



DPIIT On The Move

Newsletter from Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade

DPIIT urges State Governments to allow e-commerce deliver essential items



Subsequent to the announcement of 21 day lockdown across the country, DPIIT has asked State Governments to allow the delivery of essential products from ecommerce channels amid coronavirus outbreak in India.

In a letter written to Chief Secretaries of all the State Governments, Dr. Guruprasad Mohapatra, Secretary, DPIIT said that in the wake of precautions being taken by various States for prevention of Covid-19 through lockdowns, it is necessary to issue clear instructions to State authorities to not obstruct operations of ecommerce, food manufacturing units, and grocery stores.

State governments have been asked to allow passage of logistic vehicles carrying raw materials used as ingredients by food processing units. Additionally, the DPIIT has also asked them to allow distribution and sales channels of the food and beverage market, including food delivery services, and also employees associated with the same. These measures are suggested to not only avoid inconvenience to consumers but also prevent panic buying. Thus, the Secretary has urged that all retail/grocery, organised trade, chemists/pharmacies that stock and sell food products, medicines, water etc. should be allowed to remain open.

“Clear advisory to ensure inter-state movement of good for the food processing industry to ensure uninterrupted movement and supply of goods and services; specifically e-commerce, food processing, delivery boys and movement of trucks,” the letter said.

CURATOR'S NOTE

It is a pleasure to bring about the eighth 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.

Though the country has come to a halt for 21 days, DPIIT is forever on the move which has resulted in important developments which we are eager to share with you.

Efforts are being made by DPIIT to ensure that essential products from ecommerce channels continue to reach consumers in these trying times. Also, the CGPDTM has brought out public notices regarding rescheduled dates of hearing for matters related to Patents, Trademarks and Designs.

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.

Measures taken by O/o CGPDTM in wake of COVID-19 outbreak

In light of the COVID-19 outbreak in the country, two public notices have been issued by the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks. The first notice, issued on March 16, 2020, dealing with hearing of Trademark matters stated that all hearings scheduled between March 17 to April 15 have been adjourned and these cases will be rescheduled in due course of time. Hearings scheduled after April 15, 2020 will remain as it is.

The second notice dated March 19, 2020 stated that Patent Office at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Design Wing at Kolkata have been directed to change all in person hearings in Patents and Designs matters scheduled on or before April 15, 2020 to Video Conferencing (VC) hearings. In case an applicant is unable to agree to a VC hearing, the Controller shall adjourn such hearing and reschedule it for a date after April 15, 2020 will remain as it is.

Additionally, applicants requesting delays/extension of timelines for submitting responses and/or documents relating to various proceedings, will be granted the same by the Controller, subject to the applicant making a petition not later than one month from the date when such COVID-19 outbreak cease to exist.

With regards to Patent Agent Exam 2020, a notice issued by the Deputy Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks dated March 19, 2020 stated that the last date to register for candidates has been extended to April 15, 2020.

Air India sale: DPIIT notifies decision to permit NRIs to own up to 100% stake in cash-strapped national carrier



Indian nationals shall remain. The national carrier will have no residual government ownership and will be completely privately owned.

Under the SOEC framework, which is followed in the airline industry globally, a carrier that flies overseas from a particular country should be substantially owned by that country's government or its nationals.

Picture Credits: Reuters

DPIIT notified a decision of the union cabinet to allow non-resident Indians (NRIs) to control up to 100 percent stake in disinvestment-bound Air India. The cabinet had taken a decision in the regard on March 4, 2020. Earlier, the FDI policy permitted NRIs to take up till 49% stake in an airline.

Foreign investments in Air India including that of foreign airlines shall not exceed 49 percent either directly or indirectly except in case of those NRIs, who are Indian Nationals, where foreign investment is permitted up to 100 percent under automatic route. The condition that Substantial Ownership and Effective Control (SOEC) of Air India be vested with

Dr. Guruprasad Mohapatra interacts as Chief Guest at Task Force on EODB event

On March 4, 2020, Secretary, DPIIT, Dr. Guruprasad Mohapatra, participated at the Task Force on Ease of Doing Business (EODB) organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), in New Delhi as the Chief Guest of the event.

With the endeavour to further the Nation's progress in the global EODB ranking of the World Bank, the Task Force meeting aimed at opening an interactive dialogue between industry experts, stakeholders & the government in order to assess policy improvements & inventions.

The event saw a detailed presentation on the issues & recommendations under Policy Dashboard after which the CII Policy Dashboard on Ease of Doing Business was launched.

Dr. Guruprasad Mohapatra thanked the Confederation of Indian Industry for organizing the interactive session & said that such dialogues are imperative for understanding the country's needs in the realm of EODB and which reforms need to be introduced to progress further from present achievements.



Shri Piyush Goyal Reviews Infrastructure Projects on PMG Portal

On February 27, 2020, Minister of Railways and Commerce & Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal chaired a meeting for the review of 17 large-size infrastructure projects at DPIIT, New Delhi. The meeting was attended by Shri Som Prakash, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, senior officers of DPIIT, Chief Secretaries of Karnataka and Maharashtra, and senior officers of Jharkhand, Odisha, and Uttar Pradesh (through Video Conference). Senior officials of key ministries including Railways, Power, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Road Transport and Highways as well as Invest India were also present to address the issues raised through the Project Monitoring Group (PMG).

PMG is an institutional mechanism of DPIIT to expedite resolution of issues and removal of regulatory bottlenecks in projects, with investments more than ₹ 500 crores in India. At the moment, PMG and Invest India are handling 588 issues in 260 projects, with total anticipated investment of ₹10 lakh crore.

In the meeting, Ministers and senior officials assessed critical projects, with important socio-economic and industrial significance. A total of 36 issues in 17 projects with total anticipated investment of ₹ 32,910 crores were reviewed. These issues included BPCL's Petroleum and Petrochemical projects in Rasayani, Maharashtra; four laning of Govindpur – Chas – West Bengal border section (NH32); Implementation of Transmission Systems in Jharkhand and Londa-Miraj doubling project.

Actionable directions and timelines were issued for the expeditious resolution of pending issues in all projects. The minister called for more Ministries and States to upload their projects across sectors including defence to be taken up by PMG. He appreciated the contribution of Invest India, PMG, State Governments and DPIIT in taking up issues of large infrastructure projects with various states and expressed the hope that all stakeholders would monitor the progress closely and would unlock more of such investments by putting their projects on fast-track mode.

BMW accuses Indian e-rickshaw manufacturer of Trademark infringement



BMW has accused an Indian e-rickshaw manufacturer of infringing the German automobile makers' trademark with a "dishonest intention".

The Delhi High Court has restrained the Indian manufacturer bearing the mark 'DMW' from "in any manner dealing with goods" with any mark other mark identical of deceptively similar to BMW.

Justice Jayant Nath in his interim order said that prima facie Bayerische Motoren Werke (BMW) has made out a case that the Indian company was infringing upon its trademark with a "dishonest intention" to take advantage of the reputation and goodwill of the German company.

Read more at: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/hc-restrains-indian-e-rickshaw-maker-from-using-trademark-similar-to-german-auto-major-bmw/article31151776.ece>

Photo Credits: Reuters

Ahmedabad based IT company sues Microsoft for using the mark 'Azure'



Microsoft ran into trouble in India when an Ahmedabad based IT company, Azure Knowledge Corporation, sued software major Microsoft Corporation and its Indian arm Microsoft India for infringement of its trademark Azure. The suit was filed last month in the city civil court in Ahmedabad, with judge DV Shah issuing notices to the defendants on February 10. The matter will be taken up in the court on April 18.

The company has been using Azure as a trade name as well as its trademark for a variety of businesses since 1996, and has also registered the mark Azure under various classes. On the other hand, Microsoft introduced the mark Azure in India for the first time only in 2014.

Read More: <https://www.businessinsider.in/business/news/azure-knowledge-corp-sues-ms-for-trademark-infringement/articleshow/74582922.cms>

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DPIIT plans to hire consulting firm to assess Startup India drive

DPIIT is planning to hire a consulting firm to evaluate the progress of the Startup India programme, define a futuristic vision for timebound targets to improve India's global standing and lay down guidelines for future growth. The exercise is being undertaken to scale up the Startup India initiative.

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.

The consultants will act as nodal points of access between ministries and startups. This will ease the difficulty of startups that face issues, especially in tax matters. The consulting firm will also be running trials on "disruptive technologies" and implementing pilots.

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: