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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz, June 29, 2026

29 June 2026



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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED ANSWER KEY

Daily Quiz, June 29, 2026

29 June 2026 · 15 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Question 1

of 15

[Source →](#)

June 29 is observed as National Statistics Day in India. Whose birth anniversary does it commemorate?

A C.R. Rao

B P.C. Mahalanobis ✓

C V.K.R.V. Rao

D Amartya Sen

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

FACT: National Statistics Day is observed on June 29, the birth anniversary of Prof. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis (born 1893), the "father of Indian statistics".

ANALYSIS: He founded the Indian Statistical Institute and shaped India's planned-development strategy, linking statistics directly to policy.

CONCEPT NOTE

Mahalanobis founded the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata, in 1931, and devised the Mahalanobis Distance in statistics and the Mahalanobis Model that underpinned the Second Five-Year Plan (1956), with its emphasis on heavy industry. National Statistics Day was instituted by the Government of India in 2007.

The 2026 theme marks 75 years of the National Sample Survey (NSS), established in 1950 and now conducted by the National Statistics Office (NSO) under MoSPI; the NSSO and CSO were merged into the NSO in 2019.

Q1  **CONCEPT KIT** **CROSS-PAPER**

GS3 economy (planning, data), GS1 (personalities).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

evidence-based policy, NSS, statistical capacity, data quality.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing Mahalanobis with C.R. Rao or V.K.R.V. Rao.

 **EXAM TIP**

Statistics Day = June 29; Mahalanobis Model = 2nd FYP.

 **INTERVIEW**

Why does credible official data matter for democracy and policy?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 2

of 15

[Source →](#)

A draft amendment to the National Food Security Act proposes changing the Antyodaya Anna Yojana entitlement. What is the proposed change?

A From a flat 35 kg per household to 7 kg per person, capped at 35 kg per household ✓

B From 5 kg per person to 10 kg per person with no cap

C Abolishing the AAY category entirely

D Converting foodgrain entitlement into cash transfers

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
EXPLANATION

FACT: The draft amendment proposes shifting AAY from a flat 35 kg per household to 7 kg per person, capped at 35 kg per household, so smaller families receive less while large families retain 35 kg. **ANALYSIS:** The change moves AAY from a per-household to a per-capita design, raising the targeting-versus-entitlement-protection debate.

CONCEPT NOTE

The Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) covers the "poorest of the poor" households (around 2.5 crore families) under the National Food Security Act, 2013. NFSA covers up to 75% of the rural and 50% of the urban population; Priority Households (PHH) receive 5 kg per person.

The Act is implemented through One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) for portability. Public comments on the draft were invited till July 13, 2026.

Critics fear small poor households would lose grain, while the government argues per-capita allocation is more equitable.

Q2  **CONCEPT KIT** **CROSS-PAPER**

GS2 governance (food security, welfare), GS3 PDS.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

targeting, per-capita vs per-household, entitlement, ONORC.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing AAY (poorest of poor) with Priority Households.

 **EXAM TIP**

NFSA 2013; AAY 35 kg/household currently.

 **INTERVIEW**

Should welfare be designed per household or per person?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 3

of 15

[Source →](#)

The Strait of Hormuz, in the news over a widened shipping route, connects which two water bodies?

- A The Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden
- B The Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman ✓
- C The Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea
- D The Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The Strait of Hormuz connects the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and onward to the Arabian Sea, and is bordered by Iran to the north and Oman and the UAE to the south. **ANALYSIS:** It carries roughly a fifth of global oil and LNG, making it the world's most critical energy chokepoint and central to India's energy security.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

India imports over 80% of its crude oil, a large share routed through the Strait of Hormuz. A widened route announced by the Joint Maritime Information Center eased traffic after conflict-related disruption, and crude prices softened. India's response through the West Asia conflict was neutral, urging de-escalation while protecting citizens and energy supply, consistent with its strategic autonomy. India mitigates chokepoint risk through Strategic Petroleum Reserves and diversified sourcing from Russia, the United States and West Africa.

Q3

 CONCEPT KIT **CROSS-PAPER**


GS2 international relations (West Asia), GS3 energy security.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

chokepoint, strategic autonomy, supply diversification, SPR.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing Hormuz with the Bab-el-Mandeb (Red Sea/Gulf of Aden).

 **EXAM TIP**

Hormuz links Persian Gulf to Gulf of Oman; Iran to the north.

 **INTERVIEW**

How can India insulate itself from oil-chokepoint shocks?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 4

of 15

[Source →](#)

The State of India's Environment 2026 report referenced the planetary boundaries framework. How many of the nine planetary boundaries have now been breached, according to the report?

A Three of nine

B Five of nine

C Seven of nine ✓

D All nine

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The report notes that seven of the nine planetary boundaries have now been crossed, with ocean acidification the most recent. **ANALYSIS:** The framework defines a "safe operating space for humanity", so crossing boundaries signals rising risk of irreversible environmental change.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

The planetary boundaries framework, developed by Johan Rockstrom and the Stockholm Resilience Centre, identifies nine boundaries: climate change, biosphere integrity, land-system change, freshwater change, biogeochemical flows (nitrogen and phosphorus), ocean acidification, novel entities, stratospheric ozone depletion and atmospheric aerosol loading. The State of India's Environment report is published annually by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) and Down To Earth.

It also linked the invasive shrub *Lantana camara* to rising human-tiger conflict by depleting prey. India has 100 Ramsar wetland sites, the highest in Asia.

Q4  **CONCEPT KIT** **CROSS-PAPER**

GS3 environment and ecology.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

planetary boundaries, invasive species, human-wildlife conflict, Ramsar.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

not knowing the framework has nine boundaries.

 **EXAM TIP**

CSE/Down To Earth publish the SoE; Lantana camara is invasive.

 **INTERVIEW**

Should planetary boundaries guide national economic planning?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 5

of 15

[Source →](#)

The National Textile Export Roadmap discussed in 2026 set what export target?

- A USD 50 billion by 2028
- B USD 100 billion by 2030 ✓
- C USD 250 billion by 2030
- D USD 400 billion by 2035

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The roadmap targets USD 100 billion in textile exports by 2030, leveraging Free Trade Agreements and sustainability. **ANALYSIS:** India is the world's second-largest textile exporter and the sector is one of the largest employers, so the target ties trade strategy to mass employment.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

India's textile sector employs around 4.5 crore people directly. Key government interventions include PM MITRA Parks (seven mega textile parks), the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for textiles focused on man-made fibre and technical textiles, the National Technical Textiles Mission, and the Samarth skilling scheme.

Free Trade Agreements such as the India-UK FTA and the prospective India-EU agreement are expected to improve tariff access and help offset US-tariff headwinds. Moving up the value chain into technical and man-made fibre textiles is a central theme.

Q5  **CONCEPT KIT** **CROSS-PAPER**

GS3 economy (industry, exports, employment).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

labour-intensive exports, PM MITRA, PLI, FTA leverage.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing the 2030 target figure.

 **EXAM TIP**

India is the 2nd-largest textile exporter; PM MITRA = 7 parks.

 **INTERVIEW**

Can textiles regain their role as a mass-employment engine?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 6

of 15

[Source →](#)

The Supreme Court held that the right to walk on safe footpaths is a fundamental right. Which Articles did the Court read this right into?

- A Articles 14 and 15
- B Articles 19(1)(d) and 21 ✓
- C Articles 25 and 26
- D Articles 32 and 226

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The Court held that the right to safe footpaths flows from Article 19(1)(d), the freedom of movement throughout India, and Article 21, the right to life and personal liberty, and cannot be subordinated to motor-vehicle convenience. **ANALYSIS:** This continues the expansive reading of Article 21 to include dignified, safe living conditions.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

The judgment, by a bench of Justices P.S. Narasimha and A.S. Chandurkar, arose from the death of a child where no footpath existed, and recognised the State's positive obligation to provide pedestrian infrastructure, even suggesting a national pedestrian-rights statute. It sits in the line of cases expanding Article 21, including *Olga Tellis v Bombay Municipal Corporation* (1985) on livelihood and shelter, and the *M.C. Mehta* environmental jurisprudence. The case illustrates how courts convert civic concerns into enforceable rights.

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


GS2 polity (fundamental rights, judicial activism).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Article 21 expansion, positive obligations, right to public space, road safety.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

linking footpaths only to Article 21 and missing Article 19(1)(d).

 **EXAM TIP**

Article 19(1)(d) = freedom of movement.

 **INTERVIEW**

Should every civic amenity become a justiciable right?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 7

of 15

[Source →](#)

The 2026 theme of National Statistics Day marked 75 years of which survey, foundational to India's official data system?

- A The Census of India
- B The National Sample Survey (NSS) ✓
- C The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)
- D The Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES)

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

FACT: The 2026 theme marked 75 years of the National Sample Survey (NSS), established in 1950, which produces large-scale socio-economic data on employment, consumption, health and more. **ANALYSIS:** The NSS underpins many official estimates and policy decisions, so its credibility and timeliness are central to governance.

CONCEPT NOTE

The NSS is now conducted by the National Statistics Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). The NSSO and the Central Statistics Office (CSO) were merged into the NSO in 2019. The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) and the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) are conducted within this system. The Census of India, by contrast, is conducted by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner under the Ministry of Home Affairs, a separate exercise from the sample-based NSS.

Q7

 CONCEPT KIT **CROSS-PAPER**

GS3 economy (statistical infrastructure).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

sample survey, official statistics, PLFS, HCES.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing the NSS (sample survey, MoSPI) with the Census (complete enumeration, MHA).

 **EXAM TIP**

NSS established 1950; NSO under MoSPI.

 **INTERVIEW**

How can India improve the timeliness of its official statistics?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 8

of 15

[Source →](#)

Under the National Food Security Act, 2013, up to what share of the population is covered by subsidised foodgrains?

- A Up to 50% rural and 25% urban
- B Up to 75% rural and 50% urban ✓
- C 100% of all citizens
- D Only families below the official poverty line

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
EXPLANATION

FACT: The NFSA, 2013 provides for coverage of up to 75% of the rural and 50% of the urban population, together about two-thirds of the country, under subsidised foodgrains. **ANALYSIS:** This near-universal design, rather than a narrow poverty-line targeting, is a defining feature of India's food-security framework.

CONCEPT NOTE

Within this coverage, beneficiaries are split into Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households, the poorest of the poor, and Priority Households (PHH). AAY households currently receive 35 kg of foodgrains per family per month, while PHH receive 5 kg per person.

The proposed amendment would move AAY to a per-capita basis. Foodgrains are distributed through the Targeted Public Distribution System and made portable via One Nation One Ration Card.

The Act makes food security a legal entitlement rather than a discretionary scheme.

Q8

 CONCEPT KIT **CROSS-PAPER**


GS2 governance, GS3 PDS and food security.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

legal entitlement, targeting, AAY, PHH, ONORC.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

assuming NFSA targets only below-poverty-line families.

 **EXAM TIP**

NFSA covers up to 75% rural / 50% urban.

 **INTERVIEW**

Is near-universal food coverage fiscally sustainable?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 9

of 15

[Source →](#)

June 29 is also the International Day of the Tropics. The Tropic of Cancer passes through how many Indian States?

A Five

B Eight ✓

C Eleven

D Three

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The Tropic of Cancer passes through eight Indian States: Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tripura and Mizoram. **ANALYSIS:** The tropics host about 80% of global biodiversity and 40% of the world's population, making their sustainable development globally significant.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

The International Day of the Tropics was designated by the UN General Assembly in 2016 and commemorates the first State of the Tropics Report (2014). The tropics, between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn, face deforestation, climate vulnerability and a high share of threatened species.

For India, the Tropic of Cancer roughly divides the country and is a recurring map-based prelims fact. The day links to climate justice for the Global South and biodiversity conservation.

Q9

 CONCEPT KIT **CROSS-PAPER**


GS1 geography, GS3 environment.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

tropics, biodiversity, climate justice, Global South.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

miscounting the States the Tropic of Cancer crosses.

 **EXAM TIP**

Tropic of Cancer passes through 8 Indian States.

 **INTERVIEW**

Why do tropical developing nations bear disproportionate climate risk?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 10

of 15

[Source →](#)

Bangladesh joined the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA). The IBCA, launched by India in 2023, covers how many big cat species?

A Four

B Five

C Seven ✓

D Nine

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The International Big Cat Alliance covers the world's seven big cats: the tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar and puma. **ANALYSIS:** India launched the IBCA in 2023, marking 50 years of Project Tiger, positioning itself as a leader in global big-cat conservation diplomacy.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

The IBCA is headquartered in New Delhi and functions as a treaty-based inter-governmental body. Bangladesh's membership is significant because India and Bangladesh share the Sundarbans, the mangrove habitat of the Royal Bengal Tiger, making transboundary cooperation essential.

India is home to five of the seven big cats (tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard and, through reintroduction, the cheetah). The alliance reflects India's conservation soft power and complements domestic efforts such as Project Tiger and Project Lion.

Q10  **CONCEPT KIT** **CROSS-PAPER**

GS2 international relations (conservation diplomacy), GS3 environment.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

IBCA, transboundary conservation, Sundarbans, soft power.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

miscounting the big-cat species covered.

 **EXAM TIP**

IBCA covers 7 big cats; launched 2023; HQ New Delhi.

 **INTERVIEW**

Can conservation alliances translate into real protection outcomes?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 11

of 15

[Source →](#)

NITI Aayog's Trade Watch Quarterly focused on the pharmaceutical sector. What is India's key vulnerability in pharmaceuticals, as commonly highlighted?

- A A shortage of trained pharmacists
- B Import dependence on China for many active pharmaceutical ingredients ✓
- C A complete absence of generic-drug capacity
- D A ban on pharmaceutical exports

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

FACT: India is strong in generic-drug manufacturing but remains import-dependent on China for many active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and bulk-drug raw materials. **ANALYSIS:** This supply-chain dependence is a strategic vulnerability that the government seeks to address through domestic bulk-drug capacity.

CONCEPT NOTE

India is often called the "pharmacy of the world" for its large share of global generic-medicine supply. The Trade Watch Quarterly reported India's combined merchandise and services trade at about USD 1.84 trillion in Q4 of FY 2025-26, up around 5.4% year-on-year.

To reduce API dependence, the government has launched the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for bulk drugs and promoted bulk-drug parks. Moving up the value chain into biologics and biosimilars is a key policy goal, as India is currently stronger in formulations than in complex biologics.

Q11  **CONCEPT KIT** **CROSS-PAPER**

GS3 economy (external sector, pharma).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

API dependence, bulk drugs, PLI, value chain.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

thinking India lacks generic capacity; it leads in generics.

 **EXAM TIP**

India is strong in generics, weak in APIs and biologics.

 **INTERVIEW**

How can India secure its pharmaceutical supply chains?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 12

of 15

[Source →](#)

An editorial argued that AI-driven data commodification needs constitutional guardrails rather than voluntary ethics codes. Which fundamental right is most directly invoked in debates over data protection in India?

- A The right to property
- B The right to privacy under Article 21 ✓
- C The right to freedom of religion
- D The right against exploitation

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

FACT: Data protection debates in India centre on the right to privacy, recognised as a fundamental right under Article 21 in *K.S. Puttaswamy v Union of India* (2017). **ANALYSIS:** The editorial's call for binding guardrails reflects the view that voluntary corporate codes cannot adequately protect privacy and human dignity against powerful algorithmic systems.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

The nine-judge bench in *Puttaswamy* (2017) held that the right to privacy is intrinsic to the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21. This underpins the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, India's data-protection law. The AI-governance debate distinguishes voluntary, self-regulatory codes from enforceable legal obligations, arguing that the scale and opacity of AI systems and the power asymmetry between developers and individuals require binding accountability. This connects to GS4 ethics on dignity, autonomy and accountability.

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

GS2 polity (rights), GS3 technology, GS4 ethics.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

right to privacy, Puttaswamy, data protection, algorithmic accountability.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

not linking data protection to Article 21.

 **EXAM TIP**

Puttaswamy (2017) recognised privacy under Article 21.

 **INTERVIEW**

Can regulation keep pace with AI's capabilities?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 13

of 15

[Source →](#)

An editorial argued India should resume the strategic economic dialogue with China while protecting its core interests. This reflects which feature of India's China policy?

- A Complete economic decoupling from China
- B Pragmatic engagement combined with firmness on the boundary and security ✓
- C A formal alliance with China
- D Abandoning all trade with China

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: India's approach combines pragmatic economic engagement with firmness on the boundary question and security concerns, so dialogue on trade need not dilute its territorial position. **ANALYSIS:** This reflects strategic autonomy: engaging where interests align while holding firm where they do not.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

India's official position on the boundary is clear: areas such as Aksai Chin and Arunachal Pradesh are integral parts of India, and connectivity projects must respect its sovereignty. Economic ties with China are substantial but marked by a large trade deficit and dependence in sectors such as APIs and electronics. Engagement spans forums such as BRICS and the SCO. The editorial's argument is that managed economic dialogue can reduce friction and dependence vulnerabilities without conceding on security, consistent with India's calibrated, interest-based diplomacy.

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

GS2 international relations (India-China).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

strategic autonomy, trade deficit, boundary question, managed competition.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

framing India-China ties as either alliance or full decoupling.

 **EXAM TIP**

India engages China economically while holding firm on the boundary.

 **INTERVIEW**

Can India reduce dependence on China while expanding trade?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 14

of 15

[Source →](#)

A report noted India reached its highest-ever rank in the 2026 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index, yet one goal remained a major challenge. The SDGs, adopted in 2015, comprise how many goals?

A Eight goals

B Seventeen goals ✓

C Twenty-one goals

D Thirty goals

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The Sustainable Development Goals comprise 17 goals with 169 targets, adopted by the United Nations in 2015 under the 2030 Agenda. **ANALYSIS:** India's best-ever SDG Index rank signals broad progress, but persistent gaps, notably in hunger and nutrition (SDG 2), show that headline ranks can mask sectoral shortfalls.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

The SDGs succeeded the Millennium Development Goals (2000 to 2015) and are tracked through indices such as the UN Sustainable Development Report's SDG Index. India monitors progress domestically through the NITI Aayog SDG India Index.

Hunger and undernutrition remain stubborn challenges despite a large food-security architecture, reflecting issues of dietary diversity and nutrition rather than calorie access alone. The 2030 deadline approaches with many goals globally off-track, a recurring theme in international sustainability forums.

Q14  **CONCEPT KIT** **CROSS-PAPER**

GS2 international relations, GS3 environment and development.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

SDGs, 2030 Agenda, SDG Index, hunger.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing the 17 SDGs with the 8 MDGs.

 **EXAM TIP**

17 SDGs / 169 targets, adopted 2015.

 **INTERVIEW**

Why does India lag on hunger despite strong food-security laws?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 15

of 15

[Source →](#)

The Mahalanobis Model, associated with the statistician honoured on National Statistics Day, shaped which of India's Five-Year Plans?

- A The First Five-Year Plan
- B The Second Five-Year Plan ✓
- C The Fifth Five-Year Plan
- D The Tenth Five-Year Plan

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The Mahalanobis Model provided the analytical framework for the Second Five-Year Plan (1956), which prioritised heavy industry and capital-goods production. **ANALYSIS:** It embodied the state-led, industrialisation-first development strategy of the Nehruvian era, linking statistical modelling directly to economic planning.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

The First Five-Year Plan (1951 to 1956), based on the Harrod-Domar model, emphasised agriculture and irrigation. The Second Plan, guided by the Mahalanobis Model, shifted to rapid industrialisation through public-sector heavy industry, establishing steel plants and capital-goods capacity.

This strategy aimed at long-term self-reliance but later drew criticism for neglecting agriculture, consumer goods and employment. Understanding the model is useful for both economy and post-independence history, illustrating how planning ideas shaped India's economic trajectory.

Q15  **CONCEPT KIT** **CROSS-PAPER**

GS3 economy (planning), GS1 post-independence history.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

heavy industry, public sector, self-reliance, planning.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

attributing the Mahalanobis Model to the First Plan.

 **EXAM TIP**

Mahalanobis Model = Second Five-Year Plan (1956).

 **INTERVIEW**

Was the heavy-industry-first strategy right for 1950s India?

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“Perseverance is not a long race; it is many short races one after the other.”

— Walter Elliot