

Handout 3

Maritime boundary of India

India has signed 12 maritime treaties with all five of its neighbours on opposite coasts—nine bilateral treaties with Maldives (1976), Sri Lanka (1974 and 1976 (2)), Indonesia (1974 and 1977), Thailand (1978 and 1993), and Myanmar (1986) (Table 1), and three trilateral treaties with Sri Lanka and Maldives (1976), Indonesia and Thailand (1978), and Myanmar and Thailand (1993) (Table 2). (Table 2). As a consequence, India's maritime borders with four of these five states are complete; the only exception is Myanmar, which requires a trilateral agreement to identify its trijunction point with India and Bangladesh. Nevertheless, this requires that the maritime border issue between India and Bangladesh be resolved first.

Table 1: India's Bilateral Agreements on Maritime Boundary Delimitation

| Name of Country | Date of Signature | Nature of Agreement | Entry into Force |
|-----------------|-------------------|---|--------------------|
| Indonesia | August 8, 1974 | Relating to the Delimitation of the Continental Shelf Boundary between the Two Countries | December 17, 1974 |
| | January 14, 1977 | On the Extension of the 1974 Continental Shelf Boundary between the Two Countries in the Andaman Sea and the Indian Ocean | August 15, 1997 |
| Maldives | December 28, 1976 | On the Maritime Boundary in the Arabian Sea and Related Matters | June 8, 1978 |
| Myanmar | December 23, 1986 | On the Delimitation of the Maritime Boundary in the Andaman Sea, in the Coco Channel, and in the Bay of Bengal | September 14, 1987 |
| Sri Lanka | June 26/28, 1974 | On the Boundary in Historic Waters between the Two Countries and Related Matters | July 8, 1974 |
| | March 23, 1976 | On the Maritime Boundary between the Two Countries in the Gulf of Manaar and the Bay of Bengal and Related Matters | May 10, 1976 |
| | November 22, 1976 | Supplementary Agreement on the Extension of the Maritime Boundary between the Two Countries in the Gulf | February 5, 1977 |

| | | | |
|----------|------------------|--|-------------------|
| | | of Manaar from position 13m to the Trijunction point between India, Sri Lanka, and Maldives (Point T) | |
| Thailand | June 22, 1978 | On the Delimitation of the Seabed Boundary between the Two Countries in the Andaman Sea | December 15, 1978 |
| | October 27, 1993 | On the Maritime Boundary between the Two Countries in the Andaman Sea from Point 7 to the Trijunction Point (Point T) between India, Thailand, and Myanmar | January 17, 1996 |

Table 2. India's Trilateral Agreements on Maritime Boundary Delimitation

| Name of Countries | Date of Signature | Nature of Agreement | Entry into Force |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Sri Lanka and Maldives | July 24, 1976 | Concerning the Determination of the Trijunction Point between the Three Countries in the Gulf of Manaar | July 31, 1976 |
| Indonesia and Thailand | June 22, 1978 | Concerning the Determination of the Trijunction Point and the Delimitation of the Related Boundaries of the Three Countries in the Andaman Sea | March 2, 1979 |
| Myanmar and Thailand | October 27, 1993 | On the Determination of the Trijunction point between India, Myanmar and Thailand in the Andaman Sea | May 24, 1995 |

India's coastal border

Mainland

Costal Zones Of India Ministry Of Environment and Forests

UNCLOS Maritime Zones

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982

According to the United Nations Convention on the law of the sea (UNCLOS), 1982, the aquatic boundary of a country is divided into 5 parts

Internal Water

Territorial Water

Contiguous water

EEZ - Exclusive Economic Zone

High Seas

Strait

Isthmus

Bay

Gulf

India's Maritime International Boundary

Other Facts

Concepts and Analysis refer class note and discussion