

## Report on One-Day Workshop Held on 22nd August 2025 at Government College, Solan

On August 22, 2025, Government College, Solan, successfully organized a one-day workshop on the theme of "Traditional Knowledge and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)." The workshop featured two distinguished speakers who provided invaluable insights into Himachal Pradesh's cultural heritage and the legal frameworks protecting it.



### Session 1: Traditional Knowledge of Himachal Pradesh

The first session was led by **Dr. Maneesha Kohli**, the esteemed Principal of Government College, Solan. She delivered a comprehensive lecture that highlighted the rich cultural heritage and indigenous practices of Himachal Pradesh. Dr. Kohli's presentation was structured to provide a deep understanding of the state's traditional knowledge systems, covering the following key areas:



- **Traditional Crafts:** She showcased various traditional crafts, including intricate handlooms, pottery, and woodwork, emphasizing their cultural and economic significance.
- **Folk Sports & Dances:** The session delved into indigenous sports and energetic folk dances, explaining their historical context and social importance.

- **Folk Songs & Music:** Dr. Kohli discussed the melodious folk songs that narrate tales of local heroes, gods, and daily life, highlighting their role in preserving oral history.
- **Traditional Dishes:** The lecture included a delicious overview of traditional Himachali dishes, explaining their unique ingredients and cooking methods.
- **Festivals & Temples:** Participants learned about major festivals such as Kullu Dussehra and the unique architecture and religious significance of prominent temples.
- **Ethnobotanical Importance:** A significant part of the talk focused on the ethnobotanical importance of the state's flora, explaining how local plants are used in traditional medicine and daily life.
- **GI Tagging:** Dr. Kohli also shed light on the **Geographical Indication (GI) tagging** of Himachali products like Kullu Shawls and Chamba Rumal, which helps protect and promote their authenticity and origin.

## Session 2: Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

**Dr. Hemant Sood**, Professor at J.P. University, Wahnaghat, Solan was resource person of second session. Her lecture provided a detailed understanding of **Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)** and their legal implications, which complemented the first session perfectly. Dr. Sood's discussion covered:

- **History of IPR:** She began by tracing the historical evolution of IPR and its growing importance in the modern world.
- **Indian Copyright Act, 1957:** Dr. Sood explained the key provisions of the **Indian Copyright Act, 1957**, clarifying what can be protected under this law.
- **IPR Filing Process:** A practical segment of the lecture was dedicated to explaining the step-by-step process of filing for IPR.
- **Purpose of Granting IPR:** The talk also focused on the fundamental purpose of IPR, which is to encourage innovation and creativity by granting exclusive rights to creators.
- **Types of IPR:** She provided clear distinctions and examples for various types of IPR:
  - *Patents* – for inventions and technological advancements
  - *Trademarks* – for brand identity and commercial recognition
  - *Copyrights* – for literary, artistic, and academic works

- *Geographical Indications* – for region-specific products and traditional knowledge

## **Conclusion**

The workshop was a great success, with both sessions providing a holistic view of cultural heritage and its legal protection. Participants gained a deeper appreciation for the traditional knowledge of Himachal Pradesh and a practical understanding of how IPR can be used to safeguard such invaluable assets. The combined expertise of Dr. Kohli and Dr. Sood made for a highly informative and engaging event.

## **Organizing Details**

The workshop on Traditional Knowledge and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) was organized by the IQAC Cell of Government College Solan. Dr. Anil Thakur, Associate Professor, Department of Physics, served as the Coordinator of the programme.

## **Objectives of the Workshop**

- To create awareness about the importance of Intellectual Property Rights among students and faculty.
- To familiarize participants with traditional knowledge systems and their protection mechanisms.
- To provide a practical understanding of various types of IPR and the filing procedures.
- To highlight the significance of preserving and promoting Himachal Pradesh's cultural and ethnobotanical heritage.

## **Outcomes of the Workshop**

- Participants gained clarity on concepts related to IPR, including patents, copyrights, trademarks, and GI tags.
- Faculty and students understood the relevance of documenting and protecting traditional knowledge.
- Enhanced awareness of the legal frameworks governing IPR in India.
- Improved ability to identify potential IPR-generating activities in academic and cultural domains.