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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz — March 9, 2026

9 March 2026

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9 March 2026 · 10 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Q 1 The Raisina Dialogue is jointly organised by which two bodies?

- A NITI Aayog and Ministry of External Affairs
- B Observer Research Foundation (ORF) and Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) ✓
- C FICCI and Ministry of Commerce
- D Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) and Finance Ministry

EXPLANATION

The Raisina Dialogue is jointly organised by the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) — a leading Indian foreign policy think tank — and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). It is India's premier multilateral conference on geopolitics, geoeconomics, technology, and strategic affairs. It reflects India's aspiration to shape global debates rather than merely respond to them.

CONCEPT

The Raisina Dialogue was first held in 2016. Named after Raisina Hill — where the Presidential residence (Rashtrapati Bhavan) and South Block (Prime Minister and Foreign Minister's offices) are located. India's foreign policy logic at Raisina typically emphasises strategic autonomy, multi-alignment, issue-based coalitions, and India's role as a 'Vishwamitra' (friend of the world) rather than a member of any bloc.

The Essential Commodities Act, 1955 was amended in 2020 to limit routine government controls. Under what circumstances does the 2020 amendment allow the government to re-invoke stock limits and price controls?

Q 2

- A Whenever the government wants to stabilise prices for electoral reasons
- B Only during war, famine, extraordinary price rise, or natural calamity of grave nature ✓**
- C Whenever agricultural exports fall below a prescribed threshold
- D Only with prior approval of the Supreme Court

EXPLANATION

The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 removed cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onions, and potatoes from the list of essential commodities under normal circumstances. The government can re-impose stock limits and price controls only under extraordinary circumstances: war, famine, extraordinary price rise (defined as a 100% retail price increase for non-perishables or 50% for perishables over 12 months), or natural calamity of grave nature.

CONCEPT

The 2020 amendment was part of the three controversial farm reform bills (which were later repealed in 2021). The Essential Commodities Act remains relevant for Prelims as it covers: hoarding/black marketing regulation, minimum support price enforcement, and the balance between market freedom and consumer protection. India's food security architecture also involves FCI (Food Corporation of India), buffer stocks, and PDS (Public Distribution System).

The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), also known as the Bonn Convention, was signed in which year and protects which types of species?

Q 3

- A 1972; endangered species in their entire range
- B 1979; wild animals that migrate across national boundaries ✓**
- C 1992; migratory birds listed under the Ramsar Convention
- D 2000; species whose migratory routes cross international waters

EXPLANATION

The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), also called the Bonn Convention, was signed in 1979 and entered into force in 1983. It specifically protects wild animals that migrate across national boundaries — covering birds, mammals, sea turtles, fish, and insects. India is a signatory. Species are listed on CMS Appendix I (endangered, strictly protected) or Appendix II (unfavourable conservation status, cooperation needed).

CONCEPT

India is a signatory to CMS and hosts key migratory routes: the Central Asian Flyway (for birds), sea turtle nesting beaches, and marine mammal corridors. The 'State of the World's Migratory Species' report (published by CMS/UNEP) tracks population trends. Key Indian migratory birds: Amur Falcon, Bar-headed Goose, Siberian Crane (critically endangered). India's wetlands — Chilika, Keoladeo Ghana, Wular — are critical migratory stopovers.

Q 4

India lies on which major migratory bird flyway that connects Siberia and Central Asia to South and Southeast Asia?

- A Atlantic Americas Flyway
- B Central Asian Flyway ✓
- C East African Western Palearctic Flyway
- D Pacific Americas Flyway

EXPLANATION

India lies on the Central Asian Flyway (CAF) — one of the world's most important bird migration routes, connecting breeding grounds in Siberia, Central Asia, and the Russian Far East with wintering grounds in South Asia (India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka) and Southeast Asia. Millions of migratory birds use India's wetlands, coast, and grasslands every winter.

CONCEPT

India's key migratory bird sites under the Central Asian Flyway: Keoladeo Ghana NP (Bharatpur, Rajasthan) — UNESCO WHS, hosts Siberian Crane; Chilika Lake (Odisha) — Asia's largest coastal lagoon; Pulicat Lake (Tamil Nadu/Andhra Pradesh); Rann of Kutch (Gujarat) — flamingos. The Amur Falcon migration through Nagaland is world-famous — they cross from Russia to Africa and back.

Q 5

The ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 was to be hosted by which country/countries?

- A India alone
- B South Africa and Zimbabwe ✓
- C England and Ireland
- D West Indies and USA

EXPLANATION

The ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 was to be hosted by South Africa and Zimbabwe — two co-hosts, continuing the ICC pattern of co-hosting tournaments (the 2024 edition was co-hosted by West Indies and USA). Cricket's global expansion, soft power implications, and media rights (valued at billions) make major tournaments significant policy topics beyond just sport.

CONCEPT

Cricket and the ICC (International Cricket Council) are significant for UPSC in terms of soft power, sports diplomacy, and India's central position (BCCI dominance in ICC funding and governance). ICC is headquartered in Dubai, UAE. The IPL (Indian Premier League) has a significant brand value — making cricket a major entertainment industry. The 2011 Cricket World Cup was co-hosted by India, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh.

Q 6 Migratory bird conservation is described as a 'diplomatic as well as ecological challenge'. Why?

- A Migratory birds carry pathogens that require international quarantine agreements
- B Protecting migratory species requires coordinated habitat protection and conservation policy across multiple countries along the entire flyway ✓**
- C Bird migration routes cross militarised borders that restrict ornithological research
- D Only UN Security Council resolutions can protect trans-boundary migratory species

EXPLANATION

Migratory birds depend on a chain of habitats across multiple countries — breeding grounds, stopover sites, and wintering areas — meaning that conservation in one country is negated if another country destroys critical habitat along the flyway. This requires diplomatic cooperation on land use, wetland protection, hunting regulations, and data sharing across entire migration routes.

CONCEPT

India participates in CMS, East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP), and bilateral bird conservation agreements. The 'flyway conservation' model recognises that national conservation alone is insufficient for migratory species — the weakest link in the flyway chain determines outcomes. For UPSC, this illustrates how biodiversity governance requires international environmental law, not just domestic policy.

Q 7 The Raisina Dialogue covers which of the following policy domains, making it relevant to multiple UPSC General Studies papers?

- A Only international relations and foreign policy
- B Geopolitics, geoeconomics, technology governance, climate diplomacy, maritime security, and supply chain resilience ✓**
- C Only defence and security partnerships
- D Only India-specific governance reforms

EXPLANATION

The Raisina Dialogue covers geopolitics, geoeconomics, technology governance (AI, cyber, semiconductors), climate diplomacy, maritime security, connectivity infrastructure, and middle-power coordination. This multi-domain scope makes it relevant to GS-2 (IR), GS-3 (Economy, S&T, Security), and even GS-4 (Ethics in governance), depending on the discussion theme in a given year.

CONCEPT

India's foreign policy under the current framework is characterised by: strategic autonomy (not joining any military alliance), multi-alignment (engaging USA, Russia, China, EU simultaneously), connectivity leadership (IMEC, Chabahar, Act East), climate leadership (CDRI, ISA), and technology diplomacy (Quad Tech Track, digital public infrastructure export). Raisina Dialogue discusses all these themes.

Q 8

The Essential Commodities Act, 1955 empowers the Central and State governments to control which aspects of a commodity's lifecycle?

- A Only the price at which it is sold to consumers
- B Production, supply, storage, distribution, and trade of specified commodities ✓**
- C Only the import and export of commodities
- D Only the transportation of agricultural commodities across state borders

EXPLANATION

The Essential Commodities Act, 1955 empowers both the Central and State governments to regulate the production, supply, storage, distribution, and trade of specified essential commodities. Powers include: fixing stock limits (anti-hoarding), ordering compulsory sale, seizing stocks, controlling prices, and licensing dealers. Both central and state governments can add commodities to their respective lists.

CONCEPT

Essential commodities are items whose uninterrupted supply is necessary for social and economic welfare — food grains, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, sugar, kerosene, fertilisers, and medicines have historically been included. The ECA interacts with the APMC (Agricultural Produce Market Committee) framework, which regulates wholesale markets. The 2020 farm bills tried to deregulate both ECA and APMC — the bills were eventually repealed in 2021.

Q 9

Sports events like the ICC T20 World Cup are described as having 'soft power' implications for host nations. What does this term mean?

- A The physical power used by security forces at sporting venues
- B The ability to influence other countries through cultural attraction and values rather than military force ✓**
- C The financial leverage a host country gains through broadcasting revenues
- D The competitive advantage home teams get from playing in familiar conditions

EXPLANATION

Soft power (a concept developed by Joseph Nye) is the ability to influence other states and peoples through cultural appeal, values, and voluntary attraction rather than coercion (hard power) or economic incentives (economic power). Hosting major sporting events projects a nation's organisational capability, hospitality, and culture to a global audience — as India demonstrated hosting the 2023 ODI World Cup.

CONCEPT

India's soft power sources: cinema (Bollywood), yoga, cuisine, diaspora, democratic credentials, and cricket. Cricket specifically is a soft power instrument in India's South Asian neighbourhood — India's bilateral cricket relations (or lack thereof, as with Pakistan) carry diplomatic significance. The IPL has become a soft power tool globally, attracting international players and broadcasting across 100+ countries.

Q 10

Which of the following wildlife species makes India part of the Central Asian Flyway's conservation significance as a critical wintering ground?

A Himalayan Snowcock

B Siberian Crane — a Critically Endangered species that winters in India's wetlands ✓

C Indian Peafowl (National Bird)

D Great Hornbill

EXPLANATION

The Siberian Crane (*Leucogeranus leucogeranus*) is a Critically Endangered migratory bird that historically wintered in India — particularly at Keoladeo Ghana National Park (Bharatpur, Rajasthan), a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In recent decades, Siberian Cranes have almost disappeared from the Indian wintering ground due to habitat degradation along the flyway — a conservation tragedy that underlines the interconnected nature of migratory species protection.

CONCEPT

Keoladeo Ghana NP (Bharatpur) is a former hunting reserve of the Bharatpur maharajas, converted to a bird sanctuary in 1956, national park in 1982, and UNESCO WHS in 1985. Siberian Crane declines are attributed to hunting in Afghanistan and Iran, and wetland destruction along the Central Asian Flyway. India's wetland conservation (Ramsar sites, Wetlands Rules 2017) is directly linked to flyway conservation.

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