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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz — February 19, 2026

19 February 2026

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19 February 2026 · 10 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

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Q 1 The indigenously built Cadet Training Ship Krishna was launched at which shipyard in February 2026?

A Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders, Mumbai

B Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, Kolkata

C **L&T Shipbuilding, Kattupalli, Chennai ✓**

D Hindustan Shipyard Ltd, Visakhapatnam

EXPLANATION
CTS Krishna was launched at L&T Shipbuilding, Kattupalli, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, on February 19, 2026. The ship is 122 metres long, displaces 4,700 tonnes, has a maximum speed of 20 knots, and an endurance of 60 days.

CONCEPT
India has four major naval shipbuilders: MDL (Mumbai) builds submarines and destroyers; GRSE (Kolkata) builds frigates and corvettes; HSL (Visakhapatnam) handles repair and patrol vessels; Cochin Shipyard built INS Vikrant (IAC-1). L&T Kattupalli is India's leading private-sector naval shipyard. CTS Krishna is one of three planned Cadet Training Ships under the Make in India defence programme.

Q 2 The Sarvam AI startup unveiled two large language models at the India AI Impact Summit 2026. What were their parameter sizes?

A 7 billion and 70 billion

B 13 billion and 65 billion

C **30 billion and 105 billion ✓**

D 20 billion and 80 billion

EXPLANATION
Sarvam AI (Bengaluru) announced Sarvam-30B (30 billion parameters) and Sarvam-105B (105 billion parameters) at the India AI Impact Summit 2026 (February 16-20, New Delhi). It also launched the Vikram multilingual chatbot for Indian languages.

CONCEPT
The India AI Mission (approved March 2024, outlay Rs 10,371 crore) aims to build sovereign AI infrastructure for India. Its 7 pillars include Compute Capacity (10,000+ GPUs), Innovation Centre, Datasets Platform, Application Development, FutureSkills, Startup Financing, and Safe and Trusted AI. Sarvam AI is one of the flagship domestic LLM developers supported under this mission.

Q 3 MeitY released India's first comprehensive AI Governance Framework in February 2026. How many core principles does it contain?

A Five

B Six

C **Seven** ✓

D Nine

EXPLANATION

MeitY released India's AI Governance Framework with Seven principles: Trust, People First, Innovation, Fairness, Accountability, Understandability, and Safety. The framework is currently principles-based (voluntary), not binding legislation, unlike the EU AI Act.

CONCEPT

The EU AI Act (2024) is the world's first binding AI regulation, classifying AI systems into minimal, limited, high-risk, and prohibited categories. India and the US currently follow non-binding governance approaches. India is expected to introduce formal AI legislation by 2027-28. Priority sectors under India's framework: healthcare, education, agriculture, finance, and public administration.

Q 4 Under which Article of the Indian Constitution did the Supreme Court declare menstrual health a Fundamental Right in the case Dr. Jaya Thakur v. Government of India?

A Article 14

B Article 19

C **Article 21** ✓

D Article 47

EXPLANATION

The Supreme Court (Justice J.B. Pardiwala and Justice R. Mahadevan) declared menstrual health a Fundamental Right under Article 21 (Right to Life and Personal Liberty with Dignity). The court directed free sanitary napkins in government schools for Classes 6-12 with oversight by District Education Officers and NCPCR.

CONCEPT

Article 21 has been expansively interpreted by the Supreme Court to include: right to education (Mohini Jain, 1992), right to livelihood (Olga Tellis, 1985), right to health (CESC v. Subhash Chandra Bose, 1992), right to a clean environment (Subhash Kumar v. Bihar, 1991), and now menstrual health. Article 47 (DPSP) directs the state to raise nutrition and public health standards.

Q 5 The Ol Chiki script was devised in 1925 to write the Santhali language. The Santhali language was added to the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution by which constitutional amendment?

A 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002

B **92nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003** ✓

C 97th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2011

D 100th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2015

EXPLANATION

Santhali was added to the Eighth Schedule by the 92nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003 (along with Bodo, Dogri, and Maithili). The Ol Chiki script was devised by Pandit Raghunath Murmu of Rairangpur, Odisha in 1925. Its centenary was inaugurated by President Droupadi Murmu on February 16, 2026.

CONCEPT

The Eighth Schedule currently lists 22 languages. The original 14 languages (1950) were expanded by successive amendments. 92nd Amendment (2003) added Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, and Santhali (taking the count from 18 to 22). Article 344 (Official Language Commission) and Article 351 (directive to develop Hindi) are related provisions. Santhali is the language of the Santhal tribe — one of India's largest tribal communities.

Q 6 Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions dated to the 1st-3rd century CE were discovered in 2026 in rock-cut tombs at which famous archaeological site?

A Petra, Jordan

B Pompeii, Italy

C **Valley of the Kings, Egypt** ✓

D Persepolis, Iran

EXPLANATION

Around 30 inscriptions were found in rock-cut royal tombs at the Valley of the Kings, Egypt, including approximately 20 in Tamil-Brahmi script (1st-3rd century CE). The name Cikai Korran appears 8 times across 5 tombs. These were documented by researchers from Lausanne University and the French School of Asian Studies.

CONCEPT

Ancient Tamil maritime trade reached Egypt, Rome, Greece, and Southeast Asia during the Sangam Age (300 BCE-300 CE). The Periplus of the Erythraean Sea (1st century CE) describes Indo-Roman trade. Ports like Arikamedu (Puducherry) show Roman amphora sherds and artefacts confirming this trade. Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions have also been found in Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Oman, indicating the wide diaspora of ancient Tamil traders.

Q 7 The Indian Army hosted a UN fellowship training programme on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) for 13 Asia-Pacific nations — the first time such a programme was held in Asia. At which military institution was it conducted?

A College of Combat, Mhow, Madhya Pradesh

B Military College of Materials Management (MCMM), Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh ✓

C Infantry School, Mhow, Madhya Pradesh

D School of Artillery, Deolali, Maharashtra

EXPLANATION

The UN fellowship training on SALW was hosted by the Indian Army at the Military College of Materials Management (MCMM), Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh (February 16 - March 6, 2026), organised by UNODA (UN Office for Disarmament Affairs). It was the first time this programme was held in Asia.

CONCEPT

SALW (Small Arms and Light Weapons) proliferation is a major security challenge: these weapons cause over 500,000 deaths annually globally. UNODA oversees the UN Programme of Action (PoA) on SALW (2001) which India has endorsed. The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT, 2014) regulates international arms transfers. India is a non-party to the ATT but cooperates with UNODA on training. SALW control is particularly relevant for Northeast India and Left Wing Extremism contexts.

Q 8 Kerala declared tidal flooding a state-specific disaster in February 2026. Which fund is activated when a state declares a state-specific disaster to provide financial assistance?

A National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)

B State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) ✓

C Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF)

D Calamity Relief Fund (CRF)

EXPLANATION

When a state declares a state-specific disaster, it enables financial assistance from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). The NDRF is used for national-level disasters declared by the central government. Kerala became the first Indian state to officially declare tidal flooding as a state-specific disaster.

CONCEPT

Disaster Management Act 2005 establishes NDMA (National Disaster Management Authority) and SDMAs (State Disaster Management Authorities). NDRF: Central government fund; SDRF: State government fund (contribution shared 75:25 Centre:State for general states; 90:10 for special category states). The 15th Finance Commission allocated Rs 1,60,061 crore to SDRF for 2021-26. State-specific disasters (eg. cloud burst in Uttarakhand, frost in UP) allow states to use SDRF for locally recurrent disasters not covered by the central notified list.

Q 9 India signed a five-year rice supply agreement with which international organisation in February 2026?

A Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

B International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

C World Food Programme (WFP) ✓

D World Trade Organization (WTO)

EXPLANATION

India signed a five-year agreement with the World Food Programme (WFP) for sustained rice supply to support global hunger relief operations. WFP is the world's largest humanitarian organisation addressing hunger, established in 1961 and headquartered in Rome, Italy. It won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020.

CONCEPT

WFP (World Food Programme) is a UN agency established in 1961; HQ Rome; Nobel Peace Prize 2020. India is both a recipient of food aid historically (1960s-70s) and a major contributor today. India's food security architecture: FCI (Food Corporation of India), NFSA 2013, PMGKAY (PM Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana). FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) is a separate UN agency (HQ Rome) handling food standards, agricultural development. IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development) HQ Rome handles rural poverty financing.

Q 10 The NHAI Bee Corridor initiative targets planting 40 lakh trees along national highways in 2026-27. Which of the following is NOT one of the native species selected for the Bee Corridor plantings?

A Neem

B Eucalyptus ✓

C Mahua

D Palash

EXPLANATION

The NHAI Bee Corridor uses native pollinator-friendly species: Neem, Karanj, Mahua, and Palash. Eucalyptus is an introduced (non-native) species from Australia and was not mentioned as a Bee Corridor species. It is also considered harmful to groundwater and biodiversity in many Indian contexts.

CONCEPT

Pollinators (bees, butterflies, beetles) are essential for 75% of flowering plant species and 35% of global food production. India has about 700 bee species; European honeybee (Apis mellifera) and Indian honeybee (Apis cerana) are most important economically. Pollinator decline causes include habitat loss, pesticide use, disease. Mahua (Madhuca longifolia) is also significant for tribal communities (edible flowers, liquor). Palash (Butea monosperma) is the state flower of Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh.

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