

**Inaugural NMF-KAS International Seminar on Public International Maritime Law (PIML)
2025**

**“COLLABORATIVE SOLUTIONS TO LEGAL CHALLENGES OF PUBLIC
INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW (PIML) IN THE INDO-PACIFIC”**

18 and 19 Sept 2025

Programme

DAY ONE		
Thursday, 18 September 2025		
0900-0930 (30 min)	Tea and Registration	
OPENING SESSION (25 min)		
0930-0935 (05 min)	Introductory Remarks	EMCEE: Ms Saaz Lahiri Research Associate, NMF
0935-0940 (05 min)	Welcome Remarks	Dr Malte Kramer Senior Associate Hogan Lovells International LLP Dusseldorf, Germany
0940-0955 (15 min)	Inaugural Address	Admiral Karambir Singh, PVSM, AVSM, IN (Retd) Chairman, NMF <i>and Former Chief of the Naval Staff</i>
PROFESSIONAL SESSION ONE (1 h 45 min)		
Safeguarding Sovereignty in the Indo-Pacific		
1000-1005 (05 min)	Session Instructions	EMCEE: Ms Saaz Lahiri Research Associate, NMF
1005-1015 (10 min)	Moderator’s Remarks	Dr Harsha Rajwanshi Assistant Professor of Law, Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat
1015-1035 (20 min)	<i>A Brief Review of the Jurisprudence and Evolution of PIML</i>	Vice Admiral Pradeep Chauhan, AVSM & Bar, VSM, IN (Retd) Director-General, NMF
1035-1055 (20 min)	<i>Contemporary Challenges in PIML</i>	Dr Nguyen Tien Vinh Associate Professor Viet Nam National University, Hanoi, Viet Nam
1055-1115 (20 min)	<i>From Reefs to Islands... Legal Positions and State Practice</i>	Dr Nguyen Ba Cuong Director, Scientific Research Institute of Sea and Islands, Hanoi, Viet Nam

1115-1140 (25 min)	Audience Interaction	Dr Harsha Rajwanshi Assistant Professor of Law, Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat
1140-1145 (05 min)	Group Photograph	
1145-1205 (20 min)	TEA BREAK (20 min)	
PROFESSIONAL SESSION TWO (1 h 45 min) Deciphering the Exclusive Economic Zone		
1205-1210 (05 min)	Session Instructions	EMCEE: Ms Saaz Lahiri Research Associate, NMF
1210-1220 (10 min)	Moderator's Remarks	Prof Gudmundur Eiriksson Professor and Executive Director, Centre for International Legal Studies, <i>and</i> Advisor, International Office and Global Initiatives, Jindal Global Law School, OP Jindal University, Sonipat, Haryana, India
1220-1240 (20 min)	<i>Legal Status of the EEZ: Overcoming Challenges and Complexities</i>	Adv VJ Mathew Founder & Senior Advocate VJ Mathew & CO. International Law Firm, <i>and</i> Vice President, Indian Maritime Law Association Kerala, India
1240-1300 (20 min)	<i>Marine Scientific Research in the EEZ: Legal Position of Claims made by States under the UNCLOS 1982</i>	Mr Suriya Narayanan S PhD Candidate and Research Fellow, Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute, World Maritime University (WMU), Sweden
1300-1320 (20 min)	<i>Legal Challenges within Eastern African EEZs</i>	Dr Sanjeet Ruhel Lecturer International Maritime Security Law The Nippon Foundation & Adjunct Professor of Law, GMU (India) IMLI, Malta
1320-1345 (25 min)	Audience Interaction	Prof Gudmundur Eiriksson Professor and Executive Director, Centre for International Legal Studies, <i>and</i> Advisor, International Office and Global Initiatives, Jindal Global Law School, OP Jindal University, Sonipat, Haryana, India
1345-1350 (05 min)	Group Photograph	
1350-1440 (50 min)	LUNCH BREAK	

PROFESSIONAL SESSION THREE (1 h 45 min)		
Undersea and Seabed Resources and Infrastructure: Legal Issues		
1445-1450 (05 min)	Session Instructions	EMCEE: Ms Saaz Lahiri Research Associate, NMF
1450-1500 (10 min)	Moderator's Remarks	Dr Madhumita Kothari Advocate, Supreme Court of India, <i>and</i> Former Senior Advisor, International Seabed Authority, New Delhi
1500-1520 (20 min)	<i>Protection of Undersea Cables: Legal Issues</i>	Mr Soham Agarwal Associate Fellow, NMF, New Delhi
1520-1540 (20 min)	<i>Regulation of IUU Fishing: Are we part of the Problem or the Solution?</i>	Capt Himadri Das, IN Senior Defence Specialist, New Delhi
1540-1600 (20 min)	<i>UNESCO's Addressal of Legal Challenges to Underwater Cultural Heritage in South Asia</i>	Dr Srinivas Burra Associate Professor, Faculty of Legal Studies, South Asian University, New Delhi
1600-1625 (25 min)	Audience Interaction	Dr Madhumita Kothari Advocate, Supreme Court of India, <i>and</i> Former Senior Advisor, International Seabed Authority, New Delhi
1625-1630 (05 min)	Group Photograph	
1630-1650 (20 min)	TEA BREAK	
PROFESSIONAL SESSION FOUR (1 h 45 min)		
Understanding and Countering Lawfare		
1650-1655 (05 min)	Session Instructions	EMCEE: Ms Saaz Lahiri Research Associate, NMF
1655-1705 (10 min)	Moderator's Remarks	Prof (Dr) Nguyen Thi Xuan Son Dean of the International Law Faculty and Director, Research Centre for Law of the Sea and International Maritime Law, University of Law, Viet Nam National University, Hanoi, Viet Nam
1705-1725 (20 min)	<i>Countering Chinese Lawfare in the Maritime Domain: The Filipino Approach to Transparency</i>	Wg Cdr (Dr) U C Jha (Retd) Secretary General Indian Society for International Law, New Delhi
1725-1745 (20 min)	<i>Countering Chinese Lawfare in the Maritime Domain: Indian Options</i>	Captain (Dr) Gurpreet S Khurana, IN (Retd) Professor, Naval War College (NWC), Goa, India

1745-1805 (20 min)	<i>Should Eastern African States Adopt or Counter Lawfare in the Maritime Domain?</i>	Captain Sarabjeet S Parmar, IN (Retd) Distinguished Fellow Council for Strategic and Defence Research, and Centre for Military History and Conflict Studies United Services Institution of India (USI) and Hony. Adjunct Fellow, NMF, New Delhi, India
1805-1830 (25 min)	Audience Interaction	Prof (Dr) Nguyen Thi Xuan Son Dean of the International Law Faculty and Director, Research Centre for Law of the Sea and International Maritime Law, University of Law, Viet Nam National University, Hanoi, Viet Nam
1830-1835 (05 min)	Group Photograph	
1835-1840 (05 min)	Day 2 Instructions by EMCEE	
Seminar Reception & Dinner (1900 h)		
DAY TWO Friday, 19 September 2025		
1000-1030 (30 min)	Tea and Registration	
PROFESSIONAL SESSION FIVE (1 h 45 min) Legal Challenges of Foreign Logistic-Support / Military Bases		
1030-1035 (05 min)	Day two welcome remarks + Session Instructions by EMCEE	EMCEE: Ms Saaz Lahiri Research Associate, NMF
1035-1045 (10 min)	Moderator's Remarks	Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti, AVSM, VSM, IN Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff, Naval Headquarters, Ministry of Defence, New Delhi, India
1045-1105 (20 min)	<i>Legal Implications of Military Bases and Places ('Logistic & ISR Hubs') in the Indian Ocean</i>	Capt Raghavendra Mishra, IN (Retd) Wellington (Nilgiris), Tamil Nadu, India
1105-1125 (20 min)	<i>Legal Implications of Military Bases and Places ('Logistic & ISR Hubs') in the Western Pacific</i>	Mr Neil Simon S Silva Lecturer Institute for Maritime Affairs & Law of the Sea, University of Philippines Philippines

1125-1145 (20 min)	<i>Legal Implications of Military Bases and Places ('Logistic & ISR Hubs') in the South China Sea</i>	Dr Sunil Kumar Agarwal Executive Council Member, Indian Society for International Law, and Former Research Associate, NMF, New Delhi
1145-1210 (25 min)	Audience Interaction	Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti , AVSM, VSM, IN Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff, Naval Headquarters, Ministry of Defence, New Delhi, India
1210-1215 (05 min)	Group Photograph	
1215-1315 (60 min)	LUNCH BREAK	
PROFESSIONAL SESSION SIX (1 h 45 min) Laws of Naval Warfare: Acceptability of the San Remo Manual and the Newport Manual		
1315-1320 (05 min)	Session Instructions	EMCEE: Ms Saaz Lahiri Research Associate, NMF
1320-1330 (10 min)	Moderator's Remarks	Dr Bimal Patel Vice Chancellor, Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU), Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India
1330-1350 (20 min)	<i>Legal Challenges in Naval Mine Warfare</i>	RAdm KS Rajkumar , VSM, IN Joint Secretary (Navy & Defence Staff), Department of Military Affairs, Ministry of Defence, New Delhi
1350-1410 (20 min)	<i>Value of the San Remo Manual and the Newport Manual</i>	Mr Himanil Raina Former Research Associate, NMF and PhD Researcher in International Law, Geneva Graduate Institute, Geneva
1410-1430 (20 min)	<i>The Montreux Convention and the Laws of Naval Warfare</i>	Lt Cdr Bharat Singh , IN (Retd) Honorary Adjunct Fellow, NMF, Honorary Adjunct Fellow, USI, and Advocate, Supreme Court of India New Delhi
1430-1455 (25 min)	Audience Interaction	Dr Bimal Patel Vice Chancellor, Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU), Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India
1455-1500 (05 min)	Group photograph	
CLOSING SESSION (30 min)		

1500-1505 (05 min)	Session Introduction	EMCEE: Ms Saaz Lahiri Research Associate, NMF
(1505-1515) (10 min)	Summative Guidance (KAS)	Dr Jan Niermann Research Associate University of Münster Germany
1515-1525 (10 min)	Summative Guidance (NMF)	Vice Admiral Pradeep Chauhan, AVSM & Bar, VSM (Retd) DG, NMF
1525-1530 (05 min)	Group Photograph	
END-OF-SEMINAR HIGH TEA		