SAVEETHA SCHOOL OF LAW
(Approved by Bar Council of India)

nirf 19th RANK
(By MHRD, Govt of India)
Among All ITIs, IITs, NITs, Central, State, Private & Deemed Universities in India

SAVEETHA
INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL AND TECHNICAL SCIENCES
(Declared as Deemed to be University under Section 3 of UGC Act 1956)

Accredited by NAAC A++ GRADE

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON

GUARDIANS OF THE DEEP BLUE

Indigenous Sovereignty, Marine Genetic Resources and the BBNJ Agreement

Reconciling Human Rights, Intellectual Property and Ocean Governance Beyond National Jurisdiction

DATE:
[9TH DECEMBER 2026]

HYBRID MODE:
IN-PERSON + ONLINE

VENUE:
Saveetha School of Law, SIMATS

DATE & DEADLINES TO BE CONFIRMED BY ORGANISERS

[9/12/2026]

[20/11/2026]

[30/11/2026]

ORGANISED BY

SAVEETHA SCHOOL OF LAW | SAVEETHA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL AND TECHNICAL SCIENCES (SIMATS)

ABOUT SIMATS

The Saveetha Medical and Educational Trust was created in 1986 mainly to provide medical relief, to promote education and encourage research. The Trust started a Saveetha Dental College and established an attached General Hospital in the year 1988. Subsequently, the Trust established a Nursing College, Physiotherapy College, Occupational Therapy College, Law College, and an Engineering College to comply with its commitment and to serve the people, especially those living in rural villages in and around Chennai and adjoining districts of Tamil Nadu. The institution has a total student strength of 10,000 and 1,500 faculty members with around 2,500 non-teaching staff. SIMATS is ranked among the top 10 Indian Universities and claimed 395th rank in the world in 2020 UI Green Metric World University Rankings on Sustainability by the University of Indonesia, Jakarta. SIMATS has been recognized as a Social Entrepreneurship, Swachhta & Rural Engagement Cell (SES REC) Institution by the Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India.

ABOUT SAVEETHA SCHOOL OF LAW, (SSL)

Saveetha School of Law (SSL), Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences (SIMATS), established in 2009, aims to strive for quality legal education and maintain higher standards of legal research and training. SSL is located close to the city in a serene atmosphere. The institution carries the vision of imparting excellence in legal education and its mission is to widen and nurture the intellectual faculty, leadership traits, and personal development of young legal minds. SSL is ranked 19th among all India Law Universities and 1st in Tamil Nadu as per NIRF 2023. It is accredited with NAAC Grade A++, recognized by the Bar Council of India and approved by the UGC. It offers a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses and Ph.D. programs. The institution follows the CBCS curriculum with a range of regular and special subjects. The system is fully digitized with flipped classes and Ibooks made available to students. Facilities include air-conditioned classrooms, smart boards with Wi-Fi services, experienced faculty, state-of-the-art teaching methodology, library facilities, cafeteria, hostel, and playground. SSL conducts regular tests and assessments, internship programmes on a one-to-one basis with advocates in the High Court, and organizes moot court sessions and competitions regularly. Research programmes and community services to create legal awareness among the public are also special features of the institution.

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SEMINAR CONCEPT

GUARDIANS OF THE DEEP BLUE

This seminar examines the relationship between marine genetic resources, Indigenous sovereignty, intellectual property and ocean governance beyond national jurisdiction under the BBNJ Agreement.

CONCEPT NOTE

> *"Who governs Marine Genetic resources, knowledge, access and benefit in the deep blue?"*

BROAD THEMATIC AREAS

- Indigenous sovereignty and collective rights
- Marine genetic resources and traditional knowledge
- Intellectual property, biopiracy and digital sequence information
- Institutional design, participation and ocean governance

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TRACKS
(SUB- THEMES)

Track 1: Jurisprudential Tensions: Human Rights versus Commercial Property Regimes

1.1 Doctrinal Clashes: Collective Indigenous Rights and Proprietary Paradigms

1.2 Treaty Interoperability and the Risk of Normative Fragmentation

1.3 Mapping the Interplay among ILO Convention No. 169, the Nagoya Protocol and the BBNJ Agreement

1.4 The High Seas as a Legal Commons: Common Heritage, Freedom of the Seas and Indigenous Interests

Track 2: Patent Law Reform, Biopiracy and the Digital Frontier

2.1 Operationalising the 2024 WIPO GRATK Treaty: Disclosure, Sanctions and Domestic Implementation

2.2 The Legal Status of Digital Sequence Information (DSI) on Marine Genetic Resources

2.3 Evidentiary Thresholds and Prior Art in Pharmaceutical and Biotechnology Patents

2.4 Intellectual Property Protection for Traditional Cultural Expressions

Track 3: Marine Governance, Jurisdictional Thresholds and FPIC

3.1 Defining "Traditional Knowledge Associated with Marine Genetic Resources" in Public International Law

3.2 Oral Histories as Legal Evidence: Establishing the Marine Nexus

3.3 Who Consents? Identifying the Legitimate Representatives of IPLCs

3.4 The "Informed" Threshold in Deep-Sea Genetic Research

3.5 Digital FPIC: Cloud-Based Data Access and Interfaces with Scientific Bodies

3.6 Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) in Marine Conservation

Track 4: Institutional Design: Representation and Participation of Indigenous Peoples

4.1 Institutionalising Indigenous Voices in Treaty Bodies and Decision-Making Fora

4.2 Redefining Expertise: Indigenous Knowledge Holders in Marine Scientific Bodies

4.3 Lessons from the Arctic Council and the Convention on Biological Diversity

4.4 Rules of Procedure, Observer Status and Voting Rights

4.5 Financing Effective and Meaningful Participation

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International
SEMINAR

DATES, PUBLICATION & CONTACT

DATE & DEADLINES

Conference date:	[09/12/2026]
Abstract deadline:	[20/11/2026]
Full-paper deadline:	[30/11/2026]
Registration deadline:	[17/11/2026]

PUBLICATION

The organizing committee reserves the right to select papers for potential publication in an edited volume bearing an ISBN, contingent upon the standard review process. Applicable publication charges are not included in the registration fee and will be communicated to the authors individually.

CONTACT
(STUDENT COORDINATORS)

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REGISTRATION LINK

REGISTRATION LINK :
https://forms.gle/DBiBTPdbYYGqn3K29

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION EMAIL ID

seminaronguardiansofthedeepblu@gmail.com

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REGISTRATION & PAYMENT DETAILS

International participants / attendees and presenters
(IMPORTANT NOTE : International participants kindly contact the organising committee before payment)

$25

Online attendees and presenters receive **e-certificates.**

STUDENTS

Category	Fee (INR)
Participation	₹250
Single-author presentation	₹350
Two-author presentation	₹600

ACADEMICIANS / RESEARCH SCHOLARS

Category	Fee (INR)
Participation	₹300
Single-author presentation	₹500
Two-author presentation	₹800

BANK DETAILS

SAVEETHA SCHOOL OF LAW CME

Current Account

Karur Vysya Bank

A/C 1248135000002593

IFSC KVBL0001248

SCAN FOR PAYMENT

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

01 **Prepare abstract:** Kindly email us.

02 Await review / selection and presentation details

03 After acceptance email, Do register

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Guest Speakers



Dr. RIAN DERRIG
ASST. PROFESSOR AND POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW
WORLD MARITIME UNIVERSITY
SWEDEN



Dr. NIKHILESH N
Assistant Professor,Department of Maritime Law,
School of Excellence in LawThe Tamil Nadu Dr.
Ambedkar Law University



Mr. Ritul Aryan
Assistant Professor of Law,
Vignan Institute of Law, VFSTR

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ORGANISING COMMITTEE



Chief Organiser
Prof. Dr. Asha Sundaram





Conveners

Dr. S. Pandiaraj | **Dr. S. Lavaraju**



Co-Ordinator

Tancy Sebastian
Research Scholar

STUDENT COORDINATORS



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