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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz — March 16, 2026

16 March 2026

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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

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16 March 2026 · 10 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Q 1

The CE20 cryogenic engine powers which ISRO launch vehicle, and what is its primary propellant combination?

- A PSLV; uses solid propellant with liquid upper stage
- B LVM3 (formerly GSLV Mk III); uses liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen ✓
- C SSLV; uses solid propellant throughout all stages
- D GSLV Mk II; uses semi-cryogenic propellant (kerosene + LOX)

EXPLANATION

The CE20 cryogenic engine powers the upper stage (C32 cryogenic stage) of LVM3 (Launch Vehicle Mark 3, formerly GSLV Mk III). It uses liquid hydrogen (LH2) as fuel and liquid oxygen (LOX) as oxidizer — the most energy-efficient chemical propellant combination. CE20 produces approximately 22 tonnes of thrust in vacuum and burns for approximately 643 seconds. It was developed and tested at ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.

CONCEPT

ISRO engine types: Vikas engine (liquid, semi-cryogenic — used in PSLV upper stages and GSLV), CE7.5 (cryogenic — GSLV Mk II), CE20 (cryogenic — LVM3/GSLV Mk III), SCE-200 (semi-cryogenic, under development for NGLV). LVM3 is ISRO's heaviest operational rocket — payload capacity: 4 tonnes to GTO, 10 tonnes to LEO. LVM3 is the vehicle for Gaganyaan (human spaceflight) and was used commercially to launch OneWeb satellites. Cryogenic technology mastery (denied to India by US/Russia pressure in 1990s) is a milestone in India's space self-reliance.

Q 2

Deepor Beel, which faces urbanisation threats from Guwahati city expansion, holds which conservation designations that make it nationally and internationally significant?

- A UNESCO World Heritage Site and National Park
- B Ramsar Wetland (designated 2002) and Wildlife Sanctuary — the only Ramsar site in Assam ✓**
- C Biosphere Reserve and Eco-Sensitive Zone only
- D Tiger Reserve and Elephant Reserve under Project Elephant

EXPLANATION

Deepor Beel is a Ramsar Wetland (designated in 2002) and a Wildlife Sanctuary — making it the only Ramsar-designated wetland in Assam. It is a permanent freshwater lake located southwest of Guwahati (Kamrup district) and is a critical stopover for migratory birds on the Central Asian Flyway. Its ecological significance is heightened by being adjacent to the Rani-Garbhanga Reserve Forest, which is an elephant corridor.

CONCEPT

Ramsar Convention (1971, Ramsar, Iran): international treaty for conservation of wetlands. India has 89 Ramsar sites (as of 2025) — highest in Asia. Indian Ramsar sites added in batches: 2022 saw 10 new additions. Key Ramsar sites: Chilika Lake (Odisha, first Indian Ramsar 1981), Keoladeo Ghana NP (Rajasthan), Loktak Lake (Manipur), Wular Lake (J&K), Sundarbans (West Bengal). Deepor Beel faces specific threats: Guwahati urban expansion, waste dumping, railway embankment disrupting water flow, and encroachment reducing the wetland area.

Q 3

The National Chambal Sanctuary is shared across three states and is the primary stronghold of the Gharial in India. Which three states share this sanctuary?

- A Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan
- B Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh ✓**
- C Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Jharkhand
- D Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh

EXPLANATION

The National Chambal Sanctuary (also called the Chambal River Sanctuary) spans Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh along the Chambal River — one of the few relatively unpolluted rivers in India. It is the primary refuge for the Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*), listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List. The sanctuary also protects the Red-crowned Roofed Turtle, Gangetic River Dolphin, and Mugger Crocodile.

CONCEPT

Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*): found almost exclusively in the Chambal, Girwa (UP), and Mahanadi systems. Critically Endangered — fewer than 700 adults estimated. Threats: sand mining, fishing nets (drowning), river flow reduction from dams/irrigation, pollution. Project Crocodile (1975) initiated Gharial conservation. Gharial is a bioindicator of clean river water. National Chambal Sanctuary is also an IBA (Important Bird Area) — supports Indian Skimmer, Sarus Crane. Chambal River originates in Madhya Pradesh (Vindhya range), flows through Rajasthan, joins Yamuna in UP.

Q 4

India achieved 208 medals in Para Athletics World Championships across its history. The T63 and T64 classifications refer to para athletes with which impairment type?

- A** Visual impairment — T63 is partial sight, T64 is total blindness
- B** Limb deficiency — T63 is single below-knee amputation, T64 is single above-knee amputation, both competing with prosthesis ✓
- C** Cerebral palsy — T63 is ambulant CP, T64 is CP with assistive device
- D** Intellectual impairment — T63 is mild, T64 is moderate

EXPLANATION

T63 refers to single below-knee amputation (or equivalent impairment) competing with a running prosthesis; T64 refers to single above-knee amputation competing with a running prosthesis. The numbering system: T = Track events, 60s = limb deficiency/impairment. Sumit Antil (T64 Javelin) is a Paralympic world record holder. India's para athletics programme has grown significantly — at Paris 2024 Paralympics, India won 29 medals (7 gold, 9 silver, 13 bronze), its best-ever performance.

CONCEPT

Para athletics classification bodies: World Para Athletics (under World Athletics). India's top para athletes (2024-2026): Sumit Antil (F64 Javelin — world record 73.29m at Paris 2024), Praveen Kumar (T64 High Jump — gold, Paris 2024), Nishad Kumar (T47 High Jump), Avani Lekhara (shooting — 2 golds Paris 2024), Deepthi Jeevanji (T20 400m). Para Sports bodies in India: Paralympic Committee of India. The expansion of recognised disability categories under RPwD Act 2016 (7 to 21) also expanded para sports classification.

Q 5

The Oscars (Academy Awards) are presented by which organisation, and at which venue in Los Angeles are the awards ceremony traditionally held?

- A** Hollywood Foreign Press Association; Beverly Hilton Hotel
- B** Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS); Dolby Theatre, Hollywood ✓
- C** Screen Actors Guild; Shrine Auditorium
- D** Directors Guild of America; Kodak Theatre, Burbank

EXPLANATION

The Academy Awards (Oscars) are awarded by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), founded in 1927. The ceremony is held at the Dolby Theatre (formerly Kodak Theatre) on Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles. The gold-plated statuette is officially named the Academy Award of Merit. The 98th Academy Awards (Oscars 2026) were hosted by Conan O'Brien.

CONCEPT

India and the Oscars: India submits one film annually in the International Feature Film category. Indian Oscar history: Bhanu Athaiya (Best Costume Design, Gandhi, 1983 — first Indian Oscar winner); AR Rahman (2 Oscars for Slumdog Millionaire, 2009); Resul Pookutty (Sound Mixing, Slumdog Millionaire); RRR — Naatu Naatu won Best Original Song (2023); The Elephant Whisperers won Best Documentary Short (2023). India has never won Best International Feature Film. AMPAS has approximately 10,000 voting members globally.

Q 6

Amblyceps vayavy, a new species of torrent catfish discovered in Kerala, belongs to which river system, and what habitat feature of torrent catfish makes them indicators of river health?

- A Periyar River; they indicate warm water temperature above 28°C
- B Western Ghats rivers (Valapattanam basin); they require fast-flowing, well-oxygenated, clear mountain streams — making them sensitive indicators of river health ✓**
- C Bharathapuzha River; they indicate high nutrient levels from agricultural runoff
- D Kabini River; they require slow-moving deep pools

EXPLANATION

Amblyceps vayavy was discovered in the Valapattanam river basin (Kannur district), Kerala — part of the Western Ghats river systems. Torrent catfish (family Amblycipitidae) are adapted to fast-flowing, rocky mountain streams with high dissolved oxygen levels. Their presence indicates clean, well-oxygenated, unpolluted water — making them valuable bioindicators of river ecosystem health. The Western Ghats is a global biodiversity hotspot with high fish endemism.

CONCEPT

Western Ghats fish biodiversity: the Western Ghats rivers have over 290 freshwater fish species, with approximately 40% being endemic. Hotspots for new fish discoveries: Chaliyar, Chalakudy, Bharathapuzha, Periyar, and Valapattanam river systems. ZSI, ICAR-NBFGR, and university researchers regularly discover new species. Western Ghats is one of 36 global biodiversity hotspots. Threats to endemic fish: dams (fragmentation), sand mining, agricultural pollution, invasive species (suckermouth armored catfish). Kerala recently discovered several new fish species — Schistura species, Puntius species.

Q 7

The BCCI Naman Awards honour contributions to Indian cricket. Which body administers cricket in India and what is its legal status?

- A Cricket Association of India (CAI); a statutory body under Ministry of Sports
- B Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI); a private society registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act ✓**
- C BCCI; a public sector undertaking under Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- D Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI); registered under the Companies Act as a Section 8 company

EXPLANATION

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is a private society registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act. It is NOT a government body — it is a private voluntary association. Despite controlling Indian cricket and being one of the richest cricket boards globally, BCCI receives no government funding and is not a statutory body. The Supreme Court-appointed Lodha Committee recommendations (2016) led to major reforms in BCCI governance including age limits, cooling-off periods, and conflict-of-interest rules.

CONCEPT

BCCI structure: affiliated to International Cricket Council (ICC) and Asian Cricket Council (ACC). BCCI revenue: primarily from IPL (Indian Premier League) media rights and BCCI broadcast deals. IPL rights (2023-2027): sold for Rs 48,390 crore (Viacom18 digital + Star Sports TV). Key BCCI reforms post-Lodha Committee: elected officials with term limits, separation of administrator and player roles, audited accounts. India vs BCCI: unlike other national sports federations (which are under National Sports Federations Act), BCCI operates independently — no government oversight beyond court orders.

Q 8

The Musi River flows through Hyderabad and has 11 protected monuments along its banks. The Musi River originates from which source and is a tributary of which river?

- A Annamalai Hills; tributary of the Krishna River
- B Anantagiri Hills (Vikarabad district); tributary of the Krishna River ✓**
- C Nallamala Hills; tributary of the Godavari River
- D Vindhya Range; tributary of the Mahanadi River

EXPLANATION

The Musi River originates in the Anantagiri Hills, Vikarabad district, Telangana, and joins the Krishna River near Nalgonda. It flows through Hyderabad city for approximately 24 km. Historical significance: Hyderabad was founded (1591) by Mohammed Quli Qutb Shah on the banks of the Musi. Charminar and other Qutb Shahi monuments are on the Musi's banks. The river faces severe pollution from Hyderabad's untreated sewage and industrial effluents.

CONCEPT

Musi River conservation is a Telangana state priority — the Musi River Front Development project aims to restore the river and redevelop its banks. Rivers through major Indian cities and their tributaries: Yamuna (Delhi) → Ganga; Sabarmati (Ahmedabad) → Gulf of Khambhat (direct); Mula-Mutha (Pune) → Bhima → Krishna; Cooum/Adyar (Chennai) → Bay of Bengal (direct); Damodar (Kolkata region) → Hooghly. Musi flood of 1908 destroyed much of Hyderabad, leading to construction of Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar dams for flood control.

Q 9

Jose Antonio Kast was elected President of Chile in 2026. Chile is significant in the global critical minerals supply chain for which primary reason?

- A Chile holds the world's largest reserves of iron ore and coal
- B Chile holds the world's largest known reserves of lithium and copper — both critical for clean energy transition ✓**
- C Chile is the world's leading exporter of rare earth elements
- D Chile holds the world's largest uranium deposits for nuclear energy

EXPLANATION

Chile holds the world's largest known reserves of lithium (approximately 40% of global reserves, in the Atacama Desert brine deposits — the Lithium Triangle shared with Argentina and Bolivia) and is also the world's largest copper producer (approximately 27% of global output). Both minerals are critical for the clean energy transition: lithium for EV batteries and grid storage; copper for electric motors, power transmission, and solar/wind infrastructure.

CONCEPT

Lithium Triangle: Chile, Argentina, Bolivia share the Atacama/Puna salt flat lithium deposits — together holding approximately 60% of global lithium reserves. India's critical mineral strategy: India has low domestic reserves of lithium and cobalt — KABIL (Khanij Bidesh India Ltd) is acquiring lithium deposits in Argentina. India signed critical mineral MoUs with Australia, Canada, Argentina. Copper is essential for India's renewable energy targets — grid expansion requires 3-4x more copper per MW than coal power. Chile is an important partner for India in critical minerals diplomacy.

Q 10

The Gangetic River Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*) is India's National Aquatic Animal. Under which Schedule of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, is it protected, and what is its primary conservation concern?

- A Schedule III; primary concern is hunting for traditional medicine
- B Schedule I; primary concern is habitat degradation from river dams, pollution, and accidental net entanglement ✓**
- C Schedule II; primary concern is over-exploitation for dolphin oil used in fishing bait
- D Schedule IV; primary concern is competition from introduced fish species

EXPLANATION

The Gangetic River Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*) is listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 — the highest level of legal protection. It is also listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List. Primary threats: river fragmentation by barrages and dams (Farakka, Tehri) blocking dolphin movement; accidental entanglement in fishing nets; river pollution; noise from boat traffic; sand mining. It navigates using echolocation (functionally blind), adapted to turbid river water.

CONCEPT

Gangetic River Dolphin key facts: found in Ganga, Brahmaputra, Meghna, Karnaphuli, Sangu river systems. National Aquatic Animal designation: 2009. Project Dolphin: launched October 5, 2020 (World Habitat Day) by PM Modi. Key dolphin habitats: Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary (Bihar, Bhagalpur — the only dolphin sanctuary in India), upper Ganga between Hastinapur and Bijnor (UP). Dolphin count: approximately 3,700 Gangetic dolphins remain. Dolphins as bioindicators: healthy dolphin population indicates clean, free-flowing water with adequate fish stocks.

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