

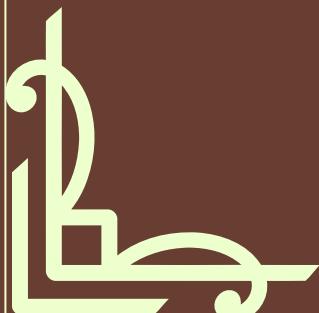
MAHARASHTRA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY,
NAGPUR



CENTRE FOR TRIBAL AND LAND RIGHTS
IN COLLABORATION WITH
CIPR & DPIIT-IPR CHAIR
ORGANISES
TWO-DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR
ON

**'The Adivasi Question in Contemporary India:
Rethinking Culture, Identity and Indigenous
Knowledge Systems'**

MARCH 25-26, 2026



ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY :

Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur is a student-centric institution established by the Government of Maharashtra in 2015. The University started its academic activities from August 1, 2016 and is currently in its tenth year of academic pursuits with tenth batch of B.A.LL.B (Hons.) Five-Year Integrated Degree Course; sixth batch of B.A.LL.B (Honours in Adjudication and Justicing); fourth batch of B.B.A.LL.B (Hons.) Five Year Integrated Degree Course; tenth batch of (One-Year LLM Degree Course) and eighth batch of Ph.D Programme. The University is recognised by the University Grants Commission under 12 of University Grants Commission Act, 1956 and the Bar Council of India New Delhi. It is also a member of Association of Indian Universities (New Delhi and Consortium of National Law Universities.) The University is making rapid progress towards the dream of achieving excellence in the field of legal and justice education with its dedicated faculty members, research associates, research scholars, students and staff under the dynamic guidance of the Chancellor, Hon'ble Justice Shri A.S. Chandurkar.

ABOUT THE CENTRE FOR TRIBAL AND LAND RIGHTS:

The Centre for Tribal and Land Rights is an important Centre of Maharashtra National Law University, dedicated to engaging with both academic and ground-level realities concerning tribal communities in Maharashtra. The Centre undertakes research, scholarly discussion, and action-oriented programmes to bridge the gap between law and lived realities of tribal populations. The Centre works on constitutional provisions relating to Scheduled Tribes, relevant statutory frameworks, and the practical challenges arising in their implementation. It focuses on identifying institutional and systemic barriers and evolving solutions through the active participation of tribal communities and concerned institutions. The Centre functions as a specialized, active, research-oriented wing focusing on the legal, social, and economic dimensions of tribal communities and land rights. It conducts in-depth studies addressing issues such as access to biodiversity, benefit-sharing mechanisms, protection of indigenous community rights, and sustainable governance of natural resources.

ABOUT THE CENTRE FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (CIPR):

The Centre for Intellectual Property Rights (CIPR) is an Advanced Legal Research Centre of Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur, established with the objective of promoting human, social, and commercial values through rigorous socio-legal research in the field of Intellectual Property Rights. Recognising IPR as a dynamic and evolutionary discipline, the Centre seeks to foster awareness, scholarship, and capacity-building in areas central to innovation, creativity, and technological development. CIPR actively engages in research, training programmes, academic events, and policy-oriented discourse to bridge the existing gap between legal academia and the rapidly evolving demands of intellectual property protection in a technology-driven economy.

ABOUT THE DPIIT-IPR CHAIR:

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, has selected Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur for the establishment of the DPIIT-IPR Chair under the Scheme for Pedagogy & Research in IPRs for Holistic Education & Academia (SPRIHA). The initiative draws inspiration from the National Intellectual Property Rights Policy, 2016, which envisions a robust and innovation-friendly IP ecosystem to support India's economic growth and socio-cultural development. The DPIIT-IPR Chair aims to strengthen teaching and research capacities in intellectual property law, promote high-quality scholarship, develop curricula, and undertake performance-based evaluation of academic contributions, thereby reinforcing the institutional framework for IP education and research in India.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE:

The question of Adivasi existence, rights, and futures occupies a central yet persistently marginalized position in contemporary Indian socio-political discourse. Despite constitutional recognition as Scheduled Tribes and the proliferation of welfare, development, and rights-based interventions, Adivasi communities continue to experience structural dispossession, cultural erasure, epistemic marginalization, and disproportionate exposure to state and corporate violence. From extractive and exploitative development projects and forest governance regimes to counterinsurgency operations and neoliberal conservation and welfare models, Adivasi life-worlds are routinely framed as obstacles to national progress or as relics of a pre-modern past.

At the same time, recent decades have witnessed renewed scholarly, activist, and political attention to indigeneity, indigenous knowledge systems, ecological and environmental ethics, and alternative modernities. Adivasi movements across India have consistently articulated claims not only around land and autonomy but also around culture, language, knowledge, and memory. These developments compel a rethinking of the “Adivasi question” beyond the binaries of tradition versus modernity, development versus preservation, and inclusion versus exclusion. This National Seminar is anchored in insights drawn from Critical Legal Studies, Subaltern Studies, Postcolonial Theory, Political Ecology, and Anthropology. It treats the “Adivasi” not as a static cultural category but as a historically constituted political identity shaped by colonial ethnography, nationalist discourse, capitalist expansion, and ongoing struggles for self-determination and exclusion.

This National Seminar aims to provide an interdisciplinary platform for critically interrogating how Adivasi cultures, identities, and knowledge systems are produced, represented, governed, and resisted in contemporary India. It aims to move beyond the romanticized engagements with Adivasi communities and instead foreground the “Adivasi Question” in their lived experiences, everyday struggles for self-determination, language, and epistemic and intellectual traditions as central to reimagining democracy, development, and justice in India.

THEMES:

1. Rethinking Adivasi Identity and Culture
2. Land, Forest, and Political Ecology
3. Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Epistemic Justice
4. Law and the Adivasi Question
5. Adivasis and the perils and promise of Development

BROAD THEMES OF SEMINAR:

1. The Constitution- Adivasi Self-Governance, State Intervention and Conflicts
2. Adivasi Customary Practices, Identity, Languages and Education
3. Nature Worship, Religion and Conversion of Tribal Faith
4. Displacement, Resistance, and Capitalist Form of Development
5. Indigenous Knowledge, Culture and Tribal Identity, TKDL
6. Adivasi Endangered Languages, Recognition and Governance
7. Adivasi, Climate Change and Environmental Issues
8. Indigenous Knowledge, Art, Folklore, Traditional Knowledge Management System, TKDL
9. Institutionalisation of Tribal Justice System, Community Justice and Governance
10. Encountering Tribals, Atrocities and Judiciary
11. Implementing Protected Laws and State Inaction on PESA, FRA and RCTLARR Act

The subthemes are only suggestive areas and are not limited to the conference themes. Any related area of the conference may also be submitted.

SUBMISSION CATEGORIES:

- Long Articles (4000–8000 words): In-depth and comprehensive analyses of contemporary issues.
- Short Articles (2500–4000 words): Focused analytical studies addressing specific contemporary legal and regulatory challenges. Submissions must emphasise real-world experiences, policy relevance and their implementation, and novelty of the proposed solutions for the betterment of Adivisi World.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

1. Submissions must be original and unpublished works of the author(s).
2. Each paper must include a clear and concise title and an abstract of 250–300 words.
3. Co-authorship is permitted up to a maximum of two authors.
4. Plagiarism beyond the permissible limit will result in outright rejection.
5. Formatting must adhere to the following:
 - Title: Times New Roman, Font Size 14, Bold, CAPITALS, Centre aligned;
 - Main text: Times New Roman, Font Size 12, 1.5 line spacing, Justified;
 - Footnotes: Times New Roman, Font Size 10, Single spacing, Harvard Bluebook (20th Edition).

IMPORTANT DATES & LINK:

- **Last Day for submission of Abstract: March 10, 2026**
- **Acceptance of Abstract: March 15, 2026**
- **Submission of the full Paper: March 20, 2026**
- **Click here to submit: <https://forms.gle/PNaGMk3gmi6Utu87>**
- **E-Mail on: ctlr@nlunagpur.ac.in & iprchair@nlunagpur.ac.in**
- **Note: The University reserves the right to modify the conference dates, if necessary. Any changes will be communicated in advance.**

REGISTRATION FEE

- Participants 500/-
- Paper Presentation for Research Scholar 1000/-
- Paper Presentation for Faculty 1200/-
- Registration Fees Include Kit
- Best paper selected by the organisers after double blind peer review will be published in the Contemporary Law Review or IPR Journal of Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur (Online Law Journal) and in an edition book by a reputable publisher with an ISBN.
- All the participants will get a Certificate of Participation & Paper Presentation.

Chief Patron



Prof. (Dr.) Vijender Kumar

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