

**'Indian IP law is TRIPS Compliant and more. Indian copyright law is one of the strongest and best in the world'**

**USTR Annual 2014 Special 301 Report**

**New Delhi, 01 May 2014:** Despite vehement and exhaustive submissions arraying the strength of the Indian IP regime India continues to be on the watch list along with China, Russia, Algeria, Argentina, Chile, Indonesia, Pakistan, Thailand and Venezuela in the United States Trade Representative (USTR) 2014 Special 301 Report. The report however commends India for its achievements like digitization and upgradation of IP Offices and active copyright enforcement by the Delhi High Court through injunctive relief; to name a few. In the report, the US has also recognized the role of bilateral engagements between US and India to resolve concerns relating to Intellectual Property.

"FICCI in its response to Hearing Testimony of India before USTR had strongly asserted that India has a well-established legislative, administrative and judicial framework to safeguard IPRs which meets its obligations under TRIPS, and has withstood the test of severe international scrutiny. We are glad to note that India has not been given the Priority Country status as this could have had serious ramifications on economic, political and trade sanctions", **said Dr. A Didar Singh, Secretary General, FICCI.**

Indian IP law is TRIPS Compliant and more. Indian copyright law is one of the strongest and best in the world. India protected computer programs by copyright much earlier than the US. Indian Copyright Act 2012 Indian law in full conformity with international treaties of WIPO. The legislative and statutory measures are supplemented by appropriate administrative measures by the Governments both at the Centre and in the States for enforcement of IPRs; this includes Inter-Ministerial Committee on Enforcement of IPR laws, Copyright Enforcement Advisory Council (CEAC), Enforcement Cells, Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB) and Automated Recording and Targeting System (ARTS) portal of Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC). Further, the National IP Strategy India gives utmost importance to IPR Portfolios. Recent upgradation of the Intellectual Property Offices in accordance with the international standards has been one of the significant steps taken by the Indian Government to make it more service oriented and user friendly. With effect from October 15th, 2014, Intellectual Property Office has also started functioning as International Search Authority (ISA) and International Preliminary Examining Authority under PCT.

India has been active advocate of the policies and strategies of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), WTO and WIPO. India has engaged constructively with these organizations, exploring solutions to intricate problems and to build a consensus.

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