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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz — March 6, 2026

6 March 2026

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6 March 2026 · 10 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Q 1

The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) is conducted by which agency, and which three core indicators does it measure?

A NITI Aayog; GDP growth, inflation, and employment

B National Statistical Office (NSO/MoSPI); Labour Force Participation Rate, Worker Population Ratio, and Unemployment Rate ✓

C Ministry of Labour; wage growth, job creation, and skill training

D RBI; formal sector employment, urban unemployment, and gig economy metrics

EXPLANATION

The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) is conducted by the National Statistical Office (NSO) under MoSPI. Its three core indicators are: Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) — share of working-age population in the labour force; Worker Population Ratio (WPR) — share of employed persons in the total population; and Unemployment Rate (UR) — share of unemployed persons in the labour force.

CONCEPT

PLFS was introduced in 2017-18 to replace the older NSSO Employment-Unemployment Surveys. It provides both quarterly urban estimates and annual rural-urban estimates. LFPR in India is notably low for women (around 30-35%) compared to the global average, making female labour-force participation a key development indicator. PLFS data informs the Periodic Labour Force Survey Annual Report.

Q 2

The Chagos Archipelago dispute involves which island nation claiming sovereignty, and what is the strategic significance of the Diego Garcia facility located there?

- A Seychelles; important for Indian Ocean fisheries management
- B Mauritius; major US-UK military base in the central Indian Ocean ✓**
- C Sri Lanka; strategic logistics hub for Indian Navy
- D Maldives; key monitoring station for submarine cable systems

EXPLANATION

The Chagos Archipelago is claimed by Mauritius, which argues it was unlawfully separated from Mauritius before independence by the UK. Diego Garcia hosts a major US-UK military installation — one of the most strategically significant bases in the Indian Ocean, used for air and naval operations across the Middle East and Asia. The ICJ issued an advisory opinion in 2019 holding that decolonisation of Mauritius had not been lawfully completed.

CONCEPT

The Chagos-Diego Garcia issue combines decolonisation law, geopolitics, and Indian Ocean strategy. The UK unilaterally detached the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965 before Mauritius became independent in 1968. The 2019 ICJ advisory opinion and 2023 UK-Mauritius sovereignty negotiations kept this in global focus. For India, the Indian Ocean is a 'home turf' and external military bases affect its strategic calculations.

Q 3

The IndiaAI Mission, approved in 2024, carries an approximate outlay of how much, and what is its primary purpose?

- A Rs 3,000 crore; build a national supercomputer network
- B Rs 10,372 crore; build an AI ecosystem covering compute, datasets, skills, applications, and safe AI ✓**
- C Rs 25,000 crore; develop a national AI company to compete globally
- D Rs 7,500 crore; subsidise AI chips for private companies

EXPLANATION

The IndiaAI Mission was approved in 2024 with an outlay of approximately Rs 10,372 crore. Its pillars cover: compute infrastructure (AI chips/cloud), quality datasets, application development, skills and AI talent, and safe and trusted AI. Unlike a narrow startup scheme, it aims to build AI as national public infrastructure serving agriculture, languages, health, public services, and education.

CONCEPT

AI leadership depends on three things: computing power (GPUs/cloud), quality data, and skilled people — all expensive and unequally distributed. IndiaAI includes a public compute initiative (government-backed GPU cluster), an India Datasets Platform (for open government data), and an AI startup fund. India's AI strategy emphasises domestic language technologies and public-interest AI alongside commercial applications.

Q 4 World Hearing Day is observed on March 3 every year. The 2026 theme focused on which population group?

- A Elderly persons in low-income countries
- B Children — hearing care from communities to classrooms ✓
- C Industrial workers exposed to noise pollution
- D Persons with complete hearing loss requiring cochlear implants

EXPLANATION

World Hearing Day 2026 focused on hearing care for children — from communities to classrooms. Hearing loss in children affects speech development, school performance, social interaction, and mental health. In India, this connects to newborn hearing screening, school health programmes, assistive devices, and inclusive education policies under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

CONCEPT

India's Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 recognises hearing impairment as one of 21 disability categories and mandates equal access to education. The Unique Disability ID (UDID) portal provides centralised disability certificates. WHO estimates that 1 in 4 people globally will have hearing problems by 2050 if current trends continue, making hearing health a major public health priority.

Q 5 The PLFS indicator called Worker Population Ratio (WPR) measures which specific metric?

- A The ratio of formal sector workers to informal sector workers
- B The proportion of employed persons in the total population ✓
- C The average wage of workers relative to per capita income
- D The share of the workforce in agriculture versus industry and services

EXPLANATION

Worker Population Ratio (WPR) measures the proportion of employed persons in the total population. It differs from Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), which measures the proportion of people who are either employed or actively seeking work. WPR is used to understand what share of a country's population is actually contributing to economic output.

CONCEPT

In India, WPR has risen for women in recent PLFS surveys, driven partly by a rise in self-employment and agricultural work. However, a rise in WPR does not automatically indicate better welfare if it is driven by distress self-employment (e.g., women working on family farms without wages due to economic hardship). Quality of work — wages, formality, social protection — matters as much as quantity.

Q 6

Regarding the Chagos Archipelago, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued an advisory opinion in 2019. What did this opinion conclude?

- A The UK has a legitimate claim to the Chagos Islands under international law
- B **The decolonisation of Mauritius was not lawfully completed because the Chagos Islands were separated without the consent of the Mauritian people ✓**
- C Diego Garcia must be handed over to the United Nations
- D Mauritius and the UK should jointly administer the islands for 50 years

EXPLANATION

The ICJ's 2019 advisory opinion held that the process of decolonisation of Mauritius was not lawfully completed because the UK separated the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965 — three years before Mauritian independence — without the free and genuine consent of the Mauritian people. The ICJ called on the UK to end its administration of the territory as rapidly as possible.

CONCEPT

ICJ advisory opinions are not legally binding but carry significant moral and political weight. The UNGA passed a resolution (116-6) in 2019 supporting Mauritius. The UK and Mauritius entered negotiations in 2022 on the sovereignty question. This case is a key example of how colonial-era territorial adjustments continue to generate legal disputes decades after independence.

Q 7

Which of the following best describes the concept of 'multi-alignment' in Indian foreign policy, as exemplified by India's participation in the Raisina Dialogue?

- A India aligns with the USA, Russia, and China simultaneously on all global issues
- B **India forms issue-specific partnerships and avoids permanent alliances, preserving strategic autonomy ✓**
- C India refuses to sign any bilateral or multilateral agreements
- D India prioritises SAARC regional cooperation over global engagement

EXPLANATION

Multi-alignment in Indian foreign policy means India engages with multiple powers simultaneously, forms issue-specific coalitions (rather than permanent alliances), and preserves strategic autonomy to make independent decisions. This is reflected in India being part of QUAD (with US, Japan, Australia) while also engaging with Russia on energy and defence, and China on trade.

CONCEPT

The Raisina Dialogue, jointly organised by the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), is India's premier annual geopolitics conference. It positions India as a thought leader on global order issues. Multi-alignment is different from non-alignment (India's Cold War stance of staying out of blocs) — India today actively engages with all major powers but on its own terms.

Q 8

AI as a national ecosystem, as envisioned under the IndiaAI Mission, requires which three foundational elements that are expensive and unequally distributed globally?

- A Land, labour, and capital
- B Computing power, quality data, and skilled people ✓**
- C Internet connectivity, mobile devices, and digital literacy
- D University infrastructure, R&D budgets, and patent filings

EXPLANATION

AI leadership requires three foundational elements: computing power (GPUs, cloud infrastructure for training AI models), quality data (diverse, well-labelled datasets), and skilled people (AI researchers, engineers, data scientists). These are expensive and unequally distributed, creating AI power concentration in a few countries and companies. IndiaAI aims to democratise access to all three for India.

CONCEPT

India has advantages in the 'skilled people' dimension — large pool of STEM graduates and English-proficient workforce. India's weakness has been compute (limited domestic GPU infrastructure) and high-quality labelled datasets. The IndiaAI compute initiative creates shared government-backed GPU clusters accessible to startups, researchers, and government agencies. This is analogous to how public road infrastructure was once built because private investment alone could not serve public needs.

Q 9

Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) in India is notably lower among women than men. Which of the following is NOT a structural reason for this gap?

- A Unpaid care work (cooking, child-rearing, elderly care) disproportionately performed by women
- B Lack of safe public transport for women to reach workplaces
- C Legal restrictions on women working in certain industries under the Factories Act ✓**
- D Limited availability of childcare infrastructure near workplaces

EXPLANATION

The Factories Act and associated labour laws in India no longer impose blanket restrictions on women working — in fact, the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code (2020) expanded women's rights to work in factories at night. The real barriers are structural: unpaid care work, safety concerns, childcare gaps, and limited access to credit for self-employment, not legal restrictions.

CONCEPT

Female LFPR in India is approximately 30-37% — among the lowest in Asia. Recent surveys show a rise driven largely by rural agricultural self-employment and unpaid family work. Quality LFPR improvement requires: childcare support (Anganwadis/creches), safer mobility infrastructure, flexible work policies, and access to credit for women entrepreneurs. The 2023 PLFS showed urban female LFPR rising to around 25%.

Q 10

Hearing loss in children is classified as a disability under Indian law. Which act governs rights of persons with disabilities in India, and how many disability categories does it recognise?

- A Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 — 7 categories
- B Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 — 21 categories ✓**
- C Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992 — 12 categories
- D Mental Health Care Act, 2017 — 5 categories

EXPLANATION

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 replaced the older 1995 Act. It expanded recognised disability categories from 7 to 21, incorporating hearing impairment, speech and language disability, specific learning disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, chronic neurological conditions, blood disorders, and multiple disabilities. India is also a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

CONCEPT

The RPwD Act provides for reservation of 5% in higher education, 4% in government jobs, accessible voting, and inclusive education. The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPWD) under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment implements the Act. The Unique Disability ID (UDID) scheme creates a national database of persons with disabilities for targeted welfare delivery.

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