On October 6, 2020 the results of the National Startup Awards 2020 were released by Minister of Railways and Commerce & Industry Shri Piyush Goyal. The felicitation ceremony was held virtually in the presence of Shri Piyush Goyal and Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Shri Som Parkash. The DPIIT conceived the National Startup Awards to recognize and reward outstanding Startups and ecosystem enablers that are building innovative products or solutions and scalable enterprises, with high potential of employment generation or wealth creation, demonstrating measurable social impact.

The first edition of the Awards invited applications across 12 sectors ranging from Agriculture to Industry 4.0. A total of 1641 applications were received from startups across 23 States and 4 Union Territories. All applicants were evaluated against 6 broad parameters namely innovation, scalability, economic impact, social impact, environmental impact, and inclusiveness & diversity. Shortlisted startups were evaluated by 15 specialist jury panels, which comprised of domain experts from industry, investors and government.

The felicitation ceremony was accompanied by the release of an e-Report on National Startup Awards 2020 highlighting the journey of First National Startup Awards including details of winners. Congratulating the winners, Shri Piyush Goyal said that the awards will generate excitement and enthusiasm among the young entrepreneurs in taking their innovative ideas to the higher level. The new technologies will help in the economic development and take the fruits of development and growth to the last man in the pyramid. Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Shri Som Parkash expressed that the Startup mission, started by the Hon’ble Prime Minister in 2016, has now expanded to every nook and corner of the country. The incentives and facilities provided by the Government are helping budding entrepreneurs and bringing talent and skills to the forefront.
The ‘Startup India Showcase’ and ‘Blockchain-based Certificate Verification System’ were launched on October 6, 2020 as part of the National Startup Awards 2020.

The ‘Startup India Showcase’, a part of the Startup India portal, is envisioned as an online discovery platform showcasing the most promising startups of the country. These startups shall be handpicked by industry experts across diverse sectors such as financial technology, educational technology and social impact among others. The showcase will be beneficial in connecting industry, investors and public authorities with suitable startups for potential partnerships, investments and public procurement. This showcase will strengthen startup ecosystem by creating a robust network while also encouraging participation of the relevant stakeholders.

The ‘Blockchain-based Certificate Verification System’, another advantageous initiative launched at the Awards ceremony, will enable instant verification and access to certificates of recognitions issued by DPIIT. This feature introduces an added layer of security to the startup certificates. It can be accessed by Government Departments, procurement entities, investors, and other third parties to verify status of recognized startups for accessing different opportunities.

The first Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Startup Forum was launched on October 27, 2020. At the inauguration of the forum, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal said that a futuristic vision combined with decisiveness has provided India with a solid Startup ecosystem.

Speaking at the occasion, Shri Goyal said that our Startups have demonstrated their ability to convert the severe adversity caused by COVID-19 into a great potential of the future. Lauding Indian Startups for demonstrating high energy & enthusiasm to give many timely & cost-effective solutions, he said “All our youngsters have created many critical applications which have helped many sectors go digital and face the problems of the pandemic with confidence & emerge successfully as we unlock economy and expand economic activity.”

He stated that the startups in India have reacted promptly and flexibly to the COVID-19 pandemic by sharing our best practices & knowledge, engaging corporates & investors, monetising & mobilising capital, setting up incubators, and providing exposure & scale. This will only help innovative ideas of startups in getting larger engagement. One of the common threads that knit the SCO member states together is the spirit of entrepreneurship. The launch of the SCO Startup Forum is the reflection of the positive attitude of all member states to nurture innovation amongst all, he added.
Patent (Amendment) Rules, 2020 come into force on October 20, 2020

The Patents (Amendment) Rules, 2020 were notified on October 20, 2020. The key amendments streamlining the rules to promote ease of doing business primarily revolve around submission of Priority Documents and Form-27 related to the Statement of Working for a granted patent.

As per the changed rules, Priority Documents are no longer required to be submitted if they are available with the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO). Further, English translation of Priority Documents is only needed in certain cases. Rules for Form-27 have been made easier allowing a patent holder to submit a consolidated statement of working of multiple patents. If a patent has been granted to two or more persons, they may now file a joint Form-27. The form can be submitted by authorised agents on behalf of the patentee(s). Further the Statement of Working for a granted patent will have to be filed for each financial year i.e. beginning April 1, instead of the calendar year as stipulated previously. Applicants will get 6 months to file Form-27 instead of the current 3 months and will not be required to file the form in respect of a part or fraction of the financial year.

DPIIT holds webinar on Public Procurement (Preference to Make In India) Order, 2017

A webinar on the Public Procurement (Preference to Make In India) Order, 2017 was organised on October 13, 2020 with the aim to apprise and sensitise all stakeholders on the amendments and provisions of the Public Procurement Order issued in September.

Smt. Manmeet Kaur Nanda, Joint Secretary, DPIIT, highlighted the importance of Public Procurement in being a vital component in fostering economic growth, creating employment and increasing economic prosperity. She stated that the amendments introduced in the last three years to the public procurement policies have given a significant boost to domestic manufacturing. The new PPP-MII order 2017 focuses on local industries to promote their growth.

The revised order, that was notified in June, 2020 aims to promote production of goods and services in India, which would lead to generation of income and employment. The order incentivizes production linked through local content requirements so as to encourage domestic manufacturer’s participation in public procurement activities. The order aims at incentivizing production linked through local content requirements to encourage domestic manufacturer's participation in public over those involved in merely importing to trade or assemble items.

A detailed presentation on the order further elucidated the aim of the order and its scope. The salient features, provisions & applicability of the order was also discussed by the officials of DPIIT. The webinar was concluded with a round of Q&A where several questions of the participants were addressed. The concluding remarks highlighted that the policy is ever evolving & all feedback is considered in order to establish the best possible mechanism for Public Procurement.
Kerala Startup develops hand-held oral cancer screening tool

A startup based out of Kerala has indigenously developed a hand-held imaging device that can detect and provide biopsy guidance of oral cancer. Sascan Meditech Pvt. Limited, a startup that was incubated at TiMED, the Technology Business Incubator of Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences & Technology, Trivandrum, has aptly named the device OralScan and is all set to launch the same.

A patent in India has been granted for the technology and a US patent has been filed. OralScan has also undergone multicentric trials covering six hospitals across the country. It is expected that OralScan, through early detection, will help combat oral cancer – a disease which has a high mortality rate due to delay in detection.

Read More: https://dst.gov.in/oralscan-handlyoral-cancer-screening-tool-launched
Picture Credit: https://dst.gov.in/oralscan-handlyoral-cancer-screening-tool-launched

Trademark dispute around Sony PlayStation 5 resolved

Sony will soon be able to launch its PlayStation 5 in India with its trademark dispute recently resolved. PS5 was initially expected to be launched in November this year. However, Sony's plans came to a halt as Hitesh Aswani, a resident of Delhi, had already registered the PS5 trademark last year in 2019. Sony's inability to secure the trademark caused for the delay in launch of the product.

Sony opposed the registration of the PS5 trademark under the Trade Marks Act of 1999 that is in place for registration and better protection of trademarks for goods and services. Hitesh Aswani, has now withdrawn his trademark application, thus clearing the path for Sony.

Picture Credit: https://www.playstation.com/en-in/ps5/

DPIIT launches knowledge sharing webinar series on Ease of Doing Business (EODB) Reforms

Kickstarting the knowledge sharing series on Ease of Doing Business reforms, DPIIT organised a webinar on October 16, 2020. The webinar series, chaired by Smt. V Radha, Joint Secretary, EoDB, DPIIT, has been launched to sensitise the masses on the reforms introduced to further facilitate Ease of Doing Business across the nation. The first webinar in the series was conducted in collaboration with Andhra Pradesh for North-East States on implementation of reforms linked with additional borrowing for FY-21. Next in the series was a webinar on the Integration of State Registries with CERSAI on October 20, 2020. This was followed by a webinar on Integration of GIS system at State and Union Territories level with Industrial Information System of DPIIT on October 23, 2020.

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