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Daily Quiz, August 19, 2026

19 August 2026



CURATED & WRITTEN BY

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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED ANSWER KEY

Daily Quiz, August 19, 2026

19 August 2026 · 10 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Question 1

of 10

[Source →](#)

The MMDR Amendment Act, 2026, which received presidential assent on August 18, 2026, inserts which new provision restricting state taxation of mineral rights?

A Section 9D ✓

B Section 15A

C Section 4B

D Section 22C

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The MMDR Amendment Act, 2026, received presidential assent on August 18, 2026, inserting a new Section 9D, which bars states from imposing fresh taxes, cess or levies on mineral rights or mineral-bearing land except within Centre-prescribed conditions, widely read as a legislative response to the Supreme Court's July 2024 ruling upholding state taxing power. **ANALYSIS:** The provision uses Parliament's Entry 54, List I regulatory authority over mines and minerals to practically narrow the effect of a taxing power the Court had affirmed in July 2024 under Entry 50, List II, a distinct federalism dynamic worth naming precisely.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

The Bill passed the Lok Sabha on August 12 and the Rajya Sabha on August 13, 2026, before receiving presidential assent on August 18. The underlying Supreme Court ruling, Mineral Area Development Authority v. Steel Authority of India (July 2024, nine-judge bench, 8:1), held that royalty under the MMDR Act is not a tax and does not limit states' independent taxing power over mineral rights, overturning the 1990 India Cement precedent. States earned Rs 1,14,549 crore in mineral revenue in FY2025-26, making the fiscal stakes of this federalism dispute substantial rather than merely theoretical, with Jharkhand and Odisha among the states raising objections.

Q1
 **CONCEPT KIT**

CROSS-PAPER

GS2 (centre-state fiscal federalism, Seventh Schedule); GS3 (mineral resources).


MAINS KEYWORDS

MMDR Amendment Act 2026, Section 9D, Entry 50 vs Entry 54.


COMMON MISTAKE

assuming the amendment directly overturns the 2024 SC ruling; it instead uses a separate constitutional entry to achieve a practically restrictive effect.


EXAM TIP

anchor "Section 9D, assent Aug 18, responds to MADA v. SAIL July 2024" as this Act's fixed fact set.


INTERVIEW

does using regulatory authority to narrow a judicially affirmed taxing power undermine cooperative federalism?


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Question 2

of 10

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The CCEA's August 19, 2026 approval of NH-22 four-laning in Bihar covers the Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi-Sonbarsa stretch under which financing model?

- ☐ A Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT)
- ☒ B Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) ✓
- ☐ C Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC)
- ☐ D Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Toll

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The CCEA approved a Rs 3,590.73 crore four-laning of the 82.578 km Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi-Sonbarsa stretch of NH-22 in Bihar on the Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM), linking the India-Nepal border crossing at Sonbarsa to Muzaffarpur, alongside separately approved railway multitracking projects worth roughly Rs 9,450 crore across four other states. **ANALYSIS:** HAM combines elements of EPC and BOT, with the government funding a share of construction cost upfront and the developer recovering the remainder plus a return through annuity payments, a model increasingly preferred for highway projects balancing project bankability against fiscal burden.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

The rail multitracking component covers four projects, Kharagpur-Bhadrak, Bhadrak-Haridaspur, Gummidipundi-Gudur, and Cuttack-Paradeep, spanning West Bengal, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, adding roughly 410 km across 8 districts with a targeted completion of 2030-31 and an estimated freight capacity gain of ~76 MTPA. The NH-22 upgrade includes a 340-metre bridge over the Bagmati, three rail overbridges and two flyovers, illustrating the government's dual-use approach combining domestic freight-logistics investment with strategic India-Nepal border connectivity in a single Cabinet approval cycle. Such multi-project Cabinet approval cycles are a recurring feature of PM Gati Shakti-aligned infrastructure planning, bundling geographically dispersed projects that individually serve distinct freight, passenger or strategic-connectivity goals under a single, coordinated economic-affairs decision.

Q2
 **CONCEPT KIT**

CROSS-PAPER

GS3 (infrastructure financing models, PM Gati Shakti); GS2 (India-Nepal connectivity).


MAINS KEYWORDS

Hybrid Annuity Mode, NH-22, rail multitracking, Gati Shakti.


COMMON MISTAKE

confusing HAM with pure BOT or EPC models; HAM specifically blends upfront government funding with annuity-based developer recovery.


EXAM TIP

anchor "NH-22, Rs 3,590.73 crore, HAM, Sonbarsa-Muzaffarpur" as this project's fixed fact set.


INTERVIEW

how does bundling domestic logistics infrastructure with strategic border connectivity in one approval reflect a deliberate dual-use infrastructure strategy?


[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 3

of 10

[Source](#)

The Ministry of Defence's 6th Positive Indigenisation List, notified around August 19, 2026, covers how many strategically important items?

A 205

B 305

C 505

D 405 ✓

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The Ministry of Defence notified its 6th Positive Indigenisation List covering 405 strategically important sub-assemblies, Line Replaceable Units, spares and components (16 for the Indian Coast Guard, 389 for Defence Public Sector Undertakings), spanning platforms including the Su-30MKI, ALH Dhruv, LCA Tejas and T-90/T-72 tanks, with an estimated business potential of Rs 3,070 crore. **ANALYSIS:** Positive Indigenisation Lists work by progressively barring imports of listed items beyond notified timelines, giving domestic manufacturers predictable demand visibility, a structured, phased approach distinct from a blanket import ban.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

The list is administered through the SRIJAN Portal, which has listed over 33,000 cumulative items for indigenisation, of which more than 15,700 have already been indigenised, with an estimated import-substitution value of roughly Rs 9,000 crore over five years. This phased-list mechanism is a core instrument of the Atmanirbhar Bharat push in defence manufacturing, distinct from other indigenisation tools like the Strategic Partnership Model (which channels select platforms through domestic private-sector tie-ups with foreign technology partners) or direct DRDO-led indigenous development programmes.

Six such Positive Indigenisation Lists have now been notified in succession, each expanding the scope of components domestic manufacturers must supply, reflecting a deliberate, incremental strategy rather than a single sweeping import-substitution mandate that might overwhelm domestic manufacturing capacity.

Q3
 **CONCEPT KIT**

CROSS-PAPER

GS3 (defence indigenisation, Atmanirbhar Bharat).


MAINS KEYWORDS

Positive Indigenisation List, SRIJAN Portal, defence manufacturing self-reliance.


COMMON MISTAKE

confusing Positive Indigenisation Lists with the Strategic Partnership Model; the former is a phased import-substitution list, the latter a platform-specific foreign-technology-transfer mechanism.


EXAM TIP

anchor "405 items, Rs 3,070 crore, 6th list" as this notification's fixed fact set.


INTERVIEW

does a phased-list approach to import substitution adequately balance operational readiness against domestic manufacturing timelines?


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Question 4

of 10

[Source](#)

The EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), discussed at an exporter awareness session on August 19, 2026, moved into its definitive, certificate-purchase phase starting when?

A January 2026 ✓

B October 2023

C December 2025

D January 2027

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) moved from its transitional phase (October 2023-December 2025) into a definitive, certificate-purchase phase from January 2026, requiring importers of carbon-intensive goods into the EU to purchase certificates reflecting embedded carbon emissions, discussed at a Department of Commerce exporter awareness session on August 19, 2026 covering steel, aluminium, cement, fertiliser, hydrogen and electricity exporters. **ANALYSIS:** The shift from a reporting-only transitional phase to a financially binding certificate-purchase phase substantially raises the compliance stakes for Indian exporters in CBAM-covered sectors.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

The CBAM certificate price is set quarterly and stood at roughly €75 per tonne of CO₂ in Q1 2026, and India's steel export carbon intensity, commonly cited around 2.1 tCO₂ per tonne on a blast-furnace basis, exceeds the EU average of about 1.8, meaning Indian exporters in affected sectors face a real cost disadvantage under CBAM unless domestic decarbonisation accelerates. The WTO's Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) principle, recognising that developed and developing countries have differentiated environmental responsibilities and capabilities, is frequently invoked by developing countries including India in objecting to CBAM as effectively a unilateral trade barrier disguised as a climate measure, though the EU-India Strategic Agenda of September 2025 commits to deducting India's domestic carbon price from CBAM adjustments.

Q4

 CONCEPT KIT**CROSS-PAPER**

GS3 (trade policy, climate-trade nexus); GS2 (international economic relations).

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

CBAM, Common But Differentiated Responsibilities, Carbon Credit Trading Scheme.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

assuming CBAM's financial impact began in 2023; the transitional phase (2023-2025) was reporting-only, with binding certificate purchases starting only from January 2026.

**EXAM TIP**

anchor "transitional Oct 2023-Dec 2025, definitive from Jan 2026, ~€75/tonne CO2 in Q1 2026" as CBAM's fixed timeline.

**INTERVIEW**

should India prioritise domestic decarbonisation to reduce CBAM exposure, or press for bilateral carbon-price-adjustment mechanisms through trade diplomacy?

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Question 5

of 10

[Source →](#)

The 7th BRICS ICT Working Group meeting, held August 17-19, 2026 in Pune, carried which theme?

- ☐ A "Digital Bharat for a Connected World"
- ☒ B "Innovate, Cooperate and Transform (ICT) for a Resilient Future" ✓
- ☐ C "BRICS Digital Sovereignty Summit"
- ☐ D "Building Digital Public Goods Together"

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The 7th BRICS ICT Working Group meeting, held August 17-19, 2026 in Pune under India's 2026 BRICS chairship, carried the theme "Innovate, Cooperate and Transform (ICT) for a Resilient Future," advancing cooperation on a proposed BRICS Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) Repository, pilot projects, and submarine cable network cooperation, while showcasing India's Aadhaar-UPI-DigiLocker stack. **ANALYSIS:** The meeting's focus on DPI cooperation reflects India's broader diplomatic strategy of positioning its own digital-governance model as an exportable template for other BRICS and Global South nations.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

The meeting also drafted Terms of Reference for new Digital Applications and Digital Governance Expert Groups, and preceded a Digital BRICS Forum & Expo on August 20 and the 12th BRICS Communications Ministers' Meeting on August 21, 2026, part of a broader cluster of India-hosted BRICS digital-cooperation events under its chairship year. This ICT-track meeting is distinct from the separately covered BRICS Environment Working Group process (New Delhi Statement, August 17-18), illustrating how India's single BRICS chairship year encompasses multiple parallel sectoral cooperation tracks running concurrently across different Indian cities.

Hosting successive working-group meetings across different cities also lets India showcase regional infrastructure and administrative capacity to visiting delegations, an underappreciated soft-power dimension of chairing a large multilateral grouping for a full calendar year.

Q5
 **CONCEPT KIT**

CROSS-PAPER

GS2 (India's BRICS chairship, digital diplomacy); GS3 (Digital Public Infrastructure).


MAINS KEYWORDS

BRICS ICT Working Group, DPI Repository, Aadhaar-UPI-DigiLocker stack.


COMMON MISTAKE

confusing this ICT-track meeting with the separate BRICS Environment Working Group process held the same week; India's BRICS chairship runs multiple parallel sectoral tracks.


EXAM TIP

anchor "7th ICT WG, Pune, Aug 17-19, DPI Repository" as this meeting's fixed fact set.


INTERVIEW

can India's DPI model be meaningfully exported to BRICS partners with very different administrative and demographic contexts?


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Question 6

of 10

[Source](#)

Japanese Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi's August 19, 2026 visit to Western Naval Command, Mumbai, included reviewing which stealth destroyer?

- ☐ A INS Vikrant
- ☐ B INS Kolkata
- ☒ C INS Chennai ✓
- ☐ D INS Visakhapatnam

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Japanese Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi, on his maiden visit to India, inspected a Guard of Honour at Western Naval Command, Mumbai, and reviewed the stealth destroyer INS Chennai, a Kolkata-class (Project 15A) vessel, on August 19, 2026, ahead of formal bilateral defence talks with Rajnath Singh in Delhi the following day.

ANALYSIS: Naval-asset visits during high-level bilateral defence engagements typically signal areas of potential future cooperation, in this case relevant to India-Japan discussions on naval shipbuilding, design collaboration and Indo-Pacific maritime security.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

INS Chennai is the third and final vessel of the Kolkata-class (Project 15A) guided-missile destroyers, following INS Kolkata and INS Kochi, representing indigenous Indian naval shipbuilding capability. Koizumi's visit, preceding formal talks with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, fits within the broader India-Japan "Special Strategic and Global Partnership," which has increasingly emphasised defence-technology cooperation following Japan's revised Three Principles on Transfer of Defence Equipment and Technology, relevant to GS2 Indo-Pacific strategic partnerships and GS3 defence-technology collaboration themes.

Reviewing an indigenously built destroyer during a maiden visit is a deliberate diplomatic signal, showcasing India's naval shipbuilding capability to a partner whose own defence-technology transfer principles, revised in 2014 and eased further since, have opened toward closer collaboration with countries like India.

Q6
 **CONCEPT KIT**
 CROSS-PAPER

GS2 (India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership, Indo-Pacific); GS3 (naval shipbuilding, defence technology cooperation).

 MAINS KEYWORDS

INS Chennai, Kolkata-class destroyer, India-Japan defence cooperation.

 COMMON MISTAKE

confusing INS Chennai (Kolkata-class, Project 15A) with INS Visakhapatnam (a separate, newer Visakhapatnam-class/Project 15B destroyer).

 EXAM TIP

anchor "INS Chennai, Kolkata-class, Project 15A" as this ship's fixed identification.

 INTERVIEW

what specific naval-technology cooperation areas could India-Japan defence talks meaningfully advance given Japan's revised defence-export principles?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 7

of 10

[Source →](#)

A Hindu editorial on India's rural employment guarantee transition cites approximately what decline in person-days generated during the MGNREGA-to-VB-G RAM G handover?

A 15%

B 25%

C 60%

D 43% ✓

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The Hindu editorial cites a roughly 43% decline in person-days generated (April-July 2026-27) compared to the prior two-year average, as India transitions from MGNREGA to the new VB-G RAM G scheme, arguing this represents a genuine loss of policy momentum requiring urgent correction rather than being dismissed as routine transition friction. **ANALYSIS:** The editorial's core argument rejects attributing a decline of this magnitude solely to administrative teething problems, since rural demand for guaranteed employment has no obvious reason to have genuinely fallen by a comparable margin.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) has for nearly two decades provided a demand-driven safety net guaranteeing rural households a minimum number of days of unskilled manual work annually, particularly valuable during agricultural lean seasons. The editorial frames the transition-period decline as a genuine governance concern precisely because the population most affected, rural households dependent on guaranteed employment as an income safety net, has the least capacity to absorb a delivery shortfall, distinguishing this from a more abstract policy-design debate and grounding it in concrete, measurable welfare-delivery performance.

The successor scheme's full name, Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin), signals an intent to link rural employment guarantee to the broader Viksit Bharat @2047 development framework, though the editorial argues this rebranding has not yet translated into equivalent delivery performance.

Q7
 **CONCEPT KIT**

CROSS-PAPER

GS2 (welfare-scheme design and delivery); GS3 (rural employment).


MAINS KEYWORDS

MGNREGA, VB-G RAM G, person-days decline, scheme transition.


COMMON MISTAKE

assuming the decline reflects reduced rural demand for work; the editorial argues it more plausibly reflects delivery-side failures during the scheme handover.


EXAM TIP

anchor "43% decline, April-July 2026-27, vs prior 2-year average" as this editorial's fixed fact set.


INTERVIEW

what specific safeguards should accompany any major welfare-scheme transition to prevent delivery gaps during the handover period?


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Question 8

of 10

[Source →](#)

The Bar Council of India's order suspending enrolment of NALSAR's 2026 graduating batch, issued on August 13, 2026, was reversed within what timeframe?

A The same day, amid public criticism ✓

B One week later

C After a month-long review

D Only after a Supreme Court order

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: BCI Chairman Manan Kumar Mishra issued an order on August 13, 2026 to suspend enrolment of NALSAR's 2026 graduating batch and directed the university to investigate roughly 450 outgoing students who had emailed the Vice-Chancellor objecting to CJI Surya Kant's convocation invitation; the BCI reversed the order within hours, the same day, amid public criticism, though the matter also reached the Supreme Court. **ANALYSIS:** The Hindu's editorial treats this rapid issue-and-reversal cycle as itself significant, arguing it signals the BCI exercised its regulatory authority without careful consideration of its actual mandate, reinforcing a broader credibility problem beyond this single incident.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

The underlying trigger was a convocation-related protest: about 450 outgoing NALSAR students objected to Chief Justice of India Surya Kant's invitation to their convocation, a dispute linked to remarks the CJI had made during a Delhi NEET-protest police-excess hearing. The BCI's response, suspending an entire graduating batch's enrolment over what was, at most, an internal university matter involving no violation of professional-conduct rules, is cited by the editorial as disproportionate, and its same-day reversal amid criticism is treated as compounding rather than resolving the credibility concern, since it suggests the initial order was issued without adequate consideration.

National Law Universities, including NALSAR, were established via individual state legislation from the 1980s-90s with a degree of academic and administrative autonomy distinct from the BCI's uniform oversight of ordinary affiliated law colleges, a structural tension the episode exposed sharply.

Q8
 **CONCEPT KIT**

CROSS-PAPER

GS2 (statutory regulatory bodies, legal-education governance).


MAINS KEYWORDS

NALSAR, Bar Council of India, Manan Kumar Mishra, CJI Surya Kant.


COMMON MISTAKE

assuming the BCI's formal statutory authority itself is in question; the editorial argues its practical, credible authority is contested, not its legal mandate.


EXAM TIP

anchor "enrolment suspension Aug 13, reversed same day, ~450 protesting students" as this incident's fixed fact set.


INTERVIEW

should high-performing institutions be granted greater regulatory autonomy in exchange for demonstrated quality, or does that risk a fragmented education system?


[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 9

of 10

[Source →](#)

An Indian Express editorial on Legal Aid Defence Counsels notes they currently handle approximately what share of relevant criminal-defence cases?

A 15%

B 6% ✓

C 25%

D 40%

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The Indian Express editorial argues against a proposed discontinuation of Legal Aid Defence Counsels (LADCs), citing evidence that they provide criminal defence quality comparable to or better than alternative legal-aid mechanisms despite currently handling only about 6% of relevant cases, framing this as a scale problem requiring institutional strengthening rather than a design flaw justifying discontinuation. **ANALYSIS:** The editorial's central diagnostic move distinguishes a system with limited reach from a fundamentally flawed system, arguing the appropriate policy response depends entirely on which diagnosis fits the evidence.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

LADCs operationalise the constitutional commitment under Article 39A, a Directive Principle requiring the state to ensure free legal aid so that justice is not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities, making a functioning public defence system for indigent accused persons a constitutional obligation rather than a purely discretionary programme. The scheme operates under the statutory umbrella of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, which coordinates legal-aid delivery through state and district legal services authorities across the country.

The editorial's argument rests substantially on the strength of its evidentiary claim about LADC defence quality; if that evidence holds, expanding funding, staffing and institutional oversight is the more defensible response than discontinuation and replacement with an untested alternative model, since dismantling a functioning but under-resourced mechanism risks a worse outcome for indigent accused persons than incrementally scaling it up.

Q9
 **CONCEPT KIT**

CROSS-PAPER

GS2 (access to justice, Directive Principles).


MAINS KEYWORDS

Legal Aid Defence Counsels, Article 39A, scale vs design problem.


COMMON MISTAKE

assuming low case-coverage automatically indicates a flawed system; the editorial argues the evidence instead points to an effective system with limited institutional reach.


EXAM TIP

anchor "LADCs ~6% case coverage, Article 39A" as this editorial's fixed fact set.


INTERVIEW

what institutional reforms would expand LADC coverage while preserving the quality advantages the editorial credits them with?


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Question 10

of 10

[Source →](#)

An Indian Express editorial marking 75 years of the IIT system identifies research commercialisation and entrepreneurship support as gaps relative to IITs' traditional strength in what area?

- ☐ A Interdisciplinary humanities education
- ☐ B International student recruitment
- ☒ C Pure engineering-education instruction ✓
- ☐ D Public-sector job placement

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The Indian Express editorial, marking 75 years of the IIT system, argues the institutes' original mandate, producing world-class engineers for post-independence India's industrial development, has been substantially fulfilled, and proposes IITs evolve from primarily engineering-degree-granting institutions toward a broader innovation-ecosystem role encompassing research commercialisation, entrepreneurship support and interdisciplinary collaboration. **ANALYSIS:** The editorial frames this not as replacing engineering-education strength but as adding new institutional capabilities alongside it, a distinction relevant to how the reform agenda should be sequenced without diluting IITs' core technical rigour.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

The IIT system was established beginning in the 1950s in newly independent India, with IIT Kharagpur (1951) the first, followed by Bombay, Madras, Kanpur and Delhi under the IIT Act, 1961, as a specific, historically bounded mandate now widely regarded as achieved: IITs are recognised as producing globally competitive engineering graduates who have gone on to lead major technology and industry organisations worldwide. The editorial's proposed evolution responds to changing global standards for institutional leadership in science and technology, where research commercialisation (translating academic work into economically deployed innovation) and entrepreneurship support (helping graduates build companies, not just take jobs) increasingly define leading innovation institutions beyond pure degree-granting functions, a shift comparable to how MIT and Stanford built commercialisation pipelines alongside their core teaching mandate.

Q10 **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS2 (higher education policy, institutional reform).
 MAINS KEYWORDS	IIT system, research commercialisation, entrepreneurship ecosystem.
 COMMON MISTAKE	reading the editorial as calling for reduced emphasis on engineering rigour; it explicitly frames new capabilities as additive, not substitutive.
 EXAM TIP	anchor "IITs established 1950s, 75th anniversary, proposed shift toward commercialisation/entrepreneurship/interdisciplinary work" as this editorial's fixed fact set.
 INTERVIEW	should India's premier technical institutions prioritise producing globally mobile individual talent, or building domestic innovation ecosystems that retain that talent?

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