



VINAYAKA MISSION'S
RESEARCH FOUNDATION
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VMLS
VINAYAKA MISSION'S LAW SCHOOL

FUNDAMENTUM

Law. Learning. Leadership.

Issue No. 11 | April - May, 2026

A CONSTITUENT COLLEGE OF VINAYAKA MISSION'S RESEARCH FOUNDATION, CHENNAI CAMPUS

VINAYAKA MISSION'S LAW SCHOOL

Law School of the Future

VINAYAKA MISSION'S LAW SCHOOL

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VMLS is mentored by O.P. Jindal Global University (an Institution of Eminence) and Jindal Global Law School under an institutional mentorship agreement.



Jindal Global Law School
India's First Global Law School

Monthly Newsletter

VMLS
April - May 2026 ♦



Highlights from April - May 2026

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS) continues to advance its vision of delivering a future-oriented legal education that integrates academic rigour with global exposure, interdisciplinary learning, and meaningful community engagement. This edition of the newsletter reflects the institution's dynamic academic environment, where legal education extends beyond classrooms into real-world engagement, research excellence, and societal impact.

The period witnessed a series of intellectually enriching academic engagements, Specialization in Maritime law, Taxation law, litigation, mediation and research publications as well as cultural activities including the law school premier league (LSPL). These sessions, led by distinguished scholars and practitioners, enabled students to critically engage with evolving legal frameworks and contemporary global challenges. Complementing these academic initiatives are impactful outreach programmes and institutional collaborations, including MoUs and community-driven initiatives, reinforcing VMLS's commitment to access to justice and social responsibility.

The edition also celebrates notable achievements of faculty and students across national and international platforms—ranging from research presentations at global conferences and scholarly publications to recognitions in academic and extracurricular domains. These accomplishments reflect a culture of excellence, curiosity, and intellectual engagement nurtured at VMLS.

Through a blend of academic innovation, professional exposure, and community engagement, VMLS continues to shape legal professionals who are not only competent and future-ready but also socially conscious and globally aware. This edition captures the spirit of a vibrant institution committed to knowledge, innovation, and the pursuit of justice.

Editorial
MCC

In this newsletter
you can expect:

LEXORA 2026

VMLS Fest 2026

Top Scopus Publishing Faculty

VMLS Open Day 2026

Article Writing Masterclass

VMRF Leadership Conclave 2026

Faculty Leadership Achievement

Student Research Publication
Achievement

Intra Mediation Competition 2026

Faculty Research Publication
Achievement (Oxford Human
Rights Hub)

International Day for Women in
Maritime 2026

Faculty Research Publication
Achievement (IEEE)

LEXORA 2026

7th May 2026 | Online Session| Guest Lecture

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS) successfully organised LEXORA 2026, its annual cultural fest, bringing together students and faculty members in a vibrant celebration of talent, creativity, teamwork, and campus engagement. The event featured a wide range of competitions and activities, including Open Mic, Live Canvas Painting, Photography, Reel-Making, Short Film, Performing Arts, Treasure Hunt, Rangoli, Mehendi, Poster Making, E-Sports, and the final round of the Debate Competition, providing participants with opportunities to showcase their diverse talents and skills. The programme was graced by Dr. D. Sathyakumar, a distinguished academic leader in Physical Education and Sports Sciences, as Chief Guest, and Mr. Akshay Rajan Sounderrajan, Director, Roy Leather Exports, Chennai, as Guest of Honour. A highlight of the celebration was the Student Recognition Awards, which acknowledged students for their outstanding contributions and achievements within the institution. Faculty engagement activities and prize distribution ceremonies further added to the spirit of celebration and community participation. LEXORA 2026 reflected VMLS's commitment to holistic education by fostering creativity, leadership, collaboration, and a vibrant campus culture beyond the classroom.



VMLS Fest 2026

May 2026 | VMLS Campus, Chennai

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS) successfully celebrated VMLS Fest 2026 as part of LEXORA 2026, bringing together students, faculty members, and guests for an evening of cultural expression, entertainment, and community engagement. The event featured a variety of student-led activities, including stage performances, interactive stalls, and cultural showcases that highlighted the creativity and enthusiasm of the VMLS community. The programme was graced by Mr. Adams, renowned media personality, filmmaker, and entrepreneur, whose interaction with students offered valuable insights and inspiration. Musical performances by the bands "EQ" and "Eclipse" emerged as key attractions of the evening, creating a lively atmosphere and encouraging active participation. The celebrations also featured solo and group performances that showcased the diverse talents of students across disciplines, culminating in an energetic DJ session. The successful conduct of the event reflected VMLS's commitment to fostering creativity, student engagement, and a vibrant campus culture that complements academic excellence and holistic development.



Article Writing Masterclass | MOU

May 2026 | Surana & Surana International Attorneys

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS), as part of its ongoing collaboration with Surana & Surana International Attorneys under the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2024, conducted an Article Writing Masterclass for the firm's associates. Led by Prof. Siddharth Raja, Executive Dean, and Prof. Nabeela Siddiqui, Assistant Professor, the programme was delivered over two consecutive Saturdays through three intensive sessions totaling nine hours. The masterclass focused on strengthening legal research, analytical reasoning, and professional writing skills, highlighting their importance in contemporary legal practice. Participants engaged with structured approaches to research-based writing and explored the role of legal scholarship in shaping professional credibility and legal discourse. The initiative served as a valuable platform for bridging academic expertise with professional development and reflects the success of the VMLS-Surana & Surana partnership in fostering continuous learning and industry engagement within the legal profession.



VMRF Leadership Conclave 2026

7-8 May 2026 | VMRF (DU)

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS) is pleased to share that Mr. Siddharth Raja, Executive Dean, participated in the VMRF Leadership Conclave 2026 organised by Vinayaka Mission's Research Foundation (Deemed to be University). Centred on the theme "Institutional Competitiveness, AI & Performance in Higher Education," the conclave brought together academic leaders and administrators to discuss emerging trends shaping higher education. The sessions explored key areas including artificial intelligence in academia, digital transformation, research innovation, leadership effectiveness, performance management, and strategies for enhancing institutional competitiveness through accreditation, rankings, and branding. Discussions also highlighted the importance of data-driven decision-making and the integration of technology-enabled practices in academic administration. The Executive Dean's participation provided valuable insights into contemporary developments in higher education leadership and reflects VMLS's commitment to academic excellence, institutional innovation, and future-ready legal education.



VMLS Open Day 2026

23 May 2026 | VMLS Campus, Chennai

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS) successfully hosted VMLS Open Day 2026, welcoming aspiring law students for an engaging introduction to legal education and the diverse opportunities within the legal profession. The event provided participants with valuable insights into academic programmes, career pathways, and the evolving landscape of legal practice through interactive sessions and meaningful discussions. The programme was graced by Mr. Arun Kumar R.L., Advocate and Vice President of the Madras High Court Advocates Association and Universal Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Advocates Association, who shared his perspectives on the legal profession and encouraged students to pursue their aspirations with confidence. Mr. Siddharth Raja, Executive Dean, delivered an inspiring address highlighting the significance of legal education in shaping future professionals. The initiative reflected VMLS's commitment to student engagement, informed career exploration, and nurturing the next generation of legal professionals.



Guest Lecture | International Day for Women in Maritime 2026

18 May 2026 | VMLS Campus, Chennai

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS), under the Centre for Maritime Law (CML), organised a guest lecture in observance of the International Day for Women in Maritime 2026. The session, titled "Policy and Technical Issues Concerning Women Seafarers," was delivered by Ms. Rehana Dhawade, Maritime Legal Consultant, Directorate General of Shipping, Government of India. The lecture provided valuable insights into the role of women in the maritime sector, international legal frameworks, India's maritime policy initiatives, and institutional mechanisms aimed at ensuring safety and inclusion. Participants also gained an understanding of recent developments in maritime law, grievance redressal mechanisms for women seafarers, and emerging opportunities in maritime governance and leadership. The session encouraged meaningful discussions on gender representation within the maritime industry and reflected VMLS's commitment to interdisciplinary legal education, policy engagement, and awareness of contemporary global issues.



Intra Mediation Competition 2026

May 2026 | VMLS Campus

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS) successfully conducted the inaugural edition of its Intra Mediation Competition as part of the annual law fest, providing students with a practical platform to develop alternative dispute resolution skills. The competition featured participation from over 40 students and adopted a distinctive bilingual blind mediation format designed to simulate real-world dispute resolution scenarios. Participants engaged in rounds involving family, property, and investment disputes, demonstrating negotiation, communication, and problem-solving abilities in a professional setting. Organised by the ADR Club under the guidance of Prof. Srinivas Raman, the event encouraged experiential learning and showcased the importance of mediation as an effective dispute resolution mechanism. The competition reflected VMLS's commitment to practice-oriented legal education and strengthening student competence in emerging areas of dispute resolution while fostering leadership, collaboration, and professional excellence.



Top Scopus Publishing Faculty

May 2026 | Faculty Achievement

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS) proudly recognises the outstanding research contributions of its faculty members whose scholarly work continues to strengthen the institution's academic reputation. The institution is pleased to acknowledge Dr. Gnana Sanga Mithra S, Associate Dean – Research (Interdisciplinary), with 14 Scopus-indexed publications; Prof. Hartej Singh Kochher, Assistant Professor with 8 Scopus-indexed publications and Prof. Edhaya Chandran, Assistant Dean – Outreach & Communications, with 3 Scopus-indexed publications. Their consistent engagement with research, publication, and academic discourse reflects a strong commitment to knowledge creation and interdisciplinary scholarship. These achievements not only highlight individual academic excellence but also contribute to fostering a vibrant research culture at VMLS. The accomplishment reinforces the institution's commitment to promoting impactful research, intellectual inquiry, and meaningful contributions to contemporary legal and interdisciplinary scholarship.



Faculty Leadership Achievement

May 2026 | VMRF (DU)

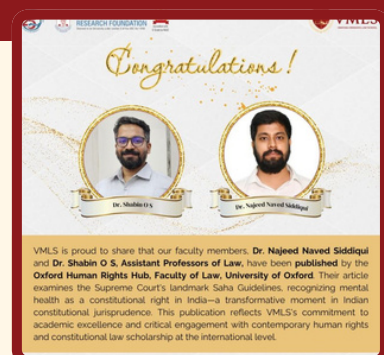
Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS) proudly congratulates Dr. Sangamithra on successfully completing the EPALM Leadership Programme at Vinayaka Mission's Research Foundation (Deemed to be University) with distinction. The programme offered comprehensive training in key areas including leadership development, mind mastery, cyber security, artificial intelligence tools, stakeholder management, and financial management. Through a series of interactive sessions and practical learning experiences, participants enhanced their leadership capabilities, strategic thinking, and professional effectiveness. The programme also encouraged greater self-awareness and a deeper understanding of the responsibilities associated with academic leadership. Dr. Sangamithra's achievement reflects her commitment to continuous learning and professional growth. VMLS takes pride in celebrating the accomplishments of its faculty members and remains committed to fostering leadership excellence, academic development, and lifelong learning within the institution.



Faculty Research Publication Achievement

May 2026 | Oxford Human Rights Hub

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS) proudly shares the scholarly achievement of Dr. Najeed Naved Siddiqui and Dr. Shabin O.S., Assistant Professors of Law, whose article has been published by the Oxford Human Rights Hub (OHRH), Faculty of Law, University of Oxford. Titled "The 'Saha' Guidelines: India's Mental Health Leap as a Constitutional Right," the article offers a critical analysis of the Supreme Court's landmark recognition of mental health as a constitutional right and examines its implications for human rights and constitutional jurisprudence in India. This publication reflects the faculty members' commitment to impactful legal research and engagement with contemporary socio-legal issues. Their achievement contributes meaningfully to international legal scholarship and reinforces VMLS's emphasis on research excellence, academic inquiry, and thought leadership in emerging areas of law and justice.



Faculty Research Publication Achievement

May 2026 | IEEE Publication

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS) proudly congratulates Ms. Aarthy Jonathan Kennedy, Assistant Dean – Partnerships & Student Engagement, on the publication and conference presentation of her research article titled "Bridging Language Barriers in Education with Statistical Machine Translation." Published by IEEE and presented at the International Conference on AI-Driven STEM Education and Learning Technologies (AISTEMEDU) 2025, the study examines the potential of Statistical Machine Translation in addressing linguistic barriers within educational settings. The research highlights the role of artificial intelligence and technology in promoting accessible, inclusive, and effective learning environments. This accomplishment reflects a strong commitment to interdisciplinary scholarship and innovation at the intersection of technology and education. The achievement further reinforces VMLS's emphasis on research excellence, academic engagement, and meaningful contributions to emerging fields of study with global relevance.



Student Research Publication Achievement

May 2026 | TaxGuru

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS) proudly shares the academic achievement of Rajagopal, II Year LL.B., who has successfully published an article titled "Digital Companies Earn From India Without Fair Tax Liability" on the reputed legal and taxation platform, TaxGuru. The article examines the evolving challenges of taxing digital enterprises that generate significant revenue from India while operating beyond traditional taxation frameworks. Through a critical analysis of contemporary tax law and the digital economy, the publication reflects strong research aptitude, analytical thinking, and engagement with emerging legal issues. This accomplishment highlights the active participation of VMLS students in scholarly research and academic writing, contributing meaningfully to contemporary legal discourse. The achievement also reflects the institution's commitment to fostering a vibrant research culture and encouraging students to pursue excellence in legal scholarship and intellectual inquiry.



LEGAL MAXIM

In Dubio Pro Reo

Meaning

In dubio pro reo means that whenever there is reasonable doubt about an accused person's guilt, the benefit of that doubt must be given to the accused.

- The prosecution must prove the accused is guilty.
- The accused does not need to prove innocence.
- If the evidence equally supports both guilt and innocence, the court must choose the interpretation that benefits the accused.

Example

- A person is charged with theft. The prosecution proves that the accused was near the crime scene, but the stolen property is not found with them. The defense shows that another person with a similar appearance was also present in the area.
- Since there are two possible explanations and the guilt is not proved beyond reasonable doubt, the court must give the benefit of doubt to the accused and acquit them.

Legal Recognition

This principle is recognized worldwide and is linked to the presumption of innocence. It is reflected in:

- Article 11 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- International criminal tribunals
- Criminal laws and procedures of many countries

Importance

- Protects innocent people from wrongful conviction.
- Ensures fairness in criminal trials.
- Strengthens the presumption of innocence.
- Upholds justice and the rule of law.

பொருள் : குற்றவாளி என்று நிரூபிக்கப்படும் வரை எந்த ஒரு மனிதரும் குற்றமற்றவரே – இந்த நீதிக் கொள்கையின் ஆணியேர் இந்த நெறிமொழியில் இருக்கிறது.

இன் டுபியோ புரோ ரியோ என்றால், ஒரு குற்றச்சாட்டில் நியாயமான சந்தேகம் எழும்போது அந்த சந்தேகத்தின் பயன் குற்றம் சாட்டப்பட்டவருக்கே சேர வேண்டும் என்பது.

இந்தக் கொள்கையின் அடிப்படைகள்:

குற்றத்தை நிரூபிக்கும் பொறுப்பு வாதி தரப்பினருடையது. குற்றம் சாட்டப்பட்டவர் தம் நிரபராதித்தன்மையை நிரூபிக்க வேண்டியதில்லை. சாட்சியங்கள் குற்றத்தையும் நிரபராதித்தன்மையையும் சேர்த்து சுட்டும்போது, குற்றம் சாட்டப்பட்டவருக்கு சாதகமான விளக்கத்தையே நீதிமன்றம் ஏற்க வேண்டும். குற்றவியல் சட்டம் தெளிவற்றதாக இருக்கும்போது, மிகவும் இலகுவான விளக்கத்தையே பயன்படுத்த வேண்டும்.

நடைமுறை உதாரணம்:

திருட்டு வழக்கில் ஒருவர் குற்றம் சாட்டப்படுகிறார். வாதி தரப்பு அவர் குற்றம் நடந்த இடத்தில் இருந்ததை நிரூபிக்கிறது – ஆனால் திருடப்பட்ட பொருள் அவரிடம் கிடைக்கவில்லை. ஒத்த தோற்றமுள்ள மற்றொருவரும் அந்த இடத்தில் இருந்தார் என்று வாதாட இரு விளக்கங்களும் சாத்தியம். சந்தேகத்திற்கு அப்பால் குற்றம் நிரூபிக்கப்படாத நிலையில் நீதிமன்றம் குற்றம் சாட்டப்பட்டவருக்கு சந்தேகத்தின் பயனை வழங்கி விடுதலை செய்ய வேண்டும்.

சட்டரீதியான அங்கீகாரம்:

இந்தக் கொள்கை உலகளாவிய அங்கீகாரம் பெற்றது. ஐக்கிய நாடுகளின் மனித உரிமைகள் பிரகடனத்தின் 11-வது பிரிவு (Article 11, Universal Declaration of Human Rights), சர்வதேச குற்றவியல் தீர்ப்பாயங்கள், பல நாடுகளின் குற்றவியல் சட்டங்கள் என்பனவற்றில் இந்தக் கொள்கை பிரதிபலிக்கிறது.

முக்கியத்துவம்

தவறான தண்டனையிலிருந்து நிரபராதியான மனிதர்களை காக்கிறது. குற்றவியல் விசாரணையில் நீதியை உறுதிசெய்கிறது. நிரபராதித்தன்மையின் அனுமானத்தை வலுப்படுத்துகிறது.



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