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# Daily Quiz, July 16, 2026

16 July 2026



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## DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED ANSWER KEY

# Daily Quiz, July 16, 2026

16 July 2026 · 16 Questions · Answers &amp; Explanations Included

**Question 1**

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 [Source →](#)

Semicon 2.0, approved by the Union Cabinet in July 2026, is the second phase of which mission?

- ☐ A The National Quantum Mission
- ☒ B The India Semiconductor Mission ✓
- ☐ C The National Supercomputing Mission
- ☐ D The Production Linked Incentive Mission

## ANSWER &amp; ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

FACT: Semicon 2.0 is the second phase of the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM), approved with an outlay of about Rs 1,27,500 crore to build the full chip value chain. ANALYSIS: It builds on ISM 1.0, whose first fab is the Micron facility at Sanand, Gujarat.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

The India Semiconductor Mission operates under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

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

GS3 economy and science-tech.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

semiconductor sovereignty, supply-chain resilience, China plus one.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing ISM with the PLI schemes.

**EXAM TIP**

ISM is under MeitY; Semicon 2.0 outlay is about Rs 1,27,500 crore.

**INTERVIEW**

Strategic autonomy in chips.

[Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 2**

of 16

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In the semiconductor value chain, the abbreviation ATMP stands for:

- ☐ A Advanced Transistor Manufacturing Process
- ☒ B Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging ✓
- ☐ C Automated Testing and Material Production
- ☐ D Atomic Thin-film Material Processing

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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**✓ EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** ATMP stands for Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging, the back-end stage of chip manufacturing, closely related to OSAT (Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test). **ANALYSIS:** It is one of the pillars of the India Semiconductor Mission alongside chip design, fabs and materials.

**📄 CONCEPT NOTE**

A chip "node", such as 28nm, refers to the transistor gate length; smaller nodes are more advanced.

Q2

 CONCEPT KIT**CROSS-PAPER**

GS3 science-tech.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

back-end packaging, OSAT, value addition.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

treating ATMP as chip fabrication.

**EXAM TIP**

ATMP = Assembly, Testing, Marking, Packaging.

**INTERVIEW**

Where India can enter the chip chain first.

[Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 3**

of 16

[Source →](#)

The Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS) approved in July 2026 primarily aims to:

- ☐ A Subsidise mobile-phone purchases for students
- ☒ B Deepen domestic component and value addition in mobile manufacturing ✓
- ☐ C Provide free data to rural users
- ☐ D Set up government-run phone factories

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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**✓ EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** The MPMS, with an outlay of about Rs 62,500 crore for FY2026-27 to FY2030-31, seeks to deepen domestic value addition by shifting from final assembly toward component and sub-assembly manufacturing. **ANALYSIS:** It is the successor to the mobile-phone Production Linked Incentive scheme.

**📄 CONCEPT NOTE**

India is now the world's second-largest manufacturer of mobile phones.

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

GS3 economy.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

value addition, Make in India, component ecosystem.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

thinking MPMS subsidises consumers.

**EXAM TIP**

MPMS deepens components, not assembly.

**INTERVIEW**

Assemble in India versus Make in India.

**Read Full Article →**

**Question 4**

of 16

[Source →](#)

The National Investment Policy for Urea (NIPU-2026) is designed to promote investment in:

- ☐ A Nano urea start-ups
- ☒ B New gas-based urea plants ✓
- ☐ C Imported urea terminals
- ☐ D Organic fertiliser units

**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**
**✓ EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** NIPU-2026 aims to attract fresh investment into nine new gas-based urea plants to make India self-reliant in nitrogenous fertiliser. **ANALYSIS:** It seeks to cut import dependence and rationalise the subsidy burden while expanding capacity.

**📖 CONCEPT NOTE**

Urea has a nitrogen content of about 46 per cent and is the only fertiliser still under statutory price control.

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

GS3 economy and agriculture.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

fertiliser self-reliance, subsidy reform, feedstock.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing NIPU with the nano-urea push.

**EXAM TIP**

Urea nitrogen content is about 46 per cent.

**INTERVIEW**

Balancing subsidy and self-reliance.

[Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 5**

of 16

 **Source** →

Which statement about urea in India is correct?

- ☐ **A** It is decontrolled and sold at market prices
- ☒ **B** It is the only fertiliser still under statutory price control ✓
- ☐ **C** It contains no nitrogen
- ☐ **D** It is banned for use in kharif crops

**ANSWER & ANALYSIS** **EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** Urea is the only fertiliser whose maximum retail price is still fixed by the government, with the subsidy routed to manufacturers. **ANALYSIS:** This makes urea policy central to both farm economics and the fertiliser-subsidy bill.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

Complementary measures include neem-coating of urea and IFFCO's Nano Urea.

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

GS3 economy.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

price control, DBT in fertilisers, subsidy.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

assuming all fertilisers are price-controlled.

**EXAM TIP**

Only urea has a statutory fixed MRP.

**INTERVIEW**

Direct benefit transfer in fertilisers.

**Read Full Article →**

**Question 6**

of 16

[Source](#)

The draft CAFE-III norms released in July 2026 regulate which of the following for M1 passenger vehicles?

- ☐ A Seatbelt and airbag standards
- ☒ B Corporate average fuel economy and CO2 emissions ✓
- ☐ C Vehicle resale value
- ☐ D Road-tax slabs

**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**
**✓ EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** The Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) norms regulate the fleet-average fuel consumption and CO2 emissions of M1 passenger vehicles. **ANALYSIS:** Draft CAFE-III, for FY2027-28 to FY2031-32, would replace CAFE-II and introduces Carbon Neutrality Factors for biofuels.

**📖 CONCEPT NOTE**

M1 vehicles are those with up to eight seats in addition to the driver.

**Q6**
 **CONCEPT KIT**

**CROSS-PAPER**

GS3 environment and economy.


**MAINS KEYWORDS**

decarbonising transport, fleet average, E20.


**COMMON MISTAKE**

thinking CAFE sets per-vehicle limits.


**EXAM TIP**

CAFE is a fleet-average CO2 norm under BEE.


**INTERVIEW**

EV push versus biofuel neutrality.


[Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 7**

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[Source →](#)

The CAFE norms in India are enforced under which law, through the Bureau of Energy Efficiency?

- ☐ A The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- ☒ B The Energy Conservation Act, 2001 ✓
- ☐ C The Motor Vehicles Act, 1988
- ☐ D The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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**✓ EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** CAFE norms are enforced under the Energy Conservation Act through the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), which functions under the Ministry of Power. **ANALYSIS:** A first-ever feature of CAFE-III is the recognition of Carbon Neutrality Factors for ethanol, biofuels and compressed biogas.

**📄 CONCEPT NOTE**

CAFE-II norms end on March 31, 2027; public comments on CAFE-III were open until August 6, 2026.

**Q7** **CONCEPT KIT****CROSS-PAPER**

GS3 environment.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

Energy Conservation Act, BEE, net zero 2070.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

placing CAFE under the Motor Vehicles Act.

**EXAM TIP**

CAFE is a BEE/Ministry of Power instrument.

**INTERVIEW**

Market-based emission regulation.

**Read Full Article →**

**Question 8**

of 16

 [Source](#) →

The security of a Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) system, field-tested by DRDO in July 2026, rests primarily on:

- ☐ A The difficulty of factoring large numbers
- ☒ B The laws of quantum mechanics ✓
- ☐ C The length of the encryption password
- ☐ D The speed of the optical fibre

**ANSWER & ANALYSIS** **EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** QKD derives its security from the laws of quantum mechanics, such as the no-cloning theorem and the fact that measuring a quantum state disturbs it, rather than from mathematical complexity. **ANALYSIS:** This makes it future-proof against attacks by quantum computers and defends against the harvest-now, decrypt-later threat.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

DRDO developed the fibre-based QKD system with Taqbit Labs, Bengaluru; QKD is not the same as quantum computing.

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

GS3 science-tech and security.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

quantum communication, no-cloning theorem, indigenisation.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

equating QKD with quantum computing.

**EXAM TIP**

QKD security comes from physics, not maths.

**INTERVIEW**

Quantum-safe defence communication.

[Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 9**

of 16

[Source →](#)

The National Quantum Mission, to which DRDO's QKD work is linked, functions under which department?

**A** Department of Atomic Energy

**B** Department of Science and Technology ✓

**C** Department of Telecommunications

**D** Department of Defence Production

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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**✓ EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** The National Quantum Mission (2023), with an outlay of about Rs 6,003 crore, is implemented under the Department of Science and Technology (DST). **ANALYSIS:** DRDO, which conducted the QKD field trials, is under the Ministry of Defence, illustrating cross-agency work on quantum technology.

**📄 CONCEPT NOTE**

QKD uses photons and their polarisation states transmitted over optical fibre.

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

GS3 science-tech.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

National Quantum Mission, strategic frontier tech.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

placing the mission under DRDO.

**EXAM TIP**

National Quantum Mission is under DST.

**INTERVIEW**

Public-private collaboration in deep tech.

**Read Full Article →**

**Question 10**

of 16

[Source →](#)

India hosted the 5th Security Chiefs meeting in July 2026 of which regional grouping?

**A** SAARC

**B** BIMSTEC ✓

**C** ASEAN

**D** SCO

**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**
**✓ EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** India hosted the 5th BIMSTEC National Security Advisers meeting in New Delhi, chaired by NSA Ajit Doval, focusing on counter-terrorism, cyber and maritime security. **ANALYSIS:** The meeting adopted guidelines for the maritime component of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) and principles for maritime law-enforcement conduct at sea.

**📄 CONCEPT NOTE**

BIMSTEC has seven members: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

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

GS2 international relations.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

Neighbourhood First, Act East, Bay of Bengal.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing BIMSTEC with SAARC.

**EXAM TIP**

India leads the BIMSTEC Security Pillar.

**INTERVIEW**

Net security provider in the Indian Ocean Region.

[Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 11**

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[Source →](#)

Where is the BIMSTEC Secretariat headquartered, and in which year was the grouping established?

**A** Kathmandu; 1985

**B** Dhaka; 1997 ✓

**C** Colombo; 2004

**D** Bangkok; 2014

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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**✓ EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** The BIMSTEC Secretariat is headquartered in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and the grouping was established in 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration. **ANALYSIS:** It links South Asia and Southeast Asia around the Bay of Bengal, and has gained salience as SAARC remains stalled.

**📌 CONCEPT NOTE**

India leads the Security Pillar within BIMSTEC's sectoral architecture.

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

GS2 IR.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

sub-regionalism, connectivity, sectoral pillars.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

misplacing the Secretariat.

**EXAM TIP**

BIMSTEC Secretariat is in Dhaka; established 1997.

**INTERVIEW**

BIMSTEC versus SAARC.

**Read Full Article →**

**Question 12**

of 16

[Source](#)

At the 56th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO 2026), the Indian team achieved which result?

- ☐ A Three golds and two silvers
- ☒ B All five members won gold, joint World No. 1 ✓
- ☐ C One gold and four bronzes
- ☐ D No medals

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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**✓ EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** All five members of the Indian team won gold at IPhO 2026, held in Bucaramanga, Colombia, placing India as joint World No. 1 among more than 80 countries. **ANALYSIS:** The team was trained by the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE).

**📖 CONCEPT NOTE**

HBCSE is a unit of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) under the Department of Atomic Energy.

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

GS3 science, GS2 persons in news.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

STEM talent, Olympiads, HBCSE.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

misattributing the training body.

**EXAM TIP**

HBCSE trains India's science Olympiad teams.

**INTERVIEW**

Nurturing scientific talent.

[Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 13**

of 16

[Source](#)

India's retail (CPI) inflation in June 2026 rose to 4.38 per cent. Why is this significant?

- ☐ A It fell below the RBI's lower tolerance band
- ☒ B It breached the RBI's 4 per cent target for the first time in over a year ✓
- ☐ C It was the highest in a decade
- ☐ D It matched the wholesale inflation rate exactly

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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**✓ EXPLANATION**

FACT: CPI inflation rose from 3.93 per cent in May to 4.38 per cent in June 2026, breaching the RBI's 4 per cent target for the first time in over a year. ANALYSIS: Food inflation, measured by the Consumer Food Price Index, was the main driver.

**📄 CONCEPT NOTE**

The RBI's flexible inflation-targeting band is 4 per cent plus or minus 2 per cent.

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

GS3 economy.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

inflation targeting, CPI, monetary policy.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing the target with the band.

**EXAM TIP**

RBI target is 4 per cent, band 2 to 6 per cent.

**INTERVIEW**

Food inflation and monetary policy.

[Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 14**

of 16

 [Source](#) →

The two Varanasi elevated corridors cleared by the Cabinet in July 2026 will be built by NHAI under which model?

- ☐ A Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT)
- ☒ B Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) ✓
- ☐ C Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC)
- ☐ D Swiss Challenge

**ANSWER & ANALYSIS** **EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** The Varuna and Ganga river elevated corridors in Varanasi, costing about Rs 25,446 crore, will be built by the National Highways Authority of India under the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM). **ANALYSIS:** HAM blends public and private funding, with the government paying about 40 per cent as construction support and the rest as annuities.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

HAM was introduced to revive stalled highway projects by sharing risk between the government and developers.

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

GS3 infrastructure.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

PPP, annuity, road financing.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing HAM with pure BOT.

**EXAM TIP**

HAM = 40 per cent government support plus annuities.

**INTERVIEW**

Risk-sharing in infrastructure.

[Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 15**

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[Source →](#)

World Snake Day is observed on which date, and which group is called India's "Big Four" venomous snakes?

**A** July 16; common krait, Indian cobra, Russell's viper, saw-scaled viper ✓

**B** September 1; king cobra, python, rat snake, sea snake

**C** July 16; python, boa, rat snake, wolf snake

**D** June 5; cobra, krait, viper, mamba

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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**✓ EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** World Snake Day is observed on July 16, and India's "Big Four" venomous snakes, responsible for most snakebite deaths, are the common krait, Indian cobra, Russell's viper and saw-scaled viper. **ANALYSIS:** Snakebite envenoming is recognised as a neglected tropical disease.

**📖 CONCEPT NOTE**

Snakes are protected under schedules of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

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

GS3 environment, GS2 health.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

neglected tropical disease, antivenom, biodiversity.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

including the king cobra in the Big Four.

**EXAM TIP**

Big Four = krait, cobra, Russell's viper, saw-scaled viper.

**INTERVIEW**

Snakebite as a public-health issue.

[Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 16**

of 16

[Source →](#)

Rajiv Kumar, approved by the RBI as part-time Chairman of HDFC Bank in July 2026, earlier held which constitutional office?

- ☐ A Comptroller and Auditor General
- ☒ B Chief Election Commissioner ✓
- ☐ C Attorney General
- ☐ D Chairman of the Finance Commission

**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**
**✓ EXPLANATION**

FACT: Rajiv Kumar, a former Finance Secretary, served as the 25th Chief Election Commissioner of India before the RBI approved him as part-time Chairman of HDFC Bank for a three-year term. ANALYSIS: A 1984-batch IAS officer, he is associated with banking and non-performing-asset reforms.

**📖 CONCEPT NOTE**

The RBI must approve the appointment of a bank's chairman and other key managerial personnel.

**Q16**
 **CONCEPT KIT**

**CROSS-PAPER**

GS2 polity and persons in news.


**MAINS KEYWORDS**

banking governance, regulatory approval.


**COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing the CEC with other constitutional posts.


**EXAM TIP**

The Election Commission is a constitutional body under Article 324.


**INTERVIEW**

Fit-and-proper criteria in banking.


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