

DAILY PT POINTERS

16th April, 2024



HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu-Geography(GSI)/S&T(GSIII)-Page 8

How are hydrocarbons extracted from under the ground? | Explained TTI PREMIUM

The geological processes, extraction methods, and environmental impact of hydrocarbon extraction

April 15, 2024 05:30 pm | Updated 09:18 pm IST

VASUDEVAN MUKUNTH



READ LATER PRINT



A large offshore oil rig at sunset in the Gulf of Thailand. | Photo Credit: Getty Images/Stockphoto

- The term ‘hydrocarbon’ is self-explanatory which means compounds of carbon and hydrogen only. Hydrocarbons play a key role in our daily life
- Hydrocarbons are of different types.
- Depending upon the types of carbon-carbon bonds present, they can be classified into three main categories – (i) saturated Hydrocarbons are the important sources of energy.
- (ii) unsaturated and (iii) aromatic hydrocarbons
- The most common forms in which these hydrocarbons exist in subterranean rock formations are natural gas, coal, crude oil, and petroleum.
- They are usually found in underground reservoirs created when a more resistant rock type overlays a less resistant one, in effect creating a lid that causes hydrocarbons to accumulate below it.
- Such formations are important because otherwise, the hydrocarbons would float to the surface and dissipate.

The Hindu-IR(GSII)/Economy(GSIII)

TEPA's IP encroachment: A new barrier to indigenous innovation

The new approach to IP and investment through FTAs accepts an IP maximalist agenda of the United States Trade Representative. It threatens to upset the fine balance between public and private interests and push India away from essential innovations

COMMENT

Dinesh Abrol

India's free trade agreement (FTA) with Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein as partners is a completely new architecture. The Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) with the four-nation group known as the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), include provisions on intellectual property (IP) and investment protection and promotion. So far India has treated IP policy levers as a sovereign space for multilateral negotiations at the World Trade Organization (WTO) and has not made IP concessions to trade groupings of nation-states.

Lessons ignored

Recently, India and South Africa had sought TRIPS (The Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) waiver related to COVID-19 innovations. The TRIPS waiver was sought to meet requirements of indigenous technological innovation and independent scientific research to produce COVID vaccines. While this garnered support for India from the developing world, even when the EU and U.S. stood against the grant of TRIPS waiver at the WTO, the Mo-



Ceding ground: India is likely to concede IP policy space in talks with EU, U.K. [EFTF/IN4225137008](#)

di government granted major IP concessions to EFTA.

These concessions must not be viewed in isolation. India is likely to concede more such space on IP policy in negotiations with the EU and U.K. The new approach to IP and investment has been in making for some time now. In August 2022, when the Working Paper (WP) issued by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India (EAC-PM) entitled "Why Does India Need to Urgently Invest in its patenting ecosystem" considered these issues, it used the U.S. propagated patent policy conceptualization explicitly as the context to recommend the need to fast track the patent grants.

Available evidence of what is preventing India



Under the IPA, importation is not the full working of the patent. Patentees must diffuse the innovations by making the products and processes accessible and affordable.

from becoming innovative is not even mentioned. The proposals made are overly protective of private interests and the patent controller's office is viewed as a revenue generating entity. It overlooks the larger public interest. The policy advisors seek to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) and are guided by the assumption that IP concessions can help in the grow-

ing technological rivalry between U.S. and China.

Patent filing numbers of China, U.S. and India are compared to promote pro-patentee changes in the paper. The contribution of diffusion oriented state investment and independent innovation to the technological prowess of China, Japan, South Korea and U.S. is completely ignored. Fast tracking patent grants could likely lead to products of dubious quality.

In China, the policy space for indigenous innovation was achieved through programs that run in parallel to maximizing knowledge spillovers from FDI. This is absent in India and explains why India lags China considerably in independent innovations. China could realize its

long-term ambitions of self-reliance in technological innovation and scientific research because the state invested in science, technology and innovation (STI). STI investments were not coordinated with the creation of IP markets.

The IP concessions granted in the EFTA have been incorporated in the new patent rules of 2024. The EAC-PM (August 2022) advocated for fixing timelines of various steps of the patent grant process and for removing the excessive reporting requirements found to be burdensome by foreign patentees. It talks of diluting Section 25 (1) of the Patents Act 1970 (IPA) providing for a pre-grant opposition by any person. It echoes the argument that the pre-grant opposition is being used to make frivolous complaints to delay granting patents.

It quotes the U.S. Special 301 report to suggest patent applicants in India continue to confront costly and time-consuming pre- and post-grant oppositions. It ignores the fact that these provisions were introduced into post-WTO Patent Amendments to protect public interest. It does not mention that access, affordability and local technological innovation underpinned the introduction of these provisions. It talks of lack of manpower and capacity to undertake patent examination.

The EAC-PM recommended the dilution of disclosure requirements related to patent applications submitted by foreign patentees. This recommendation was made despite knowing that disclosure of patent filings and objections filed in other jurisdictions have helped the Indian patent examiners.

Under the IPA, importation is not the full working of the patent. Patentees must diffuse the innovations by making the products and processes accessible and affordable. More worrisome is the change that absolves the patent holder from submitting information considered to be of commercial value.

76% of patents filed in India in the post-TRIPS regime were by foreign firms. India and Indian firms do not focus on research and innovation. The new approach to IP and investment through FTAs accepts an IP maximalist agenda of the United States Trade Representative. It threatens to upset the fine balance between public and private interests. The new FTA architecture will push India away from essential innovations. It will only integrate India's science, technology, engineering and math talent into Silicon Valley's innovation systems.

(The writer is retired Professor at The Institute for Studies in Industrial Development)

. The Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)

Recently, India and South Africa had sought TRIPS (The Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) waiver related to COVID-19 innovations. The TRIPS waiver was sought to meet requirements of indigenous technological innovation and independent scientific research to produce COVID vaccines.

While this garnered support for India from the developing world, even when the EU and U.S. stood against the grant of TRIPS waiver at the WTO, the Modi government granted major IP concessions to EFTA.

Do you know ?

India's free trade agreement (FTA) with Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein as partners is a completely new architecture. The Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) with the four-nation group known as the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), include provisions on intellectual property (IP) and investment protection and promotion

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB-Defence (GSIII)

Ministry of Defence

INDIAN ARMY CONTINGENT DEPARTS FOR INDIA- UZBEKISTAN JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE DUSTLIK

Posted On: 15 APR 2024 3:44PM by PIB Delhi



- The Indian Army contingent departed today for the 5th edition of India- Uzbekistan joint military Exercise DUSTLIK. The Exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 15th to 28th April 2024 at Termez, the Republic of Uzbekistan. Exercise DUSTLIK is a yearly event conducted alternatively in India and Uzbekistan. Last edition was conducted at Pithoragarh (India) in February 2023.
- Aim of Exercise DUSTLIK is to foster military cooperation and enhance combined capabilities to execute joint operations in mountainous as well as semi urban terrain. It would focus on high degree of physical fitness, joint planning, joint tactical drills and basics of special arms skills.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

AIR-IR (GSII)

India, France Assess Counter Terrorism Challenges, Including Use Of New & Emerging Technologies By Terrorists

Meeting of India-France Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism

April 15, 2024

The 16th Meeting of India-France Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism was held in New Delhi on 15 April 2024. The Indian delegation was led by Joint Secretary (CT), Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India, Mr. K.D. Dewal, and the French delegation, by H.E. Ambassador Olivier Caron, Special Envoy for Counter-Terrorism and Organized Crime.

2. Both sides exchanged views on the terrorist threats in their respective regions, including State-sponsored, cross-border terrorism in South Asia, Africa and the Middle East, besides terror activities in the Af-Pak region.

3. The two sides assessed counter terrorism challenges, including the use of new and emerging technologies by terrorists, misuse of internet for terrorist purposes, radicalisation and terror financing. Anti-India separatist activities, and countering terror financing, organised crime and narco-terror network also featured in the discussions. The Indian side presented its viewpoints on NMFT and FATF, which led to an exchange of respective positions by the two sides.

4. Both sides emphasised the importance of strengthening counter-terrorism cooperation through exchange of information, capacity building, training programmes & exercises, and cooperation at the multilateral fora, such as the UN, FATF and NMFT.

5. The two sides agreed to hold the 17th Meeting of JWG on CT in France on a mutually-convenient date.

New Delhi
April 15, 2024

- The 16th Meeting of India-France Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism was held in New Delhi on 15 April 2024.
- Both sides exchanged views on the terrorist threats in their respective regions, including State-sponsored, cross-border terrorism in South Asia, Africa and the Middle East, besides terror activities in the Af-Pak region.
- The two sides assessed counter terrorism challenges, including the use of new and emerging technologies by terrorists, misuse of internet for terrorist purposes, radicalisation and terror financing. Anti-India separatist activities, and countering terror financing, organised crime and narco-terror network also featured in the discussions. The Indian side presented its viewpoints on NMFT and FATF, which led to an exchange of respective positions by the two sides.
- Both sides emphasised the importance of strengthening counter-terrorism cooperation through exchange of information, capacity building, training programmes & exercises, and cooperation at the multilateral fora, such as the UN, FATF and NMFT.