

Deep-sea Macrofauna Taxonomy School

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Why in News?

A five-day International Deep-sea Macrofauna Taxonomy School was held at CMLRE, Kochi, India, from 7 to 11 September 2026.

Deep-sea Macrofauna Taxonomy School: Standardizing Methodologies for Biodiversity Assessments

Deep-Sea Macrofauna – Macrofauna are relatively large organisms that inhabit the seabed and are typically identified using morphological and microscopic techniques.



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Deep Oceans Healthy Planet Shared Future

Science today for a sustainable tomorrow

DEEP-SEA MACROFAUNA TAXONOMY SCHOOL

Advancing Knowledge of Deep-Sea Biodiversity

	Programme	Deep-sea Macrofauna Taxonomy School
	Venue	Kochi, Kerala
	Dates	7–11 September 2026
	Indian host	CMLRE
	Ministry	Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)
	International platform	Sustainable Seabed Knowledge Initiative (SSKI)
	Organisation behind SSKI	International Seabed Authority (ISA)
	Regional organisation involved	IORA
	Korean institution	MABIK
	Main scientific focus	Deep-sea/benthic biodiversity
	Techniques	Taxonomy, DNA barcoding, SEM, biodiversity data analysis
	Participants	~30 early-career researchers/scientists

Exploring the unseen, understanding the deep

Deep-Sea Life Holds Clues for a Healthier Planet

CMLRE Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology

Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)

International Seabed Authority (ISA)

IORA Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

MABIK Marine Biodiversity Institute of Korea

Biodiversity for a Resilient Ocean

Global Collaboration for Ocean Knowledge

Empowering the Next Generation of Ocean Scientists

Healthy Oceans Sustainable Futures

- **Venue** - Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology (CMLRE), Kochi.
- **Platform** - Sustainable Seabed Knowledge Initiative (SSKI) of the International Seabed Authority (ISA).

- **Collaborators**

- CMLRE (MoES)
- International Seabed Authority (ISA)
- Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)
- National Marine Biodiversity Institute of Korea (MABIK).

- **Participants** - About 30 early-career researchers/scientists from ISA Member States in the Indian Ocean Region.

- Participating nations include ***South Africa, Kenya, Bangladesh, Mauritius, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Mozambique, Tanzania, Thailand, Oman, and India.***

- Over the five-day intensive curriculum, participants will engage in:
 - Specialized lectures, field visits, and benthic sample collection
 - Hands-on laboratory training in macrofauna identification and result reporting
 - Advanced technical instruction in traditional taxonomy, DNA barcoding, Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM), and biodiversity data analysis
 - Workshops on sample curation and open-access biodiversity data publishing

- **Strategic Importance**

- Enhances India's leadership in deep-sea biodiversity research.
- Facilitates scientific capacity building within the Indian Ocean Region.
- Advances standardized methodologies for the assessment of benthic biodiversity.
- Encourages environmentally responsible practices in deep-ocean exploration.
- Fosters international scientific collaboration through initiatives led by the International Seabed Authority (ISA) and the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).

Reference

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