



# Maharashtra National Law University Mumbai

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade  
(DPIIT- IPR Chair),  
Centre for Applied Research in Public Health Law, Rights and  
Policy (CPHL),  
and  
Centre for Research in Intellectual Property (CRIP)

## CONFERENCE AND PAPER PRESENTATION ON 'CURE VS. COMMERCE: PUBLIC HEALTH AND PHARMACEUTICAL PATENTS'

PATRON

**Prof. (Dr.) Dilip Ukey**  
Hon'ble Vice Chancellor

Maharashtra National Law University Mumbai

30th March 2026

## **ABOUT MAHARASHTRA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY MUMBAI**

Maharashtra National Law University Mumbai was established under the Maharashtra National Law University Act, 2014. Since its establishment in 2015, the University has consistently worked towards excellence in legal education and research. Over the years, the University has made significant progress in strengthening its research culture and has established several specialised research centres to advance academic inquiry in diverse areas of law. The primary objective of the University is to provide advanced legal education while promoting research that addresses contemporary societal and legal challenges.

## **ABOUT THE CONFERENCE**

The conference aims to create a platform for critical engagement with one of the most pressing debates in intellectual property law, balancing pharmaceutical innovation with equitable access to medicines. The event invites students and researchers to examine the complex relationship between patent protection, public health priorities, and global access to life-saving drugs. Through an article and presentation component, participants will explore contemporary legal and policy challenges surrounding pharmaceutical patents and contribute to informed discussions on how legal frameworks can reconcile innovation incentives with the broader public interest.

## **ABOUT DPIIT IPR CHAIR, MNLU MUMBAI**

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, launched the Scheme for Pedagogy and Research in IPRs for Holistic Education and Academia (SPRIHA) in 2016 to strengthen intellectual property education and research across the country. In line with the National IPR Policy, 2016, the initiative envisages the establishment of IPR Chairs in select institutions to enhance teaching, develop specialised curricula, and promote high-quality research in the field of intellectual property. Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai, has been selected as one of the institutions for establishing an IPR Chair, functioning in accordance with the norms prescribed by DPIIT under the SPRIHA scheme.

## **About Centre for Applied Research in Public Health Law (CPHL)**

The Centre for Applied Research in Public Health Law, Rights and Policy, established on 17 May 2023, is dedicated to advancing research, scholarship, and awareness in the field of public health law and policy at both national and global levels. The Centre focuses on analysing health policies, advocating for rights-based reforms, and addressing emerging socio-legal challenges through a multidisciplinary approach. It engages in research, dialogue, and collaboration with stakeholders to promote effective policy interventions, comparative insights, and greater awareness of health as a fundamental human right.

## ABOUT CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (CRIP)

The Centre for Research in Intellectual Property (CRIP) is the focus of Intellectual Property research at the Maharashtra National Law University Mumbai. The main objective of the Centre is to lead research and promote well-informed interdisciplinary work in the area of intellectual property law, policy and practice through rigorous academic research, the presence of high-quality researchers and conducting seminars, workshops and conferences. The Centre aims to bring together a group of legal academics, policymakers and industrial experts already recognised for their historical and inter-disciplinary vigour. Through its activities, the centre aims to promote the understanding and critical appraisal of the important fields of IP law.

### PATRON

Prof. (Dr.) Dilip Ukey is the Vice-Chancellor of Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai, and a distinguished scholar in Jurisprudence, Constitutional Law, and Administrative Law. With extensive academic leadership experience, he has contributed significantly to legal education and institutional governance. An internationally engaged academic, he has been a visiting research fellow in Australia and has spoken at global conferences on human rights. A recipient of the Best Academician (Law) award (2019), he brings deep expertise on constitutional governance, rights, and public law frameworks.



**Prof. (Dr.) Dilip Ukey**  
**Hon'ble Vice Chancellor**  
**MNLU Mumbai**

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Prof. (Dr.) O.V. Nandimath serves as the Vice Chancellor of the West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences (WBNUJS), Kolkata. A distinguished scholar in health law and regulatory governance, he brings decades of academic leadership and influential scholarship, including notable contributions to health law and ethics. His expertise offers critical insights into access to medicines, regulatory balance, and the ethical limits of pharmaceutical patents, illuminating the complex interplay between public health and commercial interests.

**Prof. (Dr.) Nandimath  
Omprakash V.**

## SPECIAL ADDRESS

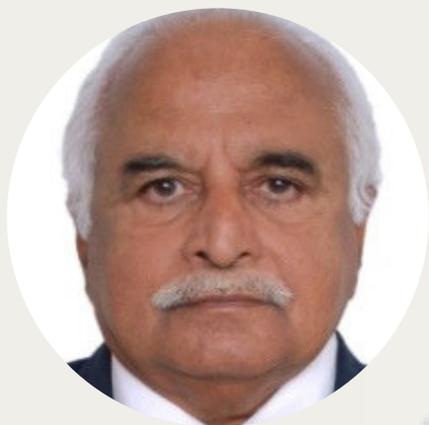
Prof. (Dr.) V.C. Vivekanandan is the Vice Chancellor of Hidayatullah National Law University (HNLU), Raipur, and a leading authority in Intellectual Property Law with a focus on patents and innovation policy. With extensive experience in academia and international policy engagement, including representation at global forums such as WIPO, he brings critical insights into pharmaceutical patent regimes, innovation governance, and access to medicines, offering a nuanced understanding of the balance between proprietary rights and public health imperatives.



**Prof. (Dr.) V.C.  
Vivekanandan**

# Panel Members

## Dr. Gopakumar G. Nair



Dr. Gopakumar G. Nair is the Founder and Managing Partner of Gopakumar Nair Associates and a registered patent attorney with over three decades of experience in intellectual property law. He has been involved in several landmark matters relating to pharmaceutical patents and has advised leading stakeholders in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors. As a seasoned practitioner, he brings a litigation and policy-oriented perspective to issues of patent enforcement, access to medicines, and the broader balance between innovation incentives and public health considerations.

## Prof. Samir Kulkarni



Prof. Samir Kulkarni is the Tata Chemicals, Darbari Seth Distinguished Professor, Head of the Department of Biological Sciences and Biotechnology, and Coordinator of the DBT-ICT Centre for Biosciences. An accomplished academic, he has led significant interdisciplinary research initiatives and fostered industry-academia collaborations in applied biosciences. He brings a scientific and translational research perspective to discussions on biotechnology innovation, pharmaceutical development, and the interface between science, intellectual property, and public health.

## Dr. M. S. Kamath



Dr. M. S. Kamath is the Honorary General Secretary of the Consumer Guidance Society of India (CGSI), the nation's oldest consumer protection body. A dedicated advocate for consumer rights, he has pioneered nationwide initiatives on internet safety, financial literacy, and food quality standards. Dr. Kamath is instrumental in drafting the 'Right to Repair' framework in India, focusing on empowering citizens against unfair trade practices and ensuring corporate accountability through education and legislative reform.

# Panel Members

## Prof. Uma Bhattad



Prof. Uma Bhattad is Professor of Law at Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai, and Chair Professor of the DPIIT IPR Chair, with over twenty-five years of experience in both academia and intellectual property practice. She began her career in teaching before moving into practice, serving as an Examiner of Trademarks and later qualifying as a Patent Agent. She has worked extensively in patent prosecution and IP consultancy, advising MSMEs, institutions, and industry on patents, trademarks, designs, and copyrights. She brings a uniquely integrated academic and practitioner perspective on IP law, innovation, and public interest.

## Dr. Jagdish Khobragade



Dr. Jagdish W. Khobragade is Associate Professor of Law and Assistant Registrar [Academic (I/c)] at Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai, with over 13 years of teaching and research experience. His academic work spans intellectual property, public health, labour law, and human rights, with numerous publications and national and international presentations. Enrolled as an advocate and actively engaged in interdisciplinary teaching, he brings a research-driven perspective on the intersection of patent law, access to medicines, and social justice.

## Dr. Amit Kumar



Dr. Amit Kumar is Assistant Professor of Law at Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai, and serves as Deputy Director of IQAC, and head of key academic initiatives including the Centre for Applied Research in Public Health Law, Rights and Policy. A Max Planck Fellow, he has collaborated with leading institutions in Germany and taught at the University of Delhi. An author of books on public health law and corporate responsibility, his work spans health law, human rights, and social justice, bringing a globally informed, interdisciplinary perspective to legal scholarship and policy.

## **SCHEDULE OF THE CONFERENCE**

<b>INAUGURAL CEREMONY</b>	<b>11:00 AM onwards</b>
<b>LIGHTING OF THE LAMP</b>	
<b>INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY PROF. (DR.) DILIP UKEY, VICE CHANCELLOR, MNLU MUMBAI</b>	<b>11:10 AM -11:30 PM</b>
<b>KEY NOTE SPEECH BY PROF. (DR.) NANDIMATH OMPRAKASH V., VICE CHANCELLOR, WEST BENGAL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES (WBNUJS), KOLKATA</b>	<b>11:30 AM -12:00 PM</b>
<b>SPECIAL ADDRESS BY PROF. (DR.) V.C. VIVEKANANDAN, VICE CHANCELLOR, HIDAYATULLAH NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY (HNLU), RAIPUR</b>	<b>12:00 PM -12:30 PM</b>
<b>PANEL DISCUSSION</b>	<b>12:30 PM -1:30 PM</b>
<b>LUNCH</b>	<b>1:30 PM - 2:30 PM</b>
<b>PAPER PRESENTATION</b>	<b>2:30 PM - 3:30 PM</b>
<b>HIGH TEA</b>	<b>3:30 PM - 4:00 PM</b>
<b>PRIZE DISTRIBUTION</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>
<b>CLOSING CEREMONY</b>	<b>Onwards</b>

## IMPORTANT DATES

<b>Submission of Research Article</b>	<b>22nd March 2026</b>
<b>Communication of Shortlisted Articles</b>	<b>26th March 2026</b>
<b>Date of Conference</b>	<b>30th March 2026</b>

## PRIZES

<b>Best Paper Presenter</b>	<b>₹ 5,000/-</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Runner up</b>	<b>₹ 3,000/-</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Runner up</b>	<b>₹ 2,000/-</b>

**For More Information Please reach out to us at:**

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