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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz — January 9, 2026

9 January 2026

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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

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9 January 2026 · 10 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Q 1

HPCL commissioned the world's first LC-Max Residue Upgradation Facility at Visakhapatnam. What percentage of low-value residue does it convert into high-value fuels?

A About 60%

B About 75%

C About 93% ✓

D About 99%

EXPLANATION

The LC-Max RUF at HPCL Visakhapatnam converts approximately 93% of low-value heavy residue (vacuum residue) into high-value fuels including petrol, diesel, LPG, and aviation turbine fuel.

CONCEPT

India imports ~88% of its crude oil. Residue upgradation technology maximises the value extracted from each barrel, directly reducing the crude import bill. The Vizag Refinery Modernisation Project expands capacity from 8.3 MMTPA to 15 MMTPA. HPCL is a Maharatna PSU under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Q 2

The 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention 2026 was held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Who was the Chief Guest at this event?

A President of Guyana

B President of Trinidad and Tobago ✓

C President of Fiji

D Prime Minister of Mauritius

EXPLANATION

Christine Kangaloo, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, was the Chief Guest at the 18th PBD Convention 2026 in Bhubaneswar. PM Modi inaugurated the event; President Droupadi Murmu presided on the concluding day.

CONCEPT

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is celebrated on January 9 to mark Gandhi's return from South Africa in 1915. The first PBD was held in 2003; it became biennial from 2015. India has ~3.2 crore overseas Indians (world's largest diaspora) and received ~\$125 billion in remittances in 2024 (world's largest recipient).

Q 3

Nagauri Ashwagandha received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag. In which district of Rajasthan is it primarily grown?

A Barmer

B Jodhpur

C Nagaur ✓

D Pali

EXPLANATION

Nagauri Ashwagandha is grown in Nagaur district of Rajasthan. It is known for longer, thicker roots rich in withanolides and dark red berries indicating superior quality.

CONCEPT

GI tags in India are governed under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999. India is a signatory to the TRIPS Agreement (WTO) which mandates GI protection. Ashwagandha (*Withania somnifera*) is a key Ayurvedic adaptogen — used to reduce stress, boost immunity, and enhance stamina.

Q 4

Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary is located in which district of Tamil Nadu?

A Coimbatore

B Salem

C Erode ✓

D Nilgiris

EXPLANATION

Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the Bargur Hills of Erode district, Tamil Nadu. It lies between Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (TN) and Male Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary (Karnataka).

CONCEPT

The sanctuary is part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve landscape — one of India's most important tiger and elephant corridors. It is named after E.V. Ramasamy Periyar (Thanthai Periyar), the Tamil social reformer and founder of the Dravidar Kazhagam.

Q 5 The Sports Authority of India (SAI) was established in 1984. Under which Ministry does it function?

- A Ministry of Education
- B Ministry of Culture
- C Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports ✓
- D Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

EXPLANATION

SAI (Sports Authority of India) was established in 1984 to continue the legacy of the 9th Asian Games held in New Delhi in 1982. It functions under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

CONCEPT

SAI is India's apex national sports body. Key SAI schemes: National Sports Development Fund (NSDF), Khelo India, Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), National Centres of Excellence (NCES). The 1982 Asian Games (9th edition) in New Delhi were India's first time hosting the event.

Q 6 BSNL launched VoWiFi services nationwide in January 2026. What does VoWiFi stand for?

- A Video over Wireless Fidelity
- B Voice over WiFi ✓
- C Virtual over Wireless Fiber Interface
- D Voiceband over Wireless Internet

EXPLANATION

VoWiFi stands for Voice over WiFi — it allows voice calls and SMS over a Wi-Fi network using the same mobile number, without needing cellular coverage.

CONCEPT

BSNL's revival includes a government investment of over Rs 1.64 lakh crore for 4G rollout using indigenous technology developed by TCS, under the Atmanirbhar Bharat programme. VoWiFi is especially valuable in remote, rural, and indoor areas with poor cellular reception but available Wi-Fi.

Q 7 The National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) framework was created by which ministry?

- A Ministry of Science and Technology
- B Ministry of Finance
- C Ministry of Health and Family Welfare ✓
- D Ministry of Social Justice

EXPLANATION

NQAS (National Quality Assurance Standards) was created by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to improve safety, quality, and patient-focused care in public healthcare facilities.

CONCEPT

NQAS is part of the Ayushman Bharat framework. Related quality schemes under NHM: Kayakalp (hospital cleanliness awards), LaQshya (labour room quality), Mera Aspataal (patient satisfaction). Facilities scoring above threshold receive NQAS certification valid for 3 years.

Q 8 Which city is home to UP's first Braille library, established at Dr Shakuntala Mishra National Rehabilitation University?

- A Varanasi
- B Agra
- C Prayagraj
- D Lucknow ✓

EXPLANATION

UP's first Braille library was established at Dr Shakuntala Mishra National Rehabilitation University in Lucknow, with over 4,000 Braille books. This university is India's first state university exclusively for persons with disabilities.

CONCEPT

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (RPwD Act) replaced the PWD Act 1995 and expanded categories from 7 to 21 disabilities. It mandates 5% reservation in government jobs and 5% seats in government educational institutions. NIEPVD (National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities) is in Dehradun.

Q 9 The Vande Bharat Sleeper Train began its inaugural run on which route?

- A Delhi–Mumbai
- B Chennai–Bengaluru
- C Guwahati–Howrah ✓
- D Delhi–Patna

EXPLANATION

The Vande Bharat Sleeper Train began its inaugural run on the Guwahati–Howrah route, carrying approximately 823 passengers in AC 3-tier, AC 2-tier, and first-class coaches.

CONCEPT

The Vande Bharat Sleeper is an extension of the Vande Bharat Express (introduced 2019) for overnight routes. India Railways is replacing aging trains with Vande Bharat sets — these are indigenously designed semi-high-speed trainsets (Atmanirbhar Bharat). Maximum speed: 160 km/h.

Q 10 International Year for Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026 was declared by which body?

- A World Economic Forum
- B IUCN
- C United Nations ✓
- D World Bank

EXPLANATION

The International Year for Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026 was declared by the United Nations. Rangelands cover approximately half of Earth's land surface, including grasslands, savannas, shrublands, and tundra.

CONCEPT

India has a large pastoralist community (Gujjars, Bakkarwals, Rebaris, Dhangars, etc.) whose traditional grazing rights are governed by Forest Rights Act, 2006 (FRA) — Community Forest Rights (CFR) provisions. Declining rangelands threaten food security and biodiversity in dryland ecosystems. UNCCD (UN Convention to Combat Desertification) is the relevant UN body for dryland/grassland governance.

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