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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz — February 20, 2026

20 February 2026

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat ChoudharyUPSC Educator & Content Creator • [linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)

DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

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20 February 2026 · 10 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Q 1

Exercise MILAN 2026 was inaugurated at Visakhapatnam with a record 74 participating nations. Under which naval command is Visakhapatnam headquartered?

- A Western Naval Command (WNC)
- B Eastern Naval Command (ENC) ✓
- C Southern Naval Command (SNC)
- D Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC)

EXPLANATION

Visakhapatnam hosts the Eastern Naval Command (ENC), which commands the Bay of Bengal and India's eastern maritime approaches. Exercise MILAN 2026 (13th edition) was inaugurated here by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with 74 nations — the largest MILAN ever.

CONCEPT

India has three naval commands: Western (Mumbai, Arabian Sea), Eastern (Visakhapatnam, Bay of Bengal), and Southern (Kochi, training command). Additionally, the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) is India's only tri-service command. MILAN was first held in 1995 at Port Blair with 4 nations; it shifted to Visakhapatnam from 2022. India's Act East Policy and SAGAR doctrine (2015) drive the expansion of multilateral naval exercises.

Q 2

Bihar was declared Naxal-free after the surrender of the last known armed Maoist. The Naxal movement in India originated from the Naxalbari uprising in which year and state?

- A 1962 — Assam
- B 1967 — West Bengal ✓
- C 1972 — Bihar
- D 1975 — Jharkhand

EXPLANATION

The Naxalbari uprising took place in 1967 in Naxalbari village, Darjeeling district, West Bengal, led by Charu Majumdar, Kanu Sanyal, and Jangal Santhal. CPI (Marxist-Leninist) was founded in 1969 as the political arm. Bihar's last armed Maoist, Suresh Koda, surrendered in Munger district in 2026, completing the clearance of all 23 LWE-affected districts.

CONCEPT

PM Manmohan Singh described LWE as India's biggest internal security challenge in 2006. MHA introduced the SAMADHAN doctrine in 2017 to eradicate LWE. Article 355 provides constitutional basis for Union deployment in states facing internal disturbance. Key legislation: PESA (1996) and Forest Rights Act (2006) address tribal land grievances that LWE exploits.

Q 3

Delhi became the 29th state/UT to implement ULPIN (Unique Land Parcel Identification Number), also called Bhū-Aadhaar. ULPIN is part of which programme?

- A SVAMITVA Scheme
- B Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP) ✓
- C PM Awas Yojana Gramin
- D National Land Revenue Management Programme

EXPLANATION

ULPIN is part of the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP). Each land parcel is assigned a 14-digit unique ID using drone surveys and ortho-imaging. Delhi's initial phase covers 48 SVAMITVA Scheme villages. SVAMITVA is a related but separate scheme for property rights in rural inhabited areas.

CONCEPT

SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) scheme provides property cards to rural households and uses drones to survey inhabited land. DILRMP is the broader national programme for land record digitisation, covering all categories of land. Bhū-Aadhaar enables: property-backed loans, reduction of land disputes, and integration with digital governance.

Q 4

India joined the Pax Silica Alliance on February 20, 2026. What is the primary focus of this US-led alliance?

- A Space exploration and joint satellite development
- B AI and semiconductor supply chain security ✓
- C Nuclear non-proliferation and safeguards
- D Climate finance and green technology transfer

EXPLANATION

Pax Silica is a US-led strategic alliance focused on AI and semiconductor supply chain security. India joined alongside Australia, Greece, Israel, Japan, Qatar, South Korea, Singapore, UAE, and the UK. The Indian signatory was Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw; the US signatory was Under Secretary Jacob Helberg.

CONCEPT

India's semiconductor strategy: India Semiconductor Mission was launched under the IT Ministry to build fabrication capacity. India has approved 3 major semiconductor facilities: Micron (Sanand, Gujarat — ATMP facility), Tata Electronics-Powerchip (Dholera, Gujarat — 28nm fab), CG Power-Renesas (Sanand). Pax Silica complements the India-US iCET (initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology) partnership launched in 2023.

Q 5

Galathea balasubramaniani, a new squat lobster species discovered by ZSI researchers, was found in the coral reefs of which Indian island territory?

- A Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- B Lakshadweep Islands ✓**
- C Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve
- D Sundarbans, West Bengal

EXPLANATION

Galathea balasubramaniani was discovered from Agatti coral reefs in the Lakshadweep Islands. It belongs to anomuran crabs (squat lobsters) and measures only approximately 3 millimetres. Discovered by Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) researchers.

CONCEPT

Lakshadweep is India's smallest Union Territory by area (~32 sq km), an archipelago of 36 coral atolls in the Arabian Sea. ZSI (Zoological Survey of India) was established in 1916 and is headquartered in Kolkata — it systematically surveys India's fauna. Anomuran crabs include squat lobsters, hermit crabs, and porcelain crabs (not true crabs). India's coral reefs (Lakshadweep, Andaman, Gulf of Mannar, Gulf of Kutch) are protected under the Environment Protection Act 1986.

Q 6

Cochin Shipyard Limited secured a historic order from CMA CGM for 6 LNG-fuelled container feeder vessels. What is the total order value?

- A USD 120 million
- B USD 240 million
- C USD 360 million ✓**
- D USD 480 million

EXPLANATION

CMA CGM ordered 6 LNG-fuelled feeder vessels (1,700 TEU each) from Cochin Shipyard at USD 60 million per vessel — totalling USD 360 million (~Rs. 3,200 crore). This is the first Made in India container ship order from a global shipping major. Design partner: Korea Maritime Consultants Co. (KOMAC).

CONCEPT

Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) is India's largest shipbuilding and repair yard, a PSU under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. It built INS Vikrant (commissioned 2022), India's first indigenously designed aircraft carrier. CMA CGM is one of the world's three largest container shipping companies (along with Maersk and MSC). LNG-fuelled vessels reduce SO2 emissions by ~99%, NOx by ~85%, and CO2 by ~20% versus conventional HFO — aligning with IMO's 2050 net-zero target.

Q 7

India's National Biobank for Lysosomal Storage Disorders (LSDs) was launched in Ahmedabad. Which ministry/department funds this biobank?

- A Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- B Department of Biotechnology (DBT) ✓**
- C Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
- D Ministry of Science and Technology

EXPLANATION

The National Biobank for Lysosomal Storage Disorders (LSDs) at FRIGE, Ahmedabad is funded by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT). It maintains samples from 530 patients across 15 states. DBT operates under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

CONCEPT

Lysosomal Storage Disorders (LSDs) are a group of about 70 rare inherited metabolic diseases caused by enzyme deficiencies in lysosomes (cellular organelles that break down waste). India Rare Diseases Policy 2021 recognises LSDs as priority conditions requiring a national response. Biobanks (biological sample repositories) are critical infrastructure for genomics research, drug development, and personalised medicine. DBT also funds BIRAC (Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council) and the National Biopharma Mission.

Q 8

The Food Corporation of India (FCI) signed a 5-year MoU with the World Food Programme (WFP) in February 2026. FCI was established under which Act?

- A Essential Commodities Act, 1955
- B Food Corporation Act, 1964 ✓**
- C Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937
- D National Food Security Act, 2013

EXPLANATION

FCI was established in January 1965 under the Food Corporation Act, 1964. Its mandate: purchase, store, and distribute foodgrains for national food security and price stabilisation. The WFP MoU (5 years from Feb 17, 2026) will supply 2 lakh MT rice at Rs. 2,800 per quintal.

CONCEPT

FCI operates under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. It is the largest food procurement and distribution agency in the world by operational scale. The National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 mandates subsidised foodgrains to 75% rural + 50% urban population (about 81 crore people) under the Public Distribution System (PDS). WFP won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020 for combating hunger.

Q 9 World Day of Social Justice is observed annually on which date?

A February 14

B February 20 ✓

C February 28

D March 8

EXPLANATION

World Day of Social Justice is observed every year on February 20, as proclaimed by the UN General Assembly. In 2026, India's Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJE) and NLU Dwarka organised Preamble-reading events led by MoS B.L. Verma, with NALSA participation.

CONCEPT

Article 38 (DPSP) of the Indian Constitution directs the State to secure a social order for justice — economic, social, and political. NALSA (National Legal Services Authority) provides free legal aid to marginalised groups. DoSJE administers schemes for SCs, OBCs, persons with disabilities, alcohol/drug de-addiction, and senior citizens. Other key international days: March 8 — International Women's Day; April 2 — World Autism Awareness Day.

Q 10 At the 2026 Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics, the United States won the Women's Ice Hockey gold medal. Milan-Cortina is located in which country?

A France

B Switzerland

C Austria

D Italy ✓

EXPLANATION

The 2026 Winter Olympics is being hosted in Milan-Cortina, Italy. The USA defeated Canada 2-1 in overtime in the Women's Ice Hockey final. It was USA's 3rd Olympic gold in women's ice hockey (previous golds: 1998, 2018). Goal scorers: Hilary Knight (equalizer), Megan Keller (overtime winner).

CONCEPT

The Winter Olympics is held every 4 years. Milan-Cortina was chosen over Stockholm-Are in the final IOC vote. Previous Winter Olympics: 2022 Beijing (China), 2018 PyeongChang (South Korea), 2014 Sochi (Russia). India's Winter Olympics participation: India fields athletes in alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, and biathlon. India's best Winter Olympics result: Shiva Keshavan (luge) — multiple participations.

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