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Universities and patents : How Universities address India's IPR Concern

Intellectual Property Rights:-

- IPRs are legal rights, which result from intellectual invention, innovation and discovery in the industrial, scientific, literary and artistic fields.
- These rights entitle an individual or group to the moral and economic rights of creators in their creation.

Why India Needs to Promote IPR:-

- As human civilization has now become a knowledge-based society, IPR framework occupies a principal position in the commercial space of nations.
- A recent **UNIDO study** has found that economic prosperity is dependent on robustness of IPR framework of a nation.
- The importance of IP in India can be defined as it promotes advancement in science and technology, traditional knowledge and Art and culture.
- IPR is required to safeguard creator and other producer for its creation and production.

State of Condition of India in IPR:-

- India remains one of the world's most challenging major economies with respect to protection and enforcement of IP.
- India ranked **44th of 50 countries in intellectual property index** released by **US Chamber of Commerce**.
- Though India witnessed significant changes in IPRs since the introduction of the **National IPR Policy in 2016**.
 - The grants rates at the Patent Office have increased: in 2017-2018, there was a 32% increase in the number of patents granted compared to the earlier year.
 - The Patent Office increased its workforce with the inclusion of 459 new examiners and is on the lookout for more.
 - The timeline for filing responses to official objections for patents has been reduced by half.
 - While the disposal rate has increased, the filing rate for patents has not changed significantly.
 - In 2016-17, the Patent Office reported a dip of 3.2% in filing compared to the previous financial year.
- **Dearth of IP Professional** : India has a poor patent agent density, with only about 2,000 registered patent agents currently in practice, a paltry number if one looks at the ambitious goals set by the IPR Policy.

How University fits in IPR regime:-

- Universities and patents benefit each other.
- Patents help universities *to improve their ranking, establish an innovation ecosystem, incubate knowledge-based start-ups, earn additional revenue and measure research activity.*
- In its biggest push to create *entrepreneurial universities*, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has now asked all universities in India to set up Intellectual Property (IP) Centres.
- Though thousands register every year, much needs to be done to build capacity on IP in universities. We ***need to focus on careers rather than courses.***
- Universities will face a strange human resources problem lack of IP professional. But they also facilitate the supply of IP workforce so this need to be taken care by taking necessary steps.

Steps By India:-

- In 2016, India released its comprehensive National IP Policy, with its primary focus being on awareness and building administrative capacity.
- The Cell of IP Promotion and Management (CIPAM) was set up and is tasked with implementing the IP Policy and interagency coordination.

- In 2017, the Patent Rules and the Trademark Rules were revised, to include strict timelines to dispose of cases and streamline examination.
- Special discounts for filing and an expedited examination for start-ups was introduced.
- Online courses on IPR are available on the National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning platform.

Suggestion:-

- The ambitious goal set by India's IPR Policy will be realised only when the examination becomes the foundation for making a career in IPR.
- In a dynamic field such as intellectual property, in order to create a band of qualified IP professionals there should be a push towards post-qualification continuous education as well.
- To achieve this, the format, membership, syllabus and the frequency of the patent agent examination will need to be addressed.
- This will not only increase the number and quality of IP professionals in the country but also become a new career choice for graduates with a degree in science and technology.

THANK YOU

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