



# Current GK - 17 May 2026 — Answer Key

Exam Date: 17 May 2026 | Total Time: 10 mins | Max Marks: 10

## Section: GK

**Q1. Chhari-Dhand Wetland, which was recently added to the Ramsar network, is located in which state?**

- A) Uttar Pradesh  
B) **Gujarat**  
C) Odisha  
D) West Bengal

*Explanation: India added two new wetlands to its Ramsar network ahead of World Wetlands Day. Patna Bird Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh has freshwater marshes, woodlands, and grasslands, supporting high biodiversity. It is designated an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area by BirdLife International. Chhari-Dhand Wetland in Kutch, Gujarat, is a seasonal saline wetland between Banni grasslands and salt flats.*

**Q2. Which team successfully defended the Team Championship title at the Khelo India Winter Games?**

- A) Himachal Pradesh  
B) Ladakh  
C) **Indian Army**  
D) Jammu and Kashmir

*Explanation: The Indian Army defended its team championship title at the 6th edition of the Khelo India Winter Games, winning a total of nine gold medals, including eight in the Gulmarg leg. Himachal Pradesh finished as runners-up after securing four gold medals on the final day of competition. The closing ceremony of KIWG 2026 was organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council and managed by the Sports Authority of India at the Golf Course in Gulmarg. The first leg of the Games was held in Ladakh from January 20–26, 2026.*

**Q3. Kathputli, a traditional string puppet play, performed in which state?**

- A) **Rajasthan**  
B) Gujarat  
C) Karnataka  
D) Tamil Nadu

*Explanation: In Jaipur, nearly 250 families continue to preserve Kathputli, one of Rajasthan's oldest folk art traditions. Kathputli is a traditional string puppet theatre form that originated in Rajasthan. Historically, travelling performers used Kathputli shows to narrate stories of Rajput kings, brave warriors, folk heroes, and moral tales to village audiences. The word Kathputli comes from kath meaning wood and putli meaning doll, highlighting its simple wooden structure. A Kathputli puppet is made using wood, cloth, thread, and metal wire, with a wooden upper body and cotton and fabric below.*

**Q4. The new crop varieties "Pant Urd-13, Pant Urd-14, Pant Matar 554, and Pant Jau 1106" were launched in which state?**

A) Gujarat

**B) Uttarakhand**

C) Maharashtra

D) Uttar Pradesh

*Explanation: On October 12, 2025, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated newly developed pulse and barley varieties at the 118th All India Farmers Fair and Agricultural Industry Exhibition held at GB Pant University of Agriculture and Technology (GBPUAT) in Uttarakhand. The varieties were developed by GBPUAT students to improve crop productivity and farmer income. Pant Urd-13 and Pant Urd-14 are improved urdbean (black gram) varieties with higher yield and better disease resistance. Pant Matar 554 is a high-yielding pea variety designed to enhance farmers' earnings. Pant Jau 1106 is a new barley variety introduced to diversify crop options for farmers in the region.*

**Q5. What is the name of the campaign launched by Union Finance Minister to facilitate the settlement of unclaimed financial assets across India?**

A) Jan Dhan Suraksha Abhiyan

B) Financial Inclusion Mission

C) Financial Inclusion Mission

**D) Aapki Punji Aapka Adhikar**

*Explanation: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the nationwide "Aapki Punji Aapka Adhikar" campaign from Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The campaign aims to ensure speedy settlement of unclaimed financial assets across banks, insurance companies, pension funds, stock, and mutual fund companies. It focuses on returning deposits to legitimate claimants and bridging the gap between financial institutions and citizens. Currently, ₹1,82,000 crore of unclaimed assets lie with financial institutions nationwide. Certificates were awarded to claimants confirming the retrieval of their unclaimed assets. The initiative promotes financial empowerment and awareness among citizens.*

**Q6. Which state implemented the Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA) nearly 25 years after its statehood in January 2026?**

**A) Jharkhand**

B) Bihar

C) Odisha

D) Chhattisgarh

*Explanation: Recently, Jharkhand implemented rules under the Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA) after 25 years of statehood. PESA is intended to give tribal communities greater control over governance in Fifth Schedule Areas. The law empowers Gram Sabhas to manage local resources, resolve disputes, and preserve customary practices. The implementation covers 13 districts fully, with partial application in three more. Tribal leaders welcome the law but caution that administrative control may dilute true autonomy. The success of PESA will depend on effective and respectful implementation at the village level.*

**Q7. Zero Discrimination Day is observed annually on which day?**

**A) March 1**

**B) March 2**

**C) March 3**

**D) March 4**

*Explanation: Zero Discrimination Day is observed annually on 1st March. It is organised by the United Nations. The day promotes global solidarity to end all forms of discrimination. It encourages inclusion, compassion, peace, and positive social change. The observance educates people on equality and the importance of respecting human rights for everyone.*

**Q8. Exercise JAIMEX 25 is conducted between India and which country?**

**A) Egypt**

**B) Japan**

**C) Australia**

**D) Maldives**

*Explanation: INS Sahyadri, commanded by Captain Rajat Kumar, is participating in the Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JAIMEX) 25. Exercise JAIMEX 25 is conducted between India and Japan. JAIMEX 25 was held from 16-17 October in the west of Kyushu, involving Japanese Ship (JS) Asahi, JS Oumi, a submarine, 2nd Artillery Brigade (Japan Ground Self Defence Force - JGSDF), and Western Aircraft Control and Warning Wing (Japan Air Self Defence Force - JASDF). The exercise aimed to enhance tactical capabilities, interoperability, and multi-layered defence cooperation between the Indian Navy, Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF), JGSDF, and JASDF.*

**Q9. The Kopra Medium Irrigation Project, recently in news, is proposed in the core area of which tiger reserve?**

**A) Panna Tiger Reserve**

**B) Kanha Tiger Reserve**

**C) Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve**

**D) Satpura Tiger Reserve**

*Explanation: The Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife recommended diversion of about 272 hectares of forest for the Kopra Medium Irrigation Project. The diversion lies in the core area of Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh. Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve is located in Madhya Pradesh. It includes areas of Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary and Durgavati Wildlife Sanctuary. The reserve lies across the Narmada and Yamuna river basins.*

**Q10. 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.*



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