

New rules by China to regulate foreign ships in its waters

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In news- Recently, China notified new maritime rules to regulate foreign ships in its waters.

Key highlights of new rules-

- As per the new rules, operators of submersibles, nuclear vessels, ships carrying radioactive materials and ships carrying bulk oil, chemicals, liquefied gas and other toxic and harmful substances are required to **report their detailed information upon their visits to Chinese territorial waters.**
- In addition to these types of vessels, vessels that may endanger the maritime traffic safety of China prescribed by laws should also **follow the new regulation which will take effect from September 1.**
- Those **vessels should report the name, call sign, current position and next port of call** and estimated time of arrival.
- The name of shipborne dangerous goods and cargo deadweight are also required in the report.
- The **reference to submersible reportedly refers to spy devices unmanned spy devices** found by the Chinese fishermen in China's coastline.

South China Sea-

- It is a marginal sea that is **part of the Pacific Ocean, encompassing an area from the Karimata and Malacca straits** to the Strait of Taiwan of around 3,500,000 square kilometres.
- China claims almost all of the 1.3 million square-mile

South China Sea as its sovereign territory.

- The **'nine-dash line'** stretches hundreds of kilometers south and east of its southerly Hainan Island, covering the strategic Paracel and Spratly island chains.
- China buttresses its claims by citing 2,000 years of history when the two island chains were regarded as its integral parts.
- But Vietnam rejects the Chinese argument, justifying its own claims, on the basis of written records, which, in its view, establishes its administration over the area since the 17th century.
- Beijing and Manila clash on account of their dispute over the jurisdiction of the Scarborough shoal, which is 160 kilometres from the Philippines.



- China has been building military bases on artificial islands in the region also claimed by Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam.
- The South China Sea carries tremendous strategic importance, as one-third of the world's shipping passes through it.
- It contains lucrative fisheries, which are crucial for the food security of millions in Southeast Asia. Huge oil and gas reserves are believed to lie beneath its seabed

- **Major rivers that flow into the South China Sea include** the Pearl, Min, Jiulong, Red, Mekong, Rajang, Pahang, Agno, Pampanga, and Pasig Rivers.