APTI PLUS OAS GAZETTE

FEBRUARY 2026

APTI PLUS
Academy for Civil Services Pvt. Ltd.
CREATING CIVIL SERVANTS FOR THE NATION

34TH EDITION

10,000-Year-Old Civilisation in Odisha

Devi River

Odisha's first Boeing Sukanya STEM labs

Krushi Odisha 2026

Odisha's Buddhist Sites on UNESCO Tentative List

Disclaimer: Copyright infringement not intended.

COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE OF CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR ODISHA STATE CIVIL SERVICES EXAMS

OPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS 4

ODISHA RELATED STATIC GK 17
APPOINTMENTS 18
AWARDS 19
SPORTS 21
IMPORTANT DAYS 22
STATIC GK 24
CURRENT GK 25
LEARNING THROUGH INFOGRAPHICS 28

APTI PLUS
Academy for Civil Services Pvt. Ltd.

Legacy Unstoppable.
Congratulations to our toppers of
OAS 2023

280+Selections
4 selections in Top 10
12 selections in Top 20
76 selections in Top 100

Mirza Faiz Ahmed
Rank 4
IGP

Antim Swain
Rank 6
Mains Guidance Program

Shailesh Kumar Bhoi
Rank 7
Classroom Program

Md. Nazif Hatif
Rank 8
IGP

Swarupini Patnaik
Rank 12
IGP

Krishna Gopal Swain
Rank 13
IGP

Sneha Das Mohapatra
Rank 14
Mains Mentorship Program

Asutosh Satpathy
Rank 15
IGP

Deepsita Behera
Rank 16
Mains Guidance Program

Supriya Mishra
Rank 17
IGP

Aseema Anwesha
Rank 18
IGP

Mg Subarna Mohanty
Rank 19
IGP

CELEBRATION OF OAS 2023

BEHIND EVERY RANK, THERE'S A TEAM.
To our Faculty, Content Team & Support Staff-
Your hard work, passion, and commitment made this historic success possible.
This victory belongs as much to you as to our students!

Akash K. Pradhan Rank 21 IGP
Soumya R. Panda Rank 22 IGP
Bansali Acharya Rank 23 Prelims Guidance Program
Ashutosh Swain Rank 24 IGP
Tanisha Behura Rank 26 IGP
Prasannajit Panda Rank 27 IGP
Kalyani Sahoo Rank 29 IGP
Mrutyunjaya Rout Rank 31 IGP
Manisha Nayak Rank 33 IGP
Shaswatee Pattanaik Rank 34 IGP
Saurav Mittal Rank 35 IGP
Swetapadma Mohanty Rank 36 IGP
Sai Raman Patra Rank 37 IGP
Sonali Tripathy Rank 39 IGP
Jyotiprakash Samal Rank 41 IGP
Puspita Tripathy Rank 42 IGP
Srikumar Pradahan Rank 44 IGP
Swatideepa Rout Rank 46 IGP
Jyotirmayee Swain Rank 49 Classroom Program
Mihika Das Rank 51 IGP
Sidhant Mishra Rank 53 CLASSROOM
Ahalya Rautaray Rank 54 IGP
Sandeep K. Subhadarshi Rank 55 IGP
Biswajit Mohanty Rank 57 CLASSROOM
Bibhabrata Dash Rank 58 IGP
Saklisudha Dash Rank 59 IGP
Subhashree Jena Rank 61 IGP
Pratikshya Mahapatra Rank 62 MGP
Pratyush Satapathy Rank 63 IGP
Lopamudra Pradhan Rank 64 IGP
Lopamudra Pradhan Rank 66 IGP
Tarini Prasad Dash Rank 66 IGP
Devipracanna Das Rank 68 IGP
Mohit Biswal Rank 69 IGP
Monalisha Rout Rank 71 IGP
Srinibas Sarangi Rank 72 MGP
Madhusmita Dash Rank 73 IGP
Sukrushna Samal Rank 75 IGP
Roshan Patel Rank 77 IGP
Subhashree Subhasmita Rank 79 CLASSROOM
Priyanshu Panda Rank 82 IGP
Rajalin Jena Rank 85 IGP
Anshuman Sahu Rank 86 IGP
Kharavel Pradhan Rank 88 IGP
Monalisa Sahu Rank 93 IGP
Subhashree Ankita P Rank 101 IGP
Pratyush K. Mohapatra Rank 109 IGP
Pooja Ojha Rank 110 IGP
Mohammad Asif Khan Rank 117 IGP
Baikuthi Dash Rank 118 IGP
Re Goutam Debadutta Rank 119 IGP
Srinibash Dash Rank 123 IGP
Archana Sarangi Rank 124 MAINS GUIDANCE PROGRAM
Swastiranjan Sahoo Rank 125 IGP
Rupesh Kumar Rout Rank 126 IGP
Samiksya Mohapatra Rank 127 IGP
Pratik Rath Rank 129 IGP
Tanishka Nayak Rank 133 IGP
Dr. Susmita Tripathy Rank 134 MAINS GUIDANCE PROGRAM
Sarita Nayak Rank 135 IGP
Shibam Swarup Mohanty Rank 136 PRELIMS GUIDANCE PROGRAM
Satyajit Raigaru Rank 138 IGP
Balaram Sahu Rank 140 IGP
Biswajit Behera Rank 141 IGP
Pratikruti Patel Rank 142 IGP
Puspanjali Sahoo Rank 147 IGP
Anil Kumar Sahu Rank 150 IGP
Sahil Kumar Patra Rank 152 IGP
Abhijit Jayaprakash Pradhan Rank 153 IGP
Soumya Ranjan Sahoo Rank 154 IGP
Samyak S. Mohapatra Rank 156 MAINS GUIDANCE PROGRAM
Pooja Samal Rank 157 IGP
Niraker Sahu Rank 158 IGP
Abhisek Pani Rank 159 CLASSROOM PROGRAM
Chinmay K. Panda Rank 161 IGP
Jyoti Prava Tripathy Rank 162 IGP
Prakash Sahoo Rank 165 IGP
Sonali Jena Rank 169 IGP
Susmita Sahoo Rank 171 IGP
Satyaranjan Doura Rank 172 IGP
Ashutosh Sahu Rank 173 MAINS GUIDANCE PROGRAM
Archisa Nayak Rank 174 IGP
Sonali Sahoo Rank 175 IGP
Alya Aneesha Nayak Rank 177 IGP
Rajshree Ojha Rank 178 MAINS MENTORSHIP PROGRAM
Sidharth K. Patra Rank 179 IGP
Byomakesh Satapathy Rank 180 IGP
Sabyasachi Parida Rank 185 IGP
Bhupendra Dhakla Rank 186 IGP
Siddharth Chopdar Rank 187 IGP
Abhilash Dash Rank 188 CLASS ROOM PROGRAM
Soumya Prakash Bhoi Rank 189 IGP
Shradha Suman Rank 191 IGP
Sarmistha Priyadarshini Rank 192 IGP
Nupma Sahin Rank 193 IGP
Vandita Samal Rank 194 IGP
Kalu Rauta Rank 195 PRELIMS & MAINS GUIDANCE PROGRAM
Abhigna Khuntia Rank 197 IGP
Jayaprakash Behera Rank 200 IGP

& many more...

Features:
- Renowned Faculty from DELHI with Extensive CSE experience.
- Scientifically design Stepwise Training from Basic NCERT to Advance Level.
- Separate Doubt Clearing Session & Weekly Current Affairs Session
- National Level Test Series with a 'Learn-Revise-Test-Succeed' approach
- Mode of Class is Offline / Online / Hybrid with Library and Hostel facilities
- Undivided Attention by Personal Mentors.
- Weekly Evaluation progress made. Analysis of Strength and Weakness.
- Specific focus on upcoming UPSC & OPSC Exam with new approach

ADMISSIONS OPEN FOR
IAS & OAS
GRADUATES & 12th PASS CANDIDATES
Integrated & Foundation Courses

Call: 9938386166, 7327846166, 8260677707
JAYDEV VIHAR, BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Current Affairs

APTI PLUS

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*

Padma Shri Awardees from Odisha

Context

- On the eve of Republic Day 2026, the Ministry of Home Affairs announced the **Padma Shri** awards for four distinguished individuals from Odisha, recognising their exceptional contributions to **linguistics, tribal culture, arts and handloom weaving**. These awards highlight Odisha's rich **cultural, linguistic and artistic heritage**.

Padma Shri Awardees from Odisha (2026):

1. Mahendra Kumar Mishra – Linguist (Literature & Education)

- Age: 73, Bhubaneswar.
- Pioneer of **multilingual education** in Odisha; introduced **mother-tongue-based learning** for primary grades (1996–2010).
- Documented **32 languages and folk traditions** across Odisha and other states.
- Honors: **Odisha Sahitya Akademi Award**, **UNESCO International Mother Language Award (2023)**.
- Contribution: Research and documentation of **Adivasi languages, culture and heritage**.

2. Charan Hembram – Santali Writer & Cultural Activist (Literature & Education)

- Age: 74, Mayurbhanj.
- Promoted **Ol Chiki script** of the Santali language.
- Established **Ol Itun Asra learning centres**; served as secretary of the govt board for Santali education (12 years).
- Introduced Santali in **school curriculum**; translated parts of **Ramayana and Mahabharata** into Santali.
- Contribution: Preservation and promotion of **Santali language, dance and music**.

3. Guru Simanchal Patro – Prahallad Natak Exponent (Arts)

- Age: 98, Ganjam.
- Legendary trainer and promoter of **Prahallad Natak**, traditional folk theatre.
- Established several **akhadas** to train young artistes; many disciples became gurus.
- Contribution: Sustaining and propagating **Odisha's traditional folk theatre** for over six decades.

4. Sarat Kumar Patra – Master Weaver (Arts)

- Age: 61, Tigiria, Nuapatna.
- Renowned for **Bandha Kala weaving**, especially **Geeta Govinda** and **Dasavataar motifs**.
- Over **five decades** of experience; won **National Award** for single-thread Geeta Govinda weave (7 years of effort).
- Contribution: Preserving Odisha's **handloom and weaving traditions**.

Significance:

- These awards recognize **unsung heroes** who have contributed to preserving Odisha's **linguistic diversity, tribal culture, folk arts and handloom heritage**, inspiring future generations to continue these traditions.

Nabarangpur District of Odisha declared "Naxal-Free"

Context:

- Nabarangpur district of Odisha has been declared **"Naxal-free"** after nine Maoists surrendered in neighbouring Chhattisgarh.
- This marks a significant milestone in the state's efforts to eliminate Left-Wing Extremism, leaving Maoist activity confined to **seven districts**: Kandhamal, Kalahandi, Bolangir, Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada and Boudh. The Union Government aims to end Maoism by **March 31, 2026**.

Geography:

- Located at **19.14′ N latitude and 82.32′ E longitude**, average elevation 572 m.
- Terrain: forested plateau; **north & east**: thick forests, **west**: low hills up to 1000 m, **south**: Indravati River plains, **east**: Eastern Ghats.
- Notable region: **Panabeda Mutta** around Chandahandi (~150 m above sea level).
- Borders: Kalahandi and Koraput districts.

History:

- Ancient: Under **Mauryas** and Kalinga; mentioned by **Kharavela**.
- 2nd–3rd century CE: Ruled by **Satavahanas, Ikshavakus, Vakatakas**.
- 4th–5th century CE: **Nala dynasty** ruled from Pushkari; fought Vakatakas, later overtaken by Chalukyas.

- 5th century CE: **Eastern Gangas**, followed by **Somvanshi rulers of South Kosala** (9th century).
- 1023 CE: **Rajendra Chola** conquest, resisted by Gangas.
- 945–13th century: **Chindaka Naga dynasty**; later **Matsyas**, then **Silavamshis** (14th century).
- Modern: Under **Suryavanshi kings of Jeypore**, feudatories of Gajapatis; post-independence, part of Koraput district until **Nabarangpur carved out in 1991**.
- Freedom Movement: Active in **Civil Disobedience Movement (1942)**; **Papadahandi incident**: 19 killed, 100 injured.

Economy:

- Listed among **250 poorest districts in India (2006)**; receives **Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF)** support.
- Predominantly **agriculture-based** (40% land cultivated).
- Limited industrial development in recent years.

Significance:

- Tribal-dominated district with rich **forest and cultural heritage**.
- Declared **Naxal-free**, reflecting progress in **internal security and development initiatives**.

10,000-Year-Old Civilisation in Odisha

Context:

- The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** has begun excavations at the **Bhimmandali mountains in Redakhol, Sambalpur district**, following the discovery of **rock-cut paintings and ancient tools**. Experts believe the site may represent a **Stone Age civilisation possibly 10,000 years old**, potentially predating the **Indus Valley Civilization**.

Excavation Details:

- Excavation is **manual and meticulous**, progressing about **1 cm per day** to preserve delicate artifacts.
- Teams include researchers from **Gangadhar Meher University** and **INTACH**.

Findings:

- **Stone tools**: blades, knives, spears, scrapers, needles for leatherwork.
- **Rock shelters**: Over **45 shelters** with inscriptions and paintings.
- **Artistic techniques**: Natural pigments from **iron oxide**, tree bark and leaves.
- Depictions: **Forest environments, daily life and primitive activities**, serving as historical records.

Significance:

- May reveal a previously unknown **prehistoric civilisation in Odisha**.
- Enhances understanding of **Stone Age human settlement and artistry** in eastern India.
- Local advocacy for the site to be declared a **National Heritage Monument**.
- Links to local tradition connect it to **Mahabharata-era legends**, though the focus is **prehistoric significance**.

Next Steps:

- **Carbon dating** and further scientific analysis are underway to confirm the **age and chronology** of the site.

Statewide Ban on All Tobacco- And Nicotine-Containing Chewable Products

Context:

- The **Odisha government** has announced a **statewide ban** on all **tobacco- and nicotine-containing chewable products** such as **Guthka, pan masala, zarda**, in compliance with **Supreme Court directions** and **FSSAI regulations**.

Legal Basis:

- **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006**
- **Regulation 2.3.4** of **Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2011**
- Prohibits: **manufacture, storage, transport, trade and sale** of tobacco/nicotine-containing food products.

Products Covered:

- **Guthka**
- **Pan masala**
- **Zarda**
- **Other chewable products containing tobacco or nicotine**

Implications:

- Odisha contributes about **2% to India's cigarette sales**, so the ban **may not significantly impact overall tobacco sales**.
- However, **similar bans or tax hikes in other states** could pose **risks to the tobacco industry**, including companies like **ITC**.

Significance:

- Public health measure aimed at reducing **tobacco consumption and related diseases**.
- Reinforces **state-level compliance with national food safety and health regulations**.

Odisha's first Boeing Sukanya STEM labs

Context:

- Union Education Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** inaugurated Odisha's first **Boeing Sukanya STEM labs** in **Sambalpur district** on 25 January 2026. Three labs were launched: **CSB Zilla School (physical), Rairakhol and Kuchinda (virtual)**. The initiative is aimed at **enhancing STEM education and promoting women in aviation and aerospace**.

About the Boeing Sukanya STEM Labs:

- Part of the **Boeing Sukanya Programme** (launched 2024) in partnership with **Learning Links Foundation**.
- Total labs in India: **32**, reaching nearly **20,000 students annually**.
- Odisha labs expected to benefit **3,000+ students per year**.
- Focus: **Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM), aviation and aeromodelling**.
- Target students: **Classes VI to X**.

Objectives:

- Early exposure to **aerospace education** and **STEM learning**.
- Develop **scientific temper, critical thinking and innovation skills**.
- Encourage **girls' participation in aviation careers**, removing **financial barriers**.
- Promote **activity-based learning**, workshops and competitions at **regional and national levels**.

Facilities & Tools:

- **Experiential learning kits**
- **Digital tools**
- **Hands-on modules** for STEM and aviation education

Support & Funding:

- Jointly supported by **Odisha government** and **Boeing India** with **Rs 40 lakh each**.
- Programme emphasizes **education in mother tongue** to strengthen conceptual clarity.

Significance:

- Supports India's growing **civil aviation sector**: from 2,500 aircraft currently to an expected 15,000 in the next decade.
- Promotes **gender inclusivity** in aerospace and STEM fields.
- Enhances **skill development and innovation** among rural and urban students.

Odisha's Buddhist Sites on UNESCO Tentative List

Context:

- The **Odisha government** lauded the inclusion of **Ratnagiri, Lalitgiri andUdaygiri** in India's **UNESCO Tentative List** for consideration as **World Heritage Sites**.
- **Historical & Cultural Significance:**
  - Known as the **"Diamond Triangle"** of the Buddhist circuit.
  - Sites reflect all **three schools of Buddhism**: Hinayana, Mahayana and Vajrayana.
  - Feature **monasteries, stupas, sculptures and inscriptions**, highlighting Odisha's role in spreading Buddhism across Asia.
  - Located in the **undivided Cuttack district**.
- **Impact:**
  - Boosts **heritage tourism**, research and conservation efforts.
  - Compiled by **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**, the nodal agency for UNESCO heritage in India.

Ratnagiri Buddhist Site

- **Location**: Jajpur district, Odisha; situated on a hill between **Brahmani and Birupa rivers**.
- **Meaning**: Ratnagiri (Odia: ରତ୍ନଗିରି) means *"Hill of Jewels"*.
- **Significance**: One of the most important **Buddhist Mahaviharas** of eastern India.
- **Diamond Triangle**: Along with **Lalitgiri and Udayagiri**, forms the famous *Diamond Triangle of Odisha Buddhism*.

Chronology

- Established: **6th century CE** (Gupta period, reign of Narasimha Baladitya).
- Major construction: **7th–10th centuries CE**.
- Last phase of activity: Up to **13th century**; decline after 12th century, limited use till **16th century**.

Architecture & Layout

- **Main features**:
  - One major **Stupa (9th century)** with square base.
  - Over **700 small votive stupas** – exceptionally large number.
  - **Three monasteries (Viharas)** – Monastery 1, 2 and 3.
- **Monastery 1**:
  - Largest and most ornate; described as the *finest carved structural monastery in India*.
  - Two construction phases: late 8th century and 10th–11th century.

- Features a **12-feet colossal seated Buddha**, flanked by Padmapani and Vajrapani.
- Elaborately carved **chlorite stone doorway** (considered the loveliest monastery entrance in India).

- **Building material**: Brick structures with stone sculptures made of **chlorite and khondalite**.

Art & Sculpture

- Sculptural style: **Post-Gupta**, transitioning from classical Gupta art.
- Dominant themes:
  - Buddha, Bodhisattvas (Avalokiteshvara, Tara, Manjusri, Vajrapani, Aparajita).
  - Increasing presence of **Tantric and Vajrayana imagery**.
- Notable finds:
  - Over **two dozen colossal Buddha heads**.
  - **Wrathful deities** like Heruka.
  - Rare erotic and esoteric tantric panels (late phase).

Religious Importance

- Important centre of **Mahayana → Vajrayana/Tantric Buddhism**.
- Tibetan text *Pag Sam Jon Zang* links Ratnagiri to development of **Kalachakratantra** (10th century).
- Shows coexistence of multiple Buddhist traditions within one monastery.

Inscriptions & Seals

- **1386 clay seals** discovered with inscription:
- *"Sri Ratnagiri Mahavihariya Aryabikshu Sanghasya"* – confirms monastery's name.
- Only **three significant inscriptions**, mostly related to merit of stupa construction.

Historical Context

- Flourished under **Bhauma-Kara dynasty** (capital at Jajpur).
- Connected to **ancient Kalinga trade networks**, including Southeast Asia.
- Decline after 12th century due to weakening of Buddhism and invasions.

Excavation & Conservation

- Major ASI excavations: **1958–61**; further work **1997–2004**.
- Locals earlier believed ruins were a mythical king's palace (*Ranipukhuri*).
- **Site Museum**: Three-storey museum displaying stone, bronze, terracotta sculptures, seals and inscriptions.

Lalitagiri Buddhist Site

- **Location**: Mahanga Tahsil, **Cuttack district**, Odisha; situated between **Parabhadi and Landa sandstone hills** in the Assian hill range.
- **Other name**: Nalitagiri.
- **Significance**: **Oldest Buddhist site in Odisha** with continuous occupation.
- **Diamond Triangle**: Part of the **Lalitagiri–Ratnagiri–Udayagiri** Buddhist complex.

Chronology

- Cultural sequence: **Post-Mauryan period (3rd century BC) to 13th century AD**.
- Continuous Buddhist presence: **3rd century BC to 10th century AD** (unbroken).
- Final phase dominated by **Vajrayana/Tantric Buddhism** under **Bhauma-Kara dynasty (8th–10th century AD)**.

Historical Exploration

- First identification: **1905 – M.M. Chakravarty**.
- Documented by: **R.P. Chanda (1927–28)**, ASI Memoirs.
- Protected monument: **1937**.
- Major ASI excavations: **1985–1991**.
- Earlier identified with **Pushpagiri Vihara** of Xuanzang, but now Pushpagiri located at **Langudi Hill**.

Major Archaeological Features

- **Large hilltop stupa** with Buddha relics.
- **Buddha relic discovery**:
  - Two stone caskets (Khondalite).
  - Nested caskets of **steatite, silver and gold**.
  - Gold casket contained **Buddha's bone relic (dhatu)**.
  - *First such relic discovery in Eastern India.*

Chaityagriha

- **East-facing apsidal chaityagriha** (first of its kind in Odisha).
- Brick structure: **33 m × 11 m**, walls 3.3 m thick.
- Central circular stupa.
- **Kushana Brahmi inscriptions** on shells.
- Dates from **early Christian era to 6th–7th century AD**.

Monasteries (Viharas)

- **Four monasteries excavated**:
  - **Monastery 1**: Largest; east-facing, two-storeyed; dated **10th–11th century AD**.
  - **Monastery 2**: Northern hill; built during decline of Buddhism.
  - **Monastery 3**: South-east facing; represents late apsidal chaitya phase.
  - **Monastery 4**: Contains large **deified Buddha heads**.
- **Terracotta seal** inscription:

"Sri Chandraditya Vihara Samagra Arya Vikshu Sanghasa" (9th–10th century AD).

Art & Sculpture

- Numerous Buddha images in **different meditative postures** (Mahayana phase).
- Sculptures show **Gandhara and Mathura school influence**.
- Important deities found:
  - **Tara (Kurukulla Tara)**
  - **Avalokiteshvara**
  - **Hariti** (protector of children)
  - **Jambhala**
- Presence of **Hīnayāna, Mahāyāna and Vajrayāna** traditions confirmed by inscriptions and pottery.

Religious Importance

- Important centre of **Tantric Buddhism**.
- Transition observed:
  - Early phase: Hinayana & Mahayana
  - Later phase: **Vajrayana (Tantric)**

Museum

- **Lalitagiri Site Museum** houses:
  - Buddha and Bodhisattva sculptures
  - Relic caskets
  - Inscriptions and seals
- Stone statues with draped garments reflect **Gandhara–Mathura artistic traits**.

Udayagiri Buddhist Site

- **Location**: Jajpur district, Odisha; about **90 km NE of Bhubaneswar** and **70 km NE of Cuttack**.
- **Coordinates**: 20.6416°N, 86.2692°E.
- **Significance**: **Largest Buddhist complex in Odisha**.
- **Diamond Triangle**: Along with **Lalitagiri and Ratnagiri**, forms the famous *Diamond Triangle of Odisha Buddhism*.
- **Ancient name**: *Madhavapura Mahavihara* (confirmed by epigraphic evidence).

Chronology

- Active period: **7th to 12th century CE**.
- Chronologically **later than Lalitagiri and Ratnagiri**.
- Continuous Buddhist activity attested through inscriptions from **5th to 13th centuries CE**.

Historical Context

- Earlier identified with **Pushpagiri Vihara** of Xuanzang, but later Pushpagiri located at **Langudi Hill**.
- Major excavations conducted by **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** since **1958**.

Excavation Sites

- **Udayagiri–1**: Located in a depression between two valleys.
- **Udayagiri–2**:
  - Major monastic complex enclosed by a compound wall.
  - Stupa of **7 m height** with **four Dhyani Buddhas** at cardinal points.
  - Identified as *Madhavapura Mahavihara*.
  - Excavations during **1985–86, 1989–90 and 1997–2000** revealed additional stupas and monasteries.

Architectural Features

- **Stupas**:
  - Brick and stone stupas dated from **1st to 12th century CE**.
  - Votive stupas along stone-paved paths.
- **Chaitya-grihas**:
  - **Apsidal chaitya-grihas**, east-facing.
  - One older chaitya replaced by a later brick structure.
- **Monasteries (Viharas)**:
  - Two major monastic complexes dated to **8th century CE**.
- **Other structures**:
  - Stepped **stone well with inscriptions**.
  - Large **raised stone platform** (14.05 × 13.35 m) with ashlar masonry.
  - Presence of **chandrashila (moon stone)**.
  - Stone *jali* with **gavaksha (horseshoe arch)** motifs.

Art & Sculpture

- Images of:
  - **Buddha, Tara (Kurukulla Tara)**,
  - **Manjusri, Avalokiteshvara**,
  - **JatamukutaLokesvara, Bhikruti-Tara, Chunda**.
- Deities placed in niches marking **four cardinal directions**.
- **Hariti** images found – depicted as protector of children.
- Sculptures largely represent **Mahayana Buddhist tradition**.

Religious Characteristics

- Predominantly **Mahayana Buddhism**.
- **No strong evidence of Vajrayana/Tantric Buddhism**, unlike Ratnagiri, despite geographical proximity.
- Presence of **Dhyani Buddhas** and Bodhisattvas.

Epigraphic & Other Finds

- Numerous **terracotta seals**.
- Inscriptions dating from **5th–13th centuries CE**.
- Residential structures with domestic artifacts found near chaitya-griha.
- Unique sculpture of a **human figure swinging on a rope**, symbolising bliss.

Comparative Importance

- **Largest** among the Diamond Triangle sites.

- Less Tantric influence compared to Ratnagiri.
- More structurally expansive than Lalitagiri.

Dhauli and Langudi

Context

- Odisha government plans to develop a **unified Buddhist heritage circuit** to promote global spiritual tourism.

Sites Included (5)

1. **Udayagiri**
2. **Ratnagiri**
3. **Lalitgiri**
4. **Langudi**
5. **Dhauli**

Langudi – The Forgotten Pushpagiri Mahavihara (Odisha)

Location

- Langudi is located around 80 km north-east of Bhubaneswar on the Bhubaneswar–Paradeep route.
- It lies beyond the famous Diamond Triangle comprising Udayagiri, Ratnagiri and Lalitgiri.

Historical Significance

- Langudi is identified with **Pushpagiri Mahavihara**, one of the earliest and longest-flourishing Buddhist centres of learning in India.
- It flourished continuously from the **3rd century BCE to the 11th century CE**, for nearly 1,400 years.
- Pushpagiri functioned as a major Buddhist university in eastern India, comparable in importance to Nalanda.

Literary and Epigraphic Evidence.

- The Chinese Buddhist monk **Hiuen Tsang (Xuanzang)** mentioned Pushpagiri Mahavihara during his 7th-century travels in India.
- For a long time, scholars debated whether Pushpagiri referred to Ratnagiri, Udaygiri, Lalitgiri, or their combined complex.
- Archaeological excavations at Langudi revealed a fragmented **Brahmi inscription** reading *"puṣpasabhargiriya"* meaning "House of Flowers". This inscription conclusively established Langudi as Pushpagiri Mahavihara.

Archaeological History

- The first recorded mention of Langudi dates back to **1766**, documented by **T. S. Motte** of the East India Company.
- Despite its importance, the mound remained unexplored for over two centuries.
- Systematic excavations began in **1996** under the Orissa Institute of Maritime and South East Asia Studies and Odisha State Archaeology.
- The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** took over the excavations in **2007** and work continues till date.
- Only a small portion of the massive mound has been excavated so far.

Major Archaeological Remains at Langudi

Maha Stupa

- The Maha Stupa was originally constructed by **Emperor Ashoka** in the **3rd century BCE**.
- An inscription at the site confirms its Ashokan origin.
- It is believed to be one of the **ten stupas built by Ashoka in Odisha**.
- Over centuries, the stupa was enlarged into a massive structure, though today only its brick base survives.

Rock-cut Stupas

- Langudi contains **34 rock-cut stupas** carved on a rocky outcrop.
- These date from the **1st to 4th century CE**.
- The stupas feature intricate ornamentation, including human figures, mythical beings and floral and geometric motifs.
- They represent advanced Buddhist rock-cut architectural traditions.

Excavated Monastic Area

- Excavations on the hilltop have revealed structural remains such as walls and exposed trenches.
- These indicate the presence of a large monastic complex and residential areas for monks.

Rock-cut Sculptures

- The rock-cut sculptures date between the **8th and 10th century CE**.
- They include images of Buddha in *Dhyani Mudra*, **Tara**, **Avalokitesvara** and**Prajnaparamita**.
- These sculptures reflect the dominance of **Mahayana and Vajrayana Buddhism** in later phases.

Religious Importance

- Langudi initially emerged as an important centre during the Mauryan period.
- It later evolved into a stronghold of **Mahayana and Vajrayana Buddhism**.
- The site illustrates the transition from early Buddhism to Tantric Buddhist traditions in eastern India.

Langudi and the Diamond Triangle

APTI PLUS

- Langudi complements the Diamond Triangle by providing evidence of Ashokan Buddhism, rock-cut art and long-term monastic activity.

Dhauli

- **Dhauli**, located about **8 km from Bhubaneswar in Odisha**, is a major **Buddhist pilgrimage site**.
- It is traditionally associated with **Emperor Ashoka's transformation** after the **bloody Kalinga War of 261 B.C.**
- The site is renowned for its **Ashokan rock edicts**, **rock-cut elephant sculpture** and the **Shanti Stupa (Peace Pagoda)** built in the 1970s.

Key Features and Highlights

Shanti Stupa (Peace Pagoda)

- The Shanti Stupa was built in **1972** by the **Japan Buddha Sangha** and **Kalinga Nippon Buddha Sangha** as an Indo-Japanese collaboration.
- This white structure symbolizes **peace, harmony and non-violence**.

Ashokan Rock Edicts

- Located on the **Dhauli Hills**, these inscriptions date back to the **3rd century B.C.**
- They convey Ashoka's message of **Dhamma, public welfare and non-violence** following the Kalinga War.

Rock-cut Elephant Sculpture

- The rock-cut elephant is an early Buddhist sculpture carved from living rock.
- It symbolically represents **Lord Buddha** and compassion.

Daya River

- Dhauli is situated on the banks of the **Daya River**, where the **Kalinga War** is believed to have taken place.

Other Structures

- Nearby religious sites include the **Dhavaleswar Temple**, **Bahirangeshwar Siva Temple** and a **Ganesha Temple**.

Historical Significance of Dhauli

- Dhauli is blessed with serenity and is rich in history and culture.
- It is believed to be the actual battlefield of the **Kalinga War**, fought in **265–261 B.C.**
- Although Emperor Ashoka emerged victorious, the immense bloodshed and human suffering filled him with deep remorse.
- As a result, Ashoka transformed his policy from **Dig-Vijaya (conquest by war)** to **Dharma-Vijaya (conquest by righteousness)**.
- He renounced violence and embraced **Buddhism**, turning Dhauli into an important Buddhist centre.
- Ashoka subsequently issued several **rock edicts** across his empire to propagate his principles of morality, compassion and welfare.
- One such significant edict is located at the **base of the Dhauli hill**.
- Ashoka is also believed to have built **pillars, chaityas and stupas** at Dhauli.

Peace Pagoda (Vishwa Shanti Stupa)

- The **Vishwa Shanti Stupa** is situated atop the Dhauli hill.
- It is a **white, double-storeyed structure** standing on a circular platform.
- The dome is crowned with **lotus petals**, symbolizing purity.
- The top of the stupa is adorned with **five chhatris (umbrellas)**, representing the **five principles or aspects of Buddhism**.

Odisha and Assam have overtaken West Bengal in Per Capita Income

Context

- Eastern India has traditionally been dominated economically by **West Bengal**, which long remained the region's largest economy and enjoyed higher income levels than neighbouring states.
- However, **recent economic trends show a gradual shift**, with **Assam and Odisha emerging as faster-growing states**, especially after the pandemic. While West Bengal still leads in size, its relative advantage is weakening.

Economic Size: West Bengal Still Ahead

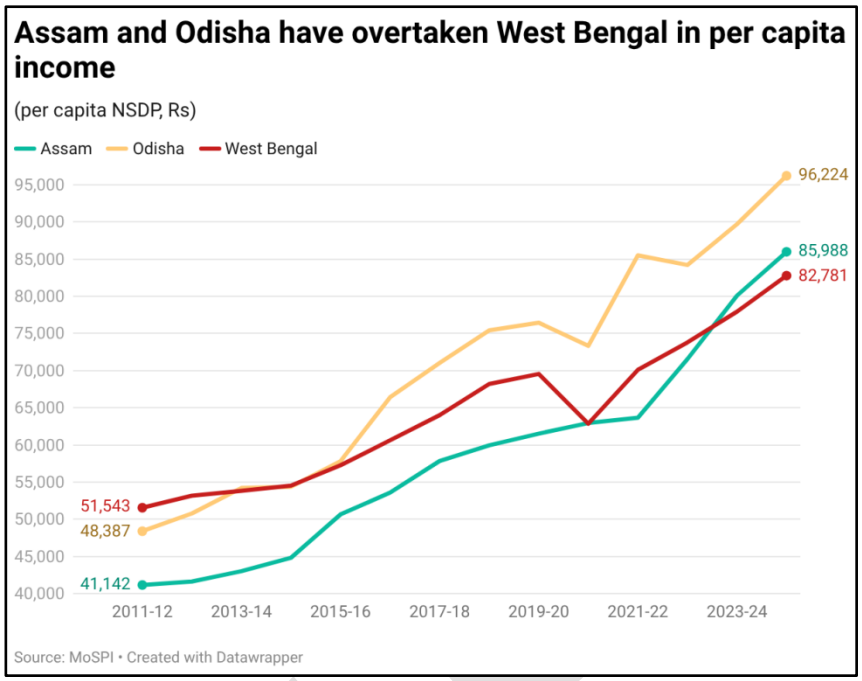
- West Bengal remains the **largest economy** among the three.
- **Real GSDP (2011–12 prices, 2024–25)**:
  - West Bengal: **₹9.4 lakh crore**
  - Nearly **three times Assam's output**
  - Nearly **twice Odisha's output**
- Assam and Odisha are **catching up by growing faster from smaller bases**.

Per Capita Income: Clear Shift in Leadership

- **Earlier (2011–12)**:
  - West Bengal had a clear lead over Assam and Odisha.
- **By 2024–25**:

- **Odisha**: ₹96,224 (highest)
- **Assam**: ₹85,988
- **West Bengal**: ₹82,781

- **Key point**:
  - Both Assam and Odisha have **overtaken West Bengal** in per capita income.
  - Indicates **better income growth and welfare outcomes**.



Growth Trends: Assam and Odisha More Dynamic

- **Assam**:
  - Recorded **double-digit growth** in several years.
  - Strong performances in **2015–16, 2022–23 and 2023–24**.
- **Odisha**:
  - Growth has been **uneven but sharper**.
  - Notable rebound of **16.4% in 2021–22** after the pandemic.
- **West Bengal**:
  - Growth relatively **stable but less impressive**.
  - Experienced a **sharper contraction in 2020–21**.
  - Post-pandemic growth mostly **matches the national average**, not exceeding it.

Industrial Performance: Numbers vs Output

Factory Growth

- **Assam**: ~**63% rise** in number of factories (FY15–FY24).
- **Odisha**: Growth **above national average**, driven by mining and metals.
- **West Bengal**: Only ~**11% increase**, showing slower industrial expansion.

Factory Output

- **West Bengal**:
  - Factory output **more than doubled**.
  - Still leads in **absolute industrial value added**.
- **Odisha**:
  - Massive **298% increase** in factory output.
- **Assam**:
  - Strong growth, but behind West Bengal and Odisha in value terms.

Conclusion / Way Forward

- **West Bengal**:
  - Continues to dominate in **economic size and industrial output**.
  - Losing ground in **income growth and industrial deepening**.
- **Assam and Odisha**:
  - Emerging as **high-growth eastern states**.
  - Benefiting from **post-pandemic momentum, industrial investment and structural change**.
- Overall, eastern India is witnessing a **rebalancing of economic leadership**, with growth increasingly driven by Assam and Odisha rather than West Bengal alone.

Krushi Odisha-2026

Context

- At the closing session of **Krushi Odisha-2026** held at **Biju Patnaik Playground, Baramunda, Bhubaneswar, Odisha Governor Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati** urged the **youth** to lead the transformation of **agriculture** into a modern **agri-industry**.

Vision of Agri-Industry Transformation

- **Agriculture** must move beyond **traditional practices** and evolve into a dynamic **agri-industry**. He highlighted opportunities in **modern farming, technology adoption, processing, packaging, marketing** and **exports**. **Integration** of agriculture with **industry** was described as essential for making the sector **future-ready** and **sustainable**.

Role of Youth and Entrepreneurship

- **Youth** were encouraged to take **leadership** in **agricultural transformation** through **innovation** and **entrepreneurship**. The Governor referred to the **Chief Minister's Agri-Entrepreneurship Scheme**, which enables young people to explore **agri-business opportunities** and turn **agriculture** into a **profitable sector**.

Post-Harvest Management and Value Addition

- Special emphasis was laid on **post-harvest management, value addition** and **food processing**. These measures can **reduce crop losses, increase farmers' income, generate rural employment** and **strengthen the food system**.

Importance of Agriculture in India

- **Agriculture** was described as the **backbone of India**, supporting **more than half of the population**. It **sustains rural livelihoods, strengthens society** and **supports industrial growth**.

Odisha's Agricultural Strength

- The Governor praised **farmers** from both **coastal plains** and **hilly regions** of Odisha, describing them as **guardians of land and nature**. Odisha's **diverse agro-climatic conditions** were acknowledged as a **strength**.

Challenges in the Agricultural Sector

- Major challenges highlighted included **climate change, soil degradation** and **natural disasters**. The Governor advocated **climate-resilient** and **diversified farming systems** to address these issues.

Government Initiatives Highlighted

The Governor appreciated several **government initiatives**, including:

- **Digital farmer registration**
- **Income support schemes**
- Promotion of **organic farming** and **millet cultivation**
- **Horticulture development**
- **Farm mechanisation**
- **Micro-irrigation**
- **Cold storage infrastructure**
- **Export incentives**

Way Forward

- **Collective efforts are** required by **government, farmers** and **youth** to make **agriculture** more **productive, inclusive** and **profitable**. Agriculture was described as a source of **pride, prosperity** and **progress** for **Odisha** and **India**.

Odisha's Paddy Procurement

Context

- Paddy procurement in Odisha has evolved from a **food security mechanism** to a **major rural income support tool**.
- It is crucial for **farmer welfare**, especially in a state where a large share of the population depends on rice cultivation.

Key Scheme: Samrudha Krushak Yojana

- Farmers receive **effective price of ₹3,100 per quintal**, comprising:
  - **Central MSP**
  - **State-funded input assistance**
- Objectives:
  - Reduce **distress sales**
  - Ensure **assured income** during harvest
  - Reduce dependence on **informal buyers**

Budgetary Support

- **2025–26 Annual Budget**: Increased allocation for **agriculture and food supplies**.
- **Supplementary Budget (Nov 2025)**: ₹3,000 crore **revolving fund** to:
  - Ensure **timely payments** to farmers
  - Reduce delays in reimbursement from the Centre

Ground-Level Challenges

- **Delayed or uneven procurement** in several districts
  - Example: **Kendrapada** – late mandi opening, forced distress sales
- **Slow lifting of paddy stocks** despite issued tokens
  - Western & southern Odisha affected
- **Farmer protests**: Koraput, Subarnapur, Sambalpur, Bargarh
  - Demands: **Immediate procurement** and **faster payments**

Government Explanation

- Delays attributed to:
  - **Logistical constraints**
  - **Limited storage capacity**

  - **Weather disruptions**
  - **High paddy arrivals**
- Procurement activity has reportedly **picked up recently**
- Farmer groups call for **more transparency and predictability**

Policy Outlook: February 2026 Budget

- Expected measures:
  - Strengthened **procurement support**
  - Investment in **post-harvest infrastructure**: storage, logistics, quality assessment
  - **Crop diversification incentives** to reduce dependence on paddy

Key Takeaway

- Odisha faces the challenge of ensuring that **high fiscal support translates into timely, reliable benefits**.
- Operational improvements are crucial for maintaining **farmer confidence** and achieving the policy's intended income support impact.

Air Pollution in Angul–Talcher Industrial Belt, Odisha

Context

- **Location:** Angul and Talcher, Odisha — major industrial and coal mining belt
- **Issue:** Severe air pollution due to **coal transportation, fly-ash and industrial emissions**
- **Concerned Authorities:** Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Environment & Forest Minister, Union Coal Minister, Odisha CM

Current Situation

- **Air Quality Index (AQI):**
  - Remained **'Severe'** in Angul; Talcher among the most polluted cities in India
  - Recent AQI peaks: Jan 2 – 346, Jan 3 – 326; slight improvement Jan 6 – 203
- **Health Impact:** High risks to **children, elderly and people with respiratory ailments**
- **Response Measures:**
  - Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) Stage II issued by Angul district — first in Odisha under **NGSS Section 163**

Recommendations

1. **Mechanised coal transportation** to reduce dust emissions
2. **Advanced dust suppression technologies**
3. **Creation of green buffers** with extensive plantations around industrial zones and mining corridors
4. **Strict enforcement of pollution control norms**
5. **Real-time air quality monitoring**
6. **Expanded interventions under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)** for long-term solutions
7. **Centre-State cooperation** emphasized for sustainable improvement

Significance

- **Talcher Coalfield:** One of India's largest coal reserves
- **Objective:** Ensure **public health protection**, sustainable industrial operations and long-term reduction of air pollution in eastern India

Talcher, Odisha – "City of Black Diamond"

Location & Administrative Status

- Talcher is a **major industrial coal city** in **Angul district**, Odisha.
- One of **four subdivisions** of Angul district.
- Known for **coal mining, thermal power and industrial hubs**.

Historical Overview

- **Ancient Period:** Part of **Kalinga region**, connected to Maurya Empire; **Kalinga War (3rd century BCE)** nearby → Ashoka embraced Buddhism.
- **Medieval Period:** Ruled by **Bhanja dynasty (13th-14th C)**, later **Gajapati dynasty** of medieval Kalinga.
- **Princely State Era:** Talcher State during **British Raj**, strategic for **coal reserves**.
- **Post-Independence:** Coal mines nationalized; development of **industrial and power infrastructure**.

Rulers of Talcher

- Narahari Singh (1471–1480 CE)
- Krishna Chandra Birabara Harichandan (1752–1766)
- Kishor Chandra Deba Birabara Harichandan Mahapatra (1891–1945)
- Hrudaya Chandra Deba Birabara Harichandan Mahapatra (1945–1948)

Economy & Industry

Coal Mining & Thermal Power

- **Talcher Coalfield:** Major coal reserves, backbone of local economy.
- **Talcher Thermal Power Station (NTPC):**
  - Capacity: **4600 MW**
  - Coal-based, supercritical & subcritical technologies
  - Supplies electricity to Odisha & national grid
  - Major employer; drives local socio-economic growth

- **Garage Industry:** Supports coal transportation; **100,000 families employed**

Fertilizer & Chemical Industry

- **Talcher Fertilizer Project (TFL):**
  - Joint venture: RCF, CIL, FCIL
  - Capacity: **1.27 million MT urea/year**
  - Uses **coal gasification technology**
- **Heavy Water Board (HWB) Facilities:**
  - Specialty chemicals & isotopes for nuclear fuel cycle
  - Boron isotope enrichment and production of Boron tri-fluoride & KBF4

Other Industries

- **NALCO (Aluminium smelter)** – Angul
- **Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC)** – coal & other minerals
- **Economic Significance:** Coal, power, aluminum, steel, fertilizers → industrial hub.

Odisha: Emerging Hub for Higher Education & International Students

Context

- Odisha has entered **India's top 10 states attracting foreign students**, surpassing traditional hubs like Delhi, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Telangana.
- Highlighted in NITI Aayog's report on **'Internationalisation of Higher Education in India'**.

Key Highlights

- **Foreign student enrolment:**
  - **2,362 students** currently pursuing higher education in Odisha.
  - Majority (2,221) enrolled in **BTech programmes**.
- **Trend:**
  - Engineering courses dominate foreign enrolment.
  - Students also pursue programmes in **science, technology, management and research**.

Factors Driving Odisha's Popularity

- Availability of **technical institutions** with quality infrastructure.
- **Relatively lower cost of education** compared to other states.
- **Improved academic infrastructure** supporting international students.

Significance

- Positions Odisha as a **competitive destination for global students**, enhancing the **state's educational reputation**.
- Promotes **cross-cultural learning, research collaboration and skill development**.
- Supports **NITI Aayog's vision** for internationalisation of higher education in India.

Odisha's Leadership in Millet Promotion

Context

- Celebrated **Mandia Dibasa (Millet Day)** on 10 Nov 2025 in Bhubaneswar.
- Highlighted by **Union Agriculture Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan** for Odisha's exemplary contribution to the **Shree Anna (Millet) Mission**.
- Odisha has become a **national model for millet promotion**, integrating nutrition, sustainability and farmer welfare.

Key Highlights

- **Nutritional & Environmental Value:**
  - Millets are **nutritious, water-efficient and environmentally sustainable**.
  - Odisha promotes them as part of **food security and climate-resilient agriculture**.
- **Women Farmers at the Forefront:**
  - Women play a pivotal role in millet cultivation and processing.
  - Odisha's millet initiatives empower women, enhance livelihoods and reduce drudgery.
- **Market Support & MSP:**
  - Odisha purchases **millets at Minimum Support Price**, incentivizing farmers.
  - Encourages **value addition, processing and millet-based enterprises**.
- **Policy Recommendations & Scaling Up:**
  - Inclusion of **millets in mid-day meals** and government canteens.
  - Setting up **millet outlets in government departments** to replicate Odisha's model nationally.
  - Focus on **research and processing technology** to strengthen the millet value chain.

Significance

- Positions Odisha as a **national leader in millet promotion**.
- Supports **nutritional security, sustainable agriculture and women empowerment**.
- Provides a **replicable model for other states** under India's Shree Anna initiative.

Odisha's Energy Transition & Future Power Needs

Key Context

- Odisha is emerging as a **clean energy and green industrial hub** in Eastern India.
- Report: *"Odisha Energy Transition – Chariots of Change"* by **EY–ASSOCHAM**, Dec 2025.
- Supports **India's 500 GW non-fossil energy target (2030)** and **net-zero by 2070**.

Power Demand & Capacity

- Peak electricity demand expected: **10,564 MW by FY 2033–34**.
- Total **contracted capacity required**: **26,237 MW** to meet rising industrial and domestic demand.
- Odisha's **34 GW pumped storage potential** will support 24x7 renewable integration and grid stability.

Renewable & Green Energy Potential

- Strong **solar, wind, hydro** and port-based ecosystems at **Paradeep, Dhamra, Gopalpur**.
- Key opportunities: **green hydrogen and ammonia exports** to Japan, Korea, EU.
- Industrial sector emission reduction potential: **~9 million tonnes CO_2e by 2030**.

Policy & Strategic Recommendations

1. **State Energy Planning & Transformation Unit**
   - Integrated planning for renewables, storage, hydrogen, ports, land and finance.
   - Monthly monitoring dashboards for progress tracking.
2. **Standardized PPP & Financing Templates**
   - For **PSPs, energy parks and hydrogen hubs** with predictable risk-return profiles.
   - Creation of a **blended climate finance vehicle** combining concessional and private funds.
3. **Workforce & Skill Development**
   - Modular curricula for **RE O&M, PSP, hydrogen safety, battery assembly**.
   - **Just Transition Fund** for reskilling coal-sector workers.
4. **Industrial Cluster Focus**
   - Scale renewable deployment and storage projects in **Angul, Jharsuguda, Rourkela**.

Significance

- Odisha is **well-positioned** to become a **low-carbon, investment-ready industrial powerhouse**.
- Leverages natural resources, ports and industrial base for **green manufacturing and exports**.
- Sets a **national benchmark** for **integrated, resilient and inclusive clean energy development**.

Devi River

Context

- The carcass of a rare Bryde's whale washed ashore at the beach near Devi river mouth under the Kujang forest range within Bhitarkanika National Park

Devi River

- **Type**: Major **distributary of the Mahanadi River**
- **State**: Odisha
- **Districts covered**: **Jagatsinghpur** and **Puri**
- **Outfall**: **Bay of Bengal**
- **Significance**: Important for drainage, navigation, ecology and turtle conservation

Course & Origin

- Devi River is the **eastern continuation of the Kathajodi River**.
- **Kathajodi** branches from the Mahanadi at **Cuttack** and later takes the name **Devi** as it flows eastward.
- Flows through:
  - **Jagatsinghpur district**: Alipingal, Machhagaon, Naugaon blocks
  - **Puri district**: Astaranga and Kakatpur blocks
- Joins the Bay of Bengal about **70 km south of the main Mahanadi mouth**, near the Cuttack–Puri border.
- River mouth is surrounded by **dense forests and sparse human habitation**.

Navigation

- Navigable up to **Machhagaon** by small vessels.
- Considered one of the **best tidal channels in Odisha**.
- Navigation restricted upstream due to **heavy sand deposition at the river mouth**.

Ecological Importance – Turtle Rookery

- Mouth of Devi River is a major **nesting ground for Olive Ridley sea turtles**.
- Rookery discovered in **1981** (north of Puri coast).
- Nesting occurs on:
  - Mainland beaches
  - **Dynamic sand bars** that change annually
- Nearly **8 lakh turtles** arrive every winter for breeding.
- Decline in nesting due to:
  - **Mechanised fishing**
  - Large-scale turtle mortality
- Over **6,000 turtles died in 2003** alone;
- **1.3 lakh+ deaths recorded over 13 years (till 2007)**.

- Proposal to declare Devi mouth as a **turtle sanctuary** faced opposition from **local fishing communities**.

Water Pollution Issues

- Devi River and its distributary **Kandal River** heavily polluted by **untreated drain water from Cuttack city**.
- Reduced freshwater flow due to **concrete obstruction at Naraj**, built to divert water for industrial use.
- Consequences:
  - Severe **water pollution**
  - **Decline in fish and aquatic biodiversity**
  - Adverse impact on **fishing communities**
  - Increased **waterborne diseases**
  - **Groundwater depletion in summer months**

Kujang

- **Location**: Jagatsinghpur district, Odisha.
- **Status**: Large village / emerging residential hub.
- **Significance**:
  - Known as the **gateway to the Paradip industrial area.**
  - Preferred residential zone near Paradip port region.

Geography

- **River**: Situated on the **bank of the Mahanadi River.**
- **Boundaries**:
  - Tirtol block
  - Erasama block
  - Mahakalpara block (Kendrapara district).
- **Coastline**: About **5 km from the Bay of Bengal.**

Historical Background

- **Kujang Estate**:
  - Established in the **16th century** by **Mallik Sandha.**
  - Prosperity based on **agriculture and maritime trade.**
- Due to rebellion and debt, the estate was **auctioned in 1868** by the British.
- Purchased by the **Queen of Bardhaman** (loyal to British rule).
- Despite dispossession, the **Kujang royal family retained popular respect.**

Role in Freedom Movement

- **Ratnamali Jema**:
  - Freedom fighter and politician.
  - Princess of the former Kujang royal family.
- **Bardoli Satyagraha (1928)**:
  - Peasants and tribals of Kujang participated in anti–rent hike movements.
- **Salt Satyagraha in Odisha**:
  - Kujang emerged as an important centre.
  - Participation of **Bhagyabati Devi** of the Kujang royal family.
- **Labana Satyagraha**:
  - Local name for Salt Satyagraha in Kujang.
  - Inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's Salt March.
  - Led locally by **Narayana Beerabara Samanta**, known as the *"Gandhi of Kujang"*.

Administrative History

- Became part of **Jagatsinghpur district in 1993.**
- Earlier belonged to the **old Cuttack district.**

ODISHA RELATED STATIC GK

- Odisha's coastline: **574.7 km**, called **Hexadeltaic region** or **Gift of Six Rivers**.
- State legislature: **Unicameral**, with **147 Vidhan Sabha seats**.
- First Speaker of Odisha Assembly: **Shri Mukunda Prasad Das**.
- First Deputy Speaker: **Shri Nanda Kishore Das**.
- First Leader of Opposition: **Shri Shradhakar Supakar**.
- First President's Rule: **25 Feb 1961**; imposed **6 times** post-independence.
- First Chief Minister (pre-1947, then PM): **Captain Krishna Chandra Gajapati Narayan Deo**.
- First Chief Minister (post-1947): **Harekrishna Mahatab (15 Nov 1949 – 12 May 1950)**.
- First woman CM: **Srimati Nandini Satapathy**.
- Major rivers: **Mahanadi (Sorrow of Odisha), Brahmani, Subarnarekha, Budhabalanga, Baitarini, Rushikulya, Vansadhara, Nagavali, Machkund, Sileru, Kolab, Indravati**.
- Lakes: **Chilika Lake (Asia's largest brackish water lake), Ansupa, Sara, Kanjia**.
- Geographical regions: **Northern Plateau, Central River Basins, Eastern Hills, Coastal Plains**.
- Odisha's highest peak: **Deomali (1,672 m)**.
- Hill stations: **Daringbadi (Kashmir of Odisha), Jeerango Monastery (Little Tibet)**.
- Steel city: **Rourkela**; powerhouse: **Jharsuguda**.
- Major port: **Paradip Port**.
- Longest earthen dam: **Hirakud Dam**, forming **largest artificial lake in Asia**.
- District with highest literacy: **Khordha (87.51%)**.

- PVTGs: **Bonda, Birhor, ChuktiaBhunjia, Didayi, Dongria Kondh, Juang, Hill Kharia, Kutia Kandha, Lanjia Soura, Lodha, Mankirdia, Paudi Bhuyan, Soura**.
- Highest waterfall: **Barehipani (2nd highest in India)**.
- Major Shakti Peetha: **Tara Tarini (Ganjam)**.
- Hot springs: **Attri, Tarabalo, Deulajhari, Magarmuhan, Bankhol, Badaberena, Taptapani, Boden**.

Protected areas & wildlife:

- **Balukhand-Konark**: Olive Ridley turtles, herbivores.
- **Debrigarh**: Near Hirakud Dam, rich wildlife.
- **Sunabeda**: Tigers, leopards, Barasingha habitat.
- **Kotagarh**: Reserve & protected forests.
- **Khalasuni**: Peafowl, hornbills, elephant corridor.
- **Badrama (Ushakothi)**: Moist Sal & mixed forests.
- **Karlapat**: Leopard, Gaur, Sambar, Birds & reptiles.
- **Baisipalli**: Tigers, Elephants, Sambar.
- **Satkosia Tiger Reserve**: Gharials, Mugger crocodile, freshwater turtles.
- **Chandaka**: Successful elephant conservation.
- **Nandankanan Zoo**: First to breed white & melanistic tigers.
- **Simlipal National Park**: Largest sanctuary, tiger & elephant reserve.
- **Lakhari**: Tigers, elephants, hyenas, birds.
- **Kapilash Deer Park**: Deer conservation.
- **Hadgarh**: Leopards, tigers, pangolins, langurs.
- **Chilika Bird Sanctuary**: Largest brackish wetland in India.
- **Bhitarkanika**: Olive Ridley turtles, King Cobras, mangroves.
- **Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary**: Olive Ridley rookery.
- **Kuldiha**: Sal & moist mixed deciduous forest.

Minerals (key facts):

- Odisha hosts **India's only ruby resources**.
- State produces **96% chromite, 93% nickel, 68% PGM, 69% cobalt, 41% bauxite, 34% manganese, 39% iron ore, 24% sillimanite, 20% vanadium, 37% zircon**.
- Major mineral districts:
  - **Chromite**: Balasore, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Kendujhar
  - **Bauxite**: Bargarh, Balangir, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Kendujhar, Koraput, Malkangiri, Rayagada, Sundargarh
  - **Iron Ore**: Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Kendujhar, Mayurbhanj, Sambalpur, Sundargarh
  - **Graphite**: Bargarh, Boudh, Balangir, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Koraput, Nuapada, Rayagada
  - **Nickel**: Jajpur, Kendujhar, Mayurbhanj
  - **Ruby**: Balangir
  - **Emerald**: Kalahandi
  - **Platinum Group Metals**: Kendujhar

APPOINTMENTS

Position	Details of Appointment
DG of ITBP	Shatrujeet Singh Kapoor, a 1990-batch IPS officer, has been appointed as the Director General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police.
BSF Director General	The incumbent ITBP chief Praveen Kumar, a 1993-batch IPS officer of the West Bengal cadre, has been appointed as the Director General of the Border Security Force.
Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA)	The Centre has appointed senior IPS officer Rakesh Aggarwal as Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), with tenure approved till his retirement in August 2028.
DIG in CRPF	The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has approved the appointment of Ravi Shankar Chhabi as DIG in the Central Reserve Police Force on central deputation.
High Commissioner to New Zealand	The Ministry of External Affairs has announced the appointment of MuanpuiiSaiawi as India's next High Commissioner to New Zealand
Ambassador to Georgia	The Ministry of External Affairs has announced the appointment of Amit Kumar Mishra as the next Ambassador to Georgia.

Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission	The President of India has appointed Shri Praveen Vashista as Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission under the provisions of the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003.
Chairman of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board	The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi appointed scientist A.K. Balasubrahmanian as the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) India's apex nuclear safety regulator.
General Insurance Council CEO	The General Insurance Council has appointed S Prakash as Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Health Insurance Ecosystem and Strategic Partnerships.
Chair of the Badminton World Federation	The two-time Olympic medallist and former world champion – PV Sindhu has been elected Chair of the Badminton World Federation (BWF) Athletes Commission for the 2026–2029 term.
Odisha's First Woman Chief Secretary	IAS officer Anu Garg has been appointed as Odisha's first woman Chief Secretary.
CMD of Coal India Limited	Ministry of Coal has appointed B. Sairam as the Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of Coal India Limited (CIL).
Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) of Central Information Commission (CIC)	Former Secretary in the Ministry of Law and Justice Raj Kumar Goyal took oath as the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) of Central Information Commission (CIC).

AWARDS

Padma Awards 2026

- The **Padma Awards 2026** have been announced. Instituted in **1954** alongside the Bharat Ratna, the awards originally had three categories—Pahela Varg, Dusra Varg andTisra Varg—but were renamed in **1955** by **Presidential notification** as **Padma Vibhushan**, **Padma Bhushan** and**Padma Shri**.
- These awards are **civilian honours** recognizing exceptional contributions in various fields. The **Padma Vibhushan** is the **second-highest civilian award**, conferred for **exceptional and distinguished service**. The **Padma Bhushan** is the **third-highest**, awarded for **distinguished service of a high order**, while the **Padma Shri**, the **fourth-highest**, recognises **distinguished service in any field**.
- All individuals are eligible irrespective of race, gender, occupation, or position, though government servants are generally excluded, except for doctors and scientists employed by the government. Posthumous awards are rare and allowed only in highly deserving cases.
- A minimum gap of five years is usually required for consideration for a higher award, although the **Awards Committee** may relax this in exceptional circumstances. Nominations can be submitted by the public and self-nominations are also permitted.
- The **Padma Awards Committee**, constituted annually by the Prime Minister and headed by the Cabinet Secretary, evaluates nominations, with final approval by the **President of India**.
- The awards comprise of a **sanad (certificate) and medallion**. An annual cap of **120 awards** exists, excluding posthumous recognitions, NRIs, foreign nationals and OCIs. The honours are **recognition, not titles** and cannot be used as prefixes or suffixes.
- The awards cover diverse fields, including **arts, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service and other public services**.

Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development 2025

- In international recognition, **Mozambique's Graca Machel** has been awarded the **Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development 2025**.
- Announced by the **Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust**, Machel has been honoured for her lifelong

dedication to **education, healthcare, nutrition, women's empowerment and humanitarian support**, especially in conflict-affected and challenging regions.

Padmapani Award

- **Music composer Ilaiyaraaja** is set to receive the **Padmapani Award** at the **11th Ajanta–Ellora International Film Festival** in early 2026, acknowledging his **timeless contribution to Indian film music**.
- The prestigious Padmapani Award recognises **extraordinary contributions to cinema and the arts** and includes a **memento, citation and cash prize of ₹2 lakh**, symbolising both artistic excellence and cultural impact.

Sukhatme National Award in Statistics

- Government of India has invited nominations for the Sukhatme National Award in Statistics – 2026.
- The **Sukhatme National Award in Statistics** was instituted in **2000** to honour **Prof. P. V. Sukhatme**, a pioneer of modern statistics in India. Conferred once every **two years**, the award aims to encourage **high-quality research and sustained contributions** that improve data quality, methodology and the credibility of official statistics. It recognises **eminent Indian statisticians aged 45 years and above** for their **lifetime achievements and scholarly impact** in the field.
- The award is instituted by the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**, is awarded **biennially** and recognises **Indian statisticians aged 45 and above**. The **award ceremony** will take place on **Statistics Day, 29 June 2026** and recipients receive a **citation, shawl and memento**.

First Indian formally inducted into Kenjutsu

- **Andhra Pradesh Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan** has become the **first Indian** formally inducted into **Kenjutsu**, the ancient Japanese samurai swordsmanship tradition, a rare honour usually reserved for Japanese practitioners.

Major Swathi Shantha Kumar

- **Major Swathi Shantha Kumar** has been awarded the **UN Secretary-General's Award 2025** in the **Gender Category** for her project **"Equal Partners, Lasting Peace"**, chosen from nominations across **all UN peacekeeping missions worldwide**.

Best Picture at Oscars 2026

- **Five Indian films—Kantara: A Legend – Chapter 1, Tanvi The Great, Mahavatar Narsimha, Tourist Family** and **Sister Midnight**—are eligible for **Best Picture at Oscars 2026**.
- Several others, including **Homebound** and **Dashavatar**, qualify in other categories. Oscars 2026 nominations are **voted 12–16 Jan**, announced **22 Jan**, with the **ceremony on 15 Mar** at **Dolby Theatre, LA**. This marks a proud moment for **Indian cinema** on the global stage.

Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar

- The **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar** is **India's highest civilian award for children**, recognizing outstanding achievements of individuals **below 18 years**.
- Conferred by the **President of India**, it honors young role models in **six categories**: Bravery, Social Service, Environment, Sports, Art & Culture and Science & Technology.
- Instituted to replace the National Bravery Awards, the scheme aims to **inspire, encourage and celebrate children** making a positive impact on society.

Turner Prize

- **Nnena Kalu** has become the **first artist with a learning disability** to win the **Turner Prize**, the UK's top visual art award. Her **cocoon-shaped sculptures** impressed judges for their **bold presence and emotional impact**. Kalu, an **Action Space resident artist**, marks a **historic step for inclusivity in global contemporary art**.
- The **Turner Prize**, established in **1984** and named after **J.M.W. Turner**, is the **UK's top visual art award**, open to all media. Initially for artists under 50, it is now open to any age and is awarded **biennially at Tate Britain or alternate UK venues**, widely publicised globally.

Miyana Railway Station

- **Miyana Railway Station** in **Guna, Madhya Pradesh** won the **National Energy Conservation Award (NECA) 2025**, presented by **President Droupadi Murmu** on **National Energy Conservation Day**.
- Recognised as the **Best Performing Unit in the Transport Category**, the station saved **9,687 units**

of electricity through **LED lighting, BLDC fans and smart lighting systems**, showcasing how small stations can drive **energy efficiency and sustainability**.

- The award is conferred annually by the **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)** under the **Ministry of Power**.

SPORTS

Saina Nehwal Retires

- **Saina Nehwal**, Olympic bronze medallist and former **World No.1**, has officially retired from competitive badminton after battling **chronic knee injuries**. She made history with her **London 2012 Olympic medal**, multiple international titles and top national honours, leaving a lasting legacy in **Indian badminton**.

National Paralympic Powerlifting Championship 2026

- The **National Paralympic Powerlifting Championship 2026** was inaugurated virtually by **Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami** from **COER University, Roorkee**. The event promotes **inclusive sports**, empowering **persons with disabilities** and provides para-athletes a platform for **national-level competition** and talent identification for **international events**.

Vijay Hazare Trophy

- **Vidarbha** created history by winning their **maiden Vijay Hazare Trophy** in 2026, defeating **Saurashtra by 38 runs** at Bengaluru. The **Vijay Hazare Trophy**, India's premier **50-over domestic List A tournament** named after cricketer **Vijay Hazare**, saw Vidarbha claim their first title in this competition, building on their earlier **Ranji Trophy successes**.

Aaryan Varshney

- **Aaryan Varshney**, a 21-year-old chess player from Delhi, became **India's 92nd Grandmaster** after securing his final GM norm at the **Andranik Margaryan Memorial** in Armenia. He sealed the title with a round to spare, becoming the **eighth GM from Delhi**.

National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026

- **India has notified the National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026**, operationalizing provisions of the **National Sports Governance Act, 2025** to ensure **transparency, athlete-centric governance and gender representation** in national sports bodies. The Rules define the **composition of General Bodies and Executive Committees**, election procedures, eligibility norms and accountability measures, aiming to professionalize sports governance and align it with **global best practices**.
- A major reform is the mandatory inclusion of **at least four Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit (SOMs)** in every General Body, with **50% being women**. SOMs must be **25 years or older, retired from active sports and observe a one-year cooling-off period**. In Executive Committees, at least **four women members** are required, with provisions to reserve specific posts for women. Athlete representation follows a **10-tier system**, covering achievements from **Olympic/Paralympic medals to National Games medals**, ensuring inclusive recognition across disciplines.
- The Rules also enforce a **transparent election process** with strict disqualification norms, barring individuals convicted of imprisonment from holding positions. A **National Sports Election Panel** of at least 20 qualified members oversees elections, with officers' fees capped at ₹5 lakh. All National Sports Bodies must amend their bye-laws within six months, with the government allowed to extend compliance by up to 12 months in special cases.
- **Key Points:** Notification under **National Sports Governance Act, 2025**; **minimum 4 SOMs in General Body**, **50% women**; **4 women in Executive Committee**; minimum age **25 years**, retired from sports; elections overseen by **National Sports Election Panel**.

FIDE World Rapid Chess Championships 2025

- India impressed at the **FIDE World Rapid Chess Championships 2025 (Doha)**, with **Koneru Humpy** and **Arjun Erigaisi** winning **bronze medals** in the Women's and Open sections

respectively, highlighting India's rising stature in global chess.

10,000 International Runs

- **Smriti Mandhana** became the **second Indian woman and fourth player globally** to score **10,000 international runs**, achieving the milestone during the **4th Women's T20I vs Sri Lanka** at **Thiruvananthapuram (Dec 28, 2025)**. She joined an elite club featuring **Mithali Raj, Suzie Bates and Charlotte Edwards**.
- Smriti Mandhanaalso became the first Asian batter to complete 4,000 runs in Women's T20Is during the India vs Sri Lanka first T20I.

First Bowler to Take 8 Wickets

- Bhutan's **Sonam Yeshey** created history by becoming the **first bowler to take 8 wickets in a men's T20 International**, achieving sensational figures of **8/7 in 4 overs** against **Myanmar** in the **3rd T20I at Gelephu (Dec 29, 2025)**.

SAFF Women's Club Championship 2025

- **East Bengal FC** created history by winning the **inaugural SAFF Women's Club Championship 2025**, defeating Nepal's **APF 3–0** in the final at **Dasrath Stadium, Kathmandu**. This landmark victory made **East Bengal the first Indian women's club to win an international football title**, highlighting India's rising stature in South Asian women's football.

FIFA Best Football Awards 2025

- The **FIFA Best Football Awards 2025** were held in **Doha, Qatar**, where **Ousmane Dembélé** won **Men's Player of the Year** and **Aitana Bonmatí** claimed her **third straight Women's Player of the Year** award. Other major winners included **Luis Enrique** (Men's Coach), **Gianluigi Donnarumma** (Best Men's Goalkeeper), **Sarina Wiegman** (Women's Coach), **Santiago Montiel** (Puskás Award), **Lizbeth Ovalle** (Marta Award) and**Zakho SC supporters** (Fan Award).

WSF Squash World Cup 2025

- India won the **WSF Squash World Cup 2025** for the first time, defeating **top-seeded Hong Kong 3–0** in the final at **Express Avenue Mall, Chennai**. The historic title..India's**second-ever medal** at the event after **bronze in 2023**—was sealed by wins from **Joshna Chinappa, Abhay Singh and Anahat Singh**, marking a major leap for Indian squash ahead of its **Olympic debut at LA 2028**.

Khelo India Tribal Games

- The **logo, mascot 'Morveer' and theme song** of the **inaugural Khelo India Tribal Games** were unveiled at **Late B.R. Yadav Sports Stadium, Bilaspur**. Scheduled to begin on **14 February 2026**, the Games will be India's **first national-level sporting event exclusively for tribal athletes** under the **Khelo India Scheme**. **Morveer** symbolises tribal pride and bravery, rooted in Chhattisgarhi culture. Hosted in **Chhattisgarh** due to its strong tribal presence, the Games will feature **7 disciplines** including archery, athletics, football, hockey, wrestling, swimming and weightlifting, along with **indigenous demonstration sports**. Top performers will be inducted as **Khelo India Athletes**, receiving **₹5 lakh annual support for 8 years.**

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Details
Republic Day 2026	**77 years** since the Indian Constitution came into force in **1950**, establishing India as a **sovereign democratic republic**. The national celebrations will be held at **Kartavya Path, New Delhi**, with leaders of the **European Union—Ursula von der Leyen and António Costa—as Chief Guests**, reflecting strong India–EU ties. The **theme** focuses on **150 years of 'Vande Mataram'** and **Aatmanirbhar Bharat.** The day commemorates the **supremacy of the Constitution, rule of law, democracy, unity and national pride**, highlighted by the grand parade, cultural diversity and presentation of national awards.
January 25	**National Tourism Day** is observed in India on **25 January** to highlight tourism's role in **economic growth, heritage conservation, cultural exchange and sustainable development**.
January 25	**National Voters Day** is observed every year on **25 January** to mark the **foundation day of the Election Commission of India (ECI)**. In **2026**, it falls on **Sunday, 25 January** and marks

	the **16th National Voters Day**, highlighting the importance of **voter awareness, democratic participation and free and fair elections** in India.
January 24	**National Girl Child Day** is observed every year on **24 January** in India to promote awareness about the **rights, education, health and empowerment of girls**. It was **initiated in 2008** by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India**, to highlight challenges faced by girls and encourage gender equality and inclusive development.
January 23	**Parakram Diwas 2026** is observed on **23 January** to **honour the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose**, one of India's most courageous freedom fighters. The day was officially **announced by the Government of India on 19 January 2021** to celebrate his valor, leadership and contributions to India's struggle for independence.
January 21	**Tripura, Manipur and Meghalaya Foundation Day 2026**is observed on **21 January**, marking **54 years of statehood**. The day commemorates the **implementation of the North Eastern Areas Reorganisation Act, 1971**, which restructured India's northeast. On **21 January 1972**, Tripura and Manipur transitioned from Union Territories and Meghalaya was carved out of Assam, officially becoming separate states.
January 19	**Kokborok Day 2026** will be observed on **19 January**, marking the **48th anniversary of Kokborok's recognition as an official language of Tripura**. Also called Tripuri or Tiprakok, Kokborok is the native language of the Tripuri people, belonging to the **Tibeto-Burman language family**. It is mainly spoken in Tripura and the **Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh**. As one of the fastest-developing indigenous languages in Northeast India, Kokborok forms the **core of Tripuri cultural identity**.
January 16	**National Startup Day 2026** is celebrated on **16 January**, marking **10 years of the Startup India Initiative**. Launched and led by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, the initiative has grown into a **comprehensive support framework** for startups, fostering innovation, entrepreneurship and economic growth across India.
January 15	**Indian Army Day** is observed on **15 January** to honour the courage and sacrifice of soldiers. It marks **1949**, when **K.M. Cariappa** became India's first **Indian Commander-in-Chief**, symbolizing full control over the Army post-Independence.
January 12	**National Youth Day** is observed on **12 January** to commemorate **Swami Vivekananda's birth**. His ideals of courage, discipline and social service inspire Indian youth. Vivekananda gained global recognition at the **1893 Chicago Parliament of Religions**, addressing the audience with "Sisters and Brothers of America."
January 9	**Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)** is observed on **9 January** every year to honour the contributions of the **Overseas Indian community** to India's growth. The date marks **Mahatma Gandhi's return from South Africa in 1915**, a key moment in India's freedom movement. Since 2015, **PBD conventions are held biennially**.
January 8	**Earth's Rotation Day** is observed globally on **8 January** to highlight the importance of Earth's rotation. It commemorates **Léon Foucault's 1851 pendulum experiment**, which provided the first public proof of Earth's rotational motion. In **2026**, the day marks the **175th anniversary** of this landmark scientific demonstration.
January 6	**World Day of War Orphans 2026** is observed on **6 January** to draw attention to children orphaned by wars and armed conflicts. The day emphasizes the urgent need for **care, protection and rehabilitation**, urging governments and societies worldwide to support these vulnerable children.
January 6	**World Braille Day** is observed annually on **4 January** to honor**Louis Braille**, the French educator who invented the Braille system in the 19th century. Officially recognized by the **United Nations in 2019**, the day celebrates Braille as a **fundamental tool of inclusion** and emphasizes that access to Braille is a **basic human right.**
January 3	**Rani Velu Nachiyar (1730–1796)**, was the first Indian queen to fight the British, reclaiming **Sivagangai** before 1857. Trained in **martial arts and warfare**, she allied with **Hyder Ali** and

	strategist **Gopala Nayaker** to defeat the British. She led an army including **women soldiers**, used **innovative tactics** and ensured **strong governance**. Known as **Veeramangai**, she remains a symbol of **bravery, anti-colonial resistance and women's empowerment**.
January 3	**Savitribai Phule (1831–1897)** was a pioneering social reformer and India's **first woman teacher**. Alongside her husband **Jyotirao Phule**, she **co-founded India's first girls' school (1848)**, promoted **women's and Dalit education** and challenged **caste and gender discrimination**. She opposed **child marriage**, supported **widow remarriage** and ran shelters for widows and orphans.

STATIC GK

Monoclonal antibodies are man-made proteins, bind specific antigens and are used to treat viral infections like Nipah.

Cement manufacturing mixes silica clay with limestone; limestone is converted to lime; cement industry contributes over 5% of global CO_2 emissions.

Rare earth elements, like europium and yttrium, are used in flat-screen TVs and computer monitors for their phosphorescent properties that emit light when excited.

Dornier-228 is a maritime patrol aircraft, IL-76 is a heavy transport aircraftand C-17 Globemaster III is a military transport aircraft.

Groundnut, horse-gram and soybean belong to the pea (legume) family, which are nitrogen-fixing plants important for soil fertility.

Nitric oxide is synthesized in the human body to dilate blood vessels and increase blood flow.

Radioisotope thermoelectric generators (RTGs) convert heat from radioactive decay, typically of Plutonium-238, into electricity to power spacecraft and are not fission reactors.

Hydrogels are three-dimensional polymer networks that absorb water and are used in controlled drug delivery, mobile air-conditioning systems and industrial lubricants.

Hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles generate electricity from hydrogen and oxygen, emitting only water vapour as exhaust, making them zero-emission vehicles.

Green hydrogen is a clean fuel that can be used directly in internal combustion engines, blended with natural gas for heat/power, or in hydrogen fuel cells for vehicles.

Microsatellite DNA consists of repetitive sequences used in genetics to study species relationships and population diversity.

Ballistic missiles are rocket-powered and follow a trajectory, while cruise missiles are jet-propelled; Agni-V is ballistic and BrahMos is a supersonic cruise missile.

B cells and T cells protect the body from pathogens by producing antibodies and coordinating immune responses.

Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) fibres can be blended with cotton/wool and PET bottles can be recycled into new products.

Biofilms are microbial communities that can form on medical implants, food surfaces and often exhibit antibiotic resistance.

Rice paddies are major anthropogenic sources of methane and nitrous oxide due to waterlogged anaerobic conditions.

System of Rice Intensification reduces seed usage, lowers methane emissions and decreases electricity consumption in rice cultivation.

Bisphenol A (BPA) is a key component in polycarbonate plastics, used in bottles and containers.

Triclosan, an antimicrobial, is commonly present in toiletries like soaps and toothpaste and may be harmful in high exposure.

Recombinant vector vaccines use genetic engineering and viral/bacterial vectors to deliver antigens for immunity.

Mitochondrial replacement therapy prevents maternal transmission of mitochondrial diseases; mitochondria are inherited only from the mother.

Bollgard I and II are genetically modified cotton technologies engineered for pest resistance.

Bacteria and fungi can be cultured in synthetic media, whereas viruses require living cells to grow.

Adenoviruses have double-stranded DNA; retroviruses have RNA genomes; common cold can be caused by adenoviruses, AIDS by retroviruses.

Lemongrass contains citronella oil and is used as a natural mosquito repellent.

Carbon nanotubes can carry drugs and antigens in the body, be used for artificial blood capillaries and in biochemical sensors, but they are not biodegradable.

Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) in India refers to digital security systems using encryption and digital certificates.

Plant cells have cellulose walls and usually one large vacuole; animal cells lack walls and have many small vacuoles.

Visible Light Communication (VLC) uses light wavelengths 375–780 nm, transmits data faster than Bluetooth and has no electromagnetic interference.

Atal Innovation Mission is under NITI Aayog to promote innovation and entrepreneurship.

RNA interference (RNAi) is used in gene silencing therapies, cancer treatments and creating virus-resistant crops.

Lipstick may contain lead, soft drinks may have brominated oils and Chinese fast food often contains MSG.

Hepatitis B has a vaccine; unlike HIV, some infected people remain symptom-free for years.

Cas9 is a molecular "scissors" used for precise gene editing in CRISPR technology.

PSLV launches satellites for Earth observation; GSLV mainly launches communication satellites; GSLV Mk III uses a mix of solid and liquid stages.

THAAD is an American anti-missile defense system designed to intercept short- and medium-range ballistic missiles.

IRNSS has three geostationary and four geosynchronous satellites, covering India and 5500 sq. km beyond.

Einstein's General Relativity predicts light is affected by gravity, the universe is expanding and matter warps space-time.

WannaCry, Petya and Eternal Blue are cyber attacks.

Zika virus spreads via the same mosquito as dengue and also sexually.

eLISA project aims to detect gravitational waves.

OLED displays can be flexible, roll-up and transparent.

Bitcoins can be sent/received anonymously without central bank tracking.

Astrosat is India's multi-wavelength space observatory orbiting at 1650 km.

CURRENT GK

The **₹80 crore Agarwood Value Chain Development Scheme** aims to boost agarwood cultivation and trade. **Agarwood (Aquilaria malaccensis)**, also called **Oud or Gaharu**, is a prized resin used in incense, perfumes and medicine, formed when the tree is infected by a specific mold.

Native to **India's Northeast (Assam, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur) and Southeast Asia**, it grows in varied soils and elevations, with cultivated trees maturing faster, offering high economic potential.

Forever Chemicals (PFAS) are a group of highly **persistent**, **toxic**, man-made chemicals that do not easily **break down** due to their strong **carbon-fluorine bonds**, earning them the name "**forever chemicals**." Widely used in products like **non-stick cookware**, **cosmetics**, **food**

packaging, **textiles** and **fire fighting foam**, **PFAS** can accumulate in **soil**, **water**, **air** and **human blood**, leading to health risks such as **liver damage**, **thyroid issues**, **developmental delays**, **high cholesterol**, **hypertension** and certain **cancers**.

Vitamin B1 (Thiamine) is a **water-soluble B-complex vitamin** essential for converting **carbohydrates into energy**, supporting the **nervous system**, **brain**, **muscles**, **heart** and **digestive health**.

The **PLI Scheme for White Goods** aims to strengthen India's **domestic manufacturing** of **air conditioners** and **LED lights** and integrate the country into **global supply chains**. It offers **4–6% incentives** on incremental turnover for eligible companies over five years, promoting **investment**, **exports**, **employment** and a robust **component ecosystem**. Implemented from **FY 2021-22 to FY 2028-29** under **DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, the scheme recently selected **five companies** for participation.

Sonic Boom is a loud noise produced when an object, like an **aircraft or space debris**, travels faster than the **speed of sound**, generating **shock waves** in the air.

Instituted in **1986** in memory of **Indira Gandhi**, the prize awards **₹25 lakh and a citation** annually to individuals or organizations promoting **international peace, disarmament, racial equality, economic cooperation, development of nations and the use of science for humanity's benefit**, regardless of nationality, race, or religion.

Muna Island, in **Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia**, spans **1,704 sq.km**. Key attractions include **Liangkobori Cave** with prehistoric paintings and **Napabale Lake**, connected to the sea through a natural tunnel.

Borax, or **sodium tetraborate decahydrate ($Na_2B_4O_7 \cdot 10H_2O$)**, is a **white mineral** composed of **boron, sodium and oxygen**. It is widely used in **ceramics (glass and pottery glazes), metallurgy, welding, fertilizers, soaps, disinfectants, mouthwash and water softeners**. Found naturally in **evaporite deposits** from seasonal lakes, borax can also be **synthetically produced** and refined through **recrystallization**.

Steel Slag is an **industrial by product** from **steel manufacturing** using **electric arc** or **basic oxygen furnaces**, composed mainly of **calcium, magnesium, manganese and aluminium silicates and oxides**. Recently, its use in **road construction and repair**, especially in **hilly and Himalayan regions**, has been advocated for wider adoption. Applications include **environmental remediation**, treating **acidic water discharges** and as a **coarse aggregate** in roads due to its **high strength** and **anti-skid properties**.

India recently launched the **Responsible Nations Index (RNI)** at the **Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi**. Developed by the **World Intellectual Foundation** with **JNU, IIM Mumbai and Dr. Ambedkar International Centre**, the index assesses **154 countries** on **responsible governance, social well-being, environmental stewardship and global responsibility**, beyond GDP or power metrics. It is structured around **internal responsibility** (citizens' dignity and well-being), **environmental responsibility** (natural resource stewardship and climate action) and **external responsibility** (peace and global cooperation), promoting **ethical, value-based global leadership**.

Kamchatka Peninsula in Russia's Far East is experiencing **record-breaking snowfall** with **powerful winter storms** dumping several metres of snow. Located between the **Sea of Okhotsk** and the **Pacific Ocean/Bering Sea**, it is a **geothermal hotspot** and home to the **UNESCO-listed Volcanoes of Kamchatka**, including **over 150 volcanoes** with 29 active ones. Known as the **land of fire and ice**, it has **severe, snowy winters**, **cool summers** and its highest point is **KlyuchevskayaSopka**. The **Kuril Islands** extend from its southern tip toward **Hokkaido, Japan**.

The **Central Silk Board (CSB)**, a statutory body under the **Ministry of Textiles** headquartered in **Bengaluru**, has had its **financial approval limit raised to ₹1 crore** from ₹50 lakh by amending **Rule 22** of the Central Silk Board Rules, 1955. Established in **1948**, CSB advises the government on **silk industry development**, **import-export of raw silk** and promotes **scientific sericulture** to boost employment and income. India, the **second-largest silk producer and consumer**, produced **38,913 MT**

of raw silk in 2023-24, with **Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh** as major producers of **Mulberry, Eri, Tasar and Muga silk**.

Artemis II Mission is NASA's first **crewed lunar mission** in over 50 years, scheduled for a **10-day flight around the Moon** as early as February.

The **2026 Henley Passport Index** ranks passports based on **visa-free access** to global destinations, reflecting **diplomatic ties and international trust**. **Asia dominates** the top ranks, with **Singapore** first and**Japan and South Korea** tied for second. **India** climbed **five spots to 80th**, while **Afghanistan** remains last at **101st**, with access to only **24 destinations**.

Dardanelles Strait in north western Turkey connects the **Aegean Sea** to the **Sea of Marmara**, separating **Asia** from **Europe**. Entirely within Turkey, it is part of the **Turkish Straits**..along with the **Bosphorus**..and serves as a **vital shipping lane** for **Black Sea countries** like Russia and Ukraine. Key ports include **Gallipoli, Eceabat and Çanakkale**.

Charophytes are a type of **green algae** and the **closest living relatives of land plants**, with fossils dating back to the **Silurian Period (443 million years ago)**. Found in **silt, mud, peat, or sand** across all continents except Antarctica, they have **no true leaves, stems, or fruits** and are **loosely attached** by **holdfasts**. Charophytes **stabilize lake beds**, **produce oxygen**, **improve water clarity** and provide **habitats for aquatic life**, playing a key role in **lake biodiversity and water quality**.

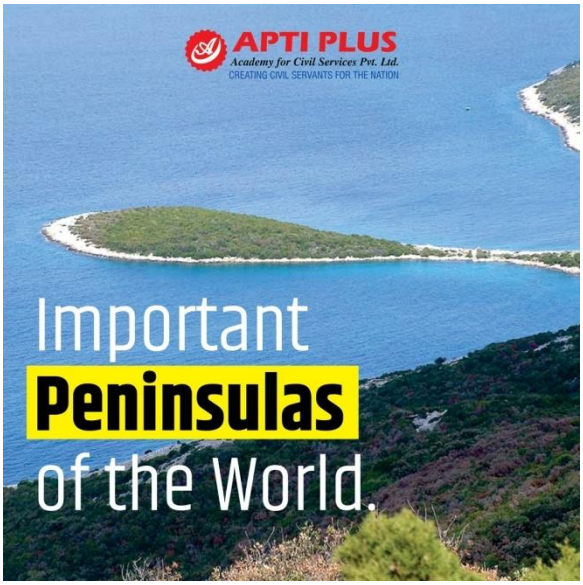
The **Bhadrakali Inscription** (1169 CE) on the wall of **Bhadrakali Temple, Prabhas Patan, Gujarat**, records the **history and development of Somnath Temple** and highlights **Solanki dynasty patronage**.

Bargi Dam, on the **Narmada River** in **Madhya Pradesh**, is a **multi-purpose dam** for **irrigation, water supply and power generation**.

Graphene is a **two-dimensional carbon allotrope** arranged in a **honeycomb lattice**, first isolated in **2004** and forms **graphite** when stacked. It is **one atom thick**, **200 times stronger than steel**, **lightweight**, **flexible**, an excellent **conductor of heat and electricity**, **almost transparent** and**impermeable to gases**, enabling applications in **electronics, energy storage, sensors and healthcare**.

Ethylene Glycol (EG) is a **colorless, odorless, sweet-tasting, water-soluble organic compound** ($C_2H_6O_2$), produced from **ethylene oxide and water**. Primarily used as an **antifreeze and coolant**, it also finds applications in **hydraulic fluids, inks, paints, polyesters, explosives and synthetic waxes**. **Highly toxic**, EG can cause severe illness or death if ingested, with **automotive antifreeze** being the most common source of poisoning.

APTI PLUS



Peninsulas of West Asia & South Asia

Arabian Peninsula

Bordering Seas: Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, Red Sea
Countries: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Yemen

Indian (Deccan) Peninsula

Bordering Seas: Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal, Indian Ocean
Region: South India

Southeast & East Asian Peninsulas

Indo-China Peninsula

Bordering Seas: South China Sea, Bay of Bengal, Malacca Strait, Indian Ocean
Countries: Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam

Malay Peninsula

Bordering Seas: Andaman Sea, Strait of Malacca, South China Sea
Regions: Southern Thailand, Southern Myanmar, Malaysia

East Asia & Europe

Korean Peninsula

Bordering Seas: Yellow Sea, East China Sea, Korean Strait
Countries: North Korea, South Korea

Scandinavian Peninsula

Bordering Seas: Baltic Sea, North Sea, Norwegian Sea
Countries: Norway, Sweden, Northern Finland

Southern & Western Europe

Balkan Peninsula

Bordering Seas: Adriatic, Ionian, Aegean, Mediterranean, Black Sea
Countries: Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Serbia, Croatia, etc.

Iberian Peninsula

Bordering Seas: Atlantic Ocean, Mediterranean Sea
Countries: Spain, Portugal, Andorra, Southern France

Mediterranean Peninsulas

Italian Peninsula

Bordering Seas: Adriatic, Ionian, Tyrrhenian, Mediterranean Sea
Countries: Italy, San Marino, Vatican City

Sinai Peninsula

Bordering Waters: Suez Canal, Gulf of Aqaba, Red Sea, Mediterranean Sea
Country: Egypt

African & Arctic Peninsulas

Horn of Africa (Somali Peninsula)

Bordering Seas: Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea
Countries: Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti

Kola Peninsula

Bordering Seas: Barents Sea, White Sea
Country: Russia

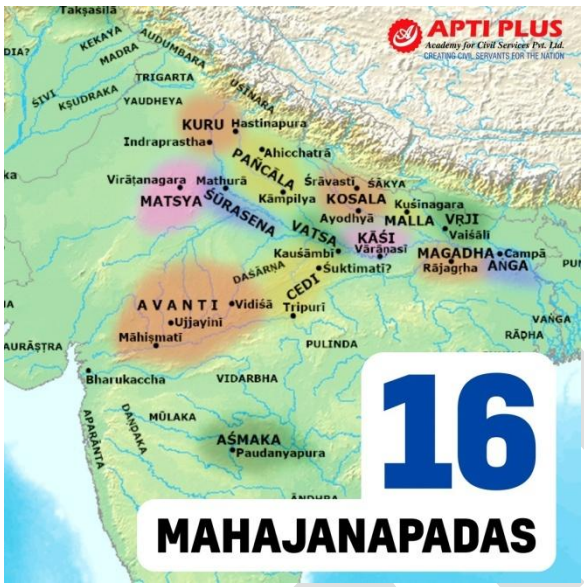
North American Peninsulas

Alaska Peninsula

Bordering Seas: Pacific Ocean, Bering Sea
Country: USA

Labrador Peninsula

Bordering Seas: Hudson Bay, Labrador Sea, Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of St. Lawrence
Country: Canada

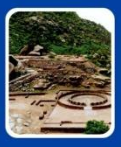


Panchala

Capital: Ahichchhatra
Modern Location: Bareilly, Budaun (Uttar Pradesh)
Rivers flowing in the Region: Ganga, Yamuna

Kuru

Capital: Indraprastha
Modern Location: Meerut (Uttar Pradesh)
Rivers flowing in the Region: Yamuna, Ganga



Matsya

Capital: Viratnagar
Modern Location: Jaipur (Rajasthan)
Rivers flowing in the Region: Chambal

Chedi

Capital: Sothavati
Modern Location: Bundelkhand (Madhya Pradesh/UP)
Rivers flowing in the Region: Ken, Yamuna

Avanti

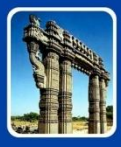
Capital: Ujjain / Mahishmati
Modern Location: Malwa (Madhya Pradesh)
Rivers flowing in the Region: Shipra, Narmada

Gandhara

Capital: Taxila
Modern Location: Pakistan / Afghanistan
Rivers flowing in the Region: Indus, Kabul

Kamboj

Capital: Rajapura
Modern Location: Kabul Valley (Afghanistan / Kashmir)
Rivers flowing in the Region: Vipas (Beas)* or Indus tributaries

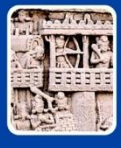


Asmaka

Capital: Paithan
Modern Location: Godavari Basin (Maharashtra)
Rivers flowing in the Region: Godavari

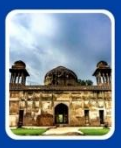
Vajji

Capital: Vaishali
Modern Location: Vaishali (Bihar)
Rivers flowing in the Region: Gandak



Malla

Capital: Kusinara
Modern Location: Kushinagar (Uttar Pradesh)
Rivers flowing in the Region: Rapti, Gandak

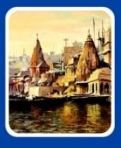


Anga

Capital: Champa
Modern Location: Munger & Bhagalpur (Bihar)
Rivers flowing in the Region: Chandan (Champa)

Magadha

Capital: Rajgriha / Pataliputra
Modern Location: Nalanda, Gaya, Patna (Bihar)
Rivers flowing in the Region: Ganga, Son



Kasi

Capital: Kasi
Modern Location: Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)
Rivers flowing in the Region: Ganga

Vatsa

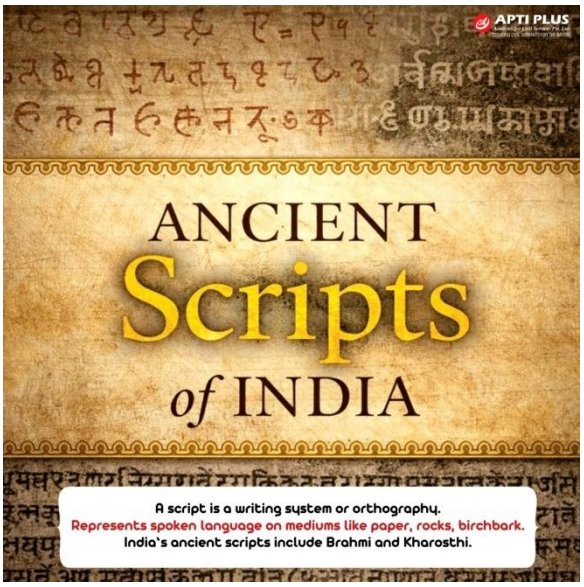
Capital: Kausambi
Modern Location: Prayagraj (Uttar Pradesh)
Rivers flowing in the Region: Ganga, Yamuna

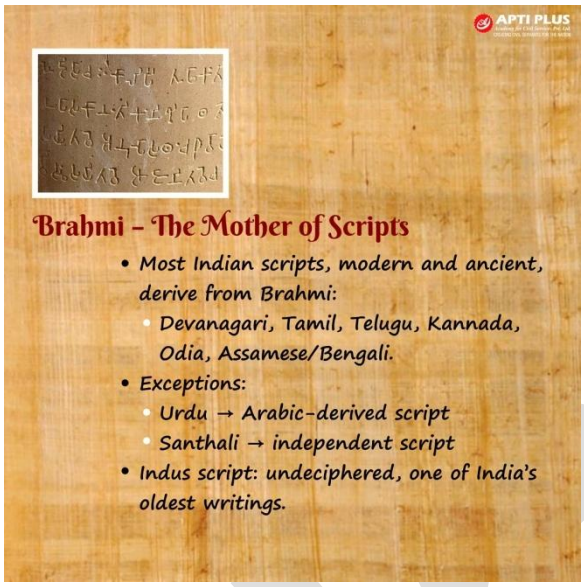
Kosala

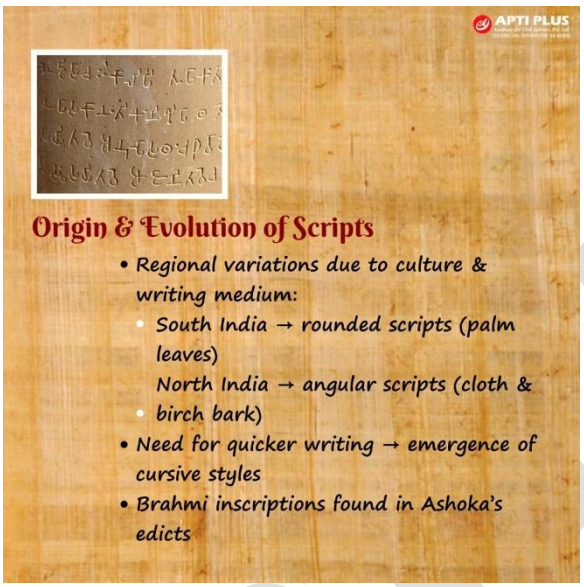
Capital: Sravasti
Modern Location: Awadh (Uttar Pradesh)
Rivers flowing in the Region: Sarayu (Ghaghara)

Saurasena

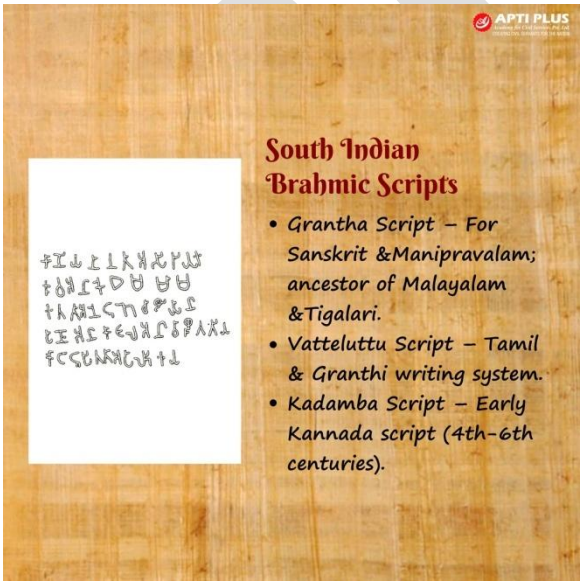
Capital: Mathura
Modern Location: Mathura (Uttar Pradesh)
Rivers flowing in the Region: Yamuna

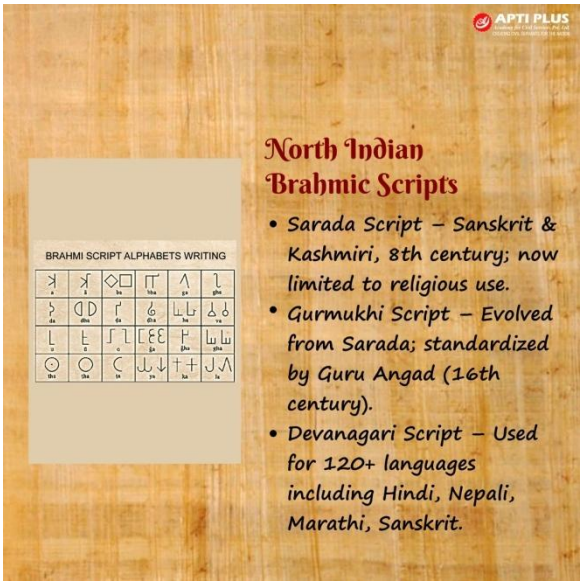

APTI PLUS
ANCIENT
Scripts
of INDIA
A script is a writing system or orthography.
Represents spoken language on mediums like paper, rocks, birchbark.
India's ancient scripts include Brahmi and Kharosthi.

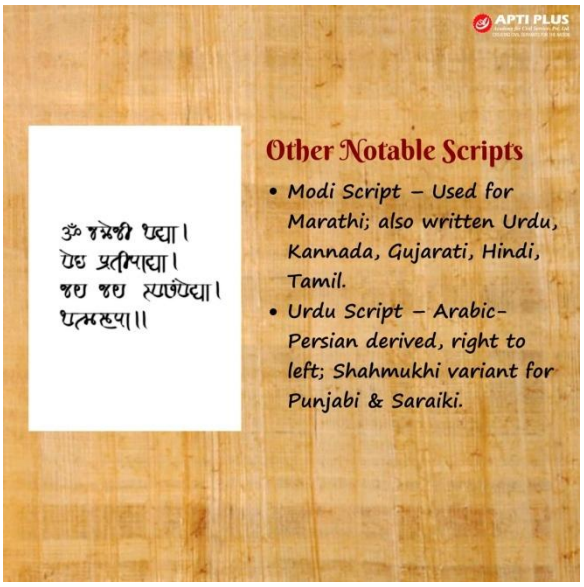

APTI PLUS
Brahmi – The Mother of Scripts
• Most Indian scripts, modern and ancient, derive from Brahmi:
◦ Devanagari, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Odia, Assamese/Bengali.
• Exceptions:
◦ Urdu → Arabic-derived script
◦ Santhali → independent script
• Indus script: undeciphered, one of India's oldest writings.

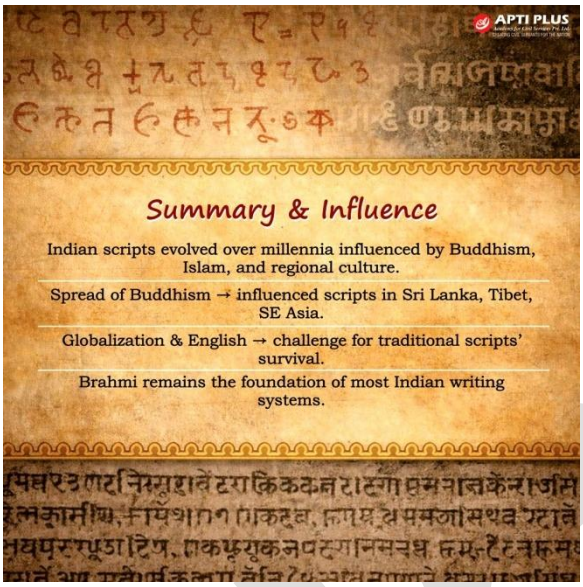

APTI PLUS
Origin & Evolution of Scripts
• Regional variations due to culture & writing medium:
◦ South India → rounded scripts (palm leaves)
◦ North India → angular scripts (cloth & birch bark)
• Need for quicker writing → emergence of cursive styles
• Brahmi inscriptions found in Ashoka's edicts

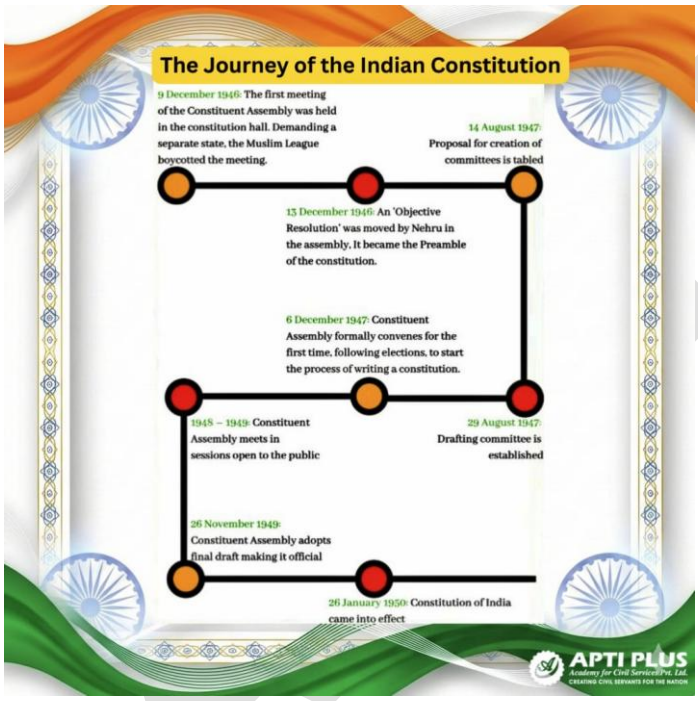
APTI PLUS
Types of Ancient Scripts
BRAHMI
• Indus Script – Symbol corpus, undeciphered.
• Brahmi Script – Left to right, consonant-based, ancestor of most Indic scripts.
• Kharosthi Script – Right to left, Aramaic-derived, used in Gandhara.
• Vatteluttu Script – South Indian, derived from Tamil-Brahmi.
• Kadamba Script – Birth of Kannada script.

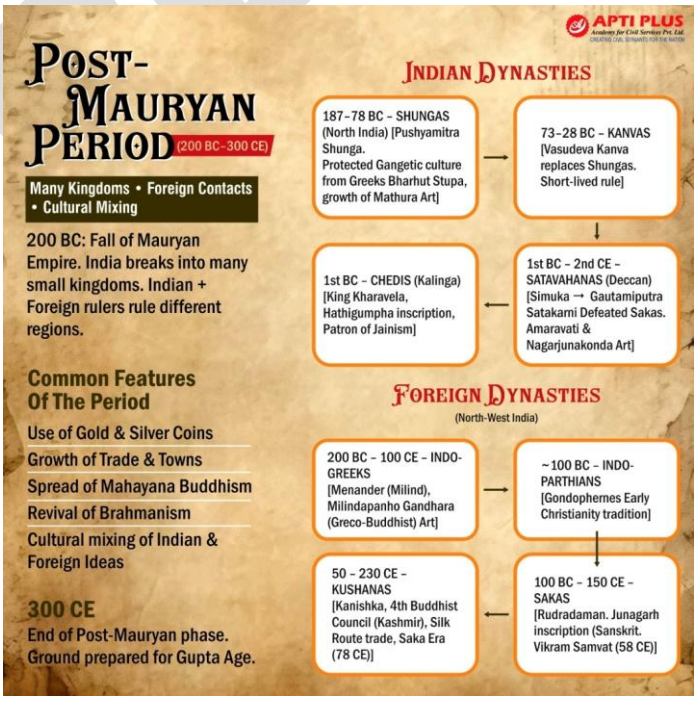

APTI PLUS
South Indian Brahmic Scripts
• Grantha Script – For Sanskrit &Manipravalam; ancestor of Malayalam &Tigalari.
• Vatteluttu Script – Tamil & Granthi writing system.
• Kadamba Script – Early Kannada script (4th–6th centuries).


APTI PLUS
North Indian Brahmic Scripts
BRAHMI SCRIPT ALPHABETS WRITING
• Sarada Script – Sanskrit & Kashmiri, 8th century; now limited to religious use.
• Gurmukhi Script – Evolved from Sarada; standardized by Guru Angad (16th century).
• Devanagari Script – Used for 120+ languages including Hindi, Nepali, Marathi, Sanskrit.


Other Notable Scripts
• Modi Script – Used for Marathi; also written Urdu, Kannada, Gujarati, Hindi, Tamil.
• Urdu Script – Arabic-Persian derived, right to left; Shahmukhi variant for Punjabi & Saraiki.


Summary & Influence
Indian scripts evolved over millennia influenced by Buddhism, Islam, and regional culture.
Spread of Buddhism → influenced scripts in Sri Lanka, Tibet, SE Asia.
Globalization & English → challenge for traditional scripts' survival.
Brahmi remains the foundation of most Indian writing systems.


The Journey of the Indian Constitution
9 December 1946: The first meeting of the Constituent Assembly was held in the constitution hall. Demanding a separate state, the Muslim League boycotted the meeting.
13 December 1946: An 'Objective Resolution' was moved by Nehru in the assembly. It became the Preamble of the constitution.
6 December 1947: Constituent Assembly formally convenes for the first time, following elections, to start the process of writing a constitution.
1948 – 1949: Constituent Assembly meets in sessions open to the public
26 November 1949: Constituent Assembly adopts final draft making it official
26 January 1950: Constitution of India came into effect
14 August 1947: Proposal for creation of committees is tabled
29 August 1947: Drafting committee is established


Post-Mauryan Period (200 BC–300 CE)
Many Kingdoms • Foreign Contacts • Cultural Mixing
200 BC: Fall of Mauryan Empire. India breaks into many small kingdoms. Indian + Foreign rulers rule different regions.
Common Features Of The Period
Use of Gold & Silver Coins
Growth of Trade & Towns
Spread of Mahayana Buddhism
Revival of Brahmanism
Cultural mixing of Indian & Foreign Ideas
300 CE
End of Post-Mauryan phase. Ground prepared for Gupta Age.
Indian Dynasties
187–78 BC – SHUNGAS (North India) [Pushyamitra Shunga. Protected Gangetic culture from Greeks Bharhut Stupa, growth of Mathura Art]
73–28 BC – KANVAS [Vasudeva Kanva replaces Shungas. Short-lived rule]
1st BC – 2nd CE – SATAVAHANAS (Deccan) [Simuka → Gautamiputra Satakarni Defeated Sakas. Amaravati & Nagarjunakonda Art]
1st BC – CHEDIS (Kalinga) [King Kharavela, Hathigumpha inscription, Patron of Jainism]
Foreign Dynasties
(North-West India)
200 BC – 100 CE – INDO-GREEKS [Menander (Milind), Milindapanho Gandhara (Greco-Buddhist) Art]
~100 BC – INDO-PARTHIANS [Gondophernes Early Christianity tradition]
100 BC – 150 CE – SAKAS [Rudradaman. Junagarh inscription (Sanskrit. Vikram Samvat (58 CE)]
50 – 230 CE – KUSHANAS [Kanishka, 4th Buddhist Council (Kashmir), Silk Route trade, Saka Era (78 CE)]