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India Current Affairs [Nation & States] MCQs

1. The traditional practice known as Paathara (or Khoni) is primarily related to which activity?

- [A] Community-based rainwater harvesting
- [B] Underground storage of agricultural produce
- [C] Shifting cultivation in hilly terrains
- [D] Preservation of forest produce using natural methods

Answer: Underground storage of agricultural produce

Paathara practice, also called Khoni, is an ancient method of storing grains in underground pits. It was followed by farmers along the Mahendranatha River in the Uddanam region of Srikakulam district near the Andhra Pradesh–Odisha border. Freshly harvested paddy was stored in rectangular pits plastered with straw and clay. The pit was sealed with cow dung to protect grains from moisture, rodents, and theft. Paathara was built in front of thatched houses and supported joint family food security. The tradition is declining due to lack of space, awareness, and changing rural housing styles.

2. The Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) was introduced as part of which broader policy framework?

- [A] National Mineral Policy
- [B] Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP)
- [C] National Energy Policy
- [D] National Offshore Policy

Answer: Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP)

Oil India carried out seismic studies in blocks won under the ninth round to plan bidding for the tenth round. The Open Acreage Licensing Policy was introduced by the Government of India under the Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy. It replaced the New Exploration and Licensing Policy that operated for over eighteen years. Under this policy, companies can choose and explore oil and gas blocks on their own. Exploration can begin without waiting for government notifications. The policy also allows

access to seismic data from the National Data Repository.

3. The Bihar government recently approved the installation of the first Grain ATM machines in which city as a pilot project?

- [A] Gaya
- [B] Muzaffarpur
- [C] Bhagalpur
- [D] Patna

Answer: Patna

Bihar approved the first three grain ATM machines in Patna as a pilot project. Grain ATM, also called Annapurti, is an automated machine dispensing wheat or rice. The technology was developed by the World Food Programme in collaboration with the Food Corporation of India and state governments. Machines operate 24×7 and can be solar-powered. They use internet connectivity to access the Public Distribution System database and the profile of Below Poverty Line cardholders.

4. Where was India's first Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Advocate Training and Research Centre inaugurated?

- [A] Mumbai
- [B] Chennai
- [C] Hyderabad
- [D] Bengaluru

Answer: Mumbai

India's first Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Advocate Training and Research Centre was inaugurated at Taloja, Navi Mumbai. The centre has been established by the Maharashtra and Goa Bar Council. It aims to strengthen the legal profession by bridging the gap between legal education and courtroom practice. The academy will focus on advocate training, legal research, and practical skill development. The initiative is seen as a landmark step for improving professional standards in law.

5. Which Indian state has emerged as the largest contributor to India's renewable energy capacity as of December 2025?

- [A] Gujarat
- [B] Rajasthan



[C] Haryana

[D] Uttar Pradesh

Answer: Gujarat

Gujarat leads India's renewable energy sector with 42.583 gigawatt installed capacity, contributing 16.50 percent of the national total as of December 2025. The state ranks first in total renewable and wind power capacity and second in solar power capacity. Renewable energy includes 14,820.94 megawatt wind power and 25,529.40 megawatt solar power, with hybrid and off-grid sources. Gujarat accounts for over 25 percent of India's rooftop solar installations with 6,412.80 megawatt capacity. Major solar parks operate at Charanka, Radhanesda, and Dholera, while Khavda hosts the world's largest renewable park under development.

6. Which initiative was launched in Union Budget 2026-27 to develop India into a global biopharmaceutical manufacturing hub?

[A] Biopharma SHAKTI

[B] Make in India-Pharma

[C] Pharma Vision 2030

[D] Pharma Vision 2030

Answer: Biopharma SHAKTI

The Union Finance Minister announced the Biopharma SHAKTI initiative in the Union Budget 2026-27 initiative to strengthen India's biopharmaceutical sector. Biopharma SHAKTI stands for Strategy for Healthcare Advancement through Knowledge, Technology and Innovation. It aims to make India a global hub for biopharmaceutical manufacturing. The initiative will support domestic production of biologics and biosimilars. It will build a biopharma-focused network with three new National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER).

7. Which two states are involved the the Pennaiyar river dispute, recently seen in news?

[A] Tamil Nadu and Karnataka

[B] Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

[C] Bihar and Jharkhand

[D] Gujarat and Rajasthan

Answer: Tamil Nadu and Karnataka

The Supreme Court directed the Centre to set up a tribunal for the long-pending Pennaiyar River water dispute between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Tamil Nadu filed the case in 2018 against Karnataka's construction of check dams and diversion works. Tamil Nadu argued that water in an inter-state river is a national asset and cannot be claimed exclusively by any state. Pennaiyar River, also called South Pennar, Dakshina Pinakini, Thenpennai, or Ponnaiyar, flows through Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

8. The National Career Service (NCS) Portal is an initiative under which ministry?

[A] Ministry of Education

[B] Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

[C] Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

[D] Ministry of Labour and Employment

Answer: Ministry of Labour and Employment

The National Career Service (NCS) Portal is a digital platform providing career services such as job listings, job fairs, career counselling, vocational guidance, and skill development information. It is an initiative under the Ministry of Labour and Employment. It aims to connect jobseekers and employers, offering decent employment opportunities and career development assistance. As of 20 January 2026, more than 2.23 crore jobseekers have been shortlisted. The portal offers online employability and digital skill enhancement programmes.

9. Which institution developed a solar-powered energy storage device that can capture and store energy in a single unit?

[A] Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru

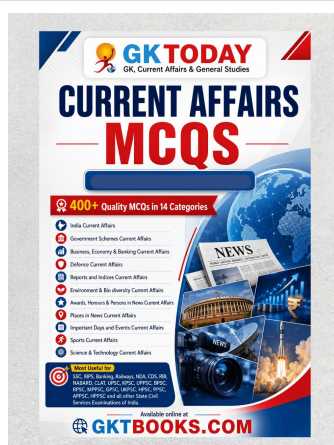
[B] Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai

[C] Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CNSMS), Bengaluru

[D] Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

Answer: Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CNSMS), Bengaluru

Indian scientists from Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences, Bengaluru under Department of



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