa

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Suryakant, Chief Justice of India visited the High Court of Orissa on 14th December, 2025 and 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. He attended the symposium "Ensuring Justice for the Common Man: Strategies for reducing litigation costs and delays" as the Chief Guest, organized by Orissa High Court Bar Association.



The Chief Justice of India receiving Guard of Honour



Top (Left to Right): The Chief Justice of India being felicitated by the Chief Justice of High Court,
Bottom: The Chief Justice of India along with the Chief Justice of High Court and other companion Judges



Judges' Library



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 Courts 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".

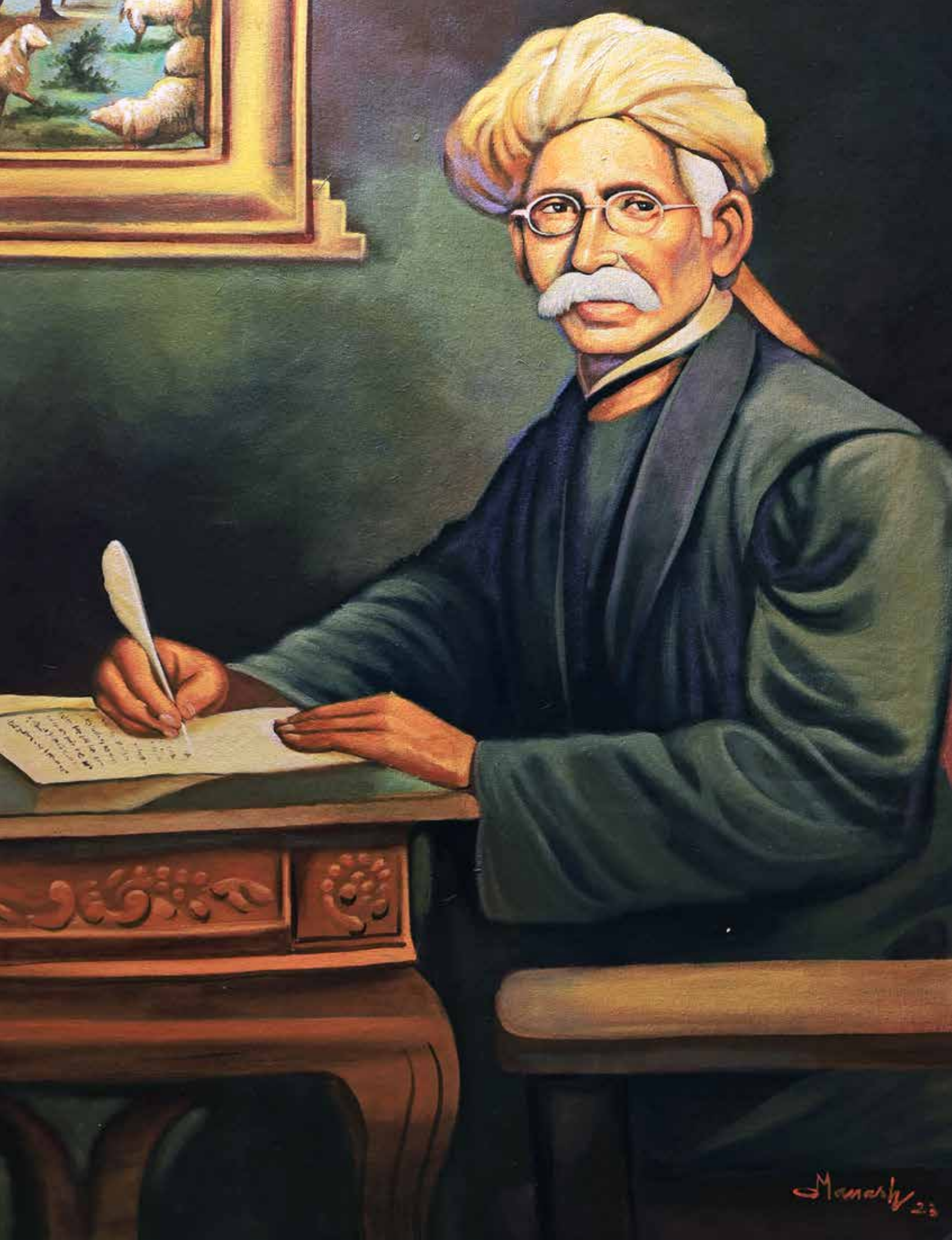
During the financial year 2024-25, funds of Rs. 63,19,66,389/- were made available by the State Government for new construction of non-residential projects and Rs.51,11,07,000/- for repair and renovation of residential buildings of Judges, Officers and staff. While Rs. 92,96,76,389/- has been released in favour of the executing agencies by the end of December, 2025, 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 **Appendices- B,C & D.**

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 2025-26, there has been a budgetary provision of Rs.2,48,23,36,847/- towards administrative expenses of the High Court, out of which a sum of Rs.1,27,20,76,000/- was spent under different heads from 1st April, 2025 to 31st December, 2025, Rs.84,54,92,000/- towards Salaries and Allowances, Rs.3,47,94,000/- towards electricity charges, Rs. 19,37,77,000/- towards Office Expenses comprising of Water Charges, Telephone Charges and Other Contingencies, Rs.1,06,88,000/- towards purchase and maintenance of vehicles and Rs. 17,80,95,000/- towards computer upgradation and maintenance.

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.**



Memorly 23

II CHAPTER — ALLIED ORGANS —





Aain Seva Bhawan



Odisha State Legal Services Authority



From Left to Right : Aurobindo Pattanaik, Member Secretary, Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak, Executive Chairman, Chittaranjan Mishra, Deputy Secretary and Bibek Sasmal, Assistant Secretary of OSLSA

Lok Adalat

(a) National Lok Adalat :

As per the National Lok Adalat Schedule for the year, 2025 received from National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), New Delhi, four numbers of National Lok Adalats were organized on 08.03.2025, 10.05.2025, 13.09.2025 and 13.12.2025 in the High Court of Orissa and in the District & other Sub-ordinate Courts including Debts Recovery Tribunal and other Tribunals/Forums during the Year-2025.

As many as 4059 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. 541 cases involving compensation in motor accident claim appeals of Rs. 41,66,42,900/- were settled.

Similarly, in the District and other Sub-ordinate Courts including other Tribunals/Forums, as many as 1,88,756 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. 76,408 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. 641,23,42,873/-were

settled. Further, 31,125 no. of Pre-litigation disputes involving amount of Rs. 93,87,57,918/- were settled

Details of Disposal of Cases in National Lok Adalat held in the High Court in the year 2025

Date of Lok Adalat	Cases placed	Cases settled	Amount involved (In Rs.)
1 st National Lok Adalat held on 08 th March, 2025	875	91	8,96,56,000/-
2 nd National Lok Adalat held on 10 th May, 2025	795	92	7,48,81,000/-
3 rd National Lok Adalat held on 13 th September, 2025	1247	193	12,27,64,500/-
4 th National Lok Adalat held on 13 th December, 2025	1142	165	12,93,41,400/-
Total	4059	541	41,66,42,900/-

Details of Disposal of Cases by District Courts and Tribunals in National Lok Adalats held in the year 2025

Nature of cases	Cases placed	Cases settled	Amount involved (In Rs.)
Pending Cases	1,88,756	76,408	641,23,42,873/-
Pre-litigation disputes	4,98,616	31,125	93,87,57,918/-
Total	6,87,372	1,07,533	735,11,00,791/-

(a) District Level Lok Adalat on Cases "U/s.138 N.I. Act" :-

Taking into consideration of pendency of Cases "U/s.138 N.I. Act" and pursuant to the order dated 23.06.2025 of the Executive Chairman, OSLSA, a District Level Lok Adalat

on cases U/s.138 N.I. Act was held at 18 district headquarters and 07 sub-divisional headquarters on 27.07.2025 (Sunday). In the said Lok Adalat, 7038 nos. of N.I. Act cases were placed out of which, 1068 no. of cases involving Rs.21,92,98,143/- were settled.

Permanent Lok Adalat (PUS) :

Total 22 Permanent Lok Adalats (PLAs) (Public Utility Service) established by this Authority are functioning throughout the State. During the year, 2025, 2285 nos. of Pre-

litigation disputes were registered in those PLAs and 2287 nos. of such disputes (including previous pending cases) were settled.



Legal Aid :

During the year, 2025, 4815 applications seeking legal aid were received and out of the same, 4417 were disposed of by the State Authority, High Court Legal Services Committee and other field units. In 2850

matters, Panel Advocates were engaged and in 1567 applications, other services which include legal assistance were provided to the beneficiaries for availing the benefits of Centre/State Government Schemes.

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 and as per the instructions received from National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), steps were taken by OLSA to implement Legal Aid Defense Counsel System in all the 30 District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) of the State.

So far, this Authority has established Legal Aid Defense Counsel System Offices (LADCSOs) in 25 districts of our State in two phases. In remaining 05 districts i.e. Deogarh,

Jajpur, Keonjhar, Nayagarh and Rayagada, LADCSOs are not functional due to non-availability of office spaces. Now, after obtaining permission from NALSA, steps are being taken by this Authority to establish LADCSOs in the aforesaid 05 districts.

Total 21 Nos. of Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel, 40 Nos. of Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel and 58 Nos. of Assistance Legal Aid Defense Counsel were appointed in the aforementioned LADCSOs. During the year, 2025, the following no. of cases were received and disposed of in 25 LADCSOs.

Number of Districts where LADC Offices are functional as on 31.12.2025	Number of Sessions cases assigned	Number of Magistrate Courts' cases assigned	Remand Work in Courts	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	2412	2426	5231	6177	979	959	5299

ADR Centres and Mediation :

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

As on 31.12.2024, 384 cases were pending before different Mediation Centres for mediation. During the year, 2025, 1597 cases were received and 159 cases were settled

through successful mediation. In 1143 cases, mediation failed and in 202 cases, mediation could not be commenced. As on 31.12.2025, 477 cases were pending for mediation.

A special 90-days mediation drive, Mediation "For the National" Campaign to settle pending cases before the High Court of Orissa as well as District and Taluka level Courts has been held as the per the direction



of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and the Mediation & Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC), Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, New Delhi which commenced from 1st July, 2025. During the above campaign, total 13,527 numbers of pending cases from fifteen categories i.e. Matrimonial, Accident Claims, Domestic Violence, Cheque Bounce, Commercial Disputes, Service Matters, Criminal Compoundable, Consumer Disputes, Debt Recovery, Partition, Eviction, Land Acquisition, Other suitable civil Cases, Arbitration, Electricity and Labour cases were referred by the High Court of Orissa, District and Taluka Courts to Orissa High Court Mediation Centre & District Mediation Centres respectively for mediation. Out of the above referred cases, 983 numbers of cases were settled through successful mediation and 12,544 numbers of cases were unsuccessful/ Non-starter.

(a) Mediation Training Programme

- (i) As per the instructions received from the Mediation & Conciliation Project Committee, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, a 40 Hours/5 days training programme for Chairman and Members of Permanent Lok Adalat (PUS) was organized by this Authority at Odisha Judicial Academy, Cuttack from 5th August, 2025 to 9th August, 2025. In the said training programme, 12 nos. of Chairmen and 20 no. of Members of Permanent Lok Adalat (PUS) were imparted training on mediation.
- (ii) Another 40 Hours/5 days training programme for Advocate-Mediators of the districts of Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapara was also organized by this Authority at Odisha Judicial Academy, Cuttack from 10th August, 2025 to 14th August, 2025. 30 nos. of Advocates of the aforesaid two districts were imparted training on mediation.
- (iii) Similarly, 40 Hours/5 days training programme for Advocate-Mediators of the districts of Balasore, Bhadrak and Jajpur was also organized by this Authority at ADR Centre, Balasore from 31st August, 2025 to 04th September, 2025. 29 nos. of Advocates of the aforesaid three districts were imparted training on mediation.
- (iv) Similarly, another 40 Hours/5 days training programme for Advocate-Mediators of the districts of Gajapati, Kandhamal, Rayagada and Sonepur was also organized by this Authority at Odisha Judicial Academy, Cuttack from 22nd September, 2025 to 26th September, 2025. In the said training programme, 19 nos. of Advocates of the aforesaid four districts were imparted training on mediation.
- (v) Another 40 Hours/5 days training programme for Advocate-Mediators of the districts of Angul, Boudh, Deogarh and Dhenkanal also organized by this Authority at Regional Judicial Academy, Angul from 23rd September, 2025 to 27th September, 2025. 21 nos. of Advocates of the aforesaid four districts were imparted training on mediation.
- (vi) As per the instructions of the Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC), Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, First Interactive Practical (role-play) training on Mediation for the Judicial Officers of the State of Odisha, who are continuing 40 hours mediation training programme in hybrid mode, was organized by this Authority at Odisha Judicial Academy, Cuttack, Regional Judicial Academy, Ganjam at Berhampur and Regional Judicial Academy, Sambalpur on 29.11.2025. In the said training programme, total 54 nos. of



judicial officers were imparted training.

(vii) Another 40 Hours/05 days training programme for Advocate-Mediators of the district of Nuapada was also organized by this Authority from 15th December, 2025 to 19th December, 2025 at District Panchayat Resource Centre, Nuapada. 29 nos. of Advocates of the said district were imparted training on mediation.

(viii) Similarly, a three days advanced/ capsule course for Advocate-Mediators and Judicial Officers-Mediators, as nominated by the High Court of Orissa, was also organized by this Authority from 21.12.2025 to 23.12.2025 at Odisha Judicial Academy, Cuttack in two batches, as per the direction of MCPC, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

Glimpses of training programme for Chairman and Members of Permanent Lok Adalat (PUS) at Odisha Judicial Academy, Cuttack:



(b) Training programme for all the Judicial Officers/Referral Judges :

A Referral Judges training programme on mediation was organized by OSLSA through virtual mode for all the Judicial Officers/Referral Judges including Secretaries of District Legal Services Authorities of the State of Odisha. The

training programme was conducted in three phases i.e. on 17th, 18th & 19th September, 2025 from 04.45 p.m. to 05.30 p.m. (for 45 minutes) and Judicial Officers/Referral Judges of 10 districts of the State had participated through virtual mode..



Awareness and Outreach Programme :

During the year, 2025, 3330 Legal Literacy/Awareness Camps were organized by the District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) and Taluk Legal Services Committees (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, 2025, "International Labour Day" on 1st May, 2025, "World Environment Day" on 5th June, 2025, "World Day against Child Labour" on 12th June, 2025, "International

Day of the Older Persons" on 1st October, 2025, "World Mental Health Day" on 10th October, 2025, "National Legal Services Day" on 9th November, 2025, "Children's Day" on 14th November, 2025, "Constitutions Day" on 26th November, 2025, "International Day of Persons with Disabilities" on 3rd December, 2025 and "Human Rights Day" on 10th December, 2025 etc., as per the Calendar of Activities with Common Minimum Programme-2025 of OSLA. Total 2,78,597 people had participated in those awareness programmes.



Distribution of Aid and Appliances to disable persons by DLSA, Bhadrak during the campaign



Awareness campaign organized by DLSA, Nabrangpur on the SC & ST Prevention Act.



Awareness campaign organized by DLSA, Puri on the SC & ST Prevention Act.



Awareness campaign for Enrollment of Drop out Students organized by DLSA, Boudh



Awareness Programme on translation of Judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India from English to Regional Language using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to SUVAS (Supreme Court Vidhik Anuvaad Software) organized by DLSA, Puri on 21.8.2025 in the ADR Conference Hall, Puri



Awareness campaign organized by TLSC, Titilagarh on SC & ST Prevention Act



Awareness campaign for jail inmates organized by DLSA, Nabrangpur



Observance of International Women's Day by TLSC, Titilagarh

Victim Compensation Scheme :

During the year, 2025, 2309 no. of applications under the Victim Compensation Scheme were received by District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) throughout the State. 1973 (including previous pending applications)

no. of applications were decided and Rs. 35,47,95,500/- was disbursed towards compensation to the beneficiaries by the District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs).

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

The training module devised by NALSA was framed for training of Panel Lawyers. During the year, 2025, 41 nos. of training programmes for Panel Lawyers were organized by the District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) wherein,

1218 no. of Panel Lawyers were given training. Similarly, 63 nos. of induction/refresher training programmes were also organized for Para-legal Volunteers (PLVs) and total 2404 no. of PLVs were imparted training.



Training programme for Panel Lawyers on POSH Act organized by DLSA, Nayagarh



Panel Lawyers Training Programme organized by DLSA, Nabarangpur

Student Legal Literacy Club :

Following the guidelines issued by NALSA, total 728 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 such 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.

Mobile Legal Services Van :

To create awareness about legal rights among general public of far-flung areas of the state, OSLSA had deployed a 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 deputed Panel Lawyer and 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 them. 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 Government was displayed during its visits.

During the year, 2025 (Up to September), Mobile Legal Services Vans were deployed at the different remote places of the districts namely Cuttack, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Puri, Bhadrak, Balasore, Nayagarh and Ganjam at Berhampur for creating legal awareness among the general Public.



Visits of Jails and CCI by DLSAs :

The Chairpersons and Secretaries, DLSA 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, detecting the irregularities in basic facilities provided in jails and making necessary intimation to the concerned jail authority for its rectification. One of the major objectives 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 concerned Court and obtaining socio-economic report for those UTPs. In those circumstances, if it is found that the concerned UTP has engaged private lawyers, the Secretary, DLSA interacts with the 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. 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.

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, 2025, 5076 no. of persons had approached (In person-350 and Over phone-4726) the Legal Assistance Establishment (Nyaya Sanjog) and were provided with the required legal aid, assistance and consultation.

Front Office :

144 Front Offices are functioning in the DLSAs and TLSCs of the State. During the year, 2025, 4543 no. of persons had approached

the Front Offices and 3685 no. of persons were provided assistance in the aforesaid Front Offices.

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, 2025, 21924 inmates had approached the Jail Legal Services Clinics and out of them, 12177 inmates were provided with assistance. Similarly, 132 nos. of Village Legal Aid Care

& Support Centres are functioning under the DLSAs and TLSCs. 7638 persons had also approached those Centres and 5644 persons were provided assistance in the Centres during the year, 2025.



Other activities :

(a) Observance of 'International Labour Day':

As per the Calendar with Common Minimum Programme, 2025 of OSLSA, the District Legal Services Authority, Cuttack under the aegis of OSLSA in association with District Administration, Cuttack has observed 'International Labour Day' on 1st May, 2025 at Sarala Bhawan, Cuttack. Shri Justice Sangam Kumar Sahoo, Judge, High Court of Orissa and the Executive Chairman, OSLSA was graced the event. In the meeting, His Lordship highlighted the participants about the fundamental rights of the labourers.

Member-Secretary, OSLSA, District Judge-cum-Chairman, DLSA, Cuttack, Collector and District Magistrate, Cuttack had also addressed the gathering on the different issues. Judicial Officers of Cuttack district and all Officers of OSLSA, Cuttack had also participated in the said programme. On this occasion, financial assistance towards death benefits, maternity benefits, education assistance and marriage assistance to different labourers were provided. Besides, labour registration identity cards were also distributed to labourers.

Glimpses of observation of 'International Labour Day' :





(b) Inauguration of the Gallery on “The Making of the Indian Constitution at Aain Seva Bhawan, OSLSA :

The Gallery on “The Making of the Indian Constitution” was inaugurated at the ground floor of Aain Seva Bhawan, Cuttack on 13.05.2025 by Shri Justice Harish Tondon, Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa and Patron-in-Chief, OSLSA in presence of Shri Justice Sangam Kumar Sahoo, Judge, High Court of Orissa and the Executive Chairman, OSLSA and

other Judges of High Court of Orissa. The students visiting the gallery will be able to trace out the origin of our Constitution and to inculcate a sense of respect and pride towards Indian Constitution instilled on them. The permanent exhibition gives shape to the young minds of the students, which is imprinting a fundamental picture of Indian Constitution and is encouraging them to become a responsible and law-abiding citizen of the Country.

**Glimpses of Inauguration of the Gallery on
“The Making of the Indian Constitution” at Aain Seva Bhawan, OSLSA**





(c) Observance of International Yoga Day :

As per the instructions communicated by National Legal Services Authority, New Delhi, International Yoga Day was celebrated by this Authority on 21st June, 2025 on the theme- "Yoga for One Earth, One Health". On the occasion

of celebration of the said day a legal awareness sessions highlighting NALSA Schemes, legal aid services and helplines details were conducted by the field units with the support of Judicial Officers, Panel Lawyers, Para-legal Volunteers and Legal Aid Defence Counsels and Staff of DLSAs/TLSCs/Civil Courts

Glimpses of observance of International Yoga Day :



(d) Stall at Palishree Mela On 27.06.2025 on the Occasion of Car Festival, 2025:

In order to create awareness amongst the general public during the World-Famous Car Festival-2025, a Legal Services Stall was set up by the District Legal Services Authority, Puri at Puri Sea beach Pallishree Mela Ground on 28.06.2025. The Stall was inaugurated by Shri Justice Sangam Kumar Sahoo, Judge, High Court of Orissa and the Executive Chairman, OSLSA, Cuttack in presence of Shri Justice

Ananda Chandra Behera, Judge, High Court of Orissa. In the said stall, model of Front Office, Nyaya Sanjog, Mediation Centre and different Legal Aid Clinics etc. were installed for providing instant legal services 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 special focus was made to spread awareness for NALSA Toll Free Number (15100).

Glimpses of inauguration of Legal Aid Stall during famous car festival-2025, Puri :



(e) 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, Government of Odisha organized a State-wide Plantation Drive in the 1st week of July, 2025 on the occasion of observance of "Van

Mahotsav" by involving District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs), Taluk Legal Services Committees (TLSCs), Panel Lawyers, Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) along with the Schools having Student Legal Literacy Clubs (SLLCs) running in the State. The objective of the plantation programme is to generate awareness amongst the general public as well as the students of different schools



regarding protection of environment and the benefits of planting trees.

The Odisha State Legal Services Authority organized a plantation programme in the premises of Ravenshaw University, Mahanadi Campus, Sector-13, CDA, Cuttack on 7th July, 2025 under the theme "A Tree in the name of Mother" on the occasion of observance of "Van Mahotsav". In the aforesaid plantation programme, Mr. Justice Harish Tondon, Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa & Patron-in-Chief, OSLSA, Shri Justice

Sangam Kumar Sahoo, Judge, High Court of Orissa & the Executive Chairman, OSLSA, other Judges of High Court of Orissa and Registrar and Officers of Ravenshaw University, CDA-3, Cuttack attended the programme and planted saplings. The programme was also attended by the Officers of Registry, High Court of Orissa, Officers of Odisha Judicial Academy, Collector and District Magistrate, Cuttack, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Cuttack and District Forest Officer, Cuttack etc.

Glimpses of Plantation Programme in the premises of Ravenshaw University, CDA, Cuttack :







(f) Mediation : “For the Nation” Campaign :

A special 90-days mediation drive, Mediation “For the Nation” Campaign to settle pending cases before the High Court of Orissa as well as District and Taluka level Courts was held as per the direction of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and the Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC), Hon’ble Supreme Court of India, New Delhi. The campaign was held during the period 1st July, 2025 to 30th September, 2025. During the above campaign, total 13,527 numbers of pending cases from fifteen categories i.e. Matrimonial, Accident Claims, Domestic Violence, Cheque Bounce, Commercial Disputes, Service Matters, Criminal Compoundable, Consumer Disputes, Debt Recovery, Partition, Eviction, Land Acquisition, other suitable civil cases, Arbitration, Electricity and Labour cases were referred by the High Court of Orissa, District & Taluk Courts to Orissa High Court Mediation Centre &

District Mediation Centres respectively for mediation. Out of the above referred cases, 895 numbers of cases were settled as Successful, 7942 numbers of cases were Unsuccessful/Non-starter and 4695 numbers of cases were pending for mediation as on 30.09.2025

(g) Observance of World Health Mental Day :

As per the Calendar with Common Minimum Programme-2025, this Authority in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority, Cuttack observed “World Health Mental Day” on 10.10.2025 in Psychiatric Ward of SCB Medical College & Hospital, Cuttack. On this occasion, fruits were distributed to the indoor and outdoor patients of the said ward.

All the officers of OSLSA, Secretary, DLSA, Cuttack and Director of Mental Health Institute of SCB Medical and Hospital, Cuttack along with doctors were present and extended cooperation for successful organisation of the aforesaid event.



(h) Awareness during Historic Baliyatra :

In order to create awareness amongst the general public, legal services stall of the Authority “Nyaya Odisha”, a Pavilion of OSLSA displaying different legal services activities undertaken by this Authority and its field units was set up at Gold Block-3,

Baliyatra Lower Ground, Cuttack during Baliyatra Festival-2025. The aforesaid Stall of this Authority was inaugurated by Shri Justice Harish Tandon, Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa-cum-Patron-in-Chief, OSLSA and Shri Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak, Judge, High Court of



Orissa-cum-Executive Chairman, OSLSA and Shri Justice Sangam Kumar Sahoo, Judge, High Court of Orissa and the Chairman, Orissa High Court Legal Services Committee along with other Judges of High Court of Orissa and other dignitaries on 06.11.2025.

Besides that, the Street Play/Short Play on different legal themes were also performed by different Bar Associations of Cuttack district and different educational institutions of Cuttack and Khurda district from 06.11.2025 to 12.11.2025 at Akshaya Mohanty Mancha, Ganakabi Baishnaba Pani Mancha and Cuttack-in-Cuttack Mancha, Baliyatra Lower Ground during Baliyatra Festival-2025. 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.

There were 34 nos. of beneficiaries who received benefits of Rs.36,81,800/- under different beneficial schemes such as educational assistance, marriage assistance, funeral assistance, death assistance, bhatta card and wheel chair etc. on 13.11.2025.





(i) Observance of "Constitution Day" by OLSA, DLSAs and TLSCs of Odisha :

On 26th November, 2025, Constitution Day was 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.

Success Stories :

- (i) Secretary, DLSA Cuttack, while going through the paper clipping published in the Odia daily "The Samaj" dtd. 04.03.2025 came to know that one disabled person namely Sri Swadhin Khillar of Tangi, Cuttack is deprived of all the social security benefits. Immediately Secretary, DLSA, Cuttack engaged one PLV with an instruction to contact the person and submit a report. Accordingly, the PLV submitted a report before the Secretary, DLSA, Cuttack along with an application of Sri Pramod Khillar of Tangi, Cuttack, the father of the disabled son namely Swadhin Khillar, wherein he prayed before DLSA, Cuttack to provide assistance in receiving benefit for his disabled son as per the Govt Scheme. The DLSA, Cuttack vide letter No 489 dtd. 06.03.2025 requested to the District Magistrate-cum-Collector, Cuttack to provide benefit to Swadhin

Khillar as per the Govt Scheme. The DSSO vide Memo No 1176 Dtd 11.03.2025, letter No 1188 dtd. 11.03.2025 and letter No 1601 dtd. 15.04.2025 intimated DLSA, Cuttack regarding grant of tri-cycle and sanction of Disability pension of Rs. 1200/- in favour of Swadhin Khillar of Tangi block. The DSSO also intimated that the sanctioned MBPDP @1200/- initially paid with reference to letter No 3913/SSEPD Dtd. 07.04.2025 of SSEPD dept. is to be converted to enhanced pension @3500/- as per approval by the Dept.

- (ii) **Legal aid assistance to an octogenarian disabled person namely Sridhar Sahu who faced trouble to get his old age pension. A news item was published in the Odia Daily News Paper "Prameya" on dated 23.05.2025 under heading "BHATTA PAIN GHUSURI GHUSURI GALE ASHI BARSARA BRUDHHA".**



The Executive Chairman, OSLSA came across the news item as indicated above. Immediately, he directed the Member Secretary, OSLSA to look into the matter and to take necessary steps for providing proper legal assistance to the beneficiary Sri Sridhar Sahu as per the Government Scheme. The Executive Chairman, OSLSA also directed to arrange a virtual meeting with the Chairman, DLSA, Kendrapara, Collector, Kendrapara and the legal aid seeker, Sri Sridhar Sahu.

Accordingly, a virtual meeting was held in the High Court at about 2.15 P.M. of



23.05.2025. The Registrar General, High Court of Orissa, Sri Asanta Kumar Das and the Member Secretary, Sri Aurobindo Pattanaik, OSLSA, District Judge-cum-Chairman, DLSA Kendrapara (I/c) Smt. Pragyan Roul, Collector Kendrapara namely Sri Satya Ranjan Pradhan and the beneficiary Sridhar Sahu joined from his house at village/GP Koro, in the virtual meeting. The Secretary, DLSA Kendrapara (I/c) Smt. Annapurna Nayak was present in village Koro.

The Executive Chairman, OSLSA virtually interacted with them. During the said interaction, the Collector appraised the Executive Chairman, OSLSA about the incident which took place on 21.05.2025. The daughter of the beneficiary was receiving pension amount of Rs.1400/- per month from GP office under the Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (Old Age Pension) MBPOAP Scheme on behalf of her father Sridhar Sahu. The PEO, Koro GP received some allegations that the pension amount was not given to the beneficiary Sridhar Sahu. So, the PEO decided to disburse the pension amount at his doorstep. In spite of that on 22.05.2025 the beneficiary went to Kora GP under distress condition in dust and mud. That unwanted scene came to the notice of the public. Then the PEO disbursed the pension amount to the beneficiary Sri Sahu. The matter was published in some local News Papers including the Prameya. The Executive Chairman, OSLSA virtually inquired from Sri Sridhar Sahu himself whether he had received the pension amount or not. Sri Sahu said that he had received Rs.1400/- as his monthly pension yesterday. His

Lordship also inquired from the Collector, Kendrapara whether Sri Sahu is entitled to get enhanced pension amount basing upon his age and health condition to which the Collector, Kendrapara Sri Satya Ranjan Pradhan informed that Sri Sahu is entitled to get Rs.3,500/- per month as old age pension under Government Scheme and from the next month the said enhanced amount will be given to the beneficiary at his house. The Executive Chairman, OSLSA also expressed his concern about the dilapidated condition of the mud wall and thatched roof house of Sri Sahu and asked the Collector whether Sri Sahu is entitled to get benefit of a pucca house under the Government Scheme or not. The Collector, Kendrapara, Sri Pradhan directed the BDO, Kendrapara to appraise about such matter. The BDO, Kendrapara Sri Abhisek Swain appraised that name of Sri Sridhar Sahu has been enlisted to get one pucca house under "Antyodaya Gruha Yojana". He will get the benefit of that scheme after approval of the Government.

Further, the Executive, Chairman, OSLSA directed the Collector to provide polythene or some other material to enable Sri Sahu to stay in his dilapidated house in view of the pre-monsoon rain and in coming monsoon. The Collector, Kendrapara made commitment to provide polythene to Sri Sahu and other eligible persons of that village as immediate measure against the hazards of the coming rainy season. The Collector, Kendrapara was further directed to identify other eligible persons who are entitled to get a pucca house under "Antyodaya Gruha Yojana" to which the Collector, Kendrapara



made the commitment to do the same. The Executive Chairman, OSLSA also instructed the Collector, Kendrapara to provide a tricycle to Sri Sridhar Sahu, to which the Collector, Kendrapara instantly

instructed the District Social Security Officer, Ms. Rupali Priyadarsini to provide a tricycle to Sri Sahu during course of the day and the Social Security Officer agreed to comply the same.





(iii) News article “JAGATSINGHPUR RE KHATUCHHANTI SAHA SAHA SISU SRAMIKA” published in daily News Paper “Sambad” dtd. 07.03.2025

The Member Secretary, OSLSA came across the news item as indicated above and immediately directed the Secretary, DLSA, Jagatsinghpur to look into the matter and to take necessary steps to rescue all the children and for providing proper legal assistance to the children

as per the Government Scheme. As per the instruction, the Secretary, DLSA, Jagatsinghpur immediately sent a letter of request to District Child protection Unit for rescue of children. Four numbers of children namely Balaram Das, Soheli Khan, Ayan Das and Susanta Patra who were working as child Labour got rescued by DCPU, Jagatsinghpur along with CWC and further they were handed over to their respective family members (as per report submitted by DCPU, Jagatsinghpur).



(iv) As per the newspaper article “DADARA GHARE KATUCHI PANCHA PRANINKA JIBANA” published in the Daily Odia News Paper Sambad dated 21.08.2025 regarding necessary assistance to the aggrieved family. Accordingly, the office of District Legal Services Authority, Bhadrak vide Letter No. 2216/dtd. 22.08.2025 requested the BDO, Dhamnagar to take appropriate steps as per law and in response to such letter, the B.D.O., Dhamnagar had reported vide L. No. 5168/dtd. 26.08.2025 that the applicant namely Smt. Damayanti Barik, W/o- Anil Barik at- Khariji, G.P- Gadiali, under the Block of Dhamnagar has been

included in survey under PMAY (G) house and after finalization by the Government, the work order will be issued to the concerned beneficiary for construction of her house.

(v) As per the newspaper article “TAMILNADU RE ODIA SHRAMIKA MRUTYU” published in the Daily Odia News Paper Sambad dated 04.08.2025 regarding necessary assistance to the bereaved family member of the victim. Accordingly, the office of District Legal Services Authority, Boudh requested to the Collector & District Magistrate, Boudh, District Labour Officer, Boudh and BDO, Kantamal vide letter



dated 04.08.2025 to extend support to the bereaved family as per applicable laws and entitlements. As per the direction of the Collector and District Magistrate, Boudh an enquiry was conducted on 04.08.2025 by the Assistant Labour Officer, Harbhanga at village Majhipada, Po: Bargocha, Ps: Manmunda, Dist: Boudh on death of a migrant workman in the State of Tamilnadu. Enquiry revealed that Sri Ramesh Jagdala had sou-moto migrated to work in a company namely M/s Supreme Industrial Pvt. Ltd. (a Plastic Manufacturing Company) located at Anger Sipcot area, Ps: Chennimalai, Dist: Erode, State: Tamilnadu as operator since 21.03.2025. Unfortunately on 03.08.2025 while being on duty, suddenly he got unconscious and fainted on the spot. Subsequently the co-worker of that company shifted him to nearby Government hospital for treatment where the doctor declared him dead as informed by the wife of the deceased, Smt Mahendri Jagdala. After completion of the necessary procedure of postmortem, the management on their own expenses shifted the dead body of the deceased through an ambulance and the dead body reached at their native place on 06th August, 2025 at around 1.20 A.M. The rituals were performed on the same day at their village. It is pertinent to mention that the management has provided Rs 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand) only

to the wife of the deceased as financial assistance. Further, the management had assured to provide the monthly allowance in the name of his elder son till attaining the age of 18 years (Currently the age is 16 years). Further, on enquiry it was found that the deceased had not registered under any board i.e Odisha Building & Other Construction Workers Welfare Board and Odisha Unorganized Social Security Board.

- (vi) The OSLSA, Cuttack had forwarded a copy of paper cutting regarding a news article published in daily newspaper 'The Sambad' dtd. 31.07.2025 titled "Bhinakhyama Nabalika Ku Sarakari Sahayata Sata Sapana". After receiving the news, a PLV namely Shri. Azim Ali was engaged by the DLSA to visit and meet the beneficiary, Disha Majhi to provide socio-legal assistance. PLV Azim Ali visited her residence and found that she is getting Rs. 1000/- per month as disability pension. Her Aadhar card was not updated for which her name could not be included in the Ration Card of her father. PLV Ali then coordinated with the concerned department and updated her Aadhar Card and also her name was included in the Ration Card of her father. He also submitted that the name of Disha Majhi will be automatically included in the Ayushman Card so that she can avail free treatment under the different Government Schemes.



Odisha Judicial Academy



Odisha Judicial Academy, Cuttack



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

The Odisha Judicial Academy (in short, the Academy), the first of its kind, is a trailblazing institution of judicial learning. It stands as a proud milestone in the annals of the justice delivery system that functions under the aegis of the High Court of Orissa. Since its inception, it has been revolutionizing training of in-service judicial officers as well as other stake holders, and thus, has earned an enviable position among the premier training institutes of the Country. Over the years, it has worked as the citadel for polishing and sharpening the legal knowledge and the judicial discernment of not only the newly recruited

and in-service judicial officers, but also the entire constellations of all the stakeholders of the justice dispensation mechanism, like staff of the High Court & District Courts, Advocates, Public Prosecutors, members of the investigating agencies, advocates' clerks, law-enforcing authorities etc. Not only does this Academy act as a Centre for learning the nuances of tenets of law for the judicial officers across the state by imparting periodical trainings, but it has meticulously curated course modules for the passionate and knowledgeable trainees selected from across myriad streams related to the justice delivery



system. The Academy that keeps itself abreast of the evolving legal system, conducts trainings for judges and court staff, focusing on legal updates, technological advancements (AI, e-Courts), case management, ADR and ethics, etc. through a rich tapestry of workshops, seminars, symposiums and conferences, aiming to enhance judicial skills, efficiency for better justice delivery, and systematic improvements. The formidable and onerous task it undertakes to ensure that all the wings of judiciary and the allied administrative and quasi-judicial domains, including OFS officials, members and mediators of Consumer forums, and similar statutory bodies are trained and their efficiency enhanced, is worth emulating. All these things are so pursued in the Academy at a breathtaking pace with utmost diligence, unflagging dedication, and institutional sincerity. Structured assessments and evaluations are conducted to make sure that the participants return enriched in wisdom, sharpened in skill and more experienced widening their scope and view with positive takeaways. This Academy has over the period evolved into a veritable sanctum of scholarship and discernment.

Soon after its establishment, the academy astutely recognized the imperative need to widen its scope and augment the frequency of training programmes to cover the judicial officers and Court staff stationed in far-flung regions of the State without compromising the quality, and this farsighted vision found expression in the establishment of five Regional Judicial Academies at five different places of the State, Angul, Balasore, Ganjam at Berhampur, Koraput at Jeypore and Sambalpur. Legal process is an ever evolving one with more and more things being brought

under its ambit with every passing day. And for this, more frequent trainings that should be comprehensive and productive at the same time, are paramount. To make such training programmes fruitful, all the stake holders of the justice delivery system across the State are to be involved in the process, and the RJAs (Regional Judicial Academies) play a major role to serve the purpose. Each RJA caters to a cluster of 4 to 8 districts, enabling the judicial officers and other related stake holders to participate in the training programmes within their respective RJAs—thereby conserving time, resources, and energy, while significantly enhancing outreach and impact.

The Academy along with the five RJAs function under the unswerving superintendence and enlightened guidance of the Judicial Academy and Training Committee of the High Court of Orissa, ably chaired by Shri Justice K.R. Mohapatra, Judge High Court of Orissa, as the Chairman of the Committee. Under his able stewardship, this Academy and the RJAs have scaled greater heights. The Committee is further enriched by a galaxy of luminaries as its members like Shri Justice Dixit Krishna Shripad, Dr. Justice S.K. Panigrahi, Miss Justice S. Ratho, Shri Justice R. K. Pattanaik, and Shri Justice A. K. Mohapatra, esteemed Judges of the High Court of Orissa. Above all, the Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa graciously adorns the Academy as its Patron-in-Chief, providing the highest moral and institutional inspiration.

The Academy strictly adheres to a predesigned annual training calendar with a vision to make the trainees battle-ready custodian for justice dispensation with skill, empathy, impartiality, and responsiveness.



The calendar is put to execution after getting approval from the National Judicial Academy. The activities of the Academy and all the RJAs are conducted in accordance with the calendar. Besides the special programmes implemented from time to time, the calendar of operations broadly encompasses:-

- 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 (Junior Division), mid-career training for Civil Judges (Senior Division) and advanced career training for officers in the cadre of the District Judge, 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 Hon'ble Apex Court, besides others, are also organized by the Academy periodically:-

- i) 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 establishment)
- ii) Gohar Mohammed Vs. UPSRTC and Others – CA 9322 / 2022 and

Parminder Singh v. Honey Goyal and Others – CA No. 4299 / 2025 (In the matter of cases dealt with by the Motor Accident Claims Tribunals and the application of the MV Act to such cases)

- iii) 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.)
- iv) 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)
- v) Aditi Alias Mithi vs. Jitesh Sharma, Crm. Appeal No. 3446 of 2023 (In the matter of the duty and responsibility of the Courts dealing with family disputes and proper implementation of guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of Rajnesh v. Neha & Anr, (2021) 2 SCC 324)
- vi) 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)
- vii) Child in Conflict with Law through his Mother vs. State of Karnataka and Another, 2024 SCC Online SC 798 (In the matter of law relating to time period for completion of 'preliminary assessment' and meaning of 'children Court, Sessions Court, etc. as per the provisions of JJ(CPC) Act)
- viii) Periyammal (Dead) Through Lrs. and Others vs. V. Rajamani and



another, 2025 SCC Online SC 507 (In the matter of disposal of execution applications within six months of institution.)

Of late, judiciary has had a quantum leap of transformative proportions, ushered in with the advent of information and technology in every facet that has redefined and revolutionized the entire procedure of functioning of courts at different levels. With introduction of many e-initiatives like establishment of paperless courts, live streaming of court proceedings, virtual and hybrid mode of hearing in courts, N-STEP etc., the justice delivery system has become more vibrant, transparent, and efficient. The High Court of Orissa is the pioneer in setting exemplary benchmarks among other High Courts in India on this count. The Academy has seamlessly adapted well to this changing judicial landscape, and the training module has been redesigned to suit the new work culture in the courts that includes different ICT training modules covering all the activities under the e-courts project as well as the indomitable and inimitable initiatives taken by the High Court. It also encompasses within its ambit hands-on training programmes on VC Rules, paperless Courts, recording of evidence of vulnerable witness and functioning of VWDCs, etc., thereby ensuring both conceptual clarity and practical proficiency.

Delivering a verdict needs not only intellectual acuity but also a balanced, composed and resilient mind, and hence the physical and mental wellbeing of the trainee judicial officers is of paramount importance. As such,

in order to provide a stress free and nurturing learning environment, this Academy provides dedicated spaces for yoga, gymnasium, and other related activities, fostering physical vitality and mental serenity. Equal emphasis is laid at the Academy on sensitizing the trainee officers to the pressing social realities and humane dimensions of justice, including rights of differently abled persons, gender discrimination, poverty, environmental pollution and providing access to justice for the marginalized and underprivileged and a host of issues like these. It is considered of paramount importance and is kept in mind while imparting training. Care is also taken to enhance the administrative capacities of the trainee officers so as to equip them to counter the challenges that may be encountered by them during their career. The training curriculum is thus rendered holistic and all-encompassing through the inclusion of modules like time and resource management, stress management, docket management and other allied administrative skills. The Academy's library is a store house of knowledge and a haven for bibliophiles, with books spanning diverse disciplines, along with newsletters, periodicals, journals and reference materials of enduring value. To broaden horizons and enrich perspectives, the Academy also organizes systematic visits to State Judicial Academies of different states, affording officers invaluable exposure to best practices, institutional innovations, and diverse judicial cultures. These experimental engagements serve to deepen professional insight, widen intellectual vistas, and reinforce the spirit of continuous learning.



Highlights of Important Programmes at Odisha Judicial Academy during the Year 2025

1. Induction Programmes:-

The one-year Induction training of the 54 Civil Judges (Junior Division) of 2022 batch commenced on 30.03.2024, and the same was completed on 30.03.2025, with their valedictory ceremony. In the valedictory ceremony, Mr. Justice Harish Tandon, Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa and Patron-in-Chief, Odisha Judicial Academy, administered valedictory Oath to the trainee officers, in presence of the Judges of the High Court and other dignitaries and guests. Thereafter these

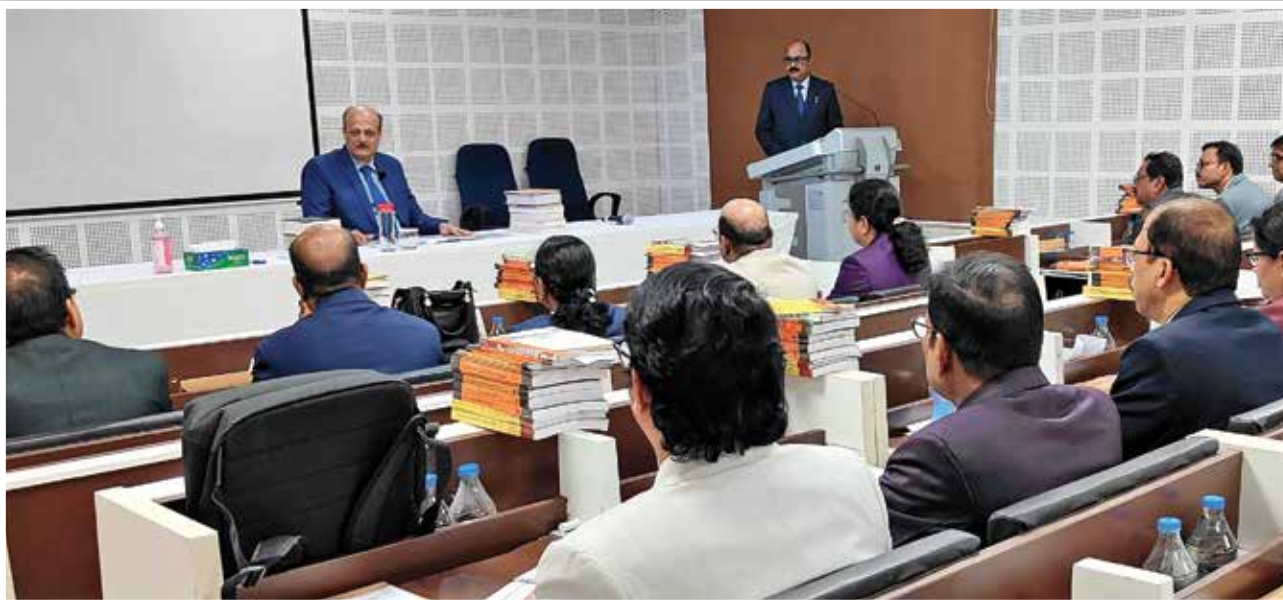
officers proceeded to their respective places of posting to preside over their courts as Judicial Magistrates Second Class (JMSCs). Similarly, the 33 Civil Judges (Junior Division) of 2023 batch commenced their one-year Induction training on 4th August 2025 with the Oath taking ceremony, wherein Mr. Justice Harish Tandon, 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. Their training activities continued during the rest part of the year.



Valedictory ceremony of Civil Judges (Junior Division) on Probation of 2022 Batch on 30th March, 2025 at Odisha Judicial Academy



Oath Taking Ceremony of the newly recruited Civil Judges (Junior Division) on Probation of 2023 Batch on 04th August, 2025 at Odisha Judicial Academy



Interactive Session by the Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa during Refresher Training Programme for District & Sessions Judges and ADJs on 20th July, 2025 at Odisha Judicial Academy



Field visit of Civil Judges (Junior Division) on Probation of 2023 Batch to Museum of Justice as a part of Induction Training

2. Foundation Training Programmes:

The institutional training of the 11 Judicial Officers in the cadre of District Judge, appointed through Usual Promotion (UP) in the year 2025, was conducted from 01.12.2025 to 20.12.2025 through virtual mode.

3. Refresher Training Programmes for Judicial Officers:

Twenty-Two (22) Refresher training programmes for Judicial Officers of different cadres in the district judiciary were conducted during the year 2025. All the programmes were of two-days duration during which various important topics of law were covered by erudite resource persons benefitting 502 numbers of Judicial Officers.





4. Refresher Training Programmes for Staff

During the year 2025, the Academy conducted five (5) 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 2025, 3 nos. of Hands-on Training programmes on "Paperless Court" and "Examination of vulnerable witness", and 2 nos. of training programmes on the subject "ICT & Hands-on training on various e-services" for Civil Courts staff were organized by the Academy. Similarly, 28 nos. of e-Courts Phase-III capacity building

training programmes for Judicial Officers, Staff, Advocates & Advocates Clerks 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 2025, a total of 60 nos. of refresher training programmes, 30 nos. of Hands-on training programmes and 35 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 900 Judicial Officers and 1048 District Courts Staff have been benefitted.



7. Special Programmes organized at Odisha Judicial Academy during the year 2025

a. On 4th February 2025, a one-day training programme was organized for the Mediators of the Consumer Commissions of the State by Odisha Judicial Academy in collaboration with the State Institute of Consumer Awareness (SICA), Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare

Department, Government of Odisha. In this programme, 36 numbers of Mediators participated.

b. On 21st February 2025, a one-day training programme was organized for the Mediators of the Consumer Commissions of the State by Odisha Judicial Academy in collaboration with the State Institute of Consumer Awareness (SICA), Food Supplies and Consumer



Welfare Department, Government of Odisha. In this programme, 17 numbers of Mediators participated.

- c. On 25th February 2025, a one-day training programme on newly enacted criminal laws was organized for the Cadre Public Prosecutors (PPs) and Addl. Public Prosecutors (APPs) of the State by Odisha Judicial Academy in collaboration with Directorate of Public Prosecutions. In this programme, 33 numbers of prosecutors participated.
- d. On 1st March 2025, a one-day workshop was organized by CIPAM in association with Odisha Judicial Academy on Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights for Judicial Officers of the State. In this programme, 16 Principal District Judges of the State, 6 Presiding Officers of the Commercial Courts of the State and 54 trainee Civil Judges (Junior Division) of 2022 batch participated.
- e. On 30th March 2025, the Valedictory ceremony of 54 Civil Judges (Junior Division) on Probation of 2022 Batch was organized at Odisha Judicial Academy, wherein Mr. Justice Harish Tandon, Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa and Patron-in-Chief, OJA administered the valedictory Oath to the officers of 2022 batch in presence of the Judges, High Court of Orissa. As per direction of Court, they were relieved from the Academy on 30.03.2025 to join at their respective places of posting as Judicial Magistrates Second Class (JMScs).
- f. On 04.08.2025, the Oath taking Ceremony of the newly recruited Civil Judges (Junior Division) on Probation of 2023 Batch (joined on 03.08.2025) was organized at Odisha Judicial Academy, wherein Mr. Justice Harish Tandon, Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa and Patron-in-Chief, OJA administered Oath to the trainee officers in presence of the Judges of the High Court of Orissa as well as other guests and dignitaries.
- g. A 40 hours Mediation Training Programme was organized by the Odisha State Legal Services Authority from 5th to 9th August 2025 at Odisha Judicial Academy, Cuttack for the 12 Chairpersons of Permanent Lok Adalat and 20 Members of Permanent Lok Adalat.
- h. A 40 hours Mediation Training Programme was organized by the Odisha State Legal Services Authority from 10th to 14th August 2025 at Odisha Judicial Academy, Cuttack for 30 numbers of Advocates.
- i. From 22nd to 24th August 2025, the District Judges' Conference was organized at the Odisha Judicial Academy by the High Court of Orissa, Cuttack.
- j. A 40 hours Mediation Training Programme of MCPC was organized at Odisha Judicial Academy, Cuttack from 27th to 31st August 2025 for 22 numbers of judicial officers, including the Principal Secretary to Government of Odisha, Law Deptt., and the Director, OJA.
- k. On 13.09.2025, a one-day State level Consultation on "safeguarding the girl child : towards a safer and enabling environment for her in India" was held at Odisha Judicial Academy, Cuttack. The event was organized jointly by the 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. Apart from the high dignitaries, 39 judicial officers from across the State of Odisha and 104 different stake holders had attended the aforesaid one-day Consultation programme on 13th September 2025.

- l. A 40 hours Mediation Training Programme was organized by the Odisha State Legal Services Authority from 22nd to 26th September 2025 at Odisha Judicial Academy, Cuttack, for 30 numbers of Advocates.
- m. On 18.10.2025, a one-day State Level Conference on the subject "Combating Human Trafficking & Bonded Labor in Odisha" was held at Odisha Judicial Academy in collaboration with the International Justice Mission. The event was graced by the Chief Justice and Judges of High Court of Orissa. The ADJs, Secretaries of DLSAs & SDJMs nominated by the Court, other stake holders of Government of Odisha and officials of International Justice Mission participated in the aforesaid programme.
- n. From 28th October to 1st November 2025, the first phase of the "Training Impact Assessment" programme for the 54 Civil Judges (Junior Division) of 2022 batch was held at Odisha Judicial Academy. The 54 Civil Judges (Junior Division) of 2022 batch attended the aforesaid training and the said training was successfully completed by them.
- o. On 15.11.2025, a one-day Legal

Workshop on the subject, "Management of Hindu Religious Endowments/Immovable properties under the OHRE Act vis-à-vis Other Civil Laws" was organized at Odisha Judicial Academy. In this workshop, Civil Judges (Senior Division), Civil Judges (Junior Division), Sub-collectors, and judicial officers working under the Commissioner of Endowments had participated.

- p. On 29.11.2025, a one-day State Level training of Judicial Officers involving SDJMs / JMFCs on provisions of PC&PNDT Act, 1994, was held at Odisha Judicial Academy.
- q. On 29.11.2025, a one-day Interactive Practical (role-play) training on Mediation for Judicial Officers was organized at Odisha Judicial Academy, by the Odisha State Legal Services Authority.
- r. On 16.12.2025, a half-day State level workshop for District Informatics Officers of NIC, Odisha was organized at Odisha Judicial Academy.
- s. On 20.12.2025, a one-day legal workshop on the subject, "Compensatory Measures in Wildlife Crime Cases" involving CJMs / ACJMs of the State, was organized at Odisha Judicial Academy.
- t. Three days Advance Course (Capsule Course) on Mediation of MCPC was organized by the Odisha State Legal Services Authority from 21st to 23rd December 2025 at Odisha Judicial Academy, Cuttack, for 27 numbers of Advocate-Mediators and 8 Judicial Officer-Mediators.



Centre for Judicial Archives, High Court of Orissa

Centre for Judicial Archives:

Established on 10th May 2022, the Centre's main functions are acquisition, preservation, cataloguing, digitization, and documentation of Judicial history of Odisha. With these basic

principles of archival system, the center therefore immediately after its inception has taken up these steps on priority basis.

Cataloguing and Preservation of Records:

- I. **7848** files have been catalogued during the period from 01.01.2025 to 31.12.2025. (*Total cataloguing till 31.12.2025 is 35341*)
- II. **Preservation: 1164** files (16446 sheets) have been conserved during the period from 01.01.2025 to 31.12.2025. (*Total number of files conserved till 31.12.2025 is 5310*).

Research Publications

- I. **Judicial History of Odisha, Vol-II:** The book 'Judicial history of Odisha, Vol II' has been released on 10 May 2025 and covers the period from 1757 to 1916, detailing the evolution of the state's judicial system during British rule.

Sale of Judicial History of Odisha, Vol-1 and II: 201 books of 'Judicial History of Odisha', Vol 1 and 168 copies of 'Judicial History of Odisha Vol.II' were sold in, Centre for Judicial Archives, Museum of Justice, ILR section and E-Sewa Kendra of High Court of Orissa from 01.01.2025 to 31.12.2025.

- II. **Judicial History of Odisha Vol-III:** The strategic framework for "Judicial History of Odisha, Vol-III" has been successfully completed, and the process of collection

of source materials is presently in progress.

- III. **New Research Topics:** The Committee has proposed and approved four new Research topics pertaining to forthcoming publications. The approved topics for the four forthcoming books are:

- a. *The Forgotten Heroes: Persons from Odisha who were sentenced to and suffered Transportation for Life.*
- b. *Freedom Movement in Odisha through the Eyes of the Judiciary.*
- c. *Impact of Regulations (Civil & Criminal) on the Codification of Civil and Criminal Laws.*
- d. *The Legal History of Jagannath Temple.*

- IV. **Courts of Odisha :** The book "Courts of Odisha" is currently under drafting. All requisite materials have been collected, and the book aims to identify the diverse court systems prevalent in the region, map their historical origins, and contextualize the present judicial structure across the districts of Odisha.

- V. **Research and Collection of relevant materials:**

1. Dr. Bijay Mohapatra, Consultant (Law),



accompanied by Law Researchers Jyoti Rani (Law) and Sujata Mududli (History), visited the Odisha State Archives in March 2025. The purpose of the visit was to collect private letters and materials related to Utkala Gourab Madhusudhan Das for both the Exhibition and the book, *The Legal History of Jagannath Temple*.

2. Dr. Lalatendu Mohapatra (Director), Basanta Kumar Mallick, Consultant (History), along with Law Researchers Rahul Kumar Pathy (Law) and Prangyan Pramita (History), visited Madhusmriti in March 2025 to collect materials related to Madhusudan Das.
3. Relevant data was collated by Law Researchers from the Utkala Sahitya Samaj, Ravenshaw University Library, and the website of the National Archives of India. This material was subsequently forwarded to the Director and Consultants for use in the Exhibition write-ups.
4. Law Researchers and Consultants have completed the collection of data from the respective District Gazetteers and government websites for the forthcoming book, *Courts of Odisha*.
5. Several relevant judgments and statistical data were collected from the British Library, London.

Dignitaries and Academic Visits to the Archives:-

Sl. No.	Date	Visitors/Dignitaries	Group Type	Total Visitors
1	17.01.2025	Shri Syed Farid Ahmad, Deputy Director, and Dr. Devendra Kumar Sharma, Assistant Director (I/C), National Archives of India	Dignitaries	2
2	11.03.2025	Khallikote University	Academic Institution	50
3	29.03.2025	Utkal University Law Students, BBSR	Academic Institution (Law)	70
4	February 2025	Civil Judges (Junior Division) Batch 2022	Judicial/Training	55
5	28.07.2025	OFS Probationary Officers	Training/ Government	64
6	07.08.2025	Civil Judges (Junior Division) Batch 2023	Judicial/Training	33
7	23.10.2025	Students and faculty member of KIIT School of Law	Academic Institution	32
8	27.11.2025	OAS Probationary Officers	Training/ Government	82
9	29.12.2025	J. Murali Purusothaman (Judge Kerala High Court)	Dignitaries	2
Total				390



Shri Syed Farid Ahmad, Deputy Director, and Dr Devendra Kumar Sharma, Assistant Director(I/C), National Archives of India visited Centre for Judicial Archives



Khalikote University visited the Centre for Judicial Archives on 11th March 2025



Civil judge junior Division batch 2023 visited the Archives in February 2025



Heritage Courtroom at Ganjam displayed at Museum of Justice



Heritage Courtroom at Mayurbhanja displayed at Museum of Justice



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

1. Inauguration of the centre for judicial archives (January 11, 2025)

The new building for Centre for Judicial Archives, High Court of Orissa, was inaugurated on January 11, 2025. The ceremony was presided over by Shri Mohan Charan Majhi, Hon'ble Chief Minister

of Odisha, in presence of Shri Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa, Shri Prithiviraj Harichandan, Minister of Law, Government of Odisha, and the Companion Judges of the High Court of Orissa.



The plaque for the Centre for Judicial Archives was unveiled jointly by Hon'ble Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Chief Justice C. S. Singh, Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan, the Judges of the Orissa High Court, and Advocate General Pitambar Acharya.

2. Foundation day of the centre for Judicial Archives

The Centre for Judicial Archives commemorated its annual Foundation Day on May 10, 2025, marking a significant milestone in its continuous commitment to preserving judicial history. The entire commemorative function was successfully

hosted at the Gatikrushna Misra Auditorium of the Odisha Judicial Academy, providing an apt and distinguished venue for the proceedings.

The observance included several addresses highlighting the importance of the Centre's mission and its achievements over the past year.



Chief Justice Harish Tandon, Mr. Justice Dr. Sashi Kant Mishra, Mr. Justice Biraja Prasanna Satapathy, and Prof. Arun Bandopadhyay on the occasion of Foundation Day Ceremony.

3. Exhibition Hall dedicated to Utkala Gourab Madhusudhan Das

Marking the occasion of its Foundation Day, the Centre for Judicial Archives formally inaugurated its new Exhibition Hall dedicated to Utkal Gourab Madhusudan Das. The inauguration ceremony took place at 4:30 P.M. on the first floor of the Centre.

The Hall was formally declared open by Shri Justice Harish Tandon, Chief Justice of the High Court of Orissa, accompanied by the Companion Judges of the High Court. This new installation will serve as a permanent tribute to Madhusudan Das's invaluable contributions to the legal and social history of Odisha.

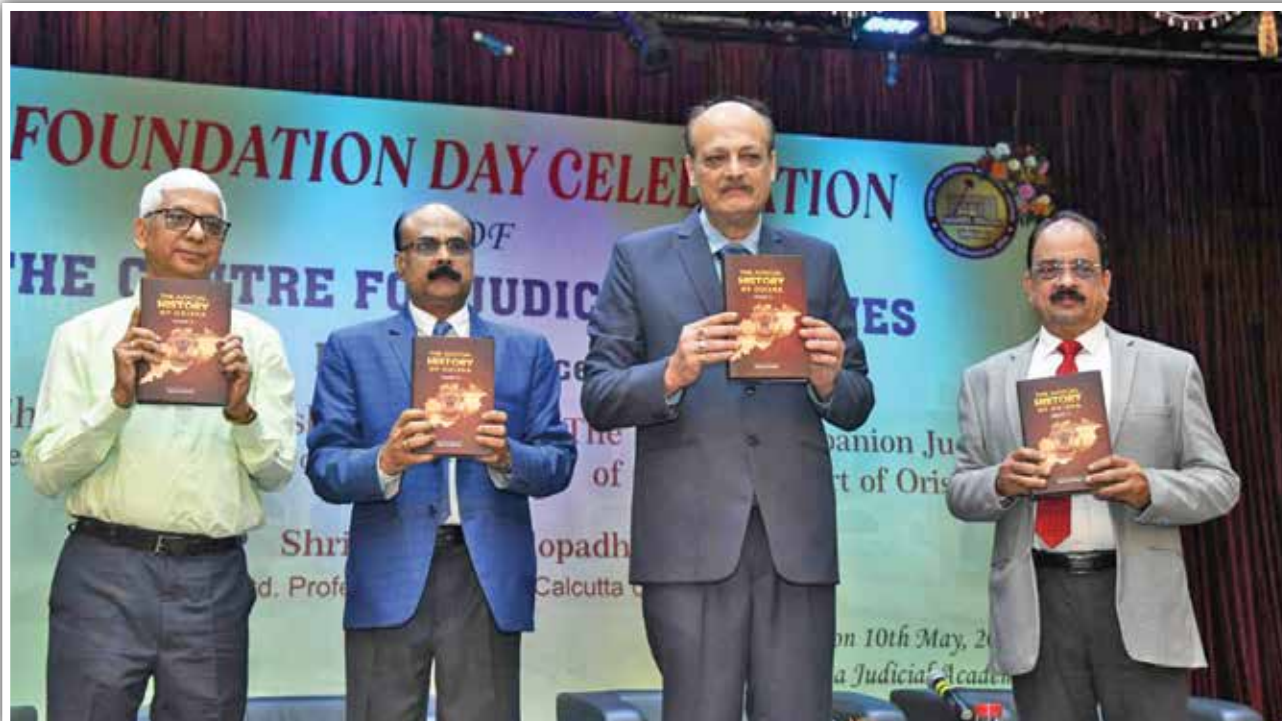




4. Release of the Book “Judicial History of Odisha-Vol.II”

A significant highlight of the Foundation Day observance was the formal release of the book, Judicial History of Odisha, Volume II. The volume, representing a major scholarly output of the Centre, was

unveiled by the esteemed dignitaries present at the ceremony. The release marks the successful completion of the publication phase for this comprehensive work, which contributes substantively to the documentation and understanding of the judicial heritage of the region



Chief Justice Harish Tandon, along with Justice Dr. Sashi Kant Mishra, Justice Biraja Prasanna Satapathy, and Prof. Arun Bandopadhyay, officially releasing Judicial History of Odisha, Volume II.



Legal History of Odisha displayed at Museum of Justice



Museum of Justice

Footfalls

The Museum experienced a total footfall of 18233 (2959 Children, 15274 adults), with revenue amounting to Rs.305480/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Five Thousand Four Hundred Eighty only) earned by sale of tickets.

Academic Visits to Museum of Justice

Date	School/Institute / Visitor Group	Adults	Children	Total Visitors
09.01.2025	Pravasi Bharatiya from Mauritius	1	0	1
11.01.2025	Pravasi Bharatiya From Germany, Saudi Arabia	6	0	6
25.01.2025	Imarat Public School	60	0	60
11.03.2025	Khallikote University	50	0	50
29.03.2025	Utkal University Law Students, BBSR	70	0	70
06.04.2025	Saraswati Science College	175	0	175
03.05.2025	IPS (Probationers) Officers along with Registrar (Records)	7	0	7
23.07.2025	Rebadebi Sovaniya Sikhyashram	3	30	33
28.07.2025	OFS Probationary Officers	64	0	64
04.08.2025	Rebadebi Sovaniya Sikhyashram	3	30	33
07.08.2025	Civil Judges (Junior Division) Batch 2023	33	0	33
21.08.2025	ASBM School of Law, ASBM University, Bhubaneswar	30	0	30
21.08.2025	MS Law University	130	0	130
01.09.2025	MS Law University	130	0	130
23.10.2025	KIIT School of Law	32		32
27.11.2025	OAS Probationary Officers	82		82
29.12.2025	J. Murali Purusothaman (Judge Kerala High Court)	2		2
TOTAL		878	60	938



MS Law College 3Year LLB 1st Year Students Visit to Museum of Justice on 06.09.2025



MS Law College Students visit to Museum of Justice 5 year LLB programme on 23.08.2025



Shree Krishna International School Visit to Museum of Justice on 30.08.2025



OJS Probationary Officers Visit to Museum of Justice on 07.08.2025



Utkal University Law Students Visit to Museum of Justice On 29.03.2025



IPS Probationary Officers Visit to Museum of Justice on 03.05.2025



ASBM School of Law Students Visit to Museum of Justice on 22.08.2025

Momentous Events of Museum of Justice

Foundation Day Celebration of Museum of Justice

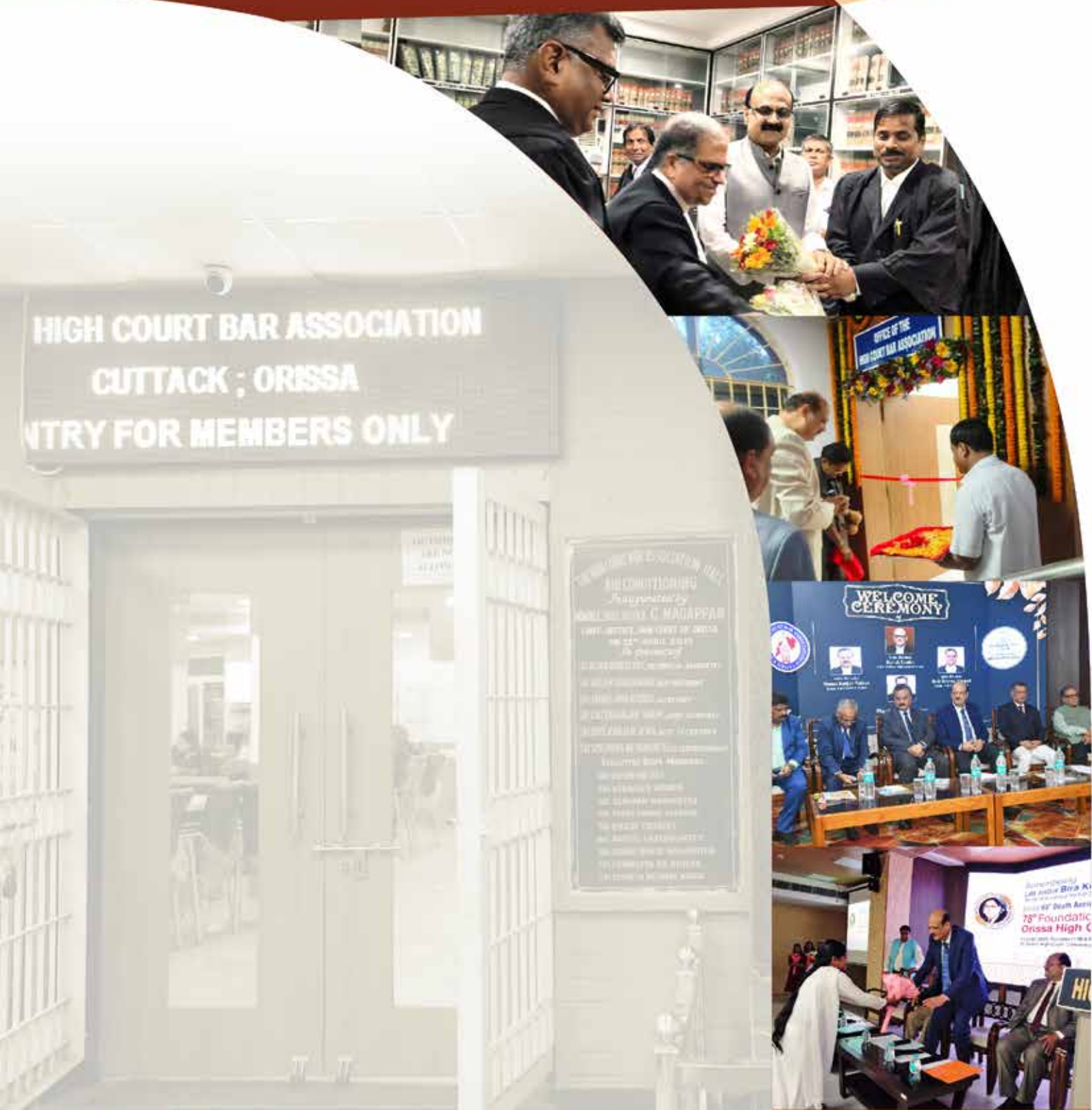
On February 25, 2025, at 5:45 PM, the Foundation Day of the Museum of Justice was celebrated with an official function. The ceremony was held in the presence of Shri Justice Arindam Sinha, Acting Chief

Justice of the High Court of Orissa, who graced the event. His presence, along with that of the Companion Judges of the High Court of Orissa, underscored the judiciary's commitment to the preservation and recognition of the state's legal and judicial history, which the Museum of Justice is dedicated to uphold.



III CHAPTER

— LAW OFFICERS — AND THE BAR





Office of the Orissa High Court Bar Association, Cuttack



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 Government 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 Government 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 2025, there are 82 Law Officers in the panel to assist the Advocate General.

Law Officers

Government Advocate

- Kailash Chandra Kar

Additional Government Advocates

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Debendra Kumar Sahoo | • Debasis Tripathy | • Sanjay Rath |
| • Bibekananda Nayak | • Subha Bikash Panda | • Chandrakanta Pradhan |
| • Sanjib Kumar Swain | • Bibhu Prasad Nayak | • Chitta Ranjan Swain |
| • Saroj Kumar Jee | • Udit Ranjan Jena | • Deba Ranjan Mohapatra |
| • Jayant Kumar Bal | • Manash Ranjan Mohanty | • Tapan Kumar Dash |
| • Umesh Chandra Behura | • Gautam Tripathy | • Suman Pattanayak |
| • Sarbeswar Behera | • Prabir Kumar Ray | • Rajani Bhusan Mishra |
| • Ajodhya Ranjan Dash | • Partha Sarathi Nayak | • Debaraj Mohanty |
| • Dayanidhi Lenka | • Debasis Nayak | • Ashok Kumar Apat |
| • Satya Brata Mohanty | • Arabinda Tripathy | • Sabita Ranjan Patnaik |
| • Jateswar Nayak | • Babita Kumari Sahu | |
| • Surya Narayan Patnaik | • Saswat Das | |

Standing Counsel

- Gyanaloka Mohanty



Additional Standing Counsel

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Siva Mohanty | • Suvalaxmi Devi | • Shantanu Das |
| • Bijaya Laxmi Tripathy | • Manas Ranjan Patra | • Jyotsnamayee Sahoo |
| • Usharani Padhy | • Prabhu Prasanna Behera | • Pradeep Kumar Sahoo |
| • Prem Kumar Mohanty | • Unmesh Chandra Jena | • Swayambhu Mishra |
| • Pradipta Satpathy | • Akshaya Kumar Pati | • Chiranjaya Mohanty |
| • Sasmita Nayak | • Raja Bhusan Dash | • Gayatri Patra |
| • Pravat Kumar Panda | • Sonak Mishra | • Sarita Moharana |
| • Sachidananda Nayak | • Sarathi Jyoti Mohanty | • Rajdeep Pradhan |
| • Sobhan Panigrahi | • Manoj Kumar Mohanty | • Soumya Suchetan Routray |
| • Tapasa Kumar Acharya | • Jayanta Kumar Khandayatray | • Saroj Kumar Rout |
| • Satyabrata Panda | • Siba Narayan Biswal | • Surya Narayan Das |
| • Amitabh Pradhan | • Sidharth Prasad Das | • Santosh Kumar Lenka |
| • Santosh Kumar Brahma | • Tej Kumar | • Manmaya Kumar Dash |
| • Aurovinda Mohanty | • Aishwarya Dash | • Biswabara Dash |
| • Chandra Madhab Singh | • Sarat Chandra Pradhan | |
| • Anshuman Sethy | • Surya Kanta Parhi | |



Office of the Advocate General, Odisha, Cuttack



***Office of the Deputy Solicitor General of India
for the High Court of Orissa, Cuttack***



Sri Prasanna Kumar Parhi

Deputy Solicitor General of India for the High Court of Orissa

The Central Government maintains a dedicated panel of learned counsels to represent it in various litigations before the High Court of Orissa. The head of this panel functions under the designation of Deputy Solicitor General of India (earlier known as the Assistant Solicitor General of India), who is entrusted with the responsibility of supervising and coordinating all legal matters concerning the Union of India before the Court.

In this regard, Shri Prasanna Kumar Parhi, a distinguished legal practitioner, assumed charge as the Assistant Solicitor General of India for the High Court of Orissa

on 7th October, 2020. Subsequently, in line with the re-designation of the post, he was appointed as the Deputy Solicitor General of India for the High Court of Orissa. Recognizing his professional competence and efficient handling of legal matters on behalf of the Central Government, his tenure was extended on 30th August, 2023, for a further period of three years, and he continues to hold office and discharge his duties with distinction to date.

At present, there are 19 Ld. Senior Panel Counsel and 35 Central Government Counsel in the panel of lawyers representing the Central Government before the High Court of Orissa.



Senior Panel Counsels

- Dulal Satyanarayan Jethi
- Alok Kumar Mohanty
- Biswajit Moharana
- Sidharth Sankar Mohapatra
- Ajay Kumar Roy
- Rajesh Kumar Mahapatra
- Bibhuti Bhusan Mishra
- Darpanarayan Pattnayak
- Karunakar Nayak
- Mahendra Kumar Pradhan
- Debasis Satpathy
- Bhabani Shankar Rayguru
- Sanghamitra Rajguru
- Rupesh Kumar Kanungo
- Gopinath Sethi
- Amitav Das
- Umakanta Sahu
- Manoj Kumar Pati
- Satya Sindhu Kashyap

Central Government Counsels

- Sulochana Patro
- Deepak Gochhayat
- Asutosh Mohanty
- Chandan Kumar Mohanty
- Millon Kumar
- Kaibalya Panda
- Amit Kumar Saa
- Soubhagya Chandra Dev Dash
- Sudhanshu Mohan Pattanayak
- S. Jyotiranjana
- Rakesh Behera
- Pranab Kumar Pasayat
- Nibedita Sahoo
- Santosh Sethi
- Jyotirmaya Prasad Behera
- Sudipto Panda
- Abhishek Mohanty
- Durgaprasad Patnaik
- Pratima Nayak
- Gopal Krishna Nayak
- Sephali Das
- Santosh Kumar Samantray
- Jnyananda Panda
- Himanshu Sekhar Panda
- Dilip Kumar Sahu
- Debabrata Pradhan
- Jagyan Balk Mohanty
- Jnanindra Pani
- Pusparaj Bharadwaj
- Diptiranjana Bhokta
- Satyajit Pattanaik
- Satyanarayan Pattnaik
- Sumit Kumar Mohanty
- Samir Ranjan Dash
- Digvijay Harichandan



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



The High Court Bar Association, Orissa, Cuttack



Sri Manoj Kumar Mishra

Senior Advocate

President of the High Court Bar Association

Assumed Office on 02nd April, 2025

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 Manoj Kumar Mishra, Senior Advocate as

the President, Sri Sidhartha Das, Advocate as the Vice President and Sri Avijit Patnaik, Advocate as the Secretary of the Association.

The Office Bearers of the High Court Bar Association were Elected on 29.03.2025 (Saturday) for a term of one year.



Photograph of Executive Body of the High Court Bar Association



PRESIDENT
Sri Manoj Kumar Mishra, Senior Advocate
VICE-PRESIDENT
Sri Sidhartha Das, Advocate
SECRETARY
Sri Avijit Patnaik, Advocate
JOINT SECRETARY
Miss Padmalaya Mohapatra, Advocate
ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Sri Abhijit Das, Advocate
ASST. SECRETARY (LIBRARY)
Sri Sapan Kumar Pal, Advocate

EXECUTIVE BODY MEMBERS	
Sri Soubhagya Kumar Dash	Sri Abhishek Mohanty
Sri Jitu Sahoo	Mrs. Arnapurna Panda
Sri Satya Ranjan Acharya	Sri Ranjan Kumar Behera
Sri Surendra Kumar Das	Sri Asis Mohanty
Sri Sumanta Kumar Swain	

Activities during the year 2025

Oath Taking Ceremony of newly elected office bearers of the High Court Bar Association for the year 2025-2026





1. Lawyers' Euphoria, Cultural Fiesta on 26th day of April, 2025 at Cuttack Club Organized by the High Court Bar Association.

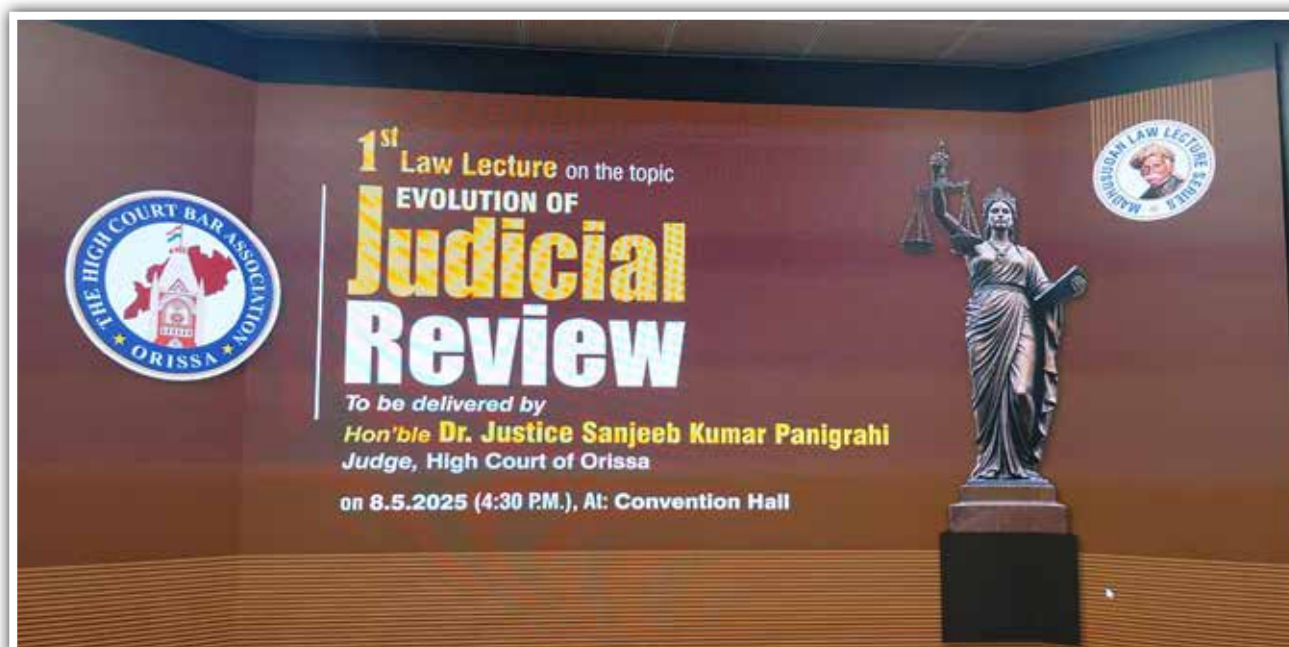


2. Celebration of 177th Birth Anniversary of Utkal Gourav Madhusudan Das (Madhu Jayanti) & Lawyers' Day Function on 28th April, 2025 (Monday) the Chief Guest, Shri Prithviraj Harichandan, the Law Minister of Odisha, & Shri Justice Sangam Kumar Sahoo, Judge High Court of Orissa as the Chief Speaker, Shri Pitambar Acharya, Senior Adv. Learned Advocate General, Odisha, & Shri Jatin Nayak, Prof.-in-English, Utkal University as Guest of Honour, Presided over by Shri Manoj Kumar Mishra. Adv. President of the High Court Bar Association.





3. The 1st Law Lecture held on 08.05.2025, in the convention hall of Orissa High Court, organized by the High Court Bar Association on the Topic- "Evolution of Judicial Review". The Shri Justice S.K. Panigrahi, Judge, Orissa High Court delivered the law lecture.



4. Traditional Get-together Lunch "Dahi Pakhala" organized by the High Court Bar Association on 14.05.2025 (Wednesday) at 1.30 P.M in the High Court Bar Association Hall.





5. The 2nd Law Lecture held on 19th day of June, 2025 (Thursday) at 4.30 P.M in the convention Hall of the Orissa High Court. The Shri Justice K.R. Mohapatra, Judge & Shri Prafulla Kumar Rath, Senior Adv. delivered the law Lecture, Topic- "Fundamental Orientation of Advocacy Skills".



6. Inauguration of law books in the Madhusudan Library on 20th day of June, 2025, at 1.30 P.M., donated by Sri Mruganka Mouli Patnaik, Advocate in the memory of senior Advocate Late Ajit Kumar Das by Dr. Justice S.K. Panigrahi, Judge of Orissa High Court.
7. The 3rd Law Lecture held on 9th day of July, 2025 (Wednesday) at 4.30 P.M in the convention Hall of the Orissa High Court. The Shri Justice M.S. Raman, Judge of Orissa High Court & Shri Jagabandhu Sahoo Senior Advocate, delivered the Law Lecture on the Topic- "Judicial Review of Taxation Laws" Under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, its Perspective, Practice and Procedure.





8. "Prabir Palit Memorial Inter Bar Football Tournament" held on 19th July, 2025 at Bidanasi Football ground, organized by the High Court Bar Association.



9. Free Mega Health Check-up camp with the co-operation of SCB Medical College & Hospital, Cuttack on 25th day of July 2025 (Friday), from 9.00 A.M. to 2.00 P.M., with the team of Specialist Doctors such as Medicine, Surgery, Cardiology, Nephrology, Eye, Dental, Orthopedic, Gynaecology & Pathology etc.





10. 68th Death Anniversary of Late Justice Bira Kishore Ray, on 26th Day of July, 2025 in the Convention Hall of Orissa High Court.



11. Inauguration of Mega Law Book Series as well as some Biography in the Utkal Gourav Madhusudan Library on 28th day of July, 2025, at 1.00 P.M. Inaugurated by Shri Justice Sashikanta Mishra, Judge of Orissa High Court.





12. The 4th Law Lecture held on 31st day of July, 2025 at 4.30 P.M in the Convention Hall of the Orissa High Court. *“Topics- (i) “Economic Offence & It’s Impact on Society at Large” (Law Lecture delivered by Shri Justice Sangam Kumar Sahoo). (ii) “Legal Pleadings and Precedent in General” (Law Lecture delivered by Shri Justice Dixit Krishna Shripad).*



13. The High Court Bar Association host a welcome ceremony of Shri Justice Harish Tandon, The Chief Justice of Orissa High Court, Shri Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak, Shri Justice Dixit Krishna Shripad, the Judges of Orissa High Court & Shri Pitambar Acharya, Learned Advocate General, Odisha, on 8th of August, 2025 (Friday) at 6.00 P.M. in the High Court Bar Association Hall, followed by Dinner and Cultural Programme.





14. Independence Day observed in the Premises of the High Court Bar Association.



15. Supreme Court Bar Association in collaboration with the High Court Bar Association, Cuttack, Orissa, organized a Meeting “Media, AI & Law” on 5th day of September, 2025 at Jayadev Bhawan, Unit-2 Ashok Nagar, Bhubaneswar. In the said meeting Mr. Justice Vikram Nath, the Hon’ble Judge of Supreme Court of India, Mr. Justice Harish Tandon, the Chief Justice of Orissa High Court & Mr. Pitambar Acharya, Senior Advocate, as the Chief Guest were present.



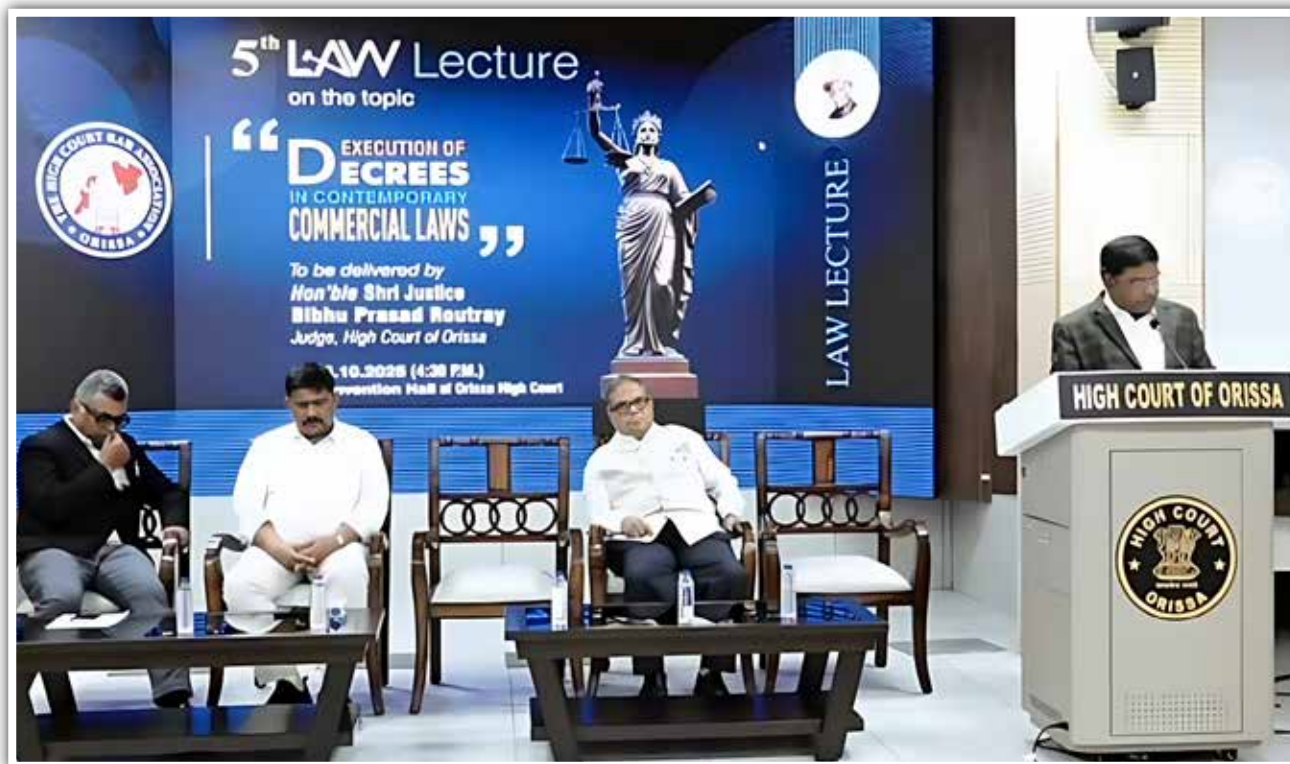


16. Inauguration of Executive Office of the High Court Bar Association & Recreation Room on 25th September, 2025





17. 5th Law Lecture held on 16th day of October, 2025 at 4.30 P.M in the Convention Hall of the Orissa High Court. "Topics- "Execution of Decrees in Contemporary Commercial Laws". (Law Lecture delivered by Shri Justice Bibhu Prasad Routray).



18. Training-Cum-Demonstration Programme on Cardiac Arrest Management & Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation held on 23.10.2025, at 3.30 P.M. in the High Court Bar Association hall, organized by the High Court Bar Association, with the help of Doctors and experts of Hi-Tech Medical College & Hospital, Bhubaneswar.
19. State Level Inter-Bar Cricket Tournament organized by Koraput Bar Association, Koraput on 04.11.2025





20. 6th Law Lecture held on 13th day of November, 2025 at 4.30 P.M in the Convention Hall of the Orissa High Court. "Topics- "Indian Constitution it's Doctrinate Ethos, Remedial Structure and Judicial Sustainability". (Law Lecture delivered by Shri Justice Harish Tandon, the Chief Justice of Orissa High Court.



21. On the eve of Constitution Day, the 7th Law Lecture held on 26th day of November, 2025 at 4.30 P.M. organized by the High Court Bar Association in the Convention Hall of the Orissa High Court. "Topics- "Effect of Indian Civilizational Ethos on Indian Constitution". (Law Lecture delivered by Shri Justice Harish Tandon, the Chief Justice of Orissa High Court & Shri Justice Sashikanta Mishra.





22. Symposium on the topic “Ensuring Justice for the Common Man : Strategies for the Reducing Litigation Costs and Delays” on 14th day of December, 2025 (Sunday) 10.30 A.M. at Saheed Bhawan, Cuttack, organized by the High Court Bar Association.



**23. Upcoming Event Odisha Advocates' Premier League 2025-2026**

**ODISHA ADVOCATES'
PREMIER LEAGUE
2025-2026**

PLAYER AUCTION

**20th December, 2025
10:00 AM Onwards**

**ORISSA HIGH COURT
CONVENTION HALL**

10 TEAMS – ONE DREAM – ULTIMATE BATTLE



President and other members of the High Court Bar Association for the year 2025





IV CHAPTER

—DISTRICT COURTS—





New Khurda District Judicial Court complex at Bhubaneswar



Dongria Painting displayed in the Judge's Lounge



Santal Painting displayed in the Judge's Lounge



Case Statistics of the District Courts

The District judiciary improved its performance compared to previous years. The institution and disposal statistics of the Districts 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 cases disposal with previous year (%)	Case clearance rate (%) (Disposal vis-à-vis institution)
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
2025	5,57,771	4,91,712	+7.75	88.15

Institution, Disposal and the case clearance rate at a glance

While the opening balance at the beginning of 2025 was 19,20,825, the closing balance at the end of the year was 20,13,139. Total institution during the year was 5,57,771 and the disposal was 4,91,712 cases at a Case Clearance Rate of 88.15%. The disposal of cases in District Courts increased by 7.75% in 2025 as compared to the disposal in 2024. The institution and disposal figure of both 2024 and 2025 includes the cases received from and transferred to other

Courts. The institution of Criminal cases increased due to filling of 51,694 cases under the M.V Act as a result of automatic challans based on CCTV image capture. Disposal in the months of March, May, July, September and December, 2025 was comparatively higher due to disposal in Lok Adalat held in those months. Disposal in the month of October, 2025 decreased on account of Durga Puja Holiday.

Judicial Officers' working strength and loss of working hours

240 working days are allotted for judicial work of the District Courts and each working day consists of 6 working hours. Average working strength of the Judicial officers against the average sanctioned strength of 1042 in 2025 was 847. Average loss of working days in 2025 was 0.028 days due to cease work. The

cumulative loss of judicial working hours of all the district courts was 142.3 hours (6 hours x 0.028 days x 847 active strength of Judicial Officers=142.3 hours). Detailed case statistics of the Districts along with relevant information for 2025 is available on the website and given at **Appendix-K**.

Number of judgments pronounced/delivered in the year-2025

Civil			Criminal		
Contested	Un-contested	Total	Contested	Un-contested	Total
19,667	13,260	32,927	1,16,598	22,111	1,38,709



Number of judgments pronounced in the year 2025

During the year-2025, judgments were pronounced in 32,927 Civil cases, out of which 19,667 are contested cases and 13,260 are uncontested cases. Similarly, judgments were

pronounced in 1,38,709 criminal cases, out of which 1,16,598 are contested cases. In toto, judgments delivered in the year 2025 both civil and criminal cases were 1,71,636.

Disposal of over 40 Year old cases (from 01.01.2025 to 31.12.2025)

TOTAL (ALL 30 Districts)	CIVIL						CRIMINAL					
	OPENING BALANCE as on 01.01.2025	Became over 40 years from 01.01.2025 to 31.12.2025	Received from other courts	Transferred to other courts	DISPOSAL from 01.01.2025 to 31.12.2025	CLOSING BALANCE on 31.12.2025	OPENING BALANCE as on 01.01.2025	Became over 40 years from 01.01.2025 to 31.12.2025	Received from other courts	Transferred to other courts	DISPOSAL from 01.01.2025 to 31.12.2025	CLOSING BALANCE on 31.12.2025
	33	24	5	4	19	39	2	7	0	0	7	2

Details of over 40 years old cases in the year 2025

In the beginning of the year 2025, 33 number of civil cases and 02 numbers of criminal cases over 40 years old were pending. During the year, 19 Civil cases of more than 40 years old and 07

criminal cases of more than 40 years old were disposed of. At the end of the year 2025, in toto 26 numbers of both civil and criminal cases were disposed of and 41 cases were pending.

Disposal of 25 to 40 year old cases(from 01.01.2025 to 31.12.2025)

TOTAL (ALL 30 Districts)	CIVIL						CRIMINAL					
	OPENING BALANCE as on 01.01.2025	Became over 25 to 40 years from 01.01.2025 to 31.12.2025	Received from other courts	Transferred to other courts	DISPOSAL from 01.01.2025 to 31.12.2025	CLOSING BALANCE on 31.12.2025	OPENING BALANCE as on 01.01.2025	Became over 25 to 40 years from 01.01.2025 to 31.12.2025	Received from other courts	Transferred to other courts	DISPOSAL from 01.01.2025 to 31.12.2025	CLOSING BALANCE on 31.12.2025
	614	262	31	28	296	583	1370	2198	431	427	2357	1215

Details of 25 to 40 years old cases in the year 2025

In the beginning of the year 2025, 614 numbers of civil and 1370 numbers of criminal cases of 25 to 40 years old cases were pending. During the year, 296 civil cases of 25 to 40 years old and

2357 criminal cases of 25 to 40 year old were disposed of. In toto 2653 numbers of old cases were disposed of and 1984 cases were pending.





District Judges' Conference, 2025

Like in the previous year, the District Judges' Conference was held by the High Court of Orissa in 2025. The two and half day conference was held at Odisha Judicial Academy, Cuttack where 23 agenda were taken up for deliberation. It was inaugurated on 22nd August, 2025 by Shri Justice Chakradhari Saran Singh, Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa in presence of all sitting and former Judges of High Court of Orissa, Cuttack. The Annual Report, 2024 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 19th August, 2025 through virtual mode as a part of the District Judges' Conference, 2025. Issues relating to the functioning such as "pendency and delay in disposal of cases", "fast-tracking of the trial of vigilance cases", "implementation of instruction imparted in the District Judges' Conference, 2024" 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 inter alia to take up old cases on board on priority basis. The presiding officers of all the Tribunals were instructed to impress different aspects like infrastructural facilities, digitization of case records, timely execution of orders passed by Tribunals, 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. An interactive session was also held through virtual mode with the Judges of Family Courts on 20th of August, 2025 as a part of District Judges Conference, 2025. Issues such as maximum disposal of year-old cases particularly cases which are more than twenty years old and steps for disposal of more number of execution cases etc. were discussed.

The Conference was held on 23rd and 24th August, 2025 in Six sessions, during which a number of resolutions were adopted on various aspects.

The Chief Development Commissioner, Government 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 Government Officials also attended the session on 24th August, 2025.



The Conference

All sitting Judges of Orissa High Court, all the Principal Dist. & Session Judges & all the Chief Judicial Magistrates of the State, Principal Secy. to Government, 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

- a. Creation of a dedicated portal for maintenance of court registers through online mode.
- b. Creation of sanctioned post for remote point in V.C. cabins.
- c. Creation of a dedicated portal to introduce online mechanism for remote point slot booking for virtual hearing through V.C. mode.
- d. Creation of a dedicated IT cell/ Computer section in each District Court Headquarter along with provision of staff for its effective management.
- e. Development of dedicated software for paperless courts in High Courts and District Judiciary
- f. Digital signatures for the witnesses adducing evidence through virtual mode.

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

II. Issues on G.R.C.O (Civil and Criminal)

Proposed amendments/deletions of rules under GR & CO(Criminal) & (Civil)

- Introduction of a register of attendance of witnesses(R) 8A in the G.R. & C.O. (Civil) Vol-II.
- Introduction of the specific form of Register (R) 7 B for receipt of cheques and drafts in Civil Cases and Register (R) 46 for receipt of cheques and drafts in Criminal Cases.
- Introduction of Registers (R) 45 and Register (R) 47 for preservation of Judgments in Civil and Criminal Courts respectively.

III. Miscellaneous Issues

- a. Discontinuance of viva voce test for preparation of final merit list for the recruitment under the Odisha District & Civil Courts' Judicial Staff Services (Method of Recruitment & Conditions of Service) Rules, 2008.
- b. Introduction of duration of written examinations for the recruitment to base level Group-C posts of Junior Clerk & Typist and Stenographer Grade-III & Typists in the Odisha District & Civil Courts' Judicial Staff



Services (Method of Recruitment & Conditions of Services) Rules, 2008.

- c. Provision of cut-off marks in different tests for the post of Stenographer Grade-III and Typist in the Odisha District & Civil Courts' Judicial Staff Services (Method of Recruitment & Conditions of Services) Rules, 2008.
- d. To fill up 25% vacancies in the posts of Junior Clerks of that particular recruitment year from the Group-D Employees who possess requisite qualification and have completed at least 5(Five) years of continuous regular service in ratio of 1:2 for Process Servers and other Group-"D" employees.
- e. Fixation of residency period for promotion to higher posts for Group-A, Group-B & Group-C employees in the District Judiciary

Accordingly, necessary amendments are to be made under rule-11(a)(b) (c) of Odisha District & Civil Courts' Judicial Staff Services (Method of Recruitment & Conditions of Services) Rules, 2008

IV. Other miscellaneous Issues

- a. Re-fixation of eligibility criteria and scheme of examinations for the post of Salaried Amin and insertion of specific rules in the Odisha District and Subordinate Courts' Non-Judicial Staff Services (Method of Recruitment and Conditions of Services) Rules, 2008.
- b. Substitution of amended form No. (R)-1-B in place of existing form under G.R.

& C.O.(Criminal) Vol. II.

- c. Incorporation of word "or interpreter, as the case may be" after the word "of a witness" under Rule 391(a) of G.R. & C.O.(Civil),Vol. I
- d. Training policy for the court staff of the District Judiciary.
- e. Provision of Batta for interpreters in addition to the interpreter fees.
- f. Introduction of new Register in the Account Section of District courts to monitor the receipt of letters.

V. Record Room Digitization & Transmission of Data

- a. Use of electronic mode for transmission of District court records and data to other courts under amended rules 311-A and 234-A in G.R. & C.O.(Civil) and G.R. & C.O.(Criminal) Vol. I respectively.
- b. Establishment of separate District Court Digitization Centre (DCDC) in each Judgeship.
- c. Fixation of modalities for supply of certified copies of legacy records sent to Digitization Hub for digitization.

VI. Revision of staffing pattern and provision of VWDCs in outlying stations

- a. Adoption of revision of staffing pattern of District Courts.
- b. Establishment of VWDC in each outlying station where POCSO Judges are holding circuit courts.



ANGUL



Existing Court
Complex



Proposed Court
Complex



Angul Judgeship with its headquarter at Angul was separated from its parent judgeship of Dhenkanal on 31st July, 2012. Thirty 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. The 3rd floor of District Court Building was inaugurated on 6th January, 2025 by the Court. Bio-metric system of attendance for staff was introduced in all stations of the Judgeship.

The Regional Judicial Academy, Angul imparts regular training to the Judicial Officers and ministerial staff posted in the cluster districts of Angul, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, and Deogarh.

During the year, various legal awareness programmes were organized on different topics and significant days were observed by DLSA, Angul. Seventeen cases were settled in Mediation during the Campaign "Mediation for the Nation", Drive-I, 2025. The Court and Office of the District and Sessions Judge was inspected on 17.05.2025 by Justice V. Narasingh, Administrative Judge of Angul Judgeship

District Judge during the year 2025



Shri Damodar Rath
for the entire year

Digitization



Digitization of records at DCDH, Angul



Digitised Records of District Record Room **2,04,000**

Pages **1,21,82,272**



Work in Progress

1. Court building of JMFC, Banarpal & Chhendipada.
2. Residential quarters at Angul, Banarpal and Chhendipada
3. Transit House at Chhendipada & Banarpal



1st row (Left to Right) : Plantation Programme on the occasion of World Environment Day, Celebration of International Yoga Day 2025.

2nd row (Left to Right) : Legal Awareness programme organized on the topic of JJ (CPC) Act, 2015, Aadhar Registration camp for destitute children organized by DLSA, Angul.

3rd row (Left to Right) : Distribution of labour card to the beneficiaries at Rantlei Gram Panchayat and at Chheliapada Gram Panchayat

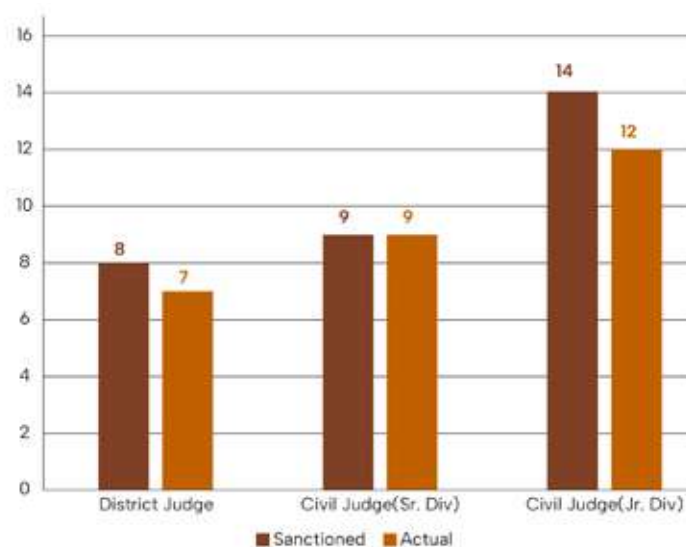
4th row (Left to Right) : Drawing competition on the occasion of Children's day at District Court Complex, Angul, Observance of Constitution day at Angul Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Angul



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 (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 (Senior Division)	5 [includes 1 Court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) - cum- Asst. Sessions Judge (Women's Court) and 1 Court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) (LR & LTV)]
Addl. Civil Judge (Senior Division)	1
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	4
Civil Judge (Junior Division)-cum-J.M.F.C.	3[includes one cognizance taking Court of Civil Judge (Junior Division)-cum-J.M.F.C]
Addl. C.J. (Junior Division)-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	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total
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
2025	7549	83010	90559	2037	19636	21673	2494	16053	18547	7092	86593	93685



BALANGIR



Existing Court
Complex



Proposed Court
Complex



The combined judgship of Balangir-Kalahandi started functioning with effect from 17th June, 1948 with its headquarter at Balangir. The judgship of Kalahandi was separated from Balangir on 28th February, 1982. After demarcation of Sonepur (Subarnapur) as a separate district, the Balangir and Sonepur judgship continued to function in a combined manner till 22nd June, 2012, when the judgship of Sonepur was separated. Thirty-Eight different courts are functioning in this judgship with outlying stations at Kantabanji, Titilagarh,

Loisingha, Saintala, Muribahal, Patnagarh, Bangomunda and Tusura. During the year 2025, various legal awareness programmes were organized on different topics and significant days were observed by DLSA, Balangir. Free health checkup, eye testing and selling of jail products on the occasion of National Lok Adalat and Blood Donation Camp on the occasion of Independence Day were organized by DLSA. Fifty-Nine cases were settled in Mediation during the Campaign "Mediation for the Nation", Drive-I, 2025.

District Judge during the year 2025



Shri Pabitra Mohan Samal
till 11.11.2025



New court / New court building

- Court of Gramanyayalaya, Balangir Sadar, Balangir on 25.06.2025
- Court building of J.M.F.C. at Muribahal on 06.01.2025

Digitization



Digitization of records at DCDH, Sonepur



Digitised Records of District Record Room

Pages

79,356

1,11,09,411



Ongoing projects

- Bar association-cum-Canteen at Muribahal & Kantabanji
- Court building at Titilagarh & Kantabanji
- Residential quarters at Muribahal & Kantabanji



1st Row (Left to Right) : Observation of Independence Day, Blood Donation Camp on the occasion of Independence Day, 2025

2nd Row (Left to Right) : Observation of International Yoga Day, 2025, Free Health Camp on the occasion of National Lok Adalat

3rd row (Left to Right) : Foundation stone laying of the court, Bar Association and residential quarters of JMFC, Muribahal

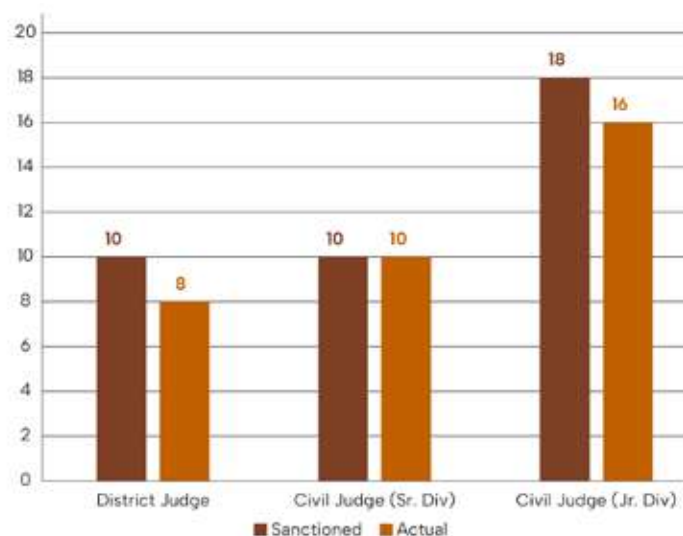
4th row (Left to Right) : Seminar on safeguard of Girl Child at District Court, Balangir, Observation of Constitution Day



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	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 (Senior Division)	6 [includes 1 Court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) (LR & LTV)+ 1 court of Civil Judge (Senior Division)
Addl. Civil Judge(Senior Division)	1
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	3
Civil Judge (Junior Division)-cum-J.M.F.C.	6+1 (includes 1 court of Gramanyayalaya)
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	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total
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
2025	6202	49501	55703	1962	26666	28628	2389	22459	24848	5777	58152	63929



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 was merged with the state of Orissa in 1949, it remained under the Mayurbhanj judgeship with its headquarter 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 headquarter at Balasore. Balasore became an independent judgeship

on 15th January, 1959. Forty-eight different courts are functioning in this judgeship with outlying stations at Jaleswar, Nilgiri, Basta, Bhograi, Soro and Oupada.

The Regional Judicial Academy, Balasore imparts regular training to the Judicial Officers and ministerial staff posted in the cluster districts of Balasore, Jajpur, Mayurbhanj, and Bhadrak. During the year 2025, various legal awareness programmes were organized on different topics and significant days were observed by DLSA, Balasore. Forty-One cases were settled in Mediation during the Campaign "Mediation for the Nation", Drive-I, 2025.

District Judge during the year 2025



Shri Satya Narayan Mishra
for the entire year



New court / New Court building

- Court of Addl. Dist. & Sessions Judge, at Soro and Jaleswar on 04.01.2025
- Court of Civil Judge(Junior Divn)-cum-J.M.F.C at Oupada on 25.06.2025
- Court of Addl. Dist. & Sessions Judge, at Nilgiri on 02.09.2025

Digitization



Digitization of records at DCDC, Balasore



Digitised Records of District Record Room **2,70,773**

Pages **2,68,35,943**



Top row (Left to Right) : Inauguration of the court of Additional District & Sessions Judge, Soro and Jaleswar

Middle row (Left to Right) : Inauguration of the court of Civil Judge(Junior Dv)-cum-J.M.F.C, Oupada, Balasore, Inauguration of the court of ADJ at Nilgiri, Balasore

Bottom row (Left to Right) : Blood Donation camp organized by DLSA, Drawing competition of children organized by DLSA

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

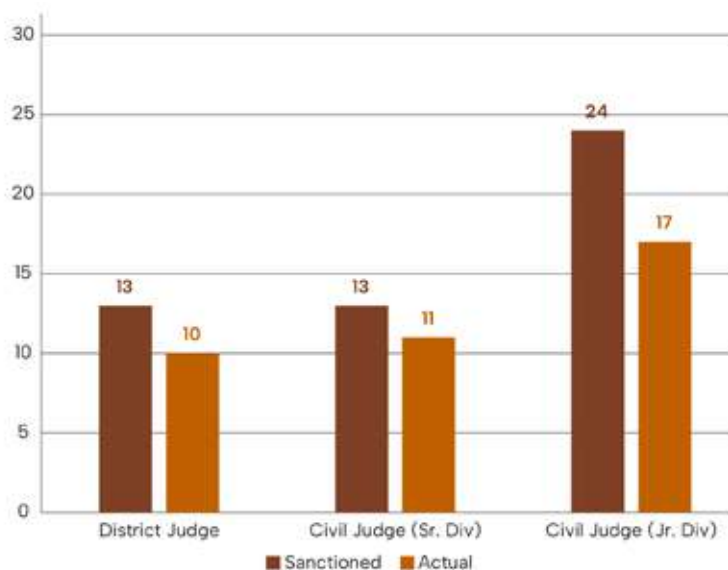
Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Judge, Family Court	1
Addl. District and Sessions Judge	7 [includes 1 Court of ADJ (LR & LTV)]
Special Court under POCSO Act	1
Ad-hoc ADJ (FTSC)	1
ADJ -cum- Special Judge (Vigilance)	1



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

Name of the Court	No. of Courts
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
Civil Judge (Senior Division)	5 [Includes one court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) (LR & LTV)]
Addl. Civil Judge (Senior Division)	3
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	2
Civil Judge (Junior Division)	1
Civil Judge (Junior Division)-cum-J.M.F.C.	4
Addl. Civil Judge (Junior Division)-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
Civil Judge (Senior Division)	5 [Includes one court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) (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	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total
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
2025	38,131	93,872	1,32,003	10,102	20,196	30,298	10,084	12,912	22,996	38,209	1,02,431	1,40,640



BARGARH



Existing Court
Complex



Proposed Court
Complex



With the formation of the separate province of Odisha in 1936, Bargarh district was carved out in March 1993 by incorporating the areas of two sub-divisions, Bargarh and Padampur from the erstwhile district of Sambalpur. 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. Twenty

Six different courts are functioning in the judgeship with outlying stations at Padampur, Sohela, Barpali, Attabira, Bheden and Bijepur. During the year 2025, various legal awareness programmes were organized on different topics and significant days were observed by DLSA, Bargarh. Thirteen cases were settled in Mediation during the Campaign "Mediation for the Nation", Drive-I, 2025.

District Judges during the year 2025



Smt. Luna Mohanty
till 12.05.2025



Shri Satyapira Mishra
15.05.2025-18.09.2025



Shri Anup Kumar Chandan
24.09.2025 till end of the year

Digitization



Digitization of records at DCDH, Sambalpur



Digitised Records of District Record Room **1,42,123**

Pages

1,35,77,357

Work Completed

- Transit House, Bar hall-cum-Canteen at Bheden & Barpali
- D-type quarters at Bheden

Work in progress

- Court Building, Transit House, Bar Canteen & C,E & F-type quarters at Bijepur
- Court building at Bheden & Barpali



Top row (Left to Right) : Observation of International Yoga Day, 2025, Observation of World Environment Day, 2025

Middle Row (Left to Right) : Observation of Vana Mahotsav, 2025, Observance of National Legal Service Day,

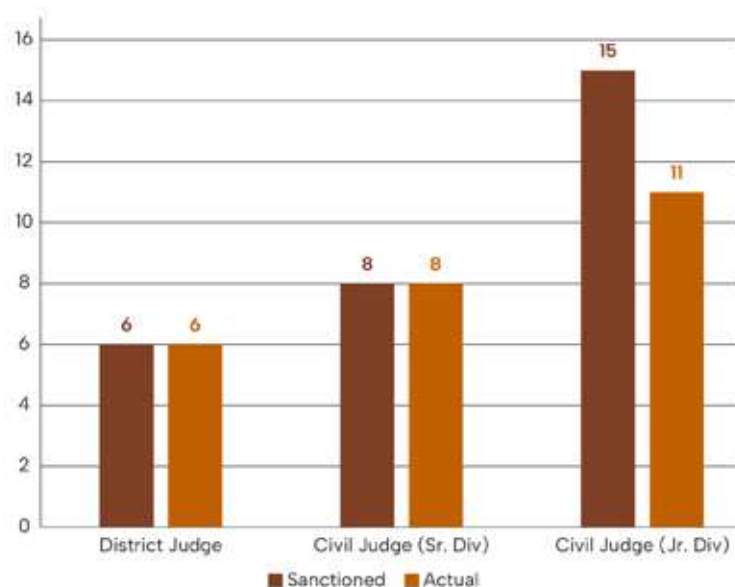
Bottom Row (Left to Right) : Drawing Competition of students organized by DLSA, Stall opened at Dhanuyatra about use of free legal services by public



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 (Senior Division)	5 [includes 1 Women's Court, 1 Civil Judge (Senior Division) (LR & LTV) and 1 Civil Judge (Senior Division)-cum-A.S.J.]
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	2
Civil Judge (Junior Division)	1
Civil Judge (Junior Division)-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	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total
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
2025	5,938	50,003	55,941	1,697	12,939	14,636	1,578	7,278	8,856	6,057	55,664	61,721



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 (Senior Division), 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. Twenty-Six different

courts are functioning in this judgeship with outlying stations at Basudevpur, Chandabali, and Dhamnagar. During the year 2025, various legal awareness programmes were organized on different topics and significant days were observed by DLSA, Bhadrak. Twenty cases were settled in Mediation during the Campaign “Mediation for the Nation”, Drive-I, 2025. The Court and Office of the District and Sessions Judge was inspected on 26.07.2025 by Justice S.K. Mishra, Administrative Judge of Bhadrak Judgeship.

District Judge during the year 2025



Shri Sangram Keshari Pattnaik
for the entire year



New court / New Court building

- Court of Civil Judge (Senior Divn) (LR) at Bhadrak on 31.01.2025

Work Completed

- Bar Association-cum-Amenity Centre at Bhadrak

Digitization



Digitization of records at DCDH, Bhadrak completed



Digitised Records of District Record Room **1,42,806**

Pages

89,86,201



Top row (Left to Right) : Inauguration of the court of Civil Judge(Senior Divn)(LR & LTV, Bhadrak, District Court Digitization Hub, Bhadrak

Middle row (Left to Right) : District Level Consultation Meet on Juvenile Justice, Observation of International Yoga Day, 2025

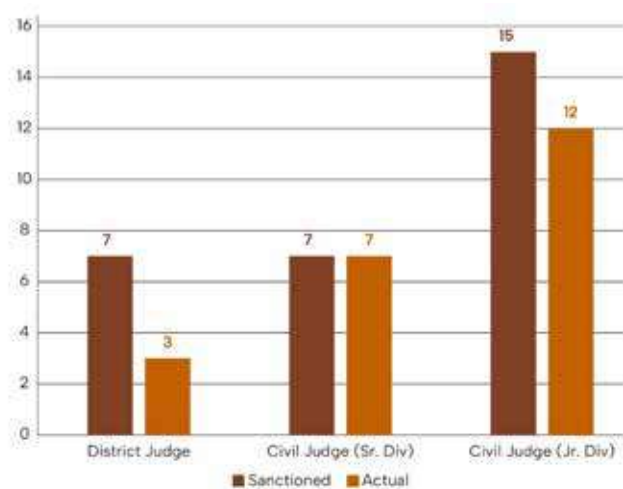
Bottom row (Left to Right) : Observation of Vigilance Awareness Week and Constitution Day by DLSA



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 (Senior Division)	2+1[Includes 1 court of Senior Civil Judge(Leave Reserve) Bhadrak]
Addl. Civil Judge (Senior Division)	1
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	1
Civil Judge (Junior Division)	1
Civil Judge (Junior Division)-cum-J.M.F.C.	3
Addl. Civil Judge (Junior Division)-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

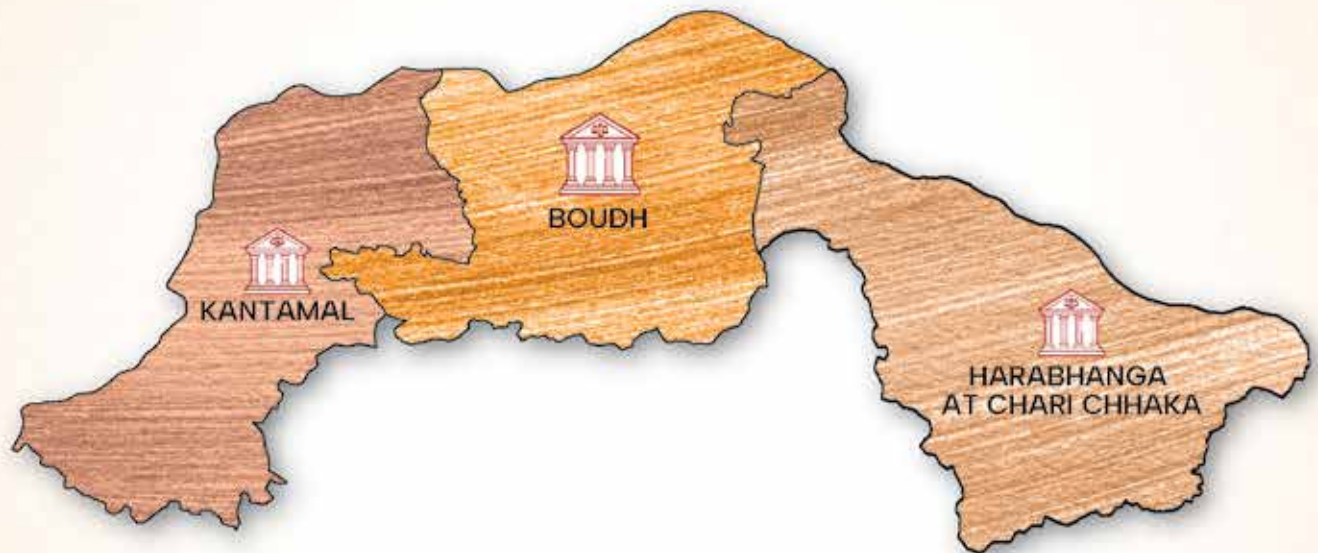


Case Statistics

Year	Opening Balance as on 1st January			Institution during the year			Disposal during the year			Pending Cases at the end of 31st December		
	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total
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
2025	25,396	71,501	96,897	4,974	14,420	19,394	5,925	10,147	16,072	24,554	75,344	99,898



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 headquarter 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. Fifteen different

courts are functioning in the judgeship with outlying stations at Kantamal and Harabhanga at Charichhaka.

During the year 2025, various legal awareness programmes were organized on different topics and significant days were observed by DLSA, Boudh. Forty-One cases were settled in Mediation during the Campaign "Mediation for the Nation", Drive-I, 2025. The Court and Office of the District and Sessions Judge was inspected on 21.06.2025 by Miss Justice S. Ratho, Administrative Judge of Boudh Judgeship.

District Judge during the year 2025



Shri Pratap Kumar Patra
for the entire year

Digitization



Digitization of records at DCDH, Sonepur



Work in Progress

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



Top row (Left to Right) : Observation of International Yoga Day, 2025 and Observance of Vana Mahotsav Week, 2025

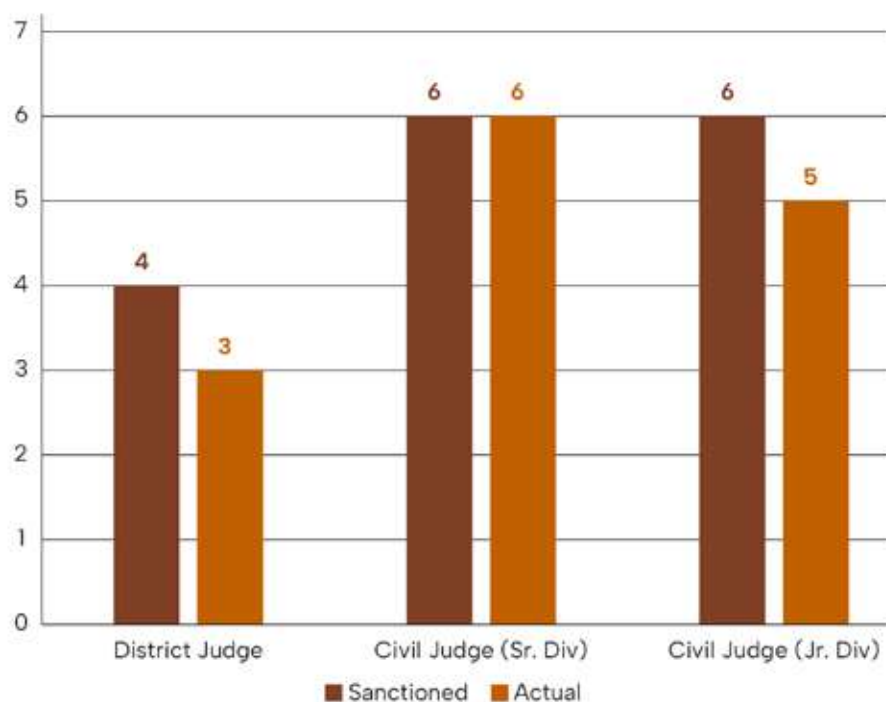
Bottom Row (Left to Right) : Awareness programme on World Mental Health Day, Awareness Rally on the occasion of National Legal Service Day



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 (Senior Division)	1
Civil Judge (Senior Division)-cum-Asst. Sessions Judge	2 (includes 1 Court of Civil Judge (Senior Division)-cum-A.S.J. (Women's Court))
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	1
Civil Judge (Junior Division)-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	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total
2024	1,111	18,239	19,350	355	4,847	5,202	576	3,303	3,879	890	19,545	20,435
2025	890	19,545	20,435	437	4,442	4,879	462	4,883	5,345	865	19,247	20,112



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 Seventy Seven different functioning courts with outlying stations at Athagarh, Narsinghpur, Baramba, Banki, Salipur, Tigiria, Niali, Mahanga, Nischintakoili and Dampara.

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. To strengthen security arrangement within the Court premises, a full body scanner (walk-through metal detector) was installed to ensure protection of Judicial Officers, Staffs and litigants. To ensure attendance of the staffs biometric attendance machines was installed in the judgeship. Currency counting machines was installed in Headquarters as well as outlying stations to ensure transparency in financial transactions. During the year 2025, various legal awareness programmes were organized on different topics and significant days were observed by DLSA, Cuttack. Thirty-Three cases were settled in Mediation during the Campaign "Mediation for the Nation", Drive-I, 2025.

District Judges during the year 2025



Shri Sitikantha Samal
till 30.06.2025



Shri Manas Ranjan Barik
16.10.2025 till end of the year



New court / New Court building

- Court of Civil Judge (Junior Division)-cum-JMFC at Dampara on 25.06.2025

Digitization



Digitization of records at DCDH, Cuttack



Digitised Records of District Record Room **3,61,165**
Pages **3,14,62,846**

Work Completed

1. Dedicated canteen for staff.
2. A creche for Judicial officer and staff
3. A refreshment room for staffs.
4. Refurbished transit house (SOJOURN)
5. Dedicated parking shed for officers and staff



Top row (Left to Right) : Legal Awareness Camp on victim of Acid Attacks organized by DLSA, Cuttack, Observance of World Day against Child Labour by DLSA, Cuttack

Middle row (Left to Right) : World Environment Day, 2025 observed by DLSA, Cuttack, Legal Awareness Programme on Translation of Judgment from English to regional Language using AI

Bottom Row (Left to Right) : Legal awareness programme involving student legal literacy club, Observation of Constitution Day

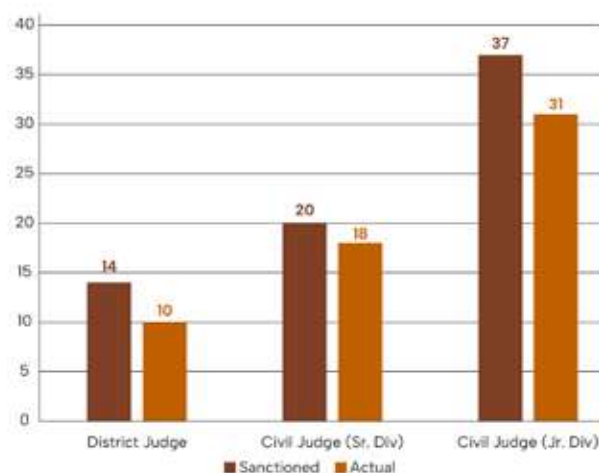
Apart from the District and Sessions Judge, the Judgeship consists of the following courts:

Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Judge, Family Court	1
Addl. District and Sessions Judge	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



Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Member, State Transport Appellate Tribunal	1
LAR & R Authority	1
P.O, Wakf Tribunal	1
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 (Senior Division)	4 (includes one Commercial Court)
Addl. Civil Judge (Senior Division)	5
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	3
Civil Judge (Junior Division)	2
Civil Judge (Senior Division)-cum-Asst. Sessions Judge	4
Civil Judge (Junior Division)-cum-J.M.F.C.	6
Addl. Civil Judge (Junior Division)-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	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total
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
2025	37,129	1,62,025	1,99,154	11,813	40,968	52,781	13,358	34,715	48,073	35,584	1,68,278	2,03,862



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 Twelve 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 twelve different courts are functioning in the Judgeship with outlying stations at Reamal and Barkote.

During the year 2025, various legal awareness programmes were organized on different topics and significant days were observed by DLSA, Deogarh. Three cases were settled in Mediation during the Campaign "Mediation for the Nation", Drive-I, 2025.

District Judges during the year 2025



Shri Gautam Sharma
till 10.05.2025



Shri Debasis Rout
15.05.2025 till end of the year

Digitization



Digitization of records at DCDH, Sambalpur



Digitised Records of
District Record Room

14,156

Pages

6,73,976



Top row (Left to Right) : Skill Observation of International Yoga Day, 2025, Aadhar Registration camp for destitute children organized by DLSA, Deogarh

Middle row (Left to Right) : Labour cards distributed by DLSA, Deogarh to the labourers of unorganized sector, Plantation drive on the occasion of Vanamahotsav week, 2025

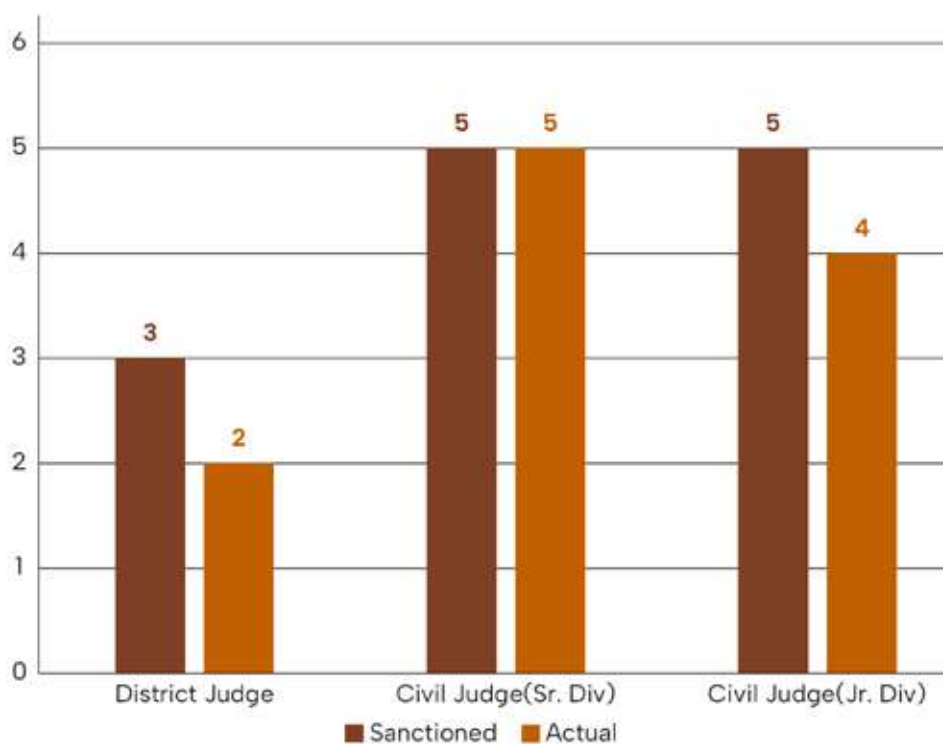
Middle row (Left to Right) : Observations of World Human Rights Day and International Day of persons with disabilities



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 (Senior Division)	2 [includes 1 court of Civil Judge (Senior Division)-cum-ASJ (Women's Court)]
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	1
Civil Judge (Junior Division)-cum-J.M.F.C.	2
J.M.F.C.	2 [includes 1 Court of JMFC (LR & LTV)]

Number of judges in each court

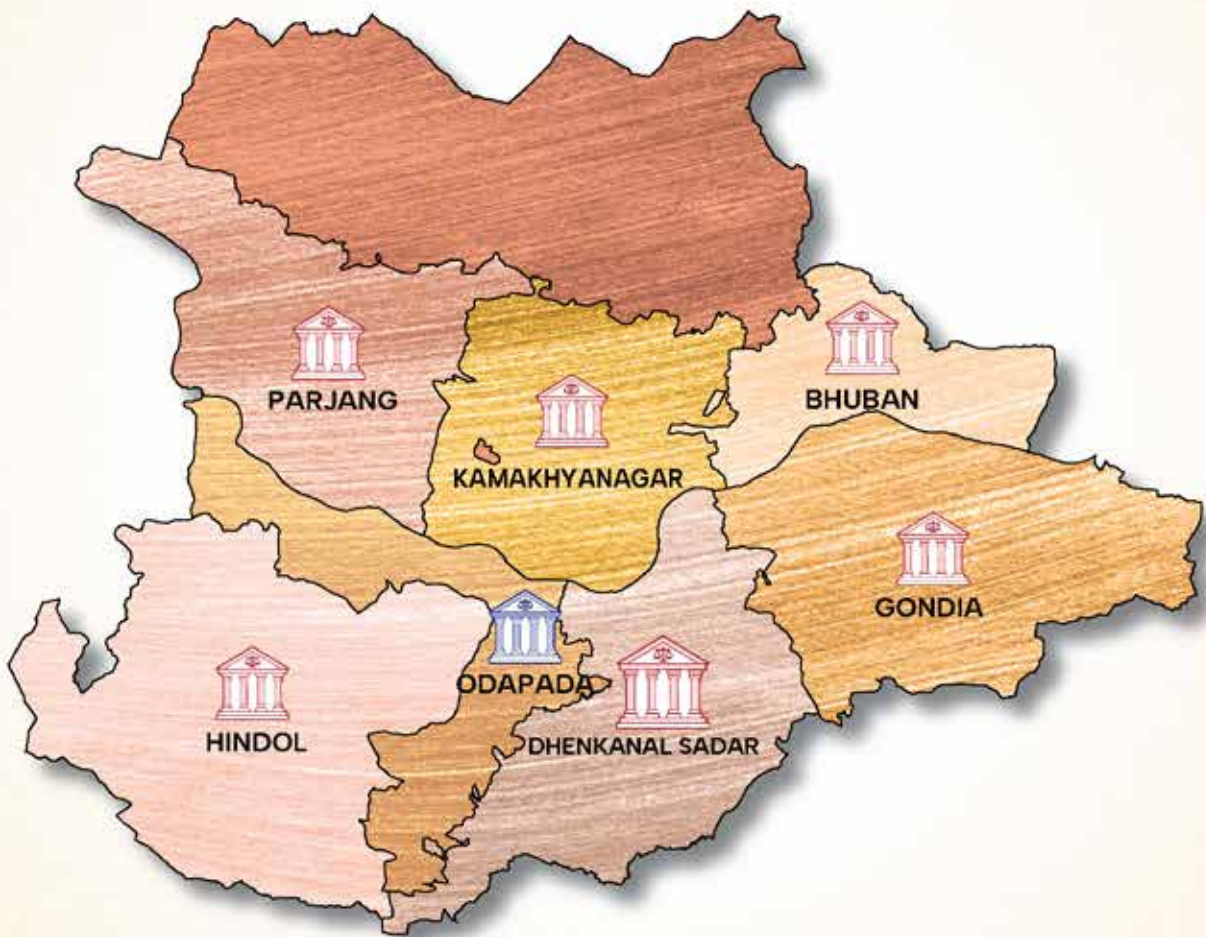


Case Statistics

Year	Opening Balance as on 1st January			Institution during the year			Disposal during the year			Pending Cases at the end of 31st December		
	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total
2024	779	16,039	16,818	352	4,728	8,080	350	2,052	2,402	776	18,183	18,959
2025	776	18,183	18,959	362	3,478	3,840	351	2,323	2,674	787	19,338	20,125



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. Twenty Seven different courts are functioning in the judgeship with outlying stations at Hindol, Kamakhyanagar, 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. Total 1956 cases were filed through e-filing portal and 616 witnesses

were examined through video conferencing system. Moreover, evidence of 198 witnesses was recorded at Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre in 2025. 555 visitors were availed service of e-Sewa Kendra. 1601 notices were served through N-STEP portal during the year. Various legal awareness programmes were organized on different topics and significant days were observed by DLSA, Dhenkanal in 2025. Forty-One cases were settled in Mediation during the Campaign "Mediation for the Nation", Drive-I, 2025. The Court and Office of the District and Sessions Judge was inspected on 15.11.2025 by Justice G. Satapathy, Administrative Judge of Dhenkanal judgeship

District Judges during the year 2025



Shri Jagadish Prasad Mohanty
till 26.04.2025



Shri Pranab Kumar Routray
01.05.2025 till end of the year

Digitization



Digitization of records at DCDH, Angul



Digitised Records of District
Record Room

77,360

Pages

86,76,233



Top row (Left to Right) : Observance of International Yoga Day, Plantation of Sapling on the occasion of Vanamahotsav,2025

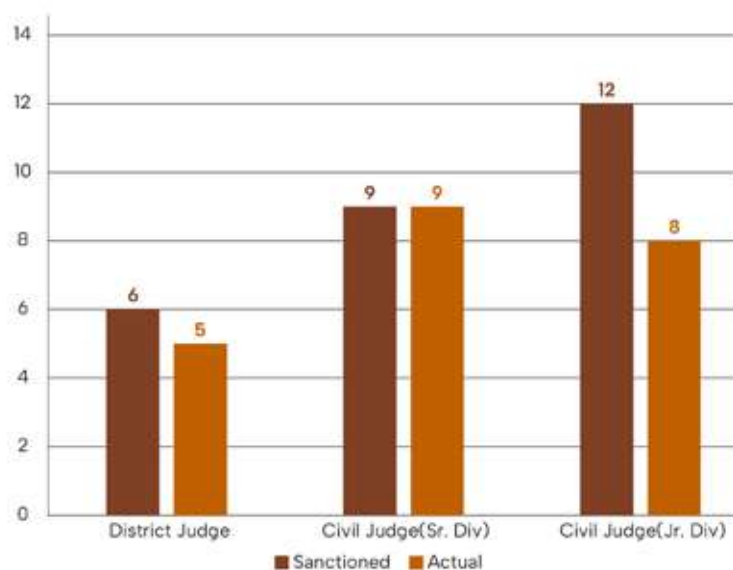
Bottom row (Left to Right) : Visit of Children Home, Distribution of trophies and certificates to the participants of Drawing Competition,2025



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 (Senior Division)	5 [includes one women's Court and 1 Court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) (LR & LTV)]
Addl. Civil Judge (Senior Division)	1 (OEAT)
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	3
Civil Judge (Junior Division)-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

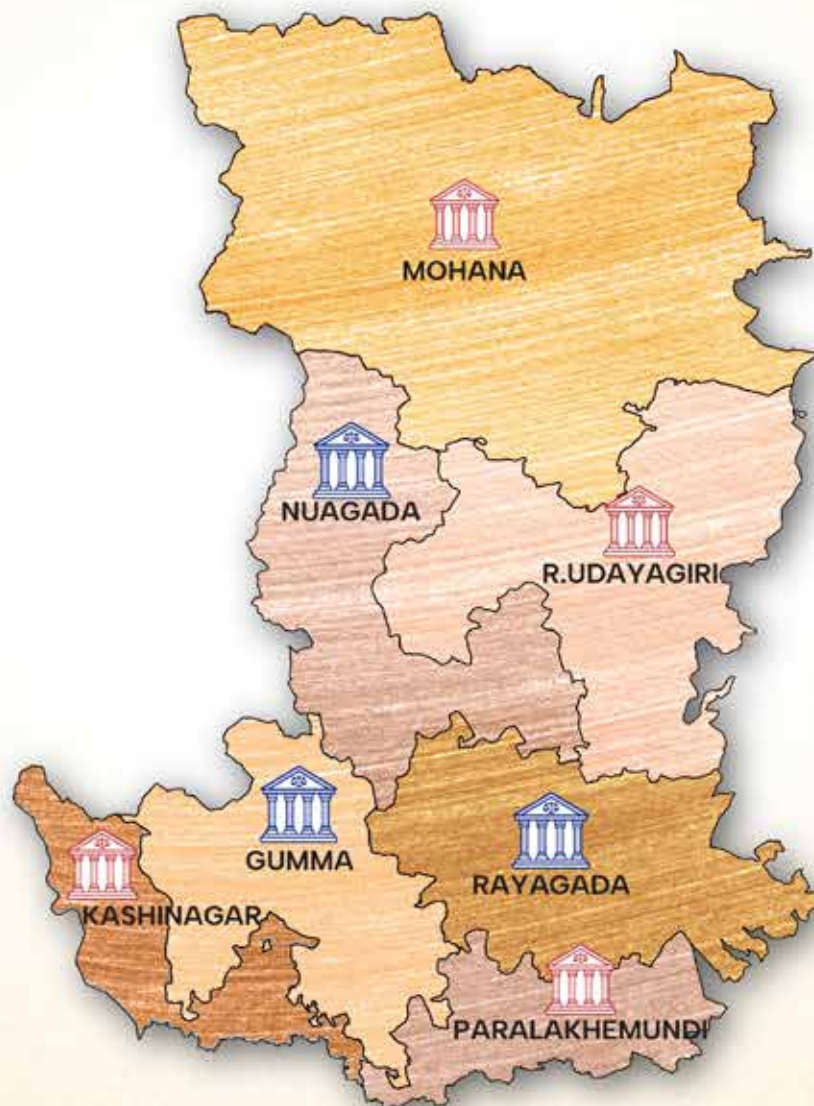


Case Statistics

Year	Opening Balance as on 1st January			Institution during the year			Disposal during the year			Pending Cases at the end of 31st December		
	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total
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
2025	8,483	43,785	52,268	2,391	15,072	17,463	3,220	9,761	12,981	7,628	47,940	55,568



GAJAPATI



Existing Court
Complex



Proposed Court
Complex



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. Sixteen 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. New court building of Gram Nyayadhikari-cum-J.M.F.C, Kashinagar was inaugurated on 22.07.2025 by the Court through virtual mode. During the year, various legal awareness

programmes were organized on different topics and significant days were observed by DLSA, Gajapati. A drawing competition among the students of various schools of the district was organized by the DLSA, Gajapati on 23.11.2025. Mock drill on fire safety programme conducted by Paralakhemundi fire station at Civil Court complex, Paralakhemundi in order to educate and prepare the staffs and officers how to respond effectively during a fire emergency. Three cases were settled in Mediation during the Campaign "Mediation for the Nation", Drive-I, 2025

District Judges during the year 2025



Shri Pranab Kumar Routray
till 29.04.2025



Shri Jagadish Prasad Mohanty
01.05.2025 till end of the year



New court / New Court building

Court building of Gramya-Nyayadhikari-cum-J.M.F.C, Kashinagar on 22.07.2025

Digitization



Digitization of records at DCDH, Ganjam



Digitised Records of District Record Room **68,431**
Pages **35,97,063**



Top row (Left to Right) : Mock Drill on Fire Safety conducted at Civil Court Complex, Paralakhemundi, International Womens' Day celebrated by DLSA, Gajapati.

Middle row (Left to Right) : Inauguration of the court of Gram Nyayadhikari-cum-JMFC, Kashinagar.

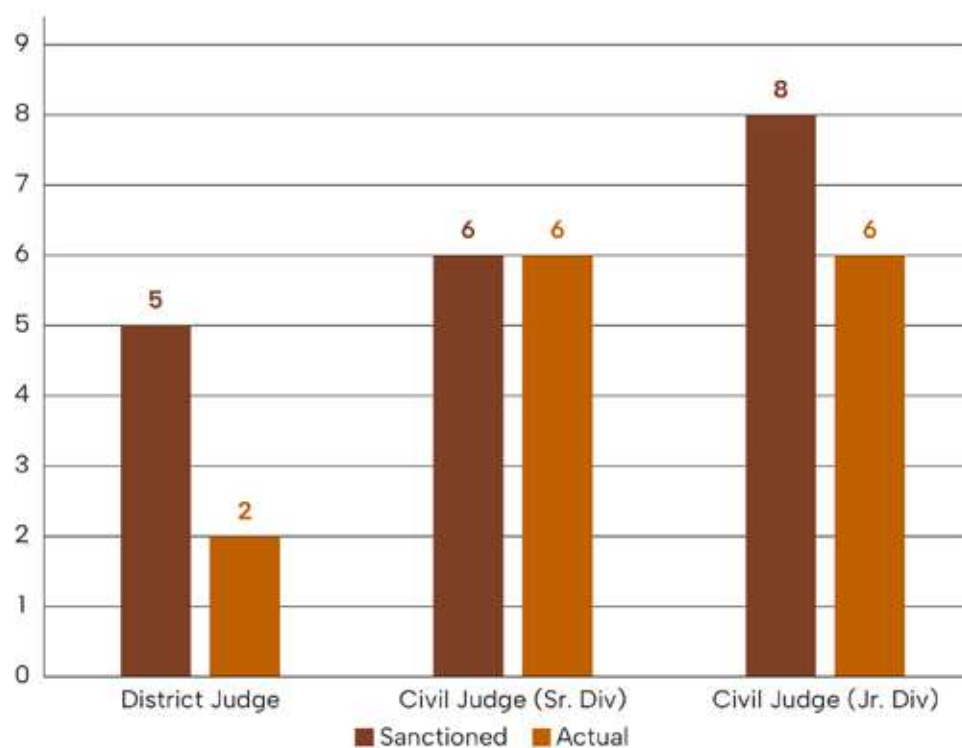
Bottom row (Left to Right) : Observation of Constitution Day, Drawing Competition organized on the occasion of Constitution Day



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 (Senior Division)	3 [includes 1 court of Civil Judge (Senior Division)-cum-A.S.J. (Women's Court)]
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	1
Civil Judge (Junior Division)-cum-J.M.F.C.	1
JMFC	5 [includes 1 Court of JMFC (LR & LTV)]
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	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total
2024	503	8,172	8,675	307	3,967	4,274	343	3,612	3,955	467	8,527	8,994
2025	467	8,527	8,994	321	3,790	4,111	305	3,627	3,932	483	8,690	9,173



GANJAM



Existing Court
Complex



Proposed Court
Complex



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 headquarter of Ganjam judgeship is located at Berhampur.

Sixty-Nine different courts are functioning in the district with outlying stations at Sanakhemundi, Digapahandi, Chhatrapur, Soroda, 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 of 10 courtrooms, was constructed adjacent to the old building. Out of eighteen court complexes in the judgeship, sixteen court complexes are covered under e-court projects. 360 witnesses were examined in virtual court & 293 vulnerable witnesses were examined in VWDC. 12042 notices

have been delivered in N-STEP. Warrant Management system was implemented since 01.08.2023 and 7080 warrants were issued. 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. A special room for women litigants called "Room for nourishing mothers" having basic facilities was opened in the District court premises. A Branch Office of SBI was opened in the Civil Court premises Berhampur, Ganjam on 08.02.2025. One e-library for the Bar Association, Chhatrapur was inaugurated on 27.12.2025. During the year 2025, various legal awareness programmes were organized on different topics and significant days were observed by DLSA, Ganjam. A "Stress Management Programme" was organized on 19.12.2025 in the District Court, Ganjam, Berhampur for all the staffs of the Judgeship. Enrollment of dropout inmates of Observation Home-cum-Special Home (boys), Berhampur was made under the State Institute of Open Schooling (SIOS) System. Twenty-Six cases were settled in Mediation during the Campaign "Mediation for the Nation", Drive-I, 2025.

District Judges during the year 2025



Smt. Rupashree Choudhury
till 05.05.2025



Dr. Bhagyalaxmi Rath
08.05.2025-29.10.2025



Shri Asanta Kumar Das
01.11.2025 till end of the year



New Court/Court Building:-

The court of Civil Judge (Senior Divn), Digapahandi on 29.07.2025

Digitization



Digitization of records at DCDH, Ganjam



Digitised Records of District Record Room

Pages

2,69,802

2,20,47,120

Work Completed:-

One B-type, C-type & D-type Government residential quarters each for judicial officers at Kodala



Top row (Left to Right) : Inauguration of New Court of Civil Judge (Senior Divn), Digapahandi by the Chief Justice through V.C. , Opening of new SBI Bank in the court of Civil Court Premises at Ganjam, Berhampur

Middle row (Left to Right) : Inauguration of special room for nursing mothers at the premises of District & Session Judge, Ganjam at Berhampur , District Level Consultation on Juvenile Justice

Bottom row (Left to Right) : Inauguration of e-Library at Bar Association, Chhatrapur, Observance of Human Rights Day

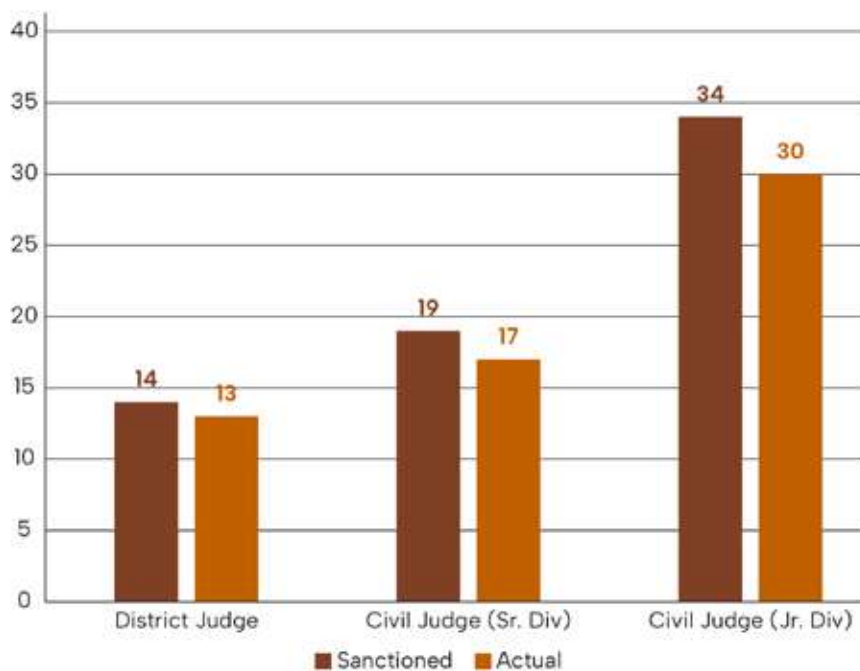
Apart from the District and Sessions Judge, the Judgeship consists of the following courts:

Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Judge, Family Court	1
Addl. District and Sessions Judge	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 (Senior Division)	12 [includes one Commercial Court and 1 Court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) (LR & LTV)]
Addl. Civil Judge (Senior Division)	2
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	3
Civil Judge (Junior Division)	2
Civil Judge (Junior Division)-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	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total
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
2025	10,957	87,878	98,835	4,429	36,658	41,087	4,873	32,619	37,492	10,513	1,02,168	1,12,681



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. Twenty Two different Courts are functioning in the judgeship with outlying stations at Kujanga, Tirtol, Raghunathpur and Erasama.

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. Free Eye check up camp was organized in coordination with Bhoomika Eye Hospital, Bhubaneswar by DLSA on 04.09.2025 in the District Court

Complex. A stall was displayed at Kallol by DLSA at Nabakrushna Choudhury Stadium, Jagatsinghpur for awareness about free and competent legal services for the weaker section of the society. Seven cases were settled in Mediation during the Campaign "Mediation for the Nation", Drive-I, 2025. During the year 2025, various legal awareness programmes were organized on different topics and significant days were observed by DLSA, Jagatsinghpur. The Court and Office of the District and Sessions Judge was inspected on 22.11.2025 by Justice M.R. Pathak, Administrative Judge of Jagatsinghpur judgeship.

District Judges during the year 2025



Shri Srinibash Pratihari
till 31.10.2025



Shri Pradyumna Kumar Nayak
01.11.2025 till end of the year

Digitization



Digitization of records at DCDH, Cuttack



Digitised Records of District Record Room

84,261

Pages

64,28,027



Top Row (Left to right): Free Eye Check up camp organized by DLSA, Jagatsinghpur , A stall "Kallol" to provide free and competent legal services displayed by DLSA, Jagatsinghpur at Nabakrushna Choudhury Stadium, Jagatsinghpur

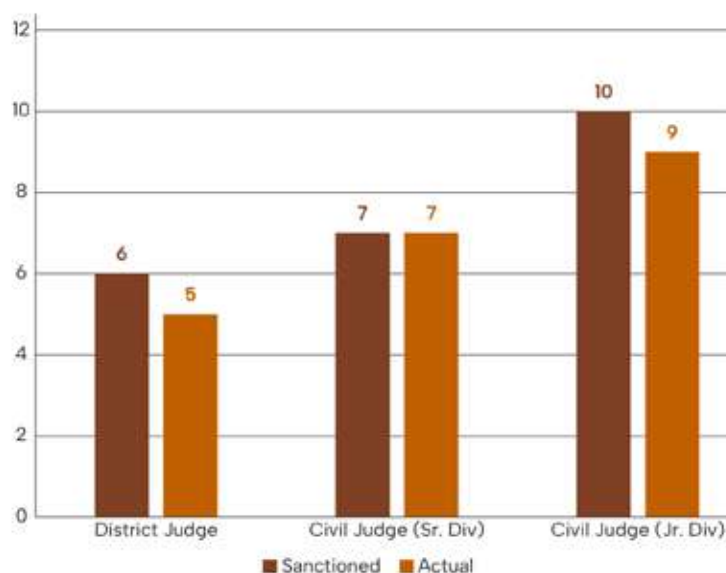
Bottom : Drawing Competition of school students organized by DLSA



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 (Senior Division)	4 [includes one Women's Court and 1 Court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) (LR & LTV)]
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	1
Civil Judge (Junior Division)	2
Civil Judge (Junior Division)-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	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total
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
2025	10,159	36,903	47,062	3,530	10,735	14,265	4,073	8,308	12,381	9,573	38,924	48,497



JAJPUR



Existing Court
Complex



Proposed Court
Complex



Jajpur judgship started functioning with effect from 28th June, 2012 after being separated from the erstwhile composite judgship of Cuttack, Jagatsingpur, Jajpur and Kendrapara. Thirty different Courts are functioning in the judgship 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. During the year, various legal awareness programmes were organized on different topics and significant days were observed by DLSA, Jajpur. 220 witnesses were examined in virtual court & 734 vulnerable witnesses were examined in VWDC. Twelve cases were settled in Mediation during the Campaign "Mediation for the Nation", Drive-I, 2025. The Court and Office of the District and Sessions Judge was inspected on 04.01.2025 by Justice Arindam Sinha, Administrative Judge of Jajpur judgship.

District Judge during the year 2025



Shri Amruta Ranjan Nanda
for the entire year



New Court Building:-

- Court of Addl. Dist & Sessions Judge, Chandikhole on 08.01.2025
- Court of Addl. Civil Judge(Junior Divn)-cum-J.M.F.C, Chandikhole & Court of Civil Judge(Junior Divn)-cum-J.M.F.C, Baripal on 16.01.2025

Digitization



Digitization of records at DCDH, Bhadrak



Digitised Records of District Record Room

Pages

67,812

96,17,030

Work in Progress

Residential and non-residential buildings at Jajpur and Jajpur Road

Work completed

Canteen-cum-Bar Association Hall at Chandikhole



Top row (Left to Right) : Inauguration of the court of Addl. Civil Judge(Junior Div)-cum-J.M.F.C., Chandikhol and the court of Civil Judge(Junior Div)-cum-J.M.F.C, Baripal by the Court

Middle Row (Left to Right) : Inauguration of the court of Addl. Dist. & Session Judge, Chandikhol by the Court, Observance of Constitution Day

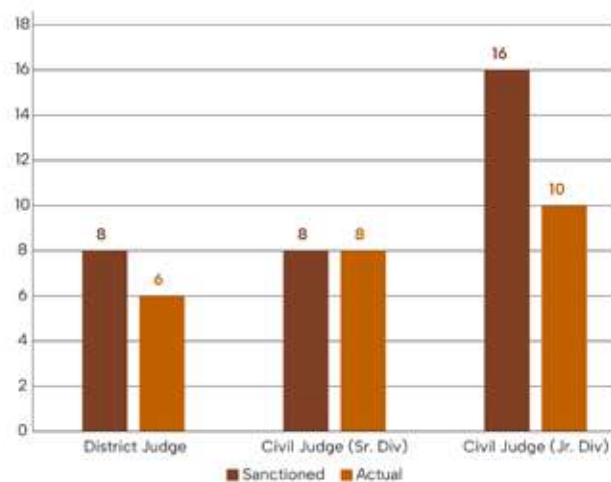
Bottom : Drawing Competition of the students at District Court Complex Organized by DLSA



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)	2
Chief Judicial Magistrate	1
A.S.J.-cum-Registrar, Civil Courts	1
Civil Judge (Senior Division)	4 [includes one Court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) (LR & LTV)]
Addl.Civil Judge (Senior Division)	1
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	1
Civil Judge (Junior Division)	1
Civil Judge (Junior Division)- cum-J.M.F.C.	3
Addl. Civil Judge(Junior Divn)- cum-J.M.F.C	1
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	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total
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
2025	20,656	80,638	1,01,294	3,969	14,487	18,456	6,386	9,210	15,596	18,232	86,624	1,04,856



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 twelve Courtrooms. The facilities available in the building include lift, ramp for differently abled persons, e-Sewa Kendra, and VC Cabin. Seventeen different Courts are functioning in the judgeship with one outlying station at Lakhanpur.

During the year 2025, various legal awareness

programmes were organized on different topics and significant days were observed by DLSA, Jharsuguda. District Level Consultation on Juvenile Justice was organized on 02.08.2025 by the DLSA, Jharsuguda. Thirty-Two cases were settled in Mediation during the Campaign "Mediation for the Nation", Drive-I, 2025. The Court and Office of the District and Sessions Judge was inspected on 01.11.2025 by Justice A.K. Mohapatra, Administrative Judge of Jharsuguda judgeship.

District Judge during the year 2025



Shri Prasanta Kumar Nayak
for the entire year



New court / New Court building

Inauguration of the Court of Civil Judge (Junior Div)-cum-J.M.F.C, Lakhanpur on 26.09.2025

Digitization



Digitization of records at DCDH, Jharsuguda



Digitised Records of District Record Room

Pages

94,987

82,45,673



Work in Progress

Construction of 3rd floor of Dist Court Building & Bar Association hall with Amenity Centre at Jharsuguda

Work Completed:-

1. Inauguration of Transit House at Jharsuguda on 06.01.2025
2. Three B- type quarters, two C-type quarters & one D-type quarter for judicial officers at Jharsuguda



Top row (Left to Right) : Distribution of benefits by the District Judge-cum-Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Jharsuguda on the occasion of International Labour Day, Plantation Drive on the occasion of Van Mahotsav Week, 2025 by the District Legal Services Authority, Jharsuguda

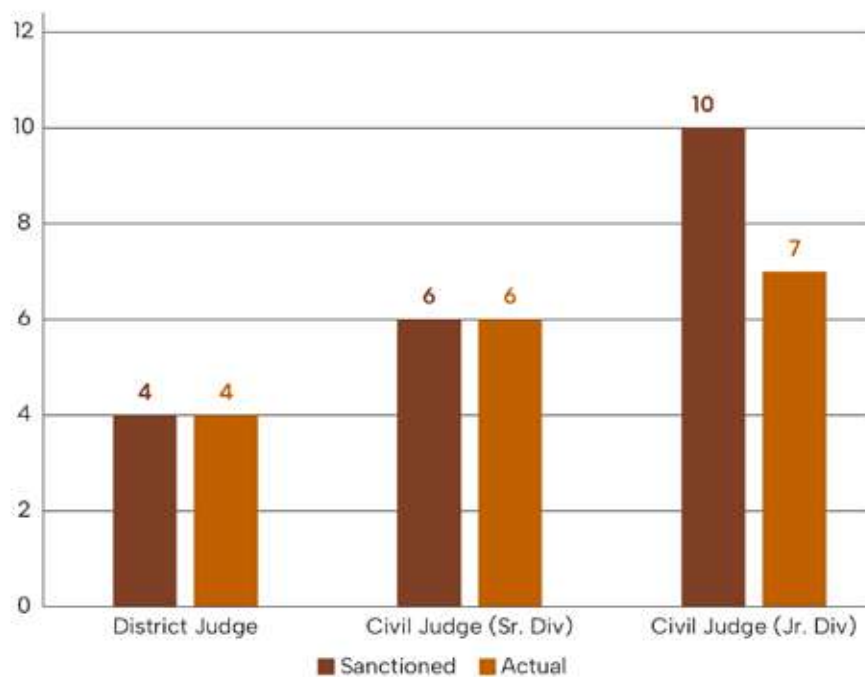
Bottom row (Left to Right) : Organisation of awareness programme on POSH Act at different institutions of Jharsuguda district, Awareness programme on safety on social media platform and cyber laws by DLSA, Jharsuguda



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 (Senior Division)	3 [includes 1 Court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) (LR & LTV and 1 Women's Court)]
Civil Judge (Junior Division)	1
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	1
JMFC	4+1 [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	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total
2024	3,544	39,847	43,391	848	8,462	9,310	1,509	8,120	9,629	2,883	40,189	43,072
2025	2,883	40,189	43,072	839	11,100	11,939	1,045	9,304	10,349	2,677	47,968	50,645



KALAHANDI



Existing Court
Complex



Proposed Court
Complex



Kalahandi was a princely state in British India and later merged with the state of Orissa. At the time of merger, Kalahandi District comprised the present day districts of Kalahandi and Nuapada. 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, Koksara, Jaipatna, T.Rampur and Lanjigarh.

1053 witnesses were examined in virtual mode including vulnerable witnesses in VWDC in 2025. Bio-metric system for attendance of staffs at all stations of the judgeship was installed. Installation of intercom at headquarter stations was made. During the year 2025, various legal awareness programmes were organized on different topics and significant days were observed by DLSA, Kalahandi. Fourteen cases were settled in Mediation during the Campaign "Mediation for the Nation", Drive-I, 2025.

District Judge during the year 2025



Shri Anup Ranjan Pattanaik
for the entire year

Digitization :



Digitization of records at DCDH, Kalahandi



Digitised Records of District Record Room **1,61,208**

Pages

1,77,02,082



Work in Progress :

1. Transit House at M. Rampur, T.H Rampur and Dharamgarh
2. Court building at T.H. Rampur, Dharamgarh & Koksara
3. B-type, C-type & D-Type residential quarters for Judicial Officers at Dharamgarh & E-Type quarters for staffs at M. Rampur



Top row (Left to Right) : Legal Awareness Programme POCSO Act, Victim Compensation , Legal services to Victims of Acid Attack, Awareness programme on S.C. & S.T(PoA) Act organized by DLSA, Kalahandi.

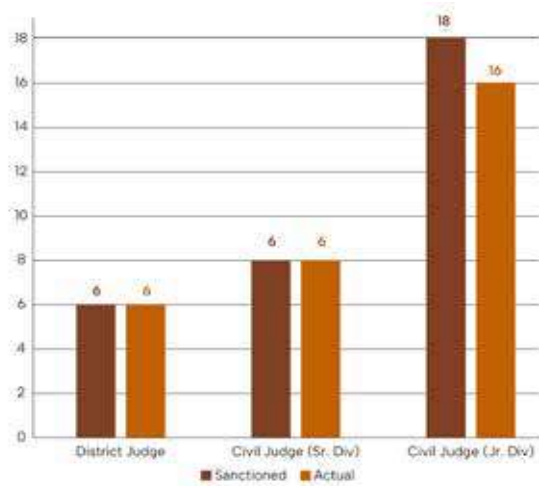
Bottom row (Left to Right) : Awareness Programme on JJ(CPC) and Right to Education Act by DLSA, Kalahandi, Observance of World Environment Day by DLSA, Kalahandi



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 (Senior Division)	5 [includes 1 Court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) (LR & LTV) and one Women's Court]
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	2
Civil Judge (Junior Division)-cum J.M.F.C.	6
Addl. Civil Judge (Junior Division)-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	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total
2024	3,862	39,400	43,263	1,691	11,907	13,598	1,892	12,784	14,676	3,661	38,524	42,185
2025	3,661	38,524	42,185	1,738	11,130	12,868	1,618	11,235	12,853	3,781	38,419	42,200



KANDHAMAL



Existing Court
Complex



Proposed Court
Complex



The district of Kandhamal was constituted on 1st January, 1994 from the former Boudh-Kandhamal 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 separation from Boudh, the Judgeship of Phulbani is presently functioning with Twenty-Three different Courts with outlying stations at Balliguda, G. Udayagiri, Daringbadi, Kotagarh, and Tumudibandh. 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. 550 witnesses were examined in virtual court & 172 vulnerable witnesses were examined in VWDC. During the year 2025, various legal awareness programmes were organized on different topics and significant days were observed by DLSA, Kandhamal. Twenty-Seven cases were settled in Mediation during the Campaign "Mediation for the Nation", Drive-I, 2025. The Court and Office of the District and Sessions Judge was inspected on 05.04.2025 by Justice M.S. Raman, Administrative Judge of Kandhamal Judgeship.

District Judges during the year 2025



Shri Satyapira Mishra
till 12.05.2025



Shri Ram Shankar Hota
15.05.2025 till end of the year

Digitization



Digitization of records at
DCDH, Nayagarh



Digitised Records of District
Record Room **30,933**

Pages

42,22,377

Work in Progress :

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



Top Row (Left to Right) : Healthcheck-up of court staff, Blood Donation & Health Camp organized by DLSA, Kandhamal

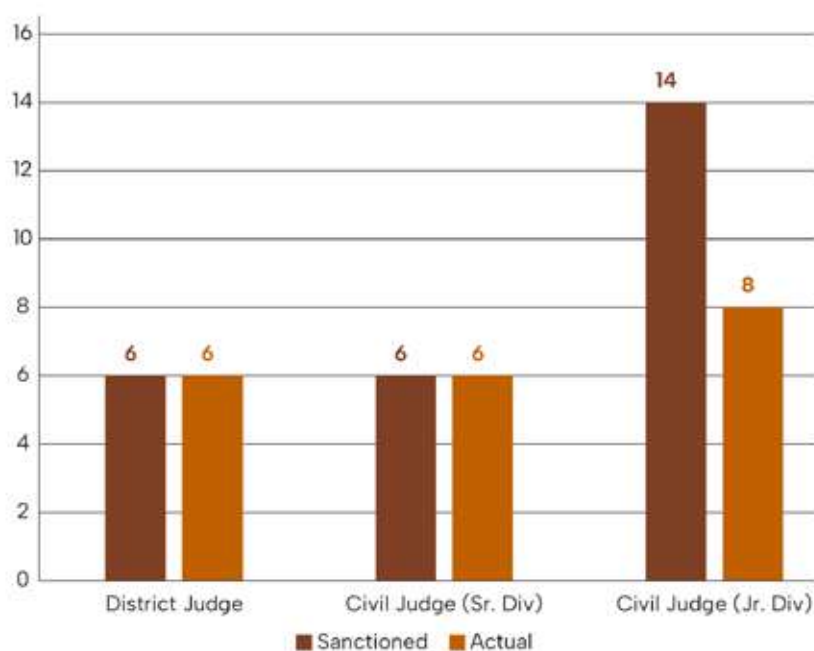
Bottom row (Left to Right) : Observance of International Yoga Day, Training programme for Advocates on e-court project



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 (Senior Division)	3 (includes 1 Court of Civil Judge (Senior Division)- cum- A.S.J. (Women's Court))
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	2
Civil Judge (Junior Division)-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

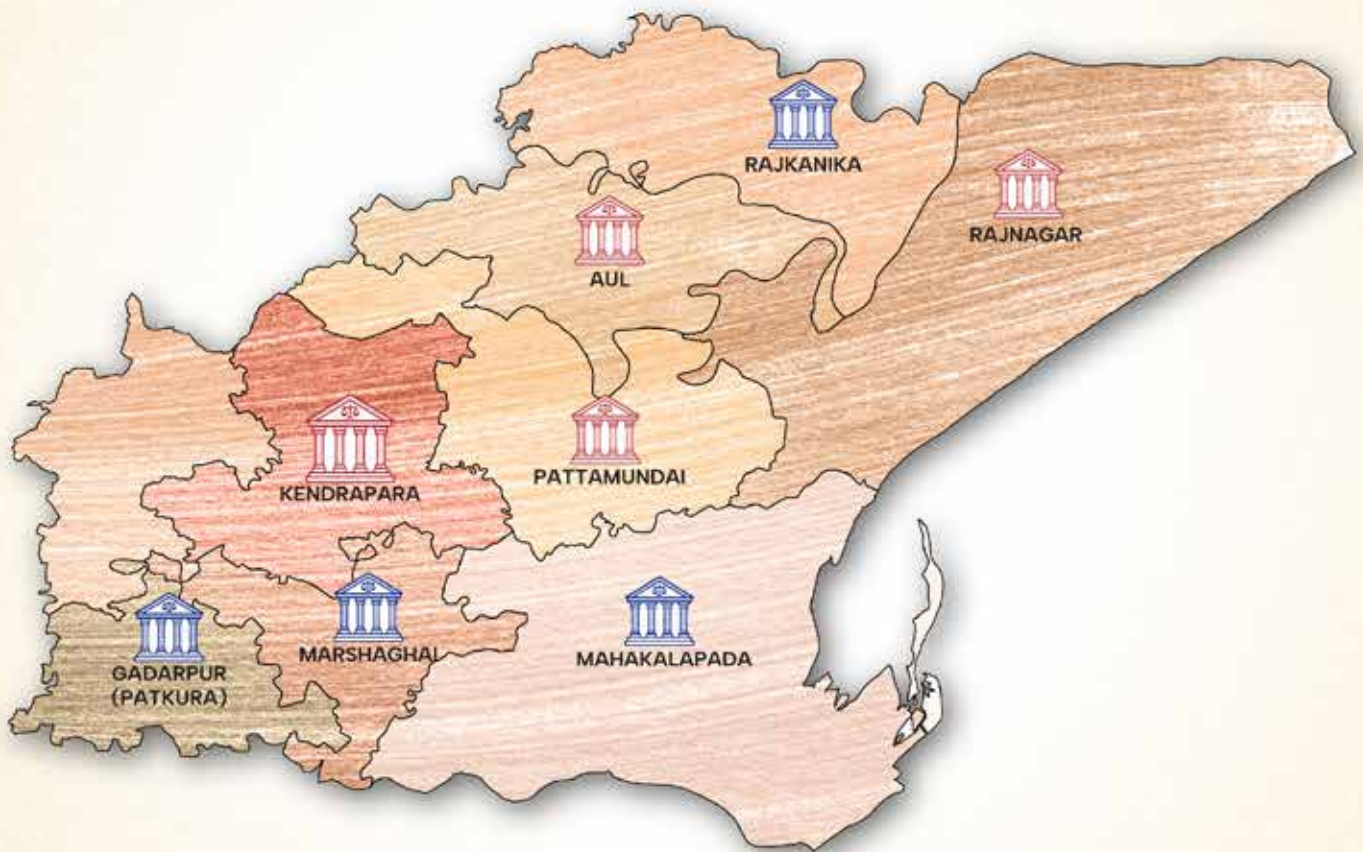


Case Statistics

Year	Opening Balance as on 1st January			Institution during the year			Disposal during the year			Pending Cases at the end of 31st December		
	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total
2024	824	15,830	16,654	478	6,648	7,126	549	5,327	5,876	753	17,151	17,904
2025	753	17,151	17,904	447	9,124	9,571	414	6,830	7,244	786	19,445	20,231



KENDRAPARA



Existing Court
Complex



Proposed Court
Complex



The judgeship of Kendrapara was separated from Cuttack judgeship and was established on 26th June, 2012. Twenty-Four 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 Eighteen 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

Programme on drug abuse and illicit trafficking, welfare schemes of the government and other legal topics were organized and significant days were observed by DLSA, Kendrapara in 2025. 144 witnesses were examined in virtual court & 276 vulnerable witnesses were examined in VWDC. Twenty Eight cases were settled in Mediation during the Campaign "Mediation for the Nation", Drive-I, 2025.

District Judges during the year 2025



Shri Biswajit Mohanty
till 31.01.2025



Smt. Luna Mohanty
15.05.2025 till
end of the year



New court / New Court building

1. Inauguration of the court of Additional Dist. & Sessions Judge, Pattamundai on 08.01.2025
2. Inauguration of the court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) (Commercial Court), Kendrapara on 31.01.2025

Digitization



Digitization of records at DCDH, Bhadrak



Digitised Records of District Record Room

Pages

75,279

69,13,608



Top Row (Left to Right) : Awareness Programme on Commemoration of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit trafficking, Free Legal Assistance Centre at Tulsi Kshetra organized by DLSA, Kendrapara.

Middle Row (Left to Right) : Establishment of New Court of Additional District & Session Judge, Pattamundai and Court of Civil Judge(Senior Division), (Commercial Court), Kendrapara by the Court.

Bottom row (Left to Right) : Awareness programme on "A framework for stress management" organized in District Court, kendrapara, National Lok Adalat organized by DLSA

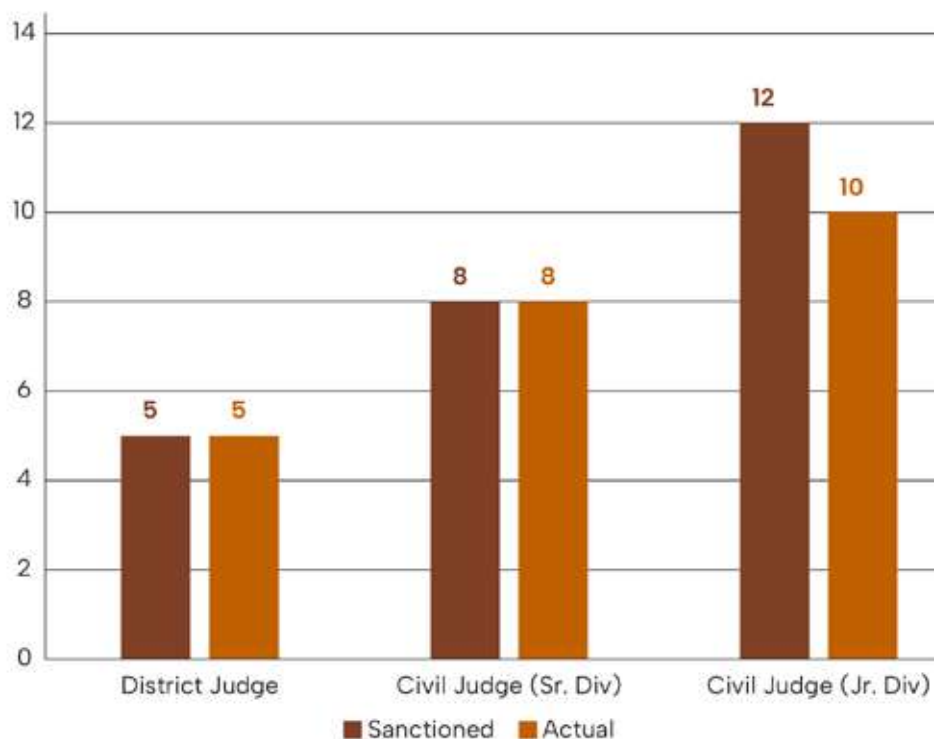
Apart from the District and Sessions Judge, the Judgeship consists of the following courts:

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



Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Civil Judge (Senior Division)	3+1 [includes 1 Court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) (LR & LTV & 1 court of Senior Civil Judge, Commercial Court)]
Addl.Civil Judge (Senior Division)	1
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	1
Civil Judge (Junior Division)	1
Civil Judge (Junior Division)-cum J.M.F.C.	2
Addl.Civil Judge (Junior Division)-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	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total
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
2025	17,054	45,382	62,436	3,915	7,562	11,477	4,749	6,207	10,956	16,138	47,011	63,149



KEONJHAR



Existing Court Complex



Proposed Court Complex



The judgship of Keonjhar was separated from the Mayurbhanj judgship on 28th February 1982. Currently, thirty different courts are functioning in the judgship 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 fifteen courtrooms in the building. It has facilities like e-Sewa Kendra, e-Filing Centre, e-Meeting help desk, video conferencing room, and e-Kiosk.

During the year 2025, various legal awareness programmes were organized on different topics and significant days were observed by DLSA, Keonjhar.

Fifty-One cases were settled in Mediation during the Campaign Mediation for the Nation, Drive-I, 2025.

The Court and Office of the District and Sessions Judge was inspected on 20.09.2025 by Justice Miss Justice Savitri Ratho, Administrative Judge of Keonjhar Judgship.

District Judges during the year 2025



Shri Ashok Kumar Panda
till 31.01.2025



Shri Gopal Chandra Behera
15.04.2025 till end of the year

Work in progress:-

- 1) Two C-type & One D-type quarters for Judicial Officers at Keonjhar
- 2) Eight E-Type & Four F-type quarters for staff at Barbil
- 3) Bar Association Building at Anandapur



New court / New Court building

- Inauguration of the Court of Civil Judge (Junior Division)-cum-JMFC at Ghatagaon on 16.05.2025

Digitization



Digitization of records at DCDC, Keonjhar



Digitised Records of District Record Room

1,00,465

Pages

1,03,62,673



Top row (Left to Right) : Inauguration of the court of Civil Judge(Junior Div)-cum-J.M.F.C, Ghatagaon and Foundation stone laying ceremony of Anandpur Bar Association

Middle row (Left to Right) : District Level Consultation on Juvenile Justice organized by DLSA, Keonjhar Awareness programme on POCsO, J.J.(CPC), PoSH Act organized by DLSA

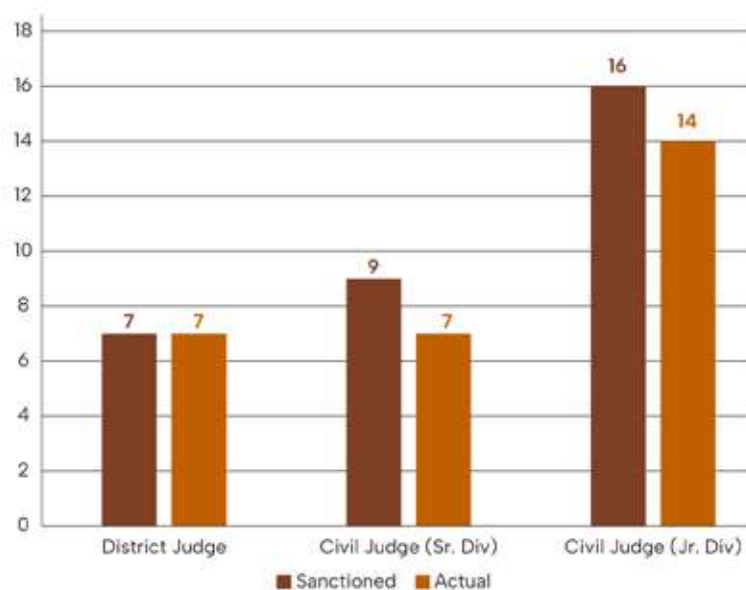
Bottom Row (Left to Right) : Training programme on panel lawyers, Observance of Samvidhan Diwas



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 (Senior Division)	4 [includes 1 Court of Civil Judge (Senior Division)-cum-A.S.J. (Women's Court)]
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	3
Civil Judge (Junior Division)-cum J.M.F.C.	3+1 [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	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total
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
2025	9,169	49,433	58,602	2,306	18,996	21,302	2,414	10,369	12,783	9,061	58,060	67,121



KHURDA



Existing Court
Complex



Proposed Court
Complex



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.

Training programme on LSUM and LSUV held from 17.03.2025 to 20.03.2025 in the conference hall of ADR, Bhubaneswar. Sensitization programme on POSH Act, Mental Illness, SC & ST(POA) Act was organized at University Law College, Bhubaneswar by DLSA, Khurda. During the year 2025, various legal awareness programmes were organized on different

topics and significant days were observed by DLSA, Khurda. Two Hundred Fifty-Four cases were settled in Mediation during the Campaign "Mediation for the Nation, Drive-I, 2025". The Court and the Office of the District and Sessions Judge, Khurda was inspected on 18.10.2025 by Justice S.K. Sahoo, Administrative Judge of Khurda judgeship.

District Judges during the year 2025



Shri Nisith Nisank
till 28.04.2025



Shri Biranchi Narayan Mohanty
01.05.2025 till end of the year

Digitization



Digitization of records at DCDH, Cuttack



Top Row (Left to Right) : Sensitization programme on POSH Act, Mental Illness, SC & ST(POA) Act at University Law College, Bhubaneswar, Organization of National Lok Adalat

Middle Row (Left to Right) : Observance of World Day Against Child Labour, Drawing Competition for children held at Judicial Complex, Bhubaneswa

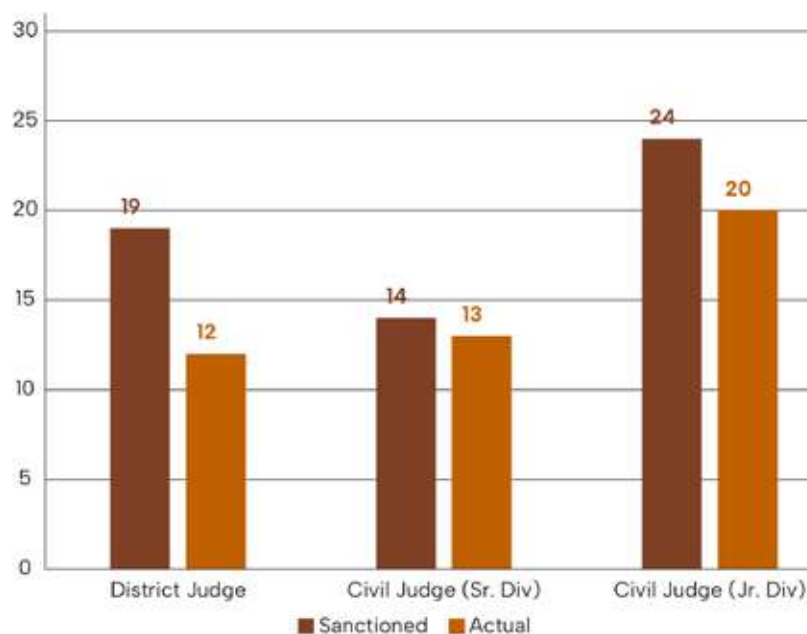
Apart from the District and Sessions Judge, the Judgeship consists of the following courts:

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
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



Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate	1 (Special Court under Delhi Special Police Establishment Act)
A.S.J.-cum-Registrar, Civil Courts	1
Civil Judge (Senior Division)	6 [includes one Women's Court, 1 Court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) (LR & LTV) and one Commercial Court]
Addl.Civil Judge (Senior Division)	2
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	2
Civil Judge (Junior Division)	2
Civil Judge (Junior Division)-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	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total
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
2025	46,142	1,61,922	2,08,064	10,591	68,069	78,660	10,628	62,779	73,407	45,165	1,69,594	2,14,759



KORAPUT



Existing Court
Complex



Proposed Court
Complex



The new District Court building of the district Koraput-Jeypore was inaugurated on 10th September 2021. Thirty-One 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 imparts regular training to the

Judicial Officers and ministerial staff posted in the cluster districts of Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Kalahandi and Rayagada. During the year 2025, various legal awareness programmes were organized on different topics and significant days were observed by DLSA, Koraput. Four cases were settled as successful through Mediation during the Campaign Mediation for the Nation, Drive-I, 2025.

District Judge during the year 2025



Shri Pradeep Kumar Mohanta
for the entire year

Digitization :



Digitization of records at DCDH, Koraput



Digitised Records of District Record Room

1,29,191

Pages

1,10,47,615

Ongoing Projects :

1. Construction of C-type quarter at Kotpad & D-type quarters at Lamtaput
2. Construction of Bar Association Hall at Lamtaput & Laxmipur & Jeypore
3. Transit House at Laxmipur, Borigumma, Lamtaput & Jeypore
4. New Court building at Laxmipur, Borigumma & Lamtaput



Top Row (Left to Right) : Observance of World Environment Day and World Yoga Day by DLSA, Koraput

Middle Row (Left to Right) : Observance of Vanamahotsav week by DLSA, Koraput, Drawing Competition held on 23.11.2025 for Children

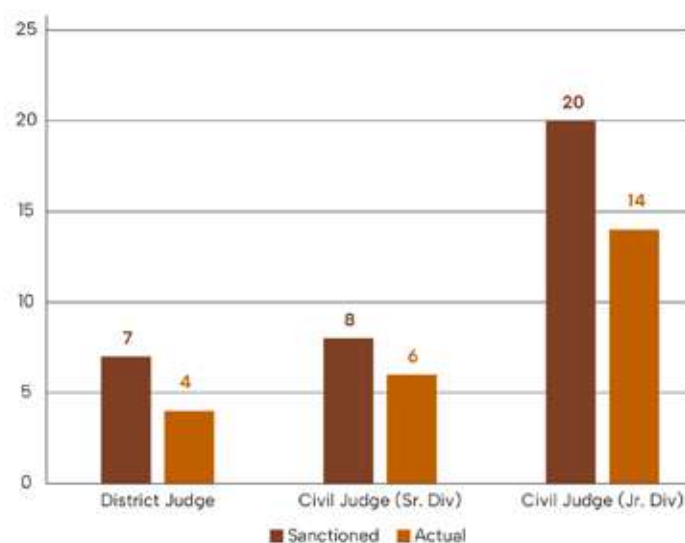
Bottom Row (Left to Right) : "Mediation" stall exhibited by DLSA at Parab Fair ,2025, Observance of vigilance awareness week



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	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 (Senior Division)	3 (includes one Women's Court)
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	2
Civil Judge (Junior Division)	1
Civil Judge (Junior Division)-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	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total
2024	3,902	35,191	39,093	1,082	9,877	10,959	986	8,194	9,180	3,998	36,874	40,872
2025	3,998	36,874	40,872	1,317	9,653	10,970	1,219	9,914	11,133	4,096	36,613	40,709



MALKANGIRI



Existing Court Complex



Proposed Court Complex



Malkangiri was carved out from Koraput judgeship on 2nd October 1992. The judgeship started functioning independently from 20th April 2013. Fourteen different Courts are functioning in the judgeship with outlying stations at Motu (MV-79), Mathili, Kudumulguma, and Korukonda at Malkangiri. The new District Court building was inaugurated on 10th September 2021. During the year 2025, various legal awareness

programmes were organized on different topics and significant days were observed by DLSA, Malkangiri. Training programmes were conducted for judicial officers, advocates and ministerial staffs focusing on capacity building through continuous e-course (ECT) training. Seven cases were settled in Mediation during the Campaign "Mediation for the Nation", Drive-I, 2025.

District Judge during the year 2025



Dr. Prasanna Kumar Panda
for the entire 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) : Legal Awareness Camp and District Level Consultation on Juvenile Justice organized by DLSA, Malkangiri.

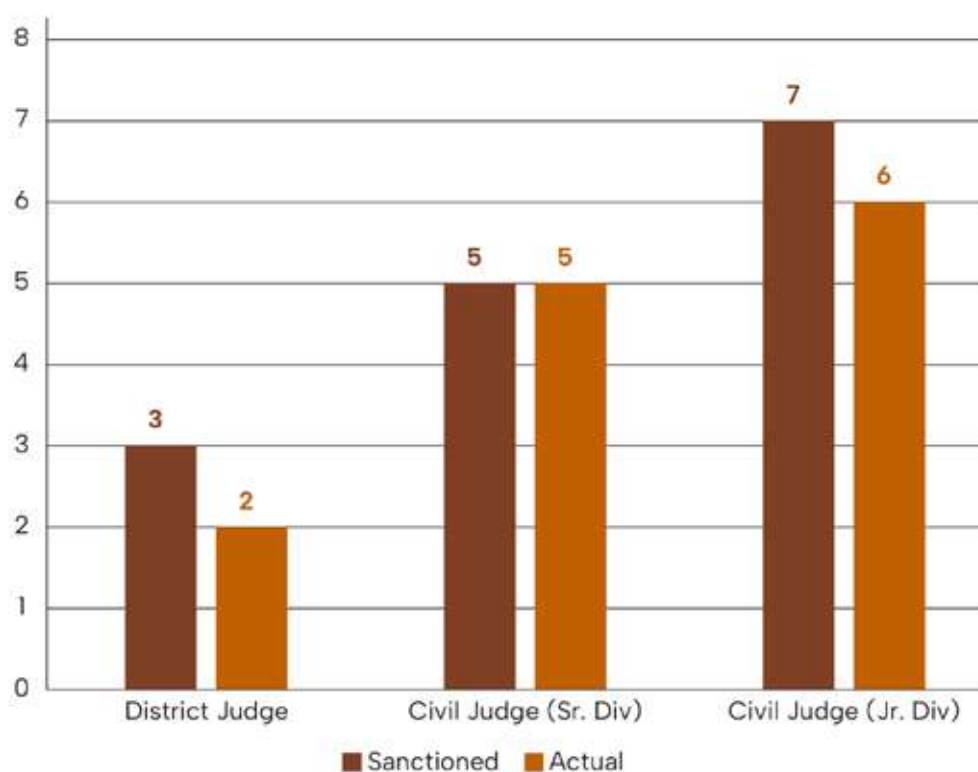
Bottom : Seminar on Grassroot Advocacy and Community Outreach organized by DLSA



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 (Senior Division)	2 [includes 1 Court of Civil Judge (Senior Division)-cum-A.S.J. (Women's Court)]
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	1
Civil Judge (Junior 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	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total
2024	398	10,269	10,667	222	5,314	5,536	237	3,928	4,165	383	11,655	12,038
2025	383	11,655	12,038	305	4,582	4,887	195	3,332	3,527	493	12,783	13,276



MAYURBHANJ



Existing Court
Complex



Proposed Court
Complex



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 seventeen 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. Thirty-Seven different Courts are functioning in the judgship with outlying stations at

Rairangpur, Udala, Karanjia, Betnoti, Morada, Thakurmunda, Rasgovindpur, and Jashipur.

During the year 2025, various legal awareness programmes were organized on different topics and significant days were observed by DLSA, Mayurbhanj. 382 vulnerable witnesses were examined in VWDC. Fifty Five cases were settled in Mediation during the Campaign Mediation for the Nation, Drive-I. The Court and Office of the District and Sessions Judge was inspected on 22.03.2025 by Justice B.P. Satapathy, Administrative Judge of Mayurbhanj judgship.

District Judges during the year 2025



Shri Aurobindo Pattnaik
till 13.05.2025



Shri Sudipta Acharya
15.05.2025 till end of the year

Digitization



Digitization of records at DCDC, Mayurbhanj



Digitised Records of District
Record Room

1,51,443

Pages

1,79,21,135



New court / New Court building

1. Inauguration of the court of Additional District & Sessions Judge, Udala on 10.01.2025
2. Inauguration of the new court building of the Civil Judge(Junior Division)-cum-J.M.F.C, Betnoti on 17.10.2025



Top Row (Left to Right) : Inauguration of new court of Addl. District & Sessions Judge, Udala by the Court

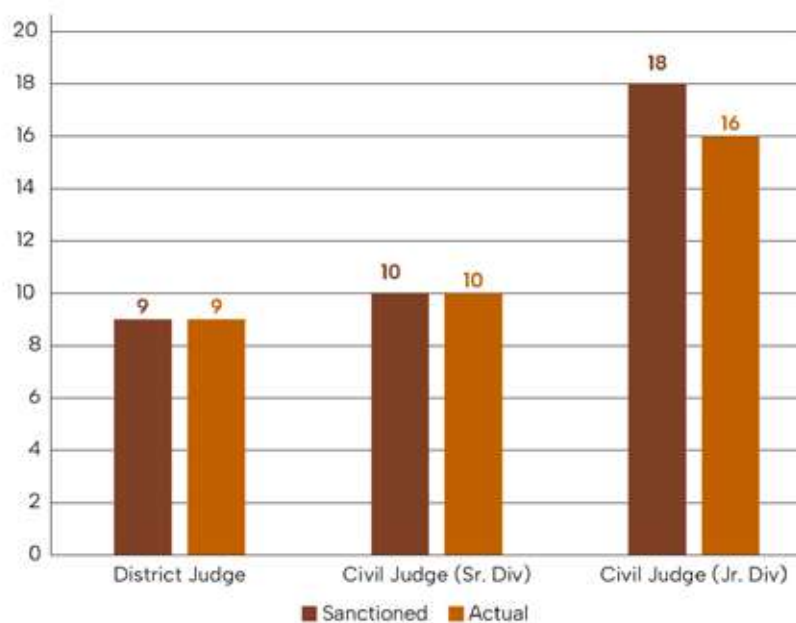
Bottom Row (Left to Right) : Foundation stone of Court building of Civil Judge (Junior Division)-cum-J.M.F.C., at Betnoti, Mayurbhanj laid by the Chief Justice



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+1
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 (Senior Division)	5 [includes 1 Court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) (LR & LTV)]
Addl. Civil Judge (Senior Division)	2
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	4
Civil Judge (Junior Division)-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	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total
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
2025	11,728	61,835	73,563	3,659	17,475	21,134	4,337	15,425	19,762	11,063	64,912	75,975



NABARANGPUR



Existing Court
Complex



Proposed Court
Complex



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 eleven 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. Nineteen different Courts are

functioning in the Judgeship with outlying stations at Umerkote, Raighar, Chandahandi, and Jharigam.

During the year 2025, various legal awareness programmes were organized on different topics and significant days were observed by DLSA, Nabarangpur. Eight cases were settled in Mediation during the Campaign "Mediation for the Nation", Drive-I, 2025.

District Judge during the year 2025



Shri Subrata Mohanty
for the entire year

Digitization



Digitization of records at DCDH, Koraput



Digitised Records of District Record Room **30,338**

Pages

32,85,104

Work in progress:

- New court building of J.M.F.C., Jharigam & J.M.F.C., Chandahandi
- 2 residential B-type quarters for judicial officers at Nabarangpur & Umerkote



Top Row (Left to Right) : Observation of Vanamahotsav week, Mental health intervention by DLSA

Middle Row (Left to Right) : Labour welfare camps at Papadahandi and Kukudabai organized by DLSA, Nabarangpur

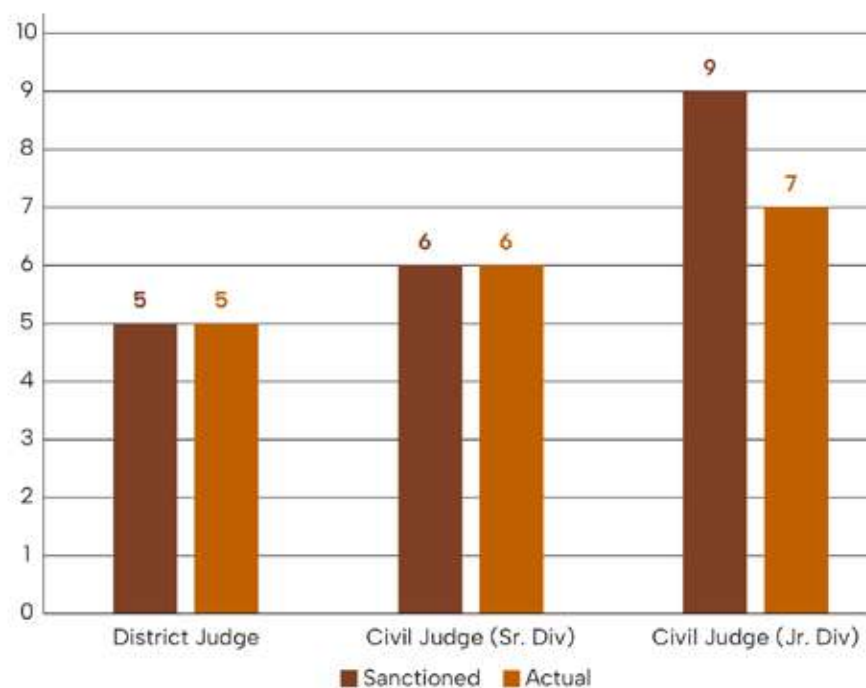
Bottom Row (Left to Right) : Rescue of children by PLVs, Legal awareness stall at District Level Cultural Festival "Mandei" organized by DLSA.



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 (Senior Division)	3 [includes 1 Court of Civil Judge (Senior Division)-cum-A.S.J. (Women's Court)]
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	1
Civil Judge (Junior Division)-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	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total
2024	995	25,489	26,484	425	4,978	5,403	602	7,004	7,606	818	23,463	24,281
2025	818	23,463	24,281	515	5,259	5,774	659	6,976	7,635	674	21,734	22,408



NAYAGARH



Existing Court
Complex



Proposed Court
Complex



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. Twenty Four different Courts are functioning in the judgeship with outlying stations at Daspalla, Khandapada, Ranpur, Odagaon, and Bhapur.

During the year 2025, various legal awareness

programmes were organized on different topics and significant days were observed by DLSA, Nayagarh. Forty cases were settled in Mediation during the Campaign “Mediation for the Nation”, Drive-I, 2025.

The Court and Office of the District and Sessions Judge was inspected on 18.01.2025 by Justice R.K. Pattnaik, Administrative Judge of Nayagarh judgeship

District Judge during the year 2025



Shri Anand Narayan Maharana
for the entire year

Digitization :



Digitization of records at DCDH, Nayagarh



Digitised Records of District Record Room

98,275

Pages

78,91,295



Top row (Left to Right) : District Level Consultation on safeguarding Girl Child organized by DLSA, Nayagarh, Observance of International Labour Day by DLSA, Nayagarh

Middle row (Left to Right) : International Womens Day and World Day against child labour observed by DLSA, Nayagarh

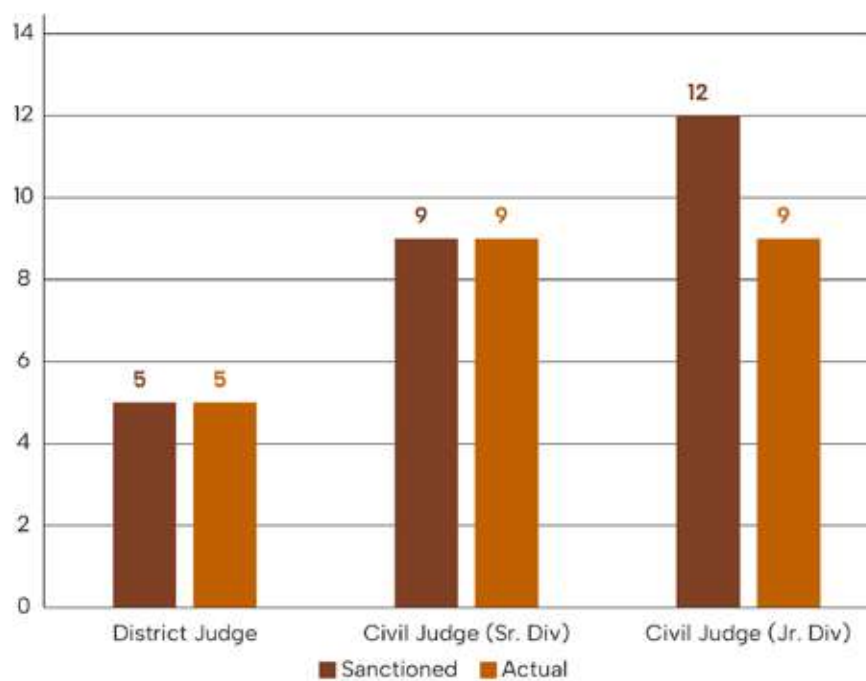
Bottom row (Left to Right) : National Legal Service Day and Constitution Day observed by DLSA, Nayagarh



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 (Senior Division)	6 [includes 1 Court of Civil Judge (Senior Division)-cum-A.S.J. (Women's Court) and 1 Court of Civil Judge (Senior Division)(LR & LTV)]
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	1
Civil Judge (Junior Division)-cum-J.M.F.C.	4
JMFC	5 [includes 1 Court of JMFC (LR & LTV)]
Gram Nyayalaya	1

Number of judges in each court

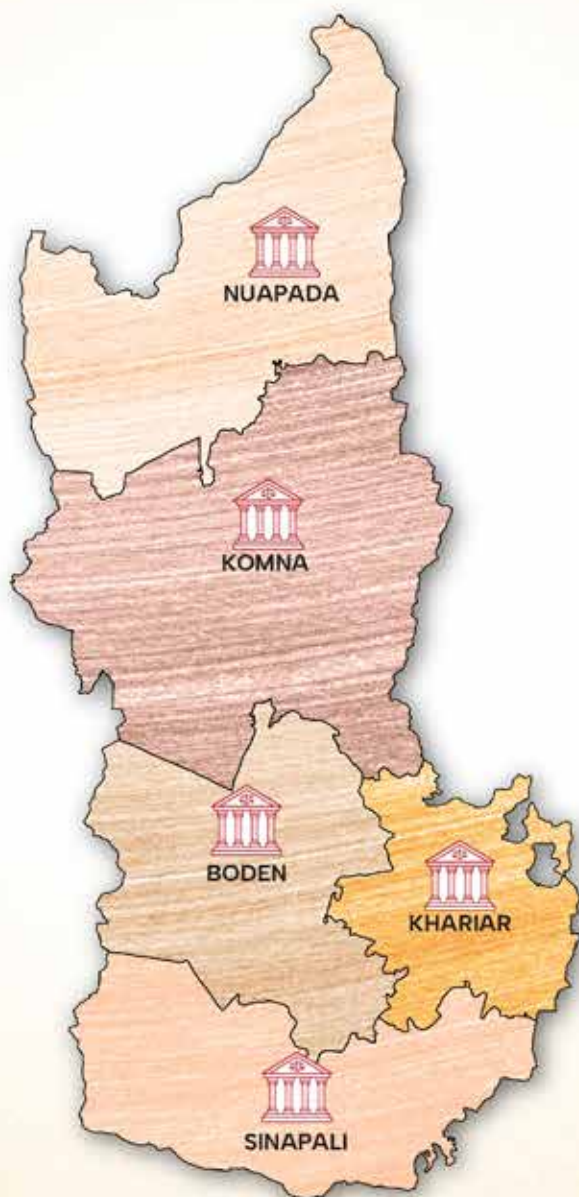


Case Statistics

Year	Opening Balance as on 1st January			Institution during the year			Disposal during the year			Pending Cases at the end of 31st December		
	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total
2024	4,770	25,664	30,434	2,373	9,028	11,401	2,361	7,208	9,569	4,797	27,791	32,588
2025	4,797	27,791	32,588	2,641	7,724	10,365	2,789	7,425	10,214	4,627	28,297	32,924



NUAPADA



Existing Court
Complex



Proposed Court
Complex



The Nuapada judgeship was created 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. 195 witnesses were examined in virtual court & 308 vulnerable witnesses were examined in VWDC. During the year 2025, various legal awareness programmes were organized on different topics and significant days were observed by DLSA, Nuapada. Five cases were settled in Mediation during the Campaign Mediation for the Nation, Drive-I, 2025. The Court and Office of the District and Sessions Judge was inspected on 19.07.2025 by Justice M.S. Sahoo, Administrative Judge of Nuapada judgeship.

District Judge during the year 2025



Shri Niranjan Panda
for the entire year



New court / New Court building

- The Court of Addl. Dist. & Sessions Judge, Khariar on 02.09.2025

Digitization



Digitization of records at DCDH, Kalahandi

Work in progress:-

- Extension of 2nd & 3rd floor of the District Court Building, Nuapada
- Transit House at Komna
- One B-type Judicial quarter at Nuapada



Top Row (Left to Right) : Inauguration of the court of Additional District & Sessions Judge, Khariar, Nuapada, National Lok Adalat organized by DLSA, Nuapada

Middle Row (Left to Right) : District Level consultation on Juvenile Justice and Free Legal Service Camp organized by DLSA, Nuapada

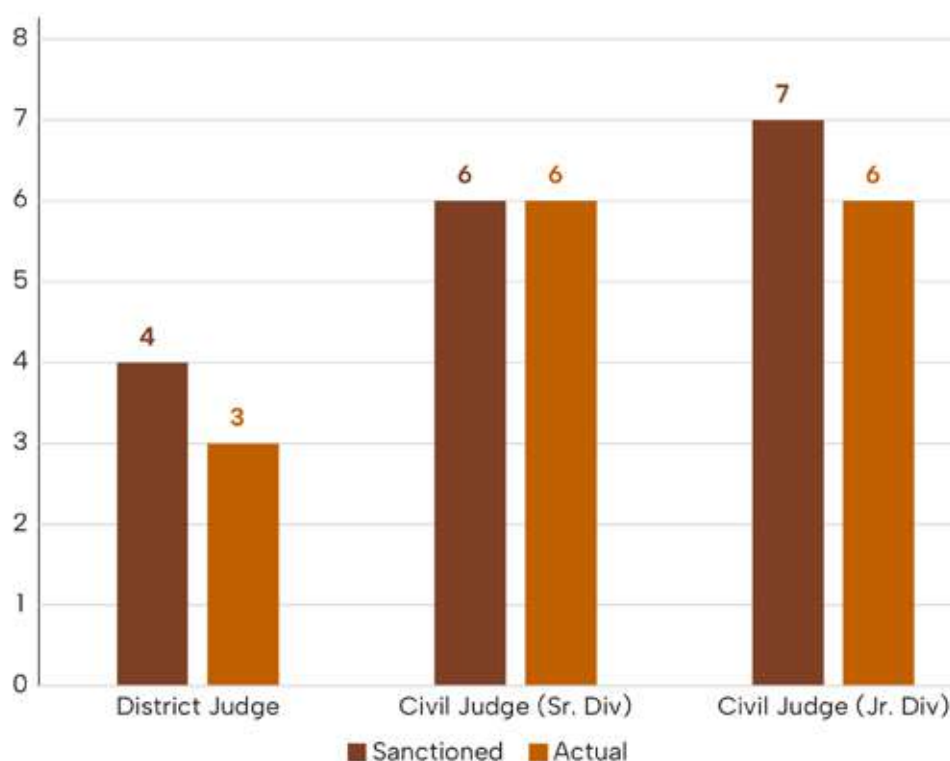
Bottom Row (Left to Right) : Observation of Constitution Day, Legal awareness programme about translated Judgments of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India of common interest organized by DLSA



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+1
Chief Judicial Magistrate	1
A.S.J.-cum-Registrar, Civil Courts	1
Civil Judge (Senior Division)	3 [includes 1 Court of Civil Judge (Senior Division)-cum-A.S.J. (Women's Court)]
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	1
Civil Judge (Junior Division)-cum-J.M.F.C.	2
Addl. Civil Judge (Junior Division)-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	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total
2024	2,500	17,272	19,772	710	4,465	5,175	1,075	4,225	5,300	2,135	17,512	19,647
2025	2,135	17,512	19,647	870	5,157	6,027	964	3,748	4,712	2,009	18,786	20,795



PURI



Existing Court
Complex



Proposed Court
Complex



The judgship of Puri started functioning from 15th July 1957 with its headquarter at Puri. The District Court building was established on 25th April 1971. Thirty-Seven different courts are functioning in the judgship with outlying stations at Nimapara, Pipili, Brahmagiri, Kanas, Konark, Kakatpur and Astarang. The V.C. facilities are available in all courts since 15.08.2025 by adopting the ICT tools to digitize and modernize judicial process by using warrant management system. 297 NBW/

BW were issued by using warrant management system portal. Virtual court hearing, e-filing, e-Seva Kendra, VWDC and remote point V.C. were conducted under e-Court project. During the year 2025, various legal awareness programmes were organized on different topics and significant days were observed by DLSA, Puri. Sixteen cases were settled in Mediation during the Campaign "Mediation for the Nation", Drive-I, 2025.

District Judge during the year 2025



Smt. Ajanta Sadangi
for the entire year



New court / New Court building

- New court building of Gramanyayalaya at Puri on 13.01.2025
- New court building of Gramanyayalaya at Bramhagiri on 22.07.2025
- The Court of Civil Judge (Junior Division)-cum-J.M.F.C, Kakatpur & Civil Judge (Junior Division)-cum-J.M.F.C, Astarang on 22.07.2025

Digitization



Digitization of records at DCDH, Cuttack



Digitised Records of District Record Room

1,87,495

Pages

1,05,73,372

Work in progress:-

- D-type quarters for Judicial officers at Bramhagiri



Top Row (Left to Right) : Legal Awareness stall at Palishree Mela, 2025 at sea beach, Puri; Legal Awareness programme on the occasion of National Girl Child Day

Middle row (Left to Right) : Inauguration of the court of Civil Judge(Junior Divn)-cum- J.M.F.C, Astarang and Civil Judge(Junior Divn)-cum- J.M.F.C, Kakatpur by the Court

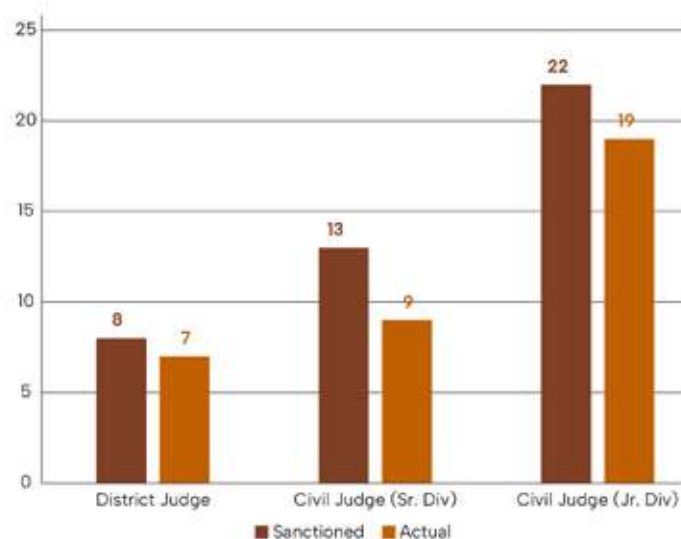
Bottom Row (Left to Right) : Legal awareness rally on National Legal Service Day, Drawing Competition organized by DLSA, Puri



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 (Senior Division)	3
Addl. Civil Judge (Senior Division)	2
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	1
Civil Judge (Junior Division)	2
Civil Judge (Junior Division)-cum-J.M.F.C.	6
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	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total
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
2025	19,956	61,658	81,614	5,214	16,731	21,945	8,985	14,337	20,322	19,742	67,420	87,162



RAYAGADA



Existing Court
Complex



Proposed Court
Complex



The Rayagada judgeship was carved out from the judgeship of Koraput and started functioning from 7th July 2012. Twenty-three 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. During the year 2025, various legal awareness

programmes were organized on different topics and significant days were observed by DLSA, Rayagada. Five cases were settled in Mediation during the Campaign "Mediation for the Nation", Drive-I, 2025. The Court and the Office of the District and Sessions Judge, Rayagada was inspected on 03.05.2025 by Justice A.C. Behera, Administrative Judge of Rayagada judgeship.

District Judge during the year 2025



Shri Satya Narayan Sarangi
for the entire year



New court / New Court building

The Court of Addl. Dist. & Sessions Judge, Bissamcuttack on 08.01.2025

Digitization



Digitization of records at DCDH, Koraput

Work in Progress :

- New District Court building at Rayagada
- New Court building at Kolnara, Bissamcuttack

Work in Completed :

Residential quarters at Bissamcuttack & Kolnara



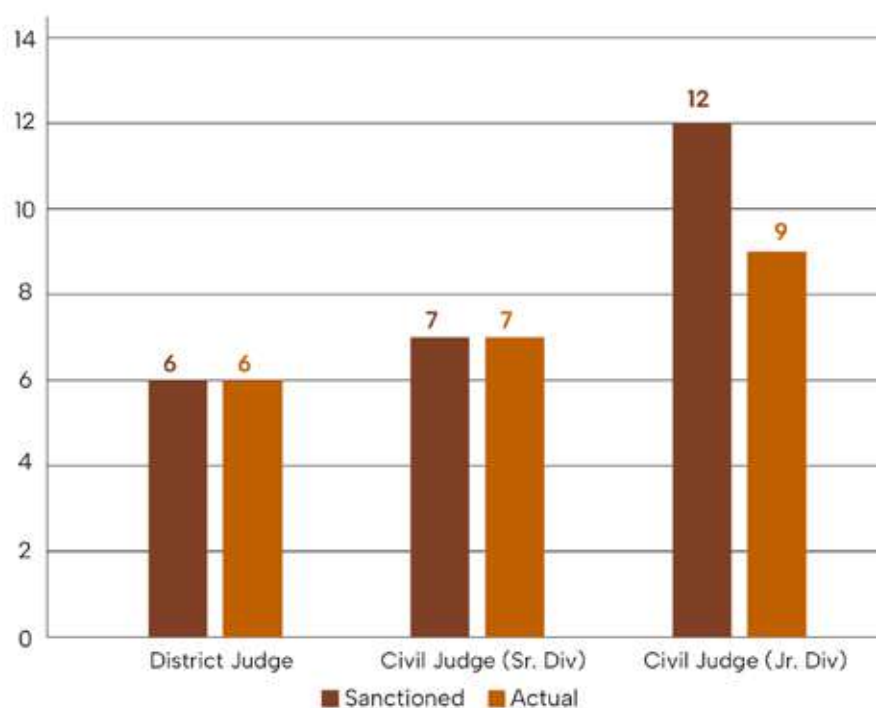
Inauguration of the new court of Additional District & Sessions Judge, Bissamcuttack



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+1
Special Court under POCSO Act	1
Chief Judicial Magistrate	1
A.S.J.-cum-Registrar, Civil Courts	1
Civil Judge (Senior Division)	4 [includes 1 Court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) -cum-A.S.J. (Women's Court)]
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	2
Civil Judge (Junior Division)-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	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total
2024	1,772	17,069	18,841	617	6,732	7,349	709	6,287	6,996	1,680	17,514	19,194
2025	1,680	17,514	19,194	639	6,917	7,556	687	6,641	7,328	1,632	17,790	16,422



SAMBALPUR



Existing Court
Complex



Proposed Court
Complex



After creation of the separate State of Odisha in 1936, a new judgeship named Cuttack-Sambalpur came into being with its headquarter 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 Thirteen Courtrooms. Thirty Eight different courts are functioning in the judgeship with outlying stations at Kuchinda and Rairakhol. The Regional Judicial Academy, Sambalpur imparts regular training to the

Judicial Officers and ministerial staff posted in the cluster districts of Sambalpur, Bargarh, Sonepur, Bolangir, Boudh, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh and Nuapada. 574 witnesses were examined in virtual court and 166 witnesses were examined in VWDC of the Judgeship. During the year 2025, various legal awareness programmes were organized on different topics and significant days were observed by DLSA, Sambalpur. Thirteen cases were settled in Mediation during the Campaign "Mediation for the Nation", Drive-I, 2025. The Court and the office of the District and Sessions Judge, Sambalpur was inspected on 28.03.2025 by Justice Arindam Sinha, Administrative Judge of Sambalpur judgeship.

District Judge during the year 2025



Smt. Pragnya Panigrahi
for the entire year

Digitization :



Digitization of records at DCDH, Sambalpur



Digitised Records of District Record Room

1,24,794

Pages

1,46,22,864



Top Row (Left to Right) : Health Camp organized by DLSA, Sambalpur, Legal service clinic at Zilla Sainik Board organized by DLSA

Middle Row (Left to Right) : Observance of National Voters Day and International Yoga Day, 2025

Bottom row (Left to Right) : Plantation Drive on the occasion of Vana Mahotsav Week, 2025; Drawing Competition for children organized by DLSA, Sambalpur

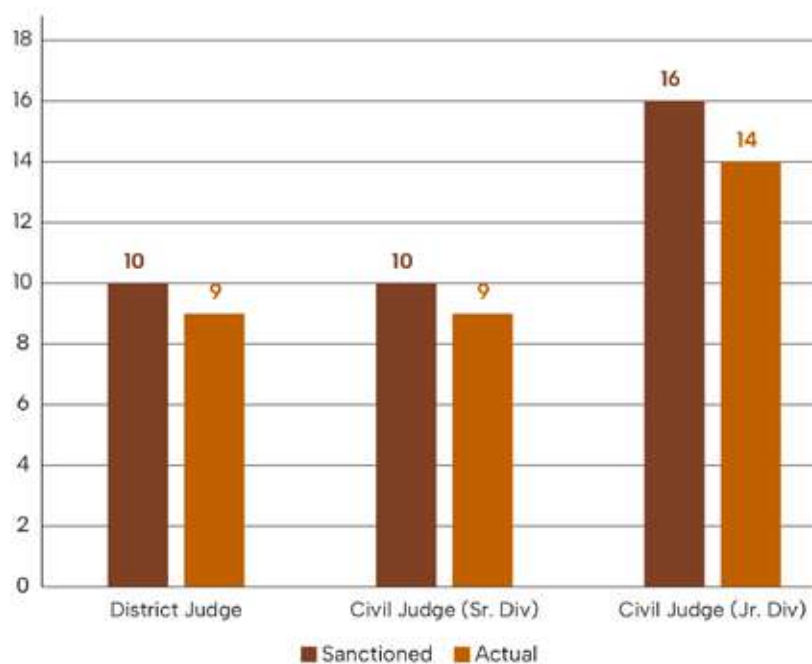
Apart from the District and Sessions Judge, the Judgeship consists of the following courts:

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



Name of the Court	No. of Courts
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 (Senior Division)	5 [includes 1 Commercial Court & 1 Court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) (LR & LTV)]
Addl.Civil Judge (Senior Division)	1
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	3
Civil Judge (Junior Division)	1
JMFC	12 (includes 1 Court of JMFC (LR & LTV), 1 JMFC (T) and 2 Cognizance Taking Courts)

Number of judges in each court

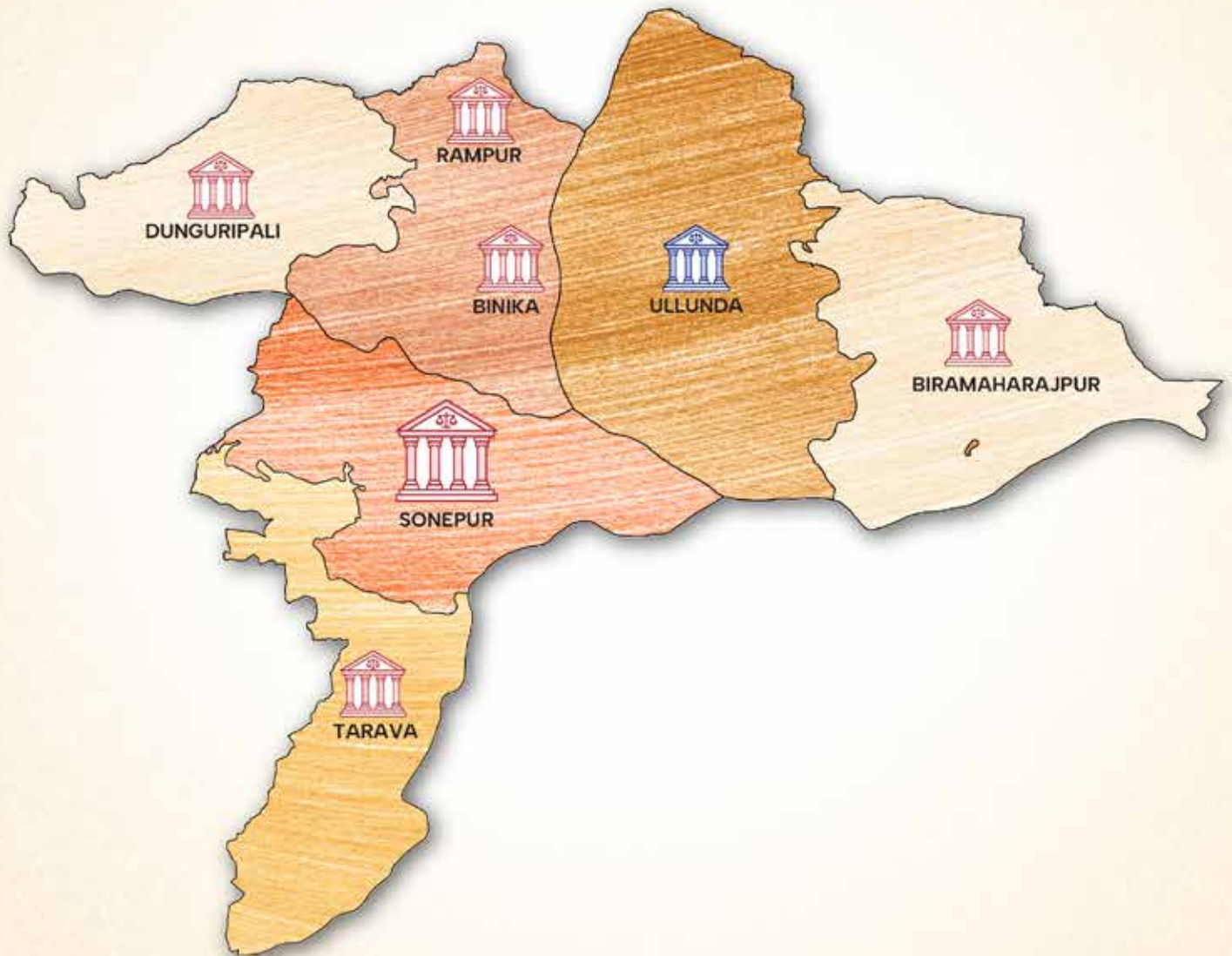


Case Statistics

Year	Opening Balance as on 1st January			Institution during the year			Disposal during the year			Pending Cases at the end of 31st December		
	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total
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
2025	5,450	79,517	84,967	1,738	18,269	20,007	2,229	15,781	18,010	4,947	80,689	85,636



SONEPUR



Existing Court
Complex



Proposed Court
Complex



The Sonapur judgship was established after being separated from the Balangir-Sonapur judgship 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 Witness Deposition Centre. 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. Eighteen different courts are functioning in the judgship with outlying stations at Biramaharajpur, Rampur, Binika, Tarava, and Dunguripali. During the year 2025, various legal awareness programmes were organized on different topics and significant days were observed by DLSA, Sonapur. Thirteen cases were settled in Mediation during the Campaign "Mediation for the Nation", Drive-I, 2025.

District Judges during the year 2025



Shri Rasmi Mohan Acharya
till 10.05.2025



Shri Dhanurdhar Senapati
15.05.2025 till end of the year



New court / New Court building

Inauguration of the Court of Civil Judge (Senior Division), Rampur on 08.02.2025

Digitization



Digitization of records at DCDH, Sonapur



Digitised Records of District Record Room

63,612

Pages

75,52,403



Top Row (Left to Right) : Opening Ceremony of the new court of Senior Civil Judge at Rampur, Sonepur and Observance of International Yoga Day

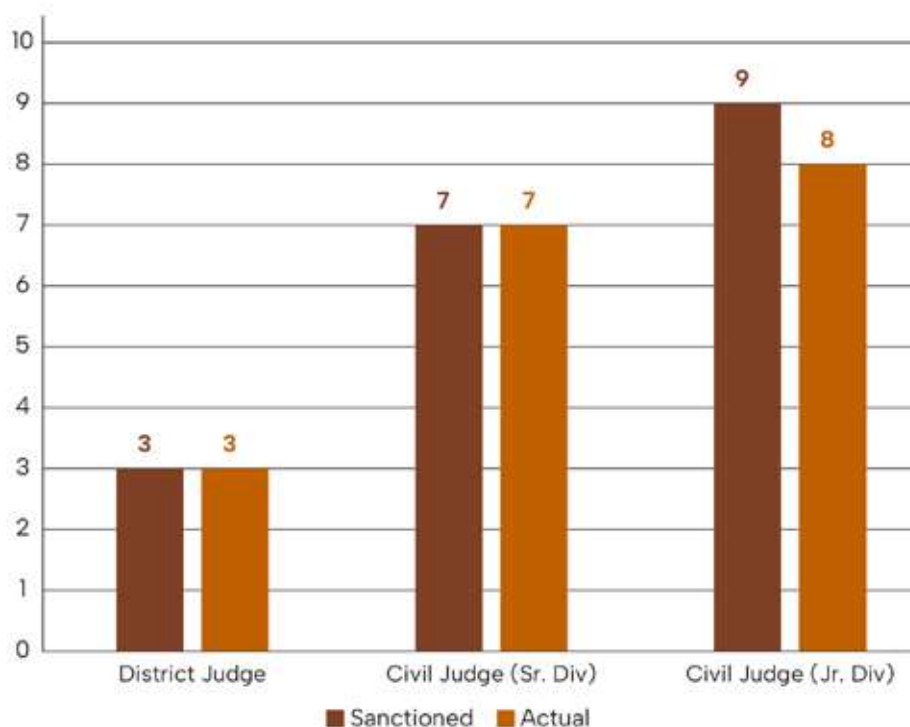
Bottom Row (Left to Right) : Samvidhan Divas Observed by DLSA, Sonepur, Drawing Competition of children organized by DLSA



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 (Senior Division)	3 [includes 1 court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) (Women's Court)]
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	2
Civil Judge (Junior Division)-cum-J.M.F.C.	4
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	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total
2024	2,768	24,721	27,489	543	4,637	5,180	795	7,965	8,760	2,529	21,489	24,018
2025	2,529	21,489	24,018	535	4,044	4,579	637	9,695	10,332	2,443	16,014	18,457



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. Thirty Eight 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. During the year 2025, various legal awareness programmes were organized on different topics and significant days were observed by DLSA, Sundargarh. Six cases were settled in Mediation during the Campaign “Mediation for the Nation”, Drive-I, 2025.

District Judge during the year 2025



Smt. Sikharani Rath
for the entire year



New court / New Court building

- The Court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) (Commercial Court) at Rourkela on 16.05.2025
- The Court of Civil Judge (Junior Division)-cum-J.M.F.C, Koida at Bonai on 25.06.2025

Digitization



Digitization of records at DCDH, Jharsuguda



Digitised Records of District Record Room **1,02,906**

Pages

1,25,50,141

Work in Progress :

Construction of New Court Building at Biramitrapur



Top row (Left to Right) : Inauguration of the court of Civil Judge(Junior Div)-cum-J.M.F.C, Koida and court of Civil Judge(Senior Div)(Commercial Court), Rourkela by the Court

Bottom row (Left to Right) : Observance of International Yoga Day and Vana mahotsava Week, 2025 by DLSA, Sundargarh

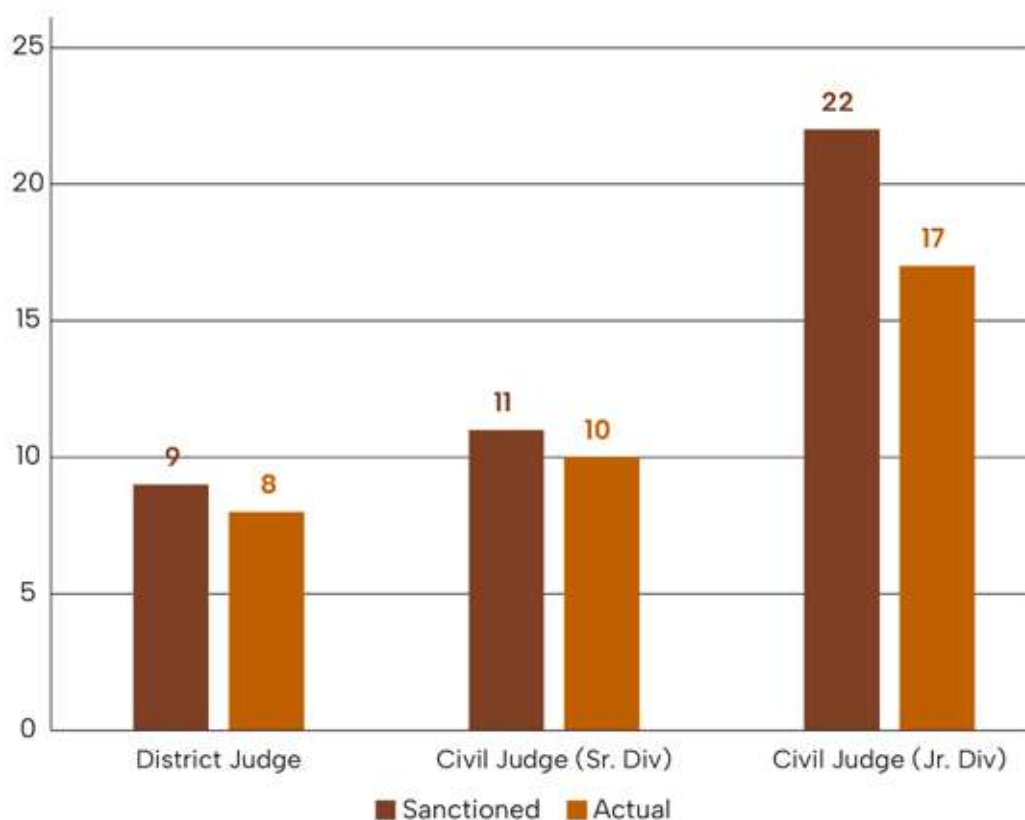
Apart from the District and Sessions Judge, the Judgeship consists of the following courts:

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



Name of the Court	No. of Courts
Civil Judge (Senior Division)	5+1 [includes 1 Civil Judge (Senior Division)-cum-A.S.J. (Women's Court) & 1 Civil Judge (Senior Divn)-Commercial Court]
Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate	3
Civil Judge (Junior Division)	1
Civil Judge (Junior Division)-cum-J.M.F.C.	2+1
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

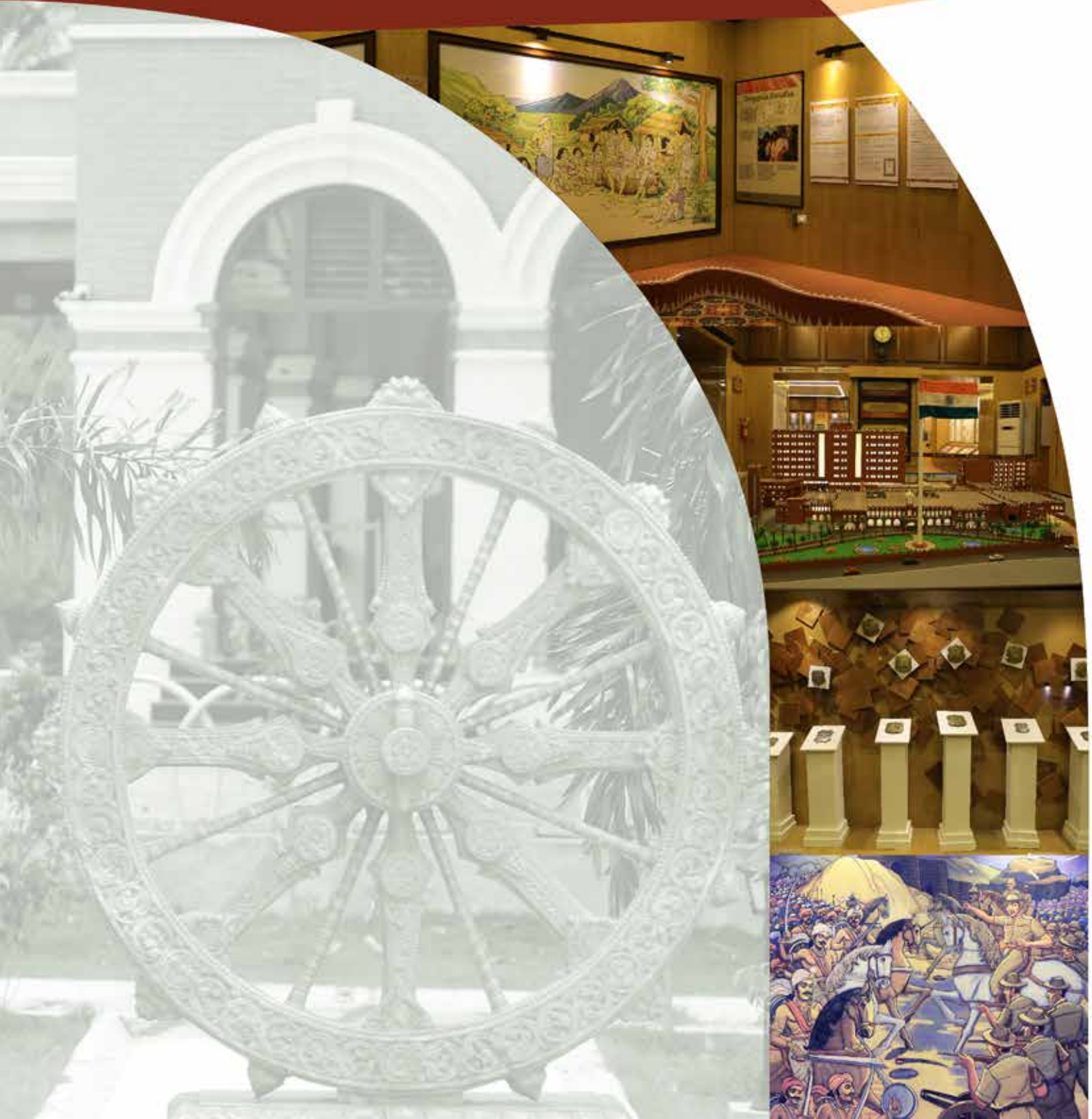


Case Statistics

Year	Opening Balance as on 1st January			Institution during the year			Disposal during the year			Pending Cases at the end of 31st December		
	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total	Civil	CrI	Total
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
2025	10,188	87,488	97,676	2,291	24,908	27,199	3,250	18,102	21,532	9,229	94,294	1,03,523

V CHAPTER

—SIGNIFICANT—
JUDGMENTS





BIRA KISHORE RAY

BORN 21.10.1891

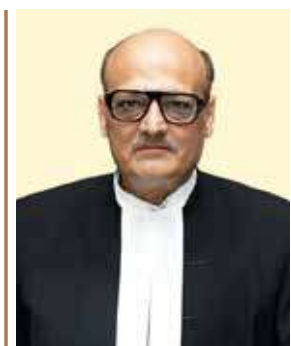
DIED 26.07.1958

FIRST ADVOCATE GENERAL
OF ORISSA PROVINCE
1936 - 1945

JUDGE PATNA HIGH COURT
1945 - 1948

FIRST CHIEF JUSTICE
OF ORISSA HIGH COURT
1948 - 1951

*Statue of Bira Kishore Ray, First Chief Justice of
Orissa Hlgh Court*



Justice Harish Tandon
The Chief Justice

CASE TITLE : DEBIDUTTA MOHANTY VS. STATE OF ODISHA AND OTHERS

CASE NO : W.P.(C) NO.18244 OF 2024

CORAM : Chief Justice Harish Tandon and Justice Murahari Sri Raman

DATE OF JUDGMENT : August 11, 2025

“

HEADNOTES

Odisha Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2016 – Amendment Rules, 2023 – Prospective operation – Settlement of sand sairat – Rights of next highest bidder – Amendment mandating e-auction cannot be applied to tender process initiated prior to amendment – Rejection of application solely on basis of amended Rules held illegal – Matter remanded for reconsideration under unamended Rules.

”

SYNOPSIS

Facts:

- 1) Pursuant to an auction notice dated 8 January 2018 for settlement of a sand sairat, the petitioner emerged as the third highest bidder.
- 2) The highest bidder defaulted in complying with statutory requirements and was disqualified.
- 3) The second highest bidder agreed to match the highest bid and was granted lease, but his eligibility was repeatedly questioned due to defects in his solvency certificate.
- 4) After prolonged litigation, including multiple writ petitions and appeals, the Supreme Court in Civil Appeal No. 4939 of 2022 (decided on 3 March 2023) restored the Collector's order cancelling the lease granted to the second highest bidder.
- 5) Thereafter, the petitioner approached the authority seeking grant of lease as the



next eligible bidder, agreeing to match the highest bid.

- 6) Meanwhile, the Odisha Minor Mineral Concession (Amendment) Rules, 2023, effective from 24 April 2023, introduced a requirement that settlement of sairat mines be conducted only through e-auction, and changed the competent authority.
- 7) Relying solely on the amended Rules, the mining officer rejected the petitioner's application.
- 8) The rejection order was challenged in the present writ petition.

Held :

- 1) The Odisha Minor Mineral Concession (Amendment) Rules, 2023 operate prospectively and cannot govern tender processes initiated prior to their commencement.
- 2) The Mining Officer erred in law by rejecting the petitioner's application solely based on the amended Rules.
- 3) The authority cannot supplement reasons later or justify the rejection on grounds not stated in the impugned order.
- 4) The question whether the petitioner has a vested or enforceable right is left open for consideration by the competent authority under the unamended Rules.

Court's Reasoning

1. Prospective Operation of Amendments :

The Court reiterated the settled principle that statutes and delegated legislation are presumed to operate prospectively, unless retrospective intent is expressly or necessarily implied. The maxim *lex prospicit non respicit* (law looks forward, not backward) was emphasized. Sub-Section (2) of Section 1 of the OMMC

(Amendment) Rules, 2023 clearly states that the Rules come into force from the date of publication, indicating prospective application only.

2. Reliance on Supreme Court Precedents :

The Court relied heavily on *CIT v. Vatika Township* (2015) and *Assistant Excise Commissioner v. Esthappan Cherian* (2021) to affirm that amendments affecting accrued or existing rights cannot be applied retrospectively. It was also noted that delegated legislation cannot be retrospective unless expressly authorized by the parent statute.

3. Consistency with Coordinate Bench Decision :

The Court referred to *Harendra Kumar Pattnaik v. State of Odisha* (2023 SCC OnLine Ori 5643), where a similar issue was decided, holding that amendments to OMMC Rules apply prospectively.

4. Vested Right Argument :

The Court acknowledged the State's argument that mere participation or ranking in a bid does not create a vested right, relying on authorities such as: *Haryana Urban Development Authority v. Orchid Infrastructure*

Indore Vikas Praadhikaran v. Humud Jain Samaj Trust.

However, the Court consciously did not adjudicate this issue because the Mining Officer had not rejected the application on this ground, and Judicial review is confined to the reasons stated in the impugned order, as per *Mohinder Singh Gill v. Chief Election Commissioner*.

5. Illegality in the Impugned Order: -

Since the rejection was based solely on applying the 2023 Amendment order of



the Mining retrospectively, the order was found to be legally unsustainable.

Conclusion –

- 1) The impugned Order is quashed and set aside.
- 2) The competent authority is directed to reconsider the petitioner's claim. strictly in

accordance with the unamended OMMC Rules, 2016.

- 3) Such reconsideration must be completed within one month from the date of communication of the judgment.
- 4) The writ petition is disposed of.
- 5) No order as to costs.

CASE TITLE : SANJIT KUMAR CHOUDHRY VS. STATE OF ODISHA AND ANOTHER

CASE NO : W.P.(CRL) NO. 34 OF 2025

CORAM : Chief Justice Harish Tandon and Justice Murahari Sri Raman

DATE OF JUDGMENT : August 11, 2025

HEADNOTES

Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 – Section 18 – Closure/attachment of premises– Power of Magistrate – Scope of “attachment” and “closure” – Rescue of minor from hotel used for prostitution – Summary preventive jurisdiction – Headnote not controlling substantive provision – Object-oriented and purposive interpretation upheld. to acquiescence – Judicial review limited – Cancellation upheld.

SYNOPSIS

Facts:

- 1) The writ petition challenged an order dated 27 March 2025 passed by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Puri, directing attachment and closure of a hotel/lodge for three years under Section 18 of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956.
- 2) The hotel had earlier been leased to one Chandrakant Pujari, against whom a police case was registered for indulging in immoral trafficking, including prostitution of a minor girl rescued during a police raid.
- 3) After cancellation of the earlier lease, the petitioner became the lessee of the hotel. Despite claiming innocence and lack of involvement in the alleged offence, the petitioner was served a show-cause notice under Section 18.
- 4) Upon consideration of the reply, the Magistrate ordered attachment/closure of the premises for three years, as a minor had been found during the raid.
- 5) The petitioner challenged the order contending that Section 18(1) does not



expressly empower the Magistrate to order “closure” of premises and that the impugned order exceeded statutory limits.

Held :

- 1) The Magistrate possesses the statutory authority under Section 18(1) to order attachment and consequential closure of premises used for prostitution.
- 2) The impugned order of attachment for three years, in view of the rescue of a minor, is within the four corners of the statute.
- 3) The writ petition lacks merit and is dismissed.

Court’s Reasoning :

1) Object and Purpose of the Act :

The Act is a social-welfare legislation enacted pursuant to international obligations, aimed not merely at punishment but at prevention, protection, rehabilitation, and eradication of commercial sexual exploitation, particularly of women and children.

2) Nature of Section 18—Preventive, Not Punitive :

Relying on *A.C. Aggarwal v. Ram Kali* (AIR 1968 SC 1) and *Chitan J. Vaswani v. State of West Bengal* (1975) 2 SCC 829, the Court held that Section 18 is a summary preventive mechanism directed against the premises, distinct from prosecution of offenders under Sections 3 and 7.

3) Interpretation of “Attachment” and “Closure” :

Although the word “closure” does not

explicitly appear in the operative clauses, the expression “attachment” necessarily includes cessation of use, i.e., closure, to achieve the legislative purpose.

4) Headnote vs Substantive Provision :

While marginal notes cannot control clear statutory language, they may guide interpretation where ambiguity exists. Given the acknowledged drafting obscurity in Section 18, a purposive and contextual interpretation is warranted.

5) Protection of Children – Paramount Consideration :

The rescue of a minor from the premises justifies invocation of the extended three-year period provided under Section 18(1) (b). The Court emphasized that allowing such premises to function would defeat the very purpose of the Act.

6) Compliance with Natural Justice :

The Magistrate issued a show-cause notice and considered the petitioner’s reply before passing the order, satisfying procedural fairness.

Conclusion –

- 1) The High Court upheld the Magistrate’s order of attachment and closure of the hotel/lodge for three years, holding that it was lawful, proportionate, and consistent with the object of Section 18 of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956.
- 2) The writ petition was dismissed, with no order as to costs.



Justice Sangam Kumar Sahoo

CASE TITLE : NILAKANTHA PRADHAN V. GOVERNMENT OF INDIA & ORS.

CASE NO : WPCRL NO. 129 OF 2024

DATE OF JUDGMENT : FEBRUARY 19, 2025



Preventive detention order is unconstitutional if all grounds of detention are not communicated to detenu.



The Government of India in exercise of the power under **Section 3(1)** of the **Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988** ('the 1988 Act') passed the order of detention on 23.07.2024, detaining the petitioner in order to prevent him from engaging in illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

As the grounds of detention, the sponsoring authority cited three cases against the petitioner involving offences under the **Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985** ('the NDPS Act') and contended that the petitioner is a habitual drug offender whose presence in the society was a threat to the innocent persons of the locality.

The aforesaid grounds were communicated to the petitioner in compliance with Article 22(5) of the Constitution and **Section 3(3)** of the 1988 Act. The Central Government by virtue of **Section 9(f)** of the 1988 Act, confirmed the said detention on 18.10.2024, directing to

detain the petitioner for a period of one year from the date of detention i.e. 31.07.2024.

Impugning the detention as well as the confirmation orders, the petitioner filed this criminal writ petition before the High Court citing several procedure infirmities committed by the detaining authorities.

The most vital questions which cropped up for consideration were whether the detaining authority took into account the involvement of the detenu only in three NDPS cases as have been mentioned in the grounds of detention or it also considered his involvement in five other cases under the Excise Act and IPC and if the latter is found to be the case, whether the partial withdrawal of grounds of detention relied upon by the authority shall entail the very detention a nullity for being violative of Article 22(5).

The Court noted that the detention order made pointed reference to the detenu being a habitual offender by listing only three criminal



cases under NDPS Act in which the petitioner was involved during the years 2017 to 2024. The opposite parties in the counter affidavit indicated that they have taken into account criminal propensity of the petitioner between the years 2005 to 2024, during which period he was not only involved in the aforesaid three NDPS cases but also was accused in five other cases under the Bihar and Odisha Excise Act and IPC.

Therefore, the Bench held that the sponsoring authority has not only taken into account five other cases apart from the three NDPS cases mentioned in the detention order, but also the detaining authority has reached its subjective satisfaction basing upon eight cases, which were from the year 2005 to 2024 in passing the detention order. Hence, the Court was of

the view that the petitioner was not afforded sufficient opportunity make an effective representation against the said five cases apart from the NDPS case. Accordingly, it concluded:

“The petitioner was kept in darkness that the Detaining Authority has arrived at its subjective satisfaction also basing on those five cases and therefore, he could not have asked for the documents of such cases to file the representation. The conduct of the Authority in debarring the petitioner to make an effective representation violates the constitutional safeguards enshrined under Article 22(5) of the Constitution of India.”

Resultantly, the impugned order of detention along with its confirmation order was quashed and the detenu/petitioner was ordered to be set at liberty.

CASE TITLE : MALAYA RANJAN DASH V. STATE OF ODISHA & ANR.

CASE NO : WP(C) NO. 28874 OF 2023

DATE OF JUDGMENT : MAY 02, 2025

“The Court set aside disciplinary action against a former Registrar General who had registered a suo moto case without the then Chief Justice’s approval.”

The petitioner, **Malaya Ranjan Dash**, a judicial officer in the cadre of District Judge (Super-time Scale), was posted as the Registrar General of the High Court on June 05, 2020. While working as such, on February 26, 2021, he received an order passed by one Division Bench dated February 24, 2021, along with an official note-sheet from the Deputy Registrar (Judicial) [‘the DR (J)’].

Through the note-sheet, the DR (J) urged the petitioner to approve the same in order to give effect to the direction passed by the Division Bench, which had asked the Registry to supply the copy of its order along with brief to certain

Senior Advocates, appointed as Amicus Curiae in that case, by February 26, 2021. Such direction could not have been complied with in the letter and spirit without registering a *suo moto* writ petition.

In order to comply with the direction, the petitioner being the Registrar General promptly endorsed the note-sheet and registered a *suo moto* case. However, the then Chief Justice allegedly expressed displeasure over the manner in which the petitioner proceeded on to register the *suo moto* case without obtaining his approval or at least, bringing the matter to his notice.



He was served with a show cause notice as to why and under which circumstances, he registered the *suo moto* writ petition. A departmental proceeding (DP) was initiated against him on the grounds of gross misconduct, dereliction in duty and administrative indiscipline while dealing with judicial records, and failure maintain absolute honesty and integrity. Subsequently, an Inquiry Committee was constituted to conduct inquiry on the charges levelled against him.

The Inquiry Committee found him guilty of gross misconduct, dereliction of duty and administrative indiscipline while dealing with judicial records, but he was exonerated from the charge of failure to maintain absolute integrity and honesty. He was penalised with the punishment of reduction to the lower grade in the pay, i.e. 'Selection Grade'.

It was also directed that the pay of the petitioner would be fixed at the initial scale of the Selection Grade, and his upgradation to the next higher grade of Super-time Scale would be considered only after **five years**. Being aggrieved by the imposition of the aforesaid major penalty, the petitioner impugned the findings of the Inquiry Authority before the High Court.

The Court queried as to whether there is any rule/law/standing order which mandates the Registrar General to obtain approval of the Chief Justice before registering a *suo moto* case. However, no such written rule could be traced which made it obligatory on the part of the Registrar General to seek Chief Justice's order before formally registering a *suo moto* case on the basis of a judicial order.

The Bench cited the work of **Sir Ivor Jennings** to hold that a practice (in this case, the practice of taking Chief Justice's permission

for registration of *suo moto* case) alone is not enough, it must be normative. The Court observed as follows:

"If there is no codified procedure or rule and no written practice or direction and the petitioner just approved the note sheet placed by Deputy Registrar (Judicial) basing on an unsigned order which was pronounced in open Court and as we have held that such order can be legally operative, it cannot be said it was an act of deliberate misconduct on the part of the petitioner as held by the Inquiring Authority."

Having regard for all the aspects of factual scenario and the governing laws, the Court reached the following conclusion –

*"We are of the view that the action of the petitioner approving the note sheet placed by Deputy Registrar (Judicial) for registration of *Suo Motu* proceeding as per the order passed by the Division Bench in open Court, cannot be said to be gross misconduct, dereliction of duty and administrative indiscipline and the error of judgment or laches or inadvertent mistake, if any on the part of the petitioner in the background of surrounding circumstances which seems to have been done in good faith and especially in the light of his past service record, there is no escape from the conclusion that the punishment imposed on the petitioner is grossly and shockingly disproportionate."*

As a corollary, the Court found the findings of the Inquiry Authority to be 'perverse' and 'untenable' in the eyes of law. Accordingly, it set aside the impugned order and exonerated the petitioner from all the charges. It also asked the State to extend all the service benefits attached to the post of a District Judge (Super-time Scale) with effect from December 21, 2022 to the petitioner.



Justice Krushna Ram Mohapatra

CASE TITLE : M/S BALAJI SOLAR SYSTEMS- M/S UNICORN INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED (JOINT VENTURE) VS. STATE OF ODISHA AND OTHERS.

CASE NO : W.P.(C) No.13631 of 2024

COURT : High Court of Orissa at Cuttack

CORAM : Justice Krushna Ram Mohapatra and Justice Savitri Ratho

DATE OF JUDGMENT : May 27, 2025

EQUIVALENT CITATION : 2025 (II) ILR-CUT-360

“ Preventive detention order is unconstitutional if all grounds of detention are not communicated to detenu. ”

SYNOPSIS

The petitioner, an unsuccessful L3 bidder in the tender for installation of Solar PV Integrated Dual Pump Water Supply Systems (Package-VI) under the Odisha Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Department, challenged the technical evaluation summary dated 3rd February, 2024 and the qualification of Opposite Party No.4 (the L1 bidder). The petitioner alleged serious defects in the L1 bidder's documents, such as; (i) the bid security contained an incorrect bid ID and date; (ii) the Joint Venture Agreement mentioned a wrong bid identification number; (iii) the L1 bidder was wrongly granted MSME exemption without claiming it; (iv) the turnover certificate submitted was fraudulent, and (v) the bidder failed to submit Performance Security (PS) and Additional Performance Security (APS) within

the prescribed time. The petitioner argued, once L1 and L2 were disqualified, it (being L3) should be awarded the contract because L2 had already obtained two other packages and was ineligible for any other package including the present one in view of the conditions stipulated in the Request for Proposal (RFP).

On behalf of the petitioner, learned counsel argued that the bid security furnished by Opposite Party No.4 did not correspond to the correct tender and hence should have led to automatic rejection. He contended that the JV agreement's incorrect bid ID violated Clauses 1.5.3.2 and 1.5.4.2 rendering the bid to be non-responsive. He further asserted that exemption from EMD could only be granted if a bidder expressly claimed it with an exemption certificate—as the petitioner had done—and



that mere uploading of MSME certificates was insufficient. The petitioner also alleged fraud in turnover certificates, as two certificates issued by the same Chartered Accountant showed vastly different figures for the same year. Lastly, the petitioner submitted that the L1 bidder violated tender terms by submitting PS and APS long after expiry of the 15-day deadline, and that the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) for General Election did not prevent such submission.

Opposing the petition, counsel for Opposite Party No.4 submitted that both JV partners were MSMEs, and therefore exempt from EMD under Clause 2(c) of the RFP and the Works Department OM dated 17th January, 2022. The incorrect bid ID in the bid security and JV agreement was an inadvertent clerical error by the issuing bank or draftsman, while the name of the work and other particulars were correct. The Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC), comprising seven experts, had already verified and accepted these documents. On the turnover issue, it was clarified that the certificate dated 19th June, 2022 never formed part of the present bid and was part of a different tender in which that bidder was disqualified; the only valid certificate for this tender was the certificate dated 3rd September, 2023, which was verified and accepted. Regarding PS and APS, counsel argued that the Lol was issued on 15th March, 2024, but MCC came into force the next day, restricting acceptance of contractual securities; hence, Opposite Party No.4 sought time and furnished securities immediately after withdrawal of MCC. The State supported these submissions and argued that technical evaluation decisions should not be lightly interfered with in judicial review.

Upon analysis, the Court held that Opposite Party No.4 was legitimately exempted from

EMD, as Clause 2(c) clearly granted automatic exemption to local MSMEs/Start-ups upon submission of MSME certificates. There was no requirement for filing a separate application praying for exemption. Therefore, even if the bid security furnished was defective, it had no bearing because the bidder was exempted from EMD altogether. The Court further held that the incorrect bid identification number in the JV agreement was a minor, non-material error, especially when the name of the work and all substantive particulars were correctly stated. Relying on precedents such as relied upon the ratio in the case of ***Poddar Steel Corporation Vs. Ganesh Engineering Works and others***, the Court reiterated that minor irregularities causing no prejudice cannot invalidate a bid.

On the turnover issue, the Court found that the certificate dated 19th May, 2022 was never part of the tender and related to a different process; hence, it had no relevance. The turnover certificate actually submitted with the present bid was verified by the TEC and found valid. Regarding delay in PS/APS submission, the Court accepted the explanation of MCC-induced restrictions. It held that the Tender Inviting Authority was competent to extend the time in *bona fide* circumstances and that such extension did not violate tender conditions or public interest.

Consequently, this Court rejected the petitioner's argument for being awarded the contract as L3 as no illegality, arbitrariness, or *mala fides* was found in the evaluation or award to Opposite Party No. 4, The writ petition was dismissed, with the Court affirming that all allegations raised by the petitioner were meritless and that the tender award in favour of Opposite Party No. 4 was lawful and valid.



CASE TITLE : UTKAL ALUMINA INTERNATIONAL LIMITED (UAIL) V. THE PRESIDING OFFICER, LABOUR COURT, JEYPORE, AND 13 OTHERS.

CASE NO : I.A. No -6063 of 2025 arising out of W.P.(C) No.23261 of 2024

COURT : High Court of Orissa at Cuttack

CORAM : Justice Krushna Ram Mohapatra and Justice Savitri Ratho

DATE OF JUDGMENT : September 25, 2025

EQUIVALENT CITATION : 2025 (III) ILR-CUT-494

SYNOPSIS

This interlocutory application under Section 17-B of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 (for brevity 'the Act') was filed by Workmen (Opposite Party Nos. 2-13) seeking last-drawn wages during the pendency of the writ petition filed by their employer, Utkal Alumina International Ltd. (UAIL), challenging the Labour Court's award in ID Case No. 1 of 2018. The dispute originally arose when the workmen, engaged through a contractor (M/s Sri Ram Constructions), claimed that the contractual arrangement was sham and that they were, in reality, employees of UAIL. The Labour Court, after examining evidence, held the contract to be a camouflage and directed UAIL, the principal employer, to absorb the workmen from the date of their termination (01.04.2017), granting them 50% back wages and all consequential benefits. During the pendency of the employer's writ petition challenging this award, the workmen sought protection under Section 17-B of the Act to prevent destitution and ensure subsistence.

On behalf of the workmen, senior counsel Mr. Durga Prasad Nanda contended that Section 17-B is a beneficial provision intended to shield workmen from starvation during prolonged litigation in superior courts. He

argued that although the award uses the word "absorption," the Labour Court's finding that the contract was sham created a direct employer-employee relationship with UAIL, making "absorption" equivalent to "reinstatement" in the real sense of the term. He submitted that reinstatement means restoring a workman to the same position from which he was removed, and in this case, absorption restores them exactly to the positions from which they were terminated. Citing dictionary definitions and precedents, including *Bharat Singh v. Management of New Delhi Tuberculosis Centre*, *Dena Bank v. Ghanshyam*, and *SAIL v. National Union Waterfront Workers*, he argued that the Court must adopt a liberal, purposive interpretation of Section 17-B. Given that the award recognises the principal employer as the real employer, the directive to absorb the workmen necessarily implies reinstating them in their posts i.e., reinstatement. Further, since the workmen have remained unemployed and are suffering hardship during pendency of the writ petition, the Court should invoke the protective mandate of Section 17-B and grant them subsistence wages.

In response, counsel for UAIL, Mr. Biraja Prasad Tripathy, opposed the application by



asserting that Section 17-B is inapplicable because the primary condition an award directing reinstatement is absent. He argued that the Labour Court intentionally used the word “absorption,” not “reinstatement,” and courts cannot substitute one for the other. Relying on the interpretive maxim *expressio unius est exclusion alterius* (to express one thing implies the exclusion of the other), he submitted that when a specific term (“absorption”) is used, the excluded term (“reinstatement”) cannot be read into the award. Further, since the workmen were never directly employed by UAIL but were contract labour under a contractor, reinstatement into the rolls of UAIL is legally impossible, and hence Section 17-B cannot apply. He also pointed out that only a single affidavit of unemployment was filed purportedly on behalf of all workmen, whereas Section 17-B explicitly requires each workman to file a personal affidavit. Thus, it makes the application under Section 17-B defective. He relied on **Deepali Gundu Surwase Vs. Kranti Junior Adhyapak Mahavidyalaya (E.ED.) and others** to highlight the legal distinction between reinstatement and other remedies such as absorption.

The Court, after hearing both parties, undertook a detailed analysis of Section 17-B. It noted that while the provision literally refers to “reinstatement,” courts must interpret beneficial legislation liberally to fulfil its purpose. The Court examined dictionary meanings of reinstatement and considered the implications of the Labour Court’s finding that the contract was sham. Relying on the Constitution Bench judgment in **SAIL** (supra), the Court observed

that once a contract is held to be a camouflage, contract labour must be treated in fact and in law as employees of the principal employer. In such cases, placing the workmen on the rolls of the principal employer from the date of termination effectively restores them to the positions they previously held. Thus, although the Labour Court used the term “absorption,” the direction operates as reinstatement in substance. The Court further held that denying the benefit of Section 17-B based on a technical distinction between these terms would defeat the social welfare objective behind the provision and undermine its protective intent, as explained by the Supreme Court in **Bharat Singh** (supra).

Consequently, the Court held that the direction of “absorption” in this case amounts to reinstatement for grant of benefit under Section 17-B, satisfying the statutory requirement. However, the Court agreed with the contention of the employer that each workman must individually file an affidavit declaring non-employment, which is a mandatory condition. Since only one affidavit had been filed, the Court treated the defect as curable. Ultimately, the Court directed that once Opposite Party Nos. 2–13 file their individual affidavits affirming that they are not gainfully employed, they shall be entitled to receive the benefit of Section 17-B, i.e., full wages last drawn from the date of the Labour Court’s award, and that the employer must release arrears within eight weeks from the date of such filing. With these directions, the interlocutory application was disposed of.



Justice Dixit Krishna Shripad

CASE TITLE : RANJAN KUMAR TRIPATHY VRS. STATE OF ODISHA AND OTHERS

CASE NO : W.P. (C) No. 20875/2025 and batch of cases

DATE OF JUDGMENT : November 27, 2025

SYNOPSIS

Question before the Court:

Whether, MPs and MLAs recommendation to jurisdictional authorities in cases of transfer of teachers of government schools, is valid under the scope of Section 19 and 25 of the 'Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009' ?

Reasoning of the Court:

The scope and nature of transfer guidelines dated 14.05.2025 promulgated by the State Government under Section 19 and 25 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, enjoys statutory force wherein they prescribe mode & modalities for transfer of teachers. Therefore, 'where a power is given to do a certain thing in a certain way, the thing must be done in that way or not at all, and that other methods of performance are necessarily forbidden'¹.

All teachers of Government Schools are civil

servants who shape civilization by inculcating values for social organization & development. Thus, purity in the realm of academics & educational institutions has to be maintained, because 'academic freedom as individual freedom of the teacher, is a projection of ideological and the right to freely disseminate the thoughts, ideas & options of teachers in the exercise of its function.

In words of Mr. Willard E. Givens, 'everyone will agree that our schools can serve our society best if kept free from partisan politics. Separation of education from general municipal government is helpful in doing that. There is no other public service where partisan interference is more disastrous than in education...' ² As in several decisions of transfer taken by the Committee is based only on the recommendation of MPs and MLAs, casting the influence of MPs & MLAs on the members of Transfer Committee. Therefore, the transfer orders based on such

¹Taylor v. Taylor, 1875 LR 1 ChD 426.

²Willard E. Givens, Shall School Systems Be Independent of Other Government Agencies, available at: School Life, Official Journal of the U.S Office of Education, Vol. XXV.



recommendations, are to be treated as having been made extraneous considerations and consequently are liable to be invalidated.

Decision of the Court:

All the petitions were allowed. To safeguard the

student community from being put to prejudice, the teachers already reported for duty at the transferred place should continue till after the expiry of academic year, whereafter the teachers should be resumed to earlier posts as having been given before the transfer.

CASE TITLE : M/S INDIAN METALS AND FERRO ALLOYS LIMITED AND ANOTHER
VRS. STATE OF ODISHA AND OTHERS

CASE NO : W.P. (C) No. 26402/2021

DATE OF JUDGMENT : October 09, 2025

SYNOPSIS

Question before the Court :

1. Whether the demand notices dated 23.07.2021 and 11.08.2021 raising arrears and interest on the footing that water was drawn from "Irrigation Works" instead of "Government Water Source" are legal, valid, and enforceable.
2. Whether the writ petition is maintainable despite the existence of an arbitration clause, alleged disputed facts, and objections relating to delay and laches.
3. Whether the unilateral alteration of the nature of the water source and consequential retrospective levy of higher charges violates statutory provisions, contractual sanctity, and principles of natural justice.

Reasoning of the Court :

The 2014 Agreement was not a purely private contract, but one regulated by the Odisha Irrigation Act, 1959 and the Odisha Irrigation Rules, 1961 involving regulation of a public resource. Relying on 'LIC of India v. Escorts Ltd.'³, the Court held that such agreements have 'abundant public law elements', making writ jurisdiction available.

The arbitration clause vested final decision-

³

⁴

making power in the Government itself. The Court held that relegating the petitioners to such "arbitration" would amount to 'appeal from Caesar to Caesar's wife', rendering the alternate remedy illusory. The Court cited 'Davis v. Mills'⁴ and emphasized that constitutional adjudication should preserve 'practical and substantial rights'.

The rejection of the refund claim and issuance of demand notices without affording an opportunity of hearing violated principles of natural justice, especially when based on Audit Reports and High Level Committee recommendations prepared behind the petitioner's back. Relying on Section 20-A(7) of the Act, Rule 23-A(2)(g), and 'GMR Warora Energy Ltd. v. CERC'¹, the Court held that the State had statutory power to grant concession and refund excess charges in the interest of industrial development.

Decision of the Court:

The Agreements were directed to be treated as involving 'Government Water Source' and not 'Irrigation Works' for allocation and tariff purposes, and the excess amounts collected is to be refunded with interest at 1% per mensem, with additional interest for delay.



Justice Bibhu Prasad Routray

CASE TITLE : CHARAN SINGH HEMBRAM & ORS. V. STATE OF ODISHA & ORS.

CASE NO : W.P.(C) Nos. 37471, 17311, 24191, 24192, 24193, 24194, 26739, 29089, 36444 & 36496 of 2020 (Batch) High Court of Orissa at Cuttack

CORAM : Justice Bibhu Prasad Routray

DATE OF JUDGMENT : June 03, 2025

SYNOPSIS

Background:

The batch of 10 writ petitions challenged the final Gradation List of Assistant Section Officers (ASOs) in the Odisha Secretariat Service published on 11.06.2020. The dispute centred on inter-se seniority among three groups:

1. Direct recruits appointed on 27.01.2016 (mostly ST candidates) selected through a special recruitment drive (Advertisement No. 06 of 2015-16).
2. Direct recruits appointed later on 05.10.2016 (and some in Nov-Dec 2016) through the main recruitment process (Advertisement No. 08 of 2012-13).
3. Existing promotees/inductee ASOs who were already in service before both sets of direct recruits.

The core controversy arose because of the 2016 batch direct recruits (appointed earlier) were placed below the 2012-13 batch direct recruits (appointed later) in the final gradation list, despite joining service earlier.

Key Chronology of Events:

- 30.09.2008→Junior & Senior Assistant posts merged and redesignated as ASO.
- 07.04.2010→Odisha Secretariat Service (ASO) Rules, 2010 came into force.
- 06.10.2012→OPSC Advertisement No. 08 of 2012-13 for 811 ASO posts (main recruitment).
- Due to litigation (OAT directions capping total reservation at 50%), the 2012-13 process got delayed.
- 14.05.2015→Separate Advertisement No.



- 06 of 2015-16 issued exclusively for 140 ST candidates.
- 27.01.2016→136 ST candidates (2015-16 batch) appointed.
- 05.10.2016→787 candidates from 2012-13 batch appointed.
- 11.01.2017 →New Odisha Secretariat Service Rules, 2016 came into force (superseding 2010 Rules).
- 11.06.2020→Final Gradation List published placing 2012-13 batch above the earlier-appointed 2015-16 ST batch and promotees.
- Rule 17 of the 2010 Rules also refers to officers appointed in a particular calendar year, where two separate select lists exist within the same year, precedence should be given to the select list which came into existence and was acted upon earlier.
- The ST candidates selected under Advertisement No. 06 of 2015-16 were recommended on 22 December 2015 and appointed on 27 January 2016, whereas the candidates under Advertisement No. 08 of 2012-13 were selected later and appointed on 5 October 2016.

Core Legal Issues :

1. Whether promotees and inductee ASOs appointed earlier are entitled to seniority over direct recruits appointed later.
2. Whether seniority of ASOs is to be determined as per the 2010 Rules (in force at the time of initiation of recruitment and appointment of 2015-16 batch) or the 2016 Rules (in force when the 2012-13 batch was appointed).
3. Whether the date of appointment or date of initiation of recruitment process/vacancy year determines inter-se seniority between direct recruits of different batches.
- Consequently, the earlier-appointed direct recruits could not legally be placed below the later-appointed batch.
- The Court rejected the contention that the expression "year" should be interpreted as "recruitment year" instead of the calendar year defined under the Rules.

Operative Order:

- All writ petitions were allowed.
- The court directed to revise the Final Gradation List dated 11 June 2020.
- Promoters and inductees were placed en bloc senior to direct recruits for the relevant recruitment year.
- Among direct recruits, those appointed on 27 January 2016 and 18 May 2016 pursuant to Advertisement No. 06 of 2015-16 are senior to those appointed on 5 October 2016 and thereafter pursuant to Advertisement No. 08 of 2012-13.
- The State Government was directed to re-fix the seniority of the petitioners accordingly.

Findings & Decision of the Court:

Justice B.P. Routray held:

- Rule 17 of the 2010 Rules clearly provides that promotees/inductees are to rank en bloc senior to direct recruits.
- Since the promotees and inductees had entered service before the direct recruits, they were entitled to seniority above them.
- The State Government was directed to re-fix the seniority of the petitioners accordingly.



CASE TITLE : UPENDRA KUMAR MOHAPATRA AND ANOTHER VS. PRADIP KUMAR MOHAPATRA AND OTHERS

CASE NO : FAO No. 395 of 2018 High Court of Orissa at Cuttack

CORAM : Justice Bibhu Prasad Routray

DATE OF JUDGMENT : June 03, 2025

Appeal From:

Judgment dated 30.01.2018 by the 2nd Additional Senior Civil Judge, Bhubaneswar, in C.S. No. 456/2012 (arising from Test Case No. 16/2006)

Background:

The appellants (grandsons of the testator, late Abhiram Mohapatra) filed a probate application under the Indian Succession Act, 1925, seeking probate of a registered will dated 09.11.2004, whereby the testator bequeathed his 1/4th share in ancestral property (as determined in a prior partition suit) to them. The testator died on 02.05.2005. Respondent No. 1 is the testator's son (father of the appellants), and Respondents Nos. 2-4 are his daughters, who contested the will's execution. The District Judge delegated the non-contentious probate proceeding to the Principal Senior Civil Judge, who further sub-delegated it to the 2nd Additional Senior Civil Judge. The lower court dismissed the probate application on merits, disbelieving the appellants' contentions.

Grounds of Appeal:

1. The appellants did not challenge the factual merits but confined their appeal

to jurisdictional issues under the Indian Succession Act, 1925, reserving the right to contest merits later. Key contentions:

2. A District Delegate (Senior Civil Judge) lacks jurisdiction to grant probate in contentious cases (Sections 265, 286, and 288).
3. The proceeding became contentious upon contest by Respondents Nos. 2-4, requiring return of the application to the District Judge.
4. Sub-delegation from the Principal Senior Civil Judge to the Additional Senior Civil Judge was impermissible, as delegation is not authorized unless expressly permitted.

Respondents countered that:

1. The appellants failed to raise jurisdictional objections at the earliest in the trial court, invoking Section 21 of the CPC to bar the challenge.
2. Under Section 2(b) of the Orissa Civil Courts



Act, 1984, "Civil Judge (Senior Division)" includes Additional Civil Judge (Senior Division), validating the sub-delegation.

Key Issues Framed by the Court:

1. Whether a District Delegate can exercise jurisdiction in contentious probate cases or sub-delegate amid trial.
2. Duty of the District Delegate when a proceeding becomes contentious (per Chapter IV, Part IX of the Indian Succession Act, 1925).
3. Whether jurisdictional objections can be raised in appeal if not raised at the trial court's first instance.

Court's Analysis and Findings:

- **On Jurisdiction in Contentious Cases:** Relying on Sections 264-266, 286, and 288 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925, the court held that District Delegates (e.g., Senior Civil Judges) are empowered only for non-contentious probates. In contentious cases (defined as opposition by any party), the Delegate must return the petition to the presenter for re-presentation to the District Judge, unless impounded for justice. Citations included P.J. Francis vs. P.J. Verghese (1956) 2 MLJ 288 and Atma Ram vs. Janki (AIR 1998 HP 14), emphasizing that contentious matters revert to the District Judge. The lower court erred by proceeding on merits despite admitted contention.
- **On Sub-Delegation:** The court applied the principle *delegatus non potest delegare* (a delegate cannot sub-delegate without

express authority). While the District Judge could delegate to the Principal Senior Civil Judge under Section 18 of the Orissa Civil Courts Act, 1984, and the High Court's notification dated 22.11.1961, further sub-delegation to the Additional Senior Civil Judge was unauthorized. References included *Mangulal Chunilal vs. Manilal Maganlal* (AIR 1968 SC 822) and *Sahni Silk Mills (P) Ltd. vs. Employees State Insurance Corporation* (1994) 5 SCC 346. The inclusive definition in Section 2(b) of the Orissa Civil Courts Act does not extend to sub-delegation in probate matters.

- **On Raising Jurisdiction in Appeal:** Section 21 CPC applies to territorial or pecuniary jurisdiction objections, requiring early raising and proof of injustice. However, here the issue was inherent lack of jurisdiction (a nullity), rendering the lower court's decision void ab initio. Citing *Kiran Singh vs. Chaman Paswan* (AIR 1954 SC 340) and *K. Shankar Rao Dora vs. T. Boishnab Dora* (1986 OnLine Ori 167), the court held that such defects strike at the root and can be challenged anytime, even without prior objection, as they cannot be cured by consent.

Decision:

The impugned judgment was set aside as a nullity due to jurisdictional defects. The matter was remanded to the District Judge, Bhubaneswar, for fresh adjudication from the stage of framing issues, with directions to decide expeditiously. The entire record was to be transmitted within two weeks. The appeal was disposed of accordingly, without costs.



Justice Sanjeeb Kumar Panigrahi

CASE TITLE : X VERSUS STATE OF ODISHA AND ORS.

CASE NO : W.P.(C) No. 5396 of 2025

DATE OF JUDGMENT : March 03, 2025

HEADNOTES

Constitutional Law–Reproductive Rights–Bodily Autonomy–Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971–Minor rape survivor with specified disabilities (Sickle Cell Anaemia and Epilepsy)–Pregnancy beyond 24 weeks–Interpretation of Sections 3, 3(2B), 3(2C) and 5 MTP Act–Termination beyond 24 weeks permissible where necessary to save life or prevent grave injury to physical and mental health–Presumption of grave mental injury in pregnancies arising out of rape–Article 21–Privacy, dignity, decisional autonomy and reproductive choice–Judicialisation of access to abortion deprecated–Court intervention in exceptional circumstances–Directions to State to frame Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for MTP cases, ensure timely, non-bureaucratic access, counselling support, and sensitisation of police and legal services.

BODY OF SYNOPSIS

The writ petition was filed by the father of a 13-year-old girl “X”, a Scheduled Tribe minor suffering from Sickle Cell Anaemia and Epilepsy, both recognised disabilities under the RPwD Act, 2016. In August 2024, she was repeatedly raped by an accused from her village and, due to threats, could not disclose the assaults. A subsequent medical examination, prompted by her deteriorating health, revealed a six-month pregnancy, beyond the 24-week limit under

the MTP Act. An FIR was registered under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 read with Section 6 POCSO; medico-legal reports confirmed the pregnancy and comorbidities. She was admitted to MKCG Medical College, Berhampur, where doctors opined that continuation of the pregnancy posed serious risks to her life and health.

The petitioner sought constitution of a Medical Board and permission to terminate



the pregnancy notwithstanding the gestational bar. Pursuant to an interim order, a Board was constituted at MKCG, which unanimously concluded that continuation would involve life-threatening complications and severely affect X's physical and mental well-being, recommending immediate termination. It was argued that compelling her to continue the pregnancy would violate Article 21 and cause grave injury to her health within Sections 3(2)(b)(i), 3(2B) and 5 of the MTP Act, with Explanation 1 creating a presumption of grave mental anguish in pregnancies resulting from rape. Reliance was placed on *X v. Union of India (2023)* and a Chhattisgarh High Court decision permitting termination of a 28-week pregnancy of a minor rape survivor with Sickle Cell Anaemia.

The State did not oppose the relief, emphasising that the Medical Board was validly constituted under Section 3(2C) of the MTP (Amendment) Act, 2021 and had unanimously recommended termination to safeguard the minor's life and health. Denial of termination, it accepted, would subject the child to severe trauma contrary to constitutional guarantees and binding precedent.

Examining Sections 3 and 5 MTP Act in light of *X v. Union of India (2023)*, the Court held that this case fell squarely within the permissible category beyond 24 weeks, given the grave risk to life and health, the rape-based pregnancy (attracting the presumption of grave mental injury), and increased likelihood of substantial foetal abnormalities due to hereditary conditions. Finding no legal or medical impediment, the Court grounded its conclusion in Article 21, drawing on *K.S. Puttaswamy (2017)* and *Suchita Srivastava (2009)* to reaffirm reproductive choice, privacy, dignity and bodily integrity.

Relying on comparative jurisprudence such as *R v. Morgentaler (1988)*, the Court underscored that abortion is fundamentally about individual conscience and bodily autonomy, with guardians acting in the best interests of minors. It criticised the systemic tendency of healthcare providers to "export" responsibility to courts, thereby judicialising access and creating extra-legal barriers like "court certificates", contrary to the statutory scheme and decisions such as *X v. State of Maharashtra (2019)* and the NLSIU study on abortion barriers.

Allowing the petition and directing immediate termination of X's pregnancy, the Court issued broader institutional directions. It mandated that the Health and Family Welfare Department, Government of Odisha, frame within six months a comprehensive SOP on MTP, aligned with *X v. Union of India*, to be drafted with medical and legal experts and circulated to all healthcare institutions. The SOP must ensure timely, non-bureaucratic access, minimise unnecessary court referrals, and provide mandatory psychological counselling, including child-psychologist support. The Court also directed periodic review of SOP implementation and sensitisation of police and DLSAs so that rape survivors with unwanted pregnancies receive early legal and medical assistance.

The judgment thus reaffirms reproductive choice and bodily autonomy as indispensable facets of Article 21, especially for vulnerable minor survivors burdened by both sexual violence and disability. It highlights that where the statutory thresholds of the MTP Act are satisfied and a duly constituted Medical Board endorses termination, access to such care flows as a matter of right and judicial intervention should no longer be treated as a precondition to lawful medical care.



CASE TITLE : KHETRABASI BEHERA & ORS. VERSUS STATE OF ODISHA & ORS.

CASE NO : W.P.(C) No. 12057 of 2023 (with batch matters)

DATE OF JUDGMENT : November 14, 2025

HEADNOTES

Constitutional Law – Right to Shelter – Slum Rehabilitation – Article 21 – Occupation of Government land does not create title or an indefeasible right to remain; the right to shelter means reasonable housing and rehabilitation, not a right to encroach – Slum rehabilitation schemes and beneficiary contribution are matters of policy within the executive domain and will not be interfered with in judicial review absent manifest arbitrariness – Identification as beneficiaries, allotment of alternative housing and provision of transit accommodation satisfy requirements of natural justice, and individual hardship of a few non-compliant occupants cannot be allowed to stall a larger public housing and rehabilitation programme

BODY OF SYNOPSIS

The writ petitions were filed by residents of Shantipalli Basti, Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar, who claimed that they and their forefathers had been living on the site for three generations. They asserted recognition as slum dwellers through ration cards, voter IDs, Aadhaar, civic amenities, schools and Anganwadi centres. Alleging that the authorities were using loudspeaker announcements to compel them to vacate without statutory notice, they sought settlement of land and protection under the Odisha Land Rights to Slum Dwellers Act, 2017 and the State's "Jaga Mission", relying heavily on *Olga Tellis (1985)* and this Court's directions in *Rutupurna Mohanty (2010)* on rehabilitation of slum dwellers.

The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) and Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) controverted any absolute entitlement to land. They pointed out that the earlier guidelines relied on by the petitioners stood superseded by the statutory

and policy framework of the 2017 Act read with PMAY-Urban. Under an in-situ slum redevelopment project "Shanti Nagar Awas Yojana", land measuring Ac.19.395 dec. at Mouza-Satya Nagar had been transferred to BDA for construction of 1,300 EWS dwelling units in PPP mode. BMC's survey identified about 1,300 eligible beneficiaries; 560 flats under Phase-I had been constructed and 462 allotted, subject to a beneficiary contribution of Rs.1,50,000/- per unit fixed by the SLSMC. Transit accommodation with essential amenities was also arranged pending relocation. Many beneficiaries had accepted allotments and moved; a smaller group, including some petitioners, either did not pay their contribution or refused to vacate, thereby blocking further construction.

The Court held that long-standing, even ancestral, occupation of Government land remains unauthorized and does not confer title or an indefeasible right to continue



in possession. The right to shelter under Article 21 is a right to reasonable housing and rehabilitation, not a charter to perpetuate encroachment in the teeth of a structured redevelopment scheme. The Odisha Land Rights to Slum Dwellers Act, 2017 was characterised as a transformative statute that channels slum dwellers into a planned urban framework through identification, conferment of rights or alternative rehabilitation, and phased redevelopment, without legitimising indefinite encroachment.

Examining PMAY-Urban and the decisions of the SLSMC, the Court found the beneficiary contribution of Rs.1,50,000/- neither confiscatory nor arbitrary. It reflected a reasoned policy choice harmonised with the tripartite funding structure of Central, State and beneficiary contribution, softened by institutional credit support arranged by BDA/BMC. In line with settled principles, the Court refused to substitute its judgment for that of expert bodies in economic policy matters.

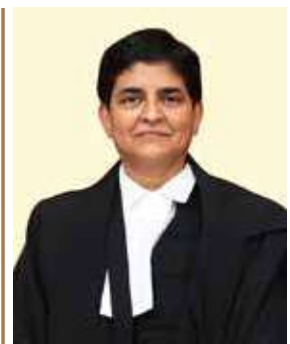
On the plea of violation of natural justice, the Court noted that the petitioners had been surveyed, identified as beneficiaries, issued allotment orders, offered transit housing with basic facilities and provided access to bank finance. In this factual landscape, the absence of a particular form of notice under encroachment law, and the reliance on loudspeaker announcements, did not invalidate the process. Fairness had been substantively achieved and Article 21 requirements, as articulated in *Olga Tellis (1985)* and *Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (1997)*, were fulfilled, if not surpassed, by a comprehensive, budgeted and humane rehabilitation scheme.

Balancing individual hardship with the larger public interest, the Court held that a small group

of unwilling petitioners could not be permitted to hold up completion of housing for a much larger number of eligible families. It upheld the transfer of land to the BDA and the decisions of the SLSMC, directed the petitioners to move to the notified transit accommodation within a fixed time, asked the authorities to extend suitable financial assistance to those unable to pay their contribution at once, vacated the interim order of status quo insofar as it blocked further construction, and directed that a Monitoring Committee on the model of *Shantistar Builders (1990)* be constituted to oversee the fairness of allotment, the adequacy of transit facilities and the facilitation of financial support.



Preamble of the Constitution of India displayed at gallery of the Constitution of OSLSA



Justice Savitri Ratho

CASE TITLE : M/S. NANDA INFRA CONSTRUCTION PVT.LTD. -VS-STATE OF ODISHA & ORS.

CASE NO : W.P. (C) NO.5790 OF 2024 & W.P.(C) NO.5535 OF 2024

CORAM : Hon'ble the Chief Justice, Hon'ble Miss Justice Savitri Ratho,
Hon'ble Mr Justice Sibho Sankar Mishra

DATE OF JUDGMENT : January 15, 2025

Administrative Law – Tender –Cancellation of tender before acceptance– Applicability of principles of natural justice – Requirement of reasons –Held, L1 bidder has no vested right before acceptance of its bid – Scope of judicial review – Decision in the case of Mohinder Singh Gill and Sudhir Kumar Singh do not apply in the facts of the case.

SYNOPSIS

Facts:

The petitioner participated in bids for works relating to widening and strengthening the Bhawanipatna/Khariar road and was declared as the L1 bidder when financial bids were opened on 09.11.2023. The Engineer-in-Chief (Civil), Odisha recommended approval of the petitioner's bid on 23.11.2023, as required under Note-I of para 6.3.15 of the OPWD Code. However, by notice dated 01.03.2024, the Invitation for Bids (IFB) for both works

was cancelled. Challenging the cancellation, the petitioner argued that no opportunity of hearing was provided to the petitioner and no reasons for cancellation were disclosed. As the Division Bench hearing the matter disagreed with certain earlier High Court decisions cited by the petitioner, the following questions were referred for consideration by a larger Bench :

i.) *Whether the observations made by the Supreme Court in paragraph-8 of the decision in **Mohinder Singh Gill vs***



The Chief Election Officer: AIR 1978 SC 851 has application to test the correctness of a purely administrative order by an authority, which is State within the meaning of Article-12 of the Constitution of India, cancelling a tender process before acceptance of the bid of a tenderer?

- ii.) Whether there is any requirement of giving an opportunity of hearing or prior notice to the highest / lowest bidder, before cancellation of tender notice keeping in mind the settled legal position that such bidder does not acquire any vested right to have the auction confirmed in his favour on that basis alone?
- iii.) Whether the Supreme Court decision in case of **Sudhir Kumar Singh** (supra) on the point of compliance of principles of natural justice is applicable when a tender process is cancelled prior to confirmation of tender / auction in favour of a bidder?
- iv.) Whether the Division Bench in case of **M/s. Bansal Infraprojects Pvt. Ltd** (supra) has correctly applied the Supreme Court's decision in case of **Sudhir Kumar Singh** (supra)?
- v.) Whether it is permissible for the High Court exercising power of judicial review under Article 226 of the Constitution of India to direct the State or its instrumentalities to accept the bid of the

lowest/highest bidder, upon interfering with the order of cancellation of tender on the ground of violation of principles of natural justice or such order not being a reasoned one?"

Reasoning:

The law declared by the Supreme Court is binding on all the Courts but the *ratio decidendi* of a decision has to be kept in mind. The Supreme Court itself has cautioned the High Courts in a number of cases that its judgments should be applied after due examination of the facts and circumstances of the case. The observations in paragraph 8 of the judgment in **Mohinder Singh Gill** (supra), are not applicable to an administrative order passed by a tendering authority cancelling the tender notice, when contract has not been awarded to any of the bidders whether highest/ lowest as in the absence of a contract, no vested right accrues in favour of the highest/lowest bidder. In the case of **Sudhir Kumar Singh** (supra), the agreement had been entered into between the U.P. State Warehousing Corporation and the contractor for execution of work under the tender and the petitioner therein had started work and after about one year, on the basis of two complaints, an *ex parte* enquiry was conducted and the tender was cancelled and disciplinary proceedings initiated against certain employees of the Corporation. After referring to a number of decisions, the Supreme Court held that where a right has accrued in favour of a party on account of issue of LoA / execution of an



agreement or contract, it is necessary to hear such bidder and record reasons in the order of cancellation and communicate the same to him. But the lowest or highest bidder does not have any right to be heard and reasons are not necessary to be mentioned in the order before issuance of LoA or execution of contract.

Conclusion /Answers of the full bench

- i) A purely administrative order passed by an authority, does not require recording of any reason and this includes an order in the nature of cancellation of a tender process/notice where a bid has not been accepted. Hence the observations of the Supreme Court in paragraph-8 of the decision in ***Mohinder Singh Gill vs The Chief Election Officer: AIR 1978 SC 851***, will not have any application.
- ii.) Before cancellation of a tender notice, there is no requirement of giving an opportunity of hearing or prior notice to the highest/lowest bidder, in the absence of an agreement or contract, as such

bidder does not acquire any vested right to have the auction confirmed in his/her/ its favour.

- iii.) When a tender process is cancelled prior to confirmation of tender/auction in favour of a bidder , the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of ***Sudhir Kumar Singh*** (supra) is not applicable.
- iv.) In ***M/s. Bansal Infraprojects Pvt. Ltd*** (supra), the Division Bench of this Court has not applied the Supreme Court's decision in the case of ***Sudhir Kumar Singh*** (supra) correctly.
- v.) The High Court while exercising the power of judicial review under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, cannot direct the State or its instrumentalities to accept the bid of the lowest/highest bidder by interfering with the order of cancellation of tender, solely on the ground of violation of principles of natural justice or on the ground that the order of cancellation is bereft of reasons, except in exceptional circumstances.

CASE TITLE : CHITTARANJAN GHAREI AND ORS. VS. STATE OF ODISHA AND ORS.

HELD: CASE NO : W.P.(C) NO. 10185 OF 2024 AND BATCH

CORAM : The Hon'ble Chief Justice & the Hon'ble Miss Justice Savitri Ratho

DATE OF JUDGMENT : January 15, 2025

Odisha Engineering Service (Methods of Recruitment and conditions of Service) Amendment Rules, 2023 – Advertisement No. 19 of 2023/24 for recruitment to the posts of Assistant Executive Engineers (Civil) and Assistant Executive Engineer (Mechanical) – GATE examination–Eligibility criteria.



SYNOPSIS

Facts in brief :

The petitioners, challenged the validity of Rule 4 of the Odisha Engineering Service (Methods of Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Amendment Rule, 2023, to the extent that it amended Rule 7(3) and 7(4) of the Odisha Engineering Service Rules, 2012 (for brevity "OES Rules, 2012"). They also prayed for quashing the advertisement No. 19 of 2023/24 dated 28.12.2023 relating application for appointment to the post of Assistant Executive Engineer (Civil and Mechanical) positions in various state departments contending that the 2023 amendments introducing GATE scores as a eligibility criteria is arbitrary and requires judicial scrutiny and review.

Analysis :

The State is not obligated to assign the PSC the exclusive duty to conduct written exams. The 2021 amendment to the Odisha Engineering Services (OES) Rules, which substituted written exams with GATE scores, was struck down due to lack of proper consultation with the Odisha PSC (OPSC) as the OPSC had not been placed correctly before the cabinet.

But the 2023 amendment corrected this by properly consulting and obtaining consent from the OPSC in accordance with Article-320 of the Constitution of India before replacing written exams with GATE scores. It is the choice of the employer to select eligibility criteria and procedures, provided they are not arbitrary or discriminatory. The claim that GATE is only for postgraduate admission or funding is incorrect and rejected.

Held :

The challenge to the vires of the OES Amendment Rules, 2023, was rejected . No merit was found in the petitioners' claim to quash Advertisement No. 19 of 2023/24 . Using GATE scores, a national standardized engineering test supervised by premier institutions, as a selection criterion alongside interviews is neither illegal nor arbitrary. To ensure fairness, the last date for submitting applications under Advertisement No. 19 of 2023/24 was extended to allow eligible candidates, meeting age and educational qualifications on the original deadline to appear once in the GATE exam and submit valid scores.



Justice Mruganka Sekhar Sahoo

CASE TITLE : JAGRUTI AGRAWAL V. SECRETARY, NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR INDIAN SYSTEM OF MEDICINE & OTHERS

CASE NO : W.P.(C)No.16076 of 2024

CORAM: Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak, Justice Mruganka Sekhar Sahoo

DATE OF DECISION: : August 21, 2025

HEADNOTES:

Orissa Professional Educational Institutions (Regulation of Admission and Fixation of Fee) Act, 2007 – S. 9(6)(a) –National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (Minimum Standards of Undergraduate Ayurveda Education) Regulations, 2022 – Admission to Professional Courses – Bachelor in Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery (BAMS) – Admission granted after completion of counselling against a vacant seat –Validity

Held :

Section 9(6)(a) of the Orissa Professional Educational Institutions Act, 2007 expressly permits filling of unfilled/vacant seats after completion of counselling. An admission granted in consonance with the statutory scheme cannot be invalidated solely on the basis of regulatory directives issued by NCISM. Regulatory norms are required to operate harmoniously with, and remain subject to, statutory provisions.

SYNOPSIS

In the writ petition, the petitioner, Jagruti Agrawal, a student of Bachelor in Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery (BAMS), challenged the cancellation of her admission by the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) and the consequential discharge order issued by her college.

The petitioner had taken admission in the BAMS course on 26.09.2022 in Sri Sri Nrusinghnath Ayurved College & Research Institute, Paikmal. Although she had appeared in the NEET examination, her admission took place after the Odisha Joint Entrance Examination (OJEE) counselling process had concluded, pursuant



to a communication dated 12.2.2023 issued by the Chairman, OJEE. She thereafter continued her studies and completed her first-year examinations.

Subsequently, by letter dated 27.05.2024, the Secretary-in-charge NCISM directed the college to cancel the petitioner's admission on the ground that she was not admitted through the counselling process, as mandated under the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (Minimum Standards of Undergraduate Education) Regulations, 2022. Acting upon this directive, the college issued a letter dated 7.06. 2024 cancelling the petitioner's admission and discharging her from the institution.

During the pendency of the proceedings, the Coordinate Benches of the Court passed interim orders protecting the petitioner's academic status and permitting her to continue attending classes and appear in examinations, so as to prevent irreparable harm to her academic career.

The primary issue before the Court was whether the admission of the petitioner to the BAMS course, made after completion of the counselling process against vacant seats, was illegal and liable to be cancelled under the NCISM (Minimum Standards of Undergraduate Education) Regulations, 2022.

The Court identified the primacy of a 9(6)(a) of the Orissa Professional Educational Institutions (Regulation of Admission and Fixation of Fee) Act, 2007. Relying on Section 9(6)(a) of the Act, 2007, the Court held that the statute expressly provides for giving admission to students in the available vacant seats after counselling by OJEE is over.

The Petitioner's admission, endorsed by the OJEE Chairman, was held to be a valid exercise under this specific statutory power. The Court held that the directive issued by the Secretary-in-charge NCISM could not invalidate an admission made under a specific statutory provision. This interpretation was supported by the Supreme Court's judgment in *State of Orissa v. Dr. Asim Kumar Mohanty*: (1989) 3 SCC 549, in which it was held that the seats for admissions should not be kept vacant in professional courses.

The Court found that the petitioner fulfilled the eligibility criteria prescribed under the NCISM (Minimum Standards of Undergraduate Education) Regulations, 2022 which required candidates belonging to the SEBC/OBC category, to secure the 40th percentile, and having obtained the 43rd percentile, she satisfied the requirement. The contention of NCISM that the petitioner was ineligible was rejected, as it was based on treating her as a general category candidate requiring a higher percentile. The Court accepted the explanation that the caste certificate, though submitted later, clearly established her category status and that the authorities had acted without full knowledge of relevant facts.

Having resolved the substantive issues in favour of the petitioner, the Court held that the impugned letters dated 27.05.2024 and 07.06.2024 were unsustainable in law insofar as they applied to the petitioner. The Court further directed that the petitioner be allowed to continue her studies and appear in all permissible examinations, ensuring protection of her academic career. No order as to costs was made.



CASE TITLE : ODISHA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION VS. BISWAJIT PANDA

CASE NO : WA No. 1289 of 2023 (Arising out of judgment dated 01.05.2023 in W.P.(C) No. 10399 of 2020)

CORAM: Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak & Justice Mruganka Sekhar Sahoo

DATE OF JUDGMENT: : August 26 , 2025

HEADNOTES:

Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 – Ss. 32 & 33 – Reservation in public employment – Identification of posts suitable for PwD – Scope of judicial review – Direction for appointment contrary to statutory notification–

Held :

Identification of posts under S. 32 is a matter of policy within the exclusive domain of the appropriate Government and reservation under S. 33 operates only in respect of posts so identified. Once posts and corresponding categories of disabilities are notified on the recommendation of an expert Committee, such identification is binding unless shown to be arbitrary, irrational or unconstitutional. The Court, in exercise of power of judicial review, cannot substitute its assessment for that of the competent authority or direct appointment under a PwD category not covered by the statutory notification.

SYNOPSIS

The present writ appeal preferred by the Odisha Public Service Commission assailed the judgment of the learned Single Judge whereby the writ petitioner was directed to be declared selected under the Persons with Disabilities (PwD) category for appointment to the post of Assistant Agriculture Engineer (Group-B) pursuant to Advertisement No.02 of 2019-20.

The writ petitioner had applied for the said

post claiming reservation under the PwD category and was permitted to participate in the selection process. Though he was allowed to appear in the viva voce pursuant to interim orders passed by the Court, his candidature was not finally considered by the Commission on the ground that the nature of disability suffered by him was not one of the categories identified as suitable for the post of Assistant Agriculture Engineer under the relevant Government notification.



The learned Single Judge, upon consideration of the pleadings and materials on record, held the petitioner to be eligible under the PwD category and accordingly directed the Commission to declare him selected and to intimate the requisitioning authority.

The principal issue that arose for consideration before the Division Bench was whether, in exercise of powers of judicial review, the Court could direct appointment of a candidate under the PwD category when the identification of posts and categories of disabilities has been made by the State Government in exercise of statutory powers under Sections 32 and 33 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

The Court examined the statutory scheme under Chapter VI of the Act of 1995 and observed that Section 32 mandates the appropriate Government to identify posts suitable for reservation for persons with disabilities, while Section 33 provides for reservation only in respect of posts so identified. The Court also took note of the notification dated 03.12.2013 issued by the General Administration Department, Government of Odisha, whereby posts suitable for various categories of PwD candidates were identified on the basis of recommendations of an expert Committee.

Upon scrutiny of the said notification, the Court found that the post of Assistant Agriculture Engineer (Group-B) was identified only for

certain specified categories of disabilities and did not include the category to which the writ petitioner belonged. The Court held that such identification, once made by the competent authority in accordance with law, is binding and cannot be overridden by judicial directions unless shown to be arbitrary, irrational or unconstitutional.

In support of this conclusion, the Court relied upon the decisions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Ajay Kumar Pandey v. State of U.P.* : (2023) 16 SCC 82 and *Union of India v. Ravi Prakash Gupta*: (2010) 7 SCC 626, wherein it has been held that identification of posts under Section 32 of the Act is a matter of policy resting within the exclusive domain of the appropriate Government and that reservation under Section 33 operates only with respect to posts so identified.

Applying the aforesaid principles, the Division Bench held that direction for a person claiming benefit under PwD category cannot be made in disregard of the statutory notification dated 03.12.2013. It was observed that the Court cannot substitute its own assessment for that of an expert Committee constituted under statutory mandate.

Accordingly, the writ appeal was allowed and the judgment dated 01.05.2023 passed by the learned Single Judge in W.P.(C) No.10399 of 2020 was set aside. The writ petition was dismissed. No order as to costs was made.



Justice Radha Krishna Pattanaik

CASE TITLE : MAHESWAR JENA VRS. MADHUSUDAN DALAI AND OTHERS

CASE NO : W.P.(C) No. 31617 of 2024 and W.P.(C) No. 32188 of 2024 (disposed of together via a common judgment).

COURT : High Court of Orissa at Cuttack

PETITIONER : Maheshwar Jena (represented by Mr. A.S. Nandy, Advocate).

OPPOSITE PARTIES : Madhusudan Dalai (Opposite Party No. 1, represented by Mr. P.K. Rath, Senior Advocate, assisted by others) and State authorities (Opposite Parties Nos. 2-4, represented by Mr. S.K. Swain, Additional Government Advocate).

CORAM : Justice Radha Krishna Pattanaik

DATE OF HEARING : September 02, 2025

DATE OF JUDGMENT : December 05, 2025

NATURE OF CASE:

Writ petitions under Articles 226/227 challenging the disqualification of Maheshwar Jena as Sarpanch of Bishnupur Gram Panchayat under the Odisha Grama Panchayats Act, 1964, seeking quashment of lower court orders that voided his election and directed fresh polls

SYNOPSIS

A. Introduction :

In a significant ruling reinforcing eligibility criteria for panchayat elections in Odisha, the High Court of Orissa dismissed two writ petitions challenging the disqualification of an elected Sarpanch under the Odisha Grama Panchayats Act, 1964 (the Act). The case highlights the

stringent application of disqualifications related to family planning norms and basic literacy in the regional language, emphasizing their role in ensuring effective local governance. Delivered on December 5, 2025, the judgment upholds lower court findings while navigating conflicting precedents on literacy assessment,



underscoring the judiciary's cautious approach to unseating elected representatives absent perversity.

B. Facts of the case :

Maheshwar Jena, elected Sarpanch of Bishnupur Gram Panchayat (Balasore) in 2022, faced an election petition from runner-up Madhusudan Dalai alleging disqualification under the Odisha Grama Panchayats Act, 1964: (i) fourth child born after November 6, 1994 (Section 25(1)(v)); (ii) inability to read/write Odia (Section 11).

Civil Judge, Balasore (20.04.2024): Disqualified Jena only under Section 11, voided election, ordered fresh polls; rejected family-size claim and Dalai's declaration.

District Judge, Balasore (18.11.2024): Upheld disqualification on both grounds, confirmed casual vacancy, directed fresh elections.

Maheshwar Jena filed writ petitions under Articles 226/227 seeking quashment of lower court orders.

C. Issues for Consideration :

- Whether petitioner disqualified under S. 25(1)(v) for fourth child born after 06.11.1994?
- Whether the petitioner was unable to read and write Odia under Section 11 of the Odisha Grama Panchayats Act, 1964, including the validity of in-court dictation tests as a method of assessment and the applicability of conflicting precedents (Mrs. Suryakanti Mishra (2005 Division Bench), Saraswati Sahoo (2020) versus Usha Sahoo (2011), Kuntala Mallik (2024))?

D. Contention of the petitioner :

- Lower courts mishandled evidence, disregarding proof of fourth child's 1994 birth, erroneously disqualifying under Section 25(1)(v).

- Appellate court wrongly reversed trial judge's ruling on Section 25(1)(v) by favouring opponent's evidence.
- Section 11 disqualification flawed; petitioner meets basic Odia literacy requirement.
- Court dictation test improper and contrary to statutory intent for literacy assessment.

D. Contention of the opposite party :

- No error in applying dictation test; petitioner's incoherent, mistake-filled writing proves inability to meet minimum Odia literacy standard, warranting Section 11 disqualification.
- Dictation method aligns with binding precedents (Mrs. Suryakanti Mishra, 2005 Division Bench; Saraswati Sahoo, 2020).
- Contemporaneous records (1996 birth register, RTI) definitively prove fourth child's birth post cut-off, justifying Section 25(1)(v) disqualification.
- Petitioner's later documents claiming 1994 birth are unreliable and likely fabricated.
- Appellate court properly reversed trial judge on Section 25(1)(v); no perversity in upholding both disqualifications.

E. Findings of the court :

The High Court dismissed both writ petitions, finding no perversity in the lower courts' decisions (20.04.2024 and 18.11.2024), declaring the petitioner's Sarpanch election void and ordering a fresh election due to casual vacancy.

The court upheld disqualification under Section 25(1)(v) of the Odisha Grama Panchayats Act, 1964, finding the petitioner's fourth child born on 06 November 1996, after the 06 November 1994 cut-off, based on reliable contemporaneous evidence, while dismissing



his delayed 1994-claiming documents as unreliable and fabricated.

The court upheld the petitioner's disqualification under Section 25(1)(v) of the Odisha Grama Panchayats Act, 1964, holding that his fourth child was born on 06 November 1996—after the 06 November 1994 cut-off—based on reliable contemporaneous exhibits, while rejecting his delayed documents claiming a 1994 birth as unreliable and fabricated, as previously noted in a 2004 judgment.

F. Ratio Decidend :

In W.P.(C) Nos. 31617 & 32188 of 2024, the Orissa High Court (Justice R.K. Pattanaik) on 05.12.2025 dismissed Maheshwar Jena's petitions challenging his disqualification as Sarpanch of Bishnupur Gram Panchayat. Upholding the lower courts (20.04.2024 & 18.11.2024) with no perversity found, the Court confirmed disqualifications under Sections 11 (inability to write Odia, validated by dictation test) and 25(1)(v) (fourth child born 06.11.1996

per contemporaneous records) of the Odisha Grama Panchayats Act, 1964, declared the election void, and ordered fresh polls.

G. In the connected writ petitions W.P.(C) Nos. 31617 and 32188 of 2024, the Orissa High Court on 05.12.2025 dismissed Maheshwar Jena's challenges to his disqualification as Sarpanch of Bishnupur Gram Panchayat. The court found no perversity in the lower courts' decisions (Civil Judge, Balasore dated 20.04.2024; District Judge, Balasore dated 18.11.2024), upholding disqualifications under Section 11 (inability to adequately write Odia, established via valid in-court dictation test producing incoherent writing) and Section 25(1)(v) (fourth child born on 06.11.1996 per contemporaneous records, overriding delayed/fabricated contrary documents) of the Odisha Grama Panchayats Act, 1964. Following Division Bench precedents, the election was declared void, a casual vacancy created, and fresh polls ordered.

CASE TITLE : SATYENDRA KUMAR V. UNION OF INDIA REPRESENTED THROUGH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, CENTRAL INDUSTRIAL SECURITY FORCE, MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, NEW DELHI & OTHER

CASE NO : W.P.(C) No. 3527 of 2020

COURT : High Court of Orissa at Cuttack

JUDGMENT : Allowed in part (Penalty modified; dies non reconsideration directed)

CORAM : Justice Radha Krishna Pattanaik

DATE OF JUDGMENT : September 15, 2025

NATURE OF CASE:

Writ Petition (Service Matter – CISF)



SYNOPSIS

A. Facts of the Case

The petitioner, a member of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), was subjected to disciplinary proceedings on the charge of disobedience for failing to attend counselling as directed by the Senior Commandant, CISF. He was also alleged to have shown no improvement in conduct despite earlier penalties.

Consequent thereto, the petitioner was imposed with the major penalty of compulsory retirement. The said punishment was upheld in appeal and revision. Aggrieved, the petitioner approached the High Court in W.P.(C) No.17133 of 2015, wherein the Court set aside the punishment as grossly disproportionate and directed the Disciplinary Authority to impose an appropriate penalty.

Upon reinstatement, the Disciplinary Authority imposed a penalty of reduction of pay by four stages for four years, later modified by the Appellate Authority to reduction by two stages for two years, which was confirmed in revision. Additionally, the intervening period between compulsory retirement and reinstatement (30.07.2014 to 26.04.2018) was treated as *dies non*, depriving the petitioner of service benefits.

The present writ petition was filed challenging the said orders.

B. Issues for Consideration

1. Whether the imposition of a major penalty without holding a fresh enquiry was illegal.
2. Whether treating the intervening period as

dies non amounted to an additional penalty without following due procedure.

3. Whether the penalty imposed was disproportionate to the misconduct alleged.
4. Whether the petitioner was entitled to service benefits for the period declared as *dies non*.

C. Contentions of the Petitioner

- No fresh enquiry was conducted pursuant to the earlier High Court judgment.
- Imposition of reduction in pay and declaration of *dies non* amounted to multiple punishments.
- The charge relating to “no improvement in conduct” was untenable in law.
- The penalty was disproportionate to the alleged misconduct of not attending counselling.
- Declaration of *dies non* adversely affected pensionary benefits without justification.

D. Contentions of the Opposite Parties

- The petitioner disobeyed a lawful order in violation of Section 10(a) of the CISF Act, 1968.
- Proper enquiry was conducted in compliance with the CISF Rules, 2001.
- Reduction of pay was a justified punishment considering past misconduct.
- The period was rightly treated as *dies non* under Rule 55 of the Rules following the principle of “no work, no pay”.

E. Findings of the Court

- Held:



- (i) The disciplinary proceedings were conducted in accordance with the CISF Act and Rules and no procedural illegality was established. Reinstatement pursuant to judicial direction did not necessitate a de novo enquiry, as the remand was confined only to reconsideration of penalty.
- (ii) The charge relating to absence of improvement in conduct based on past punishments was misconceived and unsustainable in law, as a delinquent cannot be punished again for past misconduct already penalized. The petitioner effectively faced only the charge of disobedience for non-attendance of counselling.
- (iii) While discipline is of paramount importance in a para-military force, the penalty imposed was found to be excessive and disproportionate to the nature of misconduct. Applying the doctrine of proportionality, the Court held that imposition of a major penalty was unwarranted.
- (iv) Treating the intervening period as *dies non* without adequate reasons, despite reinstatement, was held to be arbitrary. Though *dies non* is not a penalty per se, the competent authority is required to strictly comply with Rule 55 of the CISF Rules and assign cogent reasons, especially when denial of service benefits follows.

F. Decision / Relief Granted

- The writ petition was allowed.
- Impugned orders at Annexures-3, 5, 8 and 10 were set aside to the extent indicated.
- The penalty was substituted with reduction

of pay by one stage for one year, without cumulative effect and without adverse impact on pension, in terms of Rule 34(viii) (minor penalty).

- The competent authority was directed to reconsider the service benefits for the period treated as *dies non*, by passing a reasoned order within four weeks.

G. Ratio Decidendi

A disciplinary authority must impose a punishment commensurate with the misconduct proved. Past penalties cannot constitute a fresh charge. Even where reinstatement follows setting aside of a disproportionate punishment, the authority must exercise discretion judiciously while declaring a period as *dies non*, ensuring compliance with Rule 55 and principles of fairness.

H. Relevant Provisions

- Section 10(a), CISF Act, 1968
- Rules 34, 36 & 55, CISF Rules, 2001
- Article 31(2), Constitution of India

I. Citations Relied Upon

- **Ranjit Thakur vs. Union of India & Others**, (1987) 4 SCC 611
- **State of Uttar Pradesh & Another vs. Man Mohan Nath Sinha & Another**, (2009) 8 SCC 310
- **Bharti Airtel Limited vs. A.S. Raghavendra**, (2024) 6 SCC 418
- **State of Rajasthan & Others vs. Bhupendra Singh**, Civil Appeal Nos. 8546-8549 of 2024, decided on 8th August, 2024
- **Vijay Singh vs. State of Uttar Pradesh & Others**, (2012) 5 SCC 242



- **G.S. Srivastav vs. Union of India & Others**, 2014 (II) OLR 258
- **Union of India vs. K.D. Pandey & Another**, (2002) 10 SCC 471
- **Najamal Hussain Mehadi vs. State of Maharashtra & Others** AIR 1996 SC 2691

J. The judgment reinforces the doctrine of proportionality in service jurisprudence by emphasizing that punishment in disciplinary proceedings must correspond to the gravity of the misconduct proved. While recognising the necessity of strict discipline in a para-military force like the CISF, the Court held that such discipline cannot justify excessive or vindictive punishment. The petitioner's failure to attend a counselling session, though amounting to disobedience, was found insufficient to warrant a major penalty such as compulsory retirement or severe reduction in pay. The Court observed that reliance on past penalties to aggravate punishment for a minor lapse amount to an improper exercise of disciplinary discretion. Drawing upon the principles laid down in *Ranjit Thakur v. Union of India*, it was reiterated that a punishment which shocks the conscience of the Court is amenable to judicial review. By substituting the major penalty with a minor one, the Court reaffirmed that disciplinary authorities exercise quasi-judicial powers and must act with fairness, reasonableness, and restraint. The ruling thus strengthens judicial oversight over disproportionate penalties while balancing the need for discipline with principles of justice and equity.

K. Short Synopsis–

The petitioner, a CISF personnel, challenged

the disciplinary orders imposing reduction of pay and treating the period between compulsory retirement and reinstatement as *dies non*, contending that the penalties were imposed without a fresh enquiry and were disproportionate to the misconduct alleged, namely failure to attend counselling. The High Court held that no fresh enquiry was required as the earlier remand was confined to reconsideration of the quantum of punishment and the original enquiry was conducted in accordance with the CISF Rules, 2001. The Court further held that the charge relating to lack of improvement in conduct was not a valid independent charge since past misconduct once punished cannot form the basis of a fresh disciplinary action. Applying the doctrine of proportionality, the Court found that imposition of a major penalty for non-attendance at counselling was harsh and excessive, even in a disciplined force, and warranted judicial interference. While observing that declaration of *dies non* is not a penalty per se, the Court held that denial of service benefits without adequate reasons under Rule 55 of the CISF Rules, particularly when the petitioner was kept out of service due to a punishment later found disproportionate, was improper. Accordingly, the impugned orders were set aside to the extent indicated, the penalty was substituted with a minor penalty of reduction of pay by one stage for one year without cumulative effect and without adverse impact on pension, and the competent authority was directed to reconsider the service benefits for the period treated as *dies non*.



Justice Sashikanta Mishra

CASE TITLE : BISWARANJAN PANIGRAHI VS. Government IN PR& DRINKING WATER DEPARTMENT &ANR.

CASE NO : WPC No. 13017 of 2018, 15082 of 2020, 21256 of 2021, 29309 of 2022

DATE OF JUDGMENT : February 06, 2025

(2025 (I) ILR-CUT-870)

Reservation — Applicability to Contractual Posts — ORV Act, 1975 — Ss. 3(d) & 19 — GRS under MGNREGS — Contractual Engagement — Not a Civil Post — Reservation Impermissible:

Gram Rozgar Sevak (GRS) engagement under MGNREGS is purely contractual, co-terminus with the scheme, and not a civil post under State service rules. By virtue of Section 3(d) of the ORV Act, posts filled on contractual basis fall outside the purview of reservation; Section 19 gives overriding effect to this exclusion. The State cannot, through administrative guidelines, apply the ORV Act contrary to its statutory bar. Original GRS positions were single posts in each Gram Panchayat; retrospective clubbing of such posts to form a “district cadre” for applying reservation is legally impermissible, as single posts cannot be reserved (PGIMER v. Faculty Assn., (1998) 4 SCC 1). Reservation being an enabling provision, the State cannot impose it retrospectively or compel candidates to accept it (Mukesh Kumar v. State of Uttarakhand, (2020) 3 SCC 1). Consequently, comprehensive guidelines dated 06-04-2018 mandating ORV Act application, and advertisement dated 30-06-2018 reserving all 19 posts, held unsustainable and quashed; dependent writ petitions dismissed. State directed to revise subsequent advertisement (24-03-2021) to invite applications without applying reservation.

Held:

Guidelines dated 06-04-2018 (to the extent they apply ORV Act) and advertisement dated 30-06-2018 quashed; W.P.(C) 13017/2018 allowed; connected writ petitions dismissed; fresh advertisement to be issued without reservation.



SYNOPSIS

The batch of writ petitions concerned the legality of applying reservation to the engagement of Gram Rozgar Sevaks (GRS) under MGNREGS in Subarnapur district. The petitioner in W.P.(C) No.13017 of 2018 challenged the comprehensive guidelines dated 06.04.2018 and the advertisement dated 30.06.2018, which reserved all 19 GRS vacancies for SC/ST candidates by treating GRS as a district cadre post. The Court found that GRS engagement is purely contractual, co-terminus with the scheme, and not a civil post; hence, by virtue of Section 3(d) of the Odisha Reservation of Vacancies Act, 1975, reservation cannot apply to such posts. The attempt to retrospectively convert originally single-post Gram Panchayat-level positions into a district cadre to justify

reservation was held impermissible, as reservation cannot be applied to single posts and the State cannot override statutory provisions through administrative guidelines. Relying on precedent such as PGIMER and Mukesh Kumar, the Court held that reservation is an enabling provision and cannot be forced or retrospectively imposed. Consequently, the guidelines requiring application of the ORV Act and the advertisement of 30.06.2018 were quashed, while the connected petitions seeking engagement based on the invalid advertisement were dismissed. The State was directed to modify the subsequent advertisement dated 24.03.2021 to invite applications without applying reservation.

CASE TITLE : HARSHAMANI BHUTIA & OTHERS V. HULLASH @ ULLASHMANI RATH & OTHERS

CASE NO : RSA No.135 of 2012

DATE OF JUDGMENT : July 15, 2025

(2025 (II) OLR-391)

Evidence Act, 1872 – Ss. 45, 47 & 73 – Expert opinion – Handwriting expert – Admissibility, evidentiary value and court’s duty of comparison

Expert opinion on handwriting, though not conclusive, must be tested against other evidence and by the Court’s own comparison under S.73. Rejection of expert report on irrelevant grounds (absence of graphematic charts, non-examination of photographer, allegation of “eye-estimation”) held improper. Court must satisfy itself through comparison, aided by expert opinion.

Evidence Act, 1872 – S. 114 III.(g) – Adverse inference – Failure to give specimen signatures

Where defendant refuses to give signature despite specific court order under S.73, adverse inference must be drawn especially when her

signature is central to identity. Mere denial of execution of document cannot be a shield against adverse inference.

Evidence Act, 1872 – Ss. 50 & 60 – Proof of relationship – Opinion of persons with “special means of knowledge” – Evidentiary value

Testimony of family members or persons closely connected with the family, having special knowledge of lineage, is relevant under S.50. Rejection of such evidence on vague grounds of “interestedness” unsustainable. Positive testimony of PWs (family members and villagers) proving defendant’s real lineage ought to have been accepted.

Evidence Act, 1872 – S. 65 – Secondary evidence – Certified copy of sale deed – Admissibility

Certified copy of sale deed admissible as



secondary evidence, especially when executant is not expected to possess original. Even if not relied on for proving contents, such copy admissible for collateral purposes—such as identification of executants and their described parentage.

Civil Procedure Code, 1908 – Non – joinder of necessary parties—Daughters of karta – Sale by karta prior to 2005 amendment

Sale deed executed in 1961 by karta (Madhab) valid; daughters had no coparcenary rights before 2005 amendment to S.6, Hindu Succession Act. Their non-impleadment not fatal.

Hindu Law – Joint family property – Powers of karta – Sale for legal necessity

Karta's sale binds family where no challenge by coparceners and transaction pre-dates the amendment giving daughters coparcenary rights.

Limitation Act, 1963 – Art. 58 – Challenge to ROR entries – Suit based on antecedent title

Where plaintiff bases suit on antecedent title and remains in possession, mere wrong ROR entries do not bar the suit. Three-year limitation under Art.58 inapplicable when title is independently established.

Evidence – Documentary vs. oral evidence – Weightage

Documentary evidence (sale deed showing real parentage of defendant) carries greater probative value; courts below erred in discarding it while relying on oral testimony of defendant's witnesses.

Findings of Fact – Perverse appreciation – Interference in Second Appeal under S.100 CPC justified

Findings of trial and first appellate courts held perverse for ignoring admissible evidence, misapplying legal standards, and adopting unreasonable grounds for rejection.

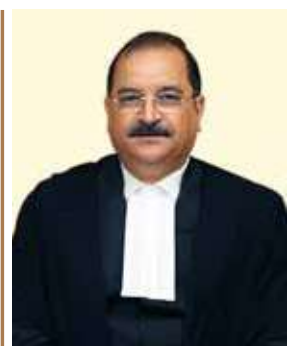
SYNOPSIS

The plaintiff's claim of exclusive title and possession over land purchased in 1961 from Madhab Nanda. Defendant no.1 claimed half share alleging she was the daughter of Gobinda and Radha of the Nanda family. The plaintiff asserted she was actually the daughter of Ananda and Ashamani Rath of Bageswarpur. Both the trial court and the first appellate court held in favour of defendant no.1, rejecting the plaintiff's evidence—including a sale deed (Ext.A) allegedly executed by defendant no.1 and her siblings—and also discarding the handwriting expert's opinion comparing her signatures.

The High Court held that the courts below erred in rejecting the expert opinion without applying the mandatory comparison under Section 73 of the Evidence Act, and that defendant no.1's refusal to give specimen signatures justified an adverse inference under Section 114. Oral evidence of witnesses with special knowledge

(PWs 2, 3, 4, 6 and defendant no.2) was wrongly brushed aside; Ext.A, though a certified copy, was admissible for collateral purposes and supported the plaintiff's case. The scribe of the document also identified defendant no.1 in court, confirming her identity as daughter of Ananda and Ashamani Rath, not of Gobinda and Radha.

The Court held Madhab, as karta, validly sold the property in 1961, when daughters had no coparcenary rights, and non-joinder of Madhab's daughters was not fatal. The suit, based on antecedent title and possession, was not barred by limitation despite delay in challenging ROR entries. Finding the lower courts' conclusions perverse, the High Court set aside their judgments, declared the plaintiff's title, confirmed his possession, and restrained defendant no.1 permanently from interference.



Justice Aditya Kumar Mohapatra

CASE TITLE : DEEPAK KUMAR SINGH @ GHANASHYAM SINGH v. STATE OF ODISHA & ANR.

CASE NO : CRLMC No. 3347 of 2025

DATE OF JUDGMENT : November 07, 2025
(2025 (I) ILR-CUT-870)

“

Section 376 IPC – Scope of inherent powers to quash a criminal proceeding under Section 482 Cr.P.C reiterated – Held, in exceptional circumstances non-compoundable offences, including those ordinarily treated as offences against society, can be quashed to secure the ends of justice – Held, consent obtained due to love and affection is not vitiated merely because the relationship later fails –reaffirmed distinction between a mere breach of promise to marry and a false promise made from inception, the latter alone attracting criminality – Six guiding principles formulated to determine when consent to engage in sexual intercourse stands vitiated by a false promise of marriage.

”

The criminal miscellaneous petition was filed by the Petitioner with a prayer to quash the instant criminal proceeding, the genesis of which lies in an FIR lodged by Opposite Party No.2–the prosecutrix alleging that due to the Petitioner’s inducements and assurances of marriage, she submitted herself to physical intimacy with the Petitioner, which later resulted in her pregnancy. Thereafter, when the Petitioner declined to marry the victim, a case was registered against him for alleged commission of offences under Sections 417 and 376(2)(n) of the IPC. However, after registration of the FIR and commencement of the criminal process, the parties married each other and were residing together as husband and wife with their daughter. The prosecutrix has also expressed in her deposition that the

FIR was lodged due to misunderstanding, and she does not wish to pursue the case any further.

The Petitioner has advanced the argument that the allegations in the FIR, even if taken at their face value, did not constitute the alleged offence. It was argued that the parties had been in a consensual romantic relationship, which later developed into a physical relationship without any inducement or fraudulent promise to marry. In fact, the parties have later lawfully married and are presently living together as husband and wife. The Petitioner relied on several decisions of the Hon’ble Supreme Court to contend that consensual intimacy within a romantic relationship does not amount to rape unless the promise to marry was false from inception. Lastly, he has



argued that continuation of the proceeding would constitute abuse of process of law since the prosecutrix herself had disowned the allegations.

The Opposite Party No.2-Prosecutrix comprehensively supported the Petitioner, affirmed their marriage and the fact that they have a child borne out of their wedlock. She has also stated unequivocally that she wished to live peacefully with her husband and that the continuance of the present case would only disrupt their married life. The Prosecution-State, however, controverted the Petitioner's prayer on the ground that Section 376 IPC is non-compoundable and constitutes an offence against society. Therefore, the criminal proceeding cannot be quashed merely because the parties have since married.

After hearing the parties and examining the materials on record, the Court undertook a thorough scrutiny of the legal principles surrounding quashing of criminal proceedings. At first, the Court reiterated the scope of its inherent powers under Section 482 Cr.P.C, as crystallised in *Bhajan Lal's case*. Several recent pronouncements of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *B.N. John v. State of U.P.*, *Ajay Malik v. State of Uttarakhand*, and *Punit Beriwal v. State (NCT of Delhi)*, etc. were relied on in order to affirm that while exercising its inherent powers under section 482 Cr.P.C, High Courts should refrain conducting a mini trial and undertake only a prima facie evaluation to ascertain whether the essential ingredients of the alleged offences emerge from the FIR and accompanying materials. It was also observed that there is no implicit bar to quash criminal proceedings involving non-compoundable offences in apt circumstances.

Reverting back to the core issue, the Court analysed the jurisprudence regarding consent in cases where sexual relations occur within a romantic relationship, and, relying on the decision of the Hon'ble Apex Court in *Uday*,

Deepak Gulati, *Deelip Singh*, *Pramod Pawar*, and *Prithivirajan*, the Court reiterated that consent obtained due to love and affection is not vitiated merely because the relationship later fails. A promise to marry will be construed as "misconception of fact" if it is false from the very inception and accompanied by an intention not to fulfil such promise. It was observed that a mere breach of promise, subsequent reluctance, or circumstances leading to non-fulfilment do not, by themselves, amount to a false promise attracting criminal liability and it is incumbent upon Courts to distinguish between a genuine relationship that later breaks down and a deceitful promise intended solely to obtain sexual favours.

In light of the aforesaid principles, the Court placed substantial weight on the fact that the parties had lawfully married and were living together peacefully, they had a daughter borne out of wedlock, and the prosecutrix had categorically disowned her earlier allegations. The Court noted that when the foundational witness herself retracts the allegations, the prosecution is rendered unsustainable. Continuance of a criminal proceeding in such circumstances would do nothing to further the ends of justice. Instead, it might jeopardise the marital harmony of the parties. The Court also acknowledged that although offences under Section 376 IPC are serious and ordinarily should not be quashed solely on the ground of compromise between the parties, the present case involved exceptional circumstances, inasmuch as the essential ingredients of the offence were not disclosed, the prosecutrix did not support the prosecution, the relationship was demonstrably consensual and rooted in mutual love and affection, and the continuance of the prosecution would amount to harassment of the parties. Accordingly, the Court held that in the present case intervention under Section 482 Cr.P.C. was justified.

Ultimately, the High Court distilled six guiding principles to assess whether consent



to engage in sexual intercourse was vitiated by a false promise to marry. It was held that the FIR did not disclose the essential ingredients of the alleged offence, that the relationship between the parties was consensual and borne out of mutual love and affection, that the prosecutrix's own testimony before the trial court fully supported the Petitioner, the parties

had married and established a stable family, and that the continuation of the criminal trial would serve no useful purpose other than being an abuse of the process of law. Accordingly, in order to secure the ends of justice, the Court allowed the CRLMC application and quashed the entire criminal proceeding against the Petitioner.

CASE TITLE : SMT. UMAMANI NAYAK & ORS. v. CEO, TPNODL, BALASORE & ORS.

CASE NO : W.P.(C) NO. 5875 OF 2008

DATE OF JUDGMENT : July 28, 2025
(2025 (I) ILR-CUT-870)

“

- (A) *Doctrine of non-traverse – implied admission of facts pleaded in the Writ Petition since the Opposite Parties, despite ample opportunity, did not file any counter.*
- (B) *The principle of Strict Liability – Ryland v. Fletcher, and M.P. Electricity Board v. Shail Kumari and Ors., and prior pronouncement of the Court in Dusmanta Samal v. State of Orissa discussed – Held, the death was undoubtedly caused due to electrocution – since the Opposite Party-Distribution Company had the statutory responsibility to distribute and supply electricity, they were also strictly liable for the death due to electrocution.*

”

The present writ petition was filed by the aggrieved Petitioners, who are the widow and sons of the deceased, seeking a direction to the Electricity Distribution Company to pay compensation of Rs.2,00,000/- (rupees two lakhs) at an interest of 12% per annum, for the untimely death of the deceased due to electrocution. It is the Petitioners' primary assertion that the death occurred solely due to the negligence of the electricity authorities in maintaining the Low Tension (LT) electric lines in their village.

On 06.07.2007, at around 5.30 PM, the deceased was heading to the market when he accidentally stepped into a puddle of water that had become electrically charged because a live LT wire had snapped and fallen into it. The deceased sustained severe electric shock and was rushed to the District Headquarters Hospital, Balasore. However, he unfortunately succumbed to his injuries. Consequently, a

UD Case was registered, inquest and post mortem were conducted, and the police submitted a Final Report under Section 174 Cr.P.C confirming that the cause of death was electrocution owing to the snapping of a live electric line. When the Electricity Distribution Company failed to take any action or provide compensation despite repeated approaches and even a legal notice, the Petitioners, left with no other alternative, approached the High Court for relief.

On behalf of the Petitioners, it was contended that the Opposite Parties had a statutory obligation to maintain the electric lines safely and diligently. The LT lines in the locality were old, poorly maintained, and prone to snapping. Despite repeated complaints from the villagers, the Distribution Company had allegedly failed to replace or repair the decaying infrastructure. Moreover, the medical and investigative records, i.e. the Inquest Report, Post Mortem



Report, and Final Report of the Investigating Officer, clearly established electrocution as the cause of death. Thus, the nexus between the snapped live wire and the death of the deceased was unquestionably established. It was further brought to the Court's notice that the Distribution Company had initially paid a token amount of ₹10,000 to perform the last rites of the deceased, thereby implicitly acknowledging their liability. However, no further compensation was paid despite multiple reminders. The Petitioners argued that the loss of the sole breadwinner had plunged the family into severe financial distress and that adequate compensation was not merely justified but necessary for their sustenance. Reliance was placed on the OERC (Compensation to Victims of Electrical Accidents) Regulations, 2020, which prescribed a sum of Rs.4,00,000/- as compensation for loss of human life due to electrical accidents.

Although counsel for the Distribution Company participated in the hearing and orally opposed the petition, the Opposite Parties did not file any counter affidavit, despite being granted multiple opportunities to do so. The High Court, applying the doctrine of *non-traverse*, observed that such failure amounted to implied admission of the facts pleaded by the Petitioners. The Court, therefore, proceeded on the basis of the unrebutted materials placed by the Petitioners.

Firstly, the Court noted that all official documents, including the Inquest Report, Post Mortem Report, and the Final Report under Section 174 Cr.P.C, pointed unequivocally to electrocution as the cause of death. Next, the Court took note of the doctrine of strict liability, tracing it to the case of *Rylands v. Fletcher*, (1868) LR 3 HL 330; which mandates that a person who keeps a hazardous substance on their premises is liable for the damage caused by its escape, regardless of negligence. Electricity being an inherently

hazardous commodity, the Hon'ble Apex Court has consistently held that electricity authorities have a heightened duty of care. The Court particularly relied on *M.P. Electricity Board v. Shail Kumari*, (2002) 2 SCC 162, where the Hon'ble Supreme Court observed that the managers of electricity supply have a responsibility to prevent such hazards and cannot escape liability even where external factors contribute, and held that electricity boards were strictly liable when snapped live wires caused electrocution. In this context, the Court also referred to its earlier decision in *Dusmanta Samal v. State of Orissa* (W.P.(C) No. 14548/2016), where compensation was awarded under similar circumstances.

Ultimately, applying the aforesaid principles and adopting a victim-centric approach, the Court allowed the writ petition by holding that the Electricity Distribution Company, being engaged in hazardous activity, was strictly liable for the death caused by the snapped live wire, which amounted to escape of such hazardous substance. With regard to the compensation amount claimed as relief, the Court observed that while the OERC Regulations of 2020 prescribed Rs.4,00,000/- (rupees four lakhs) as compensation for loss of life due to electrical accidents, said regulations came into force much after the incident which occurred in 2007, and hence were not directly applicable. Nevertheless, the Court considered the regulatory standard as indicative of what would constitute reasonable compensation, and, given that the Petitioners had themselves prayed for Rs.2,00,000/- as compensation, the Court deemed it just and appropriate to award the said amount of Rs.2,00,000/- as interim compensation at 8% interest from the date of the incident till the last date stipulated for payment (within two months) and at 12% interest thereafter until it is paid, along with liberty to the Petitioners to claim higher compensation, if so advised.



Justice V. Narasingh

CASE TITLE : BISHNUPADA SETHI V. CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CASE NO : ABLAPL NO. 7333 OF 2025

CORAM : Justice V. Narasingh

DATE OF JUDGMENT : July 28, 2025

“*Anticipatory bail is not a matter of right in economic offences; custodial interrogation may be necessary where prima facie material exists.*”

The petitioner, who was a senior Indian Administrative Service Officer (IAS), sought pre-arrest bail in connection with an RC case registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation, alleging commission of offences under Section 7 read with Sections 8, 9 and 10 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended in 2018) and Section 61(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

The prosecution case was that the petitioner had played a pivotal role in the named accused, Chanchal Kumar Mukherjee, Group General Manager, Bridge & Roof Co. Ltd., demanding and obtaining a sum of Rs. 10 lakhs from one Santosh Moharana, Director, M/s Penta A Studio Pvt. Ltd., as illegal gratification for clearing the project bills. Acting on source information, the CBI laid a trap on 07.12.2024 and, in the presence of independent witnesses, the bribe

amount was recovered from the vehicle of Debadutta Mohapatra. It was alleged that the petitioner had close acquaintance with the named accused Chanchal Kumar Mukherjee, Group General Manager, Bridge & Roof Co. Ltd. It was further alleged that the petitioner made a phone call to the said Debadutta Mohapatra from the phone of the named accused Chanchal Kumar Mukherjee, persuading him to receive the bribe amount, and that the voice sample voluntarily given by the petitioner matched with the questioned call, as per the CFSL report. Allegations were also made regarding receipt of expensive gifts by the petitioner's daughter (MacBook and luxury watch) from Debadutta Mohapatra. Further allegations were damage to both the iPhones of the petitioner and non-disclosure of lockers by the wife of the petitioner during investigation.



Prior to filing the present pre-arrest bail application, the petitioner, along with his wife and daughter, had filed a writ petition seeking quashing of the ongoing investigation, which was dismissed by this Court on the ground that “interference would be premature and inappropriate”.

It was contended by the learned counsel for the petitioner that the petitioner had fully cooperated with the investigation and that recording of his voice sample violated Article 20(3) of the Constitution and Section 349 of the BNSS. It was further argued that, considering the nature of allegations, custodial interrogation of the petitioner was not warranted.

Learned counsel for the CBI opposed the contentions of the petitioner on the ground that there was prima facie material showing active involvement of the petitioner. It was argued that the petitioner did not cooperate fully with the investigation. Furthermore, the petitioner was operating WhatsApp via a mobile number registered in the name of the co-accused, Debadutta Mohapatra, and both the mobile phones were destroyed, and the wife of the petitioner failed to disclose existing lockers during investigation.

The Court, relying upon settled law laid down by the Apex Court in the judgments of **State of Bombay v. Kathi Kalu Oghad**¹, **Mohammed Dastagir v. The State of Madras**² and **Veera Ibrahim v. The State of Maharashtra**³, held that the protection against testimonial compulsion applies only when a person has stood in the character of an accused at the time of making the statement. Since the voice sample was given voluntarily and prior to formal accusation,

no constitutional or statutory infraction was made out, and it was held as follows:

“.....As such, the submission that voice samples are hit by Clause-3 of Article 20 of the Constitution which deals with testimonial compulsion in the given facts of the present case and alleged infraction of Section 349 of BNSS has to be shunned, inter alia, since admittedly the voice sample was given voluntarily.”

Placing reliance on the judgment of the Apex Court in the case of **P. Chidambaram v. Directorate of Enforcement**⁴ and **State (CBI) v. Anil Sharma**⁵, the Court reiterated that while considering anticipatory bail in economic offences, bail is not to be granted as a matter of right; rather, it may be granted only when the Court is satisfied that exceptional circumstances exist warranting the exercise of such an extraordinary remedy. Taking note of the rival submissions and the materials on record, and considering that the petitioner is a senior Indian Administrative Service officer and the seriousness of the corruption offences, the Court held that custodial interrogation of the petitioner was necessary, and accordingly, the prayer of the petitioner was rejected. The relevant portion of the judgment reads as under:

“28. Considering that the petitioner is a senior officer in the rank of the Indian Administrative Service, this Court finds force in the submission of the learned counsel for the CBI that his interrogation, being “ensconced” by an order of anticipatory bail, would be a fruitless exercise in the light of the materials unearthed.

¹AIR 1961 SC 1808

²AIR 1960 SC 756

³AIR 1976 SC 1167

⁴(2019) 9 SCC 24

⁵(1997) 7 SCC 187



29. *It is often said that the power of corruption is like a shadow; it follows those who wield power. The petitioner undoubtedly has such power, being a senior official of the Indian Administrative Service. On a conspectus of the materials on record, whether corruption is his shadow merits a probe unhindered and unimpeded by the exceptional remedy of pre-arrest bail.*

30. *Accordingly, the ABLPAL stands rejected."*

Note:

The aforesaid judgment dated 28.07.2025 was assailed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India by filing Special Leave Petition (Criminal)

No.11426 of 2025. The Hon'ble Supreme Court, by order dated 04.08.2025, dismissed the special leave petition, holding as under:

"1. We are not inclined to interfere with the impugned judgment and order of the High Court; hence, the special leave petition is dismissed.

2. However, if the petitioner surrenders and makes an application for regular bail, it is needless to observe that the same shall obviously be considered on its own merits and without being influenced by the order impugned in this special leave petition.

3. Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of"

CASE TITLE : HEMANTA NAYAK V. STATE OF ODISHA & OTHERS.

CASE NO : W.P. (C) NO. 12399 OF 2024

DATE OF JUDGMENT : October 09, 2025

“*Mechanical disposal of RTI appeals by the Information Commission defeats the object of the RTI Act*”

The petitioner filed the writ petition assailing the order dated 26.02.2024 passed by the State Information Commissioner, whereby the petitioner's Second Appeal under the Right to Information Act, 2005 was closed on the ground that the information sought had already been supplied.

The genesis of the dispute lay in a representation dated 26.12.2017 made by the petitioner and other villagers of village Kuansh, District Bhadrak, seeking recording of Jalasaya Plot No. 1765 under Government Khata and eviction of alleged illegal encroachers. Pursuant to the said representation, directions were issued by the Board of Revenue, Revenue Divisional Commissioner, and the Revenue & Disaster

Management Department to the Collector and Tahasildar, Bhadrak, to inquire into the matter and take action in accordance with law.

When no information regarding follow-up action was forthcoming, the petitioner filed an RTI application under Section 16(1) of the Right to Information Act, 2005, seeking details of steps taken. Thereafter, when the petitioner could not get any reply, an appeal was preferred. During pendency of the same, the petitioner received a reply stating that the information was “not available”. Being aggrieved, the petitioner preferred a Second Appeal under Section 19(3) of the Act, 2005, which was dropped by the Information Commission stating that “questions as raised



by the petitioner have been complied point-wise and supplied in his favour vide letter No. 8227 dated 12.12.2018", which is the subject-matter of challenge in this writ petition.

Learned counsel for the Opposite Parties opposed the stand taken by the petitioner on the ground that the impugned order does not merit any interference and that the petitioner has not been able to place on record any material to show that the information which was available was not provided.

The Court, upon examining the records, held that the impugned order suffered from non-application of mind. It was observed that the Information Commission failed to scrutinize the contradictory stand of the State authorities and mechanically accepted their version, thereby undermining the very purpose of the RTI Act. The Court observed that if such contradictory stands are accepted without scrutiny, the RTI Act would be reduced to a dead letter and its purpose of ensuring transparency and accountability would stand frustrated. It was held that:

"....if such stand of the State authorities is accepted at their face value as in the

case at hand without due scrutiny, right of a citizen to get information as codified by Act, 2005 would be a dead letter and it will set at naught the very purpose for which the Act has been enacted "to contain corruption and to hold Government and their instrumentalities accountable to the governed".

The Court further observed that;

".....in rendering the impugned decision the State Information Commission allowed its finding to be entrapped in officialdom and red tapism, which are illegitimate tools to fall back, to deny response to an application under the RTI Act, 2005 and thereby render the provisions nugatory."

Accordingly, the impugned order was quashed and the matter was remitted back to the State Information Commission for fresh adjudication. Considering the prolonged delay and hardship caused, the Court imposed costs of ₹50,000/- on the Tahasildar, Bhadrak, with liberty to the State Government to recover the same from the erring officials.



Professionally crafted and hand painted "Lacquer Box", made in the heart of Nabarangpur district of Odisha displayed at Judges' chamber



Justice Biraja Prasanna Satapathy

CASE TITLE : THE DIVISIONAL MANAGER, UNITED INDIA INSURANCE CO. LTD., CUTTACK VS. BINDHYABEN SAHOO AND OTHERS

CASE NO : M.A.C.A. No. 576 OF 2023

CORAM : Justice Biraja Prasanna Satapathy

DATE OF JUDGMENT : June 26, 2025

Motor Vehicle Act, 1988

The Appellant-Company filed the present appeal challenging the impugned judgment dated 31.01.2023 passed by the 3rd Addl. District Judge-cum-4th MACT, Cuttack where the Tribunal held the Appellant-company liable to pay compensation amount of Rs.45,11,466.25 with interest payable @6% per annum payable from the date of application till his realization.

It is the case of the claimants that while the deceased was looking after the road work, standing on the extreme left side of the road, the offending Truck came with a high speed in a rash and negligent manner dashed the deceased and accordingly the deceased died on the spot.

Appellant-Company challenges the judgment/award in the following ground :-

1. The vehicle was a heavy motor vehicle but owner of the offending vehicle took the policy in the name and style contractors

plant and machinery Insurance Policy (in short CPM Policy) with the location code. Hence, the accident having taken place outside the location, the policy does not cover the liability, as the accident admittedly occurred beyond the location area.

2. The policy being in the nature of CPM Policy it does not cover the 3rd Party claim arising out of the motor accident in a public road.
3. In respect of 3rd party liability though the company accepted the premium of Rs.850/- by fixing the outer limit of such 3rd party liability at Rs.5 lakhs. But since the accident admittedly occurred beyond location area the policy being the CMP Policy, the appellant is not liable to pay any compensation amount so awarded by the Tribunal.
4. The policy being the policy in the nature of a CPM Policy is not a policy issued in favour



of Motor Vehicle interms of provisions contained u/s. 147 of the Motor Vehicle Act.

5. Since Policy taken by the owner of the offending vehicle in the nature of a contract, the terms of the agreement have to be strictly followed to determine the liability of the insurer.

The owner-Respondent No. 5 submitted that though the Policy is a CPM Policy but since the appellant while issuing the policy accepted the premium towards 3rd Party liability no limit can be fixed in that regard.

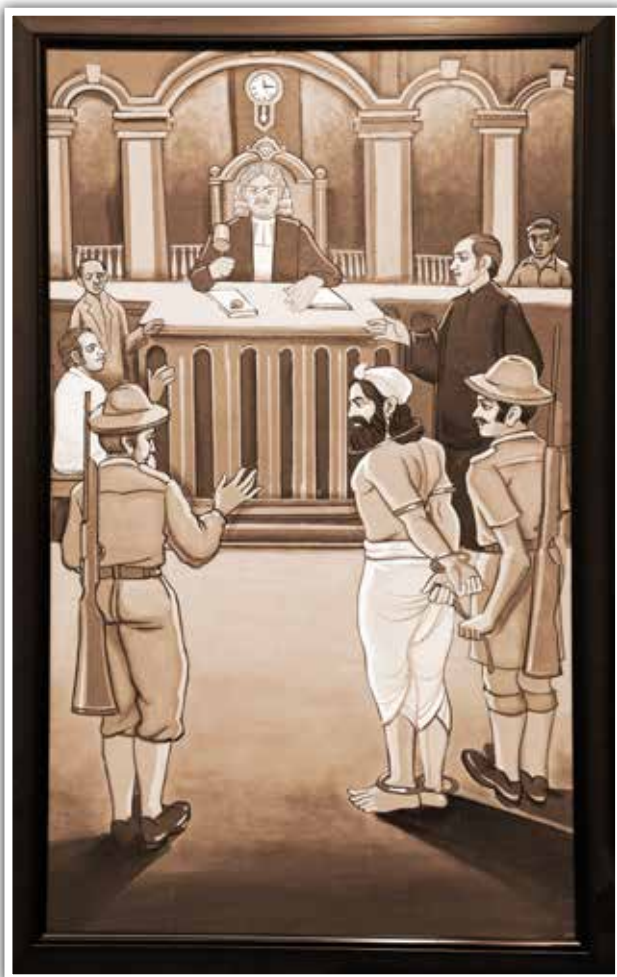
Point of law and view taken by the Court :-

1. Whether the policy taken by the offending vehicle is a lawful contract in terms of the

provisions contained under the Contract Act? Held, No, since the offending vehicle is motor vehicle within the definition of Section 146 of the Motor Vehicle Act such policy in the nature of CPM Policy could not have been issued in favour of the offending vehicle and the said contract is not a lawful contract. **(Para-7.1)**

2. Whether the Appellant-Company should have issued a CPM Policy in favour of the Motor vehicle (Hywa Truck)? Held, No, Since the offending vehicle, which is not disputed is a motor vehicle, no such policy either could have been taken by the owner-Respondent No.5 as CPM policy, nor such a policy could have been issued by the Appellant/ insurer. Neither the appellant nor the owner-Respondent can take undue advantage for their own fault.
3. Whether on the face of the policy issued by the appellant, the appellant is liable to pay the compensation as awarded. Held yes. The policy so issued by the appellant-company and taken by the owner-Respondent being an illegal contract and knowing its repercussion such a policy was issued as well as taken, both the appellant and Respondent No.5 owner are equally and severally liable to pay the compensation. For the latches on the part of the appellant and Respondent No.5, Claimant/Respondent No.1 to 4 cannot be deprived to get the benefit of the compensation.

The Court directs the Appellant and Respondent No.5 to deposit their respective share to the extent of 50% before the Tribunal within a period of 8 (eight) weeks from the date of receipt of this order.



*Court trial of Jayi Rajaguru displayed
at Museum of Justice*



CASE TITLE : PRATAP KUMAR SAMAL VS. STATE OF ODISHA & ANR.

CASE NO : W.P.(C) No. 9554 of 2022

CORAM : Justice Biraja Prasanna Satapathy

DATE OF HEARING : August 21, 2025

DATE OF JUDGMENT : October 28, 2025

Present writ petition has been filed challenging the order dated 18.11.2021 where petitioner was given pre-mature retirement by allowing him three months pay and allowance in lieu of three months notice.

Petitioner contented that vide its resolution dated 24.09.2019 Government in the G.A. and P.G. Department prescribed the guidelines for the mature retirement of Government Servant and to weed out officers and employees of doubtful integrity or inefficiency from public service to ensure efficiency in administration.

As per the Paragraph-4 and 7 of the guideline dated 24.09.2019 a Group-B and Group-D Officer on completing 30 years of qualifying service or attaining 50 years of age and attaining 55 years of age and on attaining 55 years of age, as the case may be on the 31st March, 30th June, 30th September and 31st December of a year shall be reviewed by the Review Committee, Constituted in pursuance of the institutions is to take a decision as to whether an employee can be given pre-mature retirement. The cases of Government Servants covered under Para-4 should be reviewed six months before their completing 30 years of age and on their attaining 55 years of age as the case may be as per the time schedule enclosed thereto.

Petitioner was trapped in Vigilance Case and remained in custody on being forwarded. Petitioner vide order dated 11.11.2021 was initially

placed under suspension.

Petitioner was extended with the benefit of promotion vide order dated 19.06.2007.

Opp. Party stated that petitioner suppressed the material regarding involvement in Vigilance Case. It is further contended that as per the 2019 guidelines petitioner's case has been review and decision has been taken for pre-mature retirement.

Point of law and Court's View :-

Whether the authority empowers to deviate the statute which prescribed/ requires a particular act to be done in a particular manner alone. Held, No. It is not disputed that by the time the Review Committee recommended to give pre-mature retirement to the petitioner in the proceeding dated 13.12.2021, the petitioner had already attained the age of 53 years. Therefore, the very basis to place the matter before the Review Committee with recommendation so made and the consequential action taken by Opp. Party No. 2 in issuing the impugned order dated 18.11.2021 as per the considered view of this stand vitiated.

Whether the impugned order of pre-mature retirement considering past conduct



is sustainable when the officer was given a promotion despite adverse entries made in the confidential record. Held. No. The Review Committee while taking the decision in its proceeding dated 13.11.2021 relied on various past conduct of the petitioner starting from 28.03.1990 to 10.11.2021. Petitioner was given the benefit of promotion vide order dated

19.06.2007. Therefore, such conduct of the petitioner till 08.12.2006 could not have been taken into consideration while recommending for pre-mature retirement of the petitioner. (6.3)

The impugned order of pre-mature retirement to the petitioner is not sustainable in the eyes of law. (6.5)



'Gond Paintings' from Keonjhar district, an offering towards worship of nature to seek protection and ward off evil displayed at Judges' Lounge



Justice Murahari Sri Raman

CASE TITLE : SUSHANTA KUMAR KABI VRS. AABSYS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND ORS.

CASE NO : C.R.P. No. 38 of 2023

CORAM : Justice Murahari Sri Raman

DATE OF JUDGMENT : February 13, 2025

Commercial Courts Act, 2015 – Sections 8 and 13 – Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 – Section 115; Order VII, Rule 11 – Maintainability of civil revision against interlocutory order of the Commercial Court – Bar under Section 8 – Scope of proviso to Section 13 – Held, proviso does not override or dilute the statutory embargo under Section 8 – Rejection of application under Order VII, Rule 11 CPC does not terminate the suit and remains interlocutory in nature – Civil revision under Section 115 CPC, not maintainable – Revision dismissed as barred, without examination of merits.

The present Civil Revision Petition under Section 115 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 arises from an order dated 06.05.2023 passed by the learned Senior Civil Judge (Commercial Court), Bhubaneswar in C.S. No.49 of 2022, whereby the application filed by the Petitioner-Defendant No.1 under Order VII, Rule 11 of the C.P.C. seeking rejection of the plaint was dismissed. The Opposite Party No.1 had instituted the commercial suit against the petitioner and other defendants alleging breach of employment obligations, misuse of confidential information, trade secrets and intellectual property, and unfair trade practices. The suit sought reliefs including permanent and mandatory injunctions, lifting of corporate veil,

rendition of accounts, delivery and destruction of confidential material, and costs.

The petitioner had contended before the Commercial Court that the plaint did not disclose any cause of action and was liable to be rejected at the threshold. It was specifically pleaded that the agreements between the parties contained an exclusive jurisdiction clause conferring jurisdiction upon courts at Cuttack, thereby ousting the territorial jurisdiction of the Commercial Court at Bhubaneswar. It was further urged that the suit was barred by law, being hit by Section 27 of the Contract Act, 1872, and was not maintainable in view of the arbitration clause contained in



the agreement. Upon consideration of the rival pleadings, the Commercial Court held that the plaint did indeed disclose a cause of action, involved controversial questions of law requiring adjudication, and did not appear to be barred by any law on a bare reading of the plaint. Consequently, the application under Order VII, Rule 11 CPC was rejected.

Aggrieved by the said order, the Petitioner approached the High Court by way of revision under Section 115 CPC. At the threshold, the Opposite Party No.1 raised an objection regarding the maintainability of the revision petition, contending that in view of Section 8 of the Commercial Courts Act, 2015, no civil revision lay against an interlocutory order passed by a Commercial Court, including an order on jurisdiction. It was submitted that the Petitioner had earlier approached the District Court by filing a civil revision which was withdrawn upon objection of the Opposite party No.1, and that the statutory scheme of the Commercial Courts Act barred such revisional interference. The Opposite Party contended that the impugned order did not fall within the categories enumerated under Order XLIII, CPC or Section 37 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, and therefore no appeal was maintainable under Section 13 of the Commercial Courts Act either.

On behalf of the petitioner, it was argued that the Commercial Court had failed to appreciate the binding nature of exclusive jurisdiction clause and had exercised jurisdiction illegally. It was contended that since the impugned order was not appealable under Section 13(1A) of the Commercial Courts Act, the petitioner was left without any efficacious remedy, thereby justifying invocation of the revisional jurisdiction under Section 115 of the C.P.C. In essence, what has been contended by the Petitioner is that the proviso to sub-section

(1A) of Section 13 would also be applicable as if it is a proviso to sub-section (1) of Section 13.

The Court undertook an elaborate examination of the statutory scheme of the Commercial Courts Act, 2015, particularly Sections 8 and 13, analysed the expressions "subject to" and the scope and function of a "proviso", purport and objective of an Interlocutory order, and legal position regarding remedy against interlocutory orders under the Commercial Courts Act, with reference to a catena of precedents of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and other High Court(s). Upon such exhaustive exercise, the Court has arrived at the conclusion that an order by a Commercial Court rejecting the petition under Order VII, Rule 11 of the C.P.C. cannot be assailed in a revision under Section 115 of the C.P.C., in light of interpretation of provisions of Sections 8 and 13 of the Commercial Courts Act.

The Court has reiterated that a proviso cannot be construed so as to override or expand the substantive provision to which it is appended. The Court held that Section 8, couched in *non obstante* clause, expressly bars any civil revision against interlocutory orders of the Commercial Courts, and such bar cannot be diluted by an expansive interpretation of Section 13. It was further clarified that the legislative intent behind the Commercial Courts Act is to let commercial matters be decided expeditiously and to minimise judicial interference at interlocutory stages. Moreover, harping at the 'safe test' propounded by the Hon'ble Apex Court, it was held that an order rejecting an application under Order VII, Rule 11 CPC does not finally determine the rights of the parties, but merely permits the continuation of the suit, and therefore constitutes an interlocutory order. Such an order does not possess the attributes of finality so as to take it outside the bar contained in Section 8 of the



Commercial Courts Act. Lastly, the Court has observed that it is a settled legal principle that for the purpose of Order VII, Rule 11 C.P.C., only the averments contained in the plaint are to be examined, and where the plaint discloses cause of action and raises mixed questions of law and fact, rejection of plaint at the threshold is impermissible.

In view of the aforesaid analysis, the High Court, without expressing any opinion on the merit of the commercial suit, held that the civil revision petition under Section 115 C.P.C. was not maintainable in the light of Sections 8 and 13 of the Commercial Courts Act.

CASE TITLE : M/S. INDIANOIL ADANI VENTURES LIMITED V. STATE OF ODISHA & OTHERS.

CASE NO : W.P.(C) No. 12443 of 2025

CORAM : Mr. Harish Tandon, Chief Justice and Justice Murahari Sri Raman

DATE OF JUDGMENT : November 13, 2025

Odisha Value Added Tax Act, 2004 – Sections 41, 42, 43 and 49(2) – Scope and limitation of Audit Assessment – Effect of time barred Audit Visit Report – Whether remand by first Appellate Authority can revive jurisdiction under Section 42 – Held, no – Section 49(2) applies only to orders of Court or Tribunal in appeal or revision and not to orders of first Appellate Authority – An Appellate Authority under the Act is not coterminous with a Court or a Tribunal – Audit Assessment based on belated AVR held without jurisdiction – Alternative remedy not a bar to a Writ where jurisdictional error is at the root of the matter.

The aforesaid writ petition was filed challenging the assessment order dated 21.03.2025 passed by the Joint Commissioner of Sales Tax, CT & GST Circle, Paradeep, whereby audit assessment under Section 42 of the Odisha Value Added Tax Act, 2004 (“the Act”) was completed for the period 01.04.2010 to 31.03.2013 pursuant to order of remit by the First Appellate Authority. Though an audit under Section 41 had earlier culminated in an Audit Visit Report (“AVR”) in Form VAT-303 without initiation of proceedings under Section 42, the Assessing Authority instead completed assessment under Section 43 (escaped turnover) by order dated 10.02.2017. The said order was first challenged via W.P.(C) No.4513 of 2017 wherein the Petitioner was directed to

avail the remedy of appeal. Consequently, upon challenge and subsequent appeal, the said order was set aside by the Appellate Authority on 19.10.2023 with a direction to undertake audit assessment under Section 42 by issuing Form VAT-306. In compliance thereof, notice in Form VAT-306 was issued on 01.05.2024, culminating in the impugned assessment order dated 21.03.2025.

At the threshold, the petitioner has taken the stance that submission of the AVR within the time prescribed under Section 41(4) of the Act is a mandatory requirement, and that a belated AVR is incapable of forming the foundation of an audit assessment under Section 42 thereof. It was also argued that Section 49(2) of the Act could not be invoked to revive or validate



an otherwise time-barred audit assessment, particularly when the alleged error was not an assessment under a wrong statute but invocation of an incorrect provision for assessment. The language employed that “any other provision of law” in Section 49(2) clearly reflects the intent of legislature.

The petitioner has also strenuously attempted to distinguish an “Appellate Authority” from a “Court or Tribunal” in the context of the aforesaid section and, as such, its remand order could not confer jurisdiction upon the Assessing Authority to initiate audit assessment as the audit visit report had been submitted beyond limitation specified under section 41(4). Lastly, the Petitioner argued that since the AVR was initially not submitted within the time stipulation under section 41(4), the Audit Assessment under section 42 is barred. *Ergo*, it was not open to the Assessment Authority to invoke section 49(2) of the Act. To corroborate its stance, the Petitioner has primarily relied on the dictum of the Hon’ble Apex Court in *Jindal Stainless Ltd. Vrs. State of Odisha*, (2012) 54 VST 1 (Ori), *M.P. Steel Corporation Vrs. Commissioner of Central Excise*, (2015) 7 SCC 58 and *Sakuru v. Tanaji*, (1985) 3 SCC 590.

The Opposite Parties have controverted the Petitioner’s stance, initially on a preliminary objection regarding the maintainability of the writ petition on the ground that the petitioner had an effective alternative statutory remedy under the Act. Later, on merits also, it was contended that the Assessing Authority had merely acted in compliance with the remand order passed by the First Appellate Authority, and that Section 49(2) of the Act expressly enables assessment/reassessment notwithstanding limitation where assessment under a wrong provision has been set aside in

appeal. Also, the Petitioner having participated in the assessment proceedings cannot challenge the same on jurisdictional grounds at a later stage. placing reliance on the Hon’ble Supreme Court’s pronouncement in *P. Sarathy Vrs. State Bank of India*, (2000) 5 SCC 355, and referring to sections 77, 78, 92 of the Act, it was argued by the Opposite Parties that the Appellate Authority exercises *quasi* judicial powers and should be treated as falling within the ambit of “Court or Tribunal” for the purpose of Section 49(2), and, therefore, the audit assessment could not be said to be without jurisdiction.

Upon consideration of the submissions by the rival parties, the Court held the writ petition to be maintainable, observing that the challenge went to the very root of the Assessing Authority’s jurisdiction to invoke proceedings under Section 42 on the basis of a time-barred AVR. It was reiterated that the existence of an alternate remedy does not preclude the exercise of writ jurisdiction where proceedings are wholly without jurisdiction. Interpreting the scheme of the Act, the Court held that compliance with Section 41(4) is mandatory and that an AVR submitted beyond the prescribed period loses statutory validity, rendering any audit assessment under Section 42 founded thereon unsustainable.

Furthermore, on an analysis of the language of the Act, particularly Section 49(2) vis-à-vis Sections 77, 78, 79, and 80, the Court concluded that Section 49(2) is attracted only where a Court or the Sales Tax Tribunal, in appeal or revision, holds that tax has been assessed under an incorrect law (such as the Act instead of the CST Act), and not where an incorrect provision of the same statute has been invoked. The Court further held that Sections 42 and 43 operate in distinct and



mutually exclusive fields, and that initiation of proceedings under one cannot be substituted for or transposed into the other. Consequently, mechanical issuance of notice in Form VAT-306 pursuant to direction by the Appellate Authority would not cure the foundational defect arising from a time-barred AVR.

Additionally, the Court has also noted that having issued Form VAT-307 for conducting assessment under section 43 instead of issuing Form VAT-306 under section 42 for the purpose of assessment, it shall not be open to the Assessing Authority to resurrect the section 42 proceeding under the guise of complying with the order of the first Appellate Authority, passed in an appeal filed at the behest of the Petitioner. It was held that the Assessing Authority cannot take shelter of section 49(2) to revive time-barred assessment or to bypass mandatory statutory requirement under section 41(4). It is a settled principle of law that when the statute requires doing of a certain thing in certain way, the thing must be done in that way or not at all.

Ultimately, rejecting the contention of the Opposite Parties that an “Appellate Authority” is equivalent to a “Court or Tribunal,” the Court held that the expression must receive a restrictive construction, particularly since the phrase “order in appeal or revision” follows the words “any Court or Tribunal” in Section 49(2). An Appellate Authority, being coterminous with the Assessing Authority, cannot be elevated to the status of a Court or Tribunal for the purposes of the said provision. Accordingly, the writ petition was allowed, and the impugned assessment order dated 21.03.2025, along with the notice in Form VAT-306 dated 01.05.2024, was quashed.



A silver filigree 'boita' that reflects the glorious maritime tradition and history of Odisha displayed at Chief Justice's chamber



Hand-painted wooded "Vintage Bridal Box", that's perfect for the Modern Bride displayed at Chief Justice's chamber



Justice Sanjay Kumar Mishra

CASE TITLE : SAURAV RAIGURU VS. ANANYA MISHRA

CASE NO : W.P. (C) No.12857 of 2025

CORAM : Justice Sanjay Kumar Mishra

DATE OF JUDGMENT : October 28, 2025

HEADNOTES:

Family Law – Visitation Rights – Welfare of Child – Paramount Consideration – Section 151 of CPC– Whether a non-custodial parent can be denied visitation rights merely due to matrimonial disputes or criminal allegations? – High Court held, denial of visitation to non-custodial parent cannot be based on mere surmises or conjectures – Allegations dating back nearly 21 months – without material indicating present threat, cannot constitute “exceptional circumstances” to deny visitation – A parent seeking lawful access and showing eagerness to build a relationship with the child cannot be presumed to intend harm.

Whether grandparents are entitled to visitation where it is in the welfare of the minor?–Held, concept of “grandparent visitation” recognized in law– grandparents form integral part of a child’s upbringing in Indian society – child’s welfare would be advanced by enabling affectionate interaction with grandparents. – Grandparents are entitled to reasonable access/ Visitation Rights.

BODY OF SYNOPSIS

1. The writ petition arose from the rejection of an application under Section 151 of CPC, filed by the Petitioner-husband seeking visitation and contact rights with his infant son “Shlok Raiguru” vide order dated 20.03.2025 passed by the Judge, Family Court, Cuttack in C.P. No.299 of 2024.

The Family Court rejected the application observing that serious allegations were made against the Petitioner and there existed a possibility of harm to the Opposite Party-wife and her child if visitation right is granted.

2. The marriage between the Petitioner-



husband and Opposite Party-wife was solemnised on 02.04.2021. Thereafter, they moved to Bangalore and out of their wedlock a male child was born to them on 29.12.2023. On 18.01.2024, the Opposite Party returned to Odisha with the infant and lodged an FIR under Sections 498A, 307, 354 of IPC and Section 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act. Criminal proceedings and DV Act proceedings are pending between the parties. A charge-sheet was later submitted dropping the allegations under Sections 307 and 354 IPC. The Petitioner filed a divorce petition alleging cruelty, while the Opposite Party initiated proceedings under the Domestic Violence Act, which led to orders for interim maintenance and house rent that are presently under challenge before the District Judge, Cuttack.

3. The Petitioner-husband contended that despite being the natural father, he was denied all access to his only new born child since the child was only two weeks old and his repeated attempts to contact the Opposite Party-wife through emails were also ignored, which compelled him to move an application seeking visitation rights before the Family Court, Cuttack. However, the said application was rejected leading to the filing of the writ petition. Relying on the judgment of the Supreme Court in **Yashita Sahu v. State of Rajasthan**, (2020) 3 SCC 67, the Petitioner claimed that, a child has a basic human right to the love and companionship of both parents and that visitation rights must ordinarily be granted to the non-custodial parent unless exceptional circumstances exist, which have been overlooked by the Family Court while rejecting the application seeking visitation Rights.
4. The Opposite Party-wife countered that considering the criminal proceedings and

nature of allegations against the Petitioner-husband so also the application for visitation being premature, the Family Court rightly rejected the same.

5. The Court examined the records and acknowledged that, the Family Court's reasoning was based on surmises and conjectures rather than evidence. All the alleged incidents were almost around 21 months back and nothing was placed before the Court below to demonstrate apprehension of life threat against the Opposite party-wife so also her child. The Court noted that a parent who approaches the Court seeking lawful visitation and shows eagerness to build a relationship with the child cannot be presumed to intend harm.
6. Relying extensively on *Yashita Sahu (supra)*, the Court reiterated that in custody and visitation matters, the welfare of child is the paramount consideration and a child should not be deprived of care, affection, love or protection of one parent due to matrimonial discord. The non-custodial parent must ordinarily receive visitation and contact rights unless exceptional circumstances justify otherwise. The Court also referred to its recent judgment in **Sanjay Sharma v. Dolly @ Sakhi Sharma** (2025 SCC OnLineOri 3736), where denial of visitation to a father was set aside for similar reasons.
7. The Court while addressing the issue of visitation rights of grandparents, referred to Black's Law Dictionary and explained various forms of visitation and acknowledged grandparent visitation as a recognized legal concept. Observing that in Indian society, grandparents form an integral part in a child's upbringing, the Court held that a child's welfare would be advanced by enabling affectionate interaction with



grandparents. Therefore, the Court found that the grandparents, being ancillary part and parcel of the family, were also entitled to reasonable access/visitation rights, particularly since they last saw the child when he was only three weeks old.

8. Consequently, the impugned order of the Family Court was set aside. Visitation Right as well as Contact Rights were granted to the Petitioner-Father so also the paternal grandparents to meet and interact with the child. Further, the Court formulated a detailed framework governing the manner, frequency and supervision of such visitation along with structured provisions for virtual contact to ensure reasonable interaction

between the child and his father as well as grandparents, until the child attains five years of age, thereafter liberty was given to the petitioner to file an application for 'stepped-up' visitation or any other suitable relief.

9. The judgment underscores that reasonable access with non-custodial parents and grandparents is integral for the welfare of the child. It observes that, such access cannot be denied merely on the ground of unresolved matrimonial discord. It further highlights that, access to the grandparents is an important element for child's upbringing contributing significantly to the child's holistic development in Indian society.

CASE TITLE : AJAY KUMAR BHRAMAR BAR RAY VS. UNION OF INDIA & ORS.
2025 (III) ILR-CUT-701

CASE NO : W.P.(C) No.105 OF 2022

CORAM : Justice Sanjay Kumar Mishra

DATE OF JUDGMENT : September 12, 2025

HEADNOTES:

Employees State Insurance Act, 1948 – Sections 39, 40, 75, 81, 85-B – ESI (General) Regulations, 1950 – Regulation 31-C – Scope and nature of the Act – Whether levy of damages towards delayed payment of contribution is discretionary or mandatory? High Court held, Section 85-B of the ESI Act is an enabling provision. Levy of damages is discretionary and not automatic or mandatory in every case of delayed payment of contribution. The expression "may recover" cannot be read as "shall recover". Penal provisions must be construed strictly. Whether Regulation 31 can override Section 85-B of the Act? – High Court held, Regulation 31-C cannot be applied mechanically so as to override the discretion conferred under Section 85-B of the Act. Subordinate legislation must conform to the parent Act.

Alternative remedy – Whether Writ petition is maintainable without approaching the Employees Insurance Court U/s. 75 of the Act? – High Court held, availability of an alternative remedy before the Employees' Insurance Court does not bar a writ petition where the issue involved is a pure question of law relating to interpretation of Section 85-B, or where the impugned order is perverse. Further, the Employees' Insurance Court lacks jurisdiction to issue directions for setting up medical facilities.



BODY OF SYNOPSIS

The Petitioner is the Proprietor of M/s Ajay Construction, Jharsuguda., challenged the orders passed by the Opposite Party-ESI Corporation, Bhubaneswar under Employees' State Insurance Act 1948. Vide impugned orders the Petitioner's prayer for waiver of damages imposed for delayed payment of ESI contributions, and further prayer to ensure provision of functional medical facilities in the nearby areas of Gumadera, Jharsuguda stood rejected.

The ESI Act was already implemented in Jharsuguda District before the Petitioner registered his Establishment. However, due to the complete absence of ESIC medical infrastructure in the area and the nearest facility being too remote, employees resisted deductions, making compliance with salary deduction practically difficult. Notwithstanding these constraints, the Petitioner voluntarily began contributing under the ESI Act and simultaneously sought for waiver of interest and damages for the delayed period. Despite this, damages were imposed for delayed payment of ESI contributions along with interests under Section 85-B of the Act 1948.

The Petitioner argued that delay occurred due to workers' resistance to contribution deductions in the absence of nearby ESI facilities and challenged the imposition of maximum damages by asserting that section 85-B is discretionary, not mandatory, and cannot be overridden by Regulation 31-C of the ESI (General) Regulation, 1950. Having already paid the full contribution and interest, the Petitioner reiterated that the writ is maintainable as it raises a pure legal issue on whether damages can be imposed without statutory mandate or mensrea.

The Petitioner also disputed ESIC's claim

of accessible nationwide medical facilities, highlighting their impracticality for workers in Belpahar, and sought a direction from the Court, being the only competent forum to direct for extending nearby medical facilities for employees. Relying on precedents in Employees' State Insurance Corporation Vrs. HMT Limited and Another [(2008) 3 SCC 35], A.K.IndustriesVrs. Employees Insurance Corporation, Faridabad & others [2011(131) FLR-894], and M/s Samrat Industries Vrs. Regional Director, Employees State Insurance Corporation [1994(II) OLR-328], a stand was taken that Section 85-B of the E.S.I. Act is merely enabling and does not mandate damages, particularly when contribution and interest have already been paid.

The Opposite Parties refuted the allegations, stating that disputes regarding contributions must first be adjudicated before the Employees' Insurance Court under Section 75, with a mandatory 50% pre-deposit before approaching the Court. It was stressed that ESIC provides extensive medical services nationwide and that the Petitioner's long, deliberate delay deprived employees of the statutory benefits, establishing mens rea for damages under Section 85-B of the E.S.I. Act. Since notices and personal hearing opportunities were duly provided, it was argued that the impugned order suffers from no procedural defect.

The Court examined the ESIC's reasoning and found that damages were imposed without considering the Petitioner's genuine difficulty of the ESI dispensary being over far away, and in regard of the Supreme Court's ruling in HMT Limited that levy of damages under Section 85-B of the E.S.I. Act is discretionary, not mandatory.



Section 85-B of the ESI Act is an enabling provision. The expression “may recover” cannot be read as “shall recover”. The Court highlighted that such issues involve questions of law and practical hardship, warranting consideration under Section 81 of the E.S.I. Act. The Court acknowledged that the Opposite Party-ESIC wrongly attributed the delay to be a deliberate conduct by the Petitioner.

The judgment underscores that Regulation 31-C cannot be applied mechanically so as to override the discretion conferred under Section 85-B of the Act. Subordinate legislation must conform to the parent Act. It further highlights that availability of an alternative remedy before

the Employees’ Insurance Court does not bar a writ petition where the issue involved is a pure question of law relating to interpretation of Section 85-B, or where the impugned order is perverse. Further, the Employees’ Insurance Court lacks jurisdiction to issue directions for setting up medical facilities. Ultimately, the Court set aside the impugned order, holding the damages imposed as legally unsustainable. It also directed ESIC to consider the Petitioner’s long-standing grievance regarding lack of nearby medical facilities and to take necessary steps expeditiously to establish an ESI hospital/dispensary in the area as per guidelines, preferably within six months.



Golden Grass art, locally known as Kaincha, by the artisans of Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapara districts displayed at the Chief Justice’s chamber



Justice Gourishankar Satapathy

CASE TITLE : RAMESH CHANDRA SAHOO VRS. STATE OF ORISSA

CASE NO : BLAPL No.10425 of 2025

CORAM : Justice Gourishankar Satapathy

DATE OF JUDGMENT : October 16, 2025

HEADNOTES :

BHARATIYA NAGARIKA SURAKHYA SAHITA 2023 – Section 483 – bail – POCSO Act, 2012 – Ss. 19 & 21(2) – Principal of an educational institution alleged to have suppressed a complaint of sexual harassment and failed to report to police – Duty under Sec.19 mandatory – BNSS, 2023 Table II of First Schedule – Classification of offences under other laws – If punishment is less than 3 years, the offence is bailable – Applied to offences under POCSO Act, which contains no independent classification of bailability – Maximum punishment under Sec.21(2) of POCSO Act being one year – Offence consequently bailable and non-cognizable in terms of Table-II of First Schedule to BNSS/CrPC– Right to personal life and liberty as mandated under article 21 of the Constitution is also pleaded.

Case Referred :

Knit Pro International v. State of NCT of Delhi (2022) 10 SCC 221 – relied upon for classification of offences under other laws through First Schedule of CrPC/BNSS.

Held :

The Court held that POCSO Act does not itself classify offences as bailable/non-bailable. Thus, classification must be by Table-II, First Schedule to BNSS/CrPC. As the maximum punishment under Sec.21(2) is one year, the offence squarely falls in the bailable category. The remand order refusing bail was erroneous and is hereby quashed; petitioner to be released on bail forthwith.



BODY OF SYNOPSIS

The petitioner, Principal of Swami Arupananda Higher Secondary School, was accused of failing to report a girl student's complaint of sexual harassment against a lecturer, thereby attracting Section 21(2) of the POCSO Act. He first sought anticipatory bail, which was declined with direction to surrender, and upon surrender his regular bail was rejected by the Special POCSO Court, leading him to approach the High Court. The principal issue before the Court was whether the offence under Section 21(2) POCSO Act, punishable with imprisonment up to one year, is bailable. The Court held that since POCSO does not classify offences as bailable/non-bailable, such

classification must be drawn from Table-II of the First Schedule to BNSS/CrPC, which treats offences with punishment less than three years as bailable ; since the maximum punishment under Section 21(2) is only one year, the offence is bailable and the denial of bail for a bailable offence amounts to illegal deprivation of personal liberty protected under Article 21 of the Constitution. The Court accordingly quashed the impugned order and directed the petitioner's immediate release on bail. As obiter dicta, the Court directed the Registrar General to circulate the judgment to all Special POCSO Courts to prevent improper detention in similar cases.

CASE TITLE : AJAY KUMAR NANDA @ PINTU V. ASHOK KUMAR PADHEE & ORS

CASE NO : GUAP No. 13 of 2024

CORAM : Justice Gourishankar Satapathy

DATE OF JUDGMENT : October 23, 2025

HEADNOTES :

Guardians & Wards Act, 1890—Section 47 – Section 17—Custody of Minor Child—Minor's custody—Welfare of the child is paramount—Child living with maternal grandparents since infancy—Father's status as natural guardian not enough to disturb long-standing custody—Custody rightly retained with maternal grandparents; father entitled to regulated visitation.

Held :

The High Court of Orissa upheld the dismissal of the father's appeal under Section 47 of the Guardians & Wards Act, 1890, affirming that the minor child's custody shall remain with the maternal grand parents; visitation rights expanded to father. Appeal dismissed.



BODY OF SYNOPSIS

The Appellant-father under Section 47 of the Guardians & Wards Act, 1890, sought custody of his 11-year-old son, Rikun @ Rihan following the death of the mother shortly after childbirth. The child had been in the custody of maternal grandparents and uncle ((R-1 to R-3) since birth to till now, except for a brief period of three months. The core issue was whether the child's welfare was best served by granting custody to the biological father or maintaining the status quo with the maternal relatives. The court held that the father's status as natural guardian is not determinative and the paramount consideration under Section 17 of the Act is the welfare of the child. The continuous upbringing, emotional bonding, stable surroundings, and the child's intelligent

preference to remain with the maternal relatives outweighed the father's claim. The reasoning centered on the paramount consideration of the child's welfare; the stability of the child's environment after nearly 11 years of continuous care by R-1 to R-3; and the child's expressed intelligent preference to remain with his maternal relatives. The child, after attaining majority, shall be at liberty to take the decision to stay with whom (R-1 to R-3 or the father). The appeal was accordingly dismissed, though the Court modified and expanded the father's visitation rights to include vacation outings for up to a fortnight to foster a relationship between father and son and Custody rightly retained with maternal grandparents.



Bandhakala handloom artwork, popularly known as Sambalpuri, where each weave carries its own traditional features, displayed at the second floor corridor of New Building



Justice Chittaranjan Dash

CASE TITLE : BEDABYAS BEHERA VS. STATE OF ODISHA

CASE NO : CRLMC No. 840 of 2023

CORAM : Justice Chittaranjan Dash

DATE OF JUDGMENT : September 03, 2025

HEADNOTES:

Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 – Ss. 39, 50 & 51 – Seizure of licensed firearm alleged to be used in wildlife offence – Nature of vesting under S. 39(1)(d) – Scope of Magistrate’s jurisdiction under S. 50(4) – Held, mere seizure does not automatically vest ownership of the weapon in the State; vesting requires prima facie material showing its use in the commission of an offence. S. 50(4) mandates that all seizures be forthwith reported to the Magistrate “to be dealt with according to law,” thereby preserving judicial oversight. The Magistrate, being the trial forum under S. 51, is the central adjudicatory authority in the seizure-to-trial continuum and retains incidental power to regulate interim custody of seized articles. An interpretation that seizure alone extinguishes private rights violates constitutional protections under Arts. 19(1)(g) and 300A. Withdrawal of release powers of forest officers by deletion of S. 50(2) does not curtail the Magistrate’s jurisdiction.

Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 – Ss. 451, 452 & 457–Interim custody and disposal of seized property – Applicability to WLPA seizures – Held, Chapter XXXIV Cr.P.C. applies to property seized under the WLPA once reported to the Magistrate under S. 50(4). The Magistrate is empowered to order interim custody under Ss. 451/457 Cr.P.C., subject to judicial satisfaction and after permitting the authorised officer an opportunity to place relevant materials. Final disposal is governed

by S. 452 CrPC after adjudication. No express statutory bar excludes Cr.P.C. powers in respect of WLPA seizures.

Procedure – Guidelines –

Court proposes structured guidelines for trial courts while considering interim release of weapons seized in WLPA cases, including verification of licence, obtaining reports from authorised officers, checking for initiation of confiscation proceedings, assessment of prima



facie material of use in offence, and imposition of stringent safeguards where release is granted.

Held :

clarifying the legal position on the interplay

between WLPA and CrPC regarding interim custody of seized firearms; no confiscation proceedings being initiated, the Magistrate retains jurisdiction to consider release strictly in accordance with law. Petition disposed of.

CASE SUMMARY:

The Petitioner, a licensed firearm holder, sought release of his 12 bore SBBL gun seized by forest officials in connection with an alleged wildlife offence relating to the hunting of a wild boar in Deogarh district. The firearm was seized from his residence during investigation under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (WLPA). His application for interim release of the weapon under Sections 451 and 457 CrPC was rejected by the J.M.F.C., Reamal, and the revisional court affirmed the rejection on the ground that criminal courts lacked jurisdiction to release firearms seized in WLPA cases.

Before the High Court, the Petitioner contended that he is the lawful owner of the gun, that it has remained in custody since 2019, and that prolonged storage risks deterioration. He relied on judicial precedents emphasising the need to prevent decay of seized property and argued that no confiscation proceedings have been initiated under the WLPA. The State argued that under Section 39 WLPA, the seized weapon becomes Government property and courts should be slow to order release in wildlife matters. The High Court undertook a

detailed statutory analysis of Sections 39, 50 and 51 WLPA, read harmoniously with Sections 451, 452 and 457 Cr.P.C. It clarified that mere seizure does not ipso facto vest the property in the State; vesting arises only upon proof of use in the commission of an offence. Section 50(4) expressly requires seizure to be placed before the Magistrate "to be dealt with according to law," thereby preserving judicial authority over interim custody. The Cr.P.C. continues to govern such custody unless expressly excluded, which the WLPA does not do. The Court reaffirmed that the Magistrate retains jurisdiction to make interim custody orders even in WLPA matters and that deprivation of property on mere accusation would raise constitutional concerns. The Court consequently clarified the position of law, proposed guidelines for trial courts to follow when dealing with requests for release of seized weapons in WLPA cases, and disposed of the petition without adjudicating the merits of the Petitioner's entitlement, leaving the matter to be considered by the competent Magistrate in accordance with the clarified legal framework.



Saura painting displayed at V.C. Hall, New Building of the High Court



CASE TITLE : TRILOCHAN MISHRA VS. UNION OF INDIA & ANOTHER

CASE NO : CRLREV No. 119 of 2023

CORAM : Justice Chittaranjan Dash

DATE OF JUDGMENT : November 21, 2025

HEADNOTES:

Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 – Ss. 2(1)(u), 3 & 5 – Money-laundering – Requirement of existence of “proceeds of crime” and demonstrable mens rea – Predicate offence as foundation – Held, prosecution under the PMLA cannot be sustained in the absence of a cognizable predicate offence capable of generating “proceeds of crime.” Pendency of investigation in the scheduled offence or mere registration of FIR, without material establishing illicit gain or layering, is insufficient. Mere allegations of criminal misconduct or corruption do not ipso facto amount to “proceeds of crime” unless property is shown to be derived or obtained as a result of the scheduled offence. The offence under S. 3 PMLA is independent but not free-standing; it is necessarily predicated upon proof of involvement with proceeds of crime.

Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 – S. 227 – Discharge – Scope in PMLA prosecutions – Held, at the stage of framing of charge, the Court must ascertain whether the complaint and materials placed by the Enforcement Directorate disclose (i) generation of proceeds of crime; (ii) involvement of the accused in concealment, possession, use, projection, or claiming such proceeds as untainted; and (iii) a link between the scheduled offence and the alleged laundering activity. Absence of these foundational facts mandates discharge. Court cannot rely on conjecture or unverified assumptions of financial gain.

PMLA – Complaint under S. 44(1)(b) – Cognizance – Requirement of independent judicial satisfaction – Held, the Special Court must apply its mind to the materials furnished

by the Directorate. Cognizance cannot be sustained where the complaint merely reproduces allegations without demonstrating specific laundering transactions or nexus with alleged proceeds. Mere association or official capacity of an accused in the predicate offence does not attract PMLA liability unless participation in laundering activity is shown.

Held, on facts, the materials relied upon by the Enforcement Directorate failed to disclose any identifiable proceeds of crime or laundering activity attributable to the Petitioners, nor any substantive link between the alleged misconduct in the predicate case and property projected as untainted. Accordingly, interference with the impugned orders refusing discharge was warranted; petitions allowed.



CASE SUMMARY:

The Petitioners, former public officials, were proceeded against by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) on the basis of Chhatrapur P.S. Case No.119 of 2015, a scheduled offence under the Act. Following registration of the ECIR, the ED filed Complaint Case (PMLA) No.61 of 2018 alleging commission of the offence of money-laundering under Section 3 PMLA. The Petitioners sought discharge before the Special Court, contending that the complaint did not disclose any “proceeds of crime,” nor any laundering activity attributable to them. Their applications under Section 227 CrPC were rejected, and cognizance was taken by the Special Court. Aggrieved, the Petitioners approached the High Court in revision and under Section 482 CrPC, arguing that the prosecution was unsustainable in the absence of (i) proof of existence of proceeds of crime; (ii) any finding in the predicate offence of illicit monetary gain; (iii) any material showing concealment, possession, use, or projection of such proceeds; and (iv) any mens rea linking them to laundering activity. It was also argued that the ED’s complaint merely reproduced allegations from the predicate case without identifying any tainted property. The ED opposed the petitions, asserting that the materials collected were sufficient to proceed to trial. However, upon examining the record, the High Court found that the complaint failed to establish any property derived or obtained from the scheduled offence, and that the alleged transactions did not demonstrate laundering activity within the meaning of Section 3 PMLA. The Court reiterated that the offence of

money-laundering, though independent, is not free-standing and must rest on demonstrable “proceeds of crime,” which were conspicuously absent. Noting the lack of foundational material linking the Petitioners to the alleged laundering activity, the Court held that the threshold for framing of charge was not met. The Special Court’s orders rejecting discharge and taking cognizance were therefore unsustainable. The revision petitions and associated petitions were accordingly allowed, with the High Court concluding that continuation of proceedings under the PMLA, in the facts of the case, would amount to abuse of the process of law.



A 'Banana Tree', carved with absolute precision out of pink soapstone displayed at the Chief Justice's chamber



Justice Sibo Sankar Mishra

CASE TITLE : BASUDEV BEHERA V. STATE OF ODISHA

CASE NO : CRLMC NO.2220 of 2024 and Other Batch Matters

CORAM : Justice Sibo Sankar Mishra

DATE OF JUDGMENT : February 13, 2025

Criminal Procedure Code-Section 436A-Mandatory Release-Undertrial Prisoners- Article 21- Primacy of Personal Liberty Over Procedural Rigidity- Bail Conditions-Inability to Furnish Cash Security Not a Ground for Continued Incarceration Trial Court's Error-Misunderstanding Section 436A- Section 436A as Statutory Bail Comparable to Section 167(2) Cr.P.C.-Bail was Granted-No Opinion was Expressed on Merits.

These five Criminal Miscellaneous Cases arose from allegations of cheating and fraud in land transactions involving M/s. Satyam Sai Infratech. In each case, the petitioner, Basudev Behera, was accused of inducing informants to pay various amounts for land that was never delivered, followed by issuing cheques that were dishonoured. The alleged offences included Sections 420/468/471/294/506/34 IPC and Section 6 of the OPID Act, 2011, which carries a maximum punishment of ten years.

Despite bail being granted by the High Court in all matters between 2019 and 2020, the petitioner remained in custody because he could not furnish the cash security imposed as a condition. Consequently, he continued in custody from November 2017, completing

more than seven years of detention, far exceeding one-half of the maximum sentence, as prescribed for the offences charged with.

The petitioner invoked Section 436A Cr.P.C. before the trial court, asserting a statutory right to release. However, the trial court rejected the applications, incorrectly treating them as attempts to modify High Court bail conditions, holding the petitions "not maintainable."

Before the High Court, the petitioner argued that such refusal violated Article 21 and defeated the purpose of Section 436A. The Court placed strong emphasis on liberty, illustrated through the introductory anecdote highlighting the essence of human freedom, observing:



*"A jail barrack man was arrested on allegation of a petty crime and was put behind bars. This broke him into tears. The co-prisoner observantly said it shouldn't make any difference to him as he has been all along sitting on the other side of the door in the barrack for last 20 years, it shouldn't bother him now. The barrack man replied with all his consciousness, sitting on the other side of the door for 20 years was unrestrictive with all his freedom and liberty at his command. **Today my liberty is withdrawn which indeed was my life. Liberty is the breath of life. Sans it, it's like a bird with crippled wings.**"*

Evaluating the statutory framework, the Court held that Section 436A is mandatory, rooted in Article 21, and intended to prevent excessive pre-trial detention. The Court relied on the Judgment of the Hon'ble Apex Court in **Satender Kumar Antil**¹, which held that detention during investigation, trial, appeal and revision all count towards the 436A limit, and that release is automatic unless reasons are recorded to continue detention.

The Court also cited the Hon'ble Apex Court's Judgment in **Vijay Madanlal Choudhary**², reaffirming that this provision cannot be diluted on procedural grounds, and **Bhim Singh**³, which directed judicial officers to routinely identify and release eligible under-trials.

The Court concluded that:

1. The petitioner had undergone custody far beyond 50% of the maximum possible sentence.
2. Detention solely for inability to furnish cash security was "onerous" and constitutionally impermissible.

3. The trial court misapplied Section 436A and failed to uphold the petitioner's statutory and constitutional rights.
4. Procedural limitations cannot be allowed to override fundamental liberty.

Holding further detention to be an abuse of process, the High Court disposed of all five petitions and ordered the petitioner's release on personal bond, subject to appropriate conditions. The Court expressly noted that it had not examined the merits of the accusations.

The judgment strongly reinforces the judiciary's duty to prevent prolonged under-trial incarceration and affirms that **liberty remains paramount in the criminal justice system.**



*Chair used in Mayurbhanj Judiciary
displayed at Museum of Justice*

¹2022 LiveLaw (SC) 577

²2022] 6 S.C.R. 382

³(2015) 13 SCC 605



CASE TITLE : LAKSHMAN SRINIVASAN V. REPUBLIC OF INDIA (CBI)

CASE NO : CRLREV NO. 660 OF 2024

CORAM : Justice Sibbo Sankar Mishra

DATE OF JUDGMENT : April 10, 2025

Criminal Revision–Sections 397/401 CrPC–Challenge to Rejection of Application under Sections 451 & 457 CrPC– Scope of Sections 451 and 457 CrPC–Custody and Disposal of Property– Release of Seized Cash–Economic Considerations– Guidelines for Release of Cash and Other Seized Property– Economic Offences–Court’s Circumspection– Revision Allowed– Directed to Release the ₹15,00,000 to the Petitioner Subject to Stringent Safeguards.

The present Criminal Revision under Sections 397/401 CrPC (read with Sections 442 and 438 BNSS, 2023) challenges the order dated 14.08.2024 of the learned Special Judge (CBI), Bhubaneswar, refusing to release ₹15 lakhs seized from the petitioner by the CBI during the investigation of a large-scale illegal deposit scheme.

The petitioner, accused of involvement in fraudulent investment schemes through M/s Infinity Realcon Ltd. and related entities, was arrested on 26.09.2022. During searches at his office at Anand Lok Building, Kolkata, CBI recovered ₹15 lakhs from a cupboard. The petitioner sought release of this money under Sections 451 and 457 CrPC.

The Trial Court rejected the plea, observing that the cash appeared “unaccounted” and its legality was doubtful. The petitioner assailed this as erroneous, relying on the Judgment of the Hon’ble Apex Court in **Sunderbhai Ambalal Desai**⁴, where the Supreme Court held that seized property should not be kept in custody longer than necessary, and **Manjit Singh**⁵,

where the Delhi High Court permitted release of seized currency with proper documentation.

The CBI opposed the release, highlighting the magnitude of the chit-fund scam wherein ₹565 crores were collected illegally, out of which ₹343 crores remained unpaid. It asserted that the petitioner had received ₹4.15 crores and misappropriated ₹3.93 crores; investigation under Section 173(8) CrPC remained ongoing.

This Court examined the broader context of economic offences but emphasized that even in such cases; cash should not lie idle when evidentiary value can be preserved. The Court observed:

“...release of money ensures that the seized currency remains in circulation... Keeping large sums of money idle in custody neither benefits the State nor the affected individuals.”

The Court relied on its earlier decision in **Santosh Kumar Tripathy**⁶, permitting release of seized cash with safeguards. It adopted a similar approach here, holding that proper preservation of evidence, through detailed panchnama, serial-number documentation,

⁴(2002) 10 SCC 283

⁵2014 SCC OnLine Del 4652

⁶CRLMC No. 2631 of 2023



photographs, undertakings, and financial securities adequately protects investigative interests.

The Court then issued comprehensive guidelines for all courts and investigating authorities regarding:

1. release of seized currency,
2. disposal of vehicles,
3. handling of gold and valuables,
4. management of electronic evidence,
5. destruction of liquor and narcotics,
6. treatment of bank deposits,
7. dealing with perishables, and
8. ensuring periodic judicial review of seized articles.

Recognizing the need for uniformity and efficiency in managing seized assets across Odisha, the Court directed transmission of its judgment to all District Courts, Special Courts, and State investigative agencies.

In conclusion, the High Court allowed the revision and ordered release of ₹15 lakh to the petitioner, subject to detailed panchnama, high-resolution colour photographs, 50% bank guarantee, security for remaining 50%, affidavit undertaking future restitution.

The Judgment balances the integrity of investigation with economic utility and statutory authority under Sections 451 and 457 Cr.P.C.



Stone replica of the famous wheels of the Konark Sun Temple, inspired by the 13th century UNESCO World Heritage Site displayed at the Chief Justice's chamber



Justice Anand Chandra Behera

CASE TITLE : RAGHUPATI SATYANARAYAN VS. STATE OF ODISHA AND OTHERS

CASE NO : Case No: W.P.(C) No. 24717 of 2019

CORAM : Justice Anand Chandra Behera

DATE OF JUDGMENT : September 17, 2025

This judgment, delivered by Justice A.C. Behera of the Orissa High Court concerns a dispute over the recorded caste of the petitioner, Raghupati Satyanarayan, in land revenue records.

Question before the court :

1. Whether the Additional Land Commissioner has the power or jurisdiction under Section 15(b) of the Orissa Survey and Settlement Act, 1958, to revise and change a caste entry in the finally published RoR?
2. Whether the petitioner could legally claim "Kandha" status (a Scheduled Tribe in Odisha) when evidence suggested that this father migrated from Andhra Pradesh, where the family's original caste was "Kapu"?
3. Whether a 1964 sale deed and a 1983 Civil Court decree—both of which identified the petitioner's father as "Kandha"—were legally binding on the revenue authorities regarding the petitioner's actual social status?
4. Whether the Commissioner was justified

in treating the petitioner as "Kapu" in the absence of a valid caste certificate issued by a competent authority proving he was "Kandha"?

5. If the Commissioner's order was erroneous or if it correctly applied the principle that caste is determined by birth and cannot be changed by migration or incorrect historical documentation

Reasoning of the court :

In the judgment, High Court of Orissa dismissed the writ petition by concluding that the petitioner failed to legally establish his status as "Kandha" (Scheduled Tribe). The court's reasoning was based on several key legal pillars:

1. Administrative Jurisdiction over Records



The court rejected the argument that the Additional Land Commissioner lacked the power to change caste entries.

Revisionary Power: Under Section 15(b) of the Orissa Survey and Settlement Act, 1958, the revisional authority has the jurisdiction to revise a record-of-rights at any time after final publication.

Scope of Entries: Rule 21 of the Orissa Survey and Settlement Rules specifically includes "caste" as a particular to be recorded in the Record of Rights (RoR). Therefore, correcting a wrong caste entry falls within the Commissioner's legal mandate.

2. The Principle of Migration

The court placed significant weight on the fact that the petitioner's father, Raghupatruni Venkatswamy, migrated from the Salur area of Andhra Pradesh.

Status at Birth: Evidence indicated that the father's caste at the time of migration was "Kapu".

Immutability of Caste: Citing Supreme Court precedents, the court held that caste is determined by birth and remains unchanged by migration. Even if a person moves to another state, they carry their original status and cannot claim the benefits of a different caste in the new state.

Lineage: Since the petitioner was born to a father who was "Kapu" by caste, his caste cannot legally be changed to "Kandha" simply because of the family's relocation to Odisha.

3. Evidentiary Deficiencies

The court found the petitioner's evidence to be legally insufficient:

Absence of Certificate: Despite claiming

that a caste certificate (RMC No. 267/81) existed, the petitioner failed to produce any certificate from a competent authority during the proceedings.

Inadequacy of Sale Deeds: The petitioner argued that a 1964 sale deed executed by his father listed their caste as "Kandha". The court ruled that mere mentions of caste in private documents like sale deeds are not "determinative factors" of legal caste status.

4. Jurisdiction of Civil Courts

The petitioner relied on a 1983 Civil Court judgment (O.S. No. 93 of 1983) that declared his father's caste as "Kandha".

Implied Bar : The High Court ruled that Civil Courts do not have the jurisdiction to declare a person's social status as a Scheduled Tribe.

Presidential Lists: Because Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe lists are declared by the President of India, the jurisdiction of a Civil Court to make declarations concerning such status is impliedly barred. Consequently, the 1983 decree was not binding for the purpose of correcting the RoR.

Decision of the court:

The court addressed and rejected the petitioner's grounds for appeal based on the following principles:

Jurisdiction of Revisional Authority: The court ruled that the Additional Land Commissioner (Opposite Party No. 4) had the legal power under Section 15(b) of the Orissa Survey and Settlement Act, 1958 to revise and correct caste entries in the RoR.

Caste is Determined by Birth, Not Migration: The court emphasized that caste status is



acquired by birth and does not change when a person migrates to another state. Since the petitioner's father was "Kapu" by caste in Andhra Pradesh, the petitioner remains "Kapu" in Odisha.

Invalidity of Civil Court Declarations on Caste:

The court held that Civil Courts do not have the jurisdiction to declare a person's social status as a Scheduled Tribe; such lists are strictly governed by Presidential notifications.

Requirement of a Caste Certificate: The petitioner failed to produce a valid caste certificate from a competent authority showing him as "Kandha".

Inadequacy of Sale Deeds: The court noted that merely mentioning a caste in a sale deed (as the petitioner's father had done in 1964) is not a legally determinative factor for a person's actual caste.

CASE TITLE : NIRANJAN BARIK VS. SRI JAMBESWAR MAHADEV BIJE, JAMARA, KENDRAPARA AND OTHERS

CASE NO : WPC NO 3020 OF 2024

CORAM : Justice Anand Chandra Behera

DATE OF JUDGMENT : August 26, 2025

In this Judgment High Court dismissed the writ petition and upheld the order to record the case land in the name of the deity. The court's reasoning was built on several foundational legal principles regarding the protection of religious endowments and the limitations of administrative jurisdiction

Question before the court :

- Whether the deity Sri Jambeswar Mahadev Bijje Nijagaon is a public deity or a private deity ?
- Legality of an unregistered chirasaye patta issued by representative of deity and validity of titled and possession of such transferred case land .
- Jurisdictional Limitations of Consolidation Authorities

Legal reasoning :

1. The Legal Status of the Deity

The court fundamentally determined the nature of the deity to establish the level of

legal protection required:

Public vs. Private Deity: The court held that Sri Jambeswar Mahadev Bijje is a public deity because its place of worship (Bijesthali) is open to the villagers and nearby residents, making it a religious institution of a public character rather than a personal one.

Perpetual Minor: Legally, a deity is considered a perpetual minor. The court reasoned that since minors and persons with disabilities require protection, it is the "primary duty of the State and its authorities" to safeguard the interests and properties of the deity.



2. Invalidity of the Land Transfer

The petitioner's claim rested on an unregistered permanent lease deed (Chirastaye Patta) executed in 1960. The court found this transfer void for two reasons:

Lack of Statutory Permission: Under Section 19(1) of the Odisha Hindu Religious Endowments Act, 1951, any alienation of a public deity's property requires the prior permission of the Endowment Commissioner. Since no such permission was obtained, the lease was void ab initio (invalid from the start).

Registration Requirements: The transfer involved a permanent lease and a payment (Salami) exceeding Rs. 100. Under the Transfer of Property Act and the Indian Registration Act, such a document must be registered to legally transfer title. The court held that an unregistered instrument could not grant the petitioner's father ownership of the land.

3. Jurisdictional Limitations of Consolidation Authorities

The court addressed whether the Consolidation Officer had the right to record the land in the petitioner's name in 1983:

Bebandabasta Status: The land was recorded as Bebandabasta (unsettled/rent-free). The court reasoned that authority over such lands lies with the OEA Tribunal under the Orissa Estate Abolition Act, not consolidation authorities.

Binding Records: Consolidation authorities are bound by orders passed under other State Acts. Since the land was historically recorded in the deity's name and was never formally settled in favour of the petitioner under the OEA Act, the Consolidation Officer exceeded his jurisdiction by re-recording it.

Decision of the court

- It is held that the deity Sri Jambeswar Mahadev Bije, Jamara is not a private deity, but a public deity is a public deity and the case land belongs to them then in order to transfer or alienate the case land of the deity by anybody, prior permission of the endowments Commissioner was/is necessary. Marfatdar cannot alienate the property belongs to deity without permission Under section 19 of Orissa Hindu Religious Endowments Act, 1951.
- A lease of immovable property other than agriculture purpose for a term exceeding one year without registered instrument is void.
- The Consolidation authorities have no jurisdiction to enter into the arena / Jurisdiction of the OEA Tribunals or authority under OEA Act. Because as per law, the consolidation authorities are bound by the orders passed by the authority in any state Act like Section 8(1) of the OEA Act.
- Since the deity is a perpetual minor and the property belongs to a minor requires protection, It is the obligation of the state authorities to protect the interest of the minor.



A court room in the new building of the High Court

VI CHAPTER

—INTROSPECTION—



1:47,619 Judge- to-Population Ratio

Critical self-reflection on human resource gaps, with 19 Judges managing a case load of 8,343 cases per Judge.



Targeted Disposal of Year-Old Cases

Chronic 25-40 year-old pendency slashed from 4,637 to 1,798 cases.



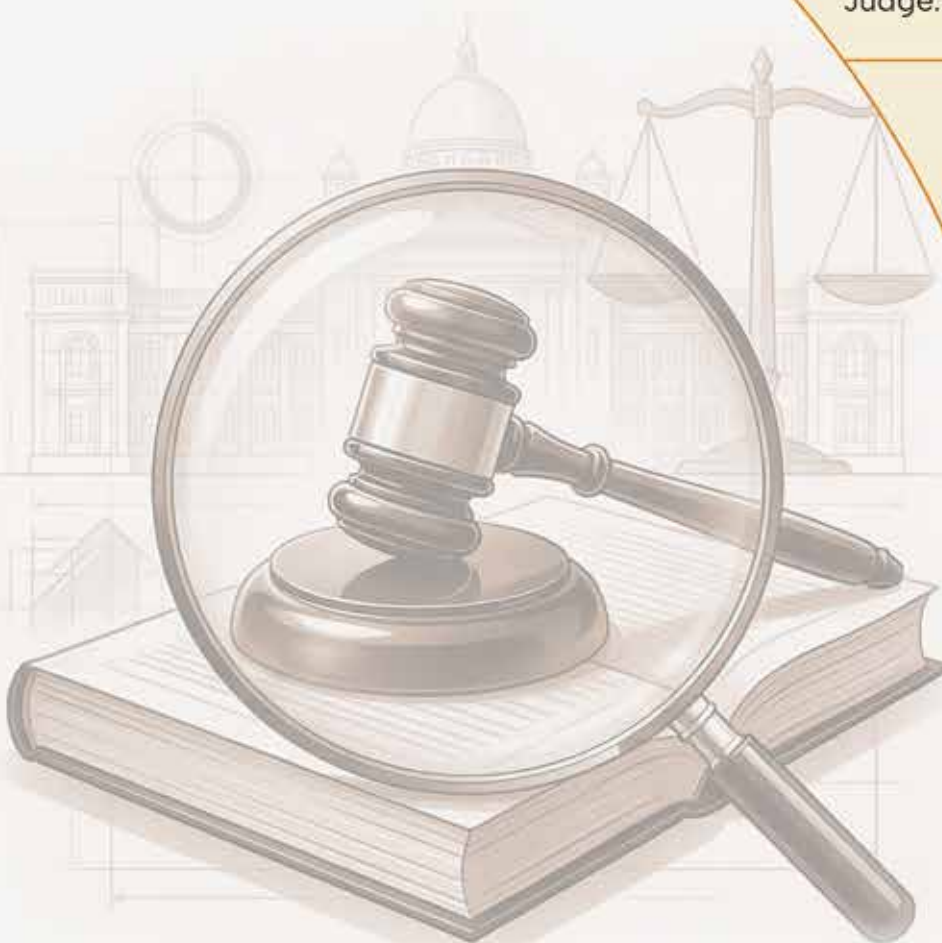
Scaling Infrastructure and Modernization

244 new projects approved; 34 foundation stones laid for modernized court buildings and residences.



113.40% Civil Case Clearance Rate

The Court successfully reduced civil pendency while delivering 171,636 total judgments across 2025.





A Corridor in the High Court of Orissa Mediation Centre



Introspection

The annual report of the court stands as a vital instrument for judicial introspection, encapsulating the institution's performance, challenges and aspirations. In the spirit of self-examination mandated by constitutional imperatives, delve into key facets such as Non-execution of warrants, case disposal

rates, pendency statistics and infrastructural developments. As such the "Introspection" chapter is made a part of annual report published by the Court. Despite progress in many fields, still there are areas, which are to be focused are highlighted below.

Challenges

1. Non-execution of Warrants

The failure to execute a warrant in a timely manner constitutes a significant violation of constitutional protection and statutory requirement. Such non-execution undermines the integrity of judicial process and the rights of affected parties. Non-execution may arise from administrative neglect, resource shortages or deliberate inaction. Due to initiation of Warrant Management System (WMS) portal, different warrants, such as bailable warrants (B.W.), non-bailable warrants (N.B.W.), distress warrants (D.W.) and warrants for the recommitment of convicts could be instantly transmitted to different Police Stations across the State. That apart it was found easy for real-time tracking of warrants issued to different 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 issued to different Police Stations. At the end of the year, 2025, 15,883 warrants have been issued, out of which 1392 warrants have been executed, 640 warrants were recalled and 13851 warrants are yet to be executed.

2. Judge-population ratio

As against pendency of 1,58,519 cases in the High Court, there are presently 19 Judges against the strength of 33 Judges. Two Judges were appointed in the current year. One Judge was retired upon attending the age of superannuation and one was transferred. The per Judge Case load at present is 8343 cases.

So far as the District Courts is concerned, there were 840 Judicial Officers at the beginning of the year 2025. During the year 07 Judicial Officers superannuated and 03 Judicial Officer resigned. 33 Judicial Officers in cadre of Civil Judge (Junior Division) joined in the service due to fresh recruitment. The per capita case load was 2332 cases at the end of the year.

The judge-population ratio is 1: 47619 (Total No. of Judges/Total population).

3. Docket explosion

The reports data on pendency, particularly in Civil and Criminal matters, invites critical reflection. Districts with protracted backlogs warrant targeted interventions, as delays erode public confidence in the judiciary.



The total pendency of cases (both Civil and Criminal) was 19,20,825 at the beginning of 2025, which increased to 20,13,139 at the end of December 2025. The total pendency of civil cases at the beginning of the year 2025 was 3,16,057 and it came down to 3,03,917 at the end of December 2025 with 113.40% CCR (Disposal/Institution x 100).

However, the cases in criminal side increased from 16,04,768 at the beginning of the year 2025 to 17,09,222 at the end of December, 2025 with 83.46% CCR.

While 87,584 civil cases were instituted in the year, 2025 and 99,317 cases were disposed of. In the criminal side, 4,70,187 cases were instituted in the year 2025 and 3,92,395 cases were disposed of. The more institution of criminal cases is due to filing of 51,694 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 judgeship of Boudh, Koraput, Nabarangpur and Sonapur have achieved more than 100% CCR.

1,71,636 judgments (Civil and Criminal) have been delivered till December 2025 in comparison to 1,57,593 judgments delivered in 2024.

4. 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 lost in the State 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 x average working strength of Judicial Officers in the State]

In 2023, the loss of court working hours in High Court is 2009 hours and in District Court it is 19.37 hours. In 2024, the loss of court working hours in High Court is 1644.875 hours and in District Court it is 55.275 hours. In 2025, the loss of court working hours in High Court is 1881.025 hours and in District Court it is 142.3 hours.

5. Disposal of year-old cases

A primary focus of the annual report pertains to the disposal of cases and the persistent issue of pendency. The 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 and 1,984 at the end of December 2024. In 2025, pendency of 25–40 years old cases were further reduced to 1798 at the end of the year.

Similarly, 32 cases in the category of 40 years old were pending at the beginning of 2023, which was reduced to 26 at the end



of 2023. However, pendency of 40-year-old cases has increased to 36 and 41 at the end of the year 2024 and 2025 respectively.

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 rate of disposal of year-old cases have been consistently increased.

Various steps are being taken to reduce 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 basis. Necessary instructions were imparted during District Judges Conferences. The Administrative Judges holding interactions with the judicial officers at the time of inspection of District Courts and fixed targets for the Judicial Officers to prioritize year-old cases for time bound disposal.

6. Infrastructure

Introspection extends to infrastructural adequacy, with the report detailing court rooms, residential accommodations and library resources. The integration of technology- e-filing, virtual hearings and case management systems marks a progressive stride. In recent years, significant attention has been made towards enhancing the infrastructure of the district judiciary. In 2025, 5 Nos. of Taluk Court Buildings and construction of 13 Nos. of residential quarters for judicial officers

has been completed.

Besides, foundation stone for 34 nos. of 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, Dedicated Bar Association hall-cum-Canteen, Residential Quarters for Judicial Officers and Staff, Creche for Judicial Officers and Staff, Refreshment room for Judicial Officers and Staff, Parking Shed and Transit House 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 have been pleased to extend the Scheme till the F.Y.-2025-26.

Under the CSS, the fund sharing pattern is in the ratio of 60:40 between the Centre and the State of Odisha, 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.

Construction of Lawyer Halls, Digital Computer Room, Toilet Complex besides Court halls & residential units for Judicial



Officers have been incorporated in the Action plan of the CSS having 105 number of projects adhering to the guidelines enumerated in 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. 85.80 Crore (Rs. 51.48 Crore as Central Share + Rs. 34.32 Crore as State Share) have been allotted during the financial year, 2024-25 under the CSS out of which Rs.20 Crore (Rs. 12.00 Crore as Central Share (Mother Sanction) + Rs. 8.00 Crore as State Share) in toto have been received in two phases under SNA-SPARSH Model during the last quarter of FY, 2024-25 i.e. for the period from January to March, 2025. All the funds so received have already been utilized for infrastructural development of the District Judiciary in this financial year by following the guidelines framed by the Ministry of Law & Justice (Department of Justice) and the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure), Government of India.

Further, funds to the tune of Rs. 38.20 Crore (Rs. 22.92 Crore Central Share (Mother Sanction) + Rs. 15.28 Crore State Share) have been received in three phases under SNA-SPARSH Model in the first three quarters of the financial year, 2025-26 under the CSS. In addition, a fresh Mother Sanction (4th phase) amounting to Rs. 7.65 crore was issued by the Government of India in December, 2025; however, the corresponding state share has not yet been sanctioned by the State Government. In total, 105 number of projects have been included in the Action Plan, 2025-26, out of which, 26 Nos. of new projects have been accorded with administrative approval by the Court

under the Scheme during this period.

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.

Budgetary Provision of Rs. 40,00,00,000/- (Rupees Forty Crore Only) was made for development of infrastructural facility for the District Judiciary under State Sector Scheme of Programme Expenditure out of the Supplementary Budget during the financial year, 2024-25.

Further, a proposal for funds to the tune of Rs. 301,69,26,611/- (Rupees Three Hundred One Crore Sixty-Nine Lakh Twenty-Six Thousand Six Hundred Eleven only) was sent to the State Government under Annual Budget for the financial Year, 2025-26 for the purpose of infrastructure development of the District Judiciary. Subsequently, funds amounting to Rs. 278,24,26,611/- (Rupees Two Hundred Seventy-Eight Crore Twenty-Four Lakh Twenty-Six Thousand Six Hundred Eleven only) has been approved by the Government of Odisha, Home Department under the Annual Action Plan, 2025-26.

In total, 139 Nos. of new projects of the District Judiciary have already been accorded with administrative approval by the Court under this Scheme during the year, 2025.

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 2025-26, the details about the allocation funds to the respective Executing Agencies for the completion of the approved revenue nature projects till the end of December, 2025 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, 2025-26
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 ₹.)		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 ₹.)		26,00,00,000

During the entire year 2025, the Court have approved 646 Nos. revenue nature projects in total till date i.e. 494 Nos. of Non-residential

& 152 Nos. of residential projects pertaining to the District Judiciary.

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	449	130	579
2	C.E. (Rural Works)	35	4	39
3	E.I.C. (P.H.)	10	18	28
TOTAL		494	152	646

Conclusion

The above steps taken would enhance the efficiency of the judicial system ensuring better conditions of work environment for all stakeholders who are involved directly

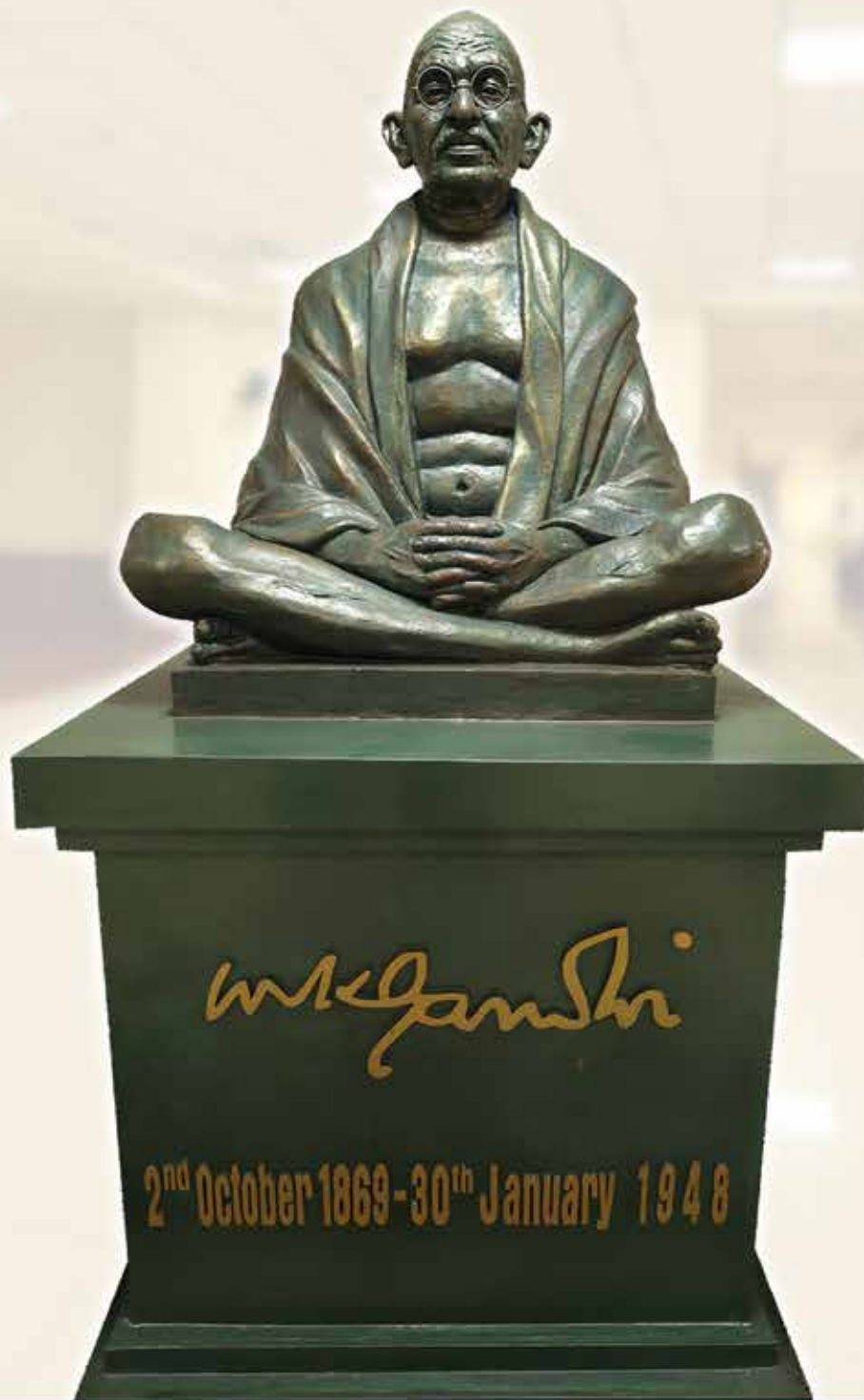
or indirectly. This introspection illuminates strides made and paths untraveled. The report serves as a roadmap for reform. Sustained self-scrutiny is indispensable to the judiciary's evolution as a pillar of democracy.



Pattachitra depicts nature and wildlife in harmony displayed at Judges' Lounge

VII CHAPTER

— APPENDICES —





Appendix-A

DETAILED CASE STATISTICS OF THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA FOR THE YEAR 2025 Month-wise Institution, Disposal and Case Clearance Rate 1st January – 31st December, 2025

Months	Opening Balance			Institution			Disposal			Closing Balance			Case Clearance Rate of disposal w.r.t. institution			Judges' working strength	Working days
	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	CCR		
January	109115	37258	146373	5059	3471	8530	3209	2736	5945	110965	37993	148958	63.43	78.82	69.70	19	20
February	111001	37997	148998	3883	2859	6742	3865	2156	6021	111019	38700	149719	99.54	75.41	89.31	18	18
March	111037	38701	149738	4412	3423	7835	4644	3013	7657	110805	39111	149916	105.26	88.02	97.73	19	19
April	110858	39078	149936	3863	2987	6850	3992	2475	6467	110729	39590	150319	103.34	82.86	94.41	19	19
May	110575	39516	150091	4762	3165	7927	3647	3482	7129	111690	39199	150889	76.59	110.02	89.93	19	13
June	111467	39130	150597	3199	2994	6193	2184	2004	4188	112482	40120	152602	68.27	66.93	67.62	19	13
July	111776	39812	151588	5549	4037	9586	4456	4099	8555	112869	39750	152619	80.30	101.54	89.24	20	23
August	112672	39752	152424	3805	2985	6790	3291	3460	6751	113186	39277	152463	86.49	115.91	99.43	20	17
September	113292	39293	152585	5621	4182	9803	3802	4681	8483	115111	38794	153905	67.64	111.93	86.53	20	21
October	115142	38779	153921	4414	3075	7489	2625	2615	5240	116931	39239	156170	59.47	85.04	69.97	20	18
November	116957	39230	156187	4213	3059	7272	3085	3076	6161	118085	39213	157298	73.23	100.56	84.72	20	18
December	118104	39226	157330	4984	3862	8846	3789	3868	7657	119299	39220	158519	76.02	100.16	86.56	20	19
Cumulative figures from 1st January, 2025 to 31st December, 2025																	
Total	1,09,115 (As on 1.1.2025)	37258 (As on 1.1.2025)	1,46,373 (As on 1.1.2025)	53764	40099	93863	42589	37665	80254	1,19,299 (As on 31.12.2025)	39220 (As on 31.10.2025)	158519 (As on 31.10.2025)	79.21	93.93	85.50	20	18



Total no. of Judgments delivered: **3158** (This is excluding the cases disposed of by orders)

N.B.: Total working hours during the period: 21789.65 (Total working hours = 5.15 hours × No. of working days in the given period × Working strength of the Judges during the period)

Total working hours lost : **1881.025**

Hours lost on account of reference held by Court due to sad demise of learned Advocates/Judges: **318**

Hours lost due to Judges being on leave/official tour: **1563.025**

- * Closing balance as on 31.01.2025 is reflected as 1,48,958 instead of 1,48,998 due to updation of status regarding disposal/transfer of **40** cases in the Case Information System (CIS) after physical verification.
- * Closing balance as on 29.02.2025 is reflected as 1,49,719 instead of 1,49,738 due to updation of status regarding disposal/transfer of **19** cases in the Case Information System (CIS) after physical verification.
- * Closing balance as on 31.03.2025 is reflected as 1,49,916 instead of 1,49,936 due to updation of status regarding disposal/transfer of **20** cases in the Case Information System (CIS) after physical verification.
- * Closing balance as on 30.04.2025 is reflected as 1,50,319 instead of 1,50,091 due to updation of status regarding disposal/transfer of **228** cases in the Case Information System (CIS) after physical verification.
- * Closing balance as on 31.05.2025 is reflected as 1,50,889 instead of 1,50,597 due to updation of status regarding disposal/transfer of **292** cases in the Case Information System (CIS) after physical verification.
- * Closing balance as on 30.06.2025 is reflected as 1,52,602 instead of 1,51,588 due

to updation of status regarding disposal/transfer of **1014** cases in the Case Information System (CIS) after physical verification.

- * Closing balance as on 31.07.2025 is reflected as 1,52,619 instead of 1,52,424 due to updation of status regarding disposal/transfer of **195** cases in the Case Information System (CIS) after physical verification.
- * Closing balance as on 31.08.2025 is reflected as 1,52,463 instead of 1,52,585 due to updation of status regarding disposal/transfer of **122** cases in the Case Information System (CIS) after physical verification.
- * Closing balance as on 30.09.2025 is reflected as 1,53,905 instead of 1,53,921 due to updation of status regarding disposal/transfer of **16** cases in the Case Information System (CIS) after physical verification.
- * Closing balance as on 31.10.2025 is reflected as 1,56,170 instead of 1,56,187 due to updation of status regarding disposal/transfer of **17** cases in the Case Information System (CIS) after physical verification.
- * Closing balance as on 30.11.2025 is reflected as 1,57,298 instead of 1,57,330 due to updation of status regarding disposal/transfer of **32** cases in the Case Information System (CIS) after physical verification.
- ** Closing balance as on 31.12.2025 is reflected as 1,58,519 instead of 1,58,647 due to updation of status regarding disposal/transfer of **128** cases in the Case Information System (CIS) after physical verification.
- * The Court had summer vacation from **19th MAY to 16th JUNE, 2025.**

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, 2025 to 31st December, 2025)
INSTITUTION AND DISPOSAL

Opening Balance (As on 01.01.2025)	Institution	Disposal	Closing Balance (As on 31.12.2025)
1,46,373	93,863	80,254	1,58,519*

MONTH WISE STATISTICS

Month	Institution	Disposal	Case Clearance Disposal vis-à-vis Institution
January	8,530	5,945	69.70
February	6,742	6,021	89.30
March	7,835	7,657	97.72
April	6,850	6,467	94.40
May	7,927	7,129	89.93
June	6,193	4,188	67.62
July	9,586	8,555	89.24
August	6,790	6,751	99.42
September	9,803	8,483	86.53
October	7,489	5,240	69.97
November	7,272	6,161	84.72
December	8,846	7,657	86.55
Total	93,863	80,254	85.50

DISPOSAL OF OLD CASES

Age of the cases	Disposal
More than 40 years	13
25 – 40 years	439
10 – 25 years	1995
Less than 10 years	77807
Total	80,254

*Closing balance as on 31.12.2025 is reflected as 1,58,519 instead of 1,59,982 due to updation of status regarding disposal/transfer of 1463 cases in the Case Information System (CIS) after physical verification.



Appendix-B

NEW COURT BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED AT THE DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS AND OUTLYING STATIONS

Sl. No.	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	Angul	Construction of 3 rd Floor in the District Court Building at Angul	06.01.2025	5	9,58,72,000	R&B	CSS
2	Puri	Construction of Gram Nyayalaya at Puri	13.01.2025	2	42,55,000	R&B	CSS
3	Puri	Construction of Gram Nyayalaya Court Building at Brahmagiri	22.07.2025	2	7,98,41,100	R&B	SSS
4	Gajapati	Construction of Court Building for Gram-Nyayadhikari-cum-JMFC at Kashinagar	22.07.2025	2	5,67,20,085	R&B	SSS
5	Mayurbhanj	Construction of Court Building of Civil Judge (JD)-cum-JMFC at Betnoti	17.10.2025	3	9,33,74,000	R.W.	SSS



Appendix-C

NEW RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS CONSTRUCTED AT THE DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS AND OUTLYING STATIONS

Sl. No.	Name of the Judgeship	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)
1	Deogarh	Construction of 2 nos. of quarters at Deogarh	N.A	1,20,21,466	OSPH & Wc Ltd.	SSS
2	Deogarh	Construction of the 3 nos. of "C" type & 2 nos. of "D" type quarters at Deogarh	N.A	2,42,03,837	OSPH & Wc Ltd.	SSS
3	Angul	Construction work of the "B" type residential quarters for ADJ, Athamallik	N.A	87,47,000	R&B	SSS
4	Nayagarh	Construction of 'C' type quarters for the Senior Civil Judge, Odagaon at Nayagarh	03.03.2023	99,51,341	R&B	CSS
5	Nayagarh	Construction of B1-Type officers quarters Additional for District & Sessions Judge at Odagaon at Nayagarh	03.03.2023	1,21,19,000	R&B	SSS
6	Jharsuguda	Construction of 'C' type quarters (2 Nos) for accomodation of Sentor Judge and Sentor Ctvtl Judge (LR & L TV), Jharsuguda	26.10.2023	1,70,71,000	R&B	CSS



Sl. No.	Name of the Judgeship	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)
7	Jharsuguda	Construction Of 'B' type quarters (3 Nos) for accommodation of ADJ-cum.PO POCSO. ADJ & Judge. Family Court, Jharsuguda	26.10.2023	2,95,49,000	R&B	CSS
8	Jharsuguda	Construction for the work Of accomodation of JMFC. D type quarter at Jharsuguda	26.10.2023	77,75,000	R&B	CSS
9	Angul	Construction of 4 nos. of residential quarters for Addl. Senior Civil Judge, SDJM, JMFC and JMFC(LR) at Talcher	N.A	2,27,08,000	R&B	CSS
10	Ganjam	Construction of C-Type quarters for Senior Civil Judge at Kodala	N.A	1,08,03,000	R&B	SSS
11	Ganjam	Construction of B-Type quarters for ADJ at Kodala	N.A	1,44,44,000	R&B	SSS
12	Ganjam	Construction of D-Type quarters for JMFC at Kodala	N.A	45,79,000	R&B	SSS
13	Puri	Construction of D-Type quarters at Brahmagiri	N.A	42,08,000	R&B	CSS
14	Balasore	Construction of C-type quarters for Senior Civil Judge at Laxmannath, Jaleswar.	N.A	72,11,700	R&B	SSS



Appendix-D

ONGOING RESIDENTIAL AND NON-RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS OF THE DISTRICT JUDICIARY, WHEREIN FOUNDATION STONE LAID BY THE COURT

Sl. no	Name of the Judgeship	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)
	BALANGIR		CIVIL COURT COMPLEX AT MURIBAHAL				
1.		Muribahal	Construction of JMFC Court Building at Muribahal	06.01.2025	9,15,64,000	R.W.	SSS
2.			Construction of Bar Association-cum-Canteen Building for JMFC Court at Muribahal	06.01.2025	1,37,60,000	R.W.	SSS
3.			Construction of C-Type quarter for JMFC at Muribahal	06.01.2025	1,28,71,000	R.W.	SSS
	BALANGIR		CIVIL COURT COMPLEX AT KANTABANJI				
4.		Kantabanji	Construction of Bar Association-cum-Canteen for Civil Court at Kantabanji, Balangir	06.01.2025	2,09,77,000	R&B	SSS
5.			Construction of 1 No. of B-Type Qrs. for Addl. District & Sessions Judge at Kantabanji	06.01.2025	1,49,44,000	R&B	SSS



Sl. no	Name of the Judgeship	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)
6.			Construction of 1 No. of C-Type Qrs. for Civil Judge (Senior Division) at Kantabanji	06.01.2025	1,20,70,000	R&B	SSS
7.		Titilagarh	Construction of Bar Association-cum-Canteen for Civil Court at Titilagarh, Balangir	06.01.2025	2,10,31,000	R&B	SSS
	BARGARH		CIVIL COURT COMPLEX AT BIJEPUR				
8.		Bijepur	Construction of Court Building at Bijepur	06.01.2025	9,12,10,000	R&B	SSS
9.			Construction of Bar Association cum Canteen Hall at Bijepur	06.01.2025	1,42,70,000	R&B	SSS
10.			Construction of Transit House at Bijepur	06.01.2025	1,48,84,000	R&B	SSS
11.			Construction of 1 No. C-Type Qrs. for JMFC at Bijepur	06.01.2025	1,20,69,000	R&B	SSS
12.			Construction of 4 Nos. E-Type staff Qrs. at Bijepur	06.01.2025	2,15,24,000	R&B	SSS
13.			Construction of 2 Nos. F-Type staff Qrs. at Bijepur	06.01.2025	89,96,000	R&B	SSS
	DEOGARH		CIVIL COURT COMPLEX AT REAMAL				



Sl. no	Name of the Judgeship	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)
14.		Reamal	Construction of Bar Association-cum-Canteen Building at Reamal	06.01.2025	1,85,16,000	R&B	SSS
15.			Construction of 1 No. of C-Type Qrs. at Reamal	06.01.2025	1,62,52,000	R&B	SSS
16.		Reamal	Construction of 4 Nos. of E-Type (S+1) staff Qrs. at Reamal	06.01.2025	2,63,18,000	R&B	SSS
17.			Construction of 2 Nos. of F-Type (S+1) staff Qrs. at Reamal	06.01.2025	1,65,41,000	R&B	SSS
	DEOGARH		CIVIL COURT COMPLEX AT BARKOTE				
18.		Barkote	Construction of Court Building for JMFC and Civil Judge at Barkote	06.01.2025	8,61,49,000	R&B	SSS
19.			Construction of Bar Association Hall & Canteen Building at Barkote	06.01.2025	1,92,85,000	R&B	SSS
20.			Construction of 1 No. of C-Type Qrs. for J.M.F.C at Barkote	06.01.2025	1,33,63,000	R&B	SSS
	KANDHAMAL		CIVIL COURT COMPLEX AT BARKOTE				
21.		Tumudibandha	Construction of Court Building at Tumudibandha	06.01.2025	6,43,69,000	R.W.	SSS



Sl. no	Name of the Judgeship	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)
22.			Construction of Bar Association-cum-Canteen at Tumudibandha	06.01.2025	1,96,91,000	R.W.	SSS
	KANDHAMAL		CIVIL COURT COMPLEX AT BALLIGUDA				
23.		Balliguda	Construction of Bar Association-cum-Canteen at Balliguda	06.01.2025	1,89,57,000	R&B	SSS
24.			Construction of 1 No. of B-Type Residential Qrs. For ADJ at Balliguda	06.01.2025	1,14,00,000	R&B	SSS
25.			Construction of 1 No. of C-Type Residential Qrs. For Senior Civil Judge at Balliguda	06.01.2025	1,00,52,000	R&B	SSS
	KORAPUT		CIVIL COURT COMPLEX AT KOTPAD				
26.		Kotpad	Construction of Bar Association Hall at Kotpad	06.01.2025	1,91,77,000	R&B	SSS
27.			Construction of C-Type Quarter at Kodpad	06.01.2025	1,19,23,000	R&B	SSS
	KORAPUT		CIVIL COURT COMPLEX AT LAXMIPUR				
28.		Laxmipur	Construction of Bar Association Hall at Laxmipur	06.01.2025	1,48,41,000	R.W.	SSS
29.			Construction of Transit House at Laxmipur	06.01.2025	1,28,27,000	R.W.	SSS



Sl. no	Name of the Judgeship	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)
	KORAPUT		CIVIL COURT COMPLEX AT LAMTAPUT				
30.		Lamtaput	Construction of Bar Association Hall at Lamtaput	06.01.2025	1,49,15,000	R.W.	SSS
	KORAPUT		CIVIL COURT COMPLEX AT BORRIGUMMA				
31.		Borrigumma	Construction of Transit House at Borrigumma	06.01.2025	1,04,12,558	R.W.	SSS
	NABARANGPUR		CIVIL COURT COMPLEX AT NABARANGPUR				
32.		Chandahandi	Construction of Court Building at Chandahandi	06.01.2025	5,97,39,000	R.W.	SSS
	SUNDARGARH		CIVIL COURT COMPLEX AT BIRAMITRAPUR				
33.		Biramitrapur	Construction of Bar Association-cum-Canteen at Biramitrapur	06.01.2025	1,49,25,707	R&B	SSS
	KEONJHAR		CIVIL COURT COMPLEX AT ANANDPUR				
34.		Anandpur	Construction of Bar Association Building at Anandpur	19.09.2025	2,31,51,000	R&B	SSS
	MAYURBHANJ		CIVIL COURT COMPLEX AT BETNOTI				
35.		Betnoti	Construction of Transit House for JMFC Building at Betnoti	17.10.2025	1,42,22,881	R.W.	SSS



Appendix-E

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE RULES COMMITTEE

Sl. No.	Rules/ Schemes	Notification No.	Odisha Gazette No.	Related amendments
1.	The Odisha District and Civil Courts Judicial Staff Services (Method of Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Amendment Rules, 2025	S.R.O. No.158, Dtd.05.03.2025	565, dtd.06.03.2025	25% of the Junior Clerk posts was reserved and filled from eligible Group 'D' employees as per the prescribed ratio and selection method
2.	Family Courts (Odisha) Amendment Rules, 2025.	S.R.O.No.494, Dtd.14.07.2025	2111 Dtd. 16.07.2025	The fees and allowances of the Principal Counsellor and Counsellors will be fixed by the State Government from time to time in consultation with the High Court of Orissa
3.	The Odisha District and Civil Courts Judicial Staff Services (Method of Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Amendment Rules, 2025	S.R.O. No. 622, Dtd.16.08.2025	2742, Dtd.18.08.2025	Amendment in the wake up of three new Criminal Laws
4.	The High Court of Orissa and District Courts Use of Electronic Communication and Audio-Video Electronic Means Rules, 2025"	1070/R, Dtd.01.09.2025	3097, Dtd.03.09.2025	New Rules formulated by repealing the Orissa High Court Video Conferencing for Courts Rules, 2020
5.	"The High Court of Orissa (Designation of Senior Advocate) Rules, 2025	1084/R, 08.09.2025	3390, Dated 10.09.2025	New Rules formulated by repealing the High Court of Orissa (Designation of Senior Advocate) Rules, 2019.
6.	The Odisha District and Civil Courts Judicial Staff Services (Method of Recruitment and Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Rules, 2025	S.R.O. No. 1374 dated 27.10.2025	4608, dated 29.10.2025	Enhanced the upper age limit for candidates appearing in direct recruitment examinations from 32 years to 42 years.



Sl. No.	Rules/ Schemes	Notification No.	Odisha Gazette No.	Related amendments
7.	The High Court of Orissa (Appointment of Staff and Conditions of Service) (1st Amendment) Rules, 2025	1306/R dated 28.11.2025	5467 dated 28.11.2025	Introduced amendments to incorporate newly created posts, revised designations, and corresponding changes in service conditions.
8.	The Rules of the High Court of Orissa, Vol-I (1st Amendment), 2025	1316/R dated 05.12.2025	5756 dated 08.12.2025	Amended procedural provisions in compliance with the Supreme Court judgment dated 18 th July 2025, mandating disclosure of criminal antecedents in bail applications.
9.	The Odisha Superior Judicial Service and Odisha Judicial Service (2nd Amendment) Rules, 2025	S.R.O.No.1894 dated 19.12.2025	5899 dated 19.12.2025	Revised eligibility criteria, examination process, promotion norms, seniority, and service conditions in judicial services in accordance with the Supreme Court judgment in the All India Judges Association case dated 20 th May, 2025.
10.	General Rules and Circular Orders (Criminal) Vol-I, 1977 Edition	C.S. No.152 dated 18.12.2025	--	Amended procedural provisions in compliance with the Supreme Court judgment dated 18 th July 2025, mandating disclosure of criminal antecedents in bail applications.



Appendix-F

PROMOTION OF EMPLOYEES OF VARIOUS CADRES IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA FROM 01.01.2025 TO 31.12.2025

(Ministerial Cadre)

Group – A

Sl. No.	Name of the Post for Which D.P.C. was held	Date on which D.P.C. was held	Vacancy	No. of candidates in the zone of consideration	No. of candidates promoted
1.	Joint Registrar (Judicial)	24.02.2025	01	04	01
2.	A.D.R (J&E)	12.03.2025	03	10	03
3.	Asst. Registrar	16.04.2025	04	14	04
4.	Asst. Registrar (Protocol)	08.05.2025	03	11	02

Group – B

Sl. No.	Name of the Post for Which D.P.C. was held	Date on which D.P.C. was held	Vacancy	No. of candidates in the zone of consideration	No. of candidates promoted
1.	Superintendent	30.06.2025	09	14	04
2.	Section Officer	14.07.2025	07	25	07
3.	Superintendent of Typist Level – I	03.09.2025	03	09	03
4.	Head Driver	02.12.2025	03	06	03

Group – C

Sl. No.	Name of the Post for Which D.P.C. was held	Date on which D.P.C. was held	Vacancy	No. of candidates in the zone of consideration	No. of candidates promoted
1.	Senior Grade Diarist	28.11.2025	34	34	32

Group – D

Sl. No.	Name of the Post for Which D.P.C. was held	Date on which D.P.C. was held	Vacancy	No. of candidates in the zone of consideration	No. of candidates promoted
1.	Duftary, Cook – cum – Caretaker, Treasury Sarkar	25.10.2025	12	07	06

(Secretarial Cadre)

Group – A

Sl. No.	Name of the Post for Which D.P.C. was held	Date on which D.P.C. was held	Vacancy	No. of candidates in the zone of consideration	No. of candidates promoted
1.	Joint Registrar –cum– Principal Secretary	03.09.2025	01	06	01
2.	Addl. Deputy Registrar–cum–Addl. Principal Secretary	27.10.2025	02	09	02



Appendix-G

NO. OF TOTAL CANDIDATES RECRUITED IN THE YEAR 2025 (FROM 01.01.2025 TO 31.12.2025)

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Total No. of Posts Advertised	No. of candidates Joined	Vacancy
1.	Research Assistant	20	19	01
2.	Law Researcher (Law)	02	02	0
		01	01	0
3.	Law Researcher (History)	01	01	0
		01	01	0
	Junior Stenographer	25	Recruitment under process.	

Appendix-H

POSTS CREATED IN THE YEAR 2025 FOR THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Posts created	Created vide Home Department, Government of Odisha's Letter No. with date
1.	Accounts Officer	01	Finance Department Resolution No. 19375 dtd. 23.07.2021 which has been acknowledged by the Home Department vide letter No. 9309 dtd. 01.03.2025.
2.	Chairman, District Judge (Super time Scale)	01	Home Department Letter No. 10304 dtd. 06.03.2025
3.	Registrar (Examination)–cum–First Member in the cadre of District Judge Entry Level	01	Home Department Letter No. 10304 dtd. 06.03.2025
4.	Deputy Registrar (Examination)–cum–Second Member in the cadre of Civil Judge (Senior Division)	01	Home Department Letter No. 10304 dtd. 06.03.2025
5.	Joint Registrar (Examination) in Ministerial Cadre	01	Home Department Letter No. 10304 dtd. 06.03.2025
6.	Superintendent	01	Home Department Letter No. 10304 dtd. 06.03.2025
7.	Driver	01	Home Department Letter No. 10304 dtd. 06.03.2025
8.	Diarist	*28	Home Department letter No. 30529 dtd. 18.07.2025
9.	Senior Grade Diarist	*33	Home Department letter No. 30529 dtd. 18.07.2025
10.	Diary Superintendent	*17	Home Department letter No. 30529 dtd. 18.07.2025
11.	Judicial Indexer	01	Home Department letter No. 35555 dtd. 21.08.2025

*The above posts were created by revision of the existing restructured Group-D posts in the Court's Establishment pursuant to Finance Department Resolution No. 20665 dtd. 20.08.2022.



Appendix-I

SANCTIONED STRENGTH, WORKING STRENGTH AND VACANCY POSITION OF THE MINISTERIAL 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.)	1	0	1
2.	Joint Registrar (Estt.)	1	1	0
3.	Joint Registrar (Judicial)	2	0	2
4.	Joint Registrar (Examination)	1	0	1
5.	Additional Deputy Registrar (J&E)	5	5	0
6.	Assistant Registrar (Estt.)	3	2	1
7.	Assistant Registrar (Judicial)	6	4	2
8.	Assistant Registrar (J&E)	1	1	0
9.	Assistant Registrar-cum-Establishment Officer	2	1	1
10.	Assistant Registrar-cum-Stamp Reporter & Oath Commissioner	1	1	0
11.	Assistant Registrar-cum-Additional Stamp Reporter & Oath Commissioner	15	15	0
12.	Court Officer- Cum- Asst. Registrar	1	0	1
13.	Assistant Registrar (Protocol)	3	2	1
14.	Assistant Registrar (Inspection)	1	0	1
15.	Assistant Registrar (Translation Branch)	1	0	1
	Sub-Total	44	32	12

Group – B

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Sanctioned Strength (After creation of posts)	Working strength	Vacancy
16.	Superintendent	58	52	6
17.	Superintendent (Translation Branch)	2	0	2
18.	Section Officer	137	136	1
19.	Section Officer (Translation Branch)	6	4	2
20.	Statistical Officer	1	0	1
21.	Superintendent (Typist) Level- I	6	6	0
22.	System Analyst	1	0	1
23.	Assistant Section Officer	598	306	292
24.	Librarian	1	1	0



Group – B

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Sanctioned Strength (After creation of posts)	Working strength	Vacancy
25.	Superintendent (Typist) Level- II	12	6	6
26.	Programmer	1	1	0
27.	Peripatetic Stamp Reporter	2	2	0
28.	Translator	30	16	14
29.	Judicial Indexer	2	1	1
30.	Head Driver	10	10	0
31.	Diary Superintendent	20	3	17
32.	Court Manager	2	0	2
	Sub-Total	889	544	345

Group – C

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Sanctioned Strength (After creation of posts)	Working strength	Vacancy
33.	Junior Librarian	1	0	1
34.	Desk Top Printing Operator	2	0	2
35.	Senior Grade Typist	38	17	21
36.	Senior Grade Diarist	48	46	02
37.	Senior Driver	10	07	03
38.	Technical Assistant (Judges' Library)	4	4	0
39.	Generator Operator	2	0	2
40.	Junior Grade Typist/ D.E.O.	49	20	29
41.	Diarist	65	02	63
42.	Copyist	10	1	9
43.	Driver	38	20	18
44.	Treasury Sarkar	2	1	1
45.	Jamadar	81	86	0
46.	Duftary	39	36	3
47.	Attender	8	8	0
48.	Cook-cum-Caretaker	23	18	5
49.	Mali – cum – Chowkidar	3	3	0
	Sub-Total	423	269	159



Group – D

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Sanctioned strength (after restructure and creation of posts)	Working strength		Vacancy
			Regular	Contractual	
1.	Peon	114	42	0	72
2.	Class-IV	85	26	0	59
3.	Gate Keeper	1	0	0	1
4.	Mali	20	3	0	17
5.	Night Watchman	5	0	0	5
6.	Farash	5	0	0	5
7.	Sweeper	1	1	0	0
8.	Permanent Mulia	1	0	0	1
9.	Medical Attendant	2	2	0	0
	Total	234	74	0	160

Sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancy position of the Secretarial Officers and Staff as on 31.01.2025

Group – A

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Sanctioned Strength (After creation of posts)	Working strength	Vacancy
1.	Additional Registrar–cum–Principal Secretary	1	1	0
2.	Joint Registrar–cum–Principal Secretary	2	2	0
3.	Additional Deputy Registrar–cum–Additional Principal Secretary	5	5	0
4.	Assistant Registrar–cum–Senior Secretary	12	8	4
	Sub–Total:	20	16	4

Group – B

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Sanctioned Strength (After creation of posts)	Working strength	Vacancy
5.	Secretary	25	14	11
6.	Personal Assistant	43	19	24
7.	Senior Stenographer	38	16	22
	Sub–Total:	106	49	57

Group – D

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Sanctioned Strength (After creation of posts)	Working strength	Vacancy
8.	Junior Stenographer	55	30	25
	Grand Total:	181	95	86



Sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancy position of the officers and staffs on deputation from the government as on 31.01.2025

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Group	Sanctioned strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
1.	Chief Accounts Officer	A	1	1	0
2.	Finance Officer (Re-designated from Accounts Officer)	A	1	1	0
3.	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
4.	Orissa High Court Homoeopathy Dispensary				
	a) Homoeopathy Medical Officer	B	1	1	0
	b) Homoeopathy Assistant	C	1	1	0
5.	Judicial Archives				
	Assistant Curator	B	1	1	0
	Total:	10	10		0

Sanctioned strength, working 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	2	1	1
2.	System Officer	B	24	18	6
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 as on 31.01.2025**

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Sanctioned strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
1.	Director-cum-OSD	1	0	1
2.	Consultant, History	1	0	1
3.	Consultant, Law	1	0	1
4.	Law Researchers, Law	2	1	1
5.	Law Researchers, History	2	2	0
	Total:	7	3	4

**Sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancy position of the posts
carrying consolidated pay / honorarium as on 31.01.2025**

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Sanctioned strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
1.	Law Reporter	1	1	0
2.	Research Assistant	49	30	19
3.	Assistant Editor	1	0	1
	Total:	51	31	20

**Sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancy position of the posts
carrying remuneration for copying out documents as on 31.01.2025**

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Sanctioned strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
1.	Remunerated Copyist	6	0	6



Appendix-J

BUDGETARY ALLOCATION AND EXPENDITURE OF THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA

Budget of the High Court (Comparative Status)			
	2023-24 (Rs.)	2024-25 (Rs.)	2025-26 (Rs.)
Plan	77,74,64,000	78,66,90,800	114,30,73,389
Non-Plan	211,90,72,000	222,83,56,000	248,23,36,847
Total	289,65,36,000	301,50,46,800	362,54,10,236

Budgetary Allocation and expenditure for infrastructure Development of the High Court for the period 1st April, 2025 to 31st December, 2025

Sl. No.	Heads of Account	Amount Sanctioned (in Rs.)	Amount Utilized (in Rs.)
1.	Non-Residential	63,19,66,389	41,85,69,389
2.	Residential	51,11,07,000	51,11,07,000
	Total	114,30,73,389	92,96,76,389

Budgetary Allocation and expenditure for Establishment of the High Court for the period 1st April, 2025 to 31st December, 2025

Sl. No.	Heads of Account	Amount Sanctioned (in Rs.)	Amount Utilized (in Rs.)
1.	01-2014-00-102-0632	248,23,36,847	127,20,76,000

*Break-up of administrative expenses for the period 1st April, 2025 to 31st December, 2025

Pay & Allowance	84,54,92,000
Electricity	3,47,94,000
Office Expenses (Other Contingencies + Telephone Charges + Water Charges)	19,37,77,000
Purchase of Motor Vehicle and Maintenance	1,06,88,000
Upgradation of Computers and Maintenance	17,80,95,000



Appendix-K

CASE STATISTICS OF THE DISTRICT COURT FOR THE YEAR 2025

Institution, Disposal, Pendency and Case Clearance Rate in the District Courts of Odisha
from 01.01.2025 to 31.12.2025

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	3,16,057	16,04,768	19,20,825	7,374	35,079	42,453	6,820	25,941	32,761	3,16,611	16,13,906	19,30,517	92.49	73.95	77.17
February	3,16,611	16,13,906	19,30,517	6,046	31,259	37,305	6,546	23,648	30,194	3,16,111	16,21,517	19,37,628	108.27	75.65	80.94
March	3,16,111	16,21,517	19,37,628	7,052	40,044	47,096	9,990	38,551	48,541	3,13,173	16,22,981*	19,36,154*	141.66	96.27	103.07
April	3,13,173	16,22,981	19,36,154	7,090	35,913	43,003	6,962	26,199	33,161	3,13,301	16,32,695	19,45,996	98.19	72.95	77.11
May	3,13,301	16,32,695	19,45,996	7,769	40,200	47,969	8,726	39,406	48,132	3,12,344	16,33,489	19,45,833	112.32	98.02	100.34
June	3,12,344	16,33,489	19,45,833	5,430	32,298	37,728	4,071	21,957	26,028	3,12,782**	16,47,797**	19,60,579**	74.97	67.98	68.99
July	3,12,782	16,47,797	19,60,579	8,792	47,105	55,897	9,045	36,698	45,743	3,12,532***	16,72,447***	19,84,979***	102.88	77.91	81.83
August	3,12,532	16,72,447	19,84,979	8,027	40,361	48,388	8,228	30,932	39,160	3,12,885#	16,84,432#	19,97,317#	102.50	76.64	80.93
September	3,12,885	16,84,432	19,97,317	7,971	45,771	53,742	12,833	48,268	61,101	3,08,023###	16,87,918###	19,95,941##	161.00	105.46	113.69
October	3,08,023	16,87,918	19,95,941	7,180	37,704	44,884	7,621	27,143	34,764	3,07,582	16,98,479	20,06,061	106.14	71.99	77.45
November	3,07,582	16,98,479	20,06,061	7,052	39,971	47,023	7,403	28,557	35,960	3,07,188###	17,09,835###	20,17,023###	104.98	71.44	76.47
December	3,07,188	17,09,835	20,17,023	7,801	44,482	52,283	11,072	45,095	56,167	3,03,917	17,09,222	20,13,139	141.93	101.38	107.43
Total	3,16,057	16,04,768	19,20,825	87,584	4,70,187	5,57,771	99,317	3,92,395	4,91,712	3,03,917	17,09,222	20,13,139	113.40	83.46	88.16



Institution of Criminal cases increased due to filing of 51,694 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 2025 (till 31st December) is 0.028 days .

Average working strength of Judicial Officers against average sanctioned strength of 1042 in 2025 (till 31st December) is 847.

So, cumulative loss of judicial hours of all Courts in 2025 (till 31st December) is $6 \times 0.028 \times 847 = 142.3$ hours .

****Due to Physical Verification, Criminal pendency so also total pendency decreased by 29 cases in the Judgeship of Bhadrak during the month of March, 2025.**

****Due to Physical Verification, Civil pendency decreased by 921 cases and Criminal pendency increased by 3967 cases. Thus, total pendency increased by 3046 cases during the month of June, 2025.**

*****Due to Physical Verification, Civil pendency increased by 3 cases and Criminal pendency increased by 14,243 cases. Thus, total pendency increased by 14,246 cases during the month of July, 2025.**

#Due to Physical Verification, Civil pendency increased by 554 cases and Criminal pendency increased by 2,556 cases. Thus, total pendency increased by 3,110 cases during the month of Aug, 2025.

##Due to Physical Verification, Criminal pendency increased by 5,983 cases in the judgeship of Jharsuguda. Thus, total pendency increased by 5,983 cases during the month of September, 2025.

###Due to Physical Verification, Civil & Criminal pendency decreased by 43 cases and 58 cases respectively in the judgeship of Jagatsinghpur. Thus, total pendency decreased by 101 cases during the month of November, 2025.



"Utkal Deepika" and "The Pioneer" – newspapers related to Judiciary system of Odisha displayed at Museum of Justice



District Court pendency from 01.01.2025 to 31.12.2025

Name of the Judgeship	Opening balance as on 01.01.2025			Institution from 01.01.2025 to 31.12.2025			Disposed of from 01.01.2025 to 31.12.2025			Pending cases as on 31.12.2025		
	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total
Angul	7549	83010	90559	2037	19636	21673	2494	16053	18547	7092	86593	93685
Balangir	6202	49501	55703	1962	26666	28628	2389	22459	24848	5777	58152	63929
Balasore	38131	93872	132003	10102	20196	30298	10084	12912	22996	38209	102431	140640
Bargarh	5938	50003	55941	1697	12939	14636	1578	7278	8856	6057	55664	61721
Bhadrak	25396	71501	96897	4974	14420	19394	5925	10147	16072	24554	75344	99898
Boudh	890	19545	20435	437	4442	4879	462	4883	5345	865	19247	20112
Cuttack	37129	162025	199154	11813	40968	52781	13358	34715	48073	35584	168278	203862
Deogarh	776	18183	18959	362	3478	3840	351	2323	2674	787	19338	20125
Dhenkanal	8483	43785	52268	2391	15072	17463	3220	9761	12981	7628	47940	55568
Gajapati	467	8527	8994	321	3790	4111	305	3627	3932	483	8690	9173
Ganjam	10957	87878	98835	4429	36658	41087	4873	32619	37492	10513	102168	112681
Jagatsinghpur	10159	36903	47062	3530	10735	14265	4073	8308	12381	9573	38924	48497
Jajpur	20656	80638	101294	3969	14487	18456	6386	9210	15596	18232	86624	104856
Jharsuguda	2883	40189	43072	839	11100	11939	1045	9304	10349	2677	47968	50645
Kalahandi	3661	38524	42185	1738	11130	12868	1618	11235	12853	3781	38419	42200
Kandhamal	753	17151	17904	447	9124	9571	414	6830	7244	786	19445	20231



District Court pendency From 01.01.2025 To 31.12.2025

Name of the Judgeship	Opening balance as on 01.01.2025			Institution from 01.01.2025 to 31.12.2025			Disposed of from 01.01.2025 to 31.12.2025			Pending cases as on 31.12.2025		
	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total
Kendrapara	17054	45382	62436	3915	7562	11477	4749	6207	10956	16138	47011	63149
Keonjhar	9169	49433	58602	2306	18996	21302	2414	10369	12783	9061	58060	67121
Khurda	46142	161922	208064	10591	68069	78660	10628	62779	73407	45165	169594	214759
Koraput	3998	36874	40872	1317	9653	10970	1219	9914	11133	4096	36613	40709
Malkangiri	383	11655	12038	305	4582	4887	195	3332	3527	493	12783	13276
Mayurbhanj	11728	61835	73563	3659	17475	21134	4337	15425	19762	11063	64912	75975
Nabarangpur	818	23463	24281	515	5259	5774	659	6976	7635	674	21734	22408
Nayagarh	4797	27791	32588	2641	7724	10365	2789	7425	10214	4627	28297	32924
Nuapada	2135	17512	19647	870	5157	6027	964	3748	4712	2009	18786	20795
Puri	19956	61658	81614	5214	16731	21945	5985	14337	20322	19742	67420	87162
Rayagada	1680	17514	19194	639	6917	7556	687	6641	7328	1632	17790	19422
Sambalpur	5450	79517	84967	1738	18269	20007	2229	15781	18010	4947	80689	85636
Sonepur	2529	21489	24018	535	4044	4579	637	9695	10332	2443	16014	18457
Sundargarh	10188	87488	97676	2291	24908	27199	3250	18102	21352	9229	94294	103523
TOTAL	3,16,057	16,04,768	19,20,825	87,584	4,70,187	5,57,771	99,317	3,92,395	4,91,712	3,03,917	17,09,222	20,13,139

Due to Physical Verification, Civil pendency decreased by 407 cases and Criminal pendency increased by 26,662 cases. Thus, total pendency increased by 26,255 cases till the month of December, 2025.



Comparative figures of Institution & Disposal of 2024 & 2025

Months	2023		2024		Comparative rate of increase in disposal with previous year in percentage
	Institution	Disposal	Institution	Disposal	
January	45041	33656	42453	32761	-2.66
February	41314	34177	37305	30194	-11.65
March	42726	44851	47096	48541	8.23
April	42434	37728	43003	33161	-12.11
May	44917	43409	47969	48132	10.88
June	36602	23523	37728	26028	10.65
July	44456	35685	55897	45743	28.19
August	43843	36183	48388	39160	8.23
September	40233	51139	53742	61101	19.48
October	34689	27784	44884	34764	25.12
November	38926	36519	47023	35960	-1.53
December	43849	51698	52283	56167	8.64
TOTAL	4,99,030	4,56,352	5,57,771	4,91,712	7.75



District Courts of Odisha
No. of Judgments pronounced /delivered for the year – 2025

Sl. No.	Month	Civil			Criminal		
		Contested	Un-Contested	Total	Contested	Un-Contested	Total
1.	January	1,563	1,038	2,601	9,375	1,363	10,738
2.	February	1,603	1,085	2,688	8,502	1,022	9,524
3.	March	1,929	1,391	3,320	9,781	2,016	11,797
4.	April	1,779	921	2,700	9,677	1,130	10,807
5.	May	1,346	988	2,334	9,497	1,855	11,352
6.	June	887	567	1,454	7,510	1,375	8,885
7.	July	1,865	1,247	3,112	11,211	2,071	13,282
8.	August	1,852	988	2,840	10,590	1,631	12,221
9.	September	1,912	1,782	3,694	11,420	3,037	14,457
10.	October	1,477	948	2,425	8,791	1,557	10,348
11.	November	1,772	1,024	2,796	10,236	1,955	12,191
12.	December	1,682	1,281	2,963	10,008	3,099	13,107
	TOTAL	19,667	13,260	32,927	1,16,598	22,111	1,38,709



25 to 40 Years old cases (from 01.01.2025 to 31.12.2025)

Sl. No.	Name of the Judgeships	CIVIL						CRIMINAL					
		OPENING BALANCE as on 01.01.25	Became 25 to 40 years from 01.01.25 to 31.12.2025	Received from other Courts	Transferred to other Courts	DISPOSAL from 01.01.25 to 31.12.2025	CLOSING BALANCE as on 31.12.2025	OPENING BALANCE as on 01.01.25	Became 25 to 40 years from 01.01.25 to 31.12.2025	Received from other Courts	Transferred to other Courts	DISPOSAL from 01.01.25 to 31.12.2025	CLOSING BALANCE as on 31.12.2025
1	Angul	3	3	0	0	6	0	18	206	12	12	197	27
2	Balangir	15	3	3	3	11	7	2	5	0	0	5	2
3	Balasore	161	42	3	3	46	157	31	22	6	6	20	33
4	Bargarh	23	5	0	1	11	16	19	12	0	0	21	10
5	Bhadrak	25	46	7	7	20	51	33	58	21	21	64	27
6	Boudh	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
7	Cuttack	92	28	0	0	27	93	312	275	5	5	385	202
8	Deogarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



25 to 40 Years old cases (from 01.01.2025 to 31.12.2025)

Sl. No.	Name of the Judgeships	CIVIL						CRIMINAL					
		OPENING BALANCE as on 01.01.25	Became 25 to 40 years from 01.01.25 to 31.12.2025	Received from other Courts	Transferred to other Courts	DISPOSAL from 01.01.25 to 31.12.2025	CLOSING BALANCE as on 31.12.2025	OPENING BALANCE as on 01.01.25	Became 25 to 40 years from 01.01.25 to 31.12.2025	Received from other Courts	Transferred to other Courts	DISPOSAL from 01.01.25 to 31.12.2025	CLOSING BALANCE as on 31.12.2025
9	Dhenkanal	3	1	0	0	4	0	9	1	0	0	3	7
10	Gajapati	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
11	Ganjam	3	1	3	0	2	5	1	8	6	2	9	4
12	Jagatsinghpur	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	2	2
13	Jajpur	7	4	0	0	7	4	57	81	7	7	125	13
14	Jharsuguda	55	1	1	1	50	6	30	839	337	337	261	608
15	Kalahandi	1	2	0	0	2	1	8	1	0	0	1	8
16	Kandhamal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



25 to 40 Years old cases (from 01.01.2025 to 31.12.2025)

Sl. No.	Name of the Judgeships	CIVIL						CRIMINAL					
		OPENING BALANCE as on 01.01.25	Became 25 to 40 years from 01.01.25 to 31.12.2025	Received from other Courts	Transferred to other Courts	DISPOSAL from 01.01.25 to 31.12.2025	CLOSING BALANCE as on 31.12.2025	OPENING BALANCE as on 01.01.25	Became 25 to 40 years from 01.01.25 to 31.12.2025	Received from other Courts	Transferred to other Courts	DISPOSAL from 01.01.25 to 31.12.2025	CLOSING BALANCE as on 31.12.2025
17	Kendrapara	10	0	0	0	7	3	4	2	1	1	2	4
18	Keonjhar	71	26	3	2	17	81	78	7	1	1	72	13
19	Khurda	20	14	0	0	7	27	670	495	21	21	995	170
20	Koraput	0	7	0	0	1	6	6	12	0	0	5	13
21	Malkangiri	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	Mayurbhanj	33	18	4	4	24	27	34	20	4	4	21	33
23	Nabarangpur	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
24	Nayagarh	0	2	0	0	0	2	10	14	7	7	20	4



25 to 40 Years old cases (from 01.01.2025 to 31.12.2025)

Sl. No.	Name of the Judgeships	CIVIL						CRIMINAL					
		OPENING BALANCE as on 01.01.25	Became 25 to 40 years from 01.01.25 to 31.12.2025	Received from other Courts	Transferred to other Courts	DISPOSAL from 01.01.25 to 31.12.2025	CLOSING BALANCE as on 31.12.2025	OPENING BALANCE as on 01.01.25	Became 25 to 40 years from 01.01.25 to 31.12.2025	Received from other Courts	Transferred to other Courts	DISPOSAL from 01.01.25 to 31.12.2025	CLOSING BALANCE as on 31.12.2025
25	Nuapada	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Puri	66	39	6	6	34	71	10	38	1	1	36	12
27	Rayagada	2	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
28	Sambalpur	16	8	0	0	12	12	18	13	0	1	16	14
29	Sonepur	1	4	0	0	3	2	10	4	0	0	7	7
30	Sundargarh	3	6	1	1	2	7	8	81	1	1	88	1
TOTAL		614	262	31	28	296	583	1370	2198	431	427	2357	1215
Pendency of 25 to 40 Years Cases (Civil + Criminal)							583+1215=1798						



Over 40 Years old cases (from 01.01.2025 to 31.12.2025)

Sl. No.	Name of the Judgeships	CIVIL						CRIMINAL					
		OPENING BALANCE as on 01.01.25	Became 25 to 40 years from 01.01.25 to 31.12.2025	Received from other Courts	Transferred to other Courts	DISPOSAL from 01.01.25 to 31.12.2025	CLOSING BALANCE as on 31.12.2025	OPENING BALANCE as on 01.01.25	Became 25 to 40 years from 01.01.25 to 31.12.2025	Received from other Courts	Transferred to other Courts	DISPOSAL from 01.01.25 to 31.12.2025	CLOSING BALANCE as on 31.12.2025
1	Angul	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Balangir	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Balasore	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Bargarh	2	2	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	1
5	Bhadrak	1	3	2	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Boudh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Cuttack	1	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Deogarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



Over 40 Years old cases (from 01.01.2025 to 31.12.2025)

Sl. No.	Name of the Judgeships	CIVIL						CRIMINAL					
		OPENING BALANCE as on 01.01.25	Became 25 to 40 years from 01.01.25 to 31.12.2025	Received from other Courts	Transferred to other Courts	DISPOSAL from 01.01.25 to 31.12.2025	CLOSING BALANCE as on 31.12.2025	OPENING BALANCE as on 01.01.25	Became 25 to 40 years from 01.01.25 to 31.12.2025	Received from other Courts	Transferred to other Courts	DISPOSAL from 01.01.25 to 31.12.2025	CLOSING BALANCE as on 31.12.2025
9	Dhenkanal	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Gajapati	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Ganjam	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Jagatsinghpur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Jajpur	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Jharsuguda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Kalahandi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Kandhamal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



Over 40 Years old cases (from 01.01.2025 to 31.12.2025)

Sl. No.	Name of the Judgeships	CIVIL						CRIMINAL					
		OPENING BALANCE as on 01.01.25	Became 25 to 40 years from 01.01.25 to 31.12.2025	Received from other Courts	Transferred to other Courts	DISPOSAL from 01.01.25 to 31.12.2025	CLOSING BALANCE as on 31.12.2025	OPENING BALANCE as on 01.01.25	Became 25 to 40 years from 01.01.25 to 31.12.2025	Received from other Courts	Transferred to other Courts	DISPOSAL from 01.01.25 to 31.12.2025	CLOSING BALANCE as on 31.12.2025
17	Kendrapara	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Khurda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	6	0
20.	Koraput	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
21.	Malkangiri	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22.	Mayur-bhanj	3	5	1	1	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
23.	Naba-rangpur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Nayagarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25.	Nuapada	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



Over 40 Years old cases (from 01.01.2025 to 31.12.2025)

Sl. No.	Name of the Judgeships	CIVIL						CRIMINAL					
		OPENING BALANCE as on 01.01.25	Became 25 to 40 years from 01.01.25 to 31.12.2025	Received from other Courts	Transferred to other Courts	DISPOSAL from 01.01.25 to 31.12.2025	CLOSING BALANCE as on 31.12.2025	OPENING BALANCE as on 01.01.25	Became 25 to 40 years from 01.01.25 to 31.12.2025	Received from other Courts	Transferred to other Courts	DISPOSAL from 01.01.25 to 31.12.2025	CLOSING BALANCE as on 31.12.2025
26.	Puri	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27.	Rayagada	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28.	Sambalpur	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
29.	Sonepur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30.	Sundargarh	0	2	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		34	23	5	4	19	39	2	7	0	0	7	2
Pendency of Over 40 Years Cases (Civil + Criminal)							39+2=41						



The pattachitra of Rath Yatra, the famous chariot festival at Puri, where the King of Universe Lord Jagannath is all decked up in royal apparel with brother Balabhadra and sister Subhadra displayed at Judges' Lounge



The Kandarpa Hasti (Elephant) with Radha Krishna, make of multiple female figures crafted together to form the shape of Lord of Love displayed at Judges' Lounge

Chief Justices



Mr. Justice
Harish Tandon



Mr. Justice
Chakradhari Sharan Singh



Mr. Justice
Amitava Roy



Mr. Justice
D.H. Waghela



Mr. Justice
Vineet Saran



Mr. Justice
Kalpesh Satyendra
Jhaveri



Mr. Justice
Mohammad Rafiq



Dr. Justice
S. Muralidhar



Mr. Justice
Subhasis Talapatra



Mr. Justice
Adarsh Kumar Goel



Mr. Justice
C. Nagappan



Mr. Justice
Venkate Gowda
Gopala Gowda



Mr. Justice
Bilal Nazki



Mr. Justice
Balbir Singh Chauhan



Mr. Justice
Asok Kumar Ganguly



Mr. Justice
Sujit Barman Roy



Mr. Justice
Banwari Lal Hansaria



Mr. Justice
Girish Thakurlal
Nanavati



Mr. Justice
Vallabhdas Aidan
Mohta



Mr. Justice
Sailendu Nath Phukan



Mr. Justice
Biswanath Agrawal



Mr. Justice
Nyaka Yellapa Hanumanthappa



Mr. Justice
Perubhempa Krishna
Ayer Balasubramanyan



Mr. Justice
Hari Lal Agrawal



Mr. Justice
Dambarudhar Pathak



Mr. Justice
Ranganath Misra



Mr. Justice
Sukanta Kishore Ray



Mr. Justice
Siba Narain Sankar



Mr. Justice
Gati Krushna Misra



Mr. Justice
Satya Bhusan Barman



Mr. Justice
Bira Kishore Ray



Mr. Justice
Bachu Jagannadha Das



Mr. Justice
Lingaraj Panigrahi



Mr. Justice
Ramaswamy Laxman
Narasimham



Mr. Justice
Khaleel Ahmed

