

Recognizing the importance of innovation and creativity in the growth and development of a knowledge economy, India adopted the **National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy 2016**. It attempts to play an important role in strengthening and making IPR regime more effective as:

- In order to boost commercialization and value for IPs, the policy proposes a study to examine the feasibility of an **IPR exchange**. Such dedicated IP exchange could facilitate investment in IP driven industries by bringing together investors and IP owners/users. The government is in progress to develop such as an exchange under the Ministry of Science and Technology, through the National Research Development Corporation (NRDC).
- The policy urges the Government to explore the **possibility of expedited examination of patent applications** to promote manufacturing in India. The government has come up with the **Patent (Amendment) Rules** in 2018 and 2019 in this direction.
- It prioritises providing **financial support to the less empowered group of IP owners or creators**, such as farmers, weavers, artisans, craftsmen etc., through rural banks or co-operative banks.
- In order to expedite the adjudication of disputes, and ensure enforcement of IPR, the Policy suggests the setting up of **dedicated commercial courts** to deal with IP related matters. It also seeks to **promote Alternative Dispute Resolution** Mechanism for IP related disputes.
- To strengthen the enforcement of IPRs, the policy **proposes to enhance coordination among various agencies** of the government as well as non-government players and also **promote technology-based solutions for enforcement**. The government has launched the **IPR Enforcement Toolkit** in this direction.
- Various other measures proposed by the policy include criminalization of unauthorized copying of movies, encouraging Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds into open innovation and expanding capacity building in IPR through training, teaching, research and skill building.

Therefore, the National IPR Policy, 2016 seeks to balance the goals of economic growth and social justice. The Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (**CIPAM**) under the Government of India, has also come up with **Model Guidelines on Implementation of IPR Policy for Academic Institutions**. To further strengthen the IPR regime, an active role needs to be played by the state governments.