



**Manisha Gupta** Jaipur, Rajasthan

The special intellectual property rights articles made great reading. Karan Bhatia says, "IPR is as important for India as infrastructure." Protecting IP rights of creators is becoming increasingly vital and creating an IPR protection infrastructure is an urgent next step. India has been recognized as the "human resource capital" and "knowledge capital" of the world. It is also the "intellectual property capital" of the world. The WTO and TRIPS regime have shifted focus from tangible assets to intangible ones. For creative industries and small and medium knowledge-based enterprises, innovation, IP creation and IP protection are key components of survival.

As Dominic Keating has mentioned, IPR protection is important for all sectors—art to software to consumer products. I would like to extend this to our...cultural traditional knowledge. Protection of the IPR of deserving, grassroots, creative communities is an important route for wealth generation for the rural poor and the general sustainable development of our country.

Protecting IPR...acts as an incentive for further creation and innovation and also helps contain the menace of fakes. The recent spate of copyright infringement cases in the fashion and film industries in India are indication enough to urgently create an IPR infrastructure that will help convert the threats of globalization into business opportunities.



**John Alexander** Chawni, Nagpur

Per se the argument in favor of intellectual property rights—copyright, trademark, patent—is well taken. But the knowledge production through technology and discoveries in physical, medical, engineering sciences has by and large come from the Western world, more so from the United States. ...So if the knowledge producing countries of the West insist on intellectual property rights they are right to a great extent. After all, they have produced the knowledge and they want to reap the maximum economic benefits out of it.

Humanity and compassion, altruism, does not cut much ice when it comes to money. ...And the non-knowledge producing countries would love to copy, imitate and gain maximum benefits out of the ready-made knowledge which is available in the West or anywhere in the world.

The bottom line to me, an ordinary citizen of India and a citizen of the world, is that knowledge producing countries of the West in particular, who go hammer and tongs when it comes to defending and espousing the cause of intellectual property rights, should have a little compassionate outlook and try to be less money-minded or profit-driven.

**S.M. Goyal** Ajmer, Rajasthan

Decades back, American sociologist C.P. Snow remarked, "The rate of change has increased so much that our imagination can't keep up." The global scenario since then has changed profoundly. Norms, values, ethics that people of yesteryear nursed are now set at naught. In such an ambience, protections and limitations on innovations and inventions legislated in the United States or elsewhere hardly sustain their viability. Commercialism and consumerism are reaping the richest harvest, fooling consumers by using glitz, phony propaganda and glittering publicity, leaving behind the real and genuine stuff, maybe with guaranteed trademarks, in the mad race of minting money. Art and software in the remix form fill the market. Despite a copyright on a book, its cheap pirated editions capture the market. Coca-Cola, Gillette, Canon or Philips has manifold copies. As such, property rights may not serve their purpose. Yet the powers that rule must check the quality of the products in the interest of humans.

**Veeresh Malik** New Delhi

I would like to add some points to the interesting story on the history of American cars in India.

The history and presence of American trucks until the mid-1950s is something that, unfortunately, went out into the scrapyards. However, even today, movies on India in the Partition era cannot do without these icons. One can still see these Dodge and Fargo trucks on the backroads in the Nilgiris, around Jamnagar, Gujarat, and on the India-Pakistan border outside Amritsar.

The converted Harley-Davidsons, eliminated from New Delhi's streets in the name of "pollution control," were another aspect which could have set the tone for the revival of super-bikes headed into India from the United States. I recall a fleet of Indian Chief motorcycles in the South Delhi of my youth, gunning around the South Extension area.

The Ford Model A, though not very popular abroad, did extremely well in India for its sheer power and ruggedness. Used for upcountry operations with huge wheels designed to cross rivers, it does not command snob value but is still an affordable vintage from the point of view of price as well as maintenance.

The link between today's Silicon Valley and motoring was brought to my notice when I visited a mall in Milpitas, California, built on the spot where Ford used to manufacture Mustangs. I don't know about others, but to me that is hal-  
lowed ground.

There is a small but emerging group of Indian techies in the United States who take time out to try to restore American muscle cars from an era when they were in college. You can see one of them at <http://www.eslurf.com/corvette>

