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24 November 2023

International & National News

<p>Advani wins World title for the 26th time</p> 	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian cueist Pankaj Advani rallied to win the IBSF World Billiards Championship title for a staggering 26th time, beating compatriot Sourav Kothari in the final. Advani rallied to defeat the 2018 world champion Kothari 1000-416 in a rematch of last year's title clash in Kuala Lumpur. <p>About IBSF World Billiards Championship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IBSF World Billiards Championship (previously known as the World Amateur Billiards Championship) is the premier, international, non-professional tournament for the game of English billiards. Dating to some form to 1951, the event has been sanctioned by the International Billiards and Snooker Federation since 1973.
<p>World Fisheries Day</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is celebrated across the world on 21 November annually. The main purpose behind this day is to highlight the importance of sustainable stocks of fisheries in the world, to strengthen human rights for the small-scale fishing communities, to make a true difference in the working conditions of fishing communities, and to eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. The theme for World Fisheries Day 2023 is 'Celebrating the Wealth of Fisheries and Aquaculture'.
<p>India saw a 6.2% rise in goods exports in October</p>	<p>Key facts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India's goods exports grew 6.2% in October and imports jumped 12.3% to a record high of \$65.03 billion, fuelled largely by higher imports of gold, which rose 95.4%, and oil. The monthly goods trade deficit widened to an all-time high of \$31.46 billion.
<p>Central Consumer Protection Authority</p>	<p>Context</p> <p>The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) is probing 20 IAS coaching institutes for making misleading claims in their advertisements and for unfair trade practices</p> <p>About CCPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a regulatory body established in 2020 based on the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.



- **Nodal Ministry:** The Ministry of Consumer Affairs.
- It will have a Chief Commissioner as head, and only two other commissioners as members one of whom will deal with matters relating to goods while the other will look into cases relating to services.
- **Objective:** To promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers as a class.

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)



Context

- Seeking funds to the tune of **\$65 billion via infrastructure investment**, Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister **Anwaarul Haq Kakar** completed a five-day trip to Beijing.
- He was also attempting to allay China's demands regarding the **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)**, the infrastructure project spearheaded by Beijing in 2015 that had reached an impasse due to disagreements over the Gwadar port in Balochistan.

About CPEC

- CPEC is a **3,000-km long route** of infrastructure projects connecting China's northwest Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and the Gwadar Port in the western province of Balochistan in Pakistan.
- It is a **bilateral project between Pakistan and China**, intended to promote connectivity across Pakistan with a network of highways, railways, and pipelines accompanied by energy, industrial, and other infrastructure development projects.
- It will **pave the way for China to access the Middle East and Africa** from Gwadar Port, enabling China to access the Indian Ocean and in return, China will support development projects in Pakistan to overcome the latter's energy crises and stabilize its faltering economy.
- CPEC is a part of the **Belt and Road Initiative**.
- The BRI, **launched in 2013**, aims to link Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the Gulf region, Africa and Europe with a network of land and sea routes.

Kerala to expand farming of GI-tagged Onattukara sesame

Context

Efforts are being made to expand the cultivation of geographical indication (**GI**)-tagged **Onattukara sesame** in the Alappuzha district of Kerala.

Key points

- Authorities have announced an incentive scheme for growing sesame on fields and homesteads in the Thekkekara Krishi Bhavan limits.
- A **financial assistance of ₹40 for a cent of land** would be given to farmers for cultivating sesame.



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- The project, which was launched recently, is a **joint initiative** involving the local Krishi Bhavan, Onattukara Vikasana Agency (OVA), Onattukara Regional Agricultural Research Station (ORARS), Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kayamkulam, and Mavelikara Thekkkara panchayat

Did you know?.

- The Onattukara sesame is currently **grown on around 600 hectares spread across 43 local bodies** in the three districts of Alappuzha, Kollam, and Pathanamthitta.
- An analysis by Kerala Agricultural University revealed that sesame grown in the region contains high levels of **Vitamin E and antioxidants.**

IMA, nurses' Association honoured with Indira Gandhi Peace Prize



Context

The **Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development, 2022** was jointly awarded to the **Indian Medical Association and the Trained Nurses Association of India** as representatives of the COVID-19 warriors in the country.

Key points

- The award was for every doctor, nurse, paramedic and karamchhari for their selfless service, unflinching dedication and perseverance.
- The award was instituted in the name of one of the most remarkable leaders of the 20th century (Indira Gandhi), and aims to honour women, men and institutions that have done exemplary work.

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