

POLICY ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

I N T R O D U C T I O N

Creativity and innovation have been a constant in growth and development of any knowledge economy. There is an abundance of creative and innovative energies flowing in India. The evolution of the film and music industry; the contribution of the Indian pharmaceutical sector in enabling access to affordable medicines globally and its transformation to being the pharmacy of the world; a strong and dynamic software industry; a considerably diverse handicraft and textile industry; richness and versatility of the Indian systems of medicines such as Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Yoga; the advances made in the Indian space programme and the pioneering role of our scientists in keeping it cost effective; these are but a few examples of these energies. While India has always been an innovative society, much of the intellectual property (IP) created remains unprotected both on account of lack of awareness and the perception that IP protection is either not required or that the process to obtain it is unnecessarily complicated. The rationale for the National IPR Policy lies in the need to create awareness about the importance of intellectual property rights (IPRs) as a marketable financial asset and economic tool. India has robust IP laws and a strong IP jurisprudence. The legal framework does reflect the underlying policy orientation and national priorities, which have evolved over time, taking into account development needs and international commitments. An all-encompassing IPR Policy will promote a holistic and conducive ecosystem to catalyze the full potential of intellectual property for India's economic growth and socio-cultural development, while protecting public interest. Such a policy will nurture the IP culture, guiding and enabling all creators and inventors to realize their potential for generating, protecting and utilizing IPRs which would contribute to wealth creation, employment opportunities and business development. This policy shall weave in the strengths of the Government, research and development organizations, educational institutions, corporate enters including MSMEs, start-ups and other stakeholders in the creation of an innovation conducive environment. It will complement the strengths of our substantive laws with transparent, predictable and efficient administrative and procedural mechanisms as also well-informed adjudicatory structure.