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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz — March 2, 2026

2 March 2026

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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

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2 March 2026 · 10 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Q 1

CEPA (Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement) differs from a plain FTA (Free Trade Agreement) in that a CEPA additionally covers which areas beyond goods?

- A Only tariff reductions on manufactured goods
- B Goods, services, investment, and intellectual property ✓
- C Only goods and agricultural products
- D Only services and digital trade

EXPLANATION

A CEPA covers goods, services, investment, and intellectual property — making it broader than a plain FTA which typically covers only goods trade. India has CEPAs with UAE (2022), Australia (2022), and Mauritius (2021). The India-Canada CEPA negotiations were launched at Hyderabad House, New Delhi in March 2026 with a bilateral trade target of USD 50 billion by 2030.

CONCEPT

India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry negotiates CEPAs. Other trade agreement types: Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) — partial tariff concessions only; FTA — full or near-full tariff elimination on goods; CEPA/CECA — comprehensive agreements covering all trade, investment, and economic cooperation dimensions. India is currently negotiating CEPAs with the EU, UK, and Canada.

Q 2

Exercise Vayushakti is the Indian Air Force's premier firepower demonstration exercise. It is conducted at which location in Rajasthan?

- A Suratgarh Airbase
- B Barmer Field Range
- C Pokhran Field Firing Range, Jaisalmer ✓
- D Bikaner Desert Range

EXPLANATION

Exercise Vayushakti is conducted at the Pokhran Field Firing Range in Jaisalmer district, Rajasthan. Pokhran is the same location as India's nuclear tests — Pokhran-I (Operation Smiling Buddha, 1974) and Pokhran-II (Operation Shakti, 1998). Vayushakti-26 featured over 130 aircraft including Rafale, Su-30 MKI, Mirage-2000, LCH Prachand, and C-17.

CONCEPT

The LCH Prachand (Light Combat Helicopter) is India's first indigenously developed light combat helicopter, built by HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited). It entered IAF service in 2022. It can operate at high altitudes (demonstrated at Siachen). Vayushakti exercises are held roughly every 4-5 years and are a live combat simulation format.

Q 3

INS Anjadip — India's third Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft — was built by which Defence PSU?

- A Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL), Mumbai
- B Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata ✓**
- C Hindustan Shipyard Ltd (HSL), Visakhapatnam
- D Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL), Kochi

EXPLANATION

INS Anjadip was built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata — a Defence PSU under the Ministry of Defence. It has over 80% indigenous content, weighs 1,400 tonnes, is 77 metres long, achieves 25 knots via water-jet propulsion, and is named after Anjadip Island near Karwar, Karnataka.

CONCEPT

GRSE is one of India's premier warship builders. India's major naval shipbuilders: MDL (submarines, destroyers), GRSE (corvettes, patrol vessels, ASW craft), HSL (support vessels), CSL (aircraft carrier INS Vikrant). Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) capability is critical as the Indian Ocean sees increasing submarine activity, including from China's PLA-N.

Q 4

VSHORADS, successfully tested by DRDO at Chandipur, Odisha, belongs to which category of weapon system?

- A BVRAAM — Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (air-launched)
- B MANPADS — Man-Portable Air Defence System (shoulder-fired) ✓**
- C LACM — Land Attack Cruise Missile
- D SRBM — Short Range Ballistic Missile

EXPLANATION

VSHORADS (Very Short Range Air Defence System) is a MANPADS — a shoulder-fired, man-portable air defence missile designed to destroy low-altitude aerial threats including aircraft, helicopters, UAVs, and drones. It was developed by DRDO as a replacement for the ageing Igla (Russian MANPADS). Tests were conducted at the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha.

CONCEPT

MANPADS are effective up to approximately 5-6 km altitude. The ITR (Integrated Test Range) at Chandipur, Odisha, on the Bay of Bengal coast, is DRDO's primary missile test range. Other missiles tested there: Akash (surface-to-air), Prithvi (ballistic). India also has the Interim Test Range (ITR) at Abdul Kalam Island. VSHORADS is an Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

Q 5

Yad Vashem, which PM Modi visited during his Israel trip in February 2026, is described as which type of memorial?

- A Israel's memorial to its fallen soldiers
- B Israel's official memorial to Holocaust victims and Jewish martyrs ✓**
- C A memorial to Israeli victims of Palestinian attacks
- D The site of Israel's declaration of independence

EXPLANATION

Yad Vashem is Israel's official Holocaust Memorial and Museum, located on the Mount of Remembrance (Har HaZikaron) in Jerusalem. It commemorates the six million Jews murdered by the Nazi regime. PM Modi's visit included the receipt of the Medal of the Knesset — the first Indian PM to receive this honour. India-Israel relations were upgraded to a Strategic Partnership in 2017 during Modi's first visit.

CONCEPT

The Knesset is Israel's unicameral parliament with 120 members. Israel is one of India's top three defence suppliers alongside Russia and France. India imports defence equipment, agricultural technology (drip irrigation pioneered by Israel), and cybersecurity solutions from Israel. India has generally maintained a policy of calibrated engagement on the Israel-Palestine issue at the UN.

Q 6

Tamil Nadu's first Dark Sky Park was designated at Kolli Hills, Namakkal district. Kolli Hills is part of which mountain range?

- A Western Ghats
- B Satpura Range
- C Eastern Ghats ✓**
- D Vindhya Range

EXPLANATION

Kolli Hills in Namakkal district is part of the Eastern Ghats — a common exam trap since many hill stations in Tamil Nadu/Andhra are associated with the Western Ghats. India's first official Dark Sky Park was designated at Pench Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh in 2024. The Tamil Nadu park features three advanced telescopes and solar-powered infrastructure.

CONCEPT

Dark Sky Parks are areas with minimal artificial light pollution, designated by the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA), headquartered in the USA. Light pollution is a non-chemical form of environmental pollution that disrupts nocturnal animal behaviour, bird migration, marine turtle nesting, and insect activity. It is increasingly featured in environmental science questions.

Q 7

The Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary, which hosted the Indian Bison (Gaur) Festival, is located adjacent to which dam/reservoir?

A Sardar Sarovar Dam on the Narmada

B Hirakud Reservoir on the Mahanadi ✓

C Nagarjuna Sagar Dam on the Krishna

D Indira Sagar Dam on the Narmada

EXPLANATION

Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary in Bargarh district, Odisha, is located adjacent to the Hirakud Reservoir on the Mahanadi River. Hirakud Dam — completed in 1957 — was India's first major multipurpose river valley project after independence, and at 25.8 km is one of the world's longest earthen dams. Debrigarh is known for its Gaur (Indian Bison, *Bos gaurus*) population.

CONCEPT

Gaur (*Bos gaurus*) is India's largest wild bovine — classified as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List and protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 (highest protection category). Despite being called 'Indian Bison', Gaur is not a true bison — it is more closely related to cattle. Debrigarh is NOT a Tiger Reserve (a common exam trap).

Q 8

The India Semiconductor Mission, which oversees India's semiconductor manufacturing incentive scheme, is administered by which ministry?

A Ministry of Heavy Industries

B Ministry of Science and Technology

C Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) ✓

D Ministry of Commerce and Industry

EXPLANATION

The India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) is administered by MeitY (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology) under the Semicon India Programme worth Rs 76,000 crore (approved 2022). Key approved projects include Tata Electronics semiconductor fab at Dholera SIR, Gujarat, and CG Power OSAT facility at Sanand, Gujarat.

CONCEPT

India aims to be among the top 5 global semiconductor nations by 2030. Dholera SIR (Special Investment Region) is India's first greenfield smart city and a designated semiconductor zone. ATMP (Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging) facilities like Micron's in Sanand package already-fabricated chips — a lower capital-intensity step than full fabrication (fab). The Gujarat SemiConnect Conference 2026 was held at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar.

Q 9

India has committed to malaria elimination by which target year under its National Framework for Malaria Elimination?

A 2025

B 2027 ✓

C 2030

D 2035

EXPLANATION

India has committed to malaria elimination (defined as less than 1 case per 1,000 population at risk) by 2027 under the National Framework for Malaria Elimination (NFME) 2016-2030. The further target is zero indigenous transmission by 2030. India now accounts for approximately 2-3% of global malaria cases — a dramatic reduction from over 75% of South-East Asia's burden a decade ago.

CONCEPT

Malaria is caused by Plasmodium parasites transmitted by Anopheles mosquitoes. India's key malaria burden states are Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Meghalaya. Treatment drugs: Chloroquine (for *P. vivax*), Artemisinin-based Combination Therapy or ACT (for *P. falciparum* — the more dangerous species). WHO's Global Malaria Report tracks national elimination progress annually.

Q 10

The Exercise Kalari Leap, a joint maritime exercise involving the IAF's Southern Air Command, focused on protecting which island territory?

A Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the Bay of Bengal

B Lakshadweep and Minicoy archipelago in the Arabian Sea ✓

C Sri Lankan waters in the Palk Strait

D Maldivian EEZ in the Indian Ocean

EXPLANATION

Exercise Kalari Leap was conducted by the IAF's Southern Air Command over the Lakshadweep and Minicoy archipelago in the Arabian Sea, jointly with the Armed Forces Special Operations Division and Indian Coast Guard. Assets deployed included AN-32 transport aircraft, Mi-17V5 helicopters, and Su-30 MKI fighters.

CONCEPT

Lakshadweep is India's only coral atoll territory — strategically significant in the Arabian Sea and proximate to major international shipping lanes. India's EEZ extends 200 nautical miles from the baseline. The Southern Air Command is headquartered at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. Joint exercises between IAF, Navy, and Coast Guard reflect India's Integrated Theatre Commands push for tri-service coordination.

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