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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz, August 15, 2026

15 August 2026

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

linkedin.com/in/epicbharat

DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED ANSWER KEY

Daily Quiz, August 15, 2026

15 August 2026 · 10 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Question 1 of 10 Source →

PM Modi's "Sapta Dhara" seven-pillar framework, unveiled on India's 80th Independence Day, is explicitly framed as a roadmap toward which target year and vision?

A Atmanirbhar Bharat by 2035

B Viksit Bharat @2047, the centenary of independence ✓

C Digital India @2030

D Panch Pran @2040

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

FACT: The Sapta Dhara ("Seven Streams") framework, officially named "Shakti Ki Sapta Dhara" and spanning manufacturing, agriculture and food processing, technology, connectivity (Gati Shakti), defence (Raksha Shakti), the green/blue economy and soft power, was explicitly framed as a roadmap toward Viksit Bharat @2047, India's developed-nation vision timed to the 2047 centenary of independence. ANALYSIS: PM Modi drew a rhetorical parallel between "Sapta Dhara" and the "Sapta Sindhu," the seven rivers of Vedic India, situating the framework within a civilisational narrative alongside its policy content.

CONCEPT NOTE

Successive Independence Day addresses have introduced overarching policy frameworks, from Panch Pran (five pledges, announced 2022) to the 2026 Sapta Dhara seven-pillar structure, both explicitly tied to the Viksit Bharat @2047 vision of India becoming a developed economy by its centenary of independence. Only two of the seven pillars, Gati Shakti (connectivity) and Raksha Shakti (defence), carry a distinct named sub-title in official usage; the rest, manufacturing, agriculture, technology, the green/blue economy and soft power, are referred to in plain terms.
A strong Mains answer should be able to trace continuity and distinguish genuinely new policy direction from rebranded continuity across these successive framings, rather than treating each new framework as entirely novel.

Q1 🎯 CONCEPT KIT

🔗 CROSS-PAPER	GS2 (government policies, five-year and long-term planning frameworks); GS3 (economic planning, growth strategy).
✍️ MAINS KEYWORDS	Sapta Dhara, Viksit Bharat @2047, Gati Shakti, Raksha Shakti.
⚠️ COMMON MISTAKE	assuming all seven pillars carry a distinct Sanskrit "Shakti" sub-name; only Gati Shakti and Raksha Shakti do.
📌 EXAM TIP	memorise the seven named pillars and their one-line meaning as a fixed fact set.
🎤 INTERVIEW	can a single speech-announced framework meaningfully bind budgetary and institutional follow-through across ministries, or does its influence depend entirely on subsequent policy documents?

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Question 2 of 10

Source →

The Samudra Manthan scheme, announced on August 15, 2026, cut India's restricted "no-go" offshore exploration area from 13.67 lakh sq km to approximately what figure, opening over 99% of coastal waters to exploration?

A 5.2 lakh sq km

B 1 lakh sq km

C **24,832 sq km ✓**

D 50,000 sq km

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

FACT: Samudra Manthan, a Rs 84,084 crore Central Sector Scheme approved by the Cabinet on July 31, 2026, cut India's restricted "no-go" offshore area from 13.67 lakh sq km to just 24,832 sq km, opening over 99% of India's 23.6 lakh sq km EEZ to hydrocarbon exploration. ANALYSIS: This dramatic reduction in restricted area, framed by the PM as converting "no-go areas" to "go-ahead areas," is the scheme's single most consequential regulatory change, distinct from the scheme's funding outlay itself.

CONCEPT NOTE

India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) spans 23.6 lakh sq km, historically containing large "no-go" zones restricted from hydrocarbon exploration for strategic, environmental or security reasons. Samudra Manthan's Phase-I outlay, running through FY 2030-31, funds high-quality seismic mapping, deepwater and ultra-deepwater exploratory drilling, frontier-basin scientific drilling, shared offshore infrastructure and an integrated Oil and Gas Manufacturing and Services Zone, targeting reserve accretion exceeding 600 Million Metric Tonnes of Oil Equivalent.

The scheme responds directly to India's import dependence, roughly 88.5% for crude oil and about half for natural gas.

Q2 🎯 CONCEPT KIT

🔗 CROSS-PAPER	GS1 (India's maritime geography, EEZ); GS3 (energy security, resource mobilisation).
✍️ MAINS KEYWORDS	Samudra Manthan, EEZ, no-go to go-ahead areas, energy import dependence.
⚠️ COMMON MISTAKE	confusing the scheme's funding outlay (Rs 84,084 crore) with the area-related figure (24,832 sq km); both are separately testable but distinct facts.
📌 EXAM TIP	anchor "over 99% of coastal waters opened" as the scheme's headline regulatory change.
🎤 INTERVIEW	how should India balance accelerated offshore exploration against coastal ecological and fishing-community interests in the newly opened areas?

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Question 3 of 10

Source →

PM Modi's announcement of five new nuclear reactors on August 15, 2026 builds on the SHANTI Act, which repealed which two prior laws?

A The Electricity Act, 2003 and the Environment Protection Act, 1986

B The Atomic Energy Act, 1962 and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010 ✓

C The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board Act and the Factories Act, 1948

D The Nuclear Power Corporation Act and the Companies Act, 2013

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

FACT: The SHANTI Act (Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India), passed by the Lok Sabha on December 17, 2025 and the Rajya Sabha on December 18, 2025, repealed the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010, opening private and foreign participation in nuclear plant construction while retaining state control over strategic and fissile-material activities. ANALYSIS: This liability-law reform is what makes the announced private-sector-friendly nuclear expansion, including five new reactors and Small Modular Reactor deployment, legally possible, a structural change distinct from the funding announcements themselves.

CONCEPT NOTE

India's Nuclear Energy Mission, carrying a Rs 20,000 crore outlay, targets deploying at least five indigenously designed Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) by 2033, including the Bharat Small Modular Reactor (BSMR-200, rated at 220 MWe), as part of a national target of 100 GW nuclear capacity by 2047. The SHANTI Act's repeal of the 2010 Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act specifically addresses a long-standing investor concern, that the earlier law's liability provisions deterred foreign nuclear technology suppliers from operating in India, while its repeal of the 1962 Atomic Energy Act opens the sector to private participation more broadly.

Q3 🎯 CONCEPT KIT

🔗 **CROSS-PAPER**	GS3 (science and technology, energy security, nuclear policy).
✍️ **MAINS KEYWORDS**	SHANTI Act, Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, Small Modular Reactors, 100 GW by 2047.
⚠️ **COMMON MISTAKE**	assuming the SHANTI Act eliminated all liability protections; it repealed the specific 2010 Act while presumably establishing a replacement liability framework better calibrated to attract investment, a nuance worth verifying against the Act's actual text for a complete answer.
📌 **EXAM TIP**	pair "SHANTI Act, December 2025" with the two repealed laws as a fixed fact set.
🎤 **INTERVIEW**	does opening nuclear liability law to attract private investment risk under-protecting potential victims of a future nuclear incident?

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Question 4 of 10

Source →

The CBDT's Foreign Assets of Small Taxpayers-Disclosure Scheme, 2026, notified on August 15, 2026, offers immunity from penalties and prosecution under which specific statute?

A The Income Tax Act, 1961

B The Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002

C **The Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015 ✓**

D The Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

FACT: The scheme, notified under the Finance Act, 2026 and operational from August 16 to December 31, 2026, offers immunity from additional tax demand, penalty and prosecution specifically under the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015, provided a valid declaration is filed.
ANALYSIS: The scheme's two-tier structure, a 60% effective levy for undisclosed assets up to Rs 1 crore versus a flat Rs 1 lakh fee for already-taxed but unreported assets up to Rs 5 crore, reflects a deliberate distinction between genuinely concealed income and merely unreported (but legitimately taxed) foreign holdings.

CONCEPT NOTE

The Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015, was enacted with a specifically punitive framework for undisclosed foreign assets and income, reflecting the government's early priority on curbing black money. The 2026 disclosure scheme represents a more compliance-friendly instrument targeted specifically at small taxpayers, former international students, young professionals who worked abroad, MNC employees with foreign stock options, and returning NRIs, populations more likely to have inadvertently unreported foreign holdings than deliberately concealed illicit wealth.
Category 1 (up to Rs 1 crore, genuinely undisclosed) carries a 60% effective levy (30% tax plus 30% penalty); Category 2 (up to Rs 5 crore, already-taxed or non-resident-period income) carries only a flat Rs 1 lakh regularisation fee, reflecting this differentiated treatment.

Q4 🎯 CONCEPT KIT

🔗 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 (Indian economy, taxation, resource mobilisation).
✍️ MAINS KEYWORDS	Black Money Act 2015, voluntary disclosure scheme, Finance Act 2026.
⚠️ COMMON MISTAKE	conflating this scheme with the Income Tax Act, 1961's general disclosure provisions; the specific immunity is from the Black Money Act, 2015's penalty regime.
📌 EXAM TIP	memorise the two-category structure (Rs 1 crore/60% levy vs Rs 5 crore/flat Rs 1 lakh fee) as a distinguishing fact set.
🎤 INTERVIEW	does offering repeated amnesty-style disclosure schemes create a moral hazard that undermines voluntary compliance in the long run?

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Question 5 of 10

Source →

The Vande Mataram performance at Red Fort on August 15, 2026, for the first time in ceremony history, coincided with which milestone anniversary of the National Song?

- A 100th anniversary
- B 125th anniversary
- C **150th anniversary ✓**
- D 175th anniversary

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

FACT: Vande Mataram, composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee in 1875 and later published within his 1882 novel Anandmath, marked its 150th anniversary in 2026, the occasion for its first-ever performance ahead of the National Anthem at a Red Fort Independence Day ceremony. ANALYSIS: The National Song was given equal status to, but remains legally and functionally distinct from, the National Anthem via a Constituent Assembly resolution of January 24, 1950, a distinction tested repeatedly in current affairs given the National Song's recurring appearances in current-affairs cycles around legal protection and ceremonial protocol.

CONCEPT NOTE

Vande Mataram occupies a specific constitutional position distinct from the National Anthem (Jana Gana Mana): the Constituent Assembly's January 24, 1950 resolution gave it equal status as the National Song without making it the National Anthem itself. Its composition in 1875, against the backdrop of growing nationalist sentiment that would later crystallise around the 1905 Partition of Bengal movement, and its 1882 publication within Anandmath, give it deep roots in the freedom movement's cultural history.

The 150th-anniversary Red Fort performance, involving roughly 2,500 NCC cadets and MY Bharat volunteers forming the song's words on Gyanpath alongside an Army band rendition, marked a specific ceremonial first in the event's history.

Q5 🎯 CONCEPT KIT

🔗 CROSS-PAPER	GS1 (modern Indian history, freedom movement, national symbols).
✍️ MAINS KEYWORDS	Vande Mataram, National Song, Constituent Assembly resolution January 1950.
⚠️ COMMON MISTAKE	treating Vande Mataram as the National Anthem; it holds the distinct, separately conferred status of National Song.
📌 EXAM TIP	anchor "1875 composed, 1882 published in Anandmath, January 24 1950 National Song status" as a fixed date sequence.
🎤 INTERVIEW	what does the deliberate ceremonial elevation of a historically significant but legally distinct national symbol reveal about how governments use commemorative milestones?

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Question 6 of 10

Source →

The 21-gun salute at the 80th Independence Day flag-hoisting ceremony was fired using which type of indigenously manufactured artillery?

A 155mm Howitzers

B **105mm Light Field Guns ✓**

C 130mm Field Guns

D 25-pounder Field Guns

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

FACT: The 21-gun salute accompanying the 80th Independence Day flag-hoisting was fired using indigenously manufactured 105mm Light Field Guns, by the 1721 Field Battery (Ceremonial), commanded by Major Pawan Singh Shekhawat. ANALYSIS: The specific choice to highlight the guns' indigenous manufacture in ceremonial press coverage reflects the broader Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat defence-indigenisation narrative running through the day's announcements, extending the theme beyond major weapons systems to ceremonial and legacy equipment as well.

CONCEPT NOTE

Ceremonial gun salutes at major state occasions in India traditionally use standardised artillery pieces, and the specific highlighting of the 105mm Light Field Guns' indigenous manufacture at the 2026 ceremony is consistent with the government's sustained emphasis on domestic defence production across both operational and ceremonial contexts. The salute was presented alongside a combined Inter-Services and Delhi Police Guard, with Captain Sonia Singh Chauhan assisting the Prime Minister in the flag-hoisting itself, a ceremonial detail reflecting the increasing visibility of women officers in prominent ceremonial roles.

Q6 🎯 CONCEPT KIT

🔗 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 (defence indigenisation, Atmanirbhar Bharat); GS1 (national ceremony and symbolism).
✍️ MAINS KEYWORDS	105mm Light Field Gun, indigenous defence manufacturing, ceremonial protocol.
⚠️ COMMON MISTAKE	assuming ceremonial salute guns are a minor detail with no policy significance; their indigenous manufacture is explicitly part of the broader defence self-reliance narrative.
📌 EXAM TIP	note "105mm Light Field Gun, 21-gun salute, 1721 Field Battery" as a fixed fact triplet for this specific ceremony.
🎤 INTERVIEW	does highlighting indigenous manufacture even in ceremonial/legacy equipment meaningfully advance the defence self-reliance narrative, or is it primarily symbolic?

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Question 7 of 10

Source →

Saudi Arabia's newly launched 14-nation Multinational Maritime Defence Coalition (MMDC) is headquartered where, and which country holds the Deputy Commander post for its first term?

- **A** **Headquartered in Riyadh; Pakistan holds Deputy Commander ✓**
- **B** Headquartered in Jeddah; Egypt holds Deputy Commander
- **C** Headquartered in Riyadh; Turkiye holds Deputy Commander
- **D** Headquartered in Manama; Bangladesh holds Deputy Commander

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

FACT: The Multinational Maritime Defence Coalition (MMDC), a 14-nation grouping formed to secure the Red Sea, Bab al-Mandeb Strait and Gulf of Aden, is headquartered in Riyadh, commanded by Saudi Rear Admiral Abdullah bin Salem Al-Shehri, with Pakistan holding the Deputy Commander post for the coalition's first term. ANALYSIS: India is not a member of this coalition; Pakistan's prominent deputy-command role in a Gulf-adjacent maritime security architecture is relevant to India's own Indian Ocean Region strategy and its energy-import dependence on shipping lanes through these same chokepoints.

CONCEPT NOTE

The MMDC's 14 founding members are Saudi Arabia, Turkiye, Pakistan, Egypt, Bangladesh, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Yemen, Somalia, Sudan, Djibouti and Comoros, formed following a summit on July 30, 2026, with its commander formally appointed on August 6, 2026. The coalition responds to threats to commercial shipping through the Red Sea, Bab al-Mandeb Strait and Gulf of Aden, notably from Houthi attacks originating in Yemen.

For India, which imports the bulk of its crude oil and depends on secure shipping lanes through the wider Indian Ocean and Red Sea region, Pakistan's prominent role in this new architecture is a relevant strategic development, even though India itself holds no membership.

Q7 🎯 CONCEPT KIT

🔗 CROSS-PAPER	GS2 (international relations, India's neighbourhood and extended-neighbourhood policy).
✍️ MAINS KEYWORDS	Multinational Maritime Defence Coalition, Red Sea security, Bab al-Mandeb Strait.
⚠️ COMMON MISTAKE	assuming India holds some membership or observer role in this coalition; India is explicitly not a member.
📌 EXAM TIP	memorise "14 members, Riyadh HQ, Pakistan as Deputy Commander" as a fixed fact set for this new coalition.
🎤 INTERVIEW	should India seek closer engagement with Red Sea maritime-security architecture given its energy-import dependence, even without formal membership in coalitions like the MMDC?

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Question 8 of 10

Source →

PM Modi's August 15, 2026 announcement of a nationwide sports talent identification drive targeting children aged 5-15 was explicitly linked to India's preparation for which future sporting event?

A. The 2030 Commonwealth Games

B. The 2032 Summer Olympics

C. **The 2036 Olympics ✓**

D. The 2034 Asian Games

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

FACT: The nationwide sports talent identification drive, targeting children aged 5-15, was explicitly linked in the address to India's preparation for the 2036 Olympics, alongside a separate announcement of AI skills training for one crore youth within the next year. ANALYSIS: Both announcements sit under the "technology and innovation" and "soft power" pillars of the Sapta Dhara framework, reflecting a deliberate bundling of human-capital and grassroots-talent development themes within the same address.

CONCEPT NOTE

India has periodically signalled ambitions around eventually hosting or performing strongly at a future Olympic Games, with the 2036 Olympics recurring as a reference point in government messaging on sports infrastructure and grassroots talent development. The August 15, 2026 announcement pairs this long-horizon sporting ambition with a large-scale, near-term AI-skilling commitment (one crore youth trained within a year), and a signalled semiconductor-manufacturing expansion beyond India's current three operational plants, though exact deployment timelines for the additional plants have been reported inconsistently across outlets and should be verified against the official transcript before being cited as a specific figure.

Q8 🎯 CONCEPT KIT

🔗 CROSS-PAPER	GS2 (human resource development, sports policy); GS3 (skill development, science and technology).
✍️ MAINS KEYWORDS	sports talent identification, AI skilling, 2036 Olympics, semiconductor expansion.
⚠️ COMMON MISTAKE	citing a specific, confident timeline for new semiconductor plant deployment; reporting on this figure has been inconsistent and should be treated as provisional.
📌 EXAM TIP	anchor "2036 Olympics, ages 5-15, talent hunt" as the fixed fact triplet for this specific announcement.
🎤 INTERVIEW	does a centrally announced, top-down talent-identification drive risk overlooking grassroots sports infrastructure gaps at the district and panchayat level that determine whether identified talent can actually be developed?

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Question 9 of 10

Source →

A Hindu editorial on PM Jan Dhan Yojana argues India has achieved "financial democracy" in one dimension but not another. Which specific gap does the editorial identify as unresolved, despite near-universal account access?

A **Account dormancy and thin credit uptake, indicating access has not converted into active financial participation ✓**

B A shortage of bank branches in rural areas preventing account opening

C A failure to link accounts to Aadhaar, undermining Direct Benefit Transfer

D Excessive minimum balance requirements deterring account opening

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

FACT: The editorial argues PMJDY has achieved near-universal formal banking access (commonly cited at 58-63 crore accounts) and enabled significant leakage reduction in welfare delivery via the JAM trinity, but that a meaningful share of accounts remain dormant with thin credit uptake, meaning formal access has not fully converted into active financial participation. ANALYSIS: This access-versus-participation distinction is the editorial's core analytical contribution, treating account-opening numbers as necessary but not sufficient evidence of complete financial inclusion.

CONCEPT NOTE

PM Jan Dhan Yojana, launched in 2014, aimed to provide universal access to basic banking services for every unbanked household in India, and combined with Aadhaar and mobile connectivity (the JAM trinity), became the backbone of India's Direct Benefit Transfer architecture. While the scheme's account-opening scale is a genuine, well-documented achievement, the specific gap identified is dormancy, accounts opened but seeing minimal or no transaction activity, and thin credit uptake relative to the account base, distinguishing formal access from genuine financial inclusion in its fuller sense.

Q9 🎯 CONCEPT KIT

🔗 **CROSS-PAPER**	GS2 (welfare-scheme design); GS3 (financial inclusion, banking).
✍️ **MAINS KEYWORDS**	PMJDY, JAM trinity, account dormancy, financial participation.
⚠️ **COMMON MISTAKE**	treating PMJDY's account-opening numbers alone as evidence of complete financial inclusion; the editorial specifically identifies dormancy and credit uptake as the unresolved gap.
📌 **EXAM TIP**	distinguish "access" metrics from "participation" metrics as a reusable evaluative framework for any large-scale inclusion scheme.
🎤 **INTERVIEW**	should financial-inclusion scheme success be measured primarily by account numbers, or by active-usage metrics, and what would change if the latter became the primary metric?

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Question 10 of 10

Source →

A Down To Earth piece published on India's 80th Independence Day argues that Indian cities' promotion of "nighttime economies" overlooks which specific gap?

A Insufficient tax revenue from nighttime commercial activity

B Women's unequal ability to safely and comfortably access public spaces after dark ✓

C A shortage of licensed establishments for nighttime commerce

D Inadequate electricity supply for extended operating hours

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

FACT: The piece argues that as Indian cities increasingly promote nighttime-economy initiatives as markers of urban development, these benefits remain unevenly accessible if women cannot safely or comfortably use these spaces after dark, framing this as an unresolved test of urban governance and gender equity rather than merely a policing issue. ANALYSIS: The piece's sharper argument is that treating this primarily as a policing problem obscures deeper urban-design and infrastructure failures, lighting, transport, the activity level of public spaces, that shape women's actual, lived mobility decisions.

CONCEPT NOTE

Indian cities have increasingly promoted extended commercial hours, entertainment districts and round-the-clock services as markers of urban development and economic vitality, often as part of broader smart-city and urban-development policy. The piece, published as India marked 80 years of independence, argues that women's freedom of night-time mobility remains a specific, unresolved gap in this development narrative, distinguishing between policing-focused responses (patrols, surveillance) and urban-design-focused responses (lighting, transport reliability, active public spaces) as two complementary, not competing, levers for addressing it.

Q10 🎯 CONCEPT KIT

🔗 **CROSS-PAPER**	GS1 (women's issues, urbanisation); GS2 (urban governance, gender equity policy).
✍️ **MAINS KEYWORDS**	nighttime economy, women's mobility, urban design vs policing.
⚠️ **COMMON MISTAKE**	reading the piece as arguing policing is unimportant; its actual position is that policing alone is insufficient without corresponding urban-design improvements.
📌 **EXAM TIP**	use the policing-versus-design distinction as a reusable framework for any public-safety policy question.
🎤 **INTERVIEW**	should urban-development metrics explicitly include gender-disaggregated safety-perception data alongside conventional economic indicators?

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CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

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"A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new."

— Albert Einstein