

Just Think!

Intellectual Property Rights

- We have made great progress in Information Technology. IT industry is contributing significantly to our economy today. This is the age of Information Revolution. Right?
- X asked Y if he knew what time it was. Y thought: “This fellow does not know. I know. He has no information. I have information. Information is a sale-able commodity. There is demand and I can supply. Why not exploit this opportunity?” Y demanded dollars!
- If you give money, you lose. You need to carefully plan, save, invest, rotate and multiply your money. But if you give your knowledge, you do not lose anything at all. In fact your knowledge only gets refreshed, refined, strengthened. If you hide your knowledge, it rots, rusts and gradually vanishes. Knowledge is not Property.
- Then why all this fuss about Intellectual Property Rights? Why patents, copy-rights, and what not? The intention is supposed to be to safeguard the originators of ideas. But the originators have nothing to lose at all. What do we mean safe-guarding? Safe-guarding what?
- Companies are worried that if their “trade secrets” leak out, then they stand to lose and competitors stand to gain. Lose and gain what? Money. Name. Fame. Not information or knowledge.

- If somebody copies a book “illegally” for his/her own purpose, he/she still stands to benefit by reading it. There is no loss. Only gain. You worry that somebody makes copies en-mass, sells it and makes money. Then the original author or publisher may stand to lose. Lose money but not information or knowledge. IPR is not really about Intellect or Property. It is all about money, competition and exploitation.
- IPR promotes hiding of information with an intention to commercially exploit information and make money. The company stands to gain - gain money. The whole world stands to lose - lose information and knowledge. One individual, one company or a small group of rich, powerful, influential people stand to gain name, fame and most importantly money. At the cost of making the whole world more and more ignorant. Is this the wisdom of the modern man?
- Information becomes restricted, and controlled. This only promotes spread of mis-information for further exploitation of the public at large. People can be more easily confused, misguided, fooled. So that the rich and powerful can become richer and more powerful. What are we safe-guarding? Just think.
- Man is a social animal. Let us live and let live. Let information and knowledge be free for all. Reject the very idea of IPR. 'I' is not 'P'. What 'R'?