

# APTI PLUS OAS GAZETTE

JULY 2025



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Odisha launches e-Registration App for Revenue Services



Flight Data Recorder (FDR) and Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR)



Pattachitra from Odisha gains Global Spotlight



Greater Flamingo Sanctuary in Dhanushkodi



Odisha bans Refined Sugar, restricts Salt in School Meals

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**COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE OF CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR ODISHA STATE CIVIL SERVICES EXAMS**



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# APTI PLUS

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Outstanding Accomplishment by **APTI PLUS** Bhubaneswar in

## OAS 2022

Triumphant Again...

### 500+ Selections in OPSC OCS 2022

### 7 SELECTIONS IN TOP 10

**RANK 1**



**SWETA SHREE MOHAPATRA** IGP



**PRINKIL PRABIN PARIDA**  
IGP



**PRAJNA PARANGAMA**  
IGP



**AZAD KUMAR SAHU**  
IGP



**DEBABRATA GAUDA**  
IGP



**KAPIL K. MOHANTY**  
IGP



**AMRITA SAHOO**  
IGP



**BIKASH KUMAR SAHOO**  
RANK 11  
TSP & IGP



**SATYA S. PANIGRAHI**  
RANK 12  
IGP



**NOORIE PARVEEN**  
RANK 13  
IGP



**BIKASH RANJAN SAHU**  
RANK 15  
TSP & IGP



**RAJIB LOCHAN DIKSHIT**  
RANK 18  
IGP



**SIDDHANT NAYAK**  
RANK 20  
CLASSROOM PROGRAM



**AMBIKA BHUYAN**  
RANK 21  
IGP



**PRITISH BHOL**  
RANK 24  
CLASSROOM PROGRAM



**SUBHA K. MAHAPATRA**  
RANK 25  
CLASSROOM PROGRAM



**SIDDHARTHA GOUTAM**  
RANK 27  
TSP & IGP



**SATARUPA SATAPATHY**  
RANK 28  
IGP



**MUNMUN GIRI**  
RANK 31  
IGP



**PRIVANKA MOHANTY**  
RANK 39  
IGP



**KUNCHITA SAMAL**  
RANK 42  
IGP



**SUBHADARSHINEE DAS**  
RANK 43  
IGP



**SANTOSH K. JENA**  
RANK 44  
CLASSROOM PROGRAM



**AMRIT MAHAPATRA**  
RANK 46  
IGP



**ANANYA GARABADI**  
RANK 48  
IGP



**CHIRANJIBEE SAHU**  
RANK 49  
IGP



**TRISANDHYA PATRA**  
RANK 52  
CLASSROOM PROGRAM



**SHIPRA PRIYADARSHINI BAL**  
RANK 54  
TSP & IGP



**AKANKSHA BISWAL**  
RANK 58  
IGP



**SUNIL K. SAMANTA**  
RANK 62  
IGP



**SUBHRANSHU S. MISHRA**  
RANK 63  
TSP & IGP



**EPSITA PRIYADASHINI**  
RANK 67  
IGP



**RACHITA MAHAPATRA**  
RANK 68  
IGP



**BIJAY NAIK**  
RANK 70  
IGP



**AMRIT ACHARYA**  
RANK 71  
IGP



**SATYABRATA SAHOO**  
RANK 95  
IGP



**SANJAY MISHRA**  
RANK 112  
TSP & IGP



**PRITAM MOHANTY**  
RANK 115  
TSP & IGP



**SAHIL SAHU**  
RANK 78  
IGP



**CHINMAYEE PANIGRAHI**  
RANK 79  
CLASSROOM PROGRAM



**DIBYA RANJAN BISWAL**  
RANK 82  
IGP



**SOUMYESH ACHARYA**  
RANK 83  
TSP & IGP



**SAURAV KUMAR RANJIT**  
RANK 86  
IGP



**KALINGA ASISH SATPATHY**  
RANK 88  
IGP



**CHINMAYA K. SAHOO**  
RANK 90  
IGP



**SAMIR PAIKARAY**  
RANK 92  
IGP



**ANKITA MADELI**  
RANK 286  
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**SWETA SHRABANI NAYAK**  
RANK 384  
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**SWARNAMAYEE SAHU**  
RANK 438  
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**DIPTI RANJAN SAHOO**  
RANK 125  
CLASSROOM PROGRAM



**NIBEDITA SWAIN**  
RANK 137  
IGP



**BHAGYASHREE MISHRA**  
RANK 138  
CLASSROOM PROGRAM



**PRATOSH KANUNGO**  
RANK 169  
CLASSROOM PROGRAM



**SIBURAM SWAIN**  
RANK 214  
CLASSROOM PROGRAM



**ANKUR DASH**  
RANK 230  
CLASSROOM PROGRAM



**SAUMIT KUMAR MOHANTA**  
RANK 263  
CLASSROOM PROGRAM



**SASWATI SADANGI**  
RANK 274  
CLASSROOM PROGRAM



**AISWARYA MAHALIK**  
RANK 72  
IGP



**RAJAT K. PADHIARY**  
RANK 74  
IGP



**MANAS RANJAN PANDA**  
RANK 75  
IGP



**NISANTA BHATTA**  
RANK 451  
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**BIJAY KUMAR MOHANTY**  
RANK 476  
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## OPSC Current Affairs



**SYLLABUS:**

**CURRENT EVENTS OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE:**

**TO BE READ FROM THE IAS GAZETTE: COVERS - POLITY, GOVERNMENT SCHEMES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ECONOMY, SECURITY, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, SECURITY, GEOGRAPHY, SOCIETY, ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY**



## APPOINTMENTS

### Chief of DRDO

- **Dr. Samir V Kamat**, Chairman of DRDO, has been granted a **second one-year extension** till **May 31, 2026**, under **Fundamental Rule 56(d)**, citing **public interest**. His leadership is considered crucial for advancing **indigenous defence technologies**. The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** approved this extension, underlining the strategic importance of his ongoing contributions to national defence.

### Director of the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)

- **Ram Mohan M K** has been appointed as the new **Director of the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)**.
- The **Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)**, a statutory body under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, was established on **24 August 1972** through the **MPEDA Act, 1972**, replacing the earlier **Marine Products Export Promotion Council (1961)**. Headquartered in **Kochi**, MPEDA is tasked with **promoting and regulating the export of marine products** from India. It operates regional, sub-regional and trade offices in **New Delhi, Tokyo and New York** to strengthen global outreach.
- MPEDA offers services such as **registration of export infrastructure, trade data dissemination, international marketing of Indian seafood** and implementation of **modernisation measures--including cold chain infrastructure, quality labs and aquaculture development**. It also promotes **brackish water aquaculture and deep-sea fishing** through joint ventures and equity participation, ensuring India's seafood exports remain **sustainable, high-quality and globally competitive**.

### Chairman of UPSC

- **Ajay Kumar**, former **Defence Secretary** and a **1985-batch IAS officer** of the **Kerala cadre**, has been appointed as the new **Chairman of UPSC** on

**May 14, 2025**, following the end of **Preeti Sudan's tenure**. He played a pivotal role in **defence reforms**, including the **CDS creation, Agniveer scheme and AtmaNirbhar Bharat in defence**. As part of **MeitY**, he contributed to **UPI, Aadhaar and GeM**.

- The **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)** is a **constitutional body** established under **Part XIV of the Indian Constitution** to recruit officers for the **All India Services and Central Civil Services (Group A and B)**. Headquartered at **Dholpur House, New Delhi**, it operates independently and reports directly to the **President of India**. Though its advice is not binding, UPSC holds a high degree of **autonomy**, akin to the **judiciary** and the **Election Commission**.

### Executive Chairman of NALSA

- **Justice Surya Kant**, a senior judge of the **Supreme Court**, has been appointed as the new **Executive Chairman of NALSA** effective **May 14, 2025**, succeeding **Justice BR Gavai**. Appointed by the **President of India** under the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**, his elevation follows the convention of nominating the **second senior-most SC judge**. Known for promoting **legal aid and access to justice**, Justice Kant previously served as **Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court**. NALSA, established in **1995** and headquartered in **New Delhi**, works to ensure **free legal services** to the underprivileged, in line with **Article 39-A** of the Constitution. His appointment is seen as a key step towards enhancing **social justice** and strengthening **legal outreach**.

### 52nd Chief Justice of India (CJI)

- **Justice B.R. Gavai** was appointed as the **52nd Chief Justice of India (CJI)**. The CJI is the **highest-ranking judge** of the **Supreme Court** and head of the **Indian judiciary**, appointed by the **President** based on the recommendation of the outgoing CJI and consultations with other judges, as per **Article 124(2)** of the **Constitution**. The Chief

Justice serves until the age of 65 or until removed through **impeachment** under **Article 124(4)**, which requires a **two-thirds majority** in both Houses of **Parliament** for proven **misbehavior** or **incapacity**. Traditionally, the most **senior judge** is appointed as CJI, although this convention has been broken twice in history. The Chief Justice **allocates cases**, forms **constitutional benches**, oversees **court administration** and appoints **court officials**. Additionally, the CJI acts as the de facto **Chancellor of the National Law School of India University** and **Visitor of the National Law University, Delhi**.

### Chairman of the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB)

- Alok Joshi, former R&AW chief, has been appointed as the new **Chairman of the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB)** amid rising

tensions with **Pakistan** following the **Pahalgam terror attack**.

- The **National Security Advisory Board (NSAB)**, established in 1998, functions under the **National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS)** and works in coordination with the **Strategic Policy Group (SPG)** and **Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC)**. It advises the **National Security Council (NSC)** on issues related to **external threats**, **internal stability** and **emerging challenges**, offering **independent, long-term policy analysis**. NSAB played a crucial role in shaping India's **Nuclear Doctrine (2001)** and the **National Security Review (2007)**. Headed by a **Chairperson**, usually a senior former official, it includes members from **diplomacy, defence, academia, economics and science**. The board has **no fixed size**, allowing **flexibility** based on evolving needs, with members appointed for a **two-year term**.



## AWARDS

### National e-Governance Awards 2025

#### Context

- Rohini Gram Panchayat, a fully tribal village in Dhule district, Maharashtra, has won the Gold Award at the National e-Governance Awards 2025, gaining national recognition for its digital governance initiatives.

#### Details

- The National e-Governance Awards Scheme, one of India's most prestigious digital governance recognitions, aims to promote excellence in e-Governance implementation. In 2025, 16 awards were conferred--10 Gold and 6 Silver--across six categories, including AI innovation, cyber security and grassroots service delivery. Winners receive a trophy, certificate and Rs 10 lakh (Gold) or Rs 5 lakh (Silver) to support public welfare initiatives. The scheme is administered by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions. Rohini Gram Panchayat in Maharashtra won the Gold Award for outstanding digital governance at the grassroots level.

securing Thailand's first-ever win in the pageant's history. Hasset Dereje Admassu of Ethiopia was the runner-up.

#### Details

- Miss World is the oldest surviving international beauty pageant, founded in 1951 in the United Kingdom by Eric Morley. After his death in 2000, his wife Julia Morley took over the leadership. Alongside Miss Universe, Miss Earth and Miss International, Miss World is part of the Big Four beauty pageants. In the 1980s, it introduced the "Beauty With a Purpose" theme, emphasizing intelligence and humanitarian work.

### National Florence Nightingale Awards 2025

#### Context

- President Droupadi Murmu presented the National Florence Nightingale Awards 2025 to 15 nursing professionals on May 30 at Rashtrapati Bhavan for their outstanding service to public health.

#### Details

- Instituted in 1973 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the award recognizes excellence among Registered Auxiliary Nurses & Midwives, Registered Nurses and Midwives and Registered Lady Visitors, employed across Central, State/UTs and Voluntary Organizations. Each

### Miss World 2025

#### Context

- Opal Suchata Chuangsri of Thailand has been crowned Miss World 2025 in Hyderabad,



recipient receives a **Certificate of Merit**, a **cash award of ₹1,00,000** and a **medal**. In a significant move to strengthen nursing education and services, the Government of India has set up **157 nursing colleges** and enacted the **National Nursing and Midwifery Commission (NNMC) Act, 2023**, establishing the **National Nursing and Midwifery Commission** to regulate and enhance the quality of nursing and midwifery education across the country.

## International Booker Prize 2025

### Context

- **Banu Mushtaq** made history by becoming the first Kannada author to win the **International Booker Prize 2025** for her short story collection *Heart Lamp*, translated into English by **Deepa Bhasthi**.

### Details

- A former journalist and now a lawyer, **Banu Mushtaq** is also known for her association with the **Bandaya Movement**, advocating literature as a tool for social change. *Heart Lamp* reflects Banu's own experiences and observations from Karnataka, addressing themes like **religious orthodoxy, patriarchy and women's agency**.
- The **International Booker Prize**, formerly the **Man Booker International Prize**, is a prestigious literary award based in the **United Kingdom**, introduced in **2004** to complement the Booker Prize. Initially awarded biennially (2005–2015) to a living author for their **entire body of work** available in English, it celebrated sustained contributions to global fiction. However, since **2016**, the format changed to an **annual prize** for a **single work of fiction or short stories** translated into English and published in the **UK or Ireland**. The **£50,000 prize** is equally shared between the **author and translator**, highlighting the vital role of translation in global literature.

## Jnanpith Award

### Context

- The 58th **Jnanpith Award** was conferred on **Gulzar and Rambhadracharya** by President **Droupadi Murmu** for their outstanding literary contributions.

### Details

- The **Jnanpith Award**, instituted in **1961**, is **India's highest literary honour**, presented annually by the **Bharatiya Jnanpith** for an author's **outstanding contribution to literature**. It is conferred only on **Indian writers writing in languages listed in the**

**Eighth Schedule** of the Constitution or in **English**. **Posthumous awards are not given**.

- Initially awarded for an author's **most outstanding work** from **1965 to 1981**, the first recipient was **G. Sankara Kurup** in **1965** for *Odakkuzhal* (Malayalam). Since then, only works from the **preceding 20 years** are considered (excluding the award year). The **cash prize**, originally modest, was **raised to ₹1.5 lakh in 1981** and as of **2015**, stands at **₹11 lakh**.
- The award includes a **citation**, a **bronze Saraswati idol** and a cash component. So far, **65 authors**, including **8 women**, have been honoured. **Ashapurna Devi** was the **first woman** recipient in **1976** for her Bengali novel *Prothom Protishruti*.

## 2025 World Food Prize

### Context

- **Mariangela Hungria**, a renowned **Brazilian microbiologist**, has been awarded the **2025 World Food Prize** for her **pioneering work in biological nitrogen fixation**--a sustainable method that enhances crop growth by naturally enriching soil nitrogen, thereby reducing dependency on chemical fertilizers. Her innovations have played a **transformative role in Brazil's agricultural productivity and sustainability**.

### Details

- The **World Food Prize**, often referred to as the "Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture", was **conceived by Nobel laureate Norman Borlaug** and established in **1986** with the support of **General Foods**. It recognizes individuals who have **improved the quality, quantity, or availability of food worldwide**, with contributions ranging from **soil science to policy and hunger alleviation**. Since **1987**, it has been awarded annually by the **World Food Prize Foundation**, headquartered in **Des Moines, Iowa**, where laureates are honored at the **Iowa State Capitol** with a **\$500,000 prize**, a diploma and a commemorative sculpture by **Saul Bass**. The Foundation also conducts programs like the **Borlaug Symposium, Iowa Hunger Summit** and **youth internships**. After **Borlaug**, **M.S. Swaminathan** became the first laureate and later chaired the selection committee.

## Pulitzer Prizes 2025

### Context

- The **Pulitzer Prizes 2025**, among the most prestigious global awards in journalism and the

arts, were announced by the **Pulitzer Prize Board** to honour excellence in impactful reporting and storytelling.

#### Details

- The **New York Times** led with **four awards**, including **Breaking News Photography** for Doug Mills' iconic image of the **Trump assassination attempt**. Other key winners include **The Washington Post** for **Breaking News Reporting**, **Reuters** for its investigation "*Fentanyl Express*" and **The Wall Street Journal** for its deep dive into **Elon Musk**. The **New Yorker** won **three awards**--in **Commentary**, **Feature Photography** and **Audio Reporting**. The **Public Service** prize went to

Kavitha Surana and team for exposing maternal deaths linked to abortion laws.

- The **Pulitzer Prizes**, established in **1917** through the will of newspaper publisher **Joseph Pulitzer**, are prestigious annual awards presented by **Columbia University**, New York, to recognize excellence in **journalism, literature, drama and music** in the United States. There are **23 award categories**, including **Public Service, Investigative Reporting, Fiction, Poetry** and **Audio Reporting**. Winners receive a **certificate and \$15,000**, except in the **Public Service** category, where a **gold medal** is awarded.



## BOOKS & AUTHORS [CURRENT]

Book	Author and Details
India: 5000 Years of History on the Subcontinent	Audrey Truschke: Highlights key empires, cultural shifts and contested narratives shaping the subcontinent's identity.
Indira Gandhi and the Years that Transformed India	TCA Srinivasa Raghavan. Published on May 23, 2025, the book explores the power struggle among the executive, legislature and judiciary during Indira Gandhi's Emergency rule (1975-1977).
PMO Through the Ages	Himanshu Roy



## BOOKS & AUTHORS [STATIC GK]

BOOK	AUTHOR
The Wonder That Was India	A. L. Basham
Whole Numbers and Half Truths	Rukmini S.
The Struggle for India's Soul	Shashi Tharoor
The Problem of the Rupee: Its Origin and Its Solution	B. R. Ambedkar
Gita Rahasya	Bal Gangadhar Tilak
Young India: An Interpretation and a History	Lala Lajpat Rai
Prison Diary	Jayaprakash Narayan
The Golden Threshold	Sarojini Naidu
The Home and the World	Rabindranath Tagore
Nationality and Empire	Bipin Chandra Pal
Pilgrimage to Freedom	K. M. Munshi



## SPORTS

### Global Ambassador for the Esports World Cup 2025 (EWC)

#### Context

- Cristiano Ronaldo, Portuguese footballer and five-time Ballon d'Or winner, has been officially named

the **Global Ambassador for the Esports World Cup 2025 (EWC)** by the Esports World Cup Foundation (EWCF)

#### Details





- **Esports World Cup (EWC)** is the world's largest annual esports event, held in **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia** (July–August), organized by the **Esports World Cup Foundation**. Launched in **2024** as a successor to **Gamers8**, it features **25+ games** and a **\$70 million+ prize pool** (2025). Key features include the **Club Championship** (\$20 million) and introduction of **chess** (ambassador: **Magnus Carlsen**). Founded by **Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman** in 2023, EWC faces criticism as a **sportswashing** tool amid Saudi Arabia's human rights concerns.

## Wimbledon

### Context

- **Wimbledon 2025** has announced a **record prize pool of £53.5 million (~\$73 million)**, with **£3 million (~\$4 million)** each for men's and women's singles champions--an **11.1% increase** from 2024.

### Details

- **Wimbledon** is the **oldest and most prestigious** tennis tournament in the world, held annually since **1877** in **Wimbledon, London**, on **outdoor grass courts**. Organized by the **All England Club** with the **Lawn Tennis Association**, it is the **third Grand Slam** of the year, following the **Australian Open** and **French Open**. The **2025 edition (June 30 - July 13)** will be the first to use **only electronic line-calling**, ending the use of human line judges in its **147-year history**.

## ICC Hall of Fame

### Context

- **MS Dhoni**, former India captain and the only skipper to win all three ICC white-ball trophies, was inducted into the **ICC Hall of Fame in 2025**, becoming the **11th Indian cricketer** to receive this honour.

### Details

- Dhoni led India to the **2007 T20 World Cup**, **2011 ODI World Cup** and **2013 Champions Trophy**. Over his 16-year career, he played **350 ODIs**, scoring **10,773 runs** and **90 Tests**, amassing **4,876 runs**, while excelling as a wicketkeeper. The 2025 Hall of Fame class also included legends like **Matthew Hayden**, **Daniel Vettori**, **Hashim Amla**, **Graeme Smith**, **Sana Mir** and **Sarah Taylor**.
- The **ICC Cricket Hall of Fame**, launched in **2009**, honours cricket legends from the sport's long history. It started with **55 FICA inductees**, ranging from **W.G. Grace** to **Graham Gooch**. **New members are added annually during the ICC**

**Awards.** As of **2025**, there are **122 inductees** -- **85** from England, Australia and West Indies and **37** from other Test nations. Notably, in **2025**, **MS Dhoni**, **Graeme Smith** and **Daniel Vettori** -- all 2011 World Cup captains -- were inducted. There are **15 women inductees**, with **Rachael Heyhoe Flint** being the first (2010) and **Sana Mir** and **Sarah Taylor** inducted in 2025.

## Sonneborne-Berger tiebreak system

### Context

- Indian GM **Aravindh Chithambaram** clinched victory at the **6th Stepan Avagyan Memorial chess tournament** held in **Jermuk, Armenia**, scoring **6.5 points in 9 rounds**.

### Details

- He tied with **R. Praggnanandhaa**, but won on the **Sonneborne-Berger tiebreak system**, which evaluates the strength of opponents beaten. Aravindh remained **unbeaten with 4 wins and 5 draws**, defeating **Aram Hakobyan** in the final round. This adds to his stellar 2025, having also won the **Prague Chess Festival Masters** earlier. The tournament continues to grow as a significant fixture in the global chess calendar.
- The **Sonneborn-Berger score**, also known as the **Neustadtl score**, is a widely used chess **tiebreak system**, especially in **Round Robin tournaments**. It is calculated by adding the scores of defeated opponents and half the scores of drawn opponents, rewarding strong performances against higher-ranked players. Originally proposed by **Hermann Neustadtl** in 1882, it differs from earlier variants by **Oscar Gelbfuhs** and the **non-Neustadtl version** supported by **Sonneborn and Berger**.

## Norway Chess

### Context

- **Magnus Carlsen** clinched his **seventh Norway Chess title** in 2025 after a dramatic final round in Stavanger, drawing against **Arjun Erigaisi** to edge out **Fabiano Caruana** and **D Gukesh**.

### Details

- **Norway Chess** is a prestigious annual closed chess tournament held typically between May and June in Stavanger, Norway. It began in 2013 with ten top players, including seven of the world's highest-rated grandmasters and was won by **Sergey Karjakin**, with **Magnus Carlsen** and **Hikaru Nakamura** sharing second place. In 2015, Norway Chess joined the inaugural **Grand Chess**

**Tour** but later withdrew to maintain its independent status as a premier event.

## 2025 Asian Athletics Championships

### Context

- India secured a strong **second place** at the **2025 Asian Athletics Championships** in Gumi, South Korea, with a total of **24 medals**--8 gold, 10 silver and 6 bronze.

### Details

- The **World Athletics Championships**--formerly the **IAAF World Championships in Athletics** until 2019--are the premier biennial global competition for outdoor track and field athletics, organized by World Athletics. Established officially in **1983** in Helsinki, the championships arose after the IOC removed the men's 50 km walk from the 1976 Olympics, prompting the IAAF to hold separate world events starting in 1976. Initially held every four years, the championships switched to a two-year cycle from 1991 onward. In 2024, World Athletics announced the **World Athletics Ultimate Championship**, a new elite biennial event starting 2026 featuring only the top 16 athletes per discipline.

## Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025

### Context

- Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB)** finally clinched their **maiden IPL title** in 2025.

### Details

- They defeated **Punjab Kings** by **6 runs** in a thrilling final at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium.

## Princess of Asturias Award for Sports 2025

### Context

- Serena Williams, the legendary tennis icon, has been conferred the **Princess of Asturias Award for Sports 2025**

### Details

- The award celebrates Serena's dual legacy--her **dominance on the court** with **23 Grand Slam singles titles** and 73 overall and her **voice for gender and racial equity** off the court.
- The **Princess of Asturias Awards** are prestigious **international honours** awarded annually by the **Princess of Asturias Foundation** in Spain to individuals and institutions for outstanding achievements in **sciences, humanities, public affairs** and more. Held in **October** at **Teatro Campoamor**, Oviedo, the ceremony is presided

over by the **Princess of Asturias**. Winners receive a **Joan Miró sculpture**, a diploma, a foundation pin and a **€50,000 prize**. In **2004**, UNESCO recognized the awards as an "**exceptional contribution to the cultural heritage of Humanity**".

## Nottwil World Para Athletics Grand Prix

### Context

- India's **Mahendra Gurjar** set a **world record** in the **men's javelin F42** category at the **Nottwil World Para Athletics Grand Prix** in Switzerland with a throw of **61.17m**, surpassing the previous 2022 record of 59.19m.

### Details

- He also clinched **gold in long jump T42** with a 5.59m leap, marking his first event in that category and earning him the **top Asia ranking**.
- Nottwil World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2025** was held in **Nottwil, Switzerland**, from **May 23-25**, with **classifications from May 20-22**. The event featured **254 para-athletes from 40 countries** competing in various track and field events.

## First Indian to Win Formula 2 Race

### Context

- Kush Maini** made **Indian motorsport history** by winning the **Formula 2 Sprint Race** at the **Monaco Grand Prix**, becoming the **first Indian** to achieve this feat.

### Details

- The **Monaco Grand Prix**, held annually on the **Circuit de Monaco** since **1929**, is considered one of the most **prestigious Formula One** races in the world. Alongside the **Indianapolis 500** and the **24 Hours of Le Mans**, it forms the **Triple Crown of Motorsport**.

## Miao Lijie Named Ambassador for FIBA Women's Asia Cup 2025

### Context

- Chinese basketball legend **Miao Lijie** has been appointed as the **ambassador** for the upcoming **FIBA Women's Asia Cup 2025**, set to take place in **Shenzhen, China**, from **July 13 to 20, 2025**.

### Details

- FIBA Women's Asia Cup** is a **biennial international basketball tournament** for women's **national teams** from **FIBA Asia** and, since **2017**, **FIBA Oceania**. Originally known as the **Asian Basketball Confederation (ABC) Championship** until **2001** and later the **FIBA Asia Women's**

**Championship** until **2015**, the tournament showcases the top women's basketball talent from across Asia and Oceania, serving as a key qualifier

for global events like the **FIBA Women's World Cup** and the **Olympics**.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day/Event
<b>May</b>	
1 May	International Labour Day / May Day, Maharashtra Day, Gujarat Day
2 May	World Tuna Day
3 May	World Press Freedom Day
4 May	World Portuguese Language Day
6 May	International No Diet Day, World Asthma Day (First Tuesday)
7 May	World Athletics Day
8 May	World Red Cross Day, World Thalassaemia Day
9 May	Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti, Maharana Pratap Jayanti
10 May	World Lupus Day
11 May	National Technology Day, Mother's Day (Second Sunday)
12 May	International Nurses Day, Buddha Purnima (Buddha Jayanti)
15 May	International Day of Families
16 May	National Dengue Day, International Day of Light, National Endangered Species Day (Third Friday)
17 May	World Telecommunication Day, World Hypertension Day, Armed Forces Day (Third Saturday)
18 May	World AIDS Vaccine Day (HIV Vaccine Awareness Day), International Museum Day
20 May	International HR Day
21 May	National Anti-Terrorism Day, International Tea Day
22 May	International Day for Biological Diversity
23 May	World Turtle Day
24 May	National Brother's Day
25 May	Africa Day
26 May	National Memorial Day (Last Monday of May)
30 May	International Day of Potato, Goa Statehood Day, Hindi Journalism Day
31 May	World No Tobacco Day (Anti-Tobacco Day)
<b>June</b>	
1 June	World Milk Day, Global Day of Parents
2 June	International Sex Workers' Day, Telangana Formation Day
3 June	World Bicycle Day
4 June	International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
5 June	World Environment Day
7 June	World Food Safety Day
8 June	World Oceans Day, World Brain Tumour Day
12 June	World Day Against Child Labour
14 June	World Blood Donor Day
15 June	Father's Day, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day



## **Odisha Current Affairs**

## Subarnarekha River

### Context

- In July 2025, **Subarnarekha River** caused floods in **Balasore district**, Odisha.
- Though the water level receded below the danger mark (9.17m at Rajghat vs danger level 10.36m), over **15 panchayats** and **30 villages** in **Bhograi block** remained marooned.
- Crops destroyed, roads submerged** and IMD warned of **further rainfall**, escalating vulnerability.

### Subarnarekha River

- Length:** 395 km
- Basin Area:** 18,951 sq. km
- States Covered:** Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha
- Mouth:** Bay of Bengal at Kirtania, Odisha
- Source:** Piska/Nagri near Ranchi, Chota Nagpur Plateau

### Course of the River

- Originates near Ranchi (Jharkhand)
- Flows through: Ranchi → Jamshedpur → Paschim Medinipur (WB) → Balasore (Odisha)
- Empties into Bay of Bengal near **Talsari**, Balasore

### Major Tributaries

- Left:** Dulang River
- Right:** Kharkai, Kanchi, Karkari, Raru, Garu Rivers.
- Confluence:** Kharkai meets Subarnarekha at **Sonari**, Jamshedpur.

### Flood-Prone Areas in Odisha

- Coastal Odisha, especially:
  - Jaleswar**
  - Bhograi**
  - Baliapal**
- Historic flood years: **1997, 2007, 2009, 2025**
- Noted for flash floods due to heavy **upstream rainfall**.

### Major Projects

- Chandil Dam** (Jharkhand): Multi-purpose reservoir, 1971
- Galudih Barrage** (Jharkhand-Odisha border)
- Icha Dam** (Kharkai river)
- Subarnarekha Multipurpose Project:** Irrigation, power, water supply.
- Kirtania Port Project:** Deep-sea port at Subarnarekha mouth, Odisha.

### Hundru Falls

- Located in Jharkhand.
- Falls from 98 metres.
- Formed on Subarnarekha river -- a major tourist spot.

### Environmental Concerns

- Pollution** due to mining of **copper and uranium** in Jharkhand.
- Industrial effluents (e.g., from Muri aluminium plant) threaten tribal livelihoods.

## Simplipal National Park

### Context

- Zeenat**, a Royal Bengal Tigress translocated to **Similipal Tiger Reserve**, is expected to give birth by **September 2025** after mating with a **melanistic tiger**. This marks a significant step in **tiger conservation** and **genetic diversification** in India.

### Basic Details

- Located in **Mayurbhanj district**, Odisha, **Similipal** spans **2,750 sq. km**. It is part of the **Mayurbhanj Elephant Reserve**, which also includes **Hadgarh** and **Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuaries**.
- It was declared as:
  - Tiger Reserve** in 1973
  - Wildlife Sanctuary** in 1979
  - National Park** in 1980
  - Biosphere Reserve** in 1994
  - UNESCO Biosphere Reserve** in 2009

### Geography

- Located in the **Eastern Ghats**, with an average elevation of **900 m**.
- Important peaks: **Khairiburu (1178 m)** and **Meghasani (1158 m)**
- Major rivers: **Budhabalanga**, **Kharkai**, **Palpala**, **Deo**
- Waterfalls: **Barehipani (217 m)** and **Joranda (181 m)**

### Climate and Vegetation

- Tropical moist deciduous forest** dominated by **sal**, along with **orchids** and **medicinal plants**.
- Temperature:** Up to **40°C** in summer and around **14°C** in winter.
- Prone to **cerebral malaria** and **forest fires**.

### Wildlife

- Home to **42 species of mammals**, **242 species of birds** and **30 species of reptiles**.
- Flagship species: **Bengal tiger**, **Asian elephant**, **gaur**, **chausingha**
- Other fauna: **Peafowl**, **hornbills**, **junglefowl**, **Mugger crocodile** (under a 1979 conservation scheme)

### Conservation and Relocation

- Villages like **Jamunagarh** and **Barhakamuda** were relocated, resulting in **increased tiger sightings**.

- However, there are concerns about **forced relocations** and unresolved claims under the **Forest Rights Act**.

#### Recent Issues

- The **2021 forest fires** caused major **ecological damage** and **wildlife displacement**.
- Similipal remains vulnerable to **fires, disease outbreaks** and **climate-related threats**.

### **Indravati River**

#### Context

- Over **15 passengers** were rescued after their boat tilted and drifted in the **Indravati River** near **Dashamantpur, Koraput**. The incident highlights the **risks of monsoon travel** in interior river zones.

#### Origin and Course

- The **Indravati River** originates in the **Dandakaranya range** near **Mardiguda, Thuamul Rampur, Kalahandi, Odisha**, at an elevation of **914 m**.
- It flows westward through **Kalahandi, Nabarangpur and Koraput**, before forming the **Odisha-Chhattisgarh** border, then enters **Bastar** in Chhattisgarh.
- It joins the **Godavari River** near **Somnoor Sangam, Gadchiroli, Maharashtra**.
  - **Total length:** 535 km
  - **Basin area:** 40,625 sq. km

#### States Covered

- Flows through **Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Telangana**.

#### Tributaries

- **Right-bank:** Bhaskel, Narangi, Kotri, Bandia, Nimbra
- **Left-bank:** Nandiraj
- Other minor tributaries include **Jaura, Muran, Telengi and Kora** rivers.

#### Indravati Dam and Hydropower

- **Upper Indravati Hydropower Project:** Near **Mukhiguda, Kalahandi, Odisha**.
- Generates **600 MW**, one of the largest hydro projects in **Eastern India**.
- Diverts water into the **Mahanadi basin** for **irrigation and power**.
- Other proposed projects like **Kutru I & II, Nugur I & II** and **Bhopalpatnam** were scrapped due to **ecological concerns**.

#### Environmental Significance

- **Chitrakoot Falls** (near Jagdalpur) lie on Indravati but are declining due to **check dam construction**.
- **Indravati National Park and Tiger Reserve** are located in Chhattisgarh.

- The river is the **lifeline** for **Kalahandi, Nabarangpur and Bastar** districts.

### **Machkund Dam**

#### Context

- Due to **incessant rainfall** in **Koraput**, **Machkund Dam** neared capacity, prompting the opening of **two sluice gates**--marking the **first floodwater inflow** of the **2025 monsoon**.

#### Location and River System

- **Jalaput Dam** is located on the **Sileru River**, also known as **Machkund River**.
- The **Sileru** is a **tributary of the Sabari River**, which in turn joins the **Godavari River**.
- It originates from the **Mudugal hills** in **Andhra Pradesh** and forms a natural boundary with **Odisha**.

#### Technical Overview

- **Built in 1955**, Jalaput Dam supports the **Machkund Hydro-Electric Scheme (MHES)**.
- The dam **impounds 34.27 TMC** of water for **120 MW power generation**.
- Power is supplied to towns in **Odisha (Koraput, Jeypore)** and **Andhra Pradesh (Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada)**.
- It is a **joint project** between **Odisha and Andhra Pradesh**.

#### Geographical Features

- The river runs **48 km north** through the **Padwa Valley** before plunging at **Duduma Falls**.
- **Jalaput**, earlier known as **Tentaput**, is a **border village** between **Odisha (Koraput)** and **Andhra Pradesh (Alluri Sitharama Raju district)**.
- A bridge links both states: **LF (Andhra side)** and **RF (Odisha side)**.

### **Odisha Real Estate Regulatory Authority (ORERA) Reforms**

#### Context

- In a move to strengthen the implementation of the **Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA)** in **Odisha**, the state government has introduced key reforms to enhance **transparency, inter-departmental coordination** and **enforcement** in the real estate sector.

#### About ORERA

- The **Odisha Real Estate Regulatory Authority (ORERA)** was established on **7th October 2017** under **Section 30** of the **RERA Act, 2016**, which came into force on **1st May 2017**.
- ORERA serves as a **quasi-judicial regulatory body** to **promote and regulate** the real estate sector.



- Its **primary focus** is on **protecting consumer interests** and ensuring **transparency** in real estate dealings.

#### Key Provisions of the Act

- **Mandatory registration** of all real estate projects before any **advertisement or sale**.
  - The **Government of Odisha** has banned **sale deed registration** if the project is not registered with ORERA.
- **Public disclosure** of all project details: approved building plans, layout, land status and encumbrances.
- **Regulation of financial transactions** related to each project.
- **Consumer redressal** for non-delivery of promised amenities.
- **Compensation provisions** for loss suffered by allottees or promoters due to non-compliance.

#### Recent State-Level Reforms

- **Real-time notification** of project approvals to ORERA by all planning and development authorities under H&UD.
- Development of a **digital protocol** for seamless data exchange.
- **Integration of ORERA 2.0** with Bhulekh and SUJOG portals for **cross-verification** and **data transparency**.

#### Enforcement Mechanism Strengthened

- **Coordination with Revenue & Disaster Management Department** to enforce orders and recover penalties under the **Orissa Public Demands Recovery Act, 1962**.
- **Support from BDA/BMC** for field enforcement.
- Launch of a **monthly enforcement calendar**.

#### Monitoring and Oversight

- Institutionalisation of **monthly coordination meetings** between ORERA, Housing and Urban Development Department, Odisha and Revenue Departments.
- **Collectors and tehsildars** now report **illegal real estate activities** to ORERA.
- **RERA implementation** included in **district collector review meetings**.

#### Institutional Capacity Building

- Priority filling of key ORERA posts like **Joint Secretary (Admin)** and **Deputy Secretary (Enforcement)**.
- ORERA empowered to **recruit retired government officials** via open advertisements.

#### Grievance Redressal

- Regular **review meetings** between ORERA and H&UD to **address complaints** in a **time-bound** manner.

#### Significance

- These reforms represent a **paradigm shift** in Odisha's real estate governance, ensuring **greater accountability, consumer protection** and a more **transparent ecosystem** for buyers and developers alike.

### Propylene Gas

#### Context

- A **propylene gas tanker leak** near the **Odisha-Jharkhand border** disrupted traffic on **NH-49**, triggering the evacuation of the area within a **2-km radius**.

#### What is Propylene?

- **Propylene**, also known as **propene**, is a **colorless, flammable gas** with a faint petroleum-like odor. It is a **hydrocarbon** with the chemical formula  $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2$ , containing a **double bond**, making it part of the **alkene** family.
- Naturally occurs in **forest fires, vehicle exhaust** and **cigarette smoke**.
- It is the **second most important raw material** in the **petrochemical industry** after ethylene.

#### Production Methods

- **Steam Cracking**: Main method using **naphtha** or **propane**. Produces about **15% propylene**.
- **Fluid Catalytic Cracking (FCC)**: Uses gas oils under high temperature and pressure. Produces **20–25% propylene**.
- **Propane Dehydrogenation**: “On-purpose” method using catalysts like **platinum, chromia, or vanadium**.
- **Methanol-to-Olefins (MTO)**: Converts methanol from syngas into **ethylene** and **propylene**.
- **Olefin Metathesis**: Uses **rhodium or molybdenum catalysts** to interconvert olefins.

#### Uses of Propylene

- Over **60%** used to produce **polypropylene**, found in:
  - **Packaging films, fibers, containers and bottle caps**.
- Precursor to:
  - **Propylene oxide, acrylonitrile, cumene, acrylic acid and isopropyl alcohol**.
- Used in **oxy-fuel welding, brazing and metal cutting**.
- Key component in the **cumene process**, producing **acetone and phenol**.

#### Industrial Importance

- Global processing volume (2013): approx. 85 million tonnes.
- Production has grown in East Asia, particularly China and Singapore.
- Research continues into low-temperature oxidative dehydrogenation for cleaner production.

## Odisha bans Refined Sugar, restricts Salt in School Meals

### Context

- The Odisha government has taken a landmark decision to ban refined sugar and limit salt intake in meals served under the PM POSHAN scheme and Sishu Vatika initiative across schools and Anganwadi centres.

### Details

- This step aligns with recommendations from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Ministry of Women and Child Development, aiming to curb discretionary calorie intake and promote child nutrition.
- If sweeteners are required, only jaggery is allowed and must not exceed 5% of the total energy content.

### Additional Guidelines

- Salt use has been restricted.
- HFSS foods (high-fat, sugar, salt) are discouraged.
- Compliance with Food Safety and Standards Regulations (FSSR), 2011 & 2020 is mandatory.
- Artificial preservatives, colours and synthetic additives are banned in Sishu Vatika meals.
- Only FSSR 2020-approved emulsifiers are allowed.

### Ban on Energy Drinks Near Schools

- To address health risks from excess caffeine, the sale of energy drinks is banned:
  - Within 100 meters of schools in rural areas
  - Within 50 meters in urban areas
- Multiple studies have linked such drinks to cardiovascular, neurological and metabolic disorders in children.

### Significance

- This is a major policy intervention aimed at promoting lifelong healthy eating habits and preventing lifestyle diseases among Odisha's schoolchildren.

## NIT Rourkela's Mars Weather Research gains Global Recognition

### Context

- Researchers from NIT Rourkela, in collaboration with UAE University and Sun Yat-sen University (China), have made a significant breakthrough in understanding Martian weather.
- Their findings were published in the prestigious journal New Astronomy Reviews.

### Details

- The study, led by Prof. Jagabandhu Panda and research scholar Anirban Mandal, focuses on how dust devils, large dust storms and water-ice clouds shape Mars' atmospheric dynamics.

### Key Findings

- **Dust Devils:** Small, spinning columns of air more frequent in northern Mars, which lift fine dust into the atmosphere.
- **Large Dust Storms:** Triggered by heat-dust feedback loops, these storms can encircle the planet, changing wind and temperature patterns.
- **Water-Ice Clouds:** Appear seasonally over regions like Olympus Mons and the poles. Two types observed--aphelion cloud belts and polar hood clouds--vary by dust and ice content.

### Why It Matters

- This research improves weather prediction models for Mars--vital for robotic landings, human missions and studying habitability. It uses data from global missions, including ISRO's Mars Orbiter Mission (MoM).
- Mars weather research is crucial for sustaining future human exploration and urged greater involvement of Indian space agencies and universities.

## 97th Death Anniversary of Utkalmani-gopabandhu Das observed

### Context

- A tribute ceremony was held on June 26, 2025, at the Odisha Legislative Assembly premises, commemorating the 97th death anniversary of UtkalmaniGopabandhu Das.

### Legacy of Gopabandhu Das

- Born in 1877, passed away in 1928.
- Honoured with the title "Utkalamani" (Jewel of Utkal).
- Founder of the Samaja newspaper—a pioneer in journalism, education and social justice.
- Championed press freedom, rural upliftment and nationalism during British rule.
- Inspired generations with his service-oriented philosophy rooted in truth, sacrifice and patriotism.

## Odisha-Adani Group Deal for Gopalpur Port Expansion

### Context

- The Odisha Government signed a Rs 16,554 crore Concession Agreement with the Adani Group for the expansion of Gopalpur Port, in a major boost to the state's maritime infrastructure.

### About Gopalpur Port

- Located near Brahmapur in Ganjam district, Odisha.
- Operated by Gopalpur Ports Ltd (GPL); owned by Adani Ports & SEZ (acquired 95% stake in March 2024).
- It is a natural deep-sea harbor with a maximum draft depth of 14.5 metres and can handle vessels of over 100,000 DWT.
- Officially opened for commercial operations on 23 May 2013.

### Infrastructure & Connectivity

- Connected to NH-16 and Kolkata-Chennai railway line.
- 6 km NH-59 link road ensures swift cargo movement.
- Rail connectivity is supported by a siding near Chhatrapur, built by K&R Rail Engineering.

### Strategic Importance & Expansion Goals

- Expansion will boost capacity to 50 MMT per annum, promoting exports in steel, minerals and agro-based sectors.
- Will transform the port into a key logistics hub on India's eastern seaboard.
- Expected to generate 5,000 jobs (direct + indirect) and stimulate regional economic development.

## Odisha set to unveil EV Policy 2.0

### Context

- In a major step toward clean and sustainable mobility, the Odisha Government is revising its Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy with a goal of achieving 50% Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV) registrations by 2036. As of June 20, 2025, EV registrations in the state stand at 8.71%, up from just 1.16% in 2021.

### Highlights of Odisha EV Policy 2.0 (Proposed)

- Extension of validity and enhancement of purchase incentives for EV buyers.
- Support for Charge Point Operators (CPOs) from the state budget on a first-come-first-served basis.
- Creation of a dedicated EV Fund by exploring levies on ICE vehicles.

- Accelerated rollout of charging infrastructure in urban and semi-urban areas to address range anxiety.
- Push for a balanced approach—boosting both supply (manufacturing) and demand (incentives).
- Alignment with the PM e-DRIVE Scheme for central support and financial assistance.

### Vision 2036 & Broader Goals

- Under Odisha Vision 2036, the state aims for 50% adoption of Electric and Alternate Fuel Vehicles.
- The revised policy will be data-driven, based on learnings from EV Policy 2021 and inter-departmental coordination.

## Odisha launches e-Registration App for Revenue Services

### Context

- In a major boost to digital governance, the Odisha Government has launched the 'e-Registration' mobile app, enabling citizens to access all revenue-related services from their smartphones without visiting government offices.

### Key Features of the App

- The app offers a one-stop platform for:
  - Booking slots for property registration
  - Tracking booking status
  - Applying for certified copies of documents
  - Downloading land-related documents
  - Checking government-assessed land values
  - Locating nearest sub-registrar offices
  - Applying for inspection-based registration
  - Providing feedback on services

### Benefits and Impact

- No physical visits to revenue offices
- Faster, transparent and corruption-free processing
- Especially helpful for the elderly, working professionals and people in remote areas
- Aligns with Odisha's e-governance and transparency goals

## Bhubaneswar among India's Least Affordable Cities for Housing

### Context

- As per a National Housing Board (NHB) analysis, Bhubaneswar ranks among India's least affordable capital cities, where even the top 5% of urban earners in Odisha need over 50 years of savings to afford a standard 1,184 sq ft house.

### Key Findings



- Based on a **30.2% savings-to-GDP ratio**, even **wealthy urban households** find it unaffordable to buy homes in Bhubaneswar.
- The city joins metros like **Mumbai (109 years)** and **Gurgaon (63 years)** in unaffordability.
- In contrast, cities like **Jaipur** and **Chandigarh** offer home ownership in **15–20 years**.

#### Why So Unaffordable?

- Rising **real estate prices** in Bhubaneswar, often breaching the **₹1 crore** mark.
- **Savings and income levels** fail to keep pace with the **property market boom**.
- Urban development is concentrated, leading to **limited land availability** and **infrastructure pressure**.

#### Government Response

- Odisha govt plans **affordable housing units** priced between **₹15 lakh–₹50 lakh** for **LIG and MIG families**.
- Areas identified under the '**Greater Bhubaneswar**' expansion strategy.
- Implementation through the **Town Planning Scheme (TPS)** and **Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA)**.

#### Significance

- This housing crisis marks a **paradigm shift** in Bhubaneswar's identity—from a once **affordable and liveable city** to an **urban housing pressure point**, demanding **urgent intervention** for inclusive development.

### **Odisha to revise DPR for Tara Tarini Temple**

#### Context

- The **Odisha government** will prepare a revised **Detailed Project Report (DPR)** for developing the **Tara Tarini Temple**.

#### Tara Tarini Temple

- The temple is a key **Shakti Peetha** on **Kumari Hills**, near the **Rushikulya River** in **Ganjam district**, about **28 km** from **Brahmapur**.

#### Religious Significance

- Believed to be where **Maa Sati's breasts** fell.
- One of the **four Adi Shakti Peethas**, alongside **Kamakhya, Vimala** and **Kalighat**.
- The sanctum houses **stone idols, brass heads** and a **Buddha idol**.

#### Major Festivals

- **Chaitra Jatra**: Celebrated on **Tuesdays** in **Chaitra** with **mundan rituals** and **KhechidiBhoga**.
- **Sankranti Mela**: Held monthly; offerings made to **Bije Pratima** outside the sanctum.

### **Odisha rolls out Apprenticeship-Embedded Degree Programs (AEDPS)**

#### Context

- The **Odisha Government** has launched **AEDPs** for the **2025–26 session** to boost **student employability** by integrating **on-job training** with academics.

#### Details

- Offered in **22 colleges** and **2 universities**, including **Rama Devi** and **Ravenshaw**.
- **6 industry-linked courses**: **B.Com (Logistics, BFSI, Retail, HR, E-commerce)** and **B.Sc/BA (Food & Hospitality)**.
- Backed by **UGC guidelines**, with **up to 50%** of the program as apprenticeships.
- Courses listed on the **SAMS portal**; classes start **July 10**.

### **PM Modi launches 'Godabarish Mishra Adarsha Vidyalaya' Scheme in Odisha**

#### Context

- PM Modi, alongside CM **Mohan Majhi**, launched the **Godabarish Mishra Adarsha Prathamika Vidyalaya** initiative to set up **model primary schools** in all **6,794 Gram Panchayats** of Odisha.

#### Details

- Named after **educationist Pandit Godabarish Mishra**, the scheme aligns with **NEP 2020** and **RTE Act 2009**, focusing on:
  - **Foundational literacy & numeracy**
  - **Smart classrooms**, libraries, labs, playgrounds
  - **Revival of 45–51 century-old heritage schools**
  - **Equity in education** for rural and marginalized communities
  - The initiative blends **modern infrastructure** with Odisha's **cultural legacy**, aiming to **bridge the rural-urban divide** and strengthen public education under the **NIPUN mission**.

### **Odisha's 'Tarakasi' shines Globally as PN Modi gifts Silver Clutch at G7**

#### Context

- At the **2025 G7 Summit in Canada**, PM **Narendra Modi** gifted a **Silver Filigree Clutch from Cuttack** to Canadian Governor General **Mary Simon**, spotlighting Odisha's famed **Tarakasi craft** on the global stage.

#### Details

- Known as the '**Silver City of India**', **Cuttack** has preserved this **500-year-old art form**, where artisans handcraft **99% pure silver wires** into intricate, lace-like designs.

- Awarded the **GI tag in 2012**, Tarakasi blends influences from **Mughal architecture** and **temple art**, supporting over **1,500 livelihoods** today.
- Each Tarakasi piece is handcrafted through an elaborate process involving **melting, wire drawing, soldering and shaping**-- often requiring a team of artisans.
- The gesture not only promoted **India's cultural heritage** but also served as a symbolic bridge in diplomacy amidst strained Indo-Canada ties.

## Pattachitra from Odisha gains Global Spotlight as PN Modi Gifts Artwork in Croatia

### Context

- Odisha's iconic Pattachitra art, earned global recognition once again when **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** gifted a Pattachitra painting to **Croatian President Zoran Milanović** during his 2025 state visit.

### Pattachitra

- **Deeply Rooted in Jagannath Culture**, Pattachitra (from *patta* meaning cloth and *chitra* meaning picture) is among India's oldest art traditions. Originating over a thousand years ago, it was historically used in **Puri's Jagannath Temple** during the *Anasara* period when painted forms of the deities substitute for idols. Common themes include the **Ramayana, Mahabharata** and **Krishna Leela**.
- **Raghurajpur**, a heritage village in Puri, remains the **epicentre** of this art, where families of *chitrakars* handcraft paintings using **natural colours**--hingula (red), haritala (yellow), lamp soot (black), conch shell (white) and indigo (blue) - on treated cloth or palm leaves. Each piece is finished with a **lacquer coating** for durability and gloss.
- Pattachitra paintings from both Odisha and West Bengal have been granted Geographical Indication (GI) tags, signifying their unique cultural and artistic significance. The GI tag for Odisha's Pattachitra is registered as "Orissa Pattachitra", while West Bengal's is registered as "Bengal Patachitra".

## Raja Festival in Odisha: Cultural Joys & Child Development

### Context

- **Raja Festival**, celebrated across Odisha, honors **womanhood, fertility** and **Mother Earth**, marking the start of the agricultural season. Spanning **three days**--*Pahili Raja, Raja Sankranti*

and *Basi Raja*--it's especially cherished by children and adolescents.

### Raja Parba

**Raja Parba**, also known as **Mithuna Sankranti**, is a vibrant three-day festival of **womanhood and fertility** celebrated across **Odisha** in mid-June. Rooted in the belief that **Mother Earth (Bhudevi)** undergoes menstruation during this time, the festival honours her with rituals like **swinging (doli)**, **rest from work** and **adorning in new attire**. Unmarried girls enjoy **Poda Pitha**, avoid barefoot walking and salt and partake in **folk songs and swings**, symbolising readiness for future motherhood. The fourth day, **Basumati Snana**, marks Bhumi's ceremonial bath. The festival blends **agricultural reverence, feminine celebration** and **cultural joy**, reflecting Odisha's deep-rooted traditions and the arrival of the **monsoon season**.

### How Raja Boosts Child Development:

1. **Swinging (Jhula)**: Enhances **motor skills**, balance and emotional well-being. Fosters **peer bonding** and joy.
2. **Traditional Foods (Poda Pitha)**: Nourishes with **nutritious ingredients** like rice, jaggery and coconut. Encourages **cultural learning** through cooking.
3. **Play & Leisure**: Outdoor and traditional games develop **problem-solving** and **physical fitness**, offering a break from routine stress.
4. **Folk Songs & Storytelling**: Boosts **language skills**, cultural pride and **community connection**.
5. **Dress & Grooming**: Wearing new clothes and using *alta* uplifts **self-esteem** and teaches grooming and aesthetics.

### Broader Impacts:

- **Physical Health**: Active play and movement
- **Mental Well-being**: Joyful break from routine
- **Social Bonds**: Family and peer interaction
- **Cultural Identity**: Connection with tradition
- **Emotional Growth**: Participation in shared celebrations

### Conclusion

- Raja is more than a festival--it's a **natural, holistic development model**. It offers today's children a joyful escape from screen time and academic pressures, nurturing their **body, mind and soul** through tradition.

## Contaminated Water behind Diarrhoea, Cholera Outbreaks in Odisha

### Context

- A **Central health team** visiting Odisha confirmed that **contaminated water** is the **primary cause** of the diarrhoea and cholera outbreaks across the state.

#### Details

- Lab tests confirmed **E. coli** contamination in **10 out of first-phase water samples** and **16 of 37 faecal samples** tested positive for **Vibrio cholerae**.
- The Central team also held meetings with officials from the **Health, PR&DW and Housing & Urban Development (H&UD)** departments to address the crisis and ensure **safe drinking water supply**.
- Meanwhile, in **Bhubaneswar**, **stagnant water and garbage at Baramunda old bus depot** raise further concerns about urban sanitation amid the outbreak.

#### KNOWLEDGE BOX

- A recent report by the **Central Groundwater Board** has revealed dangerously high levels of **fluoride contamination** in several blocks of **Odisha's Mayurbhanj district**, posing a serious **public health challenge**. The worst affected is **Kaptipada** block, where **fluoride levels** have reached **20.3 mg per litre**—far above the **permissible limit of 1.5 mg/l**. **Thakurmunda, Raruan and Baripada** blocks have also reported elevated levels ranging from **2.5 to 15 mg/l**.
- Prolonged consumption of this **contaminated water** has led to severe **health problems** among residents, including **bone degradation, dental fluorosis, fractures and joint issues**, even among younger individuals. Estimates suggest that over **3,500 people** across the district have been severely affected.

## ODISHA RELATED GK

### PROTECTED AREAS IN ODISHA

#### National Parks in Odisha

##### Simlipal National Park

- **Location:** Mayurbhanj district
- **Area:** 2,750 sq km
- **Features:** Sal trees, Joranda&Barehipani waterfalls, red silk cotton trees
- **Fauna:** Bengal tiger, elephant, chausingha, gaur
- **Status:** Tiger Reserve

##### Bhitarkanika National Park

- **Location:** Kendrapara district
- **Area:** 145 sq km
- **Features:** Second largest mangrove forest in India
- **Fauna:** Saltwater crocodile, 215+ bird species, migratory birds from Central Asia & Europe
- **Nickname:** Amazon of India

#### Marine & Wetland Ecosystems

##### Chilika (Nalaban) Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Districts:** Puri, Khurda, Ganjam
- **Area:** ~1,100 sq km
- **Type:** Brackish water lagoon
- **Status:** Largest coastal lagoon in India & largest brackish lagoon globally

- **Fauna:** 160+ migratory bird species, fish, crabs, marine weeds

##### Gahirmatha Marine Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Location:** Coastal Odisha
- **Known for:** World's largest nesting beach for Olive Ridley Turtles
- **Special:** Only marine sanctuary in Odisha

#### Elephant Sanctuaries & Corridors

##### Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Location:** South of Cuttack
- **Area:** 193.39 sq km
- **Known as:** Chandaka Elephant Reserve
- **Vegetation:** Coastal Sal, bamboo, semi-evergreen forests
- **Fauna:** Elephants, leopards, pangolin, civet, sloth bear, hyena

##### Khalasuni Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Area:** 160 sq km
- **Part of:** Sambalpur Elephant Reserve
- **Corridor:** Khalsuni-Satkosia Elephant Corridor
- **Flora:** Sal-dominated forests
- **Features:** Waterfalls and panoramic greenery



## Tiger Reserves and Proposed Tiger Habitats

### Satkosia Tiger Reserve

- **Location:** Angul district
- **Area:** 988.3 sq km (Core: 523.61 sq km)
- **River:** Mahanadi Gorge (22 km canyon)
- **Fauna:** Tiger, elephant, leopard, sloth bear, dhole, crocodile, gharial

### Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Location:** Nuapada district
- **Area:** 600 sq km
- **Status:** Proposed tiger reserve
- **Fauna:** Tiger, gaur, leopard, sloth bear, barking deer, blue bull

## Major Wildlife Sanctuaries

### Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Location:** Bargarh district
- **Area:** 346.91 sq km
- **Status:** Eco-sensitive zone
- **Biodiversity:** 40 mammals, 200 birds, 85 butterflies, 42 fish species

### Kotagarh Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Location:** Kandhamal district
- **Area:** 399.5 sq km
- **Fauna:** Elephant, gaur, peafowl, red jungle fowl

### Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Location:** Balasore district
- **Area:** 272.75 sq km

- **Special:** Watchtower at Garsimulia for elephant sightings
- **Fauna:** Elephant, leopard, tiger, hornbill, hill myna

### Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Location:** Kalahandi district
- **Area:** 175 sq km
- **Fauna:** Green munia, tiger, great-eared nightjar, sambar

### Hadgarh Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Location:** Keonjhar district
- **Area:** 191 sq km
- **Linked with:** Similipal & Kuldiha
- **Fauna:** Leopard, jungle cat, hyena, langur

### Balukhand Konark Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Location:** Between Puri & Konark
- **Features:** Casuarina trees, sandy dunes
- **Fauna:** Blackbuck, deer, jackal, olive ridley turtles

### Badrama (Ushakothi) Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Location:** Sambalpur district
- **Area:** 304.03 sq km
- **Flora:** Sal, sandalwood, neem, acacia
- **Fauna:** 15 tigers, 35 elephants, bison

### Other Sanctuaries

- **Baisipalli**
- **Lakhari Valley:** 118 sq km, moist deciduous forest, elephant habitat
- **Rushikulya Rookery:** Known for Olive Ridley nesting

## SOME RIVERS IN ODISHA

### Tel River

- The **Tel River**, the largest tributary of the **Mahanadi**, originates near the **Amravati forest range** in **Nabarangpur district**, close to the Odisha-Chhattisgarh border. It flows through the districts of **Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Balangir, Boudh and Sonepur**, passing just **8 km** from **Titilagarh**. It joins the Mahanadi at **Sonepur (Subarnapur)**, creating a **scenic confluence**.
- The **Baidyanath Temple**, famous for the **Kosaleshwar Shiva shrine**, is located on the **left bank** of the Tel River, adding religious significance to the region.

### Ib River

- The **Ib River** is a tributary of the **Mahanadi River**, joining it at the **Hirakud Dam** in Odisha. Originating near **Pandrapet hills** at an elevation of **762 metres**, it flows through **Raigarh and Jashpur districts** in Chhattisgarh and **Jharsuguda and Sundargarh districts** in Odisha. Covering a length of **252 km**, it drains an area of **12,447 sq km**, with a **watershed area** of about **25,000 sq km** in Jashpur.
- The **Ib Valley** is rich in coal and hosts the **Ib Valley Coalfield**, making it a major industrial zone under the **Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd**. The river region also holds **cultural and mythological**

significance, with several **tribal settlements** and **folklore** associated with it.

### Ong River

- The **Ong River** is a **tributary of the Mahanadi River**, originating at an elevation of **457 metres** and flowing entirely through **Odisha**. It covers a length of **204 km** and joins the Mahanadi about

**240 km upstream of Sonepur**, where the **Tel River** also merges. The **drainage area** of the Ong River is approximately **5,128 sq km**.

- Nearby rivers include the **Tel Nadi (76 km)**, **Gorkha Nadi (171 km)**, **Subarnarekha (431 km)**, **Godavari (485 km)** and **Manairu Vagu (508 km)**, indicating the Ong's position within a dense river network in eastern and central India.

## **NATURAL SPRINGS AND HOT SPRINGS IN ODISHA**

Odisha is home to several **mountain and hot springs**, many of which are linked to **major rivers and tributaries**. These springs are not only important hydrologically but also hold **cultural, ecological and tourism significance**.

### Notable Natural Springs (linked to rivers):

- **Chandikhole** (Jajpur) – tributary of **Mahanadi**
- **Barunei** (Khurda) – tributary of **Daya**
- **Narayani** (Puri) – drains into **Chilika Lake**
- **Nirmal Jhar** (Ganjam) – drains into **Chilika Lake**
- **Pradhanpat** (Deogarh) – tributary of **Brahmani**
- **Phurligharan** (Bhawanipatna) – tributary of **Indravati**
- **Khandadhar** (Bonei) – tributary of **Brahmani**
- **Nursinghanath** (Bargarh) – tributary of **Tel**
- **Harishankar** (Balangir) – on **Jira River**, a tributary of **Tel**
- **Gosinga Jhar** (Kantilo) – on **Kuaria Nala**, tributary of **Mahanadi**
- **Koiliharan** (Jharsuguda) – tributary of **Mahanadi**
- **Jharbada** (Dhenkanal) – on **Mankada River**, a tributary of **Brahmani**

### Notable Hot Springs:

- **Atri** (Khurda)
- **Taptapani** (Ganjam)
- **Deulijhari** (Athamallik, Angul)

These springs are often associated with **religious shrines** and serve as **tourist attractions**, especially **Taptapani**, **Atri** and **Harishankar**.

## **KEY LAKES OF ODISHA**

**Chilika Lake** is India's largest brackish water lagoon, located across the districts of **Ganjam, Khurda and Puri**. Its area varies between **900 to 1165 sq km**, expanding during monsoon. Connected to the Bay of Bengal, it is a **Ramsar site**, famous for hosting over **30 species of migratory birds** and supporting rich aquatic biodiversity.

**Anshupa Lake** is a **horseshoe-shaped freshwater oxbow lake** located near **Banki in Cuttack district**, on the left bank of the Mahanadi. Spanning **231 hectares**, it is nestled amid the Saranda Hills and surrounded by bamboo and mango groves. Designated as a **Ramsar wetland in 2021**, it serves as a haven for migratory birds in winter. The nearby **14th-century TrutiaDeva**

**Temple**, built by the Eastern Ganga rulers, adds historical value.

**Kanjia Lake**, situated within the **Nandankanan Zoological Park near Bhubaneswar**, covers **75 hectares** of lake area and **105 hectares** of total wetland. It is ecologically significant, supporting over **30 bird species**, along with diverse aquatic flora and fauna. However, urban expansion and waste dumping pose serious environmental threats.

**Sara Lake**, located near **Puri**, is a freshwater lake fed by four distributaries of the Mahanadi--**Bhargavi, Kushabhadra, Mugei and Dhanua**. It spans around **5**

km in length and 3 km in width and is important for local agriculture and ecology.

Tampara Lake lies adjacent to Chatrapur town in Ganjam district. Around 4 km long and 0.5 km wide,

it is replenished by Rushikulya river backwaters during monsoons. It is emerging as a scenic spot with growing eco-tourism potential.

## SOME TEMPLES IN ODISHA

- **Sri Lokanath Mandir:** Situated near Jagannath Temple in Puri, it is a revered Shaiva shrine believed to be established by Lord Rama. The linga here, originally called Laukanatha, has deep mythological roots.
- **Alarnath Temple:** Located in Brahmagiri, this Vishnu temple is visited especially during Anavasara, when Lord Jagannath rests. It holds significance due to Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's association.
- **Sakhigopal Temple:** Known for the Krishna-Radha idols, this temple in Sakhigopal (near Puri) is famed for its festival, Anla Navami.
- **Ramachandi Temple:** On the banks of the Kushabhadra river near Konark, it is considered a Shakti Pitha of Puri and is older than the Sun Temple.
- **Konark Sun Temple:** Built by King Narasimhadeva I in 13th century, this UNESCO World Heritage site is an architectural marvel symbolizing the chariot of the Sun God.
- **Wooden Sun Temple (Biranchi Narayan Temple):** Located in Buguda, Ganjam, this west-facing wooden temple was built in 1790 and is a rare structure dedicated to the Sun God.

### Lesser-Known Yet Culturally Rich Shrines:

- **Kapilash Temple (Dhenkanal):** Built by Narasimhadeva I for Sri Chandrasekhara.
- **Khirachora Gopinath Temple (Remuna):** Famous Vaishnav shrine associated with Madhavendra Puri.
- **Kichakeswari Temple (Mayurbhanj):** Located at Khiching, dedicated to a tribal form of the goddess.
- **Baladevjew Temple (Kendrapara):** A shrine for Balarama, built during Maratha rule.
- **Ladubaba Temple (Nayagarh):** Combines Vishnu-Shiva iconography and is located amidst other temples.
- **Raghunathjew Temple (Odagaon):** Famous for its gold kalasha and literary significance linked to poet Upendra Bhanja.

## SOME FREEDOM FIGHTERS OF ODISHA

### Jayee Rajaguru

- The first martyr of Odisha, Jayee Rajaguru led the 1804 Khurda rebellion against the British on behalf of minor king Mukunda Deva II. He was executed in 1805 by the British for his resistance.

### Buxi Jagabandhu

- Leader of the 1817 **Paika Rebellion**, Buxi Jagabandhu rallied Kondhs and Paikas against British oppression. His guerrilla warfare continued till 1825, inspiring future revolts.

### Chakhi Khuntia (Chandan Hajuri)

- A priest of Puri and a revolutionary during the 1857 revolt, he supported **Rani Laxmibai** and instigated sepoy unrest. Later, he devoted himself to literature and spiritual pursuits in Puri.

### Sarala Devi

- A fierce nationalist, Sarala Devi joined the **Non-Cooperation Movement** in 1921. She became the **first woman MLA and speaker** of Odisha and a pioneer of women's empowerment and social reform.

### Samanta Madhaba Chandra Samantaray

- In 1827, he led the **Tapangagarh revolt** by refusing to pay British taxes. Though eventually subdued, his bravery earned respect and a pardon from the British.

### Veer Surendra Sai

- A revolutionary from Sambalpur, he led a **37-year-long rebellion** against British denial of his rightful kingship. He endured over **36 years in prison** and remains a symbol of Odia resistance.

### Baji Rout

- At just 12, Baji Rout became India's **youngest martyr** by refusing to ferry British police across the Brahmani river in 1938. He was shot dead for his defiance.

### Laxmi Panda

- The youngest Odia member of **Netaji's INA**, she joined the army in Burma to fight colonial rule. She worked with key INA leaders and was renamed 'Indira' by Bose himself.

### Ramadevi Choudhury

- The first woman freedom fighter from Odisha, she led women in the **Non-Cooperation and Salt Satyagraha Movements**, faced multiple arrests and worked for Harijan welfare.

### Malati Choudhury

- Nicknamed '**Toofani**' by **Gandhi**, she participated in the 1934 Padayatra, founded **BajirautChhatravas** and was part of the **Constituent Assembly**, later supporting the Bhoodan movement.

## WOMEN IN ODISHA'S FREEDOM STRUGGLE

The Indian freedom struggle saw remarkable participation of women and Odisha was no exception. Inspired by **Mahatma Gandhi**, many Odia women entered political life during the **Non-Cooperation Movement** and later played key roles in the **Civil Disobedience** and **Quit India Movements**.

### Parvati Giri – The Gandhi of Western Odisha

- Known as the *Mother Teresa of Western Odisha*, **Parvati Giri** embodied Gandhian ideals. She not only took part in the freedom movement but also dedicated her life to **social service**, focusing on the upliftment of the poor, education and village reconstruction.

### Prabhavati Devi & Jambubati Devi

- These women leaders from **Western Odisha** made notable contributions through **sacrifice and service**. Their lives were driven by ideals that transformed personal action into a moral revolution against British rule.

### Sandi Sabara – The Forgotten Tribal Heroine

- Often left out of mainstream history, **Sandi Sabara** (renamed *Santi Sabara* by Rama Devi) was a **tribal freedom fighter** from Kujendri near Rayagada. During the **Quit India Movement**, she led the struggle in the absence of senior leaders like **Biswanath Pattnaik**.
- She worked tirelessly to promote **khadi**, **prohibition**, **sanitation** and **cottage industries**, thereby combining **nationalism with grassroots reform**. Her efforts drew the attention of leaders like **Rama Devi**, **Gopabandhu Choudhury** and **Acharya Harihara**.

### Women Freedom Fighters of Western Odisha

- Though history often overlooks them, the **women of Western Odisha**—from **Bargarh to Kalahandi and Sundergarh**—played a significant role in India's freedom movement. Inspired by **Gandhiji**, they organized Satyagrahas, mobilized other women and upheld the spirit of nationalism.

### Bargarh's Women Satyagrahis

- Bargarh, once a subdivision of Sambalpur, produced fearless women leaders like **Parvati Giri**, **Jambubati Devi**, **Gandharvi Devi**, **Ila Meher** and **Shreeyabati Devi**. These women took active part in **Gandhian movements**, organized protests, collected funds for Swaraj and advocated for **workers' rights**, **social reforms** and **indigenous industries**.

### Unsung Hero: Sandi Sabara

- Sandi Sabara**, a tribal woman renamed *Santi Sabara* by Rama Devi, was a powerful freedom fighter from **Kujendri near Rayagada**. During the **Quit India Movement**, she led the movement locally in the absence of senior leaders and worked on rural upliftment—spreading **khadi**, **sanitation**, **prohibition** and awareness. Despite her impact, she remains unrecognized in mainstream history.



## Prajamandala Movement in Odisha

- The **Prajamandala Movement** emerged in the 1920s to fight against feudal oppression in Odisha's **26 princely states**. People revolted against **taxations like Rasad, Magan, Bethi and Begari**, demanding civil liberties and citizens' rights.

## Ranpur Uprising and Bazalgette Murder (1939)

- In **Ranpur**, the movement turned violent. Under the leadership of **Raghunath Mohanty and Dibakar Parida**, locals demanded **forest rights, pond access and abolition of forced labour**. On January 5, 1939, after the arrest of leaders, a massive protest broke out. The **British Political Agent Major Bazalgette** was attacked and killed by the agitated crowd. In retaliation, **Raghunath Mohanty was hanged and Dibakar Parida deported** to the Andamans.

# MINERALS OF ODISHA

## Bauxite in Odisha: Key Highlights

Odisha has the **largest bauxite reserves in India**, primarily associated with the **Eastern Ghat Supergroup** (Khondalites and Charnockites). These deposits are usually found as **blanket cappings on plateau tops**, making them suitable for open-cast mining.

## Major District-wise Bauxite Deposits

- Koraput District:** Major deposits are located at **Panchpatmali, Pottangi, Maliparbat, Kodingamali, Ballada, Hatimali, Chintamgundi**, etc. These are the **richest and most exploited bauxite belts**.
- Rayagada District:** Sites include **Baphilimali, Sijimali, Tikrimali, Pasangmali** and **Majhigaonmali**. These areas have **significant untapped potential**.
- Malkangiri District:** Contains **Korkanda, Siktapalli and Korpalli** reserves.
- Kalahandi District:** Major deposits include **Karlapat, Niyamgiri, Lanjigarh and Pollingpadar**.
- Kandhamal District:** Known for deposits at **Anamini Parbat, RukuniCuttack, Demoli and Ushabali**.

- Kendujhar District:** **Dholkata Pahar** contains bauxite over **metatholeiitic basalt**--distinct from Eastern Ghat-type.
- Sundargarh District:** Deposits are found at **Tantra, Kodalia, Jaldihi and Kusumdihi**; associated with **manganiferous shales** of the **Nuamundi Group**.

## Geology & Reserve

- Geological Association:** Mostly with **Khondalite and Charnockite** groups; in some areas, associated with **shales and phyllites**.
- Total Reserve:** Odisha has over **1810 million tonnes** of bauxite with **>40% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>** and **<0.5% SiO<sub>2</sub>**--suitable for metallurgical use.

## Uses of Bauxite

- Aluminium Industry** – primary raw material
- Refractory Industry** – high-grade bauxite for fire bricks
- Chemical Industry** – alum and other compounds
- Petroleum Industry** – as catalyst support material

## Iron Ore in Odisha

Odisha is one of India's **leading producers of iron ore**, with major reserves found in the **Iron Ore Super Group**--a geological formation comprising **banded iron formations (BIF)** and **volcano-sedimentary rock piles**.

## Total Reserve

- Odisha has approximately **5153 million tonnes** of iron ore reserves, making it one of the richest states in iron content and supply in India.

## Major District-wise Deposits

- Kendujhar (Keonjhar) District:** Richest belt with deposits at **Roida-Bhadrāsahi, Joda East, Thakurani, Unchabali, Bolani, Guali, Malangtoli** and others. This region forms part of the **famous Joda-Barbil mining belt**.
- Sundargarh District:** Important sites include **Barsuan, Kalta, Koira, Taldihi, Ganua,**

**Badamgarh Pahar and Kurmitarpahar.** These belts support large-scale mining and steel industries.

- **Mayurbhanj District:** Historic iron ore zones such as **Gorumahisani, Badampahar** and **Suleipat**, where mining began during the colonial period.
- **Jajpur District:** Contains deposits at **Daitari-Tomka**, contributing significantly to the state's mineral economy.

### Uses of Iron Ore

- **Pig Iron and Sponge Iron** production
- **Steel manufacturing** (both integrated and secondary units)
- **Blast Furnace operations**
- Production of **ferro-alloys** and other metallurgical products

## Chromite in Odisha

Odisha holds India's **largest chromite reserves**, mainly found in **Jajpur, Kendujhar** and **Baleswar** districts.

- **Jajpur District:** Chromite occurs in the **Sukinda Ultramafic Complex**, intruded into **Precambrian metamorphic rocks**. It's one of the **world's richest chromite belts**, with **173.80 million tonnes** of reserves containing **40-45% Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>**.
- **Kendujhar District:** The **Boula-Nuasahi Igneous Complex** hosts significant chromite deposits.
- **Baleswar District:** Occurrence at **Bhalukasuni**.
- **Uses:** For **chromium metal, ferroalloys** (with iron, nickel, cobalt, etc.), **chromium compounds** and in the **refractory industry**.

## Manganese in Odisha

Odisha is a key contributor to India's manganese production, with major deposits in **Kendujhar, Sundargarh, Rayagada** and **Balangir**.

- **Kendujhar District:** Deposits at **Joda, Roida, Gurda, Jaribahal**, etc., occur in the **shale formations** of the **Iron Ore Super Group** in the **Horse-shoe Synclinorium**. Reserve: **119.81 million tonnes**.
- **Sundargarh District:** Found in **Gangpur Group of rocks**, with sites like **Orahari, Kolmong, Teheral, Kanthor-Koira**.
- **Rayagada District:** Deposits like **Nishikhal, Anajori, Ambadola** and others are associated with **Eastern Ghats Super Group--quartzites, khondalites, calcgneiss**.
- **Balangir District:** Manganese occurs at **Champasar, Rengali, Uchhabapali** and other locations.
- **Uses:** Widely used in **iron & steel, ferromanganese, dry cells** and the **chemical industry**.

## Copper in Odisha

Odisha has limited but important copper reserves, located in **Gajapati (Debagada)** and **Mayurbhanj** districts.

- **Debagada District:** **Adash** deposit is associated with **pyroxene granulite** of the **Eastern Ghats Super Group**. Reserve: **3.09 million tonnes** with **0.8% Cu cut-off grade**.
- **Mayurbhanj District:** Found at **Kesarpur**, within **sheared metabasics** of the **Proterozoic Eastern Singhbhum Belt**.
- **Uses:** Used in **electrical wiring, automobile parts, semiconductors** and **copper alloys**.

**Gangpur Group.** The reserve is **1.89 million tonnes**, with **6.73% Pb** and **51 ppm silver**, though the mine has been **closed since 2001-02**. Other minor occurrences are reported in **Saintala (Balangir), Kermeli (Baragarh), Sisakhal (Kalahandi)** and **Gangajal (Gajapati)**.

## Mineral Sand along Odisha Coast

Odisha's coast, especially **Ganjam** and **Puri** districts, hosts vast **mineral sand deposits** formed by **weathering of Eastern Ghats rocks** and transported by **rivers and tidal forces**. Important sectors include **Gopalpur, Chhatrapur, Prayagi, Paikrapur** and **Brahmagiri**. Total reserve: **226.24 million tonnes**.

These sands contain:

- **Ilmenite & Rutile** (source of **titanium**),
- **Zircon** (used in **ceramics, refractories**),
- **Sillimanite** (for **high-temp refractories**),

## Lead and Zinc in Odisha

The **Sargipalli mines** in **Sundargarh district** are Odisha's major lead-zinc source, with minerals like **galena, sphalerite, cerussite** and **malachite**, hosted in **garnetiferous biotite schist** of the

- Garnet (abrasive), and
- Monazite (contains rare earths, thorium, uranium).

## Nickel in Odisha

The Sukinda Valley in Jajpur district is one of India's richest nickel laterite belts, found as overburden in chromite mines (e.g., Saruabil, Kaliapani, Bhimtangar). With 174 million tonnes ( $\geq 0.5\%$  Ni), this region supports stainless steel, electroplating, coil making and electronics. Minor deposits also occur in the Similipal Complex (Mayurbhanj).

## Platinum Group of Elements (PGE)

Found in the Baula-Nuasahi complex (Kendujhar) and parts of Jajpur, Baleswar and Dhenkanal districts. These are associated with ultramafic-mafic intrusions of the Singhbhum-Odisha Craton. Platinum is used in auto-catalysts, jewellery, electronics and dentistry.

## Tin (Cassiterite)

Tin ore is found in Malkangiri district (e.g., Bijapadar, Durmaguda, Kurumpalli), associated with pegmatites and quartz veins in metasediments of Bengpal Group. Tin is used in cans, solder, chemicals and alloys.

## Asbestos

Occurs in Malkangiri at sites like MV-76, Madatalguda, Billiguda, associated with granite-amphibolite contact zones. Though reserves are unestimated, asbestos is used in cement sheets, pipes, brake linings, insulation, fireproof clothing.

## China Clay (Kaolin)

Found in a wide belt from Mayurbhanj to Kendujhar, extending into Rayagada, Nawarangpur, Baragarh and Cuttack. Major sites include Joshipur, Chanchbani, Unchheibera, Devdhara, Kudingmali. Total reserve: 314 million tonnes. Widely used in ceramics, paper, paint, textiles, rubber industries.

## Coal in Odisha

Odisha is a coal-rich state:

- Talcher Coalfield (Angul-Dhenkanal) is the largest, with 65,226.86 million tonnes of non-coking coal in Lower Gondwana formations.
- Ib River Coalfield (Sambalpur-Jharsuguda) lies in the Raniganj Formation.
- Uneconomic coal also found in Athgarh, Gaisilat, Athmallick and Katrinjia basins.

Coal supports thermal power generation across the state and country.

## Fire Clay

Found in Cuttack (Talbasti, Ghantikhal), Khurda, Angul, Baragarh, Jharsuguda districts. Often associated with coalfields (e.g., Talcher, Ib River). Reserve: 175.53 million tonnes. Used in refractory bricks, sanitaryware and ceramics.



## STATIC GK

- The first five-year plan came into force in April 1951 and was active till March 1956.
- GST was implemented on 1st July 2017.
- The headquarters of SEBI is in Mumbai.
- Einstein received the Nobel Prize for the photoelectric effect in 1921.
- The most saline lake in India is Sambhar Lake in Rajasthan.
- The Chit Funds Act was enacted in 1982.
- Operation Twist refers to the RBI's simultaneous purchase and sale of government securities under Open Market Operations (OMO) to influence interest rates and manage market liquidity.
- NABARD was established in 1982 on the recommendation of the Sivaraman Committee.
- Inclusive development index was published by the World Economic Forum.
- Red Data Book contains the list of endangered species and is maintained by IUCN.

- **Basel Convention** deals with transboundary movement of hazardous waste.
- **Montreal Protocol** (1987) deals with substances that deplete the ozone layer.
- The first nuclear reactor in India was Apsara (1956).
- India's first satellite navigation project is GAGAN.
- CRISPR is a technology used for gene editing.
- Boson particles have an integral spin (0, 1, 2...).
- Project Loon was initiated by Google for balloon-powered internet.
- Manimekalai, is a Tamil Buddhist epic composed by KulavāṇikaṇSeethalaiSataṇar probably somewhere between the 2nd century to the 6th century.
- UNESCO is headquartered in Paris, France.
- The Bretton Woods Conference led to the formation of IMF and World Bank.
- The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was founded on 14 September 1960 in Baghdad by the first five members: Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.
- The TAPI pipeline runs through Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India.
- The International Court of Justice is located in The Hague, Netherlands.
- BRICS Bank is officially called New Development Bank.
- Rammohun Roy founded the Atmiya Sabha in 1814 in Kolkata.
- India's first digital village is Akodara in Gujarat.
- The Khetri mines in Rajasthan are famous for copper.
- The earliest evidence of agriculture in the Indian subcontinent is found at Mehrgarh.
- The Indo-Greeks were also the first to issue gold coins in India.
- Ashoka used the title "DevanampiyaPiyadassi" in his inscriptions.
- River Teesta originates as ChhombuChhu from a glacial lake KhangchungChho in Sikkim.
- India's first SEZ was established in Kandla, Gujarat.
- The basic unit of heredity is the gene, located on chromosomes.
- India joined the MTCR (Missile Technology Control Regime) in 2016.
- The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) is not signed by India.
- The Kolkata Port is India's only riverine port.
- India's first female IAS officer was Anna Rajam Malhotra.
- India's first full-length feature film was *Raja Harishchandra* (1913), directed by Dadasaheb Phalke.
- The first Indian talkie movie was *Alam Ara*, released on March 14, 1931. It was directed by Ardeshir Irani and produced by Imperial Film Co.
- Habib Tanvir was known for blending Chhattisgarhi folk theatre with modern drama.
- The pancreas acts both as an endocrine and exocrine gland.
- The human body's largest organ is the skin.
- DNA was first isolated by Friedrich Miescher in 1869.
- The Louvre Museum is located in Paris and houses the Mona Lisa.
- The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded in Oslo, Norway.
- ASEAN was founded in 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand.
- The oldest Upanishad is the Brihadaranyaka Upanishad.



- The Pali Canon is the sacred **text of Theravada Buddhism.**
- NCERT was established in **1961** to assist and advise on educational matters.
- The **National Anthem** was adopted on **24 January 1950.**
- The motto of the Supreme Court of India is **Yato Dharma Tato Jaya.**
- The first woman judge of the Supreme Court was **Justice Fathima Beevi.**
- The **Great Trigonometrical Survey** helped measure the height of the Himalayas.
- The first successful heart transplant in India was performed by **Dr. P. Venugopal in 1994.**
- Bose-Einstein Condensate is the **fifth state of matter** observed at near absolute zero.
- Kalamkari is a traditional hand-painting **textile art** from **Andhra Pradesh.**
- The Tropic of Cancer passes through eight Indian states. These states are: Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tripura and Mizoram
- Tropic of Cancer passes the districts in West Bengal are **Purulia, Bankura, Bardhaman and Nadia.**
- India's first bank was the **Bank of Hindustan (1770),** now defunct.
- Alessandro Volta invented the **first chemical battery in 1800.**



## CURRENT ONE LINER

- "Black Box" in aircraft is actually **bright orange** and includes the **Flight Data Recorder (FDR)** and **Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR)**, built to survive **extreme crash conditions** and aid in investigations.
- **Statins** inhibit **HMG-CoA reductase** to lower **cholesterol** and also exhibit **anti-inflammatory, immune-modulatory, antioxidative** and **antithrombotic** effects, making them useful beyond cardiovascular diseases.
- **Merchant Discount Rate (MDR)** is the **percentage fee** deducted by the bank from digital payments made to merchants, shared among the **issuing bank, acquiring bank, payment system operator** and **payment gateway.**
- **CROPIC** (Collection of Real-time Observations & Photo of Crops) uses **AI** and **crowdsourcing** to enhance **efficiency** and **transparency** in the **agricultural sector.**
- **Cathepsin B (Cat B)** is a **protein-degrading enzyme** identified as a key factor in **ovarian reserve decline** and inhibiting it helps **preserve egg cells** and prevent **premature fertility loss.**
- **Volcán de Fuego** is a **stratovolcano** located in **Guatemala**, near **Antigua** and is part of the **Pacific Ring of Fire.**
- **Padmanabhaswamy Temple** in **Thiruvananthapuram,** Kerala, is dedicated to **Lord Vishnu** as **Ananta**
- **Padmanabha,** with historical mentions dating back to the **8th or 9th century CE.**
- **Thitu Island,** also known as **Pag-asa Island,** is the **second largest natural island** in the **Spratly Islands,** under **Philippine control** since **1971,** with a **civilian settlement, military presence** and lies close to **China's Subi Reef.**
- **Kalvarayan Hills,** part of the **Eastern Ghats** in **Tamil Nadu,** span **1095 sq. km** across districts like **Salem,** separating the **Kaveri** and **Palar** basins, with **PeriyaKalrayans** (avg. height **4000 ft**) and **Chinna Kalrayans** (**2700 ft**), inhabited mainly by the **Malayali tribe.**
- **Rare earth magnets,** made from alloys of **rare earth**

elements like **neodymium** and **samarium-cobalt**, are known for their **high magnetic strength** and are used in advanced technologies despite being **brittle** and **corrosion-prone**.

- **Agroterrorism** is the deliberate use of **plant or animal pathogens** by **non-state actors** to disrupt the **agriculture sector** or **food supply**, linking it to **biological** and **chemical warfare**.
- **Kulsi River**, a tributary of the **Brahmaputra**, originates in **West Khasi Hills** of **Meghalaya**, enters **Assam** at **Ukiam** and flows about **76 km** to join the **Brahmaputra** at **Nagarbera**.
- **Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary** in **Andhra Pradesh's Godavari delta** is India's second largest **mangrove forest**, home to species like the **fishing cat**, **Brahminy kite** and a **breeding ground** for **Olive Ridley Turtles**.
- **ECOWAS**, founded in **1975** by the **Treaty of Lagos**, is a **West African regional bloc** aiming for **economic integration**, **free movement** and **regional stability**, now comprising **12 member states** after **Burkina Faso**, **Mali** and **Niger** withdrew in **2024**.
- **Exposomics** studies the **total environmental exposures** (like **pollutants**, **diet**, **stress**, **chemicals**) over a **lifetime**, integrating **external factors** with **biological responses** using tools like **mass**

**spectrometry**, **biomarkers** and **AI modeling**.

- **Thermophiles** are **heat-loving microorganisms** that thrive in **high-temperature environments** like **hot springs** and **thermal vents**, often producing **potent antibiotics** to outcompete other microbes.
- **Nanozymes** are **nano-materials** with **enzyme-like properties**, functioning as **catalysts** for **biochemical reactions** similar to natural enzymes.
- **Dickson Fjord**, located in **eastern Greenland**, is part of the **Arctic's glacial fjord system**, characterized by **deep inlets**, **steep cliffs**, **U-shaped valleys** and **long, narrow reaches** inland.
- **Raigad Fort**, the capital of **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's Maratha Empire**, is a **hill fort** in **Raigad district**, **Maharashtra**, known as the '**Gibraltar of the East**', with **strategic elevation** and surrounded by **Kal** and **Gandhari river valleys**.
- **Lysosomal Storage Disorders (LSDs)** are **inherited metabolic disorders** caused by **defective lysosomal enzymes**, leading to the accumulation of **complex molecules** like **lipids**, **carbohydrates**, or **proteins** inside cells.
- **First-Person View (FPV) drones** are **small UAVs** that provide **real-time video feeds** to operators via

**cameras**, enabling **precise manual control** for tasks like **surveillance**, **monitoring** and **search-and-rescue** within a **short operational range**.

- The **WHO's MPOWER framework** outlines six key strategies to combat **tobacco use**: **Monitor** tobacco use, **Protect** from second-hand smoke, **Offer** cessation support, **Warn** about risks, **Enforce** ad bans and **Raise** tobacco taxes.
- **Kalanamak rice**, also known as **Buddha rice**, is an **aromatic, non-basmati variety** from **eastern Uttar Pradesh** and **Nepal's Tarai region**, known for its **black husk**, **distinct fragrance** and **GI tag (2013)**, with cultivation dating back to **600 BC**.
- **Biostimulants** are substances that **enhance plant growth** and **stress tolerance** by improving **nutrient uptake** and **resilience**, not by directly supplying nutrients and are regulated under the **Fertiliser Control Order (FCO)**, **1985** by the **Ministry of Agriculture**.
- **Kilauea Volcano**, a **shield-type volcano** in **Hawaii**, stands at **4,190 feet**, features the **Halema'uma'u lava lake** and is one of the **world's most active volcanoes**, erupting **continuously** since **1983** with typically **nonexplosive eruptions**.
- **Moringa**, or the "**tree of life**", is a **nutrient-rich crop** (*Moringa oleifera*) native to **India**, known for thriving in

tropical climates, with leaves, seeds, bark and pods used in nutrition, medicine, cosmetics and even biofuel.

- **Kiru Hydropower Project** is a **624 MW run-of-river scheme** on the **Chenab River** in **Jammu & Kashmir**, featuring a **135m-high concrete gravity dam**.
- **Liquid carbon** is hard to study because it forms only under **extreme conditions--high pressure** (10 million times Earth's atmosphere) and **temperatures around 4,500°C--and no container** can survive such intense environments.
- **Intercrystals** are novel materials formed by stacking and **twisting ultrathin layers of graphene and hexagonal boron nitride**, creating unique **moiré patterns** with distinct physical properties.
- **Chagos Islands**, a UK overseas territory in the **central Indian Ocean**, are strategically important due to the **U.S. military base on**

**Diego Garcia**, the **largest and southernmost island** of the archipelago.

- **Clownfish**, or **anemonefish**, are brightly colored marine fish known for their **mutualistic symbiotic relationship** with **sea anemones**, offering protection and receiving shelter in return.
- **Salmonella** is a group of bacteria that cause **salmonellosis**, a foodborne illness transmitted mainly through **contaminated food or water**, especially **raw meat, eggs and unwashed produce**.
- **Index Card** is a **non-statutory statistical report** prepared by the **Election Commission of India** post-election, providing **constituency-level electoral data** for academic, research and policy analysis.
- **Loan-to-Value (LTV) Ratio** is the percentage of a gold asset's value a lender offers as a loan. Regulated by the **RBI**, it ensures lenders maintain a

safety margin against gold price fluctuations.

- **Loan-to-Value (LTV) Ratio** is the percentage of a gold asset's value a lender offers as a loan. Regulated by the **RBI**, it ensures lenders maintain a safety margin against gold price fluctuations.
- **Greater Flamingo Sanctuary** in **Dhanushkodi** is a vital stop on the **Central Asian Flyway**, rich in **mangroves** and home to **128 bird species**.
- **DIGIPIN** is a **geo-coded, open-source digital addressing system** that assigns a unique **10-character alphanumeric code** to every **4x4 meter** location in India. Developed by the **Department of Posts, IIT Hyderabad** and **ISRO's NRSC**, it enhances **precision in deliveries, emergency response and service access--even in rural or remote areas**.