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**DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED**

# Daily Quiz — March 11, 2026

11 March 2026

CURATED &amp; WRITTEN BY

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

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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

## Daily Quiz — March 11, 2026

11 March 2026 · 10 Questions · Answers &amp; Explanations Included

**Q 1** Jal Jeevan Mission was launched in which year, and what is its core objective for rural India?

- A 2014; providing irrigation canals to all agricultural villages
- B 2019; providing Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) to all rural households ✓**
- C 2016; constructing check dams in 100 water-stressed districts
- D 2021; providing piped water to all urban slums

### EXPLANATION

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) was launched in August 2019 with the objective of providing Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) to all rural households by 2024. The key word is 'functional' — not just installed pipes but water that actually flows at adequate pressure and quality to every rural home. The mission operates under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

### CONCEPT

JJM is one of India's largest rural infrastructure programmes. The distinction between asset creation (installing taps) and service delivery (water actually flowing) is critical — many early connections became non-functional due to source depletion, pump failures, or lack of maintenance funding. JJM mandates Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) for operation and maintenance (O&M) — addressing the governance dimension beyond construction.

**Q 2**

Press Note 3 of 2020 introduced government approval requirements for FDI from which specific category of countries?

- A All countries designated as tax havens by OECD
- B Countries sharing a land border with India ✓**
- C All FATF-blacklisted countries
- D Countries with which India does not have bilateral investment treaties

**EXPLANATION**

Press Note 3 of 2020, issued by DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade), requires prior government approval for FDI from countries that share a land border with India — primarily China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Afghanistan. This was a response to concerns about opportunistic acquisitions during the COVID-19 crisis and broader China-specific strategic concerns after the Galwan Valley clash of 2020.

**CONCEPT**

FDI in India is governed through DPIIT under the automatic route (no approval needed) or government route (approval from relevant ministry). Press Note 3 specifically targeted China because: China is India's largest land-border country by economic weight; Chinese FDI had been rising in Indian startups; and Galwan Valley clash (June 2020) created a strategic reason to restrict Chinese capital. The debate now is whether to selectively ease restrictions for manufacturing investments without strategic risk.

**Q 3**

In the context of renewable energy, what does 'grid integration' challenge mean, and why does it slow down India's clean energy transition?

- A Difficulty in connecting solar panels to household wiring
- B The challenge of balancing intermittent renewable power supply (solar/wind) with real-time demand, requiring transmission upgrades, storage, and grid flexibility ✓**
- C Administrative delays in obtaining permits for renewable projects
- D Resistance from coal plant workers to renewable expansion

**EXPLANATION**

Grid integration challenges arise because solar and wind energy are intermittent — they generate power only when sun shines or wind blows, not necessarily when demand peaks. The grid must constantly match supply and demand. Adding large amounts of intermittent power requires: transmission infrastructure (evacuation lines from solar/wind parks to cities), storage (batteries, pumped hydro), demand-side management, and flexible fossil backup.

**CONCEPT**

India's renewable capacity is growing rapidly (500 GW target by 2030) but grid bottlenecks are slowing effective deployment. Key challenges: inter-state transmission lines are insufficient; DISCOMs (electricity distribution companies) are financially stressed (Rs 6+ lakh crore losses) and reluctant to buy more renewable power; grid balancing requires 24/7 monitoring. The Ministry of Power and CEA are pushing Transmission System Strengthening to enable the energy transition.

**Q 4**

Autonomous weapons systems and AI in warfare raise the concept of 'meaningful human control'. What does this term refer to in international security discussions?

- A Human pilots must manually fly every military aircraft
- B A human with sufficient information and time must make the decision to use lethal force, particularly targeting decisions ✓**
- C Only heads of state can authorise the use of advanced weapons
- D Military AI must be developed by democratic countries only

**EXPLANATION**

Meaningful human control (MHC) in the context of autonomous weapons means that a human decision-maker — with sufficient understanding of the situation, time to deliberate, and ability to intervene — must make or sanction the specific decision to use lethal force. The concern is that fully autonomous weapons (that select and engage targets without human review) violate IHL principles of distinction and proportionality.

**CONCEPT**

Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) — sometimes called 'killer robots' — are being discussed at the UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW). Countries are divided: some (Austria, Belgium) want a ban treaty; others (USA, Russia, China) want national discretion. India's position has been for voluntary guidelines rather than a binding treaty. The Campaign to Stop Killer Robots advocates for a pre-emptive ban on fully autonomous lethal systems.

**Q 5**

The Jal Jeevan Mission mandates the creation of Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) for which specific purpose?

- A Political oversight of contractor selection
- B Operation and maintenance (O&M) of water supply systems after installation ✓**
- C Conducting water quality testing labs at every village
- D Managing water pricing and tariff collection from households

**EXPLANATION**

Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) under JJM are responsible for Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of water supply systems — ensuring that installed tap connections continue to provide functional water over the long term. This addresses the critical gap seen in earlier rural water schemes where infrastructure was built but became non-functional due to lack of local ownership and maintenance funds.

**CONCEPT**

O&M funding is a chronic weakness in Indian rural infrastructure. JJM mandates that VWSCs collect a nominal user fee from households to fund O&M. However, in practice, many villages resist fee collection, creating a funding gap. This connects to broader governance lessons: decentralisation works only when local institutions have both authority (to collect fees, hire technicians) and accountability (to the community they serve).

**Q 6** Press Note 3 of 2020 was issued by DPIIT. What is DPIIT's full name and which ministry does it fall under?

- A Department of Public Investment and Infrastructure Technology; Ministry of Finance
- B **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade; Ministry of Commerce and Industry ✓**
- C Directorate of Private Investment and Industrial Targets; Ministry of Heavy Industries
- D Department of Policy and Industry Innovation Technology; NITI Aayog

#### EXPLANATION

DPIIT stands for Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. DPIIT is the nodal department for FDI policy (including Press Notes), startup India, Make in India, industrial policy, IP rights policy, and logistics sector development. It was renamed from DIPP (Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion) in 2019.

#### CONCEPT

DPIIT is responsible for the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy consolidated in the FDI Policy Circular (updated annually). India is the world's 3rd-largest FDI recipient globally (recent years). FDI is tracked by RBI and reported by DPIIT. Key sectors with 100% automatic FDI: most manufacturing, services, IT, telecom. Sectors with restricted FDI: defence (74% auto; beyond that govt route), media, multi-brand retail.

**Q 7** India's renewable energy expansion is constrained by DISCOM financial stress. What does 'DISCOM' stand for and why is their financial health critical to the energy transition?

- A Digital Supply and Communication companies; they manage the internet backbone
- B **Distribution Companies (electricity); they are the last mile of power delivery and purchase electricity from generators ✓**
- C Diesel Supply and Combustion units; legacy oil distribution networks
- D Decentralised Solar Manufacturing companies; they build solar panels

#### EXPLANATION

DISCOMs (Distribution Companies) are the electricity distribution utilities that deliver power to homes, farms, and industries — and purchase power from generators (including renewable energy producers). Their financial stress (accumulated losses of Rs 6+ lakh crore) means they are reluctant to sign power purchase agreements (PPAs) for new renewable capacity, creating a bottleneck for India's clean energy targets.

#### CONCEPT

DISCOM financial stress is caused by: below-cost tariffs for farmers and domestic consumers (cross-subsidised by industrial tariffs), high AT&C losses (aggregate technical and commercial losses from theft and billing failures), and delayed payments from state governments. UDAY (Ujjwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana, 2015) and RDSS (Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme, 2021) are central schemes to reform DISCOMs. Unless DISCOMs are financially viable, the renewable transition will be constrained.

**Q 8** Swarming systems in AI warfare involve which tactical approach that challenges traditional air defence?

- A A single very fast aircraft overwhelming defences
- B **Dozens or hundreds of low-cost drones acting in coordinated AI-guided formation to overwhelm defences** ✓
- C Submarine-launched missiles arriving simultaneously
- D Cyber attacks that disable enemy communication networks

**EXPLANATION**

Drone swarming involves deploying dozens or hundreds of small, low-cost drones that communicate with each other and are guided by AI algorithms to coordinate attacks, reconnaissance, or jamming — overwhelming air defences that can track and engage only a limited number of targets simultaneously. Swarm tactics change the cost calculus of warfare: cheap offensive drones can saturate expensive defensive systems.

**CONCEPT**

Drone swarms were used effectively in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (2020) by Azerbaijan (using Israeli Harop loitering munitions) and in Ukraine-Russia conflict. India has been developing indigenous drone capabilities under iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence) and the Defence Acquisition Procedure's indigenisation push. India's DATS (Drone Action Task Scheme) and DRDO's swarm drone programme address this capability gap.

**Q 9** Which of the following is the primary distinction between 'Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC)' and simply an 'installed tap connection' under JJM metrics?

- A FHTC requires water to be filtered and tested for safety
- B **FHTC means water is actually flowing at adequate pressure and quality — not just that a tap has been installed** ✓
- C FHTC requires households to pay a monthly tariff of Rs 100
- D FHTC applies only to households below the poverty line

**EXPLANATION**

FHTC (Functional Household Tap Connection) specifically means a tap connection through which water is actually flowing at a minimum of 55 litres per capita per day at adequate pressure — not merely that a pipe has been installed or a tap has been fitted. This distinction was introduced because many earlier schemes created physical infrastructure that lay non-functional due to source failure, pump breakdown, or inadequate funding.

**CONCEPT**

The 55 LPCD (litres per capita per day) standard is the WHO and BIS minimum for safe rural water supply. JJM's focus on 'functional' connections tracks service delivery rather than just asset creation — a significant methodological improvement over counting number of habitations covered. India's water quality testing mandate under JJM requires every gram panchayat to test water at five key points, with over 25 lakh women trained as water quality testers.

**Q 10**

India's target for achieving 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030 is part of which broader climate commitment?

- A India's commitment under the Kyoto Protocol (1997)
- B India's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement ✓**
- C The National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) target from 2008
- D The G20 leaders summit clean energy pledge from 2021

**EXPLANATION**

India's 500 GW non-fossil energy capacity target by 2030 is part of India's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement, submitted in 2022. Other NDC targets include: 45% reduction in GDP emissions intensity from 2005 levels by 2030, and 50% of cumulative electric power capacity from non-fossil sources by 2030. India has also set a long-term 2070 net-zero target.

**CONCEPT**

India's Paris Agreement NDC is ambitious for a developing country: India argues it is already doing more than its 'fair share' given its low per-capita historical emissions. India's climate negotiations position: CBDR (Common But Differentiated Responsibilities), climate finance from developed countries, technology transfer, and the right to development. India is the 3rd-largest greenhouse gas emitter globally but 7th in per-capita emissions.

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## Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

 [linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)

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