

What is meant by Territorial waters?

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About Territorial waters:

- **What is it?** Territorial waters, under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), is that **area of the sea immediately adjacent to the shores of a country and subject to the territorial jurisdiction of that country.**
- **Extend:** The territorial sea **extends to a limit of 12 nautical miles from the baseline of a country's coast.**
- **Importance of Territorial waters:**
 - Within its territorial waters, a **country exercises full sovereignty over the air space above the sea and over the seabed and subsoil.**
 - The **government can legislate on matters** concerning the safety of navigation, the preservation of the environment, and the prevention, reduction, and control of pollution within its territorial waters.
 - **Resource use within the territorial sea is strictly reserved to the coastal nation.**
 - **All countries have the right of innocent passage** (passage that is not prejudicial to the security of the coastal country) through the territorial sea of another country, although there is no right of innocent air space passage.
 - The right of innocent passage **does not apply to submerged submarines nor does it include a right to fish.**

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS):

- The UNCLOS, **also known as Law of the sea was adopted in 1982.**
- It lays down a **comprehensive regime of law and order in the world's oceans and seas establishing rules governing all uses of the oceans and their resources.**
- There are many provisions under UNCLOS which **regulate and control the functioning and claims of nations on the world's oceans and seas.**
- The convention was **ratified by 168 parties**, which included **167 states and the European Union.**
- **India is a state party** to the UNCLOS.
- UNCLOS, as the currently prevailing law of the sea, **is ultimately binding.**

What is an Exclusive Economic Zone?

Exclusive economic zone (EEZ), as defined under the UNCLOS, **is an area of the ocean extending up to 200 nautical miles (370 km) immediately offshore from a country's land coast in which that country retains exclusive rights to the exploration and exploitation of natural resources.**

Q1) What is an Exclusive Economic Zone?

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Source:

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