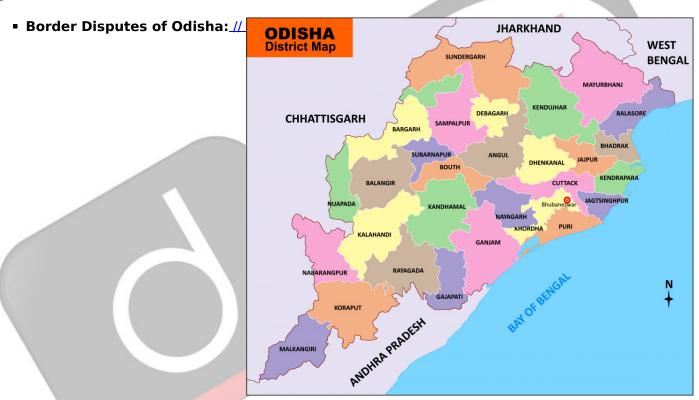


# **Odisha's Border Disputes**

### 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**



- Odisha was **carved out of the Bengal-Bihar-Odisha province** on 1<sup>st</sup> 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 <u>Inter-State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956</u> regarding its water disputes with Andhra Pradesh pertaining to <u>Inter-State River Vamsadhara.</u>

#### Disputes with Other States:

#### West Bengal:

- Odisha and West Bengal have disputes over 27 plots in Balasore District and some areas in Mayurbhani district of Odisha.
- Mayurbhanj district is known for its <u>iron ore reserves</u> 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 <u>Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal</u> in 2018.

## **Way Forward**

• Inter state dialogues, deliberations in <u>Inter State councils</u> and <u>Tribunals</u> and sticking the spirit of <u>Cooperative federalism</u> should be adopted to resolve such disputes.

#### Source:TH

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