

Exercise Sea Vigil and TROPEX

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In news

Indian navy to coordinate the second edition of the biennial pan-India coastal defence exercise 'Sea Vigil-21

About Vigil-21

- It is the largest coastal defence exercise of India
- The second edition of Vigil-21 will be conducted on 12-13 January 2021
- The exercise, inaugural edition of which was conducted in January 2019
- The current edition will be undertaken along the entire 7516 km coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone of India and will involve all the 13 coastal States and Union Territories along with other maritime stakeholders, including the fishing and coastal communities.

Do You know?

Exclusive Economic Zone of India

- An exclusive economic zone, as prescribed by the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, is an area of the sea in which a sovereign state has special rights regarding the exploration and use of marine resources, including energy production from water and wind
- It stretches from the baseline out to 200 nautical miles (nmi) from the coast of the state in question. In colloquial usage, the term may include the continental shelf.
- The term does not include either the territorial sea or the continental shelf beyond the 200 nmi limit.
- India, a traditionally maritime country with rich maritime heritage, has an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of about 2.37 million km² wherein India enjoys the exclusive legal right to utilize all living and non-living resources.

- The exercise is being coordinated by the Indian Navy.
- The entire coastal security set up was reorganised after the 26/11 Terror attack at Mumbai which was launched via the sea route.
- The scale and conceptual expanse of the exercise is unprecedented in terms of the geographical extent, the number of stakeholders involved, the number of units participating and in terms of the objectives to be met.
- The exercise is a build up towards the major Theatre level exercise TROPEX [Theatre-level Readiness Operational Exercise] which Indian Navy conducts every two years.
- SEA VIGIL and TROPEX together will cover the entire spectrum of maritime security challenges, including transition from peace to conflict.

Who participates in the exercise & who facilitates it?

Assets of the Indian Navy, Coast Guard, Customs and other maritime agencies will participate in SEA VIGIL, the conduct of which is also being **facilitated by the Ministries of Defence, Home Affairs, Shipping, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Fisheries, Customs, State Governments and other agencies of Centre/ State.**

Significance

- It provides opportunity, at the apex level, to assess our preparedness in the domain of maritime security and coastal defence.
- Exercise 'SEA VIGIL 21' will provide a realistic assessment of our strengths and weaknesses and thus will help in further strengthening maritime and national security.