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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz — February 27, 2026

27 February 2026

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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

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27 February 2026 · 10 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Q 1

The LCH Prachand is India's first indigenously designed combat helicopter. Which organisation developed and manufactured it?

A Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

B Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) ✓

C Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)

D Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

EXPLANATION

HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited), headquartered in Bengaluru, developed and manufactures the LCH Prachand at its Rotary Wing Research and Design Centre.

CONCEPT

HAL is a Central PSU under the Ministry of Defence. It also produces the Dhruv ALH, Tejas Mk1A, HTT-40, and licensed Su-30MKI. The Shakti turboshaft engine powering LCH was developed in a HAL-Safran joint venture.

Q 2

What is the service ceiling of the LCH Prachand, making it suitable for Himalayan high-altitude operations?

A ~3,500 metres

B ~4,500 metres

C ~6,500 metres ✓

D ~8,000 metres

EXPLANATION

The LCH Prachand has a service ceiling of approximately 6,500 metres, designed specifically to operate in Himalayan terrain. This exceeds the Apache AH-64E's effective ceiling of ~4,500 m.

CONCEPT

The Siachen Glacier (the world's highest battlefield) is at ~5,400 metres, and the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China ranges from 4,000 to 5,500 metres. The LCH requirement was directly driven by the 1999 Kargil War, which exposed India's gap in high-altitude attack helicopter capability.

Q 3

India's total installed power capacity crossed 520 GW in February 2026. Which significant milestone was achieved regarding the energy source mix?

- A India achieved 100% rural electrification
- B Solar became the single largest source of electricity generation
- C More than half of installed capacity is now from non-fossil fuel sources ✓
- D Coal share in installed capacity fell below 25%

EXPLANATION

For the first time, more than 50% of India's installed power capacity (>260 GW out of >520 GW) is from non-fossil fuel sources, achieving India's NDC target of 50% non-fossil capacity ahead of the 2030 deadline.

CONCEPT

Note: Installed capacity and electricity generation are different metrics. Despite 50% non-fossil capacity, coal still contributes ~70% of actual electricity generation because renewable capacity factors (utilisation rates) are lower than coal plants. India's NDC also targets 500 GW non-fossil capacity by 2030 and net-zero by 2070.

Q 4

PM Surya Ghar Yojana, announced in 2024, focuses on which aspect of India's renewable energy expansion?

- A Setting up ultra-mega solar parks in Rajasthan and Gujarat
- B Building offshore wind farms along India's coastline
- C Installing rooftop solar for one crore households with capital subsidies ✓
- D Constructing pumped hydro storage projects in Himalayan states

EXPLANATION

PM Surya Ghar Yojana targets rooftop solar installation for 1 crore (10 million) households with subsidies of Rs 30,000-78,000 per household depending on system size, moving beyond utility-scale solar to distributed generation.

CONCEPT

Green Energy Corridors (GEC Phase I: 9,700 circuit km; Phase II: 10,750 circuit km) transmit power from renewable-rich states to demand centres. Bhadla Solar Park (Rajasthan, 2,245 MW) is currently the world's largest operating solar park; Khavda (Gujarat, 30 GW planned) will be the largest when complete.

Q 5 The newly described plant species *Impatiens nagorum* was found in which protected area of Nagaland?

- A Intanki National Park
- B Fakim Wildlife Sanctuary ✓
- C Puliebadze Wildlife Sanctuary
- D Shilloi Lake National Park

EXPLANATION

Impatiens nagorum was found in Fakim Wildlife Sanctuary, Kiphire district, Nagaland, at an elevation of 2,336 metres. It was published in the journal *Phytotaxa* by researchers including from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI).

CONCEPT

Genus *Impatiens* (balsams/touch-me-nots) has exceptionally high diversity in Northeast India and the Eastern Himalayas. The region is a global biodiversity hotspot. BSI (Botanical Survey of India), founded 1890 under the Ministry of Environment, is the apex body for plant taxonomy research in India.

Q 6 Research from ETH Zurich found that up to 40% of CO₂ emissions from two DRC lakes originates from peat older than 3,000 years. What is the name of the peatland complex in the Congo Basin?

- A Varzea Peatland
- B Cuvette Centrale ✓
- C Sundaland Peat Dome
- D Western Siberian Lowland

EXPLANATION

The Cuvette Centrale is the massive peatland complex in the Congo Basin (DRC and Republic of Congo), discovered comprehensively in 2017. It covers 145,500 km² and stores approximately 30 billion tonnes of carbon.

CONCEPT

Congo Basin peatlands store roughly one-third of all tropical peatland carbon despite covering only 0.3% of Earth's land. The Congo Basin is the world's second-largest rainforest after the Amazon. The Ramsar Convention (1971) is the primary international wetland conservation treaty; Lake Mai-Ndombe is a Ramsar site.

Q 7

India achieved 520 GW of total installed power capacity in February 2026. Which is the single largest source of installed power capacity in India?

A Coal-based thermal power ✓

B Solar power

C Hydropower

D Nuclear power

EXPLANATION

As of early 2026, coal-based thermal power remains India's single largest installed capacity source, followed by solar and wind. India reached 520 GW total installed capacity in February 2026. The renewable energy share (solar + wind + hydro + others) crossed 200 GW but coal still leads in absolute installed capacity.

CONCEPT

India's electricity capacity milestones: 100 GW renewables achieved 2021; 200 GW renewables ~2024; target 500 GW renewables by 2030 (NDC). Coal (thermal) capacity: ~230 GW; Solar: ~100+ GW; Wind: ~47+ GW; Hydro: ~47 GW; Nuclear: ~7.5 GW. National Electricity Plan 2023 projects 900 GW total capacity by 2032 (57% from non-fossil fuels). MNRE oversees renewable energy; CEA (Central Electricity Authority) tracks capacity data.

Q 8

The Smew was sighted for the first time at Kaziranga National Park during the 7th Waterbird Census. The Smew is which type of bird?

A Flamingo (wading bird)

B Crane (large wader)

C Diving duck ✓

D Hornbill (forest bird)

EXPLANATION

The Smew (*Mergellus albellus*) is a diving duck and winter migrant from the Eurasian taiga. Males have distinctive black mask and white plumage. Over 105,000 waterbirds were documented across Kaziranga during the census.

CONCEPT

Kaziranga National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site located on the Brahmaputra floodplain in Assam. It is part of the Central Asian Flyway and hosts over 500 bird species. It is also famous for one-horned rhinoceroses, tigers, and elephants.

Q 9 BRO restored the Chungthang-Lachen axis in North Sikkim under which project name?

A Project Himank

B Project Beacon

C Project Swastik ✓

D Project Vartak

EXPLANATION

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) restored the 28 km Chungthang-Lachen road and the 400-foot Taram Chu Bailey Suspension Bridge under Project Swastik in North Sikkim.

CONCEPT

BRO maintains several regional projects: Project Beacon (J&K), Project Himank (Ladakh), Project Vartak (Arunachal), Project Swastik (Sikkim and North Bengal). North Sikkim borders China, Bhutan, and Nepal, making it strategically critical. GLOF (Glacial Lake Outburst Flood) of October 2023 was a major trigger of infrastructure damage.

Q 10 SWIFT 2.0 was launched by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC). What does SWIFT stand for in this trade facilitation context?

A System for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication

B Single Window Interface for Facilitating Trade ✓

C Simplified Workflow for Integrated Foreign Trade

D Streamlined Web Interface for Trade Transactions

EXPLANATION

SWIFT here stands for Single Window Interface for Facilitating Trade — a digital platform for end-to-end trade compliance launched by CBIC under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance. It is different from the international banking messaging system SWIFT.

CONCEPT

International Customs Day is observed annually on January 26. CBIC (Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs) administers GST, customs, and central excise under the Department of Revenue. The Atithi app was also revamped alongside SWIFT 2.0 to assist international travellers at Indian ports of entry.

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