

FUNDAMENTUM

Law. Learning. Leadership.

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VINAYAKA MISSION'S LAW SCHOOL

Law School of The Future

VINAYAKA MISSION'S LAW SCHOOL

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Monthly Newsletter

VMLS
April - 2025 ♦



Here is this month's lowdown

Welcome to the April edition of Fundamentum, the official newsletter of Vinayaka Mission's Law School. The name Fundamentum means "foundation" or "basis." It represents VMLS as a fundamental initiative shaping everything we do—academically, socially, and institutionally. Whether it's pedagogy, student life, or our contribution to society, VMLS serves as the bedrock upon which we are building a dynamic and meaningful legal education ecosystem.

We began with a workshop on Futures of Internationalisation in Higher Education, where global academic voices explored ethical, postcolonial models for international collaboration—an important step toward inclusive and equitable learning spaces.

On April 4th and 5th, VMLS Fest 2025 brought our campus to life with music, fashion, dance, and powerful street theatre. The event highlighted student creativity and the unifying spirit of cultural expression.

Mr. Deepak Narayanan's engaging session on Emergency Arbitration provided hands-on insights into international legal practice. Through mock scenarios, students explored real-world arbitration challenges.

Dean Dr. Ananth Padmanabhan addressed students at The Hindu EducationPlus Fair, encouraging curiosity, adaptability, and lifelong learning in navigating the evolving legal profession.

We also focused on emotional and interdisciplinary growth. Ms. Sapna Sharma spoke on Emotional Well-being, while Ms. Vidyottama Sharma explored the connections between journalism and law, emphasizing truth and public accountability.

Visionary leaders like Justice Michael D. Wilson and Dr. C. Raj Kumar joined us to discuss the future of law schools—advocating for innovation, social relevance, and cross-disciplinary learning.

The month concluded with panels on Geopolitics, Sports Law, Mediation, and Arbitration, reinforcing our goal to provide legal education that is globally informed and practically grounded.

This edition of Fundamentum captures not just a list of events, but the values that VMLS stands on—integrity, innovation, and impact—as we continue building a foundation for the legal minds of tomorrow.

Warm regards,
Editorial Team – Fundamentum

In this newsletter you can expect:

VMLS Fest 2025 – A Two-Day Cultural & Technical Celebration

Workshop on Ethical Internationalisation in Higher Education

Career Guidance at The Hindu EducationPlus Fair

Guest Lectures on Arbitration, Mediation & Sports Law

Talks on Emotional Well-being & Leadership Skills

Panel on Geopolitics & Building the Law School of Future



Workshop: Futures of Internationalisation in Higher Education

April 1, 2025 | VMLS Campus, Chennai

VMLS successfully hosted a national workshop titled "Futures of Internationalisation in Higher Education: Ethical and Equitable Postcolonial Partnerships." The workshop brought together distinguished international scholars and educators for thought-provoking discussions on ethics, equity, and inclusion in global academic collaborations.

Keynote addresses were delivered by:

- **Dr. Mousumi Mukherjee**, Professor and Deputy Director, Centre for Comparative and Global Education, O.P. Jindal Global University
- **Dr. Miguel Antonio Lim**, Senior Lecturer in Education, REF Coordinator, and Co-Convenor, Higher Education Research Network, University of Manchester
- **Dr. Kalyani Unkule**, Professor, O.P. Jindal Global University; Visiting Professor at ISDE Law School, Spain and Stockholm University Faculty of Law, Sweden

- **Dr. Jenna Mittelmeier**, Senior Lecturer in International Education, University of Manchester

Each speaker brought a unique lens to the complex topic of internationalisation. Dr. Mukherjee addressed the persistence of inequities in global research landscapes, while Dr. Lim explored the impact of transnational higher education on development goals. Dr. Unkule introduced frameworks for inclusive and sustainable internationalisation, and Dr. Mittelmeier shared insights into future India-UK educational collaborations.

The workshop concluded with interactive discussions that emphasized the importance of ethical, postcolonial approaches to building international academic partnerships.



VMLS Fest 2025 - A Two-Day Cultural & Technical Extravaganza



April 4-5, 2025 | VMLS Campus, Chennai

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS) lit up the Paiyanoor campus with energy and excitement during VMLS Fest 2025, held on April 4th and 5th. The much-anticipated annual celebration brought together students, faculty, and guests for two vibrant days filled with culture, creativity, and spirited competition.

The festivities began with an inspiring inaugural address by Ilam Puyal Dr. Sheeba Lourdhesh, who set the tone for a dynamic event. Charismatic host KPY Champion V. R. Balaji led the show alongside Super Singers Dinesh and Vaishali, creating a lively and engaging atmosphere.



Day 1 featured an array of cultural competitions—from energetic dance and music performances to the much-loved Bridal Makeup Contest and a glamorous Fashion Show. The evening peaked with electrifying sets by Music Director Praveen & Band, and choreography by Prathap Murugesan, Minish Manickam, and Silambarasan, followed by a spirited DJ night.

Day 2 transitioned into intellectual engagement with technical events that tested creativity and legal acumen. One of the highlights was "Story for the Street", a moving theatrical fusion of skit, mime, and therukoothu that addressed pressing social issues through performance art. The fest concluded with a heartfelt valedictory ceremony, celebrating the diverse talents and collective enthusiasm of the VMLS community.





Exploring Legal Futures: Dr. Ananth Padmanabhan Inspires at The Hindu Career Fair

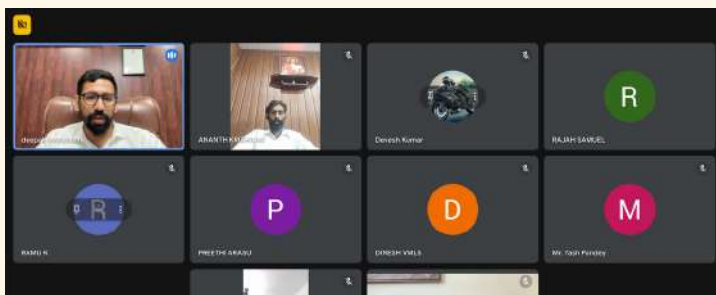
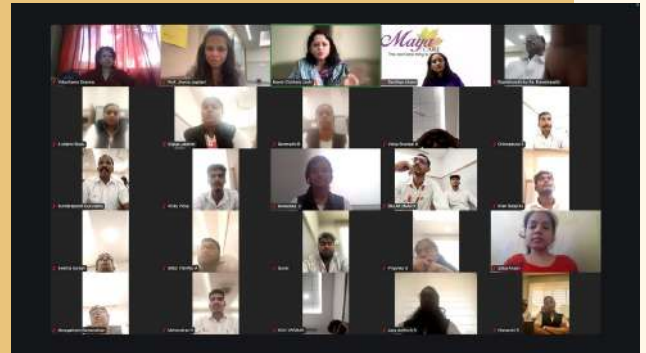
April 6, 2025 | Hindu EducationPlus Career Counselling Fair

Dr. Ananth Padmanabhan, Dean of Vinayaka Mission's Law School, addressed aspiring law students at The Hindu EducationPlus Career Counselling Fair on April 6, 2025, in Chennai. He emphasized curiosity, critical thinking, and adaptability as the pillars of a successful legal career. Highlighting the expanding legal landscape, he discussed roles beyond litigation, including corporate consultancy and preventive law. Dr. Padmanabhan urged students to stay agile amid societal and technological shifts. His talk inspired many to view law as a dynamic and socially impactful profession.

Empowering Dreams: Leadership and Purpose with Ms. Manjiri Gokhale Joshi

April 9, 2025 | Virtual

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS) hosted a virtual guest lecture, "CEO of Your Own Dream", on April 9, 2025, featuring entrepreneur and changemaker Ms. Manjiri Gokhale Joshi. She shared insights on leadership, goal-setting, and building impactful careers. Her personal journey inspired students to take charge of their dreams. A lively Q&A followed, sparking meaningful engagement. The event concluded with thanks to Ms. Joshi and the organizers.



Demystifying Emergency Arbitration: A Guest Lecture by Mr. Deepak Narayanan

April 9, 2025 | Virtual

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS) hosted an insightful guest lecture by Mr. Deepak Narayanan, Founding Partner at BDN Chambers, on "Interim Measures and Emergency Arbitration." Drawing from global experience, he offered a deep dive into provisional reliefs and emergency arbitration procedures. A humorous mock arbitration involving CSK fans brought complex concepts to life. Mr. Narayanan also examined key legal frameworks and case law, including the Amazon v. Future Retail ruling. The session was both intellectually rigorous and highly engaging for students.



Balancing Emotion and Logic: A Guest Lecture on Emotional Well-Being

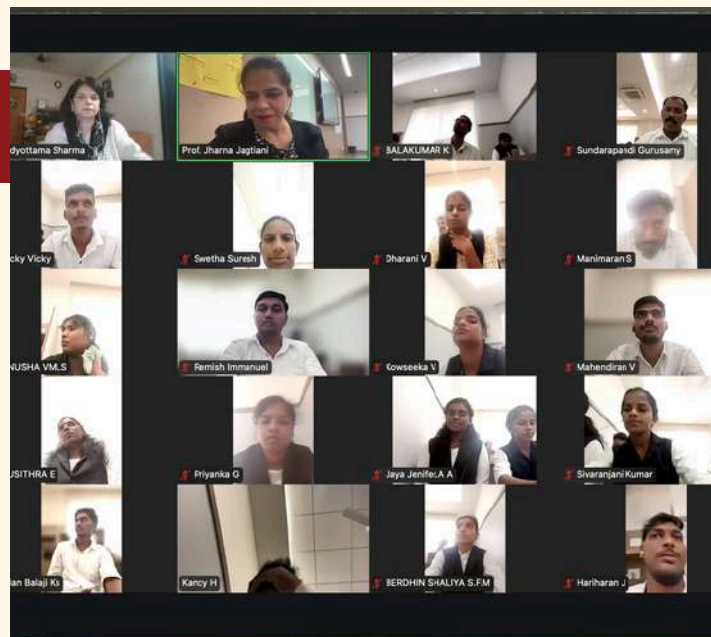
April 11, 2025 | Virtual

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS), in collaboration with Only Women, hosted a guest lecture on April 11, 2025, titled "Emotional Well-Being: Finding Your Path with Logical Viewpoints." Ms. Sapna Sharma, a corporate communications expert and spiritual well-being practitioner, shared insights on emotional clarity, resilience, and balancing logic with emotion. Through personal stories and engaging discussions, students explored the role of emotional intelligence in personal and professional growth. The session was impactful and thought-provoking, concluding with a vote of thanks by Ms. Jharna Jagtiani.

Law and Media: Parallel Paths of Impact with Ms. Vidyottama Sharma

April 17, 2025 | Virtual

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS) hosted a compelling guest lecture on April 17, 2025, titled "Lawyers and Journalists: Same, Same but Different" by Ms. Vidyottama Sharma, Founder & CEO of Only Women. Drawing from her media experience, Ms. Sharma highlighted the shared roles of lawyers and journalists as truth-seekers and defenders of democracy. She emphasized their ethical duties, influence on society, and the growing overlap in media and legal literacy. The session was insightful, interactive, and well-received by students.



Envisioning the Future: A Distinguished Dialogue on Legal Education

April 17, 2025 | VMLS, Campus

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS), Chennai, hosted a high-level faculty interaction on "Building the Law School of the Future", featuring Hon'ble Justice (Retd.) Michael D. Wilson and Dr. C. Raj Kumar. The session explored transformative ideas in legal education, from interdisciplinary learning to AI integration and sustainability. Justice Wilson emphasized global responsibility in shaping legal minds, while Dr. Kumar highlighted innovation and research. Faculty engaged in vibrant discussions on curriculum and collaboration. The event marked a pivotal step in VMLS's vision for future-ready legal education.



NAVIGATING GLOBAL SHIFTS: INSIGHTS FROM THE SURANA & SURANA KNOWLEDGE SERIES

April 17, 2025 | Surana & Surana Attorneys, Mylapore

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS), in collaboration with Surana & Surana, hosted the 14th edition of the Knowledge Series on "Geopolitics and Emerging World Order." Moderated by Dr. Ananth Padmanabhan, the panel featured experts from law, industry, military, and academia who explored global trade, security, and policy trends. Key themes included Indo-Pacific strategies, WTO dynamics, and cybersecurity. The discussion stressed innovation, collaboration, and global awareness in legal education. The event concluded with rich dialogue and impactful takeaways for future leaders.





Mediation 101: A Practical Introduction to Collaborative Dispute Resolution

April 23, 2025 | Virtual

VMLS, in collaboration with CAMP, hosted a dynamic session titled "Mediation 101" led by Mr. Anubhab Banerjee and Ms. Gutta Nivedita Chowdary. The lecture introduced mediation as a flexible, confidential, and cost-effective alternative to litigation and arbitration. Students explored core concepts like party autonomy and the Iceberg Model of Conflict, deepening their understanding of emotional dynamics in disputes. A lively Q&A reflected strong engagement, reinforcing mediation's value in modern legal practice.

Creative Business Idea for a Better Future

April 24, 2025 | Virtual

The LL.M. Programme at VMLS hosted a virtual guest lecture on April 24, 2025, by Dr. A. Francis Julian, Senior Advocate at the Supreme Court of India. He explored the distinctions between institutional and ad-hoc arbitration, highlighting legal foundations, practical challenges, and global relevance. Drawing from decades of experience, Dr. Julian shared real-world case insights and key considerations for choosing arbitral forums. The session offered students a rich blend of legal theory and professional wisdom, sparking active engagement and deeper understanding.



World IP Day 2025: Exploring IP in Sports Law with Mr. Nishant Sheokand

April 25, 2025 | VMLS Campus

To mark World Intellectual Property Day 2025, VMLS hosted a lecture on "IP in Sports Law" by Mr. Nishant Sheokand, Associate Dean (Academic Affairs). The session covered IP rights in sports, including trademarks, broadcasting, and personality rights, while also spotlighting emerging trends like esports and NFTs. Students explored career paths at the intersection of law, innovation, and sports. The event reflected the global relevance of IP in today's youth-driven, digital landscape.

Corporate Social Responsibility: Law in Action with Dr. Akanksha Jumde

April 27, 2025 | Virtual

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS) welcomed Dr. Akanksha Jumde of CQUniversity, Australia, for a guest lecture on "Corporate Social Responsibility: Law and Practice" on April 27. She unpacked the legal framework of CSR, emphasizing the shift from mandatory compliance to meaningful corporate impact. Students gained critical insights into how law shapes ethical business conduct and social change. The session offered a nuanced view of CSR's evolving role in today's corporate landscape.



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VMLS is imparting education to the marginalized students. The institution provides support to their students who can serve at the grassroot level and protect the national interest.

Honorable Justice (Retd.) Dr. B.S. Chauhan,

I'm delighted that the Vinayaka Mission's Law School has placed special emphasis on inclusive education, which is much needed in times of deprived opportunities. This will open a new window for a large number of young Indians.

Honorable Justice (Retd.) S. Muralidhar

Guided by the finest legal minds in the country, VMLS is delivering world-class education to the rural regions of Tamil Nadu, sparking a transformative movement.

Honorable Justice (Retd.) Fakkir Mohamed Ibrahim Kalifulla

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