

## The WB National University of Juridical Sciences

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To,

The Hon'ble IPR Chair Professor,

Punjab University

C/o Prof. Raj Kumar

Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Punjab University

9<sup>th</sup> September, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Invitation for participation at a Consultative Seminar on

*Traditional Cultural Expressions, IPRs and the Performing Arts*

organised by the West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata (WBNUJS)

in collaboration with the Rajiv Gandhi School of Intellectual Property Law (RGSOIPL), IIT Kharagpur

& Unmute.help

Respected Madam/Sir

It gives us the greatest pleasure to invite you /your office to participate at the first ever Consultative Seminar on *Traditional Cultural Expressions, IPRs and the Performing Arts* organised by the WBNUJS Kolkata in collaboration with RGSOIPL, IIT Kharagpur and Unmute.help on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022, from 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM (IST) at the WBNUJS Campus.

Performing artistes and the legal world may well have remained distant from each other, but mistakenly so, as the arts, while representing the free spirit of humans, are very much governed by a plexus of the laws of the land. Given this backdrop, one may well credit the pandemic of 2020 as serving as that window in time when the many intersections of the arts with law were foregrounded, mostly because of the silence of actual performance, the shift to an algorithm-driven digital world and the enormous amount of consumption fed by hastily and often carelessly created content, that employed shortcuts and unethical means.

It is in order to ensure that the many voices from among the performing arts community articulating concerns about both rights, responsibilities and protections be heard, a multi-lingual, national-level, online series on Arts and the Law has been launched by Unmute.help, ably partnered by the WBNUJS Kolkata, through July-August 2021.



Encouraged by the success of the aforementioned initiative, the WBNUS Kolkata, jointly with the RCSCPI, JI Khargapur and Unimate, help is organising a Consultation-cum-Seminar on *Traditional Cultural Expressions, IPRs and the Performing Arts* with a focus on Copyright Law and Ancillary Laws. This exercise, helped by the WBNUS Kolkata in collaboration with the RCSCPI and Unimate, intends to gather the Intellectual Property Law professionals across the country, scholars and experts working on this issue along with the meaningful interventions of performing artists including academics, performers and promoters, to have a plethora of papers addressing the unique issues faced by traditional and contemporary performing artists in India to which it is felt that there has been little to no attention paid by the law.

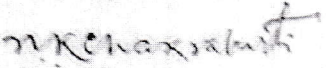
We believe this opportunity of the brainstorming sessions of 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022 [10:00 AM - 5:00 PM (IST)] will initiate a dialogue for the first time ever in India with performing artists and legal professionals, scholars and jurists coming on board, to potentially develop guidelines aimed toward securing greater and better protection to the artists who represent India's rich and diverse cultural heritage.

A broad indicative list of topics or themes have been identified, keeping in mind the backdrop and objective of this exercise, and the same may be found in the Concept Note attached herewith.

We would be grateful if you could kindly confirm your participation (arrangements shall be made for both physical as well as online participation - *ergo*, you are requested to kindly specify the mode that would be most convenient for you) and share your theme within a week to help us develop the event seamlessly. It would also be helpful for us if you kindly inform us whether you, as the IPR Chair Professor, or your nominated representative / researcher would be presenting the paper.

We look forward to hosting you at what promises to be a truly pioneering engagement of thoughts and ideas, and await your reply at the earliest.

Thanking you  
Yours sincerely

  
Prof. (Dr.) N. K. Chakrabarti  
Vice Chancellor  
The WBNUS Kolkata