



# IPR JAGORAN.... "TUIPR Cell on its way to IPR Awakening"

## TEZPUR UNIVERSITY INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS CELL

Issue 2, Jan 2014- March 2016

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### From the Editors .....

January 2014 to March 2016 has been another eventful period for the Tezpur University IPR Cell (TUIPR Cell) with several notable events and activities spanning IPR Awareness programmes, patents search training for researchers, running of three Choice based Credit Transfer (CBCT) courses in IPR at the Post-graduate, Undergraduate and Ph.D levels, supporting innovation in the university with their timely protection and conducting grassroots workshops and camps in IPR involving stakeholders of traditional knowledge, handicrafts, fine arts and Geographical Indications. The Cell is led by Professor Prabuddha Ganguli, MHRD IPR Chair Professor , Coordinated by Dr P. Deb, with continual guidance from Professor Mihir Chaudhuri, VC Tezpur University and unstinting support from the University Administration. Funds from MHRD, Government of India fuel the TUIPR Engine.



Research was also initiated on two projects involving the "GI .....Muga Silk of Assam" and Mukha (Masks) of Majuli culminating in two extensive reports. The TUIPR Cell members also shared their experience and knowledge in diverse national and international platforms through lectures and presentations. The TUIPR Cell also facilitated the creation of the IPR Cell in Dibrugarh University. The National Knowledge Network (NKN) has been used most effectively to conduct the regular courses from off campus locations regularly.

IP Quiz on the "World Intellectual Property Day" brought in a lot of cheer and excitement in the campus as student volunteers conducted the Quiz Session with skill and finesse. Visit by the European Delegation on R&D and IPR to the University on the World Intellectual Property Day was the other highlight. This issue of "IPR Jagoran" provides a panoramic documentation of our endeavours during the period January 2014 to March 2016

### Our Acknowledgements .....

We are grateful to

- ❖ Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD), Govt. of India, for grants to carry out all our activities
- ❖ GI Registry in Chennai for advice and involvement in our GI related work.
- ❖ Assam Science Technology and Environment Council (ASTEC) for partially funding some of our activities.



The Intellectual Property related activities in Tezpur University over the last few years has created novel avenues in the field IPR education, training and development of human resources

in this niche field in an innovative manner within the Indian University System. The interdisciplinary IPR Courses and approaches developed with the initiatives of the MHRD IPR Chair in Tezpur University have now been validated within our campus and we should be pleased to share our experience with other institutions in the country. Tezpur University IPR Cell (TUIPR Cell) has conducted several IPR Awareness Programmes in institutions in the NE Region. I am convinced that IPR should get ingrained as a value added part in our academic process so that the fruits of research done within our universities can be transferred to industries with effectiveness and enhanced level of confidence. I also believe that the developed in-house IPR expertise must contribute by

going beyond our campuses. The TUIPR Cell is intensely involved with the diverse communities in the North East Region to explore ways and means of protecting and utilising the rich traditional knowledge, products and practices for the socio-economic development of these societies. The on-going work of TUIPR Cell in North Lakhimpur, related to the Geographical Indication of the Muga Silk of Assam has been noteworthy. The work in Majuli to explore the possibility of protection of the traditional "Mukha" as Geographical Indication is yet another step in the right direction. I compliment the TUIPR Cell team for its relentless work and sharing its experiences in the second issue of "IPR Jagoran".

**M.K. Chaudhuri**

### *MHRD IPR Chair Professor and TUIPR Cell Coordinator.....*



The last two years since the first issue of "IPR Jagoran" have a period for consolidation of the work in progress in initiation of activities ranging from running the three choice

based interdisciplinary courses on IPR at the undergraduate, post graduate and PhD levels, conducting training sessions on patent searches for the researchers in Tezpur University, extending our IPR Expertise to other universities in the North East Region, setting up and implementing processes for the identification of innovations made by researchers in Tezpur University and filing of appropriate IPR Applications, initiating outreach programmes on Geographical Indications (GI) that culminated in the registration of 92 "Authorised Users" of the "GI of Muga Silk of Assam" and creating a blue print of the IPR route for Tezpur University. Researching in the turbulent interface of IPR and competition laws has been exciting. Well past its exploratory phase, the TUIPR Cell is looking to an exhilarating future ahead.

Embedding IPR into the Tezpur University System and teaming up with the MHRD IPR Chair in this challenging effort has been a rewarding experience. Involving the students, faculty and members of various departments to



participate in synergy to elevate the educational and innovation process within our university system has generated a new dynamism in the campus. The TUIPR Cell has become a point of convergence for the conversion of faculty and students' created innovations into university's intellectual property. New pathways are being worked out for entrepreneurship development and to interact with industries to take up the "university innovations" and IP for effective commercialisation. Nucleating and growing an IPR Culture in the university demand innovative approaches. The annual IPR Quiz on every International IPR Day has become a vibrant platform for students to get exposed with the nuances of IPR. The second issue of "IPR Jagoran" is our way of sharing our learning with our community.

**Copyrights Registrations during 2014 - 2016**

<u>Sl. No.</u>	<u>Copyright Registration No.</u>	<u>Title of the Copyrighted Works</u>	<u>Name of the Author(s)</u>	<u>Date of Registration</u>
1	SW-8075/2014	Kinlac-Programme for Kinetic analysis of solid state process	Pritam Deb & Madhulekha Gogoi	06/08/2014
2	SW-8076/2014	MaxQ-Programme for microstructural study of nano materials for X-ray diffraction pattern analysis	Pritam Deb & Madhulekha Gogoi	06/08/2014
3	SW-8010/2015	Development of an internet web application for the study of surface Plasmon resonance spectroscopy	Ratan Baruah, Gazi. A. Ahmed, Amarjyoti Choudhury, Ankur Gogoi, Pritom Rajkhowa	01/09/2015

**Patent applications filed during 2014 - 2016**

<u>Sl. No.</u>	<u>Application no.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Name of the Inventors</u>
1	201631010727	Novel Soil Conditioners	Sanjay Pratihar, Satya Sundar Bhattacharya, Pallabi Das and Kasturi Sarmah
2	201631005351	Casein Nanoparticles for Colon Targeted Controlled Delivery of Biologically Active Agents in Foods	Pallab Kumar Borah and Raj Kumar Duary
3	201631006546	Microwave mediated processing of turmeric	Brijesh Srivastava, Baby Z. Hmar and Dipsikha Kalita
4	1313/KOL/2015	Anticoagulant actives and synergistic anticoagulant composition and method of producing the same	Ashish Kumar Mukherjee and Debananda Gogoi
5	211/KOL/2014	A Synthetic hyperbranched epoxy surgical sealant and a process for preparation thereof.	Niranjan Karak, Saswat Barua and P. Chattapadhyay
6	1296/KOL/2014	Nanocatalyst for bio oil production	Pritam Deb and Kasmiri Deka
7	1295/KOL/2014	Mesoporous secondary nanostructures as multifunctional heavy metal scavenger	Pritam Deb, Kakoli Bhattacharya and Devaborniny Parasar

*Our Team at  
TUIPR Cell*



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In December 2013, TUIPR Cell initiated a project to explore the reasons for the low number of Authorized users for GI-Muga Silk of Assam and hence take steps to enhance this number in order to realize the Economic benefits through proper utilization of GI status and GI logo for Muga Silk. **In the first phase** of this project from December 2013-January 2014, two research interns viz. Mr. Anamitra Kakoti and Mr. Debashish Dutta carried out a study on the “*Pre and post effects of Geographical Indications (GI) on Muga Silk of Assam*”. This pilot study had identified various loopholes in the Muga Silk value chain that needed to be urgently addressed.



Photo: A Muga weaver working on her handloom

**In the second phase** of this project, extensive field visits were carried out during July, 2014 in Dhakuakhana, Ghilamara and Gogamukh of Lakhimpur district of Assam. The initial visits were aimed at spreading awareness about GI, GI logo and Muga Silk as a GI among the stakeholders of Muga production including government offices administering sericulture in these areas. These visits have helped in the identification of places with concentrated Muga production, elements in the Muga market and the factors obstructing the fair trade of authentic Muga products. Such preliminary field visits suggested an urgent need to seek an organized effort towards optimal utilization of the GI status of Muga Silk. As a step towards this, a regional workshop has been organized by TUIPR Cell on 9th January, 2015 in NEDFi house, Guwahati, in collaboration with The Geographical Indications Registry, Chennai, and North Eastern Development and Finance (NEDFi) Corp. Ltd. Thus a forum was provided for identifying the scenario of protected traditional names in North-East and discuss the steps necessary to develop market for such unique products. The workshop was



Photo: Mr. Arshad Hussain, Project Fellow, with the Muga weavers

Government and Non-government organizations, academic institutions (NLUJAA-Guwahati, IIT-Guwahati, Dibrugarh University), national-regional print and electronic media and entrepreneurs from Boko and Sualkuchi.

In March 2015, aiming to organize a GI registration clinic for Muga producers, TUIPR Cell has sent Mr. Arshad Hussain on a targeted visit to Lakhimpur district (specifically to places viz. Panigaon, Khelmati, Japisajia, Chetia Gaon Ghilamara, gogamukh, Batumari etc) in order to mobilize Muga stakeholders for application as Authorized Users of Muga Silk. Following this, a GI registration Clinic cum outreach programme was organized on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2015, in North Lakhimpur College in Lakhimpur. The camp was attended by 117 participants, of which Ninety Two (92) stakeholders filled their applications to become “Authorised Users” of the Muga Silk of Assam GI. These applications were sent to the GI Registry in Chennai and the TUIPR Cell followed up with the GI Registry. In October 2015, these 92 applications were published by the GI Registry and the applicants will now receive their “Authorised User” certificates after which they will be entitled to use the GI Logo on their products. The next challenge is to get the MUGA Inspection Body operative so that the MUGA Silk of Assam GI can be meaningfully enforced.



Photo: With the villagers during the field visit

## Workshop on “Protection of Traditional Product Names in the North East Region using Geographical Indications ..... Its importance in enhancing business and promoting Regional Art and Craft”



Photo: Inauguration of the GI workshop in Guwahati

The first ever regional workshop on Geographical Indications in North-East India was organized by GI Registry Chennai in collaboration with TUIPR Cell, Tezpur University and North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd.(NEDFi) on 9th January 2015 in Guwahati. This workshop aimed to provide information on the importance of GIs in the North Eastern Region for the protection of names of diverse products, originating in the North Eastern Region that have earned a reputation over the years in the market place. The programme included case studies, presentations and interactive sessions among registered GI owners, State Government Departments, Financial Institutions, NGOs and the GI Stake Holders. The discussions were confined to areas like realization of full commercial and socio-economic benefits of GIs which made the participants aware of the steps necessary to be taken at the grassroots level and made them conscious about the possible hurdles that they might have to overcome.

The workshop was graced by the presence of Mr. Jitesh Khosla (Chief Guest), Chief Secretary of Assam; Mr. Naba K. Das(Guest of Honour), Ex-Chief Secretary of Assam; Prof. Mihir. K. Chaudhuri, Vice Chancellor-Tezpur University; Prof. Alak Buragohain, Vice Chancellor-Dibrugarh University and Prof. P. ganguli, MHRD IPR Chair Professor, Tezpur University. All of these dignitaries presented their individual views on GIs in North-East India. Shri. C. G. Naidu Asstt. Registrar, GI Registry, Chennai, presented on the GI



Photo: Dr R. Barman of ASTEC during interaction with the participants

The workshop was attended by 92 participants from the State Administration, Government and Non-government organizations, academic institutions (NLUJAA-Guwahati, IIT-Guwahati, Dibrugarh University), national-regional print and electronic media. In addition to several entrepreneurs, a number of weavers from Boko and Sualkuchi also participated.



Photo: Participants of the GI workshop in Guwahati

During this workshop it was realised that much is still needed to be done at the grassroots level to channelize the potential benefits from the status of Geographical Indications in the marketplace to reach even the ordinary stakeholder in the product's value chain. One of the major lacuna identified was the insignificant number of registrations of “Authorised Users”. It should be appreciated that only authorised users are allowed to put the GI label on their products to convey the authenticity of their products to the consumers.

Thus, a strategic and robust marketing plan with brand building needs to be put in place to add value to unique natural and cultural products from North Eastern Region. Such an approach could provide a major boost to



Photo: Participants in the GI Camp in Lakhimpur

## MUGA SILK GI CAMP in Lakhimpur....

A MUGA GI outreach programme was organized by TUIPR Cell in Lakhimpur, Assam, on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2015, with logistics support of the recently formed “Intellectual Property Rights Cell” of Dibrugarh University and North Lakhimpur College. This outreach programme on “Effective utilization of Muga Silk of Assam Geographical Indication for community benefit of Muga stakeholders”, was an initiative based on the findings and recommendations of the Research project entitled “Muga GI” under MHRD-IPR Chair Professor, Tezpur University. The field visits of Shri Arshad Hussain (JRF, TUIPR Cell), in July-December, 2014 and March 2015, provided the impetus to galvanise the grassroots muga stakeholders with a common purpose of becoming “authorised users” of the GI.

The entire GI Camp was conducted in Assamese and Hindi to ensure total communication between the resource persons and the grassroots participants who travelled from 33 locations within a radius of 70 kms of Lakhimpur. The inaugural session was graced by Dr Biman Ch Chetia, Principal, North Lakhimpur College ; Dr Hamendra Kr Gogoi, former Principal and President, Governing Body, North Lakhimpur College Dr. Pritam Deb, Coordinator, TUIPR Cell,



Tezpur University; Prof. Prabuddha Ganguli, MHRD IPR Chair Professor, Tezpur University; and Dr Taranath Duwara, Department of Anthropology, Dibrugarh University. Dr. P. Deb outlined the contours of GI Camp. Prof. P. Ganguli elaborated the theme of the GI Camp with illustrative examples of how effective utilisation has been made in various parts of the world. Dr. Suchibrata Goswami, presented an “Overview of Intellectual Property Rights” with focus on collective marks, certification marks, patents and designs. Dr. Juri B. Saikia, Research Officer, TUIPR Cell, started off with basic concepts of GI and then elaborated on the potential benefits an “Authorized Users” can derive, and how such activities can create a framework for socio-economic development of communities in the region. Dr Bipul Saikia of North Lakhimpur College, who is an expert on Sericulture and closely associated with the MUGA cultivators in the region, linked the concepts with possible grassroots level benefits and the need for local “clustered working”.



Photo: Interaction with the participants of the GI Camp in Lakhimpur

92 stake holders of MUGA filled their application forms to become “Authorised Users” of “GI-MUGA Silk of Assam” which were critically scrutinised by the TUIPR resource persons and student volunteers during the “facilitation session”. These applications are being sent to the GI Registry for further processing.

The participants expressed their grave concern on the uncontrolled proliferation of “adulterated products” being passed off as MUGA and the critical need for the establishment of an effective central inspection body by the State Government with enforcement powers to introduce checks in the market place to ensure that only genuine MUGA products are allowed to be called “MUGA”. TUIPR Cell plans to formally take up these issues with the

## Two day regional training programme on Traditional Knowledge, Socio-Economic Development and Intellectual Property Rights

TUIPR Cell organized a two day training programme on “Traditional Knowledge, Socio-Economic Development and Intellectual Property Rights” in collaboration with the Department of Cultural Studies, Tezpur University on 10-11 Feb 2014. This event brought together practitioners of diverse cultural practices from the region and exposed them to facets of IPR (mainly copyright and geographical indications). A case study on present status of Muga Silk based on the field study carried out by the TUIPR Cell between Dec 2013 – Jan 2014 in collaboration with ASTEC was presented by Mr. Anamitra Kakati and Mr. Debashish Dutta (Research Interns appointed by TUIPR Cell). Through interactive sessions, the programme illustrated how IPR can add value to their existing activities and how they can interface with professionals and academics to simultaneously propagate and preserve their rich heritage. The programme also gave the academic community an opportunity to come face to face with these practitioners and learn about their traditional systems.



Photo: Participants of the two day regional training programme

Fifty two (52) participants working in important areas of traditional knowledge such as folk dance and music, artistic work of mask making, production and processing of Muga silk, the first GI of Assam and traditional medicine took part in this workshop. Eight Resource persons invited to speak on specific topics of traditional knowledge highlighted the vital areas and focused on the importance of intellectual property protection to save our rich cultural and social heritage from infringement or unauthorized access.



Photo: *Mukha Bhaona* presented by the participants from Samoguri Satra using the traditional masks

Cutting across a wide variety of topics ranging from traditional medicine prevalent in North East to indigenous mask making craft of Majuli, the two day programme saw a large gamete of discussion emanating from concerns expressed by the participants hailing from different parts of the state. Fear of unauthorized commercialization without giving due credit to the indigenous communities was one of the major issues discussed in this regard. Assistant Controller of Patents and Designs in Indian Patent Office, Kolkata informed the participants with some actual examples how documentation of traditional knowledge can act as major evidence for preventing wrongful patenting and unauthorized commercialization. Other benefits of documentation of the oral forms of traditional knowledge like country songs etc were also discussed.

The initiatives undertaken by the Government to protect unauthorized exploitation of traditional knowledge was highlighted by Dr. R. K. Barman from ASTEC. Similarly, innovations and initiatives taken in the field of protection of Muga silk of Assam from undue exploitation in the market due to unfair completion by fake variants was apprised by Dr. D. Choudhury, OSD to the Governor of Assam.

The live performances of Ojapali and Bihu geets with explanations from experts brought a lot of vibrancy to the culmination of the two day long programme. Interaction with some of the eminent personalities in the field of Natural Medicine like Dr. Gunaram Khanikar, in the field of folk music and performing art like Dr. Anil Saikia and Shri. Jatin Goswami made the workshop a wholesome learning experience. The programme ended with a short display of mechanised Muga by patented technology and spinning machine.

In October 2014, a project was initiated under the guidance of Prof. P. Ganguli, to carry out an in-depth study on the potential of *mukha* as a Geographical Indication (GI). This project also aims to assess the viability of *mukha* in an effective commercial value chain.

In the first phase of this project, a detailed literature study on *mukha* has been carried out and documented as a report (GI\_MUKHA\_01\_11/2014) on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014. As part of the second phase of this project, a field visit to Majuli has been carried out from 18-21<sup>st</sup> December, 2014 to gather grassroots information through interaction with the *mukha* crafts persons. The *Satras* viz. *Natun Chamaguri Satra* and *Prachin Chamaguri Satra* were selected for this phase of the study as they have been active in the mask making tradition.

Three noted active torch bearers of mask making in Majuli, namely Shri Hem Chandra Goswami, maestro in mask making (*Natun Chamaguri Satra*); Shri Krishna Kanta Bora, an active artisan of mask making (*Natun Chamaguri Satra*) and Shri Jai Chandra Mahanta, noted artisan of mask making (*Prachin Chamaguri Satra*) were interviewed. These visits have produced significant information on the Major classes of *Mukha*, Technique of mask making in Majuli, Market for *Mukha*, method of production and the unique characteristics imparted through it, cost of production, stakeholders of *Mukha*, the market conditions of *Mukhas* and customer behaviour. The data collected is being analysed for estimating the potential of *Mukhas* to as a GI and also its feasibility to sustain in the market. Simultaneously another objective of this project is to identify the loopholes in trade of *Mukhas* and provide measures for economic sustenance as a product.

Findings from the field are indicative of the need to popularize this art-form by including it in formal education system, exhibition in Museums and propagation through appropriate electronic and print media. Further visits are planned to implement on the suggestions derived from the prior visits.

The Tezpur University Intellectual Property Rights Cell, under the MHRD IPR Chair Professorship and in collaboration with Dibrugarh University has decided to undertake a detailed documentation on *mukha* for the preparation of a Geographical Indications (GI) application

in the next 12 months. The TUIPR Cell also aims to identify the appropriate organization that should make the GI application to take ownership of the proposed *Mukha* GI so that the interests of the stakeholders of the *Mukha* crafts persons are nurtured and protected.



Photo: Local artisans (top right) and *Mukhas* (masks) from *Satras* of Majuli



World IP Day, 2015 was celebrated with a quiz programme in IPR on the theme **“Get up, stand up for music”** which was held in Tezpur University on 26<sup>th</sup> of April. Students from various departments in the university took part in this programme. Twenty two teams were formed for the intense quiz sessions. Mr. Asutosh Das, a veteran student quiz master in Tezpur Campus, conducted the Quiz in two phases in his own inimitable style. His specially designed questions stirred the grey matter of the participants to respond with speed and perfection. The distinctive feature in the quiz was the innate link between concepts in IPR and actual live examples thereby also testing the current awareness of participants in IPR related issues impacting our daily lives. The questions spanned from copyright issues in popular Bollywood Music and films to patent controversies in pharmaceutical industries. The quiz in short was a fun packed Sunday of IPR extravaganza.



Photo: Exhibition-cum-sale of Muga and Endi products

The invited speaker, Mr. Denis Dambois briefed the audience about the history and current status of IP protection through his lecture themed **“An Introduction to Intellectual Property: A Live Wire for Innovation and Technology Transfer”**. The celebrations concluded with prize distribution to the winners of the IP Day Quiz. Some of the potential users (GI applicants) from remote Laluk (Lakhimpur District, Assam) were invited to the university to showcase their products before the EU delegation in the exhibition-cum-sale during the event.

The rest of the day was information packed as the European Delegation consisting of a team of seven experts from various countries of the EU made informative presentations to the students and faculty of Tezpur University on various pathways to establishing EU-India collaborative projects, implementation of the Indo-European Research and Innovation Partnership, and Coordination of EU Member States' Research and Innovation activities in India.



Photo: Participants of the quiz programme along with the TUIPR Cell members

The World IP Day Celebration continued on 29<sup>th</sup> of April which incidentally coincided with visit of the European Union delegation to Tezpur University.

The Coordinator, TUIPR Cell Dr. Pritam Deb welcomed the participants in the packed Council Hall. Our Vice-Chancellor, Prof. M. K. Chaudhuri, introduced the theme for the day with emphasis on the need to make IPR a way of life for the researchers especially in academic institutions. The special talk on Intellectual Property was delivered by the Head of the EU delegation, Mr. Denis Dambois.

He voiced his concern over the poor number of patents filed from Indian Universities as compared to some of the leading Universities in countries like U.S., China and Japan. He reiterated need to make research a self sustaining activity in



## "In-house workshops on Patent Search and Analysis in 2014 and 2015"

On 6th September, 2014, a patent search and analysis workshop was organized in Tezpur University for researchers to familiarise and train in searching patent databases and also to initiate patent analysis so that the researchers are empowered with base-level competence to conduct patent searches, analyse the patents for their technical content, prepare technical landscapes and design meaningful research proposals and approaches to their research, prior to embarking on their research pathway. This was aimed at ensuring better quality of research in Tezpur University, enhancing the possibility of patentable output and improving the prospects of commercialization of the output of researchers from Tezpur University.

The technical sessions included introductory session conducted by Prof. P. Ganguli on the concept of IPR training on "Patent Anatomy" (the body parts of a patent) that dealt with the theoretical basis of writing a patent. Shri. Yaswant Dev Panwar, Scientist-E and Head Patent Facilitating Centre (PFC), TIFAC, Department of Science & Technology (DST), Govt. of India, conducted the second session on *Patent Searching: practical Approach to exercising databases*. It was discussed how a range of features get protected by a portfolio of patents and how it becomes essential to search the entire family of patents to derive appropriate information in a specific problem field. During the hands-on session, stress was given on the importance of the selection of key words, use of synonyms in the selection of key words, using appropriate *Boolean Operators* and creating syntax of the selected key words to search patent databases. 57 students and researchers participated in the programme.



Photo: Participants during one of the hands-on sessions in Patent



Photo: Participants of the Patent Search and Analysis Workshop – 2015 with the TUIPR Cell members

The success of the first workshop on Patent Search and Analysis in 2014, paved way for a second workshop on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2015 to provide hands-on training to the university researchers on patent search and analysis. This time, the venue was the university Council Hall which was made *wi-fi* enabled so that the 152 participants could use their laptops for on-line searches.



Photo: Shri. Yaswant Dev Panwar, Scientist E and Head PFC, TIFAC, interacting with the participants during Patent Search and Analysis Workshop, 2015

During the programme, emphasis was on the need to make patent search and analysis an imperative step for researchers to develop the skills for the creation of technological landscapes prior to initiation of research projects. Such an effort would enhance the quality of research output and pave the way for easier facilitation of the pathway to commercialization of research results in India and abroad. Shri. Yaswant Dev Panwar, of TIFAC and Prof. Ganguli conducted the hands-on training sessions. The workshop feedback which was collected on-line was very positive and researchers have recommended

The process of creation and exchange of knowledge is a continuous activity in academic Institutions. Intellectual property forms an integral part of the innovation value chain as it provides a formal legal framework for fair use of the created knowledge.

Keeping this in view, a one day outreach programme on **Facilitation of Innovation and Commercialisation by Intellectual Property Rights** was conducted in the Tura Campus of North Eastern Hill University (NEHU) on 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2016. Eighty eight (88) participants from various departments attended this workshop. The aim of this workshop was to enhance awareness of Intellectual Property Rights within the NEHU fraternity. The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof S.K. Srivastava in his inaugural address complemented the Department of English, NEHU and the Tezpur University IPR Cell for the initiative. He emphasized that all faculty members and students must get themselves familiarized with the concepts of IPR and how it can be effectively used in their academic



Photo: The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof S.K. Srivastava delivering the inaugural address

pursuits. He was of the opinion that without comprehensive patent searches and adequate IPR protection, it is very difficult to achieve results that are amenable to transfer of technology. He invited the Tezpur IPR Cell to visit NEHU Campus also in Shillong to facilitate the process of setting up NEHU's IPR Cell. Pro Vice Chancellor, Prof G. Singaiah and Dr Sujata Gurudev, Professor, Department of English, Tura Campus welcomed the participants and expressed their commitment to establishing a NEHU IPR Cell. Professor Prabuddha Ganguli, MHRD IPR Chair Professor, Tezpur University delivered a talk on "Intellectual Property Rights.....How does it link with Innovation and Research". Dr Suchibrata Goswami, of TUIPR Cell spoke on the importance of Copyright in academics. Her presentation entitled "Copyright.....An Important Tool for



Photo: The participants of the IPR Workshop at the NEHU, Tura

Dr Juri Borbora Saikia of the TUIPR Cell in her presentation entitled "Geographical Indications...Valuable Instrument for Socio-Economic Growth", touched the basics of Geographical Indications(GI) and showed how various types of products acquire specific character because they are either grown in a specific geographical area, or are processed using local materials and processes. Professor Ganguli then conducted a special session on Plant Variety Protection and Farmers' Rights Act in India which was designed to address the requirements of a large contingent from the agriculture and horticulture departments. Dr. P Deb, Coordinator, TUIPR Cell gave an overview of the activities of IPR Cell in his presentation "Creating an IPR Roadmap for the university.....the way ahead". Using Tezpur University as an example, he showed how institutionalized IPR Cell in the University Ecosystem can play an important role to promote quality education, enhance the research output quality in the university and also value add through outreach programmes. Dr Namrata Pathak, Faculty, Department of English, Tura Campus of NEHU gave the vote of thanks.



Photo: Coordinator TUIPR Cell, Dr. P. Deb presenting the activities



Photo: Participants of the East Zone Vice- Chancellors' meet

### Spreading our message and creating a Community of Practice in IPR in the North Eastern Region

The Association of Indian Universities (AIU) organised a conference of the Vice Chancellors of Universities in the Eastern Zone at Dibrugarh University on December 3-4, 2015. Professor Prabuddha Ganguli was invited to make a presentation on how IPR can be embedded in the university matrix and made an integral part of our educational process. Professor Ganguli's presentation titled, "**Embedding Intellectual Property Rights in Knowledge Creation, Innovation and Commercialisation**" started off with a vision statement of TUIPR Cell which states "Our vision is to become a world class centre for the creation of human resources in the field of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and to establish systems for seamless integration of IPR in the Knowledge Value Chain in an evolving university framework". The Tezpur University experience was shared with the 35 Vice Chancellors in the conference. The presentation explained how the academic courses in Tezpur University have led to the creation of IPR literates. Further, the presentation also demonstrated how community level intellectual property such as Geographical Indications can be used for socio-economic development in communities.

Discussions in the conference then centred around how to imbibe ethical practices at an early phase of a student's career development as a Researcher. Acquiring skills in landscaping of technologies based on comprehensive literature searches that include accessing and analysing patent literature are important. The researchers have to be trained to use patent information to sharply define their research problem and work on non-infringing solutions thereby enhancing the quality of research output and targeting them for possible commercialisation. All the aspects of the above discussions were illustrated with the current practices in Tezpur University and the outreach programmes that have been conducted by the TUIPR Cell in a few universities in the North Eastern Region. The **Patent Search Workshop that was conducted in Dibrugarh University on November 23<sup>th</sup>, 2015** was cited as an example of what can be done in any university to initiate the IPR process. The setting up of the IPR Cell in Dibrugarh University is being facilitated by the TUIPR Cell. Such efforts can be multiplied in various universities in the North Eastern Region. Another aspect that was discussed at length was how to make effective use of the National Knowledge Network (NKN) to share sparsely available IPR skilled human resource between the universities. The example of such a use in Tezpur University was again presented as a possible way of achieving it in a cost effective manner.



Photo: Patent Search Workshop in Dibrugarh University, Nov 23, 2015

### Major breakthrough in registration of authorised users of MUGA GI Logo in Assam

The TUIPR Cell, as part of its project on **Muga GI**, facilitated the filing of 94 (ninety four) applications of Authorized Users in the GI Registry, Chennai. The TUIPR Cell has successfully got these applications processed and 92 of these applications have already satisfied the scrutiny of the GI Registry. These were published in the GI Journal in October, 2015 and these 92 applicants are now registered authorised users of the Muga Silk of Assam GI and are entitled to use the GI Logo on their Muga silk products. This is a major breakthrough and of immense significance for the Muga Stakeholders in Assam. This work has been appreciated by the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Geneva and has been mentioned in Assam Tribune and The Hindu. The working model of Tezpur University has also been shared with other groups in India.

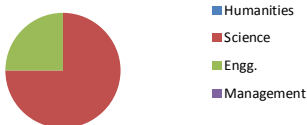


The Logo of the first registered GI from the



*Students in Ph.D level equipped with IPR knowledge*

**Spring semester, 2016 (Ph.D-8)**



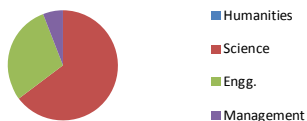
**Autumn semester, 2015 (Ph.D-19)**



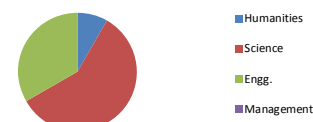
**Spring semester, 2015 (Ph.D-12)**



**Autumn semester, 2014 (Ph.D-17)**



**Spring semester, 2014 (Ph.D-12)**



*Students in P.G and UG level equipped with IPR knowledge* →

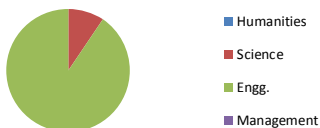
**Autumn semester, 2015 (PG-70)**



**Autumn semester, 2014 (PG-55)**



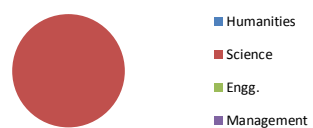
**Spring semester, 2016(UG-21)**



**Spring semester, 2015 (UG-25)**



**Spring semester, 2014 (UG-8)**



### Invitations from Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Germany and UNISA, South Africa

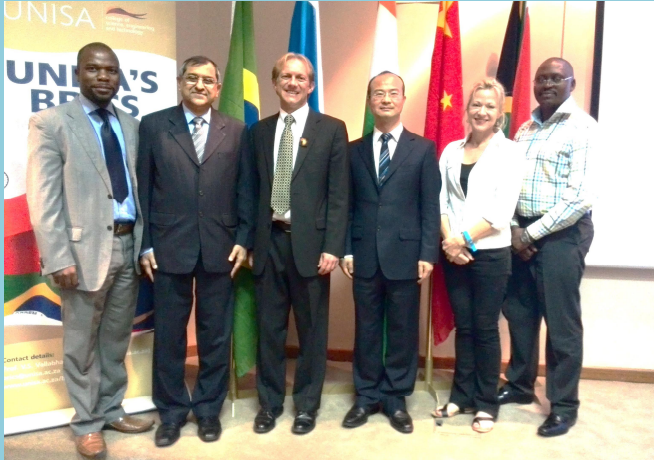


Photo: At the BRICS Conference in UNISA

In March 2015, Professor Ganguli was invited by UNISA to deliver a plenary talk in the BRICS Conference in Pretoria, South Africa, followed by special lecture sessions in UNISA's Law College. The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Germany extended a special invitation to Professor Ganguli to visit the Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition, Munich for the period June-August 2015 to conduct his research on the Interface of IPR and Competition Law with Professor Josef Drexel who is the Director of the Max Planck Institute. Professor Ganguli was also invited to participate in Humboldt Foundations 75th anniversary in Berlin. During this visit, Professor Ganguli and his wife Dr(Mrs) Suvra Ganguli had the opportunity to meet with the President of Germany and the management including the President of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. These visits have opened new research avenues for Professor Ganguli in the field of Competition Law.



Photo: Prof. Ganguli and Dr (Mrs) Ganguli with the President of Humboldt Foundation



Photo: Prof. Ganguli and Dr (Mrs) Ganguli with President of Germany

The legal fraternity in India under the banner of "LEGAL ERA" conferred on Prof. Prabuddha Ganguli, MHRD IPR Chair Professor in Tezpur University, the "Lifetime Achievement Award in IPR" at the National IPR Conclave on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014.

On 30 October 2014, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research Alumni Association (TAA) conferred the TAA "Excellence Award 2014" on Prof. Prabuddha Ganguli on the occasion of TIFR Foundation Day and Prof. Homi Bhabha's Birthday Celebrations. Prof. Prabuddha Ganguli delivered the TAA - JRD Tata Public Lecture titled "Weaving Intellectual Property Rights in Management of Creativity, Knowledge Creation, Innovation and Commercialization", on the occasion of the birthday celebration of J R D Tata on July 28, 2014 at TIFR, Mumbai.

### MHRD IPR Chair Professor honoured



Photo: Prof. P. Ganguli receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award in IPR from "LEGAL ERA" .

**Lectures in National and International IPR Platforms:****2016**

1. Dr. S. Goswami, Delivered lecture on " How to Protect Your Creations" in the IPR Workshop organised by Rajib Gandhi University, Rono Hills, Itanagar, on 22 February, 2016
2. Dr. P. Ganguli was invited by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) to join the group of International Experts to participate in the Brainstorming Sessions on Intellectual Property Strategy Development in Geneva on February 3-4, 2016.
3. Dr. P. Ganguli delivered the keynote address on "Evolving Contours of International law" and Chaired the session on "Competition Law and IPR" at the at the National Conference on "International Law" in KIIT, Bhubaneshwar on January 15-17, 2016.
4. Dr. P. Ganguli chaired two sessions titled "The turbulent Interface between IP and Competition law" and "Global Patent Information – Access, Analysis and Applications" 8th Global Intellectual Property Convention in Delhi 7-8 on January 2016.

**2015**

5. Dr. P. Ganguli was invited to address the Vice Chancellors at the "Association of Indian Universities East Zone Vice Chancellors' Meet Dibrugarh University and delivered a lecture "Embedding Intellectual Property Rights in Knowledge Creation, Innovation and Commercialisation on December 4, 2015.
6. Dr. P. Ganguli conducted a training session on "Patents Search" in Dibrugarh University on November 23, 2015 in collaboration with TIFAC.
7. Dr. P. Ganguli delivered lectures on IPR Management and Commercialization at the IPR training programme, "Train the trainers" jointly organized by TIFAC, DRDO and ICAR in Delhi 16, November 2015.
8. Dr. P. Ganguli was invited by the Fraser Institute in Vancouver, Canada to participate and contribute as an expert at the "Consultation on IPR and Healthcare", September 15-25, 2015.
9. Dr. P. Ganguli chaired a session on "IPR and Competition Law" at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual IPR Conclave" by "Legal Era" in Mumbai on September 10-11, 2015.
10. Dr. P. Ganguli was invited by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Germany to the "Institute for Innovation and Competition" in Munich to conduct his research on "Interface of IPR and Competition Law" from June to August 2015. During this period he also delivered lectures at Asia Roundtable in the Institute on "Recent Trends in IPR Related Decisions by the Competition Commission of India and Indian Courts" on August 10, 2015.
11. Dr. P. Deb and Dr. S Goswami delivered invited lectures in on one day workshop on Intellectual Property by the Department of Business Administration, University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) on Innovation the way forward for India in 21<sup>st</sup> century: Problems and Challenges in IPR by and Introduction to Intellectual Property Rights on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2015.
12. Dr. S. Goswami delivered and invited lecture on Copyright Protection in India and Abroad in one day workshop on Intellectual Property Rights awareness workshop at National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT), Itanagar on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2015.
13. Dr. P. Ganguli was invited as faculty in an extended lecture programme on diverse topics in IPR in the College of Law, University of South Africa (UNISA), Pretoria from March 1, to March 11, 2015.
14. Dr. P. Ganguli was invited as faculty in the IV Annual IP Teaching Workshop, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2015, organised by National Law University, Delhi, India, in collaboration with CASRIP, University of Washington School of Law.
15. Dr. P. Ganguli chaired two sessions on "Licensing and Technology Transfer" and "National IPR Policy" at the 7<sup>th</sup> Global Intellectual Property Convention" in Mumbai on January 15-17, 2015.

2014

1. Dr. P. Ganguli was invited to deliver a lecture on "IP Monetising .....From Fuzziness to marketable realities" at the International Seminar titled "IP, it makes Sense" in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, November 6, 2014 jointly organised by Adastra and Malaysian Patent Office.
2. Dr P. Ganguli delivered an invited lecture and conduct training programmes in IPR at the International Forum on Nanotechnology Economy, Tehran, Iran from October 12-14, 2014.
3. Dr. P. Ganguli chaired a session on "Patent Cliffs" at the "National IPR Conclave" on August 2nd, 2014, in Mumbai organised by "Legal Era".
4. Dr. P. Ganguli delivered an invited lecture on "Nuances in the Indian Patent System and Their Implications in the Enforcement of Patents in India" at the Institute for Innovation and competition" in Munich, Germany under the MIPLC Lecture Series on July 1, 2014
5. Dr. P. Ganguli was invited to participate in the "WIPO-WTO IP Teachers Colloquium", Geneva, Switzerland, June 16-27, 2014. Also presented a paper titled "The Issue of Working of Patents and Its Implications on Domestic Trade, Economic Development and Technology Transfer" which has been published WIPO-WTO in as a Volume "Research papers from WIPO-WTO Colloquium for Teachers of IP Law 2014 and is available in the website: [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/trips\\_e/wipo\\_wto\\_colloquium\\_2014\\_e.pdf](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/trips_e/wipo_wto_colloquium_2014_e.pdf)
6. Dr. P. Ganguli was invited to deliver a lecture at the special session in the Head Quarters of the European Union on "Healthcare in India Opportunities at a crossroads", Brussels, Belgium, 12 June 2014; Paper title was presented on "Healthcare and IPR....Opportunities in India".
7. Dr. P. Ganguli was invited to participate in the "International IP Enforcement Summit, London, UK 11 June 2014 organised by the UK Government. Participated in two panel discussions at this meeting.
8. Dr. P. Ganguli was invited as an international faculty by " the Asia-Pacific Centre for Technology Transfer", United Nations to deliver lecture in the "National Workshop on Strengthening R&D Management Capacity of Researchers and Research Managers in the Area of Nanotechnology" in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran on 25-26 February 2014. Two papers presented. "Protection and Valuation of IPR in Nanotechnology"....Issues and challenges" and Commercialisation of R&D Results in Nanotechnology.....Issues and challenges".

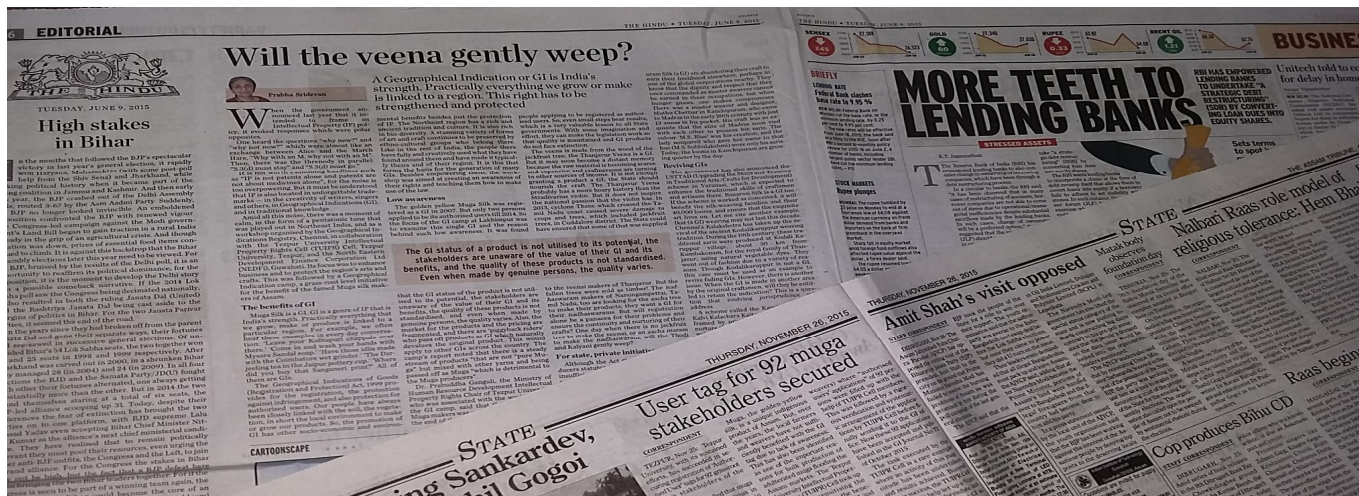


Photo: Regional and National dailies capturing initiatives taken up by TUIPR Cell for the grassroot weavers of Muga

**"IPR Jagoran" Editorial Team:**  
 Prof. P. Ganguli, Dr. P. Deb, Dr. S. Goswami  
 & Dr. Juri Borbora Saikia