

International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

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International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea Latest News

India's candidate, Professor Bimal N. Patel has been elected as a Judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) for the 2026-2035 term.

About International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

- It is an **independent judicial body** established by the 1982 **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**.
- **Headquarter:** Hamburg, Germany.
- **Composition**
 - The Tribunal is composed of **21 independent members**.
 - Members elected by secret ballot by the States Parties to the Convention.
 - Each State Party **may nominate up to two candidates**.
 - Members are **elected for nine years and may be re-elected**; the terms of one third of the members expire every three years.

- **Eligibility of members:** Candidates from among persons enjoying the highest reputation for fairness and integrity and of **recognized competence in the field of the law of the sea.**

Jurisdiction of International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

- It has jurisdiction over **any dispute concerning** the **interpretation** or application of the Convention, and over all matters specifically provided for in any other agreement which confers jurisdiction on the Tribunal.
- Disputes relating to the Convention may **concern the delimitation of maritime zones**, navigation, **conservation and management of the living resources of the sea**, protection and preservation of the marine environment and marine scientific research.
- The Tribunal is **open to States Parties to the Convention** (i.e. States and international organisations which are parties to the Convention).
- It is also **open to entities other than States Parties**, i.e., States or intergovernmental organisations which are not parties to the Convention, and to state enterprises and private entities.

Source: NOA

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