

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NAVIGATING IP CHALLENGES IN THE DIGITAL AGE: FOCUS ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

(9th NOVEMBER, 2024)

The DPIIT IPR Chair at Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow organized the National Conference on Navigating IP Challenges in the Digital Age: Focus on Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies., bringing together leading academics, policymakers, legal professionals, and technology experts to explore the evolving intersection of intellectual property IP and emerging digital technologies. The conference offered a dynamic platform for dialogue on the critical challenges posed by digital advancements to traditional IP frameworks, focusing on issues from AI-generated content to digital asset ownership.

The eminent personalities for the inaugural ceremony of the conference were Hon'ble Mr. Justice Syed Qamar Hasan Rizvi, Judge Allahabad High Court – Lucknow Bench as the Chief Guest, Dr. Raghavender GR, Senior Consultant (IPR), Dept. of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT), Govt. of India as the Guest of Honour and Mr. Saurabh Tiwari, an accomplished legal professional specializing in Intellectual Property and Technology Law, as our distinguished Keynote Speaker. The conference received over 80 papers from various institutions across the length and breadth of India, including NLIU Bhopal, RGNUL Punjab, MNLU Mumbai, MNLU Nagpur, SLS Pune, SLS Noida, Christ University, Nirma University, VIPS New Delhi, IIULER Goa, Banaras Hindu University, University of Allahabad, University of Lucknow, Jamia Hamdard and others. The conference also witnessed participation and presentations from legal practitioners, academicians and IP professionals based in India and abroad.

The conference was held under the guidance of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Amar Pal Singh as the Chief Patron, Prof. Manish Singh, DPIIT IPR Chair Professor RMLNLU as the Patron, Dr. Vikas Bhati, Director IP-PRECISE as the Convenor and Ms. Priya Anuragini as the Organising Secretary of the Conference.



National Conference on Navigating IP Challenges in the Digital Age

Organised by
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The event featured presentations and panel discussions, enriching participants' understanding and stimulating necessary discussions on complex topics. A particularly thought-provoking session examined whether AI could be deemed a legal person, sparking a spirited debate with arguments both supporting and opposing this idea. Participants discussed how AI's rapid evolution necessitates a re-evaluation of legal definitions and responsibilities within the digital and IP landscape.

As AI-generated works become more prevalent, the conference addressed whether such creations meet traditional originality standards. Sessions also touched upon new digital ownership concepts in areas like the metaverse, where architects and creators must navigate creative freedom within evolving virtual landscapes. Discussions highlighted the challenges posed by AI's growth, including protecting sensitive data, managing ownership and copyright of AI-generated works, and safeguarding trade secrets in an increasingly digital world. Additionally, the exploitation of traditional knowledge by AI-driven innovations and the ethical considerations surrounding technologies like deepfakes were examined.

Presenters underscored significant jurisdictional issues and compliance difficulties, along with the need for greater transparency and meaningful consent under current data protection laws. The presenters proposed practical methods to counter unethical AI applications, specifically addressing issues such as deepfakes, data manipulation, discriminatory practices, and surveillance concerns. Experts advocated for legal and ethical frameworks, stressing the importance of international cooperation and standardization to effectively counter these risks.

Speakers also analyzed how IP can drive growth in the fintech sector, while highlighting the inconsistency of IP laws across jurisdictions and the challenges this poses for enforcement. Emerging technologies like the DigiYatra app were discussed as examples of government-driven innovation. Presenters noted that AI governance would play a critical role in the future, especially in crafting regulatory frameworks that support secure, ethical development.

The technical sessions were chaired by: Dr. Raghavender GR, Mr. Saurabh Tiwari, Dr. Ashish Kumar Srivastava, Dr. Vikas Bhati, Dr. Subhash Chandra Roy, Dr. Narender Kumar, Dr. Pankaj Kumar, Dr. Raman Mittal, Dr. Amandeep Singh and Dr. Isha Yadav.

The distinguished guests for the valedictory ceremony were Dr. Indra Dwivedy, former Chief Scientist and Group Leader of the Patents Innovation Protection Unit (IPU) at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Prof. Subhash Chandra Roy, DPIIT IPR Chair Professor, CNLU Patna as the Guest of Honour.

The conference was well-received by the paper presenters as well as the legal experts chairing and co-chairing the sessions. The conference closed with a call for continued dialogue and research on the regulation of AI and digital innovations, underscoring the importance of a collaborative, forward-thinking approach to address the unique IP challenges of the digital age.