

Daily Current Affairs

11 July 2025

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Daily Current Affairs Quiz 11 July 2026

Q1. India's peak power demand reached a record high of around ____ in May 2026.

- (a) 250 GW
- (b) 271 GW
- (c) 300 GW
- (d) 225 GW

Ans.(b)

Sol. The correct answer is (B) 271 GW

Explanation:

- Official data compiled by the Ministry of Power indicated that India's peak power demand reached a record-breaking level of approximately 271 GW (specifically around 270.82 GW) in May 2026, driven by intense seasonal heatwaves across the country.
- This unprecedented surge in electricity consumption was fueled by widespread cooling requirements alongside structural expansions in industrial manufacturing, rapid urbanization, and commercial activities.
- To successfully manage this demand surge without severe grid failures, the central government and the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) coordinated closely with generating companies to maximize supply availability.
- The nation's total available electricity generation capacity successfully expanded to 284 GW during this period, establishing a critical buffer that allowed the unified national grid to absorb the peak loading without widespread rolling blackouts.

Information Booster:

- This persistent escalation in power demand is part of a broader multi-year trend driven by rapid economic development, widespread rural electrification, and the expansion of power-intensive sectors like data centers and electric vehicle infrastructure.
- Looking ahead, projections released by the Union Power Minister indicate that India's peak electricity demand is expected to climb even further, approaching an estimated 300 GW in the upcoming financial year (FY27).
- To sustain such massive demand spikes without relying solely on fossil fuels, India is accelerating its focus on large-scale Energy Storage Systems (ESS), including Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and Pumped Storage Projects (PSPs).

Additional Knowledge:

- 250 GW (Option A): This option represents an intermediate peak demand milestone that India approached and crossed during peak seasons in previous years, but it falls short of the record set in May 2026.
- 300 GW (Option C): This figure represents the official projected peak power demand that India's grid operators and generating utilities are preparing to manage next year, driven by the rollout of artificial intelligence infrastructure and data networks.
- 225 GW (Option D): This represents an older peak demand benchmark from previous years, showing how rapidly the nation's baseline electricity requirements have scaled up due to economic growth.

Q2. According to the Draft National Electricity Policy 2026, market-based power systems are proposed in place of long-term:

- (a) Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs)
- (b) Fuel Supply Agreements (FSAs)
- (c) Coal Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs)
- (d) Open Access Agreements (OAAs)

Ans.(c)

Sol. The correct answer is (C) Coal Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs)

Explanation:

- Historically, India's power procurement framework relied heavily on long-term Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) signed between distribution companies (DISCOMs) and thermal power stations, typically stretching across fixed durations of 25 years.
- The Draft National Electricity Policy (NEP) 2026 highlights that these long-term coal PPAs introduce significant structural rigidity into the electricity market, forcing DISCOMs to pay fixed capacity charges even when cheaper power options are readily accessible on electricity exchanges.
- To resolve these deep-seated financial imbalances, the policy introduces market-centric frameworks designed to gradually phase down reliance on rigid long-term coal PPAs, favoring flexible day-ahead and real-time market transactions instead.
- Transitioning to market-based systems allows distribution companies to dynamically optimize their commercial power procurement portfolios, lower the aggregate cost of power supplied to the end consumer, and minimize financial stress within the distribution ecosystem.

Information Booster:

- Long-term PPAs often insulate older, less efficient coal plants from market competition, creating a scenario where cleaner and more economical energy resources are sidelined due to pre-existing legal lock-ins.
- The Draft NEP 2026 aims to reduce the financial losses of DISCOMs by making tariffs more cost-reflective and lowering high cross-subsidies that elevate industrial electricity tariffs and affect economic competitiveness.
- Furthermore, the policy outlines Resource Adequacy (RA) plans that require DISCOMs to systematically plan their capacity portfolios through advanced decentralized methods rather than relying entirely on legacy power agreements.

Additional Knowledge:

- Renewable Energy Certificates (Option A): RECs are market-based instruments designed to incentivize green energy generation by allowing entities to fulfill their renewable purchase obligations; they are not replaced by market-based power systems.
- Fuel Supply Agreements (Option B): FSAs are legally binding commercial contracts signed directly between coal mining firms (such as Coal India Limited) and power developers to secure fuel inputs, which remain distinct from electricity dispatch markets.

- Open Access Agreements (Option D): OAAs enable high-volume industrial consumers to buy power directly from open markets or third-party generators, an operational freedom that the new draft policy intends to strengthen rather than eliminate.

Q3. The India Energy Stack (IES) is an initiative of which ministry?

- (a) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- (b) Ministry of Heavy Industries
- (c) Ministry of Power
- (d) Ministry of Coal

Ans.(c)

Sol. The correct answer is (C) Ministry of Power

Explanation:

- The India Energy Stack (IES) is a pioneering digital public infrastructure (DPI) initiative spearheaded by the Ministry of Power, designed to systematically transform the operational dynamics of the country's power sector.
- REC Limited serves as the official nodal agency for this project, collaborating closely with FSR Global as the primary knowledge partner to develop and deploy this expansive data architecture.
- The primary objective of the India Energy Stack is to build a unified, standardized digital framework that enables secure, seamless, and verifiable data exchange across diverse systems without needing expensive, customized software integrations.
- This shared data backbone is crucial for managing India's complex, multi-tiered power sector, where electricity is a concurrent subject and distribution is overseen by a mix of state-owned and private utility entities.

Information Booster:

- The IES structure enables a wide range of advanced use cases, such as peer-to-peer trading of surplus domestic solar energy, creating unified digital records for new connections, and making millions of distributed energy resources visible to the grid.
- By leveraging artificial intelligence on top of this standardized data network, the system can improve demand forecasting, balance grids heavily reliant on variable renewables, and implement dynamic power pricing models.
- The initiative aligns with broader governance goals to move away from fragmented, legacy reporting formats and establish real-time, machine-readable datasets that streamline regulatory compliance and foster innovation.

Additional Knowledge:

- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (Option A): While MNRE plays a key role in adding wind and solar capacity to support India's climate goals, the structural administration of the core grid and the digital energy stack falls under the Ministry of Power.
- Ministry of Heavy Industries (Option B): This ministry administers the automotive sector and schemes like FAME, which support electric vehicle manufacturing, but it does not govern power sector digital infrastructure.

- Ministry of Coal (Option D): This ministry focuses on maximizing domestic coal production and managing fuel reserves to ensure a steady supply of inputs to thermal power plants, remaining distinct from downstream grid data platforms.

Q4. The Draft National Electricity Policy 2026 proposes a shift towards:

- (a) Greater dependence on long-term coal power purchase agreements
- (b) Market-based power systems
- (c) Complete privatisation of power distribution companies
- (d) Exclusive reliance on renewable energy sources

Ans.(b)

Sol. The correct answer is (B) Market-based power systems

Explanation:

- The Ministry of Power released the new Draft National Electricity Policy (NEP) 2026 to modernize India's power sector in alignment with the long-term vision of Viksit Bharat @2047. The policy, once fully finalized, aims to formally replace the outdated National Electricity Policy of 2005.
- One of the foundational structural updates embedded within the Draft NEP 2026 is a definitive movement toward market-based power systems, transitioning away from traditional paradigms that leaned heavily on rigid, inflexible long-term arrangements.
- By promoting competitive power markets and spot exchanges, the policy seeks to cultivate enhanced flexibility, improve financial transparency, and bring down procurement costs for distribution utilities across the nation.
- The implementation of market-based power systems allows for real-time price discovery and efficient scheduling of electricity, which is highly crucial for integrating large shares of fluctuating green energy into the national grid.

Information Booster:

- The original National Electricity Policy of 2005 was centered around resolving primary power structural deficiencies, such as addressing severe generation deficits, ensuring basic universal electrification, and building out high-voltage transmission networks.
- While the 2005 policy successfully drove a massive fourfold increase in generation capacity and paved the way for a unified national grid in December 2013, the modern grid requires dynamic mechanisms to manage variable renewable sources.
- The Draft NEP 2026 outlines explicit targets to elevate the per capita electricity consumption within India to 2,000 kWh by the year 2030, and further scale it up to exceed 4,000 kWh by 2047.

Additional Knowledge:

- Greater dependence on long-term coal power purchase agreements (Option A): The draft policy actually discourages lock-in periods of 25 years with traditional coal assets, viewing them as obstacles to commercial flexibility and modern decarbonization goals.
- Complete privatisation of power distribution companies (Option C): Although the policy layout strongly advocates for public-private partnerships (PPP) and structural listing of state utilities to eradicate regional distribution monopolies, it does not mandate absolute or total privatization across the country.

- Exclusive reliance on renewable energy sources (Option D): India continues to utilize a balanced energy strategy. To preserve grid stability, the policy continues to incorporate essential baseload power from advanced thermal generators and nuclear plants alongside extensive renewable capacity.

Q5. India is working towards achieving how much non-fossil power capacity by 2030?

- (a) 300 GW
- (b) 400 GW
- (c) 450 GW
- (d) 500 GW

Ans.(d)

Sol. The correct answer is (D) 500 GW

Explanation:

- As a core element of its global climate commitments and green energy transition strategy, India has set an ambitious national target to establish 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based installed power generation capacity by the year 2030.
- This target was originally declared as a key pillar of India's 'Panchamrit' commitments at the COP26 climate summit and was subsequently integrated into the country's updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
- The 500 GW goal encompasses a diverse range of non-fossil energy technologies, including solar photovoltaic systems, onshore and offshore wind farms, large-scale hydro projects, biomass power plants, and nuclear generation capacity.
- Achieving this target requires a major overhaul of the national grid, supported by extensive intra-state transmission networks and substantial energy storage capacity to ensure stability when handling large amounts of variable renewable energy.

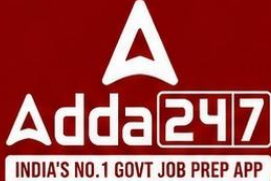
Information Booster:

- India achieved its original Paris Agreement commitment—to secure 40% of its cumulative installed power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources—in 2021, nine full years ahead of the initial 2030 target deadline.
- The updated NDCs commit India to reducing the emissions intensity of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 45 percent below 2005 baseline levels by 2030, serving as an intermediate milestone toward its net-zero emissions target for 2070.
- To support this clean energy integration, the Draft National Electricity Policy 2026 mandates distribution companies to achieve single-digit technical and commercial losses and outlines extensive deployment models for battery storage.

Additional Knowledge:

- 300 GW (Option A): This value represents an older cumulative milestone for solar energy capacity alone within the larger 2030 renewable target matrix, rather than the total combined non-fossil target.

- 400 GW (Option B): While this figure marks a significant intermediate milestone that India's total installed capacity from all energy sources crossed in recent years, it does not represent the specific non-fossil goal for 2030.
- 450 GW (Option C): This was an early target configuration considered during initial renewable energy planning phases, which was later updated to the more comprehensive 500 GW non-fossil capacity goal to include nuclear and large hydro resources.

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