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Prelims PYQ, Mains model answers, and copy evaluation. Write to the desk for this paper, a doubt, or the AI waitlist.

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Q16

South China Sea has assumed great geopolitical significance in the present context. Comment.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2016 · GS I · 12 marks · World's Physical Geography

Salient features of world's physical geography.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round. This sheet is for revision, not a substitute for the model answer.

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Strait of Malacca

Chokepoint linking the Indian Ocean to the South China Sea and the Pacific trade system.

Nine-dash line

Chinese historic claim covering most of the South China Sea, disputed by several ASEAN states.

UNCLOS

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the legal basis for EEZs and navigation rights.

2016 arbitral award

Philippines-China ruling that rejected historic rights inside the nine-dash line; China rejected the award.

Spratly and Paracel Islands

Main island groups whose occupation and reclamation drive the military standoff.

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