

Decoding the Indian Legal System

Event Context and Purpose

The session, "Decoding the Indian Legal System," was specifically organized for the **LLB 3-year students** at the Vydehi Institute of Law. The primary objective was to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, giving students a firsthand, detailed understanding of "**how courts work**" and the procedural complexities inherent in the judicial process.

Detail	Information
Speaker	Ms. Apeksha D. (B.Com, LLB, LLM)
Date	Wednesday, October 8, 2025
Venue	Vydehi Institute of Law
Target Audience	LLB 3-year students (Focus on practical court exposure)

Inaugural Ceremony

The event commenced with a formal welcome and address:

Welcome Address: Delivered by **Ms. Pranjali Bawane**, Assistant Professor of Law at the Vydehi Institute of Law, setting the academic tone for the session.

Principal's Address: **Principal Dr. C.G. Manjunath** addressed the students, highlighting the **critical importance of understanding court mechanisms** as it forms the bedrock of legal practice. Dr. Manjunath formally welcomed the esteemed guest speaker, Ms. Apeksha D.

In-Depth Technical Modules

The core of the lecture comprised several interconnected technical modules designed to provide a comprehensive look at the judicial process:

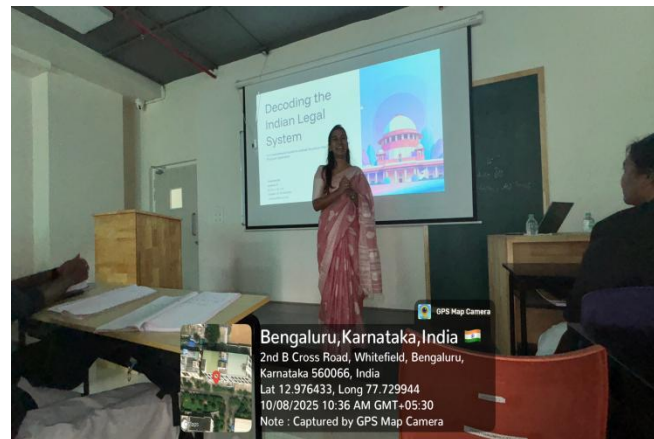
1. Understanding India's Dual Court System and Hierarchy

The session began by clarifying India's integrated yet differentiated judicial structure:

Dual Nature: The explanation focused on the hierarchy that runs from the **Supreme Court (Apex Court)** at the top, down through the **High Courts** (State level), and finally to the **Subordinate/District Courts** (District level).

Superior Judiciary (SC & HCs): Discussed their constitutional role, writ jurisdiction, and appellate functions.

Subordinate Judiciary: Detailed the two parallel streams—Civil and Criminal—at the District level.



2. Civil and Criminal Courts: Jurisdiction and Structure

This segment provided a comparative analysis of the two primary court streams:

Civil Courts: Explained the **hierarchical framework** of civil courts (e.g., Munsiff Courts, Civil Judges-Junior Division, Senior Division, District Judge's Court) and how their jurisdiction is determined by **pecuniary value** (monetary claim) and **territorial limits**.

Criminal Courts: Focused on the hierarchy (e.g., Judicial Magistrates of First and Second Class, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Sessions Court) and the types of offences they can try, defined by the **severity of the punishment** (e.g., Sessions Courts try severe offenses).

3. The Civil Litigation Journey: 12 Critical Stages

This was a key focus, providing a step-by-step roadmap of a Civil Suit based on the Code of Civil Procedure (CPC):

Filing of Plaint: The initiation of the suit by the plaintiff.

Issue and Service of Summons: Notifying the defendant.

Appearance of Parties: The first date of hearing.

Filing of Written Statement (WS): The defendant's formal reply to the plaint.

Production of Documents: Both parties submit documents in their possession.

Examination of Parties (Order X): Court clarifies facts/disputes from parties.

Discovery & Inspection (Order XI): Process for one party to seek information from the other.

Admission/Denial of Documents: Parties formally admit or deny the authenticity of documents.

Framing of Issues: The Court identifies the specific points of fact and law in dispute.

Summoning and Attendance of Witnesses: Securing the presence of witnesses for trial.

Evidence Stage (Examination-in-chief, Cross-examination, Re-examination): The core trial proceedings.

Arguments, Judgment, and Decree: Final submissions, the court's reasoning, and the enforceable order.



4. Pleadings and Documentation Essentials

This section focused on the procedural law for court filings:

Filing of Pleadings: Civil Framework: Detailed the mandatory contents and rules for drafting the **Plaint** (Order VII CPC) and the **Written Statement** (Order VIII CPC), emphasizing the necessity of stating facts and not law.

Filing of Pleadings: Criminal Framework: Covered the initiation of criminal proceedings, either via a **Police Report (Charge Sheet)** or a **Private Complaint**.

Documentation Essentials for Court Filing: Practical guidance on formatting, necessary affidavits, accompanying applications (e.g., injunctions), and the crucial role of **duly stamped and indexed documentation** to ensure admissibility.

5. The Art and Science of Effective Cross-Examination

This module provided a critical professional skill-based training:

Science (The Law): Explained the provisions of the **Indian Evidence Act, 1872 (Section 137 & 138)** governing the scope of cross-examination (i.e., questioning on relevant facts and challenging credibility).

Art (The Strategy): Focused on the objective of cross-examination: either to **elicit favorable facts** (constructive) or to **impeach the credibility** of an adverse witness (destructive). Key techniques covered included the use of **leading questions** (permitted only during cross-examination) and meticulous preparation based on prior statements.



6. Reform Initiatives and the Path Forward

The session concluded with an forward-looking discussion on modernizing the judiciary:

Technological Integration: Highlighted major initiatives like the **e-Courts Mission Mode Project** (Phase III), which aims for intelligent, paperless, and integrated courts using AI/ML, and the move towards virtual hearings and live-streaming.

Addressing Pendency: Discussed strategies like increasing judicial strength, promoting **Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)** mechanisms (Mediation/Arbitration), and the establishment of Fast Track Courts.

Future Role of Lawyers: Encouraged students to be agents of change by adopting new technologies and pushing for procedural simplification.

Detailed Conclusion

Ms. Apeksha D.'s lecture was a highly detailed and practical masterclass that provided the LLB 3-year students with an advanced, integrated perspective on the Indian legal process. By connecting the high-level judicial structure with the intricate, stage-by-stage procedural requirements of litigation (both Civil and Criminal), the session served as an indispensable guide for their transition from academic study to courtroom practice.