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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz, August 17, 2026

17 August 2026

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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED ANSWER KEY

Daily Quiz, August 17, 2026

17 August 2026 · 10 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Question 1 of 10 Source →

The RBI's FCNR(B) swap facility mobilised how much in total inflows as of August 13, 2026, prompting an early closure announcement?

A $30 billion

B **$56.85 billion ✓**

C $75 billion

D $100 billion

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

FACT: The RBI's FCNR(B) swap facility mobilised $56.85 billion in total inflows as of August 13, 2026, of which FCNR(B) deposits alone accounted for $52.30 billion, prompting the RBI to advance the facility's deposit-acceptance cut-off from September 30 to August 31, 2026. ANALYSIS: The scale and speed of this inflow, nearly $57 billion within roughly ten weeks of operationalisation, is what triggered the early-closure decision, distinct from the separate policy-communication critique of how that closure was announced.

CONCEPT NOTE

The facility, announced June 5, 2026 and operationalised June 8, 2026, let banks swap Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) deposits with the RBI on concessional terms, directly boosting India's forex reserves without an interest-rate hike. A parallel window for External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) and Overseas Foreign Currency Borrowings (OFCBs) remains unaffected by the early closure, staying open until December 31, 2026.

The swap execution deadline for deposits placed before the new cut-off is set at September 11, 2026. This distinction between the FCNR(B) window (closed early) and the ECB/OFCB window (unchanged) is a frequently tested precision point, since both are part of the same broader RBI reserve-mobilisation initiative but were treated differently.

Q1 🎯 CONCEPT KIT

🔗 **CROSS-PAPER**	GS3 (Indian economy, external sector, RBI monetary tools).
✍️ **MAINS KEYWORDS**	FCNR(B), swap facility, forex reserves, RBI policy communication.
⚠️ **COMMON MISTAKE**	confusing the FCNR(B) window's early closure with the ECB/OFCB window, which remains open until December 31, 2026, unaffected.
📌 **EXAM TIP**	anchor "FCNR(B): $52.30bn of $56.85bn total, cut-off advanced to Aug 31" as this event's fixed fact set.
🎤 **INTERVIEW**	does rapid success at a stated numerical target justify closing a facility early even when it contradicts earlier official guidance?

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Question 2 of 10

Source →

The BRICS Environment Working Group's Senior Officers' Meeting, hosted by India on August 17, 2026, was held ahead of which subsequent meeting?

A The BRICS Summit 2026

B The UNFCCC COP31

C **The 12th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting ✓**

D The G20 Environment Ministers' Meeting

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

FACT: India, holding the BRICS Chairship 2026, hosted the Senior Officers' Meeting of the BRICS Environment Working Group at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on August 17, 2026, as a curtain-raiser to the 12th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting on August 18, to be presided over by Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav.
ANALYSIS: The Senior Officers' Meeting functions as a preparatory, technical-level session that finalises the agenda and priority areas the Ministers then formally adopt, a common two-tier structure in multilateral processes distinguishing officer-level preparation from minister-level decision-making.

CONCEPT NOTE

India's 2026 BRICS Chairship theme is "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability." The meeting identified priority areas for 2026 including Sustainable Lifestyles, Afforestation and Forest Fire Management, Circular Economy (with a focus on Extended Producer Responsibility), and Adaptation drawing on traditional knowledge systems. This environmental cooperation agenda is distinct in framing from Western-led, climate-finance-centred forums, instead emphasising a Global South-oriented approach centred on lifestyle change and traditional ecological knowledge, relevant to comparing multilateral environmental diplomacy models.
BRICS, originally Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, has since expanded its membership, and India's rotating chairship gives it a direct role in shaping the grouping's annual thematic priorities across its various working groups, environment being one of several tracks alongside trade, finance and health that culminate in a leaders' summit.

Q2 🎯 CONCEPT KIT

🔗 CROSS-PAPER	GS2 (international relations, multilateral groupings, India's chairship diplomacy); GS3 (environment, sustainable development).
✍️ MAINS KEYWORDS	BRICS Environment Working Group, Bharat Mandapam, Sustainable Lifestyles, Circular Economy.
⚠️ COMMON MISTAKE	confusing the Senior Officers' Meeting (preparatory, technical) with the Ministers' Meeting (formal, decision-making); they are sequential but distinct events one day apart.
📌 EXAM TIP	memorise the four 2026 priority areas as a fixed fact set.
🎤 INTERVIEW	how does BRICS' environmental cooperation agenda differ substantively from UNFCCC-linked climate-finance frameworks, and what does that difference reveal about India's environmental-diplomacy priorities?

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Question 3 of 10

Source →

The Department of Consumer Affairs' Government Approved Test Centre (GATC) applications, opened August 17, 2026, operate under which governing rules?

A Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016

B Consumer Protection Act, 2019

C Weights and Measures Act, 1976

D **Legal Metrology (Government Approved Test Centre) Rules, 2013 ✓**

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

FACT: The Department of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution opened online applications, from August 17 to 31, 2026, for recognition as Government Approved Test Centres (GATCs) under the Legal Metrology (Government Approved Test Centre) Rules, 2013, via the portal emaap.gov.in/gatc. ANALYSIS: Recognising private and academic institutions as GATCs decentralises a verification function that has traditionally depended on limited government-run testing infrastructure, a governance pattern of expanding regulatory capacity through accredited private-sector and academic participation rather than direct state expansion.

CONCEPT NOTE

Following recent amendments to the governing rules, recognised GATCs can now verify 23 categories of weighing and measuring instruments spanning healthcare, energy, transport, retail, manufacturing and infrastructure sectors. Eligible applicants include industries, laboratories, engineering colleges, polytechnics and Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs).
The Legal Metrology Act, 2009, is the parent legislation governing weights-and-measures regulation in India, aimed at ensuring accuracy and standardisation in commercial and industrial measurement, an area with direct consumer-protection and industrial-safety implications given how many sectors depend on verified measuring instruments. Legal metrology traces back to India's adoption of the metric system in the 1950s-60s, and the Department of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has periodically expanded verification infrastructure through such recognised-centre schemes to keep pace with the growing diversity of instruments used across modern healthcare, logistics and manufacturing.

Q3 🎯 CONCEPT KIT

🔗 **CROSS-PAPER**	GS2 (governance, regulatory decentralisation); GS3 (industrial regulation, ease of doing business).
✍️ **MAINS KEYWORDS**	Legal Metrology Act 2009, GATC, decentralised regulatory verification.
⚠️ **COMMON MISTAKE**	confusing the Legal Metrology (GATC) Rules, 2013 with the broader Legal Metrology Act, 2009, which is the parent legislation rather than the specific rules governing test-centre recognition.
📌 **EXAM TIP**	anchor "emaap.gov.in/gatc, 23 categories, Aug 17-31 window" as this scheme's fixed fact set.
🎤 **INTERVIEW**	what safeguards are needed to ensure privately or academically run test centres maintain verification accuracy comparable to government-run facilities?

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Question 4 of 10

Source →

The 30th BWF World Championships, which opened in New Delhi on August 17, 2026, mark India's return to hosting the event after how many years?

- A **17 years ✓**
- B 10 years
- C 25 years
- D 5 years

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

FACT: The 30th edition of the BWF World Championships opened at the Indira Gandhi Arena, New Delhi, on August 17, 2026, marking India's second time hosting the event and its return to the country after 17 years, since India last hosted the championships in 2009 in Hyderabad. ANALYSIS: Hosting this event so soon after the 2026 Commonwealth Games reflects a broader pattern of India building sustained sports-hosting capacity rather than a one-off mega-event, relevant to assessing genuine infrastructure development versus isolated prestige events.

CONCEPT NOTE

382 players from 64 nations are competing across five categories at the 2026 championships: men's singles, women's singles, men's doubles, women's doubles, and mixed doubles, running from August 17 to 23, 2026, and broadcast on Sports18 and JioCinema. India's sports-hosting portfolio has expanded significantly in recent years, and analysts frame this as both genuine infrastructure investment and a deliberate soft-power strategy, using high-visibility sporting events to project international standing alongside domestic sports-development goals.

The Badminton World Federation (BWF) governs the sport globally, and hosting rights for its flagship annual championship rotate among member federations capable of providing world-class arena infrastructure, broadcast capacity and security arrangements, making repeat hosting a meaningful signal of sustained organisational capability rather than a one-time achievement.

Q4 🎯 CONCEPT KIT

🔗 **CROSS-PAPER**	GS1 (society, sport and culture); essay/interview (sports diplomacy, soft power).
✍️ **MAINS KEYWORDS**	BWF World Championships, Indira Gandhi Arena, sports infrastructure, soft power.
⚠️ **COMMON MISTAKE**	assuming this is India's first time hosting the event; it is India's second hosting, after the 2009 Hyderabad edition.
📌 **EXAM TIP**	anchor "2009 Hyderabad, 2026 New Delhi, 17-year gap" as this event's fixed fact set.
🎤 **INTERVIEW**	does hosting global sporting mega-events meaningfully advance grassroots sports development, or does it primarily serve international-visibility goals?

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Question 5 of 10 Source →

The 2026 edition of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, which concluded August 17, 2026, was dedicated to marking which milestone?

A 75th anniversary of the Constitution

B **150th anniversary of Vande Mataram ✓**

C 100th anniversary of the Indian National Congress

D 50th anniversary of the Emergency

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

FACT: The fifth edition of the Har Ghar Tiranga movement, running August 9-17, 2026, concluded with a musical concert in New Delhi dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the National Song, Vande Mataram. ANALYSIS: Tying a recurring national campaign to a specific historical milestone anniversary is a recurring pattern in how such commemorative movements are refreshed and given fresh public salience each year, rather than simply repeating an identical format annually.

CONCEPT NOTE

Launched by PM Modi in 2022 under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign has grown into what officials describe as a people's movement encouraging citizens to display the national flag at their homes. The 2026 edition included Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan's flag bike rally with Members of Parliament on August 12, and the global "Suryapath Tiranga" initiative, under which Indian missions abroad hoisted the flag in succession from east to west, extending the campaign's reach beyond domestic participation to India's diplomatic missions worldwide.

State-level editions of the campaign, run by respective state governments alongside the national drive, often carry their own local flagship sub-initiatives and flag-distribution targets, meaning the campaign operates simultaneously at national and state administrative levels each year.

Q5 🎯 CONCEPT KIT

🔗 CROSS-PAPER	GS1 (modern history, national symbols, freedom-movement legacy).
✍️ MAINS KEYWORDS	Har Ghar Tiranga, Vande Mataram 150th anniversary, Suryapath Tiranga.
⚠️ COMMON MISTAKE	treating Har Ghar Tiranga as a one-time 2022 event rather than a recurring annual campaign now in its fifth edition.
📌 EXAM TIP	anchor "launched 2022, 5th edition 2026, tied to Vande Mataram 150th anniversary" as this campaign's fixed fact set.
🎤 INTERVIEW	how effective are recurring, symbolically anchored national campaigns like this at building durable civic engagement compared to one-off commemorative events?

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Question 6 of 10

Source →

The IMD's August 17, 2026 heavy rainfall and wind warning across 19 states was driven by which weather system?

A A cyclone making landfall in Odisha

B A western disturbance over Jammu and Kashmir

C **A low-pressure area over the northwest Bay of Bengal ✓**

D An anticyclone over the Arabian Sea

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

FACT: The IMD forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall and wind gusts of 80-85 km/h across 19 states on August 17, 2026, driven by a low-pressure area over the northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining West Bengal-Odisha coast.
ANALYSIS: A low-pressure area, a weaker, less organised system than a cyclone, can still produce widespread heavy rainfall and strong winds across a large geographic belt when it interacts with the monsoon trough, a distinction relevant to correctly classifying monsoon-season weather systems rather than assuming all major rainfall warnings imply cyclone-strength systems.

CONCEPT NOTE

The core impact belt covered Gangetic West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, forecast for heavy to very heavy rainfall, while Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi were forecast for widespread rain. Lightning and landslide warnings were also issued for eastern and hilly states.
Such low-pressure systems over the Bay of Bengal are a recurring feature of the Indian monsoon during its active phases, distinct from both cyclones (more organised, higher-intensity systems) and western disturbances (extratropical systems affecting northwest India, mainly outside the monsoon season), and understanding these distinctions is useful for GS1 Indian-geography and GS3 disaster-management questions alike. The IMD issues a four-colour warning scale, green, yellow, orange and red, denoting escalating severity and required response, with district-level alerts feeding into state disaster management authorities' response protocols, a system frequently referenced in questions on India's early-warning and disaster-preparedness architecture.

Q6 🎯 CONCEPT KIT

🔗 CROSS-PAPER	GS1 (Indian geography, monsoon dynamics); GS3 (disaster management, early-warning systems).
✍️ MAINS KEYWORDS	low-pressure area, Bay of Bengal, monsoon trough, IMD warning.
⚠️ COMMON MISTAKE	conflating a "low-pressure area" with a cyclone; the two are distinct categories of weather systems with different intensity classifications.
📌 EXAM TIP	anchor "NW Bay of Bengal low-pressure area, 19 states, 80-85 km/h gusts" as this event's fixed fact set.
🎤 INTERVIEW	how well does India's district-level, colour-coded IMD alert system translate into effective on-ground disaster-preparedness action?

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Question 7 of 10

Source →

Business Standard's editorial critiquing the RBI's early FCNR(B) swap closure argues that durable external-sector stability ultimately requires which kind of capital inflow?

A Repeated short-term swap facilities

B Higher external commercial borrowing limits

C Increased gold reserve purchases

D **Steady, long-term foreign direct investment (FDI) ✓**

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

FACT: The editorial argues that while the FCNR(B) swap facility succeeded at rapidly mobilising $56.85 billion, such short-term, interest-rate-sensitive inflows do not fix India's deeper external-sector weakness, since durable stability requires steady, long-term FDI rather than repeated reliance on short-term instruments. ANALYSIS: The editorial's critique is not that the facility failed at its stated task, but that tactical success at rapid reserve accretion should not be mistaken for a structural solution to external-sector vulnerability, a distinction between short-term capital-mobilisation tools and long-term, durable capital.

CONCEPT NOTE

FCNR(B) deposits are short-term, interest-rate-sensitive foreign-currency liabilities that can reverse quickly if relative interest rates or investor sentiment shift, unlike foreign direct investment, which represents a durable, productive claim on the Indian economy less prone to sudden reversal. The editorial also criticises the RBI's policy communication, noting officials had earlier indicated no early closure was planned, making the abrupt reversal, advancing the deposit cut-off from September 30 to August 31, 2026, a separate concern from the facility's substantive effectiveness at mobilising reserves. Both threads, the short-term-versus-long-term capital distinction and the policy-predictability concern, are treated as genuine, related but analytically separate critiques.

Q7 🎯 CONCEPT KIT

🔗 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 (external sector management, FDI vs short-term capital, RBI policy tools).
✍️ MAINS KEYWORDS	FCNR(B), short-term capital, FDI, policy communication.
⚠️ COMMON MISTAKE	treating the editorial as claiming the swap facility failed; it explicitly succeeded at its stated reserve-mobilisation task, the critique is about durability and communication.
📌 EXAM TIP	distinguish "tactical success" from "strategic adequacy" as a reusable evaluative framework for any capital-mobilisation policy question.
🎤 INTERVIEW	what specific policy changes would meaningfully increase India's long-term FDI inflows relative to short-term instruments?

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Question 8 of 10

Source →

Business Standard's editorial on the Sapta Dhara framework identifies rationalising which specific subsidy as the sharpest test of the government's reform seriousness?

- **A. Fertiliser subsidy ✓**
- B. Fuel subsidy
- C. Food subsidy under the National Food Security Act
- D. Power subsidy for agriculture

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

FACT: Business Standard argues that PM Modi's Sapta Dhara framework for Viksit Bharat 2047 must be matched by faster structural reform in trade and manufacturing, and specifically flags rationalising fertiliser subsidy, a large and long-standing welfare commitment, as the sharpest test case of whether the government will pursue genuinely difficult, politically costly reforms rather than merely restating ambition. ANALYSIS: Fertiliser subsidy is chosen specifically because it is both economically significant and politically sensitive, affecting a large farmer constituency, making the government's willingness to address it a meaningful signal distinct from lower-cost vision announcements.

CONCEPT NOTE

The editorial's core distinction is between vision-setting, announcing a structured framework like Sapta Dhara's seven pillars, which is relatively low political cost, and structural reform, which often requires absorbing short-term political costs for longer-term structural gains. It references a pattern across successive Indian government vision documents where stated ambitions in trade and manufacturing competitiveness have historically lagged actual structural follow-through, framing Sapta Dhara's ultimate significance as dependent on whether the government breaks or repeats this pattern, with fertiliser subsidy rationalisation serving as the clearest observable test of that commitment going forward.
Fertiliser subsidy in India has historically been justified on food-security and farmer-welfare grounds, but critics have long argued its current design disproportionately benefits larger farmers and distorts input-use patterns, making its rationalisation a recurring but politically difficult reform proposal across multiple governments.

Q8 🎯 CONCEPT KIT

🔗 CROSS-PAPER	GS2 (government policy vs implementation); GS3 (subsidy rationalisation, fiscal reform).
✍️ MAINS KEYWORDS	Sapta Dhara, fertiliser subsidy, structural reform, vision vs implementation.
⚠️ COMMON MISTAKE	reading the editorial as opposing the Sapta Dhara vision itself; it explicitly welcomes the framework's ambition while questioning whether follow-through reforms will match it.
📌 EXAM TIP	use the vision-versus-implementation distinction as a reusable framework for evaluating any long-term government development programme.
🎤 INTERVIEW	how should a government sequence economically necessary but politically sensitive reforms like subsidy rationalisation without eroding public trust in its broader development vision?

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Question 9 of 10

Source →

For FCNR(B) deposits placed before the RBI's revised August 31, 2026 cut-off, what is the deadline for banks to execute the actual swap with the RBI?

A August 31, 2026

B **September 11, 2026 ✓**

C September 30, 2026

D December 31, 2026

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

FACT: For FCNR(B) deposits placed before the RBI's revised August 31, 2026 deposit cut-off, banks must execute the actual swap with the RBI by September 11, 2026, a separate deadline from the deposit-acceptance cut-off itself. ANALYSIS: Distinguishing the deposit cut-off (when banks stop accepting new FCNR(B) deposits eligible for the swap) from the swap-execution deadline (when the actual currency swap with the RBI must be completed) is a precision point that tests careful reading of multi-stage policy timelines rather than a single date.

CONCEPT NOTE

The facility's three relevant dates form a sequence: deposits are accepted up to August 31, 2026 (advanced from the original September 30, 2026); banks must execute the swap for those deposits by September 11, 2026; and the entirely separate ECB/OFCB swap window remains open until December 31, 2026, unaffected by the FCNR(B) window's early closure. Multi-stage regulatory timelines with distinct deadlines for different steps (application/deposit versus execution/completion) are common across RBI and SEBI circulars, and examiners frequently test whether candidates can correctly match each date to its specific stage rather than treating a policy announcement as having just one relevant date.

Q9 🎯 CONCEPT KIT

🔗 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 (RBI regulatory processes, monetary policy implementation).
✍️ MAINS KEYWORDS	FCNR(B) swap execution deadline, deposit cut-off, ECB/OFCB window.
⚠️ COMMON MISTAKE	conflating the deposit cut-off (August 31) with the swap execution deadline (September 11); they are sequential but distinct dates.
📌 EXAM TIP	memorise the three-date sequence, August 31 (deposits), September 11 (swap execution), December 31 (ECB/OFCB, unaffected), as this facility's fixed fact set.
🎤 INTERVIEW	why might a regulator build in a buffer period between a deposit cut-off and the actual swap-execution deadline rather than making them the same date?

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Question 10 of 10

Source →

Applications for Government Approved Test Centre (GATC) recognition, opened August 17, 2026, are being accepted through which online portal?

A consumeraffairs.nic.in

B legalmetrology.gov.in

C **emaap.gov.in/gatc ✓**

D bis.gov.in/gatc

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

FACT: Applications for Government Approved Test Centre (GATC) recognition are being accepted from August 17 to 31, 2026, via the online portal emaap.gov.in/gatc, from industries, laboratories, engineering colleges, polytechnics and Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs). ANALYSIS: Using a dedicated, purpose-built portal rather than a general departmental website reflects a broader e-governance pattern of creating scheme-specific digital front-ends for discrete regulatory processes, making the application workflow more traceable and standardised.

CONCEPT NOTE

The GATC scheme operates under the Legal Metrology (Government Approved Test Centre) Rules, 2013, administered by the Department of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. Following recent amendments to the governing rules, recognised centres can verify 23 categories of weighing and measuring instruments spanning healthcare, energy, transport, retail, manufacturing and infrastructure sectors, meaning the eligible-applicant list, industries, laboratories, and academic/technical institutions like engineering colleges, polytechnics and ITIs, spans both commercial and educational institutions capable of maintaining calibration and testing standards.

Recognised centres undergo periodic audits to retain their status, and India currently operates dozens of such centres nationwide, a number this expanded application window is intended to grow, easing the geographic and capacity bottlenecks that previously concentrated verification infrastructure in a limited number of government-run facilities.

Q10 🎯 CONCEPT KIT

🔗 CROSS-PAPER	GS2 (e-governance, digital application portals); GS3 (industrial regulation).
✍️ MAINS KEYWORDS	emaap.gov.in/gatc, GATC portal, Legal Metrology Rules 2013.
⚠️ COMMON MISTAKE	assuming GATC applications route through the general Consumer Affairs departmental website rather than the dedicated emaap.gov.in/gatc portal.
📌 EXAM TIP	anchor "emaap.gov.in/gatc, Aug 17-31 window, 23 instrument categories" as this scheme's fixed fact set.
🎤 INTERVIEW	does routing scheme applications through dedicated, purpose-built portals meaningfully improve governance outcomes compared to using a single consolidated departmental portal for all schemes?

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— A.P.J. Abdul Kalam