

MARITIME BOUNDARY DISPUTES

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Maritime Laws: India's Maritime Zones

- *Maritime Zones* (MZ) are the sovereign sea zones of a coastal country on which that country has all the rights: security, fishing, exploitation of all available marine resources. UNCLOS classified MZs into: Territorial Waters; Contiguous Zones; Exclusive Economic Zone; Continental Shelf. IO has abundant living and non-living resources.
 - UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea) allows every coastal country of the world certain parts of the Sea as their sovereign territories. In these zones, each coastal state has complete or limited sovereign rights.
 - UNCLOS divides sovereign maritime zones of a country in the adjoining Sea as: Territorial Sea (12 nautical miles); Contiguous Zone (24 nautical miles); Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ, 200 nautical miles).

- In the Territorial Sea the coastal state has absolute sovereign rights of law enforcement, maritime security control and establishments, control over the passage of foreign commercial and war ships, customs and immigration laws implementation.
- In each of these zones the coastal state has fishing rights, use of living and non-living resources, sea bed minerals, exploration and utilization of oil and gas resources

Securing MT zones

- Maritime Security is the protection of a nation's territorial and maritime jurisdiction from foreign invasion by sea. It is the responsibility of naval forces to defend the country's coasts against military threats from sea.
- Today maritime security denotes more than the armed protection provided by a country's navy. Maritime security has acquired a broader holistic meaning. Apart from threats from enemy countries, non-military to maritime security include: pirates, drug-traffickers, terrorists.
- Relief from natural disasters, exploring sea-bed resources, construction of ports and harbours are also covered by contemporary concept of maritime security.

Maritime Security Forces: India

- India has a territorial sea of 12 nautical miles, and an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) measuring 200 nautical miles from the coast. India has exclusive rights of enjoying and exploiting ocean resources in these extended ocean spaces.
- Indian Navy (IN) and ICG have the responsibility of protecting the country's maritime borders. IN has the sole responsibility of protecting India from maritime threats, and attacks. IN played important role in the Bangladesh war (1971) and the Kargil War (1999).
- The 1978 Indian Coast Guard Act authorizes the coast guard to enforce policing, surveillance, patrolling the 7,683 kilometres of coastline and over two million square kilometres of sea within national jurisdiction.

- After the terrorist attack on Mumbai on November 26, 2008 (called 26/11), Government of India created Coastal Police Stations. These police stations have to protect the territorial sea, checking and arrest of criminal agents like smugglers and drug traffickers and prevent their entry into hinterland.

Rights of Passage and Military Activities

- 'Right of Innocent Passage' is a legal term under UNCLOS. It means the legal rights given under UNCLOS for the commercial and warships of foreign countries to pass through the maritime zones of a coastal State.
- A foreign ship can passage through territorial sea of a coastal State without disturbing peace, good order and maritime security of the state. The word 'innocent passage' is introduced in order ensure the maritime interests of the coastal state.
- Foreign ships are not allowed to involve in such activities like spying, carrying any military weapons or and interfere with the coastal state's communications and other coastal facilities like ports and oil platforms.
- Warships like submarines and similar military ships should navigate on the surface waters of coastal state in its territorial waters.

THANK YOU