

## **FICCI launches IPR Facilitation Centre in Delhi to assist MSMEs**

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In keeping with its commitment to empower Indian businesses, FICCI has launched an IPR Facilitation Centre at Federation House (FICCI), New Delhi, in association with the union Ministry of Micro-Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

The FICCI-IPR facilitation centre is equipped to offer quality services in all areas of intellectual property rights and comprises of technical and legal experts having extensive knowledge in the field of intellectual property rights. The facilitation centre also has a panel of legal and technical experts to provide assistance in this venture. The centre, in addition to providing general advisory about IPRs, such as, patents, trademarks, designs and copyrights will also provide services related to patent searches, patent drafting, patent prosecution, facilitation in commercialization of inventions, trademark prosecution matters etc.

The facilitation centre aims to enhance the competitiveness and development of MSME industry and enable it to play its part in making India one of the leading economies of the world.

The launch of the facilitation centre is significant as the contribution of MSMEs to India's economic growth and development is tremendous. In India, in terms of value, the MSME sector contributes about 45 per cent of the manufacturing output and about 40 per cent of the total export of the country. The MSME sector has the potential to pave new ways and concepts for successful innovation in the 21st century. The contribution of this sector to the country's GDP is 9 per cent. The MSME sector has shown consistent growth and is more than 6000 products in various segments.

MSMEs are the backbone of any industry in any country and are also the driving forces of innovation with India being no exception. However, many a time they fail to protect their innovations and intellectual assets due to several constraints. Statistically, India lags far behind many of its Asian neighbors in terms of filing of IP applications including China, Taiwan, South Korea and Japan, let alone the West. A glance through the latest annual report released from the patent office will reveal that the share of Indians in the patent applications filed sums up to approximately 16 per cent of the total applications filed with the patent office. Thus it is quite obvious that the contribution of the MSMEs in this share would come out to be much less.

FICCI has taken up the task of assisting the MSMEs in properly protecting and leveraging their intellectual assets by opening a much desired IPR facilitation centre.