



**V. M. SALGAOCAR
COLLEGE OF LAW**
ESTABLISHED IN 1972



Report

V. M. Salgaocar College of Law Celebrates Valedictory Function of Golden Jubilee with Chief Justice of India as Chief Guest

The V. M. Salgaocar College of Law (VMSCL), a premier institution under the aegis of the Devi Sharvani Education Society, marked a monumental milestone on Saturday, 23rd August 2025, as it celebrated the **Valedictory Function of its Golden Jubilee** with grandeur, reflection, and inspiration at a glittering ceremony held at its Conference Hall in Miramar, Panjim

The event was graced by the **Hon'ble Shri Justice Bhushan R. Gavai, Chief Justice of India**, who honored the occasion as the **Chief Guest**, lending immense prestige and distinction to the Celebration. In his keynote address, the Chief Justice commended the college for its five-decade-long contribution to legal education and nation-building.

Welcome Address by Shri Dattaraj Salgaocar President of the Devi Sharvani Education Society

Shri Dattaraj Salgaocar expressed his immense pleasure and pride at celebrating **50 years of dedicated service to legal education in Goa**. He conveyed his gratitude to **Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, Justice B.R. Gavai**, for consenting to be the Chief Guest and inspiring law students through his presence. Shri Salgaocar emphasized the focus of the management on **inculcating ethics, responsibility, and commitment to serve the cause of justice**.

Presentation by Dr. Kim Couto

Dr. Kim Couto traced the glorious journey of the institution, highlighting the milestones achieved over the past five decades. These included:

- Establishment of **27 permanent free legal aid cells**;
- Extensive **community engagement initiatives**;
- Launch of an **incubation centre for young lawyers**;
- Prestigious **awards and recognitions** received by the college;

A strong commitment to **green initiatives among others**

Introduction of the Chief Guest

Senior Advocate Shri Nitin Sardesai introduced the Chief Guest, **Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, Justice B.R. Gavai**.

Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, Justice B.R. Gavai Address

CJI Gavai paid rich tribute to the **visionary founder of VMSCL**, who, in an era when Corporate Social Responsibility was unheard of, contributed his wealth selflessly to spread

legal education. Describing him as a **visionary industrialist and philanthropist**, CJI highlighted:

- His vision built a **lasting empire of knowledge**, a true **wealth for society**.
- The **five-year integrated law course** has brought about a **paradigm shift**, enabling lawyers to become **well-rounded professionals with depth of knowledge**.
- The **incubation centre** at VMSCL addresses challenges faced by young lawyers and stands as a **model worth emulation for law colleges and senior advocates across the country**.
- The college's commitment to **legal aid** is exemplary; legal aid must reach even the remotest parts of the country to uphold the **right to legal remedy**.
- He commended the achievement of the college as a **Research Centre**, VMSCL's blend of **academic rigour with community engagement** sets a benchmark.
- He urged stakeholders to focus not merely on revenue but on **strengthening legal education**, particularly in **tribal and marginalized areas**.
- He mentioned about his visit to foreign universities and observed that tribal students from India had opportunity to attend the same due to fellowships. He impressed upon senior lawyers to contribute through **fellowships, scholarships, and mentorship** programs.

CJI concluded by stating it was a **privilege to be amidst young law students**, who represent the **future of the country and the destiny of India**. CJI reminded the young students that hard work, determination and commitment to profession matters more than examination ranks.

Also present was the **Hon'ble Shri Justice Alok Aradhe, Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court**, who lauded the institution's enduring commitment to academic rigour and legal excellence.

Chief Justice Alok Aradhe congratulated the institution on completing 50 years and commended its role in **encouraging women's participation in legal education**. Among the distinguished **special invitees** were:

- **Hon'ble Shri Justice Mahesh S. Sonak**, Sitting Judge, Bombay High Court
- **Hon'ble Smt. Justice Bharati Dangre**, Sitting Judge, Bombay High Court

Their presence underscored the college's pivotal role in shaping generations of jurists, advocates, and thought leaders.

Justice Bharati Dangre expressed profound appreciation for the **quality of lawyers produced by VMSCL**. She reminded the students that a lawyer's duty is to uphold **fundamental rights, women's dignity, and social causes**, while continuously investing in learning. She poignantly remarked:

"Justice needs a voice, which is often a lawyer's voice."

Justice Mahesh Sonak, himself an alumnus of VMSCCL, expressed pride and gratitude. He paid tribute to the **visionary founder** and lauded the **Salgaocar family for their social responsibility in carrying forward his noble legacy**.

The function was a culmination of year-long jubilee Celebrations, reflecting on the illustrious journey of VMSCCL since its inception in 1973. Over the past fifty years, the college has emerged as a beacon of legal education in Goa and beyond, known for its academic excellence, progressive pedagogy, and commitment to justice and ethical lawyering.

Principal, Prof. Dr. Shaber Ali G delivered the vote of thanks.

He expressed his deep gratitude, emphasizing the collective efforts of the faculty, students, and stakeholders in shaping the college's distinguished legacy.

The function also included the **felicitation of distinguished alumni who have gone on to serve as judges**, in recognition of their contributions to the judiciary and the legal fraternity, by Hon'ble. Shri. Justice. Bhushan Ramakrishna Gavai, Chief Justice of India.

The Judges felicitated were

J. Mahesh S. Sonak,

Justice Mahesh S. Sonak is a sitting judge on the Goa Bench of the Bombay High Court, enrolled as an advocate in 1988 and later elevated as an Additional Judge in June 2013. He brings extensive experience across civil, constitutional, labor, service, environmental, commercial, tax, company laws, and public interest litigation. In 2024, he became the first person in Goa to register a "living will," a significant step toward end-of-life planning, signalling his advocacy for advance medical directives

J. Valmiki Menezes,

Born on 29 July 1967 in Goa Velha, Justice Valmiki Menezes earned his LL.B. from M.S. College of Law, Panaji, and enrolled as an advocate in 1992. He specializes in civil, constitutional, labor, service, environmental, commercial, taxation, company law, PILs, and matters under the Portuguese Civil Code. He's also practiced in district courts, tribunals, and held leadership roles in the Goa High Court Bar Association. Elevated as an Additional Judge of the Bombay High Court on 19 July 2022, he was sworn in as a permanent judge in March 2024.

J. Ashwin Bhohe

Advocate Ashwin Damodar Bhohe of Panaji was recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium and elevated as an Additional Judge of the Bombay High Court in October 2024. He has over 26 years of legal practice, with approximately 45 reported judgments, and extensive experience appearing before the High Court of Bombay at Goa, district courts, and various tribunals

Former Judges –

J. Filomeno Reis,

Justice F. I. Reis served as one of the early prominent judges from Goa on the Bombay High Court. He is noted among key judicial figures from Goa who contributed significantly to establishing the Goa bench's legal legacy

J. Utkarsh Bakre

Born on 26 February 1953 in Sanguem, Goa, Justice Utkarsh V. Bakre had an extensive judicial career—from Assistant Public Prosecutor (1983–1988) to Civil Judge (Junior and Senior Divisions), Additional District & Sessions Judge, Law Secretary of Goa, Principal District & Sessions Judge, and finally elevated to the Bombay High Court on 17 March 2011, retiring 25 February 2015. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Goa Human Rights Commission, a role reflecting his continued dedication to justice and human rights in the state

The Golden Jubilee Celebration witnessed an enthusiastic and distinguished audience comprising a vibrant gathering of **students, faculty members, administrative staff, alumni, and esteemed members of the legal fraternity**. The presence of **senior advocates, retired judges, and legal luminaries** from across the state lent an atmosphere of reverence and intellectual fervor to the occasion. Current students listened intently, inspired by the powerful speeches and the rare opportunity to engage with the highest echelons of the Indian judiciary. Faculty members and staff, many of whom have been long-serving pillars of the institution, took immense pride in the recognition of their collective efforts. The occasion became a moment of unity and reflection, where generations of the VMSCL community came together to celebrate a legacy of excellence and envision its future.

The function marked the grand culmination of a year-long Celebration that began with an inspiring inaugural address by **Hon'ble Justice B.V. Nagarathna**, Judge of the Supreme Court of India.

Throughout the academic year, V. M. Salgaocar College of Law hosted a series of impactful events that celebrated its legacy while engaging students and faculty in shaping its future. Notable among them was the Golden Jubilee **Logo Designing Competition**, the inauguration of an **Incubation Centre** for budding lawyers, and the highly participative **essay competition titled "My Vision for VMS: Gold to Platinum"**, where students, alumni and staff articulated their aspirations for the institution's journey ahead.

The **Valedictory Function** of the Golden Jubilee was a fitting tribute to the visionaries who laid the foundation of the college, as well as a clarion call to the next generation of legal scholars to carry forward the torch of justice and wisdom.

About V. M. Salgaocar College of Law

V. M. Salgaocar College of Law (VMSCL) is a premier **government-aided law institution** located at **Miramar, Panjim, Goa**, committed to nurturing excellence in legal education. Established in **1973** by the **Devi Sharvani Education Society**, the college was originally named **Mahadevrao Salgaocar College of Law** and was renamed in **1997** to honour the late philanthropist Vassudev M. Salgaocar. The college is approved by the **Bar Council of India (BCI)** and offers a range of professional law programs including the **three-year LL.B., five-year integrated law courses**, and **LL.M.** degrees. With a rich legacy of over five decades, VMSCL stands firmly on the ideals of its **vision** — *"Let justice be done though the heavens fall"* — and its **mission** — *"Excellentia, Justicia et Humanitas"* — Excellence, Justice, and

Humanity. The institution remains a cornerstone of legal scholarship in Goa, producing generations of ethical, skilled, and socially conscious legal professionals.

A significant academic achievement during the jubilee year was the college being awarded an **'A' grade by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in May 2025**, reaffirming its position as one of India's premier legal education institutions. These events reflected the college's commitment to not only honouring its past but also investing in the promise of its future.

video link: <https://youtube.com/live/Tg98UluREsw?feature=share>







