**MODULE-01 INTRODUCTION TO IPR**

**INTRODUCTION TO IPR**

With the ever-changing technology and shrinking world boundaries, the term “Intellectual Property” is coming to be used more often than ever. From tech companies, such as Samsung, Apple, and Google to Biotechnology enterprises such as Monsanto, everyone is vigil about protecting their Intellectual Property. Therefore, it becomes important to understand what Intellectual Property is and what are the rights that individual acquire as their Intellectual Property rights.

**Meaning of Intellectual Property**

Intellectual Property refers to the creations which are made using the mental power/intellectual power of individuals. This includes a variety of creations such as literary works, technological inventions, performances, traditional practices etc.

**These can be broadly divided into two categories:**

* Intellectual property used for protecting industrial inventions such as Patents, Trademarks etc.
* Intellectual property used for protecting literary interests such as copyright, related rights etc.

**MEANING OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

Intellectual property (IP) pertains to any original creation of the human intellect such as artistic, literary, technical, or scientific creation.

 **Intellectual Property Rights**

**Introduction-** Every individual who creates a literary work or invents an industrial technology is vested with certain rights such as the exclusive right to such literature or invention, right to gain monetary benefits from such intellectual property. All such rights that accrue to a person from the creation of intellectual property are known as Intellectual Property Rights.

Intellectual Property Rights can be held by an individual or a company. Generally, rights pertaining to literary works are held by an individual and industrial inventions are held by companies. But there are exceptions to this argument as well.

**Meaning of IPR:**

* Intellectual property rights are the rights given to persons over the creations of their minds. They usually give the creator an exclusive right over the use of his/her creation for a certain period.
* Intellectual property rights (IPR) refer to the legal rights given to the inventor or creator to protect his invention or creation for a certain period. These legal rights confer an exclusive right to the inventor/creator or his assignee to fully utilize his invention/creation for a given period.

**Need for IPR**

1. **Encouraging the creativity**-The objective of intellectual property protection is to encourage the creativity of the human mind for the benefit of all and to ensure that the benefits arising from exploiting a creation benefit the creator. This will encourage creative activity and give investors a reasonable return on their investment in research and development.
2. **Protecting the rights of the creator-**IP empowers individuals, enterprises, or other entities to exclude others from the use of their creations. Intellectual Property empowers individuals, enterprises, or other entities to exclude others from the use of their creations without their consent.
3. **Increased market value of your business** – IP can generate income for your business through licensing, selling, or commercializing protected products or services. This, in turn, can improve your stock market or increase your profit. In the case of a sale, merger or acquisition, registered and protected IP assets can increase the value of your business.
4. **Convert ideas into profitable assets** – IP can help to convert creative ideas into commercially successful products and services. For example, licensing your patent or copyright can result in a steady stream of royalties and additional income that can result in profitable assets.
5. **Market the products and services of the business** – IP is necessary to create an image for your business-like trademark, logo, or design of your product. So, it will help in differentiating the product and advertise and promote it to the customers.
6. **Increase export opportunities for the business** – IP can increase the competition in export markets. One can use their brands and design for marketing foreign goods and are looking for franchising agreements with foreign companies or to export your patented products. Consumers will not be confident buying means without products or reliable services, international trademark protection and enforcement machinery to discourage counterfeiting and piracy.

**Nature of Intellectual property:**

* **Intangible:** Intellectual property is intangible in nature, which cannot be touch or seen but has some value in it.
* **Territorial:** Unlike immovable property, IP property is commonly used in other countries. Therefore, IP-related issues tend to be resolved according to the national laws of the countries involved.
* **Exclusive right to owners:** This means that parties other than the owners do not have the right to use the IP without permission.
* **Assignable:** Since an IP is a form of rights, it can be assigned. It can be sold, purchased, licensed, hired, or attached.
* **Independence:** In most cases, IP rights are embodied in objects, with different types of IP rights subsisting in the same type of object.
* **Subject to Public Policy:** IP rights need to comply with public policy. While owners of IP seek to achieve adequate remuneration, they also must make sure that consumers can use their creations with minimal inconvenience.
* **Indivisible:** Multiple parties can have interests in an original creation without influencing the interests of other right holders on the same item. Due to its indivisible nature, IP is a resource that cannot be exhausted.

**Kinds of Intellectual Property Rights**

**Introduction-**The subject of intellectual property is very broad. There are many different forms of rights that together make up intellectual property. IP can be basically divided into two categories, that is, industrial Property and intellectual property. Traditionally, many IPRs were collectively known as industrial assets. It mainly consisted of patents, trademarks, and designs. Now, the protection of industrial property extends to utility models, service marks, trade names, passes, signs of source or origin, including geographical indications, and the suppression of unfair competition. It can be said that the term ‘industrial property” is the predecessor of ‘intellectual property”.

**Patents:** A patent is an exclusive right granted for an invention, which is a product or a process that provides, in general, a new way of doing something, or offers a new technical solution to a problem. To get a patent, technical information about the invention must be disclosed to the public in a patent application.

**Features:**

* **Exclusive rights** -Patent law recognizes the exclusive right of a patent holder to derive commercial benefits from his invention. A patent is a special right granted to the owner of an invention to the manufacture, use, and market the invention, provided that the invention meets certain conditions laid down in law. Exclusive right means that no person can manufacture, use, or market an invention without the consent of the patent holder. This exclusive right to patent is for a limited time only.
* **Innovation-**To qualify for patent protection, an invention must fall within the scope of the patentable subject and satisfy the three statutory requirements of innovation, inventive step, and industrial application.
* **Encouragement-**The purpose of patent law is to encourage scientific research, new technology, and industrial progress. The economic value of patent information is that it provides technical information to the industry that can be used for commercial purposes.

**Copyrights:** Copyright (or author’s right) is a legal term used to describe the rights that creators have over their literary and artistic works. Works covered by copyright range from books, music, paintings, sculpture, and films, to computer programs, databases, advertisements, maps, and technical drawings.

**Features:**

* **Recognises original Ownership-**It resides in literary, dramatic, musical, and artistic works in” original” cinematic films, and in sound recordings set in a concrete medium. To be protected as the copyright, the idea must be expressed in original form. Copyright acknowledges both the economic and moral rights of the owner.
* **It purely exists in the expression of the idea-**The copyright exists only for the original work. The mere idea to do a job is not to be used as copyright. For instance, if a brilliant person has an idea for a book but he does not do anything to express the idea, he cannot claim the copyright for that mere idea because the idea should be expressed.
* **Multiple rights-**Copyright is a bundle of rights in the same work. It comprises of in case of literary work, right to adaptation, and right to reproduction of work, right to translation, right to change the work into cinematographic version, and right to serial publication or work. Copyright also gives the monopoly right to the author or artist. It also gives the right to protect his work from unauthorized reproduction or exploitation and restrain others from copying the work.

**Trademark:** A trademark is a sign capable of distinguishing the goods or services of one enterprise from those of other enterprises. Trademarks are protected by intellectual property rights.

**Features:**

* **A trademark is a badge of Origin-**This establishes a link between the proprietor and the product. It portrays the nature and quality of a product. The essential function of a trademark is to indicate the origin of the goods to which it is attached or in relation to which it is used. It identifies the product, guarantees quality, and helps advertise the product. The trademark is also the objective symbol of goodwill that a business has created.
* **A trademark differentiates the product-** Trademark serves as a basic means of achieving product or service differentiation. It enables a customer to differentiate goods, products, or services in the market without confusion and make him/her arrive at a decision on what to purchase.
* **Trademark contains combination of signs-**Any sign or any combination thereof, capable of distinguishing the goods or services of another undertaking, can create a trademark. It can be a combination of a name, word, phrase, logo, symbol, design, image, shape, colour, personal name, letter, number, figurative element, and colour, as well as any combination representing a graph. Trademark registration may be indefinitely renewable.

**Geographical Indication:**

Geographical indications (GIs) are intellectual property (IP) rights that serve to identify a product that originates from a specific geographical area and that has a quality, reputation, or other characteristics that are essentially attributable to its geographical origin.

**Features:**

* **Certification of link between goods and place of its Origin-**It is a name or sign used on certain products which corresponds to a geographic location or origin of the product, the use of geographical location may act as a certification that the product possesses certain qualities as per the traditional method. Darjeeling tea and basmati rice are a common example of geographical indication. The relationship between objects and place becomes so well known that any reference to that place is reminiscent of goods originating there and vice versa.
* **It performs three functions-**
* First, they identify the goods as origin of a particular region or that region or locality.
* Secondly, they suggest to consumers that goods come from a region where a given quality, reputation, or other characteristics of the goods are essentially attributed to their geographic origin.
* Third, they promote the goods of producers of a particular region. They suggest the consumer that the goods come from this area where a given quality, reputation or other characteristics of goods are essentially attributable to the geographic region.
* **It is necessary that the product obtains its qualities and reputation from that place:** Since those properties depend on the geographic location of production, a specific link exists between the products and the place of origin. Geographical Indications are protected under the Geographical Indication of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.

**Design:** Design is a type of IPR that protects any composition be it two-dimensional or three-dimensional of lines, patterns, shapes, or colours. They add attractiveness to the product by making it unique and distinctive ultimately leading to alluring potential customers. A design may also be linked to a company’s reputation and goodwill.

**Features**:

1. It protects the visual design of the object which is not purely utilized. It consists of the creation of features of shape, configuration, pattern, ornamentation or composition of lines or colours applied to any article in two or three-dimensional form or combination of one or more features.
2. Objective – Its major goal is to prevent innovative or original designs from being copied and causing financial harm to the owner.

**Plant Variety:**

Plant variety rights (also called plant breeders’ rights) are a form of intellectual property right designed specifically to protect new varieties of plants. These rights offer legal protection as a reward for the investment plant breeders make in breeding and developing new varieties.

**Features:**

1. A plant breeder is given a license or special right to do the following in relation to different types of promotional material:
2. Produce and reproduce the material.
3. Condition the material for the purpose of propagation.
4. Offer material for sale.
5. Sell the materials.
6. Export the materials.
7. Import the materials.
8. The stock of goods for the above purposes
9. Typically, countries are protecting new plant varieties through the Sui Generis system. The general purpose of conservation is to encourage those who intend to manufacture, finance, or exploit such products to serve their purpose, particularly where they otherwise do not work at all.

**Layout Design:**

Integrated circuits – commonly known as “chips” or “micro-chips” – are the electronic circuits in which all the components (transistors, diodes, and resistors) have been assembled in a certain order on the surface of a thin semiconductor material (usually silicon).

**Features:**

1. **Protection for design of electronic items-**In modern technology, integrated circuits are essential elements for a wide range of electrical products, including articles of everyday use, such as watches, television sets, washing machines, and cars, as well as sophisticated computers, smart phones, and other digital devices. Developing innovative layout designs of integrated circuits is essential to produce ever-smaller digital devices with more functions.
2. **Prevention of unauthorized copying**-While the creation of a new layout-design is usually the result of an enormous investment, both in financial terms and in terms of the time required from highly qualified experts, the copying of such a layout-design may cost only a fraction of the original investment. To prevent unauthorized copying of layout designs and to provide incentives for investing in this field, the layout design (topography) of integrated circuits is protected under a sui generis intellectual property system.

**Genetic Resources:**

Genetic Resources (GR) refer to genetic material of actual or potential value. Use of GR refers to the process of researching their beneficial properties and using them to increase scientific knowledge and understanding, or to develop commercial products.

1. There is continuous search for newer resources to meet the future demands that arise with the emergence of new diseases, abiotic stresses, climate change, and enhanced demand for food and nutritional security.
2. GR are exchanged and searched continuously for specific traits to improve yields and nutritional value in crops and animal genetic resources. Every nation is concerned with acquisition of diverse and superior germplasm for conservation and utilization. The rapid advancements in the fields of molecular biology, biotechnology and bioinformatics, led to the emergence of new legal, political and technological regimes regulating access to GR.

**Traditional Knowledge:**

WIPO (World intellectual property organisation) defines traditional knowledge as the knowledge, skills, practices, and know-how that are developed, sustained, and passed on from generation to generation within a community, often forming part of its cultural or spiritual identity.

**Features:**

1. Ensures continuity of TK-Traditional knowledge, acquired from experience gained over the centuries and adapted to the local culture and environment, is transmitted orally from generation to generation. It tends to belong collectively and takes the form of stories, songs, folklore, proverbs, cultural values, beliefs, traditions, community rules, the local language, and agricultural practices, including plant species and animal breed growth.
2. Ever-changing and Flexible-It is often referred to as an oral tradition because it is taught, sung, danced, drawn, sculpted, sung, and performed for thousands of years. Traditional knowledge is primarily of a practical nature, particularly in fields such as agriculture, fisheries, safety, horticulture, forestry, and overall environmental management. TK is culture-specific, context-specific, dynamic, and adaptive.

**Trade Secret:**

A trade secret is a formula, practice, process, design, instrument, pattern, commercial method, or compilation of information that is not generally known or reasonably ascertainable by others, and by which a business can obtain an economic advantage over competitors or customers. The scope of trade secrets is virtually unlimited.

**Features:**

1. Strictly Confidential-Not generally known to the relevant business circles or to the public. The information should also not be readily accessible.
2. Has commercial Value-Confers some sort of economic benefit on its owner. This benefit must derive specifically from the fact that it is not generally known, and not just from the value of the information itself. It must have commercial value because it is a secret. Commercial value encompasses potential as well as actual value.
3. A trade secret continues for as long as the information is maintained as a trade secret. However, information may no longer be considered a trade secret once it becomes easily accessible, is no longer properly protected, or has no commercial value.

**Industrial property:**

Industrial property is a subset of intellectual property. It takes a range of it takes a range of forms, including patents for inventions, industrial designs trademarks, service marks layout-designs of integrated circuits, commercial names and designations, geographical indications, and protection against unfair competition in some cases, aspects of an intellectual creation, although present, are less clearly defined.

The object of industrial property consists of signs conveying information, to consumers, regarding products and services offered on the market. Protection is directed against unauthorized use of such signs that could mislead consumers, and against misleading practices in general.

**Technological research:**

Technology research and development refers to the invention, design, improvement, and construction of new types of products, equipment, and machinery. Highly skilled scientists and engineers conduct technology research and development on medical equipment, consumer electronics, industrial machines, power generators, computers, and any number of other modern devices. Professionals conduct research in many different settings, including engineering firms, biotechnology companies, manufacturing plants, university laboratories, and private shops.

**Invention and Innovation:**

**Invention-** Invention, the act of bringing ideas or objects together in a novel way to create something that did not exist before.it is something that has never been made before, or the process of creating something that has never been invented. Anything new or different in the world made by people is an invention.

* Inventions are created to help make life easier and better.
* People who create inventions are called inventors.
* Inventors can live anywhere in the world and be any age.
* Inventions are made to solve problems.

**Examples of invention:** Mobile phone, Computers, Aeroplane GPS Cars etc.

**Innovation:**

Innovation is the practical implementation of ideas that result in the introduction of new goods or services or improvement in offering goods or services. Innovation is about successfully implementing a new idea and creating value for your customers and stakeholders.

Innovation starts with a new idea. It could be a plan for an improved product or service; it could be an updated method for running your operations; it could also be a new business model.

 **CHARACTERISTICS OF INNOVATION**

* There is an object or target which is being changed.
* It can be a product, a process, an individual’s lifestyle, an organization's strategy, a society culture.
* Innovation varies in extent or magnitude i.e., degree to which one deviates from the past.
* It is closely related to problem solving since generation & implementation of ideas for change never transpire without difficulty.
* A final characteristic is the impact of the change, the significance or range of its effects.

**Examples of intellectual property rights include:**

Patents, Domain names, Industrial design, Confidential information, Inventions, Moral rights, Database rights, Works of authorship, Service marks, Logos, Trademarks, Design rights, Business or trade names, Commercial secrets, Computer software.

**Difference Between Invention and Innovation**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Basis | Invention | Innovation  |
| Meaning | Idea for a product/process that has never been made before | Implementation of idea product /process for the very first time  |
| What is it? | Creation of a new product | Adding value to something already existed  |
| Concept | An original idea and its working in theory  | Practical implementation of new idea  |
| Skills required | Scientific skills  | Skills of marketing , technical and strategic skills |
| Occurs when | New idea strikes a creator | Need for improvement in new or existing products  |
| Concern with  | Single product or process | Combination of various product and process |
| Commercialization  | May not commercialize  | Results in commercialization  |
| Changes | May bring few changes in organisation | Brings organisational changes |
| Motive | It can be economic and non-economic motive  | It is usually for economic motive |
| terms | Invention= innovation- commercial exploitation  | Innovation= invention +commercial exploitation  |

**Intellectual property rights in India Genesis and development**

* Between 1880 and 1889 patent laws of most European countries were developed. In the year 1856 in India Patent Act was introduced which remained in force for more than 50 years which was later modified and revised and was called “The Indian Patents and Designs Act, 1911”.
* A complete bill on patent rights was enacted after Independence in the year 1970 and was called “The Patents Act, 1970”.
* Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) have reached a position from where it plays an important role in the development of the global economy in the last two decades. In the 1990s, unilateral laws and regulations in this area were strengthened by several countries.
* At the multilateral level, due to the successful conclusion of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) in the World Trade Organization, the protection and enforcement of the IPR were raised to the level of serious international commitment.
* Intellectual property is a vast area. Design, copyright, and patent trademarks have long been recognized. New forms of protection are also developing, favoured by the stimulating emergence of technological and scientific activities.

**Major International Instruments Concerning Intellectual Property Rights:**

* Paris Convention 1883
* Berne Convention1886
* Universal Copyrights Convention 1952
* WIPO Convention 1967
* Patent Co-operation Treaty1970
* TRIPS Agreement 1994
1. **Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property:**

The Paris Convention, adopted in 1883, applies to industrial property in the widest sense, including patents, trademarks, industrial designs, utility models, service marks, trade names, geographical indications and the repression of unfair competition. This international agreement was the first major step taken to help creators ensure that their intellectual works were protected in other countries.

The Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, signed in Paris, France, on 20 March 1883, was one of the first intellectual property treaties. It established a Union for the protection of industrial property. The convention is currently still in force.

**The substantive provisions of the Convention fall into three main categories:**

* National treatment,
* Priority right
* Common rules.

As of 21 April 2022, the convention has 179 contracting member countries which makes it one of the most widely adopted treaties worldwide.

1. **Berne Convention1886**:

Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works. sThe Berne Convention, adopted in 1886, deals with the protection of works and the rights of their authors. It provides creators such as authors, musicians, poets, painters etc. with the means to control how their works are used, by whom, and on what terms.

It is based on three basic principles and contains a series of provisions determining the minimum protection to be granted, as well as special provisions available to developing countries that want to make use of them.

* The Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, usually known as the Berne Convention, was an international assembly held in 1886 in the Swiss city of Bern by ten European countries with the goal to agree on a set of legal principles for the protection of original work.
* They drafted and adopted a multi-party contract containing agreements for a uniform, crossing border system that became known under the same name.
* Its rules have been updated many times since then. The treaty provides authors, musicians, poets, painters, and other creators with the means to control how their works are used, by whom, and on what terms.
* In some jurisdictions these types of rights are being referred to as copyright.
* The United States became a party in 1989. As of November 2022, the Berne Convention has been ratified by 181 states out of 195 countries in the world, most of which are also parties to the Paris Act of 1971.

1. **The Universal Copyrights Convention (UCC):**

The Universal Copyright Convention (UCC) is an international instrument which was drawn up in 1952 under the auspices of UNESCO. It was adopted in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1952, is one of the two principal international conventions protecting copyright the other is the Berne Convention.

The UCC was developed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as an alternative to the Berne Convention for those states that disagreed with aspects of the Berne Convention but still wished to participate in some form of multilateral copyright protection. These states included developing countries as well as the United States and most of Latin America.

**Its main features are the following:**

* No signatory nation should accord its domestic authors more favourable copyright treatment than the authors of other signatory nations, though no minimum protection for either domestic or foreign authors is stipulated.
* A formal copyright notice must appear in all copies of a work and consist of the symbol the name of the copyright owner, and the year of first publication, a signatory nation, however, might require further formalities, provided such formalities do not favour domestic over foreign works.
* The minimum term of copyright in member nations must be the life of the author plus 25 years (except for photographic works and works of applied art, which have a 10-year term)
* All adhering nations are required to grant an exclusive right of translation for a seven-year period, subject to a compulsory license under certain circumstances for the balance of the term of copyright.
* Both the Universal Copyright Convention and the Berne Convention were revised at a Paris conference in 1971 to take into consideration the special needs of developing countries, especially with regard to translations, reproductions, public performances, and broadcasting.
1. **WIPO Convention 1967**

The Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO Convention) (1967)

* The WIPO Convention, the constituent instrument of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), was signed at Stockholm on July 14, 1967, entered into force in 1970 and was amended in 1979. WIPO is an intergovernmental organization that became in 1974 one of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system of organizations.
* The origins of WIPO go back to 1883 and 1886 when the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property and the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, respectively, were concluded. Both Conventions provided for the establishment of an "International Bureau". The two bureaus were united in 1893 and, in 1970, were replaced by the World Intellectual Property Organization, by virtue of the WIPO Convention.
* WIPO’s membership consists of more than 180 countries.
* Its main policy-making body is the General Assembly, which convenes every two years. WIPO also holds a biennial conference, which determines the organization’s budget and programs. More than 170 nongovernmental organizations maintain observer status.

**WIPO's two main objectives are:**

* To promote the protection of intellectual property worldwide
* To ensure administrative cooperation among the intellectual property Unions established by the treaties that WIPO administers.
1. **The Patent Cooperation Treaty 1970:**

The Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) makes it possible to seek patent protection for an invention simultaneously in each of many countries by filing an "international" patent application. Such an application may be filed by anyone who is a national or resident of a PCT Contracting State.

* Patent Cooperation Treaty brought great revolution in field of invention and innovation for the inventor due to this PCT enjoyed great success and continued growth across the world.
* It has a near global membership of 148 Contracting States with millions of inventors, big and small, who aids to the world’s technological advancement using the PCT and national patent systems.
* The PCT brought revolution in the way through which patents are obtained across the world.

**Basic Features of PCT System**

* Formal examination done by one office.
* Retrieval is carried out by one office.
* international publication done by one office.
* Examination and authorization finished by national office.
* Single application with legal effect in all PCT countries.
* 148 countries and 4 regional patent systems.
* Used by the world’s major corporations, universities and research institutions when they seek international patent protection.
* Protects applicant from certain inadvertent errors.
* Evolves to meet user needs.

**PCT Challenges**

* Improving the quality of PCT international phase work products.
* Building trust between Patent offices, so that duplication of application in international phase and national phase processing can be reduced.
* Language issues faced by most countries:
* Helping developing countries benefit from the PCT.
* Making PCT accessible to applicants of all types from all Contracting States.
* Helping PCT users stay of new developments and strategies.
1. **TRIPS AGREEMENT 1994:**

Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Right (TRIPS) is an agreement on international IP rights. The TRIPS Agreement, which came into effect on 1 January 1995, is to date the most comprehensive multilateral agreement on intellectual property.

**The three main features of TRIPS are.**

* Standards,
* Enforcement
* Dispute settlement.

**Highlights**

* TRIPS came into force in 1995, as part of the agreement that established the World Trade Organisation (WTO).
* TRIPS establishes minimum standards for the availability, scope, and use of seven forms of intellectual property namely, trademarks, copyrights, geographical indications, patents, industrial designs, layout designs for integrated circuits, and undisclosed information or trade secrets.
* It applies basic international trade principles regarding intellectual property to member states.
* It is applicable to all WTO members.
* TRIPS Agreement lays down the permissible exceptions and limitations for balancing the interests of intellectual property with the interests of public health and economic development.
* TRIPS is the most comprehensive international agreement on IP, and it has a major role in enabling trade in creativity and knowledge, in resolving trade disputes over intellectual property, and in assuring WTO members the latitude to achieve their domestic policy objectives.
* It frames the IP system in terms of innovation, technology transfer and public welfare.
* The TRIPS Council is responsible for administering and monitoring the operation of the TRIPS Agreement.

**TRIPs Agreement Covers Seven Categories of Intellectual Property Rights**

1. **Copyright-**copyright refers to the legal right of the owner of intellectual property. In simpler terms, copyright is the right to copy. This means that the original creators of products and anyone they give authorization to are the only ones with the exclusive right to reproduce the work.
2. **Trademarks:** A trademark can be any word, phrase, symbol, design, or a combination of these things that identifies your goods or services. It’s how customers recognize you in the marketplace and distinguish you from your competitors. The word “trademark” can refer to both trademarks and service marks. A trademark is used for goods, while a service mark is used for services.
3. **Geographical Indications:** A geographical indication (GI) is any sign or symbol that identifies goods as emanating from any specific region or location of a country that gives the goods its known quality, reputation or characteristics that are essentially attributable to that region or locality. Example: Darjeeling Tea in west Bengal
4. **Industrial Designs:** It is a strategic problem-solving process that drives innovation, builds business success, and leads to a better quality of life through innovative products, systems, services, and experiences. Industrial Design bridges the gap between what is possible.
5. **Patents:** A patent is an exclusive right granted for an invention, which is a product or a process that provides, in general, a new way of doing something, or offers a new technical solution to a problem. To get a patent, technical information about the invention must be disclosed to the public in a patent application.
6. **Integrated Circuits:** An integrated circuit (IC), sometimes called a chip, microchip or microelectronic circuit, is a semiconductor wafer on which thousands or millions of tiny resistors, capacitors, diodes and transistors are fabricated. An IC can function as an amplifier, oscillator, timer, counter, logic gate, computer memory, microcontroller, or microprocessor.
7. **Trade Secrets**: Trade secrets are intellectual property (IP) rights on confidential information which may be sold or licensed.