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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz — March 17, 2026

17 March 2026

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17 March 2026 · 10 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Q 1 The Sahitya Akademi was established in which year?

A 1947

B 1950

C 1954 ✓

D 1961

EXPLANATION

Sahitya Akademi was established in 1954 under the Ministry of Education as India's national academy of letters.

CONCEPT

Sahitya Akademi gives awards in 24 languages — 22 Scheduled (Eighth Schedule) languages plus English and Rajasthani. The prize is Rs. 1 lakh cash, a copper plaque, and a shawl.

Q 2 Navtej Sarna won the Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 for which work?

A The Book of Nanak

B Crimson Spring ✓

C We Weren't Lovers Like That

D Jeete Jee Allahabad

EXPLANATION

Navtej Sarna won the Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 in the English category for his novel *Crimson Spring*. *Jeete Jee Allahabad* (memoir) was the Hindi winner by Mamta Kalia.

CONCEPT

Navtej Sarna is a former Indian Foreign Service officer who served as India's Ambassador to the USA (2016-18) and High Commissioner to the UK (2014-16). The Sahitya Akademi recognises works in 24 Indian languages.

Q 3 How many languages does the Sahitya Akademi recognise for its annual awards?

A 22

B 23

C 24 ✓

D 25

EXPLANATION

Sahitya Akademi awards cover 24 languages — the 22 Scheduled languages of the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, plus English and Rajasthani.

CONCEPT

The Eighth Schedule currently lists 22 languages. The 92nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003 added Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, and Santhali, taking the total from 18 to 22.

Q 4 India's NavIC satellite navigation system provides coverage up to how many kilometres beyond India's borders?

A 500 km

B 1,000 km

C 1,500 km ✓

D 2,000 km

EXPLANATION

NavIC is designed to provide coverage over India and up to 1,500 km beyond India's borders, encompassing the South Asian region including neighbouring countries.

CONCEPT

NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation), earlier called IRNSS, became operational in 2018. It uses 7 satellites (3 GEO + 4 GSO). Position accuracy is better than 20 metres. It is India's answer to GPS (USA), GLONASS (Russia), Galileo (EU), and BeiDou (China).

Q 5

IRNSS-1F's atomic clock failure in March 2026 is significant because it was which type of satellite in the NavIC constellation?

- A Polar Orbit (PEO) satellite
- B Medium Earth Orbit (MEO) satellite
- C Geostationary (GEO) satellite ✓
- D Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite

EXPLANATION

IRNSS-1F is a Geostationary (GEO) satellite in the NavIC constellation. GEO satellites orbit at approximately 36,000 km altitude and remain stationary over the equator, always visible from the same point on Earth.

CONCEPT

NavIC uses two orbit types: 3 GEO (Geostationary) + 4 GSO (Geosynchronous inclined orbit). IRNSS-1A was the first NavIC satellite to suffer atomic clock failure (2017). IRNSS-1I was launched in 2018 as a replacement. NVS-01 (2023) is the first next-generation NavIC satellite with indigenous Indian atomic clocks.

Q 6

The World Bank loan for the Uttar Pradesh Clean Air Management Program (2026) was provided through which World Bank lending arm?

- A IDA (International Development Association)
- B IBRD (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) ✓
- C IFC (International Finance Corporation)
- D MIGA (Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency)

EXPLANATION

The \$300 million UP Clean Air Program loan was provided by IBRD (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development), the World Bank arm that lends to middle-income countries like India.

CONCEPT

IBRD lends to middle-income and creditworthy countries at near-market rates. IDA lends to the poorest countries at concessional rates. India borrows from IBRD. The World Bank Group has 5 institutions: IBRD, IDA, IFC, MIGA, and ICSID.

Q 7 The UP Clean Air Management Program aims to transition over 700 brick kilns to which cleaner technology?

- A Electric kilns
- B Solar kilns
- C Zig-Zag kilns ✓
- D Tunnel furnace kilns

EXPLANATION

The program targets transition of 700+ brick kilns to Zig-Zag kiln technology, which reduces coal consumption by 20-25% and particulate matter (PM) emissions by 60-70% compared to traditional Fixed Chimney kilns.

CONCEPT

Uttar Pradesh has one of India's highest concentrations of brick kilns. Traditional Fixed Chimney Bull's Trench Kilns (FCTBK) are highly polluting. Alternatives include Zig-Zag kilns, Vertical Shaft Brick Kilns (VSBK), and tunnel kilns. India's National Clean Air Programme (NCAP, 2019) targets 40% PM reduction by 2026 in 131 non-attainment cities.

Q 8 The plant species *Henckelia monophylla*, rediscovered in Arunachal Pradesh after 189 years, belongs to which plant family?

- A Orchidaceae
- B Gesneriaceae ✓
- C Euphorbiaceae
- D Fabaceae

EXPLANATION

Henckelia monophylla belongs to the family Gesneriaceae. The species is notable for having a single leaf (monophylla = one leaf) and was last collected in 1837 before being rediscovered in 2026.

CONCEPT

Botanical Survey of India (BSI) conducts systematic flora surveys under the Flora of India programme. The Eastern Himalayas (including Arunachal Pradesh) is one of India's four biodiversity hotspots. Rediscovery of a species after 189 years highlights the importance of long-term botanical surveys.

Q 9

Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary, where ZSI documented nine new species in 2026, is located in which district of Tamil Nadu?

A Nilgiris

B Coimbatore

C Theni ✓

D Tirunelveli

EXPLANATION

Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary (also called the High Wavy Mountains) is located in Theni district, Tamil Nadu, within the Western Ghats biodiversity hotspot.

CONCEPT

Megamalai is contiguous with Periyar Tiger Reserve and is home to elephants, leopards, sloth bears, and the endangered lion-tailed macaque. The Western Ghats is a UNESCO World Heritage Site (2012) and one of India's four biodiversity hotspots. ZSI = Zoological Survey of India (headquarters in Kolkata).

Q 10

The Lower Kopili Hydroelectric Project (120 MW), inaugurated in 2026, is situated on a tributary of which major river?

A Ganga

B Lohit

C Brahmaputra ✓

D Mahanadi

EXPLANATION

The Kopili River, on which the Lower Kopili HEP is built, is a tributary of the Brahmaputra River in Assam. The 120 MW project strengthens clean energy infrastructure in Northeast India.

CONCEPT

The Brahmaputra (called Tsangpo in Tibet, Siang/Dihang in Arunachal) is India's largest river by volume. Its major tributaries in Assam include Subansiri, Jia Bharali, Manas, and Kopili. India has pledged 500 GW of non-fossil fuel electricity capacity by 2030 under its NDC commitments.

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