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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz — January 27, 2026

27 January 2026

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27 January 2026 · 10 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

The 16th India-EU Summit (January 27, 2026) produced a "Towards 2030 Strategic Agenda" with 13 deliverables. The Mobility and Migration Partnership includes annual issuance of multi-year work permits to Indians. What is the annual target for these work permits?

Q 1

A 25,000 work permits + 10,000 graduate-track permits

B 50,000 work permits + 20,000 graduate-track permits

C 1,00,000 work permits + 35,000 graduate-track permits ✓

D 2,00,000 work permits + 50,000 graduate-track permits

EXPLANATION

The India-EU Mobility and Migration Partnership (one of 13 "Towards 2030" deliverables) commits EU member states to collectively issue up to 1,00,000 multi-year work permits plus 35,000 graduate-track residence permits annually to Indian nationals. This is India's first binding commitment from the EU on Mode 4 services (movement of natural persons).

CONCEPT

Mode 4 under GATS (General Agreement on Trade in Services): Movement of natural persons — managers, IT professionals, consultants — to supply services abroad. India's primary interest in services trade negotiations. EU member states have historically resisted binding Mode 4 commitments due to domestic immigration politics. The 2026 commitment is a breakthrough. Related: EU Blue Card (high-skilled non-EU workers).

The Republic Day 2026 parade debuted a "Phased Battle Array" format for the first time. Which unit made its first-ever appearance at a Republic Day parade in 2026, representing India's newly raised fast-attack infantry?

Q 2

- A MARCOS (Marine Commandos)
- B Parachute Regiment Special Forces
- C Bhairav Light Commando Battalion ✓
- D Ghatak Platoon

EXPLANATION

The Bhairav Light Commando Battalion made its debut at the Republic Day 2026 parade as part of the new Phased Battle Array format. The batch array arranged units in tactical combat order: reconnaissance drones first, then Shaktimaan Artillery Regiments (drone + loitering munition), Divyastra Batteries, and finally the Bhairav Light Commando Battalions as fast-attack infantry.

CONCEPT

The Phased Battle Array reflects India's shift to effects-based integrated warfare doctrine — combining drones, loitering munitions, precision artillery, and fast-attack infantry as a networked system, rather than showcasing platforms by service branch. Loitering munitions (also called kamikaze drones) were extensively used in the Ukraine-Russia war (Lancet, Shahed-136) and Gaza conflict, transforming modern warfare doctrine.

India Energy Week 2026 (Goa) saw PM Modi announce a \$500 billion energy investment opportunity. India currently holds what rank in global refining capacity?

Q 3

- A 1st
- B 2nd ✓
- C 3rd
- D 5th

EXPLANATION

India currently ranks 2nd globally in refining capacity (after the USA), with a target to become No. 1. India has 23 major refineries. Reliance's Jamnagar complex (Gujarat) is the world's largest single-location refinery at 1.4 million barrels per day capacity. India exports petroleum products to 150+ countries and is among the top 5 global exporters of refined products.

CONCEPT

Despite being a massive crude oil importer (85-88% dependence), India is a net exporter of refined petroleum products — a strategic differentiator. Key refiners: IOCL (largest PSU), BPCL, HPCL, Reliance (private, Jamnagar). IEW (India Energy Week) is India's flagship annual energy conference — 4th edition in 2026, organised by MoPNG + FIPI (Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry), Goa.

Q 4 What was the best tableau (from States/UTs) at Republic Day 2026, and what theme did it carry?

- A [object Object]
- B Tamil Nadu — "Dravidian Architecture and Classical Dance"
- C [object Object] ✓**
- D [object Object]

EXPLANATION

Maharashtra won the best State/UT tableau at Republic Day 2026 with the theme "Ganeshotsav: A Symbol of Aatmanirbharta" — connecting Bal Gangadhar Tilak's 1893 tradition of public Ganesh festival (as a vehicle for Swadeshi movement) with Aatmanirbhar Bharat. J&K was 2nd; Kerala (Water Metro + 100% digital literacy) was 3rd. Best Ministry tableau was Ministry of Culture ("Vande Mataram — The Soul Cry of a Nation").

CONCEPT

Ganeshotsav (Ganesh Chaturthi) was transformed from a private home festival into a public community celebration by Bal Gangadhar Tilak in 1893 (Pune) — to forge social solidarity across caste lines and resist British colonial rule. This Swadeshi link makes it a Prelims fact. Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan was launched by PM Modi on May 12, 2020 (during COVID-19 pandemic) with a Rs 20 lakh crore economic package.

Q 5 At India Energy Week 2026, PM Modi stated that India targets meeting what percentage of its total energy demand through LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) by 2030?

- A 5%
- B 10%
- C 15% ✓**
- D 25%

EXPLANATION

PM Modi at IEW 2026 announced India's target to meet 15% of total energy demand through LNG by 2030, up from the current ~6-7%. LNG is natural gas cooled to -162°C (reducing volume 600x) for ship transport. India's current regasification capacity is ~45 MTPA (target: 80 MTPA). Major LNG terminals: Dahej (Gujarat, largest), Hazira, Kochi, Ennore, Dabhol.

CONCEPT

LNG is India's preferred "transition fuel" — it emits ~50% less CO₂ than coal, making it ideal for industrial decarbonisation while renewables scale up. India imports LNG from Qatar (largest supplier), USA, Australia, Russia (Sakhalin-2). PM Ujjwala Yojana (102 million LPG connections) and Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga (33,000 km gas pipeline target) are complementary schemes for gas access.

Q 6

Carlos Alcaraz won the Australian Open 2026 men's singles title, completing his Career Grand Slam. What is a "Career Grand Slam" in tennis?

- A Winning all four Grand Slams in a single calendar year
- B Winning all four Grand Slams at least once in a career ✓**
- C Winning three consecutive Grand Slams
- D Winning Wimbledon three or more times

EXPLANATION

A Career Grand Slam means winning all four Grand Slams (Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon, US Open) at least once in a career. Carlos Alcaraz completed his Career Grand Slam at the 2026 Australian Open at age 22 years, 8 months, 27 days — the youngest player to complete the Career Grand Slam, breaking Rafael Nadal's record of 24 years, 101 days. This was Alcaraz's 7th Grand Slam title.

CONCEPT

Calendar Year Grand Slam (winning all 4 in one year) is distinct from Career Grand Slam. Only 3 men achieved Calendar Year Grand Slam: Don Budge (1938), Rod Laver (1962, 1969). Career Grand Slam achievers: Federer, Nadal, Djokovic, Agassi, Connors, Perry, Emerson, and now Alcaraz (2026). Elena Rybakina (Kazakhstan) won the 2026 Australian Open women's title.

Q 7

The United States officially withdrew from the World Health Organization (WHO) on January 22, 2026. In which year was the WHO established?

- A 1945
- B 1946
- C 1948 ✓**
- D 1950

EXPLANATION

The World Health Organization (WHO) was established in 1948, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. It replaced the League of Nations Health Organization and became part of the UN system. The 2026 US withdrawal was the second time — the first was under Trump's first term; the US rejoined under Biden in 2021. The US contributes approximately 15-18% of WHO's budget.

CONCEPT

WHO's primary legal framework: International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005 — legally binding international instrument for global health security (entered into force 2007). 194 member states are party to IHR. Key WHO functions: disease surveillance (GOARN), vaccination programmes (EPI), essential medicines list (NLEM in India), global health emergency declarations (PHEIC — Public Health Emergency of International Concern). COVID-19 was declared PHEIC by WHO on January 30, 2020.

The Horizon Europe programme, whose integration India is now exploring following the 2026 India-EU Summit, is the EU's research and innovation framework programme. What is the total budget of Horizon Europe?

Q 8

A EUR 45 billion

B EUR 65 billion

C EUR 80 billion

D EUR 95 billion ✓

EXPLANATION

Horizon Europe is the EU's research and innovation framework programme with a total budget of EUR 95 billion for the period 2021-2027. It is the world's largest multinational R&D programme. The 2026 India-EU Summit deliverables include India's prospective integration into Horizon Europe, enabling Indian researchers and institutions to participate in EU-funded research projects across science, technology, health, climate, and society.

CONCEPT

Horizon Europe succeeds Horizon 2020 (EUR 80 billion, 2014-2020). Key pillars: Excellent Science, Global Challenges and Industrial Competitiveness, Innovative Europe. India's participation would enable ISRO-ESA joint research, IIT/IISc collaboration with EU universities, and access to Marie Curie fellowships. Related: India-EU iCET-equivalent framework; India already participates in some EU research projects bilaterally.

Inderjit Singh Bindra, who passed away in January 2026, challenged Doordarshan's monopoly on cricket broadcasting in the Supreme Court in 1994. What was the outcome that transformed Indian cricket commercially?

Q 9

A SC ordered BCCI to share cricket revenues with state associations

B SC allowed private broadcasters like ESPN and TWI to telecast cricket in India ✓

C SC directed IPL to be created as a franchise tournament

D SC ruled that cricket is a fundamental right under Article 19

EXPLANATION

I.S. Bindra's 1994 Supreme Court challenge ended Doordarshan's monopoly on cricket broadcasting, enabling private international broadcasters like ESPN and Trans World International (TWI) to enter India. This was a foundational moment — it created the commercial value for Indian cricket that eventually led to the era of massive TV rights deals and the IPL (Indian Premier League, launched 2008). Bindra served as BCCI President 1993-96 and PCA President for 30+ years.

CONCEPT

Media law milestones in India: Doordarshan (DD) was India's only TV broadcaster until economic liberalisation (1991). Cable TV Act 1995 regulated cable/satellite broadcasting. Star TV, ESPN, Zee TV began broadcasting in early 1990s post-liberalisation. IPL launched by BCCI in 2008 under Lalit Modi; now world's most valuable cricket league (franchise value: \$1+ billion each for top teams). IS Bindra PCA Stadium (Mohali) = India's major Test match venue.

Q 10

National Tourism Day is observed on January 25 every year in India. What was the theme of National Tourism Day 2026?

- A Sustainable Tourism for Tomorrow
- B Inclusive Tourism and Digital Access
- C Rural and Community-Centric Tourism ✓
- D Heritage Tourism and Cultural Identity

EXPLANATION

The theme of National Tourism Day 2026 (January 25) was "Rural and Community-Centric Tourism" — aligned with the government's push to develop rural tourism as a livelihood generation and heritage preservation strategy. National Tourism Day is observed on January 25 in India (coincides with National Voters Day on the same date). World Tourism Day is September 27 (UNWTO).

CONCEPT

India's tourism framework: Ministry of Tourism; "Incredible India" brand. Rural tourism schemes: PRASHAD (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive), Swadesh Darshan scheme (integrated tourist circuit development), Rural Tourism Cluster. UNWTO (UN World Tourism Organization) HQ: Madrid, Spain. India's rank in UNWTO global tourism: improving; received ~9 million international tourists (2024). Visa-on-Arrival scheme and e-Visa (156+ countries) drive international tourists.

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