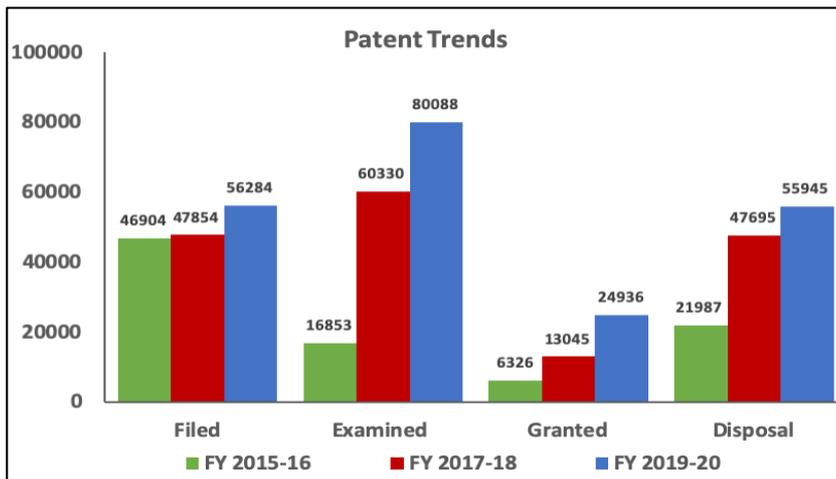


DPIIT On The Move

Newsletter from Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade

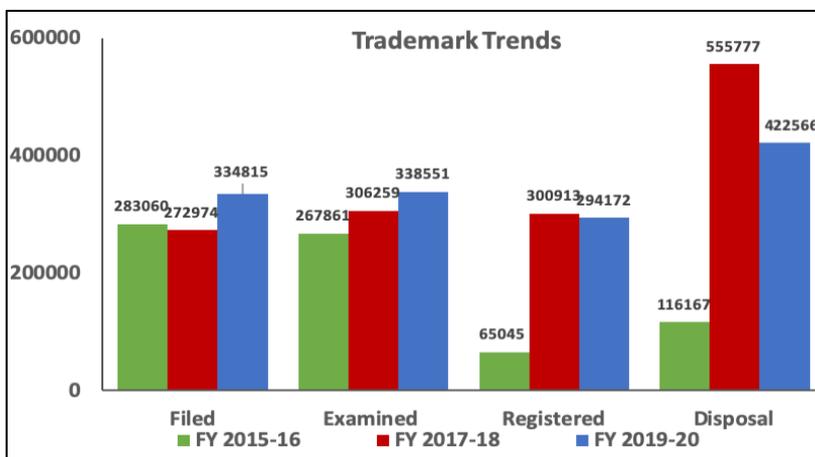
IP filing data of FY 2019-20 reveal continued increase in Patent trends



FY 2019-20 saw efficient processing of Intellectual Property (IP) applications, especially in terms of their examination, and disposal. Compared to figures in the past 5 years, the current numbers reflected an overall increase in application filings across all IPs.

Examination of Patent applications saw an increase to more than 4 times in FY 2019-20 vis-à-vis FY 2015-16, while a three-fold increase in grants and near two-fold increase in disposal of applications was observed.

Trademark applications too saw a four-fold increase in registrations; disposal went up by more than 3 times. A comparative analysis of patent and trademark trends across FY 2015-16; FY 2017-18 and FY 2019-20 as given in the figures, illustrate the amazing progress.



Note: The drop in Trademark examination FY in 2017-18 is due to the elimination of pendency and examination of an application is just one month.

CURATOR'S NOTE

It is a pleasure to bring about the ninth issue of DPIIT On The Move!

With the COVID-19 outbreak in the country, we hope that all our readers are safe and taking necessary precautions for protection from the Corona virus.

As the national lockdown continues, DPIIT remains forever on the move, giving us an opportunity to share new developments with you.

IP filing data for Patents has seen a fourfold increase in the past 5 years. The Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB) is now conducting online hearings. All across India, webinars are being organized amongst students and industry bodies for the awareness of Intellectual Property Rights.

With our promise to keep you updated on the latest developments in industry, here we are, with the ninth issue of our newsletter with news curated from around the world related to our Department.

As always, we would love to have your feedback and suggestions, as to how we can make the newsletter more relevant for all of you.

Thank You.

DPIIT receives four bids for consultancy agency for start-up India



Following a notice floated by the DPIIT in March, 2020 inviting request for proposal (RFP) for appointing a consulting agency for Startup India, the department received four bids. The consultancy agency will be assisting in the effective, on-ground implementation of initiatives for startups.

Grant Thornton India LLP, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt. Ltd, Ernst & Young LLP, and KPMG Advisory Service are the four consultancies that have submitted the bids. A meeting for opening of pre-qualification proposal for appointment of consulting agency was held on May 15, 2020 at Udyog Bhawan. The bidders were found to be qualified and accordingly it was decided to call them for technical presentations. The dates for the same will be rescheduled due to travel restrictions owing to COVID-19 situation.

It was proposed that department shall engage a consultancy organisation to provide support for a period of three years, extendable by one year at a time for a total duration of five years, to assist and support DPIIT in effective on-ground implementation of Startup India Action Plan. The agency will have to support the department in scaling up the Startup India initiative through manifold interventions considered important for building a strong ecosystem for budding entrepreneurs.

The consulting firm will aid in defining measurable indicators of growth which can range from investment in startups to the number of established startups and employment generated. The consultancy firm will also help to develop action plans to attract more investments and identify the bottlenecks in the growth of the Indian startups. They be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the recommendations for the next two years.

IPAB conducts online hearing due to COVID-19 situation

On May 26, 2020, the Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB), through an office order informed that all hearing of cases is being done via video conferencing. In light of the COVID-19 crisis situation, the IPAB is utilizing virtual tools as a recourse to carry on its duties. The office order thus directs counsels and advocates on the steps to be taken to execute hearings online.

The order directed that all the counsels and parties file soft copies of the cases by e-file online to the respective jurisdiction. Email IDs for each jurisdiction were mentioned. For urgent hearings, the duly signed scanned copy of the appeal/application along with documents, fees receipt, miscellaneous petition for urgent hearing etc. are to be filed as per procedure through email to IPAB. Further, all counsels who had already e-filed cases at the common email ID ipab.tn@nic.in were requested to forward mails to the mentioned ID as per the jurisdiction.

IPO adjourns show cause hearings

In a notice brought out by the Intellectual Property Office on May 22, 2020, it has been stated that all show cause hearings for Trademarks fixed until May 31, 2020 stand adjourned until further notice. A show cause hearing is appointed when there are objections to the response of the examination report and the Registrar is unsatisfied with reasons in support of allowing the registration of a trademark. The proprietor/agent attends the hearing to show cause why the mark should not be refused.

CIPAM conducts over 20 online IPR Awareness Webinars in May, 2020

While the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly affected all sectors, businesses and processes, the Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM), DPIIT utilised online conferencing platforms to continue on with its work of creating awareness for Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) across the country. For this purpose, CIPAM collaborated with organisations such as Ministry of MSME, ICC BASCAP, Karnataka State Council of Science and Technology (KSCST), FICCI, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Atal Innovation Mission (AIM).

In the past month, CIPAM has conducted over 20 online sessions and webinars in collaboration with various organisations and reached out to more than 51,000 participants from schools, colleges and industries. On the industry front, three cluster awareness workshops were conducted online in collaboration with the Ministry of MSME and six webinars were held in collaboration with various Technology and Innovation Support Centres (TISCs). On May 20, 2020, CIPAM conducted a webinar on 'Brand Protection for MSMEs during COVID-19' in collaboration with Ministry of MSME and ICC BASCAP. These seminars saw the participation of more than 600 people.

Through 8 online sessions, CIPAM also reached out to more than 51,000 students of schools and colleges of India. Collaborating partners for these sessions included AICTE, AIM and KSCST. Recently, CIPAM and AIM joined hands to conduct 6 online sessions every Tuesday for students of Atal Tinkering Labs until end of June, 2020.

GI tag awarded to four new products from J&K, Manipur and Tamil Nadu

The Geographical Indications tag is awarded to products which have a specific origin and are known to possess special properties due to the place where they are originally grown. May 2020 saw four new products from three Indian States being awarded the GI tag by the GI Registry. These include Manipuri Black Rice, Kashmir Saffron, Thanjavur Netti Works and Arumbavur Wood Carvings.

The black rice, locally called as *Chakhao*, has a lot of health benefits and is completely gluten-free. There is also a special aroma that comes with consumption of the black rice. The Kashmiri Saffron on the other hand is an indigenously produced spice known for its excellent quality, flavour and medical benefits.



Image credit: istockphoto by (L) Karissa and (R) nevodka



Both, the Thanjavur Netti Works and the Arumbavur Wood Carvings, are handicrafts belonging to Tamil Nadu. The Thanjavur Netti works is made from pith obtained from a hydrophyte plant called as Netti.

Arumbavur Wood Carvings are primarily made out of wooden logs of Indian siris, mango, lingam tree, Indian ash tree, rosewood, and neem tree. They are often inspired by architectural details on temple sculptures and carvings. Usually, the statues are in the range of 1 to 12 feet in size.

Image Credit: <https://www.yuvnews.com/27638/tn-s-arumbavur-wood-carvings-get-gi-tag>

Read More:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/gi-tag-for-thanjavur-netti-works-arumbavur-wood-carvings/article31562773.ece>

<https://food.ndtv.com/news/manipuri-black-rice-and-kashmiri-saffron-get-geographical-indication-gi-tag-2223571>

Manchester United sues makers of 'Football Manager' for Trademark



Manchester United is suing the makers of the 'Football Manager' video game series for allegedly infringing its trademark by using the club's name. The legal action was taken against the developers of the popular football management simulation, Sega Publishing and Sports Interactive, for replacing the club logo with a simplified red and white striped version. United claims this "deprives the registered proprietor of its right to have the club crest licensed."

Sega Publishing and Sports Interactive said they have been legitimately using the club's name in a football context in "Football Manager" and its predecessor, "Championship Manager," since 1992 without any complaints.

At a preliminary remote hearing on Friday, United barrister Simon Malynicz said the money clubs make from licensing their names and logos was very significant. "Consumers expect to see the club crest next to the name Manchester United ... and this failure to do so amounts to wrongful use," Malynicz said.

Image Credit: manutd.com

Read More:

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2020/may/22/manchester-united-sues-football-manager-makers-over-use-of-name>

ISRO's 'Moon Soil' gets patent from Indian Patent Office



On May 18, the Indian Patent Office granted patent to ISRO for an invention as to the method of manufacturing highland lunar soil simulant. The Indian space agency has got the patent for its method of manufacturing highland lunar soil simulant or simply lunar/moon soil.

As a part of its Moon landing mission Chandrayaan-2, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) had to prepare an artificial moon surface so that the Vikram lander and Pragyaan rover could be tested. On May 18, the Indian Patent Office granted patent to ISRO for an invention as to the method of manufacturing highland lunar soil simulant.

The patent is valid for 20 years from the date of filing the application, i.e., May 15, 2014.

The inventors are: I. Venugopal, S.A. Kannan, Shamrao, V. Chandra Babu (all from ISRO), S. Anbazhagan, S. Arivazhagan, C.R. Paramasivam, M. Chinnamuthu (all from the Department of Geology, Periyar University, Salem, Tamil Nadu) and K. Muthukkumaran.

Image Credit: ISRO

Read More: <https://www.outlookindia.com/newsscroll/made-in-india-moon-soil-isro-gets-patent/1840343>

Patent Agent Examination 2020 postponed

On May 19, 2020, the office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks (CGPDTM) announced through a notice that the Patent Agent Examination (PAE) for the year 2020 has been postponed until further notice. The exam was earlier scheduled for June 26, 2020.

This is an initiative by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry to report current events and affairs related to industry and the department. This e-mail/ newsletter has been curated purely for informative purposes and do not reflect the official policy or position of DPIIT. This newsletter is not intended to be used for any commercial purposes.

For any queries or inputs, you may write to us at:

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