



CLEA



Kerala Law Academy



MILAT

Announces

CLEA-MILAT RESEARCH MENTORING PROGRAMME (RMP)®



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



Kerala Law Academy



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)®

INTRODUCTION

Indian legal education stands at a transformative juncture. The National Education Policy 2020, Vision 2047 initiatives, and the growing emphasis on interdisciplinary scholarship have created new opportunities for research excellence and innovation in legal academia. Yet significant gaps persist, including insufficient foundational training in contemporary research methodologies, limited exposure to doctrinal and empirical research tools, inconsistent guidance in translating research into high-impact publications, weak mentorship networks connecting senior scholars with emerging researchers, and inadequate integration of theory and professional practice. The RMP 2.1 is conceived as a structured, mentor-led research development initiative that seeks to bridge these gaps in a systematic manner, aligning with India's aspirations for world-class legal scholarship and research-intensive institutions.

The first edition of Research Mentoring Programme was organized in 2022 in association with CLEA and MILAT. RMP 2.0 was successfully organised at Indian Law Institute in association with CLEA and MILAT in May 2026. The 2.1 edition of Research Mentoring Programme, 2026 reimagines legal research training as an immersive, mentorship-driven ecosystem designed to develop not only individual competencies but also a sustainable culture of scholarly excellence across Indian Law Schools. It aims to move beyond conventional workshop-based formats and instead cultivate long-term intellectual engagement, rigorous research habits, and institutional capacity-building. The programme seeks to develop advanced research competencies by equipping participants with sophisticated skills in research design, methodology selection (doctrinal, analytical, empirical), critical literature analysis, and rigorous academic writing. It endeavors to produce publication-ready research outputs by enabling participants to complete high-quality research articles, policy papers, and case studies that are ready for submission to peer-reviewed journals and other academic platforms. Further, it aims to promote a research-oriented academic culture by building sustainable ecosystems within institutions through trained faculty networks, mentoring chains, and peer-learning communities that continue to operate beyond the duration of the programme.

In addition, the programme is designed to integrate academia and professional practice by creating meaningful collaboration platforms between academics, members of the judiciary, practitioners, and policy makers, thereby ensuring that research remains contextually grounded and capable of informing legal reform and practice. Finally, it strives to provide continuous personalised mentoring by establishing one-to-one guidance relationships with established legal scholars, researchers, and practitioners that extend throughout the programme and, where possible, into participants' subsequent academic and professional journeys.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the Research Mentoring Programme (RMP) 2026, participants will gain advanced research competencies and develop the confidence required to engage in high-quality legal scholarship.

Participants will be able to:

- Conceptualise and structure rigorous legal research projects, clearly identifying research problems, questions, and hypotheses.
- Design and develop high-quality research manuscripts and doctoral thesis chapters, applying systematic research planning, argumentation, and scholarly writing techniques.
- Apply advanced research methodologies, including doctrinal, analytical, empirical, socio-legal, and interdisciplinary approaches to legal research.
- Engage critically with existing literature, identify research gaps, and develop original scholarly contributions.
- Produce a publication-ready research article, policy paper, or project report, refined through continuous feedback from mentors and peer discussions.
- Strengthen academic writing and thesis development skills, including structuring research papers, thesis chapters, literature reviews, and methodological frameworks.
- Enhance publication and scholarly communication skills, including understanding peer-review processes, journal selection strategies, and research visibility.
- Develop deeper engagement with emerging research themes, including Indian Knowledge Systems, and contemporary interdisciplinary legal scholarship.
- Strengthen their professional academic profile, opening pathways to opportunities in academia, the judiciary, policy-making, and advanced legal practice.
- Promote a sustainable research culture within their institutions by mentoring students and junior colleagues, initiating collaborative research projects, and contributing to research centres, clinics, and thematic study groups.
- Build long-term scholarly networks with mentors, researchers, and institutions through the CLEA–MILAT academic ecosystem.

Through its emphasis on ethical, interdisciplinary, and impact-oriented research, the Research Mentoring Programme aims to contribute meaningfully to India's evolving legal knowledge ecosystem and the country's broader vision of becoming a global hub for high-quality legal scholarship.

WHO SHOULD APPLY

RMP 2.1 is designed for:

- Faculty Members of Law Universities and Colleges
- Doctoral Researchers pursuing Ph.D
- Early-Career Legal Professionals (advocates, policy analysts, researchers) seeking to develop scholarly excellence

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE: A PHASED, IMMERSIVE APPROACH

The RMP 2.1 follows a carefully designed 6-week trajectory combining preparation, intensive residential training, personalized mentoring, and publication-ready output development.

Programme Timeline and Components:

Phase 1: Pre-Preparatory Phase (1 Week)

Curated Self - Study and Research Orientation

- Customised reading materials and research primers
- Introduction to key databases and research tools
- Digital onboarding for participants

Phase 2: Preparatory Phase (20 Sessions over 3-4 Days) 3-4 Day Residential Training Module

A. Foundational Research Methodology (DAY 1)

- Nature, scope, and philosophy of legal research
- Epistemological frameworks in legal inquiry
- Framing research questions, problems, and hypotheses
- Understanding different research paradigms (positivist, interpretivist, critical)

B. Advanced Research Methods and Tools

Doctrinal Methods:

- Case law analysis and interpretation
- Statutory interpretation techniques
- Jurisprudential analysis

Empirical and Socio-Legal Methods:

- Survey design and data collection
- Interview methodology and qualitative analysis
- Quantitative legal research approaches
- Mixed-method research design

Digital Research Competencies:

- Navigating specialized legal databases (SCC Online, Manupatra, HeinOnline, JSTOR)
- Advanced search techniques and legal databases optimization
- Research metrics and visibility tools (Google Scholar, ResearchGate, SSRN)
- Anti-plagiarism protocols and ethical research standards
- Citation management tools (Zotero, Mendeley, EndNote)

Interdisciplinary Approaches

- Indian Knowledge Systems and Indigenous Legal Traditions
- Law and Economics methods
- Law and Literature analysis
- Technological law and digital governance research
- Socio-legal research approaches, including socio-cultural analysis and contextual jurisprudence

C. Literature Review and Theoretical Frameworks

- Systematic approaches to literature mapping
- Critical analysis and synthesis of scholarly discourse
- Building theoretical frameworks for legal research
- Identifying research gaps and articulating contributions

D. Academic Writing and Publication Excellence

- Structuring research articles for different publication contexts
- Crafting compelling abstracts, introductions, and conclusions
- Argumentative rigor and persuasive legal writing
- Peer review processes and feedback integration
- Identifying and targeting appropriate publication venues
- Open access publishing and research dissemination strategies
- Teaching–research integration, scholarly impact, and strategies for building academic visibility and research networks
- Research and Publication Ethics

E. Personalized Mentoring Sessions

- Individual consultations with assigned senior mentors
- Critique and refinement of participant research proposals
- Methodological guidance tailored to individual projects
- Publication strategy discussions
- Building long-term mentoring relationships

Phase 3: Personalized Individual Mentoring (2 Weeks)

Guided Research Development

- Virtual mentoring sessions with assigned mentors
- Progress tracking and feedback loops
- Methodology refinement and data analysis support
- Writing and revision guidance
- Preparation of manuscript drafts

Phase 4: Manuscript Submission and Feedback (2 Weeks)

Publication-Ready Output Development

- Submission of research articles/project reports (of publishable quality)
- Comprehensive editorial feedback from mentoring team
- Final revisions and polishing
- Guidance on journal selection and submission processes

MENTORING FRAMEWORK AND FACULTY

RMP 2.1 is conceptualized and led by:

Prof. (Dr.) S. Sivakumar, Senior Professor, Indian Law Institute, President of CLEA, and former Member of the Law Commission of India conceptualized the programme. A visionary leader in legal education and research policy, Prof. (Dr.) Sivakumar brings institutional wisdom, deep engagement with India's legal educational landscape, and commitment to research excellence. His tenure at the Law Commission of India and his stewardship of CLEA position him uniquely to guide the programme's development, ensuring that its design reflects both the current needs of Indian legal academia and international best practices in legal scholarship and mentoring. The other distinguished mentoring faculty may include:

- Judges and members of the judiciary with scholarly interests
- Senior scholars and former judges from leading law universities
- CLEA and MILAT network of established researchers
- Legal practitioners and policy experts
- Faculty from premier national and international institutions

Mentoring Framework:

Each participant is assigned a Senior mentor who provides:

- Continuous guidance throughout all phases
- Structured evaluation of research progress
- Interactive feedback sessions and manuscript reviews
- Peer learning opportunities with cohort members

PANEL OF MENTORS INCLUDES

Prof. (Dr.) A. Lakshminath

Former Vice Chancellor, Chanakya National Law University, Patna

Prof. (Dr.) B. C. Nirmal

Former Vice Chancellor, NUSRL, Ranchi

Prof. (Dr.) Manoj Kumar Sinha

Vice Chancellor, Dharmashastra National Law University, Jabalpur

Dr. N. K. Jayakumar

Former Vice Chancellor, National University of Advanced Legal Studies, Kochi

Prof. (Dr.) K.C. Sunny

Former Vice Chancellor, National University of Advanced Legal Studies, Kochi

Prof. (Dr.) P. Puneeth

Professor, JNU, New Delhi

Dr. Giri Sankar S. S.

Principal, St. Dominic's College of Law, Kanjirappally

Prof. Dr. Gigimon V. S.

Director, Amity Law School, Mumbai

Prof. (Dr.) S. Sivakumar

Lead Mentor & Director, Research Mentoring Program

(RMP)®



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.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Chairpersons

Adv. Nagaraj Narayanan
Director,
Kerala Law Academy Law College

Prof. Anilkumar K.
Director, Administration,
Students and Faculty Affairs,
Kerala Law Academy Law College

Secretaries

Dr. Ruchi Sharma D.
Joint General Secretary,
CLEA Director CIJER

Dr. Malavika J.
Member, CLEA-ASIA
Assistant Professor,
Kerala Law Academy Law College

Chief Coordinators

Ms. Nabila Zehra
Doctoral Scholar,
Indian Law Institute

Dr. Dakshina Saraswathy
Associate Professor,
Kerala Law Academy
Law College

Ms. Salini AP
Assistant Professor,
Kerala Law Academy
Law College

Faculty Committee

Assistant Professors, Kerala Law Academy Law College

Mr. Giridhar V

Ms. Aparna G

Mrs. Kavya Mohan

Mrs. Gayathri S. B.

Ms. Juney Reena Chacko

RMP Research Persons

Doctoral Scholar, Indian Law Institute

Ms. Afreen Afshar Alam

Mr. Avadhesh Deo Pandey

Mr. Sharyaurai Riang

Ms. Sheenam Thakur

CONTACT PERSONS :

RMP ® 2026

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Organizing Secretary
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Mr. Varun Dev
Coordinator
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IMPORTANT DATES

Date of Announcement	3 Jun 2026
Last Date to Apply	25 Jun 2026
Publication of Selected List of Candidates	30 Jun 2026
Last Date of Payment of Fees	6 Jul 2026

Registration Fee: 3000 INR

The RMP will start on July 11, 2026

Phase I:

Commencement of the Online/Pre-Preparatory Phase

Phase II:

Reporting for Offline Session, physically on
25th July, 2026 at 8.30am

For Registration :



https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfY2ysFB05w-g2r7shI1x_0VJ2yRN67xmmmGzeCUPyvaCejYA/viewform?usp=header

ADDRESS FOR COMMUNICATION

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