

Two Week
Capacity Building Programme
on
Traditional Knowledge System and Cultural
Expressions in India: Social and Legal
Dimensions
(May 04-16, 2026)

Organized by



**Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University,
Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India**

Sponsored by



**Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR),
New Delhi, India**

BACKGROUND

India is home to some of the world's most abundant and varied traditional knowledge systems (TKS) and cultural expressions. These systems include a broad spectrum of practices such as indigenous medicinal knowledge, agricultural methods, ecological conservation techniques, folklore, handicrafts, music, dance, rituals, and oral traditions. Developed and passed over many centuries, traditional knowledge and cultural expressions are closely woven into the social, spiritual, and economic fabric of communities throughout the nation.

Traditional knowledge systems are generally community centric, passed down orally or through practice rather than through formal documentation. They are adaptable, evolving in response to environmental, social, and technological shifts. Similarly, cultural expressions embody shared identities and perspectives, often serving as symbols of community belonging and continuity. In India, these systems hold particular importance for tribal and indigenous communities, rural populations, and artisan groups, whose livelihoods and cultural preservation rely on them.

In recent years, traditional knowledge and cultural expressions have faced big challenges. The forces of globalization, commercialization, urbanization, and technological progress have enabled the procurement, duplication, and commercialization of cultural resources, frequently without recognition or sharing of benefits with the communities of origin. Cases of misappropriation, bio-piracy, and cultural exploitation have exposed significant deficiencies in current legal systems. Concurrently, internal social issues—such as the loss of knowledge across generations, the marginalization of indigenous voices, and the economic vulnerability of traditional practitioners—have further undermined these systems.

This Capacity Building Programme on “Traditional Knowledge System and Cultural Expressions in India: Social and Legal Dimensions” will focus on a comprehensive assessment of traditional knowledge systems and cultural expressions in India by merging social and legal aspects. It aims to highlight how the law interacts with living traditions, how well or poorly traditional knowledge is protected by current legal frameworks, and how social realities influence the development and deterioration of these cultural assets.

RATIONALE FOR CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME

The global urge has increased recently to recognize and protect traditional knowledge and cultural expressions as an intellectual property asset. Since the Convention on Biological Diversity and UNDRIP (United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) has laid focus on the need to protect and safeguard the traditional knowledge, India being a flag bearer of the traditional knowledge protection is keen to protect its traditional knowledge and cultural expressions, particularly TKDL (Traditional Knowledge Digital Library) is a good example. But still these initiatives continue to face unresolved legal and ethical challenges.

The current IP regimes like copyright, patent and GI (Geographical Indication) are based on the requirement of individual authorship, fixation, novelty etc. as a requirement for the legal duration. It is important to note as well that these regimes offer protection for the limited duration. The novelty, fixation and requirements like these are against the concept of collective, cumulative and intergenerational aspects of TK systems. Consequently, many of such works of creativity fall outside the domain of current IP law system. Due to these shortcomings, often the stakeholder communities become a subject of exploitation.

Also, apart from legal inadequacies, the social dimensions of TKs protection are overlooked. Law centric protection focuses heavily on documentation and formalities, sometimes at the cost of community control and cultural autonomy. This may shift the ownership or authority to state rather than the community.

This research is essential to connect legal principles with real-world social dynamics. By exploring traditional knowledge frameworks and cultural manifestations through a multidisciplinary perspective, the intended work seeks to enhance comprehension of protection that is attuned to cultural sensitivities, socially equitable, and legally robust.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The holders of Traditional Knowledge in India come across multiple challenges, these are addressed below:

Legal Inadequacies: India though has been successful in avoiding large scale patent requests on the basis of its comprehensive Traditional Knowledge Digital Library. It has worked wonders in avoiding frivolous patent claims like what has been done in US over Yoga asana, where by 2010, over 150 patents are granted on Yoga positions, which are anyway defended by TKDL in India. So, the TKDL has acted efficiently as a defensive mechanism, by attributing the public domain status to many intergenerational creativity, but what it does not do is grant. To say, that Indian IP regime is more defensive in nature rather than positive. The Indian communities have positive legal right to own, control, use and assign the knowledge passed to them from generations, which the current Indian IP regimes lack to provide in a definite and robust manner.

The Traditional Cultural Expressions are routinely misappropriated by the foreign and domestic commercial entities, most prominently in fashion, music and design industry, without authorisation and benefit sharing. Some notable examples are the recent cases of Toda Embroidery and Madhubani art, where despite GI registration some women artists from Bihar had reported that their art has been mass produced commercially with almost negligible economic benefit.

Enforcement Inefficiencies: Despite comprehensive legislation like Biological Diversity Act, 2002, GI Act, 1999 etc. the implementation remains weak. Over 200,000 BMCs (Bio- Diversity Management Committees) have been established but only 15-20 % are functional. Adding to this,

only 2500 PBRs (People's Biodiversity Registers) are prepared out of which most of them are incomplete and poorly managed.

Ineffective Benefit Sharing: India has vast reservoir of TKs and TCEs which can extract huge amount of revenue, but only big commercial entities are able to make commercial products out of the traditional expression, without or inadequate, delayed benefit sharing with the stakeholders. For example, India's Ayurveda Industry has a market of 30000 crores as of 2020, yet the vast Ayurveda practitioners and communities holding knowledge has no means of benefit sharing.

THE CURRENT SCENARIO CALLING FOR ACTION

The argument for the urgent need to rethink the protection of the Traditional Knowledge systems is because:

- Accelerating Bio-Piracy and Misappropriation has posed a blatant threat to Indian reservoir of abundant knowledge.
- Due to the said misappropriation and bio-piracy concerns has made a situation where the treasure of traditional knowledge has been under rapid erosion, due to intergenerational disconnect. UNESCO estimates that one indigenous language and associated knowledge with it disappears every two weeks globally.
- Increasing competitive disadvantage from countries like China where it has protected its traditional medicine industry, which generates 130\$ billion dollars annually, thanks to its strong IP protection. Delays in India's efforts to protect its IP may place us under severe competitive disadvantage at the global level.
- The growing economic inequality amongst artisans and commercial entities is at alarming stage, due to rapid misappropriation. The benefit sharing agreements are one sided to the disadvantages to the marginalised communities.
- The new age technological advancements have created an environment where these communities are more vulnerable to exploitation.
- Traditional knowledge protection intersects with fundamental constitutional rights of tribal and marginalized communities—rights to culture, livelihood, and dignity under Articles 21, 29, and various Fifth and Sixth Schedule provisions.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME

A comprehensive understanding of the methodologies and strategies employed in research is essential for the development of high-quality research. Although the philosophical underpinnings of social science research are universally shared, each discipline has created its own distinctive theoretical framework and research methodologies. Researchers engaging in an interdisciplinary or

multidisciplinary study need to familiarize themselves with the methodologies of disciplines beyond their own area of competence. Furthermore, there are a plethora of areas in which a proficient researcher must improve their skills, from the initial stage of the research problem to the final reporting and publication of the results, in order to make a substantial contribution to the advancement of knowledge in their respective fields.

This programme aims to improve the general methodological and writing abilities of in-service faculty members, primarily Lecturers/Assistant Professors in Social Science disciplines, and to expose them to the newest developments in their fields, technology spin-offs and the like.

1. To deliberate and acquaint the faculty participants with social and legal dimensions of Traditional Knowledge System and Cultural Expressions in India.
2. To acquaint the participants with the intricacies of Traditional Knowledge and Cultural Expressions.
3. To familiarize the faculty participants with innovative teaching-learning and legal research methods.
4. To train the participants to upgrade their knowledge and skills which will enable them to undertake meaningful research activities including policy research on Traditional Knowledge and Cultural Expressions.
5. To equip the participants with the ability to effectively assimilate and impart knowledge in different areas of social sciences and law.
6. To enhance the overall teaching and research capabilities of participants.

ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS

Under the Capacity Building Programme, the participants should be a Lecturer/ Assistant Professor in a UGC recognized Indian University/Deemed University/Colleges/Institutes of National Importance or ICSSR Research Institutes/ Recognised Institutes and their application must be duly forwarded by their parent institution.

DURATION OF PROGRAMME

1. The Capacity Building Programme shall be of twelve (12) days duration and scheduled to be held from May 04- 16, 2026.
2. There shall be three lectures per day followed by a detailed discussion/interaction with the participants.
3. The Inaugural Session will be conducted on 04.05.2026 at 09.30 AM. and Valedictory Session will be conducted on 16.05.2026 at 03.30 PM.

RESOURCE PERSONS

The Resource Persons shall be eminent academicians, professionals and technical experts in core theme of Capacity Building Programme. Some glimpses of resource persons are as below:



Prof. V. K. Ahuja
Indian Law Institute



Prof. Raman Mittal
University of Delhi,
Faculty of Law



Prof. Amar Pal Singh
RMLNLU, Lucknow



Prof. Sanjay Singh
RMLNLU, Lucknow



Prof. Lisa P. Lukose
GGSIIP University



Prof. Manish Singh
RMLNLU, Lucknow



**Prof. Zafar Mehfooz
Nomani**
Aligarh Muslim University



Prof. Rajnish Kumar Singh
Faculty of Law, Banaras
Hindu University



Dr. G. R. Raghavender
DPIIT, Govt. of India



**Prof. Rajneesh Kumar
Yadav**
RMLNLU, Lucknow



**Prof. Ashish Kumar
Srivastava**
RMLNLU, Lucknow



Prof. Varun Chhachha
Faculty of Law, University of
Lucknow



Prof. Shailendra Gupta
Faculty of Law, Banaras
Hindu University



Prof. Neeraj Singh
National Law University
Delhi



Prof. Adesh Kumar
University of Allahabad



Prof. Pradeep Kulshrestha
Bennett University



Prof. Shaiwal Satyarthi
Law Centre-I, Faculty of Law,
University of Delhi



Dr. A. K. Tiwari
RMLNLU, Lucknow



Dr. Vivek Kumar
CCS University, Meerut



Dr. Maneesh Kumar Bajpai
RMLNLU, Lucknow

GENERAL GUIDELINES REGARDING REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

1. The Capacity Building Programme shall be conducted in offline mode only.
2. Interested Participants must fill the google form for the registration in the Capacity Building Programme through the link <https://forms.gle/5kQ5XV7CYdzKTYUw5>.
3. The participants are not required to pay any kind of Registration Fee.
4. There shall be total thirty (30) participants from social science disciplines, out of which ten (10) participants will be local, ten (10) participants within the state and ten (10) participants from outside the state.
5. All the selections of participants shall be made on first-cum-first serve basis.
6. The reservation benefits in selection of participants belonging to SC/ST/OBC/EWS of UP categories shall be given as per Government of India/ Government of Uttar Pradesh and University Rules.
7. **All the interested participants must apply through proper channel only and their application must be duly forwarded by their parent institution. The Proforma for No Objection Certificate (NOC) has been provided on the last page of this brochure.**
8. On 16.05.2026, the final day of the Capacity Building Programme, all the participants shall be required to appear in a test for assessing all the participants based on the lectures delivered by the Resource Persons.
9. The Certificates of Participation shall be given to only those participants who will be able to secure at least 50% marks in the written test.
10. All the details and modalities regarding Capacity Building Programme shall be communicated to all selected participants in due course.
11. The submitted online application form (google form) must be downloaded, and a hard copy of the same should be sent to: **The Registrar, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Sector-D1, LDA Colony, Kanpur Road, Ashiana, Lucknow – 226012, Uttar Pradesh, India** on or before **May 02, 2026**, along with Caste certificate (if applicable) and No Objection Certificate (As per NOC Proforma) by present employer.
12. The last date of registration for Capacity Building Programme is 20/05/2026.
13. For any queries or clarification, you may send email to: director.cbp2026@gmail.com

ACCOMMODATION, TRAVEL ALLOWANCE AND FOOD

1. All selected participants will be given Travel Allowance as per ICSSR Training and Capacity Building (TCB) Guidelines and University Rules for attending this Programme.
2. Day Hospitality will be provided to all the Participants.
3. All selected outstation participants under the category of Outside State and Within State will be provided accommodation during the Capacity Building Programme by the University. However, the accommodation to such participants will be given on sharing basis (one room for two participants).
4. The local participants will have to arrange their accommodation themselves, and the University will not be able to provide the same during this Programme.

IMPORTANT DATES

Last date of Registration	:	20 th April 2026
Intimation of Acceptance	:	22 th April 2026
Duration of the CBP	:	04 th -16 th May 2026

VENUE OF THE PROGRAMME

**Video Conference Room, Madhu Limaye Library,
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow -226012,
Uttar Pradesh, India**

CONTACT DETAILS

Dr. Manoj Kumar

Course Director

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Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University,
Sec-D1, Kanpur Road Scheme, Lucknow-226012
Uttar Pradesh (India)

E-mail: director.cbp2026@gmail.com

Mobil No.: 9891601151

Dr. Vikas Bhati

Co- Course Director

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Uttar Pradesh (India)

E-mail: director.cbp2026@gmail.com

Mobil No.: 8429457581

STUDENT COORDINATORS

- **Mr. Rishi Shukla – Contact No. +91-7985176907**
- **Mr. Ashish Kumar – Contact No. +91-9455300120**

ORGANISING TEAM

PATRON- IN- CHIEF



Prof. (Dr.) Amar Pal Singh
Vice Chancellor, RMLNLU,
Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India

PATRON



Prof. (Dr.) Manish Singh
HOD, Department of Legal Studies
RMLNLU, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India

COURSE DIRECTOR



Dr. Manoj Kumar
Associate Professor of Law
RMLNLU, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India

CO- COURSE DIRECTOR



Dr. Vikas Bhati
Associate Professor of Law
RMLNLU, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India

STUDENT COORDINATORS



Mr. Ashish Kumar
Research Scholar



Mr. Rishi Shukla
Research Scholar

PROFORMA FOR NO OBJECTION CERTIFICATE

To,
The Registrar
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University
Sector-D1, LDA Colony, Kanpur Road,
Ashiana, Lucknow- 226012
Uttar Pradesh, India

Subject: No Objection Certificate

Dear Sir/Madam,
I recommend and forward the name of Mr./Mrs./Ms./Dr. ,
Department of of our college/institution/organisation for
the **Two-Week Capacity Building Programme on Traditional Knowledge System and Cultural Expressions in India: Social and Legal Dimensions** scheduled to be held from **May 04, 2026 to May 16, 2026**. He/she is being relieved from May 04, 2026 to May 16, 2026 to participate in the course. All information provided by him/her is verified.

This is to certify that our college/institution/organisation
..... (name of the institution) is affiliated to
..... (name of
the University) and recognized under Section 2(f) and/or included under Section 12(b) of UGC Act 1956.

The above information provided is true to our knowledge.

Yours sincerely

Date:
Place:

Principal/Head of Institution
(Signature with Official Seal)