

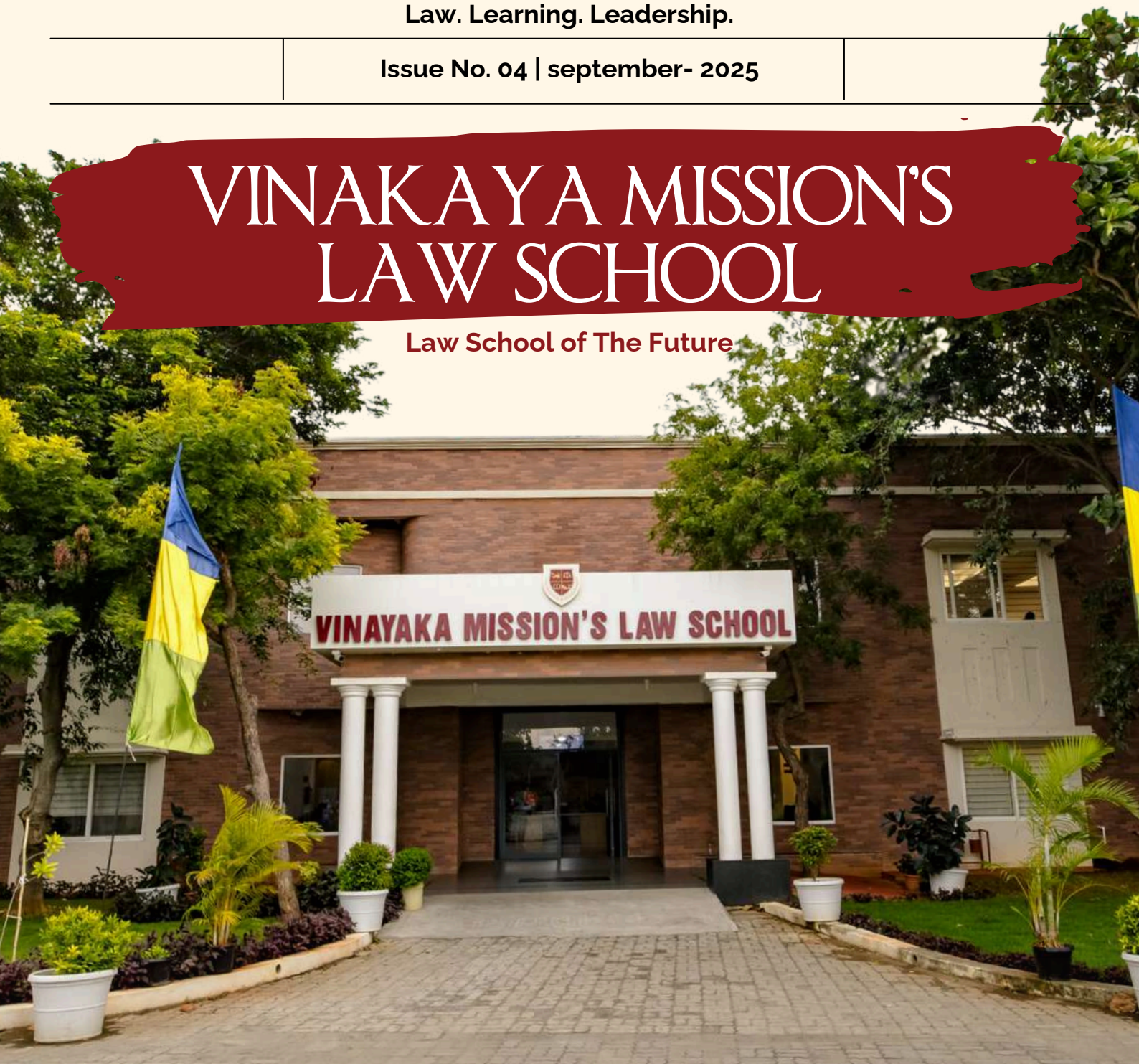
FUNDAMENTUM

Law. Learning. Leadership.

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VINAKAYA MISSION'S LAW SCHOOL

Law School of The Future



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Monthly Newsletter

VMLS
SEPTEMBER - 2025 ♦



Here is this month's lowdown

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS) carried forward its mission of combining academic rigor with social responsibility through a remarkable series of events across August and early September. Together, they reflected our institution's commitment to student welfare, global engagement, and the pursuit of justice as a lived value.

August began with Anti-Ragging Day, where Dean Dr. Ananth Padmanabhan led a pledge joined by students, faculty, and staff, affirming a collective resolve to foster empathy, respect, and safety across campus. The observance reinforced VMLS's zero-tolerance approach and its identity as a ragging-free institution where learning thrives in an atmosphere of dignity. Soon after came the Inaugural Ceremony of the 5-Year Integrated Law Programmes, a milestone that welcomed the Batch of 2025-2026 with inspiring guidance from distinguished jurists and thought leaders. The emphasis on justice, integrity, and holistic development resonated deeply with our vision of nurturing socially conscious professionals.

The latter half of August reflected VMLS's global outlook. Our students participated in the Global AI Leadership Summit at IIT Madras, exploring the intersection of law, technology, and ethics, while Prof. Nishant Sheokand represented the institution at the UNESCO Roundtable on India's Sports Policy, engaging in dialogue on transparency and governance in sports. On campus, awareness initiatives such as the POSH session reinforced our dedication to inclusivity and safety, while faculty leadership was marked by Professor Muthuvelu Muniappan's honor at the Tamil World Conference 2025, the LL.M. outreach roundtable in Chennai led by Dean Dr. Ananth Padmanabhan,

and the representation of Ms. Jharna Jagtiani, Assistant Dean, and Mr. Hartej Singh Kochher, Assistant Professor, at the National ADR Conference in Chennai.

September opened with academic enrichment through a workshop on modern Indian company law by Mr. Siddharth Raja, alongside vibrant community celebrations during Onam. The Centre for Access to Justice outreach to Irular tribal communities highlighted our enduring commitment to equity and access. International expertise further enriched campus life through the Guest Lecture Series with Dr. Chandrika Subramaniam, while the Maritime Law Summit 2025 and the inauguration of the Centre for Maritime Law (CML) marked a defining moment in Indian legal education, bridging academia and industry. VMLS also marked a historic milestone with its First Graduation Ceremony, inspiring the inaugural graduating class to uphold justice, integrity, and compassion. Adding further depth, students gained invaluable exposure at the launch of (In) Complete Justice? The Supreme Court at 75), engaging with reflections on judicial accountability, activism, and constitutional values.

From fostering safe campuses to advancing global dialogues and community engagement, these initiatives affirm VMLS's resolve to be a law school of the future—where tradition, innovation, and service come together to shape the next generation of leaders.

**Editorial
MOC**

In this newsletter you can expect:

Lawyers of Tomorrow

Anchoring Maritime Law

Pledge for Dignity

Law Meets Innovation

Clean Sport, Fair Play

Voices of Safety

Honoring Tamil Scholarship

Pathways to LL.M.

Shaping ADR Futures

Corporate Law Lens

Harmony in Tradition

Justice Beyond Campus

Leadership in Mediation

A New Legacy Begins

Justice at 75

Clean Hands Prevail

The Dawn of Legacy : First Graduation Day - 2025



The ceremony was graced by Hon'ble T. Raja, Former Acting Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, who delivered the Graduation Day Address. His inspiring words urged the graduands to uphold integrity, compassion, and the highest standards of justice in their professional journeys. Distinguished dignitaries present included Mr. J. Suresh Samuel, Chief Strategy Officer, VMRF-DU; Dr. A. Francis Julian, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India and Chairperson of the JGLS-VMLS Mentoring Committee; and Mr. Antony R. Julian, Advocate, Supreme Court of India and Convenor of the Steering Committee for the Centre for Justice through Technology. Messages of encouragement from Chancellor Dr. A.S. Ganesan and Vice President Dr. Anuradha Ganesan added warmth and pride to the occasion.



September 13, 2025 | VMLS Campus, Chennai

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS) celebrated a historic milestone with the hosting of its First Graduation Ceremony on 13th September 2025 at the VMCC Campus, Paiyanoor. The solemn yet grand occasion marked the defining moment when the institution's very first batch of students stepped into the world as graduates, carrying forward VMLS's vision of justice, service, and responsibility.



The event commenced with Tamil Thai Vazhthu and a welcome address by Dr. Shenbagavalli, Associate Dean (Student Affairs). Dean Dr. Ananth Padmanabhan presented the VMLS Report, highlighting the achievements, growth, and vision of the law school since its inception. Dr. Francis Julian, in his special address, emphasized mentorship, professional ethics, and social responsibility as guiding principles for the legal profession. A recorded message from Dr. Rajkumar, Founding Vice Chancellor of O.P. Jindal Global University and Dean of JGLS, reinforced the strength of institutional collaboration in shaping a strong academic culture.

The highlight of the evening was the ceremonial conferring of degree certificates, conducted with academic decorum, followed by the administration of the graduation oath by Dean Dr. Ananth Padmanabhan. The event concluded with the National Anthem, leaving behind an enduring sense of pride, inspiration, and celebration for graduates, their families, faculty, and the institution at large.

Maritime Law Summit 2025 and Inauguration of Centre for Maritime Law at VMLS



Adding further depth to the occasion, Dr. A. Francis Julian, Senior Advocate, delivered a powerful and thought-provoking address. He urged students to pursue their academic journey with perseverance, dedication, and intellectual curiosity, highlighting how these qualities define the true spirit of legal practice. The Guest of Honour, Dr. Saranya Jaikumar, enriched the event with her motivating insights on leadership and empathy. She emphasized the need for holistic development, encouraging students to balance technical competence with compassion and human understanding, qualities that would shape them into effective leaders and advocates of justice.



September 6, 2025 | VMLS Campus, Chennai

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS) proudly inaugurated its 5-year Integrated Law Programmes for the Batch of 2025–2026, marking a historic milestone in the institution's transformative journey of legal education. The inaugural ceremony reflected VMLS's vision of preparing socially conscious lawyers, committed to both academic excellence and the pursuit of justice.

The event was graced by the esteemed presence of Hon'ble Justice Sudhanthiram (Retd.), who addressed the gathering as Chief Guest. In his inspiring speech, Justice Sudhanthiram emphasized the timeless values of justice and integrity, reminding the new batch that the legal profession is as much a service to society as it is a career. His words served as a call for responsibility and ethical practice in law.



The inauguration also provided an opportunity to formally welcome the Batch of 2025–2026 into the VMLS family. Faculty, peers, and dignitaries extended their warm encouragement, underscoring the significance of this new academic chapter. The students, now embarking on their legal journey, were reminded of their role as torchbearers of justice and as future contributors to the evolving landscape of law. This momentous event reaffirmed VMLS's commitment to blending tradition with innovation in legal education, preparing its students not just for professional success, but for meaningful service to society.

Inaugural Ceremony of 5-Year Integrated Law Programmes (Batch 2025–2026)



August 18, 2025 | VMLS Campus

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VMLS Observes Anti-Ragging Day with Pledge of Safety and Respect

August 12, 2025 | VMLS Campus

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS) observed Anti-Ragging Day with a pledge-taking ceremony, reaffirming its commitment to a safe, inclusive, and respectful campus. The event highlighted the institution's zero-tolerance policy toward ragging and its dedication to student welfare. The pledge was administered by Dean Dr. Ananth Padmanabhan, with students, faculty, and staff joining together to affirm their resolve to foster a culture of empathy, respect, and lawful conduct. This collective participation underscored the shared responsibility of the entire community in ensuring a campus free from intimidation or harassment. The initiative served as a reminder that learning thrives in an environment of safety and mutual respect, reinforcing VMLS's standing as a ragging-free institution.



VMLS Students Participate in Global AI Leadership Summit 2025

August 21, 2025 | IIT Madras, IC&SR Auditorium

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS) is proud to share the participation of 4th year BA LLB, BBA LLB, and B.Com LLB students at the Global AI Leadership Summit (GAILS) 2025, hosted at IIT Madras. Our students actively engaged in technical sessions and workshops exploring the intersection of law, technology, and ethics. The summit offered a unique opportunity to interact with international AI leaders, researchers, and innovators, enriching their understanding of advanced applications and career prospects in legal technology. This participation highlights VMLS's commitment to holistic education and preparing students for the future of law in a rapidly evolving technological landscape.



Prof. Nishant Sheokand Represents VMLS at UNESCO Roundtable on India's Sports Policy

August 21, 2025 | Virtual Session

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS) proudly celebrated the academic achievements of its top-performing students in the LL.B. (Hons) program. After three years of unwavering commitment, Srinithi Murugan (Rank 1), Pavithra V (Rank 2), and SD MD Haris (Rank 3) were recognized as Gold Medalists. Their journey was marked by academic excellence, late nights, courtroom simulations, and a deep passion for justice.

This milestone serves not only as a personal triumph for the students but as an inspiration for the entire VMLS community. As they step into the next phase of their legal careers, we celebrate their success and the values they represent.



Professor Muthuvelu Muniappan Honored at Tamil World Conference 2025

August 22, 2025 |

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS) proudly congratulates Professor Muthuvelu Muniappan, our esteemed faculty member and Director of the Global Tamil Law Center (GTLC), on being honored with the prestigious "தமிழுணங்கு இயற்றமிழறிஞர்" award at the Tamil World Conference 2025. This recognition celebrates his remarkable contributions to the enrichment of Tamil language, culture, and legal scholarship. As the driving force behind GTLC, Professor Muthuvelu has been instrumental in positioning VMLS as a hub for advancing Tamil jurisprudence on a global stage. Under his leadership, the Center fosters impactful research, promotes cross-cultural legal dialogue, and preserves Tamil heritage as an essential pillar of modern legal education. VMLS is proud of this achievement and confident that Professor Muthuvelu's vision will continue to strengthen our mission of bridging tradition with global legal education.



POSH Awareness Session Highlights Campus Commitment to Safety and Respect

August 22, 2025 | VMLS Campus

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS) organized a Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) Awareness Session led by Ms. Susan Victoria, an experienced POSH trainer. The program sought to reinforce the importance of fostering a safe, respectful, and inclusive campus environment for all. Ms. Victoria provided a clear overview of the POSH Act, 2013, outlining its significance for academic institutions and the shared responsibility of students and staff. Through interactive discussions and real-life examples, participants gained a deeper understanding of what constitutes sexual harassment, their rights and responsibilities, and the role of the Internal Committee in addressing concerns. The session emphasized preventive measures and the need for mutual respect in academic and professional spaces. Concluding with strong engagement from students, the event reaffirmed VMLS's commitment to gender sensitivity, inclusivity, and student well-being under the guidance of Dean Ananth Padmanabhan and faculty leaders including Dr. Shenbagavalli R.



Onam Celebrated with Tradition, Unity, and Joy

September 2, 2025 | VMLS Campus

Vinayaka Mission's Law School celebrated the festival of Onam with enthusiasm, cultural pride, and a spirit of togetherness. The event brought students, faculty, and staff together in honoring Kerala's traditions while reflecting the values of unity and inclusivity on campus. Highlights included floral decorations (Pookalam), cultural performances, and engaging activities that showcased the significance of Onam as a festival of gratitude and harmony. The celebrations provided an opportunity for students to immerse themselves in India's rich heritage, while fostering stronger bonds within the VMLS community. The occasion served as a joyful reminder of unity in diversity, reinforcing the institution's commitment to cultivating both academic excellence and cultural awareness.

Successful LL.M. Outreach Roundtable Featuring Dean Ananth Padmanabhan

August 30, 2025 | King Stubb & Kasiva, Chennai

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS) successfully hosted its LL.M. outreach initiative at the Chennai office of King Stubb & Kasiva, Advocates & Attorneys. The roundtable provided junior associates and colleagues with insights into both legal practice and advanced academic opportunities. The session began with a discussion on General Corporate Law, followed by an overview of the diverse LL.M. streams at VMLS—Commercial Dispute Resolution, Corporate & Financial Laws, AI & Technology Law, and Criminal Law. A key highlight was the contribution of Dean Ananth Padmanabhan, who emphasized the importance of bridging academic rigor with the practical challenges of contemporary legal practice. His insights resonated strongly with participants, reinforcing the value of advanced education in shaping legal careers. The interactive discussions, marked by thoughtful questions, reflected the enthusiasm of attendees. VMLS extends gratitude to Navod Prasannan and his team for their hospitality and support in making the event enriching.



VMLS Faculty Represent Institution at National ADR Conference

August 30, 2025 | Hotel Hilton, Chennai

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS) was represented by Ms. Jharna Jagtiani, Assistant Dean, Career Services & Placements, and Mr. Hartej Singh Kochher, Assistant Professor of Law, at the National Conference on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR): Arbitration, Conciliation & Mediation. The conference brought together legal experts, academicians, and dispute resolution professionals to discuss the evolving role of ADR in India. Key sessions emphasized the significance of arbitration, conciliation, and mediation as effective alternatives to traditional litigation. Their participation highlighted VMLS's commitment to advancing ADR education and preparing future-ready lawyers with both theoretical knowledge and practical skills in dispute resolution.



Workshop on Modern Indian Company Law with Siddharth Raja

September 1, 2025 | VMLS Campus

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS) hosted a workshop led by Mr. Siddharth Raja, Senior Partner at VERTICES PARTNERS, on "Appreciating Modern Indian Company Law: Key Foundational Principles." With over 26 years of expertise in corporate law, Mr. Raja shared insights on mergers & acquisitions, private equity, venture capital, and corporate finance. Drawing from his international experience with O'Melveny & Myers in Hong Kong and academic contributions at NLSIU and IIM Bangalore, he provided students with a clear understanding of the evolution and application of modern company law. The interactive session offered practical perspectives, equipping students with knowledge directly relevant to today's business and legal environment. Organized under the guidance of Dean Ananth Padmanabhan and faculty member Shubham Shukla, the workshop reflected VMLS's commitment to academic excellence and professional readiness.



Centre for Access to Justice Reaches Out to Tribal Communities

September 3, 2025 | Thiruvudanthai & Kovalam

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS), through its Centre for Access to Justice (CAJ), organized an outreach program with the indigenous tribal communities of Thiruvudanthai and Kovalam. The initiative aimed to encourage children to continue their education while exploring hostel placements to provide greater stability and access to resources. Guided by Dean Dr. Ananth Padmanabhan and led by faculty and student volunteers including Dr. Fowmina C. and Saravanan Ravi, the team conducted interactive sessions highlighting the transformative power of education. The conversations emphasized the importance of sustained schooling and the broader opportunities legal and social awareness can create for marginalized communities. A carrom board was gifted to the children, fostering joy and togetherness, and symbolizing VMLS's commitment to inclusivity, equity, and holistic development.



Guest Lecture Series with Dr. Chandrika Subramaniam

September 5, 2025 | VMLS Campus

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS) was honored to host a distinguished guest lecture series featuring Dr. Chandrika Subramaniam, Principal Solicitor at SUCCESS Lawyers and Barristers, Sydney. A globally recognized lawyer, academic, and community leader, she delivered two sessions: "The Landscape of Mediation in India with Reference to Current Laws" and "Persuasive Leadership." With her vast experience as a solicitor before the Supreme Court of NSW and the High Court of Australia, a nationally accredited mediator, and an award-winning author, Dr. Subramaniam shared valuable insights into mediation, leadership, and contemporary legal practice. The interactive lectures enriched students' understanding of justice, ethics, and professional responsibility, reflecting VMLS's commitment to connecting learners with global expertise.



Launch of (In) Complete Justice? The Supreme Court at 75

September 14, 2025 | Music Academy Mini Hall, Chennai

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS) was delighted to witness the participation of its students in the prestigious book launch of (In) Complete Justice? The Supreme Court at 75). The event was marked by a keynote address from Justice S. Muralidhar, who also served as the editor of the volume. Panel discussions featured eminent jurists including Justice A.P. Shah and Justice Madan Lokur, alongside senior advocates, academicians, and scholars, who reflected on the Supreme Court's 75-year journey. The book explores themes of judicial accountability, activism, dissent, and constitutional values. For VMLS students, the event offered invaluable exposure to debates on judicial reform and constitutional interpretation, providing a rich and meaningful academic experience.



LEGAL MAXIM

Meaning: No action arises from an immoral or illegal cause. (A person cannot bring a legal claim if it is based on their own illegal or immoral act.)

Legislative Reference (India): Indian Contract Act, 1872 (Section 23): Agreements opposed to public policy or unlawful are void.

Example: A person enters into a contract with another to smuggle goods. Later, one party refuses to pay the other. The wronged party goes to court. The court will dismiss the case, stating: "You cannot seek help of law to enforce an illegal agreement." Since the cause itself is unlawful, no action can arise from it.

In Simple Words:

If your claim is based on wrongdoing or illegality, the court will not help you. You cannot sue someone to enforce a contract or agreement that is immoral or against the law.

Why It Matters:

- Keeps the justice system free from supporting or rewarding illegal activities.
- Ensures that people cannot misuse courts to profit from their own wrongdoings.
- Protects the principle of public morality and public policy in law.

"Ex turpi causa non oritur actio"

பொருள்: சட்டவிரோதமான அல்லது ஒழுக்கக்கேடான செயலின் அடிப்படையில் எந்தவொரு சட்ட உரிமையும் உருவாகாது. தவறான செயலில் ஈடுபட்டவர், அதிலிருந்து நீதிமன்றத்தில் நிவாரணம் கோர முடியாது.

இந்திய அரசியல் சட்டக் குறிப்பு: இந்திய ஒப்பந்தச் சட்டம், 1872 (பிரிவு 23): சட்டவிரோதமான அல்லது பொது நலனுக்கு எதிரான ஒப்பந்தங்கள் செல்லாது.

உதாரணம்: ஒருவர் கடத்தல் செய்வதற்காக ஒப்பந்தம் செய்தால், பின்னர் அந்த ஒப்பந்தத்தின் அடிப்படையில் பணம் கோர முடியாது. ஏனெனில், அந்த ஒப்பந்தம் சட்டவிரோதமானது என்பதால், அதிலிருந்து எந்தவொரு உரிமையும் உருவாகாது.

எளிய விளக்கம்: தவறான செயலில் அடிப்படையிலான கோரிக்கைகளை நீதிமன்றம் ஏற்காது. சட்டவிரோதமான ஒப்பந்தம் அல்லது ஒழுக்கக்கேடான நடவடிக்கையின் மூலம் யாரும் நன்மை பெற முடியாது.

ஏன் இது முக்கியம்?

- சட்டம் எப்போதும் நியாயத்தையும் பொது நலனையும் பாதுகாக்கிறது.
- குற்றச்செயல் அல்லது தவறான ஒப்பந்தத்தை பயன்படுத்தி ஒருவர் லாபம் அடைய முடியாத வகையில் இந்தக் கோட்பாடு செயல்படுகிறது.
- இது சமூக நெறிகளையும் நீதித்துறையின் நேர்மையையும் உறுதிப்படுத்துகிறது.

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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

”

VMLS
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