

Daily Current Affairs

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PM Modi Announces ₹85,000 Crore for 'Samudra Manthan' Offshore Exploration Scheme

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced an allocation of ₹85,000 crore for the Samudra Manthan scheme during his Independence Day address on 15 August 2026 at the Red Fort in New Delhi. The initiative is aimed at expanding India's exploration of offshore oil and gas resources and strengthening the country's energy security.
- Samudra Manthan is the National Offshore Exploration Scheme under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The Union Cabinet approved it on 31 July 2026 as a Central Sector Scheme extending up to FY 2030–31.
- The scheme covers several major activities, including seismic mapping, deepwater and ultra-deepwater exploration, scientific drilling in frontier basins and shared offshore infrastructure. It also proposes an integrated Oil & Gas Manufacturing and Services Zone.
- The approved Phase-I outlay was ₹84,084 crore, while the Independence Day announcement referred to an enhanced allocation of ₹85,000 crore for accelerated implementation.
- India has an Exclusive Economic Zone extending over approximately 23.6 lakh square kilometres. The scheme is significant because India currently imports around 88.5% of its crude oil requirements and about half of its natural-gas requirement.
- The programme is expected to contribute to the discovery and development of domestic energy resources, with the material linking it to potential reserve accretion of more than 600 Million Metric Tons of Oil Equivalent (MMTOE).



NIELIT Launches CYBER KUSHTI 2026 Hackathon

- The National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) launched CYBER KUSHTI 2026 on 15 August 2026. The national hackathon focuses on cybersecurity and artificial intelligence and is linked with the 3rd National Conference on Cyber Security, Digital Forensics and Intelligence (NCCDFI 2026).
- NIELIT operates under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and works in areas including electronics, information technology and digital skilling.
- CYBER KUSHTI is being organised in collaboration with the Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ISAC) Foundation under the National Security Database (NSD). The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) is serving as the Knowledge Partner.
- CERT-In is India's national nodal agency for responding to cybersecurity incidents under the Information Technology Act, 2000. The hackathon provides a platform for participants to work on technical challenges related to cybersecurity and emerging technologies.
- **Why It Matters**
- As India's economy becomes increasingly digital, cybersecurity has become an important component of national security. Hackathons such as CYBER KUSHTI can help develop technical skills, encourage innovation and identify new solutions for emerging cyber threats.



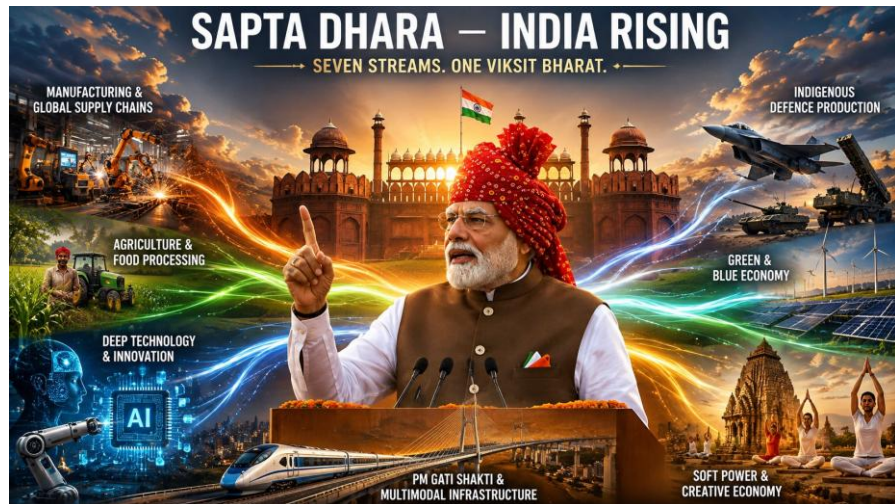
Indore Gets India's First Virtual Zoo

- Indore, Madhya Pradesh, has introduced what the PPT describes as India's first virtual zoo at the Kamala Nehru Prani Sangrahalaya. The facility uses digital technology, projections, sound, motion and special effects to create immersive wildlife experiences.
- The facility includes a 3-D dome theatre, 14-D cinema and digital jungle safari. The 14-D theatre incorporates multiple sensory effects, including moving seats, wind, water sprays, fog, bubbles and physical vibrations.
- The attraction also features a number of technology-driven installations, including 3-D jungle pathways, a fibre-optic glow garden, a roar-simulating maze and a mirror bridge with a Hanuman hologram. It opened to the public on 17 August 2026, with an entry fee of ₹70 per person.
- The virtual-zoo concept demonstrates how digital technologies can be used to create wildlife education and entertainment experiences without relying entirely on conventional animal enclosures.



PM Modi's 'Sapta Dhara' Vision for Viksit Bharat

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced '**Sapta Dhara**', a seven-point development framework, during his **80th Independence Day address on 15 August 2026**. The framework identifies seven areas considered important for India's future economic and strategic development.
- The seven streams are:
 - **Manufacturing**
 - **Agriculture and Food Processing**
 - **Technology and Innovation**
 - **Gati Shakti**
 - **Defence**
 - **Green and Blue Economy**
 - **Soft Power**
- The framework is connected with the broader objective of **Viksit Bharat 2047**, which refers to India's goal of becoming a developed nation by the centenary of Independence.
- **Gati Shakti** focuses on integrated planning for transportation, logistics and infrastructure. Meanwhile, the **blue economy** covers areas such as fisheries, ports, shipping, offshore energy and marine resources.
- The framework combines economic growth with technological development, defence capability, sustainable development and India's cultural influence.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is the name of the offshore exploration scheme announced with an allocation of about ₹85,000 crore?

- A) Sagar Vikas Scheme
- B) Samudra Manthan
- C) Urja Shakti Mission
- D) Deep Sea India Mission

Answer: B) Samudra Manthan

2. The Samudra Manthan scheme is primarily associated with which sector?

- A) Defence manufacturing
- B) Renewable energy
- C) Offshore oil and gas exploration
- D) Fisheries development

Answer: C) Offshore oil and gas exploration

3. CYBER KUSHTI 2026 was launched by which organisation?

- A) DRDO
- B) ISRO
- C) NIELIT
- D) CERT-In

Answer: C) NIELIT

4. CYBER KUSHTI 2026 primarily focuses on:

- A) Space technology and satellites
- B) Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence
- C) Nuclear technology
- D) Defence manufacturing

Answer: B) Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence

5. The virtual zoo mentioned in the PPT is located in:

- A) Bhopal
- B) Jaipur
- C) Indore
- D) Lucknow

Answer: C) Indore

6. What is India's target for nuclear power capacity by 2047?

- A) 50 GW
- B) 75 GW
- C) 100 GW
- D) 150 GW

Answer: C) 100 GW

7. Which of the following is NOT one of the seven streams of the Sapta Dhara vision?

- A) Manufacturing
- B) Agriculture and Food Processing
- C) Defence
- D) Tourism and Hospitality

Answer: D) Tourism and Hospitality

8. Which companies received contracts for Loiter Munition Systems for the Indian Army?

- A) HAL and BEL
- B) Tata Advanced Systems Limited and NIBE Private Limited
- C) DRDO and BDL
- D) L&T and BrahMos Aerospace

Answer: B) Tata Advanced Systems Limited and NIBE Private Limited

9. The contracts for Loiter Munition Systems were worth approximately:

- A) ₹750 crore
- B) ₹1,000 crore
- C) ₹1,577 crore
- D) ₹2,500 crore

Answer: C) ₹1,577 crore

10. Which of the following is included among the seven streams of Sapta Dhara?

- A) Defence
- B) Space Tourism
- C) Cryptocurrency
- D) Film Industry

Answer: A) Defence