

NALSAR University of Law

# India's Maritime Jurisdictional Disputes

By

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- Indian Maritime Doctrine (2009,2015) published by the Indian Navy is the official document which explains in great detail the importance of Indian Ocean to India's interests, imperatives of maritime security, primary and secondary areas of national interests in the IO, naval strategies, facts and figures on national maritime zones.
- According to Indian Maritime Doctrine (IMD) India has a coastline of 7,516.6 km. which includes: mainland coastline, 5,422.6 km; Lakshadweep islands 132 km; Andaman & Nicobar islands 1,962 km.
- Number of islands: Lakshadweep islands 27; Andaman and Nicobar islands, 572; Total number of islands: 1,197.
- Size of national maritime jurisdictions:
  - a. Territorial waters: 155,889 square km.
  - b. EEZ : 2,013,410 sq. km
  - c. Continental shelf: approximately 530,003 sq.km. (being demarcated)

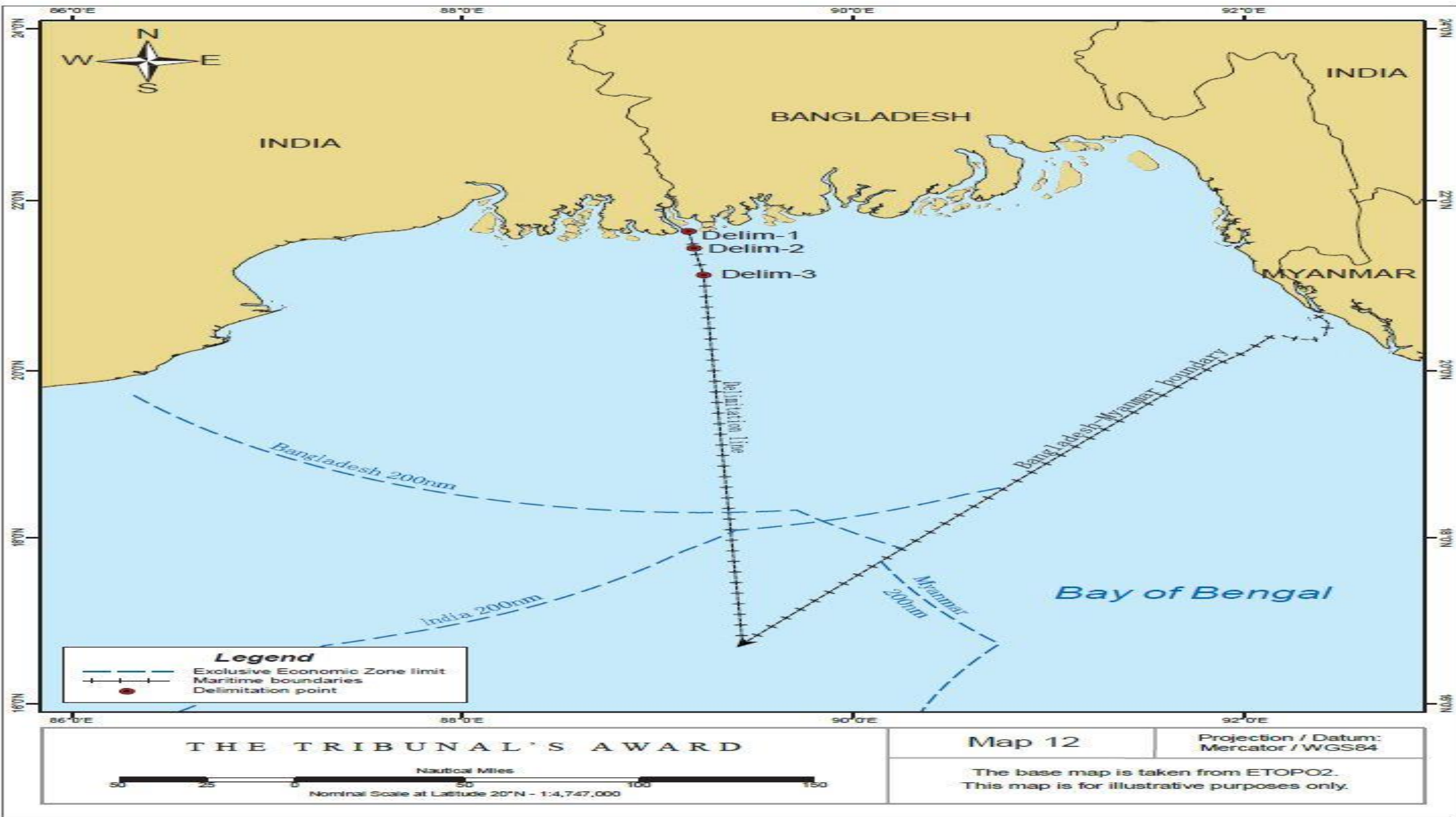
# India's Maritime Boundary Disputes – Sir Creek Issue

- India and Pakistan differ on defining the boundary in the Rann of Kutch area of Arabian Sea. India wants dividing the Rann of Kutch estuary by applying the standard principle of Meridian Line. But rejects it on the ground that the irregular character of the estuary defies meridian principle and demanding about 90% of the Rann of Kutch domain.



# India –Bangladesh Continental Shelf Case

- Bilateral negotiations to resolve the maritime dispute was not be successful.
- To avoid rancor and ensure mutual friendly spirit both neighbours agreed Arbitration as the mode of dispute settlement.
- Hence, the issue of continental shelf determination was referred to Permanent Court of Arbitration (PAC).
- PAC agreed with Bangladesh legal position and awarded about 20,000 sq km of ocean area in the Bay to Bangladesh in 2014.
- India accepted the PAC award as a responsible member of international community and in the spirit of good neighbourly relations.



# Boundary Settlements with other Maritime Neighbours

- India settled the international maritime boundaries with other regional neighbours which include: Indonesia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Maldives

# India's Maritime Neighbours





