

CASE STUDIES FOR THE FY 2025-2026

CASE STUDY 1- DOCUMENTATION OF GARO TRADITIONAL PRODUCTS FOR GI PROTECTION (June 20, 2025)

On June 20, 2025, a working committee took the pioneering initiative to study and document several traditional Garo products that had the potential for Geographical Indication (GI) tagging. This session takes precedence from the Outreach Training Programme on Intellectual Property Rights for Traditional Knowledge and GI Protection held on March 25, 2025, organized by DPIIT-IPR-Chair at NLUJA Assam at the NEHU (North-East Hill University) Tura Campus. The committee comprised the DPIIT-IPR Chair, NLUJAA, BioNest, NEHU, and the Department of Garo, NEHU. The committee was tasked with identifying and documenting various indigenous agricultural produce and cultural aspects of the Garo Tribal Community to safeguard the community's profound Traditional Knowledge and to empower the community through leveraging GI. These efforts build upon the existing success of registered GIs in Meghalaya, such as the Dakmanda textile and Chubitchi rice wine, which were protected during the 2023–2024 period.

The June documentation specifically prioritized indigenous flora and unique material artifacts that define the Garo identity. Key recommendations included medicinal fruits like the Wild Blood Fruit (Te'pattang), prized for its immune-boosting properties, and the Wild Cane Fruit (Sokmil), which is traditionally used to regulate hypertension. The committee also highlighted the cultural significance of the Starfruit (Galde), particularly its specialized preparation with dried fish to treat jaundice. Beyond agricultural produce, the meeting emphasized the need for GI protection of unique architectural styles, such as the Nokpante (bachelor house) and Borang (tree house), alongside traditional instruments like the Dama drum and specialized bamboo basketry.

These documentation efforts aim to provide a robust legal framework to prevent the misappropriation of Garo ancestral resources. By securing GI tags for items like the Citrus Macroptera and local alkali preparations, the community seeks to promote the sustainable use of their biodiversity while preserving traditional practices like Jhum cultivation. This strategic move ensures that the reputation and quality of Garo products, essentially attributable to their geographical origin in the Garo Hills, are recognized and protected under the law.

SOME OF THE POTENTIAL PRODUCTS FOR GI TAGGING INCLUDED:

Wild Blood Fruit (Te·pattang) (Haematocarpus Validas)

Wild Blood fruit is a strikingly vibrant treasure, its deep crimson hue reminiscent of a rich sunset. Packed with dietary fiber, this unique fruit is cherished by the Garos, who believe it bolsters their immune defenses. When fully ripened, it offers a delightful explosion of flavors, dancing between sweetness and tartness, captivating the palate with every bite.



Starfruit (Carambola) and its products

Galde, also known as Ti·kongkep, is traditionally embraced by the Garo community for its remarkable properties in treating jaundice. Its healing remedy preparation - the vibrant fruit is expertly boiled alongside small fish that have been partially dried. The resulting concoction, rich in flavor and nutrients, is served to the patient, who often appears frail and weary, battling the debilitating symptoms of weakness and anemia. This time-honored practice reflects a deep understanding of natural healing, blending the earth's bounty with cultural wisdom in a heartfelt gesture of care. Juice and local wine is prepared from the starfruit.



Sokmil, also known as Wild Cane fruit (Calamus erectus Roxb.)

This has notable medicinal properties, especially in controlling hypertension and regulating pressure levels. The Garos have traditionally used this fruit for its health benefits and as a

vegetable in fish dishes, which is an interesting culinary application, showing how it integrates into the local diet. It is often used to make Sockmil Pickle through the practice of preserving the fruit by making pickles, which also highlights its versatility. Pickling not only extends its shelf life but also enhances its flavors, which can balance the sourness and make it a unique accompaniment to meals.

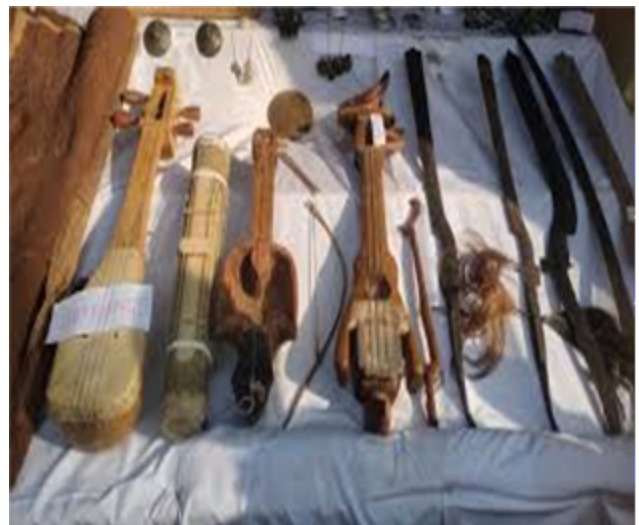


Jackfruit/ Te'brong

The fully ripe fruit is regarded as a delicacy by many and serves as a crucial source of sustenance in several regions. It can also be used to make Te'brong Pickel.

Different types of bamboo baskets: Kok, Kokcheng, Kokbal, Ruan, Gitchera, etc.

Musical Instruments: Dama (Drum), Bangsi (Flute), Rang (Gong), Sarenda, Dotdrong, Mil'am (sword), Sepi (shield), kakwa (cymbal), etc



Newly Suggested Products/ Articles For Gi Tagging In The June 20, 2025 Meeting

A. Different types of Garo houses:

1. Bachelor House
2. Tree House
3. Family house

B. Other Recommendations:

1. Unique Preparation method of local alkali
2. Small bamboo indigenous to the Garo Hills
3. Citrus Fruit - Citrus Macroptera
4. Bamboo shoots, pickles available from the Rongjeng area.
5. Garo Drum
6. Bamboo Baskets (Kok, Kokcheng, Kokbal, Ruan, Gitchera, am) and Fish traps made of bamboo: Chekke, Koksi, chempa

This is an ongoing study that aims to facilitate more GI filings for indigenous Garo products in the financial year 2026- 2027.

CASE STUDY 2- FIELD VISIT ON JANAJATI SAMELLAN (January 30, 2026)

Interns from the DPIIT-IPR Chair at NLUJA, Assam, visited the Janajati Samellan 2026 to document traditional tribal heritage from Tripura, Meghalaya, and Arunachal Pradesh. The study identifies a diverse range of cultural products, from the Debbarma's Roketto and Hajong's Ranga Patin to the Dimasa's Rigu and Tagin's Gale. The primary objective was to assess awareness of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), specifically Geographical Indication (GI) protection. While the Dimasa community showed high awareness due to their previous GI for Judima, groups like the Debbarma and Tagin tribes lacked significant knowledge of legal safeguards. A critical finding was the emerging threat of imitation goods sold at lower prices, which has intensified the need for legal protection. The report concludes there is a "pressing need" for institutional support and awareness programs to help indigenous communities secure their heritage through formal GI registration.

The complete event report of this field visit is available on the DPIIT NLUJAA website and can be accessed via the following link: [Report on a Field Visit on Janajati Samellan](#)

CASE STUDY 3- FIELD VISIT TO FESTIVAL OF MISING TRIBE- ALI-AYE-LIGANG: TRADITION, CULTURE AND VISUALS (February 18, 2026)

Interns from the DPIIT-IPR Chair at NLUJA, Assam, conducted a day-long field visit on February 18, 2026, to document the Ali-Aye-Ligang festival of the Mising community at Shilpagram, Guwahati. As the second-largest tribe in Assam, the Mising people celebrate this agricultural festival to mark the beginning of the Ahu paddy sowing season. The visit focused on identifying the cultural and intellectual property significance of the tribe's traditions, including the ceremonial Gumraag Soman dance and Oi Nitom folk songs. A key element of the festival is the vibrant handloom tradition, featuring traditional attire such as Ege (upper garment) and Ribi Gaseng (lower garment), which represent the community's unique craftsmanship and cultural pride. By engaging with the community during rituals and festivities, the study aimed to assess the potential for Geographical Indication (GI) and other IPR protections to safeguard these indigenous practices from misrepresentation and to promote the economic sustainability of Mising artisans.

The complete event report of this field visit to document the Ali-Aye-Ligang festival is available on the DPIIT NLUJAA website and can be accessed via the following link: [Report on the Visit to Festival of Mising Tribe - Ali-Aye-Ligang: Tradition, Culture, and Visuals](#)

CASE STUDY 4- FIELD VISIT TO FIRST BATTALION, NDRF HEADQUARTERS IN GUWAHATI (March 17, 2026)

The LLM batch (IPR specialization) from NLUJA, Assam, conducted an educational field visit to the 1st Battalion of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) in Patgaon, Guwahati, on March 17, 2026. Organized by the DPIIT-IPR Chair, the visit aimed to explore the intersection of disaster management and intellectual property. During the visit, students engaged with NDRF officials to understand the specialized equipment and innovative technologies used in search and rescue operations. The focus was on identifying the patented technologies and proprietary designs inherent in disaster relief tools, such as specialized cutters, sensors, and communication systems. This practical exposure allowed the postgraduate scholars to analyze how IPR protection incentivizes the development of life-saving innovations. The visit emphasized the importance of safeguarding these technological advancements through patents and industrial

designs to ensure the sustainability and continuous improvement of disaster response capabilities in India.

The complete event report of this field visit to the 1st Battalion of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) in Patgaon is available on the DPIIT NLUJAA website and can be accessed via the following link: [Report on Field Visit to First Battalion, NDRF Headquarters in Guwahati](#)

CASE STUDY 5- FIELD VISIT ON MAYONG VILLAGE (March 24, 2026)

On March 24, 2026, the LLM (IPR Specialization) batch and DPIIT-IPR Chair interns from NLUJA, Assam, conducted an academic field visit to Mayong, the historic "Black Magic Capital" of India. The visit aimed to explore the village's unique traditional knowledge (TK) and cultural heritage, particularly its legendary history of tantric practices and indigenous healing. The group visited the Mayong Village Museum and Research Centre, which preserves rare 13th-century manuscripts (mantra puthis) and magico-medical artifacts such as sacrificial machetes and herbal kits. Students observed the practices of traditional healers (Bez or Oja), whose methods for treating ailments like jaundice combine herbal pharmacology with mantra recitation. A central focus of the study was the "profound mismatch" between Mayong's collective, oral heritage and conventional Intellectual Property (IP) laws. The report highlights that standard frameworks for authorship and patents are ill-equipped to protect community-owned secrets, leaving them vulnerable to biopiracy and misappropriation. The visit concluded with recommendations for a sui generis legal framework and a dedicated database to safeguard oral traditions while empowering the community economically.

The complete event report of this field visit to Mayong is available on the DPIIT NLUJAA website and can be accessed via the following link: [Field Report on Mayong Village](#)

CASE STUDY 6- MEGHALAYA CULTURAL AND HERITAGE EXPLORATION (March 26, 27 & 28 of 2026)

Interns from the DPIIT-IPR Chair at NLUJAA conducted a three-day Meghalaya Cultural and Heritage Exploration in March 2026 to study the indigenous traditions of the Khasi Hills. The delegation engaged with NEHU's Department of Khasi to discuss linguistic heritage and

explored the Don Bosco Museum, a premier repository for Northeast Indian ethnographic archives. A central focus was the Mawphlang Sacred Grove, which serves as a living model of community-based natural resource management where spiritual taboos protect genetic resources. The team also marvelled at the Ing Sad in Smit Village, a thatched palace constructed without metal nails, showcasing remarkable indigenous engineering. These visits highlighted the "Sovereignty of Culture" and the urgent need for a sui generis legal system to protect collective traditional knowledge from commercial exploitation while respecting customary laws.

The complete event report of this Cultural and Heritage Exploration is available on the DPIIT NLUJAA website and can be accessed via the following link: [Meghalaya Cultural and Heritage Exploration](#)

CASE STUDY 7- FIELD TRIP TO MIZORAM FOR DATA COLLECTION ON TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND TRADITIONAL CULTURAL EXPRESSION (March 27, 2026)

On March 27, 2026, the DPIIT-IPR Chair from NLUJA, Assam, conducted a field visit to Aizawl, Mizoram, to strengthen frameworks for documenting Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCEs). The delegation held high-level discussions with the Directorate of Commerce & Industries and the Directorate of Art & Culture regarding the potential for Geographical Indications (GI) and collective marks to empower tribal artisans. A visit to the Mizoram State Museum provided a visual archive of Mizo heritage, showcasing traditional textiles, ornaments, and musical instruments that serve as "quiet reminders" of receding traditions. Key insights from the trip include the need for enhanced branding of tribal products and collaboration with the Tribal Research Institute for knowledge preservation. The visit concluded with plans for a National Conference in June and a formal MoU to boost regional textile exports and bridge the gap between grassroots systems and formal IP law.

The complete event report of this field visit to Aizawl, Mizoram is available on the DPIIT NLUJAA website and can be accessed via the following link: [Field Report on Data Collection: Mizoram](#)