



For success in a changing world

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The Rules for Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the EEZ

Syllabus: GS-1: Resource Geography – Fishery.

Context:

- The Union Government has notified new **Rules for Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)**.
- Objective: Empower **fishermen cooperatives**, promote **technology-driven deep-sea fishing**, and ensure **sustainability** aligned with India's **Blue Economy** goals.

About the Rules

- **What it is:** A comprehensive regulatory framework for sustainable and inclusive deep-sea fishing within India's EEZ (up to 200 nautical miles from the coast).
 - Promotes **responsible utilisation of marine resources, digital transparency, and community-led governance**.
 - Formulated by the **Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying**.
- **Aim:**
 - Unlock the **untapped potential** of India's vast EEZ.
 - Strengthen **livelihoods of small-scale fishers**.
 - Enhance **seafood exports and value addition**.
 - Ensure **ecological sustainability** through **traceability and responsible fishing**.

Key Features

1. Empowering Fisher Cooperatives

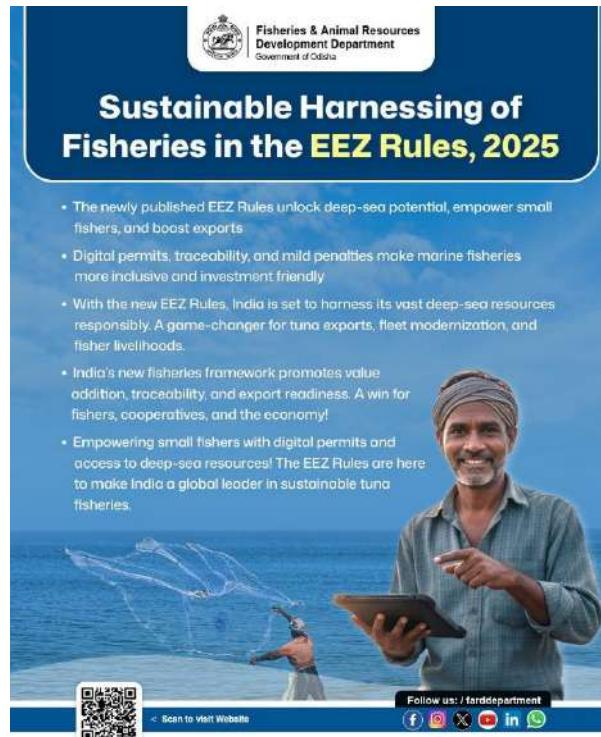
- Priority to **Fishermen Cooperative Societies and Fish Farmer Producer Organisations (FFPOs)**.
- Encourages **community-led management** of deep-sea fishing vessels.

2. Mother-and-Child Vessel Concept

- Allows **mid-sea transshipment** under **RBI monitoring**, improving efficiency and safety.
- Particularly benefits **Andaman & Nicobar** and **Lakshadweep Islands** (which cover ~49% of India's EEZ).

3. Digital Access Pass System

- Mechanized vessels to obtain **free Access Pass** through **ReALCRAFT portal**.
- Ensures **paperless, transparent operations**.
- **Traditional crafts** are **exempt** from registration.



4. Integration and Traceability

- **ReALCRAFT** linked with:
 - **MPEDA** (Marine Products Export Development Authority)
 - **Export Inspection Council (EIC)**
- Enables **catch certification, eco-labelling, and traceable seafood exports**—boosting export credibility.

5. Capacity Building and Finance

- **Training, international exposure, and credit support** through:
 - **PM Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**
 - **Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF)**
- Focus on **skill development, technology adoption, and market access**.

6. Ban on Harmful Practices

- Prohibits **LED fishing, pair trawling, and bull trawling**.

- Introduces **minimum legal fish size** norms.
- Development of **Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs)** to conserve marine biodiversity.

7. Mariculture and Diversification

- Promotes **sea-cage farming, seaweed cultivation, and offshore aquaculture**.
- Reduces **pressure on nearshore fisheries** and creates **alternative livelihoods**.

8. Safety and Coastal Security

- Mandatory installation of **transponders** on vessels.
- **Aadhaar/QR-coded Fisher ID cards** for digital verification.
- Integration with **NABHMITRA navigation app** for real-time tracking and safety alerts.

9. Action on IUU Fishing

- National framework to combat **Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing**.
- Strengthens India's maritime surveillance and compliance obligations under **UNCLOS**.

10. Regulatory Reforms

- Recognises **EEZ-origin fish as Indian-origin** under customs and revenue laws.
- Ensures accurate **national accounting of seafood exports** and reduces administrative ambiguity.

Significance

- Promotes **sustainable Blue Economy** practices.
- Empowers **small-scale fishers** through technology and cooperatives.
- Enhances **marine biodiversity protection** and **export competitiveness**.
- Strengthens **maritime governance** and **food security**.
- Aligns with **SDG 14 (Life Below Water)** and **India's Vision 2047** for marine resource efficiency.

Report on Fair Trials by NALSAR University of Law

Syllabus: GS-2: Indian Polity – Judiciary.

Context:

Supreme Court Justice Vikram Nath expressed grave concern over India's high undertrial population — over **70% of total inmates** — with most unaware of their right to **free legal aid**, as revealed in a recent **NALSAR University of Law report** on *Fair Trial Practices*.

About the Report

- **Name:** Fair Trial Programme (FTP)
- **Institution:** NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad
- **Initiative:** *Square Circle Clinic* (Legal aid and advocacy cell)
- **Launched in:** 2019
- **Objective:** To ensure **access to fair trial and legal representation** for undertrials, especially from **marginalised and vulnerable backgrounds**.

Key Findings (2019–2024)

1. Access to Legal Representation

- **41.3%** of undertrials had **no lawyer assigned**.
- **51%** lacked **necessary case documents**, delaying hearings and bail.

2. Socio-Economic Vulnerability

- **68%** belonged to **marginalised caste groups**.
- **80%** worked in the **unorganised sector**, highlighting economic disadvantage.

3. Disability and Intersectional Vulnerability

- **58%** had at least **one form of disability**, often leading to neglect in trial processes.

4. Utilisation of Legal Aid

- Only **7.91%** accessed **legal aid**, despite the guarantee under **Article 39A and Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**.

5. Bail and Case Outcomes

- **1,834 bail pleas** filed, **1,388 releases** secured, and **777 cases disposed of**, proving the effectiveness of **systematic legal intervention**.

Implications

- Reflects **systemic failure** in upholding **Article 21 (Right to Life and Personal Liberty)** and **Article 39A (Free Legal Aid)**.

- Demonstrates **disproportionate incarceration** of the poor, mentally ill, and socially excluded.
- Highlights **inefficiencies** in the **legal aid system** and **bail procedures**, leading to **"punishment before conviction."**
- Urges **reform in pre-trial detention** and **public defender systems** to make justice accessible.

Constitutional and Legal Linkages

- **Article 21:** Guarantees fair, speedy, and just trial as part of the right to life.
- **Article 39A:** Mandates free legal aid to ensure equal justice.
- **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987:** Provides institutional framework for free legal aid.
- **Supreme Court Judgments:** *Hussainara Khatoon (1979)*, *Khatri v. State of Bihar (1981)* — emphasized legal aid as a fundamental right.

Reform Measures Suggested

- Strengthen **District Legal Services Authorities (DLSA)** through better funding and outreach.
- Institutionalise **public defender systems** at trial courts.
- Use **technology** for tracking undertrial cases and ensuring follow-up.
- Sensitise police, jail authorities, and judiciary on **human rights of undertrials**.
- Promote **community legal clinics** in law universities for field-level engagement.

Exercise Malabar 2025

Syllabus: GS-2; International Relations

Context:

INS **Sahyadri** has arrived at **Guam (Northern Pacific)** to participate in **Exercise Malabar 2025**, highlighting India's commitment to **regional stability, maritime cooperation, and interoperability** among the **Quad nations**.

About Exercise Malabar

What it is:

- A **multilateral naval exercise** involving the **navies of India, the United States, Japan, and Australia**.

- Serves as a premier platform for maritime security coordination, interoperability, and joint operational capabilities among the Quad members.

Origin and Evolution

- **Initiated (1992):** As a bilateral exercise between India and the U.S.
- **Japan joined (2015):** Became a permanent participant.
- **Australia joined (2020):** Upgraded it to a Quad-level exercise.
- **Evolution:** From basic maritime coordination drills to complex, multi-domain naval operations, reflecting deepening Indo-Pacific strategic cooperation.



Participating Nations

- **India, United States, Japan, and Australia** — the Quad nations.
- Represent a shared vision for a free, open, and rules-based Indo-Pacific.

Host for 2025

- **Guam**, a U.S. island territory in the Western Pacific.
- Hosting **both Harbour and Sea Phases** of the exercise.

Key Features of Malabar 2025

Harbour Phase:

- Operational and planning meetings.
- Communication and coordination alignment.
- Cross-deck visits and professional interactions.
- Cultural exchanges to build mutual trust and understanding.

Sea Phase:

- **Advanced joint operations** including:

- Fleet manoeuvres
- Anti-submarine warfare (ASW)
- Air defence operations
- Surface gunnery drills
- Cross-deck helicopter operations

Focus Areas

- Enhancing maritime domain awareness (MDA).
- Joint logistics and operational interoperability.
- **Coordinated responses** to non-traditional threats — piracy, HADR (Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief), and maritime terrorism.
- **Strengthening Indo-Pacific security architecture.**

India's Indigenous Strength

- Participation with **INS Sahyadri**, an **indigenously designed and built stealth frigate under Project 17 (Shivalik-class)**.
- Reflects **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** in naval defence capability and technological self-reliance.

Significance

- Reinforces **Quad's strategic alignment** in the Indo-Pacific.
- Demonstrates **India's naval outreach and blue-water capability**.
- Promotes **trust, transparency, and collective deterrence** in regional maritime security.

COP30 – UN Climate Summit 2025 (Belém, Brazil)

Syllabus: GS-3: Environmental Summits.

Context:

The **30th Conference of the Parties (COP30)** to the **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** began in **Belém, Brazil**, a symbolic host city in the Amazon, marking a **decade since the Paris Agreement (2015)**. The summit's focus is on moving from **commitments to concrete climate action and implementation**.

About COP30

➤ **What it is:**

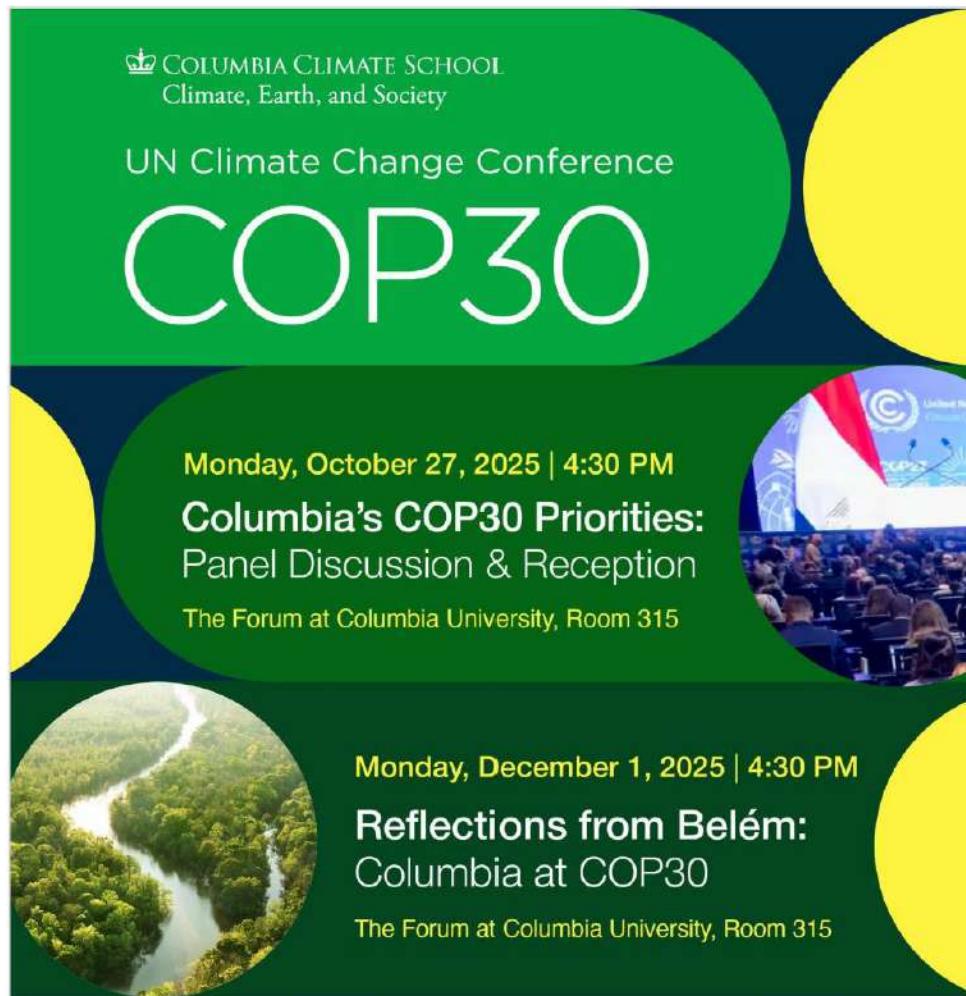
- The **annual UN Climate Conference** where countries review global progress under the **UNFCCC and Paris Agreement**.
- Provides a platform for **negotiating emission reduction targets, adaptation strategies, and climate finance mechanisms**.

➤ **Host:**

- **Brazil**, in the **Amazonian city of Belém**, representing the world's most biodiverse ecosystem and symbolising **climate-forest interlinkages**.

Aim

- To make COP30 an **“Implementation COP”** — shifting focus from pledges to **measurable, on-ground climate action**.
- To ensure a **fair, inclusive, and equitable transition**, consistent with the principle of **Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC)**.



Key Initiatives Expected

1. Global Stocktake (GST):

- The first comprehensive assessment since the Paris Agreement.
- Evaluates collective progress toward limiting global warming to 1.5°C and identifies implementation gaps.

2. New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG):

- Proposes increasing annual climate finance from \$100 billion to \$300 billion by 2035.
- Aims to mobilise \$1.3 trillion per year from public, private, and multilateral sources.

3. Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA):

- Focuses on setting measurable global adaptation targets.
- Ensures adequate and predictable funding for climate resilience in vulnerable regions.

4. Baku-to-Belém Climate Finance Roadmap:

- A proposed implementation framework to operationalise long-term, predictable climate finance flows, especially for the Global South.

5. Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF):

- Brazil-led initiative creating a blended-finance fund to reward and incentivise countries that conserve tropical forests.

6. Integration of Climate and Biodiversity Agendas:

- Seeks to align carbon reduction with ecosystem restoration, including forests, oceans, and soils.

Significance

- Decadal milestone since the Paris Agreement (2015–2025) — a crucial moment to translate ambition into action.
- Equity and climate justice at the forefront, highlighting the needs of developing countries for finance, technology, and capacity-building.
- Pushes for “just transitions” in energy, industry, and transport, ensuring no one is left behind in the green shift.
- Reinforces the Amazon's central role in global climate stability.

In essence:

COP30 represents a decisive moment for global climate governance — from **negotiation tables to real-world transformation**, ensuring **accountable implementation** of the Paris goals with a focus on **justice, finance, and sustainability**.

Explosives Substance Act

Syllabus: GS-3: Internal Security – Laws and Acts.

Context:

Explosion near Red Fort: Delhi Police registers FIR under UAPA Act, Explosives Substance Act in connection with blast.

Explosive Substances Act, 1908

Background

- The Act was enacted to **control the manufacture, possession, use, sale, and transport of explosives** in India.
- It was originally introduced during the **British colonial period** to curb revolutionary activities involving explosives.
- It remains a key legislation for **national security, public safety, and counterterrorism** operations today.

Objective

To regulate and prevent misuse of explosive substances that can cause:

- Danger to life and property
- Threats to public order
- Acts of terrorism or sabotage

Key Provisions

1. Definition

- **Explosive substance** includes any material used or manufactured with a view to produce an explosion — such as gunpowder, nitroglycerin, TNT, and similar compounds.

2. Scope and Application

- Applies to the **whole of India**.
- Covers all persons, including Indian citizens abroad (for offenses committed outside India).

- The Act supplements other related laws like:
 - **Explosives Act, 1884**
 - **Arms Act, 1959**
 - **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA)**

3. Punishable Offences

Under **Sections 3–6**, the Act prescribes severe punishments for various offenses:

Section	Offence	Punishment
Sec. 3	Causing explosion likely to endanger life or property	Death penalty or life imprisonment
Sec. 4	Attempting or making preparation to cause explosion	Up to life imprisonment
Sec. 5	Possession of explosives under suspicious circumstances	Up to 14 years imprisonment
Sec. 6	Aiding, abetting, or conspiring in such offenses	Same as main offender

4. Cognizable & Non-Bailable

- All offenses under the Act are **cognizable, non-bailable, and non-compoundable**.
- Investigation must be conducted by a **police officer not below the rank of DSP** (as per CrPC provisions).

Relation with Other Laws

- **Explosives Act, 1884:** Regulates manufacture, storage, and licensing of explosives.
- **Explosive Substances Act, 1908:** Deals with *illegal and criminal use* of explosives.
- **UAPA, 1967 & NIA Act, 2008:** Cover terror-related use of explosives — NIA investigates such offenses.

Recent Context and Enforcement

- Invoked in cases of **terrorist bombings, illegal mining blasts, and industrial accidents** involving explosives.
- **National Investigation Agency (NIA)** often invokes the Act for cases involving:
 - Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)
 - Naxal violence
 - Terrorist conspiracies

- **State police** use it for illegal possession or transportation of explosives for mining or construction without license.

Judicial Interpretation

- **State of Rajasthan v. Jaggu Ram (2008)**: The Supreme Court held that *mere possession of explosive material is punishable if it raises reasonable suspicion of intended unlawful use.*
- **Mohd. Ajmal Kasab v. State of Maharashtra (2012)**: The Act was invoked for use of explosives in terrorist attacks, reaffirming its significance for national security.

Challenges

- **Misuse** in cases of industrial storage and mining.
- **Overlap** with other laws leading to procedural confusion.
- **Need for modernization**: The Act is over a century old; lacks provisions for cyber-enabled explosive technologies, drone delivery, etc.

Government Initiatives

- Periodic amendments to update definitions and investigative powers.
- Enhanced coordination among:
 - **Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO)**
 - **NIA**
 - **State Police and Defence Forces**
- Integration with **NATGRID** and **Crime and Criminal Tracking Network (CCTNS)** for data-sharing on explosive licenses and offenders.

Significance

- Vital for **counterterrorism, homeland security, and public safety**.
- Enables **deterrence** against unlawful use of explosives.
- Provides **legal backing** for investigative agencies during anti-terror operations.

Way Forward

- **Comprehensive update** to align with modern explosive technologies.
- **Better coordination** between central and state enforcement agencies.
- **Digital tracking** of explosives supply chain and real-time monitoring.
- **Awareness and compliance training** for industrial and mining sectors.

Conclusion

The **Explosive Substances Act, 1908** remains a cornerstone of India's internal security framework.

While its deterrent provisions have served national interest effectively, there is a growing need for **legal modernization** and **technological integration** to tackle evolving threats involving explosives in the 21st century.