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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz — March 12, 2026

12 March 2026

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12 March 2026 · 10 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Q 1 The Dandi March began on March 12, 1930. It started from which location and was led by whom?

A Wardha Ashram, Nagpur; led by Bal Gangadhar Tilak

B **Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad; led by Mahatma Gandhi ✓**

C Champaran, Bihar; led by Rajendra Prasad

D Noakhali, Bengal; led by Subhas Chandra Bose

EXPLANATION

The Dandi March began on March 12, 1930 from Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad, led by Mahatma Gandhi. A group of 78 selected satyagrahis walked 241 miles (388 km) to Dandi on the Gujarat coast, where Gandhi broke the salt law on April 5-6, 1930. This triggered the Civil Disobedience Movement — one of the most significant mass mobilisation events of the freedom struggle.

CONCEPT

Gandhi chose salt because: it was a universal need (affecting every Indian, including the poorest); the salt tax was a visible symbol of colonial economic exploitation; breaking the salt law was simple, peaceful, and impossible to ignore. The Dandi March demonstrated strategic non-violent resistance — a masterclass in political communication that attracted international media attention. It led to the Gandhi-Irwin Pact (1931) and second Round Table Conference.

Q 2 The Strait of Hormuz is described as a global energy chokepoint. Approximately what percentage of global traded crude oil passes through it daily?

A 5%

B 10%

C **20% ✓**

D 35%

EXPLANATION

The Strait of Hormuz carries approximately 20% of global traded crude oil — roughly 20 million barrels per day. It is the single most important petroleum chokepoint in the world. The Strait is only about 33 km wide at its narrowest, with a navigable channel of just 3 km in each direction. India imports approximately 85-88% of its crude oil, with a significant share from Gulf Cooperation Council nations transiting through Hormuz.

CONCEPT

Strategic energy chokepoints globally: Strait of Hormuz (Persian Gulf to Arabian Sea — ~20% of global oil), Strait of Malacca (Indian Ocean to Pacific — ~30% of global trade), Suez Canal (Mediterranean to Red Sea — ~12% of global trade), Bab-el-Mandeb Strait (Red Sea to Gulf of Aden). India's Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) at Visakhapatnam, Mangaluru, and Padur holds ~9.5 days of consumption — critically low if Hormuz is blocked.

Q 3 The Civil Disobedience Movement triggered by the Dandi March was different from the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-22) in which fundamental way?

A Non-Cooperation was violent; Civil Disobedience was peaceful

B **Civil Disobedience involved actively breaking specific unjust laws; Non-Cooperation involved withdrawal from colonial institutions ✓**

C Non-Cooperation was led by Gandhi alone; Civil Disobedience had multiple leaders

D Civil Disobedience targeted only economic issues; Non-Cooperation was purely political

EXPLANATION

Civil Disobedience involved actively breaking specific laws deemed unjust (salt law, forest laws, revenue laws) — a form of positive disobedience. Non-Cooperation (1920-22) involved withdrawal: giving up titles, boycotting legislatures, courts, schools, and foreign cloth — a form of negative disobedience. Both were non-violent but used different tactics. Civil Disobedience was more confrontational and harder for the British to contain.

CONCEPT

The key phases of India's national movement: Moderates (1885-1905) — petitions and prayers; Extremists and Partition of Bengal (1905-1916) — Swadeshi, boycott; Home Rule Leagues (1916); Non-Cooperation (1920-22); Simon Commission boycott (1928); Civil Disobedience (1930-32, 1932-34); Individual Satyagraha (1940-41); Quit India Movement (1942). UPSC frequently asks to differentiate these movements.

Q 4 India's vulnerability to West Asia conflicts primarily stems from three sources. Which of the following correctly identifies all three?

A Dependence on West Asian tourism, IT services to Gulf companies, and cultural exports

B **Crude oil import dependence (~85%), large Indian diaspora (~9 million in Gulf), and fertiliser (natural gas/LNG) import dependence ✓**

C Military arms imports, geopolitical alliance commitments, and border disputes

D Food imports, water sharing agreements, and shipping lane control

EXPLANATION

India's three main vulnerabilities to West Asia instability are: (1) Crude oil — India imports ~85-88% of its needs, with significant volumes from the Gulf; (2) Diaspora — ~9 million Indians live in Gulf countries, sending ~$40 billion in annual remittances; (3) Fertilisers and LNG — India imports natural gas and LNG from Qatar and UAE for fertiliser production (urea needs natural gas). Any conflict disrupts all three simultaneously.

CONCEPT

India has implemented evacuation operations when West Asia deteriorates: Operation Rahat (2015, Yemen) evacuated 4,640 Indians and 960 foreigners; Operation Kaveri (2023, Sudan); Operation Ajay (2023, Israel-Gaza). Remittances from Indian diaspora (~$120 billion/year total, $40 billion from Gulf) are India's largest external income source — larger than merchandise exports from many sectors.

Q 5 Proton accelerators — whose installation was proposed in Visakhapatnam — are used in which scientific and applied domains?

A Only for military applications and nuclear weapons research

B **Materials science, nuclear research, medical applications (cancer therapy), beam physics, and advanced instrumentation ✓**

C Only for satellite communications and space research

D Primarily for weather forecasting and oceanography

EXPLANATION

Proton accelerators have multiple civilian scientific applications: materials science (studying crystal structures, defect analysis), nuclear physics research, cancer treatment (proton therapy precisely destroys tumours with minimal damage to surrounding tissue), production of medical isotopes, beam physics research, and testing materials for space and nuclear environments. Large accelerator facilities also train physicists and engineers across disciplines.

CONCEPT

India's largest particle physics facility is the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in Mumbai. The proposed Visakhapatnam high-energy proton accelerator would support India's scientific ecosystem and reduce dependence on overseas facilities like CERN (Switzerland) and Brookhaven National Laboratory (USA). Proton therapy cancer treatment is available at TATA Memorial Centre, Mumbai (using a cyclotron). Scientific infrastructure investment is a key theme in India's science policy.

Q 6 The AI-driven disruption to the labour market is described as 'task-level disruption' rather than 'job-level elimination'. What does this distinction mean?

A AI only disrupts jobs at the managerial level, not at the task level

B AI automates specific tasks within jobs rather than eliminating entire occupations, changing what humans and machines each do within roles ✓

C AI creates entirely new job categories that did not exist before, replacing old jobs

D AI disruption only happens in digital tasks, not physical ones

EXPLANATION
Task-level disruption means AI automates specific tasks within jobs — for example, AI can draft documents (part of a lawyer's tasks) but not argue before a court; AI can read X-rays (part of a radiologist's tasks) but not build patient rapport or handle complex diagnoses. Jobs are not simply 'automated away' or 'safe' — rather, the task composition of roles changes, requiring workers to adapt and new skills to emerge.

CONCEPT
World Economic Forum's 'Future of Jobs Report' tracks this task-level disruption. For India, the challenge is that a large proportion of the 500 million working population is engaged in low-skill tasks (data entry, basic customer service, document processing) that are highly automatable. Policy responses: NSDC (National Skill Development Corporation), PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana, Digital India reskilling programmes. Education systems need to shift from rote learning to problem-solving and creativity.

Q 7 Which of the following is the correct significance of the Galwan Valley clash of June 2020 for India's economic policy?

A It led to India banning all trade with China

B It triggered Press Note 3 of 2020 requiring government approval for FDI from land-border countries, specifically targeting Chinese investments ✓

C It resulted in India withdrawing from RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership)

D It led to India cancelling all Chinese technology contracts in the defence sector

EXPLANATION
The Galwan Valley clash (June 15, 2020) between Indian and Chinese troops — resulting in 20 Indian soldiers killed — created the strategic and political environment for Press Note 3 of 2020 (DPIIT's FDI restriction on land-border countries). While Press Note 3 was formally issued on April 17, 2020 (before Galwan), the clash deepened its application. India also banned 200+ Chinese apps, restricted Chinese telecom equipment, and increased procurement-linked trade restrictions.

CONCEPT
India's China policy post-2020 involves multiple tracks: strategic (border talks, disengagement), economic (FDI restrictions, app bans, duty hikes), and technological (restricting Huawei and ZTE from 5G). India's withdrawal from RCEP (2019) predates Galwan and was based on trade deficit concerns. India's China imports remain very high (~$100 billion/year) despite restrictions — electronics and components dependency is a structural vulnerability.

Q 8 The Dandi March's focus on salt specifically targeted which aspect of colonial economic policy?

A. The monopoly of East India Company over spice trade

B. The British government's monopoly on salt production and the salt tax that made it more expensive for ordinary Indians ✓

C. The forced cultivation of indigo by Indian farmers

D. The discriminatory tariff policy that made British textile imports cheaper than Indian cloth

EXPLANATION

The Salt Tax was a monopoly system where the British colonial government controlled all salt production and levied a tax on it — making salt more expensive and inaccessible to the poorest Indians, who needed it most. By breaking the salt law, Gandhi challenged the legitimacy of colonial economic extraction in a manner every Indian could understand and participate in.

CONCEPT

Salt satyagraha connected to multiple aspects of UPSC GS-1: economic exploitation under colonialism, mass mobilisation techniques, Gandhi's philosophy of ahimsa and satyagraha, Congress party's evolution, and the international dimension (American press coverage changed global opinion). The salt tax represented a principle: colonialism extracted resources from India while taxing even the most basic needs of the poorest. This framing made it a powerful political tool.

Q 9 India's Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) is stored at which locations to buffer against crude oil supply disruptions?

A. Jamnagar, Kochi, and Chennai

B. Visakhapatnam, Mangaluru, and Padur ✓

C. Mumbai, Haldia, and Ennore

D. Paradip, Kandla, and Mundra

EXPLANATION

India's Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) is stored at Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Mangaluru (Karnataka), and Padur (Karnataka) — all underground rock cavern facilities. Combined capacity is approximately 5.33 million metric tonnes, equivalent to roughly 9.5 days of India's oil consumption. The SPR is managed by the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL), a subsidiary of the Petroleum Ministry.

CONCEPT

India's SPR capacity of ~9.5 days is far below the IEA (International Energy Agency) recommended 90-day reserve. India is expanding SPR capacity under Phase II (at Chandikhol, Odisha and Padur Phase II). SPR is a strategic insurance against price spikes during wars, sanctions, or supply chain disruptions. India has released oil from SPR during global emergencies (2021 IEA coordinated release, 2022 Russia-Ukraine response) as diplomatic gestures.

Q 10 West Asia's conflict dynamics affect India's fertiliser security because which key fertiliser raw material is imported in large quantities from the Gulf region?

A Phosphate rock (for phosphatic fertilisers)

B Potash (for potassic fertilisers)

C **Natural gas/LNG (which is the feedstock for urea production) ✓**

D Sulphur (for sulphate fertilisers)

EXPLANATION

Natural gas and LNG are the primary feedstock for urea (nitrogen fertiliser) production — natural gas is reformed with steam to produce ammonia (NH3), which is then converted to urea. India imports natural gas and LNG from Qatar, UAE, and other Gulf producers to supplement domestic natural gas for fertiliser plants. Any disruption in Gulf energy supply affects India's urea production capacity and agricultural input costs.

CONCEPT

India is the world's 2nd-largest fertiliser consumer. For phosphate: India imports heavily from Morocco and Jordan (phosphate rock for DAP/SSP). For potash: India imports 100% from Belarus, Canada, Russia (no domestic reserves). For urea: India produces most domestically but imports ~30% and depends on imported LNG for feedstock. Fertiliser security is a strategic concern linked to food security, farmer welfare, and subsidy burden (Rs 1.5+ lakh crore/year).

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