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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz — February 21, 2026

21 February 2026

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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

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21 February 2026 · 10 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Q 1

International Mother Language Day is observed on February 21 every year. Which organization proclaimed it in 1999?

A UN General Assembly

B UNESCO ✓

C UNICEF

D ILO

EXPLANATION

UNESCO proclaimed International Mother Language Day in November 1999 (first observed in 2000). It was subsequently endorsed by the UN General Assembly through Resolution 56/262 in 2002. The day commemorates the Bengali Language Movement of February 21, 1952, in Dhaka.

CONCEPT

The 2026 IMLD theme is "Fostering multilingualism for inclusion in education and society." India has 22 scheduled languages (Eighth Schedule), over 6,000 languages/dialects, and 197 endangered languages per UNESCO. NEP 2020 mandates mother tongue as medium of instruction up to Class 5. Article 350-A directs states to provide mother tongue instruction at primary level. The International Decade of Indigenous Languages runs 2022-2032.

Q 2

The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) was established under which Article of the Indian Constitution?

A Article 338

B Article 338-A ✓

C Article 340

D Article 244

EXPLANATION

NCST was established under Article 338-A, inserted by the 89th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003. It was established on February 19, 2004, bifurcating the erstwhile National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Tribes. The Chairperson holds Cabinet Minister rank; Vice-Chairperson holds MoS rank; tenure is 3 years, maximum 2 terms.

CONCEPT

Article 338 covers the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC). Article 338-A covers NCST (Scheduled Tribes). Article 338-B covers National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC, established by 102nd Amendment Act 2018). Article 340 covers OBC investigation (Mandal Commission basis). Fifth Schedule governs tribal areas in most states; Sixth Schedule covers Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.

Q 3

Mizoram became India's 23rd state in 1987. Which Constitutional Amendment Act conferred statehood on Mizoram?

- A 52nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1985
- B 53rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1986 ✓**
- C 55th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1986
- D 56th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1987

EXPLANATION

Mizoram became India's 23rd state under the 53rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1986, effective February 20, 1987. Arunachal Pradesh became the 24th state under the 55th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1986, on the same date. The Mizoram Peace Accord of 1986 (PM Rajiv Gandhi + Laldenga of MNF) ended insurgency and preceded statehood.

CONCEPT

Mizoram's pre-statehood history: Lushai Hills District (Assam) → Union Territory (1972) → State (1987). NEFA became Arunachal Pradesh state in 1987; it borders China along the McMahon Line (Shimla Convention, 1914). Both states are governed under the Sixth Schedule (tribal autonomous district councils) unlike most other states which fall under the Fifth Schedule for tribal area governance.

Q 4

The Export Promotion Mission (EPM) has a total outlay of Rs. 25,060 crore over 6 years. The intervention providing freight reimbursement to geographically disadvantaged districts is called:

- A TRACE
- B LIFT ✓**
- C EXIM
- D RoDTEP

EXPLANATION

LIFT (Logistics for International Freight Transportation) provides 30% freight reimbursement to exporters in geographically disadvantaged districts far from ports. TRACE provides 60-75% reimbursement for international testing and certification costs. RoDTEP is a separate WTO-compatible tax refund scheme (replaced MEIS in 2021).

CONCEPT

EPM has two streams: Niryat Protsahan (financial enablers) and Niryat Disha (non-financial enablers). Financial tools include Export Factoring (2.75% interest subvention), e-commerce credit guarantees (90-75%), LIFT, and overseas warehousing. Non-financial tools include TRACE (certification), overseas branding, and MSME capacity building. India targets USD 1 trillion in merchandise exports by 2030. DGFT (under Ministry of Commerce) administers the Foreign Trade Policy and EPM implementation.

Q 5

The International Criminal Court (ICC) is currently hearing a pre-trial case against former Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte. The ICC was established under which statute?

A Geneva Conventions

B Rome Statute ✓

C Hague Convention

D Vienna Convention

EXPLANATION

ICC was established under the Rome Statute, signed on July 17, 1998, and entered into force on July 1, 2002. Headquarters: The Hague, Netherlands. The court has jurisdiction over genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and crimes of aggression. India, USA, China, and Israel are among non-signatories.

CONCEPT

The ICC operates on the complementarity principle — it acts only when national courts are unable or unwilling to genuinely prosecute. It prosecutes individuals, not states. The ICJ (International Court of Justice) is a separate body that adjudicates disputes between states and is a principal organ of the UN (The Hague). ICTY and ICTR were ad-hoc tribunals for Yugoslavia and Rwanda respectively — now dissolved.

Q 6

The Lead Bank Scheme was introduced in December 1969 on the recommendations of which committee?

A Narasimham Committee

B Nariman Committee and Gadgil Study Group ✓

C Rangarajan Committee

D Chakrabarty Committee

EXPLANATION

The Lead Bank Scheme (LBS) was introduced in December 1969 based on the recommendations of the Gadgil Study Group and the Nariman Committee (both 1969). The scheme designates one Lead Bank per district as the coordinating agency for financial inclusion. It covers 782 districts with 12 public sector and 2 private sector lead banks.

CONCEPT

The Service Area Approach (SAA) introduced in April 1989 assigns 15-25 villages per bank branch. The RBI's 2026 draft revision proposes a 60% Credit-Deposit (CD) ratio benchmark for rural/semi-urban branches and strengthening State Level Bankers' Committees (SLBCs). Priority Sector Lending (PSL) mandates: 40% of Adjusted Net Bank Credit for commercial banks; 18% for agriculture; 10% for weaker sections.

Q 7

China's CJ-1000, showcased during a Beijing military parade in February 2026, is what type of weapon system?

- A Ballistic missile with MIRV (Multiple Independently targetable Reentry Vehicles)
- B Land-based scramjet-powered hypersonic cruise missile ✓**
- C Submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM)
- D Anti-satellite (ASAT) directed-energy weapon

EXPLANATION

The CJ-1000 is a land-based, road-mobile, scramjet-powered hypersonic cruise missile with an estimated range of at least 2,500 km. Road-mobility allows survivability and rapid deployment. Scramjet propulsion (air-breathing engine) sustains Mach 5+ speeds throughout flight — unlike ballistic missiles which rely on momentum after engine burnout.

CONCEPT

Hypersonic weapons categories: (1) Boost-glide vehicles (HGV) — launched by rocket, glide at Mach 5+ (India's HSTDV, China's DF-ZF, Russia's Avangard); (2) Hypersonic cruise missiles — powered throughout by scramjet (China's CJ-1000, India's BrahMos-II under development); (3) MARV (Manoeuvrable Re-entry Vehicle) — modified ballistic missile warhead. India's HSTDV (Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle) was tested by DRDO in September 2020.

Q 8

The Index of Core Industries (ICI) has a weight of approximately 40.27% in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP). How many sectors does the ICI cover?

- A 6
- B 7
- C 8 ✓**
- D 10

EXPLANATION

The Index of Core Industries covers 8 sectors: coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement, and electricity. These 8 sectors together have a weight of 40.27% in the IIP. India's ICI grew 4.0% year-on-year in January 2026 (down from revised 4.7% in December 2025).

CONCEPT

ICI is released monthly by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry; it is a leading indicator for IIP. IIP is released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). IIP base year: 2011-12. ICI also uses 2011-12 as base year. GDP data (National Accounts Statistics) also uses 2011-12 base year.

Q 9

The Public Trust Doctrine, which came into focus in India in 2026, was established in Indian environmental law primarily through which Supreme Court case?

- A M.C. Mehta v. Union of India (AIR 1988)
- B M.C. Mehta v. Kamal Nath (1997) ✓**
- C Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v. Union of India (1996)
- D T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad v. Union of India (1997)

EXPLANATION

The Public Trust Doctrine in India was firmly established in *M.C. Mehta v. Kamal Nath (1997)* by the Supreme Court, where it ruled that a motel company's encroachment on a riverbed (Beas, Himachal Pradesh) violated the public trust. The *M.I. Builders v. Radhey Shyam Sahu (1999)* case further applied the doctrine. The doctrine holds the government as trustee of natural resources (rivers, lakes, wetlands) for the public.

CONCEPT

Key environmental law doctrines in India: (1) Public Trust Doctrine — natural resources held in trust for public; (2) Precautionary Principle — if action may harm environment, precautionary measures must be taken (*Vellore Citizens, 1996*); (3) Polluter Pays Principle — polluter bears cost of remediation; (4) Sustainable Development — development that meets present needs without compromising future generations. Article 21 includes right to a clean environment (*Subhash Kumar v. Bihar, 1991*). Article 48-A (DPSP) and Article 51-A(g) (fundamental duty) also protect environment.

Q 10

Which Special Investment Region (SIR) in Gujarat is the proposed site for L&T Vyoma's Rs. 25,000 crore, 250 MW green AI data centre?

- A GIFT City (Gujarat International Finance Tec-City), Gandhinagar
- B Dholera Special Investment Region (Dholera SIR) ✓**
- C Sanand MSME Industrial Park
- D Hazira Industrial Area, Surat

EXPLANATION

L&T Vyoma signed an MoU with the Gujarat government for a 250 MW green AI-ready data centre at Dholera Special Investment Region (SIR), with a project value of Rs. 25,000 crore and target operational date of 2028. Dholera SIR is India's first greenfield Smart City developed under the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) framework.

CONCEPT

Dholera SIR, Ahmedabad district, Gujarat: India's first greenfield Smart City; developed under DMIC (Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor). It also hosts Tata Electronics-Powerchip's planned 28nm semiconductor fab. Dholera is planned as a major hub for semiconductors, green energy, AI infrastructure, and advanced manufacturing. GIFT City (Gandhinagar) is India's IFSC (International Financial Services Centre) for financial services.

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