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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz — January 31, 2026

31 January 2026

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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

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31 January 2026 · 10 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Q 1

Sunetra Pawar was sworn in as Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra on January 31, 2026. What is the historic significance of this appointment?

- A She became Maharashtra's first woman Chief Minister
- B She became Maharashtra's first woman Deputy Chief Minister ✓
- C She became the first woman elected leader of the NCP party nationally
- D She became the first woman Finance Minister of Maharashtra

EXPLANATION

Sunetra Pawar became Maharashtra's first-ever woman Deputy Chief Minister when she was sworn in at Lok Bhavan, Mumbai on January 31, 2026. Governor Acharya Devvrat administered the oath after her unanimous election as leader of the NCP (Ajit Pawar faction) legislature party.

CONCEPT

The Deputy Chief Minister is not a separate constitutional post under Article 163/164 — it is a convention. The Governor administers the oath to all state ministers under the Third Schedule of the Constitution. Maharashtra has had 20 Deputy CMs across its history, but Sunetra Pawar is the first woman to hold the office.

Q 2

Kavach is India's indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system. What is its safety certification level?

- A SIL-2 (Safety Integrity Level 2)
- B SIL-3 (Safety Integrity Level 3)
- C SIL-4 (Safety Integrity Level 4) ✓
- D ISO-9001 Railway Safety Certification

EXPLANATION

Kavach is certified to SIL-4 (Safety Integrity Level 4) under the European EN 50129 standard — the highest possible safety rating for rail systems globally, with failure probability less than 10^{-8} per hour. This is the same standard used for nuclear plant safety systems.

CONCEPT

Kavach was developed by Indian Railways with RDSO (Lucknow) and three Indian firms: Medha Servo Drives, HBL Power Systems, and Kernex Microsystems. It prevents Signal Passed At Danger (SPAD), over-speeding, and head-on/rear-end collisions using microprocessors, GPS, and radio communication.

Q 3

On January 30, 2026, Indian Railways set a record by commissioning 472.3 route kilometres of Kavach 4.0 in a single day. Which of the following correctly identifies the three railway zones involved?

- A Central, Southern, and South Eastern Railway
- B Western, Northern, and East Central Railway ✓
- C Western, North Western, and South Central Railway
- D Northern, Eastern, and North Eastern Railway

EXPLANATION

The three sections commissioned were: Vadodara-Virar (344 km, Western Railway), Tughlakabad Junction Cabin-Palwal (35 km, Northern Railway), and Manpur-Sarmatanr (93.3 km, East Central Railway). The previous record was 324 RKm on the Kota-Mathura section.

CONCEPT

Total Kavach coverage after this commissioning exceeded 1,300 RKm out of Indian Railways' 68,000+ RKm network. The rollout target is 50,000 km by 2028-29 at an estimated investment of Rs 1,38,000 crore. Kavach deployment was accelerated after the Balasore train collision of June 2, 2023 (294 killed).

Q 4

The 39th Surajkund International Crafts Mela 2026 was inaugurated on January 31, 2026 in Faridabad, Haryana. Which of the following correctly identifies its theme and partner nation?

- A Theme: Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat; Partner Nation: Sri Lanka
- B Theme: Vocal for Local; Partner Nation: UAE
- C Theme: Local to Global; Partner Nation: Egypt ✓
- D Theme: Heritage and Harmony; Partner Nation: Russia

EXPLANATION

The 39th Surajkund Mela had the theme 'Local to Global' and Egypt as the partner nation. The theme states were Uttar Pradesh and Meghalaya. It was inaugurated by Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan and runs from January 31 to February 15, 2026.

CONCEPT

Surajkund Mela started in 1987 (1st edition). It is organised jointly by Haryana Tourism, Ministry of Tourism, and Ministry of Textiles. Named after a 10th-century reservoir near Delhi built by Tomar ruler Surajpal. The Mela Sathi App was launched at the 2026 inauguration.

Q 5

The Supreme Court ruled that the right to menstrual health is an integral component of which Fundamental Right?

- A Article 19 (Freedom of Expression)
- B Article 21 (Right to Life and Dignity) ✓**
- C Article 25 (Freedom of Religion)
- D Article 32 (Right to Constitutional Remedies)

EXPLANATION

In *Dr. Jaya Thakur vs Government of India*, the Supreme Court declared the right to menstrual health an integral component of the Right to Life and Dignity under Article 21. Directions included free sanitary pads in schools, gender-segregated toilets, MHM corners, and reproductive health education in curricula.

CONCEPT

Article 21 has been judicially expanded by the Supreme Court to include numerous rights: right to health (1996), right to education (pre-86th Amendment), right to privacy (*K.S. Puttaswamy*, 2017), right to live with dignity, and now menstrual health (2026). These expansions happen through judicial interpretation under Article 21's phrase 'life and personal liberty'.

Q 6

The National Shipbuilding and Heavy Industries Park (NSHIP) was established in Thoothukudi as a 50:50 joint venture. Which of the following correctly identifies the two JV partners?

- A ONGC and Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation
- B V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority and SIPCOT ✓**
- C Cochin Shipyard Limited and Chennai Port Trust
- D NMDC and Tamil Nadu Maritime Board

EXPLANATION

NSHIP is a 50:50 SPV between V.O. Chidambaranar (VOC) Port Authority (representing the Union Government) and SIPCOT (State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu). The investment is Rs 19,989 crore; it covers 2,000 acres with 2 km of waterfront access.

CONCEPT

VOC Port is named after Vanchi Okonnar Chidambaram Pillai, who founded India's first swadeshi shipping line in 1906. India currently builds less than 1% of global ship tonnage despite having 7,516 km of coastline. NSHIP is part of Maritime India Vision 2030, which targets India becoming a top-5 shipbuilding nation. SIPCOT is Tamil Nadu's state industrial area developer.

Q 7 Which of the following correctly describes the Ramsar Convention?

- A A 1992 convention for marine pollution prevention, signed in Rio de Janeiro
- B A 1971 convention on wetlands of international importance, signed in Ramsar, Iran ✓
- C A 2002 UNESCO convention for protection of coastal ecosystems, signed in Johannesburg
- D A 1975 IUCN agreement on freshwater biodiversity hotspots, signed in Vienna

EXPLANATION

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands was signed in Ramsar, Iran in 1971. India acceded in 1982. Official name: Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat. With Patna Bird Sanctuary (Etah, UP) and Chhari-Dhand (Kutch, Gujarat) added in January 2026, India's total reached 98 Ramsar sites — highest in Asia.

CONCEPT

India's Ramsar sites grew 276% since 2014 (from 26 to 98). World Wetlands Day is February 2, the anniversary of the Ramsar Convention signing. The two new sites include Patna Bird Sanctuary — a freshwater wintering ground hosting 60,000+ migratory birds from Central Asia — and Chhari-Dhand — a saline/seasonal desert wetland in the Rann of Kutch.

Q 8 PAIMANA is a portal launched by MoSPI. Which of the following correctly describes what PAIMANA stands for and what it monitors?

- A Public Administration Infrastructure Monitoring and National Assessment — monitors state government schemes
- B Project Assessment Infrastructure Monitoring and Analytics for Nation-building — monitors Central Sector projects worth Rs 150 crore and above ✓
- C Programme Analysis Integration Management and Nationwide Audit — monitors PSU financial performance
- D Policy Assessment and Infrastructure Metrics for National Allocation — allocates central grants to states

EXPLANATION

PAIMANA stands for Project Assessment, Infrastructure Monitoring and Analytics for Nation-building. It is a MoSPI portal that replaces OCMS-2006 and monitors 1,702 ongoing Central Sector Infrastructure projects worth Rs 150 crore and above, with a revised combined cost of Rs 39.25 lakh crore.

CONCEPT

MoSPI (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation) has two wings: Statistics (GDP, CPI, IIP, PLFS) and Programme Implementation (monitors central government projects). PAIMANA uses a 'one data, one entry' principle and integrates with DPIIT's portal via APIs, reducing manual data entry for ~60% of projects.

Q 9 Elena Rybakina won the Australian Open 2026 Women's Singles title. She represents which country?

A Russia

B Ukraine

C Kazakhstan ✓

D Belarus

EXPLANATION

Elena Rybakina represents Kazakhstan. She defeated World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus) 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 in the final. This was Rybakina's second Grand Slam title — her first was Wimbledon 2022.

CONCEPT

The Australian Open is the first Grand Slam of the tennis calendar (held in Melbourne, January). The four Grand Slams are: Australian Open, Roland Garros (Paris, May-June), Wimbledon (London, June-July), and US Open (New York, August-September). Completing all four is called a Career Grand Slam.

Q 10 The World Bank and India unveiled a new Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for FY2026-31. What is the annual lending commitment under this CPF?

A USD 2-3 billion per year

B USD 5-6 billion per year

C USD 8-10 billion per year ✓

D USD 15-20 billion per year

EXPLANATION

The World Bank-India CPF for FY2026-31 commits USD 8-10 billion annually — up from USD 6-7 billion under the previous CPF (FY2018-FY2025). The total over 5 years is approximately USD 50 billion. Focus areas include private-sector-led job creation and alignment with the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.

CONCEPT

The Country Partnership Framework (CPF) is the World Bank Group's primary instrument for country-level engagement. The World Bank Group consists of IBRD (loans to middle-income countries), IDA (concessional loans to low-income countries), IFC (private sector), MIGA (guarantees), and ICSID (arbitration). India borrows primarily from IBRD.

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