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Daily Quiz, July 18, 2026

18 July 2026



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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED ANSWER KEY

Daily Quiz, July 18, 2026

18 July 2026 · 16 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Question 1

of 16

 [Source →](#)

The PARIVARTAN scheme, whose guidelines were approved in July 2026, aims to:

- ☐ A Build new expressways across the country
- ☒ B Replace old polluting commercial trucks and buses in the NCR with cleaner vehicles ✓
- ☐ C Provide free electricity to farmers
- ☐ D Set up new airports in tier-2 cities

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 EXPLANATION

FACT: PARIVARTAN replaces old polluting commercial trucks and buses in the National Capital Region with BS-VI or electric vehicles. ANALYSIS: With an outlay of about Rs 9,585 crore, it is implemented by MoRTH and funded via the NCR Planning Board, covering about 2.07 lakh beneficiaries.

 CONCEPT NOTE

PARIVARTAN stands for Programme for Accelerated Renewal and Incentivization of Vehicle Assets for Reducing Transport Air pollution And Network emissions.

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

GS3 environment and infrastructure.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

air-pollution governance, vehicle scrappage, polluter pays.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

thinking it is a general road-building scheme.

**EXAM TIP**

PARIVARTAN targets old commercial vehicles in the NCR.

**INTERVIEW**

Cleaning Delhi's air.

[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 2

of 16

[Source](#)

Under the PARIVARTAN scheme, which body funds the programme and which ministry implements it?

- ☐ A The CPCB funds it; the Ministry of Environment implements it
- ☒ B The NCR Planning Board funds it; the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways implements it ✓
- ☐ C The RBI funds it; NITI Aayog implements it
- ☐ D State governments fund it; the Ministry of Home Affairs implements it

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
EXPLANATION

FACT: PARIVARTAN is funded via the NCR Planning Board (NCRPB) and implemented by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH). **ANALYSIS:** The scheme offers discounts from vehicle makers, an interest subvention, tax and registration waivers, and a tradable Certificate of Deposit mechanism.

CONCEPT NOTE

The umbrella scheme was approved by the Cabinet on June 3, 2026, with operational guidelines cleared on July 16, 2026.

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

GS3 environment, GS2 federal coordination.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

market instruments, tradable certificates, cooperative federalism.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

attributing implementation to the environment ministry.

**EXAM TIP**

MoRTH implements, NCRPB funds.

**INTERVIEW**

Incentive-based pollution control.

**Read Full Article** →

Question 3

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 [Source →](#)

At the third India-EU Trade and Technology Council in July 2026, the two sides agreed to open negotiations for India's association to which programme?

A The Erasmus student exchange

B Horizon Europe ✓

C The Schengen framework

D The Common Agricultural Policy

ANSWER & ANALYSIS **EXPLANATION**

FACT: The third India-EU Trade and Technology Council, held in Brussels, agreed to open formal negotiations for India's association to Horizon Europe, the EU's research and innovation programme worth about EUR 93.5 billion.

ANALYSIS: The aim is to conclude talks before end-2026 so Indian researchers can participate from 2027.

 CONCEPT NOTE

The Trade and Technology Council is only the EU's second such council, the other being with the United States.

Q3

 CONCEPT KIT**CROSS-PAPER**

GS2 international relations.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

science diplomacy, tech sovereignty, supply-chain de-risking.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing Horizon Europe with Erasmus.

**EXAM TIP**

Horizon Europe is the EU research and innovation programme.

**INTERVIEW**

India-EU technology partnership.

[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 4

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[Source →](#)

The India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC) is notable because it is:

- ☐ A The first such council the EU has formed
- ☒ B Only the second such council the EU has formed, after the one with the United States ✓
- ☐ C A body under the World Trade Organization
- ☐ D A military alliance

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The TTC is only the EU's second Trade and Technology Council, the other being with the United States.

ANALYSIS: Its pillars include an AI roadmap, semiconductors, clean technology, resilient supply chains and an EV-charging Innovation Hub.

📄 CONCEPT NOTE

The third meeting was co-chaired on India's side by the External Affairs, Commerce and MoS ministers.

Q4
 **CONCEPT KIT**

CROSS-PAPER

GS2 international relations.


MAINS KEYWORDS

minilateral tech cooperation, strategic partnership.


COMMON MISTAKE

treating the TTC as a WTO body.


EXAM TIP

EU has TTCs with only the US and India.


INTERVIEW

Institutionalising tech ties.


[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 5

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[Source →](#)

India's first White Rabbit network, inaugurated in July 2026, is designed to disseminate:

- ☐ A High-speed internet to villages
- ☒ B Indian Standard Time with sub-nanosecond precision ✓
- ☐ C Weather forecasts to farmers
- ☐ D Satellite images for mapping

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The White Rabbit network disseminates Indian Standard Time (IST) with sub-nanosecond precision over fibre-optic and Ethernet, independent of foreign GPS or GNSS. **ANALYSIS:** It uses the Precision Time Protocol (IEEE 1588) and is led by the Legal Metrology Division of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

The National Physical Laboratory (NPL) maintains IST at UTC plus 5:30; the demonstration network was inaugurated at Jakkur, Bengaluru.

Q5

 CONCEPT KIT**CROSS-PAPER**

GS3 science-tech.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

strategic autonomy, critical time infrastructure, GPS independence.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

thinking it is a broadband project.

**EXAM TIP**

White Rabbit gives sub-nanosecond time sync.

**INTERVIEW**

One Nation, One Time.

[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 6

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[Source →](#)

Indian Standard Time (IST), disseminated by the new White Rabbit network, is maintained by which body and set at what offset?

- ☐ A ISRO; UTC plus 6:00
- ☒ B The National Physical Laboratory (NPL); UTC plus 5:30 ✓
- ☐ C The IMD; UTC plus 5:00
- ☐ D The Survey of India; UTC plus 5:30

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The National Physical Laboratory (NPL) maintains Indian Standard Time at UTC plus 5:30. **ANALYSIS:** The White Rabbit network, under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, disseminates this time with sub-nanosecond accuracy for uses such as 5G, stock exchanges, defence and power grids.

📄 CONCEPT NOTE

Applications requiring precise time synchronisation include financial timestamping and quantum technology.

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

GS3 science-tech.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

metrology, standards, national security.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

attributing IST-keeping to ISRO or the IMD.

**EXAM TIP**

NPL keeps IST at UTC plus 5:30.

**INTERVIEW**

Why precise time matters.

**Read Full Article →**

Question 7

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[Source →](#)

India's participation in Exercise Pitch Black 2026 is significant because:

- ☐ A It is a naval exercise led by India
- ☒ B It marks the first time the Indian Air Force takes part with Rafale fighters ✓
- ☐ C It is held in the Indian Ocean
- ☐ D It replaces the Malabar exercise

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Exercise Pitch Black 2026, hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force over northern Australia, marks the first time the Indian Air Force participates with Rafale fighters. **ANALYSIS:** The IAF contingent includes four Rafales, two C-17 transport aircraft and over 120 air warriors.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

The exercise features about 100 aircraft, over 2,500 personnel and around 20 nations.

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

GS3 security, GS2 IR.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

Indo-Pacific interoperability, airpower diplomacy, expeditionary reach.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing Pitch Black (air) with Malabar (naval).

**EXAM TIP**

Pitch Black is a RAAF-hosted air-combat exercise.

**INTERVIEW**

India-Australia defence ties.

[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 8

of 16

 [Source](#) →

Exercise Pitch Black is hosted by which country?

- ☐ A Japan
- ☒ B Australia ✓
- ☐ C The United States
- ☐ D France

ANSWER & ANALYSIS **EXPLANATION**

FACT: Exercise Pitch Black is the premier multinational air-combat exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), held over northern Australia. **ANALYSIS:** The 2026 edition, running July 20 to August 7, includes the first-time participation of Japan's F-35 and Indonesia's T-50I alongside IAF Rafales.

 CONCEPT NOTE

It is distinct from India-hosted air exercises such as Tarang Shakti.

Q8

 CONCEPT KIT**CROSS-PAPER**

GS3 security-defence.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

multinational exercises, interoperability, Indo-Pacific.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

placing it in the US or Japan.

**EXAM TIP**

Pitch Black is hosted by Australia (RAAF).

**INTERVIEW**

Building coalition airpower.

[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 9

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[Source →](#)

The greenfield shipbuilding cluster approved in July 2026 is located at Porbandar in which state, and falls under which vision document?

- ☐ A Maharashtra; Sagarmala 2.0
- ☒ B Gujarat; Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 ✓
- ☐ C Tamil Nadu; Blue Economy Policy
- ☐ D Odisha; Purvodaya

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The integrated greenfield shipbuilding cluster is at Kuchhadi, Porbandar, in Gujarat (about 2,000 acres), under the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047. **ANALYSIS:** It is paired with a Rs 1,570 crore ship-repair facility at Vadinar and developed through the NSHIP-Gujarat special purpose vehicle.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

India currently holds under 1 per cent of the global shipbuilding market, ranking around 20th.

Q9

 CONCEPT KIT**CROSS-PAPER**

GS3 economy and infrastructure.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

Make in India, blue economy, import substitution.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

placing the cluster outside Gujarat.

**EXAM TIP**

Porbandar cluster is under Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047.

**INTERVIEW**

Building a shipbuilding ecosystem.

[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 10

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[Source →](#)

The Porbandar shipbuilding cluster is being developed through which special purpose vehicle?

- ☐ A Sagarmala Development Company
- ☒ B NSHIP-Gujarat, a joint entity of MoPSW and the Gujarat Maritime Board ✓
- ☐ C Cochin Shipyard Limited
- ☐ D The Shipping Corporation of India

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The cluster is being developed through NSHIP-Gujarat, a special purpose vehicle formed by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) with the Gujarat Maritime Board. **ANALYSIS:** The cluster targets an annual capacity of about 1.2 to 1.5 million gross tonnage.

📄 CONCEPT NOTE

A Rs 1,570 crore ship-repair facility at Vadinar aims to cut dependence on overseas ship repair.

Q10 **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 economy.
 MAINS KEYWORDS	SPV, maritime economy, ship repair.
 COMMON MISTAKE	attributing it to an existing shipyard PSU.
 EXAM TIP	NSHIP-Gujarat is the SPV.
 INTERVIEW	Public-private maritime infrastructure.

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 11

of 16

 **Source** →

Saushrutam 2026, inaugurated by President Murmu in July 2026, honoured Acharya Sushruta, who is regarded as the:

- ☐ **A** Father of Indian astronomy
- ☒ **B** Father of surgery ✓
- ☐ **C** Father of Ayurvedic pharmacology
- ☐ **D** Father of Indian mathematics

ANSWER & ANALYSIS **EXPLANATION**

FACT: Saushrutam 2026, an international seminar on Ayurvedic surgery, honoured Acharya Sushruta, regarded as the father of surgery, on Sushruta Jayanti. **ANALYSIS:** Sushruta authored the Sushruta Samhita, foundational to shalya-tantra (surgery), including early rhinoplasty.

 CONCEPT NOTE

The event was held at the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), under the Ministry of Ayush.

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

GS1 art and culture, GS3 science.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

knowledge traditions, integrative medicine, traditional knowledge.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing Sushruta with Charaka (medicine).

**EXAM TIP**

Sushruta = father of surgery, Sushruta Samhita.

**INTERVIEW**

Validating traditional knowledge.

[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 12

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 [Source](#) →

The National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM), referenced during Saushrutam 2026, is:

- ☐ A A private research society
- ☒ B A statutory regulator established under the NCISM Act, 2020 ✓
- ☐ C A United Nations agency
- ☐ D A department of the Ministry of Health

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 EXPLANATION

FACT: The NCISM is the statutory regulator for Indian systems of medicine, established under the NCISM Act, 2020.

ANALYSIS: The All India Institute of Ayurveda, which hosted Saushrutam, functions under the Ministry of Ayush.

 CONCEPT NOTE

During the event, President Murmu also inaugurated an AI-enabled 3-Tesla MRI at AIIA.

Q12 **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS2 statutory bodies, GS3 health.
 MAINS KEYWORDS	regulation of AYUSH, integrative medicine.
 COMMON MISTAKE	treating NCISM as a private body.
 EXAM TIP	NCISM is statutory (2020 Act).
 INTERVIEW	Regulating traditional medicine.

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 13

of 16

[Source →](#)

Which Canadian group emerged in July 2026 as the preferred bidder for a majority stake in IDBI Bank?

- ☐ A Brookfield
- ☒ B Fairfax Financial ✓
- ☐ C Sun Life
- ☐ D Manulife

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Fairfax Financial Holdings, led by Prem Watsa, emerged as the preferred bidder for about a 60.72 per cent stake in IDBI Bank in a strategic disinvestment valued at around Rs 52,932 crore. **ANALYSIS:** The deal is subject to RBI and other regulatory approvals and is being pursued via DIPAM.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

The current promoters are the Government of India and the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC).

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

GS3 economy, disinvestment.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

strategic disinvestment, FDI in banking.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing Fairfax with other foreign investors.

**EXAM TIP**

Fairfax (Prem Watsa) is the IDBI preferred bidder.

**INTERVIEW**

Privatising public-sector banks.

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Question 14

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[Source →](#)

According to the June 2026 PLFS monthly bulletin, the all-India unemployment rate for those aged 15 and above was about:

A 3.5 per cent

B 5.5 per cent ✓

C 7.8 per cent

D 9.2 per cent

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The June 2026 PLFS bulletin from the National Statistics Office put the all-India unemployment rate (15 and above) at about 5.5 per cent. **ANALYSIS:** The rural rate eased to about 5.0 per cent while the urban rate rose to about 6.6 per cent.

📄 CONCEPT NOTE

The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) now publishes monthly estimates under a revised methodology.

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

GS3 economy, employment.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

labour-force data, unemployment, PLFS.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing rural and urban rates.

**EXAM TIP**

June 2026 unemployment about 5.5 per cent.

**INTERVIEW**

Reading jobs data.

[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 15

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 [Source](#) →

Nelson Mandela International Day is observed on which date?

A July 18 ✓**B** October 2**C** December 10**D** April 27**ANSWER & ANALYSIS** **EXPLANATION**

FACT: Nelson Mandela International Day is observed on July 18, Mandela's birthday. **ANALYSIS:** It honours the anti-apartheid leader and first democratically elected President of South Africa and encourages people to devote time to service; the 2026 theme centres on combating poverty and inequity.

 CONCEPT NOTE

India shared a long solidarity with the anti-apartheid struggle, and Mandela received the Bharat Ratna in 1990.

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

GS2 international personalities, GS1 world history.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

anti-apartheid, reconciliation, human rights.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing it with Human Rights Day (December 10).

**EXAM TIP**

Mandela Day is July 18.

**INTERVIEW**

Leadership and reconciliation.

[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 16

of 16

[Source →](#)

The Likweli monkey (*Colobus congoensis*), reported as a new species in July 2026, was discovered in:

- ☐ A The Western Ghats of India
- ☒ B The Democratic Republic of the Congo ✓
- ☐ C The Amazon basin
- ☐ D Madagascar

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The Likweli monkey (*Colobus congoensis*) is a newly described primate from the Democratic Republic of the Congo's Lomami National Park. **ANALYSIS:** In the same period, scientists reported a roughly 24-million-year-old Kewra (screw pine) fossil from Assam and two new solitary bee species from Arunachal Pradesh.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

These discoveries highlight ongoing biodiversity documentation across Africa and the Eastern Himalaya.

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

GS3 environment and biodiversity.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

new species, biodiversity hotspots, taxonomy.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

placing the new monkey in India.

**EXAM TIP**

Likweli monkey is from DR Congo.

**INTERVIEW**

Why species discovery matters.

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“Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will.”

— Mahatma Gandhi