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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz — February 3, 2026

3 February 2026

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3 February 2026 · 10 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Q 1

Patna Bird Sanctuary and Chhari-Dhand Wetland Reserve were added to the Ramsar List in February 2026. In which states are these two sites located respectively?

A Bihar and Gujarat

B Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat ✓

C Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan

D Bihar and Rajasthan

EXPLANATION

Patna Bird Sanctuary is in Etah district, Uttar Pradesh (not Bihar). Chhari-Dhand Wetland Reserve is in Kutch district, Gujarat. India now has 98 Ramsar sites — the highest in South Asia.

CONCEPT

The Ramsar Convention was signed on February 2, 1971 in Ramsar, Iran. World Wetlands Day is observed on February 2. India's first Ramsar site was Chilika Lake (Odisha, 1981). Tamil Nadu leads with 20 Ramsar sites among Indian states.

Q 2

Which state has the highest number of Ramsar wetland sites in India as of February 2026?

A Uttar Pradesh

B Jammu and Kashmir

C Tamil Nadu ✓

D Odisha

EXPLANATION

Tamil Nadu leads with 20 Ramsar sites — the most among Indian states. Uttar Pradesh has 10 sites. India's total stands at 98 sites.

CONCEPT

Ramsar sites require contracting party commitment to wise use of listed wetlands. The Montreux Record is a subset of Ramsar sites facing adverse ecological changes — India has Keoladeo (Rajasthan) and Loktak (Manipur) on this list.

Q 3 The Delhi Declaration 2026 was adopted at which multilateral summit hosted by India?

- A India-ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting
- B India-League of Arab States Foreign Ministers Summit ✓
- C India-African Union Ministerial Conference
- D India-SCO Foreign Ministers Meeting

EXPLANATION

The Delhi Declaration 2026 was adopted at the India-League of Arab States Foreign Ministers Summit. The League of Arab States has 22 members. India hosted this meeting; the first such meeting was held in Bahrain in 2016.

CONCEPT

The League of Arab States was founded on March 22, 1945 in Cairo — predating the United Nations (June 1945). Its headquarters is in Cairo. India-Arab League trade exceeds \$240 billion annually.

Q 4 The Arab Peace Initiative (2002) proposes that Arab states normalise relations with Israel in exchange for which conditions?

- A Israeli recognition of Hamas and Palestinian Authority governance over Gaza
- B Israeli withdrawal from territories occupied in 1967 and establishment of an independent Palestinian state ✓
- C UN Security Council endorsement of a two-state solution with Jerusalem under joint administration
- D Immediate ceasefire and release of all hostages and prisoners on both sides

EXPLANATION

The Arab Peace Initiative (Beirut Summit, March 2002) proposes full Arab normalisation with Israel in exchange for Israeli withdrawal from all 1967-occupied territories and establishment of an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital, plus a just solution to the refugee question.

CONCEPT

India endorsed the Arab Peace Initiative at the Delhi Declaration 2026 while declining to join the US-proposed "Board of Peace." India has historically supported the two-state solution and Palestinian statehood at the UN.

Q 5 The 16th Finance Commission is constituted under which article of the Indian Constitution?

- A Article 275
- B Article 280 ✓
- C Article 282
- D Article 293

EXPLANATION

The Finance Commission is constituted under Article 280 of the Constitution. It recommends the distribution of taxes between the Union and states, and grants-in-aid to states. The 16th Finance Commission warned that unconditional state cash transfers grew from 3% to 20.2% of state subsidy spending between 2018-19 and 2025-26.

CONCEPT

The Finance Commission is appointed every 5 years (Article 280). Its recommendations cover: vertical devolution (Centre-state tax sharing, currently 41%), horizontal distribution (among states), grants-in-aid, and disaster management. The 15th FC was chaired by N.K. Singh; the 16th FC is chaired by Arvind Panagariya.

Q 6 Under Article 262 of the Indian Constitution, the Supreme Court has what jurisdiction over inter-state river water disputes?

- A Original jurisdiction to adjudicate all inter-state water disputes
- B Appellate jurisdiction to review tribunal awards
- C No jurisdiction — Parliament can exclude SC from adjudicating such disputes ✓
- D Advisory jurisdiction only, with no binding orders

EXPLANATION

Article 262(2) allows Parliament to exclude the Supreme Court from adjudicating inter-state water disputes. The Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 exercises this option — tribunals constituted under the Act have exclusive jurisdiction. The SC ordered the Centre to constitute a Pennaiyar River tribunal (Tamil Nadu vs Karnataka) in February 2026.

CONCEPT

Famous inter-state river tribunals: Cauvery (Tamil Nadu-Karnataka-Kerala- Puducherry), Krishna (Maharashtra-Karnataka-AP-Telangana), Mahadayi (Goa-Karnataka-Maharashtra). Tribunals can take decades; the 2017 ISRWDA amendment introduced a 3-year time limit for awards.

Q 7

The Pax Silica coalition, which India joined in February 2026, is focused on securing supply chains for which category of materials?

- A Rare earth elements for defence electronics only
- B Silicon and critical minerals for semiconductors and AI hardware ✓**
- C Solar panel raw materials under IRENA framework
- D Green hydrogen production inputs under G7 energy compact

EXPLANATION

Pax Silica focuses on building secure supply chains for silicon and critical minerals needed for semiconductors, advanced computing, and AI hardware. India joined at the first US Critical Minerals Ministerial in Washington D.C. on February 3, 2026.

CONCEPT

China controls 60-80% of global processing of most critical minerals, creating strategic vulnerability. India's National Critical Mineral Mission (2025) and KABIL (Khanij Bidesh India Ltd) are domestic responses. Other critical mineral frameworks: Mineral Security Partnership (US-led), Global Battery Alliance (WEF-led), IPEF Supply Chain Resilience.

Q 8

The Pennaiyar (Dakshina Pinakini) River originates at which location?

- A Brahmagiri Hills, Coorg, Karnataka
- B Nandi Hills, Chikkaballapura, Karnataka ✓**
- C Nilgiri Hills, Ooty, Tamil Nadu
- D Biligiriranga Hills, Chamarajanagar, Karnataka

EXPLANATION

The Pennaiyar River originates at Nandi Hills in Chikkaballapura district, Karnataka. It flows about 497 km — 80 km through Karnataka and the rest through Tamil Nadu — before emptying into the Bay of Bengal at Cuddalore.

CONCEPT

Inter-state river disputes are governed by Article 262 and the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act 1956. Article 262(2) bars the Supreme Court from adjudicating such disputes. The Cauvery dispute is the most famous India river dispute — between Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, and Puducherry.

Q 9

Aluminium phosphide (AIP) pesticide causes poisoning by releasing which toxic gas upon contact with moisture?

A Hydrogen cyanide (HCN)

B Phosphine gas (PH₃) ✓

C Ammonia (NH₃)

D Chlorine gas (Cl₂)

EXPLANATION

Aluminium phosphide reacts with moisture (including stomach acid) to release phosphine gas (PH₃), which causes cellular hypoxia and cytochrome C oxidase inhibition. PGIMER Chandigarh developed the first clinically validated treatment — IV lipid emulsion therapy.

CONCEPT

AIP (Celphos) is a widely used grain fumigant in India. It is a major cause of suicidal poisoning in agrarian belts of Punjab, Haryana, and UP. Previously no antidote existed. PGIMER is a premier medical institute in Chandigarh under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Q 10

Under Article 164(4) of the Constitution, a person who is not a member of the state legislature when sworn in as a minister must become a member within what period?

A 3 months

B 6 months ✓

C 9 months

D 12 months

EXPLANATION

Article 164(4) requires a non-legislator minister in a state government to become a member of the state legislature (MLA or MLC) within 6 months of being sworn in. Sunetra Pawar was sworn in as Maharashtra's first woman Deputy Chief Minister on January 31, 2026, invoking this provision.

CONCEPT

An identical provision exists for the Union Council of Ministers under Article 75(5). The 6-month window allows appointment of experts or persons from outside the legislature, but mandates democratic accountability through subsequent election or nomination to the upper house. Failure to comply within 6 months results in automatic vacation of ministerial office.

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