UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS

DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL STUDIES

THREE-DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR ON

INDIA AND INTERNATIONAL LAW:

CONTEMPORARY DEVELOPMENTS AND PRACTICE

18th to 20th February 2027





PROF. DR. C. H. ALEXANDROWICZ
1951-1961



PROF. T. S. RAMA RAO
1961-1988



PROF. N. RADHAKRISHNAN
1988-1995



PROF. DR. N. BALU
1995-2013



PROF. DR. A. DAVID AMBROSE
2013-2020



PROF. DR. B. VENUGOPAL
2020-2023



DR. G. RAJASEKAR
2023 -

The University of Madras, proudly celebrating its 170th year, is widely considered as the mother of all South Indian Universities. It rightfully enjoys NAAC 'A++' grade and ranks 38th in the MHRD NIRF Universities Ranking 2025.

The Department of Legal Studies was established in 1951. Prof. Alexandrowicz was invited by the then Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar to establish a specialized department in International Law and Constitutional Law. Prof.Alexandrowicz introduced the Postgraduate Degree in International Law and Constitutional Law, the first programme of its kind in India. After Prof. Alexandrowicz, Prof. T. S. Rama Rao was the Head of the Department till 1988. He was succeeded by Prof. N. Radhakrishnan, Prof. DR. N. Balu, Prof. DR. A. David Ambrose and Prof. DR. B. Venugopal. Since 2023, DR. G. Rajasekar is heading the department.

Periodically, the Department of Legal Studies has been organising national seminars on the topics of National and International importance. All the seminars were overwhelmed by the Judges, Jurists, Senior Academicians, Advocates and Students. The recent ICSSR-sponsored National Seminar on Modernization Approaches to International Law, February 2024 and the National Seminar on Constitutional Development: Contemporary Challenges, Conflicts and Conundrums, February 2026, stand as evidence.

The Indian subcontinent, the largest peace-loving democracy in the world, always earnestly upholds the principles of International Law. Modern India has increasingly become the key player in the international negotiations and law-making. India has always been actively participating in Peace keeping, Trade, Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development negotiations. Many of the developing countries are aligning with India's International Practice. India is currently heading Global South and working towards the much desired greater South-South Co-operation.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi announced five key initiatives to support the development of other developing countries in the *'Voice of Global South Summit'* hosted by India in January 2023. Just as India brought inclusivity to our G-20 Presidency and placed the concerns of the Global South at the forefront of the agenda, India's Presidency of BRICS will advance this forum with people-centrism and the spirit of 'Humanity First'.

Under the chairmanship of our beloved Hon'ble Prime Minister, India took the lead and hosted the BRICS Summit in 2026, in which the contemporary international challenges were meaningfully discussed. In the Summit, the Honourable Prime Minister emphasized that "*Our (India's) Goal will be to redefine BRICS as Building Resilience and Innovation for Co-operation and Sustainability*".

India's proactive involvement in BRICS and South-South Cooperation has contributed for the progressive development of International Law. India's continuing leadership in BRICS, G20, India Brazil South Africa Dialogue Forum (IBSA), other South platforms and the adoption of the 2024 Pact for the Future are the testament of India's constant and consistent approach in shaping International Law.

The Organising Committee welcomes original and unpublished papers in the following five broad themes. The seminar paper is preferably limited to being presented only within the broad framework on International Law prescribed below.

1. INDIA & THE UNITED NATIONS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS, THE GLOBAL SOUTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS

As a founding member of the United Nations (UN), India's engagement with the UN and other international organisations is reflective of its role and the voice of the Global South. Being the second largest contributor of uniformed personnel to the UN Peacekeeping Operations, India during its 2021-22 presidency of the UN Security Council adopted the NORMS (New Orientation for a Reformed Multilateral System) Approach.

SUB-THEMES

Indian state practice and the transformation of the global order and South-South Cooperation and the progressive development of International Law, Human Rights Law; the UN Reforms; and the decolonisation of International Law and India; India and UN Peacekeeping.

2. INDIA & THE LAW OF THE SEA

The 1982, UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) is one of the biggest examples of the positive approach and active participation of India in the negotiation and the formation of the convention itself. As a major maritime state, India's policies and state practice on contemporary issues such as maritime security, biodiversity management beyond national jurisdiction, sea-level rise, deep-seabed activities and emerging maritime technologies reflect its image as a growing hegemonic power as well as a key player in the progressive development of the law of the sea.

SUB-THEMES

India and UNCLOS, India and BBNJ; India and maritime security; India and the Global South - Geopolitical issues and sea-level rise; India and the deep-seabed; India and the protection of the marine environment; India and fisheries management; India and sustainable ocean governance.

3. INDIA & CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

As a strong advocate of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities, India has consistently tried to reconcile international environmental obligations and the interests of developing nations. It has proved itself as the voice of the Global South in countering climate change and its allied challenges. Indian state practice reflected in the judicial decisions shows that India accepts emerging international principles and norms as an important tool for environmental protection. Furthering India's commitment to reconciling sustainable development and the interests of the Global South, India has undertaken initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilience Infrastructure. India has also pledged its co-operation in countering climate change at the 2020 Climate Ambition Summit.

SUB-THEMES

India and climate change negotiations and legal framework; India, Global South and environmental governance; India and Sustainable Development.

4. INDIA & AIR AND SPACE LAW

The Outer Space has emerged as a new frontier of geopolitics and international law. The rapid expansion of India's space programme has transformed India from primarily a participant in international space cooperation into a significant spacefaring state. India's approach to and engagement with the UN space-law framework, international space co-operation and the Space Activities Bill reflect India's ambition in this new frontier.

SUB-THEMES

India and the development of international space law; Indian Space Policy and the evolving regulation of commercial space activities; India and space governance.

5. INDIA & INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT LAW

India as the founding member of WTO since 1995, has consistently advocated for a multilateral economic order rooted in equality, inclusiveness and development. As a continuous member of UNCITRAL, India has actively participated in and shaped cross-border commercial frameworks while advocating for the interests of the Global South. It is a staunch advocate for the participation of developing nations in the decision-making processes in global trade and financial institutions. India's approach to Investor-State Disputes and the adoption of the 2015 Model Bilateral Investment Treaty reflects India's evolving stance on investment protection and regulatory autonomy.

SUB-THEMES

India and WTO; India and progressive development of international trade law; India and the evolution of international investment law; India and emerging technologies and the future of international economic law.

- The Abstract should be 300 words with 5 keywords.
- Along with the abstract a separate MS Word File should be submitted containing the title of the paper/article , the Author's Name, Affiliation, Communication Address, E-mail ID and Contact Details.
- After the abstract acceptance and the payment of registration fees, the full paper/article should be submitted before the last date.
- The length of the full paper/article should be 4000 to 6000 words, including footnotes.
- Abstract and Full Paper should be submitted as a softcopy only in MS Word Format, typed in Times New Roman, Font Size 14 for Heading and 12 for Normal Text with 1.5 Line Spacing.
- For Footnotes, Times New Roman, Font Size 10 with 1.0 Line Spacing.
- Maximum of two authors is allowed for one paper/article.
- Citation Format: ILI (Indian Law Institute) Format.
- All correspondence including submission of abstracts/registration forms/ full paper must be only through the following email; nationalseminardlsunom@gmail.com

All papers/articles must be original, not plagiarized and unpublished work of the author(s) and must not have been submitted or accepted for presentation and publication elsewhere. All papers/articles will be subjected to double-blind peer review. Only full-length papers/articles submitted on or before the deadline will be considered for the presentation. The seminar will be conducted strictly in offline (physical) mode. There will be no online or hybrid participation, and all participants must be present for all the 3 days. Only one author is allowed to present the paper.

Papers/articles selected for presentation will be published in the form of book with ISBN Number by reputed International/National Publishers. The selection of the paper/article for publication is reserved with the Organizing Committee.

Co-authorship of maximum of two authors is permitted with the submission of registration fees by individual authors separately. Registration fees once paid shall not be refunded. The participants are requested to make their own arrangements for travel and accommodation.



Prof. M. Gandhi
Former Legal Adviser and Joint Secretary, (L&T)
Ministry of External Affairs



Prof. Manoj Kumar Sinha
Vice-Chancellor
DNLU



Prof. A. David Ambrose
Professor and Former Head
Department of Legal Studies
University of Madras



Mr. C. Jayaraj
Executive Council Member
Indian Society of International Law



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Associate Professor
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Prof. S. Amirthalingam
Professor
TNNLU



Prof. P. Sakthivel
Professor
Central University of Tamil Nadu



Dr. G. Rajasekar
Seminar Director

Last Date for Submission of Abstract	11.12.2026
Date of Acceptance of Abstract	18.12.2026
Last Date for Registration and Payment of Fees	25.12.2026
Last Date for Submission of Full Paper	18.01.2027
Seminar Dates	18.02.2027 – 20.02.2027

Abstract Submission Link: https://forms.gle/9rJZwtcdZt7bY1Vt6

CATEGORIES	AMOUNT
Judges/ Academicians/ Advocates	Rs.2360 (Inclusive of GST)
Research Scholars	Rs.1180 (Inclusive of GST)
UG and PG Students	Rs.590 (Inclusive of GST)
Participants	Rs.354 (Inclusive of GST)

* GST is not applicable to all the students of University of Madras

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UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS
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Cordially invites you to the Inaugural Function of
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Prof. S. Elumalai
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