



# drishti

## Important Facts For Prelims (3rd April 2019)

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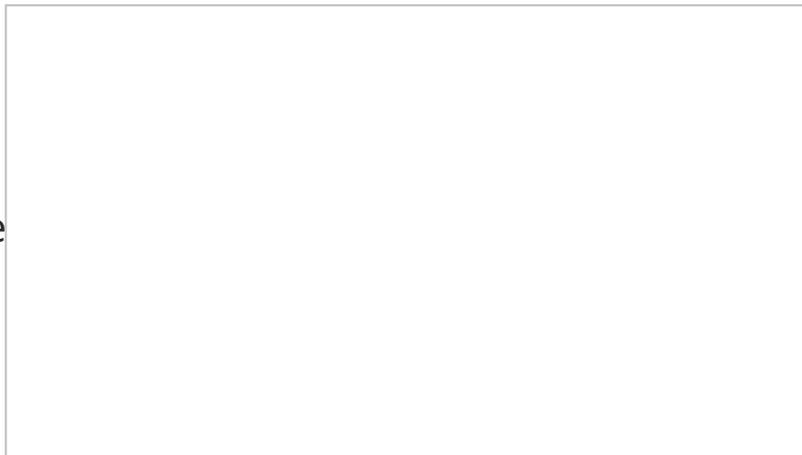
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### Danda Nata festival

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- It is a **21-day long seasonal folk dance festival** that is celebrated in **South Odisha**.
- It is **celebrated** in the month of '**Chaitra**'.
- **Danda** as the name implies, **is self-inflicted pain, which the danduas (people who participate in the festival)** undergo to pay their obeisance to the **lord Kali**. It is also a form of worshipping the lord Shiva and his consort Parvati.
- The festival features midday summer dances in the dust and that in the ponds in the evening, besides midnight walk on fire by the 'danduas'.
- Households and localities also invite Danduas for performance in their areas.
- The **origin of the festival** is generally **traced to 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> AD** after the decadence of Buddhism in Orissa.

### Ramappa Temple



- **Dedicated to Lord Shiva**, it is situated in Palampet Village, around 67 km from the city of **Warangal (Telangana)**.
- Also famous as **Ramalingeswara Temple**, it was built under the supervision of **Chief Commander Recherla Rudra**, during the reign of **Ganapati Deva from Kakatiya dynasty in 1213 century AD**.

Kakatiya Dynasty was the South Indian dynasty that ruled Andhra Pradesh in

India from 1083 CE to 1323 CE.

- **The temple has its name after its sculptor, Ramappa.**
- It falls under the protection of the Kakatiya Heritage Trust (KHT), that has been pushing it for the World Heritage tag since 2012.
- **For the year 2019, it is the only nomination for the World Heritage Site selection process, from India.**

## UNESCO's World Heritage Sites

- The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** seeks to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of **outstanding value to humanity**.
- This is embodied in an **international treaty called the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted by UNESCO in 1972.**
- The **World Heritage Fund provides about US\$4 million annually** to support activities to preserve monuments that require international assistance.  
The World Heritage Committee allocates funds according to the urgency of requests, priority being given to the most threatened sites.

## WhatsApp's Tipline

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- Facebook-owned messaging platform WhatsApp, has launched a **fact-checking Tipline** for users in India ahead of elections in the country.
- People in India, now can submit uncertain information or rumours they have received to the **Checkpoint Tipline on WhatsApp +91-9643-000-888.**
- WhatsApp is working with India-based media skilling startup PROTO for the helpline.
- When a WhatsApp user will share a suspicious message with the tipline, PROTO's verification center will seek to respond and inform the user if the claim made in message shared is verified or not.
- The center can review rumours in the form of pictures, video links or text and will **cover four regional languages including Hindi, Telugu, Bengali and Malayalam, other than English.**

## Ways and Means Advances

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- Recently the Reserve Bank of India has increased the limits for **Ways and Means Advances (WMA)** for the first half of financial year 2019-20.
- It is a **temporary loan facility** provided by RBI to **meet temporary mismatches** in the receipts and payments of **the central and state government.**
- It was **introduced on April 1, 1997.** This facility can be availed by the government if it

needs **immediate cash from the RBI.**

- The WMA is to be **vacated after 90 days.**
- Interest rate for WMA is charged at **the repo rate.**
- The limit for WMA are **mutually decided by the RBI and the Government of India.**

## Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology

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- Recently, the scientists at the **Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology (CCMB)** have come up with a way to **inhibit the multiplication of bacteria even before the cell wall begins to grow.**
- They have discovered a new enzyme which helps in **breaking cell walls of bacteria.** The finding is significant for it offers a potential for a **new drug delivery route to arrest** the anti-bacterial resistance through existing antibiotic drugs.
- Regular antibiotics target the machinery that creates the bacterial cell wall — a mesh-like structure that is made up of cross-linked sugars and peptides.  
However, this experiment shows how to **target cell-wall formation at the beginning itself,** earlier than when the present set of antibiotics act.
- With rapid rise of antibiotic resistance, researchers across the world are **exploring new ways to target bacteria.** In this context, the new findings can **play a crucial role in fighting the battle against antibiotic resistance.**

## Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology

- The **Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology (CCMB)** is a premier research organization which conducts **high quality basic research and training** in frontier areas of modern biology, and promote centralized national facilities for new and modern techniques in the interdisciplinary areas of biology.
- It was set up initially as a **semi-autonomous Centre on April 1, 1977** with the Biochemistry Division of the then Regional Research Laboratory (presently, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, IICT) Hyderabad.
- **During 1981-82,** the CCMB was accorded the status of a full-fledged national laboratory with its own Executive Committee and Scientific Advisory Council.
- It is located in **Hyderabad and operates under the aegis of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.**
- It is designated as "**Center of Excellence**" by the **Global Molecular and Cell Biology Network, UNESCO.**