

Report on Guest Lecture on "Identifying Subject Matter of IP Protection and Prior-art Search"

On 8th September 2023, Symbiosis Law School, Pune, conducted an insightful lecture under its IPR (Intellectual Property Rights) Sensitization initiative on the topic "**Identifying Subject Matter of IP Protection and Prior-art Search.**" The session was held at Symbiosis Institute of Technology (SIT), Pune, and aimed to educate students and faculty about the crucial aspects of intellectual property (IP) protection, particularly focusing on identifying IP subject matters and conducting prior-art searches.

The lecture featured distinguished speakers: Dr. Amol Sapatnekar from Symbiosis Law School, Pune, and Mr. Neeraj Panchal from John Deere, both of whom shared their expertise on IPR frameworks and practical insights into protecting intellectual property. The session began with an overview of IPR awareness and the various paradigms that shape the legal framework surrounding intellectual property protection.

Dr. Sapatnekar explained the importance of identifying the correct subject matter for IP protection, which is vital for ensuring that creative innovations and business assets are safeguarded under intellectual property law. He outlined the different forms of IP protection, including patents, copyrights, trademarks, and industrial designs, and provided guidance on how to assess whether a creation qualifies for protection. Mr. Panchal further elaborated on the practical process of securing intellectual property rights, sharing real-world examples of how companies protect their innovations and creative works.

A key focus of the lecture was the **prior-art search**, a fundamental step in the IP protection process, especially for patents. Mr. Panchal demonstrated how conducting a thorough prior-art search helps to determine whether an invention or idea is novel and non-obvious, thereby ensuring that the intellectual property being registered does not conflict with existing patents or IP rights.

The session concluded with an engaging discussion where both faculty and students shared their own experiences and raised questions about the complexities of IP protection and prior-art searches. The interaction was highly informative, providing attendees with deeper insights into the practical challenges and strategies for protecting intellectual property in various sectors.

Overall, the guest lecture was a valuable learning experience, equipping participants with essential knowledge to navigate the complex world of intellectual property rights.