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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz — February 9, 2026

9 February 2026

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat ChoudharyUPSC Educator & Content Creator • linkedin.com/in/epicbharat

DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz — February 9, 2026

9 February 2026 · 10 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Q 1

The Malaysia-India Digital Council (MIDC) was formally established during the operationalisation of which bilateral framework?

A India-Malaysia Strategic Partnership

B India-Malaysia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership ✓

C ASEAN-India Digital Initiative

D India-Malaysia Free Trade Agreement

EXPLANATION

MIDC was formally established as part of the India-Malaysia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, operationalised during PM Modi's visit to Kuala Lumpur in February 2026 when 11 agreements were signed.

CONCEPT

Malaysia is India's 3rd largest ASEAN trading partner (after Indonesia and Vietnam), with bilateral trade at USD 19.86 billion (2024-25). India and Malaysia also hold three bilateral military exercises: Harimau Shakti (Army), Samudra Lakshmana (Navy), and Udara Shakti (Air Force).

Q 2

The International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), which Malaysia acceded to in February 2026, was founded at whose initiative and in which year?

A WWF; 2021

B IUCN; 2020

C India; 2023 ✓

D USA; 2022

EXPLANATION

IBCA was founded in 2023 at India's initiative. It covers 7 big cat species: tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, puma, and jaguar. Malaysia's critically endangered Malayan tiger has fewer than 200 individuals.

CONCEPT

India has been at the forefront of big cat conservation. Project Tiger (1973) helped the Indian tiger population recover from around 1,800 to 3,167 (2022 census). The IBCA extends this conservation leadership globally.

Q 3

Under which US law can sanctions be imposed on countries making significant defence purchases from Russia, and in which year was it enacted?

- A ITAR (International Traffic in Arms Regulations); 2009
- B CAATSA (Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act); 2017 ✓**
- C OFAC Act; 2015
- D Global Magnitsky Act; 2016

EXPLANATION

CAATSA (Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act) was enacted in 2017. India's S-400 Triumf air defence system purchase (USD 5.5 billion, contracted 2018) triggered CAATSA applicability, but the US has issued waivers to India.

CONCEPT

India is in a strategic bind: approximately 60% of its active military inventory is of Russian/Soviet origin (Su-30 MKI, T-90 Bhisma, S-400). India-Russia total trade reached USD 68.72 billion in 2024-25, predominantly driven by discounted crude oil imports worth USD 63.84 billion.

Q 4

What is the doubled collateral-free loan limit for MSMEs announced by RBI in February 2026?

- A Rs 15 lakh
- B Rs 10 lakh
- C Rs 20 lakh ✓**
- D Rs 25 lakh

EXPLANATION

RBI doubled the collateral-free loan limit for MSMEs from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh. This was part of a set of RBI reforms that also included extending bank finance to REITs, consumer fraud compensation up to Rs 25,000, and launching Mission SAKSHAM for urban cooperative banks.

CONCEPT

MSMEs contribute approximately 30% of India's GDP and over 45% of exports. The collateral-free loan enhancement under CGTSME (Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises) aims to improve credit access for micro enterprises that lack formal collateral.

Q 5 Mission SAKSHAM, launched by RBI, targets capacity building in which type of banking institution?

A Regional Rural Banks

B Urban Cooperative Banks ✓

C Small Finance Banks

D Payment Banks

EXPLANATION

Mission SAKSHAM (Sahakari Bank Kshamta Nirman) was launched for Urban Cooperative Banks with approximately 1.40 lakh participants. It provides training in regional languages and aims for sector-wide capacity building and certification.

CONCEPT

Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) are regulated by RBI under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. They number around 1,500+ across India and serve urban/semi-urban populations, particularly small traders and middle-income groups.

Q 6 The Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses targets production of which three crops by 2030-31?

A Moong, Chana, Masoor

B Tur, Urad, Masoor ✓

C Chana, Tur, Moth Bean

D Urad, Soybean, Masoor

EXPLANATION

The mission targets Tur (Pigeon Pea/Arhar), Urad (Black Gram), and Masoor (Red Lentil) — the three crops accounting for the majority of India's pulse imports and highest price volatility. Production target: 350 lakh tonnes by 2030-31.

CONCEPT

India is the world's largest producer AND consumer of pulses (~25% of global production) yet imports 47.38 lakh tonnes (2023-24) due to demand-supply gap. Pulses are nitrogen-fixing crops (via Rhizobium bacteria) that enrich soil and reduce fertiliser requirements.

Q 7 The SATHI Portal, associated with the Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses, stands for:

- A Seed Authority and Tracking for Holistic Initiative
- B Seed Authentication, Traceability and Holistic Inventory ✓
- C Soil and Agriculture Technology Harmonisation Index
- D Sustainable Agriculture Trade and Harvest Initiative

EXPLANATION

SATHI stands for Seed Authentication, Traceability and Holistic Inventory. It is an automated seed life-cycle management platform that tracks seed from production to distribution, ensuring quality, authenticity, and traceability to prevent sub-standard seed sale to farmers.

CONCEPT

Seed quality is a critical bottleneck in pulse productivity. NAFED and NCCF are the two procurement agencies under PM-AASHA (PM Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan) responsible for 100% assured MSP procurement of Tur, Urad, and Masoor for 4 years under this mission.

Q 8 The National Large Solar Telescope (NLST), announced in the Union Budget 2026-27, is planned to be located near which water body?

- A Wular Lake, Kashmir
- B Chilika Lake, Odisha
- C Pangong Lake, Ladakh ✓
- D Loktak Lake, Manipur

EXPLANATION

The National Large Solar Telescope (NLST) is planned near Pangong Lake in Ladakh. The Department of Space was allocated Rs 13,416.20 crore in Union Budget 2026-27. The National Large Optical-Infrared Telescope (NLOT) is also under development.

CONCEPT

High-altitude locations like Ladakh offer superior astronomical seeing conditions (less atmospheric disturbance, low humidity). India already operates the Indian Astronomical Observatory at Hanle, Ladakh — one of the world's highest optical telescope sites at 4,500 metres.

Q 9 The Thwaites Glacier, often called the Doomsday Glacier, drains into which sea?

- A Ross Sea
- B Weddell Sea
- C Amundsen Sea ✓
- D Bellingshausen Sea

EXPLANATION

The Thwaites Glacier in West Antarctica drains into the Amundsen Sea. It is classified as one of 16 global climate tipping elements. Full destabilisation could contribute to significant sea-level rise globally.

CONCEPT

Climate tipping elements are parts of the Earth system that, if pushed past a threshold, undergo self-sustaining change. The 16 identified tipping elements include the Amazon rainforest dieback, Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) disruption, and Arctic summer sea ice loss, alongside the West Antarctic Ice Sheet.

Q 10 The first NIMHANS (National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences) is located in which city, and where was a second one announced in Budget 2026-27?

- A Chennai; South India
- B Bengaluru; North India ✓
- C Hyderabad; East India
- D Pune; West India

EXPLANATION

The first NIMHANS is in Bengaluru, Karnataka. Union Budget 2026-27 announced a second NIMHANS for north India. Existing institutions at Ranchi (Central Institute of Psychiatry) and Tezpur (LGBRIMH) are also to be upgraded.

CONCEPT

NIMHANS is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW). The Economic Survey 2025-26 flagged rising digital addiction and screen-related mental health problems among children as a concern, contextualising the focus on mental health infrastructure.

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