



# Museum *of* Justice

Killa Fort, Cuttack





# **Museum *of* Justice**





## Museum of Justice

A Museum is a permanent institution in the service of the society and its development, open to the public, which acquires, conserves, researches, communicates and exhibits, for purposes of study, education, enjoyment, the tangible and intangible evidence of people and their environment.

The High Court of Orissa decided to establish a museum in 2017, to house artefacts, antique objects, obsolete court articles and archival materials of the High Court and the District Courts of Odisha. It was decided to convert the heritage residential building of the former Chief Justice of High Court of Orissa, of 1904 vintage, located within the historic Barabati Quila Fort, Cuttack into a museum. It was inaugurated on 12th November 2017 by Shri Justice Dipak Misra, the then Chief Justice of India in the presence of Shri Justice Vineet Saran, the then Chief Justice and the other Judges of the High Court of Orissa.

After Dr. Justice S. Muralidhar took over as Chief Justice of the High Court of Orissa in January 2021, on his visit to the record rooms of the District Court at Ganjam, he came across judicial records dating back to the early 19th century. This led to unearthing other precious but fragile judicial records of old disposed of cases in the High Court and other District Courts. A proposal was mooted by the Chief Justice Muralidhar to the Chief Minister of Odisha Shri Naveen Patnaik on 25th March 2022 to preserve the heritage and history of the judiciary in Odisha.



**25<sup>th</sup> March, 2022**

*Dear Chief Minister,*

Aware of your keen interest in preserving the heritage and historical landmarks in Odisha, I am placing before you a proposal for preserving the heritage and history of the judiciary in Odisha. The idea of having a project for documenting the judicial history of Odisha took seed in the first half of 2021 when we began concerted efforts to streamline the preservation of old case records both in the High Court as well as four District Courts in Sambhalpur, Balasore, Cuttack and Ganjam. That process led to the serendipitous discovery of documents dating back to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, which were in a reasonably readable condition, though fragile. A sampling of these documents gave valuable insights into the functioning of the judiciary and of the problems brought before the courts during those times.

The case records of the High Court of Orissa include the old judicial records of three other High Courts: at Calcutta, Patna and Madras. They also include records belonging to the erstwhile High Courts of the princely states of Mayurbhanj, Sonapur and so on. The treasure-trove of historical information contained in the records requires careful physical handling and treatment using the latest scientific techniques before the information is properly identified, collated, preserved and made accessible to researchers and scholars. This would be one limb of the proposed project on the judicial history of Odisha.

Archiving of judicial records would be another major limb of the project. As a preliminary step, old judicial records of pre-1950 vintage have been segregated and kept in separate locations within the District

**Page 1 of 3**

---

Cantonment Road, Cuttack 753001  
Ph: 0671-2507808(O), 2301505 (R)



Court complexes. As far as the High Court is concerned, these fragile records are kept in a separate room in the Record Room Digitization Centre (RRDC), which is a state-of-the-art facility where records of disposed of cases are currently being preserved and digitized. The High Court has consulted the Intach Conservation Institute, Bhubaneswar on how it should go forward with the task of handling, preserving and digitizing the old fragile case records. The High Court has also consulted the Piloo Mody College of Architecture (PMCA), Cuttack on how the space for handling of fragile records can be appropriately reconfigured for the task on hand. Both Intach and PMCA have jointly prepared the enclosed project report which addresses both the issue of preservation of old fragile records at the High Court of Orissa's RRDC and revamping the Museum of the High Court in Cuttack which is intended to showcase the heritage and history of the judiciary in Odisha.

The third element is the identification of court buildings, court room and judicial structures, landmarks and artefacts of judicial historical importance. It is proposed to identify and declare them as having 'heritage' value and preserving them as such or recreating them in a 'Museum of Justice'.

The joint report of PMCA and Intach includes estimates of the initial outlay for establishing the Judicial Archives Centre and revamping the Museum. As far as the Judicial Archive Centre is concerned, it is proposed that it be headed by a person with sufficient and appropriate experience in preservation and retrieval of old records, assisted by two senior level scholars, one from the field of history/archives and the other from the legal discipline with focus on judicial history. Further, the services of at least four Law Researchers (young law graduates) to examine the judicial records and identify those which are of historical

**Page 2 of 3**

---

Cantonment Road, Cuttack 753001  
Ph: 0671-2507808(O), 2301505 (R)

**Dr. S. Muralidhar**  
Chief Justice



**High Court of Orissa**

importance would be required in the next layer. It is also proposed that on a regular basis at least eight law students would assist the project as interns for short periods.

The support of the State Government for the three initiatives viz. (i) the establishment, within the RRDC, of a Centre for Judicial Archives with all modern facilities, (ii) the revamping of the Museum of Justice and (iii) the Odisha Judicial History project in general would require the financial, infrastructural, and personnel support of the State Government.

I would be happy to hear from you on the above proposal.

*Warm regards,*

Yours sincerely,

(S. Muralidhar)

**Shri Naveen Patnaik,**  
**Hon'ble the Chief Minister of Odisha,**  
**Naveen Niwas,**  
**Bhubaneswar.**

*Page 3 of 3*

---

Cantonment Road, Cuttack 753001  
Ph: 0671-2507808(O), 2301505 (R)

---



**NAVEEN PATNAIK**  
CHIEF MINISTER, ODISHA



**LOKASEVA BHAVAN**  
BHUBANESWAR

DO NO.UM- 95/2022- 8 ICM

Date: 02.04.2022

*Dear Dr. Muralidhar ji.*

I am in receipt of your letter dated 25th March, 2022. I have seen your proposals for the establishment of a Centre for Judicial Archives within RRDC, the revamping of the Museum of Justice and the Odisha Judicial History Project.

Preserving the heritage and history of Odisha is one of our stated priorities and I assure that the State Government will extend all the support to realise these important projects. I am asking the Chief Secretary to take necessary further steps in this regard in consultation with the officials concerned.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(NAVEEN PATNAIK)

**DR. JUSTICE S. MURALIDHAR,**  
Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa  
Cuttack.

Phone : Office : 0674-2531100, 2531500, 2535100 (Fax)  
Residence : 0674-2591099, 2590299, 2590833 (Fax)

e-mail : [cmo@nic.in](mailto:cmo@nic.in) | twitter : [twitter.com/COM\\_Odisha](https://twitter.com/COM_Odisha) | Facebook : [facebook.com/CMO.Odisha](https://facebook.com/CMO.Odisha)

There were three limbs to this proposal. The first being the preservation and treatment of old judicial records at the Record Room Digitization Centre (RRDC), the second, their archiving in a state-of-the-art facility to be known as the Centre for Judicial Archives (which came into existence on 1st May 2022), and third, the revamping of the existing museum of the High Court as the Museum of Justice. This was to be a modern museum, not a mere repository of antiquities but also having a cultural and social space, of interest to historians, legal academics, researchers and students. The work of developing the infrastructural design of the Museum of Justice and Centre for Judicial Archives was entrusted to the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), an organization having expertise in restoring, conserving and redesigning places of cultural heritage.

Dr. Justice S. Muralidhar, Justice Sashikanta Mishra and Dr. Lalatendu Das Mohapatra, Director-cum-OSD of the Centre for Judicial Archives, High Court of Orissa, visited the Indian Museum, the Victoria Memorial and the Police Museum in Kolkata, the Bihar Museum and the Patna Museum in Patna and the Government Museum, Chennai to gain insights into the practices of conservation and showcasing and overall museum administration. Justice Sashikanta Mishra and Dr. Lalatendu Das Mohapatra visited the National Museum in New Delhi. The Director-cum-OSD, Judicial Archives also undertook visits to the district and session courts at Berhampur, Aska, Bhadrak, Balasore, Baripada, Keonjhar, Puri and Dhenkanal to locate antique articles and fragile records of those courts which could be showcased in the Museum of Justice. In that process about fifty antique items, besides a few of the oldest records in the record room of each court were located and shortlisted to be kept in the Museum.

### **Visit to different District and Sessions Courts of Odisha**



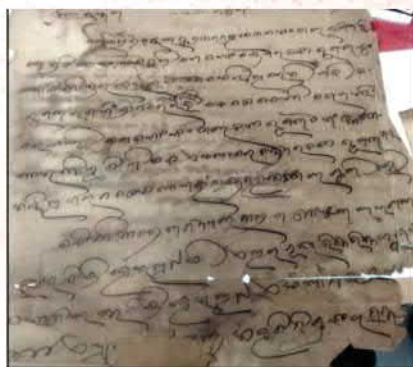
**BALASORE**



**BERHAMPUR**



*BARIPADA*



*DHENKANAL*



*ASKA*



*KEONJHAR*



*BHADRAK*



*BERHAMPUR*



The Chief Justice constituted a Committee of Justice Debabrata Dash, Dr. Justice Sanjeeb Kumar Panigrahi, Justice Mruganka Sekhar Sahoo, Justice Sashikanta Mishra, Justice Biraja Prasanna Satpathy and Justice Sanjay Kumar Mishra to supervise the overall rejuvenation of the activities of Judicial History Project, Centre for Judicial Archives and Museum of Justice, apart from that of the Records Room Digitization Centre (RRDC).

A Consultative Committee having special knowledge, experience and expertise was constituted to advise the High Court in the project of rejuvenation of the Museum of Justice. It comprises, Dr. Justice A.K. Mishra, former Judge of the High Court of Orissa, Dr. B.S. Chayani, Collector, Cuttack, Shri Sanjib Chandra Hota, former IAS, Shri Amiya Bhusan Tripathy, former IPS, Dr.(Smt) Nivedita Mohanty, renowned Historian, Shri A.B. Ota, Director, Tribal Museum, ShriBipinBihari Mishra, former IPS, Prof Nihar Ranjan Pattnaik, Historian, Smt. Suchismita Mantry, Deputy Director, Odia Language and Culture and Smt. Mallika Mitra, Director, INTACH.

**After several rounds of consultation, it has been decided to set up the following seven galleries on different themes:**

1. **Theme Pavilion:** The introductory gallery containing Digital Timeline of the High Court of Orissa along with a graphic model of the court and its development since inception.







2. **Gallery 1:** Evolution of justice system in Odisha: The Judiciary in different phases of history, from ancient to modern is depicted with notes, excerpts from old texts, photos, inscriptions and archival records.

## Arthashastra

(322-297 BCE)

Kautilya's Arthashastra is a compendium of treatises, composed by ancient teachers, on the acquisition and protection of territory. The verses in Chapter 3 and 4 deal with "Law and Justice" and "Power of Punishment".

### Ancient Adjudication System

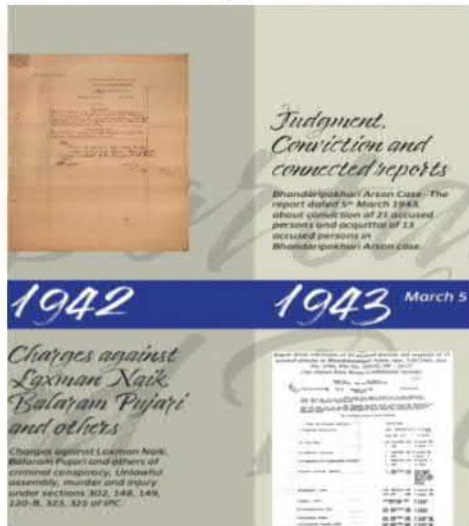
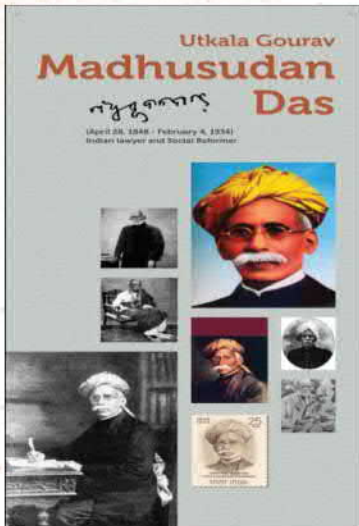
धर्मश्च व्यवहारश्च चरित्रं राजशासनम्।  
विवादार्थैश्चतुष्टयाः पञ्चमः पूर्ववाद्यकः॥३९॥

तत्र सन्यसे स्थितौ ह्यगौ व्यवहारस्तु सखिषु।  
चरित्रं संज्ञैः पुंसां राजानाणां तु शासनम्॥४०॥

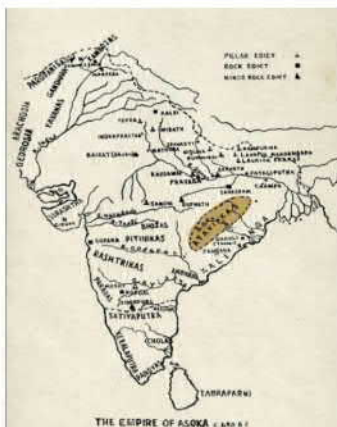


Who's Who  
in the Freedom Struggle  
(A Select List)

3. **Gallery 2: Freedom Movement (1804-1947)**- the Sub theme relates to the trial and conviction of various freedom fighters.

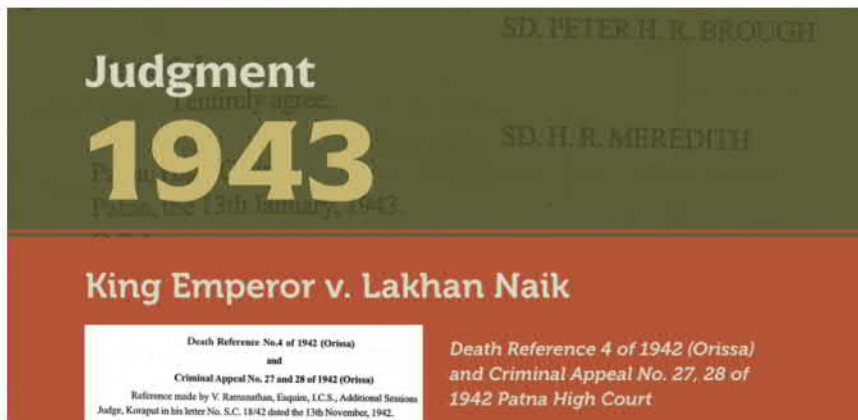
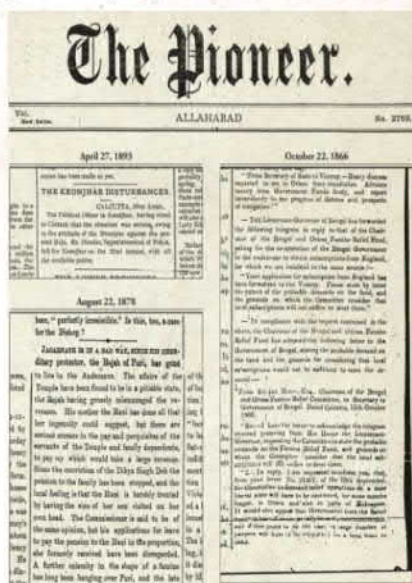
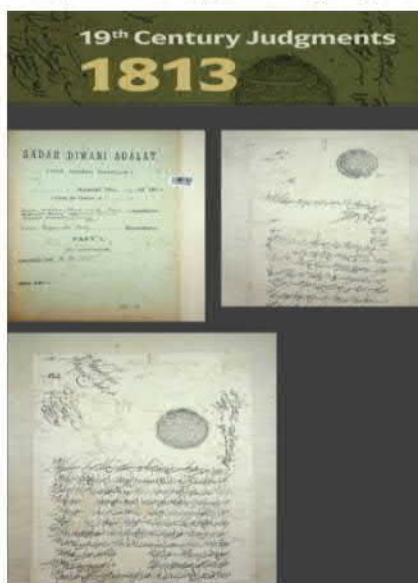


4. **Gallery 3:** The Tribal justice system – the Sub theme showcases the mode of dispensation of justice among tribes as well as the importance of tribal customary laws.



## Geographical Distribution of Scheduled Tribes in Odisha

5. **Gallery 4: Judgements and news: Important judgements and news (1808-2013)** pertaining to judiciary are displayed.





6. **Gallery 5: Accessories:** Court apparels and accessories, furniture, seals, antique court articles etc are showcased.



7. **Gallery 6: Legal education and Eminent Lawyers:** The historical timeline of development of legal education in Odisha along with classification of legal practitioners and a select list of eminent lawyers (pre-independence), are displayed.

### LEGAL EDUCATION IN ODISHA A TIMELINE

British Government made an early attempt for the spread of knowledge of law amongst Oda people	1847
The Secretary of the Cuttack Local Committee of Public Institutions, approved the Commissioner about the necessity of creation of competent lawyers in Orissa	1868
The Government Law College came into being which functioned within the premises of Cuttack High School with 15 students on its roll	1869
The Bachelor of Law (B.L.) course was introduced	1881

## EMINENT LAWYERS

(PRE-INDEPENDENCE)



8. **Gallery 7:** : Mock court room: Replica of a heritage court room modelled on the heritage court rooms at Mayurbhanj and Berhampur has been designed



9. **Miscellaneous:** Library, Souvenir Shop, Audio-Visual room etc.: The library with several authoritative and vintage books, souvenir shop with dynamic and new-age souvenirs and an Audio-visual room for virtual walkthrough etc., are also incorporated in the museum.



*(Souvenir Shop and Audio-Visual Room)*



*(Exterior work of the museum)*



*(Interior work of the museum building)*



*(Exterior work of the museum)*

The peripheral area of the Museum of Justice has also been developed by the Cuttack Municipal Corporation and the Roads and Buildings Department in an impressive manner.



*(Peripheral area of the museum, work-in-progress)*

The Museum of Justice has been inaugurated on 25th February 2023 by Prof. Ganeshi Lal, His Excellency the Governor of Odisha and in the presence of Dr. Justice S. Muralidhar, Chief Justice and other companion Judges of the High Court of Orissa.



## **The Team behind the rejuvenation of the Museum**

**Dr. Justice S. Muralidhar**  
Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa

### **The Museum Committee**

**Shri Justice Debabrata Dash**  
**Dr Justice Sanjeeb Kumar Panigrahi**  
**Shri Justice Mruganka Sekhar Sahoo**  
**Shri Justice Sashikanta Mishra**  
**Shri Justice Biraja Prasanna Satapathy**  
**Shri Justice Sanjay Kumar Mishra**



### **Consultative Committee**

**Dr Justice Akshaya Kumar Mishra**

Former Judge, High Court of Orissa

**Dr Nivedita Mohanty**

Historian

**Shri A.B. Tripathy**

IPS (Retd.) INTACH

**Sanjib Chandra Hota**

IAS (Retd.)

**Shri Bipin Bihari Mishra**

IPS (Retd.)

**Dr A.B. Ota**

IAS (Retd.), Director, Odisha State Tribal Museum

**Shri Bhabani Shankar Chayani**

Collector and District Magistrate, Cuttack

**Dr. Nihar Ranjan Patnaik**

Historian

**Suchismita Mantry**

Deputy Director, Odia language literature and culture department

**Smt. Mallika Mitra**

INTACH

## **The Registry of the High Court of Orissa**

**Shri Pratap Kumar Patra**

Registrar General

**Shri Akhil Kumar Paschimakabat**

Registrar (Vigilance) & Registrar (Administration) I/c.

**Shri Pravakar Ganthia**

Registrar (Inspection) & Member-Secretary, State Court Management System (SCMS) I/c.

**Shri Soumyak Patra**

Co-ordinator, Arbitration Centre

**Shri Suman Kumar Mishra**

Registrar (Judicial)

**Shri Abhilash Senapati**

Registrar, Records & Secretary, Juvenile Justice Committee I/c.

**Shri Santosh Kumar Dash Ray**

Officer on Special Duty (Vigilance) & Special Officer (Administration) I/c.

**Sri Anand Dash**

Joint Registrar-Cum-Principal Secretary to Hon'ble the Chief Justice

**Shri Debasish Mohanty**

Deputy Registrar (Admn. & Protocol)

**Shri Chhayakanta Dash**

Special Officer (Special Cell)

**Shri Amaresh Nayak**

Deputy Registrar (Judicial)

**Shri Satya Prakash Ray Choudhury**

Central Project Co-ordinator

**Shri Ashish Pattanaik**

Addl. Co-ordinator, Arbitration Centre

**Shri Ashish Kumar Sahoo**

Assistant Registrar (Admn.)

## **Centre for Judicial Archives, High Court of Orissa**

**Dr. Lalatendu Das Mohapatra**

Director cum OSD, Centre for Judicial Archives

**Dr. Bijoy Chandra Mohapatra**

Law Consultant

**Tanuja Meghamala**

Law Researcher

**Rahul Vikram Pathy**

Law Researcher

## **Executing Agencies**

**INTACH**

**Diganta, Bhubaneswar**

**Myth Interactives, Baroda**

**Cuttack Municipal Corporation**

**Road, Building and Bridge works, Government of Odisha**







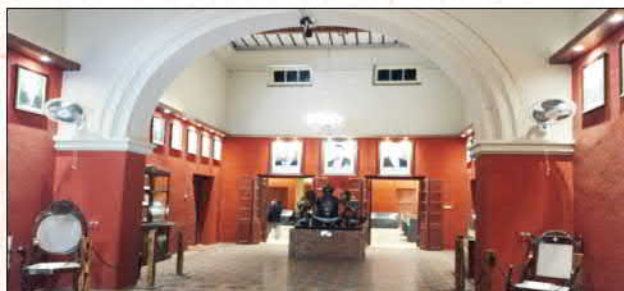
# Making of Museum of justice



By  
**INTACH**  
ODISHA

# Museum of Justice

Before restoration



## Soil investigation and structural stability test at site



*Soil test at site*



*Non destructive test at site*



### **Scaffolding work at site**



*During work at site*

### **Dismantling work at site**

Manually dismantling decayed damaged lime plaster from walls, columns, arches etc. including providing temporary supports, scaffoldings etc.





**During**



### **Preparation of lime mortar**

Making of lime mortar with kendu, bel, harida, lime sand and surkhi



*Grinding of lime mortar at site for application of traditional plaster*



## Application of lime plaster on walls

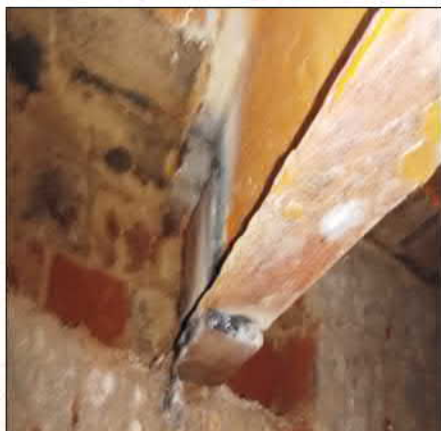




*During*



### Reinforcing the walls & beams



*During work*

### Internal demolition of later added structures batter stabilisation



## Restoration of building

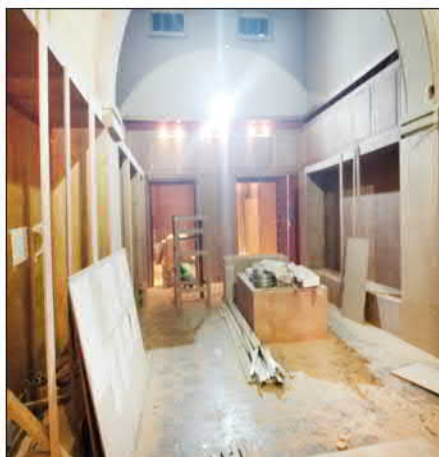




## Towards Completion



## Interior development : During





## Interior development : During



## Peripheral development : During







**INTACH**

**(Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage)**

Dedicated to Conservation

