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Anu Garg becomes Odisha's First Woman Chief Secretary

Odisha State Para Badminton Championship

Samba Dashami: Festival of Sun Worship in Odisha

Odisha Launches 'Sweekruti' Scheme for Transgender Empowerment

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COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE OF CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR ODISHA STATE CIVIL SERVICES EXAMS

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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*

Odisha may experience Prolonged Heat and Erratic Rainfall in 2026

Context:

- Climate experts have warned that Odisha may face prolonged heatwaves and erratic rainfall in 2026, raising concerns over agriculture, water availability and overall climate resilience in the state.

Climate Drivers

- **ENSO Dynamics:**
  - Presently under **La Niña** influence.
  - Expected transition to **Neutral phase after January** (for ~3 months).
  - **Possible El Niño by end of June 2026**.
- **Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD):**
  - A **negative IOD combined with El Niño** may significantly suppress rainfall.

Impact on Agriculture & Water

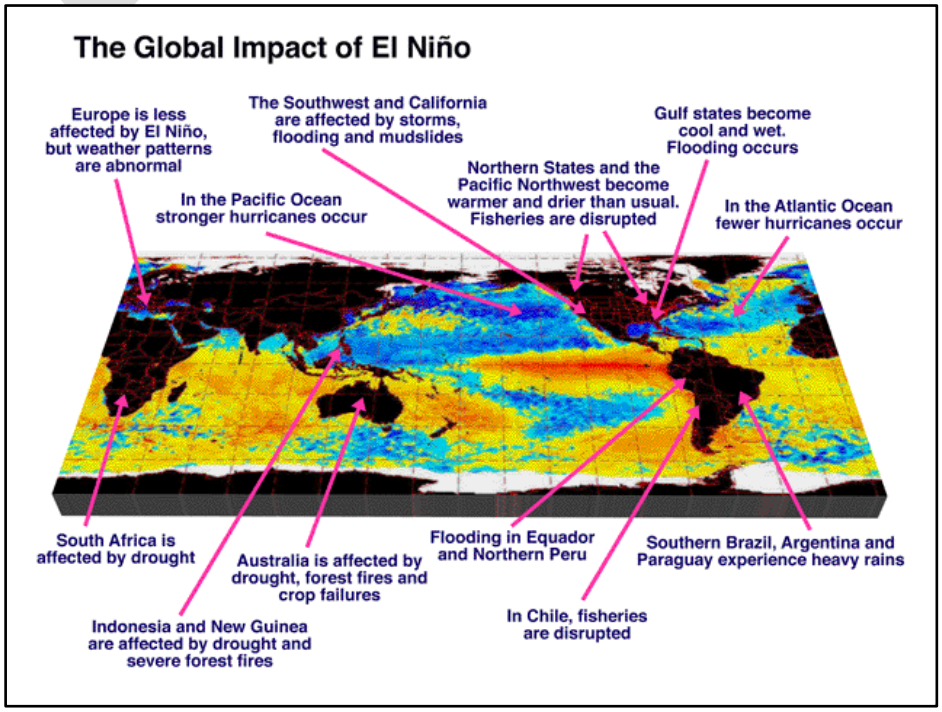
- **Paddy cultivation vulnerable**, as key growth stages may coincide with dry spells.
- **Dry ponds and water scarcity** likely to worsen irrigation and drinking water stress.

What is ENSO?

- **ENSO** is an irregular periodic variation in **sea surface temperature (SST)** and **winds** over the **tropical eastern Pacific Ocean**.
- It occurs every **3–7 years**, with SST anomalies of **±1°C to 3°C**.
- ENSO has three phases.
  - **El Niño.** Warming phase.
  - **La Niña.** Cooling phase.
  - **ENSO-Neutral.** Intermediate phase.

Key Concepts

- **Thermocline.** Transition layer between warm surface water and cold deep water.
- **Trade Winds (Easterlies).** Permanent east-to-west winds in equatorial regions.
- **Convection.** Rising warm air leading to cloud formation and rainfall.
- **Walker Circulation.** East–west atmospheric circulation over the equatorial Pacific.



ENSO Mechanism

1. Neutral Phase

- Strong **easterly trade winds** push warm surface water towards **South-East Asia**.
- **Cold, nutrient-rich upwelling** occurs near the **South American coast**.
- **High rainfall** over Indonesia and Australia.
- **Dry conditions** over the eastern tropical Pacific.

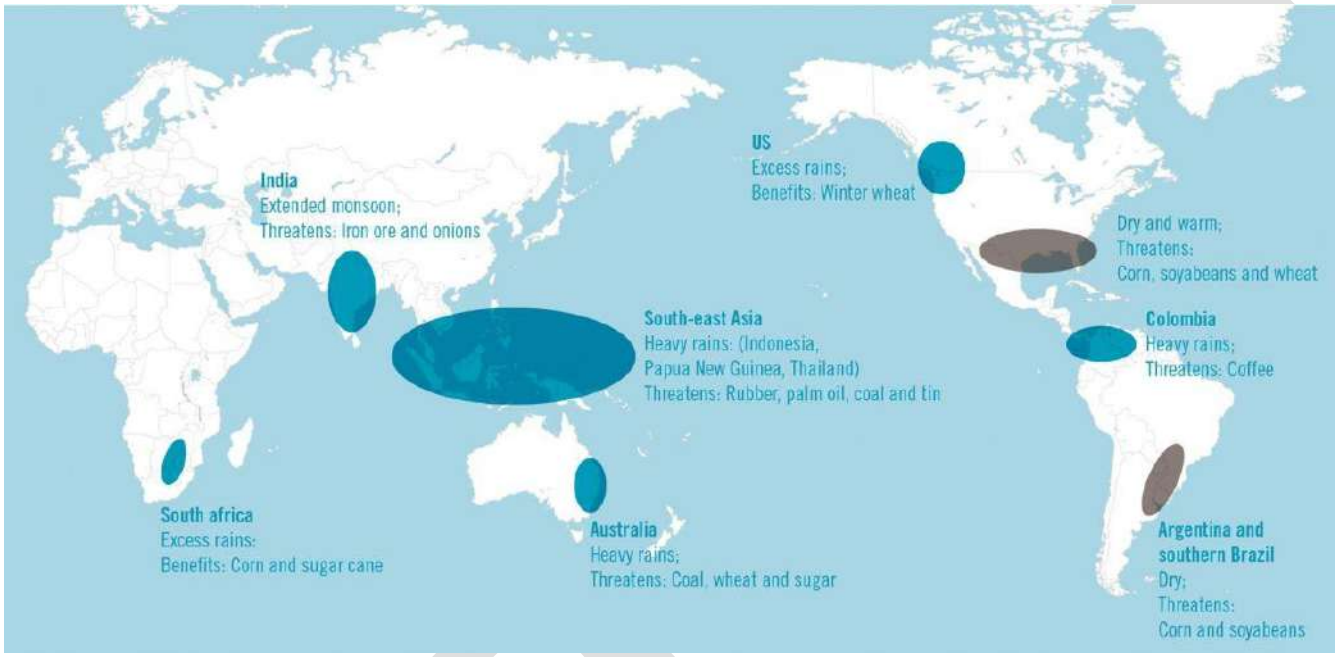
2. El Niño Phase

- **Trade winds weaken or reverse**.
- Warm water shifts towards **South America**.

- **Thermocline deepens**, stopping cold water upwelling.
- **Fisheries decline** off the South American coast.
- **Increased rainfall** over the eastern Pacific.
- **Drier conditions** over Indonesia, Australia and parts of India.

3. La Niña Phase

- **Stronger-than-normal trade winds** prevail.
- Enhanced **cold water upwelling** near South America.
- **Heavy rainfall** over Indonesia and Australia.
- **Dry conditions** over Peru and Ecuador.
- **More tropical cyclones** in the Atlantic and Caribbean.
- **Better-than-normal monsoon rainfall** in India.



ENSO and India

- **El Niño**
  - Warmer winters.
  - Weak monsoon and higher drought risk.
  - About **50 percent of El Niño years** are associated with deficient monsoon rainfall.
  - Major drought years include **2002 and 2009**.
- **La Niña**
  - Above-normal monsoon rainfall.
- **Crops affected by El Niño**
  - Paddy, maize, groundnut, bajra, pulses and oilseeds.

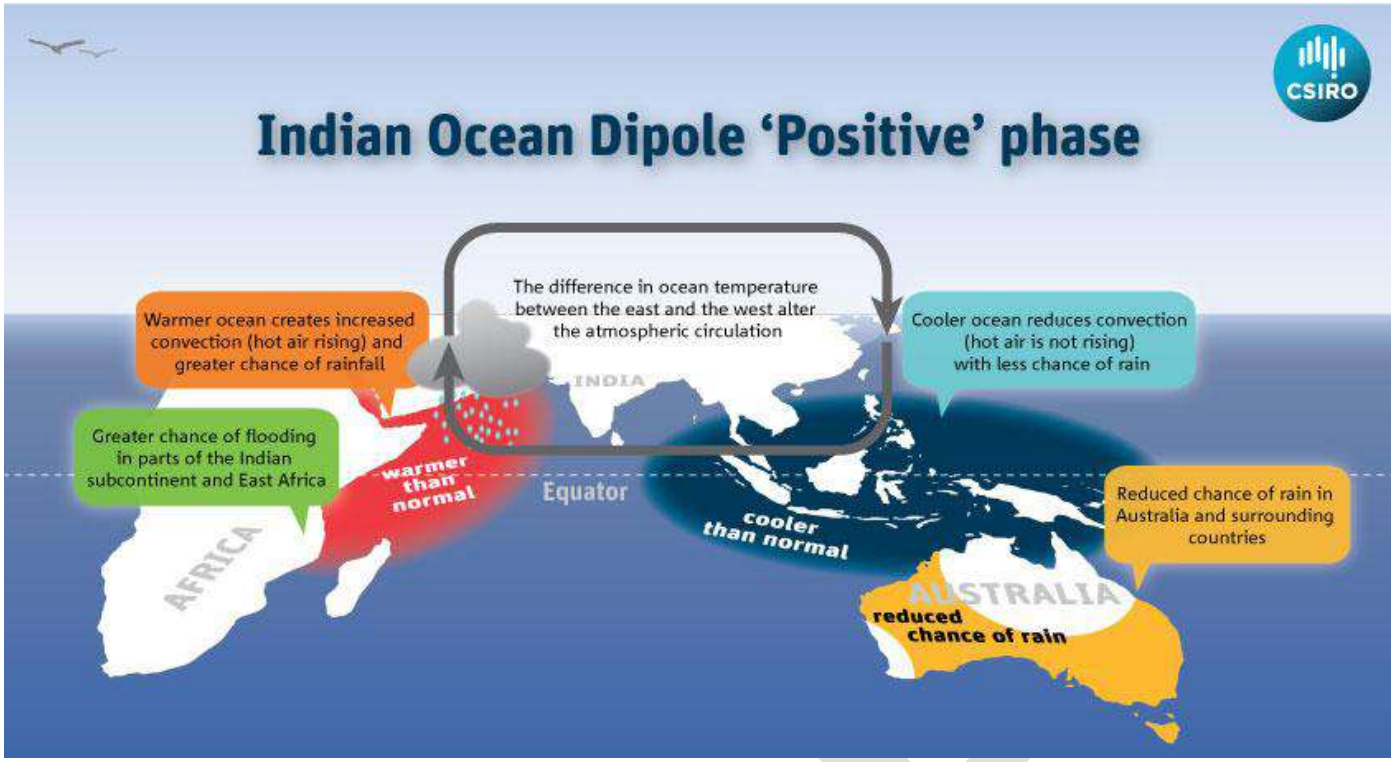
Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)

What is IOD

- The **Indian Ocean Dipole** is the difference in SST between.
  - **Western Indian Ocean.**
  - **Eastern Indian Ocean near Indonesia**.
- It is a **coupled ocean–atmosphere phenomenon**, similar to ENSO.
- IOD is linked to ENSO through the **extension of the Walker Circulation**.

Positive IOD

- **Warmer western Indian Ocean** and **cooler eastern Indian Ocean**.
- Favourable for a **strong Indian monsoon**.
- Can **counter the negative impact of El Niño**.
- Example. **1994 and 2006**, El Niño years without drought in India.



Negative IOD

- **Cooler western Indian Ocean** and **warmer eastern Indian Ocean**.
- Weakens the Indian monsoon.
- Increases rainfall over Australia.

ENSO–IOD Interaction

- **In-phase events** produce extreme climate impacts.
- **Out-of-phase events** may neutralise each other's effects.
- The exact relationship between IOD and Indian monsoon rainfall is **still under scientific debate**.

Air Quality in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Two other Odisha Towns falls into the 'Very Poor' Category

Context:

- The **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** has reported **very poor air quality** in multiple urban centres of Odisha, highlighting rising air pollution concerns and public health risks.

Key Points

- **Air Quality Status:**
  - Air quality in **four urban areas of Odisha** has been categorised as **'Very Poor'** under the **Air Quality Index (AQI)**.
- **Affected Towns in Odisha:**
  - **Balasore:** AQI 346.
  - **Bhubaneswar:** AQI 304.
  - **Byasanagar (Jajpur district):** AQI 353.
  - **Cuttack:** AQI 318.
- **Authority Reporting:**
  - Data released by the **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)**.
- **National Context:**
  - Apart from Odisha, **12 towns across India** recorded very poor air quality.
  - These include **Delhi, Gurugram, Noida, Ghaziabad, Greater Noida, Meerut, Dehradun, Bhiwadi, Baddi, Dharuhera, Gummidipoondi and Visakhapatnam**.
- **Health Implications:**
  - **Prolonged exposure** to very poor air quality can lead to **respiratory illnesses** and aggravation of existing lung and heart diseases.

National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP)

- Implemented by **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)**.
- Nationwide ambient air quality monitoring programme.
- **800+ stations** covering **344 cities/towns**, **28 States & 6 UTs**.
- Objectives:

  - Assess **status & trends** of ambient air quality.
  - Check **compliance with NAAQS**.
  - Identify **non-attainment cities**.
- Pollutants monitored: **SO_2, NO_2, PM10, PM2.5**.
- Meteorological parameters: **wind speed & direction, temperature, humidity**.

National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP)

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  - Check **compliance with National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)**.
  - Identify **non-attainment cities**.
- Pollutants monitored:
  - **SO_2, NO_2, PM10, PM2.5**.
- Integrated meteorological parameters:
  - **Wind speed, wind direction, relative humidity, temperature**.

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)

- Notified in **2009**.
- Set by **CPCB**.
- Legal backing: **Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981**.
- Covers **12 pollutants**.
- Applicable areas:
  - **Industrial, Residential, Rural & Other Areas**.
  - **Ecologically Sensitive Areas** (notified by GoI).

NAAQS (2009): Pollutants & Limits

Sulphur Dioxide (SO_2)

- Annual: **50 µg/m³ (General) | 20 µg/m³ (Eco-sensitive)**
- 24-hour: **80 µg/m³ (both)**

Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2)

- Annual: **40 µg/m³ (General) | 30 µg/m³ (Eco-sensitive)**
- 24-hour: **80 µg/m³ (both)**

PM10

- Annual: **60 µg/m³**
- 24-hour: **100 µg/m³**

PM2.5

- Annual: **40 µg/m³**
- 24-hour: **60 µg/m³**

Ozone (O_3)

- 8-hour: **100 µg/m³**
- 1-hour: **180 µg/m³**

Lead (Pb)

- Annual: **0.50 µg/m³**
- 24-hour: **1 µg/m³**

Carbon Monoxide (CO)

- 8-hour: **2 mg/m³**
- 1-hour: **4 mg/m³**

Ammonia (NH_3)

- Annual: **100 µg/m³**
- 24-hour: **400 µg/m³**

Benzene –

Annual: **5 µg/m³**

Benzo(a)pyrene – Annual: **1 ng/m³**

Arsenic (As) – Annual: **6 ng/m³**

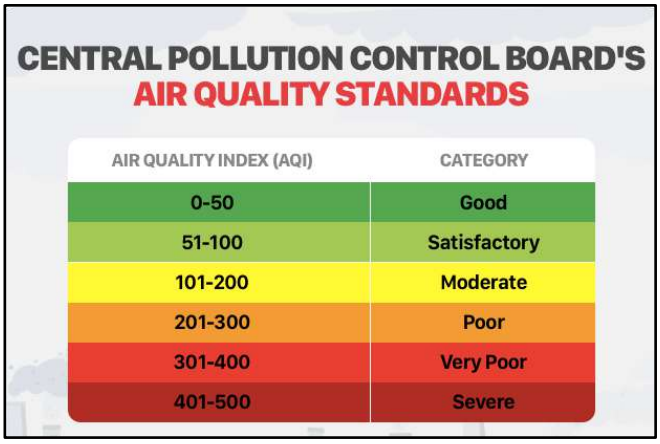
Nickel (Ni) – Annual: **20 ng/m³**

Air Quality Index (AQI)

- Launched in **2014**.
- Developed by **CPCB**.
- Concept: **"One Number – One Colour – One Description"**.
- Based on **8 pollutants**:
  - **PM10, PM2.5, NO_2, SO_2, CO, O_3, NH_3, Pb**.

Six AQI categories:

1. Good
2. Satisfactory
3. Moderately Polluted
4. Poor
5. Very Poor
6. Severe



SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research)

- Provides **location-specific, near real-time air quality information**.
- Target: **Major metropolitan cities of India**.
- Introduced by **Ministry of Earth Sciences**.
- Developed by **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune**.
- Pollutants monitored:
  - **PM2.5, PM10, O_3, CO, NOx, SO_2**
  - **Benzene, Toluene, Xylene, Mercury**

Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring System (CAAQMS)

- Enables **real-time ambient air quality monitoring**.
- Commissioned by **Indian Army**.
- Location: **Eastern Command Headquarters, Fort William Military Station, Kolkata (West Bengal)**.

WHO Air Quality Guidelines (AQGs), 2021

- Updated **Global Air Quality Guidelines** issued by **WHO**.
- Emphasise health damage **even at lower pollutant concentrations**.
- Covers **6 pollutants**:
  - **PM2.5, PM10, O_3, NO_2, SO_2, CO**

WHO AQGs: 2005 vs 2021

PM2.5

- Annual: **10 → 5 µg/m³**
- 24-hour: **25 → 15 µg/m³**

PM10

- Annual: **20 → 15 µg/m³**
- 24-hour: **50 → 45 µg/m³**

Ozone (O_3)

- Peak season: **– → 60 µg/m³**
- 8-hour mean: **100 µg/m³ (unchanged)**

Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2)

- Annual: **40 → 10 µg/m³**
- 24-hour: **25 µg/m³**

Sulphur Dioxide (SO_2)

- 24-hour mean: **20 → 40 µg/m³**

Carbon Monoxide (CO)

- 24-hour mean: **4 mg/m³**

WHO Ambient Air Quality Database

- Global compilation of **air quality data**.
- Started in **2011**.
- Contains **ground measurements** of:
  - **PM2.5, PM10, NO_2.**
- **Sixth update released in 2023**.
- **Fifth update (2022)**:
  - **NO_2 included for the first time**.
  - WHO identifies NO_2 as a **common urban pollutant** and **precursor of PM & ozone**.

Odisha Must Prioritize Growth

Context:

- As Odisha enters **2026**, it stands among India's fastest-growing states with a **projected GSDP of ₹10.63 lakh crore and nearly 12% growth**.
- However, this strong macroeconomic performance is undermined by **regulatory bottlenecks, compliance delays and weak entrepreneurial momentum**, making institutional deregulation an urgent priority.

Deregulation Cell for Odisha

Need for a Deregulation Cell

- Persistent **red tape and overlapping compliances** slow projects and discourage investment.
- Odisha's **startup ecosystem remains underperforming** despite policy support.
- PM **Narendra Modi** (5th National Conference of Chief Secretaries, Dec 2025) urged states to establish **deregulation cells** to accelerate reforms and improve ease of living.
- Aligns with the national vision of **Reform-led growth and Viksit Bharat**.

Lessons from Elsewhere

- **Bangladesh:** Garment sector deregulation → over **11% of GDP** contribution.
- **India:** Telecom deregulation (1990s) → world's **2nd-largest mobile market**.
- **Indonesia:** Mining deregulation → large **FDI inflows and export growth**.

Odisha's Four Growth Pillars & Deregulation

1. Mines and Minerals

- Contributes **~20% of India's mineral output**.
- Issues: Slow clearances, compliance overlap.
- Deregulation outcome: Faster approvals, higher FDI, global mineral hub potential.

2. Agriculture

- Employs **~60% of the population**.
- Challenges: Market access, land-use permissions, technology adoption.
- Deregulation focus:
  - **AgriStack**, smart supply chains, reduced intermediaries.
  - Higher farmer incomes and climate resilience.
  - Strong monitoring and accountability of public funds.

3. Blue Economy

- Ports, fisheries and coastal trade.
- Capital outlay **₹65,012 crore (2025–26)**.
- Bottlenecks: Logistics and regulation.
- Deregulation impact:
  - Maritime hub creation.
  - Jobs along **574.7 km coastline**.
  - Export-led growth.

4. Services Sector

- Includes tourism, healthcare and education.
- Budget allocations (2025–26):
  - **Education:** ₹41,273 crore (3.9% of GSDP).
  - **Health:** ₹23,635 crore (2.2% of GSDP).
- Constraint: Licensing and slow PPP approvals.
- Deregulation outcome:
  - World-class institutions.

- Services-led diversification.

Startups & Innovation

- Only **3,211 active startups (2025)**.
- Jan–Mar 2025: 85 recognised, 26 incubated at **O-Hub**.
- Deregulation can:
  - Simplify compliance.
  - Improve investor confidence.
  - Retain entrepreneurial talent.

Governance & Way Forward

- Immediate **inter-departmental meeting** in January 2026.
- Creation of a **Task Force** to operationalise the Deregulation Cell.
- Decisive leadership by the **new Chief Secretary** essential.

Conclusion

- High growth without reforms risks stagnation.
- A **Deregulation Cell in 2026** can unlock Odisha's economic potential, revive startups and align the state with India's reform trajectory.
- **Action now ensures transformation; delay invites irrelevance.**

Odisha State Para Badminton Championship

Context:

- The **Odisha State Para Badminton Championship** concluded in **Bhubaneswar on December 31, 2025**, highlighting the state's growing focus on **inclusive sports and para-athlete development**.

Odisha State Para Badminton Championship – Key Highlights

- **Event:** Odisha State Para Badminton Championship, 2025.
- **Venue:** Bhubaneswar.
- **Participation:** Para athletes from multiple districts of Odisha.
- **Significance:** Showcased skill, determination and sportsmanship in para sports.

Major Results.

- **Men's Doubles SL-3 / SU-5:**
  - **Winners:** Deep Ranjan Bisoyee (Sundargarh) & Kuldeep Mahakul (Sambalpur).
- **Women's Singles WH-1 & WH-2 (Combined):**
  - **Winner:** Bhanumati Behera (Kendujhar).
- **Women's Singles SU-5:**
  - **Winner:** Rani Gardia (Sambalpur).
- **Men's Singles WH-1:**
  - **Winner:** Sudarsan Nag (Koraput).
- **Men's Singles WH-2:**
  - **Winner:** Nurul Hossain Khan (Angul).
- **Men's Singles SL-3:**
  - **Winner:** Akash Ranjan Munda (Kalahandi).
- **Men's Singles SL-4:**
  - **Winner:** Deep Ranjan Bisoyee (Sundargarh).
- **Men's Singles SU-5:**
  - **Winner:** Biswas Ranjan Panda (Nuapada).
- **Men's Singles SH-6:**
  - **Winner:** Badal Munda (Kendujhar).

Widening and Strengthening of Lane in Odisha

Context

- The Union Cabinet, approved on the widening and strengthening of **NH-326 in Odisha**, aimed at improving connectivity and fostering inclusive development in the state's southern and tribal regions.

Project Details

- The project involves upgrading the **Mohana–Koraput stretch (Km 68.600 to Km 311.700)** from an existing 2-lane road to a **2-lane highway with paved shoulders** under the **EPC (Engineering, Procurement and Construction) mode**, with a total estimated cost of **₹1,526.21 crore**, including civil construction costs of ₹966.79 crore.

Need for Upgradation

- The existing highway suffers from **sub-standard geometry, steep gradients, sharp curves and black spots**, which reduce safety and hinder efficient movement of goods and passengers.
- The project will address these issues through **geometric corrections, curve realignments, pavement strengthening and removal of hazardous sections**, enabling safer and faster travel.

Connectivity and Economic Benefits

- Upon completion, the upgraded highway will link southern Odisha with major corridors such as **NH-16, NH-26, NH-59 and the Raipur–Visakhapatnam corridor**, providing better access to **Gopalpur Port, Jeypore Airport** and nearby industrial hubs.
- This will reduce travel time by **2.5–3 hours**, lower vehicle operating costs and boost freight efficiency.

Regional Development Impact

- The project will directly benefit the districts of **Gajapati, Rayagada and Koraput**, facilitating **industrial growth, tourism and enhanced access to education and healthcare**, particularly in tribal and aspirational areas, while promoting socio-economic inclusion.

Employment and Implementation

- Implementation over **24 months**, followed by a **5-year defect liability period**, is expected to generate significant **direct and indirect employment** for skilled and unskilled workers.
- Modern construction techniques like **precast structures, CTSB pavement layers and drone monitoring** will ensure quality and efficiency, contributing to Odisha's long-term development.

Odisha's Development Roadmap and Vision 2036

Context:

- Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has set an ambitious target to position Odisha among **India's top five developed states by 2036**.
- The strategy will follow a **mixed-economy approach**, combining public sector efficiency with private investment-led growth.

Key Focus Areas:

1. **Industrial Growth and Investment:**
   - Promote industrial expansion.
   - Ensure **speedy clearances** at district level for projects and public services.
   - Encourage **time-bound execution of development projects**.
2. **Administrative Efficiency:**
   - Fast-track administrative processes to minimize procedural delays.
   - Maintain **investor confidence** through prompt governance.
3. **Manpower Strengthening:**
   - Fill **vacant government posts** within two years.
   - Improve service delivery and administrative efficiency.
4. **Role of Chief Secretary:**
   - Coordinate departments and translate policies into measurable outcomes.
   - Critical for achieving the **state's long-term development vision**.

Framework Alignment:

- Builds on the **Odisha Vision 2036–2047** framework.
- Emphasizes **coordinated executive action and consistent monitoring** to achieve benchmarks.

Expected Outcome:

- Accelerated economic growth, administrative efficiency, industrial expansion and long-term prosperity across Odisha.

Odisha launches Mobile App for Real-Time Fly Ash Monitoring

Context:

- Odisha government launched a **mobile application** for **real-time tracking and monitoring of fly ash transportation**.
- Aims to **prevent illegal and unsafe dumping of fly ash** and protect the environment.

Initial Implementation:

- Tested in the field and initially implemented at **four power plants**.
- To be **expanded to other power plants** in Odisha.

Operational Structure:

- **Three-tier system** involving: power plants, drivers and regional officers.
- Key features:
  - **Real-time GPS tracking** of trucks
  - **QR-code verification** at plant exit gates
  - **Geo-fenced routes** to prevent unauthorized dumping
  - **Automatic trip closure** at destination
  - **Photo upload of empty truck**
  - Alerts for route deviations

Environmental and Regulatory Impact:

- Helps **curb environmental threats** from indiscriminate fly ash dumping.
- Enables **immediate intervention** by pollution control authorities using dashboards and alerts.
- **New Standard Operating Procedure** issued for land reclamation using fly ash:
  - Responsibility placed on power plants or industries for compliance violations.

Odisha Launches 'Sweekruti' Scheme for Transgender Empowerment

Context:

- On **January 1, 2026**, Odisha launched **'Sweekruti'**, a comprehensive rights-based scheme to **empower transgender persons** and promote social inclusion.
- Implemented by the **Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Department**, the scheme addresses historical discrimination and aims to **integrate transgender individuals into education, employment and society**.
- Odisha has a transgender population of **approximately 20,300**, according to the last census.

Key Financial Provisions:

1. **Support for Families:**
   - Parents/guardians of transgender children receive **₹1,500 per month** until the child turns 18.
   - Encourages families to **raise children at home** instead of abandonment due to stigma.
2. **Monthly Stipend for Students:**
   - Transgender students in hostels receive **₹3,000 per month** for living expenses.
3. **Educational Scholarships (up to 10 months per academic year):**
   - Pre-Matric (Std. V–X): ₹1,000/month
   - Post-Matric (Std. XI–XII): ₹1,500/month
   - Graduation/Post-Graduation: ₹2,000/month
   - Professional Degrees/Diplomas: ₹2,500/month
   - Open University/Non-formal Courses: ₹3,000/month

Inclusion Beyond Finance:

- **Housing & Hostels:** Establishment of exclusive hostels for transgender students in colleges and universities.
- **Entrepreneurship & Skill Training:** Skill upgradation, pre-recruitment coaching for state and national services, support for self-employment, self-help groups and provision of kits for entrepreneurship.
- **Healthcare & Legal Aid:** Access to healthcare services, group insurance and free legal counseling.

Implementation & Monitoring:

- Integrated with the **National Transgender Portal** and **Sweekruti Online Portal**.
- Applications processed through **District Social Security Officers**.
- **Third-party evaluations** mandated to monitor effectiveness.

Significance:

- Recognizes the **'Tritiya Prakriti' (third nature)** in Indian heritage.
- Aims to ensure transgender persons can **participate fully in mainstream society**, with support for families and tools for self-reliance.

Application:

- Eligible individuals can apply via **Block or Urban Local Body offices**.

Odisha Initiates Greater Berhampur Formation

Context:

- The Odisha government has initiated steps to **form Greater Berhampur** by expanding the **Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC)**.
- The expansion involves **merging 34 revenue villages from 14 panchayats** under Digapahandi and Kukudakhandi blocks.
- Notification issued by the **Housing and Urban Development Department**, inviting objections and suggestions from affected residents within **30 days**.

Villages and Panchayats Involved:

- **Ankushapur (5 villages), Dakhinapur (3), Anantai (5), Lathi (2), Jagadalpur (1), Nimakhandi (1), Luchapada (1), Dura (3), Gaunju (4), Phulta (3), Satakutuni (2), Bhabinipur (1), Haladiapadara (1), Bada Kusasthali (2)**.
- Panchayats had passed resolutions supporting the merger; BeMC approved inclusion in its meetings.

Significance:

- The merger will create **Greater Berhampur**, enhancing **urban governance, service delivery and civic management** in adjoining villages.
- It reflects the state's focus on **urban expansion and integrated city planning**.

Odisha Administrative Reform and Vision 2036

Context:

- Chief Minister **Mohan Charan Majhi** issued a **15-point directive** to energize the state administration and accelerate decision-making across departments.

Vision and Goal:

- The government aims to build a **prosperous Odisha by 2036**, positioning the state among **India's top five developed states**.
- Strategy to follow a **mixed-economy approach**, combining public sector efficiency with private investment-led growth.

Key Focus Areas:

1. **Industrial Growth and Investment:**
   - Promote industrial expansion.
   - Ensure **fast-track clearances** at district level for investment proposals and development projects.
2. **Administrative Efficiency:**
   - Reduce procedural delays.
   - Enforce **time-bound implementation of decisions** related to public service delivery.
3. **Manpower Strengthening:**

- Fill **vacant government posts** within the next two years to improve service delivery and administrative efficiency.

4. **Role of Chief Secretary:**
   - Coordinate departments and ensure government priorities translate into **measurable outcomes**.
   - Crucial for implementing **Odisha Vision 2036–2047** framework and achieving long-term development benchmarks.

Significance:

- The directives aim to **accelerate economic growth, streamline governance and strengthen human resources**, laying the foundation for Odisha's **inclusive and sustainable development** over the next decade.

Odisha's Energy–Agriculture Synergy for Inclusive Growth in 2026

Context:

- Chief Minister outlined Odisha's focus for 2026 on executing **Vision 2036 and 2047**, emphasizing **energy–agriculture synergy, clean power and inclusive growth**.
- The state aims to **translate long-term vision into tangible actions**, strengthening rural livelihoods, modernizing agriculture and supporting industrial growth.

Energy–Agriculture Linkage:

- **Reliable and affordable power** increases farm productivity, strengthens rural enterprises and raises incomes.
- Modern agriculture—through **efficient irrigation, better storage, climate-resilient practices**—creates demand and discipline for robust energy systems.
- Nearly **60% of rural households** depend on agriculture, making rural energy supply critical for economic and social development.

Key National and State Initiatives:

- **PM-KUSUM**: Promotes large-scale solar adoption in agriculture.
- **PM Surya Ghar**: Reduces household energy costs.
- Odisha's installed generation capacity: **7.67 GW**; renewable potential: **41.32 GW** (solar, wind, hydro, biomass).

2026 Priorities:

1. **Energy Goals:**
   - Ensure **sufficiency, reliability, affordability**
   - Balance **ecology and economy**
   - Promote **innovation and clean energy adoption**
2. **Agricultural Goals:**
   - Strengthen **women farmers' roles**, especially in pulses and millets among Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)
   - Promote **climate-smart crop choices, resilient farming, value addition, cold-chain infrastructure and market linkages**
   - Reduce **post-harvest losses** and modernize storage, transport and processing
3. **Economic Impact:**
   - Industrial and service sector growth depends on **reliable energy supply**
   - Investment pipeline of **₹4.3 lakh crore** supports **job creation and living standards improvement**

Significance:

- **Energy acts as a multiplier for agriculture**, enabling sustainable farm incomes and rural development.
- Odisha aims to position itself as a **clean-energy hub** while strengthening **inclusive and climate-resilient agricultural growth**.

Samba Dashami: Festival of Sun Worship in Odisha

Context:

- **Samba Dashami** is a festival unique to Odisha, observed on the **10th day of Shukla Paksha in the month of Pausha**.
- It is primarily celebrated by **women**, who pray for the **health, well-being and long life of their children**.

Spiritual Significance:

- Dedicated to **Lord Surya (Sun God)**.
- Based on the legend of **Shamba (Samba)**, son of Lord Krishna, who was cured of leprosy after 12 years of penance to Lord Surya near the **Konark Sun Temple**.
- The day symbolizes **health, protection and gratitude to the Sun**.

Anu Garg becomes Odisha's First Woman Chief Secretary

Context:

- On **January 1, 2026**, **Anu Garg**, a 1991-batch Indian Administrative Service officer, took charge as **Chief Secretary of Odisha**, becoming the **first woman to lead the state's civil services**.
- She succeeded **Manoj Ahuja**, outgoing Chief Secretary, who completed a tenure noted for exemplary leadership.

Significance:

- Marks a **historic milestone** in women empowerment within Odisha's administrative framework.
- Seen as a step toward **enhancing governance, administrative efficiency and inclusive development**.

Vision and Priorities:

- Committed to implementing **Odisha Vision 2036**, supporting the state's long-term development goals aligned with **Viksit Bharat 2047**.
- Focus areas include **women and youth empowerment**, ease of doing business and efficient governance.

Significance for Governance:

- Strengthens the state's focus on **priority-driven administration, efficient decision-making and inclusive growth**.

DRDO conducts Salvo launch of Pralay Missiles Off Odisha Coast

Context:

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** conducted a **salvo launch of two indigenous Pralay missiles** from the same launcher off the Odisha coast.
- The test was part of **user evaluation trials** and observed by representatives of the **Indian Army, Indian Air Force and industry partners**.

Missile Details:

- **Pralay:** Solid propellant, quasi-ballistic missile.
- **Capabilities:** Equipped with advanced guidance and navigation systems; capable of carrying multiple warhead types for diverse targets.
- **Precision:** High accuracy confirmed through telemetry and tracking sensors from the **Integrated Test Range, Chandipur.**

Test Results:

- Both missiles followed the intended trajectory and achieved all **mission objectives**
- Terminal events validated; system reliability confirmed.

Significance:

- Establishes **operational readiness** of the Pralay missile system.
- Demonstrates **indigenous defence capability** and preparedness for induction into armed forces.

Strategic Importance:

- Strengthens **India's tactical missile capabilities.**
- Enhances **regional security posture** and self-reliance in defence technology.

Odisha CM announces Initiatives to preserve Shaheed Madho Singh's legacy

Context:

- Chief Minister **Mohan Charan Majhi** led the **state-level Veerta Divas** observance at **Ghess, Bargarh**, commemorating freedom fighter **Shaheed Madho Singh** on his martyrdom anniversary.
- The visit focused on **heritage preservation** and **regional development**.

Shaheed Madho Singh (Madhab Singh Bariha)

- Leader of Ghess estate in Bargarh, Odisha; close associate of **Veer Surendra Sai**.
- Key figure in the **Sambalpur uprising (1857–1858)** against the British East India Company.
- **Executed:** 31 December 1858, Sambalpur Jail, aged 72.
- Family sacrifices: 3 sons martyred; eldest son sentenced to life imprisonment; granddaughter Purnima committed suicide after British execution of her husband.

Resistance Against the British

Discontent and Mobilisation:

- British ignored Surendra Sai's claim to Sambalpur throne and imposed **excessive revenue taxes** on local Zamindars.
- Madho Singh refused to burden his people; placed on public list of defaulters.
- Supported armed mobilization:
  - Ghess estate included ~**25 villages**, collectively called **Khalsa**.
  - Recruited local tribal and other communities (**Kondh, Binjhal, Gond, Chauhan**) for warfare training.
  - Training conducted **from full moon of Pousa to last Tuesday of Chaitra**.
- Ghess became a **center of anti-British activity**, spreading to neighboring areas like Rajbodasambar, Kesaepali, Patkulunda, Bheden, Padampur andSonakhan.

Key Actions:

- Took charge of **Singora pass** alongside his sons.
- Successfully resisted multiple British attacks; **killed Captains Shakespeare and Wood Bridge** during confrontations.
- Rebels displayed exceptional **unity and strategic defense**, inspiring regional uprisings.

Capture and Execution

- Due to **ailing health at 72**, Madho Singh was captured by British forces under Major Forster.
- **Hanged** at Sambalpur Jail on **31 Dec 1858**.

The Sons of Madho Singh

- **Airi Singh (Uday Singh):** Managed supplies and communication; killed in hideout via betrayal.
- **Hatee Singh:** Injured in battle, surrendered in 1862; sent for life imprisonment to Andamans.
- **Kunjel Singh and Bairi Singh:** Led resistance after Madho Singh's death; later executed by hanging (Bairi Singh possibly died in prison).

Legacy:

- Embodiment of **tribal and regional resistance** against colonial oppression.
- Symbol of **valor, sacrifice and nationalism** in Odisha's freedom struggle.

Odisha PSUs pay ₹6.40 Crore Dividend to State Government

Context:

- Odisha is focusing on strengthening its economic and agricultural infrastructure in 2026.

Details

- Key measures include boosting PSU performance, improving rural and industrial connectivity and promoting farmer empowerment. In this framework, dividends from public sector undertakings (PSUs) under the Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Department reflect both fiscal responsibility and the promotion of sustainable development.

Odisha PSUs Pay ₹6.40 Crore Dividend to State Government

Key Highlights:

- **PSUs Involved:**
  1. **Odisha Agro-Industries Corporation (OAIC):** ₹5.24 crore (FY 2023–24)
  2. **Odisha State Seeds Corporation Limited (OSSC):** ₹0.23 crore (FY 2021–22)
  3. **Odisha State Cashew Development Corporation (OSCDC):** ₹0.93 crore (FY 2022–23 & 2023–24)
- **Total Dividend:** ₹6.40 crore (₹6,39,97,589)
- **Legal Basis:** Section 123 of the **Companies Act, 2013**, mandating PSUs to distribute **30% of Profit After Tax (PAT)** as dividends.

Significance:

- Strengthens Odisha's **state revenue** and supports economic growth.
- PSUs contribute to **agricultural development and rural prosperity**:
  - **OAIC:** Agro-industrial initiatives.
  - **OSSC:** Quality seed distribution.
  - **OSCDC:** Cashew cultivation and processing.
- Reflects **financial discipline, profitability and commitment to sustainable farmer empowerment**.

Takeaway:

- Demonstrates Odisha government's focus on **profitable PSUs as instruments of rural development, farmer empowerment and sustainable economic growth**.

Odisha overhauls Puri Jagannath Temple Land and Governance Laws to protect Heritage and Assets

Context:

- The **Puri Jagannath Temple**, a 12th-century heritage site, is one of Odisha's most valuable cultural and religious assets. With over **60,000 acres of land** under its ownership, much of it encroached or underutilized, the state government has initiated reforms to **modernize legal frameworks, protect temple assets and ensure fair revenue and discipline**.

Odisha Reforms Puri Srimandir Land and Governance Laws

Key Announcements:

1. **Land Management and Revenue Recovery**
   - **Massive Holdings:** 60,426.943 acres in Odisha + 395.252 acres in six other states.
   - **Encroachment Issue:** Much land under temple ownership is illegally occupied, generating minimal revenue.
   - **Legal Security:** Long-term occupants, including **servitors (Daitapatis, Nijogs), mathas and non-servitors**, will have land titles settled while paying fair value to the temple corpus.
2. **Modernizing the Shree Jagannath Temple Act, 1955**
   - **Nearly 70 years old**, the Act is being updated to reflect modern administrative needs.
   - **Penal Provisions:** Strict action against those spreading misinformation or defaming Jagannath culture, including via social media.
3. **Temple Discipline and Security**
   - **Gadget Ban:** Reinforce prohibition of mobile phones and cameras inside temple premises.
   - **Dress Code & Decorum:** Promote traditional attire and maintain ritual discipline.
   - **Subcommittees:** Establish new committees to streamline temple services and prevent disorder.

Significance:

- Protects the **heritage and assets** of Srimandir while ensuring **financial sustainability**.
- Provides **legal security and rights** to long-standing temple occupants.
- Strengthens temple **discipline, sanctity and administration**, aligning with contemporary governance standards.

Implementation:

- Based on **State Law Commission recommendations** after multiple consultations.
- Expected to be **enacted imminently**, ensuring **transparent, uniform and fair settlement** of temple land and related governance matters.

Odisha Vigilance Anti-Graft Milestones

Context:

- Odisha Vigilance has been actively addressing corruption within the state administration. In 2025, the department registered **record-breaking cases**, seized assets and enforced strict disciplinary actions to strengthen governance transparency and accountability.

Odisha Vigilance Anti-Graft Milestones – 2025

Key Statistics:

- **Cases Registered:** 202 criminal cases, including:
  - 49 **Disproportionate Assets (DA)** cases
  - 97 **Trap cases**
  - Remaining: other corruption-related offenses
- **Officials Arrested:** 212 government personnel
- **Disproportionate Assets Uncovered:** ~Rs.120 crore
- **Cash & Asset Recovery:**
  - Rs.8.81 crore in cash
  - 153 buildings, 714 plots, 12 farmhouses
  - 18.3 kg gold seized

High-Profile Officers Booked:

- **53 Class-I Officers**: 1 IAS, 36 Engineers, 17 Forest officials, 20 Revenue officials
- **Major Recoveries:**
  - Chief Engineer Baikuntha Nath Sarangi: Rs.2.56 crore cash + DA Rs.9.08 crore
  - Project Director Santanu Mohapatra: Rs.2.08 crore cash + DA Rs.4.46 crore
  - IAS officer Dhiman Chakma: Rs.57 lakh cash

Case Disposals & Convictions:

- 479 cases disposed (**237% disposal rate**)
- 108 convictions
- 24 government employees dismissed
- Pension stopped for 50 retired officials

Modern Measures:

- Odisha Vigilance is leveraging **technology and AI tools** to strengthen investigations and anti-corruption enforcement.

Significance:

- Demonstrates **Odisha's commitment to clean governance** and accountability.
- Ensures that public resources and administrative powers are safeguarded.
- Acts as a **deterrent against corruption** in government machinery.

Puri becomes 6th Municipal Corporation

Context:

- To enhance urban governance, civic infrastructure and service delivery in key cities, Odisha has been upgrading municipalities to municipal corporations and expanding the jurisdiction of existing urban bodies.

Key Update – Puri Becomes 6th Municipal Corporation

Upgrade Details:

- **Date:** 31 December 2025.
- **Authority:** Housing and Urban Development Department, Odisha.
- **New Status:** Puri municipality → **Puri Municipal Corporation**.
- **Significance:**
  - Sixth municipal corporation in Odisha.
  - Other corporations: Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Berhampur, Sambalpur, Rourkela.

Expected Benefits:

- Improved **civic amenities** and urban infrastructure.
- Enhanced **services for residents, pilgrims and tourists**.
- Access to **central assistance** under schemes for pilgrim centers and major urban areas.

Additional Measures:

- **Four towns upgraded to Notified Area Councils (NACs):**
  - Loisingha (Bolangir), Chandikhol (Jajpur), Jashipur (Mayurbhanj), Basta (Balasore).
- **Berhampur Municipal Corporation** jurisdiction expanded to create **Greater Berhampur**.

Significance for Governance:

- Reflects Odisha's **focus on urban modernization** and sustainable city management.
- Aims to **strengthen administrative efficiency** and support **tourism-led economic growth**.

Chhenapoda

Context:

- Odisha celebrates its rich culinary heritage. Chhenapoda, a caramelised cheese dessert, is one of the state's iconic sweets with historical significance.

Chhenapoda Dibasa – Honouring the True Origins

Background:

- **Date of Observance:** December 31 (since 2022).
- **Previous Recognition:** Earlier celebrated on April 11, Sudarshan Sahoo's birth anniversary.
- **Origin:** Daspalla, Nayagarh district, 1945.

Historical Insight:

- The dessert was **invented by Bidyadhar Sahoo**, a royal confectioner.
- Leftover chhena mixed with sugar was baked overnight on sal leaves in a traditional oven (chulha), producing the caramelised cheesecake-like treat.
- Sudarshan Sahoo, his son, **perfected, commercialised and popularised** the recipe globally, serving it to dignitaries, including Jawaharlal Nehru.
- Both father and son are now acknowledged, with **Bidyadhar as the primary innovator**.

Significance:

- December 31 marks Bidyadhar Sahoo's death anniversary, now recognised as **ChhenapodaDibasa** to honour the true originator.
- The day highlights Odisha's **culinary heritage** and ongoing efforts for a **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** for NayagarhChhenapoda.
- It celebrates the joint contribution of father and son to Odisha's gastronomic pride.

ODISHA RELATED STATIC GK

Saura or Ikon paintings

Saura or **Ikon paintings** are a traditional **mural art** of the **Sora tribe**, mainly in southern **Odisha** (**Rayagada**, **Ganjam**, **Gajapati**, **Koraput**), dedicated to their **deity Idital**. They hold deep **religious significance**, used in **rituals** like **childbirth**, **harvest**, **marriage** and**house construction** and were originally painted on **adobe walls** with **natural dyes** using **bamboo brushes**. **Motifs** include **humans**, **animals**, the **sun**, **moon** and**tree of life**, reflecting **Sora folklore** and **daily life**. Traditionally created by **Kudangs** (**priest-artists**), these paintings follow a **"fish-net" style** (from border inwards) and differ from **Warli paintings** in **technique** and **figure representation**. Today, **Saura art** has gained popularity beyond ritual use, appearing on **textiles**, **stationery** and for **livelihood generation**, while retaining its **cultural identity**.

Mineral Wealth

- Odisha hosts India's sole ruby resource
- Major Minerals & Districts:
  - Chromite: Balasore, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Kendujhar (96% of India's supply)
  - Bauxite: Bargarh, Balangir, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Kendujhar, Koraput, Malkangiri, Rayagada, Sundargarh
  - Iron Ore (Haematite): Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Kendujhar, Mayurbhanj, Sambalpur, Sundargarh (54% of India)
  - Iron Ore (Magnetite): Kendujhar, Mayurbhanj
  - Nickel: Jajpur, Kendujhar, Mayurbhanj
  - Platinum Group Metals: Kendujhar
  - Cobalt: Jajpur
  - Titanium: Dhenkanal, Ganjam, Jajpur, Mayurbhanj, Puri
  - Garnet: Ganjam, Kalahandi, Sambalpur
  - Graphite: Bargarh, Boudh, Balangir, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Koraput, Nuapada, Rayagada
  - Zircon: Ganjam, Puri
  - Asbestos: Kendujhar
  - Ruby: Balangir
  - Emerald: Kalahandi
  - Silver: Sundargarh
  - Tin: Malkangiri
  - Vanadiferous Magnetite: Balasore, Mayurbhanj

BOMKAI SARI

Bomkai Saree is a **handloom saree** from **Odisha**originally from **Bomkai village** in **Ganjam district**, but later primarily produced by the **Bhulia community** of **Subarnapur district**. It is one of India's **Geographical Indications (GI)** and is often showcased in **fashion shows**. Bomkai sarees combine **modern designs with traditional touches**: **cotton versions** are worn daily, while **silk variants** are reserved for **ceremonies and sacred occasions**. The sarees are distinguished by **captivating colors**, **tribal tinge** and**threadwork** on the **border and pallu**, with **motifs like fish (symbolizing success), lotus, temple (mandir), squares and tortoise**. Traditionally, the

background colors are **red, black and white**, though contemporary versions feature a variety of **colors and designs**, with **multicolored warps** enhancing the aesthetic. Bomkai sarees use **cotton yarns** (earlier 10s–40s counts, now 2/80–2/120s), **mulberry silk, tussar silk andzari**, woven on **fly shuttle pit looms** or **frame looms**. The **three-shuttle technique**, called **"Muhojorha"**, creates a **solid border effect**, while **extra warp and weft designs** in the **border, body and pallu** are achieved using **dobby, jacquard, or jala** techniques. Historically, Bomkai weaving reached **Sonepur** during the rule of **Ramai Dev**.

Tampara Lake

Tampara Lake is a **freshwater lake wetland** near **Chhatrapur in Ganjam district**, spanning about **300 hectares**. Its waters support **60 species of birds and 46 fish species**, serve as an important **flood buffer** and supply water for **drinking, agriculture and livelihoods**. The lake, popular for **boating and recreation**, also provides ecosystem services and was designated a **Ramsar site**.

Kanjia Lake (Urban Wetland)

Kanjia Lake is an **urban freshwater wetland** on the northern outskirts of **Bhubaneswar**, covering about **105 hectares**. It hosts diverse **biodiversity** including fish, birds, reptiles and aquatic plants and helps **maintain local ecology**. Connected with **Nandankanan Zoological Park**, it supports recreational uses and highlights the importance of **urban wetland conservation**.

Gotipua Dance

Gotipua is a **traditional Odia dance performed by young boys** dressed as women, primarily from **Raghurajpur village**. It is the **precursor of Odissi classical dance**, featuring **acrobatic poses (Bandha Nrutya)**, graceful expressions (Abhinaya) and accompaniment by **Mardala, Bansuri and vocalists**. The dance depicts **Radha-Krishna stories** and religious devotion to **Lord Jagannath**.

Pipili Appliqué Work

Pipili Appliqué Work, traditionally known as **Chanduais** a **handicraft from Pipili village** in **Puri district, Odisha**. Originating during the **12th century** in connection with **Lord Jagannath's culture**, it was initially used to make **canopies, umbrellas and lanterns for the annual Rath Jatra**. The craft uses **appliqué and reverse appliqué techniques**, where **fabric shapes are sewn onto a base layer or cut to reveal underlying layers**. Common motifs include **peacocks, elephants, flowers, the sun, moon and mythical figures like Rahu**, executed using **stitching methods such as satin, straight, blind and buttonhole stitches**, often combined with **mirror work**. Today, the craft is employed in **decorative items, ritual dresses, household products and festival décor** and has earned a **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**. Pipili even holds a **Guinness World Record** for creating the **world's largest thematic appliqué work (54 metres long) depicting India's struggle for independence**, showcasing its global recognition.

Mukhyamantri Kamdhenu Yojana (MKY)

The **Mukhyamantri Kamdhenu Yojana (MKY)** is a flagship dairy development scheme of **Odisha**, launched with a budget of **₹167.01 crore for 2024-25** and **₹1,423.47 crore over five years**. It targets **enhancing milk productivity and production** to meet rising demand and aims to **benefit over 15 lakh dairy farmers** across the state. The scheme focuses on **increasing farmers' income.**

Figure 3.32 Components of Mukhyamantri Kamdhenu Yojana (MMKY)

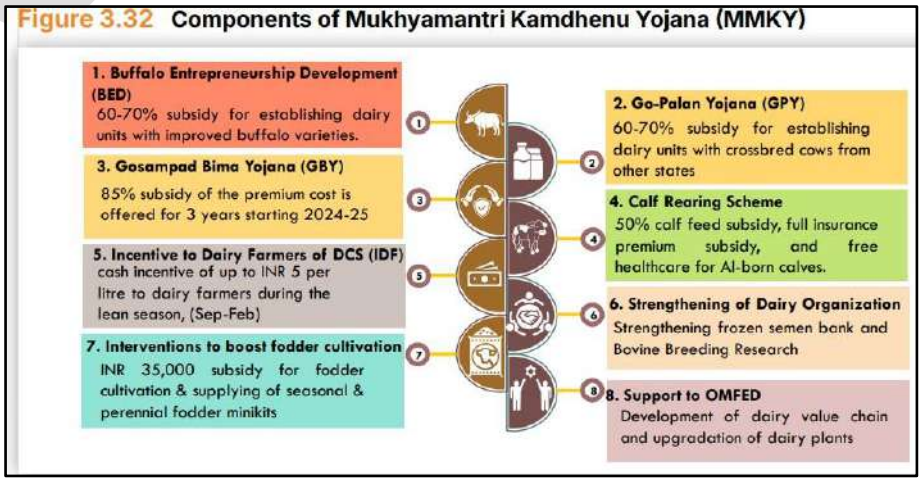
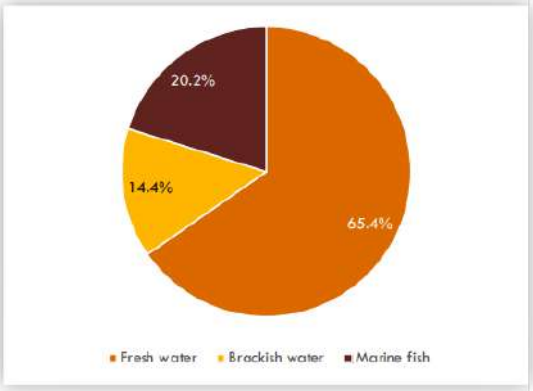


Figure 3.38 Share of Different Sources in Total Fish Production, Odisha, 2023-24



Source: Directorate of Fisheries, Government of Odisha

Figure 4.1 District wise forest cover in Odisha, (in per cent), 2023

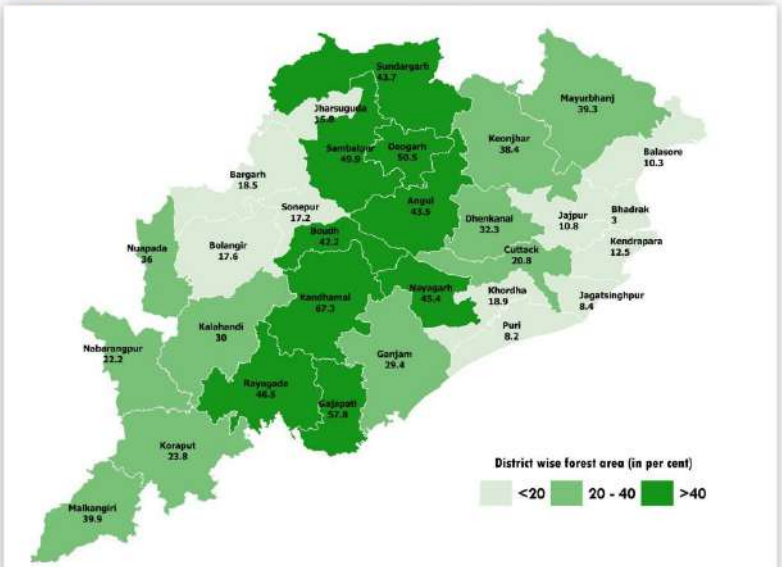
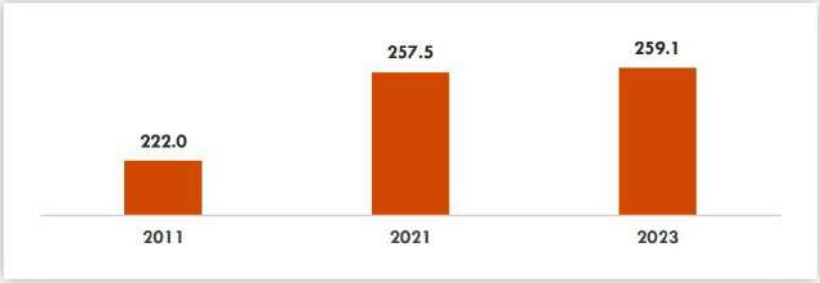


Figure 4.2 Status of Mangrove cover in Odisha (in sq km)



Source: Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, India

Figure 4.6 Conservation and Management Efforts in Chilika Lake, Odisha

Source: Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department (FE&CC), Government of Odisha

FIGURE - 5.3 Workforce Scenario - Industry Sector, Odisha

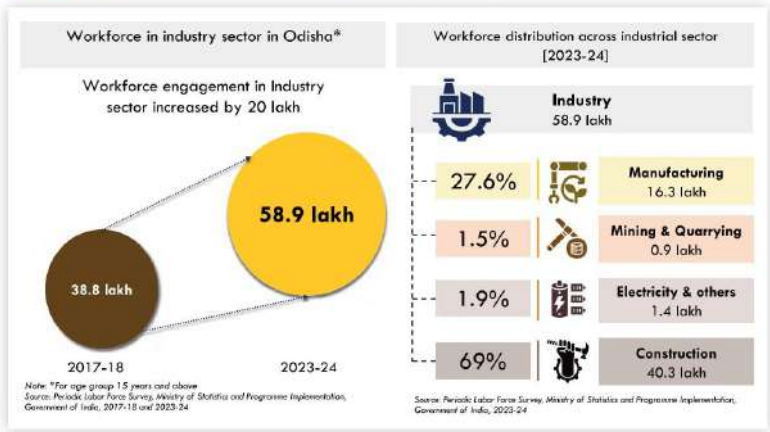
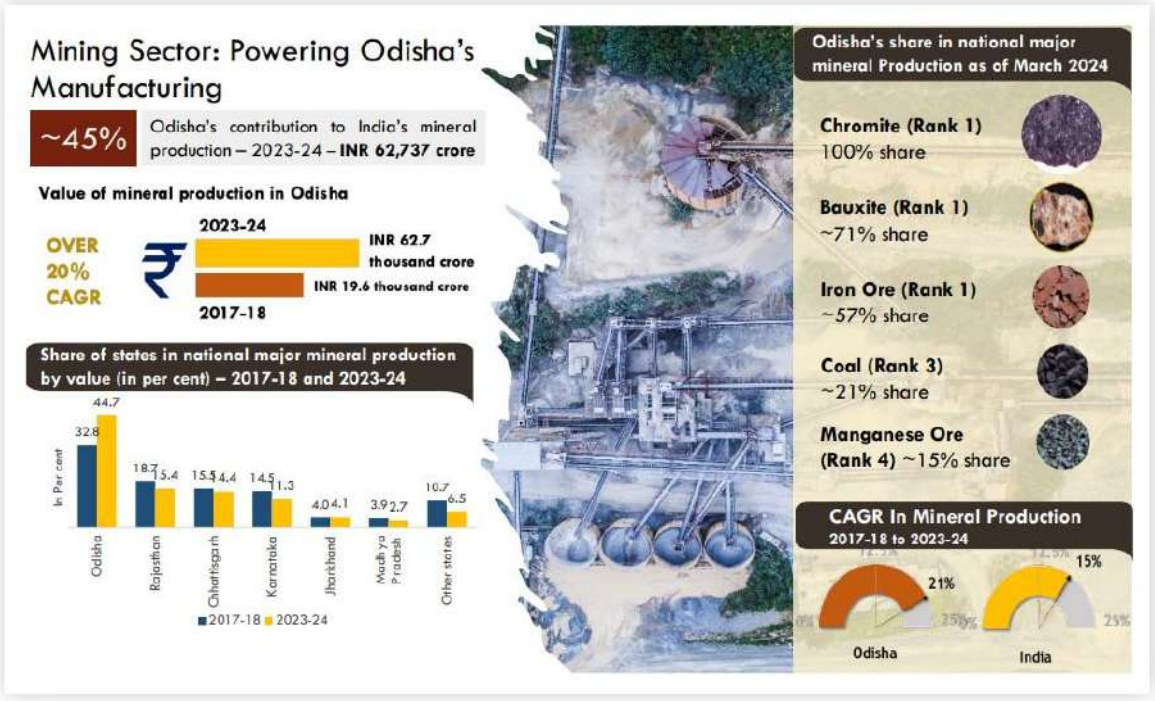


FIGURE - 5.8 Mining Scenario of Odisha



Source: Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), Nagpur and Department of Steel & Mines, Government of Odisha

APPOINTMENTS

Position	Details of Appointment (1-2 lines)
Chief Secretary of Delhi	Rajeev Verma appointed as the Chief Secretary of Delhi.
Director General of National Cadet Corps	Lieutenant General Virendra Vats appointed as the 35th Director General of National Cadet Corps.
Chief Executive Member of Bodoland Territorial Council	Hagrama Mohilary appointed as the Chief Executive Member of Bodoland Territorial Council.
Executive Director of Reserve Bank of India	Sanjay Kumar Hansda appointed as Executive Director in the Department of Economic and Policy Research of Reserve Bank of India.
President of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Rajeev Juneja appointed as President of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Chairperson of World Intellectual Property Organization Advisory Board of Judges	Justice Prathiba M. Singh appointed as Chairperson.
President of Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India	Nirmal Kumar Minda appointed as President of Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India.
President-Elect of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry	Anant Goenka appointed as President-Elect of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.
Chief Justice of India	Justice Surya Kant appointed as the 53rd Chief Justice of India.
Chief Justice of Bombay High Court	Justice Shree Chandrashekhar appointed as Chief Justice of Bombay High Court.
Chief Justice of Patna High Court	Justice Pavankumar Bhimappa Bajanthri appointed as the 46th Chief Justice of Patna High Court.
Chief Justice of Manipur High Court	Justice M. Sundar appointed as Chief Justice of Manipur High Court.
Acting Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court	Justice Sujoy Paul appointed as Acting Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court.
Attorney General of India	Ranga Venkataramani appointed as Attorney General of India.
Chief Secretary of Manipur	Dr. Puneet Kumar Goel appointed as Chief Secretary of Manipur.
Governor of Maharashtra (Additional Charge)	Acharya Devvrat given additional charge as Governor of Maharashtra.
Governor of Haryana	Professor Ashim Kumar Ghosh appointed as Governor of Haryana.
Governor of Goa	Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju appointed as Governor of Goa.
Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh	Kavinder Gupta appointed as Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh.
Secretary of Ministry of Mines	Piyush Goyal appointed as Secretary of Ministry of Mines.
Chief Executive Officer of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India	Rajit Punhani appointed as Chief Executive Officer.
Director General of Central Industrial Security Force	Praveer Ranjan appointed as Director General.
Director General of Indo-Tibetan Border Police	Praveen Kumar appointed as Director General.
Chief of Defence Staff and Secretary, Department of Military Affairs	General Anil Chauhan appointed Chief of Defence Staff and Secretary, Department of Military Affairs.
Vice Chief of Army Staff	Lieutenant General Pushpendra Singh appointed as Vice Chief of Army Staff.
Air Officer-in-Charge Maintenance, Indian Air Force	Air Marshal Sanjiv Ghuratia appointed.
Air Officer-in-Charge Administration at Air Headquarters	Sreedhara Sivakumar appointed.
Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre	Dr. A. Rajarajan appointed Director.
Commissioner of Delhi Police	Shashi Bhushan Kumar Singh appointed as Commissioner of Delhi Police.
First Woman Director General of Railway Protection Force	Sonali Mishra appointed.
Controller General of Accounts	Tiruvalam Cudamani Aishwarya Kalyani appointed as the 29th Controller General of Accounts.
Chairperson of National Medical Commission	Vishwas Patel / Dr. Abhijat Sheth appointed as Chairperson.

Chairperson of United Nations Environment Programme Financial Initiative Principles for Sustainable Insurance	Amita Chaudhary appointed.
Executive Director at International Monetary Fund	Dr. Urjit Patel appointed.
India's Executive Director at Asian Development Bank	L. Satya Srinivas appointed.
President of United Nations Global Compact Network India	Vaishali Nigam Sinha appointed.
Mission Director of Atal Innovation Mission	Deepak Bagla appointed.
Chairman and Managing Director of National Thermal Power Corporation Limited	Gurdeep Singh appointed.
Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Indian Overseas Bank	Ajay Kumar Srivastava appointed.
Part-Time Chairman, Yes Bank	Rama Subramaniam Gandhi appointed.
Executive Director of Reserve Bank of India (Monetary Policy Committee)	Indranil Bhattacharyya appointed ex-officio member.
Vice Presidential Election Officials	Sushil Kumar Lohani (Ministry of Panchayati Raj) and D. Anandan (Ministry of Finance) appointed.
Chief of Research and Analysis Wing	Parag Jain appointed as Chief of Research and Analysis Wing.
Executive Director of Reserve Bank of India	Kesavan Ramachandran appointed.
Executive Director of Securities and Exchange Board of India	Sunil Jayawant Kadam appointed.
Deputy Prime Minister of United Kingdom and Secretary of State for Justice	David Lammy appointed.
Prime Minister of Jamaica	Andrew Holness appointed.
Prime Minister of Thailand	AnutinCharnvirakul appointed.
Prime Minister of Lithuania	Inga Ruginienė appointed.
President of Argentina	Javier Milei appointed.
President of Seychelles	Dr. Patrick Herminie appointed.
President of Guyana	Mohamed Irfaan Ali appointed.
Prime Minister of Rwanda	Dr. Justin Nsengiyumva appointed.
President of Cameroon	Paul Biya continues in office.

AWARDS

India's Film *Homebound* Shortlisted for Academy Award

- The Indian feature film Homebound, directed by Neeraj Ghaywan, has been shortlisted for the Best International Feature Film category at the 98th Academy Awards (Oscars) 2026. Homebound is among 15 films selected worldwide from 86 submissions.

Prime Minister of India Receives Highest Award of Ethiopia

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred Ethiopia's highest civilian honour, the Great Honour Nishan of Ethiopia, making him the first head of state or head of government to receive this distinction, in recognition of his contribution to India-Ethiopia partnership.

National Energy Conservation Award 2025

- Miyana Railway Station received the National Energy Conservation Award 2025 for excellence in energy efficiency and conservation efforts in infrastructure.

FIA European Rally Championship Title Won by MRF Tyres

- Indian tyre manufacturer MRF Tyres won the 2025 FIA European Rally Championship Title, marking a global motorsport achievement.

Technological Innovation Awards

- Scientists from National Thermal Power Corporation Limited, NETRA and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research received awards for technological innovations, highlighting achievements in research and development.

Global Bank of the Year 2025 Award

- Development Bank of Singapore Limited (DBS) was named Global Bank of the Year 2025 by The Banker magazine, a prestigious international banking award.

Union Home Minister's Efficiency Medal

- Central Reserve Police Force Officer Dinesh Khatak was awarded the Union Home Minister's Efficiency Medal for exemplary service in internal security duties.

Shilp Guru and National Handicrafts Awards

- President Droupadi Murmu presented the Shilp Guru and National Handicrafts Awards for 2023 and 2024, recognising master craftspersons for outstanding contribution to Indian handicrafts.

Golden Globe Horizon Award

- Indian actor Alia Bhatt was honoured with the Golden Globe Horizon Award at the Red Sea International Film Festival for her contribution to cinema.

Champions of the Earth Award 2025

- Supriya Sahu won the United Nations Environment Programme Champions of the Earth Award 2025 for leadership in climate action and environmental sustainability.

TIME Athlete of the Year 2025

- American basketball player A'ja Wilson was named TIME Athlete of the Year 2025 by TIME magazine.

TIME Entertainer of the Year 2025

- Actor Leonardo DiCaprio was named TIME Entertainer of the Year 2025 by TIME magazine for his contributions to entertainment.

TIME CEO of the Year 2025

- Indian-origin technology executive Neal Mohan was named TIME CEO of the Year 2025 by TIME magazine.

Global Humane Society Animal Welfare Award

- Anant Ambani became the youngest recipient of the Global Humane Society's Animal Welfare Award for leadership in animal welfare initiatives.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals India Awards

- Bollywood actor Raveena Tandon won the top annual award from People for the Ethical

Treatment of Animals (PETA) India for her contribution to animal rights.

FIFA Peace Prize Award

- Former United States President Donald Trump was awarded the first FIFA Peace Prize during the 2026 FIFA World Cup draw ceremony, an international recognition event.

United Nations Population Award Institutional Category

- The International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) was honoured by UNFPA India with the United Nations Population Award 2025 in the institutional category for contributions to population research.

Cooperative Bank Recognition

- RCMS Bank was honoured as the Best Profit-Making Cooperative Bank in recognition of its financial performance and community banking achievements.

International Emmy Awards 2025

- The International Emmy Awards 2025 winners were announced, with notable Indian entries and nominations highlighted, marking a key international media recognition.

Prestigious Literary Award

- Velamala Simmanna was selected for the LNF Literary Award 2025, recognising excellence in literature.

IIM Ranchi International Accreditation

- Indian Institute of Management Ranchi earned AMBA (Association of MBAs) accreditation and 4 Palmes in the Eduniversal 2025 global rankings, a significant educational achievement.

National Book Awards 2025

- Rabih Alameddine and Patricia Smith were crowned winners at the National Book Awards 2025, marking international literary recognition.

Miss Universe 2025

- Fátima Bosch of Mexico was crowned Miss Universe 2025, with India's Manika Vishwakarma finishing in the Top 12 at the global pageant.

Desert Palm Achievement Award

- Leonardo DiCaprio was announced to receive the Desert Palm Achievement Award, a distinguished film industry honour.

Indira Gandhi Peace Prize

- Former United Nations High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet was awarded the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize, recognising her contribution to peace and humanitarian causes.

BOOKS & AUTHORS [CURRENT]

Book	Author and Details
The One: Cricket, My Life and More	Shikhar Dhawan's autobiography titled "The One: Cricket, My Life and More" was published by HarperCollins India.
Highway to Swades: rediscovering India's superpowers	Bhairavi Jani
The India Way	S. Jaishankar
A new idea of India-Individual rights in a civilizational state	Harsh Madhusudan and Rajeev Mantri
Indianomix-making sense of modern India	Vivek Dehejia and Rupa Subramanya.
India Unbound-from independence to the global information age	Gurcharan Das
The heat and dust project-the broke couple's guide to Bharat	Devapriya Roy
Land of the seven rivers-A brief history of	Sanjeev Sanyal

India's geography	
In Spite of the Gods	Edward Luce
Freedom at Midnight	Dominique Lapierre and Larry Collin

SPORTS

India Enters Squash World Cup Final

- India reached the **Squash World Cup final** for the first time after defeating **Egypt 3–0** in the semifinal. The **Squash World Cup** is an international team tournament conducted under the aegis of the **World Squash Federation**, the global governing body recognised by the **International Olympic Committee**. Squash is played in a **four-walled court** under the **point-a-rally scoring system**, with games played up to **eleven points**. India's victory was secured by **Velavan Senthilkumar**, **Anahat Singh** and**Abhay Singh**, marking a landmark achievement in Indian squash.

India's Best Finish at World Shooting Cup Final

- India recorded its **highest medal tally** at the **World Shooting Cup Final**, winning **six medals** and finishing **second overall**. The **Shooting World Cup Final** is the **season-ending elite competition** organised by the **International Shooting Sport Federation**, featuring only top-ranked shooters. Events are conducted across disciplines such as **ten-metre air pistol**, **twenty-five metre pistol** and**fifty metre rifle**. India's performance reflected improved international competitiveness in Olympic shooting events.

Inika Mazumder Wins National Kyokushin Karate Title

- **Inika Mazumder** won gold in **Kihon** and **Kumite** to become **National Champion** in **Kyokushin Full Contact Karate**. **Kyokushin karate** was founded in **1964** by **Masutatsu Oyama** and follows a **knockdown competition format** with full-contact rules. **Kihon** assesses fundamental techniques, while **Kumite** involves regulated full-contact bouts. The national championship is one of India's highest-level competitions in Kyokushin karate.

Manipur Wins 15th Manipur Polo International

- **India B (Manipur)** defeated **Colombia** to win the **15th Manipur Polo International Tournament** at **Mapal Kangjeibung**, Imphal. The tournament is organised by the **Manipur Horse Riding and Polo Association** and is a major event of the **Sangai Festival**. **Polo** originated in Manipur as **Sagol Kangjei** before evolving into the modern international sport. Mapal Kangjeibung is regarded as one of the **oldest polo grounds in the world**.

Ayush Mhatre Becomes Youngest to Score Centuries in All Formats

- **Ayush Mhatre** became the **youngest cricketer** to score centuries in **first-class**, **List A** and**Twenty20** cricket. These formats are officially classified under the laws and playing conditions framed by the **Marylebone Cricket Club** and regulated internationally by the **International Cricket Council**. He achieved the milestone at **18 years and 135 days**, surpassing the earlier record of **Rohit Sharma**. The feat underlines the strength of India's domestic cricket structure.

Niki KaliyandaPoonacha Qualifies for Australian Open Doubles

- **Niki KaliyandaPoonacha** qualified for the **Australian Open men's doubles main draw** after winning the **Asia-Pacific Wildcard Playoff**. The **Australian Open**, first held in **1905**, is one of the **four Grand Slam tournaments** governed by the **International Tennis Federation**. Doubles matches are played using the **full doubles court**, including alleys. This marks Poonacha's**first appearance in a Grand Slam main draw**.

South Africa Register Record Test Win Over India

- **South Africa** defeated India by **408 runs** in a **Test match**, the largest defeat for India by runs. **Test cricket**, first played in **1877**, is governed by the **International Cricket Council** and consists of **two**

innings per side over five days. India were dismissed for **140 while chasing 549**, resulting in a **two–nil series sweep** for South Africa. The result impacted standings in the ongoing **World Test Championship cycle**.

Javokhir Sindarov Becomes Youngest World Chess Cup Champion

- **Javokhir Sindarov** became the **youngest winner** of the **World Chess Cup**, defeating **Wei Yi** in tie-breaks. The **World Chess Cup** is organised by the **International Chess Federation** and follows a **knockout format**. Classical games are followed by **rapid and blitz tie-breaks** if required. The 2025 edition was hosted in **Goa**, highlighting India's growing role in international chess events.

India to Host Silver Level International Athletics Meet

- India will host its first **Silver level Continental Tour athletics meet** in **Bhubaneswar**. The **Continental Tour** is organised by **World Athletics**, the international governing body for athletics. **Silver level meets** are classified as **Category B competitions** for global ranking points. India will also conduct its **first national indoor athletics championships**, marking a structural expansion of domestic athletics.

India Retain Women's Kabaddi World Cup Title

- India won the **Women's Kabaddi World Cup** by defeating **Chinese Taipei** in the final. The **Kabaddi World Cup** is organised under the framework of the **International Kabaddi Federation**. Kabaddi is played on a **rectangular court** with rules governing raids, tackles and breath control. This victory marked India's **second consecutive Women's Kabaddi World Cup title**.

India Win Inaugural Blind Women's Twenty20 World Cup

- India won the **first Blind Women's Twenty20 Cricket World Cup**, defeating **Nepal** in the final. The tournament was conducted under rules framed by the **World Blind Cricket Council**. Blind cricket categorises players based on visual impairment and uses an **audible ball**. India completed the tournament with an **unbeaten record**, marking a historic milestone in inclusive sports.

Indian Women Secure Four Golds at World Boxing Cup Finals

- Indian women boxers won **four gold medals** at the **World Boxing Cup Finals**. The competition is organised under **World Boxing**, the international governing body for Olympic-style boxing. Bouts follow a **three-round format** with scoring based on **clean punches landed**. India had the **highest number of finalists**, reflecting rising depth in women's boxing.

Zimbabwe and Namibia to Host Under-19 Cricket World Cup

- **Zimbabwe and Namibia** will jointly host the **Under-19 Men's Cricket World Cup**, organised by the **International Cricket Council**. The tournament features **sixteen teams** and follows a **group stage and Super Six format**. The event serves as a key platform for identifying future international cricketers. **Tanzania** will make its **first appearance** in an international cricket tournament.

World Beach Ultimate Championship 2025

- The **World Beach Ultimate Championship** concluded in **Portugal** with participation from **thirty-eight countries**. The event is organised by the **World Flying Disc Federation**, recognised by the **International Olympic Committee**. Matches are played on sand with **seven players per side** and follow the principle of **Spirit of the Game**. India registered competitive performances, including a win over **Germany**.

Gurpreet Singh Wins Silver at World Shooting Championships

- **Gurpreet Singh** won silver in the **twenty-five metre centre fire pistol** event at the **World Shooting Championships**. The championships are organised by the **International Shooting Sport Federation** and represent the highest level of non-Olympic shooting competition. The event includes **precision and rapid-fire stages**. India finished **third overall** with **thirteen medals**, while **China** topped the medal table.

APTI PLUS

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Event & Significance
17 November	**National Epilepsy Day (India)** – Raises awareness about **epilepsy**, its causes, treatment and social inclusion.
19 November	**World Toilet Day** – Highlights **sanitation, hygiene** and access to toilets under **SDG-6**.
19 November	**Indira Gandhi Birth Anniversary** – Commemorates the **former Prime Minister of India** and her contribution to nation-building.
19 November	**World COPD Day** – Raises awareness on **Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease** and respiratory health.
19 November	**International Men's Day** – Focuses on **men's health**, gender equality and positive male role models.
20 November	**Universal / World Children's Day** – Promotes **children's rights**, welfare and the UN's commitment to child protection.
21 November	**World Television Day** – Recognizes television's role in **information dissemination and public awareness**.
21 November	**World Philosophy Day (UNESCO)** – Emphasizes **critical thinking, dialogue** and intellectual traditions.
24 November	**Lachit Diwas (Assam)** – Honors **Lachit Borphukan**, Ahom general who defeated Mughals at **Battle of Saraighat (1671)**.
24 November	**Shaheedi Diwas of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji** – Marks martyrdom of the **9th Sikh Guru** for defending religious freedom.
25 November	**International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women** – Global campaign to end **gender-based violence**.
26 November	**Constitution Day (Samvidhan Divas)** – Commemorates **adoption of the Indian Constitution (1949)**.
26 November	**National Milk Day (India)** – Birth anniversary of **Dr. Verghese Kurien**, Father of the **White Revolution**.
29 November	**International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People** – Observed by UN to support **Palestinian rights**.
1 December	**World AIDS Day** – Spreads awareness about **HIV/AIDS**, prevention and stigma reduction.
2 December	**National Pollution Control Day (India)** – Commemorates **Bhopal Gas Tragedy (1984)**; focuses on pollution control.
2 December	**International Day for Abolition of Slavery** – Highlights fight against **modern slavery, trafficking** and forced labour.
3 December	**International Day of Persons with Disabilities** – Promotes **inclusion, rights** and accessibility for persons with disabilities.
5 December	**World Soil Day** – Emphasizes **soil health**, sustainable agriculture and food security.
5 December	**International Volunteer Day** – Recognizes contribution of **volunteers** to social and economic development.
6 December	**Mahaparinirvan Diwas** – Death anniversary of **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**, architect of the Indian Constitution.
7 December	**Armed Forces Flag Day (India)** – Honors **Indian Armed Forces** and supports veterans and families.
7 December	**International Civil Aviation Day** – Highlights role of **ICAO** in safe and sustainable air transport.
8 December	**Bodhi Day** – Marks **Buddha's enlightenment** under the Bodhi tree.
9 December	**International Anti-Corruption Day** – Promotes transparency and fight against **corruption**.

9 December	**UN Day on Genocide Prevention** – Commemorates victims and promotes **genocide prevention**.
10 December	**Human Rights Day** – Marks adoption of **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)**.
11 December	**International Mountain Day** – Focuses on **mountain ecosystems**, livelihoods and sustainability.
12 December	**Universal Health Coverage Day** – Advocates **accessible, affordable healthcare for all**.
14 December	**National Energy Conservation Day (India)** – Promotes **energy efficiency** and sustainable energy use.
16 December	**Vijay Diwas** – Celebrates India's victory in the **1971 Indo-Pak War** and creation of Bangladesh.

STATIC GK

The Indian Rupee symbol (₹) was adopted in 2010.

ISRO was established in **1969**.

Loktak Lake is the largest freshwater lake in Northeast India.

UNESCO Headquarters is located in **Paris, France**.

pH scale is logarithmic, meaning each unit change represents a tenfold change in acidity.

Sound intensity depends on the **square of the amplitude**, not on frequency.

Mercury is the only metal that is **liquid at room temperature**.

Graphite, though a non-metal, is a **good conductor of electricity** due to free electrons.

Pure water is a **poor conductor of electricity** in the absence of dissolved ions.

Aluminium appears less reactive because of a **thin oxide layer** on its surface.

Heat capacity depends on both the **mass and nature** of a substance.

Latent heat is absorbed or released **without change in temperature**.

Atmospheric pressure decreases with **increase in altitude**.

Sound travels fastest in solids and slowest in gases.

Echo formation requires a minimum reflector distance of about **17 metres**.

Hydrated salts lose water on heating and may change color.

Carbon monoxide is more dangerous than carbon dioxide due to **higher affinity for haemoglobin**.

Solar eclipse occurs only on a **new moon day**.

Lunar eclipse occurs only on a **full moon day**.

Tides are mainly caused by the **gravitational pull of the Moon**.

Leap year has 366 days to adjust Earth's **revolution period**.

Time difference of 1 hour corresponds to **15° longitude**.

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) was founded in **1861**.

Specific heat of water is high, which is why coastal areas experience moderate climate.

Thermal expansion of solids is least compared to liquids and gases.

Convex mirrors always form virtual, erect and diminished images.

Concave lenses are used to correct myopia by diverging light rays.

Electrical resistivity of a material is independent of its dimensions.

Superconductivity is characterized by zero electrical resistance below a critical temperature.

Ribosomes are absent in mature mammalian red blood cells.

Lysosomes are called suicidal bags due to hydrolytic enzymes.

Meiosis reduces chromosome number by half to maintain species stability.

Crossing over occurs during prophase-I of meiosis.

Oxygenated blood is carried by pulmonary veins, unlike other veins.

Arteries generally carry oxygenated blood except pulmonary artery.

Bile aids digestion of fats but contains no digestive enzymes.

Aphelion occurs when Earth is farthest from the Sun.

Earth's rotation causes day and night, not revolution.

International Date Line deviates to avoid landmasses.

Isobars are lines joining points of equal atmospheric pressure.

Cyclones rotate counter-clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere.

Anticyclones are associated with clear and dry weather.

Tsunamis are caused mainly by undersea earthquakes.

Continental drift theory was proposed by Alfred Wegener.

Pediplains are formed in arid regions due to erosion.

Biomagnification increases concentration of toxins at higher trophic levels.

Primary productivity depends largely on sunlight and nutrients.

Decomposers recycle nutrients back into ecosystem.

Carbon sinks absorb more carbon than they release.

Afforestation helps reduce soil erosion and CO_2 levels.

Eutrophication results from nutrient enrichment of water bodies.

Adiabatic lapse rate describes temperature change of an air parcel without heat exchange with surroundings.

Thermal conductivity of diamond is higher than that of copper.

Electron affinity does not increase uniformly across a period due to orbital stability anomalies.

Geostrophic winds result from balance between pressure gradient force and Coriolis force.

Isostasy explains vertical equilibrium of Earth's crust floating on denser mantle.

Transform faults offset mid-oceanic ridges without creating or destroying crust.

Shadow zone of seismic waves provides evidence for Earth's liquid outer core.

Red shift in astronomy indicates recession of galaxies due to cosmic expansion.

Chandrasekhar limit (~1.4 solar masses) defines maximum mass of stable white dwarf.

Escape velocity is independent of mass of the escaping object.

Solar constant represents energy received per unit area at top of Earth's atmosphere.

Fermi level indicates highest occupied energy level at absolute zero.

Heavy water (D_2O) is used as moderator in nuclear reactors to slow neutrons.

Fast breeder reactors produce more fissile material than they consume.

Radioactive decay is unaffected by temperature, pressure, or chemical state.

Cosmic rays are primarily high-energy protons originating outside Earth.

Ionizing radiation can damage DNA directly or via free radical formation.

Biomagnification is more pronounced in long-lived, fat-soluble pollutants.

Ecological succession proceeds faster on bare rock than on existing soil.

Keystone species have disproportionately large impact on ecosystem stability.

Trophic efficiency rarely exceeds 10% in natural ecosystems.

Resilience measures an ecosystem's ability to recover after disturbance.

CURRENT GK

GenomeIndia Project launched **10,000 whole genome sequences** and operationalised **Functional Enabling Environment for Data and Indian Biological Data Centre** for global research access. Strengthens **precision medicine, tuberculosis drug resistance mapping** and **data-driven biotechnology research**.

India–Jordan bilateral trade reached **3.1 billion United States Dollars in 2024**; expansion includes **Digital Public Infrastructure sharing, fertiliser and phosphate cooperation** and **water resource memoranda of understanding**. Jordan expressed interest in **International Solar Alliance, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure and Global Biofuels Alliance**, enhancing India's **Global South leadership**.

India produces **approximately 80 percent of global Makhana**, mainly from **Bihar, with Darbhanga as a major hub**. Government approved **476.03 crore rupees scheme from 2025 to 2031** via **National Makhana Board** for **processing, branding, value addition and exports**.

The Armed Forces Medical Services launched India's first **artificial intelligence-based Diabetic Retinopathy screening programme** using **MadhuNetrAI**, deployed in **seven locations**. Enables **community-level early detection, automated referral** and **real-time prevalence mapping**.

Indian Space Research Organisation RESPOND Basket 2025 invites academia to address **mission-aligned research problems**. Focus areas include **space technology, satellite systems and advanced research**, strengthening **Indian Space Research Organisation and academia collaboration**.

Param Vir Chakra instituted on **26 January 1950**, is India's highest wartime gallantry award; open to **all ranks and can be awarded posthumously**. Provides **three thousand rupees honorarium plus three thousand rupees for each bar**; **twenty-one awardees so far, fourteen posthumously**.

Tianjin Declaration at Shanghai Cooperation Organisation 2025 emphasises **artificial intelligence governance, capacity building, security and transparency**. Supports **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation artificial intelligence roadmap** and **Regional Artificial Intelligence Centre in Dushanbe**, aligned with **United Nations General Assembly artificial intelligence resolution**.

Tigris River originates in the **Taurus Mountains, Türkiye**, flows through **Iraq** and joins the **Euphrates to form Shatt al-Arab**, draining into the **Persian Gulf**. Key issues include **water scarcity, pollution and upstream dams**, crucial for **agriculture and regional geopolitics**.

Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission Bill, 2025 replaces the 2005 rural employment law, guaranteeing **125 days of wage employment** and focusing on **water, rural infrastructure, livelihoods and climate-resilient assets**. Includes **normative funding, biometric attendance, Aadhaar-linked payments and GPS/geotagging**.

India–Oman Bilateral Relations span **70 years of diplomatic ties**, combining **maritime security, defence access at Duqm, trade, joint ventures, fintech and energy transition cooperation**. Strategic depth supported by **civilisational linkages, diaspora and CEPA prospects**.

Australia's Social Media Ban for Children Under 16 prohibits **social media access to minors** on platforms like **Instagram, Facebook, TikTok and X**, making **companies liable for enforcement**. Aims to **protect children from online harms, addictive algorithms and cyberbullying**.

FSSAI Egg Safety Drive targets **residues of banned nitrofurans in eggs** to protect **public health and food safety compliance**. Nitrofurans are **synthetic antimicrobial agents with carcinogenic risk**, banned in **India, European Union and other countries**.

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations promotes **intercultural dialogue, religious harmony, youth and women in peacebuilding**, with India reaffirming **VasudhaivaKutumbakam ethos**. 2025 edition in **Riyadh**

highlighted global commitment to dialogue and multilateralism.

Vijay Diwas 16 December commemorates **India's 1971 victory and creation of Bangladesh**, with **~93,000 Pakistani troops surrendered**. Demonstrates **joint military operations, air and naval superiority and rapid strategic decision-making**.

India–Asian Development Bank $2.2 Billion Loan funds **skills, renewable energy, healthcare, urban transport and sustainable livelihoods projects**. Supports **PM Surya Ghar scheme, ITI modernisation, tertiary healthcare upgradation and Meghalaya ecotourism**.

HAMMER Precision-Guided Weapon is a **stand-off air-to-ground munition** converting conventional bombs into **high-accuracy strike systems**. Jointly manufactured by **India's Bharat Electronics Limited and Safran**, it offers **multiple guidance modes and off-axis launch flexibility**.

India's Trade Deficit fell to **$6.6 billion in November 2025** due to **higher merchandise exports and lower imports, especially gold**. Trade deficit indicates **net external demand, currency pressure and impact on current account**.

Ethiopia Geography and Strategic Importance: Landlocked **Horn of Africa nation**, capital **Addis Ababa** hosts **African Union and UN Economic Commission for Africa**. Features **Ethiopian Highlands, Great Rift Valley, volcanic plateau, Blue Nile origin and Denakil Depression**, crucial for **geopolitics and natural resources**.

Supreme Court in **Ranveer Allahbadia vs Union of India (2025)** emphasized **judicial restraint** in **free speech**, limiting courts to **constitutional review under Article 19(1)(a)–19(2)** and avoiding **policy-making**. Important for **freedom of expression, judicial review**.

Bondi Beach – Sydney beach, site of **terrorinked attack**, highlights **urban security, public safety and tourism geography**. Relevant for **places in news / world geography**.

SHANTI Bill 2025: **Atomic Energy Bill** modernises India's **nuclear governance**, enables **private sector participation**, establishes an **independent nuclear safety authority**, reforms **liability and licensing** and targets **100 GW nuclear capacity by 2047**.

Cabinet approves raising **FDI cap in Indian insurance firms from 74% to 100%** via **Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill 2025**, promoting **foreign investment, sectoral growth and regulatory alignment under LIC, IRDA and Insurance Acts**.

Siliserh Lake (Rajasthan) & Kopra Jalashay (Chhattisgarh): Newly designated **Ramsar wetlands (Sites 2581 & 2583)**, crucial for **biodiversity, migratory birds, water security and ecosystem services**, supporting **eco-tourism, conservation and local livelihoods**.

Boreendo is a **clay vessel-flute** from Sindh linked to **Indus Valley musical tradition**, producing **breathy tones**. Inscribed on **UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list**, it survives via a single maestro and family artisans.

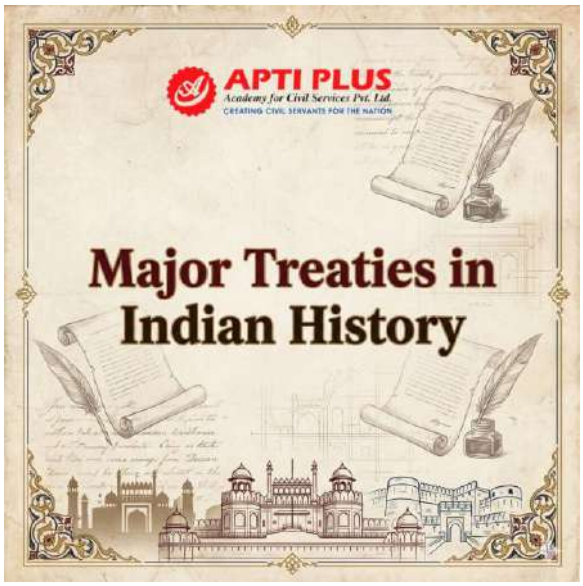
50 YEARS OF CITES:CITES regulates **international trade of endangered species**, effective **1 July 1975**, with **185 parties**. **CoP20 (2025, Samarkand)** added **77 species**, including **sharks, rays, Galápagos iguanas** and India opposed **guggul listing** citing scientific gaps.

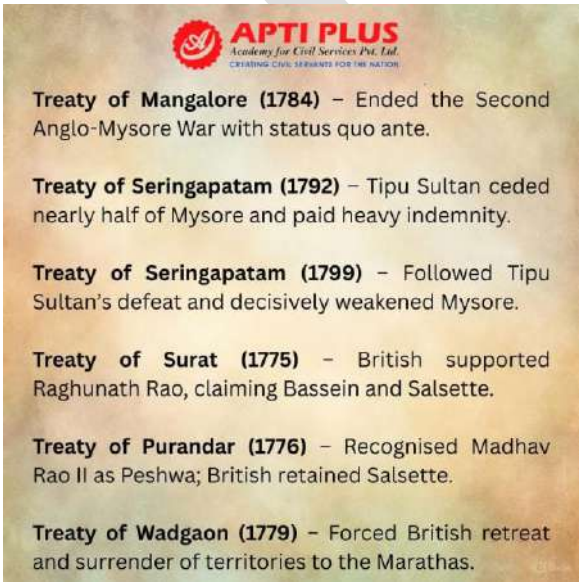
Senna spectabilis: Invasive alien species in Western Ghats; dense growth reduces **biodiversity**, increases **fire risk**; **Tamil Nadu eradication drive** targets complete removal by March 2026.

Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary: Telangana's **oldest protected area**, Deccan dry deciduous ecosystem; hosts **tigers, leopards, gaurs**, Medaram**Jatara festival**, now promoting **eco-tourism and local livelihoods**.

Hindu Rate of Growth: Term coined by **Raj Krishna** for India's **3.5–4% GDP growth (1950s–1980s)** under **Licence-Quota-Permit Raj**; reflects **structural stagnation**, not religion; contrast with **East Asian growth miracles**.

LEARNING THROUGH INFOGRAPHICS





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

Instrument of Accession (1947–48) – Integrated over 500 princely states into the Indian Union.

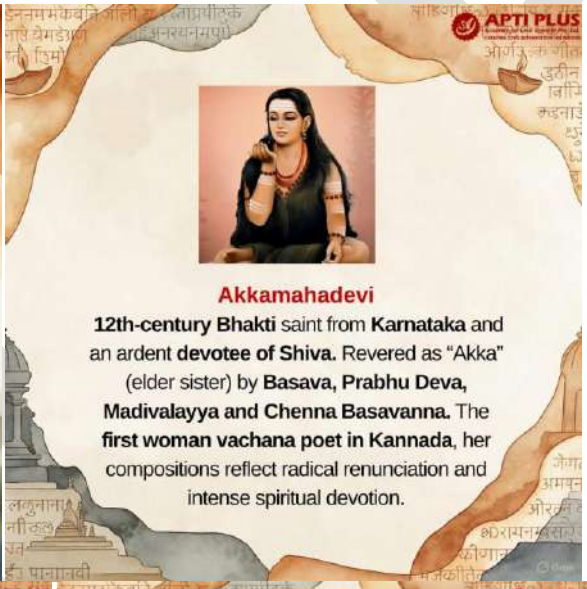
Indo-Chinese Panchsheel Treaty (1954) – Laid down five principles of peaceful coexistence.

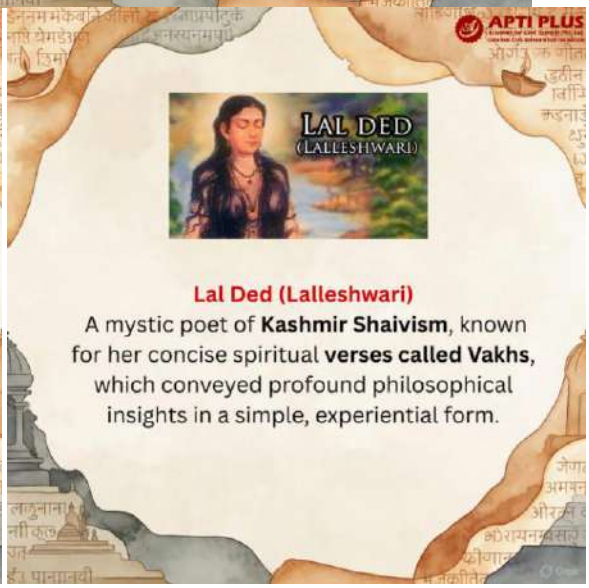
Indus Waters Treaty (1960) – Allocated Indus river waters between India and Pakistan.

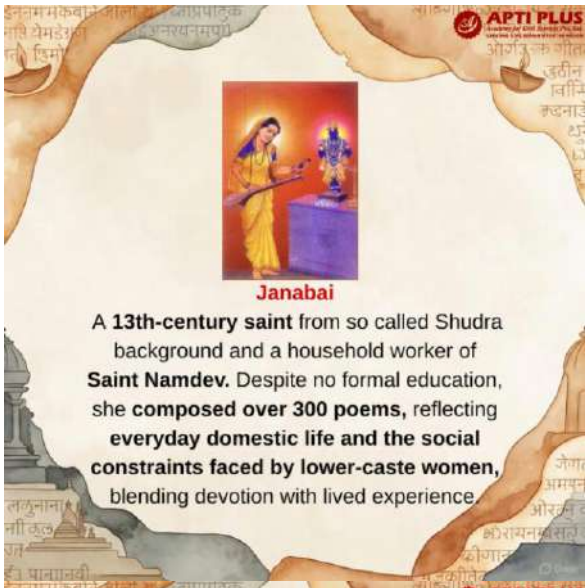
Tashkent Agreement (1966) – Restored pre-war positions after the 1965 Indo-Pak war.

Shimla Agreement (1972) – Established bilateralism and defined the Line of Control in Kashmir.

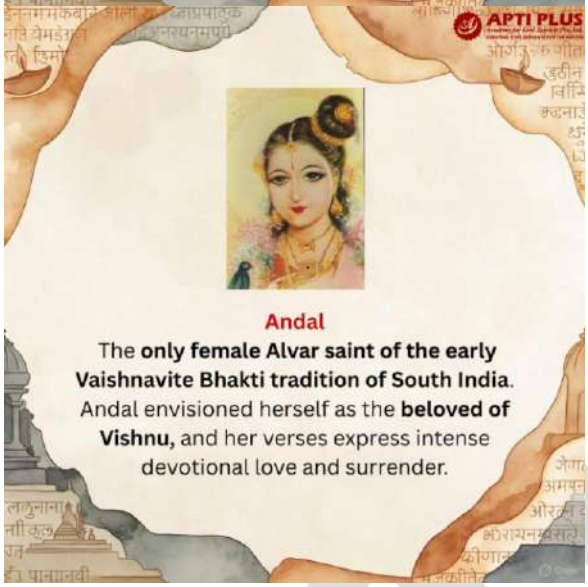
Indo-Sri Lanka Accord (1987) – Addressed the Tamil issue and led to IPKF deployment.






APTI PLUS
Janabai
A 13th-century saint from so called Shudra background and a household worker of Saint Namdev. Despite no formal education, she composed over 300 poems, reflecting everyday domestic life and the social constraints faced by lower-caste women, blending devotion with lived experience.

APTI PLUS
Karaikkal Ammaiyar
One of the three women Nayanars among the 63 Shaivite Nayanars. A devoted follower of Shiva, she embraced asceticism as the path to spiritual liberation.


APTI PLUS
Andal
The only female Alvar saint of the early Vaishnavite Bhakti tradition of South India. Andal envisioned herself as the beloved of Vishnu, and her verses express intense devotional love and surrender.

APTI PLUS
Bahinabai (Bahina)
A 17th-century poet-saint from Maharashtra, known for her abhangas and women's folk songs that vividly depict the working lives of women, particularly in agrarian settings.