

# Daily Current Affairs

## 31 August 2026

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## Daily Current Affairs Quiz 31 August 2026

**Q1.** As of 31 July 2026, India's installed non-fossil fuel-based power capacity reached which milestone?

- (a) 250.50 GW
- (b) 275.25 GW
- (c) 300.50 GW
- (d) 325.75 GW

**Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** The correct answer is (C) 300.50 GW

**Explanation:**

- As of 31 July 2026, India crossed a historic milestone in its clean energy trajectory by achieving 300.50 GW of total installed non-fossil fuel-based power generation capacity.
- This non-fossil capacity includes installed infrastructure across solar PV, wind power, biomass, waste-to-energy, small hydro, large hydro projects, and nuclear power installations.
- Crossing the 300 GW threshold underscores India's position as one of the fastest-growing renewable energy markets globally, steadily advancing toward the 500 GW target set for 2030.
- Accelerated project commissioning by state and private power producers, supported by simplified land acquisition policy and streamlined grid access, enabled this rapid capacity expansion.
- Achieving over 300.50 GW ensures that clean energy sources constitute a major share of total power generation infrastructure across the national electricity grid.

**Information Booster:**

- **National Target:** India aims to achieve 500 GW of non-fossil energy capacity by 2030, as pledged under its international Panchamrit targets.
- **Installed Capacity Components:** Comprises solar power (~164.59 GW), wind power, hydro projects, nuclear facilities, and bioenergy units.
- **Central Electricity Authority (CEA):** Statutory organization under the Ministry of Power that monitors power system planning, generation statistics, and technical grid standards in India.
- **International Solar Alliance (ISA):** Joint initiative launched by India and France at COP21 in Paris to promote solar technology deployment worldwide.

**Additional Knowledge:**

- **Option A (250.50 GW):** Represents an earlier non-fossil milestone achieved prior to recent utility-scale solar and wind project commissionings.
- **Option B (275.25 GW):** Incorrect intermediate figure; represents non-fossil installed capacity recorded in early 2025.
- **Option D (325.75 GW):** Exceeds the recorded installed figure of 300.50 GW as of July 31, 2026, representing future capacity projections.

**Q2.** Which scheme supports domestic manufacturing in sectors such as solar PV modules in India?

- (a) Production Linked Incentive scheme
- (b) National Clean Energy Fund
- (c) UJALA Scheme
- (d) PM-KUSUM Scheme

**Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** The correct answer is (A) Production Linked Incentive scheme

**Explanation:**

- The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for High-Efficiency Solar PV Modules is India's flagship financial incentive policy designed to build domestic manufacturing capacity in the solar supply chain.

- Administered by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), the PLI scheme encourages setting up fully integrated solar manufacturing units (covering polysilicon, ingots, wafers, cells, and modules).
- By offering performance-linked financial rewards based on domestic sales and efficiency thresholds, the scheme aims to reduce India's import dependency on foreign solar equipment.
- The PLI framework strengthens self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat) in clean technology manufacturing, creates skilled industrial jobs, and enhances green export capability.
- Combined with custom duty measures like the Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on imported solar cells and modules, the PLI scheme has accelerated private investment in domestic gigafactories.

**Information Booster:**

- **PLI Scheme Scope:** Launched across 14 key strategic sectors including electronics, pharmaceuticals, automotive, advanced chemistry cell (ACC) batteries, and solar PV modules.
- **Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM):** Policy mandate requiring government-funded solar projects to source modules exclusively from ALMM-certified domestic facilities.
- **National Green Hydrogen Mission:** Complementary scheme aiming to establish domestic electrolyser manufacturing capacity through targeted financial incentives.
- **Make in India Initiative:** Overarching national campaign initiated in 2014 to transform India into a global manufacturing and design hub.

**Additional Knowledge:**

- **Option B (National Clean Energy Fund):** Created in 2010 using a carbon tax (clean energy cess) on coal to fund clean energy research and environmental projects.
- **Option C (UJALA Scheme):** Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All; focuses on promoting energy efficiency through widespread distribution of affordable LED bulbs, tube lights, and energy-efficient fans.
- **Option D (PM-KUSUM Scheme):** Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan; aims to provide energy security to farmers by solarizing agricultural water pumps and grid-connected solar power plants.

**Q3.** India's renewable electricity generation reached how much in 2025-26?

- (a) 377.79 billion units
- (b) 427.79 billion units
- (c) 477.79 billion units
- (d) 527.79 billion units

**Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** The correct answer is (C) 477.79 billion units

**Explanation:**

- Official annual power sector performance figures indicated that India's renewable electricity generation expanded to 477.79 billion units (BU) during the financial year 2025-26.
- This represents a substantial surge in clean power generation, driven by heavy solar and wind capacity additions coupled with improved transmission availability.
- Increased renewable generation plays a pivotal role in meeting peak daytime power demands, offsetting coal-based thermal generation, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions per unit of GDP.
- The growth reflects the impact of utility-scale solar parks, rooftop solar initiatives, and expanded offshore/onshore wind projects deployed across key states.

• Enhanced energy storage systems (BESS) and pumped hydro projects have further improved the integration of variable renewable generation into the central national grid.

Information Booster:

- Billion Units (BU): 1 BU equals 1 TWh (Terawatt-hour) or 1 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electrical energy generated.
- PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana: A central scheme providing subsidy support to install rooftop solar systems in 1 crore households, generating localized clean electricity.
- Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO): Mandatory legal obligation requiring distribution licensees (DISCOMs) to purchase a minimum specified percentage of electricity from renewable sources.
- Energy Mix Transition: The share of clean electricity generation in India's overall energy generation matrix continues to grow, supporting the country's climate commitments.

Additional Knowledge:

- Option A (377.79 billion units): Incorrect lower figure; represents clean generation numbers recorded in earlier baseline performance years.
- Option B (427.79 billion units): Incorrect intermediate figure; underestimates the total renewable generation recorded for FY 2025–26.
- Option D (527.79 billion units): Incorrect higher figure; projects potential future targets rather than actual generation figures reported for FY 2025–26.

**Q4.** Which of the following energy resources are included under non-fossil fuel-based electricity generation in India?

1. Solar energy
2. Wind energy
3. Hydropower
4. Nuclear power

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** The correct answer is (D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct: Solar energy utilizes photovoltaic technology or concentrated solar power to convert sunlight directly into electricity without fossil fuel combustion.
- Statement 2 is correct: Wind energy captures kinetic energy from wind currents using turbines, generating zero direct carbon emissions during operation.
- Statement 3 is correct: Hydropower (both small hydro plants and large hydro dams) generates electricity using flowing water, making it a major non-fossil renewable energy component.
- Statement 4 is correct: Nuclear power utilizes atomic fission of uranium/thorium to produce high-density electricity; since it operates without burning hydrocarbon fuels, it is classified under non-fossil fuel capacity.
- Together, solar, wind, hydro, bioenergy, and nuclear power make up India's non-fossil fuel capacity portfolio, supporting the target of achieving 500 GW of non-fossil energy capacity by 2030.

**Information Booster:**

- **Classification Distinction:** 'Renewable Energy' traditionally includes solar, wind, biomass, and hydro, whereas 'Non-Fossil Fuel Capacity' includes all renewables PLUS nuclear power.
- **Large Hydro Reclassification:** In 2019, the Government of India officially reclassified large hydro projects (>25 MW) as renewable energy sources, aligning with non-fossil reporting frameworks.
- **Nuclear Power Nodal Body:** Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) operates commercial nuclear power plants in India under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).
- **Three-Stage Nuclear Power Program:** Formulated by Dr. Homi J. Bhabha to utilize India's vast thorium reserves through Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs), Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs), and Advanced Heavy Water Reactors (AHWRs).

**Additional Knowledge:**

- **Option A (1, 2 and 3 only):** Incorrect because it excludes nuclear power, which is explicitly classified under non-fossil energy resources.
- **Option B (1, 3 and 4 only):** Incorrect because wind energy is a core constituent of non-fossil power capacity.
- **Option C (2, 3 and 4 only):** Incorrect because solar energy is the single largest contributor to non-fossil energy generation in India.

**Q5.** Consider the following statements regarding India's non-fossil fuel-based power capacity as of 31 July 2026:

1. Non-fossil fuel-based power capacity accounted for more than 54% of India's total installed electricity generation capacity.
2. Solar energy was the largest component of India's non-fossil fuel-based power capacity.
3. India's installed solar power capacity stood at 164.59 GW.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** The correct answer is (D) 1, 2 and 3

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** As of July 31, 2026, non-fossil fuel-based capacity surpassed 54% of India's total installed power capacity, marking major progress toward energy transition commitments.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Solar power constitutes the largest individual segment within India's non-fossil electricity portfolio, outpacing wind, large hydro, and nuclear capacity.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Official energy data recorded India's total installed solar power generation capacity at approximately 164.59 GW as of July 31, 2026.
- **The strategic push toward non-fossil capacity is aligned with India's updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) presented under the Paris Agreement.**
- **Massive grid infrastructure additions, renewable energy zones, and floating solar parks have significantly accelerated capacity installation across major resource-rich states like Rajasthan and Gujarat.**

**Information Booster:**

- **COP26 Commitments (Panchamrit Target):** India committed to achieving 500 GW of non-fossil energy capacity by 2030 and reaching net-zero carbon emissions by 2070.
- **National Green Hydrogen Mission:** Aimed at producing 5 million metric tonnes (MMT) of green hydrogen per annum by 2030, integrated with renewable power capacity growth.

- Central Nodal Agencies: Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) and Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) drive project tendering and financial facilitation.
- Green Energy Corridor (GEC): Infrastructure project facilitating the integration and grid transmission of large-scale renewable energy from generation hubs to consumer load centers.

Additional Knowledge:

- Option A (1 and 2 only): Incorrect because Statement 3 is also factually correct regarding the installed solar power capacity milestone of 164.59 GW.
- Option B (2 and 3 only): Incorrect because Statement 1 is accurate regarding the non-fossil share exceeding 54% of total grid capacity.
- Option C (1 and 3 only): Incorrect because Statement 2 accurately identifies solar energy as the largest renewable energy contributor.



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