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Daily Quiz, July 20, 2026

20 July 2026



CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED ANSWER KEY

Daily Quiz, July 20, 2026

20 July 2026 · 15 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Question 1

of 15

 [Source →](#)

The 48th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, which opened in July 2026, is being held in:

- ☐ A Paris, France
- ☒ B Busan, Republic of Korea ✓
- ☐ C New Delhi, India
- ☐ D Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 EXPLANATION

FACT: The 48th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee opened in Busan, Republic of Korea, running July 19 to 29, 2026, to examine about 30 new nominations. **ANALYSIS:** India nominated the ancient Buddhist site of Sarnath for inscription.

 CONCEPT NOTE

India currently has 44 World Heritage properties.

Q1

 CONCEPT KIT**CROSS-PAPER**

GS1 art and culture.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

cultural diplomacy, soft power, heritage conservation.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing the host city with Paris (UNESCO HQ).

**EXAM TIP**

the 48th WHC session is in Busan, South Korea.

**INTERVIEW**

Heritage and national identity.

[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 2

of 15

 [Source](#) →

Sarnath, nominated by India for World Heritage status, is historically significant as the place where the Buddha:

- ☐ A Attained enlightenment
- ☒ B Delivered his first sermon ✓
- ☐ C Was born
- ☐ D Attained parinirvana

ANSWER & ANALYSIS **EXPLANATION**

FACT: Sarnath, near Varanasi, is where the Buddha delivered his first sermon, the Dhammachakra Pravartana or turning of the wheel of law. **ANALYSIS:** The Ashokan Lion Capital from Sarnath is India's national emblem.

 CONCEPT NOTE

World Heritage nominations are evaluated by ICOMOS (cultural sites), IUCN (natural sites) and ICCROM (training).

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

GS1 art, culture and ancient history.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

Buddhist circuit, heritage tourism.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing Sarnath (first sermon) with Bodh Gaya (enlightenment).

**EXAM TIP**

Sarnath = first sermon; Lion Capital = national emblem.

**INTERVIEW**

India's Buddhist heritage diplomacy.

[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 3

of 15

[Source →](#)

Lestes paloti, in the news in July 2026, is a newly discovered species of:

- ☐ A Frog
- ☒ B Damselfly ✓
- ☐ C Orchid
- ☐ D Freshwater fish

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Lestes paloti is a new spreadwing damselfly described from Kerala's Western Ghats, the first new Lestes species from the Western Ghats since 1929. **ANALYSIS:** It was named after Dr Muhamed Jafer Palot of the Zoological Survey of India.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

Damselflies fold their wings over the body at rest, unlike dragonflies which hold them outstretched.

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

GS3 environment and biodiversity.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

Western Ghats endemism, bio-indicators, taxonomy.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing damselflies with dragonflies.

**EXAM TIP**

Lestes paloti is a damselfly from the Western Ghats.

**INTERVIEW**

Why new-species discovery matters.

[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 4

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[Source →](#)

The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), which described *Lestes paloti*, is headquartered in:

- ☐ A Dehradun
- ☒ B Kolkata ✓
- ☐ C Bengaluru
- ☐ D Hyderabad

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), established in 1916 and headquartered in Kolkata, is the nodal body for faunal surveys in India. **ANALYSIS:** The Western Ghats, where the damselfly was found, is a UNESCO natural World Heritage site and one of India's four biodiversity hotspots.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

Odonates (dragonflies and damselflies) are important freshwater bio-indicators.

Q4

CONCEPT KIT

CROSS-PAPER

GS3 environment.


MAINS KEYWORDS

biodiversity documentation, hotspots.


COMMON MISTAKE

confusing ZSI (fauna, Kolkata) with the Botanical Survey of India (flora).


EXAM TIP

ZSI is headquartered in Kolkata.


INTERVIEW

Institutions for biodiversity.


[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 5

of 15

[Source →](#)

The E-Commerce Council of India (ECCI), launched in July 2026, was set up by which body?

- ☐ A The Competition Commission of India
- ☒ B The Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) ✓
- ☐ C The Ministry of Commerce
- ☐ D NITI Aayog

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) launched the E-Commerce Council of India (ECCI), the country's first national e-commerce council, to unify a roughly USD 120 billion digital-commerce ecosystem.

ANALYSIS: IAMAI is an industry body, not a statutory regulator.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) is the government-backed open-network alternative; the CCI is the statutory competition regulator.

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

GS3 economy.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

self-regulation, digital commerce, MSME access.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

treating ECCI or IAMAI as a statutory body.

**EXAM TIP**

ECCI was launched by IAMAI (industry body).

**INTERVIEW**

Regulating platform economies.

**Read Full Article →**

Question 6

of 15

 Source →

Which of the following is the government-backed open-network alternative for digital commerce in India?

A ECCI

B ONDC ✓

C IMAI

D GeM only

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 EXPLANATION

FACT: The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) is the government-backed open network aimed at democratising e-commerce, distinct from the industry-led ECCI. **ANALYSIS:** The sector is also governed by the Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020.

 CONCEPT NOTE

ECCI is an industry council; ONDC is an open protocol-based network.

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

GS3 economy, digital economy.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

open networks, interoperability, MSME.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing ONDC with a private marketplace.

**EXAM TIP**

ONDC is the government-backed open network.

**INTERVIEW**

Open digital public infrastructure.

[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 7

of 15

[Source →](#)

Operation Southern Readiness 26-2, hosted by the Indian Navy in July 2026, was conducted with which partnership?

- ☐ A The Quad navies
- ☒ B The Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) ✓
- ☐ C NATO
- ☐ D The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Operation Southern Readiness 26-2 was hosted by the Indian Navy at the Southern Naval Command, Kochi, with the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF). ANALYSIS: The exercise focused on maritime-domain awareness and coordinated responses to threats like piracy and trafficking.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

The CMF is a naval partnership of more than 40 nations, headquartered in Bahrain; India joined as a partner in 2023.

Q7

 CONCEPT KIT**CROSS-PAPER**

GS3 security and defence.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

net security provider, maritime security, Indo-Pacific.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing the CMF with the Quad or NATO.

**EXAM TIP**

the CMF is a 40-plus nation naval partnership based in Bahrain.

**INTERVIEW**

India as an Indian Ocean security provider.

[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 8

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 [Source](#) →

The Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) is headquartered in:

A Bahrain ✓

B Singapore

C Djibouti

D Mumbai

ANSWER & ANALYSIS **EXPLANATION**

FACT: The Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), a multinational naval partnership of more than 40 nations, is headquartered in Bahrain. **ANALYSIS:** India, a CMF partner since 2023, hosted Operation Southern Readiness to strengthen maritime-security cooperation.

 CONCEPT NOTE

India also runs the Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) for maritime-domain awareness.

Q8

 CONCEPT KIT**CROSS-PAPER**

GS3 security.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

maritime coalitions, counter-piracy, SAGAR.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

placing the CMF headquarters elsewhere.

**EXAM TIP**

CMF is headquartered in Bahrain.

**INTERVIEW**

Coalition maritime security.

[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 9

of 15

[Source →](#)

Manasbal Lake, which showed ecological revival in 2026, is notable as:

- ☐ A India's largest saltwater lake
- ☒ B India's deepest natural freshwater lake ✓
- ☐ C India's highest-altitude lake
- ☐ D India's only Ramsar site

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Manasbal Lake, in the Ganderbal district of Jammu and Kashmir, is regarded as India's deepest natural freshwater lake, at roughly 13 metres. **ANALYSIS:** Its 2026 revival, after de-weeding and dredging, saw the return of Siberian migratory birds along the Central Asian Flyway.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India; the lake is famous for its lotus blooms.

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

GS1 geography, GS3 environment.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

wetland restoration, migratory birds, flyways.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing Manasbal with Wular (a Ramsar site) or Dal Lake.

**EXAM TIP**

Manasbal is India's deepest freshwater lake.

**INTERVIEW**

Reviving Himalayan wetlands.

[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 10

of 15

 [Source](#) →

Migratory birds arriving at Manasbal Lake travel along which major flyway?

- ☐ A The Atlantic Flyway
- ☒ B The Central Asian Flyway ✓
- ☐ C The East Asian-Australasian Flyway only
- ☐ D The Mississippi Flyway

ANSWER & ANALYSIS **EXPLANATION**

FACT: The Siberian and other migratory waterfowl that winter at Manasbal Lake travel along the Central Asian Flyway, for which India has a National Action Plan. **ANALYSIS:** Wetland restoration at Manasbal supports these migratory species.

 CONCEPT NOTE

The Central Asian Flyway covers a large region from the Arctic to the Indian Ocean.

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

GS3 environment and biodiversity.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

flyways, wetland conservation, migratory species.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing the Central Asian Flyway with American flyways.

**EXAM TIP**

India lies on the Central Asian Flyway.

**INTERVIEW**

International bird conservation.

[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 11

of 15

 [Source](#) →

World Chess Day, observed on July 20, marks the founding of FIDE in which year?

A 1886

B 1924 ✓

C 1950

D 1974

ANSWER & ANALYSIS **EXPLANATION**

FACT: World Chess Day, observed on July 20, marks the founding of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) in Paris in 1924; the United Nations proclaimed the day in 2019. **ANALYSIS:** July 20 is also the anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon landing of 1969.

 CONCEPT NOTE

Chess is believed to trace its roots to the ancient Indian game of chaturanga.

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

GS1 art, culture and world history.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

sporting heritage, soft power.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

misremembering FIDE's founding year.

**EXAM TIP**

FIDE was founded in 1924; World Chess Day is July 20.

**INTERVIEW**

India's chess renaissance.

**Read Full Article →**

Question 12

of 15

 **Source** →

At the 72nd National Film Awards, which film was named Best Feature Film?

- ☐ A Amaran
- ☒ B Article 370 ✓
- ☐ C Chandu Champion
- ☐ D Bramayugam

ANSWER & ANALYSIS **EXPLANATION**

FACT: At the 72nd National Film Awards, for films of 2024, "Article 370" was named Best Feature Film. **ANALYSIS:** The Best Actor award was shared by Kartik Aaryan and Mammooty, with Yami Gautam as Best Actress.

 CONCEPT NOTE

The Dadasaheb Phalke Award, the highest honour in Indian cinema, is given separately.

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

GS1 art and culture.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

cinema, cultural recognition.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing the National Film Awards with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award.

**EXAM TIP**

Best Feature Film (72nd) was Article 370.

**INTERVIEW**

Cinema and society.

**Read Full Article** →

Question 13

of 15

[Source →](#)

The 2026 FIFA World Cup, won by Spain, was notable as:

- ☐ A The first World Cup held in Asia
- ☒ B The first edition with 48 teams ✓
- ☐ C The first World Cup with a video referee
- ☐ D The last 32-team edition

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The 2026 FIFA World Cup, in which Spain beat Argentina 1-0 after extra time, was the first edition with 48 teams, co-hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico. **ANALYSIS:** The expanded format increased participation from around the world.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

In badminton, P V Sindhu won the Japan Open 2026 the same weekend.

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

GS1 sports in the news.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

global sporting events.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

misremembering the host countries.

**EXAM TIP**

2026 was the first 48-team World Cup, hosted by USA, Canada and Mexico.

**INTERVIEW**

Mega-events and diplomacy.

**Read Full Article →**

Question 14

of 15

[Source →](#)

The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026 proposes raising the number of Supreme Court judges to:

- ☐ A 31, excluding the CJI
- ☒ B 37, excluding the CJI ✓
- ☐ C 40, including the CJI
- ☐ D 34, including the CJI

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026 proposes raising the sanctioned strength of Supreme Court judges from 33 to 37, excluding the Chief Justice of India, to help address case pendency.

ANALYSIS: Parliament fixes the Supreme Court's judge strength by law under Article 124.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

The current strength was last raised in 2019.

Q14

 CONCEPT KIT**CROSS-PAPER**

GS2 polity and judiciary.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

judicial pendency, separation of powers.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

counting the CJI within the puisne-judge number.

**EXAM TIP**

the bill raises SC judges from 33 to 37 (excluding CJI).

**INTERVIEW**

Tackling judicial backlog.

[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 15

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 [Source](#) →

Mount Olympus, in the news for a 2026 World Heritage nomination, is located in which country?

A Italy

B Greece ✓

C Turkey

D Cyprus

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 EXPLANATION

FACT: Mount Olympus, Greece's highest peak at about 2,918 metres and the mythological home of the twelve Olympian gods, is up for mixed cultural and natural World Heritage status at the Busan session. **ANALYSIS:** Mixed sites have both cultural and natural value and are evaluated by ICOMOS and IUCN.

 CONCEPT NOTE

India's Sarnath nomination is also before the same Committee session.

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

GS1 world geography and culture.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

mixed heritage sites, cultural landscapes.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

placing Mount Olympus outside Greece.

**EXAM TIP**

Mount Olympus is in Greece; a mixed World Heritage nomination.

**INTERVIEW**

Nature and myth in heritage.

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Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

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— Buddha

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