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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz, June 8, 2026

8 June 2026



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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED ANSWER KEY

Daily Quiz, June 8, 2026

8 June 2026 · 14 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Question 1

of 14

[Source →](#)

The High Seas Treaty, a backdrop to World Oceans Day 2026, was adopted under which parent convention?

- A The Convention on Biological Diversity
- B The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) ✓
- C The Ramsar Convention
- D The MARPOL Convention

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

FACT: The High Seas Treaty, formally the Agreement on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), was adopted in 2023 under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and entered into force in January 2026.

ANALYSIS: It is the first treaty to provide for conserving marine biodiversity in the high seas, the nearly two-thirds of the ocean lying beyond national jurisdiction.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

UNCLOS (1982) is the constitution of the oceans, defining maritime zones such as the territorial sea, the Exclusive Economic Zone (up to 200 nautical miles) and the high seas. The BBNJ Agreement allows the creation of Marine Protected Areas on the high seas, mandates environmental impact assessments, and provides for sharing the benefits of marine genetic resources.

It is central to the global 30x30 target of protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030. World Oceans Day (June 8), proposed at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit and designated by the UN in 2008, carried the 2026 theme "Reimagine: Beyond the World We Know, a New Relationship with Our Ocean," with an action theme on strong Marine Protected Areas.

It links to SDG 14 (Life Below Water).

Q1

 CONCEPT KIT **CROSS-PAPER**


GS3 (ocean governance, biodiversity), GS2 (international conventions).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

BBNJ, UNCLOS, Marine Protected Areas, 30x30.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

linking the High Seas Treaty to the CBD rather than UNCLOS.

 **EXAM TIP**

BBNJ under UNCLOS; in force January 2026; high seas = beyond national jurisdiction.

 **INTERVIEW**

Can the high seas be effectively governed without a global enforcement body?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 2

of 14

[Source →](#)

India's Deep Ocean Mission aims to send a crewed submersible to 6,000 metres depth. What is the submersible called and which agency built it?

- A Sagar Nidhi, built by ISRO
- B **Matsya-6000, built by the National Institute of Ocean Technology ✓**
- C Varuna, built by DRDO
- D Nireekshak, built by the Geological Survey of India

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
 **EXPLANATION**

FACT: The Deep Ocean Mission's crewed submersible is Matsya-6000, designed to carry three people to 6,000 metres, and it is built by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT). **ANALYSIS:** The mission, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, targets the study of deep-sea biodiversity and the assessment of polymetallic nodules in the Central Indian Ocean Basin.






 **CONCEPT NOTE**

The Deep Ocean Mission (DOM), approved in 2021 with an outlay of around Rs 4,077 crore, is the flagship of India's blue economy. Its crewed-submersible programme is named Samudrayaan, with Matsya-6000 as the vehicle.

India holds an exploration contract from the International Seabed Authority for polymetallic nodules (rich in manganese, nickel, cobalt and copper) in the Central Indian Ocean Basin. The DOM is run by the Ministry of Earth Sciences; NIOT (Chennai) is the lead developer.

India's coastline is about 11,098 km (including islands) and its Exclusive Economic Zone about 2.37 million sq km. A central tension is between extracting deep-sea minerals (vital for the energy transition) and protecting poorly understood, slow-growing marine ecosystems.

Q2  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 (blue economy, S&T, conservation), GS1 (oceanography).
 MAINS KEYWORDS	Deep Ocean Mission, Samudrayaan, polymetallic nodules, blue economy.
 COMMON MISTAKE	attributing the submersible to ISRO or DRDO rather than NIOT/MoES.
 EXAM TIP	DOM nodal ministry = MoES; submersible = Matsya-6000; resource = nodules in the Central Indian Ocean Basin.
 INTERVIEW	Should India pause deep-sea mining until ecological risks are better understood?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 3

of 14

[Source →](#)

The Bonn Climate Conference (SB64) is a session of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies. Which two bodies are these?

- A The COP and the CMA
- B The SBI and the SBSTA ✓
- C The IPCC and the GCF
- D The CBD and the GEF

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
 **EXPLANATION**

FACT: The UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies are the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA). **ANALYSIS:** They meet mid-year in Bonn to do the technical groundwork that prepares decisions for the year-end Conference of the Parties (COP), the political summit.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

The UNFCCC (1992, from the Rio Earth Summit) is the parent climate treaty; the COP is its supreme decision-making body. The SBI reviews how commitments are being implemented, while the SBSTA provides scientific and methodological advice.

SB64 (June 8 to 18, 2026, in Bonn, where the UNFCCC Secretariat is based) sits between COP30 (Brazil) and COP31 (Turkiye). A headline demand this year is to triple grant-based adaptation finance to at least \$120 billion a year by 2035, up from the \$40 billion goal set at COP26 in Glasgow.

Developing countries, including India, stress the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC) and prefer grants over debt-creating loans. The UNEP Adaptation Gap Report tracks the shortfall.

Q3  **CONCEPT KIT** **CROSS-PAPER**

GS3 (climate change, climate finance), GS2 (international negotiations).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

SBI, SBSTA, adaptation finance, CBDR-RC, NCQG.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing the Subsidiary Bodies with the COP or the IPCC.

 **EXAM TIP**

SB64 = SBI + SBSTA; mid-year talks in Bonn.

 **INTERVIEW**

Why does adaptation finance lag mitigation finance globally?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 4

of 14

[Source →](#)

The Land Port Management System is operated by which body?

A The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs

B The Land Ports Authority of India ✓

C The Directorate General of Foreign Trade

D The Border Security Force

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

FACT: The Land Port Management System (LPMS) is operated by the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI), a statutory body under the Department of Border Management in the Ministry of Home Affairs. **ANALYSIS:** The LPMS digitises and integrates operations across India's 15 land ports, combining trade facilitation with border security.



CONCEPT NOTE

The LPAI develops, manages and regulates India's land ports (Integrated Check Posts). The LPMS is a single-window platform providing clearance, slot booking, digital payments and tracking, and it integrates with ICEGATE (the customs portal) and the Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP).

India's 15 land ports lie on borders with Bangladesh (Petrapole, the largest; Agartala; Dawki), Nepal (Raxaul, Rupaidiha, Jogbani), Pakistan (Attari, Dera Baba Nanak), Bhutan (Darranga) and Myanmar (Moreh). Digitising land ports supports the Act East Policy and neighbourhood connectivity, links to PM GatiShakti, and improves oversight at sensitive borders.

Distinguish the LPAI (land ports, under MHA) from port authorities for seaports (under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways).

Q4  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 (trade facilitation, internal security), GS2 (neighbourhood).
 MAINS KEYWORDS	LPAI, Integrated Check Posts, ULIP, PM GatiShakti.
 COMMON MISTAKE	crediting the LPMS to customs or the BSF rather than the LPAI.
 EXAM TIP	LPAI is statutory, under the Department of Border Management, MHA; Petrapole is the largest land port.
 INTERVIEW	How does India balance trade facilitation with security at land borders?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 5

of 14

[Source →](#)

The Bhakra Dam, in the news over structural-safety concerns, is built on which river?

A The Beas

B The Sutlej ✓

C The Ravi

D The Chenab

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The Bhakra Dam is a concrete gravity dam on the Sutlej river in Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh, forming the Gobind Sagar reservoir. **ANALYSIS:** Its wall reportedly deflecting beyond the permissible limit prompted an IIT-Roorkee safety study and renewed attention on India's ageing dams under the Dam Safety Act, 2021.






📖 CONCEPT NOTE

Bhakra is one of India's tallest dams and a foundation of the Green Revolution, irrigating Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan and generating hydropower. It is managed by the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB).

The Dam Safety Act, 2021 created a national framework: the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) as regulator, the National Committee on Dam Safety for policy, and State Dam Safety Organisations. The Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP), supported by the World Bank, funds dam strengthening.

India operates over 6,000 large dams, many ageing past their design life, with sedimentation and climate-driven extreme rainfall raising failure risk. The Sutlej is one of the eastern rivers allocated to India under the Indus Waters Treaty.

Q5  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 (disaster management, infrastructure), GS1 (geography).
 MAINS KEYWORDS	Dam Safety Act 2021, NDSA, DRIP, sedimentation.
 COMMON MISTAKE	placing Bhakra on the Beas or Chenab; it is on the Sutlej.
 EXAM TIP	Bhakra = Sutlej, Gobind Sagar reservoir, BBMB; Dam Safety Act 2021 created NDSA.
 INTERVIEW	Are India's ageing dams a hidden disaster risk?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 6

of 14

[Source →](#)

Under the Indus Waters Treaty, relevant to the Kirthai-II project, which set of rivers was allocated largely to Pakistan?

- A Ravi, Beas and Sutlej
- B Indus, Jhelum and Chenab ✓
- C Ganga, Yamuna and Kosi
- D Krishna, Godavari and Cauvery

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Under the Indus Waters Treaty (1960), the three western rivers, the Indus, Jhelum and Chenab, were allocated largely to Pakistan, while the eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej) went to India. **ANALYSIS:** India retains limited non-consumptive and run-of-river rights on the western rivers, which is why projects like the 930 MW Kirthai-II on the Chenab are permissible.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

The Indus Waters Treaty was signed in 1960 by Jawaharlal Nehru and Ayub Khan and brokered by the World Bank. India placed the treaty in abeyance in 2025 after the Pahalgam terror attack, freeing it to accelerate hydropower projects on the western rivers without the treaty's procedural constraints.

Kirthai-II is a run-of-river project in Kishtwar, Jammu and Kashmir, developed by Chenab Valley Power Projects Limited (CVPPL), a joint venture of NHPC (51%) and the J&K State Power Development Corporation (49%). The Government of India's position is that Jammu and Kashmir, including areas under Pakistan's illegal occupation, is an integral part of India and that Pakistan must vacate the territory it illegally occupies.

Other Chenab projects include Pakal Dul, Kiru, Kwar and Ratle.

Q6
 **CONCEPT KIT**
 **CROSS-PAPER**


GS2 (India-Pakistan, treaties), GS3 (energy, water).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Indus Waters Treaty, run-of-river, abeyance, water diplomacy.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

swapping the eastern (India) and western (Pakistan) rivers.

 **EXAM TIP**

Eastern = Ravi, Beas, Sutlej (India); Western = Indus, Jhelum, Chenab; treaty in abeyance since 2025.

 **INTERVIEW**

Should India use water as strategic leverage against cross-border terrorism?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 7

of 14

[Source →](#)

Maj. Abhilasha Barak won the UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award, which recognises the advancement of which UN Security Council resolution?

- A Resolution 1267 (sanctions)
- B **Resolution 1325 (Women, Peace and Security) ✓**
- C Resolution 2166 (aviation safety)
- D Resolution 1373 (counter-terrorism)

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
 **EXPLANATION**

FACT: The UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award recognises the advancement of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. **ANALYSIS:** Major Abhilasha Barak, India's first woman combat aviator, won it for her peacekeeping work with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), becoming the third Indian peacekeeper to receive the award.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

UNSC Resolution 1325 (2000) was the first to address the disproportionate impact of armed conflict on women and to stress their role in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and peacekeeping. The Military Gender Advocate award was instituted in 2016.

India is among the largest contributors of troops to UN peacekeeping and has championed the deployment of women peacekeepers, who often improve community trust and the protection of vulnerable groups. UNIFIL has operated in Lebanon since 1978.

Major Barak served as an Engagement Team Commander and Gender Focal Point, conducting hundreds of gender-focused field activities. The award reinforces India's Women, Peace and Security agenda and its peacekeeping leadership.

Q7

 CONCEPT KIT **CROSS-PAPER**


GS2 (UN, peacekeeping), GS1 (women in society).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

UNSCR 1325, Women Peace and Security, UNIFIL, peacekeeping.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing Resolution 1325 (WPS) with counter-terrorism resolutions like 1373.

 **EXAM TIP**

UNSCR 1325 (2000) = Women, Peace and Security; award since 2016.

 **INTERVIEW**

How do women peacekeepers change outcomes on the ground?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 8

of 14

[Source →](#)

World Oceans Day is observed on June 8. In which year did the UN officially designate it, and where was the idea first proposed?

A Designated 2008; proposed at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit ✓

B Designated 1992; proposed at the 1972 Stockholm Conference

C Designated 2015; proposed at the Paris climate talks

D Designated 2000; proposed at the Kyoto Conference

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The idea of a World Oceans Day was first proposed at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, and the UN General Assembly officially designated June 8 as World Oceans Day in 2008. **ANALYSIS:** The 2026 theme, "Reimagine: Beyond the World We Know, a New Relationship with Our Ocean," asks humanity to move from passive beneficiaries to active guardians of the ocean.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

The ocean covers over 70% of the Earth's surface, produces a large share of the planet's oxygen, absorbs significant carbon dioxide, and regulates climate. World Oceans Day raises awareness of its role and the threats it faces, from overfishing and plastic pollution to acidification and warming.

The 2026 action theme focuses on strong Marine Protected Areas, aligning with the High Seas Treaty (BBNJ), which entered into force in January 2026, and the 30x30 target. World Oceans Day links to SDG 14 (Life Below Water).

India's ocean engagement includes the Deep Ocean Mission, a long coastline (about 11,098 km), a large Exclusive Economic Zone (about 2.37 million sq km), and "blue carbon" ecosystems such as mangroves.

Q8

 CONCEPT KIT **CROSS-PAPER**


GS3 (oceans, conservation), GS1 (geography).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

World Oceans Day, blue carbon, Marine Protected Areas, SDG 14.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing the Rio Summit (1992) origin with the Stockholm Conference (1972).

 **EXAM TIP**

World Oceans Day proposed at Rio 1992; UN-designated 2008; June 8.

 **INTERVIEW**

Is ocean conservation under-prioritised compared with land-based climate action?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 9

of 14

[Source →](#)

The principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC), invoked at the Bonn climate talks, means that:

- A All countries must cut emissions equally
- B Countries have differing climate obligations based on their historical emissions and capacity ✓
- C Only developing countries must act on climate change
- D Climate finance must be repaid with interest

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: CBDR-RC holds that while all countries share responsibility for addressing climate change, their obligations differ according to their historical contribution to emissions and their respective capabilities. **ANALYSIS:** At Bonn (SB64), developing countries including India invoked it to argue that developed nations must provide adequate, grant-based adaptation finance rather than shifting the burden onto the Global South.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

CBDR-RC is a foundational principle of the UNFCCC (1992) and the Paris Agreement (2015). It recognises that developed countries, having contributed most to historical greenhouse-gas emissions and having greater financial and technological capacity, should take the lead on mitigation and provide finance and technology to developing countries.

At Bonn 2026, the demand was to triple grant-based adaptation finance to \$120 billion a year by 2035, up from the \$40 billion COP26 goal. Adaptation finance helps vulnerable countries cope with locked-in impacts (floods, heat, sea-level rise), as distinct from mitigation finance to cut emissions.

India consistently stresses CBDR-RC, climate justice, and the preference for grants over debt-creating loans, and points to the UNEP Adaptation Gap Report.

Q9  **CONCEPT KIT**
 **CROSS-PAPER**

GS3 (climate negotiations, climate justice), GS2 (North-South divide).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

CBDR-RC, adaptation finance, climate justice, Paris Agreement.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

reading CBDR-RC as exempting developing countries entirely; all act, but differentially.

 **EXAM TIP**

CBDR-RC underpins the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

 **INTERVIEW**

Is CBDR-RC still fair given that some developing economies are now large emitters?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 10

of 14

[Source →](#)

Which body was created as the national regulator under the Dam Safety Act, 2021?

- A The Central Water Commission
- B The National Dam Safety Authority ✓
- C The National Disaster Management Authority
- D The Bhakra Beas Management Board

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ EXPLANATION






FACT: The Dam Safety Act, 2021 created the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) as the national regulator for dam safety, alongside the National Committee on Dam Safety and State Dam Safety Organisations. **ANALYSIS:** This framework gained fresh relevance after the Bhakra Dam wall was reported to be deflecting beyond its permissible limit.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

The Dam Safety Act, 2021 was enacted to address the safety of India's large dams, many of which are ageing. It establishes a two-tier institutional structure at the national and state levels, mandates regular inspection and risk classification, and requires emergency action plans for specified dams.

The National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) is the regulator and resolves inter-state disputes on dam safety; the National Committee on Dam Safety (NCDS) frames policy; and State Dam Safety Organisations operate at the state level. The Central Water Commission is the technical advisory body on water resources but is distinct from the NDSA. The Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP), supported by the World Bank, funds the physical strengthening of dams. India has over 6,000 large dams.

Q10  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 (disaster management, water infrastructure).
 MAINS KEYWORDS	Dam Safety Act 2021, NDSA, DRIP, emergency action plans.
 COMMON MISTAKE	confusing the NDSA with the Central Water Commission or the NDMA.
 EXAM TIP	Dam Safety Act 2021 → NDSA (regulator) + NCDS (policy) + SDSOs (state).
 INTERVIEW	Should dam safety be a central or state subject given inter-state rivers?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 11

of 14

[Source →](#)

Indonesia, with which India held its 8th Joint Commission Meeting, is best described as:

- A A landlocked country and the smallest ASEAN economy
- B The world's largest archipelagic state and the largest ASEAN economy ✓
- C A member of the European Union
- D A permanent member of the UN Security Council

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

FACT: Indonesia is the world's largest archipelagic state and the largest economy in ASEAN. **ANALYSIS:** This, plus its position astride key Indo-Pacific sea lanes, makes Indonesia pivotal to India's Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific strategy, the context for the 8th India-Indonesia Joint Commission Meeting co-chaired by EAM Jaishankar and Indonesian FM Sugiono.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

Indonesia comprises thousands of islands and sits astride the Malacca, Sunda and Lombok straits, through which much global trade and energy flows. India and Indonesia share a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and are both members of the G20, the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and the East Asia Summit.

Indonesia's capital is Jakarta, with a new capital, Nusantara, being developed. Cooperation spans defence, maritime security, trade, critical minerals (Indonesia is a major nickel producer), fintech and health.

India's Indo-Pacific vision is articulated through SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and its successor framing, MAHASAGAR, and the broader Act East Policy. The Joint Commission Meeting is a ministerial mechanism to review the whole relationship.

Q11  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS2 (India-Indonesia, ASEAN, Indo-Pacific).
 MAINS KEYWORDS	Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, Act East, SAGAR, ASEAN.
 COMMON MISTAKE	underestimating Indonesia's strategic weight; it is the largest ASEAN economy and archipelagic state.
 EXAM TIP	Indonesia: largest ASEAN economy; new capital Nusantara; G20, IORA, East Asia Summit.
 INTERVIEW	How central is Indonesia to India's Indo-Pacific strategy?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 12

of 14

[Source →](#)

e-Jagriti, recognised at the National Awards for e-Governance 2026, is a platform under which framework?

- A The Right to Information Act, 2005
- B The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 ✓
- C The Information Technology Act, 2000
- D The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

FACT: e-Jagriti is the AI-powered consumer-dispute platform of the Department of Consumer Affairs, supporting the three-tier consumer-commission structure under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. **ANALYSIS:** It won a Silver at the National Awards for e-Governance 2026, administered by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).

CONCEPT NOTE

The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 replaced the 1986 Act and created the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to regulate matters relating to consumer rights, unfair trade practices and misleading advertisements, along with rules for e-commerce. Consumer disputes are heard by a three-tier structure: District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions, State Commissions, and the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC). e-Jagriti integrates legacy systems, enables virtual hearings, and improves disposal rates, widening access to consumer justice including for remote and NRI litigants.

The National Awards for e-Governance are given by DARPG, the nodal department for administrative reforms. Watch for the digital divide and data-privacy safeguards as such platforms expand.

Q12  **CONCEPT KIT** **CROSS-PAPER**

GS2 (governance, e-governance, consumer rights).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Consumer Protection Act 2019, CCPA, NCDRC, e-governance.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

linking e-Jagriti to the IT Act rather than the Consumer Protection Act.

 **EXAM TIP**

Consumer Protection Act 2019 created the CCPA; three-tier commissions; awards by DARPG.

 **INTERVIEW**

Does online consumer justice widen access or deepen the digital divide?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 13

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[Source →](#)

India's E85 fuel, launched around World Environment Day, refers to a blend of:

- A 85% petrol with 15% ethanol
- B Up to 85% ethanol with petrol, for flex-fuel vehicles ✓
- C 85% diesel with 15% biodiesel
- D 85% compressed natural gas with petrol

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

FACT: E85 is a high-ethanol blend of up to 85% ethanol with petrol, intended for flex-fuel vehicles. **ANALYSIS:** It builds on India's Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme, under which India achieved its 20% blending (E20) target ahead of schedule, reducing crude-oil imports and greenhouse-gas emissions.

CONCEPT NOTE

Ethanol blending is a pillar of India's biofuel strategy under the National Policy on Biofuels, 2018 (amended 2022). The Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme blends ethanol (largely from sugarcane and grain) with petrol to cut oil imports, support farmers and reduce emissions.

India advanced its E20 target, and E85 (for flex-fuel vehicles, which can run on a range of ethanol blends from E20 to E100) is the next step, launched at a small number of outlets with plans to expand. Ethanol blending can reduce greenhouse-gas emissions substantially and cuts the oil-import bill, though it raises questions about water use and the food-versus-fuel balance in feedstock choice.

The nodal ministry is the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Q13  **CONCEPT KIT** **CROSS-PAPER**

GS3 (energy security, biofuels, environment).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

E85, Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme, flex-fuel, National Biofuel Policy.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

reading E85 as mostly petrol; it is up to 85% ethanol.

 **EXAM TIP**

E20 achieved early; E85 for flex-fuel vehicles; National Biofuel Policy 2018.

 **INTERVIEW**

Does ethanol blending risk a food-versus-fuel trade-off?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 14

of 14

[Source →](#)

Polymetallic nodules, a target of India's Deep Ocean Mission, are mainly sourced from which region?

A The Bay of Bengal continental shelf

B The Central Indian Ocean Basin ✓

C The Arabian Sea coastal waters

D The Andaman volcanic arc

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

FACT: India targets polymetallic nodules in the Central Indian Ocean Basin, for which it holds an exploration contract from the International Seabed Authority. **ANALYSIS:** These potato-sized nodules are rich in manganese, nickel, cobalt and copper, minerals important for batteries and the energy transition, which is why the Deep Ocean Mission prioritises them.






CONCEPT NOTE

Polymetallic (or manganese) nodules form on the deep-sea floor over millions of years and contain manganese, nickel, cobalt, copper and traces of rare elements. The International Seabed Authority (ISA), established under UNCLOS, regulates mineral activities in the deep seabed beyond national jurisdiction (the "Area," considered the common heritage of mankind) and allocates exploration contracts.

India was among the first countries designated a "Pioneer Investor" and holds rights in the Central Indian Ocean Basin. Extracting these minerals is technologically challenging and ecologically sensitive, since deep-sea ecosystems are fragile and poorly understood, which is the central tension of deep-sea mining.

The Deep Ocean Mission, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, pursues both resource assessment and deep-sea biodiversity study via the Matsya-6000 submersible built by NIOT.

Q14  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 (resources, blue economy, S&T), GS2 (international institutions).
 MAINS KEYWORDS	polymetallic nodules, International Seabed Authority, common heritage of mankind, deep-sea mining.
 COMMON MISTAKE	placing the nodules on the continental shelf rather than the deep Central Indian Ocean Basin.
 EXAM TIP	Nodules = Central Indian Ocean Basin; ISA regulates the "Area" under UNCLOS.
 INTERVIEW	Is deep-sea mining compatible with marine conservation?

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“The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.”

— Chinese Proverb

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