

Bimal N. Patel Appointed as ITLOS Judge

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Why in News?

Recently, Dr. Bimal N. Patel took oath as ITLOS Judge.



- **Elected at** - 36th Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
- **Held at** - United Nations Headquarters in New York.
- Seven members were elected to the Tribunal at the meeting.
- Members are elected with due regard to:
 - Equitable geographical distribution
 - Representation of the principal legal systems of the world.

International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)

- It functions as an *independent international judicial body*.
- **Established under** - United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

- **Headquartered in** - Hamburg, Germany.
- **Composition** - 21 independent members.
- **Election** - Members are elected by the States Parties to UNCLOS.
- **Term** - 9 years.
- **Key Functions**
 - It adjudicates disputes regarding the interpretation and application of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
 - It addresses disputes pertaining to the following areas:
 - Maritime boundary delimitation.
 - Freedom of navigation.
 - Protection of the marine environment.
 - Conservation and management of marine resources.
 - Regulation of deep seabed activities.
 - Facilitation of the peaceful settlement of maritime disputes.
- **Significance**
 - It strengthens India's engagement with international maritime law.
 - It supports the peaceful settlement of maritime disputes.
 - It enhances the importance of ocean governance and maritime security.
 - Aligns with India's engagement in the Indian Ocean and the Global South.
 - Vision MAHASAGAR: "Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions"; articulated in March 2025 as an evolution of the SAGAR vision.

Reference

[Indian Express | Judge of International Maritime Tribunal for Law of Sea](#)