



VINAYAKA MISSION'S  
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VMLS  
VINAYAKA MISSION'S LAW SCHOOL

# FUNDAMENTUM

Law. Learning. Leadership.

Issue No. 08 | December, 2025 - February, 2026

## VINAYAKA MISSION'S LAW SCHOOL

Law School of the Future

VINAYAKA MISSION'S LAW SCHOOL

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Jindal Global Law School  
India's First Global Law School

# Monthly Newsletter

VMLS

December 2025 - February 2026 ♦



## Highlights | December 2025 - February 2026

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS) continues to advance its mission of delivering a holistic, future-oriented legal education that integrates academic rigour, professional relevance, and meaningful societal engagement. In an era where legal practice is rapidly evolving, shaped by technological innovation, global interconnectedness, and changing socio-economic realities, VMLS remains committed to nurturing legal professionals who combine intellectual excellence with ethical responsibility and social awareness. This edition of the newsletter captures the institution's dynamic academic and professional journey during the period from December 2025 to January 2026.

The months under review reflect a vibrant spectrum of academic initiatives, institutional recognitions, and global engagements that reaffirm VMLS's role as a progressive centre of legal learning. Faculty members contributed actively to policy discourse and public scholarship through specialised lectures, publications, and professional forums, while academic programmes such as webinars on future-proofing legal practice and postgraduate pathways addressed emerging professional demands.

A defining highlight of this period is VMLS's expanding global academic footprint. The International Memorandum of Understanding with the University of San Diego, participation in the International Global Education Summit 2026, and the webinar on fully funded higher education opportunities in Italy collectively strengthened international collaboration, academic exchange, and student awareness of global pathways.

This period also witnessed notable institutional recognition, including VMLS being honoured as "India's Most Promising Emerging Law School 2025," alongside prestigious faculty achievements that reinforced the institution's strong academic foundation. Outreach initiatives ranging from digital privacy awareness programmes for school students to structured career guidance sessions demonstrated VMLS's commitment to community engagement and early legal literacy.

Student accomplishments and campus engagements, including cultural celebrations and leadership recognitions, remained central to the institution's vibrant academic culture. Together, these milestones reflect a community driven by purpose, enriched by knowledge, and united in its commitment to justice, innovation, and global academic excellence.

### Editorial MOC

### In this newsletter you can expect:

Global Academic Alliance

Global Legal Discourse

Commencing Juristic Journeys

Human Rights Champions

Language Legacy Lecture

Festive Campus Cheer

Lifetime Learning Honour

Emerging Excellence Award

Faculty Insight Feature

Guiding Career Paths

Legal Futures Webinar

Education Meets Employability

Digital Responsibility Initiative

Opening Global Pathways

Student Leadership Spotlight

## A New Semester, A Renewed Purpose: VMLS Commences Academic Session 2025–26



February 9, 2026 | VMCC Campus, Chennai

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS) formally inaugurated the Even Semester of the Academic Year 2025–26 on 9 February 2026 at the VMCC Campus, Chennai, marking the beginning of a dynamic and purpose-driven academic phase. The commencement programme reflected the institution's continued commitment to academic excellence, professional readiness, and values-based legal education. The ceremony opened with a Welcome Address by Mr. Siddharth Raja, Executive Dean, VMLS, who articulated the academic vision for the semester and encouraged students to approach legal education with intellectual curiosity, discipline, and a sense of social responsibility. He emphasised the importance of integrating doctrinal learning with practical exposure in an evolving legal landscape.



This was followed by a Special Address delivered by Mr. J. Suresh Samuel, Chief Strategy Officer, VMRF–DU, who highlighted the University's strategic growth and underscored the value of interdisciplinary, future-oriented professional education. The Commencement Address was delivered by the Chief Guest, Mr. Raju Ramachandran, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India and Former Additional Solicitor General of India. His address offered reflections on constitutional values, professional integrity, and the ethical responsibilities that define the legal profession.



The Guest of Honour, Ms. Arulmozhi, Advocate, Madras High Court, and Adv. P. R. Gopinathan, Senior Advocate, shared insights on career pathways, ethical advocacy, and the enduring relevance of legal education. 'Mr. Antony R. Julian, Advocate, Supreme Court of India and Convenor, Centre for Justice through Technology, graced the occasion.' An engaging interactive session, moderated by the Executive Dean, enabled students to engage directly with the speakers. The programme also recognised the contributions of the Media & Outreach Committee, whose faculty and student members were felicitated. The programme concluded with an interaction between the guests and faculty, reaffirming VMLS's commitment to rigorous scholarship and ethical leadership.



## Shaping Legal Minds Beyond Borders: Executive Dean's Keynote at JILC 2026



January 24–25, 2026 | University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka

Mr. Siddharth Raja, Executive Dean of Vinayaka Mission's Law School, delivered a distinguished keynote address at the Jaffna International Law Conference (JILC 2026), held at the University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka. The conference, organized by the Department of Law, Faculty of Arts, with support from Surana & Surana International Attorneys, focused on the theme "Law: Gentle Civilizer of Change Research, Reframe and Rebuild." Bringing together academics, jurists, practitioners, policymakers, and students, the conference provided a platform to explore the evolving role of law in social, economic, and technological transformation across borders.

In his keynote titled "Commercial Law and the Digital Economy," Mr. Raja emphasized the necessity of integrated, problem-solving legal education that prepares students to navigate digital markets, artificial intelligence, cross-border commerce, and corporate governance challenges. He highlighted the importance of case-based learning, drafting skills, and collaboration between academia and legal practice. His address reinforced the critical need for future-ready lawyers who are both technically competent and ethically grounded.



The keynote was widely appreciated for its clarity, practical insights, and relevance to contemporary legal issues. It generated meaningful discussions among international participants and received media coverage in reputed outlets such as Kural and Veerakesari. This engagement reinforced VMLS's commitment to global academic collaboration and its role in shaping reflective, competent, and socially responsible legal professionals.

## Bridging Borders: VMLS Signs Global MoU with University of San Diego



**January 19, 2026 | Vinayaka Mission's Law School & University of San Diego**

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS) marked a landmark step toward international academic collaboration with the signing of an International Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the University of San Diego. This strategic partnership reflects VMLS's vision of fostering globally competent legal professionals capable of engaging with transnational legal systems, comparative jurisprudence, and cross-border academic discourse. The MoU establishes a framework for student and faculty mobility, joint research initiatives, collaborative academic events, and exposure to emerging global legal trends, ensuring that students are equipped for complex challenges in the rapidly evolving legal landscape.



The MoU was formalised under the leadership of Prof. Siddharth Raja, Executive Dean of VMLS, with institutional support from Dr. Julian, Chairperson of the Mentoring Committee, and Mr. Rajasekaran, Deputy Registrar of VMRF. Representatives from the University of San Diego collaborated extensively to finalise the agreement, providing a sustainable and mutually beneficial academic engagement. Through this partnership, VMLS students gain exposure to international teaching methodologies, comparative legal perspectives, and emerging trends in transnational law. Faculty members benefit from joint research, scholarly mentorship, and cross-border academic collaborations, enhancing both professional and institutional growth.



This initiative reflects VMLS's commitment to academic excellence, global outreach, and innovative legal education. The MoU represents not merely a formal agreement but a forward-looking step toward building a truly interconnected legal academic ecosystem. It strengthens the institution's vision of cultivating globally competent legal professionals who are ethically grounded, socially responsible, and ready to navigate international legal frameworks. By integrating international collaboration into its academic structure, VMLS continues to elevate its standing as a progressive, future-focused, globally aware institution committed to holistic and advanced legal education.





### Rights in Action: World Human Rights Day 2025

**December 10, 2025 | Bar Council Auditorium, Madras High Court**

Vinayaka Mission's Law School actively participated in World Human Rights Day 2025, centred on the theme "No cause can justify the abuse of human rights." The Executive Dean was honoured for his contributions to legal education and human rights advocacy. A delegation of 32 students, accompanied by faculty, represented the institution with commitment and discipline. VMLS students excelled in the inter-lawcollege oratorical competition: Ms. Jestifa, First Place, Mr. Raja Gopal (Tamil) Second Place, and Ms. Aruvi Akira – Special Prize. Five lakh copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights were distributed to school students, promoting equality and justice awareness.

### Policy Classroom: Government Guest Lecture

**December 12, 2025 | Vinayaka Mission's Law School Campus**

Prof. Dr. M. Muthuvelu delivered a distinguished guest lecture for the Government of Tamil Nadu as part of a training programme organised by the Tamil Development Department for officers of the Tamil Nadu Forest Department. His lecture, "The Historical Background of the Tamil Nadu Official Language Act, 1957," traced the evolution of Tamil as an administrative language, its displacement during colonial rule, and its revival post-independence. He emphasised the Act's contemporary relevance in governance and administration. The session was appreciated for its scholarly depth, clarity, and command over legal Tamil, making it highly informative for the officers present.



### Festive Campus: Christmas Celebration

**December 19, 2025 | Vinayaka Mission's Law School Campus**

VMLS celebrated Christmas with warmth, joy, and togetherness, bringing students and faculty together to reflect on values of love, peace, and compassion. The celebration began with Christmas and New Year greetings and reflections on the season's significance. A special prayer session led by Mr. Winfred Chelliah M invoked blessings for unity and success. The VMLS Carols Team created a festive atmosphere through melodious carols. Faculty participated in a Secret Santa and Secret Child gift exchange. The celebration concluded with cake cutting and sweets distribution, leaving lasting memories and reinforcing the values of harmony, kindness, and community among students and staff.



### Academic Honour: Lifetime Achievement

**December 22, 2025 | Vinayaka Mission's Law School Campus**

VMLS congratulates Prof. M. Muthuvelu on receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award at the SACAS Awards for Academic Excellence 2025, organised by S.A. College of Arts & Science. The award recognises his decades of exemplary service in legal education, academic leadership, and scholarly contribution. As an educator and mentor, he has shaped generations of students and advanced legal scholarship. This honour is a testament to his unwavering commitment to academic excellence, ethical education, and nation-building through learning. VMLS takes immense pride in this recognition, which strongly aligns with the institution's mission and academic values.



### National Recognition: Emerging Law School

**December 25, 2025 | Hyatt Centric, Hebbal, Bengaluru**

VMLS was honoured with the award for "India's Most Promising Emerging Law School 2025" at the Academic Insights Education Excellence Awards and Summit 2025. The Executive Dean, Mr. Siddharth Raja, and Mrs. Merlin Stephen, Deputy Director of Admissions, received the award on behalf of the institution. This recognition reflects VMLS's academic initiatives, progressive leadership, and meaningful contributions to legal education. It acknowledges the collective efforts of faculty, students, and administration in shaping a future-oriented law school committed to excellence, innovation, and holistic development.



**Faculty Voice: Indian Express Publication**

**January 15, 2026 | The Indian Express, Online**

Prof. Nabeela Siddiqui, Assistant Professor of Law at VMLS, authored an opinion article titled "The Fate of Ganga Water Sharing Treaty," published in The Indian Express. The article examines the treaty between India and Bangladesh, analysing its future amidst evolving bilateral relations. Her work contributes meaningfully to public discourse on international law, transboundary water governance, and diplomatic cooperation. This publication reflects VMLS's emphasis on faculty research, policy engagement, and scholarly contribution to national and international legal discussions, reinforcing the institution's commitment to academic relevance beyond the classroom and encouraging critical thinking among students and peers.

**Outreach Impact: Career Guidance Session**

**January 21, 2026 | CSI Higher Secondary School**

VMLS's Career Counselling Cell conducted a session for 170 higher secondary students at CSI Higher Secondary School. Prof. Narayan Chandrasekhar provided insights into career planning, legal education pathways, and professional opportunities. The session encouraged students to consider law as a career while making informed academic decisions. Students actively engaged with discussions, asking questions and clarifying doubts, making the session interactive and impactful. This initiative reflects VMLS's dedication to mentorship, educational outreach, and guiding young minds toward meaningful and well-informed professional choices.



**Future Ready: LL.M Webinar**

**January 24, 2026 | Online**

VMLS conducted an online webinar titled "Future-Proofing Your Practice: The Value of a Specialized LL.M. in 2026." The session addressed the evolving legal profession and the value of advanced legal education. Participants explored emerging specialisations, industry expectations, and postgraduate career opportunities. The webinar highlighted how a specialised LL.M. enhances professional competence, adaptability, and long-term career growth. Participants received guidance on navigating future legal challenges with confidence, strategic insight, and practical skills. This initiative reflects VMLS's commitment to academic guidance, professional development, and equipping students to meet the dynamic demands of the modern legal landscape.

**Degrees to Careers: VMLS at International Global Education Summit 2026**

**January 28–29, 2026 | International Global Education Summit**

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS) was represented at the International Global Education Summit 2026 by Dr. Fowmina, Associate Dean, VMLS, and Industry Advisory Board Member, University of East London. Participating as a panelist on the theme "Degrees to Careers," she highlighted the growing need for outcome-driven curricula, experiential learning, and meaningful academia–industry collaboration to enhance graduate employability. Her address emphasised aligning classroom instruction with evolving professional expectations in a competitive global landscape. The engagement showcased VMLS's commitment to equipping students with practical competencies, career-oriented training, and global exposure, reinforcing the institution's vision of integrating legal education with contemporary professional demands.



**Global Pathways: Webinar on Fully Funded Higher Education in Italy**

**February 7, 2026 | Online**

VMLS organised a webinar in collaboration with its MoU partner D2R to create awareness about fully funded higher education opportunities in Italy. The session provided insights into government-supported academic programmes, eligibility considerations for law students, and structured approaches to international academic planning. The programme commenced with an inaugural address by Dr. Fowmina, Associate Dean, VMLS, and was moderated by Ms. Aarthy Jonathan Kennedy, Assistant Dean, who also delivered the vote of thanks. By offering clear and realistic guidance, the webinar encouraged students to make informed decisions about overseas education, reflecting VMLS's dedication to global engagement, transparency, and responsible academic mentoring.

## Digital Awareness in Action: Gadgets & Privacy Outreach Programme

February 6, 2026 | VMLS Campus

As part of its outreach initiatives, VMLS hosted students of Classes VIII and IX from MCC Campus School, Tambaram, for an interactive programme titled "Gadgets & Privacy – Staying Safe in the Digital World." The session focused on digital safety, privacy awareness, and responsible online behaviour in an increasingly connected environment. Students actively participated in discussions on emerging digital risks and practical strategies for secure internet usage. Mr. Siddharth Raja, Executive Dean, addressed the gathering, encouraging critical thinking on rights, responsibilities, and digital citizenship. Initiated by Dr. Fowmina with support from the Admissions Team, the programme reflected VMLS's commitment to community engagement and early legal literacy.



### Changemakers in Action - A finalist's Perspective

Saromitha K,  
First Year B.A.L.L.B.(Hons)  
Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS) Chennai

#### A Chance to Make a Difference

Being selected as a JSPF finalist gave me the opportunity to take part in the three-day Changemakers Challenge hosted by Helixx Open School, Salem – an initiative committed to nurturing children with specific learning disabilities. The challenge brought together 15 finalists, divided into three teams, each tasked with addressing a real-world issue faced by the school. Our team worked on the problem statement: "How can the school's physical infrastructure be leveraged to enhance learning outcomes?"

Over two days, we brainstormed and developed the Annual Ideathon, a platform for students to pitch ideas to enhance learning through creative architecture. Ideas could be shared as models, presentations, or storyboards with selected projects implemented on a large scale. As a prototype, we created a model blueprint for teaching multiplication tables, inspired by a 6th grader's suggestion. Additionally, two 8th graders presented a presentation on improving classroom spaces, highlighting the impact of student-driven innovation.

Learning through listening  
The program began with a series of exciting guest lectures that were open

From Insight to Innovation

### Student Achievement. Student Spotlight: JSPF Annual Recognition

December 2025 | Helixx Open School, Salem

VMLS proudly recognizes Ms. Saromitha K (II BA LL.B.) for her feature in the Annual Report Magazine of the Jitheshraj Scholarship for Promising Freshmen (JSPF). Selected as one of the Top 15 finalists, her article "Changemakers in Action: A Finalist's Perspective" highlights her experience during the three-day Changemakers' Challenge. The program focused on leadership, critical thinking, and personal growth. Her recognition showcases academic excellence, initiative, and VMLS's commitment to nurturing leadership beyond classroom learning. This achievement serves as an inspiration for peers and reflects the institution's dedication to supporting promising students.

## LEGAL MAXIM

**Meaning:** No one should be a judge in their own cause.

(A person cannot decide a case in which they have a personal interest.)

**Legislative / Treaty Reference (International Law):**

A fundamental principle of Natural Justice.

**Explanation:**

If a person has any personal interest in a matter, they must not decide it. This rule prevents bias and ensures fairness.

**Example:**

A judge who has shares in a company involved in a case must not hear that case.

**In Simple Words:**

You cannot be both judge and party in the same case.

**Why It Matters:**

- Prevents bias
- Ensures fairness
- Protects trust in justice

## "Nemo Judex in Causa Sua"

**பொருள் :** யாரும் தங்கள் சொந்த வழக்கில் நீதிபதியாக இருக்கக்கூடாது. (ஒரு நபர் தனக்கு தனிப்பட்ட நலன் உள்ள ஒரு வழக்கைத் தீர்மானிக்க முடியாது.)

**சர்வதேச சட்ட குறிப்புகள் :** இயற்கை நீதியின் அடிப்படைக் கொள்கை.

**விளக்கம் :** ஒரு நபருக்கு ஒரு விஷயத்தில் தனிப்பட்ட ஆர்வம் இருந்தால், அவர்கள் அதை முடிவு செய்யக்கூடாது. இந்த விதி சார்புகளைத் தடுக்கிறது மற்றும் நியாயத்தை உறுதி செய்கிறது.

**உதாரணம் :** ஒரு வழக்கில் ஈடுபட்டுள்ள ஒரு நிறுவனத்தில் பங்குகளைக் கொண்ட ஒரு நீதிபதி அந்த வழக்கை விசாரிக்கக்கூடாது.

**எளிய சொற்களில் :** நீங்கள் ஒரே வழக்கில் நீதிபதியாகவும் கட்சியாகவும் இருக்க முடியாது.

**ஏன் இது முக்கியம்?**

- சார்புகளைத் தடுக்கிறது
- நியாயத்தை உறுதி செய்கிறது
- நீதியின் மீதான நம்பிக்கையைப் பாதுகாக்கிறது

“

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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