

## Interesting Facts about Odisha - Geography, Climate and Culture GK Notes

Now, again we are here with a state which cradles between the sun-kissed beaches of the Bay of Bengal and the dense forests of Eastern Ghats- **Odisha**. Odisha is the hub of cultural destinations and a land of splendour and beauty. We'll confabulate about the cultural, geographical and political attributes of Odisha.

Where is the **world's largest saltwater crocodile housed**? Which dance form is **the oldest surviving form of the world**?

**Odisha** derived its name from the Sanskrit word '**Odra Vishaya**' and means '**Wished for Child**'. The Odisha state was known as the land of Kings and Kingdoms with rich sources of natural resources. The state's temple architecture, classical dance, religions, fairs and festivals, unique handlooms and handicrafts, green woodlands, rock caves, charming blue hills have charmed chroniclers and vacationers from all over the world.

So let's start exploring some very amazing and interesting facts about Odisha.

Before diving deep, let's know the State Symbols of Odisha.

## State Symbols of Odisha

State Capital	Bhubaneswar
Official Language	Oriya
State Flower	Ashoka tree
State Tree	Sacred fig
State Animal	Sambar deer
State Bird	Indian roller
State Dance	Odissi
State Governor (Present)	Raghubar Das
State Chief Minister (Present)	Naveen Patnaik

Let's move forward and study the topmost attribute of Odisha.

## Culture of Odisha

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Odisha is the ever-sprightly state of India with stunning architecture, history, dialects, vibrant art music and dance. The state is a land of temples thriving on top of a solid foundation laid by heritage. Odisha comes as a sigh of relief for those seeking peace of mind.

- The capital of Odisha, **Bhubaneswar** is known as the 'city of temples' and was named after Tribhubaneswar that means 'Lord of Three Worlds' which was the ancient capital of Kalinga.
- **Oriya** or **Odia** is the official language of Odisha used for any of the official purposes of the State.
- The State is home to **62 different tribal communities**. These tribes speak **21 languages and 74 dialects**. Odia is used as the medium of communication in the state.
- **Odissi** is an Indian classical dance and provides archeological evidence indicating that it is the oldest surviving dance form in the country. Odisha's other famous dance forms are **Chhau, Gotipua, Danda Nata, Sambapuri, Dalkhai, Chaitighoda** and **Medha Nacha**.



[Image Source: The Times of India]

- **Durga Pooja** is the most important festival of Odisha which is magnificently celebrated all over the state of Odisha. Other major festivals celebrated in the state are **Kali Puja, Kumar Purnima, Deepabali, Prathamastami, Vasant Panchami, Maha Shivaratri, Dola Purnima** and **Holi** etc.
- The cuisine of Odisha has a distinctive cooking style that is followed in the preparation of the dishes. A typical main course consists of **rice or chapati, along with dal, bhaji, bharta, ambila/sakara** and **dessert**.
- The local specialties of the state are **Machha Jholo, Gupchup, Cuttack Chaat, Aloo Dum, Dahi Pakhal, Badi Choor, Dalma, Santula**, etc. The famous desserts of Odisha are **Pithas, Kora-Khhaii, Rasabali, Chenna Gaja, Chenna Poda** and **Rasagola**.

Now, let's talk about the geography of the state.

## Geography of Odisha





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Odisha is located in **the northeastern part of the country**. The state is known for **the land of paddy fields and palm-fringed silver beaches, temples, rivers, waterfalls and tribal people** which is filled with major attractions such as **the temples of Bhubaneswar and Puri, clean beaches and the magnificent Sun Temple of Konark**. Odisha is one of the most prominent states of the country comprising modern infrastructure and facilities.



[Image Source: Wikipedia]

- Latitudinal Extension – **17.31°N and 22.31°N**
- Longitudinal Extension – **81.31°E and 87.29°E**
- Area – **155,707 km<sup>2</sup>**

Rank in India – **8<sup>th</sup>**

- Population – **41,974,218**

Rank in India – **11<sup>th</sup>**

- The state is bounded by **Jharkhand** and **West Bengal** to the north and northeast, by **the Bay of Bengal** to the east, and by **Andhra Pradesh** and **Telangana** to the south and **Chhattisgarh** to the west.
- Odisha's metallurgic formations differ greatly in both age and character.
- Odisha is drained by **11 major rivers and their tributaries**. The **Mahanadi** is the biggest river in Odisha and the sixth largest in India.
- **Odisha coastal plain region** is the combination of several deltas of varied sizes and shapes formed by the major rivers of Odisha such as **the Subarnarekha, the Budhabalanga, the Baitarani, the Brahmani, the Mahanadi, and the Rushikulya**.

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[Image Source: Wikipedia]

- Odisha's forest cover is about **one-third of the state**. They are commonly classified into two categories: **tropical moist deciduous** and **tropical dry deciduous**.

## Climate of Odisha

Odisha is located in the tropical wet-dry or tropical savanna climatic region. The state experiences four climatological seasons: **winter (January to February)**, **pre-monsoon season (March to May)**, **south-west monsoon season (June to September)** and **northeast monsoon season (October–December)**. The average annual rainfall in the state is about 1,500 mm, mostly occurring during the months of the southwest monsoon (June through September). The Eastern Ghats receive heavier precipitation, while the coastal area south of Chilka Lake that is the driest region in the state, may receive less than 1,300 mm annually.

## Soil Type of Odisha

The State is broadly divided into 4 physiographic zones: **Coastal Plains, Central Tableland, Northern Plateau** and **Eastern Ghats**. Soil types range from fertile alluvial deltaic soils in coastal plains, mixed red and black soils in Central tableland, red and yellow soils with low fertility in the Northern Plateau to red, black & brown forest soils in Eastern Ghat region. They differ widely from highly acidic to slightly alkaline and from light sandy to stiff clays. Soils are mainly acidic with the degree of acidity varying widely.

Now, we'll take a glance at the political aspects of Odisha.

## Government and Politics of Odisha



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The government of Odisha functions in the same way as other states of India which is determined by the national constitution of 1950. The head of state is the **governor** that is appointed by the president of India. The administration is conducted by the Council of Ministers headed by the **Chief Minister** and responsible for the unicameral Legislative Assembly. There is a **high court in Cuttack** and the chief justice of the high court is appointed by the president of India. Beneath the high court, there are district and magistrate's courts, and various courts that handle particular types of cases. Odisha is divided into about **30 districts**. The district administration is conducted by the district magistrate. The districts are divided into tehsils, each having a tahsildar as its revenue officer.



[Image Source: Orissa High Court]

### Representation of Odisha in Parliament:

**Assembly seats (unicameral):** 147

**Rajya Sabha:** 10

**Lok Sabha:** 21

**First Governor of Odisha:** Sir John Austen Hubback

**First Chief Minister of Odisha:** Harekrushna Mahatab

Here comes **SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT ODISHA:**

- The **Bhitarkanika Park** on Odisha coast has achieved a rare distinction of housing the **world's largest saltwater crocodile** measuring about 23 feet long.



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[Image Source: Wikipedia]

- Odisha is the **first state to form on a language basis**. The state was formed in 1936 with an Oriya-speaking region. There are some Oriya-speaking areas in the neighbouring states.
- **The Kalinga Award** was given in the field of science by the Odisha government and was founded by **former Chief Minister Biju Patnaik**.
- Chilika Lake in Odisha is Asia's largest salt lake.
- **Nandankanan** is India's second-largest zoo and is the only zoo in India with tiger and lion safari.
- **Puri** is the only place where the worship of Vaishnava, Shakta, Shaiva and folk culture is seen in the rituals.

Hope this blog made most of your doubts clear about Odisha. In our forthcoming blog, we will be studying about the other important aspects of Odisha.

What are **the economic aspects of Odisha**? Where is **Hirakud dam** situated?

In the next blog, facets related to these questions will be answered certainly. If you don't want to miss it, click here – '[Interesting Facts about Odisha - History, Environment and Economy GK Notes](#)' – Part 2. We hope it will help you in the preparation of your exams such as **SSC 10+2, SSC CGL, CDS, NDA**, etc.