Webinar on
'Role of Patent Information in Driving Research in Universities'
October 16, 2020 (04:00 pm - 05.00 pm)

Minutes of Meeting

DST-Centre for Policy Research at Panjab University, Chandigarh organized the fourth webinar of the series being conducted by the Centre. The title of the webinar was '**Role of Patent Information in Driving Research in Universities'** which was delivered by Dr. Yashawant Dev Panwar, a renowned Scientist F at Technology, Information Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), Govt. of India, New Delhi. The detailed program for the webinar was as follows:

Time	Name of the Speaker	Topic
4.00 PM – 4.05 PM	Ms. Mamta Bhardwaj Scientist C DST- CPR at Panjab University Chandigarh	Welcome Address
4.05 PM – 4.10 PM	Prof. Nirmala Chongtham Coordinator DST- CPR at Panjab University Chandigarh	Introduction
4.10 PM – 4.40 PM	Dr Yashawant Dev Panwar, Head, Patents Facilitation Centre (PFC), TIFAC Govt. of India, New Delhi	Role of Patent Information in Driving Research in Universities
4.40 PM – 4.50 PM	Ms. Mamta Bhardwaj Scientist C DST- CPR at Panjab University Chandigarh	Q & A Session
4.50 PM – 4.55 PM	Dr. Radhika Trikha Sr. Policy Fellow STIP 2020 Secretariat	Vote of Thanks
4.55 PM – 5.00 PM	Prof. Nirmala Chongtham Coordinator DST- CPR at Panjab University Chandigarh	Concluding Remarks

The session was opened by Ms. Mamta Bhardwaj. Prof. Nirmala Chongtham introduced the DST-CPR at PU, Chd. and briefly stated the mandate of the Center. She highlighted the importance and significance of patents to enhance R&D ecosystem in universities and higher education institutions. She formally introduced and welcomed the distinguished speaker of the webinar Dr. Yashawant Dev Panwar.
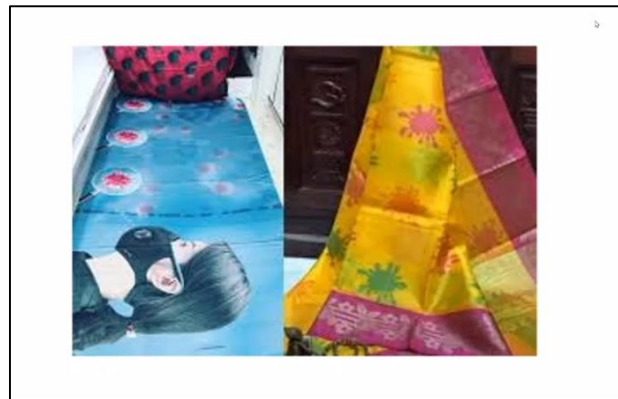
Introduction of the speaker: *Dr. Yashawant Dev Panwar is presently Scientist F and heading Patent Facilitating Centre (PFC) of TIFAC, Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India. PFC has been facilitating filing of patent applications on behalf of academic/government R&D institutes, creating awareness about IPR in various parts of the country, providing policy input to the government and also patent information. He has organized several training programmes on IPR, patent searches and other WTO issues. He obtained his Ph.D in Management of IPR from IIT Delhi. He contributed in evolving the important programme of DST, WOS-C popularly known as KIRAN-IPR at all stages, TIFAC received Nari Shakti Purashkar 2015 for this programme. His active area of research is Standards Essential Patents (SEPs), forecasting future skills-based on patents data, new foresight methodologies-based patent information and Artificial Intelligence, etc.*

Dr. Yashawant started his talk with a brief introduction of patents and the importance of patents during the research being done by researchers. Dr. Yashawant said researchers in India focus on research publications as this is the requirement to complete the PhD in the universities. He suggested that before publishing their research they should conduct a patentability search on that so that they can file for a patent for their invention. Publication of their research work should be done after filing the patent.

He further said that at this time of pandemic when India is at the stage of 'unlock 5.0', researchers should also think about how to unlock IP and whatever information is available in the patent documents and make use of the technologies for further economic development. The patent information for previous years is freely available through e-forms at the official website of 'Office of Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks'. These technologies can be used for further research and development (R&D) or for any societal benefits.

Prof. Yashawant further added that during this pandemic period, some innovative people have taken this time as an opportunity citing the example of a textile manufacturing company in Gujarat who created the designs of the saree with the designs of figures wearing masks, or pictorial depiction of the corona, etc. These form of innovation can be protected under one form of IPR i.e. industrial designs and he further added these sarees are a big success and people are buying them.

Another example he gave was that of 'AGVA Ventilator' which was generated out of the patent published in June 2019. During this pandemic, the device is of big use to give ventilator support to the patients.

Another example of the invention he gave is various type of masks. He said there are so many patents available on the mask technology which are being commercialized in this trying time of the pandemic.

Dr. Yashawant educated the participants with various such technologies which are generated and commercialized out of the patent filed previously like converting circular motion into a cleaning machine, converting real-time video into a network, medical image conversion method, locking plier, etc. He further stressed upon the fact that students/researchers themselves can conduct the prior art search from various patent search or non-patent literature searching websites to ensure the patentability of the invention. Some patents search engines he stated are like Indian Patents Advanced Search System, Ekaswa Series, Espacenet, Patentscope, Google Patents, etc. These websites are freely open to access and one can read all the technical details from these search engines. It is very important for the researchers to learn about the patent searching and suggested DST-CPR to conduct dedicated lecture and workshop to teach about the techniques of patent searching. He suggested a patent searching guide developed by IIT, Jodhpur (http://14.139.60.153/bitstream/123456789/10194/1/ugc_GJLS_Prabuddha_ganguli.pdf) to learn more about patents searching.

The talk by Dr. Yashwant was followed by a questions and answers session put up by the participants. Most of the queries were from the research scholars and worthy speaker answered them very elaborately and patiently. Dr. Yashwant also recommended conducting a dedicated workshop to educate researchers about patent search engines and sensitize them about how to read the technical details of the patent. The session was followed by a formal vote of thanks to the worthy speaker and all the participants. The concluding remark for the webinar was given by the coordinator of DST-CPR at PU, Prof. Nirmala Chongtham and Dr. Yashawant assured to give future support to the Centre on drafting the recommendation to strengthen the R&D ecosystem in Indian universities.