



3rd ANNUAL IP DIALOGUE

-OPPORTUNITIES FOR US-INDIA COLLABORATION-

3rd December 2020 | 6:30-8:45 PM | Virtual Session

A REPORT

The global economy is now increasingly innovation-driven - powered by knowledge, creativity, and technology, each of which is supported by intellectual property (IP) and protection of IP rights. With India and the United States, two leading world economies becoming global strategic partners, it is in the interest of both countries to continuously engage in bilateral IP issues for mutual interest.

On 3 December 2020, FICCI in association with U.S. Chamber of Commerce (USCC) organised the third-edition of “IP Dialogue: Opportunities for US-India Collaboration” through a virtual session. The discussions brought together experts and thought leaders from both the countries, including officials from the Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT), Government of India, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Patent & Trademark Office (USPTO) and Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), stakeholders from industry, academia and the legal fraternity to deliberate upon the bilateral IP issues of mutual interest. The discussions revolved around a range of topics like the significance of innovation and public-private partnership in confronting the ongoing pandemic, dealing with trademark and copyright enforcement issues, IP licensing & commercialisation and the growing relevance of trade secrets in the digital age.

Mr. Narendra Sabharwal, Chair, FICCI IPR Committee, in his introductory address, observed that the “India-US IP dialogue has proved to be extremely fruitful in deliberating bilateral and global issues on intellectual property, while reaffirming the resolve on both sides to identify and explore pragmatic solutions to challenges and

concerns". He underlined how innovations supported by IP would be the key to mitigating the COVID-19 challenge by way of strengthening healthcare systems, fostering science and technology development, and managing accessibility and affordability of healthcare. Further, he added that there is a need to re-ignite the engine of economic recovery and growth in both the countries through IP-led innovation.

Mr. Rajendra Ratnoo, Joint Secretary, DPIIT, presented the Government of India's perspective on the subject, along with other senior officials from DPIIT, Copyright Office and Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB). The U.S. Government viewpoint was provided by Mr. Matt Murray, Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs and Mr. John Cabeca, IP Attaché (South Asia), U.S. Embassy in India.

The dialogue enabled both sides to discuss several important areas in an open and transparent manner. FICCI is committed to explore areas of cooperation and partnership that will further facilitate a favourable innovation and IP ecosystem in India, while addressing IP concerns of the business community on both in India and the U.S. in order to boost bilateral trade and economic relations.

The dialogue assumed greater significance in wake of the recent Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT), Government of India and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), Department of Commerce of the USA, on intellectual property cooperation between both the countries.

India has a robust and balanced IP system which keeps in view national development priorities and concerns while conforming to international commitments. The National IPR Policy 2016 lays down a comprehensive road map for the overall future development of India's IP system. Focussed bilateral interactions periodically, like the India-US IP Dialogue, provides the much-needed occasion for constructive engagement on a range of IP issues of interest to India and the US, and help further strengthen Indo-US economic partnership.