




ODISHA CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS



(FOR OSSC, OSSSC, ASO, OPSC AND
ALL OTHER ODISHA GOVERNMENT EXAMINATIONS)
LAST 10 MONTHS CURRENT AFFAIRS
(JUNE 2025 TO MARCH 2026)

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1. Bahuda Yatra

Why is in the News?

Shri Jagannath Temple Administration with the help of Puri district administrated stated preparation for the Bahuda Yatra



About Bahuda Yatra:

- **Bahuda Yatra** is the **return journey of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra, and Goddess Subhadra** from the **Gundicha Temple** back to the **Shree Jagannath Temple** in Puri.
- It takes place **nine days after the Rath Yatra (Car Festival)**.
- While the Rath Yatra marks the deities' annual visit to their aunt's temple (Gundicha), Bahuda Yatra symbolizes their **return home**.

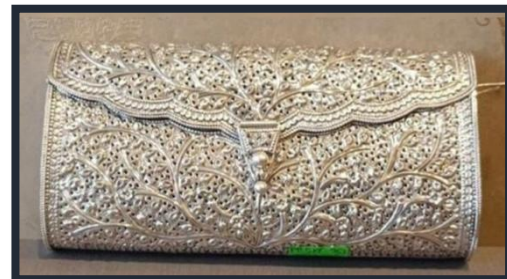
Significance:

- Symbolizes **returning to the divine abode** after a visit to devotees.
- Reinforces the belief in **cyclical journeys of life – going and returning**.
- Encourages **social unity**, as lakhs of devotees participate regardless of caste, creed, or class.

2. Silver Filigree

Why is in the News?

Recently, PM of India, gifted silver filigree purse to Ghana's first lady



About Silver Filigree:

- **Silver Filigree** is a traditional form of **metal craft** where fine threads of silver are twisted, curled, and soldered to create delicate jewelry, decorative pieces, and artifacts.
- In Odisha, especially in **Cuttack**, it is popularly called **Tarakasi**.

Features of Silver Filigree:

- **Material** – Pure silver is melted and drawn into thin wires.
- **Technique** –
 - Wires are twisted into motifs like flowers, creepers, birds, animals, and geometric designs.
 - These are carefully joined with precision heating and soldering.
- **Products** – Jewelry (earrings, necklaces, bangles, anklets), ornaments for deities, decorative boxes, showpieces, key chains, etc.
- **Designs** – Influenced by **Mughal, Persian, and Odishan temple art.**
- **Durability** – Though delicate in look, silver filigree is strong when crafted well.

POINTS FOR PRELIMS:

Geographical Indication (GI) Tag:

- **Cuttack Silver Filigree (Tarakasi)** has been granted a **GI Tag in 2008.**
- This helps preserve the craft and promote artisans' rights.

Significance:

- Practiced in Odisha for **over 500 years.**
- Patronized by **Gajapati kings of Cuttack** and later by Mughal rulers.
- Traditionally, silver filigree ornaments are used in **festivals and weddings.**
- During **Durga Puja in Cuttack**, huge silver filigree backdrops (*chandi medha*) are created for the Goddess idols.

3. Swapneswara Mahadev Temple

Why is in the News?

ASI recently declare Swapneswar Mahadev Temple as protected monument.

About Swapneswara Mahadev Temple:

- The **Swapneswar Mahadev Temple** is an ancient **Shiva shrine** located in **Punjama village**, within the **Banpur block of Khurda district**, Odisha.
- It dates back to the **6th–8th century CE**, constructed during the reign of the **Shailodbhava dynasty**, making it a valuable relic of early Kalinga architecture



Significance:

- **Architectural & Cultural Importance:**
 - The temple stands as a **rare relic of Odisha's classical architecture**, showcasing intricate stone carvings and structural elegance inherent to the early medieval period.
 - Situated on the historical grounds of **Bankad Fort**, formerly the capital of the Shailodbhavas, the site bears deep cultural resonance for Odisha's heritage.

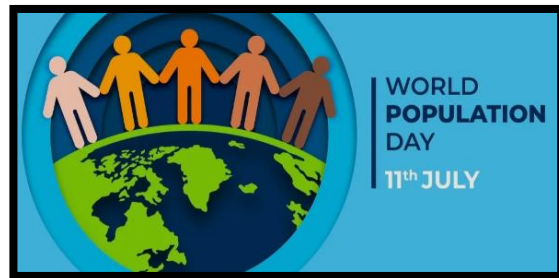
Archaeological Survey of India

- **Established:** 1861 by **Alexander Cunningham** (first Director-General, often called the “Father of Indian Archaeology”)
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi.
- **Motto:** Protection, Preservation, and Promotion of India’s cultural heritage.

4. World Population Day

Why is in the News?

11th of July marked as the **World Population Day** with theme “**Empowering Young People to create the Families they want in a fair and hopeful world,**”



Demography of Odisha:

- **Population Size & Growth:**
 - **2011 Census:** Odisha had a population of **41.97 million**, constituting about **3.47% of India’s total population**.
 - **2025 projection:** Expected to reach **46.95 million**, with a population growth rate of **0.62%**, ranks as India’s 11th most populous state.
- **Youth:**
 - **With 34%** of Odisha’s population aged between 15 and 34, state is experiencing what demographers called “Youth bulge”
 - **What is Youth Bulge?**
 - ✓ The **youth bulge** is a demographic term used to describe a situation where a country has an unusually high proportion of **young people (typically aged 15–29 years)** compared to the total population.
 - **Implications of Youth Bulge:**
 - ✓ **Positive:**
 - If properly educated and employed, a large youth population can boost **economic growth**, innovation, and productivity.
 - Can strengthen the **workforce** and create social dynamism.
 - ✓ **Negative:**
 - If opportunities are lacking, it can lead to **unemployment, poverty, political instability, and even social unrest**. Ex: Unemployment rate – 6.8%; underemployment rate: 10.8% in Odisha
 - **1.75 million People** migrated out of State – many driven by economic distress rather than choice.
 - Strain on resources like education, healthcare, housing, and jobs.
 - **Other challenges** – Odisha still grapples with persistent issues – malnutrition, inadequate healthcare, under-resourced education infrastructure, high-vulnerability

to natural disasters, these affect marginalised communities the most, particularly scheduled tribes and castes in remote areas.

5. OHRC

Why is in the News?

Recently, OHRC has taken suo-motu cognizance of a complaint alleging the illegal detention of 19 migrant labours from Malda district, West Bengal by Mahanadi Police in Cuttack

About OHRC:

- **Establishment:** Set up on **27 January 2000** under the **Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993**.
- Headquartered at **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.
- **Purpose:** Aims to **safeguard and promote human rights** in the state.

Composition:

- Consists of **Chairperson** – must be a retired Chief Justice or Judge of a High Court.
- **One Member** – should be a serving/retired High Court Judge or District Judge with at least 7 years' experience.
- **One Member** – an expert in human rights matters.

Function:

- **Inquiry & Investigation:** Can inquire into complaints of human rights violations or negligence by public servants.
- **Court Powers:** Functions like a civil court—summons, examining witnesses, calling for documents.
- **Recommendations:** Suggests relief (including compensation) to victims of violations.
- **Inspection:** Visits jails, detention centers, mental hospitals to check human rights conditions.
- **Awareness & Research:** Promotes human rights awareness, literacy, and research.
- **Advisory Role:** Advises the state government on laws, policies, or treaties relating to human rights.

Challenges associate with OHRC:

- OHRC's recommendations are **not binding** (similar to NHRC).
- Cannot investigate cases pending before other commissions or sub judice in courts.
- Limited jurisdiction—applies only within Odisha.

6. Director of Census Operations and Director of Citizen Registration

Why is in the News?

Recently, the Government of India appointed **Nikhil Pavan Kalyan**, an IAS officer of the 2012 batch (Odisha cadre), as the **Director of Census Operations & Citizen Registration for Odisha**.

About Director of Census Operations and Director of Citizen Registration:

- The **Director of Citizen Registration (DCR)** is the same individual appointed as the **Director of Census Operations (DCO)** in a state or Union Territory, as per the *Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003*. This position is established under the **Census Act, 1948**.

Role and Responsibilities:

- Management of citizen registration data
- Maintaining registers at various administrative levels
- Preparing for census exercises and ensuring accurate demographic records for policymaking and welfare programs

7. Swachh Survekshan

Why is in the News?

Recently, Capital city found place among top 10 cleanest cities in the Country in a survey

- Bhubaneswar ranked 9th in the cleanest city in India

About Swachh Survekshan:

- It's the **world's largest urban cleanliness evaluation**, conducted annually by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) under the Swachh Bharat Mission–Urban (SBM-U)
- The 2024–25 edition—the **9th survey**—spanned from April 2024 to March 2025. Over **4,500 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)** participated, with citizen feedback from over **12–14 crore individuals**, and thorough field assessments by thousands of surveyors



Performance Highlights from Odisha:

- **Bhubaneswar** had a **remarkable rise** from 34th to **9th place nationally** (for cities with population 3–10 lakh), crediting improved civic management, solid waste handling, and public engagement.
- Recognized as the **Promising Swachh Seher of Odisha** for its overall cleanliness efforts
- **Rourkela** ranked **15th**, **Cuttack** at **30th**, and **Berhampur** at **75th** in the same population category
- In smaller city rankings:
 - **Chikiti** (population <20,000) got **2nd nationally**
 - **Aska** (population 20k–50k) secured **2nd place** as well

8. Shaktishree

Why is in the News?

In the ambit of recently self-immolation death of a college student, CM launched **Shaktishree** aimed at enhancing the safety, well-being, and empowerment of girl students and women staff across higher education institutions.

About Shaktishree:

- **Shaktishree** is a comprehensive and pioneering programme initiated by the **Government of Odisha** aimed at enhancing the safety, well-being, and empowerment of girl students and women staff across higher education institutions.

Key components:

- **Shaktishree Empowerment Cell:**
 - A **student-led, permanent body** to be established in each institution.
 - **Shaktishree Saathi:** a female student leader.
 - **Shaktishree Sanjojika:** a female faculty coordinator.
 - **Shakti Apas:** five distinguished women professionals per district, appointed by the District Collector, who mentor students and visit campuses every quarter.
- **Shaktishree Mobile Application:**
 - A secure tool for logging complaints anonymously (via text, audio, video).
 - Features include:
 - ✓ Contact and guidelines for the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC). M
 - ✓ ental health support through **Tele-MANAS**.
 - ✓ SOS button for immediate response. Escalation paths for unresolved complaints
- **Code of Conduct & Training:**
 - Mandatory **online training** for teaching and non-teaching staff on:
 - ✓ **POSH Act, 2013**, and
 - ✓ **UGC Regulations, 2015**.
- **SAFE Campaign:**
 - ✓ **SAFE: Shaktishree Actions for Female Empowerment.**
 - ✓ Activities include self-defence training, gender awareness programs, anti-bullying drives, and motivational workshops held twice a year
- **Facility Upgrades & Reporting:**
 - **24x7 CCTV surveillance** with campus control rooms.
 - Annual **Campus Safety Report** submitted by December 31, delineating safety metrics, interventions, and incident reviews
- **Shakti Swarupini Workshops:**
 - Yearly workshops bringing together all **Saathis, Sanjojikas**, and **Shakti Apas** for training on: Legal rights, Digital safety, Operational best practices, Knowledge-sharing and peer mentoring.

9. Cold Storage

Why is in the News?

Recently, the state govt. announced construction of cold storages in every sub-division in order to strengthen agriculture infrastructure.

- This aims to prevent post-harvest losses, elimination artificial shortage, ensure better price realisation for farmers

About Cold Storage:

- Cold storage refers to the storage of **perishable commodities** (like fruits, vegetables, meat, fish, dairy, pharmaceuticals, etc.) under **controlled low-temperature conditions** to extend shelf life, reduce spoilage, and stabilize market supply.

Significance of Cold Storage:

- **Reduces Post-Harvest Losses:** In India, about **15–20% of fruits & vegetables** get wasted annually due to inadequate storage.
- **Price Stabilization:** Allows farmers to store produce and sell when prices are favorable.
- **Food Security:** Ensures year-round availability of perishables.
- **Boosts Exports:** Essential for maintaining international quality standards.
- **Supports Food Processing:** Provides raw material stability for processing industries.

Cold Storage in India – Status

- India is the **largest producer of milk, 2nd in fruits & vegetables**, but loses ~₹90,000 crore annually due to poor cold chain.
- India has **8,000+ cold storages** with ~37 million MT capacity (mostly for potatoes, ~75%).
- States with higher capacity: Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Gujarat, Punjab.
- Coverage is **skewed** – horticultural belts, fisheries, meat industries often lack adequate cold chain.

Government Initiatives:

- **Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY)** – supports cold chain development.
- **Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)** – subsidy for cold storages.
- **NABARD schemes** – loans for rural warehouses/cold storages.
- **National Cold Chain Development Centre (NCCD)** – policy advisory body.
- **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)** – financial support for agri-infra including cold storage.

10. 16th Agriculture Leadership Conclave

Why is in the News?



Recently, Odisha was honoured with the Agriculture Leadership Award recognizing its outstanding progress in agricultural innovation, sustainability, and inclusive development

- Odisha receives the **'Best State in Farming' award**

Key Highlights:

- Deputy Chief Minister **Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo** received the award in New Delhi, dedicating it to the state's farmers ("annadatas")
- In **2024–25**, agriculture and allied sectors contributed ~**19%** to Odisha's Gross State Value Added (GSVA), showing **3.3% growth**, higher than the national average
- Odisha produced **115.39 lakh metric tonnes of rice (174.83 lakh metric tonnes of paddy)** in 2023–24, ranking **4th-largest supplier** to the Food Corporation of India (FCI)
- The state is also a leader in **horticulture exports**, exporting **121.82 metric tonnes** of produce like dragon fruit, cashew nuts, and mangoes to the Middle East and Europe
- Odisha leads in **sweet potato** and **paddy straw mushroom** production (1st), ranks 2nd in total fruit, brinjal, and cabbage; 3rd in cashew; 5th in watermelon, cauliflower, okra, tomato, lemon, and coconut.
- The state saw the **highest tractor sales in India** last year, with farm power at **2.60 kW/hectare** in 2024–25 (goal of 3.5 by 2036)

Odisha's Status:

- **key facts:**
 - **Growth & Contribution:** As per Economic Survey of Odisha, Agriculture and allied sectors grew **3.3%** in 2024–25, contributing **19%** to the state's Gross State Value Added (GSVA).
 - ✓ Over the past five years, the agriculture sector in Odisha has posted an average growth of **7%**, outpacing the national average of **4.1%**.
 - **Production of Foodgrains & Rice:** Total foodgrain production reached a record **143 lakh metric tonnes** (2023–24), up from 116.9 lakh MT in 2019–20—showing a compound annual growth rate of **5.2%**;
 - ✓ Odisha ranks as the **5th-largest rice producer** in India, with rice output rising from 97.6 lakh MT (2019–20) to **115.4 lakh MT** (2023–24).
 - **Vegetables & Crop Diversification:** **Kharif season** irrigation coverage rose from 43.1 lakh ha (2019–20) to **49.9 lakh ha** (2023–24); **Rabi season** from 19.5 lakh ha to **22.2 lakh ha** — average growth between **3.3%–3.8%**.
 - ✓ Sprinkler and drip systems now cover **53,733 ha**, with a goal to add **1.5 lakh ha** in 2024–25.
 - ✓ Cropping intensity increased from **154%** (2019–20) to **164%** (2023–24).

Agriculture & Livelihood:

- Agriculture supports nearly **half of Odisha's workforce** and more than **60% of its population** depends on it for livelihood.

- The majority of farmers are small and marginal (~93%), with women comprising about 55% of the agricultural workforce.
- Net sown area stands at 55.9 lakh hectares (2023–24), making up about 36% of the state's total geographical area.
- Odisha is the 2nd largest brinjal producer in India (17% share) and its fruit production is dominated by citrus, jackfruit, banana, and mango (~77%).

11. Simlipal Tiger Reserve

Why is in the News?

Recently, State Govt. has approved an annual plan of ₹10.48crore for the ecological and socio-economic development in and around Simlipal Tiger Reserve

About Simlipal Tiger Reserve:

- **Location:** Mayurbhanj district, northern Odisha.
- **Established as Tiger Reserve:** 1973 under **Project Tiger**
- **Biosphere Reserve Status:** Declared in 1994, and later included in the **UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves (2009)**.
- **Flora:** Vegetation: **Tropical semi-evergreen, moist deciduous, dry deciduous, and grasslands.**
- **Fauna:**
 - **Flagship Species:** Bengal Tiger.
 - Other mammals: Asian elephant, leopard, wild dog (dhole), gaur, sambar, chital, giant squirrel.
 - Birds: Around 230 species (including grey hornbill, Malabar pied hornbill).
 - Reptiles: Marsh crocodile, king cobra, python.
 - Insects: Rich diversity, including endemic butterflies.
- **Threats & Challenges**
 - **Poaching** of Wildlife
 - **Forest Fires** (often man-made, like the major fire of 2021)
 - **Human-wildlife conflict** (crop damage by elephants, cattle grazing in reserve)
 - **Development pressure: Ex. Roads, Mining in surroundings areas**

12. Chhatar Jatra

Why is in the News?

Nearly, 5 lakh people part in the famous 'Chhatar Jatra' of Goddess Manikeshwari in Bhawanipatna city of Kalahandi district.

About Chhatar Jatra:

- Chhatar Jatra is a **major tribal-Hindu festival** of Odisha, celebrated at the **Manikeswari Temple in Bhawanipatna**, Kalahandi district.

- It is one of the **most important Shakti (Goddess) festivals** in Western Odisha.
- The central symbol of the festival is the “**Chhatar**” — a sacred ceremonial umbrella believed to embody the power of **Goddess Manikeswari**.



Celebrated in:

- Celebrated annually on **Mahastami day during Durga Puja (September–October)**.
- The ritual dates back **more than 300 years**, associated with the royal family of Kalahandi.

Key rituals:

- **Chhatar Procession:** The sacred **Chhatar (umbrella)** is brought out from the Jenakhal temple to the Manikeswari temple; Devotees accompany the procession with traditional music (Nishan, Ghanta, Nisan).
- “**Ghata Parikrama**”: Devotees perform rounds around the temple carrying the sacred Ghata (water pot symbolizing Shakti).
- **Tribal Participation:** Tribal communities like Gond, Kondh, Kutia Kondh play a major role with traditional dances and weapons.
- **Animal Sacrifice (Controversial):** Traditionally, **animal sacrifice** (mostly goats and chickens) was practiced; The Odisha government and High Court have **restricted and discouraged** these practices, though symbolic rituals continue.

13. National Handloom Day

Why is in the News?

Recently state celebrated National Handloom Day

About National Handloom Day:

- **National Handloom Day** is observed every year on **7th August** to celebrate India’s rich handloom heritage and to honour the contribution of **handloom weavers** to the nation’s cultural and economic development.



Historical significance:



- On **7 August 1905**, the **Swadeshi Movement** was launched in Calcutta as a response to the Partition of Bengal.
- The movement promoted **indigenous industries**, especially **handlooms**, as a symbol of self-reliance and national pride.
- To commemorate this, the Government of India declared 7 August as National Handloom Day in **2015**.

Objectives:

- To **promote Indian handloom products** globally.
- To **support and empower weavers**, particularly women and rural artisans.
- To encourage people to wear and buy **local handloom**, strengthening the “**vocal for local**” movement.
- To highlight the role of the handloom sector in India’s economy and culture.

Significance of the Handloom Sector:

- Employs over **35 lakh (3.5 million)** people.
- Second-largest sector after agriculture in rural employment.
- Known for unique traditions like **Ikat, Sambalpuri, Banarasi, Kanchipuram, Pochampally, Baluchari**, etc.
- Symbol of **sustainable, eco-friendly, and labour-intensive craftsmanship**.

Government Initiatives for Weavers:

- India Handloom Brand (IHB)
- Handloom Weavers’ Comprehensive Welfare Scheme
- National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP)
- e-Dhaga app, My Handloom Portal
- Cluster development projects
- Marketing support through exhibitions & online platforms

14. World Tourism Day

Why is in the News?

Recently state observed World Tourism Day

About World Tourism Day:

- World Tourism Day is celebrated every year on **27 September** to promote awareness about the role of tourism and its social, cultural, political, and economic value.
- Because on **27 September 1970**, the UNWTO adopted its **Statutes**, considered a milestone in global tourism governance.

Objectives:

- Highlight tourism's contribution to **economic growth** and **job creation**
- Promote **sustainable tourism** and responsible travel
- Encourage **cultural understanding**
- Strengthen tourism-related **international cooperation**
- Support tourism's role in global **development (SDGs)**

15. Baji Rout

Why is in the News?

Recently, CM commemorated youngest martyr, Baji Rout on his birth anniversary.

About Baji Rout:

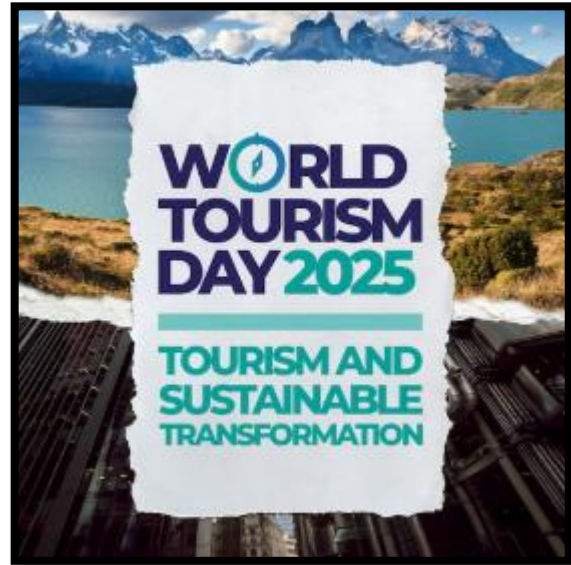
- **Baji Rout (1925–1938)** is remembered as **India's youngest freedom fighter and martyr**, hailing from **Nilakanthapur village**, Dhenkanal district, Odisha.

Background:

- In the late 1930s, **Dhenkanal princely state** witnessed intense revolts against the oppressive rule of the king, who was backed by the British.
- The Prajamandal movement was growing, demanding civil rights and an end to exploitation.

Why Baji Rout Is Remembered?

- Baji Rout was a **12-year-old boatman** and a member of the **Banara Sena** (children's wing of the Prajamandal movement).
- On the night of **11 October 1938**, British forces and the king's police reached the Brahmani River and ordered Baji Rout to ferry them across.
- He **refused**, saying he had been instructed not to help the oppressive forces.





The Turning Point:

- For his refusal, the British police **shot him point-blank**, along with several villagers.
- His sacrifice ignited further protests across Odisha and inspired freedom fighters like **Sachidananda Routray**, who immortalized him in poetry.

Legacy:

- Baji Rout is hailed as the **youngest martyr in India's freedom struggle**
 - Odisha remembers him through:
 - Statues and memorials (especially at Dhenkanal)
 - Poems, folk songs, and school history lessons
 - Annual commemorations on **Baji Rout Day**

He symbolizes **fearless resistance, moral courage**, and the role of youth in national movements.

16. Odisha second highest forest in land diversions

Why is in the News?

Recently report highlighted that over, 11000 ha of state's forest land diverted for non-forest use in four years

Key highlights of the report:

- From **April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2025**, the Union government approved diversion of **78,135.84 hectares** of forest land across India for non-forest use.
- During this period, Odisha had **11,033.08 hectares** of forest land approved for diversion — making it the **second highest** state in the country in terms of area diverted.
- The state that led this list was Madhya Pradesh with **17,393.65 hectares** diverted in the same period.
- **District-wise in Odisha (up to certain cutoff years) we see:**
 - Up to 2022: ~62,016 ha diverted for non-forest purposes in Odisha.

- In that breakdown: e.g., ~14,466 ha in Keonjhar district; ~10,025 ha in Sundergarh; ~6,800 ha in Angul; etc.
- The sector breakdown (as of 31 Dec 2021) for Odisha shows: mining – ~29,989.53 ha (193 projects); irrigation – ~10,653.05 ha (85 projects); industry ~4,438.52 ha (34 projects); others.

Major concerns & gaps:

- **High diversion relative to forest cover** — Odisha has substantial forest area (~33-40 % of the state) and yet is among the top states for diversion. The scale raises questions about sustainability, especially when development pressures (mining, industry, infrastructure) are high.
- **Compensatory afforestation shortfall** — The data shows that for the diverted lands, the required plantation (and tree-felling vs sapling planting) is far behind. E.g., only ~19% of the land targeted for afforestation was actually planted (2021-23) in one report. This undermines the “net forest cover” or “no net loss” aspiration.
- **Spatial concentration/impact on district ecology** — Certain districts (Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Angul) dominate the diversions. These are also mineral-rich, forested and tribal areas — meaning biodiversity, tribal livelihoods, ecosystem services may be especially impacted.
- **Data transparency / granularity lacking:**
 - The national data **does not** provide diversion numbers in Scheduled Areas or Fifth Schedule districts.
 - While sector-wise and district data exist for Odisha, temporal consistency and up-to-date numbers (post-2022) are patchy.
 - The pipeline (projects awaiting diversion) also raises questions: e.g., an 888 ha pipeline mentioned.
- **Encroachment and degradation co-occurring** — Apart from legal diversion, Odisha has ~40,507.56 ha (405.08 sq km) of forest land under encroachment (as of March 2024) in southern districts. Diversion + encroachment = double pressure.
- **Ecosystem risk & resilience concern** — Given Odisha’s exposure to cyclones, floods, shifting climate, forest ecosystems play a role in resilience. Large scale diversion may reduce buffer capacity of forests to absorb shocks.
- **Compensation & enforcement may be weak** — The shortfall in afforestation, and data showing large numbers of trees felled (e.g., 19.5 lakh trees in Odisha) suggests that regulatory safeguards are under stress.

Implications for Odisha:

- While development (mining, industry, and infrastructure) is a legitimate objective, Odisha’s ranking second in diversion suggests a high trade-off between forest/ ecosystem health and economic activity.
- The shortfall in compensatory afforestation means the net forest loss may be higher than officially acknowledged. This could erode ecosystem services (watershed protection, carbon sequestration, biodiversity) and increase vulnerability to climate hazards.

- For districts with major diversion (Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Angul etc), the long-term health of forest landscapes could degrade, affecting local communities, wildlife and natural resource base.
- The state may face future regulatory/ legal risks if diversions are challenged, or if forest degradation triggers ecological imbalance (e.g., more floods, landslides).

From a governance perspective, there is opportunity (and need) for Odisha to strengthen plantation implementation, create transparent tracking of diversions, and build safeguards for sensitive areas.

17. Ama Sathi: Whatsapp Chatbot

Why is in the News?

Recently, State has launched a unified Whatsapp Chatbot called “Ama Sathi”

About Ama Sathi:

“Ama Sathi” is a **unified WhatsApp chatbot platform** developed to provide citizens of Odisha access to multiple government and public services via WhatsApp.

- **Services included:**
 - Birth certificates, income certificates, residence certificates
 - Driving licences and fertiliser licences
 - Welfare scheme benefits (inter-caste marriage benefits, national family benefit scheme)
 - Access to services related to education, agriculture, horticulture
 - Land records, revenue details, police assistance, housing & urban development resources
- Citizens can also **track grievance redressal**, check status of applications, and monitor services.
- The government has signalled an ambition to eventually expand the services to 500+ services in the coming months.

Significance:

- **Citizen-centric governance:** Reduces the need for physical office visits, simplifies access to government services, and brings convenience for the user.
- **Digitalisation & inclusion:** Because it works on WhatsApp — a ubiquitous platform — it lowers barriers for citizens even in semi-urban and rural areas.
- **Language & accessibility:** Supports Odia language, making it inclusive for the local population.
- **Transparency & accountability:** With tracking and dashboards, service delays can be identified and addressed — enhancing accountability under the Odisha Right to Public Services Act (ORTPSA) framework.
- **Scalability:** This model of WhatsApp-based service delivery can be expanded further and can serve as a model for other states and departments.

Challenges:

- **Digital literacy & connectivity:** Some citizens (especially in remote/rural areas) may not be familiar with chatbots or may face connectivity issues.
- **Data & privacy protection:** With sensitive personal details being shared on WhatsApp, safeguarding data privacy and security is vital.
- **Service integration & backend readiness:** The chatbot front-end must be seamlessly integrated with various departmental back-ends; any lag will impact service delivery.
- **Awareness & adoption:** The use of the service depends on adequate awareness campaigns and user trust. The government has planned campaigns using bus branding, hoardings, TV/radio.
- **Coverage expansion:** Ensuring that all 120+ services (and eventually 500+) are integrated and functioning reliably.

18. POSH Act, 2013

Why is in the News?

Recently, State Level sensitisation capacity building programme is conducted on **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013** was held at the **State Institute for Women and Children**.

About POSH Act, 2013:

- The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 commonly known as the POSH Act 2013.

Objectives:

- Enacted to provide protection to women against **sexual harassment at the workplace** and to ensure **safe working environments**.
- The Act was a legislative response to the **Supreme Court's Vishaka Guidelines (1997)** in *Vishaka & Others v. State of Rajasthan*, which first defined sexual harassment as a violation of **gender equality and fundamental rights under Articles 14, 15, and 21** of the Constitution.

Key features:

Definition of Sexual Harassment (Section 2(n))

- The Act was a legislative response to the **Supreme Court's Vishaka Guidelines (1997)** in *Vishaka & Others v. State of Rajasthan*, which first defined sexual harassment as a violation of **gender equality and fundamental rights under Articles 14, 15, and 21** of the Constitution: Physical contact or advances; Demand or request for sexual favours; Making sexually coloured remarks; showing pornography; Any other unwelcome physical, verbal or non-verbal conduct of a sexual nature.

Scope of the Act:

- cover all workplaces – public or private, organised or unorganised sectors.

- Applies to domestic workers, students, interns, and agricultural labourers too
- Covers both employee or employer relationships – whether regular, temporary, ad hoc, or daily wages

Internal Complaints Committee (ICC):

- Mandatory in every organization (public or private) with **10 or more employees**.

Composition:

- Presiding officer
- At least two member committed women

19. Panchayat Dharohar Programme

Why is in the News?

Recently, State has launched Panchayat Dharohar Programme to identify, preserve and promote heritage sites and artefacts in rural areas.



About Panchayat Dharohar Programme

- The programme is a state-level initiative by Odisha to **identify, document, preserve and promote heritage sites and artefacts** in rural areas via the gram panchayats under the PRI system.
- It involves the involvement of elected members of gram panchayats (village level) to carry out the identification and documentation exercise.
- The data collected is to be uploaded on the national portal of the Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar (an initiative of the Ministry of Culture) for further development and conservation of heritage.
- Odisha has around ~6,800 gram panchayats, and is rolling out this heritage exercise across them.

Key Features & Implementation:

- The Department of Panchayati Raj in Odisha has issued letters to district collectors asking them to get the gram panchayats to identify heritage sites (temples, monuments, artefacts, rural heritage structures, etc) in their jurisdictions.
- Panchayats are expected to **document** these sites (location, history, condition, artefacts) and submit the information for uploading.
- Once documented, the sites can be considered for further conservation, development, tourism promotion, and connection to the national heritage scheme.
- **Example:** In the Ganjam district, about 20 rural heritage sites have already been recorded in this exercise.

Significance:

- Rural heritage (temples, village monuments, traditional artefacts) is often **overlooked** compared to big urban monuments. The scheme aims to correct that by using the gram-panchayat level local governance structure.
- Strengthens the role of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in **preserving cultural heritage** — thereby linking rural governance to culture, identity, and tourism.
- By uploading to “Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar”, it aligns state-level initiative with a **national mission for heritage mapping and conservation**, improving visibility and possibly funds from the central government.
- **Potential benefits:** Rural tourism, livelihood generation, improved local pride & identity, preservation of intangible heritage.

Challenges / Things To Monitor:

- The **quality of documentation:** Many rural sites may lack clear records of origin, condition, legal protection. Need credible baseline.
- Ensuring that identification leads to **actual conservation**, not just listing. Funding, technical protection, regular maintenance are needed.
- Avoiding **neglect or encroachment** post-listing: documentation must be followed by action.
- Capacity of gram panchayats: Many may lack heritage conservation expertise, GIS-mapping skills, or digital upload capacities.
- Ensuring **community participation** and rights (heritage often involves local communities, their rituals, rights and ownership).
- Monitoring link-up to tourism/local economy without damaging heritage authenticity.

20. State Commission for Women

Conquer Careers

Why is in the News?

State recently appointed Shovana Mohanty as the Chairperson of the State Commission for Women

About SCW:

- The **Odisha State Commission for Women (OSCW)** is a **statutory and quasi-judicial body** created by the Government of Odisha to **safeguard the rights and welfare of women** in the state.
- It functions as the **state counterpart of the National Commission for Women**, focusing on women’s safety, legal support, empowerment, and grievance redressal.
- Establishment: Established in **1993** under a resolution of the Government of Odisha.; The Commission works under the **Department of Women & Child Development**.
- **Composition:** The commission generally includes: **Chairperson** – appointed by the State Government; **5–7 Members** – experts from law, gender studies, social work, academia; **Member Secretary** – administrative head (state service officer).

Key Functions of OSCW:

1. **Grievance Redressal:** matters related to domestic violence; harassment, dowry, trafficking, cyber harassment, property rights, workplace discrimination.\
 - **Services provides:** counselling; police coordination, legal assistance, follow-up and monitoring
2. **Ensuring Legal Protection**
 - Monitors implementation of:
 - Domestic Violence Act, 2005
 - Dowry Prohibition Act
 - POCSO Act (for girl children)
 - POSH Act (sexual harassment at workplace)
 - Suggests amendments to state rules and policies.
3. **Inspection Powers:** Inspects:
 - Women's jails
 - Short-stay homes
 - Shelter homes
 - Swadhar Greh, Ujjwala homes
 - Government institutions housing women
 - Recommends corrective action.
4. **Policy Advocacy:** Advises the State Government on:
 - Women's welfare policies
 - Gender budgeting
 - Safety mechanisms
 - Social security schemes
5. **Awareness & Community Outreach:** Conducts:
 - Legal literacy camps
 - Workshops on women's rights
 - Gender sensitization drives
 - Campaigns against trafficking, child marriage, and dowry
6. **Research & Reporting**
 - Undertakes studies on women's issues in Odisha.
 - Submits annual reports with recommendations.

Powers

- Can summon individuals, require production of documents, and call for police/administrative reports.
- Can conduct inquiries on its own (suo motu).
- Has authority similar to a civil court for investigation purposes.
- Can make recommendations to the State Government for:
- Action against offenders
- Departmental reform
- Policy changes

Major Initiatives / Activities: Some commonly undertaken themes:

- Campaigns on Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (state implementation).
- Collaboration with police on women-centric legal awareness.
- Anti-trafficking task-force coordination.
- Monitoring of mission Shakti & women SHGs (where relevant).
- Training on POSH Act in government departments and offices.
- Outreach during natural disasters (cyclones, floods) for women's safety.

21. Notified Area Councils

Relevance: Polity and Governance

Why is in the News?

Recently, State has announced 16 New notified area councils (NACs) as well as upgradation of seven existing NACs into municipalities

The 16 new NACs will be in various districts across Odisha — such as:

- Loisingha (Balangir)
- Sohela (Bargarh)
- Badamba, Narasinghpur, Salepur (Cuttack)
- Gondia (Dhenkanal)
- Patrapur & Jagannath Prasad (Ganjam)
- Chandikhole (Jajpur)
- Narla & Jaypatna (Kalahandi)
- Tangi (Khurda)
- Borigumma (Koraput)
- Kaptipada, Jashipur, Rasgovindpur (Mayurbhanj)

About Notified Area Councils:

- A **Notified Area Council (NAC)** is a type of **urban local body** established in areas that are **in transition from rural to urban**, but **not yet fully developed** to be declared a municipality.

Legal Status:

- NACs are established under the **State Municipal Acts**
- The **State Government** decides the criteria and officially notifies the area.
- They are an important part of **urban governance** under the **74th Constitutional Amendment**, though not explicitly named in the Constitution.

Composition:

- **Chairperson** (elected or nominated—varies by state)
- **Vice-Chairperson**
- **Elected Ward Councillors**

- Some **nominated members** by the State

Key Functions:

- NACs perform most basic municipal functions but on a smaller scale:
- Regulatory Functions as Building plan approval & land-use control; Regulation of markets & trade licenses; Enforcement of municipal by-laws

Need/Significance:

- Provides **structured urban governance** to peri-urban and emerging urban areas.
- Ensures **planned development** and prevents unregulated urban sprawl.
- Acts as a **stepping stone** to becoming a Municipality or Municipal Corporation.
- Helps the state extend **urban amenities** to fast-growing rural clusters.

22. No-Confidence Motion

Why is in the News?

Recently, Congress submitted no-confidence motion notice against Odisha state govt in the state assembly.

About No-confidence Motions:

- No-Confidence Motion in State Assembly: A **No-Confidence Motion** is a parliamentary tool used by members of the **State Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha)** to test whether the Council of Ministers (state government) still enjoys the confidence of the majority of the House.

Constitutional Basis:

- The Constitution **does not explicitly mention** a no-confidence motion.
- It flows from **Articles 163 and 164**, which require that the **Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Legislative Assembly**.
- Therefore, the Legislative Assembly can **withdraw its support** at any time.

Who Can Move It?

- **Any MLA** (generally from the opposition) can move a No-Confidence Motion.
- It must be in writing and follow the Rules of Procedure of the concerned State Assembly (each Assembly has its own rules).

Conditions for Admission:

- Exact rules vary by state, but generally:
 - The motion must be supported by a **minimum number of MLAs** (often 10% or as per Assembly Rules).
 - The Speaker decides whether to accept or reject the motion.

- Once admitted, the Speaker must schedule a debate and vote within a **reasonable and time-bound period**.

23. PM-SETU

Why is in the News?

Recently, the CM of Odisha, Mohan Charan Majhi described PM – SETU as a landmark initiative for giving Students future ready skills and strengthening the skill ecosystem in the state.

About PM-SETU:

- **Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs.**
- **Launched:** on 4 October 2025
- **Type:** Centrally Sponsored scheme

Key features:

- Introduction of new, demand-driven courses and revamp of existing ones in collaboration with industry.
- Creation of Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) with anchor industry partners to manage clusters and ensure outcome-based training.
- Strengthening of 5 National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs) in selected cities including Bhubaneswar (Odisha) as Centres of Excellence with global tie-ups.

Significance for Odisha:

- **Skill-upgradation & Employability:** With Odisha having a large youth population, PM-SETU's focus on industry-aligned, advanced training in state's ITIs can significantly enhance employability.
- **Industry linkages & Value-Chains:** By upgrading ITIs in Odisha (for example the Bhubaneswar NSTI) and cluster in Sambalpur, the state can better link its educational/training assets with industrial growth sectors (manufacturing, automation, electronics).
- **Regional Development:** Locating a cluster in Sambalpur ensures that not only coastal areas but also western Odisha get access to high-quality skilling infrastructure.
- **Aspirational Outcomes:** It aligns with state goals of boosting "wage employment" and reducing unemployment/under-employment among youth.
- **Model for Replication:** The hub-and-spoke model if implemented well in Odisha can become a replicable model for other states in Eastern India or among tribal areas.

24. NaMo Semiconductor labs in IIT Bhubaneshwar

Why is in the News?

The Union Minister of Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw, has approved the setting up of the NaMo Semiconductor Laboratory at Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar (IIT Bhubaneswar).



Key highlights:

- The project cost is estimated at around ₹ **4.95 crore**.
- The funding will come under the **MPLAD scheme** (as per the report).
- The lab is to focus on semiconductor **training, design, packaging, and possibly fabrication support** to help build India's indigenous semiconductor talent pool.
- The lab complements existing efforts in Odisha: IIT Bhubaneswar already hosts the Silicon Carbide Research & Innovation Centre (SiCRIC).

Significance:

- Positions Odisha (and IIT Bhubaneswar) as a **key node** in India's semiconductor ecosystem.
- Adds to the state's earlier achievements (e.g., MOS approval of semiconductor projects in Odisha).
- Helps link state-level policy (such as the Odisha Semiconductor Manufacturing & Fabless Policy) with concrete institutional infrastructure.
- Potentially generates advanced-skilling opportunities for youth in Odisha in high-tech fields, improving employment prospects.

Key Considerations:

- The lab's scope is **skilling and design/packaging** rather than full large-scale fabrication—so ongoing momentum and integration with industrial units will matter.
- Need to ensure the lab is well-equipped, staffed with experienced faculty, and has links to industry for placements and research-commercialisation.
- Infrastructure and ecosystem in Odisha (power, clean rooms, supply chain, electronics ecosystem) will need to be strengthened to fully leverage this centre.
- Ensuring that local talent (including from rural/troubled districts) has access and pipeline into this advanced facility—else risk of elite-capture.
- Monitoring outcomes: how many trained, how many placed, how many industry collaborations, how many research outputs—these metrics will decide success.

25. Sickle Cell Disease

Why is in the News?

As per recently report, Odisha topped the states in sickle cell disease, with the sickle cell portal, followed by Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Chhattisgarh

About Sickle Cell Disease:

- **Sickle Cell Disease** is a **genetic blood disorder** in which the red blood cells (RBCs) become **crescent-shaped (sickle-shaped)** instead of round.
- These sickle-shaped cells **break easily** and **block blood vessels**, causing pain, anemia, and organ damage.

Cause:

- Caused by a **mutation in the HBB gene**, which affects **hemoglobin (Hb)**.
- The abnormal hemoglobin is called **Hemoglobin S (HbS)**.
- When HbS loses oxygen, it becomes stiff and distorts the RBC into a sickle shape.

Inheritance:

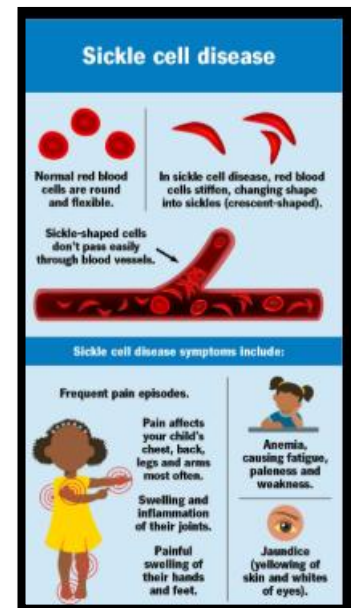
- It is an **autosomal recessive disorder**.
- A person gets it **only if both parents pass the defective gene**.

Types:

- **Sickle Cell Anemia (HbSS)** — most severe.
- **Sickle Cell Trait (HbAS)** — carriers; usually no symptoms but can pass the gene to children.
- **Other variants:** HbSC, HbS β -thalassemia.

Symptoms:

- **Chronic anemia** (fatigue, weakness)
- Painful episodes (vaso-occlusive crises)
- Swelling of hands and feet
- Frequent infections
- Delayed growth in children
- Vision problems
- Jaundice (yellowing of skin and eyes)



Sickle Cell Disease in India:

- Highly prevalent among **tribal communities** of: Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand; Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan; India launched the **National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission (2023–2030)** to reduce disease burden.

26. Shaktishree Initiative

Why is in the News?

Recently, Higher Educational Department has directed all district collectors to identify and nominate “Shakti Apas” under flagship initiative of Shaktishree

Who are Shakti Apas?

- These are group of 5 distinguished female professionals in each districts, they will serve as a mentor and inspiration for young girls in their respective district.
- They aimed at strengthening confidence among students especially in matters safety, legal awareness, and care development.

Shaktishree Initiative:

- The initiative has been introduced by the Odisha government to **ensure the safety, security, and empowerment of girl students** and women staff in colleges and universities across the state.
- It aims to cover **16 state universities** and about **730 government & aided colleges** under the Higher Education Department.
- It was introduced in the wake of a tragic incident of a student in Balasore district who self-immolated following alleged harassment, prompting urgent action.

Key Components / Features:

- Empowerment Cells in Institutions: Every college/university must set up a permanent “Shaktishree Empowerment Cell”.

The Cell will be led by:

- A female faculty member called “**Sanjojika**” (coordinator) who guides the cell.
- A student leader called “**Saathi**” (peer-leader) chosen from final year students.
- Female class-representatives also will be selected to support the cell.

Code of Conduct, Training & Awareness:

- All teaching and non-teaching staff must undergo **annual online training** on the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (POSH) Act, 2013, and relevant regulations.
- A special **Code of Conduct** for staff to ensure gender sensitivity, professional ethics, safe campus behaviour.
- Awareness campaigns: e.g., “SAFE” (Shaktishree Actions for Female Empowerment) to be conducted bi-annually.

Significance & Rationale:



- Addresses **safety concerns** of women in higher education, fostering a **secure learning environment**.
- Combines structural (cells, app, infrastructure) + behavioural (training, code of conduct) + digital (app) interventions for holistic empowerment.
- The mentor-network (Shakti Apas) provides an external support layer, beyond institutional staff.
- Facilitates **mental health support**, digital grievance redressal and peer engagement—important in today’s campus context.

Challenges & Points to Monitor

- Selection and training of Sanjodikas, Saathis, and Shakti Apas need to be meaningful and effective, not just formal.
- The mobile app and its complaint/feedback mechanism must be user-friendly, safe, and responsive.
- Infrastructure like CCTV and monitoring control-rooms must function and be audited.
- Campus culture change takes time—awareness campaigns must be sustained.
- Institutions must maintain transparency in Annual Safety Reports and ensure follow-up actions.

27. Mobile Migrant Resource Centre

Why is in the News?

The Deputy Chief Minister of Odisha, Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, inaugurated the state’s **first Mobile Migrant Resource Centre (mMRC)** at Krushi Bhavan, Bhubaneswar.

About MMRC:

- This is a mobile van-based unit designed to go into migration-prone rural blocks and offer services and awareness to migrant workers, potential migrants, return migrants and vulnerable households.
- It is a joint initiative of the **Odisha state’s Department of Agriculture & Farmers’ Empowerment**, in collaboration with **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**, **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**, and the **United Nations Migrant Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MMPTF)**.

Key Features & Services:

- The mobile centre will operate in **five migration-prone blocks** in the districts of Ganjam and Kendrapara.
- A **toll-free helpline number 1800-345-7885** has been issued for migrants in emergency or needing information.

Services offered include:



- Information & counselling on **safe and informed migration**.
- Livelihood support for returnee migrants—skills, employment linkages, local alternatives.
- Linking climate-resilience, agriculture, adaptive livelihoods in migration-prone rural areas.
- The mobile van is envisaged as a **replicable model** for addressing distress migration in the state.

Why It Matters?

- Odisha experiences **high levels of labour migration**, especially from coastal and climate-vulnerable areas; many migrate due to lack of local livelihood, climate stress etc.
- Intervening via mobile outreach helps bring services closer to communities instead of expecting migrants to approach distant offices.
- Aligns with sustainable development goals: ensuring decent work, reducing forced migration, supporting vulnerable households.
- Helps create a structured framework to monitor, guide, and reduce **distress migration** (i.e., migration under compulsion, exploitation or without options) rather than voluntary migration with choice.

Challenges & Considerations:

- While the mobile centre addresses awareness and outreach, **actual livelihoods** and jobs in the local area must be created so migration isn't the only option.
- **Data collection:** to be effective, the centre should gather accurate information on migrants, returnees, push-factors in each block. Some sources mention this as a goal.
- **Sustainability:** It's a pilot-type initiative (first mobile van etc); scaling up across more blocks and maintaining the van's operations will require resources.
- Ensuring the helpline & mobile van staff are well-trained in counselling, referral mechanisms, and are accessible in local languages/dialects.
- Integration with other state welfare programmes, labour rights enforcement, safe migration guidelines and climate-adaptation activities.

28. Paradip Port recognised as Green Hydrogen Hub

Why is in the News?

Paradip Port Authority has been officially recognised as Green Hydrogen Hub under the National Green Hydrogen Mission

About Green Hydrogen Hub:

- A hydrogen hub is a **clustered ecosystem** that brings together hydrogen production (especially “green hydrogen” produced from renewable electricity via electrolysis), **storage, transport/distribution**, and a set of end-uses or “**oftakes**” (industrial feedstock, ammonia, fuel, export, energy storage etc.).
- A *green* hydrogen hub emphasises the hydrogen being produced from **renewable energy** (solar, wind, hydro) rather than from fossil fuels

- In India, under the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM), a “Green Hydrogen Hub” is being defined more specifically as a designated geographic region where large-scale production, processing, usage and potentially export of green hydrogen (and derivatives like green ammonia or methanol) are co-located or well-integrated.

Why are they important (and why now)?

- Green hydrogen is seen as a key clean energy vector for deep decarbonisation: it can serve sectors that are hard to electrify (e.g., steel, chemicals, shipping, aviation feedstocks).
- But: hydrogen has significant cost, infrastructure and logistics challenges (e.g., production cost, transport, storage, demand-clusters). Hubs help mitigate many of those by clustering demand & supply, shared infrastructure.
- For India specifically: Under the NGHM, the objective is to make India a **global hub for production, usage and export** of green hydrogen and its derivatives.
- Hubs help in meeting large scale targets: e.g., India’s target of many gigawatts of renewable capacity aligned with hydrogen production.
- They also fit well with industrial clusters, ports, export corridors — connecting India’s abundant renewable resource potential with global markets for hydrogen/derived products.

National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM):

- **Launched by:** Government of India in **January 2023**
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE)
- **Aim:** To make India a **global hub for the production, use, and export of Green Hydrogen** and its derivatives (green ammonia, methanol, etc.)

29. Odisha’s first Desalination Plant

Why is in the News?

Union Education Minister recently inaugurated Odisha’s first Seawater desalination plant in Ganjam District

About Seawater Desalination Plant:

- **Location:** Near Matikhāl (also spelt Matikhāl), in Chhatrapur (Chhatarpur) block, Ganjam district, Odisha.
- **Technology:** Seawater Reverse Osmosis (SWRO) desalination plant.
- **Daily capacity:** About **4.5 million litres/day (MLD)** of potable water.
- **Cost:** Around **₹135–160 crore** investment for the plant.
- **Beneficiaries:** Initially targeted to supply water to coastal villages (approx. 7,000 people) where groundwater is saline and other sources insufficient.
- **Developer/Proponent:** The plant is developed by Indian Rare Earths Limited (via its unit Odisha Sands Complex (OSCOM)) with technology support from Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC).
- **Inauguration:** Inaugurated by Dharmendra Pradhan (Union Minister) on 10 August 2025.

Significance:

- Addresses a **pressing drinking-water challenge** in saline-affected coastal areas of Odisha, where groundwater is often unfit for domestic use.
- Demonstrates application of advanced technology (SWRO) in a state setting and could set model for other coastal regions.
- Supports both domestic and industrial water supply: part of output allocated for nearby villages; part for the industrial unit.
- Enhances water security and resilience, especially in peak summer months when traditional supply (river water, groundwater) fails.

30. National Common Mobility Card

Why is in the News?

The state government of Odisha, through the Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) under its Housing & Urban Development Department, launched the NCMC card for bus commuters (specifically under the “Ama Bus” service)

About National Common Mobility Card:

- The card is part of the **national “One Nation, One Card”** vision — enabling a single mobility card usable across multiple modes of transport and in retail payments.
- The NCMC card for Odisha is being issued in partnership with State Bank of India (SBI) and Airtel Payments Bank.
- **Card cost:** ₹50 for a new card; re-issuance fee ₹200; validity 5 years.
- **Discount scheme:** To promote digital usage, CRUT offers a 10% discount on digital tickets for general commuters and a 15% discount for women.
- **Coverage:** While initially for the Bhubaneswar-Cuttack region, the system is being extended to cities like Rourkela, Sambalpur and other urban centres in Odisha.
- **Application/issuance centres:** The NCMC cards can be obtained at various bus stands/terminals in Odisha — Bhubaneswar (Patia, BSABT, Master Canteen), Cuttack (Netaji Bus Terminal), Puri Bus Stand, Rourkela Bus Stand, Sambalpur Ainthapali Bus Stand, and Berhampur Railway Station.

Significance for Odisha:

- **Seamless mobility:** The roll-out enables commuters to use a single card in bus services and potentially other modes (as integrated) — reducing dependence on cash/tokens.
- **Digital payments push:** Supports the state’s shift towards digital, cashless transit payments and reduces operational leakages.
- **Gender and inclusion angle:** The special discount for women encourages female mobility and usage of public transport.
- **Scaling urban transit:** As urbanisation increases, using such cards makes transport systems more efficient, data-driven and passenger-friendly.

- **Aligns with national policy:** Aligns Odisha with the national “One Nation, One Card” scheme, bringing the state in step with pan-India interoperable transport payments.

31. Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary

Why is in the News?

State recently launched its first dedicated ‘Birdling Trail’ at Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary in Bargarh district.

About Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary:

- **Location:** Sambalpur district, Odisha
- **Established:** 1985
- **Landscape:** Combination of dry deciduous forests, hill ranges, and extensive water bodies along the **Hirakud Reservoir**, one of India’s largest man-made lakes.

Geographical Features:

- Lies on the **western bank of Hirakud Reservoir**, providing a unique mix of forest and aquatic ecosystems.
- Part of the Eastern Ghats landscape with undulating hills, plateaus, and valleys.
- Important corridor for the movement of wild animals toward nearby forest ranges.

Flora:

- Dominated by **dry mixed deciduous forest**.
- Key species: Sal, Asan, Arjun, Dhaura, Bija, Mahul, Tendua, Kusum, various medicinal plants.
- Grasslands around the reservoir support herbivore populations.

Fauna:

- Mammals: leopards, Indian Gaur, Spotted Deer, Sambar, Wild Boar, four-horned antelope, Sloth bear etc.

32. Crime in Odisha

Why is in the News?

As per recent report released by NCRB Odisha reported the highest no. of incidents of women assault in the country

Key highlights of the report:

- No. of cases registered under Section 354B of IPC in 2023 is 1978 followed by UP with registered cases – 1,750.
- The State has also recorded second highest no. of cases of assault on women with intent to outrage their modesty

- In terms of crime rate per lakh population, Odisha ranked 1st with 25.8% followed by Rajasthan
- Total no. of cases registered under different sections of IPC and other laws increased to 1,99,954 in 2023 from 1,78,198 in 2022.
- Odisha also topped the Nation in registration of disproportionate assets (DA) cases.

33. Odisha to develop 4 new digital hubs

Why is in the News?

Recently, CM unveiled plans to transform Cuttack, Rourkela , Sambalpur and Berhampur to digital hubs.

More About:

- **Purpose:** it aimed at positioning state as a leading innovation destination.
- The initiative is the part of the Vision Odisha 2036 and Developed India 2047.

Key Features & Focus Areas:

- The hubs are intended to focus on **emerging technologies** such as **Artificial Intelligence (AI), cyber-security, semiconductor design, fintech, blockchain**, etc.

Infrastructure & ecosystem building will involve:

- Linkages with academic institutions (for research, pilot projects) — e.g., a MoU between the state’s Department of Electronics & IT and IIT Bhubaneswar.
- Industry collaborations & incubators/accelerators — e.g., MoU between OCAC (Odisha Computer Application Centre) and a fabless accelerator lab for the “O-Chip” programme.
- The aim is not just infrastructure, but **job creation, youth empowerment**, and spreading the benefits of the tech economy beyond the capital city.
- The government is also positioning Odisha as a destination for **Global Capability Centres (GCCs)** and as part of the “Purvodaya” (rise of the East) vision.

Why is this important?

- It decentralises technology-led growth rather than concentrating only in Bhubaneswar, thereby fostering **regional balance**.
- It leverages Odisha’s existing strengths (young workforce, policy thrust in electronics/IT, strategic location) to build a **technology ecosystem**.
- It aligns with global and national trends: the push for digital economy, semiconductor value-chains, AI adoption.
- By creating digital hubs in multiple cities, it offers more opportunities for employment, local skills development, and potentially reduces migration pressures.

34. Bali Jatra

Why is in the News?

Historic Bali Jatra recently concluded at Cuttack

About Bali Jatra:

- **Bali Jatra** is one of the **largest and most vibrant cultural festivals of Odisha**, celebrated every year in **Cuttack** on the banks of the **Mahanadi River** (near Gadagadia Ghat).



Meaning & Origin:

- *Bali* means **voyage** and *Jatra* means **journey**
- It commemorates the **ancient maritime trade tradition of Odisha**, when traders known as **Sādhavas** sailed to Southeast Asian countries like **Bali, Java, Sumatra, Sri Lanka and Borneo**
- Celebrated on **Kartika Purnima** (full moon day of Kartika month)

Historical Significance:

- Highlights Odisha's role as a **maritime power** in ancient India
- Symbolizes **cultural and trade links between India and Southeast Asia**
- The festival revives memories of **Kalinga's naval excellence**
- **Rituals & Traditions:**
 - People float **paper boats (Boita Bandana)** with lamps in rivers and water bodies
 - Traditional Odia songs like "A Ka Ma Ba" are sung
 - Early morning rituals mark the farewell of ancient traders

Cultural & Economic Importance:

- Hosts a **massive fair** showcasing:
 - Handicrafts
 - Handlooms
 - Local cuisine
 - Folk and classical performances
- Provides livelihood to **artisans, small traders, and self-help groups**
- Boosts **tourism and local economy**

Contemporary Relevance:

- Recognized as **Asia's largest open-air fair**
- A symbol of **Odisha's cultural pride and soft power**
- Integrates heritage with modern commerce and entertainment

35. Konark Sun Temple

Why is in the News?

ASI recently barred tourist from entering the 'Nata Mandap' of the Konark Sun Temple



About Konark Sun Temple:

- **Location:** Konark, Puri District, Odisha (35 km northeast of Puri, on Bay of Bengal coastline)
- **Deity:** Sun God Surya (Surya Devalaya)
- **Built:** c. 1250 CE (13th century)
- **Builder:** King Narasimhadeva I (r. 1238-1264 CE) of Eastern Ganga Dynasty
- **Construction Period:** Approximately 12 years
- **Artisans Involved:** Over 1,200 artisans
- **Master Builder:** Bisu Moharana
- **UNESCO Status:** World Heritage Site (1984)
- **Etymology:** 'Konark' = Kona (corner/angle) + Arka (sun) - meaning "Corner of the Sun"
- **Alternative Name:** Black Pagoda (by European sailors, as early as 1676)

Historical Context

Dynasty Background

- **Eastern Ganga Dynasty:** Ruled from 8th to 15th century CE in Kalinga region (present-day Odisha)
- Temple built during peak of dynasty's power
- Period marked by great cultural and artistic fervor

Purpose of Construction

Religious:

- Dedication to Sun God Surya (part of Vedic tradition)
- Associated with spread of Surya cult from Kashmir (8th century) to Eastern India
- Linked to Brahmanism and Tantric belief systems

Architectural Features

Architectural Style

- **Primary Style:** Kalinga/Orissa Architecture (subset of Nagara style)
- Represents the pinnacle and culmination of Kalinga temple architecture
- **Nagara style:** One of three Hindu temple architecture styles (others: Dravida in south, Vesara in central/eastern India)
- Characterized by square ground plan with sanctuary and assembly hall

Temple Complex Components

Original Structure (as built in 13th century):

- **Rekha Deul/Bada Deul (Main Sanctum/Vimana):**
 - Originally stood 225-229 feet tall
 - Curvilinear tower (shikhara)
- **Jagamohana (Assembly Hall/Audience Hall):**
 - **Status:** Surviving structure
 - Pyramidal roof with receding platforms (pidhas)
 - Contains intricate carvings and sculptures
- **Nata Mandira (Dance Hall):**
 - Supported by beautifully carved pillars
 - Depicts male and female dancers in various poses
- **Bhoga Mandapa (Dining Hall):**
 - For ritual offerings
- **Subsidiary Shrines:**
 - **Mayadevi Temple:** Located west of main temple, dated to late 11th century (earlier than main temple)
 - Originally thought dedicated to Surya's wife
- **Multiple smaller shrines (bhadradeu) around complex**
 - **Design Concept:** Sun God's Chariot
 - **Symbolism:** Entire temple conceived as massive stone chariot of Sun God moving across heavens
- **Chariot Components:**
 - **Wheels:** 24 giant carved wheels (12 pairs)
 - Each wheel: 12 feet in diameter
 - 8 thick spokes + 8 intermediate thin spokes per wheel
 - **Symbolism:** 12 months of Hindu calendar (each month in two cycles)
 - **Function:** Wheels serve as sundials - can calculate time accurately to a minute
 - **Horses:** 7 horses pulling the chariot
 - **Symbolism:** Named after seven meters of Sanskrit prosody (Gayatri, Brihati, Ushnih, Jagati, Trishtubh, Anushtubh, Pankti)
 - Also represent days of the week
- **Direction:** Temple faces east
- First rays of sunrise strike main entrance
- Represents Sun God rising from east
- Construction Materials

Three Types of Stone:

- **Khondalite:** Primary building stone (widely available in region)
- **Chlorite:** Used for sculptures
- **Laterite:** Structural elements

- Unique Construction Features

Electromagnetic Theory:

- Legend states temple held together using electromagnetic force
- 63 tons of magnet: 10 tons at bottom, 53 tons at top
- Disputed by modern scholars

36. Odisha State Pollution Control Board

Why is in the News?

Chief Secretary of Odisha recently chaired meeting held in collaboration with OSPCB and reviewed the implementation of various pollution control Measures and Schemes.



About OSPCB:

- It was constituted under **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution Amendment) Act, 1974**
- It also functioning as the State Board under the **Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981**

Functions:

- Plan and implement integrated programmes for **prevention, control and mitigation of water and air pollution.**
- Provide **technical and policy advice** to the State Government on issues related to water and air pollution management.
- **Collect, compile and disseminate data** on sources, impacts and control measures of water and air pollution.
- **Inspect sewage and trade effluent treatment facilities** to assess performance and suggest corrective modifications in plans and specifications.
- **Inspect industrial units, manufacturing processes and pollution control equipment** and issue directions for pollution abatement.
- Grant or refuse **Environmental No-Objection Certificates (NOC)** for establishment or operation of industries.
- **Assess ambient air quality** in notified air pollution control areas and initiate remedial measures.
- **Regulate and control noise-generating sources** in accordance with prescribed standards.
- **Monitor compliance** with standards related to groundwater, ambient air, leachate, compost quality and incineration.

- Order **closure of non-compliant industrial units** or recommend disconnection of power and water supply.
- **Prescribe, revise and enforce effluent and emission standards** for industries, automobiles and other pollution sources.
- Promote **cost-effective and economically viable pollution treatment technologies** for sewage and industrial effluents.
- **Collect and analyze samples** of sewage, trade effluents and air emissions for regulatory parameters.
- **Coordinate with CPCB** for training personnel and conducting public awareness and mass education programmes.
- Perform **additional functions** as assigned by the State Government or Central Pollution Control Board.

37. Finance Commission

Why is in the News?

Union Govt. recently released the 15th Finance Commission grants for rural local bodies in Odisha for financial year 2025-26, totalling over ₹444 crore.

About Finance Commission:

- **Status:** Constitutional body
- **Constitution Basis:** Article 280 –
- **Constituted by:** President of India for every five years or earlier if needed
- **Purpose:** To ensure a fair distribution of financial resources between the Union and the States
- **Composition:**
 - Chairman
 - 4 other members

Functions:

1. Distribution of tax revenues:
 - Between the Union and States (Vertical devolution)
 - Among the States (horizontal devolution)
2. Grants-in-aid to States from the Consolidated Fund of India
3. Measures to augment State resources to supplement Panchayats and Municipalities
4. Fiscal discipline and financial stability measures

Significance:

- Promotes cooperative federalism
- Reduces regional inequalities
- Strengthens fiscal autonomy of States
- Supports local self-governments

38. Bye-Elections

Why is in the News?

Recently, BJP's Jay Dholakia wins Nuapada bypoll by huge margin — BJP candidate Jay Dholakia secures a decisive victory in the Nuapada Assembly by-election, winning by over **83,000 votes**.

About Bye-Elections:

Definition: Bye-elections (also called by-elections) are elections held to fill vacant seats in legislative bodies (Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, or State Legislative Assemblies) that arise before the end of their regular five-year term.

Legal Basis:

- Representation of the People Act, 1951
- Article 151 of the Constitution
- Conducted by the Election Commission of India (ECI)

When By-Elections are Held

Reasons for Vacancy

1. Death of Sitting Member
 - When an MLA dies during their term
 - Example: Salumbar and Ramgarh seats in Rajasthan (2024) - deaths of incumbent MLAs Amritlal Meena (BJP) and Zubair Khan (Congress)
2. Resignation
 - Member resigns from the legislature
 - Often due to personal reasons, political disagreements, or to contest other elections
3. Disqualification
 - Under Anti-Defection Law (10th Schedule)
 - Criminal conviction with imprisonment of 2+ years
 - Holding office of profit
 - Example: Dudhi seat in UP (2024) - sitting MLA was disqualified
4. Member Elected to Multiple Seats
 - When a candidate wins from more than one constituency
 - Must vacate all but one seat within 14 days
 - Example: Wayanad Lok Sabha seat (2024) - Rahul Gandhi retained Raebareli, vacated Wayanad (contested by Priyanka Gandhi)
5. Election to Higher House
 - MLA elected to Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha
 - Most common reason for by-elections
 - Example: 9 out of 13 UP by-elections (Nov 2024) - MLAs elected to Lok Sabha

Constitutional and Legal Framework

Timeline Requirements

- Six-Month Rule (Section 151A of RPA 1951):
 - By-election must be held within 6 months of vacancy occurring
 - Exception: If remainder of term is less than 1 year
- **Exception to Six-Month Rule:**
 - If election petition is pending in court regarding the seat
 - Model Code of Conduct in force for other elections
 - Extraordinary circumstances (natural disasters, security situations)

39. Mission PoWaR (Power–Water–Roads), Odisha

Why is in the News?

Odisha government recently launched **Mission PoWaR** as an **integrated governance framework**.

Key Highlights:

- **Aim:** Address persistent gaps in **basic infrastructure** across rural and urban areas.
- Covers **three core citizen services**:
 - ✓ Electricity
 - ✓ Drinking water
 - ✓ Road connectivity

Objectives:

- Ensure **last-mile connectivity** of power, potable water and roads to every habitation.
- Improve **quality of life and service delivery**
- Achieve **universal drinking water coverage by March 2027**
- Tackle region-specific issues such as **fluoride contamination** in drinking water.

Operational Framework

Mission guided by three governing principles:

1. Speed – faster project execution
2. Scale – coverage across all districts
3. Standard (Quality) – uniform service benchmarks
4. Focus on integrated and time-bound implementation, not sector-wise silos.

Institutional Mechanism

Formation of an inter-ministerial committee comprising line departments.

Committee to:

- Monitor implementation
- Review progress periodically

- District Collectors assigned a key role:
 - Submission of Panchayat-wise progress reports
 - Adherence to a defined roadmap and timeline

Drinking Water Component

- Target of 100% functional household tap connections by 2027.
- Special focus on fluoride-affected regions through:
 - Fluoride mitigation plans
 - Safe water supply interventions
 - Use of small-scale and standalone projects for uncovered habitations.

Roads & Power Connectivity

Saturation approach to ensure:

- No habitation remains without road access
- Reliable electricity supply reaches remote areas
- Emphasis on coordination between line departments and districts.

40. Odisha–World Food Programme (WFP) Collaboration

Why is in the News?

Government of Odisha has strengthened collaboration with the **United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)**.

More About Odisha–World Food Programme (WFP) Collaboration:

- **Objective:** Improve **food security, nutrition outcomes, and beneficiary coverage** in the state.

Key Objectives:

- Enhance **availability, accessibility and affordability** of food.
- Strengthen **nutrition-focused food security systems**.
- Position Odisha as a **model state in food and nutrition governance**.

Areas of Cooperation:

- Exchange of best practices between Odisha government and WFP.
- Strategic support for:
 - Food distribution systems
 - Nutrition-sensitive interventions
- Focus on sustainable food security rather than short-term relief.

41. Odisha to Set Up More Special Courts for POCSO Cases

Why is in the News?

Odisha government announced establishment of **15 additional Special Courts** for **POCSO Act** cases to ensure speedy justice.

Key Decisions:

- Proposal to be submitted to the **High-Level Committee** in the **next financial year**.
- Objective: **Expeditious trial** of offences against children.

Judicial Infrastructure Augmentation:

- **New courts to:**
 - Strengthen **child protection mechanisms**.
 - Improve **judicial infrastructure** across the state.
- Based on **recommendations of the Orissa High Court**.

Related Judicial Measures:

- Opening of **new Civil Judge (Junior Division)-cum-Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) courts** in different blocks.
- Establishment of **Additional District & Sessions Judge courts** in:
 - Khandapada
 - Nayagarh district

Legal Background (Static Linkage):

- POCSO Act, 2012 – Section 28(1)
 - Mandates a **Special Court in every district** for trial of offences against children.
- Presently, **POCSO courts are not available in all districts** of Odisha.

Significance:

- Reduces pendency of POCSO cases.
- Enhances **access to child-friendly justice**.
- Strengthens implementation of child rights legislation.

42. Odisha–Kotia Issue: ZP Member Criticises Administrative Laxity

Why is in the News?

Zilla Parishad (ZP) member **Tikai Gemel** raised concerns over weak administrative presence.

Key Issues Highlighted:

- **Absence of permanent Revenue Inspector (RI) office** in Kotia panchayat.
- Resulting **administrative vacuum** enabling Andhra Pradesh to:
 - Increase activities in border villages.
 - Strengthen influence over local population.
- Weak governance perceived as **erosion of territorial authority**.

Administrative Concerns:

- Kotia RI office functioning from a **dilapidated British-era building**.
- Important land records and official documents:
 - Damaged due to water seepage.
 - At risk of permanent loss.
 - Unacceptable for a **sensitive border region** dealing with crucial land matters.

Demands & Recommendations:

- Immediate establishment of a **permanent RI office** in Kotia.
- **Demolition and reconstruction** of unsafe tehsil office building.
- **Strengthening administrative presence to:**
 - Protect land records.
 - Ensure effective governance.
 - Reinforce Odisha's claim in the border dispute.

Significance:

- Highlights link between **governance deficit and border vulnerability**.
- Shows role of civil administration in **territorial integrity**.
- Illustrates how poor infrastructure affects dispute management.

43. Subhadra Shakti Mela

Why is in the News?

Second edition of Subhadra Shakti Mela recently commenced at the IDCO Exhibition Ground, Bhubaneswar.

- Emphasis on **women's economic empowerment, entrepreneurship, and financial independence** under the *Subhadra Yojana* framework.

Key findings:

- **Participants:** Around 300 SHG stalls featuring products made by women SHGs from across Odisha
- **Economic impact:** the event recorded sales turnover of over ₹12 crore, significantly higher than previous editions, showcasing strong buyer interest, reflects growing market linkage and business opportunities for women entrepreneurs.
- **'Lakhpati Didis' & Income Generation:** The fair helped **create hundreds of 'Lakhpati Didis'**—women earning ₹1 lakh or more—boosting financial self-reliance.
- **Recognition & Awards:** Several **SHGs and producer groups were felicitated** with certificates and cash prizes for excellence in categories like best stall, best product innovation, etc.
- **Government Support & Schemes:**

- The Odisha government **doubled revolving funds** for SHGs and increased Community Investment Funds, along with **interest subvention for loans** to further women entrepreneurship.
- The mela also supported the state's target of creating **25 lakh Lakhpati Didis by 2027**.

About Subhadra Shakti Mela:

- It is a **state-level exhibition-cum-sale fair** organised to showcase and market products made by **Women Self-Help Groups (WSHGs)**.
- Named after "**Subhadra**", symbolising women's strength, dignity, and self-reliance.

Objectives:

- Promote **economic empowerment of women**
- Provide **market linkage** to SHG products
- Encourage **entrepreneurship and financial independence**
- Enhance visibility of **local, traditional, and eco-friendly products**

Organising Authority:

- **Department of Mission Shakti, Government of Odisha.**
- Supported by **district administrations, ORMAS, and local bodies.**

44. Child Marriage

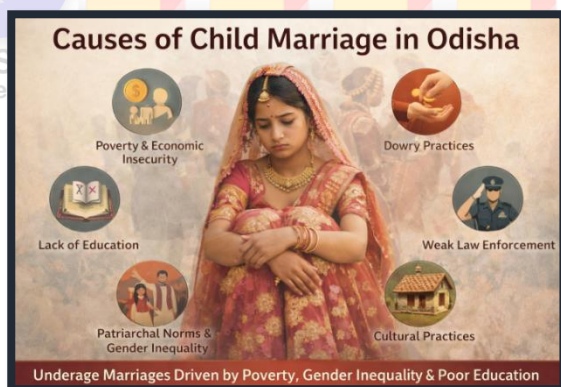
Relevance: Social Issue

Why is in the News?

Nuapada district, Odisha Authorities recently intervened to stop a child marriage at **Siratol village**.

Key findings:

- Information received from **District Social Welfare Office**.
- Prompt verification by **District Legal Services Authority (DLSA)** through paralegal volunteers.
- Marriage proceedings **halted immediately**.
- Family members **counselled and sensitised** against child marriage.
- Written **undertaking submitted** by family to police and district administration.



Causes of Child Marriage:

1. Poverty & Economic Insecurity

- Large Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Scheduled Caste (SC) population in districts like:
 - Nuapada, Koraput, Kalahandi, Malkangiri, Rayagada
 - Seasonal migration and livelihood insecurity push families to early marriages.
2. **Lack of Education**
 - High female dropout rates due to:
 - Distance to secondary schools
 - Poor transport and safety
 - Domestic and agricultural labour demands
 3. **Patriarchal Social Norms**
 - Deep-rooted belief that a girl's primary role is **wife and mother**.
 4. **Social Customs & Traditions**
 - Early marriage practiced as a **customary norm** in some tribal and rural belts.
 5. **Dowry Practices**
 - **Lower dowry demand** for younger brides.
 - Early marriage used as a strategy to avoid rising dowry costs.
 6. **Weak Law Enforcement**
 - Poor awareness of Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.
 - Under-reporting due to fear of community backlash.
 - Inadequate monitoring and delayed administrative response.

45. Semiconductor Sector

Why is in the News?

Recently, Union Minister of Railways, Information and Broadcasting and Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vashnav participated in the ground-breaking ceremony of the SiCSem (Semiconductor Fabrication Unit) at Info Valley, Bhubaneswar

- Further Union Minister various MoUs to enhance railway infrastructure and improve connectivity across the state

About Semicondor Sector:

- Semiconductors are materials whose electrical conductivity lies between that of conductors, which readily transmit heat and electricity, and insulators, which largely resist such transmission.
- They constitute the complex circuitry that underpins modern digital systems and fuels technological advancement.
- Semiconductors may exist as pure elements—such as silicon, the second most abundant element in the Earth's crust after oxygen, or germanium—or as compound materials like gallium arsenide and cadmium selenide.

Significance of Semiconductor industry for India:

- Crucial for global tech ecosystem, driving innovation in electronics, telecom, and automation

- India's semiconductor is still in its infancy and relies heavily on imports. Growth in this area will help India:
 - Meet demand and reduce import reliance
 - Advanced AI, IoT, 6G, and smart tech
 - Achieve technological leadership
 - Strengthen Digital Security
 - Global Hub for Electronics Designs and Manufacturing

Challenges faced by the semiconductor industry in India:

- High cost of semiconductor fabrication units
- Requires consistent high-quality water, electricity, and insulation
- Fabrication units take up to five years for full production
- Key materials like silicon and germanium must be imported
- Skill mismatch: India lacks highly skilled labour and advanced technology

Govt. Initiatives:

1. PLI scheme: provides 4-6% incentives for Electronics firms to boost mobile phone manufacturing and attract investments, based on incremental sales.
2. Program for the Development of Semiconductors and Display Manufacturing Ecosystems.
3. India-US initiative on Critical Emerging Technologies (iCET)
4. Semiconductor India Program
5. Scheme for promotion of Manufacturing of Electronics Components and Semiconductors (SPECS)

46. Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal

Why is in the News?

A new Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal has been commissioned at Jakhpure, under the Khurda Road Division of the East Coast Railway (ECoR)



About Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal:

- Part of **PM Gati Shakti – National Master Plan** (launched December 2021)
- Aims for integrated and seamless multimodal connectivity across India
- Target: 100 terminals nationwide within three years

Status in Odisha (ECoR):

- **Operational:** 10 terminals
- **Approved:** 7 additional terminals
- **Total:** 17 Gati Shakti Cargo Terminals (GCTs)

Key Infrastructure Examples:

Jakhapura Terminal (Jajpur District):

- **Cost:** ₹36.85 crore
- **Capacity:** 4 handling lines
- **Projected Traffic:** 86 rakes/month (36 outward + 50 inward)
- **Cargo Type:** Cement, clinker, slag, gypsum
- **Purpose:** Support cement and allied industries

Paradip Terminal

- **First GCT in Odisha** (commissioned by CONCOR, 2022)
- **Initial Operation:** Transported 3,774 tonnes of fertilizers to Uttar Pradesh
- **Strategic Location:** Port connectivity

Relevance for Odisha:

- Leverages industrial base (steel, cement, mining)
- Exploits Paradip port infrastructure
- Creates vital supply chain links between production, ports, and markets
- Attracts industrial investment through improved logistics

47. Odisha Electric Vehicle Policy 2.0

Relevance: Infrastructure and Energy transition

Why is in the News?

- Odisha is in the process of finalising EV-Policy 2.0
- Aligned with the state's long-term development vision "**Viksit Odisha 2036**".
- Prepared after **stakeholder consultations** involving government departments and industry.

Key Objectives:

- Position Odisha as a **leader in clean and green mobility**.
- Enable a **smooth and inclusive transition** to electric mobility.
- Strengthen the **EV ecosystem** across transport and allied sectors.

Institutional & Governance Framework:

- Policy formulation led by the Commerce & Transport Department.
- Emphasis on:
 - Inter-departmental coordination
 - Active participation of private sector

Departments involved:

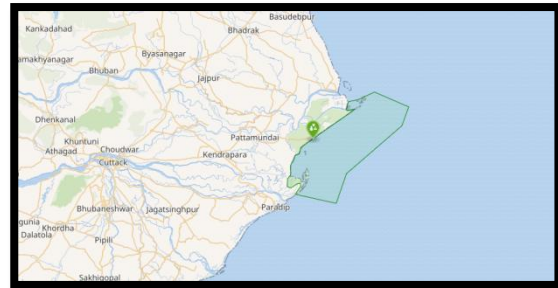
- Transport
- Energy
- Housing & Urban Development
- Finance
- Skill Development & Technical Education

48. Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary

Why is in the News?

Fishing is being restricted for next seven month in Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary until May 2026

- The restrictions are enforced under the provisions of the **Orissa Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1982**



About Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary:

- **Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary** is one of India's most important marine protected areas, especially known for **Olive Ridley sea turtles**.

Location:

- Situated along the **coast of Odisha**, mainly in **Kendrapara district**
- Lies at the **mouth of the Brahmani–Baitarani river system**, adjoining the **Bhitarkanika mangroves**

Establishment:

- Declared a **Marine Sanctuary in 1997**
- First and **largest marine sanctuary in India**

Ecological Significance:

- World's **largest mass nesting (Arribada) site of Olive Ridley turtles**
- Nesting beaches include **Gahirmatha, Nasi, and Wheeler Island (APJ Abdul Kalam Island)**
- Part of a rich coastal–marine ecosystem with: Mangroves; Estuaries; Coral patches; Seagrass beds

Biodiversity

- Flagship species: Olive Ridley Sea Turtle (IUCN status: Vulnerable)
- Other fauna: Dolphins; Sea snakes; migratory birds; crustaceans and diverse fish species

Threats and challenges:

- Accidental killing due to mechanised fishing

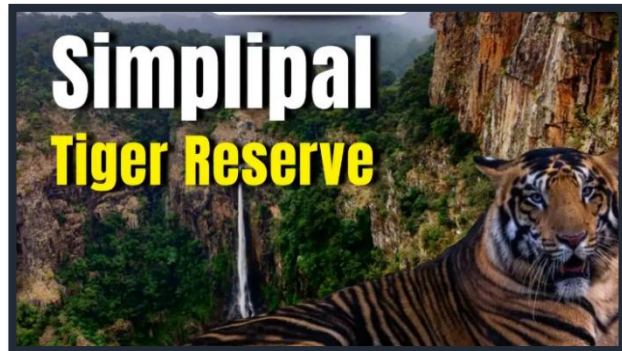
- Coastal erosion and climate change
- Developmental activities
- Pollution and oil spills

49. Similipal Tiger Reserve

Relevance: Biodiversity Conservation

Why is in the News?

Union Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change recently directed State Govt. to examine about unregulated construction, deforestation and dumping of plastics within the Eco-Sensitive Zone of Similipal Tiger Reserve.



About Similipal Tiger Reserve:

- **Location:** Mayurbhanj District, Northern Odisha
- Named after 'Simul' – red silk cotton tree
- **Elevation:** Twin peaks of Khairiburu and Meghashini - 1,515 m above MSL (highest point)
- **Geographical Coordinates:** Located at the eastern end of the Eastern Ghats

Historical Timeline:

- 1956: Selected as Tiger Reserve Site
- 1973: Brought under Project Tiger
- 1979: Declared as Wildlife Sanctuary by Odisha Govt.
- 1994: Declared as Biosphere Reserve by Govt. of India
- 2009: Added to UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserve
- **2024:** Odisha government declared it as the state's second National Park (after Bhitarkanika), making it India's 107th National Park

Geographical Features:

- **12 major rivers** cut across the reserve, all draining into Bay of Bengal: Budhabalanga, Palpala Bandhan, Salandi, Khairi, Deo and other
- **Waterfall:** Barehipani (second highest waterfall in India with approximate length – 399 metres), Joranda Fall
- **Forest Types:** dominant vegetation: Northern Tropical Moist Deciduous Forest

Fauna:

- **Tigers – The flagship species**

- **Unique Feature - Melanistic Tigers (Black Tigers):** At present, a total of ten melanistic tigers (black tigers) have been found in the country, all found exclusively in Similipal Tiger Reserve

50. National Water Award for RCCF Berhampur Circle

Why is in the News?

Berhampur RCCF Circle received National Water Award.

- Recognised for community participation, Sustainable water management practices
- Reinforces importance of integrated water resource management

About National Water Award:

- The National Water Awards (NWA), a prestigious initiative by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, to recognize and celebrate outstanding achievements in water conservation and management across the country.
- **Vision:** Achieve "Jal Samridh Bharat" (Water-Secure and Water-Enriched India)
- **Organizing Body:** Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR), Ministry of Jal Shakti
- **First Edition:** 2018
- **Ground Water Augmentation Awards & National Water Award (2007)**
 - The Ground Water Augmentation Awards and National Water Award were launched in 2007 with an objective to encourage all stakeholders including NGOs, Gram Panchayats, Urban Local Bodies, and Water User Associations
 - Focused separately on surface water and groundwater management
 - Ran independently until 2018

51. Jal Shakti Abhiyan Awards

Why is in the News?

Recently, five districts of Odisha awarded under Jal Shakti Abhiyan

- Recognised for rainwater harvesting and water conservation efforts

About Jal Shakti Abhiyan Awards:

- Jal Shakti Abhiyan is a time-bound, mission-mode water conservation campaign
- Launched in July 1, 2019
- **Responsible Ministry:** Ministry of Jal Shakti
- **Vision:** Make water conservation a Jan Andolan (People's Movement) through asset creation and extensive communication

JSA 2025:

- **Theme:** "Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari – Jan Jagrukta Ki or" (Water Conservation through Public Participation – Towards Public Awareness)

52. Debrigarh Ecotourism Project

Why is in the News?

Odisha government approved ₹71.19 crore for large-scale **ecotourism development** in and around **Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary** and **Hirakud Wetland**.

Key findings:

Administrative Details:

- Approval of **Detailed Project Report (DPR)**.
- Communicated by **Additional Secretary, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department** to:
 - Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)
 - Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha

Objectives:

- Position **Debrigarh** as a **leading ecotourism hub in India**.
- Promote **sustainable tourism**.
- Reduce **human–animal conflict**.
- Enhance **community-based livelihoods**.

Significance of the Debrigarh Ecotourism Project:

1. Environmental & Conservation Relevance:

- Promotes **sustainable tourism** with minimal ecological footprint.
- Helps in **human–animal conflict mitigation** through planned infrastructure and boundary management.
- Ensures **uninterrupted wildlife corridors**, preventing habitat fragmentation.
- Supports conservation of **Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary** and **Hirakud Wetland** (biodiversity-rich landscapes).

2. Livelihood & Inclusive Growth:

- Generates **local employment** via homestays, safari services, Eco-guides and hospitality roles
- Encourages **community-based ecotourism**, reducing dependence on forest extraction.
- Directly benefits **forest-dependent and conflict-affected villages**.

3. Sustainable Development Goals:

- Aligns with **SDG 8** (Decent Work & Economic Growth).
- Supports **SDG 11** (Sustainable Communities).
- Contributes to **SDG 15** (Life on Land).

4. Tourism & Regional Development:

- Positions **Debrigarh as a national ecotourism hub.**
- Diversifies Odisha's tourism portfolio beyond coastal tourism.
- Integrates **nature, culture, heritage, and wellness tourism.**

53. Digital Arrest

Why is in the News?

Recently, 68-year-old Chartered Accountant lost ₹1.5 crore to fraudsters posing as CBI and ED officials through fake video calls.

About Digital Arrest:

- **Digital arrest** is an **informal term** used to describe a **cyber fraud technique** in which criminals **psychologically trap a person online** by impersonating law-enforcement agencies and **coerce them into isolation and financial compliance.**

Key Characteristics of "Digital Arrest" Scams:

- **Impersonation:** Fake law enforcement officials
- **AI Technology:** Deepfake videos, fake courtrooms
- **Psychological Pressure:** Fear, intimidation, urgency
- **Isolation:** Preventing victim from seeking help
- **Multiple Transfers:** Draining accounts in phases
- **Cross-border Operations:** Often operated from foreign locations

Key Challenges:

- **Technologies Challenges:** Ex: Deepfake technologies, VoIP Spoofing, Remote Access Trojans, Encryption Anonymization
- **Social & Demographic Challenges:** Senior citizens particularly susceptible due to limited tech literacy; 75% of Indians have encountered deepfake content (McAfee survey); Digital divide between urban and rural populations; Isolated individuals lack immediate support systems
- **Digital Literacy Gap:** Low awareness about cyber fraud tactics despite campaigns; Trust in authority figures exploited by fraudsters; Inability to distinguish legitimate communications from scams; Knowledge deficit about online safety protocols
- **Operational Challenges for Law Enforcement:** Insufficient specialized cybercrime units at state level; Lack of trained personnel in digital forensics; Limited technical infrastructure for investigation; Budget limitations for technology procurement.

54. NFSU Permanent Campus in Odisha

Why is in the News?

Odisha government to expedite construction of **National Forensic Science University (NFSU)** permanent campus at **Jatni, Khordha.**



Key Decisions:

- Speeding up infrastructure development of NFSU permanent campus.
- Simultaneous strengthening of **state forensic capabilities**.
- Focus on reducing backlog of pending forensic samples at **Odisha State Forensic Science Laboratory (SFSL)** with NFSU support.

Current Status of NFSU Odisha:

- Functioning from a **temporary campus at Mancheswar**.
- First academic batch already in session.
- Human resources:
 - 8 faculty members
 - 11 administrative staff
 - 5 PhD scholars

Significance:

- Strengthens **criminal justice system** through forensic science.
- Enhances **evidence-based policing**.
- Supports **institutional capacity building** in forensic investigation.
- Aligns with modernisation of police and justice delivery mechanisms.

About NFSU:

- National Forensic Sciences University (formerly Gujarat Forensic Science University) is a public international university located in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India.
- It is recognized as an Institution of National Importance under the Ministry of Home Affairs by an act of the Indian Parliament.
- The Gujarat Forensic Science University was formed by the Government of Gujarat in 2008 and was upgraded to the National Forensic Sciences University in October 2020

Keywords:

- Forensic infrastructure, Criminal justice reform, Capacity building, Evidence-based investigation.

55. Shulia Jatra

Why is in the News?

Shulia Jatra witnessed animal sacrifices.

About Shulia Jatra:

- Celebrated at **Shulia Peetha**, in **Balangir district** (Western Odisha).
- Dedicated to **Goddess Shulia (a local tribal deity)**.

Historical & Cultural Background

- Shulia Jatra is an **annual tribal religious festival**.
- Practised for centuries by local communities.
- Considered one of the largest animal sacrifice rituals in Odisha.
- Thousands of devotees participate every year.

56. Baraputra Aitihya Gram Yojana

Why is in the News?

The Odisha Cabinet approved the **Baraputra Aitihya Gram Yojana**, a heritage development programme aimed at **revitalising and promoting the birthplaces and memorial sites of eminent Odia personalities** — especially freedom fighters, reformers, poets, and cultural icons

Who are Baraputras?

- ‘Baraputra’ in Odia means **great sons (or children)** of Odisha — the people whose contributions to freedom struggle, literature, arts, or social reform are historically significant but often under-recognised.
- The programme aims to **honour and preserve their legacy**.

Significance:

- Strengthens **cultural consciousness**
- Encourages youth awareness of local heroes
- Developing heritage sites improves:
 - Tourist footfall
 - Local services (guides, artefact shops)
 - Hospitality sector opportunities
- Heritage site development generates:
 - Construction jobs
 - Community-led tourism enterprises
 - Micro-business opportunities (souvenirs, local crafts)

57. Parvati Giri

Why is in the News?

The Prime Minister announced that the birth centenary of **Parvati Giri**, a noted freedom fighter from Odisha, will be observed in January 2026. She participated in the Quit India Movement at age 16 and later dedicated her life to tribal welfare and social reform.

About Parvati Giri:

- Born: **19 January 1926**, Bargarh district (then Sambalpur), Odisha.
- Joined the **Quit India Movement (1942)** at just **16 years of age**.
- Influenced by Gandhian ideals of **non-violence, self-reliance, and social service**.

Role in Freedom Struggle

- Actively participated in protests against British rule.
- Worked in underground nationalist networks in Western Odisha.
- Arrested and imprisoned for her participation in the movement.



58. Tunki Waterfall

Why is in the News?

Mayurbhanj scenic spot lacks infrastructure

About Tunki Waterfall:

- Tunki Waterfall is a **natural waterfall located in the buffer zone of Similipal National Park** in Mayurbhanj district of Odisha. It lies near **Bahalda/Khunta** area, around **40 km from Baripada** town.

Description:

- **Location & Setting:** Situated amidst the **Similipal hills and forests**, surrounded by lush green nature and serene landscape.
- **Waterfall Characteristics:** Water cascades from the hilltop over a rocky face, forming a perennial fall that creates a scenic pool suitable for bathing during favourable conditions.
- **Lesser-Known Tourist Spot:** Despite its beauty, Tunki remains relatively **underdeveloped and less popular** compared with other waterfalls like Barehipani and Joranda within Similipal.

59. First Woman Chief Secretary of Odisha

Why is in the News?

Senior IAS officer Anu Garg (1991 batch) appointed as Odisha's first woman Chief Secretary. She previously served as **Development Commissioner and Planning Secretary**.

About Chief Secretary:

- The **Chief Secretary (CS)** is the **senior-most IAS officer** and the **administrative head of the state government**.
- He/she acts as the **principal advisor to the Chief Minister** and the **head of the state civil services**.

Constitutional Status:

- The post of Chief Secretary is **not mentioned explicitly in the Constitution**.

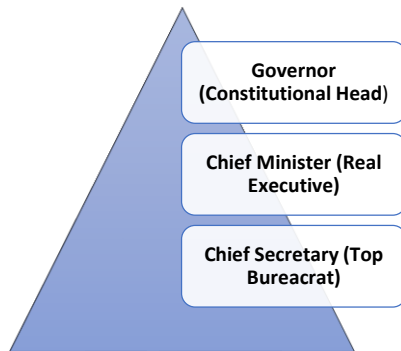
It is created under:

- **Article 162** – Executive power of the State.
- Rules of Business framed under **Article 166**.

Thus, it is a **conventional and administrative post**, not constitutional.

Position in State Administration:

Hierarchy in State:



Appointment & Tenure:

- Appointed by the **State Government (Chief Minister)**.
- Usually the **senior-most IAS officer** of the state cadre.
- Tenure depends on state government discretion (generally till retirement).

Functions & Roles:

- Administrative Head
- Administrative Head
- Advisor to Chief Minister
- Crisis Manager
- Cabinet Secretary at State Level

60. DMF Funds – ₹34,052 Cr Collected

Why is in the News?

CM reviewed District Mineral Foundation utilisation

About DMF:

- **Established under:** Section 9B of the **MMDR Act, 1957** (Amended in 2015).
- **Nature:** A non-profit statutory trust in mining-affected districts.
- **Objective:** To work for the **interest and benefit of persons and areas affected by mining-related operations**.
- **Funding Source:** Contribution from miners (percentage of royalty).
- Odisha is one of the **highest mineral-producing states** (iron ore, bauxite, chromite, coal), hence among the **top DMF fund accumulators**.
- As per recent review, Odisha has collected **₹34,000+ crore**, with around 55% utilisation.

Significance of DMF:

Mining districts (Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Angul, Koraput, etc.) are largely **tribal-dominated and underdeveloped**.

DMF operationalises the principle of “**benefit sharing**” and distributive justice.

Financing Social Infrastructure

- **DMF funds are prioritised for:**
 - Drinking water supply
 - Healthcare infrastructure
 - Education & hostels
 - Nutrition
 - Skill development
 - Roads & sanitation

This supplements:

- Jal Jeevan Mission
- NHM
- Aspirational District Programme

Reduces regional disparities.

Environmental Mitigation

- Funds afforestation, pollution control, mine restoration.
- Addresses land degradation, water contamination, and air pollution.

Strengthening Local Governance

- Operates at district level under Collector.
- Potential to deepen **decentralised planning**.

Challenges Associated with DMF

- a) **Underutilisation of Funds**
 - Large corpus but slow expenditure.
 - Delay in project identification & approvals.
- **Impact:**
 - Opportunity cost for poor communities.
 - Idle funds lose developmental value.
- b) **Lack of Participatory Planning**
 - Gram Sabhas often not adequately consulted.
 - Top-down project selection.
- Violates spirit of **PESA Act**.
- c) **Diversion & Misalignment of Funds**
 - Funds used for general infrastructure instead of mining-affected villages.
 - Overlap with existing schemes.
- d) **Transparency & Accountability Issues**
 - Limited public disclosure of:
 - Project details

- Beneficiary lists
- Impact assessments
- Risk of corruption & political capture.
- a) Weak Monitoring & Impact Evaluation**
 - Focus on expenditure, not outcomes.
 - No district-level social audit institutionalisation.
- a) Environmental Rehabilitation Gaps**
 - Ecological restoration projects limited.
 - Focus more on physical infrastructure than environmental repair.
- b) Sustainability Concerns**
 - Mining is finite.
 - Long-term livelihood alternatives not adequately prioritised.

61. No Promotion Without Property Statement

Why is in the News?

Recently Odisha Govt has made annual property declaration mandatory for promotion

More About:

The **General Administration (GA) Department** issued a circular clarifying that:

- Filing **updated annual property statements** is a **mandatory prerequisite** for promotion.
- Any employee who fails to submit the property return before the **Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC)** meeting will be treated as **“not suitable” for promotion**.
- Vacancies **will not be kept pending** due to non-submission.
- Promotions may be reconsidered in subsequent DPC meetings if:
 - The employee submits the statement within the allowed grace period.
 - The employee is otherwise eligible.

Significance:

- 1. Transparency in Public Administration**
 - Asset declaration prevents accumulation of disproportionate assets.
 - Strengthens integrity in civil services.
- 2. Administrative Accountability**
 - Links compliance with career progression.
 - Promotes rule-based governance instead of discretion-based promotion.
- 3. Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) Process**
 - Clarifies procedure and eligibility norms.
 - Vacancy will not be kept pending → ensures administrative efficiency.
- 4. Good Governance Reform**
 - Encourages compliance culture.
 - Reduces corruption risk at systemic level.

62. e-KYC Verification of PDS Beneficiaries

why is in the News?

Food Supplies Minister informed Assembly that **3.12 crore out of 3.26 crore PDS beneficiaries (96%)** have completed e-KYC verification

Key Data

- 14.38 lakh pending (children <5 yrs & elderly)
- 6.93 lakh deceased beneficiaries removed
- 33,128 ineligible families (1.20 lakh persons) deleted

About PDS:

The **Public Distribution System (PDS)** is India's largest food security programme aimed at distributing essential food grains at subsidised prices to vulnerable sections.

Legal Backing:

- **National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013**
- Article 21 (Right to Life → interpreted to include Right to Food)

Objectives

- Ensure **food security**
- Prevent **hunger & malnutrition**
- Stabilise food prices
- Protect poor from inflation shocks
- Maintain **buffer stock**

63. Mahanadi Water Dispute

Why is in the News?

CM Mohan Charan Majhi stated Odisha will soon secure its rightful share of Mahanadi waters through legal and amicable means.

Background

- Dispute since Chhattisgarh constructed upstream barrages.
- Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal formed in 2018.

Significance

- Mahanadi = Lifeline of Odisha
- Impacts irrigation (Hirakud), drinking water, industry

Challenges

- Non-monsoon water release

- Upstream infrastructure expansion
- Climate variability

Measures

- Scientific water-sharing formula
- Real-time hydrological data sharing
- Basin-level integrated water management
- Strengthen Tribunal framework reforms

64. Kotia Border Issue – Livelihood Concerns

Why is in the News?

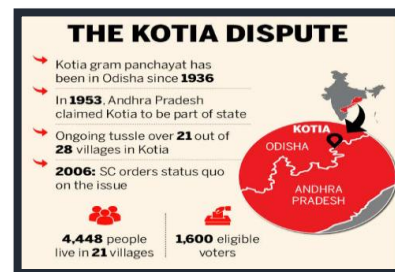
Villagers allege livelihood neglect; Andhra Pradesh increasing presence

Challenges

- Weak welfare penetration
- Livelihood insecurity
- Political sensitivities

Measures

- Saturation of welfare schemes
- Special Border Area Development Package
- Mobile health & banking units
- Tribal livelihood clusters (Millets Mission model)



65. Atal Bus Stand in Baripada

Why is in the News?

A new **Atal Bus Stand** to be developed in Baripada.

About Atal Bus Stand:

- New bus terminal planned in **Baripada (Mayurbhanj district)**.
- Named under “Atal” infrastructure initiatives.
- **Background:**
 - Mayurbhanj houses **Similipal Tiger Reserve**.
 - Baripada is a key transport node in northern Odisha.

Significance:

- Enhances regional connectivity.

- Promotes eco-tourism.
- Supports economic integration of tribal districts.

66. Delay in Mega Piped Water Supply Projects

Why is in the News?

Only 25 of 207 mega water projects completed (2020–25)

Key Facts:

- Allocation: ₹35,193 crore
- Expenditure: ₹17,502 crore
- Delays due to land acquisition, clearances

Significance

- Linked to **Jal Jeevan Mission (Har Ghar Jal)**
- Essential for rural health & SDG 6

Challenges

- Contractor inefficiency
- Fund utilisation delays
- Inter-departmental coordination gaps

Measures

- Performance-based contracts
- Real-time project dashboard
- Social audit & Gram Sabha monitoring
- Strict penalty clauses

67. Paddy Procurement & MSP Reform (Odisha)

Why is in the News?

Collectors empowered to extend token validity during Kharif Marketing Season to prevent distress sale.

Significance

1. **Prevention of Distress Sale:** Protects farmers from exploitation by middlemen.
2. **Strengthening MSP Credibility:** Reinforces trust in state procurement system.
3. **Rural Income Stability:** Direct bank transfers enhance financial inclusion and rural purchasing power.

4. **Administrative Flexibility:** Empowering collectors shows decentralised governance model.
5. **Food Security Contribution:** Odisha's paddy surplus supports national buffer stock.

Value Addition:

What is MSP?

- **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** is the minimum price at which the government purchases crops from farmers.
- Announced **before sowing season** to ensure remunerative returns
- It is a **price guarantee mechanism**, not a subsidy.

Who Recommends MSP?

- Recommended by the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**.
- Final approval by the **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)**.

Legal Status of MSP

- MSP is **NOT a statutory right**.
- There is **no legal obligation** on government to procure at MSP.
- Procurement depends on:
 - Market conditions
 - Storage capacity
 - Budget allocation

Crops Covered Under MSP

Government announces MSP for **23 crops**:

Kharif Crops (14)

- Paddy
- Maize
- Jowar
- Bajra
- Ragi
- Tur (Arhar)
- Moong
- Urad
- Groundnut



- Soybean
- Sunflower seed
- Sesamum
- Nigerseed
- Cotton

Rabi Crops (6)

- Wheat
- Barley
- Gram
- Lentil (Masur)
- Rapeseed & Mustard
- Safflower

Other Crops (3)

- Copra
- Jute

68. Odisha Industrial Conclave 2025

Why is in the News?

At the **Odisha Industrial Conclave 2025**, Chief Minister **Mohan Charan Majhi** reiterated the government's vision of positioning Odisha as **Eastern India's MSME hub**.

Key highlights:

- MSMEs described as the **backbone of industrial growth**.
- Odisha not only promotes MSMEs but aims to **turn dreams of ₹4.5 crore people into reality**.
- Focus on industrial reforms, ease of doing business, startup ecosystem, women entrepreneurship.
- Single Window System now provides 61 services, 16 departments integrated.
- Major investments in Angul, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, and Gopalpur
- **Target:**
 - Create 17 lakh "Lakhpati Didis"
 - Promote rural women entrepreneurship
- MSMEs contribute nearly **one-third of Odisha's Gross State Value of Output (GSVO)**.
- Vision: Make Odisha a **regional manufacturing and MSME gateway** for Eastern India.

Significance:

Economic Generation

- MSMEs are labour-intensive.
- Critical for absorbing:
 - Rural youth
 - Semi-skilled labour
- Women workforce
- Supports Odisha's demographic dividend.

Diversification of Economy

- Reduces over-dependence on mining & heavy industry.
- Promotes:
 - Manufacturing
 - Agro-processing
 - Services enterprises
- Strengthens value addition within the state.

Contribution to GDP:

- MSMEs contribute nearly one-third of state output.
- 8% growth rate → indicates strong industrial momentum.

Regional Development Significance

- Industrial expansion beyond Bhubaneswar.
- Growth in districts like:
 - Angul
 - Jharsuguda
 - Sambalpur
 - Gopalpur
- Helps reduce regional imbalance (Western & Coastal divide).

Ease of Doing Business Reform

- 61 services integrated across 16 departments.
- Digital Single Window System.
- Reduces corruption, delays & bureaucratic hurdles.

69. Blue Flag Upgradation of Ganjam

Why is in the News?

Gopalpur-on-Sea and Biju Patnaik Beach are proposed for Blue Flag certification, strengthening Odisha's coastal tourism profile.

About Blue Flag Certification:

- The **Blue Flag** is an internationally acclaimed environmental certification conferred upon beaches, marinas, and sustainable boating tourism operators that adhere to rigorous standards relating to environmental sustainability, public safety, and effective management practices.
- **Certifying Authority:** The accreditation is issued by the **Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), Denmark**, a global non-profit body dedicated to advancing sustainable

environmental behaviour through structured education and internationally recognised certification programmes.

- **India's Participation:** India became a member of the Blue Flag Programme in **2018**, thereby committing to globally benchmarked coastal management standards.
- **Objective:** The initiative seeks to encourage environmentally responsible coastal tourism, conserve marine and coastal ecosystems, and provide visitors and local communities with clean, safe, and sustainable recreational environments.

70. Satkosia Wildlife Sanctuary

Why is in the News?

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan highlighted **Satkosia Wildlife Sanctuary's** eco-tourism potential and called for coordinated Forest–Tourism department action.

About Satkosia Wildlife Sanctuary:

Location

- Situated in **Angul district**
- Spreads across **Angul, Dhenkanal, Cuttack & Boudh**
- Encloses the famous **Satkosia Gorge** formed by the Mahanadi River
- Part of **Satkosia Tiger Reserve (declared 2007)**



Significance:

1. Ecological Significance:

- **Unique River–Gorge Ecosystem**
 - The **Mahanadi River cuts through Eastern Ghats**, creating a 22 km long gorge.
- Rare combination of:
 - Riverine ecosystem
 - Dry deciduous forests
 - Moist deciduous forests
 - Hill ecosystems

Makes it one of Odisha's most biodiverse landscapes.

2. **Biodiversity Hotspot:** Acts as a wildlife corridor between central and coastal Odisha.

3. **Social Significance**

- Involves forest-dependent communities
- Encourages community-based conservation
- Reduces distress migration

71. Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary

Why is in the News?

Odisha inducted its first **all-woman forest enforcement squad** in Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary.

About Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary:

- Debrigarh lies near Hirakud Reservoir.
- Area faces threats such as:
 - Electrocutation of animals (illegal fencing)
 - Cross-border wildlife trade (Odisha–Chhattisgarh belt)
 - Human-wildlife conflict

Significance

1. Gender Mainstreaming in Conservation

- Breaks male-dominated forest enforcement structure.
- Promotes SDG 5 (Gender Equality).

2. Community-Based Conservation

- Tribal women have lived experience of forests.
- Strengthens local participation model under Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006.

3. Anti-Poaching & Wildlife Crime Control

- Enhances patrolling efficiency.
- Strengthens frontline enforcement capacity.

4. Socio-Economic Empowerment

- Provides stable employment.
- Reduces vulnerability in forest fringe communities.

72. Man-Animal Conflict: 1,396 Human Deaths in 10 Years

Why is in the News?

Assembly informed about deaths in wildlife conflict; compensation ₹61.74 crore paid

Hotspots

- Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Angul

Causes of such conflicts:

- Shrinking forests
- Mining expansion
- Crop depredation

- Slow compensation

Measures

- Early warning systems (SMS alerts)
- Solar fencing & bio-fencing
- Corridor mapping under Project Elephant
- Faster DBT compensation

73. 16 Polluted River Stretches in Odisha

Why is in the News?

Forest & Environment Minister informed Assembly that **16 river stretches** are polluted due to untreated urban wastewater & excessive water extraction. CPCB report (2025) shows improvement but 6 stretches need urgent attention

Key facts:

- Polluted stretches: Kathajodi (Cuttack), Daya & Gangua (Bhubaneswar), Brahmani (Rourkela), etc.
- 14 previously polluted stretches improved since 2018.
- Highest concern: Gangua stretch.
- BOD criteria: <3 mg/L for bathing standard.

Challenges:

- Inadequate STP capacity
- Encroachment & illegal discharge
- Weak enforcement by ULBs
- Industrial effluents

Measures Suggested

- Expand STP coverage under AMRUT 2.0
- River Rejuvenation Authority (state-level)
- Strict polluter pays enforcement
- Promote treated wastewater reuse
- Community river monitoring committees

74. Experts Advocate Sustainable Technology for Achieving SDGs

Why is in the News?

The **26th Odisha Science and Environment Congress (OSEC)** and the 7th Biren Mitra Memorial National Conference on Sustainable Green Frontiers were organised in Bhubaneswar by the Institute of Physics and allied institutions.

Key Highlights:

- The conference emphasized the importance of **science-driven innovation** in achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
- Experts underlined that **sustainable technological solutions** are essential for addressing environmental challenges.
- The role of the scientific community was highlighted in advancing climate resilience and sustainable development.
- Multiple thematic sessions were conducted on:
 - Clean and green technologies
 - Sustainable innovation
 - Challenges and prospects in achieving SDGs
- The event featured participation from eminent scientists, academicians, and environmental experts.
- Young researchers were recognised for their contributions to sustainable research.

Significance of Promoting Sustainable Technology for SDGs:

1. Environmental Significance:

- Sustainable technologies help reduce:
 - a) Carbon emissions
 - b) Resource depletion
 - c) Ecological degradation
- Supports India's climate commitments under the **United Nations** framework.

1. Achievement of SDGs

- Technology-driven solutions are crucial for:
 - a) SDG 7 – Affordable & Clean Energy
 - b) SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure
 - c) SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption & Production
 - d) SDG 13 – Climate Action

75. Communal Tensions & Internet Shutdowns (Cuttack)

Why is in the News?

Clashes during religious procession; curfew and temporary internet shutdown imposed.

Constitutional Dimensions

- **Article 19(1)(a)** – Freedom of speech.
- **Article 25** – Freedom of religion.
- Reasonable restrictions under Article 19(2).

Landmark Case

- *Anuradha Bhasin vs Union of India (2020)*
 → Internet access linked to freedom of expression.
 → Shutdown orders must be temporary, proportionate & reviewable.

Administrative Concepts



- Crowd Control Protocol.
- Intelligence-based Preventive Policing.
- Section 144 CrPC.

Balance to Highlight in Mains

Security vs Civil Liberties Debate.

SDG Link

- SDG 16 – Peaceful & Inclusive Societies.

76. Cyber Security Centre of Excellence – Odisha

Relevance: Security

Why is in the News?

Odisha government approved establishment of a Cyber Security Centre of Excellence to strengthen digital policing, forensic capacity and cybercrime response.

Significance:

- **Strengthening Internal Security Architecture:** Enhances Odisha's preparedness against cyber fraud, digital terrorism, financial scams and data breaches.:
- **Modernisation of Police Force:** Reflects shift from conventional policing to **tech-driven governance**, improving investigation quality and conviction rates.
- **Protection of Digital Economy:** With growing digital payments and e-governance services, cyber resilience ensures economic stability.
- **Boost to Investor Confidence:** Secure cyber ecosystem supports IT parks, fintech and startup ecosystem in Bhubaneswar.
- **Alignment with National Cyber Security Strategy:** Complements India's push for secure Digital India.

Value Addition:

Constitutional Framework:

Constitutional & Legal Backing

- **Article 21** – Protection of life & personal liberty (includes digital safety).
- **Article 355** – Duty of Union to protect states against internal disturbance.
- IT Act, 2000 (amended 2008) – Legal framework for cyber offences.

Institutional Linkages

- Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) – MHA.
- NCRB – Cybercrime reporting portal.
- CCTNS (Crime & Criminal Tracking Network System).

Data Points (National Trend for Enrichment)

- India witnessing exponential rise in cyber fraud cases (especially financial phishing & digital arrest scams).
- Tier-2 cities increasingly targeted → relevance for Bhubaneswar, Cuttack.

77. Odisha AI Summit 2025

Why is in the News?

Odisha recently hosted AI Summit 2025 as precursor of India AI Impact Summit 2026. Focus on AI policy, governance, skilling, and sectoral applications.

About Odisha AI Summit 2025:

- It was organised by the **Electronics & IT (E&IT) Department** of the Government of Odisha.
- The summit aligned with the recently approved **Odisha AI Policy 2025**

Objectives

- Position Odisha as a **future-ready AI-driven state**.
- Showcase AI integration in governance and public service delivery.
- Strengthen collaboration between **government, industry, academia, and startups**.
- Promote responsible and ethical AI adoption.
- Align state initiatives with the **IndiaAI Mission**.

Key Focus Areas

- 1. AI in Governance**
 - Integration of AI in core government functions.
 - Data-driven service delivery.
 - Institutional readiness for AI adoption.
- 2. Sectoral Applications**
 - Healthcare
 - Agriculture
 - Education
 - Public administration
- 3. Data & Compute Infrastructure**
 - Operationalising India AI Mission components:
 - Data infrastructure
 - AI compute resources
 - Skilling initiatives
- 4. Capacity Building**
 - Training professionals in:
 - Cybersecurity
 - AI & Machine Learning
 - Data Science
 - Advanced communication systems

Significance:

- **Technological leadership:** Positions Odisha among early adopters of AI governance frameworks.
- **Investment attraction:** Enhances investor confidence in technology and digital sectors.
- **Governance reform:** AI-based solutions improve efficiency, transparency, and accountability.
- **Human capital development:** Encourages research institutions like IIIT-Bhubaneswar to play a greater role.
- **Alignment with National Goals:** IndiaAI Mission, Digital India Mission, Vikshit Bharat @2047

78. Regional AI Impact Conference – AI-Powered Governance

Why is in the News?

Odisha hosted a Regional AI Impact Conference, signalling its commitment to AI-driven governance. Partnerships with technology firms aim to improve public service delivery and digital efficiency.

About Regional AI Impact Conference:

- Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi inaugurated the conference virtually.
- Stated that Odisha is laying the foundation for an **AI-powered governance model**.
- Emphasised AI for **citizen-centric innovation and faster public service delivery**.

Policy & Strategic Direction:

- Odisha has articulated a **dedicated AI Policy**.
- Focus on:
 - Responsible AI adoption
 - Applied governance use cases
 - Ecosystem development

Focus Areas

- Leveraging AI for:
 - Public service delivery
 - Inclusive growth
 - Startups & research support
 - Skilling initiatives

Strategic Partnerships Announced

- **OpenAI** – Capacity building for students & officials; pilot AI use cases.
- **Wadhvani AI** – Oral reading fluency & support to Subhadra beneficiaries.
- **Sarvam AI** – Issue resolution in scheme delivery.
- **TCS** – Enhancing efficiency of e-File management system.

Vision 2036 Immersive AI Zone

- 360-degree experiential showcase of Odisha's AI-enabled future.
- Demonstrated AI applications in:
 - Healthcare
 - Education
 - Disaster management
 - Governance
 - Citizen services

79. Hirakud Dam Siltation – 27% Capacity Reduction

Why is in the News?

Survey shows 27% decline in reservoir capacity due to siltation; Centre's Dam Safety Act, 2021 invoked

Significance

- Affects irrigation, power generation & flood control.
- Safety risk to Asia's longest earthen dam.

Challenges

- Massive desiltation cost
- Environmental clearance issues
- Technical limitations

80. Disaster Resilience Projects

Why is in the News?

State Disaster Management Executive Committee approved key infrastructure projects; ₹391.43 crore utilised in FY 2025-26

Approved Projects

- Lightning protection initiatives
- Cyclone-resistant plantations (Puri & Chilika)
- 220 kV GIS substation at Pahal
- Forest fire prevention plan

81. Joranda Mahima Peeth Temple Development

Why is in the News?

Odisha government plans to develop a grand temple at Joranda Mahima Peeth, a key centre of Mahima Dharma.

Key Highlights

- **Religious Importance:**
 - Known as **Sunya Mandira**
 - Headquarters of **Mahima Dharma** (focus on equality & simple living)
- **Development Plan:**
 - Preserve existing shrine
 - Construct **new grand temple structure**
- **Proposed Infrastructure**
 - Akhanda Jyoti Temple
 - Bhajan Mandap & prayer hall
 - Sacred pond
 - Pilgrim accommodation & kitchen
 - Parking & beautification works

82 Padma Awards – Odisha Personalities

Why is in the News?

Four eminent personalities from Odisha had been selected for **Padma Awards 2026** for contributions in art, literature and education.

Who were the Awardees?

- **Simanchal Patro** - Folk theatre artist (*Sakhi Nata, Prahlad Natak*)
- **Charan Hembram** - Santali author & tribal cultural activist
- **Sarat Kumar Patra** - Master artisan (tie-and-dye, handloom)
- **Mahendra Kumar Mishra** - Educationist & folklorist (tribal studies)



About Padma Awards:

- India's **highest civilian honours**
- Instituted in **1954**

Categories of Padma Awards:

1. Padma Vibhushan: For **exceptional and distinguished service**
2. Padma Bhushan: For **distinguished service of high order**
3. Padma Shri: For **distinguished service in any field**

Key Features

- **Announced:** Every year on **Republic Day (26 January)**
- **Conferred by:** **President of India** at Rashtrapati Bhavan
- **Nature:**
 - Not titles (cannot be used as prefixes/suffixes)
 - Recognise **civilian achievements** (including foreigners & NRIs)

83 Pattachitra

Why is in the News?

Odisha's traditional **Pattachitra art** had been showcased at the International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM–2026).

About Pattachitra:

- Made up of two words “Patta” means cloth and “chitra” means painting
- A **traditional scroll painting** style of Odisha, dating back to around the **10th century**.
- Closely associated with **Jagannath cult of Puri**.

Key Features:

Medium & Technique:

- Painted on **cloth (treated with natural gum and chalk)**
- Uses **natural colours** derived from minerals, plants, and conch shells
- Fine brushwork using **handmade brushes (often from animal hair)**

Themes:

- Jagannath, Balabhadra, Subhadra
- Krishna Leela (Ras Leela)
- Mythological stories from **Ramayana & Mahabharata**

Style:

- Bold lines, **intricate detailing**, and **no perspective or shading**
- Decorative borders and **vibrant colours**
- **Showcasing at international platforms like IICDEM enhances India's cultural diplomacy, global awareness of indigenous art.**

84 Shri Jagannath Darshan Yojana

Why is in the News?

The Odisha government had expedited implementation of the **Shri Jagannath Darshan Yojana**, directing district collectors to ensure consent collection from beneficiaries. The scheme aimed to facilitate pilgrimage to Puri for economically weaker senior citizens and widows.

About the Scheme:

Objective:

- To enable **economically weaker senior citizens and widows** to fulfil their long-pending wish of visiting **Puri Jagannath Temple**.

Key Features:

- **Type:** Fully State-Sponsored Pilgrimage
- **Target Beneficiaries:** Senior citizens (economically weaker); Widows (all age groups)

85 Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra

Why is in the News?

Mohan Charan Majhi **paid tribute** to Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra on his birth centenary, stating that he was the “very soul of Odisha,” during an event in Bhubaneswar.

About Guru Kelucharan:

- Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra
- **Born:** 1926, Odisha
- **Field:** Indian Classical Dance – **Odissi**
- Considered the “**Father of modern Odissi dance**”

Early Life & Training:

- Started as a **Gotipua dancer** (young boys performing female roles)
- Trained in:
 - Traditional dance forms
 - **Mardala** (percussion instrument of Odissi)
 - Associated with theatre (Rasa Leela performances)

Major Contributions:

- **Revived Odissi dance** when it was declining post-independence
- Standardised:
 - Dance techniques
 - Postures (like *Tribhangi*)
 - Repertoire (items like Batu, Pallavi, Abhinaya)
- **Integrated:**
 - Mahari tradition (temple dancers)
 - Jagannath culture

86 Youth Service & Compassion Message

Why is in the News?

Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati addressed a Youth Red Cross programme, emphasising the role of youth in nation-building

Key Points

- Youth should channel energy towards **service, compassion & social responsibility**
- Highlighted role of Indian Red Cross Society in:
 - Disaster relief (cyclones, floods, pandemics)
 - Health awareness, blood donation, road safety
- Promoted ideals of **“Service before Self”**
- Praised **Youth Red Cross (YRC)** as backbone of grassroots humanitarian work
- Linked youth participation with **social harmony, moral strength & inclusive development**

87 Nari Adalat

Why is in the News?

The Odisha government **launched** the ‘Nari Adalat’ pilot project in Bhubaneswar on January 17 to ensure amicable resolution of civil, family, and dowry-related disputes at the grassroots level.

Key Features

- **Launched by:** Pravati Parida and Prithviraj Harichandan
- **Coverage:** Initially across 10 panchayats in different districts
- **Support:** Backed by Legal Service Authorities
- **Approach:** Dialogue, mediation, and community-based dispute resolution

Objectives

- Reduce **pendency of cases**
- Strengthen **access to justice at grassroots**
- Promote **legal awareness among women**
- Provide **speedy and affordable dispute resolution**

Issues Addressed

- Domestic violence
- Dowry-related disputes
- Child protection
- Property rights

Associated Initiatives

- Celebrations of National Girl Child Day under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao
- Guidelines unveiled for PALNA (Anganwadi-cum-Crèche)

Additional Developments

- Awareness campaigns across all districts
- Establishment of **PALNA centres** for childcare services
- Inauguration of infrastructure like:
 - 100-bed Utkal Balashram (Jajpur)
 - Modern kitchens in childcare institutions
- Foundation laid for **Integrated Vatsalya Sadans**

88. Two Child Norms for Panchayat Members

Why is in the News?

The Orissa High Court had **upheld the disqualification of a Gram Panchayat member** for violating the **two-child norm** under Section 25(1)(v) of the *Odisha Grama Panchayats Act, 1964*. The court rejected the petitioner's plea and confirmed that having more than two children after the cut-off date attracts disqualification.

Key Highlights of the Judgment:

- The amendment enforcing the **two-child norm came into effect on April 18, 1994**.
- The **protective clause** applied only to those who already had more than two children **before or within one year of the amendment**.
- The petitioner had additional children **after the cut-off**, hence was disqualified.
- The Court stressed that **elected representatives must set an example** in following family planning norms.

89. Pact signed for making Bhubaneswar a rabies-free city

Why is in the News?

The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation **signed** a pact with Mission Rabies India – Worldwide Veterinary Service and College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry (OUAT) to make Bhubaneswar a rabies-free city.

Key Objectives

- Strengthen **rabies prevention and control**
- Establish **evidence-based public health framework**
- Improve **animal welfare and safety**

Major Components

- **Mass vaccination** of stray dogs
- **Rapid disease response mechanisms**
- **Surveillance and diagnostics strengthening**
- Use of **data-driven planning & mobile applications**
- **Monitoring and evaluation systems**

Institutional Roles

- Mission Rabies **provided technical expertise and logistics support**
- CVS & AH (OUAT) **offered scientific validation and academic collaboration**
- BMC **handled implementation and coordination**

90. IIM Sambalpur – SC/ST Hub Collaboration

Why is in the News?

IIM Sambalpur partnered with the National SC-ST Hub under the Ministry of MSME to launch a Business Accelerator Programme for SC/ST entrepreneurs.

Key Highlights:

- **Launch Date:** 24 January
- **Objective:** Strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem for SC/ST communities.

Focus Areas:

- Business management skills
- Digital and financial literacy
- Capacity building aligned with:
 - Vikshit Bharat 2047
 - United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Participation:

- **First Cohort:** 25 participants from Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra
- **Second Cohort:** Scheduled for February 2026
 - 72-hour hybrid learning format

Significance:

- Promotes **inclusive entrepreneurship** and social justice
- Supports **MSME sector growth**
- Enhances **skill development and digital inclusion**
- Contributes to **SDGs (poverty reduction, economic growth)**

91. Mahanadi Water Dispute

Why is in the News?

Odisha government had **postponed an all-party meeting** on the Mahanadi dispute with Chhattisgarh while continuing deliberations to safeguard the river.

Key Issues in Dispute:

- Construction of **barrages by Chhattisgarh (upstream)**

Concerns over:

- Reduced **water flow to Odisha**
- Impact on **agriculture and ecology**
- Ongoing proceedings in **Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal (MWDT)**

Background of the Dispute:

- Conflict between **Odisha (downstream)** and **Chhattisgarh (upstream)**.
- Issue arose due to **construction of barrages and water diversion projects** by Chhattisgarh.
- Odisha alleged **reduced water flow**, especially during non-monsoon periods.

Legal & Institutional Framework:

- **Tribunal:** Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal (MWDT)
- Constituted under: **Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956**
- Year of constitution: **2018**
- Status: Proceedings ongoing (data collection & adjudication stage)

About Mahanadi:

- Origin: Sihawa Hills (Chhattisgarh)
- **Length:** ~851 km
- **Major Tributaries:**
 - Seonath
 - Hasdeo
 - Ib
 - Ong
- **Major Dam:** Hirakud Dam (longest earthen dam in India)
- **Drains into:** Bay of Bengal

92 Odisha CM unveils ₹891.39 crore development projects

Why is in the News?

Mohan Charan Majhi announced a major development push for Kalahandi district during the Kalahandi Ghumura Mahotsav 2026.

Major Project

- **Utei Raul Irrigation Project**
 - Cost: ₹3,325 crore
 - Approved by Union Government
 - Expected to enhance irrigation benefits for farmers

Agriculture & Farmer Welfare

- Focus on **agriculture-led growth**
- Assured **paddy procurement** for farmers
- Rising farmer registrations indicate **increased trust**
- Centre to lift **8 lakh metric tonnes of rice**

Regional Development Initiatives

- Plan to develop **Kalahandi–Nabarangpur belt** as a **cotton production cluster**
- Boost to **cash crop cultivation & farmer income**
- Industrialisation to expand beyond coastal Odisha

Governance Measures

- Announcement of **Janasunani (public grievance hearing)** in Bhawanipatna
- Focus on
 - Roads
 - Clean drinking water
 - Education & healthcare
 - Last-mile delivery

93 Matsya-Pranee Samavesh, Odisha 2026

Why is in the News?

At the state-level livestock and fisheries event, CM Mohan Charan Majhi highlighted a significant rise in milk production and initiatives to boost allied agricultural sectors.

Key Highlights

Milk Production Growth:

- Increased by **1.35 lakh litres** in the last ~1.5 years
- Driven by schemes like **Mukhyamantri Kamadhenu Yojana**

Financial Support to Farmers:

- Subsidy up to **70%** for cattle rearing
- ₹262 crore assistance to **4.73 lakh beneficiaries**

Incentives:

- ₹2 per litre incentive for milk producers (via OMFED)

Key Interventions

- Promotion of **high milk-yield cattle & buffaloes**



- Introduction of **artificial insemination with sex-sorted semen**
- Aimed at increasing **female calf births**
- Benefiting ~2.3 lakh cattle rearers

Diversification Strategy

Focus beyond crop agriculture:

- **Fisheries, poultry, goat & pig farming**
- Odisha currently ranks **4th in fish production** (aim to reach top position)

Income Enhancement

Convergence of schemes:

- PM-Kisan
- Subhadra Yojana
- Samruddhi Kisan Yojana

Result:

- Average farmer income increased to **₹61,000+ annually**

94 Krushi Odisha 2026 Conclave

Why is in the News?

The Odisha government signed a major MoA worth ₹141.5 crore to tackle drought and promote climate-resilient agriculture in vulnerable regions.

Key Highlights:

- **MoA Value:** ₹141.5 crore
- **Programme:** Odisha Agriculture Drought Mitigation Programme (OADMP)
- **Funding Sources:**
 - National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF)
 - State government support
- **Implementing Partners:**
 - ICRISAT
 - IRRI
 - CRIDA

Objectives & Approach

- Shift from **reactive disaster relief - proactive resilience model**
- Promote **climate-resilient agriculture**
- Cover vulnerable blocks:
 - Komna (Nuapada)



- Kosagumuda (Nabarangpur)
- Raruan (Mayurbhanj)
- **Direct Beneficiaries:** ~24,000 households

Key Interventions:

- Introduction of **drought-tolerant crop varieties**
- **Water recharge systems** & moisture conservation
- **Real-time digital dashboard** for monitoring (soil moisture → income levels)
- Convergence with existing schemes

95 Major Industrial Projects in Western Odisha

Why is in the News?

The Mohan Charan Majhi inaugurated and laid foundation stones for major industrial projects in Western Odisha, signalling a push for regional industrialisation.

Key Highlights:

Massive Investment Push:

- Around **₹30,000 crore** worth of **20 industrial projects**
- Locations: Sambalpur & Rourkela

Employment Generation:

- Expected to create **10,000+ jobs**
- Aims to boost livelihoods in **Western Odisha**

Industrial Momentum:

- Builds on investor meets held in Hyderabad & Kolkata
- Reflects growing investor confidence in Odisha's **policy stability**

Key Projects & Initiatives:

FRB Unit (First in India):

- Fibre Reinforced Bar plant at Hindalco's Lapanga facility
- Promotes **infrastructure innovation**

Enterprise Odisha 2026:

- To be inaugurated at Rourkela
- In collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
- Focus: Industrial growth & investment facilitation

Broader Investment Scenario



- **Approved Investments:** ₹1.28 lakh crore in Western Odisha
- **Potential Employment:** ~69,000 jobs
- Region emerging as a **preferred destination for diversified industries**

Significance:

- **Balanced Regional Development:** Reduces coastal-industrial concentration in Odisha
- **Economic Diversification:** Encourages new sectors beyond traditional mining
- **Employment & Migration:** Local job creation may reduce distress migration

Challenges:

- Land acquisition & displacement issues
- Environmental concerns in industrial zones
- Skill gap in local workforce

Way Forward:

- Strengthen **skill development programs** aligned with industries
- Ensure **sustainable & inclusive industrialisation**
- Improve **infrastructure & logistics connectivity**

96 Fisheries & Animal Husbandry Push

Why is in the News?

Governor had encouraged youth to adopt **fisheries and livestock sectors** as modern, profitable ventures.

Relevance:

- Emphasises **diversification of agriculture** beyond crop farming
- Promotes **allied sectors (fisheries, dairy, poultry)** as growth drivers
- Odisha has: Long coastline (~480 km); Abundant **rivers, reservoirs, and ponds**
- Strong potential for **marine and inland fisheries development**
- Generates **non-farm rural employment**
- Supports: Small farmers & landless households; Women and SHGs participation

Key Schemes:

- Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)
- Mukhyamantri Matsyajibi Kalyan Yojana
- Prani Sampad Samrudhi Yojana

97 Odisha Agriculture Drought Mitigation Programme (OADMP)

Why is in the News?



The state had launched OADMP under the **National Disaster Mitigation Fund**, targeting drought-prone districts like Nuapada, Nabarangpur, and Mayurbhanj.

Key Features:

- Objective: To **build climate resilience**, enhance agricultural productivity, and promote **crop diversification** in drought-affected regions.

Significance:

- Addresses **climate variability and drought risks**
- Promotes **sustainable agriculture practices**
- Supports transition from **rain-fed vulnerability**
- Targets **tribal and marginal farmers**
- Helps in **livelihood security and poverty reduction**

98. Gaur population rose to 848 in Debrigarh

Why is in the News?

The population of Gaur (Indian bison) **increased** to 848 in Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary, as per the third census conducted in January 2026, reflecting successful conservation efforts.

Key Findings

- **Total Population:** 848 gaurs
- **Increase:** +189 compared to first census (Nov 2024: 659)
- **Herds:** 69 herds recorded
- **Juveniles:** ~30% of population → indicates healthy breeding

Census Details

- Conducted using **direct count method**
- Covered entire **353 sq km sanctuary**
- Supported by:
 - 213 Pressure Impression Pads (PIPs)
 - 103 camera traps
- Six-monthly census introduced for **scientific monitoring**

Trends Observed

- Steady rise across **three censuses**
- Continuous breeding observed **throughout the year** (unlike seasonal trends elsewhere)
- High population density → among the healthiest gaur habitats in India

Reasons for Increase

- **Species-specific habitat management**

- Development of **grasslands & bamboo brakes**
- Improved **food availability (fodder species like Heteropogon, Cynodon, Themeda)**
- **Strict protection and monitoring**

About Gaur:

- **Scientific Name:** Bos gaurus
- **Type:** Largest wild cattle species in the world
- **Family:** Bovidae
- **Distribution:** Found in **India, Nepal, Bhutan, Southeast Asia**

Conservation Status

- **IUCN Status:** Vulnerable
- **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Schedule I (highest protection)
- Listed in **CITES Appendix I**

99. Bird Census 2026 – Hirakud Reservoir

Why is in the News?

The annual bird census at Hirakud Reservoir recorded a sharp rise in migratory bird numbers.

Key Highlights

- **Total Birds Spotted: 4.21 lakh+**
- **Species Count:** 128 species (including **5 new species**)
- **Survey Area:** ~5.72 sq km (power channel area near Chhattisgarh border)

Major Bird Species

- Tufted Duck (~71,273)
- Lesser Whistling Duck (~60,987)
- Common Coot (~51,665)
- **New sightings:**
 - Ruddy Crake
 - Greater Painted-snipe
 - Painted Stork
 - Little Gull
 - Sanderling

Migratory Pattern

Birds arrive from:

- Caspian Sea
- Baikal Lake

- Aral Sea
- Mongolia & Central/Southeast Asia
- Himalayas
- **Season:** November - March

100. Dolphin Census Begins in Odisha

Why is in the News?

Annual dolphin census started in Chilika Lake, India's largest brackish water lagoon.

Key Highlights

- **Duration:** 3-day exercise
- **Coverage Area:** ~1,165 sq km
- **Teams:**
 - 18 teams (5–6 members each)
 - Deployed in Satapada & Balugaon ranges
- **Method Used:**
 - Line transect method
 - Use of drones, GPS, binoculars & depth instruments

Species & Data

Major species:

- Irrawaddy dolphins (dominant)
- Bottlenose dolphins

Previous Census (2025):

- Total: 174 dolphins
- Irrawaddy: 159
- Bottlenose: 15

101 Divine East Temple Tour — IRCTC Rail-Based Spiritual Tourism

Relevance: Art and Culture

Why is in the News?

IRCTC launched 'Divine East Temple Tour' — rail-based tourism circuit

Art, Culture & Heritage

Odisha's Religious Heritage:

- Bhubaneswar = "Temple City of India" — over 700 temples; epicentre of Kalinga architecture

- **Kalinga Architecture** — distinctive style with deul (tower), jagamohana (porch), natamandira (dance hall)
- **Konark Sun Temple** — masterpiece of Kalinga architecture; depicts cosmic time through chariot wheels
- **Puri Jagannath** — syncretic deity — worshipped by Hindus, Buddhists, tribal communities
- **Dhuli** — represents India's philosophical journey from war (Kalinga) to peace (Dhamma)
- **Udayagiri-Khandagiri** — Jain heritage; predates most temple architecture in Odisha

Eastern India's Spiritual Landscape:

- Tour covers **Hindu + Buddhist + Jain** heritage — reflects India's **composite spiritual tradition**
- **Varanasi** — oldest living city; Kashi Vishwanath — recently renovated corridor
- **Dakshineswar** — Ramakrishna tradition; Kolkata's spiritual identity
- **Baidyanath Dham** — tribal-majority Jharkhand's most important pilgrimage

Economy & Tourism

Tourism as Economic Driver:

- India's tourism sector contributes ~**6.8% of GDP** (pre-COVID)
- **Spiritual/religious tourism** = fastest growing segment
- Rail-based tourism → **democratises travel** — affordable compared to flights
- ₹79,285 (3AC) for 10-day all-inclusive → accessible to middle class
- **Multiplier effect** — tourism generates income for hotels, guides, transport, handicrafts, food vendors
- Odisha's tourism potential — **underexploited** relative to its heritage wealth

IRCTC's Role:

- **Navratna PSU** — commercial autonomy to develop tourism products
- **Bharat Gaurav Trains** — flagship rail-tourism initiative
- Onboard vegetarian meals, guides, insurance → **packaged tourism model**
- Reduces individual travel complexity → increases tourist footfall

Scheme Linkages:

- **Swadesh Darshan 2.0** — thematic tourist circuits (spiritual, coastal, tribal, eco)
- **PRASHAD Scheme** — Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive
- **Dekho Apna Desh** — promote domestic tourism
- **PM Gati Shakti** — multimodal connectivity improving tourist access

Governance

- **IRCTC as Navratna** — PSU autonomy enabling commercial tourism ventures
- **UNESCO WHS protection** — Konark; state's responsibility for conservation
- **Tourism Ministry + Railway Ministry convergence** — integrated circuit tourism
- **Ramsar sites** — Chilika's inclusion drives nature-based tourism governance

SIGNIFICANCE

Cultural Significance

- Puts **Odisha on national spiritual tourism map** alongside Varanasi and Kolkata
- Highlights **Kalinga civilisation's contribution** — temples, caves, Buddhist sites
- **Konark + Puri + Bhubaneswar (Golden Triangle of Odisha)** gaining national visibility
- Dhauli — promotes **Ashoka's message of peace** — soft power of Indian history
- Connects **Jain, Buddhist, Hindu** heritage — composite cultural narrative

Economic Significance

- **Major boost to Odisha's tourism revenue** — 10-day train brings 150 tourists per trip
- Generates income for **local guides, hotels, handicraft sellers, temple town economies**
- **Chilika Lake** tourism — supports fisher community livelihoods
- Potential for **repeat tourism** — visitors discover Odisha and return independently
- Supports **Vocal for Local** — local handicrafts (pattachitra, dhokra, stone carving) gain exposure

Strategic Significance

- **Odisha featured prominently** in a national IRCTC circuit — recognition of state's heritage
- **All major Odisha UNESCO/Ramsar sites** covered — Konark + Chilika
- **Srimandir, Puri** — most important religious site; direct connection to CM's governance priorities
- Aligns with CM Majhi's "**Prosperous Odisha**" vision through heritage tourism
- Tests knowledge of: Konark, Chilika, Dhauli, Udayagiri-Khandagiri, Puri — all high-frequency OPSC GK topics

102 2nd Baitarani Literary Festival 2026

Why is in the News?

2nd Baitarani Literary Festival-2026 held at Elementary Teacher Training Institute, Fakirpur, Keonjhar district, organised in collaboration with Odisha Sahitya Akademi.

Awards conferred:

- **Baitarani Kabita Samman-2026** → Nirupama Behera
- **Baitarani Prabandh Samman-2026** → Pravat Kumar Sahu (in absentia)

BACKGROUND CONTEXT

About Baitarani River:

- One of Odisha's major rivers
- Originates in **Gonasika, Keonjhar district** — considered sacred

- **Gonasika** — where Baitarani emerges from a rock shaped like cow's nostril — important pilgrimage site
- Flows through: Keonjhar → Jajpur → drains into **Bay of Bengal** near Dhamra
- Associated with **Hindu mythology** — believed to be the river of the dead (like Vaitarani in Puranic tradition)
- Festival named after this culturally significant river

About Odisha Sahitya Akademi:

- State-level literary organisation
- Promotes **Odia literature, language, and culture**
- Gives annual awards for Odia literature
- Collaborates with district-level literary bodies

About Pala:

- Traditional **Odia folk art form**
- Narrative singing with philosophical/devotional themes
- **UNESCO recognition** being sought for Pala
- Performers called **Pala singers** — Gayadhar Nath is noted practitioner
- Relevant for **Intangible Cultural Heritage** discussions

About Keonjhar:

- Northern Odisha district
- Rich in **iron ore and mineral resources**
- Home to **Saranda forest** (partial), significant tribal population
- Famous for: **Gonasika** (origin of Baitarani), **Khandadhar waterfall** (one of India's highest waterfalls)
- Tribal communities: **Ho, Munda, Kolha, Bhuiya**

103 Heritage Makeover for Bindusagar — EKAMRA Project

Why is in the News?

Bindusagar tank near Lingaraj Temple, Bhubaneswar to be redeveloped as a 'heritage lake'

- It's a part of the **EKAMRA Kshetra Amenities and Monument Revival Action project**.

BACKGROUND — KEY SITES

Bindusagar Lake:

- Sacred tank in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**
- Believed to contain water from **all holy rivers and lakes** of India — pilgrims take ritual bath
- Surrounded by **numerous ancient temples** — at the heart of Old Town Bhubaneswar
- Lingaraj Temple overlooks Bindusagar — iconic visual
- Mentioned in **Brahma Purana** — ancient scriptural significance

- Currently faces: **Pollution, encroachment, sedimentation, poor maintenance**
- Annual **Ashokashtami festival** — Lord Lingaraj taken in procession around Bindusagar

Lingaraj Temple:

- One of the **largest and most important temples** in Odisha
- Dedicated to **Lord Tribhuvaneshwar (Shiva)** — deity of the city
- Built: **11th century CE** — **Somavamshi dynasty** period
- Architectural style: **Kalinga architecture** — classic deul + jagamohana + natamandira + bhogamandapa (4-part structure)
- Height: **55 metres (180 feet)**
- **Non-Hindus not permitted** inside — viewing platform provided (built by Lord Curzon)
- Among India's finest examples of **Nagara-style temple architecture**
- **ASI protected monument**

EKAMRA:

- Ancient name of **Bhubaneswar** — "the land of the single mango tree (Ekamra)"
- Ekamravana — forest of mango trees where Shiva resided according to Skanda Purana
- **EKAMRA project** named to evoke this ancient identity
- Aims to restore Bhubaneswar's identity as **temple city and pilgrimage hub**

104 Mukhyamantri Kanya Bibaha Yojana

Why is in the News?

CM Mohan Charan Majhi launched '**Mukhyamantri Kanya Bibaha Yojana**' at Purusottampur village, Ganjam district

About Mukhyamantri Kanya Bibaha Yojana

- **Full Name:** Mukhyamantri Kanya Bibaha Yojana
- **State:** Odisha
- **Launched by:** CM Mohan Charan Majhi
- **Launch Date:** February 3, 2026
- **Launch Venue:** Purusottampur village, **Ganjam district** (near Maa Tara Tarini Temple)
- **Type:** State Government Flagship Scheme
- **Ministry/Department:** Women & Child Development Department, Odisha
- **Budget Allocation:** ₹59 crore for FY 2025-26

OBJECTIVE

- Provide financial assistance for **mass marriage of women from poor/BPL families**
- Ensure **dignified marriage** without financial burden on poor families
- **Prevent child marriages** by supporting legal-age marriages
- **Reduce dowry burden** through collective wedding ceremonies
- Promote **women's financial autonomy** through direct bank transfer
- Eliminate social stigma of daughters being seen as a **financial burden**



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- **Amount:** ₹35,000 per woman beneficiary
- **Mode of Transfer:** Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)
- **Account:** Transferred directly to the **woman's own bank account**
- **When:** At the time of the mass wedding ceremony

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

For the Bride (Woman):

- Age: **18 to 35 years**
- Must belong to a **poor/BPL family**
- Must be an **Odisha resident**
- Must have a **bank account** (for DBT)
- Marriage must be conducted at an **official mass wedding event**

For the Groom (Man):

- Age: **21 to 35 years**
- Must be an **Odisha resident**

General Conditions:

- Marriage must be a **first marriage** (intended for unmarried individuals)
- Must comply with **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006**
- Couple must participate in the **government-organised mass wedding ceremony**
- Valid **identity documents** required (Aadhaar, residence proof)

KEY FEATURES

- **Mass Wedding Model** — multiple couples married together in one organised ceremony reducing per-wedding costs dramatically
- **DBT-linked** — ₹35,000 goes directly to woman's account, not family — ensures **women's financial agency**
- **Age-compliant** — strictly follows legal marriage age (18 for women, 21 for men)
- **Flagship scheme** — given priority status by new BJP government in Odisha
- **Culturally rooted launch** — inaugural ceremony held near **Maa Tara Tarini Shakti Peetha** — symbolic of female empowerment
- **Targets BPL families** — ensures only economically vulnerable benefit
- **Transparent delivery** — DBT reduces middlemen and leakage
- **Dignity-focused** — CM's emphasis: *"No poor man will consider his daughter a burden"*

105 Mahanadi Water Dispute — Odisha Urges Centre to Mediate

Why is in the News?

Odisha government urged Centre to act as **mediator** in Mahanadi water dispute with **Chhattisgarh**

About Mahanadi River:

- Total length: **858 km**
- Origin: **Sihawa hills, Chhattisgarh** (Dhamtari district)
- Flows through: Chhattisgarh → Odisha → Bay of Bengal
- Major tributaries: Seonath, Hasdeo, Mand, Ib, Ong, Tel
- Major dams: **Hirakud Dam** (Odisha) — Asia's longest earthen dam; **Gangrel Dam** (Chhattisgarh)
- Drains into: **Bay of Bengal** near Paradip
- Basin states: Primarily **Odisha and Chhattisgarh**; small portions in Jharkhand, Maharashtra, MP

106 Odisha Appoints Special Officer in Kotia Amid Border Dispute

Why is in the News?

Odisha government appointed **Sourav Kumar Das** as **Leave Reserve Officer (LRO)** at Koraput Collectorate with **special focus on Kotia**

BACKGROUND — KOTIA DISPUTE

- **Kotia** — cluster of **28 villages** (21 revenue villages + 7 forest villages) in **Koraput district, Odisha**
- Located on **Odisha-Andhra Pradesh border**
- **Both Odisha and AP claim** these villages as part of their territory
- Dispute ongoing for **decades** — unresolved since reorganisation of states
- AP's claim: Villages fall under **Pottangi block of Koraput** but AP claims administrative jurisdiction
- Odisha's position: Kotia villages are part of **Odisha** as per Survey of India maps and revenue records
- AP regularly conducts **elections, distributes welfare schemes** in Kotia — parallel administration
- Odisha also holds **gram panchayat elections** in Kotia
- **Kotia Panchayat** — elected body that both states claim
- Population: Predominantly **tribal** — Kondhs and other ST communities
- Strategic importance: **Forest resources, tribal population, border security**
- Previous incidents: AP distributing **ration cards, Aadhaar, welfare benefits** to Kotia residents — Odisha protests
- Matter pending before **Supreme Court** and inter-state boundary commission

107 'Operation Anweshan' – Rescue of Missing Women & Minors

Why is in the News?

413 missing women were rescued by Odisha police under Operation Anweshan'

Special search & rescue drive conducted across **Ganjam district, Odisha**

Key Highlights from the News:



- **Total rescued were 349 women, 58 girls and 6 boys.**
- Missing Persons in India:

Governed under:

- **Indian Penal Code (IPC)** provisions (kidnapping, trafficking)
- Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015

Key Portal:

- TrackChild Portal (Ministry of Women and Child Development)

Important Schemes/Initiatives:

- Operation Smile and Operation Mushkaan both focus on tracing missing children combating tracking

Significance:

- **Protection of Vulnerable Groups:**
 - Women & children are most vulnerable to trafficking, forced labour, sexual exploitation
- **Effective policing model:**
 - Coordinated district-level action
 - Use of local intelligence and inter-police station coordination
- **Social Impact:**
 - Reintegration with families and restoration of dignity and security

108. Bal Vivah Mukti Rath — Odisha's Anti-Child Marriage Campaign

Why is in the News?

Odisha Legislative Assembly Speaker Surama Padhy flagged off '**Bal Vivah Mukti Rath**' from Bhubaneswar

BACKGROUND CONTEXT

- **Child marriage** = marriage below legal age (18 for girls, 21 for boys)
- Governed by **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA) 2006**
- **Child Marriage (Prohibition) Amendment Bill 2021** — proposed raising girls' age to 21 — still pending
- **NFHS-5 (2019-21):** National child marriage rate = **23.3%**; Odisha = 20.5%
- **High prevalence districts in Odisha:** Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nuapada — tribal districts
- **Global context:** India has world's largest number of child brides — **UNICEF data**
- **Sustainable Development Goal 5.3** — eliminate child marriage by 2030
- **Just Rights for Children (JRC)** — NGO working on child rights nationally

Child Marriage as Social Issue:

- Deep-rooted in **patriarchy, poverty, social norms, insecurity**
- Particularly prevalent in **tribal and rural communities** — Odisha's high-prevalence districts are all tribal
- **Girls disproportionately affected** — drops out of school, loses career opportunities
- Leads to **early pregnancy** → maternal mortality, infant mortality
- **Intergenerational poverty cycle** — child bride → poor mother → poor children
- **Social pressure** — parents fear for girl's safety; see marriage as protection

Cultural Dimensions:

- In tribal communities, marriage linked to **land, bride price, community acceptance**
- **'Dhan' (bride price) system** vs dowry — both drive early marriage in different communities
- **Nukkad nataks and cultural programmes** — using art to change social norms (mentioned in article)
- **Survivors' stories** — lived experience as most powerful awareness tool

Legal Framework:

- **PCMA 2006** → child marriage is voidable (not void) — loophole that perpetuates the practice
- **Amendment Bill 2021** — making marriages void + raising age to 21 — significant reform pending
- **Child Marriage Prohibition Officers** appointed at Panchayat level → **decentralised enforcement**
- School headmasters as **Child Marriage Information Officers** → early warning system
- Discussion in **Legislative Assembly** assured → **parliamentary accountability**

Institutional Mechanisms:

- **OSPCRCR** — oversight body ensuring child rights compliance
- **NCPCR + SCPCR network** — national-state coordination
- 100-day Central campaign → **Centre-State convergence** in child welfare
- **Mukhyamantri Kanya Bibaha Yojana** — financial incentive for legal-age marriages (₹75,000) → demand-side intervention

109. Odisha Launches MDA Programme for Lymphatic Filariasis Elimination

Why is in the News?

H&FW Minister **Mukesh Mahaling** launched **Mass Drug Administration (MDA)** programme in **5 districts**

It aimed at accelerating elimination of **Lymphatic Filariasis**

About Lymphatic Filariasis (LF):

- Caused by parasitic worms — *Wuchereria bancrofti* (most common), *Brugia malayi*, *Brugia timori*
- Transmitted by *Culex* mosquitoes



- Leads to: Lymphoedema (swelling of limbs), Hydrocele, Elephantiasis
- Causes long-term disability — second leading cause of disability globally (WHO)
- Endemic in tropical and subtropical regions
- India accounts for ~40% of global LF burden

National Elimination Programme:

- National Filariasis Control Programme started 1955
- Accelerated Plan for Elimination of LF (APELF) — current framework
- Target: Eliminate LF as public health problem by 2027 (India's revised target)
- WHO Global Programme to Eliminate LF (GPELF) — target 2030 globally
- MDA strategy — annual drug administration to entire at-risk population

SIGNIFICANCE

Public Health Significance

- Odisha moving from **endemic state to near-elimination** — massive public health achievement
- **7.4 lakh people** covered in this round alone — scale of intervention
- Elimination means **zero new LF cases** — ending a disease that causes permanent disability
- **Kandhamal's 5-round TAS-1** — shows even resource-poor tribal districts can achieve elimination with focused effort
- Reduces **catastrophic healthcare costs** for poor families with disabled members

Governance Significance

- **Best Practice recognition** by Centre → Odisha's health governance acknowledged nationally
- **2,200 drug administrators** → building last-mile health infrastructure
- Integration of LF elimination with **Viksit Odisha** vision → health as development priority
- Supervised drug administration → **accountability at grassroots level**
- From 349 IUs to 7 in ~3 years → **rapid programme scale-down** showing effectiveness

Social Significance

- LF causes **stigma** — especially hydrocele in men and lymphoedema in women
- Elimination removes **social exclusion** of disabled persons
- **Tribal districts** (Koraput, Malkangiri) achieving TAS-3 → health equity improving
- Addresses **disability burden** — LF is leading cause of disability after mental illness globally
- Women especially affected — lymphoedema prevents work → economic empowerment link

Strategic Significance (India's Global Standing)

- India's **2027 elimination target** (vs WHO's 2030) → **leadership in NTD elimination**
- Odisha as best practice → feeds into India's **global health diplomacy** narrative
- Links to India's commitment under **WHO GPELF**
- Successful elimination → India can be **certified LF-free** — global health milestone

110. Viability Gap Funding

Why is in the News?

Odisha cabinet recently approved **Continuation of Viability Gap Funding (VGF)** for select international air routes from Bhubaneswar.

What is VGF?

- **Viability Gap Funding (VGF)** = Financial support provided by the government to make **economically unviable but socially/strategically important projects viable**.
- Mostly used in **PPP (Public-Private Partnership) projects**.

Important Terms:

- **B-MAAN Scheme:** State-level aviation support mechanism (Odisha)
- **Route viability** depends on:
 - Passenger load factor
 - Operational cost vs revenue

111. New Project in Rayagarha

Why is in the News?

CM Mohan Charan Majhi launched ₹600-crore development projects in **Rayagada, Odisha** (Feb 2), at the *Subhadra Shakti Mela*. Key announcements include 22 projects worth ₹238 crore inaugurated, foundation stones for 87 projects worth ₹366 crore, 80% job reservation for local youth in new industries, a proposed medical college, and ₹200 crore in SHG loans for 2025–26.

ABOUT RAYAGADA

- Located in southern Odisha; became a separate district in October 1992
- Tribal population: 57.52% — predominantly Khonds and Soras
- Named among India's 250 most backward districts (Ministry of Panchayati Raj, 2006)
- Receives aid under Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF)
- Rich in bauxite (600+ million tonnes), graphite, manganese, china clay
- Primary economy: rainfed agriculture — paddy, ragi, maize, groundnut
- One of the 9 original districts under Odisha's Special Development Council (SDC), est. 2017

112. Budget allocation for Odisha's railway sector

Why is in the News?

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced **₹10,928 crore** allocated for Odisha's railway sector in **Union Budget 2026-27**, with total railway investment in Odisha set to cross **₹1 lakh crore** soon.

Key Facts:

- Railway projects worth **₹90,659 crore** under progress in Odisha
- Previous UPA allocation (2009–14): avg **₹838 crore/year** → current allocation is **13 times higher**
- **2,200 km** of new railway tracks built in Odisha in last 11 years → exceeds Malaysia's total railway network
- **6 pairs of Vande Bharat Express** and **6 pairs of Amrit Bharat Express** operational in Odisha
- **59 stations** identified for redevelopment under **Amrit Station Scheme** — cost **₹2,439 crore**
- Work completed at 6 stations: Cuttack, Baripada, Barpali, Bimlagarh, Paralakhemundi, Talcher
- **AI-based thermal cameras** on railway tracks to detect and prevent elephant collisions — launch in 6 months

About East Coast Railway (ECoR)

- Headquarters: **Bhubaneswar**
- Covers Odisha, parts of Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh
- Key zones: Khurda Road, Sambalpur, Visakhapatnam divisions
- Strategically important for **port connectivity** (Paradip, Gopalpur, Dhamra ports)
- Connects mineral-rich hinterland to coastal export points

Significance:

Economic Significance

- Total investment crossing **₹1 lakh crore** transforms Odisha into a **railway infrastructure powerhouse**
- Freight corridor boosts **industrial and commercial activity** — especially steel, mining, and manufacturing sectors
- Station redevelopment (₹2,439 cr) generates **real estate, tourism, and employment** around railway hubs
- Better connectivity reduces **logistics cost for Odisha's industries** — improves competitiveness

Connectivity Significance

- **2,200 km new tracks** links remote tribal and mineral-rich districts to markets
- East-West Freight Corridor gives Odisha access to **Gujarat's ports and Maharashtra's markets**
- Improved connectivity for **Paradip port** — India's largest port by cargo volume
- Passenger trains (Vande Bharat, Amrit Bharat) improve **inter-city mobility** for common people

Social Significance

- Better rail connectivity to tribal districts → **reduces isolation, improves access to healthcare and education**
- Station redevelopment → **urban regeneration** around railway hubs
- Employment generation through both construction and operations
- Amrit Bharat (non-AC, affordable) → **inclusive transport** for lower-income groups

Environmental Significance

- **AI thermal cameras** → innovative solution to **human-elephant conflict** — a growing crisis in Odisha, Jharkhand, WB corridor
- **200 underpasses** nationally → maintains **wildlife corridors** and reduces habitat fragmentation
- Freight corridor shifts cargo from road to rail → **lower emissions per tonne-km**
- Reduced road traffic → fewer accidents, less highway expansion into forests

113. Odisha Renewable Energy Investor Conclave 2026

Why is in the News?

Odisha Renewable Energy Investor Conclave-2026 held in Bhubaneswar organised by Energy Department, Odisha in collaboration with **GRIDCO** limited.

BACKGROUND CONTEXT

Odisha's Energy Profile:

- Odisha = **mineral and energy-rich state** — coal, hydro, solar, wind potential
- Major existing power: **Hirakud HEP, OPGC thermal, NTPC Kaniha**
- State has significant **solar irradiation** potential — especially western Odisha
- **Coastline** (480 km) → offshore wind potential
- **Rivers and reservoirs** → pumped storage hydro potential
- **GRIDCO** — Grid Corporation of Odisha; state power transmission and bulk supply company
- Odisha has moved from **power deficit to power surplus** in recent years

India's RE Targets:

- India's target: **500 GW non-fossil capacity by 2030** (NDC commitment)
- Current installed RE capacity: **~200 GW** (2024-25)
- **Net Zero by 2070** — India's long-term climate target
- **Green Hydrogen Mission** — 5 MMT by 2030

GRIDCO

- **NHPC, BPCL, NEEPCO** — PSU knowledge essential
- Odisha's **power sector transformation** — from deficit to surplus to RE hub
- **Hirakud Dam** reservoir potential for floating solar
- Links to Odisha's **industrial policy and investment attraction**

Challenges:

- **MoU to ground-level execution** gap — many investment MoUs don't materialise
- **Land acquisition** for large RE projects — tribal land rights (PESA, FRA)
- **Transmission infrastructure** — 6.8 GW needs massive grid upgradation
- **Coal dependency** — Odisha economy deeply tied to coal; transition must be managed
- **Ecological concerns** — large solar farms affect land use, biodiversity
- **Intermittency** — even with PSP, full RE transition needs more storage

114. Odisha Economic Survey 2025-26 — Outpaces National Growth

Why is in the News?

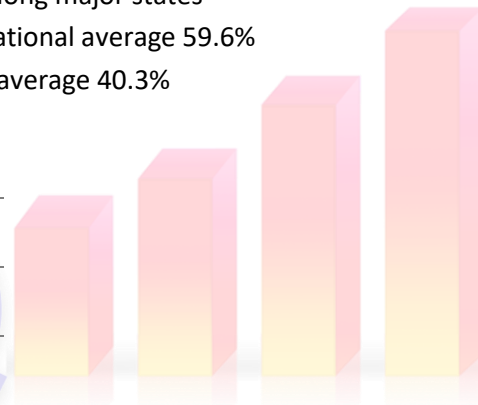
Odisha Economic Survey 2025-26 tabled in Assembly

Key highlights:

- GSDP (current prices): ₹9.9 lakh crore in 2025-26
- GSDP growth: 9.5% over previous year (₹9 lakh crore in 2024-25)
- Real GSDP growth: 7.9% in 2025-26 vs 7.2% previous year
- National average GDP growth: 7.4% — Odisha outpaces it at 7.9%
- Per capita income: ₹1,86,761 (2025-26 AE) — up 9.2%
- National per capita income growth: 6.9% — Odisha again higher
- Debt-to-GSDP ratio: 13.6% — lowest among major states
- Well below FRBM limit of 25% — strong fiscal health
- Capital outlay-to-GSDP ratio: 6.6% — highest among major states
- LFPR: 64.5% (2024) — up from 58.1% in 2022; national average 59.6%
- Female LFPR: 48.7% — up from 37.6%; national average 40.3%

KEY ECONOMIC DATA — QUICK REFERENCE

Indicator	Odisha	National
Real GSDP Growth	7.9%	7.4%
Per Capita Income Growth	9.2%	6.9%
Per Capita Income	₹1,86,761	—
Agriculture share in GSDP	19.6%	16.8%
Agriculture growth	5.3%	3.1%
Industry share (GSVA)	41.3%	—
Manufacturing growth	8.3%	7% (nat. avg)
Services share (GSVA)	39.1%	—
Services growth	9.3%	—
Financial services growth	11.9%	—
LFPR (2024)	64.5%	59.6%
Female LFPR	48.7%	40.3%



Debt-to-GSDP ratio	13.6%	—
Capital outlay-to-GSDP	6.6%	—

BACKGROUND CONTEXT

About Economic Survey:

- Tabled **before the Budget** in Assembly
- Reviews economic performance of the state
- Prepared by: **Planning & Convergence Department, Odisha**
- National equivalent: **Economic Survey** by DEA (Dept of Economic Affairs), Ministry of Finance
- **AE** = Advance Estimate; **PE** = Provisional Estimate; **FE** = First Revised Estimate

About GSDP:

- **Gross State Domestic Product** = state-level equivalent of GDP
- Measures total value of goods/services produced in a state
- **Nominal GSDP** = at current prices (includes inflation)
- **Real GSDP** = at constant prices (inflation-adjusted — true growth)

FRBM Act:

- **Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act 2003**
- Sets fiscal discipline norms for Centre and states
- State debt-to-GSDP limit: **25%** (FRBM)
- Odisha at 13.6% = **well within limits** = strong fiscal position

Macroeconomic Performance:

- Odisha's 7.9% real growth > 7.4% national = state outperforming India's economy
- Convergence theory — poorer regions growing faster than richer ones → reducing inequality
- Odisha = historically backward state → high growth from low base → convergence happening
- Per capita income gap with national average narrowing — important equity indicator
- All sectors growing simultaneously = balanced, not just resource-driven growth

Sectoral Analysis:

Agriculture (19.6% of GSDP):

- Higher share than national (16.8%) → Odisha still relatively agrarian economy
- 5.3% agricultural growth vs national 3.1% = exceptional agricultural performance
- Driven by: Irrigation expansion (Hirakud), crop diversification, SHG credit, CRFM
- Higher agriculture share = more inclusive growth — benefits rural/tribal population

Industry (41.3% of GSVA):

- Manufacturing growth 8.3% > national 7% → industrial transformation



- Driven by: Steel (JSPL, TATA, Rourkela), aluminium (NALCO, Vedanta), mining, cement
- RE Investor Conclave ₹67,000 crore → future industrial growth driver
- Paradip port expansion → logistics and industrial growth

Services (39.1% of GSVA):

- 9.3% growth — fastest growing sector
- Financial services 11.9% → fintech, banking penetration in tribal/rural areas
- AI, GCC, semiconductor policies → future services growth
- Bhubaneswar emerging as IT and services hub

Fiscal Management:

- Debt-to-GSDP 13.6% = best fiscal discipline among major states
- Capital outlay 6.6% of GSDP = highest among major states → infrastructure investment priority
- This combination = sustainable growth model: investing heavily while keeping debt low
- Compared to many states with 30%+ debt-to-GSDP — Odisha's fiscal prudence is exemplary
- FRBM compliance → can borrow more for capital investment if needed
- Links to fiscal federalism — well-managed states attract more Central funds

Employment:

- LFPR 64.5% vs national 59.6% → more people working in Odisha
- Female LFPR 48.7% vs national 40.3% → women's economic participation significantly above average
- Female LFPR jumped from 37.6% to 48.7% in 2 years = rapid feminisation of workforce
- Driven by: SHG model, MGNREGS, agriculture employment, rural women's schemes
- Links to demographic dividend — Odisha harnessing its working-age population

115. Odisha Budget 2026-27 — ₹3,10,000 Crore

Why is in the News?

CM Mohan Charan Majhi presented **Odisha Annual Budget 2026-27**

- Total outlay: **₹3,10,000 crore** — first time exceeding ₹3 lakh crore
- Branded as: "**Lokanka Unnati, Rajyara Pragati**" (People's Progress, State's Development)

Structured around 6 pillars:

1. People First
2. Rural Empowerment
3. Prosperity for All
4. Our Legacy Our Pride
5. Technology Leading the Way

6. People-Centric Governance

KEY BUDGET PROPOSALS

Marquee Projects

- ₹1,000 crore — Jagannath Interpretation Centre, Puri + World Tourism Centre
- Odisha Mandap Convention Centre — Bhubaneswar
- Odisha Museum (state-of-the-art)
- Police Memorial
- New government buildings in Bhubaneswar

Women & Girls

- Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangal Yojana — ₹1,00,001 to girls from economically weaker families upon graduation
- ₹20,000 grant at birth for girls from poor families
- Digital Hundi — SAMARPAN — online temple donation platform

Social Welfare

- Madhubabu Pension Yojana expanded — 6 lakh additional citizens
- Samruddha Anganwadi Yojana — anganwadi modernisation
- Viksit Bharat — Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission

Education

- ₹42,565 crore for education — significant allocation
- 4 new universities: Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur, Bhadrak, Jharsuguda
- Specialised colleges: Engineering, Agriculture, Veterinary, Fisheries, Ayurvedic, Homeopathy

Urban & Connectivity

- Mukhyamantri Smart City Mission
- 3 major expressways:
 - Berhampur-Jeypore Road
 - NaMo Expressway
 - Atal Expressway — East-West + North-South corridors
- Bhubaneswar urban transformation

Technology & Innovation

- ₹23 crore AI Mission
- ₹100 crore Smart City funds
- Dakshyata Vikas Yojana — skill development
- Rare Earth Corridor
- Odisha AI Mission

Agriculture & Rural

- **Rare Earth Corridor** — mineral + agricultural synergy
- Rural development through multiple schemes

116. NGT Directs Bolangir Administration to Curb Illegal Tree Felling

Why is in the News?

NGT's Eastern Zone Bench (Kolkata) directed **Bolangir district administration, Forest & Environment Department, and SPCB (Odisha)** to take proactive steps against **indiscriminate tree felling** in Bolangir district, following a PIL by RTI activist **Hemant Kumar Panda**.

Key Facts from the Article

- NGT order passed: **January 30, 2026**
- PIL No.: **113/2025/EZ** — filed by Bolangir-based RTI activist Hemant Kumar Panda
- NGT Bench: **Judicial Member Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi + Environmental Expert Ishwar Singh**
- Directed: Bolangir Collector, Divisional Forest Officer, Secretary SPCB → **act with vigilance**
- **4.45 lakh trees** felled in Bolangir district over **past 5 years** for various projects
- Of these, **15,000+ trees** felled solely for **road widening projects**

About Bolangir District

- Located in **western Odisha**
- Part of the **KBK region** (Koraput-Bolangir-Kalahandi) — historically underdeveloped
- Prone to **drought and distress migration**
- Significant forest cover — felling impacts already fragile ecology
- Part of **elephant corridor** regions of Odisha
- Known for **road infrastructure expansion** under various state and central schemes

SIGNIFICANCE

Environmental Significance

- **4.45 lakh trees** = massive carbon sink loss for one district alone
- Loss of **neem, peepal, banyan** — keystone species for birds, insects, and microclimate
- Soil erosion from deforested roadsides → **land degradation** → links to UN LDN (Land Degradation Neutrality) goals
- Biodiversity collapse in an already stressed KBK ecosystem
- Sets precedent for **NGT monitoring tree felling at district level** across India

Legal & Institutional Significance

- NGT's proactive direction to district-level officials → **strengthens environmental rule of law**
- RTI + PIL combination → powerful **citizen-led accountability model**
- Could trigger **similar PILs across Odisha and India** for road-widening tree felling
- Tests whether **CAMPA funds** were actually used for compensatory plantation

- Reinforces **Precautionary Principle** — develop only after proper environmental scrutiny

Governance Significance

- Exposes gap between **development project approval** and **on-ground environmental compliance**
- District administration bypassing **Tree Preservation Orders** and EIA norms
- NGT order forces **SPCB to be proactive** — not just reactive to complaints
- Highlights need for **Green District Development Plans**

117. Odisha Records 765 Dolphins — 5-Year High

Why is in the News?

765 dolphins spotted along **Odisha coast + Chilika Lake** — 5-year high

SPECIES-WISE BREAKDOWN — 2026 CENSUS

Species	2026 Count	2025 Count
Irrawaddy Dolphins	208	188
Humpback Dolphins	495	498
Bottlenose Dolphins	55	16
Spinner Dolphins	3	8
Finless Porpoises	2	—
Total	765	710

Location	Count/Detail
Chilika Lake	159 Irrawaddy + 16 humpback dolphins
Bhitarkanika Marine Sanctuary	9 Irrawaddy dolphins
Puri Wildlife Division	12
Berhampur Division	13
Balasore Wildlife Division	15
Berhampur Division (Irrawaddy)	13 (was 0 last year — now 13)

About the Species:

Irrawaddy Dolphin:

- Scientific name: *Orcaella brevirostris*
- Schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act 1972
- IUCN Red List: Endangered
- Found in: Coastal waters, rivers, estuaries of South and Southeast Asia
- Chilika Lake = largest single population globally (159)
- Also found in: Irrawaddy River (Myanmar), Mekong, Mahakam rivers
- National Aquatic Animal of Myanmar
- Known for: Cooperative fishing with local fishermen — unique behaviour

Humpback Dolphin (Indo-Pacific):

- Scientific name: *Sousa chinensis*
- Schedule I, WPA 1972
- IUCN: Vulnerable
- Most abundant dolphin species in Odisha coast (495)

Bottlenose Dolphin:

- Scientific name: *Tursiops truncatus*
- Most well-known and studied dolphin species
- IUCN: Least Concern
- Significant increase: 16 → 55 in one year

Spinner Dolphin:

- Scientific name: *Stenella longirostris*
- Known for spinning leaps out of water

Finless Porpoise:

- Rare sighting; Schedule I WPA 1972

About Chilika Lake:

- Asia's largest brackish water lagoon — 1,100 sq km
- India's first Ramsar site (1981)
- Odisha; Puri, Khurda, Ganjam districts
- Unique ecosystem: freshwater + saltwater mixing
- Supports: Dolphins, migratory birds, fish, crustaceans
- Chilika Development Authority (CDA) manages it

About Bhitarkanika:

- Ramsar site (2002)
- Famous for: Saltwater crocodiles, Olive Ridley turtles, mangroves

- Also a National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary

118. Malkangiri Declared 'Naxal-Free' — Counter-LWE Success

Why is in the News?

Recently Malkangiri district of Odisha declared as 'Naxal-Free'

Background:

- **Malkangiri** — southernmost district of Odisha; borders **Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh**
- Part of the "**Red Corridor**" — stretch of Maoist-affected districts from Nepal border to Andhra Pradesh
- Previously called "**Mini Bastar**" of Odisha — dense forests, tribal population, poor connectivity
- Home to **Bonda tribe** — one of India's most isolated PVTGs
- CPI (Maoist) formed in **2004** — merger of PWG and MCC
- Peak Maoist influence in Odisha: **21 out of 30 districts** affected
- **Balimela reservoir area** in Malkangiri — notorious for Maoist hideouts ("Swabhiman Anchal")
- Government strategy: **SAMADHAN doctrine + Aspirational Districts Programme** targeting LWE areas

Counter-LWE Strategy (SAMADHAN):

Nature of LWE/Naxalism:

- Naxalism = armed insurgency exploiting tribal grievances — land alienation, forest rights denial, poverty, state neglect
- CPI (Maoist) uses guerrilla warfare tactics in forested terrain
- Maoist organisational hierarchy: Central Committee → State Committee → Regional Committee → Area Committee → Local Guerrilla Squad
- Sukhrum Markam as area committee member = mid-level operational leader — significant surrender

Counter-LWE Strategy (SAMADHAN):

- S — Smart Leadership
- A — Aggressive strategy with initiative
- M — Motivation and training
- A — Actionable intelligence
- D — Dashboard-based KPIs
- H — Harnessing technology
- A — Action plan for each theatre
- N — No access to financing/supply chain

Security Measures that worked in Malkangiri:

- Sustained police + CRPF operations
- Surrender policy — incentivised by rehabilitation packages
- Road connectivity into formerly cut-off areas (Swabhiman Anchal)
- Intelligence-based operations targeting leadership
- Inter-state coordination — Odisha-Chhattisgarh joint operations

Decline of Red Corridor:

- Peak: 2010 — 96 districts in 10 states affected
- 2024-26: Reduced to ~30-35 districts in 6 states
- States achieving Maoist-free status: Parts of Odisha, Jharkhand, AP showing results
- Andhra Pradesh model — most successful in eliminating Maoism through surrenders + development

SIGNIFICANCE

Security Significance

- Malkangiri was **origin point** of Odisha's Maoist spread to 21 districts — its liberation is symbolically and operationally massive
- Back-to-back with **Nabrangpur going Maoist-free** — suggests **systematic district-by-district clearing**
- Reduces Maoist **safe havens and supply corridors** in southern Odisha
- Weakens **Odisha-Chhattisgarh Maoist corridor** — critical supply and movement route
- **Area committee leader surrender** disrupts mid-level command structure

Strategic Significance

- Malkangiri bordered **3 states** (Chhattisgarh, Telangana, AP) — its liberation secures a **tri-junction strategic point**
- Improves **security force mobility** in previously inaccessible terrain
- Enables **faster development project execution** without Maoist threat
- Reduces **extortion of contractors** — development projects can now proceed freely

Developmental Significance

- Opens Malkangiri for **accelerated infrastructure investment**
- **Tribal communities** (including Bonda PVTG) can now access government schemes freely
- **Balimela reservoir area** (Swabhiman Anchal) — fully accessible now for development
- Tourism potential of **Bonda hills, Chitrakonda reservoir** can now be unlocked

Political & Governance Significance

- Major achievement for **Odisha's new BJP government** under CM Majhi
- Validates **SAMADHAN doctrine** of MHA under Centre's counter-LWE policy

- Shows **continuity of security strategy** across BJD-BJP government transition in Odisha
- National benchmark — **Odisha becoming a model** for LWE elimination
- Strengthens case for **removing districts from LWE list** → unlocks additional development funding

Constitutional Significance

- Restores **rule of law** in areas where parallel Maoist governance existed
- Enables implementation of **Article 21** (right to life) for tribal communities living under Maoist terror
- Allows **free and fair elections** and **Panchayati Raj** in previously Maoist-controlled areas
- **PESA + FRA** can now be properly implemented without Maoist interference

119. Koraput Declared 'Naxal-Free' — 4th District Under South-Western Range

Why is in the News?

Koraput district, Odisha declared "Naxal-free"

- Trigger: Surrender of **Mamata Podiami (26)** — Area Committee Member (ACM) of banned **CPI (Maoist)**
- Also known as: **Mamita and Soni**; native of **Bijapur district, Chhattisgarh**
- **Koraput = 4th district** under South-Western Police Range declared Maoist-free

BACKGROUND — KORAPUT & AOB REGION

- Koraput — southernmost Odisha; borders **Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana**
- Part of **KBK region** (Koraput-Bolangir-Kalahandi) — historically underdeveloped
- **Andhra-Odisha Border (AOB)** — one of the most active Maoist zones in India
- AOB military platoon = **dedicated armed wing** of Maoists for cross-border operations
- **2009 Damanjodi attack** — rebels laid siege to Damanjodi town (mentioned in article)
- Damanjodi: Home to **NALCO** (National Aluminium Company) — strategic industrial target
- Koraput has large **tribal population** — Kondhs, Koyas, Bondas — historically exploited
- **Jeypore** — major town in Koraput; SDPO mentioned in article

SIGNIFICANCE

Strategic Security Significance

- Koraput = **4th consecutive district** in South-Western Range going Naxal-free
- **South-Western Range now entirely Naxal-free** (Malkangiri + Nuapada + Nabarangpur + Koraput)
- Effectively **eliminates Odisha's contribution to AOB corridor**
- Forces remaining Maoists to **retreat deeper into Chhattisgarh/AP**
- **NALCO, Damanjodi** — strategic aluminium complex — now fully secure
- Reduces **extortion of mining and infrastructure companies** in Koraput

Cascading Effect

- **4 districts in quick succession** → shows **systematic, coordinated clearing operation**
- Creates **domino effect** — demoralises remaining cadres
- DGP's public appeal → **psychological pressure** on remaining Maoists
- Validates Odisha as a **national model** for LWE elimination

Developmental Unlocking

- Koraput — rich in **bauxite, chromite, iron ore** — mining can now expand safely
- **Tourism potential** (Koraput's tribal culture, Deomali peak — Odisha's highest) now accessible
- **Infrastructure projects** (roads, bridges, schools) can proceed without Maoist extortion
- **FRA and PESA** implementation now possible without Maoist interference in gram sabhas

Women-Specific Significance

- First high-profile **woman Maoist ACM** to surrender in Odisha recently
- Rehabilitation package extended equally → **gender-neutral reintegration policy**
- Her case can be used as **role model** to encourage other women cadres to surrender
- Highlights need for **gender-sensitive rehabilitation** addressing specific vulnerabilities of women ex-cadres.

120. Odisha-ARF Pact for AI-Driven Urban Governance

Why is in the News?

Odisha's **Housing & Urban Development (H&UD) department** signed pact with **IIT-Kanpur's AIRAWAT Research Foundation (ARF)**

BACKGROUND

AIRAWAT:

- AI Research, Analytics and Knowledge Assimilation Platform
- India's national AI supercomputing infrastructure
- Developed under National AI Mission (NAIM)
- Located at C-DAC, Pune
- Provides computing power for AI research across India
- IIT-Kanpur's ARF is linked to this broader AI ecosystem

AI in Urban Governance:

- National AI Strategy (NITI Aayog, 2018) — AI for All; focus areas include smart cities
- IndiaAI Mission (2024) — ₹10,371 crore; 5-year national AI push
- Smart Cities Mission — uses AI for traffic, waste, water management
- Digital India — foundation for AI-driven governance
- India ranked 5th globally in AI readiness (Government AI Readiness Index)

SIGNIFICANCE

Governance Significance

- **First dedicated AI-PMU in an Indian state H&UD department** — institutional innovation
- Moves beyond **pilot projects** to **systematic AI integration** in urban governance
- **IIT-Kanpur partnership** → world-class academic expertise in public service
- Creates **template for other states** — AI governance institutionalisation model
- Addresses the gap between AI **policy announcements** and **on-ground implementation**
- Strengthens **evidence-based urban planning** in Odisha

Technological Significance

- **AIRAWAT ecosystem** connection → Odisha plugging into India's national AI infrastructure
- **AI-PMU** as knowledge hub → avoids reinventing the wheel for each department
- **Standards development** → ensures AI solutions are interoperable across Odisha's ULBs
- **Scalable solutions** — what works in Bhubaneswar can be replicated in Cuttack, Sambalpur
- Links to India's vision of becoming a **global AI hub**

Urban Development Significance

- Odisha's rapidly urbanising cities (Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Rourkela) need **smart governance**
- AI-driven urban management → better **quality of life** for urban residents
- **Traffic, waste, water, grievances** — four biggest urban pain points addressed
- Bhubaneswar already a **Smart City** — AI deepens this transformation
- Supports **AMRUT 2.0** goals of sustainable urban infrastructure

Economic Significance

- Positions Odisha as **AI-forward governance state** → attracts tech investment
- **Startup engagement** mentioned → creates local AI economy
- Smarter cities → **better ease of doing business** → industrial investment
- AI in property tax → **increased municipal revenues** → better urban services

National/Global Significance

- Demonstrates **responsible AI adoption** by state government — global best practice
- Supports India's **G20 AI governance framework** commitments
- **Public good AI** — counters narrative that AI only benefits corporations
- Model for **Global South countries** watching India's AI governance journey
- Links to India's leadership in **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** globally

121. Sahitya Akademi Award to Odia Poetry

Why is in the News?

Odia poet **Girijakumar Baliyar Singh** received the **Sahitya Akademi Award 2025** for his poetry collection **“Padapurana.”**

About Sahitya Akademi Awards:

- India's **national literary award** given annually in **24 languages**.
- Instituted in **1955**
- Award includes:
 - Copper plaque
 - Shawl
 - Cash prize
- Recognises **literary excellence**
- Promotes **regional languages like Odia**

122 Rukuna Rath Yatra

Why is in the News?

Thousands participated in **Rukuna Rath Yatra of Lord Lingaraj** in Bhubaneswar on **Ashokashtami**.

- Procession briefly halted due to rope snapping; resumed later with security arrangements.

Key Facts

- Chariot pulled from Lingaraj Temple to Rameswar Temple
- Distance: ~2.5 km (Ratha Road)
- Return journey: Bahuda Yatra (March 30)
- Called "**Analeuta**" - chariot does not turn during return

About Lingaraj Temple

- Location: Bhubaneswar, Odisha
- Deity: Harihara (fusion of Shiva + Vishnu)
- Built: 11th century
- Style: Kalinga architecture

Festival — Ashokashtami

- Celebrated on 8th day (Ashtami) of Chaitra month
- Marks beginning of Rukuna Rath Yatra
- Associated with Shaivite tradition

Unique Features of Rukuna Rath

Unlike Puri Rath Yatra:

- Only one main chariot
- Pulled from rear side
- Does not turn (Analeuta)

Idols taken:

- Chandrasekhar (Lingaraj representative)
- Devi Rukuna
- Ananta Vasudeva

Rituals

- Pahandi (procession of idols)
- Mangala Alati, Abakasha Niti, Sahanamela

123. Niyamraja Festival

Why is in the News?

Kondh Community recently celebrated Niyamraj festival at Niyamgiri

Key Points

- Niyamraja is the presiding deity of the Dongria Kondh tribe.
- Festival includes traditional rituals, cultural dances, and community gatherings.
- Villagers from more than 100 hamlets participated.
- Community reaffirmed protection of Jal, Jangal, Jameen.

Significance

- Niyamgiri hills are central to tribal identity, culture, and livelihood.
- The region contains bauxite deposits, leading to debates over mining versus tribal rights.

124. Cultural Event – Chaitra Jatra of Maa Tara Tarini

Why is in the News?

The Chaitra Mangalbar Jatra began at Maa Tara Tarini temple in Ganjam district.

Religious Significance

- Celebrated during Chaitra month (March–April).
- Devotees perform head tonsuring rituals for children.

Temple Importance

- One of the four major Shakti Peethas of Odisha.

Prelims Facts

- Maa Tara Tarini Temple:
- Located on Kumari hills near Rushikulya river
- District: Ganjam.

125. Nor'wester (Kalbaisakhi)

Why is in the News?

Severe Nor'wester storm hit Bhubaneswar causing heavy rain, hail & gusty winds (30–50 km/h), disrupting normal life.

What is Nor'wester?

- Pre-monsoon violent thunderstorm in Eastern India (Mar–May)
- Locally called Kalbaisakhi

Causes

- Trough + upper air cyclonic circulation over Gangetic region
- High temperature + humidity - instability
- Formation of cumulonimbus clouds

Affected Areas

- **Odisha districts:** Balasore, Cuttack, Sambalpur, Koraput, etc.

Impacts

- Heavy rain, lightning, hailstorms
- Strong winds (30–50 km/h) - tree fall, power outages
- Disruption of transport & outdoor activities

126. Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament (VBY P) 2026

Why is in the News?

Odisha hosted the state-level Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament (VBY P) 2026 at Kalinga Stadium.

- Organised by MY Bharat, NSS Odisha & State Youth Dept.

Key Highlights

- 150 participants selected from 30 districts
- Selection funnel: 3,764 (district) → 150 (state)
- Gender: 60 males, 90 females
- Top 3 participants will represent Odisha at national level

Theme & Deliberation

- Theme: “Union Budget 2026 – Yuva Shakti: Budget towards Viksit Bharat 2047”
- Participants presented views in Odia, Hindi, English (3 min each)
- Focus areas:
 - Economic growth
 - Human capital
 - Inclusive development

Background

- **Origin:** National Youth Parliament Festival (2019)
- Now evolved into Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament aligned with Viksit Bharat @2047 vision
- Linked to vision of Narendra Modi

Objectives

- Promote youth participation in democracy
- Enhance policy awareness & leadership skills
- Encourage constructive dialogue on national issues

127. ICMAI Outreach on New Income Tax Act, 2025

Why is in the News?

Institute of Cost Accountants of India (Bhubaneswar Chapter) conducted an outreach programme on the Income Tax Act, 2025 at CMA Bhawan, Bhubaneswar.

- Part of a nationwide initiative led by the Tax Research Department (TRD).

Key Highlights

- **Organised in collaboration with:**
 - TRD (ICMAI)
 - Central Board of Direct Taxes (Directorate of Training)
- **Attended by:**
 - Tax officials, finance professionals, students, stakeholders .
 - Included technical sessions explaining provisions & implications

Objectives

- Awareness about the new Income Tax regime
- Simplification of compliance
- Enhance transparency in taxation
- Promote knowledge sharing on tax reforms

Significance

- Supports tax reforms & capacity building
- Bridges gap between:
 - Policy (CBDT) and
 - Professionals/implementation level

128. First National Lok Adalat of 2026 in Odisha

Why is in the News?

The first National Lok Adalat of the year was conducted across Odisha

Key Statistics:

Across Odisha:

- 19,801 court cases settled
- 2,81,612 revenue cases resolved
- 10,277 pre-litigation disputes settled

Khurda district:

- 88,694 cases taken up
- 50,962 cases disposed
- ₹18.55 crore recovered

Institutions Involved:

- Odisha State Legal Services Authority (OSLSA)
- Various courts and tribunals across the state.

Significance:

- Promotes **speedy and inexpensive justice**.
- Reduces **judicial backlog**.

129. Odisha Road Safety Enforcement Drive

Why is in the News?

Odisha State Transport Authority (STA) announced a special enforcement and road safety drive (March 21–31).

Objective

- Reduce road accidents and enforce traffic rules.

Violations Targeted

- Triple riding
- Riding without helmets
- Wrong-side driving
- Drunken driving
- Over-speeding
- Overloading of goods vehicles
- Vehicles without valid licence

Special Focus Areas

- Accident-prone stretches
- Highways
- Mining corridors
- Market areas and bus stands

Awareness Measures

- Driver counselling
- Eye testing camps
- Road safety awareness in schools

State Transport Authority (STA) supervises RTOs in the state.

130. HPV Vaccination Drive in Odisha

Why is in the News?

The Odisha government launched a **statewide Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination campaign** aimed at preventing cervical cancer among adolescent girls.

Key Highlights:

- The programme targets **3.36 lakh girls aged 14–15 years** in the state.
- It was inaugurated by the **Chief Minister at Krushi Bhawan, Bhubaneswar**.
- The initiative complements national disease-prevention efforts
- The government also introduced **121 cancer treatment packages** under:
 - Ayushman Bharat
 - Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana

Supporting Healthcare Measures:

- **28 new ambulances** added to the emergency healthcare system.
- Total ambulances available in Odisha: **428**.

Relevance:

Health Sector Relevance:

- HPV is the **major cause of cervical cancer**, one of the most common cancers among women in India.
- Vaccination programmes are crucial for **preventive healthcare policy**.

131. Rajya Sabha Election Politics in Odisha

Why is in the News?

Political activity intensified ahead of the **Rajya Sabha elections for four seats from Odisha**.

Key Developments:

- **BJD nominated:**
 - Santrupt Misra
 - Datteswar Hota
- Congress announced support for **Datteswar Hota**, termed a “common candidate”.

Political Significance:

- Rajya Sabha elections in Odisha depend on **MLA strength in the state assembly**.
- **30 votes are required for one Rajya Sabha seat**.
- Rajya Sabha members are elected by **MLAs using proportional representation and Single Transferable Vote (STV)**.

132. Odisha Cooperative Policy-2026

Why is in the News?

The state government launched **Odisha Cooperative Policy-2026**, making Odisha the **first state in India to introduce such a comprehensive cooperative policy**.

Key Objectives:

- Strengthen **Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)**.
- Promote **cooperative-led rural economic development**.
- Improve access to **credit, agricultural services, and digital infrastructure**.

Significance:

- Strengthens the **cooperative movement**, which is critical for **agricultural and rural development**.
- Supports **farmers’ income and financial inclusion**.
- Encourages **collective economic institutions in rural Odisha**.

133. Nyaya Sanhita Exhibition by Odisha Police

Why is in the News?

Odisha Police organised an exhibition to create awareness about the new criminal laws of India.

The exhibition explained:

- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)
- Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS)
- Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA)

Objective

- Public awareness about criminal justice reforms
- Demonstration of digital investigation methods
- Citizen awareness about victim-centric justice system

Key Highlight

- Exhibition explains the process “From Crime Scene to High Court”, showing the entire criminal justice chain.

134. Rise in Conviction Rate after New Criminal Laws

Why is in the News?

Odisha Chief Minister stated that **conviction rate increased by 87.6% after implementation of the new criminal laws.**

The improvement is attributed to:

- better coordination between investigation, prosecution and judiciary
- use of scientific evidence
- awareness campaigns through BNS exhibitions

Additional Data

- 166% rise in Zero FIR registration in 2025.

Significance

- Improves access to justice
- Enhances criminal justice efficiency
- Strengthens rule of law

135. OHRC Orders Compensation for Police Excesses

The Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) ordered compensation to villagers wrongly arrested in Redhua village, Puri district (2020 case).

Details

- 32 villagers arrested earlier.
- 23 innocent villagers awarded compensation.
- Compensation: ₹50,000 each.

Importance

Highlights:

- protection of human rights
- accountability of law enforcement agencies

Prelims Facts

OHRC

- State human rights body
- Established under Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993

136. Rare Disease Crisis – Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD)

Why is in the News?

Recently families of children with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy demanded ₹1 lakh one-time financial assistance and ₹15,000 monthly medical support. Issues raised before Odisha government citing **high treatment costs & lack of facilities**

About DMD:

- A **genetic (X-linked) disorder** causing progressive muscle degeneration mainly affects **young boys** caused by absence of **dystrophin protein**.
- Early symptoms: difficulty walking
- By age **10–12** → **wheelchair dependent**
- Later affects heart and respiratory muscles
- Hereditary & incurable
- Requires long term care, physiotherapy and expensive treatments

137. Odisha Road Accident Data (2026)

Why is in the News?

Odisha Assembly received data on road accidents.

Key Statistics (Jan 1 – March 6, 2026)

- 1,616 road accidents
- 1,025 deaths
- 1,594 injured

Average:

- 15 deaths per day
- 24 injuries per day

Accident Distribution

Road Type	Accidents	Deaths
National Highways	447	270

State Highways	246	150
Expressways	13	11
Other Roads	910	594

138. Safe Drinking Water for All by 2027

Why is in the News?

Odisha government aims to provide safe drinking water to every household by March 2027.

Key Data

- 207 mega drinking water projects underway.
- 26 projects completed.
- Drinking water supplied to 68.47 lakh families.
- 77% households covered so far.

139. Tribal Empowerment Consultation in Bhubaneswar

Why is in the News?

A National Consultation on Tribal Empowerment was held in Bhubaneswar to discuss tribal rights and governance.

Key Issues Discussed:

- Implementation challenges of the Forest Rights Act (FRA).
- Strengthening Gram Sabhas.
- Increasing scholarships and support for tribal students.

Participating Communities

Representatives from several tribal groups including:

- Bonda
- Kandha
- Munda
- Oraon
- Paudi Bhuyan.

140. Subhadra Yojana – Financial Assistance to Women

Why is in the News?



The Odisha government is distributing ₹5,000+ crore to over 1.02 crore women beneficiaries under Subhadra Yojana on International Women’s Day.

- Applications received: 1.12 crore
- Beneficiaries: 1.02 crore women
- Annual support: ₹10,000 (two instalments)
- Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to bank accounts.

Significance

- Promotes women’s economic empowerment
- Supports financial inclusion
- Strengthens self-help group ecosystem in Odisha

About Subhadra Yojana:

- **Subhadra Yojana** is a flagship **women empowerment scheme** launched by the **Government of Odisha** to provide **direct financial assistance to women**, improve financial security, and promote economic independence.
- **Objective: Economic empowerment of women**

Features:

Feature	Details
Scheme Type	Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) welfare scheme
Target Group	Women of Odisha
Financial Support	₹10,000 per year
Installments	Two installments of ₹5,000 each
Beneficiaries	Over 1.02 crore women
Implementation	Amount credited directly to bank accounts

141. Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in Odisha

Why is in the News?

The **Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in Odisha** is **30 per 1,000 live births**, which is **higher than the national average of 25** according to the **Sample Registration System (SRS)** survey.

- However, the state has shown improvement with a **21-point decline in IMR over the last decade**.

Government Measure:

- **Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Day (VHSND)** for monitoring pregnant women.
- **Maa Gruha** facilities for pregnant women near health centres.
- **Midwifery-Led Care Units (MLCUs)** in hospitals.
- **Newborn Stabilisation Units (NBSU)** and **Special Newborn Care Units (SNCU)**.
- **Home-Based Newborn Care (HBNC)** through ASHA workers.

Facts:

- IMR: deaths of infants under **1 year per 1000 live births**.
- Data source: **Sample Registration System (SRS)**.

142. Odisha Police Pigeon Post System

Why is in the News?

Odisha Police demonstrated its **historic pigeon post communication system** during the **Nyaya Sanhita Exhibition in Bhubaneswar**.

Historical Background:

- Started in **1946** with **200 pigeons from the American Army**.
- Expanded to a network of **700 pigeons**.

Role in Disaster Communication:

The pigeon service was crucial during:

- Banki floods (1982)
- Odisha Super Cyclone (1999) when communication systems collapsed.

Unique Feature:

Belgian Homer pigeons can navigate using the **Earth's magnetic field due to iron structure in their beaks**.

Current Training Centres

- Cuttack
- Angul

143. Mahanadi Water Dispute Protest

Why is in the News?

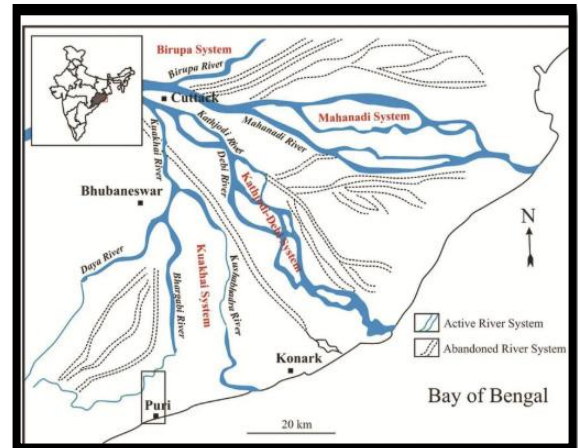
Members of **Mahanadi Bachao Andolan (MBA)** staged protests during the visit of the **Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal** to Odisha.

Key Demands:

- An interim order to ensure adequate water release from Chhattisgarh.
- Protection of irrigation and drinking water supply downstream.
- Concern over **water flow obstruction near Kalma Barrage.**

Significance:

The **Mahanadi River is the lifeline of Odisha**, especially for irrigation and drinking water.



1. Agricultural Importance:

- The river irrigates large parts of **coastal and central Odisha**, especially in districts like **Cuttack, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, and Kendrapara.**
- The **Hirakud Dam**, built across the Mahanadi near **Sambalpur**, provides extensive irrigation to millions of hectares of farmland.
- It supports cultivation of **rice (major crop of Odisha), pulses, oilseeds, and vegetables.**

2. Hydropower Generation:

- The **Hirakud Dam hydroelectric project** generates electricity for Odisha and neighbouring states.
- It contributes significantly to the **state's power supply and industrial development.**

3. Drinking Water Supply:

- The river is a **major source of drinking water** for cities like: **Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, and Sambalpur.**

4. Economic and Industrial Importance:

- The river supports major industries in Odisha such as:
 - Steel plants
 - Thermal power plants
 - Aluminium industries
- Industrial clusters in **Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, and Angul** depend on Mahanadi water.

5. Ecological Importance:

- The **Mahanadi delta** forms fertile alluvial plains that support biodiversity.
- Wetlands, mangroves, and estuaries near the delta provide habitat for aquatic life and migratory birds.
- The river helps maintain ecosystems around the **Bhitarkanika National Park** region.

6. Strategic Importance in Water Disputes

- The river is part of the **Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal** dispute between Odisha and Chhattisgarh.
- Water sharing affects **agriculture, irrigation, and drinking water security** in Odisha.

144. ₹4,510 Crore Industrial Investment Approved in Odisha



Why is in the News?

Recently **23 industrial projects** approved by the **State Level Single Window Clearance Authority (SLSWCA)** with total investment worth, **₹4,510.65 crore**

Sector-wise Breakdown:

- Forest & Wood-Based Industry: Investment: ~₹870 crore; Focus: Industrialisation of **backward southern Odisha**
- Chemicals & Fertiliser: Strengthens Odisha's **chemical hub potential**
- Food Processing: Agro-processing unit in **Kalahandi**
- IT & Services: Technology delivery centre (Khurda)

About SLSWCA:

- A **high-level state body** headed by the Chief Secretary
- Ensures, **Single-window clearance** for industries, faster approvals & ease of doing business.

145. Khurda–Visakhapatnam–Vijayawada Corridor

Why is in the News?

Proposed **522 km high-speed corridor in Odisha** connecting 27 cities

Key facts:

- A **high-speed, six-lane greenfield corridor**.
- **522 km stretch in Odisha** (part of ~1100 km multi-state corridor).
- Will connect **27 cities across 9 districts** including:
 - Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Dhenkanal, Cuttack
 - Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Rayagada, Koraput
- **Connectivity:** Links **eastern coastal belt with southern economic hubs**

146. Mushroom Conclave 2026

Why is in the News

- At Mushroom Conclave 2026, it was highlighted that Odisha contributes ~11% of India's mushroom output.

Key Highlights

- Odisha is a leading **mushroom-producing state**
- Conclave organised by **Agricultural Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha Limited**
- **Focus:** sustainable livelihood & **agri-entrepreneurship**

Government Initiatives

- Subsidies under Mukhyamantri Krushi Udyog Yojana
- Launch of:
 - APICOL website
 - “Go-Ahead” letters to farmers for units
- **Support:**
 - Production units (spawn, cultivation)
 - Market linkage & logistics

Sector Progress

- 1207 farmers approved for mushroom enterprises
- 207 entrepreneurs received subsidies
- Types:
 - Paddy straw mushroom
 - Oyster mushroom
 - Button mushroom

Importance of Mushroom Cultivation

- **Nutritional:** Rich in protein, low fat
- **Eco-friendly:** Uses agri-waste (straw)
- **Income source:** Suitable for small farmers

147. Interest Subvention to SHGs in Odisha

Why is in the News?

The Odisha government has disbursed ₹208.35 crore as interest subvention to 2.67 lakh Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

- Additional financial assistance of ₹64.88 crore was also provided to grassroots institutions under Mission Shakti framework.

Key Facts & Figures

- **Total SHGs covered:** 2.67 lakh
- **Interest subvention amount:** ₹208.35 crore
- **Additional support:** ₹64.88 crore
- **Financial year (2025–26):** ₹724.39 crore reimbursed to **3.80 lakh** SHGs

Institutional Support:

- **Revolving Fund:** ₹57.05 crore - 3,510 SHGs
- **Community Investment Fund:** ₹1.40 crore - 180 GPLFs
- **Vulnerability Reduction Fund:** ₹1.40 crore - 101 CLFs

Scheme Linkages



- **Implemented under Mission Shakti (Odisha):**
 - A flagship programme for women empowerment and livelihood promotion.
- **Aligns with:**
 - DAY-NRLM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission)
 - Financial inclusion initiatives like Jan Dhan–Aadhaar–Mobile (JAM)

148. Agreement for Visa Application Centre at BSABT

Why is in the News?

Agreement signed to set up a Visa Application Centre at BSABT, Bhubaneswar, improving local access to visa services.

Key Features

- Location: **BSABT, Baramunda**
- Space: ~3,000 sq ft (initial VAC), with ~77,000 sq ft leased to OCAC overall
- Additional collaboration with **Odisha Computer Application Centre (OCAC)**
- BSABT:
 - Largest bus terminal in Odisha
 - Handles **1,500+ buses & ~20,000 passengers daily**

149. ₹2,612 Cr Water Projects in Odisha

Why is in the News?

Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi inaugurated and laid foundation stones for **water resource projects worth ₹2,612 crore on World Water Day.**

Key Highlights

- Foundation laid for **17 projects (~₹2,292 crore)**
- **124 projects (~₹320 crore)** inaugurated
- Focus districts: Sambalpur, Ganjam, Jharsuguda, Keonjhar, Malkangiri
- Aim: Strengthen **water security, irrigation, and drinking water access**

150. Odisha's Blue Economy Vision

Why is in the News?

Global Summit on Blue Economy 2026 held in Bhubaneswar (Lok Seva Bhawan).

Statement

- Chief Secretary Anu Garg announced Odisha aims to contribute 5% to India's GDP by 2047.

Key Blue Economy Sectors

- Fisheries



- Maritime infrastructure
- Coastal tourism
- Marine biotechnology

Important Initiative

- OMBRIC – Odisha Marine Biotechnology Research & Innovation Corridor

Important Facts

- Odisha coastline: 575 km

151. Nyaya Sanhita Awareness Exhibition in Bhubaneswar

Why is in the News?

The **Odisha Police organised a Nyaya Sanhita Exhibition at IDCO Exhibition Ground, Bhubaneswar** to educate citizens about the **new criminal laws of India**.

Key features

Public awareness on three new criminal laws:

- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)
- Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS)
- Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA)

152. Mega Tourism & Airport Projects Proposed in Odisha

Why in News?

Hotel and Restaurant Association of Odisha proposed major tourism infrastructure projects to boost the hospitality sector in Puri.

Key Proposals

- Mega Theme Park inspired by global entertainment parks such as Disney and Universal Studios.
- Greenfield International Airport proposed near Sipasarubali (Samuka) Beach.
- Integrated tourism and entertainment destinations.
- Proposal to extend Mahaparinirvan Express to Puri.

153. Launch of Sulphuric Acid Plant and Cooperative Initiatives in Paradip

Why is in the News?

The Union Home and Cooperation Minister announced the inauguration of a **new sulphuric acid plant at the IFFCO facility in Paradip** and several cooperative sector initiatives in Bhubaneswar.



Key Highlights:

- The **Sulphuric Acid Plant-III (SAP-III)** at the IFFCO Paradip unit was dedicated to the nation.
- Multiple cooperative sector projects were launched, including:
 - Odisha State Cooperative Policy
 - Establishment of a **Tribhuvan Cooperative University-linked school**
 - Revival of Badamba Sugar Industries
- **1,567 Common Service Centres (CSCs)** operated by PACS and LAMPS were dedicated.
- Infrastructure for **141 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)** was inaugurated.
- Digital initiatives launched:
 - RCS office portal
 - Direct-to-consumer portal of National Cooperative Organics Ltd
 - “Coop Marque” export brand
 - “Savidya” AI-enabled multilingual learning platform
- Overall projects worth **₹1,159 crore inaugurated** and **₹2,116 crore foundation stones laid**.

154. ‘Go-Homestay Portal’

Why is in the News?

The Odisha government launched the ‘**Go-Homestay Portal**’ to promote community-based tourism in the state.

Key Features:

- Supports the **Odisha Homestays Establishment Scheme 2025**.
- Enables:
 - Online registration and management of homestays.
 - Transparency and easier access for entrepreneurs.
- Encourages participation of **rural households and women entrepreneurs**.

155. Development Projects Worth ₹3,275 Crore in Odisha

Why is in the News?

During his visit to Odisha, the Union Home and Cooperation Minister announced **199 development projects worth ₹3,275 crore** across the state.

Key Highlights

- **69 projects worth ₹1,159 crore inaugurated**.
- **130 projects worth ₹2,116 crore** had their foundation stones laid.
- Major initiatives included:
 - Cyber and economic offences police stations
 - 24 new police stations
 - Sulphuric acid plant at Paradip

- Atal Bus Stands
- Milk processing plant at Tangi
- Common Service Centres (CSCs) run by PACS
- Infrastructure projects linked with institutions like:
 - National Forensic Sciences University campus
 - **Central Forensic Science Laboratory campus.**

156. Startup Ecosystem Development in Odisha

Why is in the News?

A **startup conference at O-Hub, Bhubaneswar** emphasised strengthening the **Odisha startup ecosystem**.

Government Support: Under **Startup Odisha Policy**, entrepreneurs receive:

- Monthly stipends
- Product development grants
- Marketing support
- Financial assistance.

Examples of Supported Startups

- Eagle AI
- Astronext Technologies
- Test Quest E-Learning
- NC Square EdTech.

157. Industrial Parks Proposed in Cuttack

Why is in the News?

IDCO plans industrial parks in Kuspangi and Bali villages under Athagarh tehsil (Cuttack district).

Objective

- Attract industries
- Create employment for local youth

Infrastructure Considered

- Power supply
- Water resources
- Road connectivity

158. Olive Ridley Turtles Mass Nesting in Odisha

Why is in the News?

2.05 lakh Olive Ridley turtles nested in just 4 days at Rushikulya rookery (Ganjam district)

- Thermal drones used for the first time for accurate counting

About Olive Ridley Turtles:

- **Species:** Olive Ridley Turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*)
- **Smallest & most abundant** of all sea turtles
- Named after **olive-green coloured shell (carapace)**
- Known for **mass nesting (Arribada)**

What is Arribada?

- Spanish term meaning “**mass arrival**”
- Thousands of female turtles come together on the same beach Lay eggs simultaneously
- Odisha = **global hotspot**
- **Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary**, world’s largest rookery

Conservation Status:

- **IUCN Red List:** Vulnerable
- **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Schedule I
- **CITES:** Appendix I

Conservation Measures:

- **Operation Olivia** (Indian Coast Guard)
- Fishing ban during nesting season
- Protected areas (Gahirmatha Sanctuary)
- Community participation

159. Bhitarkanika houses 8 kingfisher species

Why is in the News?

Bhitarkanika National Park hosts **8 species of kingfishers**, highlighting its importance as a key bird habitat.

Key Facts

- India: **12 kingfisher species**
- Odisha: **8 species found**
- Bhitarkanika area: **~672 sq km (mangrove ecosystem)**
- Census (2025):
 - Total birds: **1,30,796**
 - Kingfisher population: **+37 increase** from 2024

Species Recorded

- Black-capped kingfisher
- Stork-billed kingfisher
- White-throated kingfisher
- Pied kingfisher
- Common kingfisher
- Collared kingfisher
- Brown-winged kingfisher
- Blue-eared kingfisher (*not sighted in latest census*)

Ecological Significance

- Mangroves act as **breeding & feeding grounds**
- Kingfishers = **bio-indicators of aquatic ecosystem health**
- Reflects **high biodiversity & wetland productivity**

160. Kendrapara Water Crisis — Drying Luni River

Why is in the News?

Sharp decline in water level of Luni River in Kendrapara raises drinking water & irrigation concerns.

Key Issues

- **Drinking water risk:** Supply may be disrupted soon (pump sources drying)
- **Agriculture hit:**
 - ~10,000 ha farmland may go fallow (early summer)
 - Shift from paddy/cash crops due to low water
- **River degradation:**
 - Illegal sand mining
 - Encroachment & neglect
- Drought conditions despite past flood-prone areas

Structural Problems

- Poor drainage: ~15,850 ha lack proper drainage
- Salinity: ~32,350 ha affected
- Flood vs drought paradox: ~34,952 ha flood-prone but irrigation still inadequate

161. Kuakhai River Facing Pollution

Why is in the News?

Environmental concerns raised over Kuakhai River, a distributary of the Mahanadi, near Bhubaneswar.

Major Issues

- Pollution from urban waste
- Industrial expansion

- Illegal sand mining
- Reduced water flow

162. Olive Ridley Turtle Nesting at Puri Blue Flag Beach

Why is in the News?

An **Olive Ridley turtle laid about 114 eggs at Puri Blue Flag Beach**, marking a **rare nesting event at a crowded tourist location**.

Conservation Measures

- 14 turtle protection camps established along Devi river mouth–Puri coast.
- Fishing restrictions from November 1 – May 31.
- 7 km restricted zone near river mouths.

Environmental Concern

- Illegal trawling in restricted areas leads to **turtle mortality**.

Olive Ridley turtles:

- **Scientific name:** Lepidochelys olivacea
- Famous for Arribada (mass nesting)
- Major nesting sites in India:
 - Gahirmatha beach
 - Rushikulya beach
 - Devi river mouth
- Odisha hosts largest nesting population in the world.

163. AI-based Surveillance in Similipal Tiger Reserve

Why is in the News?

Forest officials arrested **four poachers using AI-enabled cameras** in **Similipal National Park**.

About Similipal Tiger Reserves:

- **Similipal Tiger Reserve** is one of the largest tiger reserves in India, located in **Mayurbhanj district of Odisha**.
- It is known for its **rich biodiversity, dense sal forests, waterfalls, and rare melanistic (black) tigers**.
- Established as **Tiger Reserve – 1973 (Project Tiger)**
- Declared **Biosphere Reserve – 1994**
- Included in **UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves – 2009**

Location and Geography:

- Situated in the **eastern end of the Chota Nagpur Plateau**
- Located in **northern Odisha**
- Area: **~2,750 sq km (approx.)**
- Rivers Originating from Similipal:
 - Budhabalanga
 - Baitarani
 - Khairi
 - Salandi

Special Feature – Black Tigers

- Similipal gained international attention due to the presence of **melanistic tigers (black tigers)**.
 - Caused by **genetic mutation (melanism)**
 - First confirmed through **camera trap images**
 - Unique to Similipal population.

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166. Odisha Declares Two More Districts Naxal-Free

Why in News?

Odisha declared Bolangir and Bargarh districts as Naxal-free.

- Decision followed the surrender of 15 Maoists in neighbouring Mahasamund district.

Key Points

- Announcement by Odisha Police under DGP Y. B. Khurania.
- Maoists belonged to the Bolangir–Bargarh–Mahasamund Maoist committee.
- 14 weapons surrendered including AKn47 rifles, SLR rifles, and INSAS rifles.
- Naxal-Free Districts in Odisha
 - Nuapada
 - Nabarangpur
 - Koraput

- Malkangiri
- Boudh
- Bolangir
- Bargarh
- Remaining Maoist-Affected Area
- Maoist presence mainly in Kandhamal district.
- Around 25 Maoists still active in the state.

167. National Science Day – Innovation Festival & Lab Demonstrations

Why is in the News?

On 28 February, Odisha celebrated National Science Day with innovation festivals and science exhibitions.

- Events organised at Regional Science Centre Bhubaneswar and BRIC-Institute of Life Sciences.
- Celebrates the discovery of the Raman Effect by C. V. Raman in 1928.

Key Highlights

- Innovation Festival 2026 organised with the National Innovation Foundation.
- More than 100 projects and prototypes showcased by schools, universities, startups, incubation centres, and independent innovators.
- **Theme of National Science Day 2026:** “Women in Science: Catalysing Viksit Bharat.”

168. Indigenous Diagnostic Technology for Childhood Diarrhoea

Why is in the New?

A **Cuttack-based startup (BabyCue Pvt Ltd)** received support from the **Technology Development Board (DST)** to develop the **DiaCue diagnostic kit**.

Technology Used:

- Lateral Flow Assay (LFA)
- Gold nanoparticle-based detection
- Biomarker detection in stool samples.

Collaborating institute: **National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Hyderabad.**

HIGH-IMPACT "ONE-LINER" FACTS:

- **Bahuda Yatra:** The return journey of the Puri deities from Gundicha Temple to Shri Jagannath Temple, occurring 9 days after Rath Yatra.
- **Silver Filigree (Tarakasi):** Cuttack’s 500-year-old craft; received a **GI Tag** in 2024;

uses pure silver wires; famous for *Chandi Medhas*.

- **Swapneswara Mahadev Temple:** A 6th–8th century Shailodbhava dynasty shrine in Khurda; recently declared a **protected monument** by ASI.
- **Chhatar Jatra:** Major Shakti festival in Bhawanipatna (Kalahandi) involving the sacred ceremonial umbrella of Goddess Manikeswari.
- **National Handloom Day:** Observed on **7th August** (commemorating the 1905 Swadeshi Movement); Odisha is famous for Sambalpuri and Ikat.
- **Baji Rout:** India's youngest martyr (12 years old) from Dhenkanal; shot by British police in 1938 for refusing to ferry them across the Brahmani River.
- **Bali Jatra:** Asia's largest open-air fair in Cuttack; commemorates ancient Kalinga's maritime trade with Southeast Asia (Bali, Java, Sumatra).
- **Konark Sun Temple:** 13th-century "Black Pagoda" built by **King Narasimhadeva I**; designed as a chariot with 24 wheels and 7 horses.
- **Shulia Jatra:** Large-scale tribal religious festival in Baliguda (Balangir) dedicated to Goddess Shulia.
- **Baraputra Aitihya Gram Yojana:** State scheme to revitalize birthplaces of eminent Odia personalities and freedom fighters.
- **Parvati Giri:** Known as the "Mother Teresa of Western Odisha"; her birth centenary will be observed in **January 2026**.
- **Anu Garg:** Appointed as the **first woman Chief Secretary** of Odisha.
- **Ama Sathi:** A unified WhatsApp chatbot providing access to 120+ (scaling to 500+) government services in Odia and English.
- **Shaktishree Initiative:** Program for women's safety in higher education; includes **Shakti Apas** (district mentors) and **Saathis** (student leaders).
- **Notified Area Councils (NACs):** 16 new NACs announced for transitioning rural-to-urban areas; established under State Municipal Acts.
- **OHRC (Odisha Human Rights Commission):** Statutory body (est. 2000) in Bhubaneswar; Chairperson must be a retired High Court Judge/Chief Justice.
- **Director of Census Operations:** Nikhil Pavan Kalyan (IAS) appointed for Odisha under the **Census Act, 1948**.
- **OSCW (Odisha State Commission for Women):** Statutory and quasi-judicial body established in **1993**.
- **Property Statement Rule:** Submission of an annual property statement is now a **mandatory prerequisite** for employee promotion in Odisha.
- **PDS e-KYC:** **96% (3.12 crore)** of beneficiaries in Odisha have completed biometric verification to remove ghost entries.
- **Kotia Issue:** Long-standing border dispute with Andhra Pradesh over 21 villages in the Koraput district.
- **Paradip Port:** Officially recognized as a **Green Hydrogen Hub** under the National Green Hydrogen Mission.

- **Agriculture GSVA:** Contributes **19%** to Odisha's Gross State Value Added; growth rate of 3.3% (higher than national average).
- **MSME Hub:** Odisha aims to become Eastern India's MSME gateway; MSMEs contribute **one-third** of the state's GSVO.
- **Lakshpati Didis:** State target to create **25 lakh** women SHG members earning ₹1 lakh+ annually by 2027.
- **Paddy Procurement:** Odisha is the **4th largest** supplier of rice/paddy to the Food Corporation of India (FCI).
- **Cold Storage:** Government to build facilities in every sub-division; India loses ₹90,000 crore annually to poor cold chains.
- **NCCM (National Common Mobility Card):** Launched for "Ama Bus" service; offers **15% discount** for women commuters.
- **DMF (District Mineral Foundation):** Odisha collected ₹34,052 crore (highest in India) for development in mining-affected districts.
- **PM-SETU:** Centrally sponsored scheme to upgrade ITIs into Centres of Excellence (e.g., Bhubaneswar and Sambalpur).
- **NaMo Semiconductor Lab:** Approved for **IIT Bhubaneswar** at a cost of ₹4.95 crore via MPLAD funding.
- **Digital Hubs:** Cuttack, Rourkela, Sambalpur, and Berhampur are being developed as technology hubs under **Vision 2036**.
- **Odisha AI Summit 2025:** Precursor to the India AI Impact Summit 2026; focused on "AI-Powered Governance."
- **Mobile Migrant Resource Centre (mMRC):** State's first mobile unit launched in Bhubaneswar to assist workers in Ganjam and Kendrapara.
- **Cyber Security CoE:** Approved to strengthen digital policing, forensics, and investigation of "Digital Arrest" scams.
- **Desalination Plant:** Odisha's first seawater plant inaugurated at **Matikhal (Ganjam)**; capacity of 4.5 MLD.
- **Forest Diversion:** Odisha diverted **11,033.08 ha** of forest (2021–25), ranking **2nd** in India after Madhya Pradesh.
- **Simlipal Tiger Reserve:** Only wild habitat of **Melanistic (Black) Tigers**; features Barehipani Falls (**399m**, 2nd highest in India).
- **Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary:** Located near Hirakud; launched Odisha's first **Birdling Trail** and first **all-woman forest squad**.
- **Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary:** World's largest nesting site for **Olive Ridley Turtles**; fishing banned for 7 months (Nov–May).
- **Polluted Rivers:** **16 stretches** identified; **Gangua (Bhubaneswar)** is of highest concern due to urban waste.
- **Hirakud Dam:** Reservoir capacity has declined by **27%** due to siltation; India's longest earthen dam.
- **Disaster Resilience:** Focus shifted from relief to risk reduction; projects include **lightning protection** and cyclone-resistant plantations.
- **Satkosia Gorge:** Created by the Mahanadi river cutting through the Eastern Ghats; a vital wildlife corridor.

- **Sickle Cell Disease:** Odisha topped the nation in cases registered on the national portal.
- **NCRB Data:** Odisha reported the highest number of **Disproportionate Assets (DA)** and women assault cases (Section 354B).
- **Child Marriage:** Nuapada and tribal districts remain focus areas for legal intervention (e.g., Siratol village incident).
- **Youth Bulge:** 34% of Odisha's population is aged 15–34, presenting both an economic opportunity and an employment challenge.
- **POSH Act 2013:** Mandatory **Internal Complaints Committees (ICC)** in all workplaces with 10+ employees to prevent sexual harassment.
- **Disaster Resilience:** Odisha invested ₹391.43 crore in FY 2025-26 for lightning protection and cyclone-resistant plantations.
- **Viability Gap Funding:** Odisha cabinet approved **VGF** to sustain international flight operations from Bhubaneswar under the **B-MAAN Scheme**.
- **Economic Survey 2025-26:** Odisha outpaced the nation with a **7.9% real GSDP growth** and maintained the lowest debt-to-GSDP ratio (13.6%) among major states.
- **Odisha Budget 2026-27:** A historic ₹3.10 lakh crore "**People First**" budget was presented, featuring the ₹1 lakh grant for girl graduates (Kanya Sumangal Yojana).
- **Rajya Sabha Politics:** Proportional representation and the **Single Transferable Vote (STV)** govern the election for Odisha's four vacant seats.
- **Cooperative Policy-2026:** Odisha became the **first Indian state** to launch a comprehensive policy to digitize and strengthen **PACS**.
- **Blue Economy:** Odisha aims to contribute **5% to India's GDP by 2047** through the **OMBRIC** marine biotechnology corridor.
- **Joranda Mahima Peeth:** The government is developing a grand "**Sunya Mandira**" at the headquarters of Mahima Dharma to promote equality.
- **Pattachitra:** Odisha's 10th-century cloth-based scroll art was showcased at **IICDEM-2026** for cultural diplomacy.
- **Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra:** The "Father of Modern Odissi" was honored on his **birth centenary** for standardizing the **Tribhangi** posture.
- **Divine East Tour:** IRCTC's **Bharat Gaurav Train** integrated Odisha's "Golden Triangle" into the national spiritual tourism map.
- **EKAMRA Project:** **Bindusagar Lake** is being redeveloped as a "heritage lake" to revive the ancient identity of the Lingaraj Temple precinct.
- **Rukuna Rath Yatra:** Known as "**Analeuta**," this unique chariot festival of Lord Lingaraj features a chariot that does not turn during its return.
- **Niyamraja Festival:** The **Dongria Kondh** tribe celebrated their presiding deity while reaffirming the protection of "**Jal, Jangal, Jameen.**"
- **Jagannath Darshan Yojana:** A fully state-sponsored pilgrimage scheme for

economically weaker senior citizens and widows.

- **Nari Adalat:** A pilot project launched in Bhubaneswar to provide **grassroots dispute resolution** for women via mediation.
- **Kanya Bibaha Yojana:** A flagship scheme providing **₹35,000 via DBT** to women from BPL families for mass marriage ceremonies.
- **Lymphatic Filariasis:** Odisha is nearing elimination, moving from **349 intervention units to just 7** within three years.
- **HPV Vaccination:** A statewide drive was launched targeting **3.36 lakh adolescent girls** to prevent cervical cancer.
- **Rare Disease Crisis:** Families of children with **Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD)** are seeking specialized state support for high treatment costs.
- **Subhadra Yojana:** Over **1.02 crore women** received financial assistance of **₹10,000 annually** via two installments.
- **Infant Mortality Rate:** While Odisha's IMR (30) remains above the national average (25), the state has achieved a **21-point decline** in a decade.
- **Operation Anweshan:** A special police drive in Ganjam successfully rescued **413 missing women and minors**.
- **Naxal-Free Success:** **Malkangiri and Koraput** were declared "Naxal-Free," effectively dismantling the Maoist "**Red Corridor**" in South-Western Odisha.
- **Criminal Law Reform:** Following **BNS/BNSS** exhibitions, Odisha reported an **87.6% rise in conviction rates** due to better scientific evidence.
- **Pigeon Post:** Odisha Police remains the only force in the world to maintain a **historic 1946-era pigeon post** for disaster communication.
- **Further Security Gains:** **Bolangir and Bargarh** joined the list of Naxal-free districts, leaving Maoist activity primarily confined to Kandhamal.
- **Debrigarh Gaur Census:** The Indian Bison population rose to **848**, indicating a healthy **30% juvenile ratio**.
- **Hirakud Bird Census:** Recorded a record **4.21 lakh migratory birds**, including new sightings like the **Ruddy Crake**.
- **Dolphin Census:** Odisha recorded a **5-year high of 765 dolphins**, with Chilika hosting the world's largest **Irrawaddy** population.
- **Olive Ridley Turtles:** Over **2.05 lakh turtles** nested at Rushikulya in four days, monitored for the first time by **thermal drones**.
- **Similipal AI:** AI-enabled cameras led to the arrest of poachers in the reserve, which is the world's only home to **melanistic (black) tigers**.
- **Railway Allocation:** Union Budget 2026-27 allocated **₹10,928 crore** to Odisha, including **AI-based thermal cameras** to prevent elephant collisions.
- **AI-Driven Governance:** Odisha partnered with **IIT-Kanpur (AIRAWAT)** to establish India's first state-level **AI-Project Management Unit** for urban governance.

- **High-Speed Corridor:** The 522 km Khurda-Vijayawada greenfield corridor will connect 27 cities across 9 districts.
- **National Science Day:** The 2026 theme "Women in Science" was celebrated with

an innovation festival showcasing 100+ prototypes.

- **DiaCue Kit:** A Cuttack-based startup developed an **indigenous diagnostic kit** for childhood diarrhea using Gold Nanoparticle technology.

MOST PROBABLE QUESTIONS:

1. In which city of Odisha is the traditional metal craft 'Tarakasi' (Silver Filigree), which recently received a GI Tag, primarily practiced?

- A) Puri
- B) Balasore
- C) Sambalpur
- D) Cuttack

2. The ancient Swapneswara Mahadev Temple, recently declared a protected monument by the ASI, belongs to which dynasty's architectural era?

- A) Ganga Dynasty
- B) Gajapati Dynasty
- C) Shailodbhava Dynasty
- D) Somavamshi Dynasty

3. Which tribal-Hindu festival celebrated in Bhawanipatna features a sacred ceremonial umbrella as its central symbol?

- A) Bali Jatra
- B) Chhatar Jatra
- C) Shulia Jatra
- D) Dhanu Yatra

4. Who is recognized as India's youngest freedom fighter and martyr, hailing from the Dhenkanal district of Odisha?

- A) Laxman Nayak
- B) Baji Rout
- C) Birsa Munda
- D) Parvati Giri

5. The historic 'Bali Jatra' festival is celebrated annually on the banks of which river to commemorate Odisha's maritime glory?

- A) Mahanadi
- B) Baitarani
- C) Brahmani
- D) Rushikulya

6. Which unified WhatsApp Chatbot was recently launched by the Odisha government to provide citizens access to over 120 public services?

- A) Ama Sathi
- B) Odisha Seva
- C) Madhu App
- D) Mo Sarkar Chat

7. Under the 'Shaktishree' initiative, what is the designation given to the distinguished

female professionals appointed to mentor girl students in each district?

- A) Shaktishree Saathi
- B) Shakti Apas
- C) Shaktishree Sanjojika
- D) Mission Shakti Didis

8. Which urban local body is established in Odisha for areas transitioning from rural to urban, but not yet eligible for a municipality status?

- A) Municipal Corporation
- B) Gram Panchayat
- C) Notified Area Council
- D) Zilla Parishad

9. The 'Panchayat Dharohar' programme aims to identify and preserve heritage sites at which level of governance?

- A) District level
- B) Block level
- C) Gram Panchayat level
- D) State level

10. Who was recently appointed as the first woman Chief Secretary of Odisha?

- A) Anu Garg
- B) Aparajita Sarangi
- C) Roopa Roshan Sahoo
- D) Shovana Mohanty

11. Which port in Odisha has been officially recognized as a 'Green Hydrogen Hub' under the National Green Hydrogen Mission?

- A) Gopalpur Port
- B) Dhamra Port
- C) Paradip Port
- D) Subarnarekha Port

12. In which district of Odisha was the state's first Seawater Desalination Plant recently inaugurated?

- A) Puri
- B) Ganjam
- C) Kendrapara
- D) Jagatsinghpur

13. What is the primary objective of the newly launched 'Mission PoWaR' in Odisha?

- A) Women Empowerment
- B) Integrated Power, Water, and Road infrastructure
- C) Poverty Alleviation
- D) Renewable Energy transition

14. Odisha recently ranked 2nd in India for the highest diversion of forest land for non-forest use. Which state ranked 1st?

- A) Chhattisgarh
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Jharkhand
- D) Maharashtra

15. The 'Baraputra Aitihya Gram Yojana' is aimed at revitalizing the birthplaces of which group of people?

- A) Famous Sportsmen

B) Eminent Odia personalities and freedom fighters

C) Tribal Leaders only

D) Industrialists

16. Simlipal Tiger Reserve, which recently recorded the presence of unique 'Melanistic' (Black) Tigers, is located in which district?

A) Keonjhar

B) Sundargarh

C) Kandhamal

D) Mayurbhanj

17. Fishing is restricted annually for seven months at Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary to protect which flagship species?

A) Irrawaddy Dolphins

B) Olive Ridley Sea Turtles

C) Saltwater Crocodiles

D) Gharials

18. According to a recent survey, the water storage capacity of the Hirakud Dam has reduced by 27% due to which primary factor?

A) Evaporation

B) Siltation

C) Structural Leaks

D) Over-extraction for industry

19. Which wildlife sanctuary in Odisha recently inducted its first all-woman forest enforcement squad?

A) Satkosia

B) Bhitarkanika

C) Debrigarh

D) Simlipal

20. According to recent reports, Odisha topped the list of Indian states in the prevalence of which genetic blood disorder?

A) Sickle Cell Disease

B) Thalassemia

C) Hemophilia

D) Leukemia

21. The "NaMo Semiconductor Laboratory," recently approved by the Union Minister, is being set up at which premier institute in Odisha?

A) NIT Rourkela

B) IIIT Bhubaneswar

C) VSSUT Burla

D) IIT Bhubaneswar

22. Which international organization partnered with Odisha to launch the state's first 'Mobile Migrant Resource Centre' (mMRC)?

A) UNICEF

B) World Bank

C) IOM

D) UNDP

23. The 'O-Chip' programme, recently in the news, is associated with which sector in Odisha?

A) Potato seed production

B) Semiconductor design and incubation

C) Organic farming

D) Digital land records

24. Which technology firm has partnered with the Odisha government to provide 'Oral Reading Fluency' support to Subhadra Yojana beneficiaries?

A) Wadhvani AI

B) OpenAI

C) Google India

D) Sarvam AI

25. Odisha's 'Vision 2036' and 'Developed India 2047' plans involve transforming which four cities into dedicated 'Digital Hubs'?

A) Bhubaneswar, Puri, Balasore, Bhadrak

B) Cuttack, Rourkela, Sambalpur, Berhampur

C) Angul, Jharsuguda, Jajpur, Keonjhar

D) Koraput, Rayagada, Malkangiri, Nuapada

26. Under the 'POSH Act 2013', which committee is mandatory for any organization in Odisha with 10 or more employees to redress sexual harassment complaints?

A) Local Complaints Committee

B) Internal Complaints Committee

C) Women's Welfare Cell

D) Vigilance Committee

27. The 'Shaktishree Mobile Application' includes a dedicated SOS button and mental health support through which national portal?

A) e-Sanjeevani

B) SACHET

C) Tele-MANAS

D) UMANG

28. According to the recent NCRB report, Odisha recorded the highest number of cases in the country for which specific category?

A) Cyber Crime

B) Disproportionate Assets

C) Forest Encroachment

D) Juvenile Delinquency

29. The 'e-KYC verification' process recently concluded in Odisha was aimed at cleaning the database of which service?

A) Voter ID Cards

B) Public Distribution System

C) Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana

D) Farmer Registration (Agrisnet)

30. Which district of Odisha recently saw administrative intervention to stop a child marriage in 'Siratol village', highlighting local legal vigilance?

A) Nuapada

B) Ganjam

C) Kandhamal

D) Mayurbhanj

31. Odisha has collected over ₹34,000 crore under the 'District Mineral Foundation' (DMF). Which act mandates the establishment of this statutory trust?

A) Forest Conservation Act, 1980

B) MMDR Act (Amended), 2015

C) Environment Protection Act, 1986

D) Odisha Mining Policy, 2021

32. The '16th Agriculture Leadership Award' recognized Odisha as the 'Best State in Farming'. Agriculture and allied sectors contribute approximately what percentage to Odisha's GSDVA?

A) 10%

B) 19%

C) 25%

D) 33%

33. Which central scheme, described as a landmark for "future-ready skills," aims to upgrade ITIs in Odisha, including a cluster in Sambalpur?

A) PM-KUSUM

B) PM-SETU

C) PM-VIKAS

D) PM-JANMAN

34. What is the name of the state-level mela organized in Bhubaneswar to promote products made by 'Lakshmi Didis' and Women SHGs?

A) Toshali Mela

B) Subhadra Shakti Mela

C) Mission Shakti Bazar

D) Sisir Saras

35. To prevent "distress sale" of crops, which officials in Odisha have been empowered to extend the validity of 'paddy procurement tokens'?

A) Tehsildars

B) Block Development Officers

C) District Collectors

D) Revenue Inspectors

36. The 'Odisha State Pollution Control Board' (OSPCB) was primarily constituted under which specific act?

A) Environment Protection Act, 1986

B) Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974

C) Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981

D) Wildlife Protection Act, 1972

37. How many "polluted river stretches" in Odisha have been identified by the CPCB (2025) as needing urgent attention due to untreated urban wastewater?

A) 16

B) 5

C) 22

D) 30

38. Which specific river stretch in Bhubaneswar is noted as the "highest concern" for pollution in recent environmental reports?

A) Ganga

B) Kathajodi

C) Daya

D) Kuakhai

39. The 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan 2025' awards recently recognized five districts in Odisha. What is the theme for the 2025 campaign?

- A) Catch the Rain, where it falls
- B) Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari – Jan Jagrukta Ki or
- C) Har Ghar Jal, Swachh Jal
- D) Per Drop More Crop

40. To mitigate the impact of extreme weather, the State Disaster Management Executive Committee recently approved "cyclone-resistant plantations" specifically for which two areas?

- A) Balasore & Bhadrak
- B) Puri & Chilika
- C) Ganjam & Jagatsinghpur
- D) Kendrapara & Dhamra

41. Odisha recently utilized ₹391.43 crore in FY 2025-26 for disaster resilience. Which international framework does the state align with for "Risk Reduction" rather than just "Relief"?

- A) Paris Agreement
- B) Sendai Framework
- C) Ramsar Convention
- D) Nagoya Protocol

42. A new 'Atal Bus Stand' is being developed in which city to enhance regional connectivity and support eco-tourism near Similipal?

- A) Rourkela
- B) Keonjhar
- C) Jeypore

D) Baripada

43. The 'Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal' recently commissioned at Jakhapura (Khurda Road Division) primarily serves which industries?

- A) Cement and Steel
- B) IT & Electronics
- C) Textiles & Handlooms
- D) Fisheries & Cold Storage

44. The Odisha government recently announced the establishment of 15 additional Special Courts to deal specifically with cases under which act?

- A) NIA Act
- B) POCSO Act, 2012
- C) Lokpal Act
- D) Consumer Protection Act

45. Which inter-state border issue saw local Zilla Parishad members criticizing "administrative laxity" regarding the lack of a permanent Revenue Inspector (RI) office in Kotia?

- A) Odisha–West Bengal
- B) Odisha–Andhra Pradesh
- C) Odisha–Chhattisgarh
- D) Odisha–Jharkhand

46. What is the total number of deaths recorded due to 'Man-Animal Conflict' in Odisha over the last 10 years, as informed to the State Assembly?

- A) 550
- B) 890

C) 2,100

D) 1,396

47. The 'Cyber Security Centre of Excellence' approved for Odisha is designed to complement which national strategy?

A) National Health Mission

B) National Cyber Security Strategy

C) Gati Shakti National Master Plan

D) Startup India

48. Under the 'Baraputra Aitihya Gram Yojana', the state cabinet aims to develop memorial sites. Who is the "noted freedom fighter" whose birth centenary will be observed in January 2026?

A) Harekrushna Mahatab

B) Parvati Giri

C) Malati Choudhury

D) Nabakrushna Choudhury

49. Which famous waterfall, located in the buffer zone of Similipal and noted for lacking infrastructure, was recently highlighted in the news?

A) Barehipani

B) Joranda

C) Tunki Waterfall

D) Devkund

50. The 'Odisha Electric Vehicle Policy 2.0' is being finalized to align with which long-term state vision?

A) Vision 2030

B) Net Zero 2050

C) Green Odisha 2040

D) Viksit Odisha 2036

51. According to the 2011 Census, what was the youth population (aged 15–34) percentage in Odisha, leading to the term "Youth Bulge"?

A) 34%

B) 25%

C) 45%

D) 50%

52. Odisha is the 4th largest supplier of which food grain to the Food Corporation of India (FCI) as of 2023–24?

A) Wheat

B) Maize

C) Rice

D) Millets

53. Which district in Odisha has the highest recorded diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes (mining) as per the sectoral breakdown?

A) Sundargarh

B) Keonjhar

C) Angul

D) Jharsuguda

54. The 'Odisha Industrial Conclave 2025' set a specific target to create how many "Lakhpati Didis" by 2027?

A) 10 Lakh

B) 17 Lakh

C) 25 Lakh

D) 50 Lakh

55. The 'Shulia Jatra', which recently witnessed controversy regarding animal sacrifice, is primarily celebrated at Shulia Peetha in which district?

A) Kalahandi

B) Kandhamal

C) Koraput

D) Balangir

56. In the context of the Silver Filigree (Tarakasi) of Cuttack, what are the massive silver backdrops created for Goddess Durga called?

A) Chandi Medha

B) Rupa Saja

C) Tarakasi Jhalar

D) Suna Beshu

57. The 'Bahuda Yatra' marks the return journey of the deities of Puri Jagannath Temple after how many days of the Rath Yatra?

A) 7 Days

B) 9 Days

C) 12 Days

D) 15 Days

58. Odisha ranks 1st in India in the production of which two specific horticultural crops?

A) Mango and Banana

B) Sweet Potato and Paddy Straw Mushroom

C) Cashew and Coconut

D) Brinjal and Cabbage

59. The 'National Common Mobility Card' (NCCM) launched for "Ama Bus" commuters offers a specific discount of 15% for which category of passengers?

A) Senior Citizens

B) Students

C) Persons with Disabilities

D) Women

60. The state government announced the construction of 'Cold Storages' in every sub-division. What is the estimated annual loss in India due to inadequate cold chain infrastructure for fruits and vegetables?

A) ₹10,000 Crore

B) ₹50,000 Crore

C) ₹90,000 Crore

D) ₹1.5 Lakh Crore

61. The 'Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal' was formed in which year to address the conflict between Odisha and Chhattisgarh?

A) 2014

B) 2016

C) 2018

D) 2020

62. Which tribal groups play a major role in the traditional dances and rituals of the 'Chhatar Jatra' in Kalahandi?

A) Santal and Ho

B) Gond, Kondh, and Kutia Kondh

C) Munda and Oraon

D) Bonda and Juang

63. Which specific location in the East Coast Railway (ECoR) division recently saw the commissioning of a 'Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal' to support cement and allied industries?

A) Khurda Road

B) Jakhapura

C) Angul

D) Rayagada

64. The 'Atal Bus Stand' being developed in Baripada (Mayurbhanj) is strategically important because it acts as a transport node for which major ecological site?

A) Bhitarkanika National Park

B) Similipal Tiger Reserve

C) Satkosia Gorge

D) Chilika Lake

65. In the 'Swachh Survekshan 2024-25', which city in Odisha achieved a remarkable rank of 9th nationally in the category of cities with a population of 3-10 lakh?

A) Rourkela

B) Bhubaneswar

C) Cuttack

D) Berhampur

66. For smaller cities in the Swachh Survekshan rankings, which town in Odisha secured the 2nd position nationally in the category for population under 20,000?

A) Aska

B) Chikiti

C) Konark

D) Paradip

67. Between 2021 and 2025, how many hectares of forest land were approved for diversion in Odisha, making it the second-highest in India?

A) 5,000 ha

B) 8,000 ha

C) 11,033 ha

D) 17,393 ha

68. The Barehipani Waterfall, located in Similipal, is the second-highest waterfall in India. What is its approximate height?

A) 150 metres

B) 299 metres

C) 399 metres

D) 450 metres

69. The 'Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary' is situated on the western bank of which major reservoir?

A) Rengali

B) Hirakud

C) Upper Kolab

D) Indravati

70. The 'Director of Census Operations' and 'Director of Citizen Registration' for a state is appointed under which specific act?

A) Citizenship Act, 1955

B) Census Act, 1948

C) Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969

D) Representation of the People Act, 1951

71. Odisha government recently made the submission of an 'Annual Property Statement' a mandatory prerequisite for which of the following?

A) Salary increment

B) Transfer to home district

C) Promotion

D) Leave encashment

72. The Odisha State Commission for Women (OSCW) is a statutory body established in which year?

A) 1990

B) 1993

C) 1997

D) 2000

73. In the 2024–25 fiscal year, agriculture and allied sectors in Odisha grew at a rate of 3.3%. What was the average growth rate for this sector over the past five years?

A) 4.1%

B) 9.2%

C) 7.0%

D) 5.5%

74. The 'Odisha AI Summit 2025' featured an immersive 'Vision 2036 Zone'. This summit served as a precursor to which national event?

A) India AI Impact Summit 2026

B) Digital India Week 2025

C) Global Partnership on AI

D) National e-Governance Conference

75. Under the 'Mission PoWaR', what is the target date set by the Odisha government to achieve universal functional household tap connections?

A) March 2025

B) December 2025

C) March 2026

D) March 2027

76. The permanent campus of the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU), an "Institution of National Importance," is being constructed at which location in Odisha?

A) Mancheswar, Bhubaneswar

B) Jatni, Khordha

C) Chhatrapur, Ganjam

D) Burla, Sambalpur

77. What is the primary objective of the "Cyber Security Centre of Excellence" recently approved by the Odisha government?

A) To provide free internet to rural schools

B) To strengthen digital policing and forensic capacity

C) To manufacture indigenous routers and servers

D) To train students in basic computer coding

78. Under the 'NFSU Odisha' project, the state aims to reduce the backlog of pending samples at which existing state facility?

- A) State Police Academy
- B) State Vigilance Department
- C) Odisha Computer Application Centre
- D) State Forensic Science Laboratory

79. Which two beaches in the Ganjam district are currently proposed for the prestigious 'Blue Flag' certification?

- A) Gopalpur and Biju Patnaik Beach
- B) Puri and Konark
- C) Chandrabhaga and Astaranga
- D) Talasari and Chandipur

80. The 'Blue Flag' certification is an international environmental accreditation conferred by the 'Foundation for Environmental Education' (FEE), which is based in which country?

- A) Switzerland
- B) Norway
- C) Denmark
- D) Germany

81. The 'Satkosia Wildlife Sanctuary' encloses a famous 22 km long gorge formed by which river cutting through the Eastern Ghats?

- A) Brahmani
- B) Mahanadi
- C) Baitarani
- D) Rushikulya

82. Which wildlife sanctuary in Odisha recently launched its first dedicated 'Birdling Trail' specifically for avian enthusiasts and tourists?

- A) Simlipal
- B) Bhitarkanika
- C) Debrigarh
- D) Kuldiha

83. In the context of man-animal conflict, 'Project Elephant' involves mapping specific paths to ensure safe animal passage. What are these paths called?

- A) Green Belts
- B) Wildlife Corridors
- C) Eco-Zones
- D) Buffer Strips

84. At the 'Odisha Industrial Conclave 2025', MSMEs were described as the backbone of growth. Approximately what fraction of Odisha's Gross State Value of Output (GSVO) is contributed by MSMEs?

- A) One-tenth
- B) One-fourth
- C) One-third
- D) One-half

85. The 'Subhadra Yojana' framework aims to create 25 lakh 'Lakhpati Didis' by 2027. What is the definition of a 'Lakhpati Didi'?

- A) A woman who receives ₹1 lakh as a government grant
- B) A woman SHG member earning an annual income of ₹1 lakh or more
- C) A woman who owns land worth ₹1 lakh
- D) A woman who has a bank savings of ₹1 lakh

86. Joranda Mahima Peeth is associated with which religious sect?

- A) Vaishnavism
- B) Shaivism
- C) Buddhism
- D) Mahima Dharma

87. Padma Awards are announced annually on which occasion?

- A) Independence Day
- B) Republic Day
- C) Gandhi Jayanti
- D) Constitution Day

88. Shri Jagannath Darshan Yojana targets which group?

- A. Students
- B. Farmers
- C. Senior citizens & widows
- D. Women entrepreneurs

89. Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra is known for which dance form?

- A. Bharatanatyam
- B. Kathak
- C. Odissi
- D. Kuchipudi

90. Nari Adalat primarily deals with which type of disputes?

- A. Criminal cases
- B. Civil & family disputes
- C. Tax disputes
- D. Corporate disputes

91. Two-child norm for Panchayat members in Odisha came into effect in which year?

- A. 1991
- B. 2005

- C. 2000
- D. 1994

92. Mission Rabies initiative in Bhubaneswar focuses on which issue?

- A. Rabies eradication
- B. Water conservation
- C. Plague eradication
- D. Waste management

93. IIM Sambalpur collaborated with which scheme for SC/ST entrepreneurs?

- A. Startup India
- B. Stand-Up India
- C. National SC-ST Hub
- D. Skill India

94. Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal was constituted in which year?

- A. 2015
- B. 2016
- C. 2018
- D. 2020

95. Hirakud Dam is located on which river?

- A. Godavari
- B. Mahanadi
- C. Brahmani
- D. Subarnarekha

96. Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary is known for increase in which species?

- A. Tiger
- B. Elephant
- C. Gaur
- D. Rhino

97. Chilika Lake is famous for which dolphin species?

- A. Ganges Dolphin
- B. Irrawaddy Dolphin
- C. Spinner Dolphin
- D. Bottlenose Dolphin

98. Baitarani River originates from which place?

- A. Simlipal
- B. Gonasika
- C. Hirakud
- D. Koraput

99. Bindusagar Lake is located near which temple?

- A. Jagannath Temple
- B. Sun Temple
- C. Tara Tarini Temple
- D. Lingaraj Temple

100. Mukhyamantri Kanya Bibaha Yojana provides financial assistance of how much?

- A. ₹25,000
- B. ₹30,000
- C. ₹35,000
- D. ₹50,000

101. Niyamraja festival is celebrated by which tribe?

- A. Santhal
- B. Gond
- C. Dongria Kondh
- D. Bonda

102. Kalbaisakhi storms occur during which season?

- A. Winter
- B. Monsoon
- C. Pre-monsoon
- D. Post-monsoon

103. AIRAWAT is related to which field?

- A. Agriculture
- B. Space
- C. Artificial Intelligence
- D. Defence

104. Viability Gap Funding (VGF) is mainly used in which projects?

- A. Private sector only
- B. PPP projects
- C. Agriculture schemes
- D. Defence sector

105. Mahima Dharma emphasises which principle?

- A. Ritualism
- B. Idol worship
- C. Equality & simple living
- D. Vedic sacrifices

106. Padma Awards were instituted in which year?

- A. 1947
- B. 1950
- C. 1954
- D. 1962

107. Natural colours in Pattachitra are derived mainly from:

- A. Chemicals
- B. Synthetic dyes
- C. Minerals and plants
- D. Oil paints

108. Gotipua tradition is associated with which art form?

- A. Painting
- B. Dance
- C. Sculpture
- D. Music

109. Youth Red Cross promotes which motto?

- A. Service after self
- B. Service before self
- C. Nation above all
- D. Duty first

110. Nari Adalat is supported by which institution?

- A. Supreme Court
- B. Police Department
- C. Legal Service Authorities
- D. NGOs only

111. The two-child norm is mentioned under which Act?

- A. Panchayati Raj Act 1992
- B. Odisha Grama Panchayats Act 1964
- C. Municipal Act 1950
- D. Family Planning Act

112. Rabies elimination programme mainly targets which animals?

- A. Cats
- B. Stray dogs
- C. Cattle
- D. Monkeys

113. National SC-ST Hub operates under which ministry?

- A. Ministry of Finance
- B. Ministry of MSME
- C. Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- D. Ministry of Commerce

114. Mahanadi originates from which hills?

- A. Aravalli
- B. Western Ghats
- C. Sihawa Hills
- D. Satpura

115. Hirakud Dam drains into which water body ultimately?

- A. Arabian Sea
- B. Bay of Bengal
- C. Indian Ocean
- D. Red Sea

116. Gaur belongs to which family?

- A. Felidae
- B. Bovidae
- C. Cervidae
- D. Elephantidae

117. Gaur is listed under which schedule of WPA 1972?

- A. Schedule II
- B. Schedule III
- C. Schedule I
- D. Schedule IV

118. Bird Census at Hirakud recorded birds mainly during which months?

- A. June–August
- B. November–March
- C. April–June
- D. January–February

119. Which lake is India's largest brackish water lagoon?

- A. Pulicat Lake
- B. Vembanad Lake
- C. Chilika Lake
- D. Sambhar Lake

120. Dolphin census in Chilika uses which method?

- A. Quadrat method
- B. Line transect method
- C. Random sampling
- D. Mark-recapture

121. IRCTC is classified as which type of PSU?

- A. Maharatna
- B. Navratna
- C. Miniratna
- D. Schedule A PSU

122. Konark Sun Temple represents which architectural style?

- A. Dravidian
- B. Indo-Islamic
- C. Kalinga
- D. Vesara

123. Baitarani River drains into which place?

- A. Arabian Sea
- B. Bay of Bengal
- C. Chilika Lake
- D. Mahanadi

124. Odisha Sahitya Akademi promotes which language?

- A. Hindi
- B. Sanskrit
- C. Odia
- D. Bengali

125. Bindusagar is considered sacred because it is believed to contain water from:

- A. Only rivers
- B. Only lakes
- C. All holy water bodies
- D. Rainwater only

126. Lingaraj Temple was built during which dynasty?

- A. Maurya
- B. Gupta
- C. Somavamshi
- D. Chola

127. Mukhyamantri Kanya Bibaha Yojana follows which transfer mechanism?

- A. Cash payment
- B. Cheque
- C. Direct Benefit Transfer
- D. Voucher system

128. Mass Drug Administration programme targets which disease?

- A. Malaria
- B. Dengue
- C. Lymphatic Filariasis
- D. Tuberculosis

129. Lymphatic Filariasis is transmitted by which vector?

- A. Anopheles mosquito
- B. Aedes mosquito
- C. Culex mosquito
- D. Sandfly

130. Viability Gap Funding is mainly provided to:

- A. Profit-making projects
- B. Socially important but unviable projects
- C. Government-only projects
- D. Defence projects

131. Rayagada district is rich in which mineral?

- A. Coal
- B. Iron

- C. Bauxite
- D. Gold

132. Odisha Renewable Energy Conclave was organised with which organisation?

- A. NTPC
- B. GRIDCO
- C. ONGC
- D. BHEL

133. Odisha's Debt-to-GSDP ratio is approximately:

- A. 25%
- B. 20%
- C. 13.6%
- D. 30%

134. FRBM Act sets state debt limit at:

- A. 20%
- B. 25%
- C. 30%
- D. 35%

135. Sunya Mandira is associated with which philosophy?

- A. Advaita Vedanta
- B. Nirguna worship
- C. Bhakti movement
- D. Tantra

136. Which of the following Padma Awards is the highest?

- A. Padma Shri
- B. Padma Bhushan
- C. Padma Vibhushan
- D. Bharat Ratna

137. Pattachitra paintings traditionally avoid:

- A. Bright colours
- B. Mythological themes
- C. Perspective and shading
- D. Borders

138. Tribhangi posture is associated with which dance?

- A. Kathakali
- B. Odissi
- C. Manipuri
- D. Mohiniyattam

139. PALNA scheme is related to:

- A. Women safety
- B. Childcare services
- C. Health insurance
- D. Education

140. Nari Adalat aims to reduce:

- A. Crime rate
- B. Court pendency
- C. Tax evasion
- D. Unemployment

141. The two-child norm disqualification applies if children are born after:

- A. 1991
- B. 1994 cut-off
- C. 2000
- D. 2005

142. Mission Rabies initiative includes:

- A. Sterilisation only
- B. Vaccination only
- C. Mass vaccination and surveillance
- D. Awareness only

143. Business Accelerator Programme by IIM Sambalpur follows which format?

- A. Online only
- B. Offline only
- C. Hybrid learning
- D. Distance mode

144. Mahanadi dispute primarily involves which two states?

- A. Odisha & Jharkhand
- B. Odisha & Chhattisgarh

- C. Odisha & Andhra Pradesh
- D. Odisha & West Bengal

145. Hirakud Dam is significant as:

- A. Tallest dam in India
- B. Longest earthen dam
- C. Oldest dam
- D. Deepest dam

146. Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary census used which method?

- A. Satellite tracking
- B. Direct count
- C. Drone-only survey
- D. Sample survey

147. Migratory birds at Hirakud mainly come from:

- A. Europe
- B. Africa
- C. Central Asia
- D. Australia

148. Chilika Lake is designated as which type of site?

- A. UNESCO site
- B. Ramsar site
- C. Biosphere reserve
- D. Tiger reserve

149. Irrawaddy dolphins are classified as:

- A. Vulnerable
- B. Endangered
- C. Least Concern
- D. Critically Endangered

150. Bharat Gaurav trains are an initiative of:

- A. Tourism Ministry
- B. IRCTC
- C. NITI Aayog
- D. State governments

151. Gonasika is famous for being the origin of:

- A. Mahanadi
- B. Baitarani
- C. Brahmani
- D. Subarnarekha

152. Bindusagar redevelopment is part of which project?

- A. Smart City Mission
- B. EKAMRA Project
- C. AMRUT
- D. HRIDAY

153. Mukhyamantri Kanya Bibaha Yojana targets which families?

- A. Middle class
- B. Rich families
- C. BPL families
- D. Urban families

154. 'Operation Anweshan' focuses on:

- A. Wildlife conservation
- B. Missing persons rescue
- C. Cyber crime
- D. Drug trafficking

155. Rayagada district is part of which region?

- A. Coastal Odisha
- B. KBK region
- C. Northern Odisha
- D. Central Odisha

156. GRIDCO is related to:

- A. Mining
- B. Power sector
- C. Agriculture
- D. Transport

157. Odisha's capital outlay to GSDP ratio is approximately:

- A. 3%
- B. 4%
- C. 6.6%
- D. 8%

DETAILED SOLUTION:

1. Tarakasi → Cuttack (Ans: D)

Cuttack is famous for silver filigree (Tarakasi), recently GI tagged.

2. Swapneswara Temple → Somavamshi (Ans: D)

Somavamshi dynasty known for early Kalinga temple architecture.

3. Chhatar Jatra → ceremonial umbrella (Ans: B)

Celebrated in Kalahandi; umbrella symbolizes deity power.

4. Youngest martyr → Baji Rout (Ans: B)

12-year-old freedom fighter from Dhenkanal.

5. Bali Jatra → Mahanadi (Ans: A)

Held at Cuttack on Mahanadi banks remembering maritime trade.

6. WhatsApp chatbot → Ama Sathi (Ans: A)

Provides multiple govt services in Odisha.

7. Shaktishree mentors → Sanjojika (Ans: C)

Female professionals mentoring girls.

8. Transitional urban body → Notified Area Council (Ans: C)

Between rural Panchayat and Municipality.

9. Panchayat Dharohar → Gram Panchayat (Ans: C)

Focus on grassroots heritage preservation.

10. First woman Chief Secretary → Anu Garg (Ans: A)

Historic administrative appointment.

11. Green Hydrogen Hub → Paradip Port (Ans: C)

Major industrial port with hydrogen potential.

12. Desalination plant → Ganjam (Ans: B)

First seawater desalination project.

13. Mission PoWaR → Power + Water + Roads (Ans: B)

Integrated infrastructure mission.

14. Forest diversion highest → Chhattisgarh (Ans: A)

Odisha ranked second.

15. Baraputra Yojana → eminent personalities (Ans: B)

Develop birthplaces of icons.

16. Similipal → Mayurbhanj (Ans: D)

Famous tiger reserve with black tigers.

17. Gahirmatha → Olive Ridley turtles (Ans: B)

Largest nesting site globally.

18. Hirakud capacity loss → Siltation (Ans: B)

Sediment accumulation reduces storage.

19. Women forest squad → Debrigarh (Ans: C)

First all-women enforcement unit.

20. Genetic disorder → Sickle Cell (Ans: A)

High prevalence in tribal regions.

21. Semiconductor lab → IIT Bhubaneswar (Ans: D)

NaMo lab setup here.

22. mMRC partner → IOM (Ans: C)

International Organization for Migration.

23. O-Chip → Semiconductor (Ans: B)

Focus on chip design ecosystem.

24. ORF support → Wadhvani AI (Ans: A)

AI-based education support.

25. Digital hubs → Cuttack, Rourkela, Sambalpur, Berhampur (Ans: B)

Key urban centres.

26. POSH Act → Internal Complaints Committee (Ans: B)

Mandatory for workplaces.

27. Mental health → Tele-MANAS (Ans: C)

National mental health helpline.

28. NCRB → Juvenile delinquency (Ans: D)

Odisha ranked highest.

29. e-KYC → PDS system (Ans: B)
Ensures transparency in ration.

30. Child marriage case → Nuapada (Ans: A)
Administrative intervention example.

31. DMF → MMDR Act 2015 (Ans: B)
District Mineral Foundation is a statutory body under amended Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 2015.

32. Agriculture share → ~19% (Ans: B)
Odisha's agriculture contributes around 19% to GSVA, higher than national average.

33. ITI upgradation → PM-VIKAS (Ans: C)
Focuses on future-ready skill development including ITIs.

34. SHG mela → Subhadra Shakti Mela (Ans: B)
Promotes products of women SHGs and Lakhpati Didis.

35. Paddy token validity → District Collectors (Ans: C)
Collectors can extend validity to prevent distress sale.

36. OSPCB → Water Act 1974 (Ans: B)
State Pollution Control Boards were first set up under Water Act.

37. Polluted river stretches → 16 (Ans: A)
CPCB identified 16 polluted stretches in Odisha.

38. Highly polluted stretch → Ganga River (Ans: A)
Worst affected in Bhubaneswar region.

39. Jal Shakti Abhiyan theme → Jan Bhagidari (Ans: B)
Focus on public participation in water conservation.

40. Cyclone-resistant plantation → Ganjam & Jagatsinghpur (Ans: C)
Coastal districts most vulnerable to cyclones.

41. Risk reduction framework → Sendai Framework (Ans: B)
Global framework for disaster risk reduction (not just relief).

42. Atal Bus Stand → Baripada (Ans: D)
Improves connectivity to Similipal region.

43. Cargo terminal → Cement & steel (Ans: A)
Supports heavy industries logistics.

44. Special courts → POCSO Act (Ans: B)
For speedy trial of child sexual offence cases.

45. Kotia dispute → Odisha–Andhra Pradesh (Ans: B)
Long-standing inter-state boundary dispute.

46. Man-animal conflict deaths → 1,396 (Ans: D)
Reflects serious human-wildlife conflict issue.

47. Cyber Centre → National Cyber Security Strategy (Ans: B)
Strengthens digital policing and cyber resilience.

48. Freedom fighter centenary → Parvati Giri (Ans: B)
Known as "Mother Teresa of Western Odisha".

49. Waterfall highlighted → Tunki (Ans: C)
Less developed tourist site in Similipal buffer.

50. EV Policy 2.0 → Viksit Odisha 2036 (Ans: D)
Aligned with long-term development vision.

51. Youth population → ~34% (Ans: A)
Indicates demographic dividend ("youth bulge").

52. Odisha → Rice supplier (Ans: C)
Major contributor to FCI rice procurement.

53. Forest diversion highest → Keonjhar (Ans: B)
Due to mining activities.

54. Lakhpati Didis target → 25 lakh (Ans: C)
Ambitious SHG-based income program.

- 55. Shulia Jatra → Balangir (Ans: D)** Known for traditional rituals including sacrifice.
- 56. Tarakasi Durga backdrop → Chandi Medha (Ans: A)** Huge silver decorations in Cuttack.
- 57. Bahuda Yatra → 9 days later (Ans: B)** Return journey after Rath Yatra.
- 58. Odisha ranks 1st → Sweet potato & mushroom (Ans: B)** Unique horticulture strength.
- 59. NCMC discount → Women (Ans: D)** Encourages women ridership.
- 60. Post-harvest loss → ₹1.5 lakh crore (Ans: D)** Due to lack of cold storage infrastructure in India.
- 61. MWDT → 2018 (Ans: C)** Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal constituted under Inter-State River Water Disputes Act.
- 62. Chhatar Jatra tribes → Gond, Kondh, Kutia Kondh (Ans: B)** Tribal participation is central to the festival.
- 63. Cargo terminal → Jakhapura (Ans: B)** Important logistics hub for cement & steel industries.
- 64. Baripada bus stand → Similipal (Ans: B)** Gateway to Similipal Tiger Reserve.
- 65. Swachh Survekshan (3–10 lakh) → Rourkela (Ans: A)** High-ranking clean city in Odisha.
- 66. Small town ranking → Chikiti (Ans: B)** Ranked 2nd nationally under small population category.
- 67. Forest diversion → 17,393 ha (Ans: D)** Reflects mining pressure in Odisha.
- 68. Barehipani waterfall → ~399 m (Ans: C)** Second highest in India.
- 69. Debrigarh → Hirakud reservoir (Ans: B)** Located on its western bank.
- 70. Census officials → Census Act 1948 (Ans: B)** Governs census operations.
- 71. Property statement → Promotion (Ans: C)** Mandatory for transparency in governance.
- 72. OSCW established → 1993 (Ans: B)** Statutory body for women welfare.
- 73. Avg agri growth → ~5.5% (Ans: D)** Higher than national average.
- 74. AI Summit precursor → India AI Impact Summit (Ans: A)** National-level AI event.
- 75. Tap connection target → March 2026 (Ans: C)** Aligned with Jal Jeevan Mission goals.
- 76. NFSU campus → Jatni (Ans: B)** Near Bhubaneswar, emerging education hub.
- 77. Cyber CoE → Digital policing (Ans: B)** Enhances cyber forensics & security.
- 78. Backlog reduction → State Forensic Science Lab (Ans: D)** Key investigative institution.
- 79. Blue Flag beaches → Gopalpur & Biju Patnaik (Ans: A)** Proposed for eco-certification.
- 80. FEE HQ → Denmark (Ans: C)** Global body for Blue Flag certification.
- 81. Satkosia gorge → Mahanadi (Ans: B)** Forms a deep gorge through Eastern Ghats.
- 82. Birdling Trail → Debrigarh (Ans: C)** Promotes eco-tourism.
- 83. Project Elephant paths → Wildlife corridors (Ans: B)** Ensure safe animal movement.

- 84. MSME contribution → ~1/3 (Ans: C)**
Backbone of state economy.
- 85. Lakhpati Didi → ₹1 lakh annual income (Ans: B)** Income-based definition.
- 86. Joranda → Mahima Dharma (Ans: D)**
Focus on monotheism & equality.
- 87. Padma Awards → Republic Day (Ans: B)**
Announced on 26 January.
- 88. Jagannath Darshan → senior citizens & widows (Ans: C)** Pilgrimage support scheme.
- 89. Kelucharan Mohapatra → Odissi (Ans: C)**
Father of modern Odissi.
- 90. Nari Adalat → civil/family disputes (Ans: B)** Grassroots justice mechanism.
- 91. Two-child norm → 1994 (Ans: D)** Cut-off date for disqualification.
- 92. Mission Rabies → rabies eradication (Ans: A)** Public health initiative.
- 93. IIM Sambalpur → National SC-ST Hub (Ans: C)** Entrepreneurship development.
- 94. MWDT → 2018 (Ans: C)** Repetition but important fact.
- 95. Hiraakud → Mahanadi (Ans: B)** Major river of Odisha.
- 96. Debrigarh → Gaur (Ans: C)** Population increased significantly.
- 97. Chilika → Irrawaddy dolphin (Ans: B)**
Unique lagoon species.
- 98. Baitarani origin → Gonasika (Ans: B)**
Sacred site in Keonjhar.
- 99. Bindusagar → Lingaraj Temple (Ans: D)**
Religious tank in Bhubaneswar.
- 100. Kanya Bibaha → ₹35,000 (Ans: C)**
DBT support to brides.
- 101. Niyamraja festival → Dongria Kondh (Ans: C)** Tribal deity of Niyamgiri hills; linked to forest rights.
- 102. Kalbaisakhi → Pre-monsoon (Ans: C)**
Violent thunderstorms (Mar–May) in eastern India.
- 103. AIRAWAT → Artificial Intelligence (Ans: C)** India's national AI supercomputing platform.
- 104. VGF → PPP projects (Ans: B)**
Used to make socially important projects viable.
- 105. Mahima Dharma → Equality & simple living (Ans: C)** Rejects idol worship; promotes Nirguna philosophy.
- 106. Padma Awards → 1954 (Ans: C)** India's civilian awards system started then.
- 107. Pattachitra colours → Natural sources (Ans: C)** Minerals, plants, conch shells.
- 108. Gotipua → Dance (Ans: B)** Precursor to Odissi dance tradition.
- 109. Youth Red Cross → "Service before self" (Ans: B)** Humanitarian principle.
- 110. Nari Adalat support → Legal Services Authorities (Ans: C)** Ensures legal backing.
- 111. Two-child norm → Odisha GP Act 1964 (Ans: B)** Legal provision for Panchayat disqualification.
- 112. Rabies programme → Stray dogs (Ans: B)**
Main carriers of rabies.
- 113. SC-ST Hub → MSME Ministry (Ans: B)**
Promotes SC/ST entrepreneurship.

- 114. Mahanadi origin → Sihawa Hills (Ans: C)**
In Chhattisgarh.
- 115. Hirakud drains → Bay of Bengal (Ans: B)**
Via Mahanadi river system.
- 116. Gaur family → Bovidae (Ans: B)**
Largest wild cattle species.
- 117. Gaur protection → Schedule I (Ans: C)**
Highest protection under WPA 1972.
- 118. Bird census → Nov–March (Ans: B)**
Peak migratory season.
- 119. Largest lagoon → Chilika (Ans: C)**
India's biggest brackish water lagoon.
- 120. Dolphin census → Line transect (Ans: B)**
Scientific survey method.
- 121. IRCTC → Navratna PSU (Ans: B)**
Operational autonomy in tourism & rail services.
- 122. Konark Temple → Kalinga style (Ans: C)**
Distinct Odisha temple architecture.
- 123. Baitarani drains → Bay of Bengal (Ans: B)**
Major east-flowing river.
- 124. Sahitya Akademi → Odia language (Ans: C)**
Promotes regional literature.
- 125. Bindusagar → all holy waters belief (Ans: C)**
Mythological significance.
- 126. Lingaraj Temple → Somavamshi dynasty (Ans: C)**
Classic Kalinga architecture.
- 127. Kanya Bibaha → DBT (Ans: C)**
Direct transfer to beneficiary account.
- 128. MDA → Lymphatic Filariasis (Ans: C)**
Mass drug distribution programme.
- 129. LF vector → Culex mosquito (Ans: C)**
Spreads filarial worms.
- 130. VGF → socially unviable projects (Ans: B)**
Government subsidy support.
- 131. Rayagada → Bauxite (Ans: C)**
Mineral-rich tribal district.
- 132. RE Conclave → GRIDCO (Ans: B)**
State power utility.
- 133. Debt-GSDP → 13.6% (Ans: C)**
Lowest among major states.
- 134. FRBM limit → 25% (Ans: B)**
Fiscal discipline benchmark
- 135. Sunya Mandira → Nirguna worship (Ans: B)**
Formless divine concept.
- 136. Highest Padma → Padma Vibhushan (Ans: C)**
Second highest civilian award after Bharat Ratna.
- 137. Pattachitra avoids → Perspective (Ans: C)**
Flat, decorative style.
- 138. Tribhangi → Odissi (Ans: B)**
Three-bend posture.
- 139. PALNA → Childcare (Ans: B)**
Anganwadi-cum-crèche services.
- 140. Nari Adalat → reduce pendency (Ans: B)**
Alternative dispute resolution.
- 141. Two-child rule → after 1994 (Ans: B)**
Cut-off date important.
- 142. Mission Rabies → vaccination + surveillance (Ans: C)**
Comprehensive approach.
- 143. IIM Sambalpur programme → Hybrid (Ans: C)**
Online + offline learning.
- 144. Mahanadi dispute → Odisha–Chhattisgarh (Ans: B)**
Inter-state river conflict.

145. Hirakud → longest earthen dam (Ans: B)

Engineering significance.

146. Debrigarh census → Direct count (Ans: B)

Used for gaur population.

147. Migratory birds → Central Asia (Ans: C)

Flyways include Siberia region.

148. Chilika → Ramsar site (Ans: B)

Wetland of international importance.

149. Irrawaddy dolphin → Endangered (Ans: B)

IUCN Red List.

150. Bharat Gaurav trains → IRCTC (Ans: B)

Tourism initiative.

151. Gonasika → Baitarani origin (Ans: B)

Sacred geographical point.

152. Bindusagar → EKAMRA project (Ans: B)

Heritage redevelopment plan.

153. Kanya Bibaha → BPL families (Ans: C)

Targeted welfare scheme.

154. Operation Anweshan → missing persons

(Ans: B) Rescue operation.

155. Rayagada → KBK region (Ans: B)

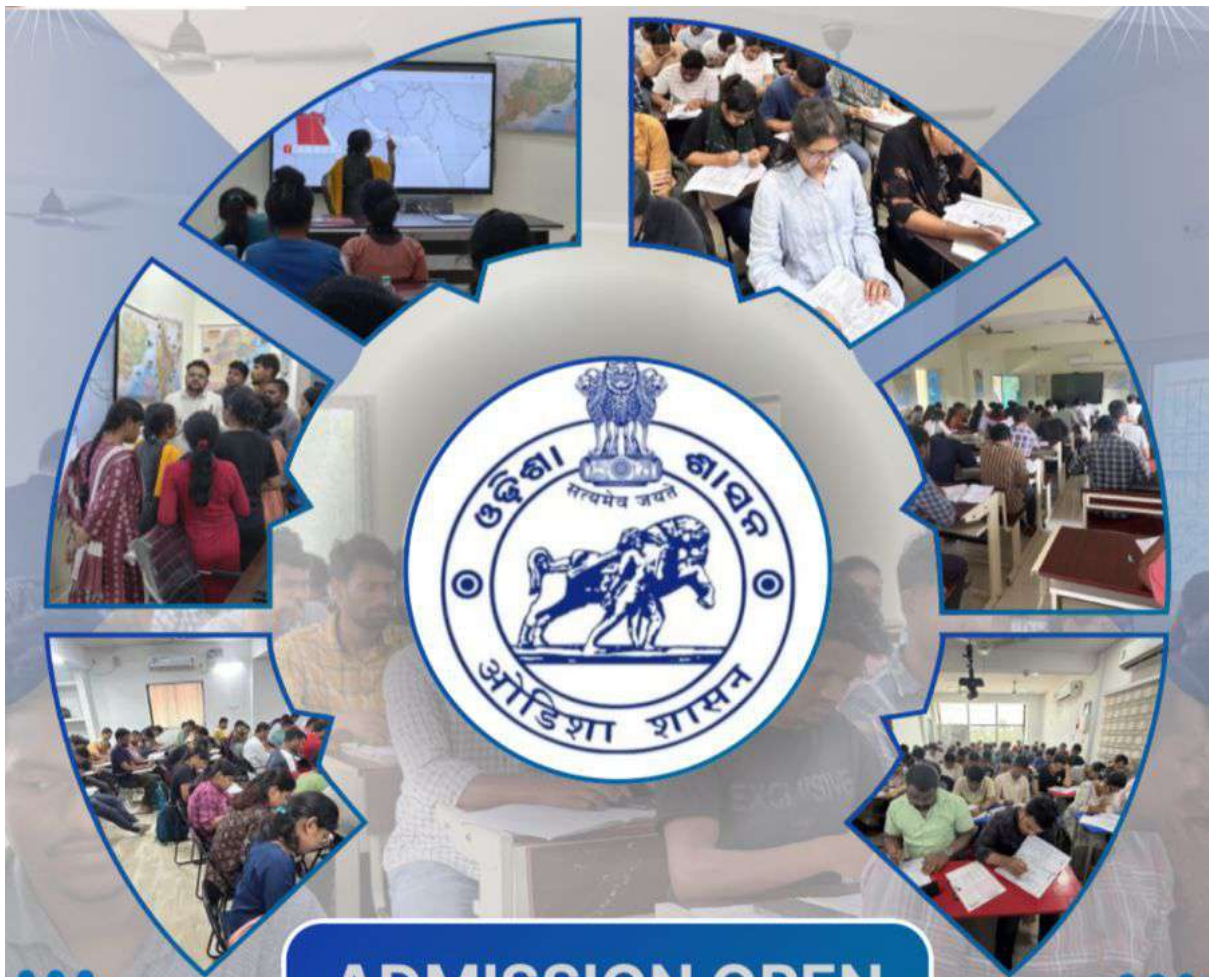
Backward region of Odisha.

156. GRIDCO → Power sector (Ans: B)

Handles electricity transmission & supply.

157. Capital outlay → 6.6% (Ans: C)

Highest among major states.



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