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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz — February 14, 2026

14 February 2026

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator • linkedin.com/in/epicbharat

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14 February 2026 · 10 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Q 1 India's first underwater rail-road twin tunnel under the Brahmaputra river will connect Gohpur on the north bank to which location on the south bank?

A Dibrugarh

B **Numaligarh ✓**

C Tezpur

D Jorhat

EXPLANATION

The Brahmaputra Rail-Road Twin Tunnel connects Gohpur (NH-15) on the north bank to Numaligarh (NH-715) in Golaghat district on the south bank. The main tunnel is 15.79 km long (twin-tube: one rail, one 4-lane highway) at a total cost of Rs 18,662 crore.

CONCEPT

The Brahmaputra divides Assam into North Bank and South Bank with limited crossing points. The Bogibeel Bridge (Dibrugarh, 2018) is the longest rail-road bridge in India at 4.94 km. The Bhupen Hazarika Setu (Dhola-Sadiya) is the longest river bridge at 9.15 km. The new tunnel provides India's first flood-proof, year-round north-south connection in seismic zone V.

Q 2 Under Article 94(c) of the Constitution, removal of the Lok Sabha Speaker requires which type of majority?

A Simple majority (majority of members present and voting)

B Absolute majority (more than 50% of total membership)

C **Effective majority (majority of all then members of the House) ✓**

D Special majority (two-thirds of total membership)

EXPLANATION

Article 94(c) requires removal by "a majority of all the then members of the House" — this is an effective majority (majority of total membership, not just those present and voting). A 14-day advance notice is mandatory, and at least 50 members must sign the notice for admissibility.

CONCEPT

No Lok Sabha Speaker has ever been successfully removed. Previous failed attempts: 1954 (G.V. Mavalankar), 1966 (Hukam Singh), 1987 (Balram Jakhar). The high effective majority threshold makes removal extremely difficult. During removal proceedings, the Speaker may speak and vote (including a casting vote in a tie) but cannot vote initially like a regular member.

Q 3 High-Altitude Pseudo-Satellites (HAPS) for the Indian Air Force operate at which altitude range in the stratosphere?

A 5-10 km

B 10-15 km

C **18-22 km ✓**

D 35-40 km

EXPLANATION

HAPS operate in the stratosphere at 18-22 km altitude. They are solar-powered and can remain airborne for months, providing persistent ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance). India's NAL tested a prototype in February 2024 at Challakere Aeronautical Test Range, Karnataka. The DAC granted Acceptance of Necessity for HAPS (~Rs 15,000 crore) as part of a Rs 3.60 lakh crore package.

CONCEPT

HAPS fill the gap between LEO satellites (400-1,200 km, intermittent coverage) and MALE UAVs (5-10 km, shorter range). A HAPS at 20 km altitude has a sensor footprint of 500-800 km diameter. The 2017 Doklam standoff revealed India's need for persistent 24/7 surveillance of the Himalayan border. NewSpace Research and Technologies is the key private sector partner.

Q 4 The National Large Optical-Near Infrared Telescope (NLOT) being built in Ladakh will have a segmented mirror of what diameter?

A 4.5 metres

B 8.2 metres

C 10 metres

D **13.7 metres ✓**

EXPLANATION

The NLOT will have a 13.7-metre segmented mirror comprising 90 hexagonal segments, located at Hanle, Ladakh. It will take approximately one decade to build and will be used for exoplanet research, stellar evolution, and supernovae studies. The Hanle Dark Sky Reserve is the world's largest high-altitude dark sky reserve.

CONCEPT

The Himalayan Chandra Telescope (HCT) is already operational at Hanle (2.01 metres; being upgraded to 3.7 metres), operated by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, remotely from CREST, Hosakote, Karnataka. The NLST (2-metre solar telescope) will be at Merak near Pangong Tso (5-6 year timeline). The world's largest optical telescope under construction is the ELT (39.3 metres) in Chile.

Q 5 New radiocarbon dating of Bhirrana site pottery suggests the Indus Valley Civilisation had organised settlements dating back approximately how many years?

A 4,500 years

B 5,500 years

C 6,500 years

D **8,000 years ✓**

EXPLANATION

Radiocarbon dating of pottery and animal remains from the Bhirrana site in northern India suggests human settlement stretching back approximately 8,000 years — challenging the traditional Harappan chronology of 2600-1900 BC. This would predate Egypt's earliest pharaohs and suggest gradual cultural evolution rather than sudden urbanisation.

CONCEPT

The Indus Valley Civilisation (Harappan) is traditionally dated 2600-1900 BC (mature phase). Major sites: Mohenjo-daro (Pakistan), Harappa (Pakistan), Dholavira (Gujarat), Lothal (Gujarat), Rakhigarhi (Haryana - largest IVC site in India), Kalibangan (Rajasthan). The Bhirrana and Rakhigarhi sites have produced the oldest evidence of IVC occupation, pushing back the timeline significantly.

Q 6 The Sangtam tribe, which passed a resolution to protect pangolins, belongs to which state?

A Arunachal Pradesh

B Manipur

C **Nagaland ✓**

D Assam

EXPLANATION

The United Sangtam Likhum Pumji (apex body of the Sangtam tribe) in Kiphire and Tuensang districts of Nagaland passed the resolution. The India-Myanmar border (~1,643 km) is a major trafficking corridor for pangolins. Two species in Northeast India: Indian Pangolin (Manis crassicaudata) and Chinese Pangolin (Manis pentadactyla).

CONCEPT

Pangolins are the world's most trafficked wild mammals (scales used in traditional medicine, meat as bushmeat). Both species are CITES Appendix I and IUCN listed. The Wildlife Trust of India leads the Countering Pangolin Trafficking Project. Community-based conservation through tribal governance is increasingly recognised as effective in Northeast India where forest governance overlaps with customary land rights.

Q 7 The NITI Aayog Viksit Bharat plus Net Zero roadmap targets India reaching what renewable energy capacity by 2070?

A 1,000 GW

B 2,500 GW

C 4,000 GW

D **6,000+ GW ✓**

EXPLANATION
NITI Aayog's 11 inter-ministerial working group reports target renewable capacity growing from ~164 GW (2025) to 6,000+ GW by 2070 on the path to Net Zero. Nuclear power is targeted to grow from 8 GW to 300+ GW by 2070. Total investment needed: USD 22.7 trillion; financing gap: USD 6.5 trillion.

CONCEPT
India's current NDC (Paris Agreement) targets: 500 GW non-fossil capacity by 2030, 50% energy from renewables by 2030, Net Zero by 2070. GDP target under Viksit Bharat: USD 4.18 trillion (2025) to USD 30 trillion (2047). Electricity share in final energy demand: 21% (2025) to 60% (2070). India is already the world's 3rd largest renewable energy producer.

Q 8 India's DISCOM reforms reduced AT&C (Aggregate Technical and Commercial) losses from 22.62% to what level?

A 18.50%

B 16.20%

C **15.04% ✓**

D 12.80%

EXPLANATION
AT&C losses declined from 22.62% to 15.04% following DISCOM reforms. DISCOM Profit After Tax reached Rs 2,701 crore in FY 2024-25 and legacy dues fell from Rs 1,39,947 crore (June 2022) to Rs 4,927 crore (January 2026). Key schemes: UDAY (2015) and RDSS (Rs 3,03,758 crore).

CONCEPT
AT&C losses include technical losses (transmission line heat loss) and commercial losses (theft, billing failures, non-payment). High AT&C losses were the main reason Indian DISCOMs were chronically loss-making. UDAY (Ujjwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana, 2015) had states take over 75% of DISCOM debt. RDSS (Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme) replaced IPDS with Rs 3,03,758 crore outlay for smart metering, infrastructure upgrades.

Q 9 The WHO prequalified nOPV2 targets which specific poliovirus threat?

A Wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1)

B Wild poliovirus type 3 (WPV3)

C **Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) ✓**

D All poliovirus strains simultaneously

EXPLANATION

The novel Oral Polio Vaccine type 2 (nOPV2) targets circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) — the main remaining polio threat globally. It is genetically re-engineered to be more stable than earlier OPV2, reducing the risk of the vaccine virus reverting to a virulent form. WHO prequalification enables UNICEF procurement; global leaders pledged USD 1.9 billion for eradication.

CONCEPT

Wild poliovirus type 2 was certified eradicated globally in 2015; WPV3 in 2019. Only WPV1 remains (endemic in Afghanistan and Pakistan). However, cVDPV2 emerged from older OPV2 vaccine strains mutating in under-immunised populations. India was certified polio-free in 2014. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) was launched in 1988; targets complete eradication.

Q 10 Rajasthan is India largest wool-producing state. Which two indigenous sheep breeds dominate its wool production?

A Merino and Rambouillet

B Deccani and Nellore

C **Marwari and Chokla ✓**

D Gaddi and Rampur Bushair

EXPLANATION

Rajasthan's wool production (16,013 thousand kg in FY24, 47.53% of national output) is dominated by the Marwari and Chokla indigenous sheep breeds. India ranks 9th globally in wool production and 2nd in sheep population. Total national wool output: ~33.69 million kg annually.

CONCEPT

India has 75+ sheep breeds. Key wool-producing breeds by region: Marwari (Rajasthan), Chokla (Rajasthan, fine wool), Nali (Rajasthan/Haryana), Deccani (Maharashtra/AP/Karnataka), Gaddi (Himachal Pradesh), Rampur Bushair (UP/HP). India is a net importer of fine wool for textiles; merino wool is imported from Australia. The textile industry uses wool blends for carpets, shawls, and apparel.

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