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**DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED**

# Daily Quiz — January 12, 2026

12 January 2026

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## DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

# Daily Quiz — January 12, 2026

12 January 2026 · 10 Questions · Answers &amp; Explanations Included

**Q 1** January 12 is observed as National Youth Day in India. What is the significance of this date?

- A Birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi
- B Birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda ✓
- C Founding of the Ramakrishna Mission
- D Date of the Chicago Parliament of Religions speech

### EXPLANATION

January 12 is Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary — he was born Narendranath Datta on January 12, 1863. The Government of India declared this date as National Youth Day in 1984.

### CONCEPT

Swami Vivekananda's philosophy of Practical Vedanta — 'He who serves the poor serves God' — and his call for a combination of India's spiritual heritage with modern organisational efficiency make him a central figure in Indian nationalist thought and UPSC cultural history.

**Q 2** Where did Swami Vivekananda found the Ramakrishna Mission in 1897?

- A Dakshineswar, Kolkata
- B Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu
- C Belur Math, Howrah ✓
- D Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

### EXPLANATION

Swami Vivekananda founded the Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission on May 1, 1897 at Belur Math, Howrah, West Bengal — on the banks of the Ganga.

### CONCEPT

Belur Math remains the headquarters of the Ramakrishna Math and Mission. The Mission operates over 200 centres in India and abroad, providing education, healthcare, and disaster relief. Its motto: 'Atmano Mokshartham Jagad Hitaya Cha' — For one's own liberation and for the welfare of the world.

**Q 3** Swami Vivekananda delivered his famous 'Sisters and Brothers of America' speech at which event?

- A First Indian National Congress, 1885
- B Parliament of the World's Religions, Chicago, 1893 ✓
- C All India Oriental Conference, Lahore, 1890
- D Royal Institution, London, 1896

**EXPLANATION**

Vivekananda addressed the Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago on September 11, 1893, beginning with 'Sisters and Brothers of America.' The speech drew a two-minute standing ovation and made him internationally famous.

**CONCEPT**

The Parliament of the World's Religions (1893) was part of the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Vivekananda's central argument — that Hinduism accepts all religions as valid paths to truth — was a landmark articulation of religious pluralism in the modern era.

**Q 4** Muhammad Yunus, who became Bangladesh's Chief Adviser in August 2024, received the Nobel Peace Prize for which contribution?

- A Peace mediation between India and Pakistan
- B Founding the Grameen Bank and pioneering the microcredit model ✓
- C Advancing climate change adaptation in Bangladesh
- D Developing the concept of Human Development Index

**EXPLANATION**

Muhammad Yunus and Grameen Bank jointly received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for efforts to create economic and social development from below through microcredit. Grameen Bank was founded in 1983 and pioneered collateral-free small loans primarily to rural women.

**CONCEPT**

Grameen Bank's solidarity group lending model provides small loans to groups of 5 borrowers who guarantee each other's repayment. With over 97% female borrowers and repayment rates above 95%, it demonstrated that the poor are creditworthy. Yunus also developed the 'social business' concept — enterprises that reinvest all profits into their social mission.

**Q 5**

The Teesta River water-sharing treaty between India and Bangladesh has been pending for decades. Which Indian state government's objection blocked the agreement in 2011?

A Assam

B Bihar

C Sikkim

**D West Bengal ✓**

**EXPLANATION**

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of West Bengal objected to the proposed Teesta water-sharing deal in 2011, arguing it would deprive downstream Bengali farmers of adequate water. The treaty was nearly finalised during PM Manmohan Singh's visit to Dhaka but was blocked at the last moment.

**CONCEPT**

The Teesta River originates in Sikkim, flows through West Bengal, then enters Bangladesh where it joins the Jamuna. Bangladesh depends on Teesta irrigation for its northern districts during the dry season. China has offered to fund a Teesta basin management project in Bangladesh, increasing the strategic stakes for India.

**Q 6**

India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline, inaugurated in March 2023, connects which two locations?

A Dibrugarh (Assam) to Narayanganj (Bangladesh)

**B Noonmati (Assam) to Parbatipur (Bangladesh) ✓**

C Numaligarh (Assam) to Chittagong (Bangladesh)

D Siliguri (West Bengal) to Rajshahi (Bangladesh)

**EXPLANATION**

The India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline connects Noonmati in Assam to Parbatipur in Bangladesh. Inaugurated in March 2023, it is 131.5 km long and is the first cross-border petroleum pipeline in South Asia.

**CONCEPT**

The pipeline supplies diesel from India's Numaligarh Refinery to northern Bangladesh, reducing Bangladesh's dependence on long overland transport and demonstrating India's energy connectivity diplomacy in the neighbourhood.

**Q 7**

What is the Siliguri Corridor, sometimes called the Chicken's Neck, and why is it strategically significant for India?

- A A rail corridor connecting Mumbai to Kolkata; significant for freight movement
- B A 22-24 km wide strip of land connecting Northeast India to mainland India; a critical vulnerability ✓**
- C A mountain pass connecting India to Nepal; used for trade
- D A sea corridor connecting Andaman Islands to the Indian mainland

**EXPLANATION**

The Siliguri Corridor is a narrow strip of land approximately 22–24 km wide between Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh, connecting India's northeastern states to the rest of the country. Its narrowness makes it a critical strategic vulnerability — any disruption here would sever land connectivity to India's Northeast.

**CONCEPT**

India's transit corridors through Bangladesh and improved road/rail connectivity in the Northeast (including the Agartala-Akhaura Rail Link opened October 2023) reduce dependence on the Siliguri Corridor. The corridor is also significant in the context of India-China strategic competition, as it lies close to the Doklam plateau.

**Q 8**

Petrapole-Benapole land port is described as the largest land port in South Asia. Which countries does it connect?

- A India and Nepal
- B India and Bhutan
- C India and Bangladesh ✓**
- D India and Myanmar

**EXPLANATION**

Petrapole (West Bengal, India) and Benapole (Bangladesh) form the largest land port in South Asia. It handles a substantial share of India-Bangladesh bilateral trade.

**CONCEPT**

India-Bangladesh bilateral trade is approximately \$14 billion annually — India exports ~\$11 billion and imports ~\$2-3 billion. Bangladesh is India's largest trading partner in SAARC. The Petrapole-Benapole port handles textiles, food products, and manufactured goods.

**Q 9** National Youth Policy 2014 defines youth in India as persons in which age group?

A 14 to 25 years

**B 15 to 29 years ✓**

C 15 to 35 years

D 18 to 30 years

**EXPLANATION**

India's National Youth Policy 2014 defines youth as persons aged 15 to 29 years. The policy outlines five priority areas: education, employability, entrepreneurship, health and wellness, and social values.

**CONCEPT**

Different agencies use different age definitions for youth — the UN uses 15-24, the Commonwealth uses 15-29, while some Indian development schemes extend coverage to 35 years. The National Youth Policy 2014's 15-29 definition is the official UPSC-relevant figure.

**Q 10** Swami Vivekananda's philosophical school is termed Neo-Vedanta. What is its core distinction from traditional Advaita Vedanta?

A It rejects the concept of Brahman and emphasises personal deity worship

**B It incorporates social service as a form of spiritual practice, not just contemplative withdrawal ✓**

C It rejects all Western philosophical influences in favour of pure Sanskrit texts

D It argues that Hinduism is superior to all other religions

**EXPLANATION**

Vivekananda's Neo-Vedanta retained Advaita's core insight (Atman = Brahman) but added Practical Vedanta — the idea that service to fellow humans is worship of the divine. This made social work spiritually mandatory, departing from the purely contemplative tradition.

**CONCEPT**

Vivekananda's Practical Vedanta influenced figures from Mahatma Gandhi to modern social entrepreneurs. His view — 'Serve man as God, daridra narayana' (God in the form of the poor) — became the philosophical basis for the Ramakrishna Mission's hospitals, schools, and disaster relief work.

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