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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz — February 13, 2026

13 February 2026

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13 February 2026 · 10 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Q 1

Budget 2026-27 allocated Rs 20,000 crore for CCUS (Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage). Which of the following is NOT among the five target hard-to-abate sectors under this scheme?

 A Power

 B Steel

 C Textiles ✓

 D Cement

EXPLANATION

The five target sectors under India's CCUS scheme are Power, Steel, Cement, Refineries, and Chemicals. Textiles is not included. Steel and cement are targeted because their CO₂ emissions are process-linked (chemically unavoidable), not just energy-related.

CONCEPT

Hard-to-abate sectors are industries where electrification cannot eliminate CO₂ because it is a chemical by-product of the process itself. In cement, calcination of limestone (CaCO₃ to CaO + CO₂) is unavoidable. In steel using blast furnaces, coke (carbon) reduces iron ore, producing CO₂. The EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) from 2026 will levy charges on Indian exports of cement, steel, aluminium, and fertilisers based on carbon content.

Q 2

Pakistan invoked the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) 1960 over the Sawalkot Hydroelectric Project. On which river is the Sawalkot project located?

 A River Jhelum

 B River Indus

 C River Beas

 D River Chenab ✓

EXPLANATION

The Sawalkot Hydroelectric Project (1,856 MW) is located on River Chenab in Ramban district, Jammu and Kashmir. The Chenab is a Western River under IWT, allocated primarily to Pakistan. India may only build run-of-the-river projects on Western Rivers.

CONCEPT

Under IWT 1960, the six rivers are divided: Eastern Rivers (Sutlej, Beas, Ravi) go to India; Western Rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab) go to Pakistan. India can use Western Rivers for run-of-river hydro, domestic use, and limited agriculture but cannot build large storage dams. Other Chenab projects: Baglihar (890 MW, Neutral Expert 2007 ruled in India favour), Ratle (850 MW, Court of Arbitration case ongoing), Dulhasti (390 MW), Salal (690 MW).

Q 3

Bodhan AI was launched to build the Bharat EduAI Stack. Which institution developed it under the Ministry of Education?

- A IIT Delhi
- B IIT Bombay
- C IIT Madras ✓**
- D IISc Bengaluru

EXPLANATION

Bodhan AI was developed by the AI Centre of Excellence for Education at IIT Madras under the Ministry of Education. It is a non-profit organization building an open-source Bharat EduAI Stack covering kindergarten to PhD level (K-to-PhD).

CONCEPT

Bodhan AI represents India applying the Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) model to education. DPI refers to shared digital utilities that operate like public goods — India Stack (Aadhaar, UPI, DigiLocker) is the global benchmark. NEP 2020 mandates AI integration in education. The Bharat EduAI Stack includes personalized tutors, teacher training AI, and institutional administration systems.

Q 4

The IWT dispute resolution has three tiers. Which body handles technical disputes (called "questions") that cannot be resolved by the Permanent Indus Commission?

- A International Court of Justice (ICJ)
- B Permanent Court of Arbitration, The Hague
- C World Bank Neutral Expert ✓**
- D UNEP Dispute Panel

EXPLANATION

The Neutral Expert (appointed by the World Bank) handles technical disputes or "questions" under IWT Tier 2. In the Baglihar Dam case (2007), Neutral Expert Raymond Lafitte largely ruled in India's favour. The Court of Arbitration at The Hague handles legal disputes or "differences" (Tier 3).

CONCEPT

IWT Tier 1 is the Permanent Indus Commission (bilateral, annual meetings). Tier 2 is the World Bank Neutral Expert for technical questions. Tier 3 is the Court of Arbitration at The Hague for legal differences. The ICJ has no role in IWT — it is governed by the treaty itself, not general UN instruments. Pakistan took Rattle and Kishanganga cases to the Court of Arbitration; India challenged jurisdiction.

Q 5

Ricin, involved in India's first alleged bioterrorism case, is classified under which international legal instrument as a Schedule 1 substance?

- A Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)
- B Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)
- C Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) ✓
- D CITES Appendix I

EXPLANATION

Ricin is classified as a Schedule 1 substance under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Although derived from a biological source (castor beans), its mechanism of action (blocking protein synthesis) places it under chemical weapons law. No known antidote exists. NIA took over the probe from Gujarat ATS in what is described as India's first alleged ricin bioterrorism case.

CONCEPT

CWC (1993, entered into force 1997) bans chemical weapons. Schedule 1 substances have few legitimate uses and high weapons risk (ricin, nerve agents, mustard gas). The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC, 1972) bans biological weapons. Ricin from castor beans (*Ricinus communis*) is also notable because castor is commercially grown in India for castor oil — creating a dual-use dilemma. The NIA Act 2008 gives NIA jurisdiction over terror offences including CBRN attacks.

Q 6

Assam Rifles is phasing out foreign dog breeds and inducting indigenous Indian breeds. Which of the following is an indigenous Indian breed selected under this MHA directive?

- A Belgian Malinois
- B German Shepherd
- C Tangkhul Hui ✓
- D Labrador Retriever

EXPLANATION

The Tangkhul Hui (native to Ukhrul district, Manipur) is one of the two indigenous breeds selected. The other is Kombai (Tamil Nadu). Belgian Malinois, German Shepherd, and Labrador are the foreign breeds currently in use that will be replaced. Full replacement target: 2050. Assam Rifles Dog Training Centre is at Jorhat, Assam.

CONCEPT

Assam Rifles is India's oldest paramilitary force, established in 1835 as the Cachar Levy. It operates under dual control: MHA (administrative) and Ministry of Defence (operational). It patrols the India-Myanmar border and maintains internal security in Northeast India. This indigeni- sation of dog breeds aligns with Aatmanirbhar Bharat in security sectors.

Q 7

India chaired the 1st BRICS Sherpas Meeting of 2026. Which of the following is the theme of India's 2026 BRICS Chairship?

- A BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Inclusive Growth
- B Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, and Sustainability ✓**
- C Unlocking the Potential of the Global South
- D Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development

EXPLANATION

India's 2026 BRICS Chairship theme is "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, and Sustainability." India is chairing BRICS for the 4th time (previous: 2012, 2016, 2021). BRICS Sherpa: Sudhakar Dalela. BRICS now has 11 members including new entrants Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE.

CONCEPT

BRICS was originally Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa. Expanded (BRICS+) at the Johannesburg Summit (2023) by adding Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE (from January 2024). Indonesia joined in 2025. The Sherpa is India's lead negotiator for BRICS summits. India-BRICS overlap: India uses BRICS to project multipolarity and push for reform of Bretton Woods institutions (IMF, World Bank).

Q 8

India ranked 7th globally in R&D spending in 2024 per WIPO data. Which country ranked 1st in global R&D expenditure in 2024?

- A United States
- B China ✓**
- C Japan
- D Germany

EXPLANATION

China ranked 1st with USD 785.9 billion in R&D spending in 2024, narrowly ahead of the USA (USD 781.8 billion). India ranked 7th with USD 75.73 billion. World total R&D: USD 2.87 trillion. Per WIPO GII 2025.

CONCEPT

R&D investment is a key indicator of innovation capacity. India's R&D/GDP ratio is ~0.65% — far below the government target of 2% of GDP. The National Research Foundation (NRF) was established in 2023 to significantly increase public funding for research. WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization) publishes the Global Innovation Index (GII) annually — India improved to 39th position in GII 2024 from 40th.

Q 9

IN-SPACE selected three startups for its Satellite Bus as a Service (SBaaS) initiative. What is the grant amount per selected startup?

- A Rs 1 crore
- B Rs 5 crore ✓**
- C Rs 10 crore
- D Rs 25 crore

EXPLANATION

Each of the three selected startups (Astrome Technologies, Azista Industries, Dhruva Space) receives Rs 5 crore under IN-SPACE's SBaaS initiative. IN-SPACE (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre) is the commercial arm under ISRO enabling private sector participation in India's space sector.

CONCEPT

IN-SPACE was established in 2020 as an autonomous body under the Department of Space to promote, authorise, and supervise space activities by non-government private entities (NGPEs). It is separate from ISRO (which builds and launches) and NewSpace India Limited — NSIL (which commercialises ISRO technologies). SBaaS initiative helps startups develop small satellite bus platforms needed for commercial LEO constellations and earth observation missions.

Q 10

The White Revolution 2.0 targets milk procurement of 1007 lakh kg per day by 2028-29. Which Union Ministry announced this scheme?

- A Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- B Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries
- C Ministry of Cooperation ✓**
- D Ministry of Food Processing Industries

EXPLANATION

White Revolution 2.0 was announced by the Ministry of Cooperation under Amit Shah. The scheme aims to increase milk procurement to 1007 lakh kg/day by 2028-29 (50% increase) through strengthening approximately 1.20 lakh Dairy Cooperative Societies and Multipurpose-PACS.

CONCEPT

White Revolution (Operation Flood, 1970-1996) was led by Dr. Verghese Kurien through NDDB (National Dairy Development Board), making India the world's largest milk producer. The cooperative model (Amul/GCMMF as template) transformed dairy from subsistence to commercial. India currently produces ~230 million tonnes of milk annually (world no. 1). Ministry of Cooperation was newly created in 2021 under Amit Shah to revitalize the cooperative sector.

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