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Daily Quiz, August 16, 2026

16 August 2026



CURATED & WRITTEN BY

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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED ANSWER KEY

Daily Quiz, August 16, 2026

16 August 2026 · 10 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Question 1

of 10

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The regulated electronic exchange for major minerals, confirmed following the MMDR Amendment Bill, 2026, will be supervised by which body under the Mineral Exchange Rules, 2026?

- A** The Indian Bureau of Mines ✓
- B The Securities and Exchange Board of India
- C The Geological Survey of India
- D The Ministry of Commerce and Industry

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) will supervise platform registration and conduct audits for the new electronic exchange for major minerals, under the Mineral Exchange Rules, 2026, notified by the Ministry of Mines on June 30, 2026. **ANALYSIS:** Placing supervisory responsibility with IBM, the existing technical regulator for mining, rather than a financial-markets regulator like SEBI, signals the exchange is being built as a sector-specific commodity platform rather than a conventional securities market, though its price-discovery function draws on commodity-exchange principles like the London Metal Exchange.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

The Indian Bureau of Mines, established in 1948 under the Ministry of Mines, is India's principal technical body for mineral exploration, conservation and regulatory oversight, functioning alongside the Geological Survey of India, which focuses on geological mapping and resource assessment rather than market regulation. The new exchange follows Parliament's passage of the MMDR Amendment Bill, 2026 on August 13, 2026, and covers iron ore, limestone, manganese and bauxite in its first phase, with a launch targeted for the next financial year.

This continues a broader legislative push on mining-sector reform, which has also included the Supreme Court's 2024 ruling in Mineral Area Development Authority v. Steel Authority of India on state taxation powers over mineral rights, overturning the 1990 India Cement precedent.

Q1 **CONCEPT KIT**
 CROSS-PAPER

GS3 (Indian economy, mineral resources, resource mobilisation).

 MAINS KEYWORDS

Mineral Exchange Rules 2026, Indian Bureau of Mines, MMDR Amendment Bill 2026.

 COMMON MISTAKE

assuming SEBI regulates this exchange because it is described as an "exchange"; supervision instead sits with the Indian Bureau of Mines.

 EXAM TIP

anchor "IBM supervises, first-phase minerals iron ore/limestone/manganese/bauxite" as a fixed fact set.

 INTERVIEW

what capacity does IBM need to build to credibly regulate a live trading platform, a function distinct from its traditional exploration and licensing role?

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Question 2

of 10

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The Rs 1,577 crore loiter munition contract signed by the Ministry of Defence on August 14, 2026, covers 840 units procured under which acquisition category?

- ☐ A Buy (Global)
- ☒ B Buy (Indian) ✓
- ☐ C Buy and Make (Indian)
- ☐ D Strategic Partnership Model

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The 840 loiter munition units, split between Tata Advanced Systems (L1, roughly 64% share) and NIBE Ltd (L2, whose system is named "Vayuastra"), were procured under the "Buy (Indian)" category via the Fast Track Procedure, with a strike range exceeding 100 km. **ANALYSIS:** "Buy (Indian)" prioritises indigenously designed, developed and manufactured platforms, distinguishing this acquisition from routes involving foreign design collaboration, and reflects the broader Atmanirbhar Bharat push in defence procurement.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

India's Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) recognises multiple acquisition categories on a preference hierarchy: "Buy (Indian)" for fully indigenous design, development and manufacture sits at the top; "Buy and Make (Indian)" allows an initial foreign-design element with mandated domestic production; "Buy (Global)" covers direct foreign procurement; and the Strategic Partnership Model channels select platforms through domestic private-sector tie-ups with foreign OEMs. The Fast Track Procedure compresses acquisition timelines for urgent operational requirements. Loitering munitions, capable of circling a target area before striking, combine reconnaissance and precision-strike functions in one platform, and their growing battlefield relevance, drawn from recent conflicts, has made indigenous capability in this category a defence-manufacturing priority under Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Q2

 CONCEPT KIT**CROSS-PAPER**

GS3 (defence indigenisation, Atmanirbhar Bharat, science and technology in defence).

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

Buy (Indian) category, loiter munitions, Fast Track Procedure.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing "Buy (Indian)" with "Buy and Make (Indian)," which involves an initial foreign-design element; this contract is fully indigenous design and manufacture.

**EXAM TIP**

memorise the vendor split (Tata L1 ~64%, NIBE L2, "Vayuastra") as a fixed fact set.

**INTERVIEW**

does prioritising the "Buy (Indian)" category across more defence categories risk trading off cutting-edge foreign technology access for slower but more self-reliant capability build-up?

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Question 3

of 10

[Source](#) →

The RSVC-AMRIT digital platform, jointly launched by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser and NABARD, serves as the digital backbone of which rural technology ecosystem?

- ☐ A The Atal Innovation Mission
- ☐ B The National Rural Livelihoods Mission
- ☒ C **The RuTAG (Rural Technology Action Group) Smart Village Centre ecosystem ✓**
- ☐ D The Digital Village Programme

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: RSVC-AMRIT, launched on the occasion of the 80th Independence Day by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood) and NABARD, serves as the digital backbone of the RuTAG (Rural Technology Action Group) Smart Village Centre (RSVC) ecosystem, linking rural technology needs with innovators and institutions.

ANALYSIS: The platform targets a specific, long-standing bottleneck, the gap between lab-developed rural technologies and their actual village-level deployment, by making rural technology needs visible and trackable in a structured digital system.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

The Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India, currently held by Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, is the apex body coordinating national science and technology policy across ministries.

RuTAG is coordinated across the IITs to develop appropriate technologies for rural needs, spanning agriculture, water management, energy and livelihoods, while NABARD brings its existing rural financing infrastructure and grassroots outreach network into the platform's ecosystem. This exemplifies a broader governance pattern of using digital platforms to bridge last-mile delivery gaps, comparable to e-NAM in agricultural marketing or PM Gati Shakti in infrastructure planning, where the core challenge is making dispersed, hard-to-track needs and resources visible to each other in a structured, accountable system.

Q3
 **CONCEPT KIT**
 CROSS-PAPER

GS3 (science and technology, rural development); GS2 (governance, digital platforms for last-mile delivery).

 MAINS KEYWORDS

RSVC-AMRIT, RuTAG, Principal Scientific Adviser, NABARD.

 COMMON MISTAKE

confusing RSVC-AMRIT with the Atal Innovation Mission, which is a separate innovation-ecosystem initiative under NITI Aayog.

 EXAM TIP

anchor "PSA + NABARD, RuTAG Smart Village Centre, launched 80th Independence Day" as a fixed fact set.

 INTERVIEW

can a digital matching platform alone close the rural technology-adoption gap, or does it need to be paired with extension services and on-ground capacity building?

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Question 4

of 10

[Source →](#)

The Karnataka Cabinet's bill mandating government permission for use of public premises, approved August 13, 2026, treats unauthorised use as which specific offence?

- ☐ A Public nuisance
- ☐ B Unlawful assembly
- ☐ C Contempt of court
- ☒ D Trespass ✓

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Under the Karnataka Regulation of Use of Government Premises and Public Property Bill, 2026, unauthorised use of government land, buildings, playgrounds, parks and roads is treated as trespass. A first offence carries up to 3 years' imprisonment and/or a Rs 5 lakh fine; a second or subsequent offence carries up to 5 years' imprisonment and a Rs 10 lakh fine; and an additional fine of up to Rs 5,000 per day applies if the violation continues after conviction.

ANALYSIS: Framing unauthorised use as trespass, rather than public nuisance or unlawful assembly, gives the state a property-rights-based legal route to restrict public-space access, distinct from the public-order-based tools it already possesses.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

The bill follows a running dispute between the Karnataka government and the RSS over use of public grounds for organisational activities, though its provisions apply generally to any organisation seeking to use public premises without exception. It raises a classic tension between a state's power to regulate public property and the constitutional freedoms of assembly and association under Article 19(1)(b) and 19(1)(c), both subject to "reasonable restrictions" that courts have historically tested for proportionality, examining whether a restriction is the least restrictive means available to achieve a legitimate state aim.

Trespass law in India traditionally sits under the Indian Penal Code framework (now the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita); this bill instead creates a bespoke statutory trespass offence specific to government and public property, with its own tiered penalty structure rather than relying on the general criminal law provision.

Q4
 **CONCEPT KIT**
 CROSS-PAPER

GS2 (polity, fundamental rights, centre-state and party-organisation dynamics).

 MAINS KEYWORDS

Article 19(1)(b), Article 19(1)(c), reasonable restrictions, public premises regulation.

 COMMON MISTAKE

assuming the bill's "3-5 years, Rs 5-10 lakh" figures apply together as a single penalty tier; they are actually first-offence versus repeat-offence tiers, with the Rs 5,000/day fine a separate add-on for continuing post-conviction non-compliance.

 EXAM TIP

distinguish first-offence (up to 3 years/Rs 5 lakh) from repeat-offence (up to 5 years/Rs 10 lakh) as this bill's fixed fact set.

 INTERVIEW

where should courts draw the line between a state's legitimate regulation of public property and an unreasonable restriction on the freedom of assembly?

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Question 5

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[Source →](#)

Atal Bihari Vajpayee, whose 8th death anniversary was observed on August 16, 2026, was conferred the Bharat Ratna in which year?

A 2015 ✓

B 2014

C 2018

D 2019

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who died on August 16, 2018 at the age of 93, was conferred the Bharat Ratna in 2015.
ANALYSIS: The distinction between his death year (2018) and his Bharat Ratna year (2015) is a frequently confused fact pair, since major national honours and death anniversaries for the same public figure often appear together in current-affairs coverage around commemorative dates.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

Vajpayee's 8th death anniversary in 2026 saw tributes at his Delhi memorial "Sadaiv Atal," a statue unveiling by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Chittorgarh, Rajasthan, and the launch of 25 new "Atal Canteens" offering subsidised meals in Delhi. As a three-time Prime Minister, serving briefly in 1996 and then for a full term from 1998 to 2004, Vajpayee is associated with the Pokhran-II nuclear tests (1998), the Kargil conflict (1999), the Golden Quadrilateral highway project, and coalition-era governance through the National Democratic Alliance, a period often cited in Mains answers as a model of consensus-building in a fragmented multi-party Parliament.

He remains a recurring GS1 (modern history)/GS2 (governance) personality-in-news reference point, and his coalition-management record is frequently invoked in ethics-in-public-life discussions for GS4.

Q5 **CONCEPT KIT****CROSS-PAPER**

GS1 (modern Indian history, personalities); GS4 (ethics in public life, illustrative case).

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Bharat Ratna 2015, Sadaiv Atal.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

assuming the Bharat Ratna was conferred posthumously or in his death year (2018); it was actually conferred in 2015, while he was alive.

**EXAM TIP**

memorise "died August 16, 2018, Bharat Ratna 2015" as a fixed date pair for this recurring personality.

**INTERVIEW**

what makes a leader's coalition-management record, as opposed to policy achievements alone, a distinct criterion worth evaluating in public life?

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Question 6

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[Source →](#)

India Post's first-ever drone delivery of the national flag, inaugurated by Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, took place along which route?

- ☐ A Shimla to Manali, Himachal Pradesh
- ☒ B Mandi Head Post Office to Rehardhar Branch Post Office, Himachal Pradesh ✓
- ☐ C Dehradun to Mussoorie, Uttarakhand
- ☐ D Srinagar to Gulmarg, Jammu and Kashmir

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: India Post's first-ever drone delivery of the national flag flew the roughly 12 km route from Mandi Head Post Office to Rehardhar Branch Post Office in Himachal Pradesh, operated by Skye Air Mobility, taking about 7 minutes compared to over 2 hours by road. **ANALYSIS:** The dramatic time saving on a hill-terrain route illustrates drone delivery's specific value proposition for last-mile connectivity in remote or difficult-terrain areas, distinct from its marginal benefit on flat, well-connected routes.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

The delivery, part of Independence Day-linked commemorative activity, saw the flag handed to an Army veteran on arrival, tying the technology demonstration to a symbolic occasion. This fits a broader pattern of India testing drone logistics for last-mile delivery in hill and remote regions, relevant to India's Drone Rules, 2021, which liberalised drone airspace into green, yellow and red zones and simplified certification, and to PM Gati Shakti-linked logistics modernisation more generally.

Postal and logistics drone trials have also been piloted for medicine and vaccine delivery in hill states and island territories, reflecting a wider policy interest in drones as an infrastructure-light solution for regions where road connectivity is expensive or seasonally unreliable, a theme relevant to GS3 answers on appropriate technology for difficult terrain.

Q6
 **CONCEPT KIT**

CROSS-PAPER

GS3 (science and technology applications, drone policy, infrastructure).


MAINS KEYWORDS

India Post drone delivery, Skye Air Mobility, last-mile connectivity.


COMMON MISTAKE

assuming this was a routine commercial drone-delivery rollout; it was specifically inaugurated as a first-ever, symbolically framed demonstration flight.


EXAM TIP

anchor "Mandi to Rehardhar, ~12 km, ~7 minutes" as this event's fixed fact set.


INTERVIEW

what regulatory and infrastructure steps would be needed to scale a single demonstration flight into routine drone-based postal logistics across hill states?


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Question 7

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[Source →](#)

Kerala's Onam festival began with Atham on August 16, 2026. On what date does the festival culminate in Thiruvonam, its main day?

- ☐ A August 20, 2026
- ☐ B August 23, 2026
- ☒ C August 26, 2026 ✓
- ☐ D August 30, 2026

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Onam 2026 began with Atham on August 16, 2026, and culminates in Thiruvonam, its main day, on August 26, 2026, commemorating the mythical homecoming of King Mahabali. **ANALYSIS:** The ten-day gap between Atham and Thiruvonam structures Onam as an extended festival period rather than a single-day observance, a distinction relevant to any Prelims question testing the festival's internal chronology rather than just its overall dating.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

The same day, the Parsi community observed Navroz, the New Year per the Shahenshahi calendar, which Parsis in India follow without leap-year adjustment, causing the observed date to drift gradually from the global March Navroz observance; some official state holiday calendars, including Maharashtra's, list the observance a day earlier, on August 15, reflecting genuine variation in how different calendars mark the date in a given year. Onam itself is Kerala's principal harvest festival, rooted in the legend of the just and beloved King Mahabali, whose annual homecoming is welcomed with elaborate floral rangolis (pookalam), boat races and feasts.

Both festivals' 2026 coincidence on August 16 illustrates India's calendar diversity, a recurring Prelims theme around festivals, their associated calendars, and their historical or mythological origins.

Q7
 **CONCEPT KIT**

CROSS-PAPER

GS1 (art and culture, festivals, calendar systems).


MAINS KEYWORDS

Onam, Atham, Thiruvonam, King Mahabali, Parsi Navroz, Shahenshahi calendar.


COMMON MISTAKE

treating Onam as a single-day festival rather than a ten-day period running from Atham to Thiruvonam.


EXAM TIP

memorise the Atham-to-Thiruvonam ten-day span and the King Mahabali legend as this festival's fixed fact set.


INTERVIEW

how does India's coexistence of multiple community-specific calendars, each drifting independently relative to the Gregorian calendar, shape public administration around holidays and civic scheduling?


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Question 8

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[Source](#)

Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan's two-day Tamil Nadu visit, beginning August 16, 2026, included attending the 22nd Convocation of which institution?

A University of Madras

B Anna University

C IIT Madras

D SRM Institute of Science and Technology ✓

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan attended the 22nd Convocation of SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Kattankulathur, on August 16, 2026, as part of a two-day Tamil Nadu visit covering Chennai, Chengalpattu, Thiruvavur and Thanjavur. **ANALYSIS:** The visit bundled a constitutional functionary's formal convocation duties with commemorative and cultural engagements, reflecting the routine but exam-relevant pattern of Vice-Presidential itineraries combining ceremonial, educational and cultural roles.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

The Vice President of India, as ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha under Article 64, frequently undertakes state visits combining convocation addresses, memorial tributes and cultural engagements, a pattern distinct from the more overtly political travel schedules of the Prime Minister or Union Ministers. On this visit, Radhakrishnan also marked the first death anniversary of former Governor La Ganesan, a Tamil Nadu-born RSS veteran who served as Governor of Manipur, held additional charge as Governor of West Bengal, and later served as Governor of Nagaland, and released a book on Hindu Munnani founder K. Ramagopalan.

His itinerary continued on August 17 with convocations at the Central University of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvavur, and SASTRA University, Thanjavur.

Q8
 **CONCEPT KIT**

CROSS-PAPER

GS2 (constitutional functionaries, Vice President's role under Article 64).


MAINS KEYWORDS

Vice President, Article 64, Rajya Sabha Chairman, convocation duties.


COMMON MISTAKE

confusing SRM Institute of Science and Technology (a deemed university) with IIT Madras or Anna University, both separate Tamil Nadu institutions with their own convocation calendars.


EXAM TIP

anchor "SRMIST, 22nd Convocation, Kattankulathur" as this event's fixed fact set.


INTERVIEW

what is the constitutional significance of the Vice President's dual role as a ceremonial head-of-state-adjacent functionary and as the Rajya Sabha's presiding officer?


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Question 9

of 10

[Source](#)

The regulated electronic exchange for major minerals was confirmed following Parliament's passage of which bill on August 13, 2026?

- A MMDR Amendment Bill, 2026 ✓**
- B National Mineral Policy Amendment Bill, 2026
- C Critical Minerals Mission Bill, 2026
- D Mines and Minerals Regulation Bill, 2025

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The MMDR (Mines and Minerals Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, was passed by Parliament on August 13, 2026, and its passage was the immediate trigger for the government confirming the regulated electronic exchange for major minerals. **ANALYSIS:** The bill's passage represents the latest stage in an ongoing legislative cycle of mining-sector reform, following the Supreme Court's landmark 2024 ruling on state taxation powers over mineral rights, showing how judicial and legislative reform in this sector have proceeded in tandem rather than in isolation.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, is India's principal legislation governing mineral concessions, mining leases and regulation of the mining sector, and has been amended multiple times, including in 2015 (auction-based allocation) and 2021 (further liberalisation of exploration and captive-mine sale limits). The 2026 amendment continues this reform trajectory by enabling the new mineral exchange mechanism. This legislative activity followed closely on the heels of the Supreme Court's July 2024 nine-judge bench ruling in *Mineral Area Development Authority v. Steel Authority of India*, which held that royalty payable under the MMDR Act is not a tax and does not constitutionally limit state legislatures' independent power to tax mineral rights, overturning the 1990 India Cement precedent and reshaping centre-state fiscal federalism in the mining sector.

Q9 **CONCEPT KIT**
 CROSS-PAPER

GS3 (Indian economy, mineral resources); GS2 (centre-state relations, mining federalism).

 MAINS KEYWORDS

MMDR Amendment Bill 2026, Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act 1957, mining federalism.

 COMMON MISTAKE

confusing the 2026 MMDR Amendment Bill with a standalone "Critical Minerals" law; critical-minerals policy in India is currently pursued through a separate National Critical Mineral Mission rather than through MMDR amendments.

 EXAM TIP

anchor "MMDR Amendment Bill, passed August 13, 2026" as the enabling legislation for the mineral exchange.

 INTERVIEW

how should mining-sector reform balance faster resource development against adequate environmental and community-consent safeguards?

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Question 10

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[Source →](#)

The tender for the 840 loiter munition units eventually contracted to Tata Advanced Systems and NIBE Ltd had opened in which month?

A May 2026

B July 2026 ✓

C June 2026

D August 2026

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The tender for 840 loiter munition units, eventually awarded to Tata Advanced Systems Limited (L1) and NIBE Private Limited (L2), had opened in July 2026, roughly six weeks before the Rs 1,577 crore contract was signed on August 14, 2026. **ANALYSIS:** The relatively short gap between tender opening and contract signing reflects the deliberate use of the Fast Track Procedure, which compresses standard defence-acquisition timelines for platforms considered operationally urgent.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

India's standard defence-acquisition process under the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) typically spans a much longer timeline than seen here, moving through Acceptance of Necessity, Request for Proposal, technical and field trials, and contract negotiation, often stretching to several years for major platforms. The Fast Track Procedure is a specific carve-out designed for urgent operational requirements, most often exercised following border tensions or capability gaps identified in ongoing conflicts, and has been increasingly used for drone and loitering-munition procurement given their proven battlefield relevance in recent conflicts.

NIBE's "Vayustra" system is reported to be based on Israeli Skystriker technology adapted for domestic production, illustrating a common pathway for indigenisation, technology-licensed adaptation rather than fully ground-up domestic design, that still qualifies under the "Buy (Indian)" category.

Q10 **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 (defence procurement processes, Atmanirbhar Bharat).
 MAINS KEYWORDS	Fast Track Procedure, Defence Acquisition Procedure, tender-to-contract timeline.
 COMMON MISTAKE	assuming all "Buy (Indian)" contracts involve fully ground-up indigenous design; some, like NIBE's "Vayuastra," involve technology-licensed adaptation of foreign platforms for domestic manufacture.
 EXAM TIP	anchor "tender July 2026, contract signed August 14, 2026" as this procurement's fixed timeline.
 INTERVIEW	does the Fast Track Procedure's compressed timeline create trade-offs in trial rigour compared to the standard acquisition process?

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