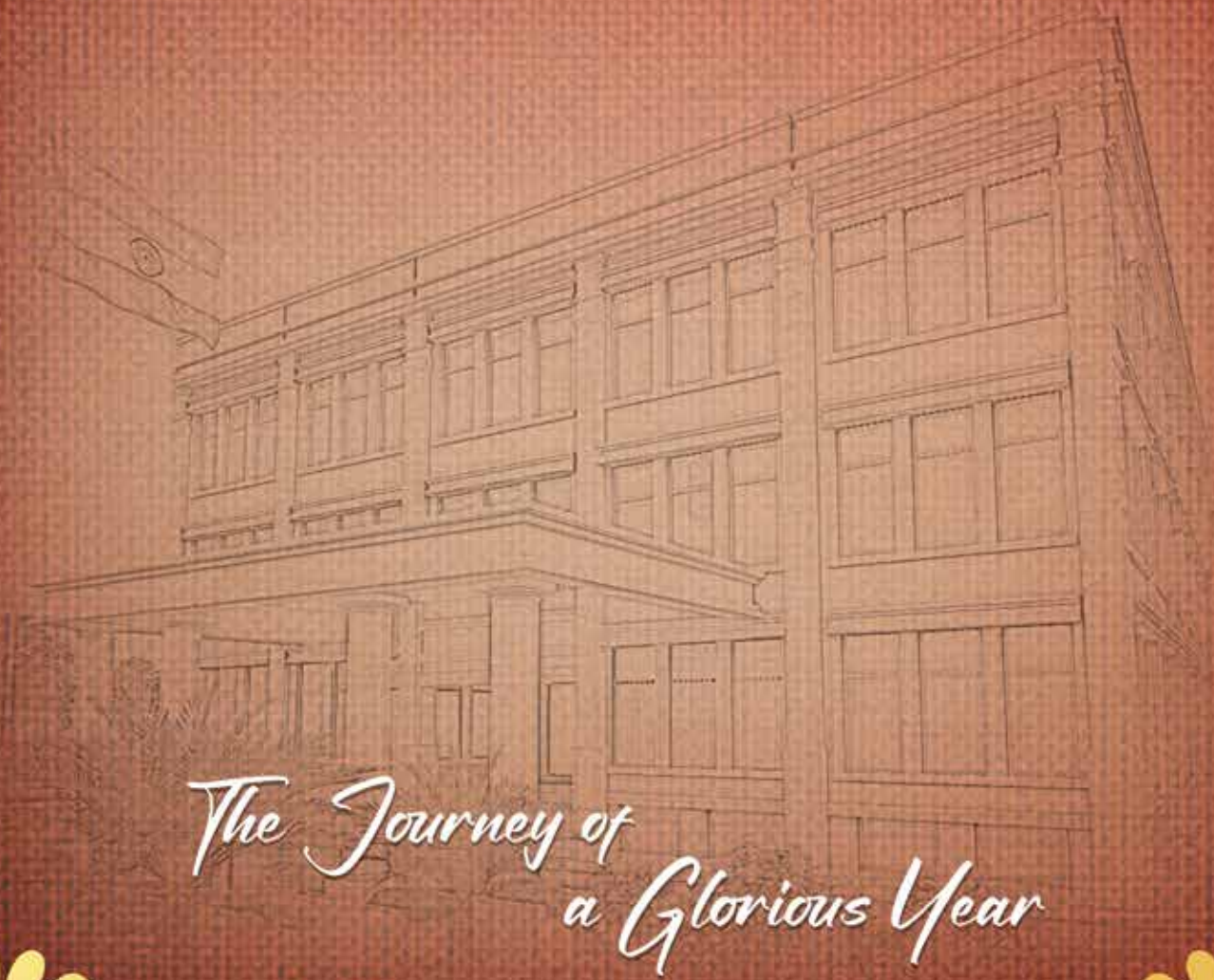




Centre for Judicial Archives



*The Journey of
a Glorious Year*



Centre for Judicial Archives

*The Journey of
a Glorious Year*

Centre for Judicial Archives



An archives is not only the repository of the documentary heritage of an institution, but also its collective memory and passive witness of its historical past. Therefore archiving the records of historical value and administrative importance should be one of the primary objectives of an institution. An archives on the one hand facilitates transparency and efficiency in administration and on the other hand provides deep insight to the history. The International Council of Archives defines archives as “the documentary product of human activity retained for their long-term value. They come in a range of formats – written, photographic, audio-visual – in digital or analogue form. Therefore, archives are a real-time reflection of the activity of individuals and organizations, and they provide a direct view of past events.

The need to store important documents that prove rights and responsibilities has been around for more than 2500 years. As early as 13th century, King Philip IV of France realized archiving is such an important institution that, he created the archives of the Kingdom, called the Treasury of The Charters and parliamentary records. In India, the tradition of preserving records in royal households, temples and monasteries were there from a very long time. The best example of record keeping tradition in Odisha was *Madalapanji* or the Puri Jagannath temple chronicle which were used to be written on year to year basis since the time of Rama Chandra Dev I in the sixteenth century. Being written by the ‘*Deul Karan*’ or temple clerk they were happily preserved for centuries which many British and Indian historians have used as source materials for writing the history of Odisha. Besides, all princely states in Odisha had also compiled their family lineage (*Vansabali*), which mentions some of the contemporary events.

Though modern method of systematic record keeping in India began with the administration of East India Company, who preserved the official records for administrative and legal purposes, their records room had no feature of modern archival system. There was also limited scope of consulting those records by the scholars and historians due to restrictive policy of the colonial government. The modern concept of archives began only in post-independent era with growing emphasis on writing the authentic history of India. Therefore

initially preserved for legal purposes, archived documents have gradually become an essential source of information for historians. Moreover in an era of increasing enthusiasm for revisiting the past by exploring more materials from old records, the need of proper preservation of historical records and their collation and sifting is the paramount importance of the hour. This objective can be achieved with a proper archival system where records of historical importance are not only preserved scientifically but also their dissemination and sharing of information may get the utmost priority. Keeping this fact in mind, many governments along with private educational institutions and corporate houses in India have started building up their own archives and write their own official history.

However, though the court records in India constitutes a very important component of source materials to history, in the absence of proper archiving policy and facility; they had very limited use so far by the scholars and historians. Since they do not come under the purview of government's Archival Policy Resolution, 1972 and Public Record Act, 1993, these records are not being transferred to government archives for permanent preservation and consultation unlike other government records. Therefore, the setting up of the Centre for Judicial Archives by the High court of Orissa is a historic step which has thrown open all its fragile records to the public for consultation. It is therefore the first Judicial Archives in India.

Since the modern judicial system in Odisha started with the annexation of Odisha in different phases from the second half of the eighteenth century, both the High Court of Orissa and different district courts have left with us millions of invaluable court cases and documents which not only require archiving but also consultation for reconstructing the judicial and legal history of Odisha. Having realized the importance of these records for their potential use, Dr Justice S. Muralidhar, Chief Justice , High Court of Orissa mooted the idea of setting up a judicial archives consisting of all fragile records of courts till 1950.

This idea occurred to him in 2021, when he was on a visit to the District Court of Ganjam, Berhampur. The District Court of Ganjam was the proud repository of about 30,000 old records of 19th century which can be dated back to 1814. Subsequently, he was also apprised that many other district courts of Odisha such as Cuttack, Balasore, Keonjhar, Balangir, Mayurbhanj, Sambalpur and Dhenkanal have also collections of many records of 19th century which though are fragile but are in a reasonably readable condition. Besides, the High Court of Orissa, apart from its erstwhile Sadr Diwani and Sadr Nizamat Adalat records of 19th century which can be dated back to 1813, also include about 15,000 records of Calcutta, Patna, Madras and Central Province's records which before 1948 were the appellate courts of the district/session courts of Odisha. This bulk of documentary heritages inspired the Hon'ble Chief Justice to embark upon a mega judicial history project which constituted setting up of judicial archives for preserving these records, upgrading the Museum of Justice and writing the judicial history of Odisha.

In pursuance of this ambitious scheme, the Hon'ble chief justice of the High Court in a letter dated 25 March 2022 to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha solicited his kind cooperation and support in preserving this treasure trove of the state which would provide deep insight to the judicial history of Odisha. Reciprocating his request in his D.O. letter dated 2 April 2022, Shri Naveen Pattnaik, the Hon'ble chief Minister assured his extended support to this mega project as preserving the heritage and history of Odisha is one of the government's stated priorities. The Centre for Judicial archives is an offshoot of this mega project

Centre for Judicial Archives – The Beginning

It was set up on 1 May 2022 vide Home Department's notification no. 14386 dated 1st May 2022 in the newly constructed Records Room Digitization Centre (RRDC) Building, one of the annex buildings of the High Court dedicated for the storage of records and their digitization. For a modest beginning of the centre, the Government of Odisha sanctioned following seven posts vide Home Department's notification no 14380 dated 1 May 2022. They are as below:

Sr.	Name of the post	No of posts
1.	Director cum Officer on Special Duty, Archives	1
2	Consultant (History)	1
3	Consultant (Law)	1
4	Law Researchers (History)	2
5	Law Researchers (Law)	2

In pursuance of above notification Dr Lalatendu Das Mohapatra, the former Deputy Director of National Archives of India was nominated as Director cum Officer on Special Duty who resumed charges on 10 May 2022. Subsequently, Dr Bijoy Kumar Mohapatra and Prof Basanta Kumar Mallik were selected as Consultant (Law) and Consultant (History) while Smt Tanuja Meghamala and Sri Rahul Vikram Pathy were selected as Law Researcher (Law) and Smt Prangya Pramita Nayak as Law Researcher (History).

Objectives of Centre for Judicial Archives, High Court of Orissa

The Centre was established with the following objectives to perform:

Preserving and archiving the old and fragile records of High Court and other district courts of Odisha up to 1950.

Acquisition of fragile records from High Court and other District Courts of Odisha, their proper arrangement, scientific preservation, cataloguing, publication and digitization of those records

Allowing access of records to Research Scholars, officials and public by facilitating their consultation online and offline.

Compilation of judicial history of Odisha by engaging a group of law researchers and historians under the supervision of Director cum OSD of the archives and similar such projects on continuation basis from time to time.

Stimulating academic and research activities through symposia, seminar, research works in history, archives and law and publication of academic journals and matters pertaining to archives, judicial history and records on sharing basis with other academic and archival institutions of Odisha and across the country.

Administrative supervision, overseeing the upgradation and expansion of Museum of Justice, formerly known as High Court Museum functioning since 2017.

Overseeing and advising the functioning of Records Rooms of all 29 district courts of Odisha.

The entire work of preservation of archival records and upgrading the museum was entrusted to Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) of Odisha Chapter. But before the process of agreement with INTACH was finalized, Dr Justice S. Muralidhar, the Chief Justice desired to lead a team consisting of His Lordship, Justice Sashikanta Mishra and Dr Lalatendu Das Mohapatra, Director cum OSD, Centre for Judicial Archives to visit some leading museums, archives and libraries in India to get an insight about their preservation, up keeping of records and digitization system for their possible adaptation here. Accordingly they visited Indian Museum, Victoria Memorial Museum and Police Museum, Kolkata, Bihar and Patna Museum and Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library, Patna and Roja Mutthaiya Library and Government Museum in Chennai. That apart both Justice Sashikanta Mishra and Dr Lalatendu Das Mohapatra had also visited National Archives of India, Delhi Archives and National Museum in Delhi. The visit to these institutions provided them deep insight about preservation and digitization system of records and showcasing system of gallery for the museum.



(Khuda Baksh Library, Patna)



(Patna Museum, Patna)



(Police Museum, Kolkata)



(Institute for Social Sciences, Calcutta)



(Asiatic Society, Calcutta)



(National Archives of India, New Delhi)

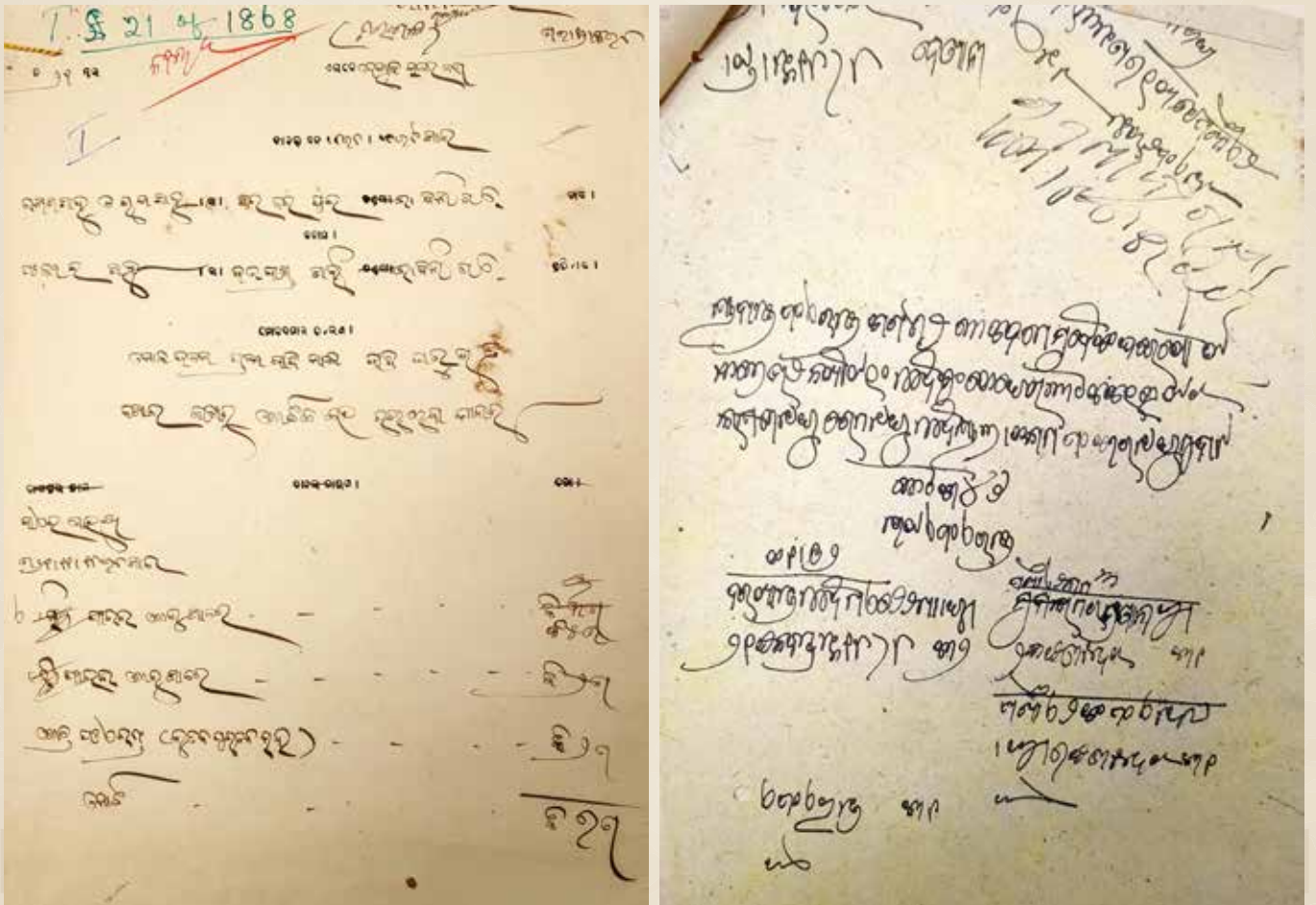
Visits to different District Courts of Odisha

Besides, Dr. Lalatendu Das Mohapatra also visited some of the old district and session courts such as Berhampur, Aska, Bhadrak, Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Puri and Dhenkanal to locate antique articles and fragile records of those courts which could be transferred to the Centre for Judicial Archives. 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.



(Antique items received)

Some of Old Records received from different Districts of Odisha



The document contains records relating to T.S. no. 21 of 1868 acquired from the District of Keonjhar.

Handwritten Odia text, likely a legal document or record, with several numbered entries (1-8) and a signature at the bottom.

Handwritten records on a grid form, possibly a court register or ledger. The header includes "IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF BALASORE" and "TRIAL NUMBER". The table contains columns for case numbers and names, with handwritten entries in Odia script.

Case No.	Name	Other Info
1919	Mokadamma	
216		
217		
218		
219		
220		
221		
222		
223		
224		
225		
226		
227		
228		
229		
230		

The document contains records relating to Mokadamma No. 149 of 1882 acquired from the District of Balasore.

Permanent AS 7/1868
 Appeal No. 02 of 1868
 In the Court of the District of Ganjam
 Appeal No. 02 of 1868
 Judgment
 1. She was brought for the removal of an attachment upon a building site and a piece of private land, both of the value of Rs. 100. 2-8
 2. The Plaintiff states that the 1st Defendant has attached the land in satisfaction of a decree he had obtained against the 2nd Defendant.

IN THE CIVIL COURT OF BERHAMPUR
 Before the District Magistrate's Court of Berhampur
 Appeal No. 02 of 1868
 Plaintiff: ...
 Defendant: ...
 Judgment
 1. The Plaintiff states that the 1st Defendant has attached the land in satisfaction of a decree he had obtained against the 2nd Defendant.

The document contains records relating to Appeal No. 02 of 1868 acquired from the District of Ganjam.

Schedule XIII—High Courts No. 571 L. (194 (M) 306.)
 SERIAL No. 1

REPUNCHED ON
 6-10-53

TITLE PAGE

CLASS I

DISTRICT JUDGE'S ROOM
 Received on 6-10-53
 DISTRICT JUDGE

FILE A.

(This file must be preserved for ever.)

In the Court of the Superintendent of Kalahandi

T. SUIT or CASE No. 2 of 195-1887

Kartika Shua Plaintiff }
Bardaki Gauntya Defendant. }
N. B.—Name of the plaintiff and of the defendant only need be entered.

DATE OF DECISION of Original Court 2-9-1887

Ditto of Appellate Court _____

OGP (Form) 1864—47,090—11,12,1951

Handwritten text in Odia script, likely a court record or judgment, written in a cursive style. The text is dense and covers most of the page.

The document contains records relating to T.S. No. 02 of 1887 acquired from the District of Kalahandi.

Since acquisition, preservation, digitization and cataloguing of records are the four basic principles of archival system, the centre immediately after its inception has taken up these steps on a priority basis.

Acquisition of records : The Centre in its original repository had 14,271 records, out of which 11,217 were civil and 3054 criminal cases (1813-1950). The earlier records pertaining to Sadr Diwani Adalat and Sadr Nizamat Adalat belong to Bengal, Madras and Central Provinces. Subsequently on 15 July 2022, 1999 files preserved in the Museum of Justice were transferred to its custody. Thereafter 3606 files from the judgeships of Sundergarh, Balangir, Puri, Keonjhar, Balasore, Koraput, Mayurbhanj and Kalahandi have been added to the collection. Besides, 31,432 files of District Records Room, Cuttack which is also functioning in RRDC building also constitutes an important part of archival collection of Centre for Judicial Archives. Cuttack district court provides the earliest specimen of court records in Odisha which is dated back to 1808. Recently the Centre was further enriched with the acquisition of 12, 499 records from District Court, Ganjam. The Centre at present has the total strength of 63,807 archival records.

Since Persian was the official language till 1839, all the records pertaining to Sadr Diwani Adalat and Sadr Nizamat Adalat, apart from the Munsiff Court of Cuttack till 1839 are exclusively in Persian language. In 1839, by the order of the government, English and vernaculars were also used in Court. Therefore after 1839, Persian along with English and other vernacular languages such as Odia, Bengali and Telugu are found to have been used in the court documents. Balasore

appears to be the first district court which made good use of the order of the government by producing all arjees in Odia after 1839. Besides, Odia was also used frequently in the courts of the princely states such as Keonjhar, Dhenkanal and Patnagarh in the 19th century. By the end of the 19th century, both Odia and English have totally replaced Persian in almost all the courts in Odisha.



(Fragile Record Room of District Courts at RRDC)

Cataloguing of records : Before setting up of the archives, there appears to have no catalogue of records either in the High Court or in the district courts. Since cataloguing of records is necessary for retrieval of information, the Centre has so far made provisional cataloguing of 14,344 files which includes the records of Sadr Dewani Adalat, Second Appeal, First Appeal, Civil Revision and High Court Museum etc. In the provisional catalogue, case no with date, name of the parties, no of pages, languages used and overall condition of records are mentioned which may be as good as check list of records.

Provisional Cataloguing

SADAR DIWANI ADALAT

BUNDLE No:01, (YEAR-1814 to 1833)

Sr.	Case No	Year	Date of Disposal	Subject	Pages	Physical Condition	Remarks
1	Appeal No:768	1814	06.01.1815	Achhut Kishan Tirtha Swami -Versus- Ramparam Sundar Swami	A4-1. No. of legal size pages cannot be ascertained.	Too brittle and worm eaten.	Language-English and Persian. Legal size papers folded and joined with more than one page. Subject not mentioned only party names available.
2	Appeal No:1024 (Display Table)	1814	10.05.1815	Mahant Narayan Das Pauper -Versus- Mahant Brindaban Das	A4-1. No. of legal size pages cannot be ascertained.	Too brittle and worm eaten.	Language-English, Persian and Bengali. Legal size papers folded and joined with more than one page. Subject not mentioned only party names available.
3	Appeal No.05	1815	06.01.1817	Panadhar Chowdhury -Versus- Collector of Cuttack & Radhamadhab Banarjea.	A4-1. No. of legal size pages cannot be ascertained.	Too brittle and worm eaten.	Language-English and Persian. Legal size papers folded and joined with more than one page. Subject not mentioned only party names available.
4	Appeal No.....	1824	12.04.1824	Lakshminarayan Banarjea and others -Versus- Madhusudan Banarjea & Others.	A4-1. No. of legal size pages cannot be ascertained.	Too brittle and worm eaten.	Language-English and Persian. Legal size papers folded and joined with more than one page. Subject not mentioned only party names available.

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT FORT WILLIAM IN
BENGAL**

SECOND APPEAL

BUNDLE No:03, (YEAR-1863-1885)

Sr.	Case No	Year	Date of Disposal	Subject	Pages	Physical Condition	Remarks
1	Special Appeal No.443-A	1863	01.02.1864	Rama Chandra Das Goseaji -Versus- Sree Narayan Mardaraj Dev	A4-10.	Too brittle and worm eaten.	Language- English. Legal size papers folded and joined with more than one page. Subject not mentioned only party names available.
2	Special Appeal No.443-B	1863	01.02.1864	Maguni Padhi & 4 others -Versus- Brundabana Polo	A4-14.	Brittle and worm eaten.	Language- English. Legal size papers folded and joined with more than one page. Subject not mentioned only party names available.
3	Special Appeal No.957	1863	02.03.1864	Ramnath Ray Chaudhury -Versus- Basu Naik	A4-02.	Too Brittle	Language- English and Persian. Legal size papers folded and joined with more than one page. Subject not mentioned only party names available.
4	Second Appeal No. 2255	1880	17.04.1882	Kanhaiyalal Pandit -Versus- Maharaja Padmalabh Deo	A4-18. No. of Legal Size Pages cannot be ascertained	Too brittle.	Language- English. Legal size papers folded and joined with more than one page. Subject not mentioned only party names available.

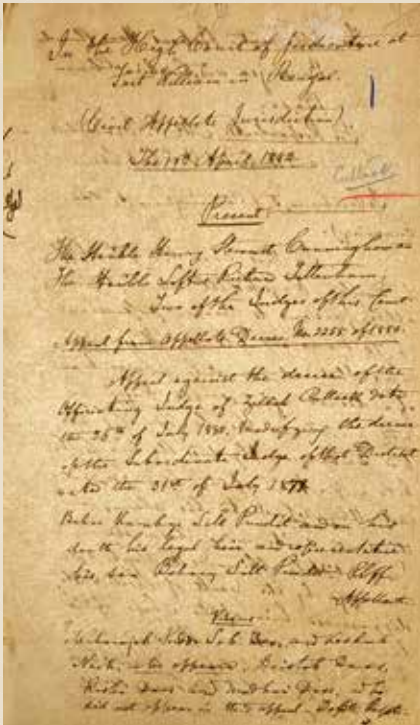
BENGAL HIGH COURT

APPEAL FROM APPELLATE DECREE/SECOND APPEAL

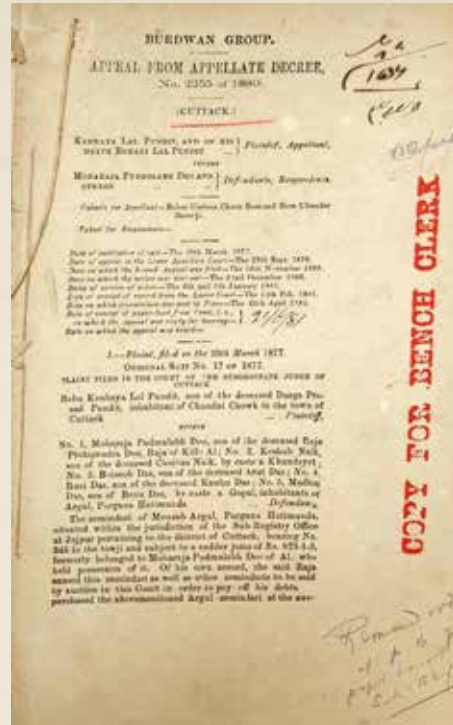
BUNDLE No:08, (YEAR-1872, 1873,1874,1875 & 1876)

Sr.	Case No	Year	Date of Disposal	Subject	Pages	Physical Condition	Remarks
1	Appeal from Appellate Decree No. 793	1872	16.09.1874	Gopal Dhal -Versus- Harikrishna Das	A4- 27. No. of legal size pages cannot be ascertained.	Too brittle and worm eaten.	Language- English and Odia. Legal size papers folded and joined with more than one page. Subject not mentioned only party names available. (Bengal High Court)
2	Appeal from Appellate Decree No. 1388	1872	15.06.1876	Maharana Adhiranee Narain Kumari -Versus- Srimati Rani Sonamali Patmahadei	A4- 30. No. of legal size pages cannot be ascertained.	Too brittle.	Language- English. Legal size papers folded and joined with more than one page. Subject not mentioned only party names available. (Bengal High Court)
3	Appeal from Appellate Decree No. 433	1875	19.04.1876	Dwarkaram Bhuggat -Versus- Mahant Ramkrishna Ramanuj Das	A4- 06.	Too brittle.	Language- English. Legal size papers folded and joined with more than one page. Subject not mentioned only party names available. (Bengal High Court)
4	Appeal from Appellate Decree No. 753	1873	12.03.1874	Bansidhar Das -Versus- Bhagwan Das	A4- 36. No. of legal size pages cannot be ascertained.	Too brittle and worm eaten.	Language- English and Odia. Legal size papers folded and joined with more than one page. Subject not mentioned only party names available. (Bengal High Court)

Some of the Catalogued Judgments of 19th Century



In the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal Second Appeal No. 2255 of 1880, Kanhaiyalal Pandit v. Maharaja Padmalabh Deo, Date of Judgment- 7th April 1882



The document contains a Judgment in matter concerning a dispute between the parties relating to the Zamindari of Argul. The Appeal was dismissed.



In the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal Second Appeal No. 1306 of 1862, Raja Bidyadhar Sindh Narendra Bahadur v. Sona Bai Padmohadei, Date of Judgment- 7th April 1882



The document contains a Judgment in matter concerning a dispute being dismissed as there was no point of law in this case.



In the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal Special Appeal No. 1741 of 1865, Jogendranath Mallick v. The Salt Agent of Balasore, Date of Judgment- 15th September 1865



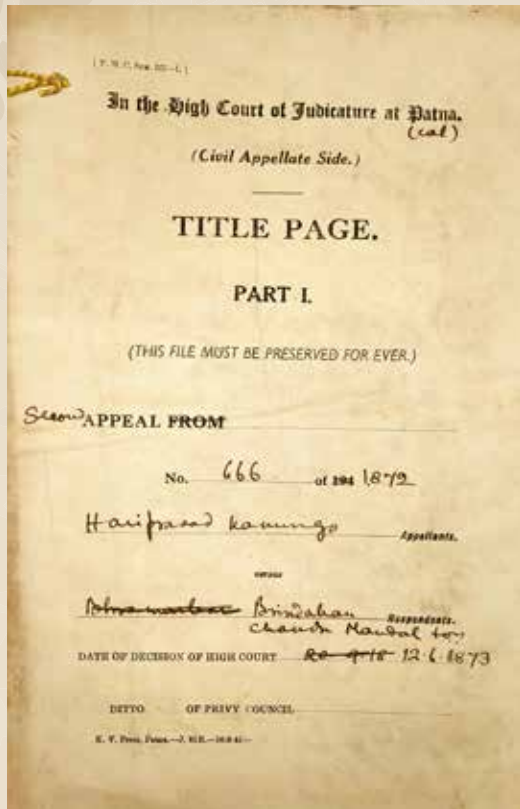
The document contains a Judgment in matter concerning a boundary dispute of the appellant being dismissed.



In the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal Special Appeal No. 2512 of 1870, Raja Krushnachandra Chandra v. Purusottam Das, Date of Judgment- 20th April 1871



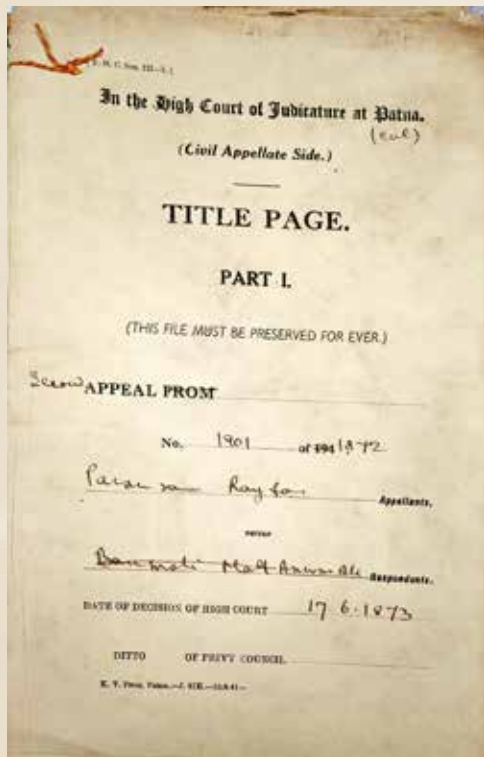
The document contains a Judgment in matter of appeal against decree passed by Judge of Cuttack concerning a civil dispute.



In the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal Second Appeal No. 666 of 1872, Hariprasad Kanungo v. Brindaban Chnadra Mondal, Date of Judgment- 12th June 1873



The document contains a Judgment in matter of appeal in a matter concerning as the guardian of a minor brother of respondent. The appeal was dismissed.



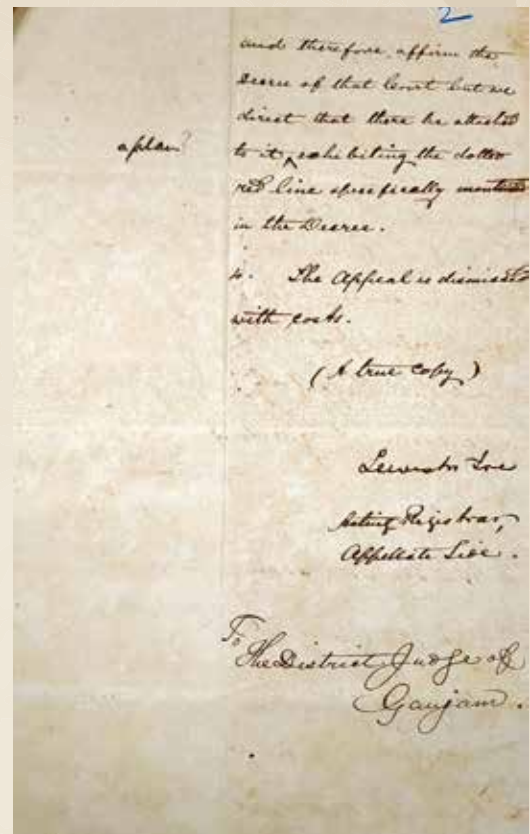
In the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal Second Appeal No. 1901 of 1872, Parshuram Ray v. Anwar Ali, Date of Judgment- 17th June 1873



The document contains a Judgment in matter of appeal in a matter concerning a land dispute between the parties. The appeal was dismissed.



In the High Court of Judicature at Madras Second Appeal No. 489 of 1879, Shri Gajapati Radhika Patamahadei v. Gajapati Radhamani Mahadei, Date of Judgment- 17th June 1873



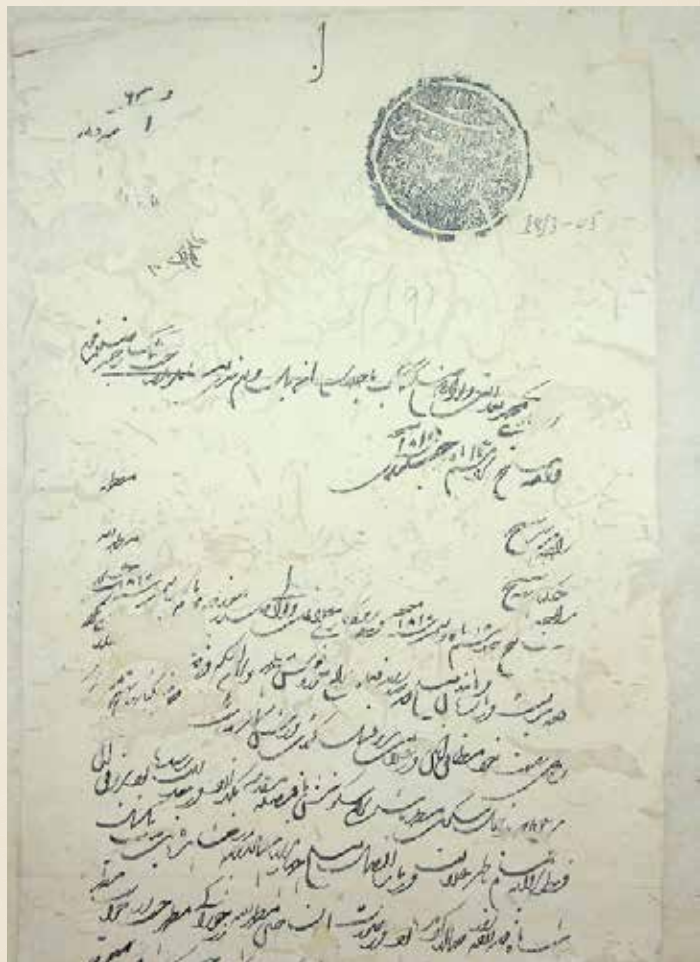
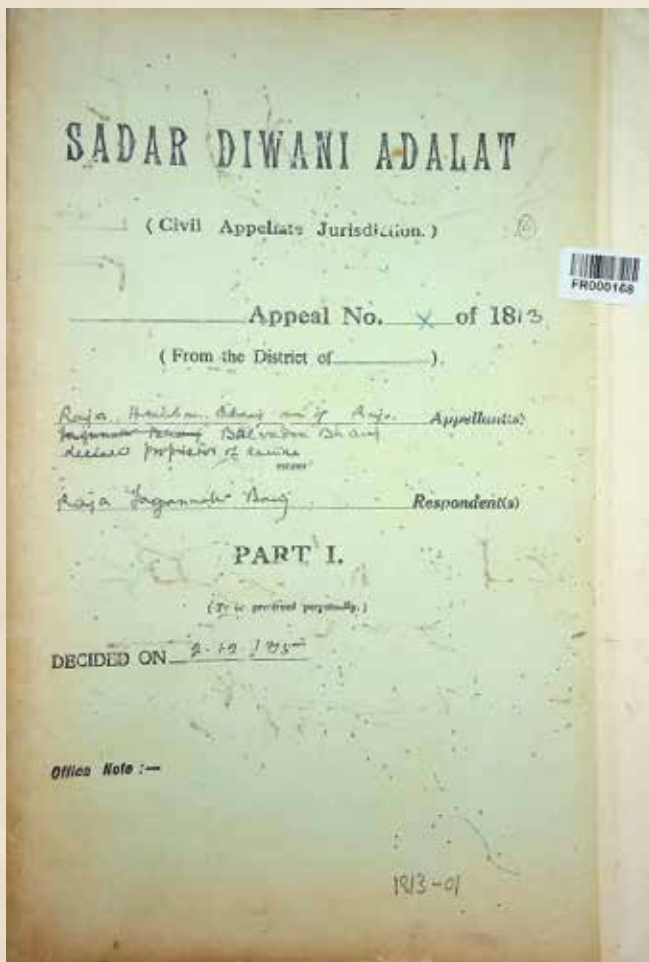
The document contains a Judgment in matter of appeal in a matter concerning a Zamindari dispute of Tikali of Ganjam district between the parties. The appeal was dismissed with costs to the 1st Respondent.

Descriptive Catalogue

The above steps are the prelude to the descriptive catalogue of records. Since the descriptive catalogue is necessary for a brief idea about the contents and subject matter of the records, this step has also been initiated recently with the engagement of Dr. Nadeem Akhtar, the visiting faculty member of Persian Department of Ashoka University, New Delhi who is preparing the catalogue of all Persian records. In this catalogue, a brief description of subject matter and the party in whose favor the decree is decided is also mentioned. Dr. Akhtar has so far catalogued 20 files. The catalogues along with some of the case files are given below:

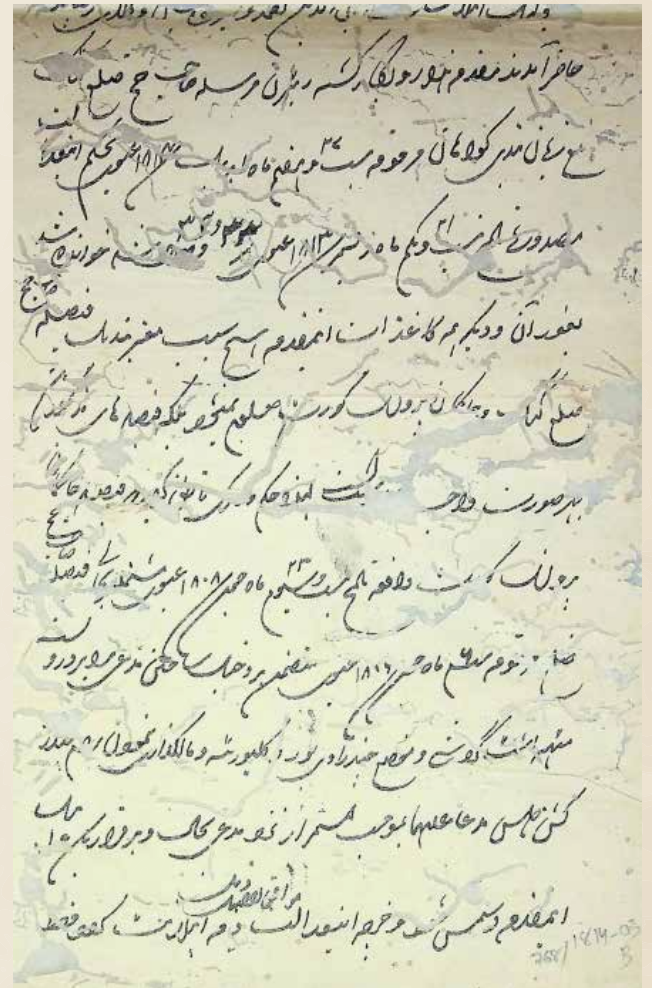
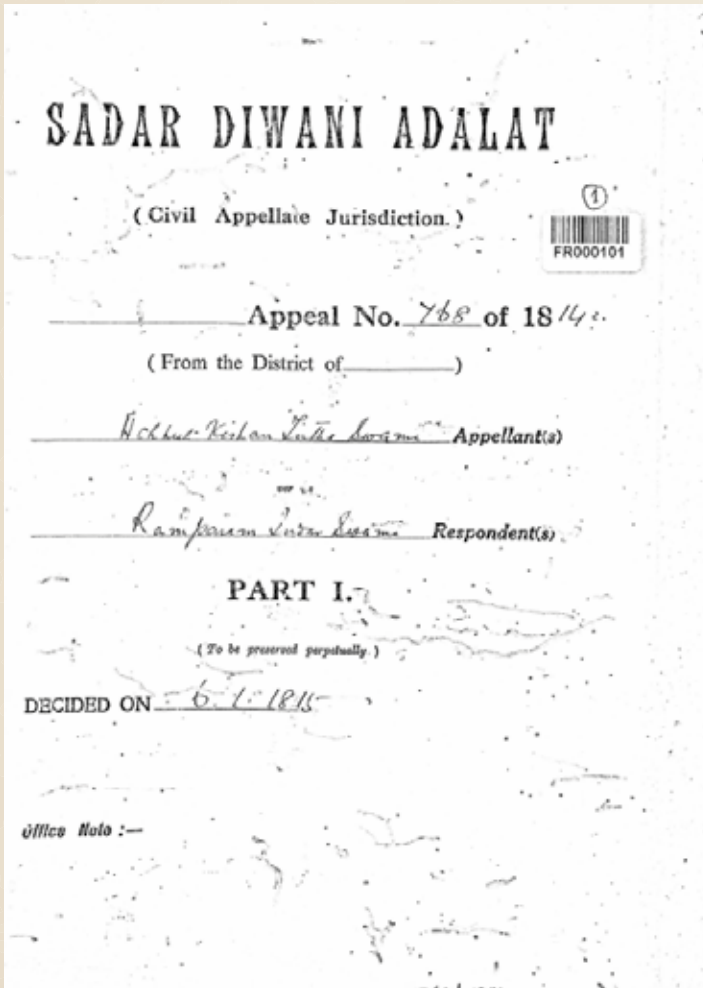
File No. 1

1	Case No. & Year	01/1813
2	Visibility of the letters	Hardly Visible
3	Name of the Plaintiff and respondent	Raja Harihar Bhanja, S/o Raja Balabhadra Bhanja, deceased proprietor of Kanika Raja Jagannath Bhanja
4	Category of Case	Civil
5	Nature of Dispute	Civil
6	Brief Description	Father of the plaintiff died without leaving will for his sons. It led to a dispute amongst them over the succession. The plaintiff moved to the court and the judge appointed Mr. Sadruddin, Darogha of the area to investigate the matter and the plaintiff was declared the successor of his father.
7	Date of Disposal	02.12.1815
8	Decree in favour of	Plaintiff
	Remarks	Name of the judge and location is not clear



File No. 2

1	Case No. & Year	768/1814
2	Visibility of the letters	Partially Visible
3	Name of the Plaintiff and respondent	Achal kishan Tirtha Swami vs. Ram Prasad Swami
4	Category of Case	Civil
5	Nature of Dispute	Civil
6	Brief Description	The plaintiff accused the respondent of not sharing the income that the respondent earned from a certain land or his area. After hearing the arguments from both the parties the judge ordered the respondent to pay a sum of Rs. 7500/-. At the end of the judgment, the court has also ordered the respondent to pay ten percent interest of the total profit i.e Rs. 750/- for the delay.
7	Date of Disposal	6.01.1815
8	Decree in favour of	Plaintiff
	Remarks	Name of the judge- Mr. James



File No. 3

1	Case No. & Year	1024/1814
2	Visibility of the letters	Partially Visible
3	Name of the Plaintiff and respondent	Mahant Narayan Das vs. Mahant Brindaban Das
4	Category of Case	Civil
5	Nature of Dispute	Civil
6	Brief Description	The plaintiff's father Nikam Das had written three wills which was handed over to the respondent as he was the secretary/caretaker of Mr. Nikam Das. Since the three witnesses mentioned in the wills (Balram Das etc.) died, the plaintiff approached the court to validate the wills. Judge John Harbert Harrington approved the request of the plaintiff and disposed the case.
7	Date of Disposal	10.05.1815
8	Decree in favour of	Plaintiff
	Remarks	

SADAR DIWANI ADALAT
(Civil Appellate Jurisdiction.)

(2)
FR000102

Appeal No. 1024 of 1814
(From the District of _____)

_____ *Mahant Narayan Das, Plaintiff* Appellant(s)

_____ *Mahant Brindaban Das, Defendant* Respondent(s)

PART I
(To be preserved perpetually)

DECIDED ON 10. 5. 1815

Office note :-

Handwritten document in Urdu script, likely a will or legal document, with a date of 10/5/1815. The text is written in a cursive style and includes names and legal terms. There are some markings and a signature at the bottom.

File No. 4

1	Case No. & Year	5/1815
2	Visibility of the letters	Mostly Visible
3	Name of the Plaintiff and respondent	Pradhan Chowdhwry vs. Collector of Cuttack & Radheshyam Dhala Banarjee
4	Category of Case	Civil
5	Nature of Dispute	Civil
6	Brief Discription	The plaintiff notified that the respondent is not sharing the income that the respondent earned from the land located at Cuttack, given them on rent by the respondent. After hearing the arguments from both the parties the judge Nawab General Corter ordered the respondent to pay a sum of Rs. 14,681/-. The judge has also asked the respondent to pay ten percent interest of the total profit i.e. Rs. 750/ for the delay.
7	Date of Disposal	6.01.1817
8	Decree in favour of	Plaintiff
	Remarks	Name of the Judge- Mr. Justice James

SADAR DIWANI ADALAT
(Civil Appellate Jurisdiction.)

FR000103

Appeal No. 5 of 1815
(From the District of _____)

Panathan Chowdhury Appellant(s)

Collector of Cuttack & Radheshyam Banarjee Respondent(s)

PART I.
(To be preserved perpetually.)

DECIDED ON 6.1.1817

Office Note :-

5/1815-01

Calcutta Provincial & Court of Appeal

5/1815-03 A

SEAL

Handwritten text in Urdu script, including a circular seal and various signatures and dates.

File No. 5

1	Case No. & Year	01/1824
2	Visibility of the letters	Partly Visible
3	Name of the Plaintiff and respondent	Laxminarayan Banarjee & others vs. Madhusudan Banarjee & others
4	Category of Case	Civil
5	Nature of Dispute	Civil
6	Brief Discription	Both the parties were brothers and their father wrote a will of his property for all their children. The plaintiffs accused the respondents of not sharing the profit earned from their ancestral land. Before the final verdict both the parties made peaceful settlement outside the court. The judge Mr. Corner Smith accepted their settlement and disposed the case.
7	Date of Disposal	12.04.1824
8	Decree in favour of	Plaintiff
	Remarks	Location of the land is not readable. It could be read as District Nagore.

SADAR DIWANI ADALAT
(Civil Appellate Jurisdiction.)

FR000104

Appeal No. _____ of 18²⁴
(From the District of _____)

Lakshminarayan Banarjee for Appellant(s)
versus
Madhusudan Banarjee for Respondent(s)

PART I.
(To be preserved perpetually.)

DECIDED ON 12.4.1824

Office Note :-

1824-01

(11)

Handwritten text in Urdu script, likely a settlement agreement or court record, detailing the dispute and resolution between the parties.

File No. 6

1	Case No. & Year	11/1832
2	Visibility of the letters	Hardly Visible
3	Name of the Plaintiff and respondent	
4	Category of Case	NA
5	Nature of Dispute	NA
6	Brief Description	The dispute is on the Zamindari of Chadwar at District Kolan and the settlement of Rupees 150/-. Advocate Mr. Karam Hussain was appearing for the plaintiff.
7	Date of Disposal	3.3.1831
8	Decree in favour of	Plaintiff
	Remarks	Most of the pages are damaged. It is also not clear that in whose favour the court disposed the matter

SADAR DIWANI ADALAT

(Civil Appellate Jurisdiction.)

Kokanaj Appeal No. 11 of 1832

(From the District of _____)

Chor Shing Bahadur Samanta Gikhan Appellant(s)
Bahadur

Government Respondent(s)

PART I.

(To be preserved perpetually.)

DECIDED ON 3. 3. 1832

Office Note :-

بارے امام لا محذور غازیہ صلائی چار بارہ وہ نہ کہہ ولہا سید مرقوم مکملہ زمین
 یہ میں ہوا ہے کہ کیا ہے وہ مکہ میں امام کلمہ مرقوم وہ مکہ میں سے نریا
 لی زمین اور نہ سے کسی سے نہ نہت وہ مکہ میں زمین چلیا رہا کہ مرقوم
 یہ زمین کے لئے مرقوم در مرقوم مرقوم زمین وہ مکہ میں زمین و ختم اگر یہ
 لہذا سے مکہ میں زمین مرقوم زمین مرقوم زمین مرقوم زمین مرقوم زمین
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حکم

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File No. 7

1	Case No. & Year	11/1832
2	Visibility of the letters	Not Visible
3	Name of the Plaintiff and respondent	Choudhury Mahendra Samanta Sinhar Mahapatra vs. Government
4	Category of Case	NA
5	Nature of Dispute	NA
6	Brief Description	Not Readable
7	Date of Disposal	3.3.1832
8	Decree in favour of	Plaintiff
	Remarks	All the pages are damaged and not readable

SADAR DIWANI ADALAT
(Civil Appellate Jurisdiction.)

FR000106

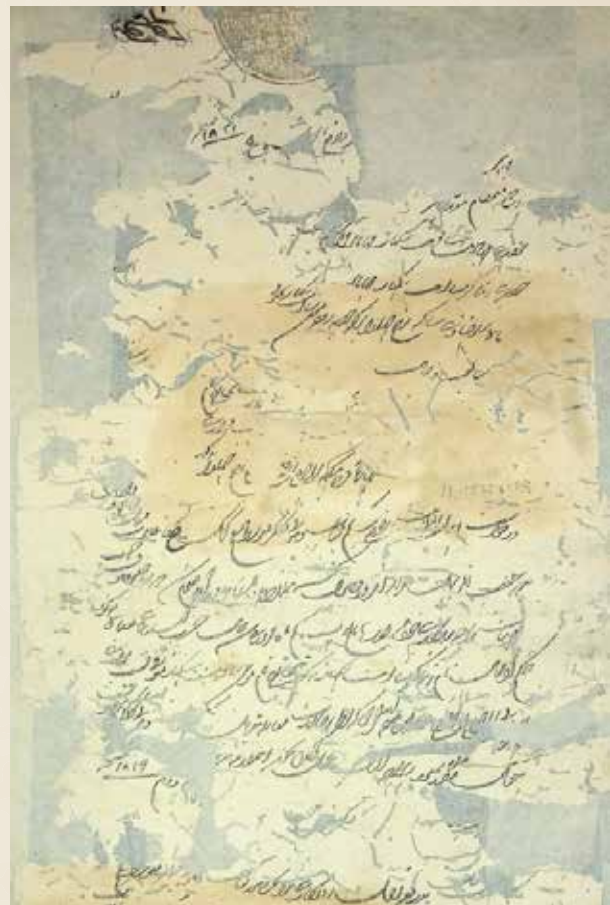
_____ Appeal No. 11 of 18³²
(From the District of _____)

Choudhury Mahendra Samanta Sinhar Mahapatra Appellant(s)
Government Respondent(s)

PART I.
(To be preserved perpetually.)

DECIDED ON 3. 3. 1832

Office Note :-



File No. 8

1	Case No. & Year	44/1832
2	Visibility of the letters	Partly Visible
3	Name of the Plaintiff and respondent	Gangadhar Das vs Masmat Kamkomawi mother of Jagardhar Chotta, Minor
4	Category of Case	Civil
5	Nature of Dispute	Civil
6	Brief Description	The plaintiff demanded the half of the earning from the land located at Kahanga at Nagpur and Rupees 833/- from the respondent. The plaintiff also mentioned that the said amount had been given as a debt to the husband of the respondent. The respondent said to the court that her husband had bought the land from the plaintiff, hence the demand is not valid. The respondent also showed the document that confirmed the buying of the land from the plaintiff. The judge William Brad after hearing both the parties disposed the case in favour of respondent
7	Date of Disposal	10.10.1833
8	Decree in favour of	Respondent
	Remarks	

SADAR DIWANI ADALAT
(Civil Appellate Jurisdiction.)

FR000107

Regular Appeal No. 44 or 1832
(From the District of _____)

Gangadhar Das Appellant(s)

versus

Masmat Kamkomawi the mother of Jagardhar Chotta minor Respondent(s)

PART I
(To be preserved perpetually)

DECIDED ON 10. 10. 1833.

Office note :—

[Handwritten notes and signatures in Urdu script, including the name 'William Brad' and various legal annotations.]

File No. 9

1 Case No. & Year	109/1832
2 Visibility of the letters	Partly Visible
3 Name of the Plaintiff and respondent	Lachman Hazra vs Sambhu & Gauri
4 Category of Case	Civil
5 Nature of Dispute	Civil
6 Brief Description	The plaintiff said that he had given Rupees 951/- as a debt to the respondent. The later had bought a land and grains at Cuttack with the said money. The plaintiff accused that the respondents had not return the debt and the earnings from the land which the respondent had bought from his money. After hearing both the parties the Judge Mr. Natail John disposed the case in favour of the plaintiff to return the debt along with the interest to be calculated since the time the debt was given to the respondent.
7 Date of Disposal	16.11.1834
8 Decree in favour of	Respondent
Remarks	

SADAR DIWANI ADALAT
(Civil Appellate Jurisdiction.)

FR000108

Appeal No. 109 of 1832
(From the District of _____)

Lachman Hazra Appellant(s)

Sambhu & Gauri Respondent(s)

PART I.
(To be preserved perpetually.)

DECIDED ON 16.1.1834.

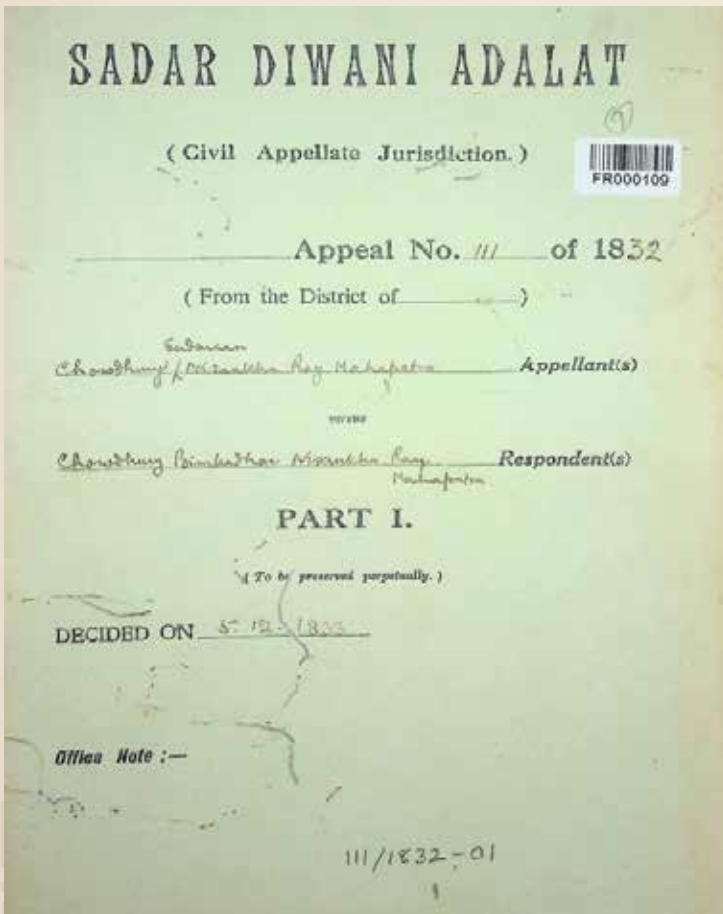
Office Note :-

109/1832-01



File No. 10

1	Case No. & Year	111/1832
2	Visibility of the letters	Partly Visible
3	Name of the Plaintiff and respondent	Chowdhury Sudarsan Nisank Ray Mahapatra vs Chowdhury Bimbashar Nishanka Ray Mahapatra & Others
4	Category of Case	Civil
5	Nature of Dispute	Civil
6	Brief Description	The plaintiff and respondent are brothers and had dispute in the share of land left behind by their father at Cuttack. After the death of the father the property of the deceased had been equally divided among his four sons. The plaintiff accused the respondent that the share of land among them has not equally divided and also the respondent has not returned him the amount of Rs. 312 which he has earned from the land. The Judge Mr. Malcolm has asked the local police to investigate the issue and report to the court within thirty days. After the investigation the judge has disposed the case in favour of the plaintiff.
7	Date of Disposal	05.12.1833
8	Decree in favour of	Plaintiff
	Remarks	



Case Records connected with history of Freedom Fighters of Odisha

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE,
KORAPUT.

Present---Y. Ramanathan, Esquire, I.C.S.,
Additional Sessions Judge, Koraput.

Sessions Case No. 18 of 1942.
The 15th day of October 1942.

His Majesty (Emperor) Case No. 18 of 1942---Complainant.
Lakhan Naik and 53 others-----Accused.

Offence charged with.....Under section 30(1) of the Defence of India Act, 1938, read with section 124-A of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, for publishing a false statement calculated to bring the Government of India into contempt or to excite disaffection against the Government of India.

Case committed to.....Sessions Court, Koraput, District, Odisha.

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

S. No.	Name	Father's name	Age	Occupation	Cast	Religion
1.	Lakhan Naik	Phoolan Naik	32	Cultivation	Khond	Hindu
2.	Prasanna Kumar	Prati Prasad	34	"	"	"
3.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
4.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
5.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
6.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
7.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
8.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
9.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
10.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
11.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
12.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
13.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
14.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
15.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
16.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
17.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
18.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
19.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
20.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
21.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
22.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
23.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
24.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
25.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
26.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
27.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
28.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
29.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
30.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
31.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
32.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
33.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
34.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
35.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
36.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
37.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
38.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
39.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
40.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
41.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
42.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
43.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
44.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
45.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
46.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
47.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
48.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
49.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
50.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
51.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
52.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"
53.	Arjun Naik	Arjun Naik	35	"	"	"

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT PATNA.

Criminal Jurisdiction.

Death sentence No. 4 of 1942 (Civilian)

and

Criminal Appeals Nos. 27 and 28 of 1942 (Civilian).

The 13th January, 1943.

P R E S E N T.

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Meredith.
The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Brough.

(Death Reference 4) in the case of
The King-Emperor
-versus-
Lakhan Naik, accused.

CR. Appeals 27 and 28: 1. Lakhan Naik,
2. Prasanna Kumar,
3. Arjun Naik, of Teotaligama,
4. Arjun Naik of Dhatyagiri,
5. Arjun Naik,
6. Arjun Naik,
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44. Arjun Naik,
45. Arjun Naik,
46. Arjun Naik,
47. Arjun Naik,
48. Arjun Naik,
49. Arjun Naik,
50. Arjun Naik,
51. Arjun Naik,
52. Arjun Naik,
53. Arjun Naik.

In the Court of the Additional District and Sessions Judge, Koraput V. Ramanathan, Esquire, Additional Sessions Judge, Koraput Sessions Case No. 18 of 1942 King Emperor v. Lakhan Naiko and 53 others

In the High Court of Judicature at Patna Bench-Justice Meredith, Justice Brough Criminal Appeal No. 27 of 1942 Lakhan Naik v. Emperor

In the above case records, Lakhan Naik was sentenced to death by the Sessions Court and the sentence was confirmed by the High Court.

Handwritten signature and thumb impression of Lakhan Naik. The text includes "Lakhan Naik" and "Appellant" written in ink. There are several handwritten notes and dates, including "28/1/42".

PRAYER.

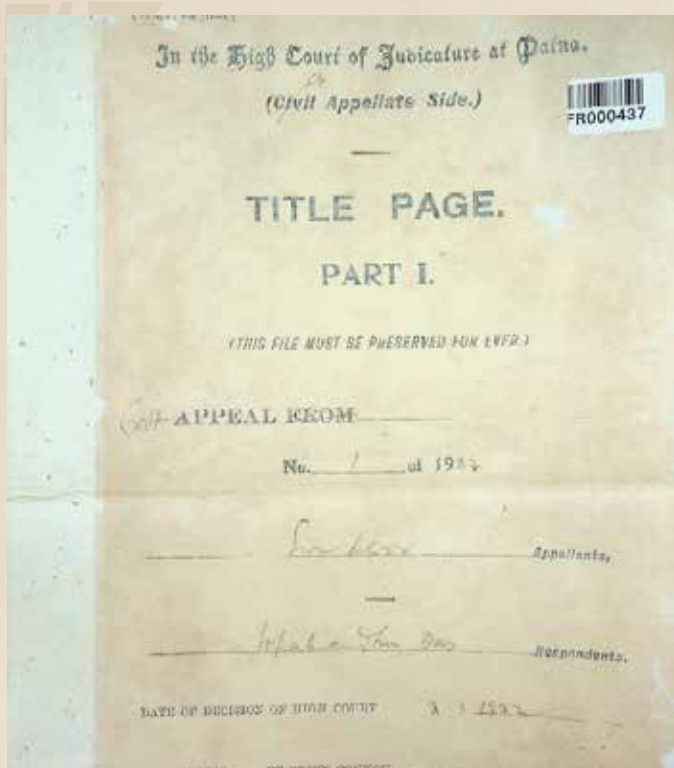
In these circumstances, the humble appellant prays that your Lordships may be pleased to call for and peruse the records of Court below and grant him justice.

The appellant further submits that he is applying for copies of certain records, and prays that he may be permitted to submit further grounds of appeal, if any, before the hearing of the appeal.

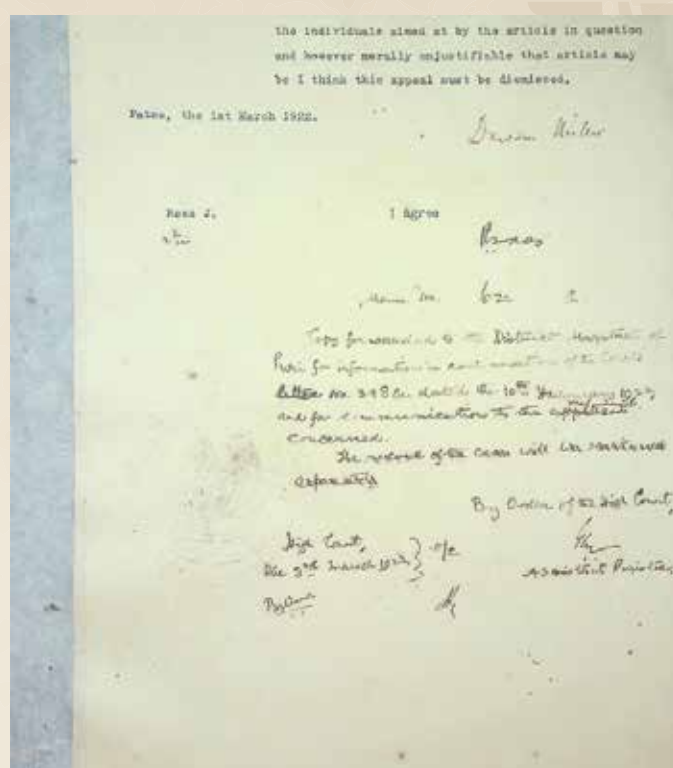
Left hand impression of Appellant.
of Convict No. 16 Lakhan Naik

Attested
[Signature]
[Signature], O.P.T., M.S.D., P.M.,
Superintendent of Jail
Bhubaneswar.

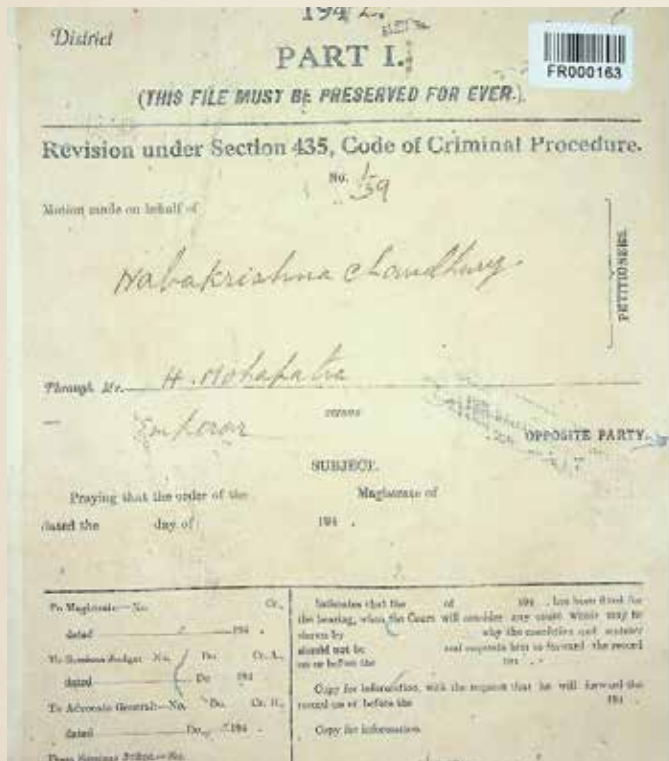
Signature and Thumb Impression of Lakhan Naik



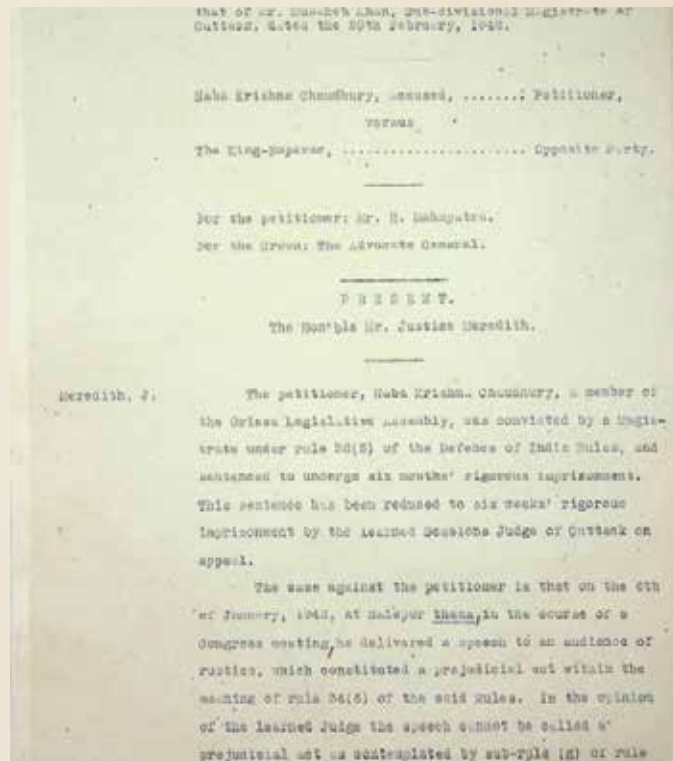
In the High Court of Judicature at Patna Govt. Appeal no. 1 of 1922 Emperor v. Gopabandhu Das Bench-Justice Rose Date of Judgment- 1st March 1922



The document contains the judgment dismissing the appeal directed against the acquittal of Utkalamani Gopabandhu Das in a trial for alleged publishing of defamatory articles.



In the High Court of Judicature at Patna Revision 1/39 of 1942 Bench- Justice Meredith Date of Judgment- 1st October 1942



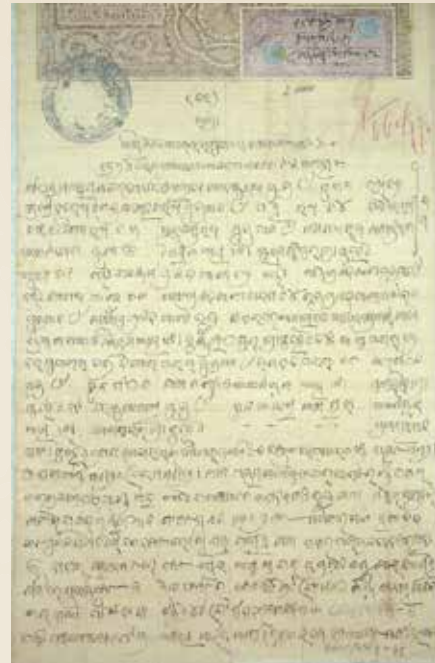
The document contains the Judgment passed by High Court in a matter of conviction of the petitioner under Rule 38 (5) of Defense of India Rules and sentenced to undergo six months rigorous imprisonment.

Judgments in different languages-

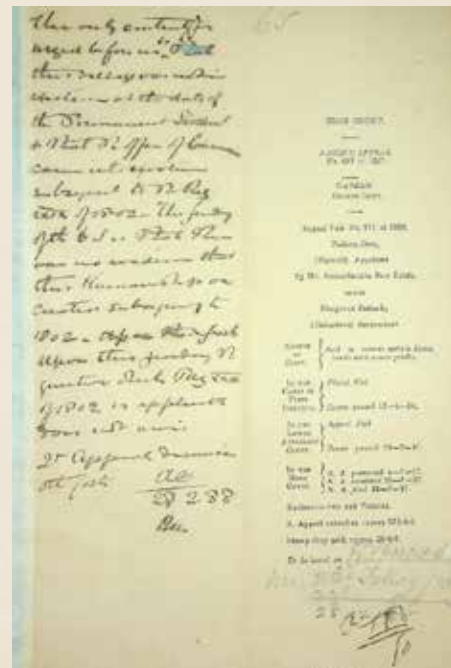
Further, as there are also records in Odia, Bengali and Telugu languages besides English in later part of the 19th century, one expert each in these languages is proposed to be engaged for preparation of descriptive catalogue of these records. The segregation of records on the basis language is also in progress.

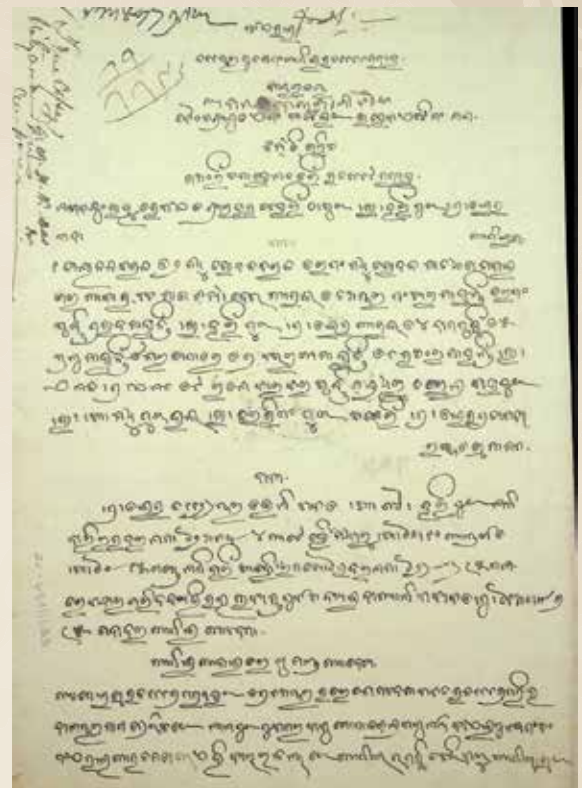
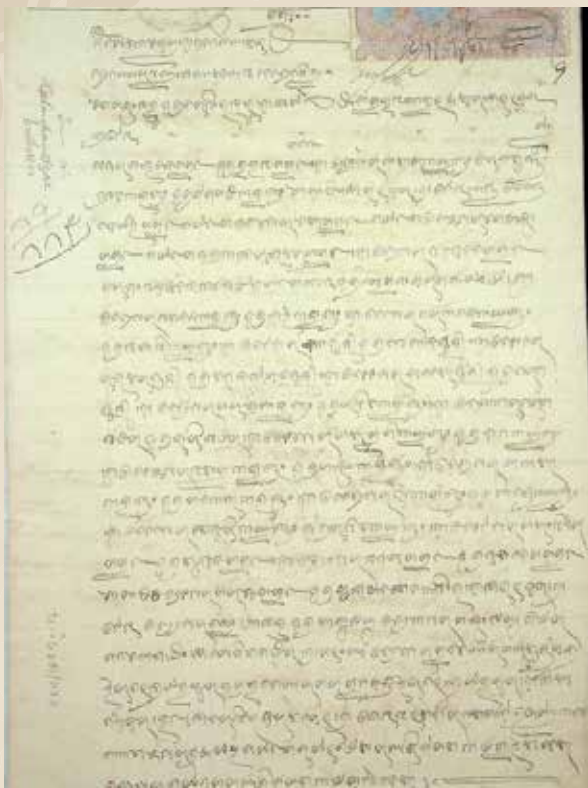


Bengali- In the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, Appeal No. 660 of 1897, Chowdhury Ghanashyam v. Jagabandhu Rath and others. Bench- Justice James Okinealy, Justice Behary Lal Gupta. Date of Judgment- 29th April 1898

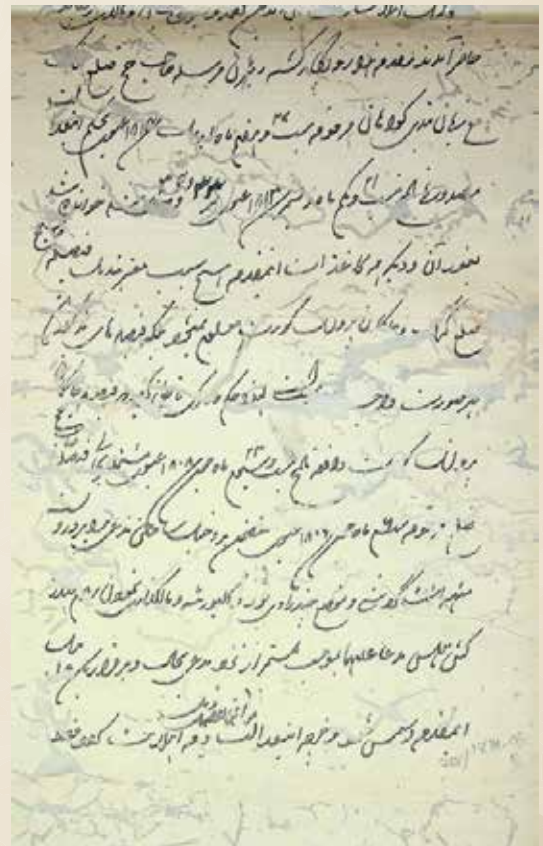
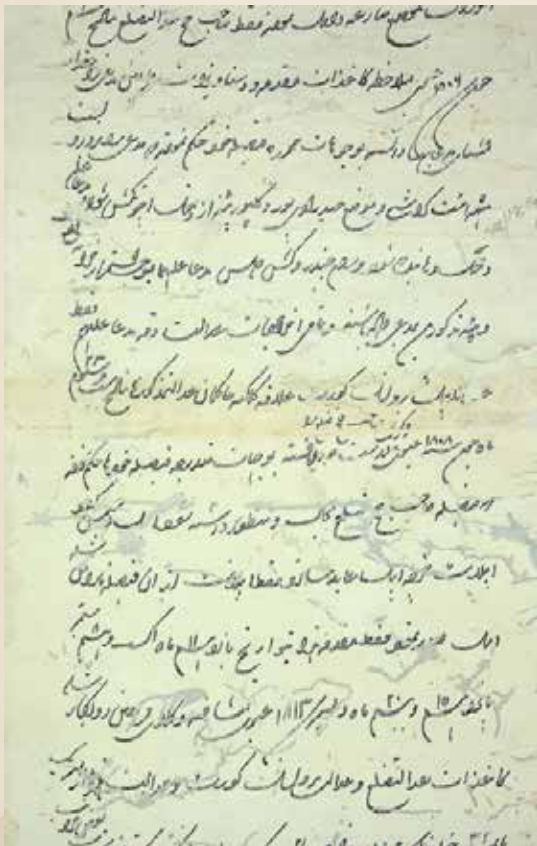


English- In the High Court of Judicature at Madras, Appeal No. 676 of 1887 Podanu Dass v. Bhagavan Patnaik Bench- Chief Justice Sir Arthur Charles Collins, Justice T. Muthuswami Aiyar Date of Judgment- 28th February 1888

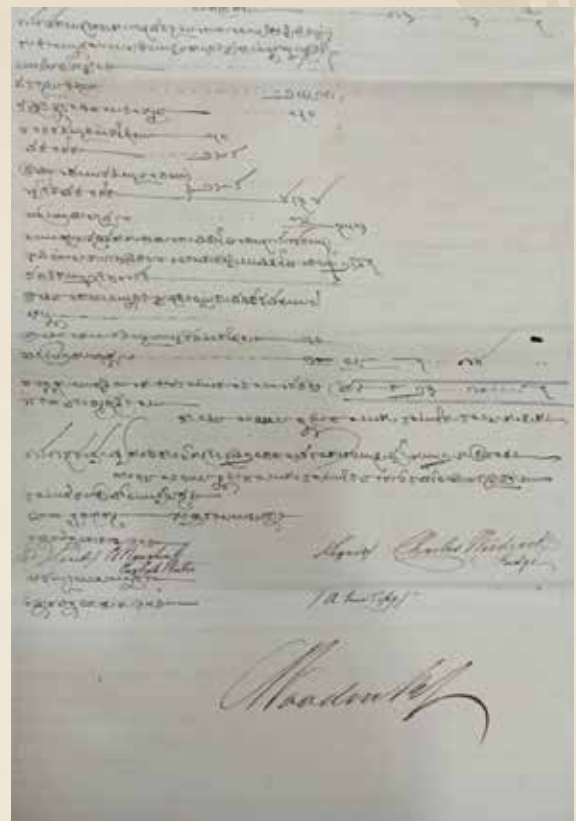
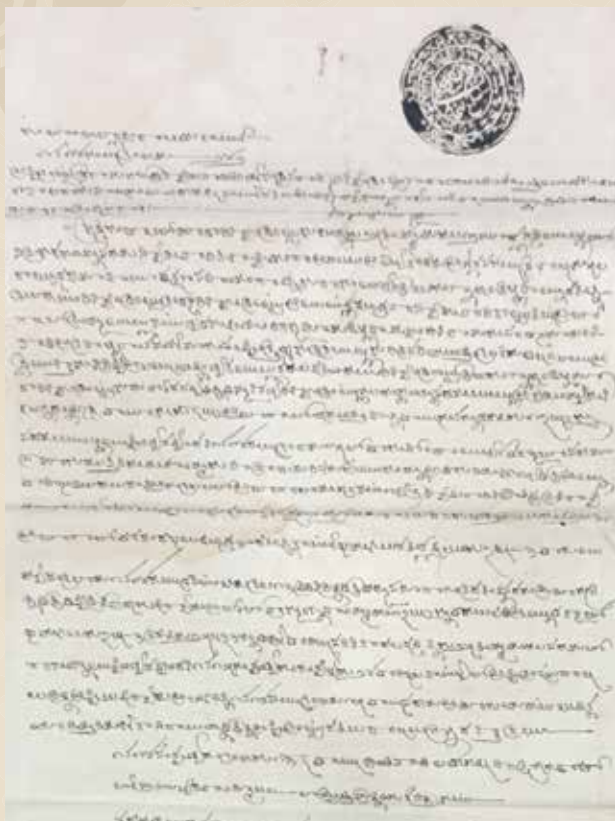




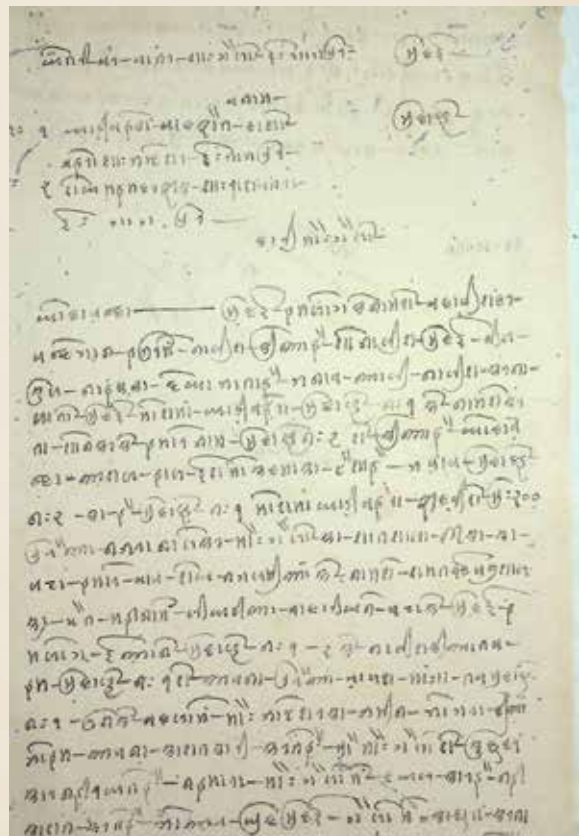
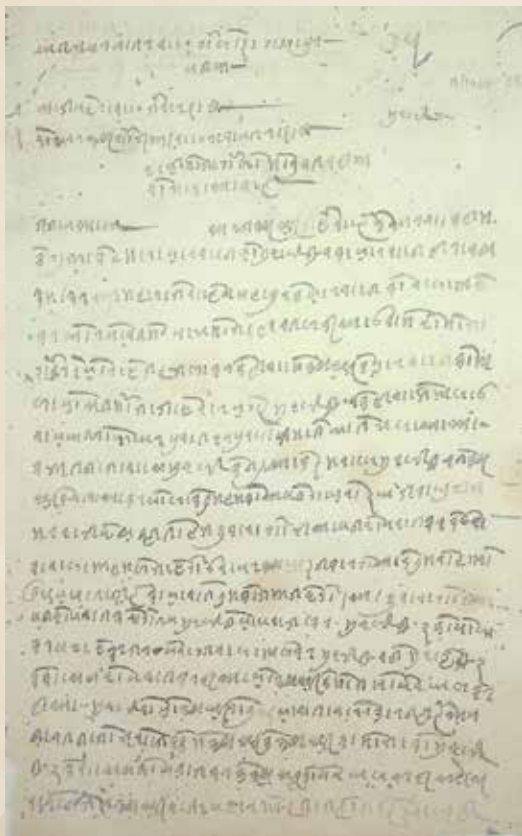
Odia- In the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, Appeal Decree No. 884 of 1889, Jagabandhu Sahu v. Madhusudan Baral and others Bench- Justice John Freeman Norris, Justice Beverly Date of Judgment- 3rd December 1890



Persian- In the Court of the Sadar Diwani Adalat, Appeal No. 768 of 1814 Achit Kishan Tirtha Swami v. Ramaparam Indar Swami Date of Judgment- 6th January 1815



Telugu-The document contains judgment passed in Telugu language by Judge Charles Woodcock in the year 1814.



Unidentified – In the Court of the Diwani Adalat, Title Suit no. 9 of 1900 K. Padoo v. K. Behera Date of Judgment- 16th November 1900

Preservation: As almost all records are fragile and worm eaten, their repair and scientific preservation is the main priority of the centre. These records of 70 to 215 years old were preserved in an atmosphere not conducive to proper ventilation as a result of which they have been infected with fungus and worm. To save them from further deterioration, their proper and scientific preservation and storage was therefore the immediate priority of the centre. In view of this an agreement was signed with Indian National Trust for Cultural Heritage (INTACH) to whom the preservation work was assigned on 26 July 2022 on an estimated cost of Rs,1,98.08,262/- who have been repairing and preserving the records. While repairing the records, the modern parameter of fumigating, lining, guarding, stitching and binding are followed. Since the files are infected with worm and fungus they are fumigated in the fumigation chamber, a digitally controlled vault with chemicals like para dichlorobenzene and thymol with controlled temperature before treatment. Thereafter following methods are used.

Written condition report is prepared in order to record the physical condition of the manuscripts at the time of conservation and various other process undertaken for conservation.

Physical examination of the sheets i.e. condition of paper and solubility of the ink etc. Such examination helps determining the best treatment methodology to be adopted for safer conservation treatments.

Dry brushing of individual sheets to remove loose dust and insects before and after fumigation exercise.

Chemical conservation, consolidation and fixing of running inks.

Aqueous de-acidification in case of sheets having non-soluble inks.

In case of papers having highly fugitive inks, de-acidification shall be done using buffer (alkaline) papers and no wet treatment shall be given to the documents to avoid ink smudging.

Double sided lining with good quality tissue papers. Tissue lining of pages is a necessary step to impart physical strength to the paper manuscripts when they are in extremely fragile condition.

Guarding of lined sheets for giving additional strength to the manuscripts on the edges.

Stitching and binding of the guarded and lined sheets with conservation guidelines wherever required.

Treated sheet shall be kept under observation inside the conservation unit for one week before returning.

Until 15 April, 2023, INTACH has repaired so far 1105 files, 30 books in museum and 7034 sheets.



Fumigation Chamber



Dry Brushing



Double sided lining with good quality tissue papers



Physical examination of the fragile records



Aqueous de-acidification



Guarding and Cutting of lined sheets



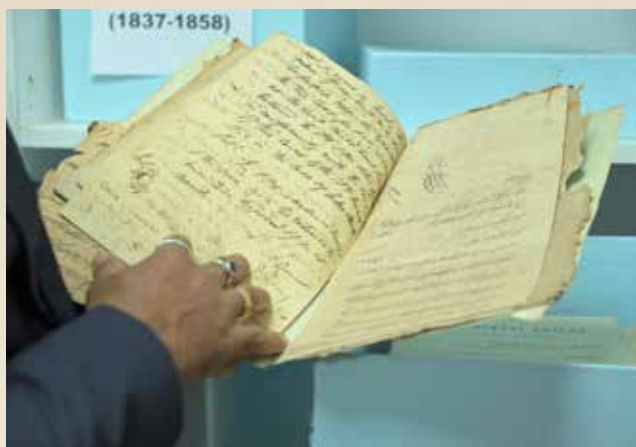
Water and Lime Water Treatment



Stitching, Binding and Observation of Sheets

Though the records of RRDC are preserved in compacter, the fragile records are being preserved in custom made acid-free carton box which are kept in separate chamber and shelves.





Digitization: Though section 1 of the Odisha Gazette (Extraordinary), High Court of Orissa's notification dated 13 September 2021 stipulates destruction of any judicial records, books or papers after their conversion to electronic format in accordance with Section 7 of the Information Technology Act, 2000, the fragile records up to 1950 are not to be destroyed because of their archival value. While digitizing the records the same parameter are to be followed as much as possible as in the case of non-fragile records. As per the applied parameter

Each case record shall be applied with a barcode sticker so that the data that will be captured from the record will be readable using the barcode reader.

Each scanned case record shall be indexed in accordance with the indexing parameters of the physical case record in such a way that the prescribed software accurately identifies every indexed document available in the scanned record.

Each scanned page shall be converted to PDF in Optical Character Recognition mode. Each PDF file shall be segregated according to indexing parameter.

Every scanned record shall be provided with adequate proper meta data.

The agency entrusted with the work of scanning and digitization shall use necessary technology to ensure that the scanned and digitized documents stored in the server shall remain accessible, readable and printable without affecting the information originally generated, sent and received for posterity.

Though the database containing the digitized records of the court shall be accessible in the local area network (LAN) of the court, in future all archival records may be uploaded in the website for the free access of the scholars. For accessing this method the system practiced in National Archives may be followed. As per this practice, all scholars intending to consult these records will have to register with Centre for Judicial Archives. After their online registration the web master will provide them an user ID and password which the scholar will use to access these records. He/ she will only read the records without being able to download them. In case they need any digitized copy for their research work they will have to apply separately and will be provided the soft copy on payment.

While handing over records for digitization, the agency will ensure that duplicate copies of any part thereof are removed to avoid needless scanning.

The Centre has so far digitized 592 fragile files or 11,043 sheets from 1808 to 1950.



Digitization



Scanning and Digitization by Over head Scanners



Consultation of records: Since allowing of accession to archival records both by the officials and scholars is a basic functions of archives, the RRDC committee in its meeting held on 18 April 2023, has approved the use of consultation of records by the scholars, officials and citizens of India in newly designed Research Room cum Repository. The scholars are supposed to consult the digitized version of files in computer.

Only those files which are not digitized, that can be available to scholars in physical form. All the scholars are to be registered before consulting the records. For registering in the research room the scholar is required to produce the document from his institution/ university that he is a bona fide research scholar. For a foreign scholar he will have produce the clearance from his embassy.

The scholars can also be extended reprographic facilities on demand. He will be supplied photocopy or scanned copies on prescribed payment.

Since the catalogue of records are to be uploaded in kiosk in the Research Room, the scholars will consult the catalogue in Kiosk and give requisition to the files after identifying and selecting the concerned file from the catalogue. The scholars on demand can also be provided with the photocopies or digital images of the documents on payment at prescribed rate.





The Standard Operating Procedure for Consultation of records is as follows:

Any research scholar or Indian citizen interested to consult files in Centre for Judicial Archives will have to register here with a letter of introduction by the University, Department, college or the educational institution in which he/she is formally attached. For any officials using the archives for official purpose, official request may be submitted either in hard or soft copies. For independent researchers or any other Indian citizens, photo copy of Aadhar card or any other government Identity card having photo and residential address may be submitted. The scholar/citizen may submit detail about himself in prescribed form which may be prepared in the format of National Archives of India and Odisha State Archives.

Online registration of scholars may also be allowed, but this will be done after complete development of website.

In case of foreign scholars, apart from the letter of recommendation from the university/ educational institutions with which they are attached, a letter of clearance may also be obtained from the concerned embassy.

The scholars intending to consult records will be provided the digitized image of the records as much as possible which he/she will access from the Computer in the Research Room. All digitized archival files stored in the server will be accessible from the research room computer. In this connection the scholars after their registration will be provided a user ID and password by the web master.

Since a basic catalogue of all records is being prepared, it is proposed that this catalogue will be uploaded in Kiosk which the scholars will consult for accessioning the records. At present the preparation of a descriptive catalogue of all Persian records is in progress will also be uploaded in Kiosk. As regards the records in English, Odia, Telugu and Bengali are concerned those are being segregated now. Once their number in each of these languages is ascertained, separate scholars having proficiency in each of the regional languages will be engaged for preparation of descriptive catalogue.

All the scholars wanting true copies/images of the archival records will have to apply in prescribed form for the photocopy of the documents which want. This format will be prepared as per *Public Records Rules, 1997*. They may be provided with either photo copies or digital image of the documents for which they will be charged some amount which may be revised from time to time.

Format for registration of research scholar prepared as per the format of
National Archives of India
HIGH COURT OF ORISSA
CENTRE FOR JUDICIAL ARCHIVES
(APPLICATION FORM FOR PERMISSION TO CONSULT RECORDS)

To
The Director-Cum-O.S.D,
Centre for Judicial Archives,
Odisha.

Sir,

I hereby apply for enrolment as a research scholar for consulting records in the Research Room of the Centre for Judicial Archives. I agree to comply with the rules and conditions in force and promise to deposit a copy of each of my work based on materials consulted at the Centre for Judicial Archives immediately after the publication.

1. Name, including Surname: Sh./Smt./Km./ Dr.....
2. Father's/Husband's name:
3. Date of Birth :
4. Qualification :
5. Nationality:
6. Profession:
7. Subject of research:
8. *University/Institutions registered with:.....
9. Period for which admission is sought:
10. Signature and date:
11. Address: (i) Local :
-
- (ii) Permanent:
-

Particulars of records to be consulted:

* Scholars are requested to attach a letter of recommendation from their University/Institution/ Department. However, the foreign scholars are requested to bring a letter of accreditation from the diplomatic representatives of their country in India as well.

VII. Dedicated building for Centre for Judicial Archives:

Collection and acquisition of archival records is a continuous process of archives. The Centre for Judicial Archives is not only the repository of the fragile records of the High Court of Orissa but also the 29 district courts of the state from where fragile records will be transferred here for permanent preservation on continuous basis. Since the existing spaces in RRDC building are inadequate, a separate building is essential for the exclusive archival functions. Besides, conservation laboratory, repository rooms, reprography, research room and the library, the archives also needs a conference hall for meeting and symposium. Moreover keeping in view the proposal to make it a research centre in history, archival studies, history of Indian legal system and studies on museum, programmes like seminar, symposium and publication will be the regular activities of the centre for which the building of a massive size is required.

Realizing the exclusiveness of these functions of the Centre which can be performed better in a dedicated building, the Government of Odisha, on a request by the High Court of Orissa has allotted a piece of land measuring 1.884 dec in the adjacent of RRDC building and contiguous to the Ain Seva Bhawan where the High Court of Orissa has already started the construction of a majestic building of total built up areas of 1,09,525 square feet at a projected cost of Rs 34,89,55,743/-. The Centre at present has more than 63, 000 archival records which have been acquired from some district courts apart from the records of the High court. But there are far more fragile records in different district courts across the state awaiting transfer to the Centre. However, due to space constraint in present RRDC building, these records will be transferred to the Centre after the completion of its functional building in the allotted piece of land. Apart from the judicial records of its own institutions, the Centre as a part of its objective of promoting research activities has also an ambitious scheme of acquiring the private papers of eminent legal luminaries of yesteryears which will immensely enrich its collection. Besides, it will also have a separate library whose collections will comprise the books and journals on archives, history, law and other aspects of social sciences which will facilitate its research programme. Acquisition of archival records and expansion of its library is a continuous process of an archival institution. In view of this such majestic building is designed keeping in view the future acquisition and expansion programme of the centre besides its promotion of research activities.

The building will also adopt all the latest international standard of records keeping and storage facilities with storage in compacters, 24 hours air conditioning facilities which all the major archival institutions and libraries in India have accepted. State PW.D. is executing the building plan which is expected to be completed in fifteen months.



Proposed Plan



Construction in Progress

Speech of Shri Naveen Patnaik, Chief Minister of Odisha on the occasion of Stone Laying Ceremony of Centre for Judicial Archives, High Court of Orissa, Cuttack

28th January 2023

Hon'ble Dr. Justice S Muralidhar, Chief Justice of Odisha High Court, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vineet Saran, Former Judge of Supreme Court of India, Hon'ble Mr Justice Debabrata Dash, Chairman, RRDC and Judicial Archives Committee, Hon'ble Mr Justice S. Panigrahi, Member, Judicial Archives Committee and Hon'ble Judges of Odisha High Court.

Legal Luminaries, Distinguished guests, Ladies, & Gentlemen,

I am delighted to join all of you at the foundation laying ceremony of the Centre for Judicial Archives here at Cuttack. This is, I am informed, the first of its kind in the country. I thank the Odisha High Court for this unique initiative. I sincerely appreciate the efforts of Hon'ble Chief Justice Dr S. Muralidhar and the team in realization of this unique project.

An archive is not only the collection of the documentary heritage of a nation, but also the collective memory of the institution, and a passive witness of its history. By embarking upon this initiative, the Odisha High Court has done a commendable job in preserving the judicial history and promoting the judicial heritage of Odisha.

Our history is not just a document. It's a learning curve, a guiding light for our future. I am informed that all the judicial documents of the High Court and district courts since the British era up to 1950 will be preserved and archived here.

The Centre at present has over 50 thousand archival records which have been acquired from records of different districts, apart from the own records of the High court. These documents are a treasure trove in our judicial and legal arena.

It will be immensely beneficial to the historians and the legal luminaries for a meaningful reconstruction of history. Access to research scholars and the public will stimulate academic activities through symposiums and seminars. Research works, publication of academic journals and sharing of archival records with other academic and archival institutions of the State and across the country will enhance the awareness on our judicial heritage.

I am so happy that the employees of High Court will have comfortable accommodation. The designs look comprehensive with free space, Gym etc. I am sure the staff would be happy.

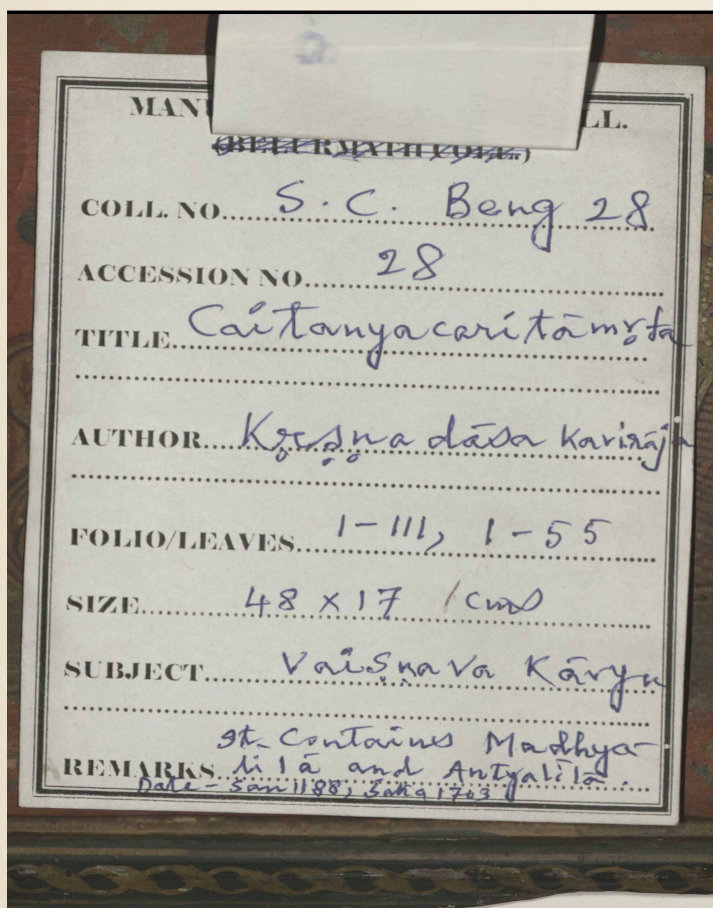
The Government of Odisha is always keen to support and strengthen the judicial and legal infrastructure in the state. We have provided land for the centre, and will continue to provide all kinds of support for any such initiative.



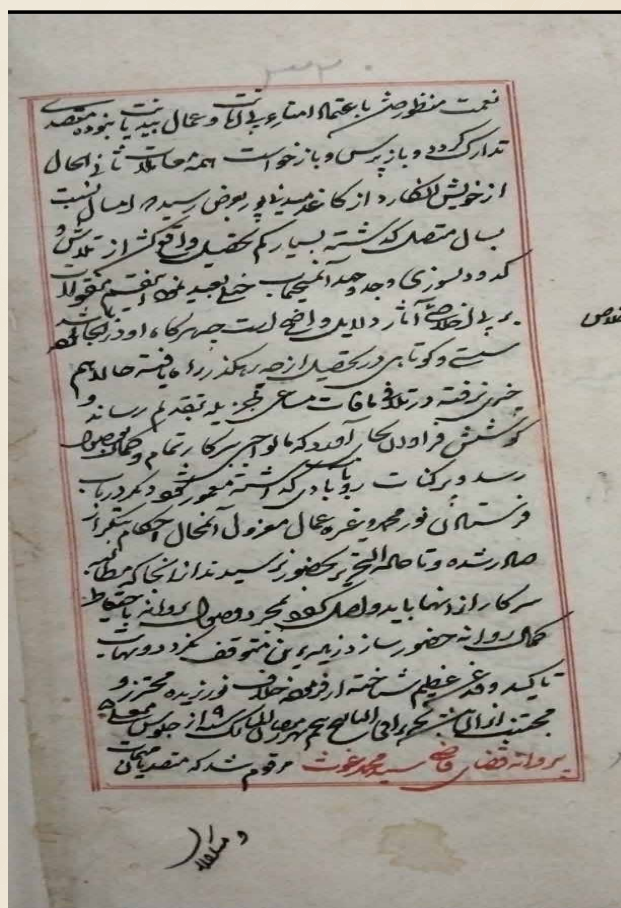
Thank You
Vande Utkal Janani.

Compilation of Judicial History

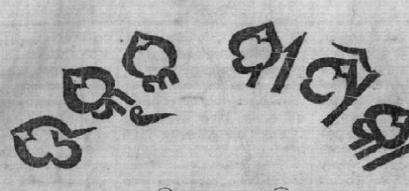
Since there was a need for collection of archival materials for judicial history project it was therefore decided that a visit may be made to some old archival, academic institutions and libraries to make a survey of their treasure trove. Accordingly, Justice Sashikanta Mishra and Dr. Lalatendu Das Mohapatra visited Asiatic Society, West Bengal State Archives and Centre for Studies in Social Sciences in Kolkata, National Archives, Department of Post and Telegraph and Parliamentary Library in New Delhi from where they collected scan copies of some archival documents, news paper reports, photographs, paintings from old manuscripts and copies of postage stamps. Besides, Dr Lalatendu Das Mohapatra also led a team consisting of Dr. Bijoy Mohapatra, Consultant (Law), Ms Tanuja Meghamala and Mr Rahul Vikram Pathy, both Law Researchers to visit Odisha State Archives to select and collect some archival documents. That apart Dr Bijoy Mohapatra and Mr Rahul Vikram Pathy also visited 'The Samaj' office in Gopabandhu Bhawan to collect some old newspaper reports and photographs from 'The Samaj' for the newspaper galleries. Besides, Justice Sashikanta Mishra and Shri Abhilas Senapati were also instrumental in collecting the photocopies of the Telugu inscription in Sri Kurma temple in Srikakulam and Dr. Lalatendu Das Mohapatra collected the copies of relevant page of 'Maraqut-I-Hasan' from Rampur Raja Library, Uttar Pradesh.



Chaitanya Charitamrta- Asiatic Society, Kolkata



Muraqat-I-Hasan- Rampur Raja Library, Uttar Pradesh



স্বাধীনতা

১৮৮৭ খ্রিঃ ১৬শ মার্চ ১৮৭৮
১৮৮৭ খ্রিঃ ১৬শ মার্চ ১৮৭৮
১৮৮৭ খ্রিঃ ১৬শ মার্চ ১৮৭৮

Article dated 16th March 1878 of Utkala Dipika regarding trial conducted against Raja of Puri

১৮৮৭ খ্রিঃ ১৬শ মার্চ ১৮৭৮
১৮৮৭ খ্রিঃ ১৬শ মার্চ ১৮৭৮
১৮৮৭ খ্রিঃ ১৬শ মার্চ ১৮৭৮

Article dated 16th March 1878 of Utkala Dipika regarding trial conducted against Raja of Puri

The Pioneer
ALAHABAD-WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 1891.
New Series, Vol. LXXXVI.
In the North, under certain conditions...

Article dated 17th May 1891 of The Pioneer Source: Asiatic Society, Kolkata

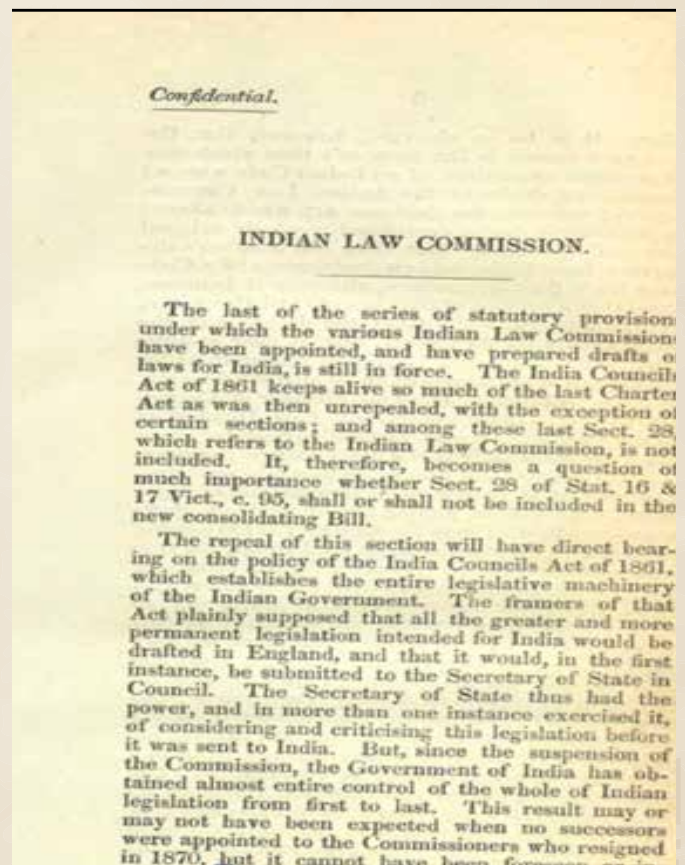
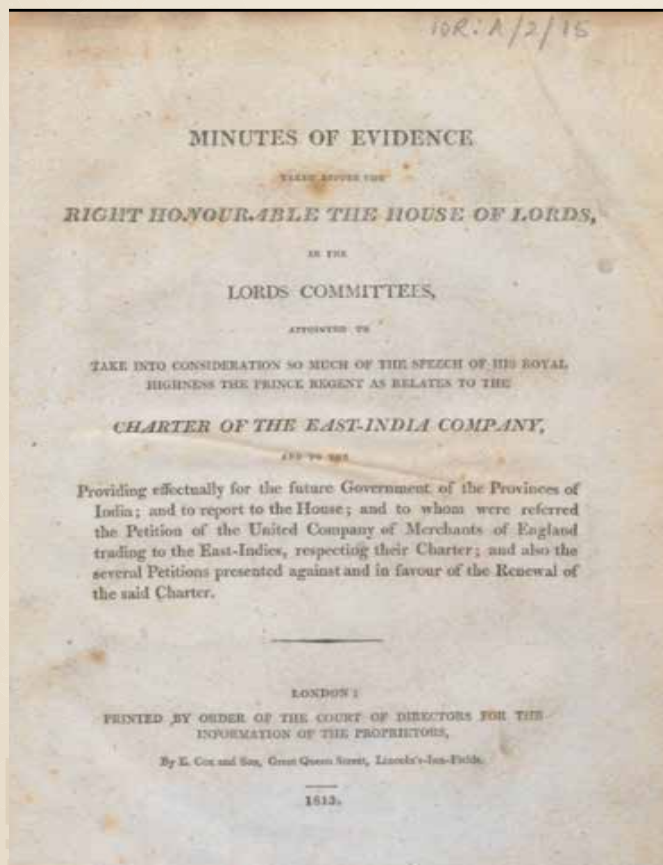
THE AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA
THE UTKAL UNION
THE CUTTACK CONFERENCE.
(From Our Special Representative)
THE PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH
The President of the Conference, H.H. the Maharaja of Mourbhaj, who has already established his reputation as a model Indian Prince...

Article regarding Utkala Sammilani Utkal Union in The Amrita Bazar Patrika Source: Asiatic Society, Kolkata

Besides, on his direction Dr. Bijoy Mohapatra, Ms. Tanuja Meghamala, Ms. Pragyana Pramita Nayak and Mr. Rahul Vikram Pathy have also visited Odisha State Museum and Biswanath Pandit Library where they have selected materials about ancient legal system both from books, manuscripts and palm-leaf manuscripts.

It has also been decided in the RRDC committee that the entire project of compilation of history may be divided into two volumes: Volume I-Ancient & Medieval period and Volume II-Modern period. An editorial board consisting of Dr. Nivedita Mohanty, Dr. Umakanta Mishra and Dr. Susmita Rani Sashini will edit these two volumes. Vol 1 for which the work of collections of materials is in progress is expected to be released in July 2023.

Further, as a part of collecting more credible materials for museum and judicial history project, the Chief Justice desired to explore the possibility of collecting materials from British Library, London, the largest repository of primary source materials on India. As per his advice an online meeting was held with the library representatives on 11 January 2023 under his chairmanship attended by other members of RRDC committee, Registrar General, Registrar(Records)and Director cum OSD, Centre for Judicial Archives. The British Library apprised that many of their digitized records are available in National Archives and British India Association, Kolkata from where we can consult them. In pursuance of this online meeting they have provided a link to their collections from where the list of many judicial records have been downloaded which are expected to provide some inputs to our project. Further prior to this meeting the Director cum OSD on a special request to British Library, was also provided one month online access to the records of East India Company which were not downloadable. He however could select some pages of useful records whose screen shots have been retained.



Apart from above, the Centre inter alia has also taken up the step to set up a library by collecting publications mainly from National Archives of India and Odisha State Archives which may be used as reference in their professional efforts and activities. With the efforts of Dr Bijoy Chandra Mohapatra, Consultant, Law a bibliography concerning the History project is also being compiled.

Further, a judicial conference of national level will also be organized in the month of July 2023 as a supplement to the activities of judicial history project where interaction, deliberation and panel discussion by the scholars will provide further impetus to the project.

The journey of Centre for Judicial Archives which started on 1 May 2022 with acquisition of about 15, 000 fragile records of High Court of Orissa, has traversed a considerable distance by rapid progress of acquisition in a short span of time. By displaying these court records in public domain, the Centre has already allowed access to the scholars for the first time in the history of judiciary in India. With the setting up of its own dedicated building which is expected to be completed in fifteen months its activities are expected to increase many folded making it an institution of excellence.

Momentous Event of the Centre for Judicial Archives for the year 2022-23



“I thank the Odisha High Court for this unique initiative. I sincerely appreciate the efforts of Hon’ble Chief Justice Dr S. Muralidhar and the team in realization of this unique project.”

Shri Naveen Patnaik, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Odisha

28th January 2023 - The foundation stones of Centre for Judicial Archives laid by Shri Naveen Patnaik, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Odisha and Hon’ble Shri Justice Vineet Saran, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India in the presence of Dr. Justice S. Muralidhar, Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa and the Hon’ble Judges of the High Court of Orissa on 28th January, 2023.

Noteworthy Remarks of Historians



I feel happy and privileged to have been associated with the Centre for Judicial Archives of Odisha that has successfully completed one year this month. The Centre has already painstakingly collected an impressive number of valuable legal documents from the early 19th century and promises to collect many more, as it has a meticulous plan in place. Going forward, the History of Odisha would, no doubt, gain new and significant perspectives through the judicial aspects of people, place and time gone by. Overall, it promises to fulfill a long-felt need in Odishan historiography.

I compliment the High Court of Orissa, in particular its Hon'ble Chief Justice, a visionary leader, Dr. S. Muralidhar, for initiating and actively guiding the commendable project.

I wish the Centre all success.

*(Dr. Nivedita Mohanty)
Historian*

Noteworthy Remarks of Historians



Memorialising the multiple pasts of human histories entails critical mapping of memories, especially ones that signpost concepts, ideas, practices and moments of human interventions. Archives indeed offer enriching sites to engage with those profound moments of human pasts. Judicial Archives in particular our trajectories of discourse, norms and practices pertaining to the conceptual domains of law, justice and liberty.

The interventionist move by Hon'ble Chief Justice of Odisha, Dr. S. Muralidhar to envision a Centre for Judicial Archives and a Museum of Justice to tellingly reify the legal pasts of Odisha is truly historic. In fact, the under-explored corpus of documentary representations relating to law, justice and liberty as would be excavated from these sites dating back to our colonial pasts (and even beyond!), shall certainly enrich our ways of perceiving the region, the nation and the body politic and their worlds of legal discourses in the context of South Asia.

It is aptly a moment of profound personal rejoice to join the celebratory moment of the first anniversary of the Centre for Judicial Archives as it unfolds promises and opportunities of re-engaging with our pasts, truth and human freedom.

I wish the celebration a resounding success.

Dr. C.P. Nanda
Professor

School of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences & Dean - Administration

Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (A Central University under the Ministry of Railways, Government of India),
National Academy of Indian Railways Campus, Lalbaug, Vadodara, Gujarat 390004

Acknowledgement

RRDC Committee

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

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

**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

Prof. Basanta Kumar Mallick

History Consultant

Tanuja Meghamala

Law Researcher (Law)

Rahul Vikram Pathy

Law Researcher (Law)

Pragyan Pramita Nayak

Law Researcher (History)

Bijoy Gopal Behera

Superintendent

Shivendra Mohapatra

Assistant Section Officer & P.A. to Director-cum-OSD

Subrat Behera

Assistant Section Officer

Shakti Prasad Mohanty

Assistant Section Officer

Conservation Team

INTACH





INDIA COURT

Recd. Mr. ...
16. ...

R. 42/12

In the High Court of Madras at Fort St. Williams in the
Appellate Jurisdiction

Memorandum of Appeal from Appellate Bench

The Secretary of State for India in Council

versus

Andreson
180

1. Raja Baikuntha Nath De Bahadur
2. Subyendra Nath De

both of Mysore

vs. Umesh Chandra Mandal

vs. Master Proban Das

both of Calcutta

vs. ...

749
Chambers
26.5.90

26.6.90

Pratibha ...
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