

Cluster level IP Awareness program

An initiative of the office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks (CGPDTM) in association with Industry Associations (CII, FICCI, ASSOCHAM)

Background: In the globally competitive environment, intellectual property has placed itself on a pedestal in the context of economic growth and has become more important than ever. Intellectual Property is the fuel that powers the engine of prosperity, fostering invention and innovation. Being an intangible asset, Intellectual Property plays a very important role in the socio-economic ecosystem and their creation and protection is essential for the sustained growth of a nation. Increasing significance of intangible assets in the global economy is forcing business organizations to actively manage the role of IP as a key driver for building and sustaining their competitive advantage and achieving superior performance.

Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) are exclusive rights over such intellectual property granted to creators / holders which protect their rights from misappropriation by third parties without their authorization. They are now not only being used as a tool to protect creativity and generate revenue but also to build strategic alliances for socio-economic and technological growth. Accordingly, in order to foster the protection of innovations and creativity, the Intellectual Property Office under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is dedicated to mobilize the use of such technological advancement for the economic development of the country.

Intellectual Property Laws in India are TRIPS compliant and coupled with a strong enforcement mechanism and a vibrant judicial system, they create the best investment opportunities and a conducive environment for protecting IP Rights in order to enable the industrial community to diversify its commercial activities.

India has also developed a national framework for creation and protection of IPRs, which is continuously evolving and meets global standards. The challenge before the country is to scale up the process of IP creation and capture value from the scientific and technological creations to catapult the country into the league of most innovative and developed nations.

Recognizing the importance of intellectual property, the Hon'ble President of India declared the decade of 2011-2020 as **the Decade of Innovation**. The future prosperity of India in the new knowledge economy would increasingly depend on its ability to generate new ideas, processes and solutions, and the process of innovation would convert knowledge into social good and economic wealth. The President called upon the people to step up expenditure on research to pursue innovation in a big way. In a globally competitive world, India had to unleash its innovation potential to increase capacity, productivity, efficiency, and inclusive growth. "The spirit of innovation has to permeate all sectors of economy from universities, business and government to people at all levels."

Relevance and Importance of Intellectual Property Rights for cluster – The times are changing and now we can no longer count on a large and regulated market to shelter us in the 21st century. In today's globalised scenario, industries need to step up their efforts and ability to innovate to make better products and become more proactive to protect their innovations. Innovation- the successful exploitation of new ideas- is the key business process that enables one to compete effectively in the increasing competitive global environment. It is now critical for the Indian industry to understand the implications of Intellectual Property protection – both legal and economic, to protect its own business interests in India and abroad.

However, Indian industry is yet to realize the potential role of intellectual property rights despite their inherent innovative capability. This is evident from the applications filed for protection of intellectual property rights. There exists a two-fold need with respect to intellectual property rights in India:

- Greater understanding across the industrial sector about the fundamentals and different facets of IP and,
- Advanced learning in the area of patents in order to provide trained individuals who can perform at peak potential from early in their career.

In this background, the Intellectual Property Office, in association with the Industry Associations namely the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) & ASSOCHAM, has planned to conduct a series of cluster specific awareness programs on IP in year 2013-2014 to create

Intellectual Property awareness among the specific clusters so as to encourage these clusters to promote Intellectual Property Right protection.

Objectives: The Intellectual Property Office has selected twelve clusters out of 39 clusters being supported by Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion under the Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme (IIUS) for conducting the IP Awareness programs. The overall objective of the training programme is to give both advisory and protection services. The objectives of these awareness programs are mentioned below.

- To sensitize the clusters about Intellectual Property Right and their protection.
- To identify protectable innovations.
- To suggest steps for transforming innovations into proprietary assets.
- To use IP information, particularly relating to patents and designs, for further research and development in developing new product and process.
- Utilize the IP information in their business development

The selected clusters: The following clusters 12 clusters have been identified for these awareness programs:

Sl.No	Associations	Clusters			
1.	FICCI	Chemical- Ankleshwar	Machine tools- Banglore	Auto-Pune	Coir- Alappuzha Kerala
2.	ASSOCHAM	Gems and Jewellery- Surat	Foundry- Belgaon	Auto- Pithampur Indore	Engineering & Technology- Nasik MH
3.	CII	Auto Chennai	Leather- Ambur TN	Handloom- Ludhiana	Leather Kanpur

Methodology: The following methodology will be used in conducting these awareness programs.

Step-I: A **one day** awareness programme will be held, which is designed with topics covering various aspects of intellectual Property rights including Introduction to Technology Transfer, IP Licensing, Valuation and Auditing and IP Commercialization to offer a comprehensive introduction and up-to-date knowledge to all the participants, particularly those work deals with intellectual property and its effective protection. The program will also focus on issues relating to Enforcement of IPRs & Remedies against Infringement. **The 1-day programme would be tailored made as per the specific clusters' requirement.**

Step-2: The following activities would be undertaken by the Industry associations.

- Mapping of Awareness levels currently existing and advice on the way forward, based on questionnaire distributed in the workshop.
- Identifying & short-listing protectable products / processes- creation of a repository of technologies/ products / processes which could be protected through IPRs.

Step-3:

- Identifying suitable IP Protection for the products/processes or designs identified.
- Suggesting mechanisms for protection of intellectual property.
- Developing a Road Map for IP Management Practices.
- Handholding activities by Industry Associations for filling IP applications.

Contact details of coordinators from IPO and Industry Associations:

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