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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz — January 1, 2026

1 January 2026

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1 January 2026 · 10 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Q 1

Gujarat launched India's first state-level AI research institution — IAIRO — on January 1, 2026. Where is IAIRO located?

A Ahmedabad Science City

B Rajkot Innovation Hub

C GIFT City, Gandhinagar ✓

D Surat Diamond Bourse

EXPLANATION

IAIRO (Indian Artificial Intelligence Research Organization) is located at GIFT City (Gujarat International Finance Tec-City), Gandhinagar. It operates as a non-profit under Section 8 of the Companies Act 2013, in a PPP with the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA).

CONCEPT

GIFT City is India's only operational International Financial Centre (IFC), regulated by IFSCA (International Financial Services Centres Authority) under the IFSCA Act 2019. It hosts banking, insurance, fund management, and fintech entities under a special regulatory regime. IAIRO focuses on applied AI for pharma, healthcare, and financial services — aligning with GIFT City's sectoral profile.

Q 2

The Bihar government approved notifying Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary as India's newest tiger reserve in January 2026. Which districts does the Kaimur sanctuary cover?

A Gaya and Jehanabad

B Muzaffarpur and Sitamarhi

C Vaishali and Sheohar

D Kaimur and Rohtas ✓

EXPLANATION

Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary spans Kaimur and Rohtas districts of Bihar, covering the Kaimur Plateau and Rohtas Plateau. It is Bihar's largest wildlife sanctuary. Notification as a tiger reserve requires formal NTCA clearance.

CONCEPT

NTCA (National Tiger Conservation Authority) is a statutory body established under Chapter IVB of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972 (as amended in 2006). It is chaired by the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. India had 53 tiger reserves and 3,167 tigers as per the 2022 All India Tiger Estimation (AITE). Kaimur would be India's 54th tiger reserve if notified.

Q 3

India conducted a salvo launch of two Pralay missiles simultaneously at which test range in Odisha in January 2026?

- A Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur ✓**
- B Abdul Kalam Island (Wheeler Island)
- C Proof and Experimental Establishment (PXE), Balasore
- D National Flight Test Centre, Bangalore

EXPLANATION

DRDO conducted a salvo launch of two Pralay ballistic missiles simultaneously at the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur-on-sea, Odisha. ITR Chandipur is India's primary missile test facility, having hosted tests of Prithvi, Agni (early versions), Akash, Pralay, Shourya, and Astra missiles.

CONCEPT

Pralay is a solid-fuelled, conventionally armed, quasi-ballistic surface-to-surface missile with a range of 150-500 km and 500-1,000 kg conventional warhead. It uses INS + GPS + NavIC guidance with a CEP of ~10 metres. The salvo launch capability (two simultaneous missiles) is designed to defeat adversary Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) systems, which have finite interceptor magazines.

Q 4

Army Hospital (Research and Referral), New Delhi performed India's first 3D Flex Aqueous Angiography with iStent in January 2026. This procedure is used to treat which eye condition?

- A Cataract
- B Age-related macular degeneration
- C Glaucoma ✓**
- D Diabetic retinopathy

EXPLANATION

The 3D Flex Aqueous Angiography with iStent is a minimally invasive glaucoma surgery (MIGS) procedure. It visualises aqueous humour outflow pathways in real time and places a micro-implant (iStent) to improve drainage and reduce intra-ocular pressure — the primary cause of optic nerve damage in glaucoma.

CONCEPT

Glaucoma is the second leading cause of irreversible blindness globally (after cataract in developing countries). An estimated 12 million people are affected in India. The aqueous humour — fluid produced in the eye — builds up when drainage channels are blocked, raising intra-ocular pressure (IOP) and damaging the optic nerve. Standard treatment is eye drops, laser therapy, or surgery. MIGS procedures cause fewer complications than traditional surgery.

Q 5 The Jal Seva Aankalan tool launched by the Ministry of Jal Shakti is hosted on which platform?

- A PM Gati Shakti Portal
- B UMANG App
- C Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) Portal ✓
- D National Water Mission Dashboard

EXPLANATION

Jal Seva Aankalan is a digital drinking water service assessment tool hosted on the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) portal. Village-level self-assessments are uploaded to the JJM Panchayat Dashboard, eGramSwaraj, and Meri Panchayat App. All Har Ghar Jal (HGJ) Gram Panchayats must complete assessments by January 26, 2026.

CONCEPT

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) was launched August 15, 2019, targeting a Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to every rural household. Total outlay: Rs 3.60 lakh crore (Centre + State). Har Ghar Jal (HGJ) Gram Panchayats are GPs where all households have FHTCs. Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) oversee local water system operation and maintenance.

Q 6 The Indian Skimmer (*Rynchops albicollis*), whose conservation in the Ganga basin was approved by NMCG, has what IUCN Red List status?

- A Vulnerable (VU)
- B Near Threatened (NT)
- C Critically Endangered (CR)
- D Endangered (EN) ✓

EXPLANATION

The Indian Skimmer (*Rynchops albicollis*) is classified as Endangered (EN) on the IUCN Red List. It nests on exposed river sandbars — habitats highly sensitive to human disturbance, sand mining, and flooding. NMCG's 68th EC meeting approved conservation activities in the Chambal River and Lower Ganga stretches.

CONCEPT

Indian Skimmer nests in colonies on exposed sandbars of major rivers — now primarily found along the Chambal River (MP/Rajasthan/UP). Key threats: sandbar disturbance (sand mining, boat traffic), flooding of nests during monsoon, and predation. The National Chambal Gharial Wildlife Sanctuary (a tri-state sanctuary covering MP, Rajasthan, and UP) provides key habitat. NMCG (National Mission for Clean Ganga) implements Namami Gange programme under Ministry of Jal Shakti.

Q 7

India Post discontinued which service effective January 1, 2026, as part of aligning with UPU (Universal Postal Union) norms?

- A Express Parcel Post (EMS)
- B Registered Air Parcel to all countries
- C Registered Small Packet for goods / Outward Small Packet ✓
- D Speed Post International

EXPLANATION

India Post discontinued Registered Small Packet (for goods), Outward Small Packet (via Sea/SAL/Air), Surface Letter Mail, and SAL Letter Mail services effective January 1, 2026 — aligning with UPU norms that now restrict registration to documents only. The International Tracked Packet Service (ITPS) is the recommended alternative.

CONCEPT

UPU (Universal Postal Union) is a UN specialised agency established 1874; 192 member countries; HQ Bern, Switzerland. It sets international postal standards including weight limits, registration categories, and customs requirements. India Post operates 1.56 lakh post offices — the world's largest postal network. India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) uses this network for financial services.

Q 8

BSNL launched VoWiFi (Voice over WiFi) services across all telecom circles on January 1, 2026. What underlying protocol does VoWiFi use?

- A CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access)
- B IMS (IP Multimedia Subsystem) ✓
- C USSD (Unstructured Supplementary Service Data)
- D GSM (Global System for Mobile communications)

EXPLANATION

VoWiFi (Wi-Fi Calling) uses IMS (IP Multimedia Subsystem) — the same core network that handles 4G (LTE) voice calls. This enables seamless handover between Wi-Fi and mobile networks without call dropping. BSNL launched the service nationwide across all telecom circles, free of charge, on January 1, 2026.

CONCEPT

BSNL received a Rs 1.64 lakh crore revival package in 2022, including 4G/5G rollout using an indigenous TCS TataCom technology stack (replacing Huawei/ZTE equipment). VoWiFi is particularly valuable in remote areas with weak mobile coverage (rural India, hills, basement offices). IMS is defined by 3GPP standards and handles voice, video, and messaging over IP networks.

Q 9

The SOAR initiative launched by President Droupadi Murmu on January 1, 2026 aims to integrate AI learning into which area?

- A Agricultural extension services and farmer training
- B Judicial reforms and e-courts
- C School education and vocational training ✓
- D Border surveillance and defence preparedness

EXPLANATION

SOAR (Skill for AI Readiness) was launched by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to integrate AI learning into school education and vocational training, preparing India's workforce for the AI economy. A budget of Rs 500 crore was allocated for a Centre of Excellence in AI for Education.

CONCEPT

India's AI skilling ecosystem: FutureSkills Prime (MeitY + NASSCOM collaboration), PMKVY (Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana), and SOAR. IndiaAI Mission (launched March 2024; Rs 10,372 crore) provides the broader AI infrastructure and policy framework. National Education Policy 2020 mandates computational thinking and coding from Class 6.

Q 10

Bulgaria joined the Eurozone on January 1, 2026 as its 21st member. Which country was the 20th member of the Eurozone, having joined in January 2023?

- A Romania
- B Poland
- C Croatia ✓
- D North Macedonia

EXPLANATION

Croatia became the 20th Eurozone member on January 1, 2023, replacing the Croatian Kuna with the Euro. Bulgaria (1 EUR = 1.95583 BGN) became the 21st member on January 1, 2026 — 19 years after joining the EU in 2007.

CONCEPT

Eurozone membership requires meeting five Maastricht Convergence Criteria: low inflation (within 1.5 pp of 3 lowest EU members), budget deficit \leq 3% of GDP, public debt \leq 60% of GDP, at least 2 years in ERM II without devaluation, and long-term interest rates within 2 pp of 3 lowest-inflation EU members. Six EU members outside the Eurozone: Denmark (opt-out), Sweden, Hungary, Czech Republic, Poland, and Romania.

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