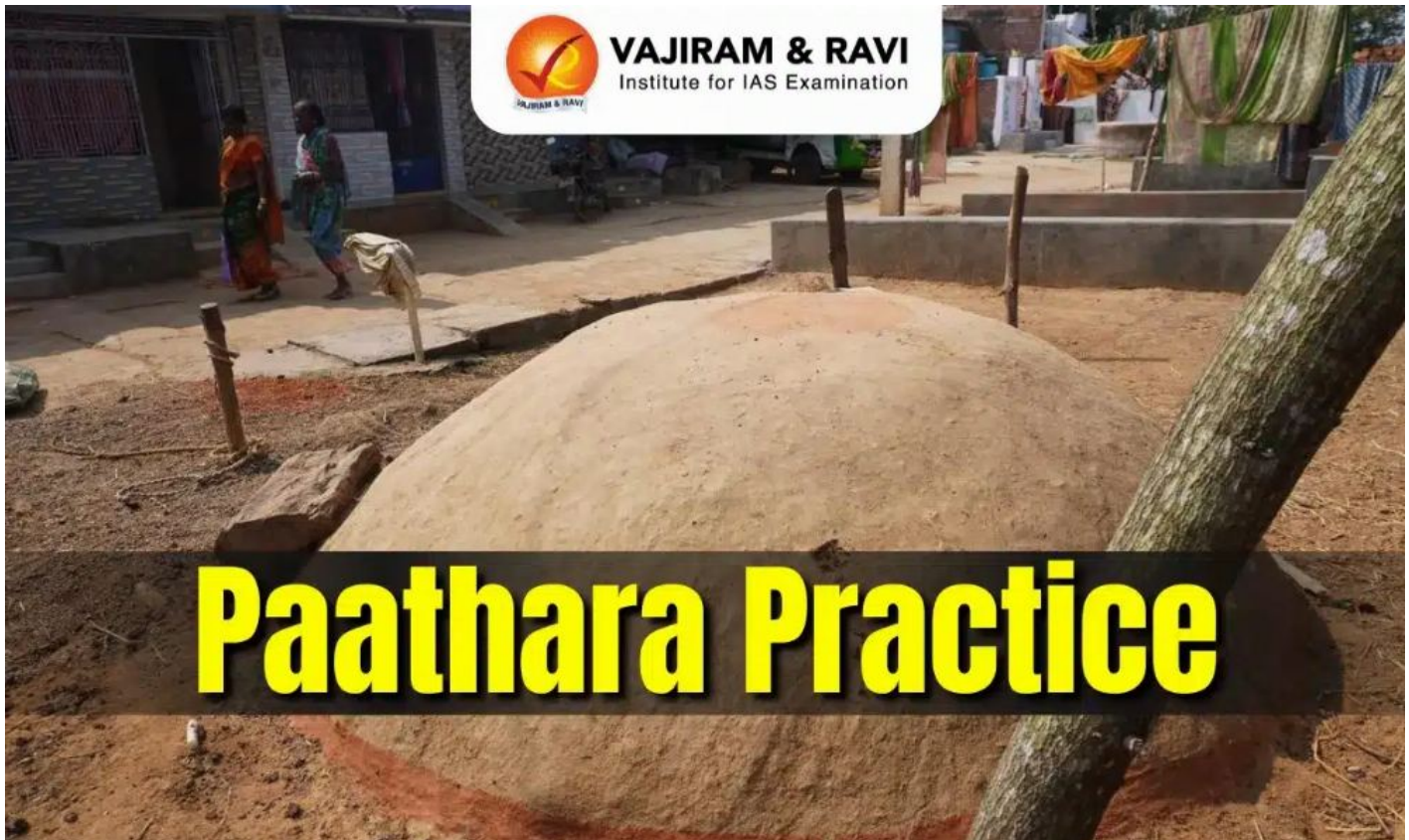


Paathara Practice

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Paathara Practice Latest News

Recently, it is observed that the ancient grain storage tradition named Paathara practice or Khoni is fading fast in Srikakulam district.

About Paathara Practice

- It is an **ancestral practice of underground grain storage** pits.
- It is a storage pit in which freshly **harvested grains, mostly paddy, are stored.**
- It is observed by farmers along the banks of the **Mahendratanaya River** in the Uddanam region of **Srikakulam district**, near the **Andhra Pradesh-Odisha border.**
- This tradition thrived in the **inland, hilly terrain**, where underground grain storage was effective.
- **Decline:** Lack of **space and awareness**, as well as **changes in rural architecture**—have contributed to its decline.

Key Features of Paathara Practice

- **Structure:** The pit is **dug in a rectangular shape**, plastered with straw and clay, and sealed with a layer of cow dung on top.
- The Paathara was **built in front of thatched houses** and was an integral part of rural architecture, symbolising a thriving joint family system.
- Every paddy-growing family stores enough grain for its annual needs.
- **Advantage:** The Paathara protects grain from rodents, contamination, and theft.

Source: TH

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