

## Editorial

**Intellectual Property and You: The Time Has Come....**Harpreet Singh<sup>1</sup> <sup>1</sup> BJS Research Institute, The Baba Jaswant Singh Trust, Ludhiana, Punjab, India

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As we are moving ahead in the world of research and development, we must also be conscious about protecting our creations. Intellectual property (IP) means “creations of the mind.” In other words, one can say that IP is an umbrella term for a set of assets that are not physical in nature. Assets such as patents, copyrights, trademarks, trade names, trade secrets, geographical indications of goods, and industrial designs all are integral components of IP.

IP per se has a strong potential to empower individuals and enterprises. In doing so, it has a substantial role to play in the development of a person as an individual and of the society at large. Not only it generates a feeling of competitiveness amongst the researchers but also certainly helps generate breakthrough solutions to global challenges including improvement in the field of energy security and addressing the burning issues such as that of climate change. It certainly creates high-paying jobs and thus drives economic growth significantly.

IP has a massive role to play in the growth of our health system by being an essential integral component of research and development. As the world is getting encountered with more challenging situations in terms of new infections, it is the new innovations that are and shall always be the savior of mankind. The global health, as we look at, certainly needs upfront breakthroughs in terms of medicines and equipment alike so as to combat any situation that may jeopardize the essence of humanity, in times to come.

Having said about the benefits accrued from preserving and promoting the IP, one must also realize the presence of artificial intelligence around, which makes the discrete data and information amenable to leakage.

Without the knowledge of the inventor/creator, there are high chances of infringement on an idea or product

and therefore intellectual property rights (IPR) are extremely essential. IPR refers to the legal rights that are granted to the inventor so as to protect their invention/creation. These legal rights provide an exclusive right on the inventor, who can make the full use of his/her invention for a specific period of time as per the laws of the country. IPR, in this way, thus also supports the economic development of a country as the industries are benefitted at large by the invention of new equipment and machinery. Broadly it will not be wrong to say that the purpose of IPR is to reward human intellect by providing exclusive rights to the creators over their inventions.

There are numerous reasons that why we should be promoting as well as protecting the IP. On one hand, IP protection encourages the publication as well as the disclosure of the invention to the general public, instead of keeping it a secret for the benefit of society at large; on the other hand, it also promotes the generation of new jobs, development of new industries, and breakthroughs in working sectors, thereby improving the quality of life at large.

IP helps in creating a harmonious balance between the inventor's interests and interest of the public. An effective IP system ensures that the innovative and creative goods and services continue to be developed so that the we can be well prepared for a better tomorrow.

Overall, IP provides an environment where innovation and creativity can serve the entire mankind.

**Conflict of Interest**

None declared.

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