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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz — February 6, 2026

6 February 2026

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Daily Quiz — February 6, 2026

6 February 2026 · 10 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Q 1

India-GCC bilateral trade in FY 2024-25 stood at approximately what value, and what percentage of India's global trade does this represent?

A USD 98 billion; 8.5% of India's global trade

B USD 178.56 billion; 15.42% of India's global trade ✓

C USD 245 billion; 22% of India's global trade

D USD 65 billion; 5.8% of India's global trade

EXPLANATION

India-GCC bilateral trade in FY 2024-25 was USD 178.56 billion (India exports USD 56.87 billion; imports USD 121.68 billion), representing 15.42% of India's total global trade. The 5-year average annual trade growth was 15.3%.

CONCEPT

GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) was established in 1981; HQ: Riyadh. Members: Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman. The India-UAE CEPA (February 2022, implemented May 2022) is a bilateral FTA template concluded in 88 days — the fastest in India's FTA history.

Q 2

Kavach — India's Automatic Train Protection system — meets which Safety Integrity Level (SIL) standard under IEC 61508?

A SIL-1 (basic safety level)

B SIL-2 (intermediate level)

C SIL-3 (high level)

D SIL-4 (highest possible level) ✓

EXPLANATION

Kavach meets SIL-4 (Safety Integrity Level 4) under the IEC 61508 standard — the highest possible safety level. SIL-4 requires a probability of dangerous failure per hour of less than 10^{-8} . Kavach was developed by RDSO beginning in 2012; by February 2026, total coverage reached 1,306.3 route km.

CONCEPT

RDSO (Research Designs and Standards Organisation) is headquartered in Lucknow and serves as the technical advisory body for Indian Railways. The Bahanaga Bazar triple train accident (June 2, 2023; Balasore, Odisha; 290+ deaths) provided fresh urgency to accelerate Kavach deployment. India's total railway network is 68,000+ route km; Kavach covers less than 2% as of early 2026.

Q 3

Manipur returned from President's Rule with a new Chief Minister in February 2026. Which Constitutional Article governs imposition of President's Rule in a state?

A Article 352 (National Emergency)

B Article 356 (President's Rule in states) ✓

C Article 360 (Financial Emergency)

D Article 370 (Special status)

EXPLANATION

Article 356 of the Constitution allows the President to impose direct central rule in a state if the state constitutional machinery has failed. Manipur was under President's Rule from approximately February 13, 2025. Yumnam Khemchand Singh (BJP) was sworn in as CM; Nemcha Kipgen became the first woman Deputy CM of Manipur.

CONCEPT

The Bommai judgment (1994) requires that any President's Rule dismissal must be approved by the Cabinet and sanctioned by Parliament within 2 months. The Sarkaria Commission recommended that President's Rule be a measure of last resort. Maximum duration of President's Rule: 3 years (with periodic 6-month Parliamentary extensions after initial 2 months).

Q 4

The New START Treaty between the USA and Russia expired on February 5, 2026. What was the treaty's limit on deployed nuclear warheads per side?

A 500 warheads

B 1,000 warheads

C 1,550 warheads ✓

D 2,200 warheads

EXPLANATION

New START limited each side to 1,550 deployed nuclear warheads, 700 deployed delivery vehicles, and 800 total launchers (deployed and non-deployed). Signed April 2010; in force February 2011. Russia suspended its participation in February 2023. USA and Russia hold 87% of global nuclear warheads.

CONCEPT

The New START expiry marks the end of legally binding bilateral nuclear arms control since 1972 (when SALT I was signed). Prior treaties: INF Treaty (1987, US withdrew 2019), START I (1991, expired 2009), SORT (2002). The broader NPT framework remains — but New START was the only treaty with binding verification mechanisms (on-site inspections).

Q 5 Sacred groves known as "Law Kyntang" are associated with which Indian state?

- A Kerala
- B Maharashtra
- C Meghalaya ✓
- D Rajasthan

EXPLANATION

Law Kyntang is the local name for sacred groves in Meghalaya. Other regional names: Kavu (Kerala), Devrai (Maharashtra), Oran (Rajasthan), Sarna (Bihar/Jharkhand), Dev Van (Himachal Pradesh), Devarakadu (Karnataka). India has 1 lakh to 1.5 lakh documented sacred groves.

CONCEPT

Sacred groves are community-protected forest patches with religious and cultural significance, traditionally managed by local communities. Under the Forest Rights Act 2006, they can be recognised as Community Forest Resources (CFRs). The IUCN classifies them as OECMs (Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures) — important for biodiversity conservation outside formal Protected Areas.

Q 6 The "India AI Stack" unveiled in February 2026 consists of how many layers, and which layer includes platforms like BharatGen and Bhashini?

- A Three layers; middle layer
- B Four layers; second layer
- C Five layers; AI Model Layer (second layer) ✓
- D Six layers; application layer

EXPLANATION

The India AI Stack has five layers: Application, AI Model, Compute, Data Centre/Network, and Energy. The AI Model Layer (second) includes BharatGen, Bhashini (multilingual NLP platform), IndiaAI Mission, and IndiaAIKosh. Bhashini enables voice-based services in 22 Indian languages.

CONCEPT

The IndiaAI Mission was approved by Cabinet in March 2024 with an outlay of Rs 10,372 crore. BharatGen is India's large language model project under IIT Bombay. Bhashini (under MeitY) provides open-source language models for Indian languages to enable AI applications in local languages.

Q 7

Which organisation developed the Kavach Automatic Train Protection system, and where is it headquartered?

- A Indian Institute of Technology Delhi; New Delhi
- B **Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO); Lucknow ✓**
- C DRDO Advanced Systems Laboratory; Hyderabad
- D Rail India Technical and Economic Service (RITES); Gurgaon

EXPLANATION

Kavach was developed by RDSO (Research Designs and Standards Organisation), headquartered in Lucknow. RDSO is the technical advisor and R&D wing of Indian Railways, responsible for standardisation of rolling stock, track, signalling, and safety systems. Three private vendors — Kernex Microsystems, Medha Servo Drives, and HBL Power Systems — were licensed to manufacture Kavach.

CONCEPT

RITES (Rail India Technical and Economic Service) is a separate PSU under the Ministry of Railways focused on consultancy and export services; it should not be confused with RDSO. DRDO is the Ministry of Defence R&D organisation. Indian Railways has 68,000+ route km, making full Kavach deployment one of the largest ATP rollouts in the world.

Q 8

The Defence Budget 2026-27 allocates what amount for domestic defence procurement, and what fraction of the total capital allocation does this represent?

- A Rs 50,000 crore; about one-third
- B **Rs 1.39 lakh crore; about three-fourths ✓**
- C Rs 2.19 lakh crore; the full capital budget
- D Rs 75,000 crore; about half

EXPLANATION

The Defence Budget 2026-27 allocates Rs 7.85 lakh crore total; capital allocation to defence forces is Rs 2.19 lakh crore, of which Rs 1.39 lakh crore (~three-fourths) is earmarked for domestic procurement — aligning with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat goal in defence. India remains the world's 2nd-largest arms importer (SIPRI).

CONCEPT

India's defence expenditure as a percentage of GDP is approximately 2% against a benchmark target of 3%. Defence indigenisation goals: 25% private sector contribution by 2025 (Def Acq Procedure). Two Defence Industrial Corridors: Tamil Nadu (Tiruchirappalli-Chennai-Hosur) and Uttar Pradesh (Agra-Aligarh-Kanpur-Lucknow-Jhansi).

Q 9

Which of the following is NOT one of the three private vendors licensed to manufacture Kavach for Indian Railways?

- A Kernex Microsystems
- B Medha Servo Drives
- C HBL Power Systems

D Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) ✓

EXPLANATION

The three RDSO-approved Kavach vendors are Kernex Microsystems, Medha Servo Drives (both Hyderabad-based), and HBL Power Systems. BEL (Bharat Electronics Limited) is a defence PSU involved in other railway electronics but is not among the original three Kavach vendors.

CONCEPT

BEL (Bharat Electronics Limited) is a Navratna defence PSU under the Ministry of Defence; its headquarters are in Bengaluru. It manufactures defence electronics, radar, communication systems, and EVM voting machines. It is separate from private sector Kavach vendors.

Q 10

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) launched a digital e-portal for Certificates of Origin for medicinal plants in February 2026. Under which international protocol does this mechanism fall?

- A Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)
- B Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
- C Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) ✓**
- D Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

EXPLANATION

The NBA e-portal for Certificates of Origin operates under the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) — a supplementary agreement to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It implements India's Biological Diversity Amendment Act 2023. The Nagoya Protocol requires fair sharing of benefits from genetic resources with their country of origin.

CONCEPT

NBA (National Biodiversity Authority) was established under the Biological Diversity Act 2002; HQ: Chennai. Nagoya Protocol was adopted in 2010 at COP 10, Nagoya, Japan; entered into force 2014. CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity) was signed at Rio Earth Summit 1992. India ratified both CBD and the Nagoya Protocol.

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