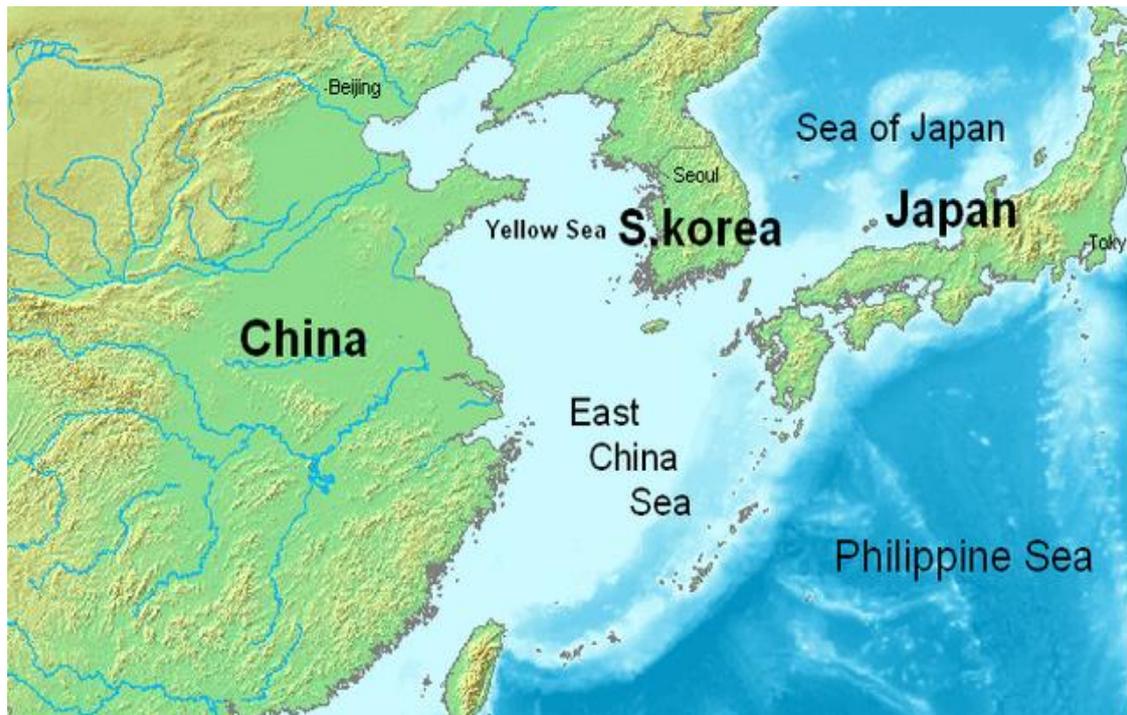




## Place in News - East China Sea

**Context:** China has dismissed Japan's objections regarding its gas field developments in the contested East China Sea, where the Exclusive



Economic Zone (EEZ) claims of both countries intersect.

### About the East China Sea

- A marginal sea located in the Western Pacific Ocean, bordered by China, Japan, Taiwan, and South Korea.
- Recognized for its geopolitical tensions, abundant fisheries, and potential reserves of oil and natural gas.
- It plays a crucial role in maritime security and the freedom of navigation throughout Asia.



### **Location**

- Situated to the east of China's coastline and south of Japan's Kyushu and Ryukyu Islands.

### **Connected to:**

- Yellow Sea (to the north) through the Korea Strait.
- South China Sea (to the south) via the Taiwan Strait.
- Pacific Ocean (to the east).

### **Key Features**

- **Area:** Approximately 1,249,000 square kilometers.
- **Depth:** Generally shallow, with an average depth of around 350 meters.

### **Borders:**

- **West** → China (provinces of Shanghai, Zhejiang, and Fujian).
- **East** → Japan (Kyushu and Okinawa/Ryukyu Islands).
- **South** → Taiwan.

**Significant Islands:** Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands (disputed by China, Japan, and Taiwan).

**Seas & Straits:** Korea Strait, Taiwan Strait, Miyako Strait.

### **Geopolitical Disputes**

- **China vs. Japan:** Concerning EEZ boundaries; Japan supports the median line principle, while China asserts its claim over the continental shelf extending to the Okinawa Trough.



**30 Aug 2025**

- **Senkaku/Diaoyu dispute:** Uninhabited islands, governed by Japan but claimed by both China and Taiwan.
- **Gas and oil exploration:** Both nations are vying for rights to exploit underwater hydrocarbon resources.