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1 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) (Source: The Hindu)

UNCLOS is an international treaty that establishes the legal framework for marine and maritime activities.

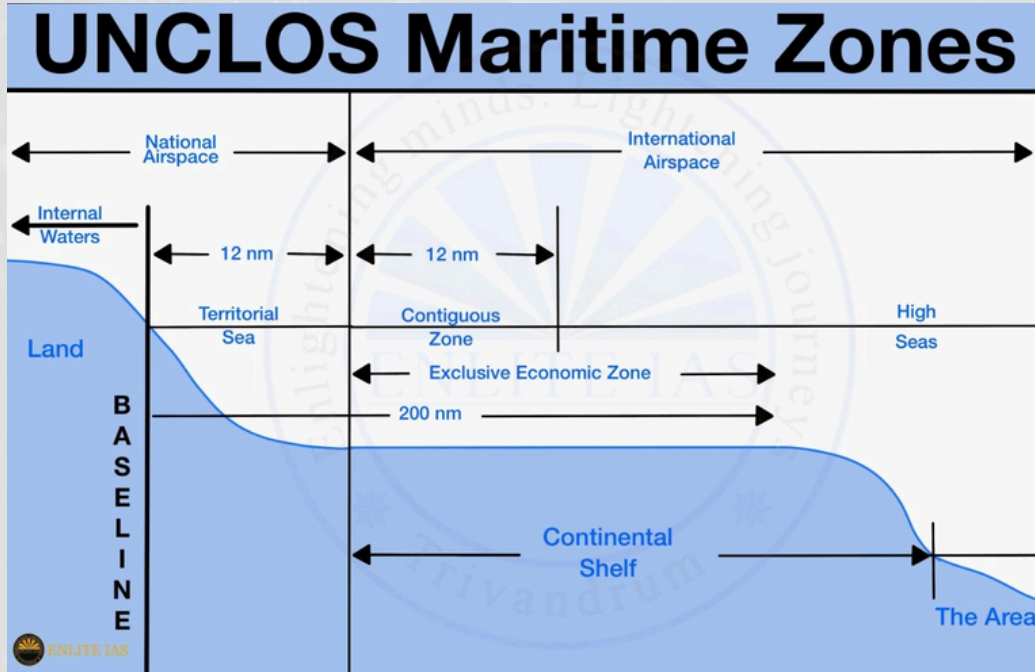
- Also called the law of the sea
- Adopted in 1982 and came into force in 1994.

Fact To Know

- Aim to ensure peaceful use of oceans, equitable use of marine resources, protection of marine environment, and regulation of maritime boundaries.
- Creates the International Seabed Authority (ISA) to regulate mineral resources in areas beyond national jurisdiction.
- There are 168 members including European Union.

UNCLOS Division of Maritime Zone

- **Internal Waters:** Internal waters are waters on the landward side of the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured. Each coastal state has full sovereignty over its internal waters as like its land territory. For example ports, bays etc.
- **Territorial Sea (Up to 12 nm):** The state exercises sovereignty over the water, seabed, subsoil, and airspace. Other nations' ships enjoy the right of innocent passage.
- **Contiguous Zone (Up to 24 nm):** Extends another 12 nm beyond the territorial sea. The state may exercise control to prevent and punish infringements of its customs, fiscal, immigration, or sanitary laws.
- **Exclusive Economic Zone - EEZ (Up to 200 nm):** The state has sovereign rights over exploring, exploiting, conserving, and managing natural resources (fish, oil, gas) in the water column and seabed. Other nations have freedom of navigation.
- **High Seas (Beyond EEZ):** Waters not included in any state's EEZ, territorial sea, or internal waters. It is considered the "common heritage of all mankind," where freedom of navigation, overflight, fishing, and scientific research applies.



2 Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE) Norms (Source: The Economic Times)

- Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency or CAFE norms were first introduced in 2017 under the **Energy Conservation Act, 2001**, with aim to curb fossil fuel dependence and air pollution from road transport.
- Issued by the **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)**.
- The regulations set limits on corporate average fuel consumption, measured in litres per 100 kilometres, based on the average weight of vehicles sold by an automaker during a financial year.
- The rules aim to reduce carbon intensity by pushing companies to improve the efficiency of their overall fleet.
- **Phases**
 - **CAFÉ 1:** implemented in 2017–18, capped average fuel consumption at 5.5 litres/100 km and emissions at <130 gm CO₂/km.
 - **CAFÉ 2:** in force since 2022–23, tightened this to 4.78 litres/100 km and <113 gm CO₂/km.
 - **CAFE 3 (or CAFE 2027):** Proposes to reduce permissible fuel consumption to a range of 3.72–3.01 litres/100 km, with emissions expected to fall below 91.7 gm CO₂/km.



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3 Economic Recession (*Source: The Hindu*)

A recession is a period of temporary economic decline, typically involving reduced GDP, industrial output, employment, and income.

Major Causes

- High inflation, rising interest rates, supply-demand imbalances, or external shocks like pandemics or conflicts.

Types

- **Technical Recession:** Two quarters of GDP contraction.
- **Balance Sheet Recession:** Firms focus on debt repayment over investment.
- **Double-Dip Recession:** A relapse after partial recovery.

Impacts

- Unemployment reduces consumer spending and strains government revenues, often hitting low-skilled workers hardest. Businesses may close, amplifying fiscal deficits.