

DIPP will be the nodal department to deal with issues of copyright protect and IP in the country

NEW DELHI, 1 April 2016: FICCI, along with the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) organized a seminar on 'Managing Copyright in Publishing'. The programme was addressed, among others by Mr. Francis Gurry, Director General, WIPO. The programme aimed to highlight the key issues of piracy and counterfeit in publishing. The transition to digital devices and new models of content distribution have initiated a rethinking of IP and DRM regimes.

Delivering the Keynote Address, **Mr. Francis Gurry, Director General, WIPO** thanked the Government of India for the support to WIPO pertaining to the issue of Intellectual Property. He emphasised that in the last 20 years, copyright has moved from the periphery to the centre of the economic systems. This is not just because of the increased importance of intellectual property in a knowledge economy, but it is a natural consequence of the role of the essential mechanism that governs production, distribution and consumption of knowledge works in a society.

Emphasising the India was the first signatory to the Marrakesh Treaty, Mr. Gurry highlighted that the treaty will enable national exceptions in copyright across the globe to speak to each other. This is particularly important in publishing. He thanked DIPP and FICCI for the creating the platform to discuss such an important issue.

Mr. Naresh Prasad, Assistant Director General, Chief of Staff, Office of the Director General, WIPO, emphasised that copyright is increasingly emerging as a key component of the IP landscape globally. The seminar on copyright in publishing, he said is a very timely intervention of the role that copyright will play in publishing in India. There is an urgent need to focus on enhancing awareness and outreach.

Dr. A Didar Singh highlight the work that FICCI does in the area of copyright, especially its relationship and impact on business in the country. He also informed the audience about the many programmes that FICCI does, not only in publishing, but also in counterfeit across sectors and verticals of the economy.

Mr. Rajiv Aggarwal, Joint Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India informed the gathering that the area of copyright has shifted to DIPP which will be the nodal department to deal with all issues related to copyright in the country. He thanked WIPO and especially Mr Gurry for the support to the Government of India.

Delivering the closing remarks **Mr. Rohit Kumar**, Co-Chair, FICCI Publishing Committee and Advisor RELX Group, also emphasised that there is a need to educate people on respect for copyright, particularly in content and publishing, since it is the future of business in the country.

The other session of the programme dealt with the issue of economic cost of piracy in Indian publishing, with Mr. G. R. Raghavender, Joint Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, chairing the session. The other panellist on the dais were Mr. Mohan Ramaswamy, Managing Director, Lexis Nexis, Mr. M. I. Haider, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Delhi Police and Mr. Vikas Gupta, Managing Director, Wiley India.

The programme witnessed participation of over 125 professionals from the publishing sector.

