On February 25, 2020, DPIIT in collaboration with US India Business Council (USIBC), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Ananta Centre and Indiaspora organised the ‘India-U.S. Business Story: Opportunity, Innovation, Entrepreneurship’ at New Delhi. The aim of the event was to initiate dialogue on the subject for strengthening India-U.S. relationship. Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon’ble Minister of Railways and Commerce & Industry, released the CII-USIBC Report on $500 billion Roadmap at the event.

Speaking at the event the hon’ble minister said, “I am delighted that both the leaders have decided to formally engage to move towards a free trade agreement (FTA) between the two big economies and my own sense is that America also will gain very significantly with this partnership”. He also assured the gathering that the discussions on an FTA will see stakeholder consultations with different industry groups, different interest groups, on market access or opening up services, investment protocols, on areas of mutual interest.

Dr. Guruprasad Mohapatra, Secretary, DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, while addressing the audience as part of the panel discussion ‘Assemble in India, Make for the World – Leveraging Global Supply Chains’ said, “India-US Business has stressed on various efforts and policies pointed towards making India a part of global supply chain and to achieve the $5 trillion economy.
On February 17, 2020, the DPIIT-FICCI Partnership Forum on Public Procurement for Make in India was held in New Delhi. The aim of the Forum was to engage with industry stakeholders on the subject of Public Procurement to boost Make In India. The Forum saw in attendance dignitaries Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon’ble Minister of Railways and Commerce & Industry; Shri Som Prakash, Hon’ble Minister of State for Commerce and Industry as well as officials of DPIIT, FICCI along with several industry stakeholders.

Dr. Guruprasad Mohapatra, Secretary, DPIIT in his opening remarks stressed upon the importance of the dialogue which the Forum has opened which will in turn yield intended results for progress and the importance of Public Procurement on being an essential lever in the journey towards 5 trillion economy. Shri Om Prakash, Hon’ble Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, delivered the keynote address where he emphasized that in order to ensure that maximum procurement is done we have to promote our own internal products, promote Make in India and promote manufacturing in India. Hon’ble Minister of Railways and Commerce & Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal delivered the inaugural address at the event. He encouraged the participation and whole-hearted cooperation of all invested parties and stakeholders in maintaining transparency, conducting thorough assessments and exchanging knowledge to ensure that the country’s own processes align with global standards and deliver on an international scale.

On February 25, 2020, DPIIT amended the consolidated Foreign Direct Investment Policy 2017 (FDI Policy) to allow 100 per cent FDI in insurance intermediaries. The intermediary services include insurance brokers, reinsurance brokers, insurance consultants, corporate agents, third-party administrators, and surveyors and loss assessors. Until now, the policy earlier allowed up to 49 per cent foreign investment in insurance intermediaries through the automatic route. Now, 100 percent FDI is allowed in insurance intermediaries under automatic approval route.

Insurance intermediary that has majority shareholding of foreign investors, then the company has to undertake measures for incorporation as a limited company under the provisions of the Companies Act 2013. At least one from among the chairman of the board of directors or the CEO or principal officer or MD of the company shall be a resident Indian citizen and shall take permission of the IRDA for repatriating dividend. Also, such entities will not make payments to the foreign group, promoter, subsidiary, or interconnected or associated entities beyond what is permitted by the regulator.

The announcement in this regard came in the interim budget of July 2019. Subsequently, on September 2, 2019, the Union government notified the Indian Insurance Companies (Foreign Investment) Amendment Rules, 2019.
A meeting for stakeholder consultation under the chairmanship of Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Railways and Commerce & Industry Minister was held today in Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi on February 19, 2020. Leading boiler manufacturers, users, Foundries, Forges, Pipes/ Tubes makers, Third Party Inspecting Authorities, Central Boiler Board (CBB) members, State Government’s representatives participated in the meeting.

DPIIT in association with State Governments has taken a number of reforms related to manufacture, erection and use of boilers which include self-certification of boilers that has been implemented in 22 States, rules and regulations for third party inspection, third party inspecting authorities recognised by CBB, simplified registration of boilers & timeline limits for approval/clearances under the Boilers Act amongst others.

The steps taken by DPIIT were appreciated by the stakeholders, who expressed that the reforms and improved efficiency of inspection has resulted in reduction of project execution time. The stakeholders also made a number of suggestions such as strengthening of on-line system for Boiler registration and inspections by State governments and conduct of Boiler Operation Engineers (BOEs) at Central government level. It was also suggested that provision be made for online intimation by BOEs to State Governments in case of change of their operations from one State to another as also provision in Indian Boiler Regulations, 1950 (IBR) to recognize well-known boiler manufacturers/ boiler accessories manufacturers.

DPIIT has notified Quality Control for LPG Rubber Hose for Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). It will come into effect from 1st August 2020. All rubber hoses used for domestic, commercial and industrial applications will have to conform to IS 9573. This will ensure enhanced safety of domestic commercial and industrial users. Rubber hose for LPG will bear this standard mark of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). The BIS will be the certifying and enforcing authority for rubber hose for LPG. The latest version of Indian Standards, including the amendments issued by BIS from time to time, will apply from the date of such notification.

On February 19, DPIIT in association with World Economic Forum conducted an interactive workshop on Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) in New Delhi. The workshop was attended by representatives of various ministries and departments of the government. The workshop served as an essential platform for opening a dialogue to achieve an in-depth understanding of the components of GCI and introduce a way forward that is aligned with Global Best Practices. Secretary, DPIIT, Dr. Guruprasad Mohapatra in his remarks mentioned that such workshops are instrumental in furthering India's core developmental aspirations and help in making a master plan for the New India’s growth story. Headlining the workshop Mr. Thierry Geiger, Head, Benchmarking Practice, World Economic Forum, gave a detailed presentation outlining several important pillars of Global Competitiveness Index that serve as benchmarking tools in fostering the economic competence of Nations.
A Task Force on the “India-Japan Industrial Competitiveness Partnership” was co-chaired by the Secretary of Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade and the Vice Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Economy Trade & Industry, in Delhi, today. The Task-force meeting saw a detailed deliberation between India and Japan on creating a beneficial partnership to strengthen industrial growth. The Task-force deliberated on eight champion sectors of Make In India 2.0. The Partnership has the potential to deliver on a globally competitive manufacturing ecosystem in India.

On February 21, 2020, the Bombay High Court restrained Andaman Xtasea Events, an event company situated in the island of Andaman from infringing or using brand identical to ‘Big Boss’ in any manner.

The case was filed by Endemol Shine Nederland on an alleged infringement of intellectual property rights with respect to their registered trademarks for ‘Big Boss’ and ‘Big Brother’, both as wordmarks and label marks. The company in its plea claimed that in November 2019, it came to know that the defendants had started advertisement and auditions for the Andaman Bigg Boss.


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The Madras High Court on February 12, 2020, stayed the operation of a notice issued by Goods and Services Tax authorities demanding service tax for permanent transfer of copyrights of his musical works to producers of such movies until March 4. This came much to the relief of AR Rahman. Rahman’s contention was that for a musical work, the composer becomes its absolute owner of the copyright for their work under the Copyrights Act. Subsequent transfer of such rights to producers of movies are exempted from tax.

“In terms of section 13(1)(a) of the Copyright Act, copyright subsists in musical work and the composer is the sole and absolute owner of such right” Rahman said. According to him, such permanent transfer of copyright is not a service for the purpose of levy of service tax.

Read more at: https://indianexpress.com/article/india/madras-high-court-ar-rahman-service-tax-6265976/

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