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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz — January 11, 2026

11 January 2026

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11 January 2026 · 10 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Q 1 India crossed 100 GW of solar energy capacity in November 2024, becoming which country to achieve this milestone globally?

A Second country after China

B Third country after China and USA

C **Fourth country after China, USA, and Germany ✓**

D Fifth country after China, USA, Germany, and Japan

EXPLANATION
India became the 4th country globally to cross 100 GW of solar capacity in November 2024, after China, the United States, and Germany. India's solar capacity grew from 2.6 GW in 2014 to over 100 GW in a decade.

CONCEPT
India's solar growth reflects the dramatic fall in solar panel prices (down ~90% since 2010), government targets (JNNSM, PM Surya Ghar), large solar park development (Bhadla, Pavagada, Rewa), and competitive bidding that brought solar tariffs below Rs 2/kWh.

Q 2 What is India's target for non-fossil energy capacity by 2030, as committed at COP26 (Glasgow, 2021)?

A 300 GW

B 400 GW

C **500 GW ✓**

D 600 GW

EXPLANATION
India committed to 500 GW of non-fossil energy capacity by 2030 at COP26 in Glasgow (October-November 2021). India also pledged net-zero emissions by 2070, 50% of energy from renewables by 2030, and 45% reduction in GDP emissions intensity from 2005 levels.

CONCEPT
India's 500 GW target is the most ambitious renewable energy commitment by a developing country. Achieving it requires adding ~50 GW per year, with key challenges in land acquisition, grid integration, energy storage, and DISCOM financial health.

Q 3 The National Green Hydrogen Mission was launched in January 2023. What is its production target for green hydrogen by 2030?

A 1 million metric tonnes per year

B **5 million metric tonnes per year ✓**

C 10 million metric tonnes per year

D 2 million metric tonnes per year

EXPLANATION
The National Green Hydrogen Mission (launched January 2023; Rs 19,744 crore) targets 5 million metric tonnes (MMT) of green hydrogen production per year by 2030, with 125 GW of dedicated renewable energy capacity for green hydrogen production.

CONCEPT
Green hydrogen is produced by electrolysing water using renewable electricity. It is key to decarbonising hard-to-abate sectors like fertilisers (urea), steel, refining, and heavy transport. India's large fertiliser sector — currently using natural gas for ammonia production — is a primary target market.

Q 4 Who won Sri Lanka's presidential election in September 2024, and to which political party does he belong?

A Sajith Premadasa of the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB)

B Ranil Wickremesinghe of the United National Party (UNP)

C **Anura Kumar Dissanayake of JVP/National People's Power (NPP) ✓**

D Mahinda Rajapaksa of the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP)

EXPLANATION
Anura Kumar Dissanayake (AKD) of the JVP (Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna) / NPP (National People's Power) coalition won Sri Lanka's presidential election on September 21, 2024, defeating Sajith Premadasa and incumbent Ranil Wickremesinghe.

CONCEPT
The JVP is a Marxist-origin party that led two insurgencies (1971 and 1987-89) but transformed into a mainstream left-democratic force. AKD made India his first foreign destination as President (December 2024), signalling continuity in India-Sri Lanka ties despite fears about his left-wing background.

Q 5 During Sri Lanka's 2022 economic crisis, India extended approximately how much in financial support?

A $1 billion

B $2 billion

C **$4 billion ✓**

D $7 billion

EXPLANATION
India extended approximately $4 billion in Lines of Credit (LoC) to Sri Lanka during the 2022 economic crisis — for fuel, medicines, food, and fertiliser. India was the first and largest responder to Sri Lanka's crisis, also providing currency swaps.

CONCEPT
India's crisis response was faster and larger than any other country, including China (Sri Lanka's largest bilateral creditor at ~$7-8 billion). India also provided financing assurances to enable the IMF's $2.9 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) for Sri Lanka in March 2023 — before China gave similar assurances.

Q 6 The Trincomalee Oil Tank Farm in Sri Lanka is operated by which Indian company?

A Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)

B **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) ✓**

C Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)

D Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)

EXPLANATION
The Trincomalee Oil Tank Farm (99 tanks) is operated by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC). IOC operates the lower 38 tanks, while a joint venture between IOC and Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) is planned for the upper 61 tanks.

CONCEPT
Trincomalee is considered one of the world's finest natural harbours. India's strategic interest in Trincomalee reflects both energy security (petroleum storage) and geopolitical considerations — preventing Chinese naval footprint in a harbour adjacent to India's southern coast.

Q 7 Katchatheevu island, which has been a source of tension in India-Sri Lanka relations, was ceded to Sri Lanka in which year?

A 1965

B **1974 ✓**

C 1987

D 2000

EXPLANATION
Katchatheevu was ceded to Sri Lanka in 1974 through the India-Sri Lanka Maritime Boundary Agreement signed during PM Indira Gandhi's time. Tamil Nadu fishermen traditionally used the island for drying nets, and its cession has been a political issue in Tamil Nadu across party lines.

CONCEPT
The 13th Amendment to Sri Lanka's Constitution (1987), enacted as part of the India-Sri Lanka Accord (Rajiv Gandhi–Jayewardene), provides for devolution to provincial councils. India has consistently called for full implementation. Katchatheevu fishermen arrests by Sri Lankan Navy periodically flare up as a bilateral issue.

Q 8 India's Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) primarily targets which problem in the electricity sector?

A Building new coal power plants

B **Reducing Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses in electricity distribution ✓**

C Installing solar rooftop panels on government buildings

D Developing cross-border electricity trade with Nepal and Bhutan

EXPLANATION
RDSS (Rs 3.03 lakh crore; 2021-2026) targets reducing AT&C losses from ~18-20% to below 12%, installing 250 million smart meters, and improving DISCOM financial health. Distribution companies (DISCOMs) have accumulated losses of ~Rs 4.5 lakh crore.

CONCEPT
India's distribution companies (DISCOMs) are the weakest link in the electricity value chain. High AT&C losses, subsidised or free power in states, and inability to collect from consumers have created chronic financial stress. Without financially healthy DISCOMs, renewable energy developers cannot find creditworthy buyers for their power.

Q 9 What does ISTS stand for in India's renewable energy policy, and what is the significance of waiving ISTS charges?

A Integrated Solar Technology System; waiving charges reduces solar panel prices

B Inter-State Transmission System; waiving charges allows RE developers to sell power across states without paying transmission fees ✓

C International Solar Technology Standard; waiving fees allows import of solar equipment duty-free

D India Smart Transmission Scheme; waiving charges subsidises smart meters for DISCOMs

EXPLANATION
ISTS stands for Inter-State Transmission System. The government waived ISTS charges for renewable energy projects, allowing RE developers to sell power across state boundaries without paying transmission fees. This removes a major cost barrier for utility-scale solar and wind projects.

CONCEPT
India's best renewable resources (solar in Rajasthan/Gujarat, wind in Tamil Nadu/Gujarat) are geographically distant from major demand centres (industrial hubs in Maharashtra, UP, Gujarat). ISTS waiver + Green Energy Corridors enable the physical and financial connectivity to move RE power efficiently across India.

Q 10 India's National Energy Storage Mission targets what capacity of battery energy storage by 2030?

A 50 GWh by 2027 and 380 GWh by 2030 ✓

B 100 GWh by 2027 and 500 GWh by 2030

C 20 GWh by 2027 and 100 GWh by 2030

D 200 GWh by 2027 and 1,000 GWh by 2030

EXPLANATION
India's National Energy Storage Mission (NESM) targets 50 GWh of battery storage by 2027 and 380 GWh by 2030. The government also approved Viability Gap Funding (VGF) of Rs 9,400 crore for 4,000 MWh (4 GWh) of battery storage in 2023.

CONCEPT
Energy storage is essential for integrating high shares of renewable energy. Without storage, solar power cannot be used at night and wind variability causes grid instability. India's 500 GW RE target by 2030 requires proportional storage capacity — battery storage and pumped hydro storage (96 GW potential) are the primary technologies.

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