



Odisha's Border Disputes

Why In News

Recently, a **border dispute between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh** once again resurfaced when Andhra Pradesh announced panchayat polls in three villages of **Kotia panchayat** in Koraput district of Odisha.

Key Points

- **Border Disputes of Odisha:** [//](#)



- Odisha was **carved out of the Bengal-Bihar-Odisha province** on 1st April, 1936, but the inter-state border disputes continue even today.
- Odisha continues to have **unresolved border disputes with four neighbouring States** in its 8 out of 30 districts.
- 14 of the 30 districts **share borders with Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand**. However, the **disputes over Kotia villages in Koraput district bordering Andhra Pradesh** is the **only major border conflict**.

- **About the Kotia Dispute:**

- Odisha and Andhra Pradesh are **locked in a territorial dispute over Kotia gram panchayat since 1960**. Disputes pertain over **21 villages** in Kotia gram panchayat.
- Residents of Kotia panchayat **receive benefits from both Pottangi block in Koraput and Salur in Vizianagaram district of Andhra Pradesh**. They depend on both the

blocks for their day to day activities.

▪ **Water Dispute with Andhra Pradesh:**

- In 2006, Odisha sent a complaint to the Central Government under Section 3 of the [Inter-State River Water Disputes \(ISRWD\) Act, 1956](#) regarding its water disputes with Andhra Pradesh pertaining to [Inter-State River Vamsadhara](#).

▪ **Disputes with Other States:**

◦ **West Bengal:**

- Odisha and West Bengal have disputes over 27 plots in Balasore District and some areas in Mayurbhanj district of Odisha.
- **Mayurbhanj district** is known for its [iron ore reserves](#) and **Chhau dance** (a tribal dance in which dancers wear colorful masks).

◦ **Jharkhand:**

- The border dispute between Odisha and Jharkhand arises due to change in course of river **Baitarani**.
 - The **Baitarani river** originates from the hill ranges of Keonjhar district of Odisha.
 - It is **an east flowing river** of peninsular India, flowing eastward and joining the Bay of Bengal.
 - Major portion of its catchment lies in the state of Odisha and a small patch of the upper reach falls in Jharkhand.

◦ **Chhattisgarh:**

- With Chhattisgarh, Odisha has disputes relating to villages in Nabarangpur and Jharsuguda district.
- The Central Government constituted [Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal](#) in 2018.

Way Forward

- Inter state dialogues, deliberations in [Inter State councils](#) and [Tribunals](#) and sticking the spirit of [Cooperative federalism](#) should be adopted to resolve such disputes.

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