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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz, July 13, 2026

13 July 2026



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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED ANSWER KEY

Daily Quiz, July 13, 2026

13 July 2026 · 16 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Question 1

of 16

 [Source →](#)

Helium, at the centre of a July 2026 export ban, is extracted mainly from which source?

- ☐ A Sea water
- ☒ B Natural gas fields ✓
- ☐ C Coal seams
- ☐ D The atmosphere by fractional distillation

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 EXPLANATION

FACT: Helium is extracted mainly from natural gas fields, where it accumulates over geological time. **ANALYSIS:** In July 2026 China imposed a temporary ban on helium exports amid strained Strait of Hormuz shipping, and China itself imports more than 85 per cent of its helium.

 CONCEPT NOTE

Helium is the second lightest element and an inert noble gas with the lowest boiling point of any element (about minus 269 degrees Celsius); once released it escapes into space, making it effectively non-renewable.

Q1

 CONCEPT KIT**CROSS-PAPER**

GS3 science and technology, resource geopolitics.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

critical resources, supply-chain vulnerability, strategic reserves.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

thinking helium is captured cheaply from air.

**EXAM TIP**

helium comes mainly from natural gas fields.

**INTERVIEW**

Securing supplies of a critical gas.

[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 2

of 16

[Source →](#)

Helium is critically used in all of the following EXCEPT:

- ☐ A Cooling in semiconductor manufacturing
- ☐ B Superconducting magnets in MRI machines
- ☐ C Purging rocket fuel tanks
- ☒ D As a fuel in internal combustion engines ✓

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Helium is used for cooling in semiconductor fabrication, for the superconducting magnets in MRI scanners, and to purge rocket fuel tanks, but it is inert and is not used as a fuel. **ANALYSIS:** India has negligible domestic helium and imports almost all of it, mainly from the United States and Qatar.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

The top global helium suppliers are Qatar and the United States; India has no commercial helium production.

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

GS3 science and technology.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

semiconductors, India Semiconductor Mission, import dependence.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

thinking an inert gas can be a fuel.

**EXAM TIP**

helium is inert and not combustible.

**INTERVIEW**

Helium and the chip supply chain.

[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 3

of 16

[Source →](#)

An IITM Pune study in July 2026 gave the first observational estimate that roughly what share of monsoon rain evaporates before reaching the ground over the northern Western Ghats?

A About 5 per cent

B About 25 per cent ✓

C About 50 per cent

D About 75 per cent

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, estimated that on average about 25 per cent of monsoon rain mass evaporates in mid-air (sub-cloud evaporation) before landing, ranging from about 4 to 61 per cent day to day. **ANALYSIS:** The team used stable water isotopes on paired rain and vapour samples from the 2019 Pune monsoon.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

IITM Pune functions under the Ministry of Earth Sciences; the study appeared in the journal Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics.

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

GS1 geography, GS3 environment.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

hydrological cycle, monsoon forecasting, sub-cloud evaporation.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

assuming all rain reaches the ground.

**EXAM TIP**

IITM Pune is under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

**INTERVIEW**

Improving monsoon prediction.

[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 4

of 16

[Source →](#)

During PM Modi's July 2026 visit, India and New Zealand elevated their ties to which level?

A Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

B Strategic Partnership ✓

C Special Privileged Partnership

D Civilisational Partnership

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: India and New Zealand elevated their relationship to a Strategic Partnership and adopted a non-binding Roadmap to 2030, during the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to New Zealand in about 40 years. **ANALYSIS:** They set a target to roughly double two-way trade to about NZ\$7 billion by 2030, with free-trade-agreement talks continuing.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

New Zealand's capital is Wellington and its largest city is Auckland; New Zealand is a member of the Five Eyes intelligence grouping.

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

GS2 international relations.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

Indo-Pacific, Five Eyes, small-partner diplomacy.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing a Strategic Partnership with a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

**EXAM TIP**

India-NZ ties elevated to a Strategic Partnership in 2026.

**INTERVIEW**

India's Indo-Pacific outreach beyond the Quad.

[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 5

of 16

 Source →

New Zealand is a member of which intelligence-sharing grouping?

- ☐ A The Quad
- ☒ B Five Eyes ✓
- ☐ C AUKUS
- ☐ D The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 EXPLANATION

FACT: New Zealand is a member of the Five Eyes intelligence-sharing alliance, along with the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia. ANALYSIS: This makes the elevation of India-New Zealand ties significant for Indo-Pacific security cooperation.

 CONCEPT NOTE

The Roadmap to 2030 adopted by India and New Zealand is non-legally-binding.

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

GS2 international relations and security.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

Five Eyes, Indo-Pacific, intelligence cooperation.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

placing New Zealand in AUKUS.

**EXAM TIP**

Five Eyes = US, UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand.

**INTERVIEW**

Intelligence partnerships and India.

[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 6

of 16

 [Source](#) →

In July 2026, the Health Ministry ended the licensing exemption for medicinal formulations containing more than how much ethyl alcohol?

- ☐ A 5 per cent
- ☒ B 12 per cent ✓
- ☐ C 20 per cent
- ☐ D 40 per cent

ANSWER & ANALYSIS **EXPLANATION**

FACT: Formulations with more than 12 per cent ethyl alcohol now require a licence under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and can be sold only on prescription, to curb the misuse of certain medicinal syrups and tinctures as intoxicants. **ANALYSIS:** The move brings such formulations under stricter regulatory control.

 CONCEPT NOTE

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), headed by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI), is the national drug regulator; Schedule H1 lists drugs needing a prescription and a sales record.

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

GS2 governance and health.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

drug regulation, substance misuse, public health.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

misremembering the 12 per cent threshold.

**EXAM TIP**

over 12 per cent ethyl alcohol now needs a drug licence.

**INTERVIEW**

Balancing access and control of medicines.

[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 7

of 16

[Source →](#)

The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, under which high-alcohol medicines are now licensed, dates from which year?

A 1940 ✓

B 1954

C 1985

D 2019

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ **EXPLANATION**

FACT: The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, together with the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, regulates the import, manufacture, distribution and sale of drugs and cosmetics in India. **ANALYSIS:** The July 2026 change removed an exemption that had allowed some high-alcohol formulations to be sold without a drug licence.

 CONCEPT NOTE

Drug manufacturing licences are issued by State licensing authorities, while CDSCO handles central functions such as approvals and standards.

Q7
 **CONCEPT KIT**

CROSS-PAPER

GS2 governance and health, federalism.


MAINS KEYWORDS

drug regulation, Centre-State roles, CDSCO.


COMMON MISTAKE

confusing the Drugs and Cosmetics Act (1940) with the NDPS Act (1985).


EXAM TIP

Drugs and Cosmetics Act = 1940.


INTERVIEW

Regulating self-medication.


[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 8

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 [Source](#) →

The 2016 South China Sea arbitration award, which marked ten years in July 2026, was delivered under which framework?

- ☐ A The Antarctic Treaty
- ☒ B The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) ✓
- ☐ C The Outer Space Treaty
- ☐ D The Chicago Convention

ANSWER & ANALYSIS **EXPLANATION**

FACT: In *Philippines v. China*, a tribunal constituted under Annex VII of UNCLOS ruled in 2016 that China's "nine-dash line" and claims of historic rights had no legal basis; the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague served as registry. **ANALYSIS:** China rejected the award and continues to do so.

 CONCEPT NOTE

UNCLOS was adopted in 1982 and entered into force in 1994; India and China are parties, while the United States is not.

Q8 **CONCEPT KIT****CROSS-PAPER**

GS2 international relations and law of the sea.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

UNCLOS, freedom of navigation, nine-dash line, rules-based order.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

thinking the ruling was under the ICJ.

**EXAM TIP**

the South China Sea award was under UNCLOS Annex VII, via the PCA.

**INTERVIEW**

International law without enforcement.

[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 9

of 16

 **Source** →

Under UNCLOS, the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of a coastal state extends up to how many nautical miles from the baseline?

- ☐ A 12 nautical miles
- ☐ B 24 nautical miles
- ☒ C 200 nautical miles ✓
- ☐ D 350 nautical miles

ANSWER & ANALYSIS **EXPLANATION**

FACT: Under UNCLOS, the territorial sea extends up to 12 nautical miles and the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) up to 200 nautical miles, within which the coastal state has sovereign rights over resources. **ANALYSIS:** The South China Sea disputes turn on overlapping maritime-zone and historic-rights claims.

 CONCEPT NOTE

The Permanent Court of Arbitration, based at The Hague, was established in 1899.

Q9

 CONCEPT KIT**CROSS-PAPER**

GS2 international law.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

EEZ, territorial sea, maritime boundaries.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing the 12 nm territorial sea with the 200 nm EEZ.

**EXAM TIP**

EEZ = 200 nautical miles.

**INTERVIEW**

Maritime zones and resource rights.

[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 10

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[Source →](#)

Dhruva Space, in the news in July 2026, became the first recipient of funding from which fund?

A The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund

B The Antariksh Venture Capital Fund ✓

C The Fund of Funds for Startups

D The Self-Reliant India Fund

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The Hyderabad-based space company Dhruva Space was reported as the first recipient of an investment from the Antariksh Venture Capital Fund (AVCF), a government-backed fund for the space sector anchored by IN-SPACe.
ANALYSIS: It reflects India's push to finance a private space economy following the space-sector reforms.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

IN-SPACe (the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre), set up in 2020, is the single-window body that promotes and authorises private space activity; NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) is the commercial arm of ISRO.

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

GS3 economy and space technology.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

space economy, IN-SPACe, start-ups, Indian Space Policy 2023.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing the AVCF with the general startup Fund of Funds.

**EXAM TIP**

AVCF is the space-sector venture fund anchored by IN-SPACe.

**INTERVIEW**

Financing India's private space sector.

[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 11

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[Source →](#)

IN-SPACE, the single-window body for authorising private space activity in India, functions under which department?

- ☐ A The Department of Science and Technology
- ☒ B The Department of Space ✓
- ☐ C The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- ☐ D The Department of Defence Research and Development

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: IN-SPACE (the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre) is an autonomous body under the Department of Space that promotes and authorises non-governmental (private) space activity. **ANALYSIS:** It anchors the Antariksh Venture Capital Fund and implements the Indian Space Policy 2023.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

India permits up to 100 per cent foreign direct investment in parts of the space sector under the reformed rules.

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

GS3 space and economy.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

IN-SPACE, space reforms, private participation.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

placing IN-SPACE under the DST.

**EXAM TIP**

IN-SPACE is under the Department of Space.

**INTERVIEW**

Opening up the space sector.

**Read Full Article** →

Question 12

of 16

[Source →](#)

India and Canada, which concluded a third round of trade talks in July 2026, are negotiating which agreement?

- ☐ A A Free Trade Agreement (FTA)
- ☒ B A Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) ✓
- ☐ C A Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT)
- ☐ D A Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: India and Canada concluded the third round of negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in Ottawa in July 2026, targeting conclusion in 2026. **ANALYSIS:** The two sides aim to raise bilateral trade to about 50 billion dollars by 2030.

📄 CONCEPT NOTE

The talks signal a thaw in India-Canada ties after a strained period.

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

GS2 international relations, GS3 economy.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

CEPA, trade agreements, market access.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing a CEPA with a narrow investment treaty.

**EXAM TIP**

India-Canada are negotiating a CEPA.

**INTERVIEW**

Trade diplomacy and repairing ties.

[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 13

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 Source →

Who won the men's singles title at Wimbledon 2026?

A Carlos Alcaraz

B Jannik Sinner ✓

C Alexander Zverev

D Novak Djokovic

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 EXPLANATION

FACT: Jannik Sinner of Italy beat Alexander Zverev of Germany to win the men's singles title at Wimbledon 2026, while Linda Noskova of the Czech Republic won the women's singles. ANALYSIS: Wimbledon is the oldest of the four tennis Grand Slams.

 CONCEPT NOTE

Wimbledon is the only Grand Slam played on grass courts.

Q13 **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS1 sports and general awareness.
 MAINS KEYWORDS	Grand Slam, sports.
 COMMON MISTAKE	confusing the finalist with the champion.
 EXAM TIP	Wimbledon 2026 men's champion = Jannik Sinner.
 INTERVIEW	none specific.

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 14

of 16

[Source](#)

Kashmir Martyrs' Day, observed on July 13, commemorates an event of which year?

A 1919

B 1931 ✓

C 1947

D 1965

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Kashmir Martyrs' Day marks July 13, 1931, when twenty-two people were killed by Dogra state forces outside Srinagar Central Jail during the trial of Abdul Qadeer. **ANALYSIS:** Its status as an official holiday in Jammu and Kashmir was withdrawn in 2019 after the reorganisation of the State.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 created the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Q14

 CONCEPT KIT**CROSS-PAPER**

GS1 modern history, GS2 polity.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

princely states, Jammu and Kashmir, reorganisation.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

dating the event to 1947.

**EXAM TIP**

Kashmir Martyrs' Day = July 13, 1931.

**INTERVIEW**

Historical memory and statehood.

[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 15

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[Source](#)

The temporary export ban announced in July 2026 that disrupted a critical-gas supply chain was imposed by:

- ☐ A Qatar
- ☒ B China ✓
- ☐ C The United States
- ☐ D Russia

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: China imposed a temporary ban on helium exports in July 2026, notable because China is itself a major importer and re-exporter of helium and therefore a key intermediary node in the supply chain. **ANALYSIS:** The move added to concerns about critical-material supply security for semiconductors and healthcare.

📄 CONCEPT NOTE

India imports almost all of its helium, mainly from the United States and Qatar.

Q15
 **CONCEPT KIT**

CROSS-PAPER

GS3 economy and technology.


MAINS KEYWORDS

export controls, resource weaponisation, supply chains.


COMMON MISTAKE

assuming a top producer, rather than an intermediary, imposed the ban.


EXAM TIP

China imposed the July 2026 helium export ban.


INTERVIEW

Chokepoints in critical-material trade.


[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 16

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[Source](#)

The IITM Pune study on monsoon raindrop evaporation relied on which measurement technique?

- ☐ A Doppler weather radar alone
- ☒ B Stable water isotopes in rain and vapour ✓
- ☐ C Satellite thermal imaging
- ☐ D Ground rain-gauge totals only

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The study used stable water isotopes (the heavier isotopes of oxygen and hydrogen) measured on paired rain and vapour samples to estimate sub-cloud evaporation observationally, rather than from models alone. **ANALYSIS:** This is why it is described as the first observational estimate over the northern Western Ghats.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

Better representation of evaporation improves the accuracy of monsoon and climate models.

Q16 **CONCEPT KIT****CROSS-PAPER**

GS3 science and technology, GS1 geography.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

isotope hydrology, monsoon modelling.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

assuming radar or gauges gave the estimate.

**EXAM TIP**

the estimate used stable water isotopes.

**INTERVIEW**

New tools for studying the monsoon.

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