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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz — March 13, 2026

13 March 2026

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13 March 2026 · 10 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Q 1

India surpassed China as the largest supplier of cotton products to the United States. What primarily drove this shift in trade flows?

- A India lowered its cotton export prices below China's
- B US tariffs on Chinese goods (10-125%) incentivised American importers to diversify supply chains toward India ✓
- C China imposed export restrictions on its own cotton
- D India signed a bilateral textile trade agreement with the USA

EXPLANATION

US tariffs on Chinese goods — ranging from 10% to 125% across various product categories under Section 301 investigations — made Chinese cotton products more expensive for American importers, who diversified to India. India, with its large textile manufacturing base, competitive labour costs, and quality cotton production, became the primary beneficiary of this supply chain diversion. India's cotton exports to the US reached approximately 0.6 million tonnes versus China's 0.5 million tonnes.

CONCEPT

India is the world's largest cotton producer (surpassing China in some years) and the second-largest textile exporter globally. India's total textile and apparel exports are approximately \$44 billion per year, with the USA as the largest single export market. The US-China trade war begun in 2018 under Trump and continued by subsequent administrations has systematically created opportunities for India in electronics, textiles, and pharmaceuticals.

Q 2

The two new lichen moth species discovered by ZSI in the eastern Himalayas are classified as bioindicators. What does this mean in ecological terms?

- A Their venom is used as an indicator of soil toxicity
- B Their presence or absence signals the health of the local ecosystem and air quality, because they depend on lichens which are sensitive to pollution ✓
- C They only appear in areas with high human population density
- D They are used as indicator species for predicting earthquake activity

EXPLANATION

Lichen moths feed on lichens, which are themselves extremely sensitive to air pollution (particularly SO₂ and heavy metal particulates) and disappear from polluted areas. Therefore, the presence of lichen moths signals clean air, intact habitat, and good ecosystem health — making them bioindicators of air quality and ecological integrity. The two new species discovered were *Caulocera hollowayi* (Golitar, Sikkim) and *Asura buxa* (Panijhora, West Bengal, near Buxa Tiger Reserve).

CONCEPT

Bioindicators are species whose presence, abundance, or health reflects the condition of their environment. Other examples: Lichens (air pollution), Mayfly larvae (clean freshwater), Vultures (ecosystem health, carrion removal), Gharial (clean river water). ZSI (Zoological Survey of India) is headquartered in Kolkata, under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Buxa Tiger Reserve (West Bengal) is also a Project Elephant reserve on the India-Bhutan border.

Q 3

Asteroid 2024 YR4 is classified as an Apollo-type asteroid. What defines the Apollo asteroid category?

- A Asteroids larger than 1 km that originate from the Kuiper Belt
- B Near-Earth asteroids whose orbits cross Earth's orbit around the Sun ✓
- C Asteroids that orbit entirely within the Main Asteroid Belt
- D Asteroids whose orbits are entirely outside Earth's orbit but inside Mars's orbit

EXPLANATION

Apollo asteroids are a class of near-Earth asteroids (NEAs) whose orbits cross Earth's orbit — making them potentially hazardous if their path intersects with Earth's position. Asteroid 2024 YR4 was discovered by the ATLAS (Asteroid Terrestrial-impact Last Alert System) telescope in Chile and is approximately 53-67 metres in diameter. NASA's Planetary Defense Coordination Office (PDCO) monitors such objects.

CONCEPT

Near-Earth asteroid categories: Apollo (orbit crosses Earth's orbit, semi-major axis > 1 AU), Aten (orbit mostly inside Earth's orbit, semi-major axis < 1 AU), Amor (orbit between Earth's and Mars's, does not cross Earth's). Potentially Hazardous Asteroids (PHAs) are NEAs that come within 0.05 AU of Earth and are larger than 140 metres. India's contribution to planetary defence: ISRO's Space Situational Awareness framework; ARIES (Aryabhata Research Institute) tracks NEOs from Nainital.

Q 4

The Chhattisgarh Freedom of Religion Bill — and similar state-level legislation — engages which Articles of the Indian Constitution?

- A Articles 14-18 (Right to Equality)
- B Articles 25-28 (Right to Freedom of Religion) ✓**
- C Articles 32 and 226 (Right to Constitutional Remedies)
- D Articles 19-22 (Right to Freedom)

EXPLANATION

Anti-conversion laws engage Articles 25-28 of the Indian Constitution, which collectively guarantee the Right to Freedom of Religion: Article 25 (freedom of conscience and free profession, practice, and propagation of religion), Article 26 (freedom to manage religious affairs), Article 27 (freedom from paying taxes for promotion of any particular religion), and Article 28 (freedom from religious instruction in state-aided institutions).

CONCEPT

The Supreme Court in *Rev. Stainislaus v. State of Madhya Pradesh (1977)* held that the right to 'propagate' religion under Article 25 does not include the right to convert others by force, fraud, or allurement — upholding the validity of state anti-conversion laws. States with similar laws: Odisha (oldest, 1967), MP, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, UP. Critics argue these laws restrict freedom of conscience — the right to change one's religion.

Q 5

The PMFME (PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises) Scheme operates on which specific approach to identify and support food processing enterprises in each district?

- A Universal Basic Support — all micro food enterprises in a district receive equal grants
- B One District One Product (ODOP) — each district identifies a specific product and builds an ecosystem around it ✓**
- C Cluster Development Programme — enterprises in industrial clusters only
- D Export-Linked Scheme — only enterprises with export potential receive support

EXPLANATION

PMFME operates on the One District One Product (ODOP) approach — each district identifies a specific food product that is traditional, geographically appropriate, or has market potential (e.g., litchi for Muzaffarpur, Joha rice for Assam districts, Kolhapuri jaggery for certain Maharashtra districts). Support — credit linkage, technical assistance, branding, market access — is concentrated on building a competitive ecosystem around this ODOP.

CONCEPT

PMFME was launched in 2020 under the AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan with an outlay of Rs 10,000 crore over 5 years (2020-25). It targets 2 lakh micro food enterprises for formalisation. Ministry: Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI). ODOP was originally launched as a scheme by the Uttar Pradesh government and was later adopted nationally under DPIIT. Tezpur University (Assam) hosts a Common Incubation Centre under PMFME.

Q 6

Joha rice, exported internationally from Assam, holds a Geographical Indication (GI) tag. Under which legislation and which registry are GI tags administered in India?

- A Intellectual Property Rights Act, 2005; administered by SEBI
- B Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999; administered by the GI Registry under CGPDTM, Chennai ✓**
- C Agriculture Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937; administered by APEDA
- D Trade Marks Act, 1999; administered by Trade Marks Registry, Mumbai

EXPLANATION

GI tags in India are registered under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, implemented under the TRIPS Agreement (WTO) framework. The GI Registry is under the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks (CGPDTM), based in Chennai, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Joha rice is a short-grain aromatic rice indigenous to Assam.

CONCEPT

India has among the highest number of GI-tagged products in South Asia — over 600 registered GIs. Famous Indian GIs: Darjeeling Tea (India's first GI, 2004), Basmati Rice, Kanchipuram Silk, Mysore Silk, Alphonso Mango, Kolhapuri Chappal, Pashmina. GI protection prevents misuse of origin-linked product names — for example, 'Darjeeling tea' cannot be labelled as such unless it actually comes from Darjeeling.

Q 7

Purple Fest at Rashtrapati Bhavan celebrated Divyangjan under the Accessible India Campaign. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 increased recognised disability categories from 7 to how many?

- A 12
- B 15
- C 21 ✓**
- D 28

EXPLANATION

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act, 2016 expanded recognised disability categories from 7 (under the 1995 Act) to 21. New additions include autism spectrum disorder, specific learning disabilities (dyslexia), chronic neurological conditions, blood disorders (haemophilia, thalassaemia, sickle cell disease), speech and language disability, multiple disabilities, and dwarfism. India ratified the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in 2007.

CONCEPT

Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) was launched in 2015 to make public spaces, transport, and information accessible to persons with disabilities. The term 'Divyangjan' — coined by PM Modi — reframes disability as 'divine ability' rather than limitation. Key accessibility mandates: 5% reservation in higher education, 4% in government jobs (sub-categorised across disability types), accessible voting infrastructure, and sign-language interpreters in courts.

Q 8

The world's first Autonomous Maritime Shipbuilding and Systems Centre, established in India, aligns with which national maritime policy vision?

- A Sagarmala Programme (2015)
- B Maritime India Vision 2030 ✓**
- C National Waterway Development Act, 2016
- D Integrated Maritime Development Fund (IMDF)

EXPLANATION

The Autonomous Maritime Shipbuilding and Systems Centre aligns with Maritime India Vision 2030, which targets positioning India among the top 10 nations in maritime trade, shipbuilding, and port efficiency. It is also aligned with Make in India in the defence sector. India's major shipbuilders — MDL, GRSE, HSL, and CSL — are the foundation of this vision.

CONCEPT

Maritime India Vision 2030 covers: Sagarmala Phase II (port modernisation, industrial clusters), maritime tourism (cruise tourism, lighthouses), shipbuilding (world's largest ship recycling at Alang), seafarer training (Indian Maritime University, Chennai), and blue economy (deep-sea mining, fisheries, aquaculture). India currently produces only about 1% of global shipbuilding — well below its potential given shipyard capacity and skilled workforce.

Q 9

Para athletics classification for the T63 category (in which Shailesh Kumar competed) refers to athletes with which type of impairment?

- A Visual impairment with partial sight
- B Single below-knee amputation or equivalent impairment, competing with a running prosthesis ✓**
- C Cerebral palsy affecting lower limb coordination
- D Complete spinal cord injury requiring wheelchair use

EXPLANATION

T63 in para athletics classification refers to athletes with a single below-knee amputation (or equivalent impairment) who compete using a running prosthesis. The T/F number system: T = Track and Field, F = Field only; numbers in the 60s = limb deficiency; specifically T63 = single below-knee amputation using prosthesis (contrast with T64 = single above-knee amputation). India has strong performance in T63/T64 events at Paralympic Games.

CONCEPT

Para athletics classifications are set by World Para Athletics (under World Athletics, formerly IAAF). India's para athletics rise is significant: at Paris 2024 Paralympics, India won 29 medals (7 Gold, 9 Silver, 13 Bronze) — its best ever. Key para athletes: Sumit Antil (F64 Javelin — Paralympic world record holder), Praveen Kumar (T64 High Jump), Avani Lekhara (shooting — 2 golds Paris 2024), Nishad Kumar (T47 High Jump).

Q 10 The 1954 Hague Convention protects which type of assets during armed conflict?

- A Food and humanitarian aid supplies
- B Cultural property — movable and immovable assets of great importance to cultural heritage ✓
- C Civilian hospitals and medical infrastructure
- D Critical digital infrastructure and data centres

EXPLANATION

The 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict protects movable and immovable cultural property — museums, monuments, archives, libraries, works of art, scientific collections — from destruction and looting during war. It has two protocols: 1954 (preventing export of cultural property from occupied territory) and 1999 (enhanced protection, individual criminal responsibility). UNESCO-listed heritage sites being damaged in the Iran conflict invoked this convention.

CONCEPT

India ratified the 1954 Hague Convention in 1958. Famous cultural property destruction: Buddhas of Bamiyan (Afghanistan, 2001 by Taliban); Palmyra ruins (Syria, 2015 by ISIS); Mosul Museum (Iraq, 2015). The ICC (International Criminal Court) has prosecuted individuals for deliberate destruction of cultural heritage as a war crime — Ahmad Al-Mahdi (Mali, 2016) was the first person convicted by ICC specifically for cultural heritage destruction.

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