



Current GK – 16 May 2026 – Answer Key

Exam Date: 16 May 2026 | Total Time: 10 mins | Max Marks: 10

Section: GK

Q1. African penguin, that was recently seen in news, is mainly found in which regions?

- A) Tanzania and Kenya
B) **Namibia and South Africa**
C) Mozambique and Madagascar
D) Ghana and Angola

*Explanation: A new study revealed that over 60,000 African penguins died from starvation between 2004 and 2011 due to a collapse in sardine stocks. The African penguin (*Spheniscus demersus*) is a flightless species adapted to marine life in southern African waters. They live mostly within 40 km of the shore, using coastal habitats for breeding, resting and moulting. Their distribution mainly covers Namibia and South Africa's Atlantic coast. The species has an average wild lifespan of 20 years. Global warming is severely damaging their marine and coastal habitats. The IUCN lists the African penguin as Critically Endangered.*

Q2. Which state government has launched the Rythanna Meekosam initiative to strengthen farmer welfare?

- A) Maharashtra
B) **Andhra Pradesh**
C) Gujarat
D) Karnataka

Explanation: Andhra Pradesh State Government launched the statewide Rythanna Meekosam initiative to strengthen farmer welfare. The programme focuses on water security, demand-based farming, agri-technology, food processing, and full government support. The government has spent ₹1,000 crore in the last 18 months to improve farmer livelihoods. Agriculture supports over 60 percent of the State's population and adds major revenue. Farmers receive help through modern machines, drones for spraying, and pest control. Food processing units are being set up to improve crop value and exports. Under Pradhan Mantri Kisan (PM-Kisan) Annadata Sukhibhava scheme, 68 lakh farmers got ₹3,200 crore support

Q3. Which ministry launched the Blockchain India Challenge to promote permissioned blockchain solutions for digital governance?

A) Ministry of Science and Technology

B) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

C) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

D) Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Explanation: The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology launches the Blockchain India Challenge to promote permissioned blockchain solutions for digital governance. The initiative is implemented by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing with support from MeitY. It aims to develop secure, tamper-proof and auditable blockchain systems to improve transparency and efficiency in government services.

Q4. The Jan Shikshan Sansthan Scheme is a Central Sector Scheme implemented by which ministry?

A) Ministry of Education

B) Ministry of Labour and Employment

C) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

D) Ministry of Rural Development

Explanation: Recently, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) organised a two-day Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) Zonal Conference-cum-Stakeholder Consultation and Progress Review Workshop on 19-20 January 2026 at Symbiosis Skill and Professional University, Pune. The Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) Scheme is a Central Sector Scheme implemented by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) through NGOs. JSS Scheme provides non-formal vocational training to non-literate, neo-literate, school dropouts, and marginalised communities. Currently, 294 JSSs operate across 26 States and 7 UTs.

Q5. Lake Urmia, that was recently seen in news, is located in which country?

A) Israel

B) Iran

C) Qatar

D) Turkey

Explanation: Iran attempted cloud-seeding over the Lake Urmia basin to induce rainfall amid its worst drought in decades. Lake Urmia is located in northwestern Iran, fed by rivers including Zarīneh and Simīneh. The lake has lost over 90% of its original water volume due to damming, agricultural diversion, and climate stress. It is designated as a Ramsar Site and UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

Q6. The Football for Schools programme is an initiative of FIFA and which organization?

A) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

B) United Nations Development Programme

C) World Bank

D) International Monetary Fund

Explanation: The Football for Schools (F4S) initiative was highlighted at PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya, Dakshin Dinajpur, West Bengal. The Football for Schools programme is an initiative of Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). It aims to support education, development and empowerment of children through football. It promotes life skills and supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In India, it is implemented by the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education, with support from the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and Sports Authority of India (SAI).

Q7. Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary is located in which state?

A) Andhra Pradesh

B) Karnataka

C) Tamil Nadu

D) Kerala

Explanation: The 40th Asian Waterbird Census and 60th International Waterbird Census (IWC) will record bird species in Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary and nearby wetlands. Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Andhra Pradesh within the Godavari estuary, where the Coringa River meets the Bay of Bengal. It contains India's second-largest mangrove forest along with dry deciduous tropical forests. The Asian Waterbird Census is an annual citizen-science programme under the global IWC for wetland conservation. In India, it is conducted by the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and Wildlife Institute of India (WII).

Q8. The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) functions under which ministry?

A) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

B) Ministry of Finance

C) Ministry of Labour and Employment

D) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Explanation: The Employees' State Insurance Corporation has begun its 75th Foundation Year celebrations, marking 70 years of social security service to workers. ESIC is a statutory social security body functioning under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India. It administers the Employees' State Insurance Scheme, which provides medical care and financial protection to employees. The scheme covers benefits related to sickness, maternity, disablement, and death due to employment injury. The legal basis of the scheme is the Employees' State Insurance Act, enacted in 1948. The scheme was officially launched on 24 February 1952, which is observed every year as ESIC Foundation Day.

Q9. Which state is home to India's first Silicon Carbide (SiC) semiconductor manufacturing plant?

A) Odisha

B) Jharkhand

C) Bihar

D) Haryana

Explanation: India's first Silicon Carbide (SiC) semiconductor manufacturing plant, SiCSem, will be set up in Odisha, marking a significant step in the semiconductor sector. SiCSem, an integrated device manufacturer, has received approval from the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) and will be an Assembly, Testing, Marking, and Packaging (ATMP) facility in Bhubaneswar. The Rs 2,000-crore project aims to boost industrial growth in Bhubaneswar and attract investments. Odisha has also approved RIR Power Semiconductors and the 3DGS project, which uses glass substrate for semiconductor packaging. Odisha's semiconductor and IT policies have been revised to strengthen the sector, with Bhubaneswar aiming to become a semiconductor hub.

Q10. World Wetlands Day is celebrated every year on which day?

A) February 1

B) February 2

C) February 3

D) February 4

Explanation: World Wetlands Day is celebrated every year on 2 February. It marks the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971 in Ramsar, Iran, on the Caspian Sea. The 2026 theme is "Wetlands and traditional knowledge: Celebrating cultural heritage." The theme emphasizes the role of indigenous and local knowledge in protecting wetlands. It highlights the importance of wetlands in preserving cultural identity and guiding conservation and management practices.



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