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Daily Quiz — January 19, 2026

19 January 2026

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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz — January 19, 2026

19 January 2026 · 10 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Q 1 Kaziranga National Park was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in which year?

A 1979

B 1985 ✓

C 1992

D 2006

EXPLANATION

Kaziranga was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985. It was also designated a Tiger Reserve in 2006.

CONCEPT

Kaziranga National Park (Assam) holds about 70% of the world population of the one-horned rhinoceros (~2,613 as per 2022 census). Its Big Five wildlife: rhino, elephant, tiger, wild water buffalo, and swamp deer (barasingha).

Q 2 The 4.2 Kiloyear Event (~2,200 BCE) is associated with which of the following?

A A prolonged global drought linked to the decline of the Indus Valley Civilisation ✓

B A massive volcanic eruption in Iceland that cooled global temperatures

C The onset of the Ice Age that ended the Bronze Age in Europe

D A period of unusually high monsoon activity that caused flooding

EXPLANATION

The 4.2 ka Event was a prolonged global mega-drought (~2,200-1,900 BCE) linked to the decline of the Harappan (Indus Valley) Civilisation, the Akkadian Empire in Mesopotamia, and the Egyptian Old Kingdom.

CONCEPT

Palaeoclimatology uses proxy records like sediment cores, pollen, tree rings, and ice cores to reconstruct past climates. The recent Kondagai Lake (Sivaganga, Tamil Nadu) study by BSIP Lucknow provided 4,500-year evidence of this event from peninsular India.

Q 3

The Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP) in Lucknow functions under which ministry or department?

- A Ministry of Earth Sciences
- B Ministry of Science and Technology
- C Department of Science and Technology (DST) ✓
- D Indian Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

EXPLANATION

BSIP Lucknow is an autonomous institution under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India. It specialises in palaeobotany, palynology, Quaternary palaeoclimate, and geochronology.

CONCEPT

Birbal Sahni (1891-1949) was a pioneering Indian palaeobotanist who contributed to understanding Gondwana flora and the geological history of India. BSIP is named after him.

Q 4

Under the ESIC (Employees State Insurance) scheme, which of the following correctly states the contribution rates?

- A Employer 5% and Employee 2%
- B Employer 3.25% and Employee 0.75% ✓
- C Employer 12% and Employee 12%
- D Employer 8% and Employee 4%

EXPLANATION

ESIC contribution rates are Employer 3.25% and Employee 0.75% of wages. The 12%+12% rates apply to EPFO (Employees Provident Fund Organisation), not ESIC.

CONCEPT

ESIC is governed by the ESI Act, 1948 and covers establishments with 10 or more workers. EPFO is governed by the EPF and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and covers establishments with 20 or more workers. Both are under the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

Q 5 The SPREE campaign jointly run by ESIC and EPFO offered which specific incentive to employers?

- A Full waiver of principal PF and ESI dues for past years
- B Waiver of penalty damages under Section 14B (EPF) and Section 85 (ESI) ✓
- C Government subsidy on employer ESI and EPF contributions for two years
- D Exemption from labour inspections for three years after registration

EXPLANATION

SPREE offered waiver of damages (penalty interest) under Section 14B of the EPF Act and Section 85 of the ESI Act for employers who voluntarily registered workers. The principal dues still had to be paid.

CONCEPT

SPREE stands for Social Security Registration and Enrolment of Employees. The campaign enrolled 1.03 crore workers as of January 2026. India has ~90% informal workforce, making such campaigns essential for expanding formal social security coverage.

Q 6 The Supreme Court judgment in *Common Cause v. Union of India (2018)* on passive euthanasia was delivered by how many judges?

- A 3-judge bench
- B 5-judge constitutional bench ✓
- C 7-judge constitutional bench
- D Single judge bench

EXPLANATION

The *Common Cause v. UoI (2018)* judgment on passive euthanasia and advance directives was delivered by a 5-judge constitutional bench presided over by Chief Justice Dipak Misra.

CONCEPT

The judgment held that Article 21 (Right to Life) includes the right to die with dignity, making passive euthanasia legal with conditions. An advance directive (living will) was recognized as valid. Active euthanasia - administering a lethal substance - remains illegal in India.

Q 7 Which of the following correctly distinguishes passive euthanasia from active euthanasia?

- A Passive euthanasia is performed by family members; active euthanasia only by doctors
- B **Passive euthanasia involves withholding life-sustaining treatment; active euthanasia involves administering a lethal agent ✓**
- C Passive euthanasia requires court approval; active euthanasia requires parliamentary legislation
- D Passive euthanasia applies only to cancer patients; active euthanasia to all terminal patients

EXPLANATION

Passive euthanasia means withdrawing or withholding life-sustaining treatment (disconnecting a ventilator, stopping artificial nutrition) allowing natural death. Active euthanasia means administering a lethal substance to cause death. Passive euthanasia is legal in India; active euthanasia is not.

CONCEPT

The Aruna Shanbaug case (2011) first judicially recognised passive euthanasia in India. In that case nurse Aruna Shanbaug had been in a persistent vegetative state since 1973 after an assault. The court acknowledged passive euthanasia but denied the petition in her specific case.

Q 8 China recorded a population decline of approximately 3.39 million in 2025. When did China first record a population decline after decades of growth?

- A 2019
- B 2020
- C **2022 ✓**
- D 2024

EXPLANATION

China first recorded a population decline in 2022 (by approximately 850,000 people) - the first decline since 1961. Subsequent declines were 2.08 million in 2023, 1.39 million in 2024, and 3.39 million in 2025.

CONCEPT

India surpassed China to become the world most populous country in April 2023. China replaced the one-child policy with two-child (2016) and three-child (2021) policies but these have not reversed the fertility decline. China total fertility rate is approximately 1.0 against the replacement level of 2.1.

Q 9 What does AT&C loss refer to in the context of India's power distribution companies (DISCOMs)?

A Advanced Transmission and Collection loss

B Aggregate Technical and Commercial loss ✓

C Annual Tariff and Consumer loss

D Average Transmission and Consumption loss

EXPLANATION

AT&C stands for Aggregate Technical and Commercial loss - the combined effect of electricity losses during transmission and distribution (technical) plus billing and collection inefficiency (commercial). India's AT&C losses fell to 15.4% in FY25 from over 22% a decade ago.

CONCEPT

UDAY (Ujjwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana, 2015) and RDSS (Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme, 2021 - Rs 3.04 lakh crore) have been the main schemes driving DISCOM reforms. DISCOMs recorded a collective net profit of Rs 2,701 crore in FY25 - the first-ever collective profit.

Q 10 The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) was established under which legislation?

A Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988

B CVC Act, 2003 ✓

C Central Vigilance Commission Ordinance, 1964

D Whistleblowers Protection Act, 2014

EXPLANATION

The Central Vigilance Commission was initially established by executive order in 1964 based on the K. Santhanam Committee recommendations, but it received statutory status through the CVC Act, 2003.

CONCEPT

CVC exercises superintendence over vigilance administration in central government ministries, departments, and public sector undertakings. It is a multi-member body headed by the Chief Vigilance Commissioner. It is distinct from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) though CVC has supervisory jurisdiction over CBI in corruption cases.

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