



14 November 2024

National and International News

<p><b>Defense Exercise: 'SEA VIGIL-24'</b></p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Indian Navy is set to conduct the fourth edition of the 'Pan-India' Coastal Defence Exercise 'Sea Vigil-24' on 20 &amp; 21 Nov 24.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The exercise will focus on strengthening the <b>security of coastal assets like ports, oil rigs, Single Point Moorings, Cable Landing Points and critical coastal infrastructure</b> including the coastal population.</li> <li>This year participation by other Services (Indian Army and Air Force) and planned deployment of a large number of ships and aircraft have enhanced the tempo of the exercise.</li> <li>Originally <b>conceptualized in 2018</b>, Sea Vigil was designed to validate and enhance measures adopted to bolster Coastal Defence, post the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks.</li> <li>Encompassing the <b>entire 11,098 km coastline and vast Exclusive Economic Zone of 2.4 million square kilometers</b>, this comprehensive exercise will engage <b>complete coastal security infrastructure and all maritime stakeholders, including the fishing community and coastal populace</b>, simultaneously.</li> <li>The exercise offers a significant opportunity to assess the <b>current preparedness of all maritime security agencies, identify their strengths and weaknesses and enhance the nation's overall maritime defense framework.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana</b></p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The first batch of a sea ranching project by the State Fisheries Department aims to release 10 lakh pompano and cobia (Motha) fingerlings at 10 locations off the Thiruvananthapuram coast.</li> <li>One lakh fingerlings will be released at each selected location, where artificial reefs have been installed under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is an <b>umbrella scheme with two separate</b></li> </ul>



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	<p><b>Components namely (a) Central Sector Scheme (CS) and (b) Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CSS Component is further segregated into Non-beneficiary oriented and beneficiary orientated subcomponents/activities under the following three broad heads: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Enhancement of Production and Productivity</li> <li>○ Infrastructure and Post-harvest Management</li> <li>○ Fisheries Management and Regulatory Framework</li> </ul> </li> <li>• PMMSY will be implemented in all the States and Union Territories for a <b>period of 5 (five) years from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25.</b></li> <li>• PMMSY includes key activities such as <b>fishing vessel insurance, support for new/upgrade of fishing vessels, aquaculture in saline/alkaline areas, Sagar Mitras, nucleus breeding centres, fisheries and aquaculture start-ups, incubators, and integrated aqua parks.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Scheme</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The International Energy Agency reports that approximately 681 million people in India depend on solid fuels for cooking, which presents significant health and environmental challenges.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on <b>1st May, 2016 with the slogan of “Clean Fuel, Better Life”.</b></li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> To safeguard the health of women &amp; children by providing them with a clean cooking fuel – LPG, so that they don’t have to compromise their health in smoky kitchens or wander in unsafe areas collecting firewood.</li> <li>• <b>Implementing Agency:</b> Ministry of Petroleum &amp; Natural Gas</li> <li>• <b>All BPL families can get the benefit of this scheme.</b></li> <li>• Any adult woman from a BPL family can apply for a deposit free LPG gas connection under the Ujjwala scheme.</li> <li>• The scheme was expanded in April 2018 to <b>include women beneficiaries from seven more categories (SC/ST, PMAY (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana), AAY (Antyodaya Anna Yojana), most backward classes, tea garden, forest dwellers, river islands).</b></li> <li>• The identification of the BPL families is done through <b>Socio Economic Caste Census Data 2011.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>India-US Relations</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To strengthen their ongoing cooperation in the <b>Indian Ocean Region, India and the U.S. are set to launch the inaugural U.S.-India Indian Ocean Dialogue.</b></li> </ul>



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	<p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The relationship between India and the United States has evolved into one of the most significant partnerships in the 21st century.</li> <li>• It spans <b>economic, strategic, and cultural dimensions, reflecting the shared values and mutual interests of the world’s largest democracies</b></li> <li>• The two nations are motivated by common interests: <b>India aims to become the world’s third-largest economy, while the US seeks reliable allies to counterbalance China’s growing influence.</b></li> <li>• <b>Defense Ties:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In 2018, India was elevated to <b>Strategic Trade Authorization tier 1 status, which allowed India to receive license-free access to a wide range of military and dual-use technologies regulated by the US’s department of commerce.</b></li> <li>○ The signing of foundational agreements like <b>LEMOA (2016), COMCASA (2018), and BECA (2020)</b> has enabled deeper military cooperation.</li> <li>○ <b>Joint exercises like Malabar and the establishment of the 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue in 2018</b> have further strengthened strategic ties.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Recent initiatives like the <b>US-India Artificial Intelligence Initiative and the Critical and Emerging Technology Initiative (iCET) launched in 2022</b> underscore the strategic importance of tech cooperation in bilateral ties.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Guidelines for of “Prevention Misleading Advertisement in Coaching Sector”</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has issued comprehensive guidelines to address the issue of misleading advertisements in the coaching sector.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Key Highlights of the Guidelines:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Regulation of Advertisements:</b> The guidelines explicitly prohibit coaching institutes from making false claims related to:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The courses offered, their duration, faculty qualifications, fees, and refund policies.</li> <li>■ Selection rates, success stories, exam rankings, and job security promises.</li> <li>■ Assured admissions, high exam scores, guaranteed selections or promotions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Misleading representations about the quality or standard of their services are strictly prohibited.</b></li> <li>○ Coaching institutes must accurately represent their infrastructure, resources, and facilities.</li> <li>○ Coaching centers will <b>need to disclose important</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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	<p>information, such as the name, rank, and course details alongside the student's photo in advertisements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The guidelines will reportedly target the common tactic used by any person engaged in coaching i.e. creating a false sense of urgency or scarcity, such as implying limited seats or exaggerated demand, to pressure students into making immediate decisions.</li><li>○ Any violation of these guidelines will be treated as a contravention of the <b>Consumer Protection Act, 2019</b>.</li><li>● The <b>Central Authority has the power to take stringent actions against offenders, including imposing penalties, ensuring accountability, and preventing further occurrences of such deceptive practices.</b></li></ul>
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