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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz — March 7, 2026

7 March 2026

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7 March 2026 · 10 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Q 1

India hosts the most Global Capability Centres (GCCs) in the world. According to NASSCOM assessments, India hosts more than how many GCCs and employs approximately how many professionals in them?

- A 500 GCCs; 0.5 million professionals
- B 1,000 GCCs; 1 million professionals
- C 1,700 GCCs; 1.9 million professionals ✓
- D 3,000 GCCs; 3 million professionals

EXPLANATION

According to NASSCOM assessments, India hosts more than 1,700 GCCs and employs approximately 1.9 million professionals. GCCs have evolved from back-office units to handling engineering design, R&D, cybersecurity, AI/analytics, and global product management — representing India's shift from cost arbitrage to capability arbitrage in the global services economy.

CONCEPT

GCCs (Global Capability Centres) are offshore units of multinational companies that handle high-value functions. Previously called captive units or offshore development centres, India's GCC sector is projected to reach \$125 billion by 2032 and employ 4.5 million professionals. The BFSI (Banking, Financial Services, Insurance) sector hosts 185-190 GCC entities. GCCs connect to topics like services exports, digital infrastructure, and India's place in global supply chains.

Q 2

The GenomeIndia Project created a national genomic dataset linked to which data repository?

- A ICMR National Biorepository
- B Indian Biological Data Centre ✓
- C National Institute of Biomedical Genomics (NIBMG)
- D Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Gene Bank

EXPLANATION

The GenomeIndia Project is linked to the Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC) — India's national repository for biological data. The project collected samples from diverse population groups across India to build a large reference genome resource. This supports precision medicine, rare disease research, and population genetics specific to India's diverse ethnic groups.

CONCEPT

GenomeIndia is implemented by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT). India has enormous genetic diversity — with hundreds of ethnic groups showing distinct genetic signatures. An Indian genomic reference database ensures that drug responses, disease risk variants, and ancestry data are relevant to Indian populations, unlike Western-dominated genomic databases. Privacy, consent, and data sovereignty are key policy concerns.

Q 3

Mission Amrit Sarovar aims to create or rejuvenate how many village ponds across India, and was launched in which year?

A 25,000 ponds; launched in 2019

B 75,000 ponds; launched in 2022 ✓

C 1,00,000 ponds; launched in 2021

D 50,000 ponds; launched in 2023

EXPLANATION

Mission Amrit Sarovar was launched in April 2022 with the target of creating or rejuvenating 75,000 ponds across India — one per village panchayat. It is implemented through convergence with MGNREGA, district planning, and local bodies. The mission was launched as a tribute to Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav (75 years of India's independence).

CONCEPT

Local water bodies (ponds, tanks, check dams) provide groundwater recharge, minor irrigation support, livestock water, fisheries, fire-fighting reserves, and microclimate regulation. Their restoration is faster and cheaper than building large dams. Under MGNREGA, water conservation works — including pond desilting and bunding — are among the most common activities. Amrit Sarovar connects rural employment, water security, and climate adaptation in a single programme.

Q 4

Exercise Varuna is a bilateral naval exercise between India and which country, reflecting strategic maritime cooperation in the Indian Ocean?

A United States

B Japan

C France ✓

D Australia

EXPLANATION

Exercise Varuna is the bilateral naval exercise between India and France. It is one of India's most significant naval exercises and reflects the depth of India-France strategic partnership in the Indian Ocean. France has its own Indian Ocean territories (Reunion, Mayotte, French Southern and Antarctic Lands) and is a key defence technology partner for India (Rafale jets, Scorpene submarines).

CONCEPT

India's key bilateral naval exercises: Malabar (India-USA-Japan-Australia QUAD), Tasman Saber (Australia), Konkan (UK), Varuna (France), SIMBEX (Singapore), PASSEX (various). France's permanent Indian Ocean presence gives it a shared interest in freedom of navigation and regional stability. India-France are 'Strategic Partners' since 1998. France also agreed to build 6 Scorpene-class submarines for India at Mazagon Dock.

Q 5

The Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC), which hosts the GenomeIndia dataset, is analogous to which international genomic data repository?

- A CDC (Centers for Disease Control) in the USA
- B NCBI GenBank (USA) and ENA (European Nucleotide Archive) ✓**
- C WHO Global Influenza Surveillance Network
- D CERN Data Centre in Switzerland

EXPLANATION

IBDC is India's equivalent of international genomic data repositories like NCBI GenBank (USA) and the European Nucleotide Archive (ENA) — these are publicly accessible databases for nucleotide sequences and biological data. IBDC stores Indian biological research data, making India's genomic and biological research data sovereign and accessible to Indian researchers.

CONCEPT

Data sovereignty in genomics is increasingly important — who controls biological data has significant implications for research, privacy, pharmaceutical development, and national security. India's Personal Data Protection framework, biotechnology policy, and genomics policy all converge on this issue. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) manages both GenomeIndia and IBDC.

Q 6

GCCs in India handle functions that go far beyond back-office work. Which of the following is an example of the high-value work now performed at Indian GCCs?

- A Data entry and document scanning
- B R&D for global product development, AI and analytics, and cybersecurity operations ✓**
- C Only customer service and call centre operations
- D Outsourced payroll processing for MNCs

EXPLANATION

Indian GCCs now handle engineering design, R&D, AI and analytics, cybersecurity, financial operations, and global product management — not just back-office and BPO functions. This represents India's shift from cost arbitrage (cheap labour for routine tasks) to capability arbitrage (specialised talent for complex, high-value functions). This transformation is relevant to India's economic strategy at the GS-3 level.

CONCEPT

The evolution of GCCs tracks India's software industry evolution: Phase 1 (1990s) — IT services outsourcing; Phase 2 (2000s) — BPO/back office; Phase 3 (2010s) — knowledge process outsourcing; Phase 4 (current) — centres of excellence with deep R&D and product ownership. India's digital talent pool (1.8 million IT graduates annually), English proficiency, and time-zone coverage are structural advantages.

Q 7

Which aspect of Mission Amrit Sarovar is critical to ensure that restored water bodies remain functional long after the initial construction?

- A Installation of solar-powered water pumps
- B Addressing land ownership, maintenance responsibility, and community use rights around restored ponds ✓**
- C Connecting all ponds to national river interlinking grid
- D Appointing central government officials to manage each pond

EXPLANATION

The most critical aspect for long-term functionality of restored water bodies is addressing community ownership — who owns the land, who is responsible for annual desilting and maintenance, and how the water use is governed. Without these institutional arrangements, restored ponds silt up again within 2-3 monsoon cycles, or are encroached upon by local interests.

CONCEPT

This illustrates the broader governance lesson: asset creation is easy; service delivery and long-term maintenance are hard. The same applies to toilets under Swachh Bharat (built but not used), roads (built but poorly maintained), and water systems under Jal Jeevan Mission (installed but not functional). Community-based natural resource management — where local institutions have both rights and responsibilities — is the international best practice model.

Q 8

France is significant to India's defence capabilities through which major acquisitions?

- A T-90 tanks and S-400 missiles
- B Rafale multirole aircraft and Scorpene-class submarines ✓**
- C C-17 Globemaster transport aircraft and P-8I Poseidon patrol aircraft
- D Tejas LCA and Prachand light combat helicopters

EXPLANATION

France has supplied India with Rafale multirole aircraft (36 aircraft for IAF, 26 for Indian Navy on order) and Scorpene-class submarines (6 boats built at Mazagon Dock, Mumbai under Project 75). These are two of India's most significant recent defence acquisitions, reflecting deep India-France defence partnership under the Strategic Partnership framework since 1998.

CONCEPT

India's defence import diversification strategy reduces dependence on any single supplier. Russia remains India's largest defence supplier by volume (T-90 tanks, Su-30 MKI, INS Vikramaditya carrier). USA is the largest supplier by contract value in recent years (C-17, P-8I, Apache, Chinook). France (Rafale, Scorpene) and Israel (missiles, radars, UAVs) complete India's top defence sources. Indigenisation target: 70% domestic procurement by 2027.

Q 9 The concept of 'precision medicine' that GenomeIndia supports refers to which medical approach?

- A Using precision surgical tools like robotic surgery systems
- B Tailoring medical treatment to individual characteristics including genetic makeup, lifestyle, and environment ✓
- C Delivering medicines with exact dosage through nano-technology
- D Treating diseases based on traditional medicine systems with precise formulations

EXPLANATION

Precision medicine (also called personalised medicine) tailors medical treatment to an individual's characteristics — including genetic makeup, biomarkers, lifestyle, and environment — rather than applying one-size-fits-all protocols. Genomic data is fundamental to precision medicine because genetic variants determine how patients respond to drugs (pharmacogenomics), their disease risk, and optimal treatment strategies.

CONCEPT

Pharmacogenomics studies how genes affect drug response. For example, patients with certain BRCA mutations have higher breast cancer risk and respond differently to some chemotherapy drugs. India's diverse population means Western genomic databases may not accurately predict drug responses or disease risks for Indians — making the Indian genomic reference database critical for health equity in precision medicine.

Q 10 In the context of India's naval strategy, what does 'interoperability' achieved through bilateral exercises like Varuna mean in practice?

- A Both navies using the same ships and equipment
- B Ability of different national forces to operate together effectively through compatible communication, tactics, and coordination ✓
- C Sharing classified intelligence databases between the two countries
- D Joint command structure where one country leads all operations

EXPLANATION

Naval interoperability means that different national forces can operate together effectively through compatible communication systems, shared tactical procedures, compatible data links, and practised coordination — without necessarily using the same equipment. Exercises like Varuna build this interoperability so that in a real maritime contingency, Indian and French forces can coordinate seamlessly.

CONCEPT

Interoperability is central to India's Integrated Theatre Commands initiative and to its participation in QUAD. The BECA (Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement) and COMCASA (Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement) with the USA are foundational agreements for US-India interoperability. Logistics agreements (LEMOA) allow Indian ships to refuel at US bases and vice versa, enabling sustained operations.

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