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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz — March 14, 2026

14 March 2026

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

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14 March 2026 · 10 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Q 1

International Day of Mathematics is observed on March 14 and shares the date with Pi Day. Under which body was IDM officially proclaimed, and in which year did it come into effect?

- A** UNESCO; proclaimed 2019, first observed 2020 ✓
- B** United Nations General Assembly; proclaimed 2017, first observed 2018
- C** International Mathematical Union; proclaimed 2016, first observed 2017
- D** World Science Forum; proclaimed 2018, first observed 2019

EXPLANATION

UNESCO proclaimed March 14 as International Day of Mathematics in November 2019 at its 40th General Conference. The first IDM was celebrated on March 14, 2020. The date coincides with Pi Day (3.14...) — a tradition started in the USA in 1988. The International Mathematical Union (IMU) coordinates the global programme.

CONCEPT

UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) is headquartered in Paris and has 193 member states. It declares international days for education, culture, and science. Other UNESCO-declared science days: World Science Day for Peace and Development (November 10), World Statistics Day. Pi (π) is the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter — approximately 3.14159. Mathematics Day connects to India's Srinivasa Ramanujan (born December 22 — National Mathematics Day in India).

Q 2

Savitribai Phule, whose birth anniversary falls in January, opened the first girls' school in India in 1848. In which city was this school located, and who co-founded it with her?

- A Mumbai; co-founded with Fatima Sheikh
- B Pune; co-founded with Jyotirao Phule ✓**
- C Nagpur; co-founded with Ramabai Ranade
- D Aurangabad; co-founded with Pandita Ramabai

EXPLANATION

Savitribai Phule (1831-1897) opened the first girls school in India at Bhide Wada, Pune, in January 1848, together with her husband Jyotirao Phule. Fatima Sheikh, a Muslim educator, was also closely associated and taught at the school. Savitribai is regarded as the first female teacher of modern India. She was also a pioneer of the Dalit and women's rights movement in Maharashtra.

CONCEPT

Savitribai Phule's contributions are highly relevant to UPSC GS-1 (social reform movements) and Essay. Key facts: born January 3, 1831 in Naigaon, Satara; died March 10, 1897 (plague, nursing patients); founded 18 schools for girls; worked against caste discrimination and child marriage; India Post issued a stamp in her honour in 1998. Her work connects to the broader 19th-century social reform wave: Jyotirao Phule founded Satyashodhak Samaj (1873), a movement against Brahminical dominance.

Q 3

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) was established in 1981 and is headquartered in Riyadh. Which of the following is NOT a member of the GCC?

- A Qatar
- B Oman
- C Jordan ✓**
- D Bahrain

EXPLANATION

Jordan is NOT a member of the GCC. The six GCC members are: Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, and Oman. The GCC was established on May 25, 1981 in Abu Dhabi (charter signed) and is headquartered in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Jordan and Yemen have observer or partner status but are not full members.

CONCEPT

GCC significance for India: approximately 9 million Indians live and work in GCC countries, sending approximately \$40 billion in remittances annually. India imports a significant share of its crude oil from GCC nations. The GCC-India FTA negotiations resumed in 2022 after being stalled since 2008. GCC countries have been diversifying their economies under Vision 2030 (Saudi Arabia), Vision 2021/2031 (UAE) — creating new opportunities in infrastructure, technology, and services.

Q 4 Article 115 of the Indian Constitution deals with which specific parliamentary financial procedure?

- A The process of presenting the annual Union Budget
- B **Supplementary Demands for Grants — additional funding voted by Parliament when original grants prove insufficient ✓**
- C The Consolidated Fund of India and its accounting rules
- D The procedure for presenting Finance Commission recommendations

EXPLANATION

Article 115 provides for Supplementary, Additional, or Excess Grants — the parliamentary mechanism to authorise additional expenditure beyond what was voted in the main Budget, when: (a) the original grant is insufficient, (b) a new service not provided for in the Budget is needed, or (c) excess money was spent beyond the granted amount. These follow the same procedure as the Union Budget — presented as Demands for Grants and voted upon.

CONCEPT

Key constitutional financial articles: Article 112 — Annual Financial Statement (Union Budget); Article 113 — procedure for Budget in Parliament; Article 114 — Appropriation Bill (converting Budget into law); Article 115 — Supplementary Demands; Article 116 — Vote on Account (interim spending before full Budget); Article 266 — Consolidated Fund of India and Public Account; Article 267 — Contingency Fund. The Finance Minister presents the Budget; the Appropriation Bill must be passed before April 1 or a Vote on Account is used.

Q 5 Bharat-VISTAAR is an AI-powered agricultural advisory system. Under which ministry and institution was it developed, and what is its primary innovation for reaching smallholder farmers?

- A Ministry of Agriculture; developed by NABARD; innovation is SMS-based crop alerts
- B **Ministry of Agriculture; developed by ICAR; innovation is voice-first, multilingual interaction requiring no literacy ✓**
- C Ministry of Science and Technology; developed by CSIR; innovation is satellite imagery-based crop monitoring
- D NITI Aayog; developed by IIT Consortium; innovation is AI-driven crop insurance pricing

EXPLANATION

Bharat-VISTAAR is developed by ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, with an outlay of approximately Rs 150 crore. Its primary innovation is voice-first, multilingual interaction — allowing farmers with low literacy levels to query crop advisory, weather alerts, pest management, and market prices by speaking in their regional language, making it accessible without smartphone literacy.

CONCEPT

ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) is headquartered in New Delhi and is the apex body for agricultural research in India with 100+ institutes. Key ICAR contributions: High Yielding Variety (HYV) seeds (Green Revolution), Bt cotton research, ICAR-IARI (Pusa Institute) — develops wheat and rice varieties. Digital agriculture in India: PM-KISAN (income support), Agristack (unified farmer database), PM Fasal Bima Yojana (crop insurance). India has 86% small and marginal farmers (below 2 hectares) — voice AI is essential for inclusion.

Q 6

The Silverpit Crater, located in the North Sea, is significant as the first confirmed impact crater in which geographic area?

- A The Arctic Circle
- B The British Isles region ✓**
- C The Atlantic Ocean basin
- D Continental Europe

EXPLANATION

Silverpit Crater, discovered in 2002 using seismic survey data from oil and gas exploration, is located approximately 130 km off the Yorkshire coast in the North Sea. It was confirmed as the first known impact crater in the British Isles region. Its age is estimated at 60-65 million years (Palaeocene). The crater is approximately 3 km in diameter with concentric ring structures characteristic of impact craters.

CONCEPT

Impact craters are formed by meteorite or asteroid strikes and are studied to understand Earth's geological history and planetary science. India's known impact craters: Lonar Crater Lake (Maharashtra) — approximately 52,000 years old, one of only four known hyper-velocity impact craters in basalt rock globally; also declared a Ramsar Wetland in 2020. Impact craters are important for planetary defence discussions — connecting to NASA's Planetary Defense Coordination Office (PDCO) and ISRO's space situational awareness programme.

Q 7

White phosphorus weapons fall under which protocol of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), and what is the primary basis for concern about their use in populated areas?

- A Protocol II (mines and booby traps); concern is long-term contamination of farmland
- B Protocol III (incendiary weapons); concern is severe burns to civilians and ignites structures, violating IHL distinction and proportionality ✓**
- C Protocol IV (blinding lasers); concern is permanent sensory damage
- D Protocol V (explosive remnants of war); concern is post-conflict civilian casualties

EXPLANATION

White phosphorus is classified as an incendiary weapon under CCW Protocol III (Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons). It burns at approximately 815°C, causes severe and deep burns, is extremely difficult to extinguish (reignites on contact with oxygen), and adheres to skin. Its use in densely populated areas raises serious IHL concerns because it violates the principles of distinction (targeting combatants, not civilians) and proportionality (civilian harm vs. military advantage).

CONCEPT

CCW Protocols summary: Protocol I — non-detectable fragments; Protocol II — mines, booby traps, other devices; Protocol III — incendiary weapons (white phosphorus, napalm); Protocol IV — blinding laser weapons; Protocol V — explosive remnants of war. White phosphorus has legitimate uses: smoke screens for troop concealment, illumination. Its use AS an incendiary weapon against civilians is prohibited. Recent incidents invoking Protocol III debates: Gaza (2023-24), Ukraine-Russia conflict. India is a signatory to CCW and its Protocols.

Q 8

Myiophanes kempii, newly discovered in the Andaman Islands, belongs to which insect family known for predatory behaviour?

A Mantidae (praying mantises)

B Reduviidae (assassin bugs) ✓

C Cicadidae (cicadas)

D Formicidae (ants)

EXPLANATION

Myiophanes kempii is a cave-dwelling assassin bug belonging to the family Reduviidae, discovered in cave ecosystems in the Andaman Islands. Reduviidae (assassin bugs) are predatory insects that use a sharp rostrum (beak) to inject digestive saliva into prey and then consume liquefied tissues. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are a biodiversity hotspot with many endemic species due to their island isolation.

CONCEPT

Andaman and Nicobar Islands biodiversity: the islands are part of the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot. They have high endemism in fauna — Andaman wild pig, Andaman horseshoe bat, Andaman cobra, Narcondam hornbill. The islands are an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) asset and strategic location for India. ZSI (Zoological Survey of India) regularly discovers new species in the islands. Cave ecosystems are specialised habitats with troglitic (cave-adapted) species that are particularly vulnerable to disturbance.

Q 9

Concentrated Solar Thermal (CST) technology differs from conventional solar PV panels in which fundamental way that makes it relevant for industrial decarbonisation?

A CST uses mirrors to focus sunlight and generate high-temperature heat, which can decarbonise industrial processes requiring temperatures above 150°C ✓

B CST generates electricity at night by storing sunlight in chemical batteries

C CST is cheaper than solar PV per watt of electricity generated

D CST works more efficiently in cloudy conditions than direct solar PV

EXPLANATION

Concentrated Solar Thermal (CST) uses mirrors (heliostats or parabolic troughs) to concentrate sunlight and generate high-temperature heat — unlike PV which converts light directly to electricity. This heat can directly decarbonise industrial processes requiring temperatures of 150-400°C (food processing, textile dyeing, chemical manufacturing) or even higher temperatures for power generation via steam turbines. India has a CST potential estimated at 6.4 GW for industrial heat applications.

CONCEPT

India's solar energy strategy: Solar PV dominates (400+ GW target); Solar Thermal Power (CSP/CST) is a separate track for dispatchable solar power and industrial heat. CST/CSP installations in India: NTPC Dadri (5 MW pilot); Rajasthan has the best CST potential due to high Direct Normal Irradiance (DNI). Hard-to-abate sectors in India that CST can serve: textile processing, dairy, pharmaceuticals, food processing. MNRE (Ministry of New and Renewable Energy) oversees both PV and CST programmes.

Q 10

Yoga Mahotsav is held 100 days before International Day of Yoga. The UN General Assembly Resolution that proclaimed June 21 as International Yoga Day was passed in which year?

A 2012

B 2014 ✓

C 2015

D 2016

EXPLANATION

UNGA Resolution 69/131 was adopted on December 11, 2014, proclaiming June 21 as the International Day of Yoga (IDY). The first IDY was celebrated on June 21, 2015. The resolution was proposed by India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 69th UN General Assembly in September 2014. It was co-sponsored by a record 177 nations. The 2026 celebration marks the 12th IDY.

CONCEPT

International Day of Yoga statistics: first IDY (2015) set Guinness World Records for largest yoga class (35,985 people at Rajpath, New Delhi) and most nationalities participating. AYUSH Ministry coordinates IDY globally. Yoga has been included in India's Intangible Cultural Heritage. UNGA Resolution 69/131 reflects India's soft power diplomacy — getting 177 co-sponsors within 90 days of proposal was unprecedented. IDY 2023 theme: Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam; IDY 2024: Yoga for Self and Society.

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