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Daily Quiz — January 8, 2026

8 January 2026

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat ChoudharyUPSC Educator & Content Creator • linkedin.com/in/epicbharat

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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

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8 January 2026 · 10 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Q 1 The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) functions under which Ministry of the Government of India?

A Ministry of Commerce and Industry

B Ministry of Textiles ✓

C Ministry of Finance

D Ministry of Home Affairs

EXPLANATION

AEPC (Apparel Export Promotion Council) is the official body representing apparel exporters in India. It functions under the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India. It was established in 1978 under the Foreign Trade Act and supports Indian garment and textile exports globally.

CONCEPT

Export promotion councils in India are set up under the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992. AEPC is one of around 26 such councils, each under the relevant Ministry. Other key councils: APEDA (Agriculture, under Ministry of Commerce), MPEDA (marine products), GJEPC (gems and jewellery). India is among the world's top 5 apparel exporters.

Q 2 Melghat Tiger Reserve, which was in the news, is located in which state and is known as the first tiger reserve of that state?

A Madhya Pradesh

B Maharashtra ✓

C Rajasthan

D Gujarat

EXPLANATION

Melghat Tiger Reserve is located in Maharashtra on the Gavilgarh Hills, the southern offshoot of the Satpura Range. It was the first tiger reserve established in Maharashtra and serves as a catchment area for five tributaries of the Tapti River.

CONCEPT

Melghat was among India's first nine tiger reserves notified in 1973 under Project Tiger. It is managed by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). The reserve provides habitat for tigers, leopards, wild dogs, and gaur. Project Tiger was launched by PM Indira Gandhi in 1973; NTCA was set up under the Wildlife Protection Act Amendment 2006.

Q 3

The Mpemba Effect, demonstrated through the first computational simulation by JNCASR researchers, refers to which phenomenon?

- A Drying of soil faster due to climate change
- B Change in boiling point due to dissolved salts in water
- C Hot water can freeze faster than cold water under certain conditions ✓
- D A new economic concept to define stagflation

EXPLANATION

The Mpemba Effect is the counterintuitive phenomenon where hot water can freeze faster than cold water under certain conditions. Researchers from JNCASR (Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research), Bengaluru, created the first computational simulation proving this effect, named after Tanzanian student Erasto Mpemba who observed it in 1969.

CONCEPT

JNCASR is an autonomous research institution under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, located in Bengaluru. The Mpemba Effect relates to non-equilibrium thermodynamics and entropy. The phenomenon was first described scientifically after a Tanzanian schoolboy noticed it while making ice cream and was taken seriously by a physicist, Denis Osborne.

Q 4

The SHINE scheme, launched by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), stands for which of the following?

- A Science Help India Nurture Education
- B Standards Help Inform and Nurture Empowered Women ✓
- C Skill Hub India National Empowerment
- D Standards for Health, Innovation and National Empowerment

EXPLANATION

SHINE stands for Standards Help Inform and Nurture Empowered Women. It is a new initiative of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) that provides training through partnerships with NGOs and Self-Help Groups to empower women on quality standards and consumer rights.

CONCEPT

BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) functions under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. It is India's national standards body, established under the BIS Act, 2016 (replacing the BIS Act, 1986). Key BIS functions: framing standards, product certification (ISI mark), hallmarking of gold and silver, and consumer awareness. India is a member of ISO (International Organisation for Standardisation).

Q 5

The 570 MW Wangchhu Hydropower Project, commenced by Adani Group, is located in which district of Bhutan?

- A Paro
- B Thimphu
- C Punakha
- D Chukha ✓

EXPLANATION

The Adani Group commenced the 570 MW Wangchhu Hydropower Project in Chukha district of Bhutan. It is a run-of-river hydropower project on the Wangchu River. This is part of India-Bhutan energy cooperation under which Bhutan exports hydropower to India.

CONCEPT

India-Bhutan hydropower partnership: Bhutan earns ~25-30% of GDP from power exports to India. Key completed projects — Chukha (336 MW, 1988), Tala (1,020 MW, 2006), Mangdechhu (720 MW, 2019). India's target with Bhutan: 10,000 MW. Run-of-river projects use natural river flow without large reservoirs, making them less ecologically disruptive. SJVN and DGPC are the key implementing bodies. India-Bhutan Friendship Treaty was originally signed in 1949 and revised in 2007.

Q 6

Indian Army declared 2026 as the Year of which theme, focusing on battlefield data sharing and combat effectiveness?

- A Year of AI and Cyber Warfare
- B Year of Networking and Data Centricity ✓
- C Year of Joint Theatre Commands
- D Year of Indigenisation and Atmanirbhar Defence

EXPLANATION

The Indian Army declared 2026 as the "Year of Networking and Data Centricity", focusing on stronger connectivity, real-time decision-making, and treating information as a key combat asset shared across platforms instantly — in line with Network-Centric Warfare (NCW) doctrine.

CONCEPT

Network-Centric Warfare (NCW) is a doctrine that links sensors, decision-makers, and shooters via a communications network for superior battlefield awareness. The Indian Army has been pursuing NCW through the Battlefield Management System (BMS), Tactical Communication System (TCS), and Army Tactical Telecom Node (ATTN). Theatre commands, when established, will further integrate data across Army, Air Force, and Navy platforms.

Q 7

Mamady Doumbouya, who won a presidential election in January 2026 with approximately 86.72% of votes, is the leader of which African country?

- A Mali
- B Guinea ✓**
- C Burkina Faso
- D Niger

EXPLANATION

Mamady Doumbouya won the presidential election in Guinea with 86.72% of the vote (provisional results). He had taken power through a coup in 2021, overthrowing President Alpha Conde. The election gives him a seven-year mandate. Guinea is located in West Africa with its capital at Conakry.

CONCEPT

West Africa has seen a wave of military coups since 2020 — Mali (2020, 2021), Guinea (2021), Burkina Faso (2022), Niger (2023). This trend has challenged ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) and prompted debate on democratic backsliding. Guinea is rich in bauxite (world's largest reserves) and iron ore. India imports bauxite from Guinea for aluminium production.

Q 8

Goa announced the creation of its third district named Kushavati, with headquarters at which location?

- A Panaji
- B Margao
- C Vasco da Gama
- D Quepem ✓**

EXPLANATION

Goa announced the creation of its third district, Kushavati, named after the ancient Kushavati River flowing through southern Goa. The district headquarters will be at Quepem and will include the talukas of Sanguem, Dharbandora, Quepem, and Canacona.

CONCEPT

Goa is India's smallest state by area (~3,702 sq km). Currently it has two districts: North Goa (capital Panaji) and South Goa (capital Margao). Goa became the 25th state of India on May 30, 1987 (before that it was a Union Territory since 1961 after liberation from Portugal). The Kushavati River flows through southern Goa and reflects the region's Chalukya dynasty heritage.

Q 9

Three new meadow katydid species discovered in Jammu and Kashmir included *Conocephalus usmanii*. Katydids belong to which insect order?

 A Lepidoptera

 B Orthoptera ✓

 C Coleoptera

 D Hemiptera

EXPLANATION

Katydids are orthopteran insects related to grasshoppers and crickets. Three new species — *Conocephalus usmanii*, *Conocephalus nagariensis*, and *Conocephalus gandarbali* — were discovered in Jammu and Kashmir by researchers.

CONCEPT

India's biodiversity discovery pace has accelerated with several new species found annually in the Western Ghats, Eastern Ghats, Himalayas, Andaman & Nicobar, and Northeast. Orthoptera includes grasshoppers, crickets, and katydids — important ecological indicators of grassland health. J&K and Ladakh host unique high-altitude biodiversity not found elsewhere in India.

Q 10

World Braille Day is observed on January 4 every year. Louis Braille, after whom the script is named, invented the Braille system in which year?

 A 1809

 B 1815

 C 1824 ✓

 D 1847

EXPLANATION

Louis Braille was born on January 4, 1809, in France. He invented the Braille system of reading and writing for the visually impaired in 1824, when he was only 15 years old. World Braille Day is observed on January 4 to mark his birth anniversary.

CONCEPT

Braille is a tactile writing system used by visually impaired people. It uses patterns of raised dots read with fingertips. In India, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPwD Act), 2016 replaced the PwD Act, 1995 and expanded disability categories from 7 to 21. It mandates 5% reservation in government jobs and educational institutions. UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) — India ratified in 2007.

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