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MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



MK Yadav Sir

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INDIAN EXPRESS

P 13/Aug 11

KAKORI TRAIN ROBBERY
(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 – History)

History
HEADLINE
SHYAMLAL YADAV

100 years ago, when a train robbery shook the Empire

On August 9, 1925, a railway station nearly 20 km from Lucknow witnessed one of the most daring events of the Indian freedom movement. That day, 10 men boarded the Saharanpur-Lucknow passenger train at Kakori station and, minutes into the journey, pulled the chain. The train stopped nearly 2 km from Kakori, at a village called Bajnagar. The revolutionaries acted as they had planned, and looted money meant for the British treasury that were being transported by rail.

The audacious act, famously known as the Kakori train robbery conspiracy case, shook the British government and accelerated the freedom movement. This year marks the 100th year of the incident — on August 9, UP CM Yogi Adityanath launched the centenary celebrations.

The Kakori case was the first major action executed by the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA), a revolutionary outfit set up in 1924 by, among others, Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqullah Khan and Sachindra Nath Bakshi. Bismil, the mastermind, was joined in its execution by Ashfaqullah, Bakshi, Rajendra Lahiri, Chandrashekhar Azad, Keshab Chakravarthy, Manmathnath Gupta, Murari Sharma, Mukundi Lal and Banwari Lal. While the revolutionaries only intended to rattle the British, the accidental death of a passenger hurt their cause.

Of the accused who stood trial at the Special Sessions Court of Justice Archibald Hamilton, 19 persons were convicted. Bismil, Roshan, Rajendra and Ashfaqullah were sentenced to death, while the others got varying jail terms, including five of them getting deported to the infamous Kala Pani (Cellular Jail in Port Blair).

Bismil was arrested in October 1925, supposedly after two members of the HRA betrayed him. While being taken to the gallows, Bismil is said to have famously sung *Sarfaroshi ki tamanna ab hamare dil mein hai; Dekhna hai zor kitna bazu-e katil mein hai*, the ghazal that went on to become an immortal war cry for freedom fighters.

Ashfaqullah escaped to Nepal and then Daltonganj (Jharkhand). He was arrested a year later. Chandrashekhar was the only major revolutionary associated with the HRA who evaded arrest (he shot himself dead when surrounded by police in a park in Allahabad on February 27, 1931). The park is now named Chandrashekhar Azad Park.

The Indian Express visited Kakori station and Shaheed Smarak, a memorial dedicated to the revolutionaries. The road between the station and Bajnagar, two key signposts in the freedom movement, is in poor shape. The old railway office at Kakori still exists and has been developed into a museum. A notice board near the building details the incident and mentions that a total of Rs 4,679, one aana and 6 pai was looted. While the sum stolen was paltry, the act was an audacious snook at the British Raj, whose response to Kakori was to set an example for future revolutionaries and restore British authority in the minds of the people.



The old station building is now the Kakori Shaheed Rail Museum. *Shyamlal Yadav*

The Kakori case had its ramifications on the country in the days after Independence. The first and third CMs of UP — Govind Ballabh Pant and Chandra Bhanu Gupta — were defence advocates in the case, while Jagat Narain Mulla, a Congress member who was appointed minister in 1921 in the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, represented the prosecution side. Mulla, who quit the Congress and joined the Liberal Party, died in 1938.

His son Anand Narain Mulla, also part of his legal team in the case, was in August 1954 elevated as judge of the Allahabad High Court. He went on to have a political career — he was elected to the Lok Sabha as an Independent candidate in 1967 from Lucknow and was elected to the Rajya Sabha in 1972 as a Congress nominee. The Opposition was quick to attack the Congress for its proximity to A N Mulla, reminding the ruling party that he had worked to defend the British state in the Kakori trial.

On April 8, 1973, then PM Indira Gandhi released A N Mulla's book of poetry, *Siyahi Ki Boond*. A particular couplet in the book — *"Khoon-e-shaheed se bhi hai keemat meri kuchh siwa; Fankar ke kalam ki siyahi ki ek boond"* (A drop of ink from the pen of poet is more worthy than the blood of martyr)" — would go on to rock the UP Assembly on April 18, 1973. An adjournment motion was moved by Rajendra Pratap Singh (Congress-O MLA from Sataon, Rae Bareli), who alleged that Mulla had been awarded for acting against freedom fighters. CM Kamalapati Tripathi, however, defended Mulla, "He was an advocate, he practised law. He was general secretary of the Congress and was in the Liberal Party as well. He should not be termed a traitor because of his legal practice."

Speaking in the House, Bakshi, one of the convicts in the train robbery case who was elected MLA of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh from Varanasi South in 1969, narrated an incident related to the Kakori trial. "One day the special judge was at lunch and Ashfaqullah and I were present in the court. J N Mulla (senior defence lawyer in the case) came there and I was talking to him. Ashfaqullah sahib didn't recognise him (Mulla). I introduced them and requested Ashfaqullah to sing a couplet. Ashfaq responded with: *'Chalo yaron ek Rig Theatre dikhayen tumko naya liberal, jo chand simo-zar ke bakson par, nayee tarmanhashikar rahe hai* (Friends, let us visit Rig Theatre; I will show you a new Liberal who will regale you for a small amount of money)." The trial was held at Rig Theatre in Lucknow.

Bakshi said the couplet was a reference to the high legal fee that Mulla charged during the trial — Rs 500 a day and Rs 100 a day for his son — and that the senior Mulla, angered by the taunt, left the court.

The Opposition kept demanding a ban on A N Mulla's book, with some of them walking out in protest. Amid slogans of Inquilab Zindabad, the adjournment motion was not accepted. Finally, CM Tripathi brought some peace when he promised to look into the issue. However, two months later, his government was dismissed by the Congress's own Central government due to a mutiny in the Provincial Armed Constabulary.

Context: A century ago, the Kakori train robbery rattled the British Empire, marking a pivotal moment in India's fight for independence.

Kakori Train Robbery

- **About:** The Kakori Train Robbery, also known as the Kakori Conspiracy, took place on August 9, 1925, in the village of Kakori near Lucknow.
    - The robbery was part of the Indian Independence Movement, which aimed to challenge the British Raj's control over India.
- **Key Planners**: The robbery was planned by Ram Prasad Bismil and Ashfaqullah Khan, both members of the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA), which later evolved into the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association.
- **Objective**: To obtain funds for purchasing weapons to further the revolutionary activities of the HRA against the British Empire.
- **Execution**: The robbery was executed by a group of 10 revolutionaries, including prominent figures like Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqullah Khan, Rajendra Lahiri, Keshav Chakraborty, Mukundi Lal, and Banwari Lal.
- **Consequences**: As a result of their involvement in the Kakori Conspiracy, Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqullah Khan, and Roshan Singh were hanged on December 19, 1927.

Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HRA)

- **About**: It was a prominent revolutionary organization in India.
- **Former Names**: It was previously known as the Hindustan Republican Army and the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA).
- **Founding Members**: The HRA was founded by figures like Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqulla Khan, Sachindra Nath Bakshi, and Jogesh Chandra Chatterjee, with later members including Chandra Shekhar Azad and Bhagat Singh.
- **HRA's Revolutionary Manifesto**: On January 1, 1925, the HRA released its manifesto titled Krantikari (Revolutionary), advocating for an armed revolution to establish a federal Republic of United States of India.
- **HRA's Vision for a Socialist Republic:** The envisioned republic was based on universal suffrage, socialist principles, and the abolition of all systems enabling exploitation.

INDIAN AIR FORCE TEAM RETURNS AFTER SUCCESSFUL PARTICIPATION IN EXERCISE UDARA SHAKTI 2024 AT MALAYSIA

Context: Recently, the Indian Air Force and Royal Malaysian Air Force participated in Exercise Udara Shakti 2024.

Exercise Udara Shakti

- **About:** The joint air exercise was conducted in collaboration with the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) at Kuantan, Malaysia.
- **IAF participated with**: Su-30MKI fighter jets.
- **RMAF participated with:** Su-30MKM fighters.
- **Background**: The first bilateral Air Force exercise featuring frontline Sukhoi-30 combat aircraft was conducted in 2018.
- **Previous Training Deployment**: From 2008 to 2010, the Indian Air Force Training Team was deployed in Malaysia to train Malaysian pilots on the Su-30MKM aircraft.
- **Significance of the Exercise**
    - The exercises strengthen long-standing friendships and enhance defense cooperation between the two air forces.
    - IAF will have the opportunity to share and learn best practices with the Royal Malaysian Air Force and discuss mutual combat capabilities.

Su-30MKI fighter

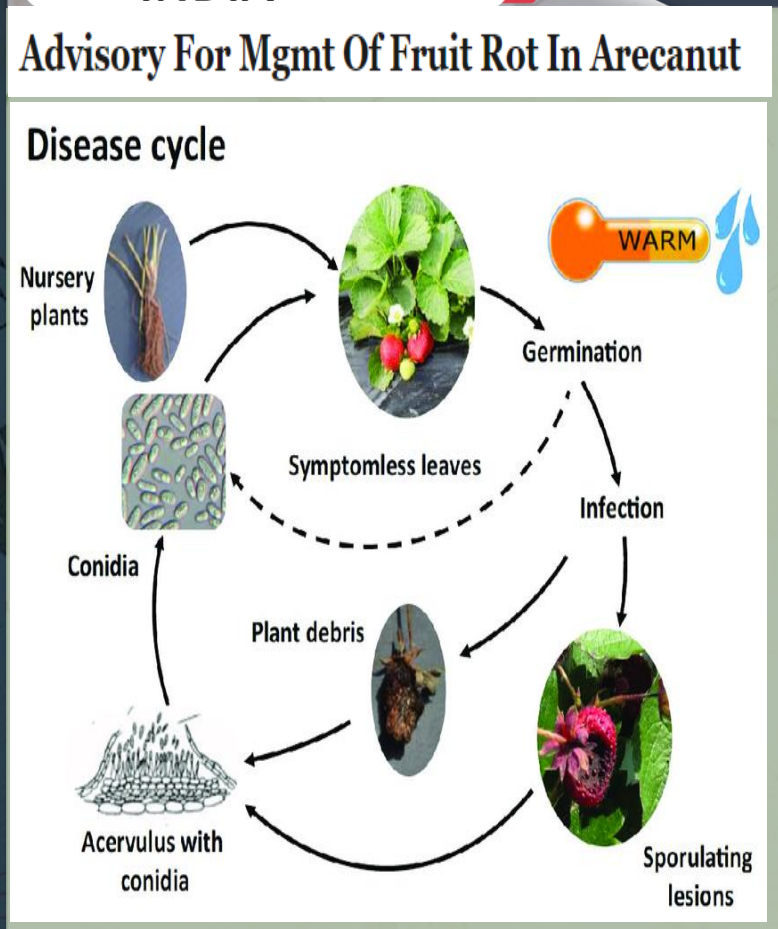
- **About:** It is a multirole combat fighter aircraft jointly developed by the Sukhoi Design Bureau and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- **Based on:** Su-30 fighter aircraft, Su-30MKI is equipped with thrust vectoring control and canards.
- Sukhoi built two prototypes of the Su-30MKI between 1995 and 1998.

TIMES OF INDIA

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FRUIT ROT DISEASE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Agriculture)



Context: The Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI) in Kasaragod has issued an advisory to farmers on controlling 'kole roga' (fruit rot disease) affecting arecanut plantations.

Fruit Rot Disease

- **About:** It is a plant disease that can lead to substantial losses for farmers by decreasing crop quality.
- **Also Known as**: 'Kole roga' and 'mahali' in Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka.
- **Causes**: The disease is caused by various fungi, bacteria, and viruses, making prevention and treatment challenging.
- **Favorable Conditions**: Heavy rainfall, low temperatures (20 to 23 °C), high humidity (>90%), and fluctuating rain and sunshine favor fruit rot.
- **Symptoms**: Brown or Black Spots, Softening of the Fruit, Shrivelling, and Mould Growth.
- **Disease Spread**: Spread through heavy wind, rain splashes, and flies.
- **Common Fungal Causes**
  - **Botrytis cinerea**: The most common fungus responsible for fruit rot.
  - **Affected Fruits:** This fungus impacts a variety of fruits including grapes, strawberries, tomatoes, and peppers.
  - **Entry and Spread**: Enters through wounds or lesions and spreads rapidly in humid conditions.
  - **Toxin Production:** Some fungi produce toxins harmful to humans and animals.
- **Impact**: Loss of Crops.

PTI

Aug 11

CLEAN PLANT PROGRAMME

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Agriculture)

Cabinet approves Rs 1,765.67-cr Clean Plant Programme to boost horticulture sector

Context: The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister of India, has approved the Clean Plant Programme (CPP) with an outlay of Rs 1,766 crore. This initiative aims to revolutionize India's horticulture sector.

Clean Plant Programme (CPP)

- **About**: It is integrated into the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).
- **Proposed by:** Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- **Earlier announced**: Budget 2023
- **Aim**: To enhance the quality and productivity of fruit crops across the nation.
- **Components of the Clean Plant Programme**
  - **Clean Plant Centres (CPCs):** Establishment of nine advanced CPCs across India to provide virus-free planting materials and conduct advanced diagnostics.
  - **Certification and Legal Framework**: Implementation of a comprehensive certification system under the Seeds Act 1966 to ensure quality, accountability, and traceability.
  - **Enhanced Infrastructure**: Development of infrastructure support for large-scale nurseries to efficiently multiply clean planting material.
- **Benefits of the Programme**
  - The programme aims to improve the quality and productivity of fruit crops in India, leading to better crop yields.
  - Farmers will have access to high-quality, virus-free planting materials, which is expected to boost yields and incomes.
  - The initiative will help strengthen India’s position as a global exporter, expanding market opportunities and increasing international trade share.

LIVEMINT Aug 11

NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Polity)

INDIA bloc to move impeachment motion against Jagdeep Dhankhar over his conduct as RS chairman? Here's what we know

Context: Opposition parties are considering submitting a notice to move an impeachment resolution to remove Vice President of India over his 'conduct' as the chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

No-Confidence Motion Against the Vice President of India

- **About:** It is a parliamentary motion which is moved in the Lok Sabha against the entire council of ministers, stating that they are no longer deemed fit to hold positions of responsibility due to their inadequacy in some respect or their failure to carry out their obligations.
- **Provision**: Article 67(b) of the Indian Constitution.
- **Initiate**: The motion can only be introduced in the Rajya Sabha, not the Lok Sabha.
- **Notice Requirement:** A minimum of 14 days' advance notice must be given before moving the resolution.
- **Voting in Rajya Sabha:** Requires an effective majority, which is a majority of all members present and voting.
- **Voting in Lok Sabha**: Requires a simple majority, meaning more than 50% of members present and voting.
- **Grounds for Removal**: The Constitution does not specify any grounds or justifications for the removal of the Vice President.
- **Temporary Vacancy**: If the Vice President is removed, the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha assumes the role of Chairman.
- **Historical Context**: No Vice President has ever been removed under this Article in Indian parliamentary history.
- **Previous Incident:** In 2020, however, 12 Opposition parties moved a no-confidence resolution against Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh after a showdown in the House.
    - But then Chairman Venkaiah Naidu rejected the notice, saying it needed a 14-day notice and that the resolution was not in the proper format.

TIMES OF INDIA

Aug 11

CEROPEGIA SHIVRAYIANA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Env and Eco)

New flowering plant species found near Vishalgad, named after Shivaji Maharaj

Context: A new flowering plant species from the 'ceropegia' genus, named Ceropegia Shivrayiana, has been recently discovered within the Vishalgad premises in Maharashtra. This discovery adds to the region's rich botanical diversity.



Ceropegia Shivrayiana

- **About**: It is a flowering plant species named in a nod to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.
- **Discovery**: The plant was discovered in one of his renowned forts, Vishalgad.
- **Unique Floral Structure:** It consists of unique, tubular flowers, which are specially adapted to attract moths for pollination.
- **Habitat**: This plant thrives in rocky terrains and is capable of growing in less nutrient-or poor soils.
- **Family:** It belongs to the Asclepiadaceae family, which includes many medicinal plants, with significant ecological importance.
- **Conservation Status**: Its conservation is essential due to the ongoing threat of habitat loss.

Vishalgad Fort

- **Location**: It is situated in Vishalgad village, Kolhapur district, Maharashtra, also known locally as Khelna or Khilna.
- **Historical Significance**: It was established in 1058 by Shilahara king Marsinh, originally named Khilgil. Over the centuries, it saw control by various dynasties including the Seuna Yadavas, Khiljis, Vijayanagar Empire, and finally the Marathas.
- **Under Maratha Rule**: Shivaji captured Vishalgad in 1659 from the Adilshahi rulers, renaming it to Vishalgad, meaning grand fort.
    - It became a strategic stronghold during the Maratha Empire, serving as the capital of a substantial region.

INDIAN EXPRESS

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NANKAI TROUGH

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Geography)

FIRST-EVER 'MEGAQUAKE ADVISORY' ISSUED BY JAPAN: WHAT THIS MEANS

AFTER A 7.1-MAGNITUDE earthquake shook southern Japan on Thursday, the country's meteorological agency issued its first-ever "megaquake advisory".

The warning said that there is a higher than normal likelihood of strong shaking and large tsunamis on the Nankai Trough, a subduction zone (a region where tectonic plates collide with each other, and the heavier one slides under the other) along Japan's southwest Pacific coast.

However, this does not mean that a major earthquake will definitely happen during a specific period, the advisory said.



Shaded area is region where Nankai Trough quakes may occur. *Govt of Japan*

What is the Nankai Trough?

The Nankai Trough is a nearly 900-km long underwater subduction zone where the Eurasian Plate collides with the Philippine Sea Plate, pushing the latter under the former and into the Earth's mantle. This accumulates tectonic stress which can cause a megaquake — an earthquake with a magnitude larger than 8.

The trough has produced large earthquakes roughly every 100 to 150 years, according to the 2023 study, 'High probability of successive occurrence of Nankai megathrust earthquakes', published in the journal *Nature*. These tremors usually come in pairs, with the second often rupturing in the subsequent two years — the most recent "twin" earthquakes took place in 1944 and 1946.

Notably, Thursday's magnitude-7.1 earthquake occurred on or near the Nankai Trough, according to the United States Geological Survey. As a result, experts worry that the next tremor along the trough could be devastating.

When can the next megaquake along the Nankai Trough occur?

In January 2022, Japan's Earthquake Research Committee said the next magnitude 8-9 megaquake along the trough has a roughly 70% probability of striking within the next 30 years.

Such a megaquake could send tremors to areas from central Shizuoka — about 150 km south of Tokyo — to southwestern Miyazaki, *Reuters* reported.

Tsunami waves of up to 98 feet may reach Japan's Pacific coasts within minutes after the quake.

A 2013 government report found that a major Nankai Trough earthquake could impact an area that covers about a third of Japan and where about half the country's population of more than 120 million people lives, according to a report by *Nikkei Asia* magazine.

The economic damage due to the disaster could go up to $1.50 trillion, or more than a third of Japan's annual gross domestic product.

But can earthquakes be predicted?

No. An accurate prediction of an earthquake needs a precursory signal from within the earth, indicating a big quake is on the way. The signal must also occur only before large earthquakes so that it does not indicate every small movement within the earth's surface. Currently, there is no equipment to find such precursors.

Thursday's advisory by Japan's meteorological agency was just a warning, not a prediction — it had nothing to do with science, Robert Geller, professor emeritus of seismology at the University of Tokyo, told the *BBC*. The advisory asked residents to prepare, review evacuation routes, and consider potential future warnings. **ENS**

Context: Following a 7.1-magnitude earthquake in southern Japan, the country's meteorological agency issued its first-ever "megaquake advisory," warning of increased likelihood of strong shaking and large tsunamis on the Nankai Trough.

Nankai Trough

- **About**: It is an underwater subduction zone, approximately 900 km long, where the Eurasian Plate collides with the Philippine Sea Plate.
- **Tectonic Stress**: The collision causes the Philippine Sea Plate to be pushed under the Eurasian Plate and into the Earth's mantle, leading to the accumulation of tectonic stress.
- **Megaquakes:** This tectonic stress can result in a megaquake, which is an earthquake with a magnitude larger than 8.
- **Historical Frequency:** The Nankai Trough has historically produced large earthquakes approximately every 100 to 150 years.
- **Twin Earthquakes:** Earthquakes in this region often occur in pairs, with the second earthquake usually happening within two years of the first. The last pair occurred in 1944 and 1946.
- **Risk Assessment:** Japan's Earthquake Research Committee stated in January 2022 that there is a 70% probability of a magnitude 8-9 megaquake occurring along the Nankai Trough within the next 30 years.

THE HINDU Page 5

GOTIPUA DANCE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 – Art and Culture)

The Gotipua dancers who stumble from boyhood stardom to adulthood anonymity

SPOTLIGHT

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

Sradhananda Behera's hands move with a rhythm as he mixes cement and sand at a construction site in Odisha's coastal district of Puri.

In his early 20s now, Sradhananda's mind goes back to the days he had danced in France, Morocco, and Portugal – a journey unimaginable for most in his village.

His brother, Gadadhar Behera, now 27, had also felt the thrill of international applause and the bustle of foreign airports. Today, he drives a tractor, transporting construction material across their village in Piteipur, just 20 kilometres from Puri town.

"The guru [who is also the troupe manager] would organise performances in India and abroad," says Gadadhar, who now earns ₹300 a day.

In this traditionally revered boys-only dance form, a child's journey as an artiste often concludes at puberty, leaving them without the education required for an office job or the skills for a tradesperson.

Now, *akhadas*, where boys are nurtured into graceful dancers, are finding it difficult to attract disciples.

There are approximately 10 to 15 *akhadas* in Odisha where Gotipua is taught in the traditional *gurukul* style. Each one has four to five students, all under the age of 14. About 30 years ago, there used to be about 20 students at the each *akhada*.

The journey for Gotipua dancers involves over 20,000 hours of rigorous training spanning 10 years, dressing as girls on stage, sacrificing their education, and staying away from their families. Children are initiated into the practice as early as five. By the time they are 16 and their bodies change, complex hand and body movements that require suppleness become difficult. That is their age of 'retirement'.

The few parents, who do send their children to learn, do so for reasons other than upholding a cultural practice. Sushant Kumar Behera, a daily wager in Puri district, is happy to send his son Sudhir, a fourth-grader, to learn Gotipua. "It is difficult for me to pay my son's school fee, the *gurukul* is bearing the expense," he says.





The journey of young Gotipua dancers in Odisha involves over 20,000 hours of rigorous training spanning 10 years, dressing as girls on stage, sacrificing their education, and staying away from their families. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Tradition troubles

Gotipua, which translates to 'one boy,' has children trained in singing, dancing, yoga, and acrobatics. They dress as girls and perform at temple festivals, social gatherings, and religious ceremonies. Originating in the 16th century, Gotipua is celebrated as the precursor to the classical Odissi dance form.

At an art exhibition titled 'Boy Dancer' organised by New Bridge India, a non-profit cultural initiative, and the Odisha State Museum in Bhubaneswar in the recent past, Gotipua aficionados wondered about the future of the dance and its dancers.

Birendra Pani, a contemporary visual artist, says, "These young performers are constantly on the edge, facing the harsh reality that once they reach the age of 16, securing a means of livelihood becomes a challenge."

Chitta Ranjan Malia, who has a PhD in Gotipua, says, "After the advent of Sri Chaitanya [considered a Hindu saint and Krishna devotee], Vaishnavism was in full swing in Odisha in the 16th century. The Vaishnavites had, however, not approved of dancing by women. Instead, they preached and practised the cult of Sakhi Bhava or offering oneself to Krishna as a female attendant, and introduced boy dancers."

Temple dances performed by *devadasis* or *maharis* (women dedicated in childhood to deities) were brought outside the temple by male dancers dressed as women, says Malia.

Then and now

He adds that initially Gotipua was performed within the temple precincts and only during festivals, but soon the dance became a popular form of entertainment outside the temple, especially in rural areas.

Historically, Gotipua *gurukuls* flourished under the patronage of kings and zamindars. In the 20th century, efforts were made to formalise and structure Gotipua, leading to the establishment of Odissi as a distinct and systematic dance form.

However, very few dancers make the transition to Odissi, which is centred in urban areas and is woman-focused.

When they leave Gotipua behind, securing a job based solely on academic performance is challenging. "Throughout our school years, we undergo intense training, leaving us fatigued and unable to focus on studies," says Sradhananda. "When stage performances clashed with school schedules, we were often required to prioritise dance over academics."

Rajashree Biswal, an art researcher working on Gotipua dancers for the past two decades, talks about the way they have been depicted visually to "show the dancers' vulnerability-...with bruises, cuts on their fingers, and musical anklets in disarray to evoke an emotional response from the viewers".

With boys increasingly hesitant to pursue Gotipua, girls have begun to take it up, sparking objections from 'purists' who feel this alters the essence of the dance, because traditionally, women during their menstrual cycles are excluded from temples and religious ceremonies.

Kaveri Palei, a 24-year-old Gotipua dancer from Puri district, says it's a natural dance for women. "Certain eyebrow movements and poses are uniquely suited to girls," she says, adding that there has been resistance, but things are changing over time.

What lies ahead?

Gurupada Baliyarsingh, secretary of the Gotipua Sangha, is striving to secure government support. "These groups often face scrutiny under the Juvenile Justice Act [2015] and are sometimes detained at railway stations and airports," he says.

He says the boys sometimes wait until they turn 50 to qualify for pension under the Mukhyamantri Kalakar Sahayata Yojana (MKSY) that gives artists ₹2,000 per month. This delay leaves them vulnerable for decades, without a reliable safety net.

Malia, who was also the secretary of the Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi from 2012-2014, suggests integrating Gotipua with Odissi dance. "If Gotipua is established as Odissi's foundation course, it would help in the seamless transition of Gotipua dancers into a classical form," he says.

Dilip Routrai, Director of Culture, says the government has come up with the Cultural Troupe Management System through which dance groups can apply for assistance for their stage performances. "The government is ready to pay travelling allowance and dearness allowance besides the expenditure incurred on stage performances," he says.

LINK TO FULL STORY
» https://bit.ly/4coBirM

Context: Gotipua child artistes, who experience the world as their stage and applause as a constant companion, face an uncertain future when they hit puberty, leaving them without skills required for a job.

Gotipua Dance

- **About**: It is performed in Orissa by young boys dressed as females to honor Lord Jagannath and Lord Krishna.
- **Meaning:** Gotipua, which translates to 'one boy,' has children trained in singing, dancing, yoga, and acrobatics within gurukuls or akhadas .
- **Dance Form:** The dance features acrobatic figures inspired by Radha and Krishna, with boys starting to learn at a young age and continuing until adolescence.
- **Costume and Make-Up**:
    - Boys do not cut their hair but style it in elaborate knots with flower garlands.
    - They wear traditional attire, which has evolved over time but still includes elements like the "Kanchula" blouse and "nibibandha" frill.
- **Ancient Tradition:** Female dancers called "Devadasi" or "Mahari" served Lord Jagannath in ancient Orissa, as depicted in temple sculptures.
- **Evolution of Gotipua**: It emerged in the 16th century, replacing the Mahari tradition, during the reign of King Rama Chandra Dev.
- **Connection to Odissi**: Gotipua is a precursor to Odissi dance, influencing its current form. Many prominent Odissi Gurus were Gotipua dancers.
- **Odissi Style**: Odissi dance incorporates tandava (vigorous) and lasya (graceful) elements, with key postures like "Tribhangi" and "Chouka."
    - The dance's fluid upper torso movement is compared to the gentle waves of Orissa's beaches.

NDTV Aug 10

HOVERFLIES
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Env and Eco)

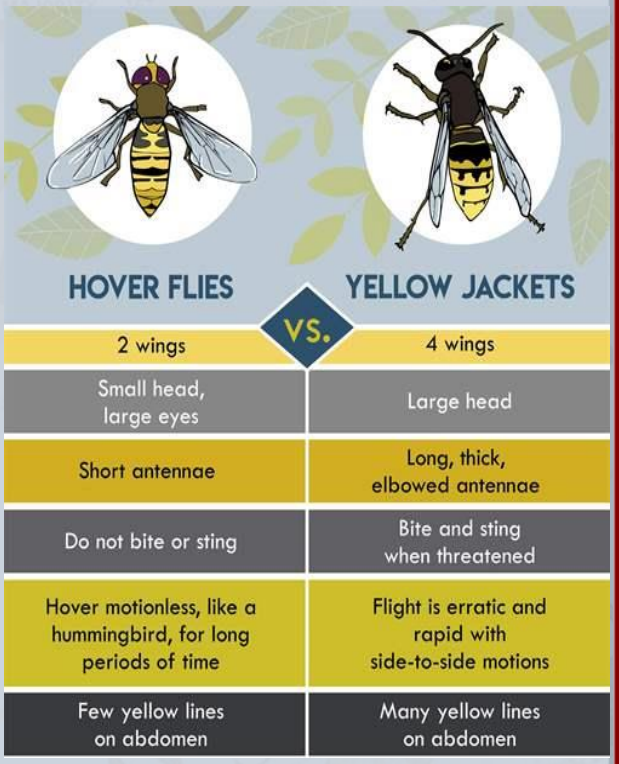
3 Kashmiri Scientists Discover New Species Of Hoverfly

Hoverflies

- **About**: It also known as 'flower flies' or 'syrphid flies', belong to a family with about 6,000 species in the Diptera order.
- **Behavioral Traits**: They are commonly named for their behavior of hovering around flowers.
- **Geographical Distribution**: Hoverflies are found worldwide, thriving in both temperate and tropical environments.
- **Appearance**: With their yellow markings, hoverflies resemble wasps or bees but lack the ability to bite or sting.
- **Wing Structure:** They are easily distinguished from wasps and bees by their single pair of wings.
- **Identification Features:** Hoverflies are recognized from other flies by a false (spurious) vein that parallels the fourth longitudinal wing vein.
- **Physical Variation:** They come in various sizes and shapes, from small and slender to large, hairy, and yellow and black.

Beneficial Insect

- **Pollination Role:** Adult hoverflies feed on nectar and pollen, serving as important pollinators across diverse habitats.
- **Pest Control:** The larvae of many species consume aphids, mites, and small insects, helping control pest populations.
- **Nutrient Recycling**: Some hoverfly species contribute to nutrient recycling in their ecosystems.



Context: Three Kashmiri scientists have discovered a new species of hoverfly that mimics the wasp in the high-altitude alpine forests.

INDIAN EXPRESS Pg 9/Aug 11

TIMOR LESTE
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – IR)

Murmu: India to open embassy in Timor-Leste, lauds diaspora

DIVYA A
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 10



PTI

President Droupadi Murmu and with her Timor-Leste counterpart Jose Ramos-Horta at Palacio Nobre De Lohane

LAUDING THE "very small but active" Indian community in Timor-Leste as a 'living bridge' for its role in improving bilateral relations, President Droupadi Murmu announced that India will soon open its embassy while Timor-Leste will also establish a resident mission in New Delhi soon.

President Murmu, who is on the first-ever presidential visit from India to Timor-Leste, arrived in Timor-Leste capital Dili Saturday, addressed the Indian diaspora in the archipelagic Southeast Asian nation.

Underscoring the "importance of the Indian origin/Indian diaspora," she said, "You have merged with the local host country very well."

Murmu was also accorded with the Grand Collar of the Order of Timor-Leste, the country's highest honour from her counterpart José Ramos-Horta for "her achievements in public service and dedication to education, social welfare and women empowerment".

President Murmu, during her interaction with her counterpart, also emphasised that India considers the whole world as one family and that Indians are accepted by the whole world because of their hard work and trustworthiness.

When asked about how India remains united, despite being so diverse, President Murmu said the country believes in unity in diversity and people respect our "strong Constitution" as well as the elected representatives.

At the ASEAN-India Summit in Jakarta on September 7, 2023, PM Narendra Modi announced the decision to establish an embassy in Dili as part of the country's efforts to boost ties with the 10-member regional grouping. At present, people going from Timor-Leste to India have to get a visa from Indian embassy in Indonesia.



Context: The President of India praised the small yet active Indian community in Timor-Leste for strengthening bilateral ties and announced plans to open an Indian embassy there, with Timor-Leste also set to establish a resident mission in New Delhi.

Timor-Leste

- **About**: East Timor is an island country located in the eastern Lesser Sunda Islands at the southern extreme of the Malay Archipelago.
- **Also known as**: Timor Leste
- **Territorial Composition:** The country occupies the eastern half of the island of Timor, along with the small nearby islands of Atauro (Kambing) and Jaco, and the enclave of Ambeno, including the town of Pante Makasar.
- **Capital**: Dili
- **Bordered by**: Timor Sea to the southeast, the Wetar Strait to the north, the Ombai Strait to the northwest, and western Timor (part of Indonesia's East Nusa Tenggara province) to the southwest.
- **Topography**: The eastern part of Timor island is rugged, featuring mountains that rise to 9,721 feet (2,963 metres) at Mount Tatamailau, located in the center of a high plateau.
- **Climate**: Dry tropical climate with moderate rainfall.
- **Vegetation**: The hilly areas are covered with sandalwood, while scrub and grass, along with coconut palms and eucalyptus trees, grow in the lowlands.

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