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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz — February 12, 2026

12 February 2026

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12 February 2026 · 10 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Q 1 Under which Act is disrespect to the national anthem of India governed?

- A The National Symbols Act, 1950
- B Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 ✓
- C Official Secrets Act, 1923
- D The Indian Penal Code, 1860

EXPLANATION

The Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 governs disrespect to national symbols including the national anthem Jana Gana Mana and the national flag.

CONCEPT

Jana Gana Mana was adopted as the national anthem on January 24, 1950 by the Constituent Assembly. Vande Mataram is the national song (not anthem), composed by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in Anandamath (1882) and first sung at the 1896 INC session.

Q 2 The IT (Intermediary Guidelines) Amendment Rules 2026 require platforms to remove deepfakes and non-consensual nudity within which time window?

- A 24 hours
- B 12 hours
- C 3 hours
- D 2 hours ✓

EXPLANATION

The 2026 Amendment Rules require a 2-hour takedown window for deepfakes and non-consensual nudity. Court/government-ordered illegal content has a 3-hour window.

CONCEPT

Section 79 of the IT Act, 2000 provides safe harbour protection to intermediaries from third-party content liability. Platforms lose this protection if they knowingly permit violative synthetic media. The parent framework is the IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

Q 3 Which legislation did the Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam (BVA) 2024 replace?

- A Civil Aviation Act, 1972
- B Air Corporations Act, 1953
- C Aircraft Act, 1934 ✓
- D Aviation Safety Act, 1991

EXPLANATION

The Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam 2024 replaced the Aircraft Act, 1934 — a colonial-era law that had governed Indian civil aviation for 90 years.

CONCEPT

BVA 2024 aligns India with ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) standards and the Chicago Convention of 1944 — the foundational international treaty for civil aviation. It also introduces provisions for unmanned aircraft systems (drones) and Advanced Air Mobility (AAM), which the 1934 Act lacked entirely.

Q 4 India has been an Observer State in the Arctic Council since which year?

- A 2007
- B 2013 ✓
- C 2016
- D 2022

EXPLANATION

India has held Observer State status in the Arctic Council since 2013. India released its first Arctic Policy in March 2022.

CONCEPT

India operates the Himadri research station at Ny-Ålesund, Svalbard, Norway since 2008 — its first Arctic research station. India also has IndARC, an underwater moored observatory in the Kongsfjorden of the Arctic Ocean. The Arctic holds approximately 30% of the world's undiscovered natural gas and 13% of undiscovered oil (USGS estimates).

Q 5

Tamil Brahmi inscriptions discovered in Egypt confirm ancient trade links dating to approximately which period?

A 5th–7th century CE

B 1st–2nd century CE ✓

C 3rd–5th century BCE

D 8th–10th century CE

EXPLANATION

The Tamil Brahmi inscriptions found in Egypt's Valley of the Kings area date to approximately the 1st–2nd century CE, corresponding to the peak of Indo-Roman trade.

CONCEPT

The Periplus of the Erythraean Sea, a 1st century CE Greek text, documents direct trade between Indian ports like Muziripattinam (Muchiri) and Egyptian Red Sea ports. Earlier Tamil Brahmi inscriptions were found at Quseir al-Qadim (ancient Myos Hormos) on Egypt's Red Sea coast. Tamil Brahmi script was used roughly from the 3rd century BCE to the 5th century CE.

Q 6

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya is associated with which political philosophy that he articulated in 1965?

A Gram Swaraj

B Sarvodaya

C Integral Humanism (Ekatma Manavdarshan) ✓

D Antyodaya Samajwad

EXPLANATION

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya articulated Integral Humanism (Ekatma Manavdarshan) in 1965. He died on February 11, 1968 near Mughal Sarai station.

CONCEPT

Integral Humanism rejects both Western capitalism and Marxist socialism, emphasising holistic individual development (Chiti, Virat, Samashti). The Antyodaya concept — uplift of the last person — flows from this philosophy and has influenced BJP welfare programs. He was a key leader of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (founded 1951). Mughal Sarai railway station was renamed Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction in 2018.

Q 7 What is India's approximate R&D expenditure as a percentage of GDP as of 2021-22?

A 0.64% ✓

B 1.2%

C 2.0%

D 1.8%

EXPLANATION

India's R&D expenditure was approximately 0.64% of GDP in 2021-22 — well below the government's own target of 2% of GDP and far behind South Korea (4.9%), Israel (5.4%), China (2.5%), and USA (3.5%).

CONCEPT

The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), established under the ANRF Act 2023, aims to provide strategic direction to scientific research with a corpus of Rs 50,000 crore over 5 years, primarily from private sector funding. India has CSIR (37 labs), DBT, DST, DRDO, ICAR, and ICMR as major R&D institutions.

Q 8 The Ken-Betwa River Interlinking Project is significant as it is the first project under which umbrella plan?

A Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)

B Jal Jeevan Mission

C National River Linking Project (NRLP) ✓

D Atal Bhujal Yojana

EXPLANATION

The Ken-Betwa Link Project is the first project to be executed under the National River Linking Project (NRLP). It was approved by the Cabinet in December 2021 at a cost of approximately Rs 44,605 crore.

CONCEPT

NRLP was originally conceptualised in the 1970s and proposes linking 30 major rivers through 30 links. The Ken-Betwa project will submerge approximately 9,000 hectares of the Panna Tiger Reserve (Madhya Pradesh), which is a major environmental concern. The project will irrigate 10.62 lakh hectares and provide drinking water to 62 lakh people.

Q 9 The Finance Commission is constituted under which Article of the Constitution of India?

- A Article 270
- B Article 275
- C Article 280 ✓
- D Article 293

EXPLANATION

The Finance Commission is constituted under Article 280 of the Constitution. It is set up every five years and recommends the distribution of central taxes between the Centre and States.

CONCEPT

The 15th Finance Commission (Chairman: N.K. Singh) recommended 41% of the divisible pool to states for 2021-26 — down from 42% under the 14th FC, with 1% adjusted for J&K and Ladakh becoming UTs. The 16th Finance Commission (Chairman: Arvind Panagariya) covers 2026-31.

Q 10 What is the name of the boundary between the Earth's crust and mantle, relevant to the Stanford study on Himalayan seismicity?

- A Conrad discontinuity
- B Mohorovicic discontinuity (Moho) ✓
- C Gutenberg discontinuity
- D Lehmann discontinuity

EXPLANATION

The Mohorovicic discontinuity (Moho) is the boundary between the Earth's crust and the mantle. The Stanford study found earthquakes occurring at 80-120 km depth — below the Moho and within the mantle — which is unusual.

CONCEPT

The Moho is approximately 35-40 km deep under continents, named after Croatian seismologist Andrija Mohorovicic who discovered it in 1909. Mantle earthquakes in this region are explained by dehydration embrittlement — the subducted Indian Plate releases water into the mantle, temporarily making the normally ductile rock brittle enough to fracture. The Himalayas formed from the collision of the Indian and Eurasian plates beginning approximately 55 million years ago.

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