



सत्यमेव जयते

THE INDIAN CONTINENTAL SHELF

**Amended Partial Submission to the Commission on the
Limits of the Continental Shelf, pursuant to article 76,
paragraph 8 of the United Nations Convention on the Law
of the Sea**

Western Offshore Region (Northern Arabian Sea region)

Executive Summary

2025

The following Ministries, Departments and Organizations of the Government of India contributed to the various facets of the work program:

Ministry of Earth Sciences
Ministry of External Affairs
Ministry of Defence
Directorate General of Hydrocarbons
Geological Survey of India
National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research
National Geophysical Research Institute
National Hydrographic Office
National Institute of Oceanography
Oil and Natural Gas Corporation

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Background to the amended submission

- [1] On 11 May 2009, India made a partial submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS, “the Commission”) establishing the outer limits of its continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles (M) from the territorial sea baselines, in the Western and Eastern offshore regions of the country comprising parts of the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal and the western sector of the Andaman islands, in accordance with article 76 of the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

- [2] In pursuance of this submission, the Commission, at its 50 Session (July-August 2019), appointed a subcommission to examine the submission. In conformity with the decision taken at its twenty-sixth session (CLCS/68, paras. 35–36), the Commission instructed the subcommission to examine the information submitted in respect of the western offshore region of India in the Arabian Sea and not to consider the part of the submission relating to the eastern offshore region of India, comprising the eastern offshore region of mainland India in the Bay of Bengal and the western offshore region of the Andaman Islands.

- [3] During the 51 and 52 Sessions of the CLCS (October 2019 and February 2020 respectively), the Indian Delegation had many meetings with the subcommission wherein it made technical presentations and provided additional data and clarifications to the subcommission as sought by it, based on its examination of the submission. The Indian delegation also submitted a detailed report incorporating its responses to the queries/observations by the subcommission.

- [4] Following a report by the subcommission to the Commission and ensuing deliberations during the plenary of the fifty-fourth session, the Commission, recalling its extant practice, invited the Indian delegation to prepare an addendum or corrigendum to the Executive Summary reflecting the amended outer limits of the continental shelf of India in the western offshore region of the Arabian Sea included in the 2009 submission, to be transmitted to the Commission through the Secretary-

General.

- [5] While the consideration of the submission by the subcommission was in an advanced stage, the Commission received two communications from the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General dated 6 June 2020 and 14 January 2021, objecting to the consideration of India's Submission. The Commission also took note of the communications from the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General dated 17 November 2020 and 29 November 2021, responding to the objections by Pakistan on India's submission.
- [6] The Commission deliberated on the above four communications at its 57 Session (23 January–10 March 2023) and decided *"...after considerable discussion concerning the transmission of the note after the establishment of a subcommission, to suspend the consideration of the submission made by India. The Commission will consider any further developments that might occur, noting that the States concerned may wish to make use of the avenues available to them, including provisional arrangements of a practical nature provided for in annex I to the Rules of Procedure"* (Para 62, Item 15, CLCS/57/2, Statement by the Chair on Progress of work in the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf).
- [7] Pursuant to the above decision of the Commission, as well as its earlier invitation to the Delegation to prepare an addendum or corrigendum to the Executive Summary (see para 4 above), the partial Submission by India submitted in 2009 in respect of the western offshore region in the Arabian Sea has now been amended into two separate partial submissions. This Executive Summary forms a part of the Amended Partial Submission in respect of Northern Arabian Sea Region of India.
- [8] In the development of the amendments to its initial Submission of 11 May 2009, India has been guided by the following:

- a. The observation made by the Commission at its 57 Session, while deciding to suspend the consideration of India's submission, that. *"...The Commission will consider any further developments that might occur, noting that the States concerned may wish to make use of the avenues available to them, including provisional arrangements of a practical nature provided for in annex I to the Rules of Procedure"*.
- b. Para 1, Rule 46 of the Rules of Procedure of the CLCS which states: *"In case there is a dispute in the delimitation of the continental shelf between opposite or adjacent States or in other cases of unresolved land or maritime disputes, submissions may be made and shall be considered in accordance with Annex I to these Rules"*.
- c. Para 3 of Annex I to the Rules of Procedure of the CLCS which states: *"A submission may be made by a coastal State for a portion of its continental shelf in order not to prejudice questions relating to the delimitation of boundaries between States in any other portion or portions of the continental shelf for which a submission may be made later, notwithstanding the provisions regarding the ten-year period established by article 4 of Annex II to the Convention"*.

[9] India affirms that this amended submission shall not in any way, prejudice questions relating to the delimitation of boundaries between India and any other State in any other portion or portions of the continental shelf nor shall prejudice the legitimate rights of India to make at a later date, notwithstanding the provisions regarding the ten-year period, further submission(s) for any other part(s) of India's continental shelf in the western offshore region in the Arabian Sea.

[10] This amended partial Submission has also no bearing on the data and information provided in the partial Submission of 11 May 2009 pertaining to that part of India's continental shelf beyond 200 M in the Eastern offshore region comprising the Bay of Bengal and Western Andamans sectors.

- [11] As a coastal State in the southern part of the Bay of Bengal, India also reserves the right to make at a later date, notwithstanding the provisions regarding the ten-year period, a separate submission of information and data to support the outer limits of its continental shelf, based on the provisions of the Statement of Understanding contained in Annex II to the Final Act of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, 1982.

2. Provisions of article 76 invoked to support the submission

- [1] India has invoked the specific provisions contained in Paragraphs (1), (3), 4(a) and (b), (5) and (7) of article 76 to establish the outer limits of its continental beyond 200 M from its territorial sea baselines, in the area covered by this partial amended submission. In addition, this amended partial submission is guided by the CLCS Rules of Procedure (CLCS/40/Rev.1 of 17 April 2008) and the Scientific and Technical Guidelines of the CLCS (CLCS/11 of 13 May 1999; hereinafter referred to as “Guidelines” or “STG”).

3. Organisation of this amended submission

- [1] In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the CLCS (CLCS/40/Rev.1) and paragraphs 9.1.3 to 9.1.6 of the STG, this amended partial Submission comprises the following:
- i) *An Executive Summary* to the amended Submission
 - ii) *A Main Body* which replaces in parts, the Main Body of India’s Submission of 11 May 2009, reflecting the modified outer limits of the continental shelf in the Western Offshore Region (Northern Arabian Sea region), in conformity with Para 3 of Annex I to the Rules of Procedure of the CLCS
 - iii) The amended Main Body also includes Appendixes, which replace the corresponding Appendixes included in the “Part III Supporting Scientific and

4. Absence of disputes

- [1] India wishes to inform the Commission that the present partial amended Submission is made in accordance with paragraph 3 of Annex I to the Rules of Procedure and is confined to the region of India’s continental shelf in the western offshore region. India also informs the Commission that this amended submission is being made without prejudice to matters relating to delimitation of the maritime boundaries between India and its neighbouring states.

5. Existing and outstanding maritime delimitations

- [1] Maritime boundaries between India and States having coasts opposite or adjacent to India have been demarcated by a series of bilateral and trilateral agreements. India began the task of demarcating the boundaries with its maritime neighbours in the early 1970's and till date, has signed eleven maritime agreements with five of its neighbours on opposite coasts, of which there are eight bilateral agreements with Maldives (1), Sri Lanka (3), Indonesia (2), Thailand (1), Myanmar (1) and 3 trilateral agreements with Sri Lanka and Maldives, Indonesia and Thailand, Myanmar and Thailand (described and discussed at length in Section 1.7 of India’s initial partial Submission of 11 May 2009).
- [2] Despite these several maritime agreements, there are still certain outstanding maritime delimitations with neighbouring states. Of relevance in the context of this amended partial Submission is the India-Pakistan and India-Oman maritime boundary.
- [3] India-Pakistan Maritime boundary: The maritime boundary between India and Pakistan is yet to be delimited. India and Pakistan have committed to resolve this issue through bilateral negotiations. India also wishes to inform the Commission that

the present submission is being made without prejudice to matters relating to delimitation of the boundary between the two countries.

- [4] *India-Oman Maritime boundary*: The maritime boundary between India and Oman is as yet to be delineated. Pursuant to India's partial submission of May 2009, in a communication of 19 May 2010 to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Sultanate of Oman acknowledged that the area of continental shelf contained in India's submission overlaps with the area to be included in Oman's submission and the overlap area is, therefore, subject to the delimitation of the continental shelf boundary between Oman and India. Subsequently, in the Executive Summary of its own submission of 26 October 2017 to the CLCS, Oman has assured the Commission that although the continental shelf boundary between Oman and India remains to be delimited, it is not under dispute (Section 6, Para 3 of the Executive Summary of the submission by Oman). In consonance, *India also wishes to inform the Commission that the present amended partial Submission is being made without prejudice to matters relating to delimitation of the continental shelf boundary with the Sultanate of Oman.*

6. Maps and coordinates

Figure 1 depicts the outer limits of the continental shelf of the extended continental shelf in the Western Offshore Region (Northern Arabian Sea region) of India. The coordinates in Degrees, decimal of the fixed points that define the outer limits of the continental shelf of India are presented in Appendix I.

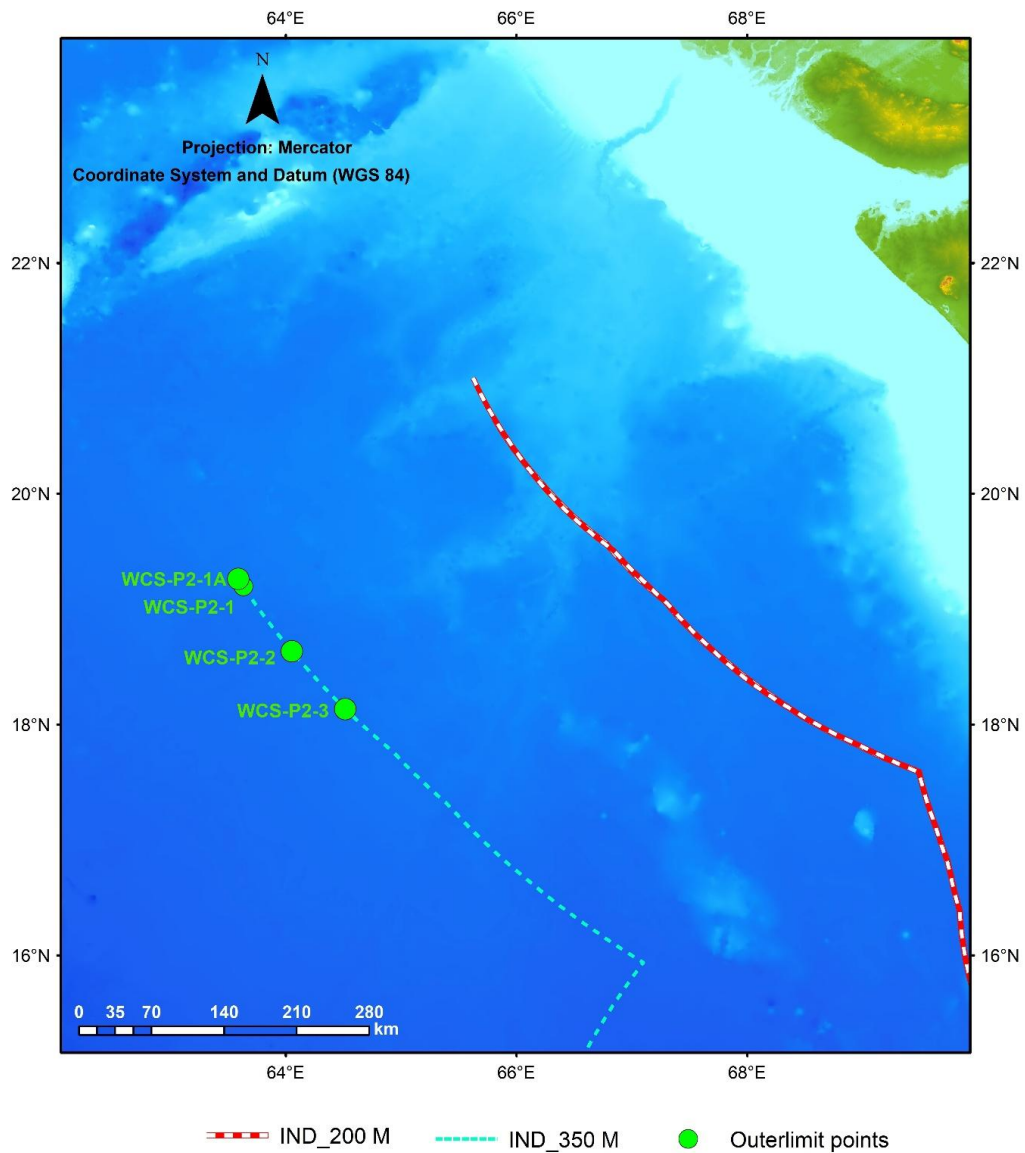


Figure 1. Outer limits of the extended continental shelf in the second part of the amended submission by India in the Western Offshore Region (Northern Arabian Sea region).

APPENDIX I

**Table listing the points defining the outer limits of the extended continental shelf of India in the Western offshore region
(Northern Arabian Sea region)**

Outer Limit Point	Latitude [dd, N]	Longitude [dd, E]	Distance to next point [M]	Article 76 provision invoked
WCS-P2-1A	19.263356	63.587881	4.70	Art 76 (4) (a) (i) - 1% sediment thickness
WCS-P2-1	19.19683	63.63134	41.36	
WCS-P2-2	18.6351	64.05199	40.06	
WCS-P2-3	18.13420	64.51582	-----	
