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Centre for Development of Intellectual
Property and Research
बौद्धिक संपदा एवं अनुसंधान विकास केंद्र

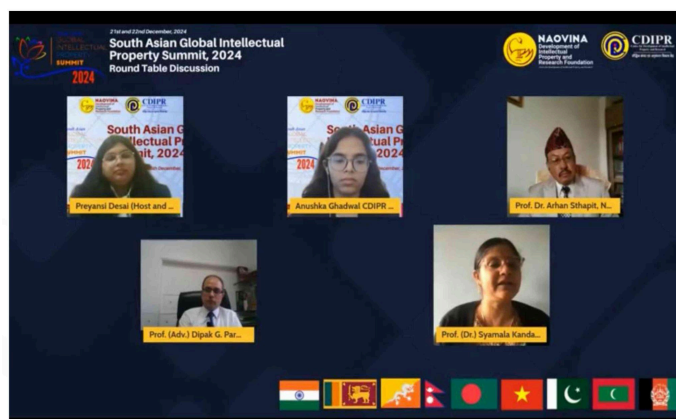


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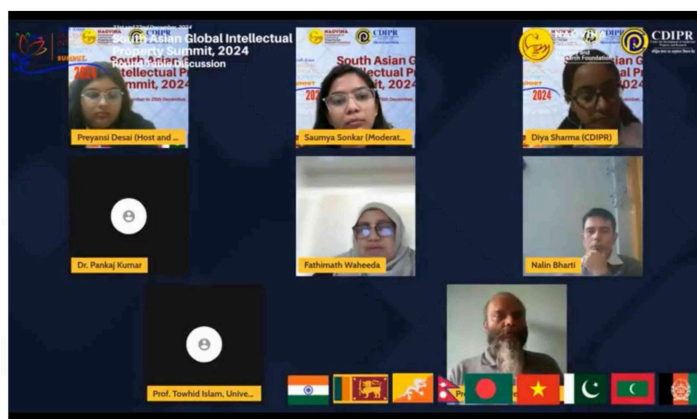
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Centre for Development of Intellectual Property and Research
Naovina Development of Intellectual Property and Research Foundation
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Round Table Discussions of the South Asian Global Intellectual Property Summit, 2024 held on 21st and 22nd December, 2024

The *South Asian Global Intellectual Property Summit, 2024* marked a significant milestone in fostering regional collaboration and addressing pressing challenges in intellectual property rights organised by the *Centre for Development of Intellectual Property and Research (CDIPR)*, *Naovina Development of Intellectual Property and Research Foundation* with LiveLaw as the Media Partner, the two day Round Table Discussion held on *22nd and 23rd December, 2024* brought together thought leaders, academics, policymakers and practitioners from across South Asia. The discussions meticulously took place to explore the intersection of innovation, enforcement and sustainable development, making it a landmark event in the region's intellectual property discourse.



Day 1: Round Table Discussion



Day 2: Round Table Discussion

India's First Non-Governmental Research Organisation dedicated to Intellectual Property Rights

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Day 1: Intellectual Property for Regional Collaboration

Date: 21st December, 2024 (Saturday)

Time: 12:30 PM to 14:10 PM (IST)

Chaired by: Prof. Dr. Syamala Kandadai (*Dean of Faculty, National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi, India*)

Panelists: Prof. Dr. Arhan Sthapit (*Professor & Dean, Faculty of Management & Law, Nepal Open University, Nepal*), Prof. Dr. Aziz-ur-Rehman (*Director, School of Law, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan*) and Prof. (Adv.) Dipak G. Parmar (*Founder, Cyber-IPR, India*).

Host: Ms. Preyansi Anand Desai (*Student Member at CDIPR, 5th Year Student at The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, & Organising Team Leader of South Asian Global IP Summit*)

Technical Moderators: Ms. Anushka Ghadwal (*Student Member at CDIPR, 2nd Year Student at Dr. B. R. Ambedkar National Law University, Sonapat & Organising Team Member of South Asian Global IP Summit*); and Ms. Diya Sharma (*Student Member at CDIPR, 5th Year Student at Manav Rachna University, Faridabad, & Organising Team Member of South Asian Global IP Summit*)

Event Overview

The session held the dialogues on focusing on the importance of Fostering Collaboration among South Asian Countries, Protecting Cultural Heritage, Climate Resilience, Driving Digital Innovation and Empowering SMEs and Startups in the field of Intellectual Property.

The Lecture was divided into many sessions and the session was given by Prof. Dr. Arhan Sthapit, Prof. Dr. Aziz-ur-Rehman, Prof. (Adv.) Dipak G. Parmar and Dr. Gururaj Devarhubli, and chaired by Prof. Dr. Syamala Kandadai.

Introduction to the Panel (12:35 PM to 12:40 PM)

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The event commenced at 12:35 PM with a cordial welcome to the esteemed Panelists. The host briefly highlighted the South Asian Global Summit Initiative and the esteemed Centre, followed by an introduction of the distinguished Panelists.

Key Highlights of the Discussion (12:40 PM to 14:00 PM)

OPENING ADDRESS: *Welcome and Introduction to the Virtual Round Table (12:40 PM to 13:00 PM) by Prof. Dr. Syamala Kandadai (Dean of Faculty, National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi, India)*

Prof. Dr. Syamala gave a cordial welcome to the other guest lecture speaker. She spoke about the recent policies undertaken by other South Asian countries in terms of Intellectual Property rights. Dr. Syamala emphasized the need for more sustainable and robust IP laws for better foreign trade, and the protection of the rights of SMEs, research centers and technical institutes. She highlighted that weak enforcement is a rampant issue that plagues the field of IP, giving rise to significant challenges. Dr. Syamala asserted that IP is the future oil for the survival of future industries, as technology is driving the economies of various countries. Therefore, the need for better IP enforcement, an organization to regulate and enforce IP laws, increased awareness about IP laws, streamlining the IP registration process, strategic frameworks for collaborations, and fostering cross-border technology transfer emerges.

SESSION: *“Harmonising Regional IP Laws for Economic and Cultural Integration” (13:00 PM to 13:20 PM) by Prof. Dr. Arhan Sthapit (Professor & Dean, Faculty of Management & Law, Nepal Open University, Nepal)*

Prof. Sthapit stated that South Asia is a region of immense diversity and potential, where harmonizing regional IP laws can significantly drive economic and cultural integration. The challenges in gaining IP rights across countries can hinder innovation and growth. Nepal, for instance, has made strides in biodiversity conservation through its IP laws, illustrating the potential benefits of strong local IP systems. He asserted that opportunities for economic and cultural integration exist if these regional efforts are synchronized. Strengthening local IP

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frameworks through regional dialogue, policy alignment, and capacity building is vital. Prof. Sthapit emphasized the collaborative approach that can lead to a unified, robust IP landscape, fostering innovation, protecting cultural heritage and driving economic prosperity across South Asia.

SESSION: “Digital Transformation and IP: Strengthening Legal Frameworks” (13:20 PM to 13: 40 PM) by Prof. (Adv.) Dipak G. Parmar (Founder, Cyber-IPR, India)

Prof. Parma highlighted that Digital transformation has revolutionized the way we interact with technology, highlighting the need for robust legal frameworks to protect intellectual property (IP). The use of AI as friends, to solve questions, and for creating and uploading content online poses unique challenges. He pointed out that AI can now generate deepfake content and produce art, music, and writing, sometimes even lying and misleading people. Humanized AI models are blurring the lines between human and machine creativity, necessitating caution in their use. He stressed that it is crucial to determine how much control should be granted to AI to ensure it enhances rather than undermines innovation and creativity. Strengthening IP laws is essential to address these challenges and safeguard the rights of creators in the digital age.

Panel Discussion Q&A Session (13:40 PM to 14:00 PM)

Prof. (Adv.) Dipak Parmar and Prof. Dr. Syamala Kandadai answered various questions and engaged in dialogue by giving various real-life examples. The Questions were:

1. What are the gaps in IP laws in addressing challenges posed by digital transformation?
2. How can nations ensure that IP frameworks evolve to keep pace with rapid advancement in digital technology?
3. What are the benefits of having an unified regional approach to IP law enforcement and awareness in South Asia?
4. How can South Asian nations leverage regional IP harmonization to foster cross border trade while preserving unique cultural identity?

Vote of Thanks & Conclusion (14:00 PM to 14:10 PM)

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The session concluded with a warm and sincere vote of thanks delivered by Ms. Preyansi Desai. She expressed her gratitude to the Panelists: Prof. Dr. Syamala Kandadai, Prof. Dr. Arhan Sthapit, Prof. Dr. Aziz-ur-Rehman, Prof. (Adv.) Dipak G. Parmar, and Dr. Gururaj Devarhubli for their insightful and informative lecture, acknowledged the efforts of the **Centre for Development of Intellectual Property and Research (CDIPR), Naovina Development of Intellectual Property and Research Foundation** for organising the event and appreciated the moderators Ms. Anushka Ghadwal and Ms. Diya Sharma and the technical and organising teams for ensuring its smooth execution.

Day 2: Addressing IP Enforcement and Innovation Challenges

Date: 22nd December, 2024 (Sunday)

Time: 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM (IST)

Chaired by: Prof. Dr. Syamala Kandadai (*Dean of Faculty, National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi, India*)

Panelists: Prof. Dr. M. R. Sreenivasa Murthy (*DPIIT-IPR Chair Professor, National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi, India*), Prof. Dr. Nalin Bharti (*DPIIT-IPR Chair Professor at IIT Patna, India*), Dr. Pankaj Kumar (*DPIIT-IPR Chair Professor at National Law University and Judicial Academy, India*), Ms. Uza Fathimath Waheeda (*Head of the Department of Law at The Maldives National University, Maldives*), Prof. Dr. Md. Towhidul Islam (*Professor, Department of Law, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh*), Prof. Dr. Aziz ur Rehman (*Director, School of Law, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan*)

Host: Ms. Preyansi Anand Desai (*Student Member at CDIPR, 5th Year Student at The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, & Organising Team Leader of South Asian Global IP Summit*)

Technical Moderators: Ms. Diya Sharma (*Student Member at CDIPR, 5th Year Student at Manav Rachna University, Faridabad, Haryana & Organising Team Member of South Asian Global IP Summit*); and Ms. Saumya Sonkar (*Student Member at CDIPR, 5th Year Student at*

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Faculty of Law, University of Allahabad & Organising Team Member of South Asian Global IP Summit)

Introduction to the Panel (12:38 PM to 12:40 PM)

The event commenced with Ms. Preyansi Desai introducing the Centre for Development of Intellectual Property Rights (CDIPR), the South Asian Global IP Summit, and the event's collaborator, LiveLaw. Setting the tone for the sessions, she highlighted the significance of Intellectual Property (IP) and its growing relevance in South Asia.

Key Highlights of the Discussion (12:41 PM to 2:29 PM)

SESSION: “IP Enforcement Challenges: Combating Piracy and Counterfeiting” (12:41 PM to 1:00 PM) by Prof. Dr. Nalin Bharti (DPIIT-IPR Chair Professor at IIT Patna, India)

Prof. Dr. Nalin Bharti addresses the key issues related to Intellectual Property Rights enforcement. He raised critical concerns about unauthorized sales of Ayurvedic medicines on online platforms, emphasizing the difficulties of enforcement due to low costs of infringement and jurisdictional complexities. Dr. Bharti elaborated on landmark cases of copyright misuse and highlighted the economic and legal consequences of piracy. He stressed that robust enforcement of IPR is crucial to providing economic incentives to rights holders and curbing financial losses caused by free-riding. He further discussed his thesis, which explores the relationship between IPR and investment, underscoring how countries often prioritize economic partnerships over free trade agreements. While India's contribution to the IPR industry has grown, he pointed out the country's relatively low number of registered Geographical Indications (GIs), citing examples like Madhubani paintings. In conclusion, Dr. Bharti emphasized the importance of raising awareness to reduce infringements, stop free-riding, and position India as a competitive hub for attracting and making global investments.

SESSION: “The Future of Startups and SMEs: Leveraging IP for Innovation” (1:02 PM to 1:26 PM) by Dr. Pankaj Kumar (DPIIT-IPR Chair Professor at National Law University and Judicial Academy, India)

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Dr. Pankaj Kumar followed with a session addressing the challenges faced by startups and SMEs in leveraging IP. He began by discussing the limited resources available to these entities and highlighted the societal role in preserving and promoting GIs. Dr. Kumar pointed out the low number of authorized GI users and stressed the need for better registration processes for both GIs and eligible members. He explained that only society, as a collective entity, can apply for a GI tag, but enforcement and awareness in this domain remain inadequate. He also criticized the inefficiency in patent application processing, citing vague quality control issues as the rationale for delays. While applicants are bound by strict deadlines, government officials often lack similar accountability. Dr. Kumar advocated for systematic improvements, including early trademark publication before examination, stringent timelines for processing, and better training for officials. Concluding his session, he urged startups and MSMEs to vocalize their grievances and emphasized the importance of robust mechanisms to address these concerns effectively.

SESSION: “IP in Small Island Nations: Emerging Challenges and Opportunities” (1:27 PM to 1: 40 PM) by Ms. Uza Fathimath Waheeda (Head of the Department of Law at The Maldives National University, Maldives)

Ms. Uza Fathimath Waheeda highlighted the underdeveloped state of IPR frameworks in small island nations. She discussed the extension of copyright protection from 50 to 70 years and the inclusion of broader exceptions for using copyrighted works without infringement. She emphasized the challenges posed by copyright piracy, particularly in e-commerce, and the impact of online platforms on businesses. The advancement of technology, including AI, has increased opportunities for infringement while raising significant concerns about ownership and authorship of AI-generated content. Ms. Waheeda concluded by suggesting solutions such as granting copyright ownership to organizations or individuals using AI, establishing separate IPR provisions and specialized courts for technology-related issues, enhancing the training of officials and fostering international collaboration to address global IP concerns.

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KEYNOTE ADDRESS: *“The Role of IP in South Asia’s Sustainable Development” (1:42 PM to 2:06 PM) by Prof. Dr. M. R. Sreenivasa Murthy (DPIIT-IPR Chair Professor, National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi, India)*

Prof. Dr. M. R. Sreenivasa Murthy emphasised the importance of global cooperation and barrier removal to foster human development. He acknowledged that while every country faces unique challenges, each also possesses technologies capable of addressing these issues. Highlighting the role of human intellect in driving development, he contrasted historical and modern responses to pandemics, citing the lengthy recovery from the Plague versus the rapid COVID-19 vaccine development within a year through alternative methodologies.

Key points included:

- **Global Village and Collective Development:** The concept of a global village began in the 19th century, and today, countries are interconnected on a unified platform. While regional differences exist, collective development must address the difficulties of all nations.
- **Internal Challenges within SAARC:** He noted internal conflicts and differing opinions within South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries as obstacles to cooperation, emphasizing the need for unity and equality in technological advancements.
- **Data and Coordination:** Effective data calculation and improved coordination on regional and national levels are vital for equitable development.
- **South Asia’s Role:** He described South Asia as one of the world’s richest and most valuable regions, whose support is essential globally.

Concluding, Dr. Murthy urged nations to set aside ego-driven differences to ensure cooperation at regional, national, and global levels, aiming for collective growth and development.

Panel Discussion Q&A Session (2:08 PM to 2:25 PM)

During the open forum, Ms. Preyansi Desai facilitated a collaborative discussion, including audience questions directed at the panelists. Key questions included:

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1. How can regional cooperation frameworks, such as SAARC, be utilized to address cross-border IP violations effectively?
2. What unique IP challenges do small island nations face due to their reliance on tourism and traditional crafts?

The Panelists collectively highlighted the importance of fostering stronger regional cooperation through SAARC. They suggested initiatives such as harmonizing IP laws across member nations, establishing a unified IP database, and organizing joint training programs for enforcement agencies. Cross-border coordination in addressing piracy and counterfeiting was also emphasized as a critical step forward.

WRITTEN REPORT: “Climate Change and Technology Access: Overcoming IP Barriers” (2:26 PM to 2:30 PM) by Prof. Dr. Aziz ur Rehman (Director, School of Law, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan)

Dr. Aziz ur Rehman shared his views on overcoming intellectual property barriers to technology access for addressing climate change. Unable to attend in person, he contributed through a written report. Dr. Rehman emphasized Pakistan's severe exposure to climate change impacts, citing the 2022 floods as a stark reminder of the nation's vulnerability. He argued that while climate action is urgent, equitable access to green technologies remains hindered by the existing IPR regime. He highlighted that patents held by advanced economies inflate the costs of critical green technologies, such as renewable energy and water purification systems, limiting their availability to developing nations. He called for reforms that balance public and private interests.

Proposals for Reform

1. **Technology Transfer Mechanisms:** Developed nations and international organizations should establish mechanisms to share patented green technologies, with a global fund subsidizing access for vulnerable nations.
2. **Flexible IP Provisions:** TRIPS flexibilities, like compulsory licensing, should be extended to climate technologies.

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3. **Collaborative Innovation Models:** Public-private partnerships and open platforms can enable scalable, affordable climate solutions.
4. **Green Climate Fund Utilization:** The fund must prioritise financing technology acquisition in developing countries and include technology-sharing mandates in international agreements.

Pakistan's Commitment

Despite contributing less than 1% to global emissions, Pakistan remains committed to climate action through initiatives like the Billion Tree Tsunami and renewable energy projects. However, Dr. Rehman emphasised that global cooperation and equitable technology access are essential for broader success.

Closing Remarks & Vote of Thanks (2:30 PM) by Mr. Dipendu Das (Director, Centre for Development of Intellectual Property and Research, Naovina Development of Intellectual Property and Research Foundation)

Mr. Dipendu Das concluded the session by expressing gratitude to all speakers, contributors, and the organizing team for their efforts in making the summit a success. He summarized the five key action points derived from the discussions, which will be submitted to the Ministry of External Affairs for consideration:

1. **Formation of a South Asian Intellectual Property Global Alliance:** A dedicated platform to focus on IP-specific issues and foster regional collaboration.
2. **Emphasis on Training Programs:** Addressing the gaps in IP awareness and understanding by implementing targeted training initiatives.
3. **Empowering Startups and MSMEs:** Ensuring these entities effectively utilize IP frameworks to drive innovation and economic growth.
4. **Policy Harmonization and Collaboration:** Advocating for consistent policies across the region to encourage cooperation and mutual growth.

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5. **Digital Initiatives:** Leveraging technology to enhance regional and global collaboration in the IP domain.

Mr. Das expressed gratitude to the panelists, moderators and organizing team for their significant contributions to the summit's success. He emphasized the importance of implementing the recommendations to strengthen South Asia's IP ecosystem and foster innovation-driven development in the region.

The *South Asian Global Intellectual Property Summit, 2024* successfully highlighted the potential of intellectual property as a driver of innovation, economic growth and sustainable development. Bringing together diverse perspectives from across the region, the summit not only addressed critical challenges but also laid the foundation for actionable solutions.

Further, the *South Asian Global Intellectual Property Conference, 2024*, held on 23rd December (Monday) was a resounding success, bringing together over 50 esteemed participants from the Faculty, Researcher and Professional categories. The event, which focused on contemporary issues and developments in intellectual property law, saw an impressive array of paper presentations by more than 30 teams from renowned universities and institutes across South Asia. Institutions such as the *School of Law, Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai, Hidayatullah National Law University, Raipur, Quaid-e-Azam Law College, Kasur, Pakistan, Adi Shankara Institute of Engineering and Technology, School of Law, Bennett University, Auromaa Associates, All About Law (Law Firm), Ramaiah College of Law, Banasthali Vidyapith & HNLU, AU College of Engineering, Andhra University, Elsa Law & Co. Solicitors & Hong Kong Metropolitan University, Graphic Era Hill University & IIIT Vadodara International Campus, Diu, Raffles University, Neemrana, Rajasthan, Jiwaji University, Gwalior, CHRIST University, Bengaluru, Symbiosis Law School, Pune, Advanced Study Institute of Asia (ASIA), SGT University, CEPT, Ahmedabad, Dharmashastra National Law University, Jabalpur, Dr. Shakuntala Misra National Rehabilitation University, Hindustan School of Law, Army Institute of Law, Mohali, Government Law College, Karaikudi, Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab, and Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University & University School of*

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Legal Studies, Chandigarh University participated in the Conference, contributing to an enriching exchange of ideas.

The summit successfully highlighted the increasing interest and expertise in intellectual property rights across the region, providing a unique opportunity for scholars, researchers and professionals to collaborate and share insights. *The South Asian Intellectual Property Conference 2024 for Students is set to take place in the first week of January 2025.* With over 80 registered participants from universities and institutions throughout South Asia, the conference is expected to offer students a platform to further explore IP-related topics, present research, and engage with experts in the field. With its emphasis on collaboration, awareness and reform, the summit set a benchmark for future initiatives aimed at enhancing South Asia's role in the global IP landscape.

In Collaboration with the Global Universities:



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