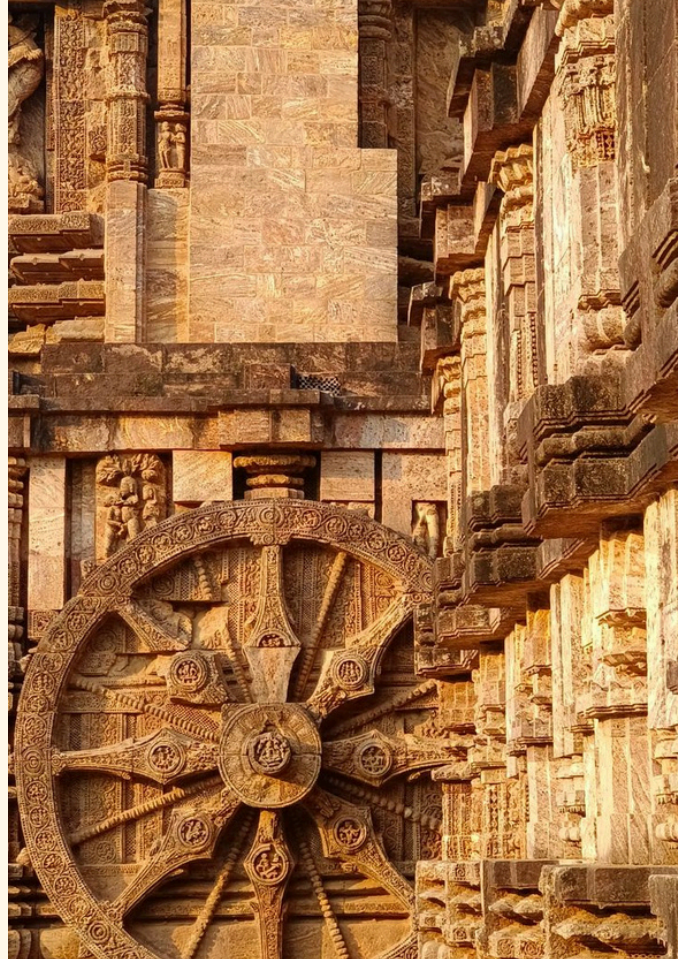




## VISIT ODISHA – WALK THROUGH HISTORY

Explore temples, crafts, beaches and traditions of the land of Kalinga.

*ODISHA TOURISM WELCOMES YOU!*



## JAGANNATH CULTURE: A LIVING HERITAGE

The traditions of Jagannath Temple, Puri, including the famous Rath Yatra,



represent Odisha's living cultural heritage where rituals, crafts, music, and community participation continue across generations.

## ODISHA: WHERE STONES SPEAK AND TRADITIONS LIVE

Odisha, the ancient land of Kalinga, is a remarkable blend of history, art, architecture, and living traditions. Every monument, temple, and craft of this region carries stories of its glorious past. From the magnificent carvings of the Konark Sun Temple to the spiritual traditions of

Jagannath culture, Odisha's heritage reflects centuries of creativity and devotion. Its classical dance, vibrant festivals, traditional paintings, textiles, and skilled craftsmanship continue to preserve the identity of its people. Odisha is not just a place of old monuments; it is a living heritage where the voices of history continue to inspire future generations. Protecting Odisha's heritage means safeguarding the memories, skills, and traditions that define its unique cultural landscape.



### DID YOU KNOW?

- Odisha has one of India's oldest classical dance traditions.
- Kalinga had ancient maritime connections with Southeast Asia.

# THE LAND OF ANCIENT KALINGA

## ANCIENT KALINGA: THE PRIDE OF ODISHA

Odisha, historically known as Kalinga, was one of the most significant regions of ancient India, known for its powerful kingdoms, maritime connections, and extraordinary contributions to art and architecture. Located along the eastern coast, Kalinga developed strong cultural and trade relations with regions across the Bay of Bengal. The famous Kalinga War between Emperor Ashoka and the Kalinga kingdom in the 3rd century BCE became a turning point in Indian history, leading Ashoka towards the path of Buddhism and non-violence. The legacy of Kalinga continues through its monuments, sculptures, religious traditions, and cultural practices that preserve the memories of its glorious past.



## BUDDHIST HERITAGE OF ODISHA

Odisha holds an important place in the history of Buddhism, with ancient sites that reflect the spread and development of Buddhist philosophy in the region. The hills of Dhauri are associated with Emperor Ashoka's transformation after the Kalinga War, where rock edicts and monuments represent his message of peace and compassion. Sites like Ratnagiri, Udayagiri, and Lalitgiri preserve remains of ancient monasteries, stupas, sculptures, and inscriptions that reveal Odisha's role as a major centre of Buddhist learning. These sites stand as reminders of the region's spiritual diversity and its connection with wider Asian cultures.

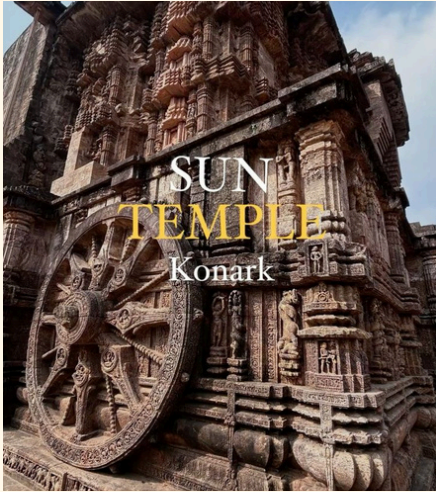


## TEMPLE ARCHITECTURE: THE ARTISTIC IDENTITY

Odisha's temples represent the unique Kalinga style of architecture, famous for its detailed carvings, impressive structures, and spiritual symbolism. The temples were designed with different architectural sections such as the Vimana (main shrine), Jagamohana (assembly hall), and decorative gateways. The stone carvings depict gods, goddesses, dancers, musicians, animals, and scenes from everyday life, showing the exceptional skills of ancient craftsmen. Temples like the Lingaraj Temple, Mukteshwar Temple, Rajarani Temple, and Konark Sun Temple continue to represent Odisha's architectural excellence and cultural identity.



# HERITAGE HAPPENINGS



## YOGA MEETS HERITAGE AT KONARK SUN TEMPLE

A special "Surya Pranam" yoga event was recently organised at the historic Konark Sun Temple, connecting health, spirituality, and heritage. The event celebrated the relationship between the Sun Temple and the ancient traditions associated with the worship of the Sun God. Visitors and participants performed yoga in the beautiful surroundings of the 13th-century architectural masterpiece.

The programme highlighted the importance of using heritage spaces for cultural awareness and community activities. Such events help people develop a deeper connection with monuments and encourage younger generations to value and protect Odisha's historical treasures.

## ODISHA WORKS TOWARDS REVIVING TRADITIONAL BOMKAI WEAVE

Odisha's traditional Bomkai textile, known for its unique patterns and detailed weaving techniques, is receiving attention for preservation and revival. The craft reflects the artistic skills of local weavers and carries stories of Odisha's cultural identity through its motifs and designs.

Efforts are being made to document traditional patterns and encourage younger artisans to learn the craft. Supporting such heritage practices helps protect indigenous knowledge and ensures that centuries-old weaving traditions continue in the future.



## MUKTESHWAR DANCE FESTIVAL CELEBRATES LIVING HERITAGE

The Mukteshwar Dance Festival was recently organised at the historic Mukteshwar Temple, bringing together classical dance and heritage architecture. The festival showcased Odissi performances and celebrated Odisha's rich tradition of temple-based art and cultural expression.

The event demonstrated how monuments are not only physical structures but also living spaces connected with music, dance, and community traditions. Such festivals play an important role in keeping Odisha's cultural heritage alive for future generations.

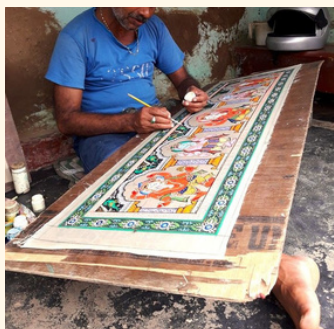
## HERITAGE CRAFT WORKSHOP

**Explore Odisha's Traditional Arts!**

Join our fun workshop and learn Pattachitra painting, Sambalpuri patterns & heritage crafts through creative activities.

Create • Learn • Preserve

✨ Become a Young Heritage Guardian



## SUMMER HERITAGE CAMP

By Odisha Culture Centre

Join us for a fun-filled summer exploring Odisha's art, traditions, and culture!

For young heritage explorers

# HANDS THAT PRESERVES HISTORY



## PATTACHITRA PAINTING – STORIES ON CLOTH

Pattachitra is one of Odisha's oldest traditional art forms. The word Patta means cloth and Chitra means picture. Artists create detailed paintings inspired by mythology, nature, festivals, and stories of Lord Jagannath. Traditionally, artists use natural colours made from stones, flowers, leaves, and shells.

### **Create Your Own Pattachitra**

Children can explore the traditional art of Odisha by creating their own Pattachitra-inspired paintings. Using paper or cloth, they can draw simple stories from nature, festivals, or mythology and decorate them with bright colours and traditional borders. This activity helps them understand how paintings preserve cultural stories.

## SAMBALPURI TEXTILES – WOVEN STORIES

Sambalpuri textiles are famous for their Ikat weaving technique. The designs are created by carefully tying and dyeing threads before weaving them into beautiful patterns. These textiles represent Odisha's identity through colours, symbols, and traditional motifs.

### **Design Your Own Sambalpuri Pattern**

Children can create their own Sambalpuri-inspired textile designs by drawing repeated patterns, geometric shapes, and traditional motifs on paper. This activity introduces them to the importance of weaving traditions and how patterns represent the identity of a community.



## TARAKASI – THE ART OF FINE SILVER WIRES

Cuttack's famous Tarakasi craft is a delicate silver work where artisans create beautiful jewellery and decorative objects using extremely thin silver wires. This craft shows patience, creativity, and skilled craftsmanship passed down through generations.

### **Paper Tarakasi Designs**

Kids can experience the beauty of Odisha's silver filigree craft by making their own designs using silver paper, foil, threads, or beads. They can create jewellery or decorative patterns inspired by Tarakasi motifs. Through this activity, children learn about the patience and skill involved in traditional crafts.



# ODISHA'S HERITAGE: A RESPONSIBILITY BEYOND GENERATIONS



Odisha, the ancient land of Kalinga, is not merely a geographical region; it is a living museum of history, art, architecture, traditions, and human creativity. Every stone carving, every temple ritual, every traditional craft, and every folk practice carries the memory of centuries. The heritage of Odisha represents the knowledge, imagination, and dedication of countless generations who shaped its cultural identity. However, as time progresses, this priceless legacy faces several challenges that require immediate attention and collective responsibility.

The monuments of Odisha stand as witnesses to its glorious past. The magnificent temples of Bhubaneswar, the architectural brilliance of the Konark Sun Temple, and the spiritual traditions of Jagannath Temple, Puri reflect the artistic excellence of ancient Odisha. These structures are not simply buildings made of stone; they are historical documents that tell stories of rulers, craftsmen, religious beliefs, scientific knowledge, and social life. Protecting them means protecting the identity of Odisha itself.

One of the biggest challenges faced by Odisha's heritage is the balance between development and preservation. Urban expansion and modern infrastructure are necessary for society's growth, but they must be planned carefully around heritage areas. Construction activities near historical sites can disturb their surroundings and reduce their cultural value. Heritage sites require protective zones where their historical environment can be maintained.

Another important concern is the survival of Odisha's intangible heritage. Culture does not exist only in monuments; it lives through people. Traditional arts such as Pattachitra painting, silver filigree work of Cuttack, Sambalpuri weaving, stone carving, and folk performances are important parts of Odisha's identity. However, many traditional artisans face difficulties due to changing markets, lack of financial support, and reduced interest among younger generations. If these skills are not encouraged and passed forward, centuries-old knowledge may slowly disappear.



Heritage conservation is not only the duty of government departments, archaeologists, or historians. It requires participation from society as a whole. Students can play an important role by learning about their local history and spreading awareness. Tourists can contribute by respecting monuments, avoiding damage, and following responsible tourism practices. Communities living near heritage sites are also important partners because they are the true guardians of local traditions. Technology and scientific methods can help protect Odisha's heritage. Documentation, digital mapping, careful restoration techniques, and regular monitoring can ensure that monuments survive for future generations.

Education is another powerful tool for heritage protection. When young people understand the value of their cultural heritage, they develop a sense of responsibility towards it. Heritage is not an obstacle to progress; instead, it connects the past with the future. A society that respects its history creates a stronger foundation for its identity.

Odisha's heritage belongs not only to the people of Odisha but to the entire world. The temples, crafts, festivals, and traditions represent human creativity and cultural diversity. Protecting this legacy is a promise we make to future generations.

**Our monuments and landscapes are gifts from the past.  
Respect Heritage • Protect Tomorrow**



# NATURE WATCH



## CELEBRATING ODISHA'S WETLAND HERITAGE

Chilika Lake, Asia's largest brackish water lagoon, continues to be an important natural heritage site of Odisha. The recent National Chilika Bird Festival focused on protecting migratory birds, wetland ecosystems, and promoting eco-friendly tourism. The festival brought attention to the importance of conserving the lake's unique biodiversity.

The event encouraged visitors and local communities to understand the value of wetlands and their role in maintaining ecological balance. Chilika remains home to thousands of migratory birds during winter and continues to be a symbol of Odisha's commitment towards nature conservation.

## PROTECTING OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLE HABITAT

The Rushikulya river mouth in Ganjam district is one of the world's major nesting grounds for Olive Ridley sea turtles. Conservation efforts are focusing on protecting this important coastal ecosystem and maintaining a safe environment for turtle nesting.

The area highlights the connection between wildlife and local communities, where people participate in protecting marine life. The conservation of Rushikulya helps preserve Odisha's natural heritage and supports the survival of endangered species.



## 50 YEARS OF PROTECTING WILDLIFE

Bhitarkanika National Park, known for its mangrove forests and saltwater crocodiles, has become an important example of wildlife conservation in India. Odisha recently marked decades of efforts towards protecting crocodile populations and preserving their natural habitat.

The conservation programme has helped revive the population of saltwater crocodiles while also protecting the rich biodiversity of the mangrove ecosystem. Bhitarkanika continues to represent Odisha's dedication towards safeguarding its natural heritage.



## GI TREASURES OF ODISHA

- Odisha Rasagola – Traditional sweet from Odisha
- Pattachitra of Odisha – Traditional cloth-based painting
- Pipili Appliqué Work – Colourful textile craft from Pipili
- Konark Stone Carving – Traditional stone carving craft
- Cuttack Tarakasi (Silver Filigree) – Fine silver wire craftsmanship
- Sambalpuri Bandha Saree & Fabrics – Traditional Ikat weaving
- Bomkai Saree & Fabrics – Traditional woven textile of Odisha
- Kotpad Handloom Fabric – Natural dyed tribal textile
- Berhampur Patta (Phoda Kumbha) Saree – Traditional silk saree
- Khandua Saree & Fabrics – Traditional Odisha textile



# YOUNG HERITAGE EXPLORERS

## HERITAGE ART CORNER

Paint Odisha's Story

Children can submit their drawings on: Konark Sun Temple, Odisha wildlife, Pattachitra designs, Traditional dances, Odisha festivals

Best artworks will be featured in the Heritage Wall!

### QUIZ TIME

- Which animal is protected in Bhitarkanika?
- Which Odisha craft uses silver wires?
- Which festival is famous in Puri?
- Name Odisha's classical dance.

### CRAFT CORNER

"Make Your Own Odisha Craft"

Create a mini heritage craft:

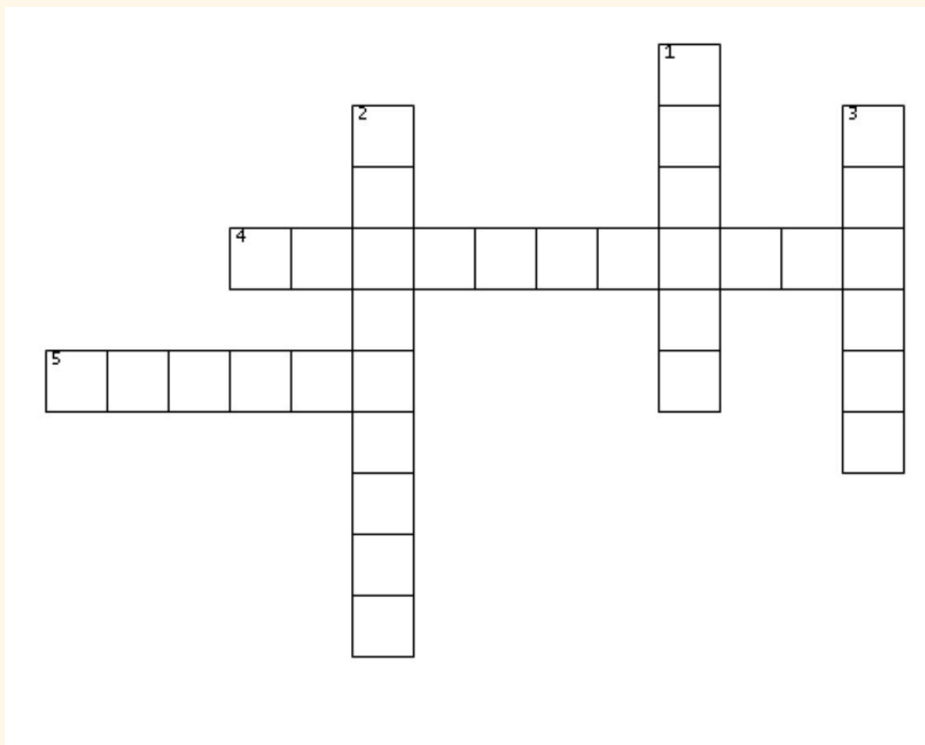
- 🖌️ Pattachitra-inspired bookmark
- 🧵 Sambalpuri pattern card
- 🌟 Paper Tarakasi jewellery
- 🌿 Natural colour painting

Use simple materials and bring Odisha's traditions alive!



# YOUNG HERITAGE EXPLORERS

## HERITAGE CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

4. Odisha painting style (11 letters)

5. lake of Odisha known for birds (7 letters)

### DOWN

1. Sun Temple of Odisha (7 letters)

2. dance of Odisha (7 letters)

3. craft from Cuttack (8 letters)

### REFERENCES

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- Archaeological Survey of India – <https://asi.nic.in>
- UNESCO World Heritage Centre (Konark) – <https://whc.unesco.org>
- GI Registry India – <https://ipindia.gov.in>
- Odisha Handlooms & Handicrafts – <https://odishahandicrafts.gov.in>
- Odisha Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department – <https://forest.odisha.gov.in>
- Chilika Development Authority – <https://www.chilika.com>
- Bhitarkanika National Park – <https://odishatourism.gov.in>
- Ministry of Culture, Government of India – <https://www.indiaculture.gov.in>

### Answers:

Across:-

4. Pattachitra

5. Chilika

Down:-

1. Konark

2. Odissi

3. Tarakasi

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