

Press Release

“Building Innovation ecosystem around *Make in India*”

New Delhi, March 11, 2016

“Intellectual Property is inextricably linked with all the twenty five sectors which are the focal points of *Make in India* initiative of the government, which is planned keeping in view minimum government and maximum governance”, said G R Raghavender, DIPP, GoI. He was speaking at a launch conference of a research programme on innovation, intellectual property and competition, a joint initiative of CUTS Institute for Regulation & Competition and CUTS International.

Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International welcomed the dignitaries and underlined the importance of government initiatives like Make in India, Start Up India, Digital India as the right steps to sustain India’s economic growth. Mr Mehta stated that the upcoming manufacturing facilities must not become mere assembling hub to tap cheap labour, but need to also contribute to innovation and knowledge creation within the country.

Former Chief Economist, NASSCOM Anupam Khanna commended the initiative for providing such a platform to debate these issues which will help in generating evidence for the policy makers and the stakeholders.

This research initiative is expected to communicate the significance of technological innovations and their economic footprint, the need for better regulatory IP framework, sensitised and better capacitated community and stakeholder groups and an impetus to the adoption of effective regulatory reforms.

A panel of seven distinguished experts including academicians, industry experts, legal practitioners and representative from research organisation deliberated on the *Role of a Robust IP Regime to Boost Design in India*. Interesting deliberations on the role of IP in innovation was made, while relating it to the contemporary issues in India. The role of the government and regulators as enabler is pivotal and these complex issues need to be deliberated in public platforms to identify the policy choices. India needs to move ahead from industrial policy perspective to increasing competitiveness and enhance competition while realising the benefits of innovation. India needs to move up the value chain and imbibe the culture of innovation to unleash the entrepreneurial energy and to realise the development goals.

Recently the DIPP has floated a discussion paper on Standard Essential Patents to seek comments from the stakeholders. The focus of the paper was also discussed and it was emphasised that research initiative like this will help in having more informed debate around these complex issues.

The policy debate surrounding the IP needs to take into account not only the existing debates but the future issues which will emerge and thus research platforms like these fill the void in the research and policy ecosystem. Such knowledge feed is expected to contribute towards policy coherence in India and will help in promoting competition and innovation.

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