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**DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED**

# Daily Quiz — January 18, 2026

18 January 2026

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## DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

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

**Q 1** The National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM) was launched in which year and under which ministry?

A 2022, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

**B 2023, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy ✓**

C 2021, Ministry of Power

D 2024, Ministry of Science and Technology

### EXPLANATION

The National Green Hydrogen Mission was launched on January 4, 2023, under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). Its target is 5 MMTPA green hydrogen production by 2030 with Rs 19,744 crore government outlay.

### CONCEPT

Green hydrogen is produced by electrolysis of water using renewable electricity, with zero carbon emissions. The SIGHT programme under NGHM provides incentives for both electrolyser manufacturing (Component A) and green hydrogen production (Component B).

**Q 2** The International Seabed Authority (ISA) was established under which international legal instrument?

A Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 1992

**B UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1982 ✓**

C Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, 1969

D UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Resolution, 1972

### EXPLANATION

ISA was established under Part XI and Annex VI of UNCLOS (1982), which entered into force in 1994. ISA regulates mineral-related activities in the Area (seabed beyond national jurisdiction), designated as the Common Heritage of Mankind under Article 136.

### CONCEPT

India was one of the first Pioneer Investors with an ISA exploration licence in 1987 for polymetallic nodules in the Central Indian Ocean Basin (CIOB). Under the Deep Ocean Mission (Rs 4,077 crore, 2021), India is developing Matsya 6000, a crewed submersible capable of 6,000 m depth.

**Q 3** Where is the headquarters of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) located?

**A** New York, USA

**B** Geneva, Switzerland

**C** Kingston, Jamaica ✓

**D** Nairobi, Kenya

**EXPLANATION**

The International Seabed Authority (ISA) is headquartered in Kingston, Jamaica. It has 168 member states plus the European Union as members.

**CONCEPT**

ISA's The Enterprise is the commercial arm designed to conduct mining on behalf of developing countries, but it has never become operational. This is one of the equity concerns raised at RB-IOIS 2026 in Chennai.

**Q 4** The ASEAN-India FTA on goods (AIFTA) was concluded in which year?

**A** 2005

**B** 2008

**C** 2010 ✓

**D** 2015

**EXPLANATION**

The ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement on goods (AIFTA) was concluded in 2010. India and ASEAN also concluded a Services and Investment FTA in 2015. India's Act East Policy (2014) upgraded the earlier Look East Policy from economic to strategic engagement.

**CONCEPT**

ASEAN has 10 members: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. ASEAN was founded on August 8, 1967 by the Bangkok Declaration. Its headquarters is in Jakarta, Indonesia.

**Q 5** India and Singapore established the first bilateral real-time UPI-PayNow interoperability link in which year?

A 2021

B 2022

**C 2023 ✓**

D 2024

**EXPLANATION**

The UPI-PayNow real-time payment link between India and Singapore was established in 2023, making it the first bilateral real-time gross settlement (RTGS) payment link between the two countries. It allows instant, low-cost transfers in both directions.

**CONCEPT**

Under the ASEAN-India Digital Masterplan 2030, India aims to achieve bilateral payment interoperability with Indonesia (GoBiz), Malaysia (DuitNow), Thailand (PromptPay), Philippines (InstaPay), and Vietnam (NAPAS). UPI is also accepted in UAE, France, Mauritius, Nepal, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka.

**Q 6** What is the mandatory threshold for central government procurement on the GeM portal?

A Rs 10,000

**B Rs 25,000 ✓**

C Rs 1 lakh

D Rs 5 lakh

**EXPLANATION**

Procurement by central government departments above Rs 25,000 must be done through the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal. GeM was launched in 2016. The Womaniya initiative on GeM (launched 2020) has enrolled over 10 lakh women sellers.

**CONCEPT**

GeM Womaniya has generated cumulative sales exceeding Rs 35,000 crore from women-owned businesses as of January 2026. Self-Help Groups (SHGs) with about 12 crore women members are primary beneficiaries. GeM is under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

**Q 7** CERT-In, India national nodal agency for cybersecurity, was established under which legislation?

- A Cybersecurity Policy Act, 2013
- B Information Technology Act, 2000 ✓
- C National Security Act, 1980
- D Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2009

**EXPLANATION**

CERT-In (Computer Emergency Response Team India) was established in 2004 under the Information Technology Act, 2000. It functions under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

**CONCEPT**

CERT-In coordinates cybersecurity incident response across India and works with international CERTs through bilateral and multilateral frameworks. The ASEAN-India Digital Masterplan 2030 includes joint CERT protocols between CERT-In and ASEAN member CERTs.

**Q 8** Which of the following correctly states the revised MSME classification threshold for a Small Enterprise (post-2020)?

- A Investment up to Rs 5 crore; Turnover up to Rs 25 crore
- B Investment up to Rs 10 crore; Turnover up to Rs 50 crore ✓
- C Investment up to Rs 25 crore; Turnover up to Rs 100 crore
- D Investment up to Rs 50 crore; Turnover up to Rs 200 crore

**EXPLANATION**

Post-2020 MSME classification: Micro (investment up to Rs 1 crore, turnover up to Rs 5 crore), Small (up to Rs 10 crore, up to Rs 50 crore), Medium (up to Rs 50 crore, up to Rs 250 crore). The 2020 revision was made to bring more enterprises under MSME benefits.

**CONCEPT**

India has approximately 6.3 crore MSMEs employing about 11 crore people, contributing ~30% of GDP and ~50% of exports. UDYAM portal (launched 2020) is the online MSME registration system, replacing Udyog Aadhaar. TReDS (Trade Receivables Discounting System) facilitates invoice financing for MSMEs.

**Q 9**

India is ranked as the world second-largest producer of fish. Which ministry oversees the fisheries sector in India?

- A Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- B Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- C Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying ✓**
- D Ministry of Food Processing Industries

**EXPLANATION**

The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying oversees India's fisheries sector. India produces approximately 16 million tonnes of fish annually and is the world's 2nd largest fish producer after China, employing about 28 million people.

**CONCEPT**

PM Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) is the flagship fisheries scheme with Rs 20,050 crore outlay (2020-25, extended). Israel is a leader in Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS) technology, which uses near-zero water and is relevant for India's water-scarce regions.

**Q 10**

What is the primary function of the IFC (International Finance Corporation) in relation to development finance?

- A It provides concessional loans to sovereign governments of developing countries
- B It finances private sector projects in developing countries to promote economic development ✓**
- C It manages multilateral aid programs for humanitarian relief
- D It sets global financial regulatory standards for emerging economies

**EXPLANATION**

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) is the private sector arm of the World Bank Group. It finances private sector companies and projects in developing countries to promote economic development and reduce poverty, unlike the World Bank (IBRD) which lends to governments.

**CONCEPT**

Blended finance combines concessional development finance (IFC, ADB) with commercial capital to reduce risk and mobilise private investment into sectors typically underserved by commercial banks. ADB (Asian Development Bank) is headquartered in Manila, Philippines, founded in 1966. India is one of ADB largest borrowers.

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