

Report of Activities and Events of DPIIT-IPR Chair

Summary of Activities and Events carried out by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade – Intellectual Property Rights (DPIIT-IPR) Chair of the National Law University and Judicial Academy (NLUJA), Assam, Guwahati for the period of January – December 2021:

Academic Year 2020 - 2021

- 1. November 7th, 2020** - Webinar on “**BASICS OF THE IP PROTECTION: PATENTS**” was organised by the DPIIT-IPR Chair of NLUJA, Assam, wherein Dr. Sankar Sundaram, DPIIT-IPR Chair Professor of National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam was the Resource Person. The learned resource person provided a detailed deliberation on patents. He focused on issues such as, the scope of primary patents, secondary patents, requirements for patent filing, procedure for patent filing and many controversial patents issued in the USA. Many questions were put forth like the putative cost of a patented polio vaccine, the mode of claiming damages arising due to patent infringement, what is the criterion for patenting life-science inventions, bio-piracy of traditional knowledge, the strength of the Indian Patent Act - 1970, Exploitation of patents by some patentees, Claim-drafting techniques and methods of claiming patent protection for a unique blend of tea preparation. The session was attended by about 85 numbers of participants.
- 2. November 10th, 2020** - The DPIIT-IPR Chair of NLUJA, Assam organised a webinar on “**INTERPRETATION OF LEGALESE JARGON IN PATENT SUITS**”. Dr. Sankar Sundaram was the resource person who provided an extensive discussion on topics, such as, hard IP, soft IP, mosaicking, Reissue patents, Patents Drip-feeding, patent priority date, patent family, Patent Term Extension, Paris-Convention / Patent Cooperative Treaty country, Drucexemplar, Risk Evaluation & Mitigation Strategies Patent, common citation document of the five IP offices, “March in” Right, Divisional Patent, Patent of Addition, Continuation Patent, Attorney-Client Privilege, Duty of Fidelity, Duty of Candour, Compulsory License, Para 6 of the Doha Declaration under TRIPS, Patent Invalidity, Patent Unenforceability, Cease and Desist Letter, Gillette defence, Passing Off / Palming Off, Inverse / Reverse Passing Off, Extended Passing Off, Estoppel, Laches, Spring-board doctrine, Jump cutting, Garden Leave,

Literal/Equivalent Infringements, Contributory / Vicarious Infringement, Wilful Infringement, Patent White Space, “kitchen sink” pleadings, Swiss-type Claims, Jepson claim, Mobil type claim, Tying / tie-in agreement, Doctrine of Equivalents & the Reverse Doctrine of Equivalents, and about Claim construction in patents. Around 49 participants attended the webinar.

3. November 21st, 2020 - Webinar on “TRADE MARKS PROSECUTION IN INDIA”

was held by the DPIIT-IPR wherein Dr Radhakrishnan Nair, Director-Institute of Patent Attorneys India, New Delhi was invited as the resource person. The learned expert discussed broadly on a range of topics covering various aspects of trademarks and its prosecution in India, thereby covering issues pertaining to beneficiaries of Trademark TM, Importance of TM, Nomenclature for TM involving various goods and services including sensory TM, Qualities of a good TM especially pertaining to its uniqueness, devoid of any Dictionary meanings, suitability to goods/services, similarity in names to another TM, Arbitrary TM, Fanciful TM, Suggestive TM, Descriptive TM, Generic TM, Absolute grounds for refusal of TM registration under Sec - 9, Relative grounds for refusal of TM under Sec-11, Prohibited TM under the Emblems and Names(Preventive of Improper Use) Act, 1950, Prohibited TM under the International Non-Proprietary Names, Prohibited TM under the Well-known TM, TM searching under Word Class, NICE Class for the 34 Goods class and 10 Services class, Location of TM Offices in India, Jurisdiction for foreign clients to get a TM, Application Form TM-A for applying, Application Form TM-M for miscellaneous purposes, Application Form TM-R for renewal, Application Form TM-C for certification to Copyright office, Application Form TM-O for opposition, Application Form TM-P for proprietorship assignment, Application Form TM-U for communications, Application Form TM-G for use by TM agent, Civil and Criminal Remedies for TM infringement, Certification TM, Collective TM, Series TM and Procedure for practising as a Trade Mark Agent. The webinar was attended by 29 Participants

4. December 5th, 2020 - Webinar on “COPYRIGHT AND NEIGHBOURING RIGHTS”

was conducted by the DPIIT-IPR Chair of NLUJA, Assam. Mr. GR Raghavender, Joint Secretary, Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, New Delhi graced the programme as the Resource Person who provided an extended lecture on various aspects of copyright pertaining to Copyright-protected subject matter under

the Indian Copyright Act 1957 which includes the Reproduction Rights, Derivation Rights, Distribution Rights, Public Display Rights, Performance Rights and the Sound-recording & Cinematographic film Performance Rights for the Original Literary Work, Dramatic work, Musical work, Artistic Work; Idea and Expression dichotomy, Definition of a Computer Programme under the Act, Literary & Non-Literary part of a Computer Software, Case Law in Software Piracy dictate in Computer Associates Vs Altai Case in SCOTUS, procedure for securing protection for a website, Authorship Vs Ownership, Assignment procedures, Voluntary Licenses, Statutory Licenses for Cover Versions, Compulsory Licenses, Term of the 60 year protection for Literary, Dramatic, Musical, Artistic Sound-recordings, Cinematograph film-works, the 50 year protection for Performers and the 25 year protection for Broadcasters - from the Publication date, Moral Rights, Exhaustion of Copyright Case Law pertaining to Penguin Books Ltd. Vs India Book Distributors, Resale royalties, Neighbouring Rights, Broadcasting Rights, Concept of Copyright Societies under Section 33(3), Synchronization Rights for Cinema-songs, Limitations and Exception to Copyrights under Article 10(1), 10(2) and 10(3) of the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works – 1886, Section 52 of the Indian Copyright Act, Fair Use in Civil Law countries, Fair Dealing in Common Law countries, Library Exceptions, Exceptions to persons with disabilities, Civil and Criminal Remedies for Copyright owners. About 17 participants were present in the webinar.

- 5. December 28th, 2020** - Seminar entitled “**ASK ME ANYTHING SESSION ON PATENTS**” was conducted by the Royal Global University, Guwahati. Dr. Sankar Sundaram, DPIIT-IPR Chair Professor of National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam was invited as the Resource Person, wherein he discussed various issues pertaining to patents, such as, Primary patents, Secondary patents, Statutory requirements for patent filing, Drafting the Specifications for a patent, the Recitation in Claims of a patent, Searching for Novelty, Prosecution procedure for patent filing, Publication of the Patent Specification, Request for Examination at the Intellectual Property Office, First Examination Report, Paris Convention patent filing, PCT patent filing, National phase of a Patent, Pros and Cons of Weak Patent Regulations, Patent and Marketing Approval Linkage, Standard Essential Patents / FRAND terms in Patent Licensing and various Landmark patent Case Laws in India. The programme was attended by around 70 Staff & students of the Royal Global University.

6. **February 2nd, 2021** - Webinar on **“ASK ME ANYTHING ABOUT PATENTS”** was held with Dr. Sankar Sundaram, DPIIT-IPR Chair Professor of National Law University and Judicial Academy,



Assam as the Resource Person. The webinar was held in a question-answer format. The resource person was asked several practical questions on Patents such as, which inventions can or cannot be patented, who could apply for patents, benefits of securing patents, modes of application filing, forms to be filled in a Patent Application, fees to be paid along with the application, post filing procedures done by the patent office, situations for submission of Divisional Patents, Patent of Addition and Bolar Provisions of the Indian Patent Office, circumstances for surrender of patents and revocation of patents, Pre-grant and Post-grant opposition, Compulsory Licensing and export of pharma products, Patent Infringement, Patent Search, legend of claim recitals. Landmark patent litigations were also discussed. A few questions were also put forward by the participants on how to pursue a career as a Patent Attorney, how to simplify the patent application procedures for a layperson, and protection of patents through treaty systems. 39 Participants from 7 institutions in Guwahati, Assam participated in the webinar. A feedback form was sent to the participants and an overall positive response was received.

7. **February 13th, 2021** - Webinar on **“BASICS OF PROTECTION OF PLANT VARIETIES AND FARMER’S RIGHTS”** was held wherein Dr. Kalpana Sastry Regulagedda, Managing Director, AgHub Foundation, Centre for Innovation and Agri-entrepreneurship at Prof. Jayashankar Telangana State Agriculture University, (PJTSAU), Hyderabad was invited as the Resource Person. Dr. Sastry deliberated on the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers’ Rights Act, 2001 (PPVFR). The informative and brief discussion was held to discuss why protection of plant varieties is essential, about the uniqueness of the PPVFR Act and what it covers. The novel, distinct, uniform and stable (NDUS) criteria for registration and the process of applying

for plant varieties and new plants were discussed with examples. Rights provided under the Act to Breeders, Researchers and Farmers were also talked through. There were some specific questions from the participants on the necessity of plant varieties in the current age and the advantages of the Act which were answered by Dr. Sastry. The webinar was attended by around 80 participants from 30 educational institutions and various professions across India. A feedback form was also sent to the participants and an overall positive response was received.

8. **February 24th to 26th, 2021 - FIELD VISIT TO SARTHEBARI, ASSAM** was organised with a view to carry out a preliminary survey on the Sarthebari Bell Metal Industry. Through this field study, interviews with the owners/artisans and stakeholders engaged with Sarthebari bell metal industry were conducted. Further various data consisting of articles and write-ups (in Assamese language) on Sarthebari bell metal industry were also accumulated for the research work. The collected data were compiled, translated and interpreted while writing the paper on the concerned topic titled **“The Traditional Bell Metal Craft of Sarthebari and the Need to accord legal Protection: Re-applying the Geographical Indication Tag”**.
9. **February 27th, 2021 - Webinar on “PROTECTING REGIONAL PRODUCTS: GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS OF GOODS”** was held wherein Dr. Suchibrata Goswami, Assistant Professor in Centre for Distance and Online Education, Tezpur University was invited as the Resource Person. Dr. Goswami elaborately discussed on the various aspects of the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999 and the ways of protecting the regional products with special reference to the North-east India, thereby sharing some of her practical experiences in this regard. The resource person offered an in-depth presentation of the fundamentals of Geographical Indications (GI), its significance, criteria for registration, protection value, the technicalities of the registration process, stages of application, infringement of GI and so on. Dr. Goswami concluded her presentation with a discussion on some of the GI registered products of India. The informative session finally came to an end with a discussion on the questions put forward by the participants. About 50 participants from 34 institutions from all over India participated in the webinar and an overall positive response was received.

10. March 2nd, 2021 - Webinar on “**PROTECTION OF SEMI-CONDUCTOR INTEGRATED CIRCUIT LAYOUT DESIGNS**” was held with Mrs. Ojeswini Bondalapati, Patent Agent, Hyderabad as the Resource Person. The basics of electronic terminologies with respect to Diode, Transistor, Semi-conductor, Layout, Topography, Circuit and Integrated Circuit were introduced by the speaker. The principle which led to India’s sui generis stem, viz, unfair market access as the driving force to stay away from extending the patent protections to Layout designs was presented. The same position in US which led to the USA enacting its 1984 Semi-conductor Protection Act(SCPA) was discussed. The requirements, procedures and the final effect when protected by a design registration in the Semi-Conductor Integrated Circuit Layout Design Registry(SICLDR) of India was discussed. Licensing, assigning, appealing against Registrar’s orders and the ensuing Offenses and Penalties for transgression and innocent infringement were discussed. Finally, the preference of the inventors to stay away from their design registration and trending case laws were discussed. 53 participants from 38 institutions pan India participated in the webinar. The event received an overall positive response.

11. March 11th, 2021 - Webinar on “**PROTECTION OF INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS IN INDIA**” was held wherein Dr. Ashwini Siwal, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi was invited as the Resource Person. The session commenced with the introduction of Industrial Designs and its significance in the present era. The speaker extensively discussed about the need for protection of the designs which have industrial application and also distinguished it from Copyright protection. He elaborately presented the various aspects of the law on protection of Industrial Designs in India which is the Designs Act of 2000. Dr. Siwal therefore, discussed about the registration process of Industrial Designs vis-à-vis the prohibitions thereof, persons eligible to file for design protection, design rights and its infringement, piracy of designs and also liability of the infringers. Apart from the above, the speaker offered a deep insight into the aspect of overlap of Design and Copyright and thereby concluded the session with a broad discussion on Indian litigations on Industrial Designs. The informative session finally came to an end with a discussion on the questions put forward by the participants. The programme received a good number of participation with 146 students and professionals from 108 Institutions and Organizations from all over India.

12. March 18th and 19th, 2021 - FIELD VISIT TO SARTHEBARI, ASSAM was carried out for further research on the Bell metal Industry of Sarthebari. This field visit was in furtherance of the three-day field visit conducted from 24th to 26th February, 2021. Through this field visit the IPR team was able to gather further data relevant to Sarthebari bell metal craft. The team interviewed the artisans as well as the bell metal industry owners regarding the historical origin of the bell metal craft, process of making the bell metal items, availability of raw materials, bell metal market scenario, problems and the challenges faced by them and various other relevant questions which were put to them based on the questionnaire which had been prepared after much research.

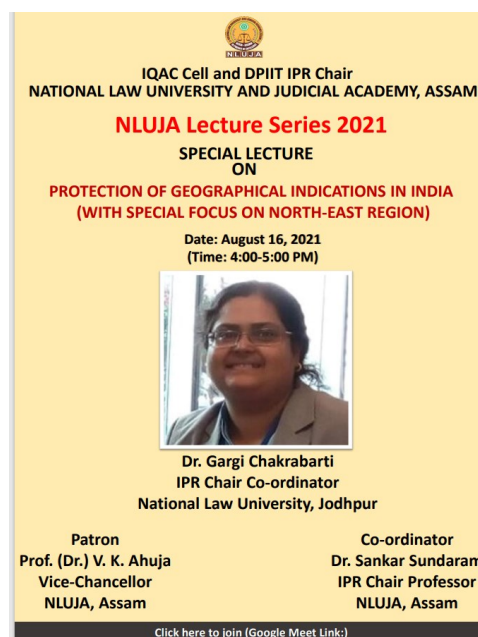
Further, the team visited the Assam Cooperative Bell Metal Utensils Manufacturing Society Limited where the team interacted with the Secretary as well as the members and also the employees of the Cooperative Society who also provided the team with significant data on how these items are made, impact of the factory made items upon the market, export of the bell metal items, government initiatives and other relevant questions in this regard. Based on the entire research work, a research paper titled **“The Traditional Bell Metal Craft of Sarthebari and the Need to accord legal Protection: Re-applying the Geographical Indication Tag”** has been prepared for publication in University Publication. While preparing the above cited paper, the accumulated data were compiled, translated/transcribed and interpreted so as to represent and reflect the available data adequately in the research paper.

13. April 26th, 2021 - An Awareness Programme on **“WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DAY – 2021”** was held wherein the programme commenced with the introduction to the World Intellectual Property day by Dr. Partha Pratim Medhi, the Guest Faculty Member at NLUJAA. This was followed by an IP Awareness sensitization address by Ms. Nuzhat Nasreen Islam, Research Assistant of the DPIIT-IPR Chair at NLUJAA. Thereafter, Ms. Sharmistha Baruah, Research Assistant of the DPIIT-IPR Chair at NLUJAA explained the CIPAM Schemes by the Government of India for Entrepreneurs, Faculty Members and Students to the audience. A quiz programme was next conducted by Dr. Sankar Sundaram, the DPIIT-IPR Chair Professor at NLUJAA. Finally, Mr. Saurav Baishya, the Field Assistant, DPIIT-IPR Chair at NLUJAA proposed the Vote of Thanks. The event was attended by the students of NLUJAA.

14. June 30th, 2021 - Lecture delivered on “Comprehending the Indian Patent Law” at Dispur Law College, Guwahati by the DPIIT-IPR Chair Professor of NLUJA, Assam, Dr. Sankar Sundaram. In the programme various topics, namely, benefits of securing patent protection, Significance of the Indian Patents Act-1970, Section-3 (What are not Inventions under the Act), procedure to file a Patent Application and the flowsheet of its prosecution, the types of Patent infringements, Pre-grant Opposition’s Section-25(1), post-grant Opposition’s Section-25(2), Revocation of patents’ Section-64, Compulsory Licensing’s – 84, Procedure for Patent suits [Section-104 to Section- 115], Offences and Penalties [Section—118 to Section-124] and Landmark Patent Litigations contested both in India and abroad were discussed. The programme was attended by around 100 students and staff of Dispur Law College, Guwahati.

Academic Year 2021- 2022

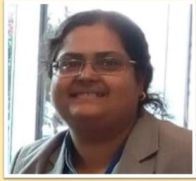
1. August 16th, 2021 - Webinar on “**PROTECTION OF GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS IN INDIA (WITH SPECIAL FOCUS ON NORTH EAST REGION)**” was held with Dr. Gargi Chakrabarti, IPR Chair Co-ordinator of National Law University, Jodhpur as the Resource Person. The programme started with a welcome note by Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor, NLUJA, Assam, Prof. (Dr.) V.K. Ahuja, followed by the welcoming and introductory session by the DPIIT-IPR Chair Professor,



IQAC Cell and DPIIT IPR Chair
NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY AND JUDICIAL ACADEMY, ASSAM

NLUJA Lecture Series 2021
SPECIAL LECTURE
ON
**PROTECTION OF GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS IN INDIA
(WITH SPECIAL FOCUS ON NORTH-EAST REGION)**

Date: August 16, 2021
(Time: 4:00-5:00 PM)



Dr. Gargi Chakrabarti
IPR Chair Co-ordinator
National Law University, Jodhpur

Patron Prof. (Dr.) V. K. Ahuja Vice-Chancellor NLUJA, Assam	Co-ordinator Dr. Sankar Sundaram IPR Chair Professor NLUJA, Assam
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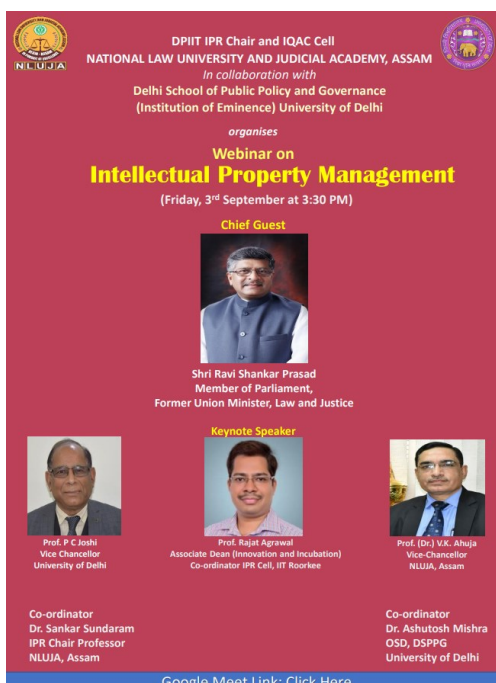
[Click here to join \(Google Meet Link\)](#)

NLUJA, Assam. The respected Speaker, Dr. Gargi Chakrabarti, commenced the session with an introduction of Geographical Indication (GI) and their significance in the present era. The speaker extensively discussed about the justification for protection of the GIs from three perspectives – equity considerations, conservative concerns and preservation of traditional practices and culture with practical examples.

The Speaker elaborately discussed on the GIs of North East region of India and lauded the efforts of the people of North Eastern region towards upholding their

traditional know-how and practices. Dr. Chakrabarti offered a deep insight into the ground realities of the law on GI in India, particularly stressing on the aspect of non-maintenance and non-assurance of quality of the GI certified products. She cited example of the European Union GI law which provides for a much stronger mechanism for protecting their GIs. The speaker concluded the session with a broad discussion on the need to revisit the Indian GI law so as to ensure stringent protection and quality assurance of the GI certified products in India in line with that of the European Union and urged the IPR Chairs to collaboratively take up steps towards proposing amendment to the present law on GI in our nation. Around 68 Participants from 53 institutions and organisations from all over India participated in the webinar.

2. **September 3rd, 2021** - Webinar on **“INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT”** was organised wherein Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad, Member of Parliament, Former Union Minister, Law and Justice graced the event as the Chief Guest and Prof. (Dr) Rajat Agrawal, Associate Dean (Innovation and Incubation) Co-ordinator IPR Cell, IIT Roorkee was invited as the Keynote Speaker by the DPIIT-IPR Chair and IQAC Cell of the National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam in collaboration with Delhi School of Public Policy and Governance (Institution of Eminence), University of Delhi. Prof. Pooran Chand Joshi, Vice-Chancellor, University of Delhi welcomed the guests and Prof. V.K. Ahuja, Vice-Chancellor, National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam presided over the function.



The poster is for a webinar titled "Intellectual Property Management" held on Friday, 3rd September at 3:30 PM. It is organized by the DPIIT IPR Chair and IQAC Cell of the National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam, in collaboration with the Delhi School of Public Policy and Governance (Institution of Eminence), University of Delhi. The Chief Guest is Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Member of Parliament, Former Union Minister, Law and Justice. The Keynote Speaker is Prof. Rajat Agrawal, Associate Dean (Innovation and Incubation) Co-ordinator IPR Cell, IIT Roorkee. Other participants include Prof. P. C. Joshi, Vice-Chancellor, University of Delhi; Prof. (Dr) V.K. Ahuja, Vice-Chancellor, NLUJA, Assam; and Co-ordinators Dr. Sankar Sundaram, IPR Chair Professor, NLUJA, Assam, and Dr. Ashutosh Mishra, OSD, DSPPG, University of Delhi. A Google Meet link is provided at the bottom.

Prof. Pooran Chand Joshi, Vice-Chancellor, University of Delhi welcomed the guests and Prof. V.K. Ahuja, Vice-Chancellor, National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam presided over the function.

Mr. Prasad emphasised on the need to accord recognition, protection and encouragement to the creators of Intellectual Property under an effective Intellectual Property Management regime or Intellectual Property ecosystem. He also discussed about digitalisation and its limitless potential in the present era. He further harped about the importance of data protection while stressing upon its immense role in promoting

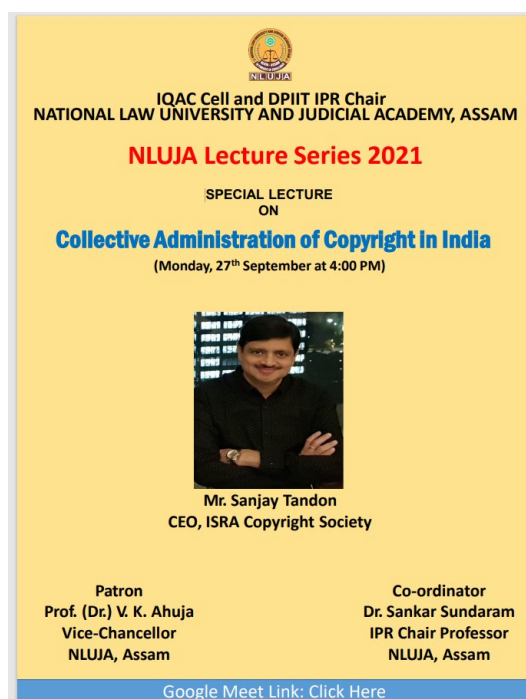
IP creation. He also suggested to create a separate ecosystem of India's data which is related to IP Management.

Prof. Rajat Agrawal explained the objectives of IP Management and offered a deep insight into the chain of activities in IP Management in the form of its creation, protection, commercialisation and enforcement. Prof. Agrawal suggested that North-East India has a rich scope for Geographical Indication Registrations and hence advised the University to take up steps towards realising it. The webinar received a huge participation consisting of 219 participants from 117 institutions and organisations from across India. The informative session finally came to an end with a discussion on the questions put forward by the participants. A laudable response was received.

3. **27th September, 2021** - Webinar on **“COLLECTIVE ADMINISTRATION OF COPYRIGHT IN INDIA”** was held with Mr. Pankaj Udhas, Padma Shri Awardee, Indian Ghazal Maestro as the Chief Guest and Mr. Sanjay Tandon, CEO, Indian Singers' Rights Association as the Keynote Speaker. Prof. (Dr.) V.K. Ahuja, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam welcomed the guests and emphasised the need for obtaining license from Copyright Societies before playing

any copyrighted music in public. Prof. Ahuja while praising the Ghazal maestro compared him with Tansen, as his famous song *“Chithi Aayi Hain”* brought tears to the eyes of the listeners. He discussed the role of copyright societies in collecting fee and distributing royalties.

Shri Pankaj Udhas inaugurated the session by recounting his experience with the copyright regime at the start of his singing career. He harped upon the significance of understanding copyright by those who are at the threshold of their careers in performing arts. Shri Udhas highlighted that copyright in today's era has become the most important aspect of a performer's life and it encompasses a wide variety of creativity,



The poster is for a special lecture titled "Collective Administration of Copyright in India" as part of the NLUJA Lecture Series 2021. It is organized by the IQAC Cell and DPIIT IPR Chair at National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam. The lecture is scheduled for Monday, 27th September at 4:00 PM. The keynote speaker is Mr. Sanjay Tandon, CEO of ISRA Copyright Society. The patron is Prof. (Dr.) V. K. Ahuja, Vice-Chancellor of NLUJA, Assam. The co-ordinator is Dr. Sankar Sundaram, IPR Chair Professor at NLUJA, Assam. A Google Meet link is provided at the bottom.

IQAC Cell and DPIIT IPR Chair
NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY AND JUDICIAL ACADEMY, ASSAM

NLUJA Lecture Series 2021

SPECIAL LECTURE
ON

Collective Administration of Copyright in India
(Monday, 27th September at 4:00 PM)

Mr. Sanjay Tandon
CEO, ISRA Copyright Society

Patron
Prof. (Dr.) V. K. Ahuja
Vice-Chancellor
NLUJA, Assam

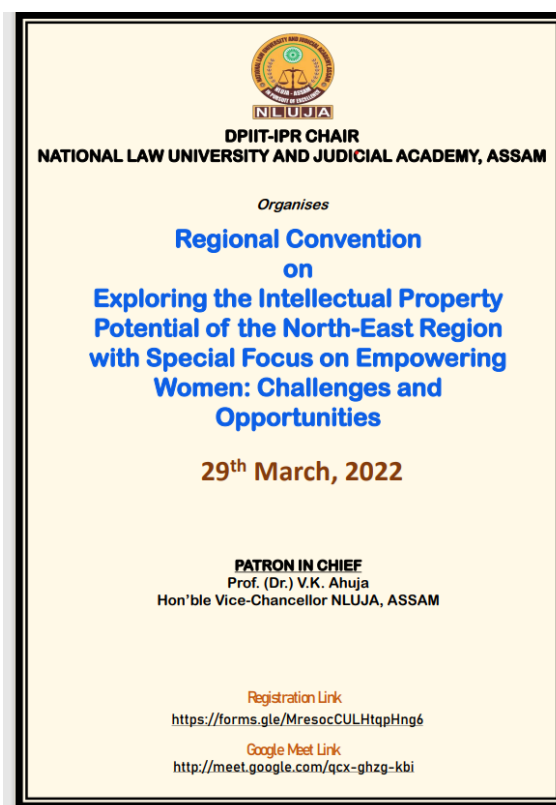
Co-ordinator
Dr. Sankar Sundaram
IPR Chair Professor
NLUJA, Assam

[Google Meet Link: Click Here](#)

thereby focusing on the need to disburse the deserving royalties to the rightful owners. The Ghazal maestro concluded his note with a soulful rendition of his famous song “Chithi Aayi Hain”.

Mr. Sanjay Tandon stated that the artists are performers and are not mere vocal instruments, hence every artist ought to be paid his due royalty. He jokingly stated that they should not be provided ‘Royal Tea’ rather they should be given ‘Royalty’. He dwelled about how people praise the artists for their performances but forgets to assign them their dignity in the form of adequate payments and royalties, thereby quoting that “it’s not applaus and wows which runs the kitchen of an artist, it is their due payment which runs their lives”. He depicted the role of collective administration of copyright vis-à-vis the establishment of ISRA and the role which it plays in protecting the rights of the singers. ISRA is the bridge between the user and the singer, thereby playing an outstanding role in the society and the copyright regime. IPR Chair Professor Dr. Sankar Sundaram proposed the vote of thanks. The webinar was attended by a huge number of students and professionals from various Institutions and Organisations across India (around 222 Participants from 146 institutions and organisations from all over India). The informative and entertaining session finally came to an end on a very positive note with a discussion on the questions put forward by the participants.

4. **March 29th, 2022** – An online Regional Convention on “**EXPLORING THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY POTENTIAL OF THE NORTH-EAST REGION WITH SPECIAL FOCUS ON EMPOWERING WOMEN: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**” was organised by the DPIIT-IPR Chair of NLUJA, Assam. The Convention was an endeavour of the University to get on board the stakeholders of the North-East region to join forces with NLUJA, Assam in order that the IP related



services of the University could be made accessible to the grass-root level women creators, innovators and entrepreneurs sparsed across the region. As such, the programme commenced with an Inaugural Session wherein Prof. (Dr.) V.K. Ahuja, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, NLUJA, Assam provided the welcome address which was followed by the speech of the Keynote Speaker by Prof. (Dr.) Prabuddha Ganguly, CEO, Vision-IPR and Honorary Professor, Homi Bhaba National Institute, Department of Atomic Energy, Govt. of India, Mumbai, India. Prof. Ganguly is a renowned IP expert and has worked closely at the grassroots level in the NER. He provided an elaborate understanding on the topic on "Innovations for Inclusive Social Transformations" wherein he extensively stressed on the need for innovations in order to usher in social transformations in the society. The session thereafter proceeded with the speech of the revered Chief Guest His Lordship Justice Dipak Misra who emphasised on protection of traditional knowledge and the rights of the holders of traditional knowledge of our nation. The learned Justice encouraged and appreciated NLUJA, Assam for education and propagation of IPR in the NE region, especially focussing on the women and stated that it is of immense significance. His Lordship stressed about promotion of women's rights and protection of their dignity. The session ended with the vote of thanks delivered by respected Registrar of NLUJA, Assam Dr. Indranoshee Das, ACS.

The Convention then proceeded with the 1st technical session wherein Mr. Manoj Das, Director, NERAMAC was invited as the Keynote Speaker. This was followed by the deliberations by the speakers. Dr. Topi Basar, Associate Professor, Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh was the first speaker who deliberated on the topic "**Role of Women in Augmenting the IP resources of the NE region: Some Reflections**". Thereafter, discussion on the topic "**Unveiling the Entrepreneurial Potentialities of NE Women**" was provided by Ms. Shabnam Mohan Raj, CEO and Chief Advisor, Voluntary Association for Social Upliftment [VASU] and by Dr. Jupi Gogoi, Associate Professor, NLUJA, Assam on the topic "**Implications of GI Registration on Women in North East India**".

The second technical session commenced in the afternoon wherein Dr. Samir Baruah, Chairperson Banking & MSME Indian Chamber of Commerce North-East India and Former General Manager Indian Overseas Bank was invited as the Keynote Speaker, which was followed by the discussions of the speakers. Dr. Sriparna B. Baruah, Faculty and Head, Centre for Industrial Extension and Consultancy, Indian

Institute of Entrepreneurship discussed on the topic “**Status, Issues and Challenges of Women Led Enterprises and the Need of Creating Awareness on IPR Related Issues**” and Mrs. Chandrani Sharma, Entrepreneur from North-East deliberated on the topic “**Mobilising Women Entrepreneurs to Optimally Exploit IP: Perspectives from NE Region**”.

The online Regional Convention ended with the Valedictory Session which commenced with a Welcome Address by Prof. (Dr.) V.K. Ahuja, Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor, NLUJA, Assam. Mr. Vinod Kumar, Hon’ble President, India SME Forum was invited as the Guest of Honour and Prof. (Dr.) Unnat P. Pandit, Professor of IP, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Intellectual Property Management Cell, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The Vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Indranoshee Das, ACS, Registrar, NLUJA, Assam.

5. April 26th, 2022 -

On the occasion of **WORLD IPR DAY**, 26th April 2022, the DPIIT-IPR Chair of NLUJA, Assam along with the student volunteers from BALLB VIth semester of the University



organised an awareness programme on the theme of World IP Day 2022 “**IP AND YOUTH: INNOVATING FOR A BETTER FUTURE**” among the young women weavers associated with ENHANSE Foundation at Madeligaon LP School, Udalguri District. The Research Assistants of the DPIIT-IPR Chair of NLUJA, Assam, Ms. Sharmistha Baruah and Ms. Dolly Kumar deliberated on the concept of Intellectual Property Rights and the significant role played by the people at the grassroots level such as artisans, weavers etc., in creation of intellectual properties. The Programme was an endeavour towards orienting young women weavers of Madeligaon village on protection of their IPs by means of various IP components such as, Geographical

Indications, Industrial Designs, etc. This initiative has been towards supporting the young women weavers of the region in enhancing the market potential and credibility of their produce.

The Programme was attended by 36 women weavers of Madeligaon Village. The weavers showed the DPIIT-IPR Chair team their hand-woven Mekhla-Chadars displaying various kinds of splendid designs and the team advised them to approach the IPR Facilitation Centre at National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam for free legal assistance in IP related matters. Thereafter, an interactive session was held wherein the team was informed about the constraints faced by the weavers in marketing and promoting their produce. The weavers stated that some of them weave Assamese traditional garments for livelihood but the earning is meagre as they are unable to access the market and moreover the area lacks a weaving centre despite being a hub of weavers. The interactive session was followed by singing of traditional songs by the weavers. The event ended with a vote of thanks and on a positive note.

6. **May 25th, 2022** - Publication of a handbook titled **“HANDBOOK ON THE GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS (WITH SPECIAL FOCUS ON NORTH-EAST**



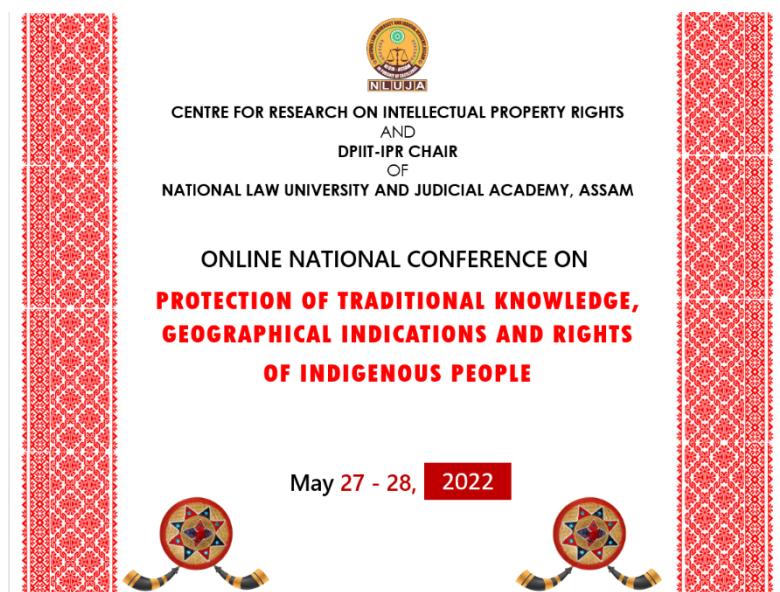
REGION)” under the aegis of National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam. The research and the write-up work for the handbook was conducted by the DPIIT-IPR Chair of NLUJA, Assam since June, 2021 under the supervision of Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor of NLUJA, Assam, Prof. (Dr.). V. K. Ahuja. It was successfully completed by December, 2021. The Handbook is scheduled to be published in the first part of the upcoming year (2022). The Handbook is intended to apprise readers about the procedures involved in attaining Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) protection in the form of Geographical Indication in India and aims to offer guidance to the laymen in

understanding the concept of Geographical Indications and its applicability in the North Eastern region of India.

The Handbook was released on May 25th, 2022 in the august presence of His Excellency Prof. Jagdish Mukhi Hon'ble Governor of Assam and Nagaland, Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice (Acting), Gauhati High Court in the premises of NLUJA, Assam.

7. May 27th & 28th, 2022

- The Centre for Research on Intellectual Property Rights (CERIP) and the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)-IPR Chair of National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam



(NLUJAA), under the guidance of its Patron-in-Chief, Prof. (Dr) V.K. Ahuja, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of NLUJAA, and Patron, Dr. Indranoshee Das, ACS, the Hon'ble Registrar of NLUJAA organised an **ONLINE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PROTECTION OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS AND RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE** on May 27-28, 2022. A total of 256 people attended the Conference.

The two-day Conference commenced with the inaugural session on 27th of May, 2022, wherein **Prof. (Dr.) Unnat P. Pandit**, Controller General of Patents, Designs & Trade Marks and **Prof. (Dr.) Prabuddha Ganguli**, CEO of Vision IPR were invited to deliver the inaugural address as well as the special address respectively. This was followed by the 1st Technical Session on the theme “Need for a Special Regime on TK” in which Dr. K.S. Kardam, Former Senior Joint Controller of Patents & Designs & Former Head, Patent Office, Delhi was invited as the Chair and Dr. Irwin Lalmanpuii Hnamte, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi were invited as the

Co-Chair cum Keynote Speaker. There were nine paper presentations on various aspects of TK and the need for a sui generis law to protect the indigenous knowledge.

The 2nd day of the online National Conference (May 28th, 2022) began with the 2nd Technical Session on “Traditional Knowledge, Intellectual Property Rights and Community Rights” in which Prof. T.C. James, President, NIPO & Visiting Fellow, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) was invited as the Chair and Dr. Topi Basar, Associate Professor, Department of Law, Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh was invited as the Co-Chair cum Keynote Speaker. The session composed of five paper presentations surrounding the theme.

This was followed by the 3rd Technical Session on the theme “Using TK and GI to Protect Cultural Practises”. Dr. Indrani Barpujari, Principal Advisor, Centre for Social Sector Development AIGGPA, Bhopal and Dr. Nidhi Buch, Assistant Professor, Gujrat National Law University was invited as the Chair and the Co-Chair cum Keynote Speaker respectively. Around six paper presentations were conducted based on the theme of the session.

The 4th Technical Session was based on the theme “Geographical Indications in India: Prospects and Challenges”. Prof. Pritam Deb, DPIIT-IPR Chair Professor, Tezpur University and Dr. Gargi Chakrabarti, Associate Professor of Law, National Law University, Jodhpur were invited as the Chair and the Co-Chair cum Keynote Speaker respectively. This session held six paper presentations concerning the theme.

The two day Online National Conference ended with the Valedictory Session wherein Shri G.R. Raghavender, Joint Secretary, Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. A vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Jupi Gogoi, Associate Professor, NLUJA, Assam.

- 8. NLUA Journal of Intellectual Property Rights** - The NLUA Journal of Intellectual Property Rights has been introduced in the year 2022 which is a peer reviewed bi-annual online journal of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade – Intellectual Property Rights Chair (DPIIT-IPR) of National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam. The Journal seeks to serve the purpose of promoting research in legal, economic, socio-legal, social, technological and entrepreneurial aspects of new and emerging areas of IPR at all levels – regional, national and

international, in view of the National IPR Policy and the Scheme for Pedagogy and Research in IPRs for Holistic Education and Academia (SPRIHA). The Journal aims to publish scholarly articles, research papers, book reviews, case studies on various aspects of IPRs from students, scholars, academicians, legal practitioners, and activists having interest and zeal in reinforcing and uplifting the prospects of IPR research and development.

- 9. CBCC CURRICULUM ON IPR** - Preparation and submission of Syllabus for IPR CBCC programme (2 Credit Course) for the undergraduate students of the University. The curriculum has been introduced in three semesters (1st, 3rd and 5th semesters) of the Odd Semester Session 2022-2023 starting from August 2022.