

CLEA-MILAT RESEARCH MENTORING PROGRAMME (RMP)®

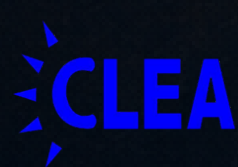


- ✿ Preparatory Training
- ✿ Initiation of Research
- ✿ Article / Project Writing



Kerala Law Academy

In Association with



Commonwealth Legal
Education Association (CLEA)

Menon Institute of
Legal Advocacy & Training



July 25-28, 2026
(28th Optional Visits)



At Kerala Law Academy,
CALSAR, Punnen Road

CLEA-MILAT Research Mentoring Programme (RMP)®



Commonwealth Legal Education Association

Email Address: info@clea.ac.in | Website: www.clea.ac

Professor (Dr.) S. Sivakumar

President & Trustee, CLEA

Senior Professor, Indian Law Institute

Member, National Legal Services Authority

Member, 21st Law Commission of India

Dear Participants,

The Kerala Law Academy, in association with the Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) and the Menon Institute of Advocacy Training (MILAT), is pleased to present the CLEA-MILAT Research Mentoring Programme (RMP) 2.1, 2026. Conceived as a structured, mentorship-driven initiative, the programme seeks to strengthen legal research by equipping young teachers, researchers, and scholars with the knowledge, skills, and guidance necessary to contribute to research excellence and innovation in legal education.

Legal education today stands at a transformative juncture. The implementation of the National Education Policy, 2020, the Vision 2047 initiatives, and the growing emphasis on interdisciplinary scholarship have created new opportunities for research and academic excellence. At the same time, challenges remain in the form of limited training in contemporary research methodologies, inadequate mentoring, insufficient exposure to doctrinal and empirical research tools, and the need to translate quality research into impactful publications. RMP 2.1 is designed to bridge these gaps by fostering rigorous research practices, sustained mentorship, and a vibrant culture of scholarly inquiry aligned with India's vision of building research-intensive legal institutions.

The second edition of RMP was organised at the Indian Law Institute, New Delhi, in May 2026. The programme was inaugurated by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India and Chief Patron, CLEA, as the Chief Guest, with Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. V. Viswanathan, Judge, Supreme Court of India, and Patron, CLEA, as the Guest of Honour, while the Valedictory Session was graced by Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. S. Narasimha, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Patron, CLEA as the Chief Guest. The enthusiastic response and academic outcomes of the previous editions reaffirmed the importance of sustained mentorship in nurturing quality legal scholarship.

RMP 2.1 moves beyond conventional workshop-based training by creating an immersive ecosystem of learning and mentorship. It aims to develop advanced competencies in research design, doctrinal, analytical and empirical methodologies, literature review, academic writing, and publication ethics, while enabling participants to produce publication-ready research outputs. Equally, it seeks to strengthen institutional research culture through faculty networks, peer learning, and meaningful engagement with the judiciary, legal practitioners, policy makers, and leading academicians.

The programme will be conducted over six weeks in four phases: an Online Pre-Preparatory Phase (17–23 July 2026), followed by a Four-Day Residential Training Programme at the Indian Law Institute, New Delhi (25–27 July 2026), a Personalised Mentoring Phase, and finally a Manuscript Submission and Feedback Phase, culminating in publication-ready research work under the guidance of distinguished mentors.

The Inaugural Session of RMP 2.1 will be graced by Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Supreme Court of India, as the Chief Guest, with Hon'ble Mr. Justice C. S. Dias, Judge, High Court of Kerala, as the Guest of Honour. The Valedictory Session will be graced by Hon'ble Mr. Justice AHMD Nawaz, Judge, Supreme Court of Kerala, as the Chief Guest. I extend a warm welcome to all our distinguished resource persons, whose scholarship, experience, and mentorship will enrich the programme and inspire participants in their pursuit of excellence in legal research.

Warm Regards,

Sr. Prof. (Dr.) S. Sivakumar

President, CLEA



Kerala Law Academy

Inauguration

of



**CLEA-MILAT Research
Mentoring Programme (RMP)[®]**



CHIEF GUEST

Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh

Judge, Supreme Court of India

Saturday - 25th July at 11.30 a.m. at Kerala Law Academy, CALSAR, Thiruvananthapuram



Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh graduated in Political Science from the University of Delhi and obtained his LL.B. from the Campus Law Centre, University of Delhi. Enrolled as an Advocate in 1986, he began his legal practice before the Supreme Court of India before shifting to the Gauhati High Court, where he built an eminent career appearing in constitutional, civil, administrative, and public law matters. He served as the Advocate General of Manipur and was designated as a Senior Advocate by the Gauhati High Court in 2008. Elevated as a Judge of the Gauhati High Court in 2011, he later became a Judge of the High Court of Manipur upon its establishment and twice discharged the duties of the Chief Justice. Following his transfer to the Gauhati High Court, he served as Acting Chief Justice on multiple occasions before being appointed as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh in 2023. In recognition of his distinguished judicial service and contributions to the administration of justice, Justice N. Kotiswar Singh was elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 18 July 2024, where he continues to serve with distinction.



Kerala Law Academy

Inauguration



**CLEA-MILAT Research
Mentoring Programme (RMP)[®]**

GUEST OF HONOUR

Hon'ble Mr. Justice C. S. DIAS

Judge, High Court of Kerala

Saturday - 25th July at 11.30 a.m. at Kerala Law Academy, CALSAR, Thiruvananthapuram



Hon'ble Mr. Justice C. S. Dias is a distinguished Judge of the High Court of Kerala with extensive experience in constitutional, civil, family, and public law. Enrolled as an Advocate in 1992 after obtaining his law degree from the Government Law College, Thiruvananthapuram, he built a distinguished legal career spanning nearly three decades, serving as Standing Counsel for the High Court of Kerala, the Union Government, the Ministry of Railways, and several public sector undertakings. He also served as a member of the National Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Women and Child Development and appeared as amicus curiae in several important cases. Elevated as an Additional Judge of the High Court of Kerala in November 2019 and appointed as a Permanent Judge in May 2021, Justice Dias continues to make significant contributions to the development of constitutional and public law jurisprudence through his judicial service.



Kerala Law Academy

Valedictory Ceremony

of



CLEA-MILAT Research Mentoring Programme (RMP)[®]

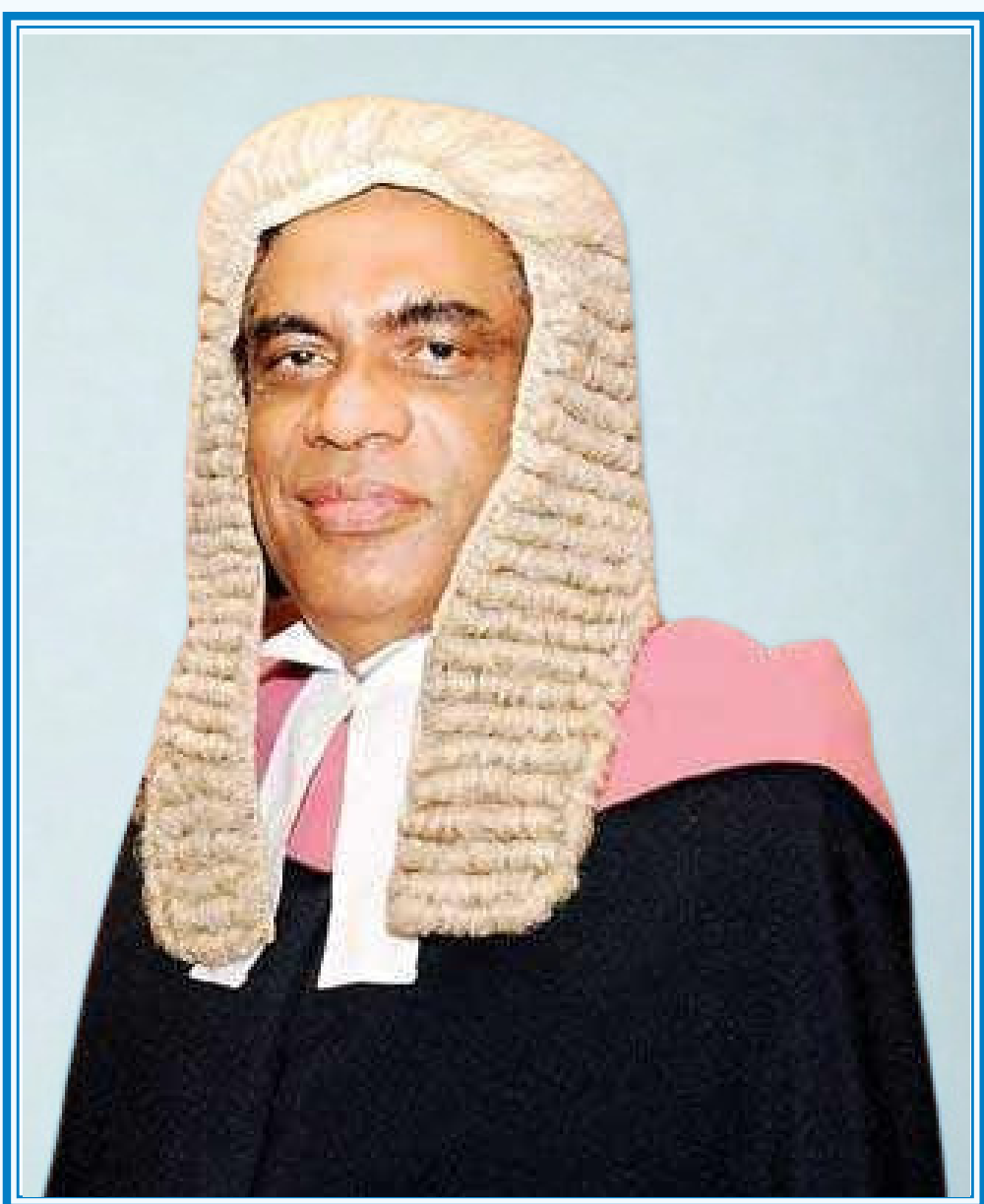


CHIEF GUEST

Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.H.M.D. Nawaz

Judge, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka

Monday - 27th July at 5.00 p.m. at Kerala Law Academy, CALSAR, Thiruvananthapuram



Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.H.M.D. Nawaz enrolled as an Attorney-at-Law and built a distinguished legal career in Sri Lanka, serving in several important judicial and prosecutorial capacities. During his years of service, he gained extensive experience in the administration of justice and developed expertise in civil, criminal, and constitutional law. He served with distinction in the higher judiciary and was recognized for his commitment to upholding the rule of law and judicial independence. Justice Nawaz was appointed as a Judge of the Court of Appeal of Sri Lanka and later served as the Acting President and subsequently the President of the Court of Appeal in 2020. In recognition of his vast judicial experience and contributions to the legal system, he was elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka on 1 December 2020. Since then, he has been involved in several significant constitutional and public law matters and continues to serve with distinction as a Judge of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka.

CLEA-MILAT Research Mentoring Programme (RMP)® 2026

Schedule July 25-27, 2026

Day 1: Saturday, July 25, 2026		Day 2: Sunday, July 26, 2026		Day 3: Monday, July 27, 2026	
Time	Programme	Time	Programme	Time	Programme
8:30-9:30 AM	Registration	9:00-10:00AM	Formulation of Research Proposal and Funding Prof. (Dr.) S. Sivakumar/ RMP Team	9:00-10:00AM	Use of Materials, Articles, Books and Judgments Prof. (Dr.) S. Sivakumar/ Dr. Ruchi Sharma D/ RMP Team
9:30-11:00 AM	Introduction to RMP Prof. (Dr.) S. Sivakumar/Dr. Ruchi Sharma D	10:00-11:00AM	Data & Text Mining Tools and AI Dr. Gulshan Rai	10:00-11:00AM	Empirical Tools in Research Prof. (Dr.) Priyesh CA
11:00-11:30AM	Tea Break	11:00-11:30AM	Tea Break	11:00-11:30AM	Tea Break
11:30AM-1:00PM	Inaugural Session	11:30AM-12:30PM	Policy Legal Research and Law Reform Prof. (Dr.) N. K. Jayakumar	11:30AM-12:30PM	Usage of International Tools and Instruments/ Indian Knowledge System Prof. (Dr.) K.C. Sunny
1:00-2:00PM	Lunch Break	12:30-1:30 PM	Legal Research: A Multidisciplinary Approach Prof. (Dr.) A. Lakshminath	12:30-1:30PM	Green Research and Sustainability Prof. (Dr.) Richa Chaudhary
2:00-3:00PM	Review of Literature: Backbone of Legal Research Prof. (Dr.) B. C. Nirmal/ RMP Team	1:30-2:30PM	Lunch Break	1:30-2:30PM	Lunch Break
3:00-4:00PM	Technology in Research Prof. (Dr.) S. Sivakumar/ Ms. Nabila Zehra	2:30-3:30PM	Research and Academic Integrity Ethics Prof. (Dr.) Gigimon V.S./ Dr. Kavita Chalakkal	2:30-3:30	Global Comparative Laws Prof. (Dr.) K.C. Sunny
4:00-4:30 PM	Tea Break	3:30-4:30PM	Academic Research and Publication Process Ms. Vidhya Gowrishankar	3:30-4:30PM	How to write Dissertation, Article, Report and Uniformity of Footnotes Prof. (Dr.) S. Sivakumar/RMP Team
4:30-5:45PM	Contemporary Trends and Testing of Hypothesis Prof. (Dr.) K.C. Sunny	4:30-5:00PM	Tea Break	5:00 PM	Valedictory Session
5:45-7:00PM	Academic Legal Writing Prof. (Dr.) P. Puneeth	5:00PM-6:00PM	Logical Reasoning and Research Dr. Giri Sankar S.S.	6:30-7:00PM	High Tea
7:00 PM	Dinner	6:00-7:00PM	Mentor-Mentee Relationship		
		7:00 PM	Dinner		

RESOURCE PERSONS



Prof. (Dr.) A. Lakshminath
Former Vice-Chancellor, Chanakya National Law University, Patna

Prof. (Dr.) A. Lakshminath is a rare combination of an erudite scholar, an astute administrator, a relentless researcher and a revered teacher in the legal fraternity. For the past 52 years, he served with single-minded devotion in the academia in law in multiple capacities across the country as Founder Chancellor, D.S. National Law University, Visakhapatnam (A.P.); and, Founder Pro-Chancellor Emeritus as well as Founder Vice-Chancellor, Chanakya National Law University. Prof. A. Lakshminath has contributed immensely to the clinical legal education by spreading legal awareness and organizing legal aid camps, amongst the masses, especially the underprivileged and marginalized sections of society throughout the country.

Prof. (Dr.) B.C. Nirmal

Former Vice-Chancellor, NUSRL, Ranchi

Prof. B.C. Nirmal is the former Vice-Chancellor, NUSRL, Ranchi. Prof B C Nirmal is a widely acclaimed legal scholar of International Law and Human Rights. He has to his credit Eight books, sixty-seven articles including nine in foreign journals, twenty-seven chapters in edited books and fifteen book reviews. He had been associated with the Indian Society of International Law since 2000 first as a member governing body and then as a Vice President of Society. He is also Vice President of All India Law Teachers Congress and Common Wealth Legal Education (Asia, India) and was also a member of the governing body of Indian Law Institute. His “Right to Self Determination International Law” is a widely acclaimed book across the globe and has been cited by many foreign as well as Indian scholars.





Prof. (Dr.) Gigimon V S

Professor and Director, Amity Law School, Amity University, Mumbai/ Executive Member, CLEA-India Chapter

Prof. (Dr.) Gigimon V. S. currently serves as the Professor and Director of Amity Law School (ALS), Mumbai. He holds a Ph.D. in Law from Chanakya National Law University (CNLU), Patna. With nearly two decades of teaching, research, and academic leadership experience, he has served in several premier legal institutions across India. He previously served as Chair Professor (DPIIT IPR Chair) and Director, Centre for Research in Intellectual Property at Maharashtra National Law University (MNLU), Mumbai, Associate Professor and Head of the Department (Law) at Mar Gregorios College of Law, Thiruvananthapuram, His core areas of expertise include Legal Research Methodology, Intellectual Property Rights, and Consumer Law. He also serves as the Executive Member of the Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA-Asia) India Chapter.

Dr. Giri Sankar S. S

**Principal, St. Dominic's College of Law, Kanjirappally/
Vice President of the Executive Committee for the CLEA-Asia region**

Dr. Giri Sankar S. S. serves as the Principal of St. Dominic's College of Law, Kanjirappally. He is widely recognized for his long and distinguished tenure as an Associate Professor and Research Supervisor at the Government Law College, Ernakulam, where he taught and mentored legal research for nearly 14 years. A senior member of the legal fraternity, Dr. Giri Sankar served the Boards of Studies in Law of all the State Universities in Kerala. Known for his deep dedication to building legal acumen and promoting equity in legal education, his core competencies span mainstream legal instruction, academic administration, and institutional leadership. He also serves as the Vice President of the Executive Committee for the CLEA-Asia



Dr. Gulshan Rai

**Former Director General of Indian Computer
Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)**



Dr. Gulshan Rai is the former Director General of Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) and India's first National Cyber Security Coordinator in the Prime Minister's Office. A distinguished expert in cyber security, cyber law, and e-governance, he has over three decades of experience in shaping India's digital security framework and legal architecture for cyberspace. He played a key role in the formulation of the Information Technology Act, 2000, and subsequent cyber law reforms. He has also served as Group Coordinator of E-Security and Cyber Law Division in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and led the establishment of India's National Watch and Alert System for cyber security. Dr. Rai has represented India in major international cyber governance forums and continues to contribute to policy, research, and institutional development in the field of cyber law and digital governance.

Prof. (Dr.) K.C. Sunny

**Director, International Affairs, The Kerala Law Academy
Law College, Former Vice-Chancellor, NUALS, Kochi**

Prof. (Dr.) K. C. Sunny is a distinguished legal academic and administrator currently serving as the Director of International Affairs at the Kerala Law Academy Law College. He is the former Vice-Chancellor of the National University of Advanced Legal Studies (NUALS), Kochi, and has nearly four decades of experience in legal education and academic leadership. He previously served as Professor and Head of the Department of Law at the Central University of Kerala, besides holding several academic and administrative positions at the University of Kerala. His areas of specialization include Constitutional Law, Administrative Law, Election Law, and Human Rights. A prolific scholar, Prof. Sunny has authored several books, published over seventy research papers, and has served as an international election observer in Nepal and Bangladesh.





Prof.(Dr. Kavita Chalakal

Assistant Professor, IPR Centre, CUSAT, Kochi

Prof. (Dr.) Kavitha Chalakal is an accomplished legal academic currently serving as an Assistant Professor at the Inter University Centre for IPR Studies (IUCIPRS) at the Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT), Kochi. With extensive experience spanning mainstream academia and the non-governmental sector, including a prior tenure as Assistant Director of Research at Lloyd Law College, her core expertise focuses heavily on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), Environmental Law, Public International Law, and Trade Law. Dr. Chalakal is also a Fox International Foundation Fellow (Yale University, USA) and a member of the World Commission on Environmental Law and the World Commission on Protected Areas of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Prof. Dr. N. K. Jayakumar,

Former, Vice-Chancellor, NUALS Kochi

Prof. Dr. N. K. Jayakumar is a distinguished legal scholar and academician with the qualifications of M.A., M.Phil., LL.M., and Ph.D. He has held several prominent positions in academia, public administration, and legal reform. He served as Professor, Head, and Dean of the Faculty of Law at University of Kerala and later as Secretary of the Kerala Legislative Assembly. He also served as Vice-Chancellor of National University of Advanced Legal Studies, Kochi, and was a National Fellow of the Indian Council of Social Science Research. From 2016 to 2021, he functioned as Advisor (Law) to the Chief Minister of Kerala. He subsequently served as Chairman of the Kerala State University Law Reform Commission from 2021 to 2022 and chaired the expert committee constituted for the publication of the Constituent Assembly Debates in Malayalam by the Kerala Legislative Assembly. His career reflects significant contributions to legal education, legislative administration, public policy, and law reform in Kerala.





Ms. Nabila Zehra

Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, SGT University, Gurugram/ Student Convener, CLEA/ Research Scholar, ILI

Ms. Nabila Zehra is Assistant Professor at Faculty of Law, SGT University and General Student Convener for the Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) Student Chapter and a Doctoral Research Scholar at Indian Law Institute (ILI), New Delhi. An alumnus of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), she is UGC-NET qualified and actively contributes to legal academic literature as an Associate Editor for the Indian Law Institute Law Review (ILILR). In her dual capacity as a researcher and chief conference coordinator for CLEA, Ms. Zehra coordinates prominent global legal training initiatives, student conclaves, and high-level roundtables on emerging legal domains, such as artificial intelligence and technology law.

Prof. (Dr.) P. Puneeth

Professor, Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, JNU, New Delhi

Dr. P. Puneeth is a Professor of Law at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Prior to joining JNU he was Assistant Professor at Indian Law Institute and RML College of Law at Bangalore. He has contributed several research articles and book chapters on Constitution and Administrative Law, Judicial Process, Law and Justice in a Globalizing World; and Criminal Law. He is a regular contributor at Annual Survey of Indian Law since 2008 on Administrative Law & Civil Procedure Code. He has supervised several dissertations and thesis in his more than 16 years of experience in teaching and has worked extensively on curriculum development.





Prof. (Dr.) Priyesh CA Professor and Head

PG & Research Dept of Economics

Government college, Attingal & CUSAT Syndicate member (UGC nominee)

Prof. (Dr.) Priyesh C. A. is a distinguished academician and economist currently serving as the Professor and Head of the PG and Research Department of Economics at Government College, Attingal. He is also a University Grants Commission (UGC) Nominee and Syndicate Member of the Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT). He holds an M.A. in Economics, is UGC-NET qualified, and has earned an MBA from Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), an LL.B., a Ph.D., and a Postgraduate Diploma in Financial Management. An accomplished teacher and researcher, he has guided several doctoral scholars and has made significant contributions to higher education through his work in teaching, research, academic administration, and university governance. His areas of academic interest include Public Finance, Economic History, and Decentralised Planning.

Prof. (Dr.) Richa Chaudhary

Dean and Professor, Faculty of Law, SGT University

Dr. Richa Chaudhary is Professor and Dean, Faculty of Law at SGT University. An accomplished academician and administrator, she holds B.A. LL.B., LL.M., Ph.D., MBA (HR), and a Postgraduate qualification in Human Rights. She has previously served as Dean In-charge at Vivekananda Global University and has held important academic and administrative positions in reputed law institutions across India. With extensive experience in teaching, administration, strategic planning, admissions, and institutional development, she is committed to academic excellence and student mentorship. She has also published numerous research papers in Scopus-indexed and UGC Care-listed journals.





Dr. Ruchi Sharma D.

Joint-General Secretary of the Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) and Director of the Commonwealth Institute for Justice Education and Research (CIJER)

Dr. Ruchi Sharma is the Joint-General Secretary of CLEA and Director of the Commonwealth Institute for Justice Education and Research. She is an accomplished academic and researcher with significant contributions in the fields of legal education, judicial studies, and interdisciplinary legal research. Her work focuses on promoting research excellence, academic collaboration, and innovation in legal pedagogy. She has actively contributed to national and international academic initiatives through conferences, mentoring programmes, curriculum development, and institutional collaborations. Through her leadership in CLEA and CIJER, she continues to strengthen global legal scholarship and research-oriented legal education.

Prof. (Dr.) S. Sivakumar

Senior Professor, Indian Law Institute; President of CLEA; Lead Mentor & Director, Research Mentoring Programme (RMP)

Prof. (Dr.) S. Sivakumar is Senior Professor, Indian Law Institute, New Delhi. He was a member of 21st Law Commission of India (2016-2018). Currently he is the member of the National Legal Services Authority and the President of Commonwealth Legal education Association (CLEA). An eminent academician with extensive experience in legal education, he specializes in Administrative Law and Media Law and his areas of interest include Constitutional Law, Human Rights, IPR, ADR and Clinical Legal Education. He is the recipient of National Law Day Award 2008 for his contribution in legal education reforms and activities. He has officiated as Director of Indian Law Institute (2009, 2011-2013). He has been conferred with LL.D. Doctor Honoris Causa in Law and Mass Communications in 2016. He has published several books and research papers and is member of statutory bodies of many universities.





Ms. Vidya Gowrishankar

Director of Southshore Innovations Private Limited

Ms. Vidhya Gowrishankar is the Director of Southshore Innovations Private Limited, where she is actively engaged in content development, legal knowledge organization, and academic resource support. Her work focuses on simplifying legal research and enhancing access to academic and professional learning resources through innovative knowledge management solutions. She has been associated with initiatives such as Books Central, aimed at creating an integrated platform for academic and professional resources, and has contributed to efforts to make complex legal judgments more accessible and understandable for students, researchers, and legal professionals.

RMP TEAM

Commonwealth Legal Education Association



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Ms. Sheenam Thakur



Mr. Avadhesh Deo Pandey



Mr. Sharyaurai Rieng

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Dr. Malavika J.



Ms. Salini AP



Mr. Varun Dev

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Sonjiiv Gulati
Management Consultant (Legal);
Accredited International Member (since 2019),
American Bar Association



Kerala Law Academy (KLA)

The Kerala Law Academy Law College is a seat of excellence in legal education, consultancy, research, and in pioneering law reforms. The prestigious institute is in Trivandrum, the capital city of Kerala, India, on a hill of sylvan splendours with a view of the Arabian Sea on one side and the Western Ghats on the other. The liberal ambience of the research wing “The Centre for Advanced Legal Studies and Research” (CALSAR), is conducive to igniting nascent thoughts and ideals. This finds vivid expression in “Academy Law Review” which has won international acclaim ever since its appearance in print in 1977. The moot teams of the Academy are the flag bearers in renowned international fora. The Academy’s social commitment is embedded in its socio-legal clinics and consultancy service. The college is affiliated with the University of Kerala.



Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA)

Founded in 1971, CLEA is a Commonwealth-wide body which fosters and promotes high standards of legal education in the Commonwealth. CLEA has regional Chapters and Committees in South Asia, Southern Africa, West Africa, the Caribbean and Europe. The goal of CLEA is to make legal education socially relevant and professionally useful by developing law curricula and teaching methodologies; supporting continuing legal education and distance learning programmes etc. The Commonwealth Institute for Justice Education and Research (CIJER) has been set up under the auspices of Commonwealth Legal Education Association, to serve as a dedicated research wing. Prof. (Dr.) S. Sivakumar is the President of CLEA.



Menon Institute of Legal Advocacy & Training (MILAT)

MILAT was set up by Prof Menon’s students and well-wishers as an educational non-profit society for legal education, training, research and extension activities for legal personnel with an objective of skill development, professional training, building legal awareness and legal reform. Prof N. R. Madhava Menon was the first Chairman of MILAT. Prof. (Dr.) S.Sivakumar is the current Chairman. MILAT, in association with Bar Council of India, State Bar Councils and various law schools across the country, conducts professional development training programmes on legal education and legal advocacy for law teachers and advocates. These training programmes have created a cadre of well-trained lawyers, legal professionals, law teachers and researchers in India.