

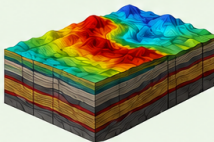
'Samudra Manthan' (National Offshore Exploration Scheme)

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Infrastructure

Why in News?

Recently, Union Cabinet has approved 'Samudra Manthan' – the National Offshore Exploration Scheme.

- It is a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.
- **Financial Outlay** - Rs.84,084 crore
- **Duration** - Until fiscal year 2030-31
- **Objective** - To facilitate the development of reserves totalling 600 Million Metric Tonnes of Oil Equivalent (MMTOE) and to strengthen domestic energy security.

ALLOCATION UNDER OFFSHORE EXPLORATION INCENTIVE SCHEME		
COMPONENT	ALLOCATION (₹ CRORE)	DETAILS
 DEEPWATER EXPLORATION WELLS	43,200 (₹ CRORE)	• Drilling of 60 wells • Government covers up to 50% of eligible cost or ₹675 crore per well 
 OFFSHORE DATA ACQUISITION	28,534 (₹ CRORE)	• Large-scale seismic data collection to reduce geological uncertainty 
 INFRASTRUCTURE HUBS	10,000 (₹ CRORE)	• Common offshore hubs to commercialise discoveries 
 OIL & GAS MANUFACTURING ZONES	2,000 (₹ CRORE)	• Promote domestic manufacturing & localisation of critical equipment/services 
TOTAL ALLOCATION	₹83,734 CRORE	

• Key Challenges

- **Capital Intensive** - Offshore exploration is characterized by extended development timelines and substantial initial capital requirements.
- **Environmental Concerns** - Deepwater drilling introduces significant ecological risks and necessitates the implementation of rigorous environmental safeguards.
- **Execution** - The timely completion of wells and supporting infrastructure is

essential to fully realize the anticipated benefits.

- **Significance**

- **Energy Security** - Offshore exploration serves to counterbalance declining production from mature oil and gas fields.
- **Investment Catalyst** - The scheme is anticipated to stimulate private sector participation throughout the exploration and production value chain.
- **Innovation and Growth** - The initiative presents long-term opportunities for industrial development, technological advancement, and overall economic growth.

Reference

[PIB | Samudra Manthan](#)

