



UPSC & STATE PCS CURRENT AFFAIRS · UJIYARI.COM

DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz — March 4, 2026

4 March 2026

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat ChoudharyUPSC Educator & Content Creator • [linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)

Free UPSC & State PCS Resources

ujiyari.com

DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz — March 4, 2026

4 March 2026 · 10 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Q 1

World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development is observed on March 4 every year. Under whose aegis was this day recognised in 2019?

- A United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- B UNESCO and the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) ✓
- C International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU)
- D World Bank and the International Finance Corporation

EXPLANATION

World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development was recognised by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) and the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) in 2019. It is observed on March 4 every year and promotes the role of engineering in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

CONCEPT

Engineering underpins all physical aspects of development — highways, railways, renewable energy, semiconductors, urban water systems, digital public infrastructure, and climate-resilient construction. India produces over 1.5 million engineering graduates annually but faces quality gaps in specialised fields like civil works, chip design, and environmental engineering — a recurring Mains GS-3 theme.

Q 2

World Obesity Day is observed on which date each year, and which organisation leads this observance globally?

- A March 4 — World Health Organization (WHO)
- B March 4 — World Obesity Federation ✓
- C April 7 — World Health Organization (WHO)
- D October 11 — International Obesity Task Force

EXPLANATION

World Obesity Day is observed on March 4 each year, led globally by the World Obesity Federation. The observance emphasises that obesity is a systems failure shaped by food environments, urban design, and health policies — not just individual behaviour. India faces a double burden: persistent undernutrition and stunting alongside rising urban obesity.

CONCEPT

India's double burden of malnutrition has significant public policy implications: the same community may have underweight children and overweight adults. Policy tools include food labelling (FSSAI regulations), school nutrition rules, urban design for walkability, and primary healthcare screening. Obesity increases risk of Type 2 diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, fatty liver disease, and certain cancers.

Q 3

Evo 2 is an AI model in the genomic domain. Which institution led its development as reported in early 2026?

- A Google DeepMind and Oxford University
- B MIT Media Lab and Microsoft Research
- C Arc Institute in collaboration with Stanford-linked researchers and NVIDIA ✓**
- D Broad Institute and Harvard Medical School

EXPLANATION

Evo 2 was developed through work involving the Arc Institute, researchers linked to Stanford University, and NVIDIA. Unlike text-generation models, genomic AI models are trained on large biological datasets to study mutation patterns, gene regulation, and the functional behaviour of DNA sequences — accelerating biomedical research, precision medicine, and crop science.

CONCEPT

Genomic AI raises important policy questions around biosecurity, sensitive genetic data governance, concentration of computational power, and ethics of predicting or designing biological behaviour. For India, which is investing in IndiaAI, biotechnology, and health research simultaneously, this signals that AI and biotech policy can no longer be treated as separate silos. India's IndiaAI Mission has an outlay of Rs 10,372 crore.

Q 4

The first Census of Water Bodies in India was conducted to map which types of assets, and found approximately how many such bodies?

- A Only large dams and reservoirs — approximately 5,000 dams
- B Ponds, tanks, lakes, reservoirs, and similar water bodies — more than 24 lakh (2.4 million) ✓**
- C Rivers and streams only — approximately 3 lakh rivers
- D Groundwater sources only — approximately 50 lakh wells

EXPLANATION

The first Census of Water Bodies covered ponds, tanks, lakes, reservoirs, and similar assets across India — mapping more than 24 lakh (2.4 million) water bodies. This data is critical for understanding groundwater recharge potential, minor irrigation coverage, fisheries, flood moderation, and heat resilience at the local level.

CONCEPT

Small water bodies are central to India's water security but face severe stress from encroachment, pollution, siltation, and fragmented local governance. The Amrit Sarovar Mission (launched 2022) aims to create or rejuvenate 75,000 ponds across India — one per village. It runs under the Ministry of Rural Development in convergence with MGNREGA, watershed development, and rural livelihoods programmes.

Q 5

Mission Amrit Sarovar, which focuses on rural water body restoration, achieves implementation primarily through which mechanism?

- A A dedicated central authority with direct funding to panchayats
- B PPP (public-private partnership) with real estate developers
- C Convergence with MGNREGA, district planning, and local bodies ✓**
- D State government borrowing through municipal bonds

EXPLANATION

Mission Amrit Sarovar achieves implementation through convergence — combining MGNREGA (labour), district planning funds, local body resources, and community participation to restore village ponds. This convergence model avoids creating a separate bureaucratic structure and leverages existing rural employment and local governance frameworks.

CONCEPT

Convergence-based programme delivery is a key governance strategy tested in UPSC Mains. Examples: MGNREGA funds used for Amrit Sarovar; PM Awas Yojana toilets counted under Swachh Bharat; Jal Jeevan Mission infrastructure using MGNREGA for trench digging. Convergence reduces duplication and stretches government budgets but requires strong coordination capacity at the district level.

Q 6

Which of the following correctly describes the policy concern raised by biosecurity experts regarding genomic AI tools like Evo 2?

- A These tools could allow individuals to synthesise nuclear materials
- B They could be misused to predict or design harmful biological agents, raising biosecurity concerns ✓**
- C They primarily threaten cybersecurity by breaking encryption
- D They risk replacing medical doctors with automated diagnostic systems

EXPLANATION

Genomic AI tools that can predict or model biological behaviour raise biosecurity concerns because they could potentially be misused to design harmful pathogens or predict how to enhance virulence. This is distinct from cybersecurity or clinical automation concerns. The key policy question is regulating access to powerful genomic AI without stifling legitimate research.

CONCEPT

Biosecurity is increasingly part of national security policy. India's Biosafety and Biosecurity framework includes the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), RCGM (Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation), and GEAC (Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee). International frameworks include the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC, 1975) and WHO Global Health Security standards. AI governance and biosecurity are converging policy areas.

Q 7

India's approach to industrial decarbonisation through renewable energy is closely tied to which national mission under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)?

- A National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE)
- B National Solar Mission (Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission) ✓
- C National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)
- D National Mission for a Green India (GIM)

EXPLANATION

The National Solar Mission (Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission) is one of the eight missions under NAPCC and is India's primary policy vehicle for solar energy expansion. It targets 280 GW of solar capacity by 2030. This mission underpins India's Concentrated Solar Thermal (CST) development and renewable energy-based industrial decarbonisation strategy.

CONCEPT

India's 8 National Missions under NAPCC (2008): Solar Mission, Enhanced Energy Efficiency, Sustainable Habitat, Water, Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem, Green India, Sustainable Agriculture, and Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change. NAPCC was launched in 2008 under PM Manmohan Singh. These missions are implemented through respective ministries and are monitored by the Climate Change Action Programme.

Q 8

The 'double burden of malnutrition' in India refers to which combination of nutritional problems?

- A Both protein deficiency and carbohydrate excess in children
- B Undernutrition and micronutrient deficiency coexisting with rising obesity and overweight ✓
- C Both food insecurity and food wastage in the same region
- D Agricultural production surplus alongside import dependency

EXPLANATION

The double burden of malnutrition describes a situation where undernutrition (stunting, wasting, anaemia, micronutrient deficiency) persists in large sections of the population while obesity and overweight rise simultaneously — especially in urban areas. India exhibits this at both national and household levels: often the same family has stunted children and overweight adults.

CONCEPT

India has one of the world's highest rates of childhood stunting (low height-for-age = chronic undernutrition). Key programmes addressing undernutrition: PM POSHAN (formerly Mid-Day Meal), POSHAN Abhiyan (Nutrition Mission), ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services), and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana. The National Nutrition Survey and NFHS (National Family Health Survey) track nutritional outcomes.

Q 9

Polymetallic nodules — at the centre of 'dark oxygen' research — are found in which environment and contain which combination of minerals?

- A Himalayan glaciers; contain silica, calcium, and aluminium
- B Deep-sea floor; contain manganese, nickel, cobalt, and copper ✓**
- C Continental shelves; contain iron ore and phosphate
- D River beds; contain gold, platinum, and rare earth elements

EXPLANATION

Polymetallic nodules are found on the deep-sea floor and contain manganese, nickel, cobalt, and copper — all critical minerals for batteries and clean energy technologies. Research on 'dark oxygen' suggested these nodules may generate oxygen through electrochemical processes without sunlight. This intersects with deep-sea mining debates, as harvesting nodules would disturb fragile deep-ocean ecosystems.

CONCEPT

India has a Pioneer Investor status in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone (Pacific Ocean) for polymetallic nodules through the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) and Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS). The International Seabed Authority (ISA), headquartered in Kingston, Jamaica, regulates deep-sea mining in international waters under UNCLOS. India ratified UNCLOS in 1995.

Q 10

Which of the following SDG-linked policy tools is most directly relevant to reducing the public health burden of obesity in India?

- A Expanding defence exports and manufacturing
- B Implementing food labelling regulations, promoting walkable urban design, and strengthening preventive primary healthcare ✓**
- C Increasing agricultural crop support prices to ensure food availability
- D Building more tertiary hospitals in tier-1 cities

EXPLANATION

The policy response to obesity requires systemic interventions — food labelling (under FSSAI regulations), walkable urban design, school nutrition rules, and preventive healthcare screening — rather than reactive treatment. This connects to SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and India's National Health Policy 2017 emphasis on preventive and promotive healthcare.

CONCEPT

India's FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India) has introduced Front-of-Pack Labelling (FOPL) regulations to help consumers identify high sugar/salt/fat foods. The Eat Right Movement by FSSAI promotes healthy diets. Preventive health is also linked to Ayushman Bharat's Health and Wellness Centres (now AB-HWCs), which provide primary care including non-communicable disease (NCD) screening.

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

 linkedin.com/in/epicbharat

Published on ujyari.com · Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs