Invest India, a joint venture of DPIIT with State Governments and industry associations, organised the third Exclusive Investment Forum - Japan Edition on August 6, 2020. Speaking at the occasion through video conference, the Hon’ble Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal said that it is important that Japan and India expand trade and business relationships.

Dwelling on the Indo-Japan close relationship, the minister stated that both share common interests in economic and strategic fields. He said that economic relations between India and Japan have vast potential for growth. The two countries have shared a fruitful relationship for a long time in various sectors including automobiles, chemicals, consumer goods and food processing. Today’s digital world provides numerous opportunities of cooperation between the two countries. The partnership thus far have focused on technical cooperation and we are now looking towards Japan as a strategic and investment development partner. Both the countries have mutually agreed to take up the issues with Japanese companies on a cooperative basis.

Mr. Hiroshi Kajiyama, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Government of Japan, in his remarks, reiterated Japan’s interest in furthering the bilateral relations. Mr. Shigehiro Tanaka, Vice Minister, METI, Government of Japan discussed India-Japan Industrial Competitiveness Partnership and the way forward. Mr. Nobuhiko Sasaki, Chairman, JETRO elaborated on the experience of Japanese companies operating in India.

Secretary, DPIIT, Dr. Guruprasad Mohapatra said that India is planning to set up the 13th Japanese industrial township in Assam, a move aimed at promoting domestic manufacturing and strengthening economic ties between the two countries. He said that DPIIT is working on GIS enabled data base of industrial areas and clusters across the country.
The first edition of the five day long virtual FMCG Supply Chain EXPO organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) was launched on August 10, 2020. Speaking at the inauguration of the Expo, Hon’ble Minister of Commerce & Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal said that the new things of the new age world will help us redefine the future of India and be citizens that are more caring towards the lesser privileged section of society.

Refuting the criticism by some for supporting the domestic industry and putting checks on the imports, Shri Goyal said that this is to protect our industries so that they can get a fair play and access. India wants equal, fair and reciprocal trade with the world and is moving towards balanced trade with many countries and regions. The Government will stand shoulder-to-shoulder with industries in their efforts to become more competitive & engage with the world on equal and fair terms.

He also added that the initiative of organising a virtual expo by FICCI India is being carried out on an indigenously built platform, in the true spirit of Aatmanirbhar Bharat. “As we adapt to change, we can take development & betterment of mankind forward. The work that we are doing will help us re-position India's growth in local & global supply chains”, he said. Shri Goyal reiterated that India can be a part of global supply chains, provide work opportunities to millions of people and enable the people to become a part of our growing engagement with the world.

The Indian economy is on a fast revival path, as could be seen by various indicators. The rail freights and electricity consumption has reached the last year’s levels, the exports in July this year are 91% of the last year’s levels and the imports are also about 79%. Shri Goyal exhorted Indian industry to walk together, support each other and work towards a prosperous India in the long run and better future for the generations to come.

DPIIT invites applications for post of Vice Chairman, IPAB

DPIIT recently invited applications for the post of Vice-Chairman, Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB), Chennai. IPAB is an Appellate Board, established under Section 83 of the Trade Marks Act, 1999 under the administrative control of DPIIT. It exercises jurisdiction over the matters entrusted with it under the various laws related to Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).

The vacancy notification brought out on August 21, 2020 communicated the eligibility and qualifications criteria as laid down by the Tribunal, Appellate Tribunals and Other Authorities (Qualifications, Experience and Other Conditions of Service of Members) Rules, 2020. Eligible persons may apply on the prescribed proforma so as to reach DPIIT on the matter of this vacancy. A single post of Vice-Chairman, IPAB with Location Chennai, Tamil Nadu is currently vacant. For eligibility criteria a person shall not be qualified for appointment as Vice Chairman, unless he is, or has been, a Judge of High Court; or has, for two years, held the office Judicial Member or a Technical Member and has a degree in law with twelve years of practice at bar or twelve years’ experience in a State Judicial Service. The term and tenure the Vice-Chairman shall be for a term of four years or till he attains the age of sixty-five years. All eligible and willing persons have been invited to submit their application to the Under Secretary, DPIIT as per the notification.
National GIS-enabled Land Bank System launched

In a virtual meeting held on August 27, 2020 with the industry ministers of States, UT administrators and senior officers of the central and State Governments Hon’ble Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal e-launched the National GIS-enabled Land Bank system (https://iis.ncog.gov.in/parks). The Industrial Information System (IIS) portal is a GIS-enabled database of industrial areas/clusters across the states. More than 3,300 industrial parks across 31 States/UTs covering about 475,000 hectare land have been mapped on the System. Information available on the system includes forest, drainage; raw material heat maps (agricultural, horticulture, mineral layers) and multiple layers of connectivity. The initiative is being supported by Invest India, National Center of Geo-Informatics (NCoG), National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology and Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Informatics (BISAG).

An array of issues such as that of pushing industrial manufacturing in the country, attracting investments, pursuing the approach of ‘One District One Product’ (ODOP), and promoting a national movement towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat were also discussed in the meeting. The Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Shri Som Prakash said that States have to play an important role in making India a manufacturing hub and attract investment. He called upon the States to identify important products in each district which can be promoted under ODOP.

State Ministers in the meeting, narrated their experiences and explained their perceptions, achievements, requirements and suggestions, some of which were duly acknowledged and appreciated by Shri Goyal in his concluding remarks. A detailed presentation by the officers of DPIIT covering various subjects was also made, during the meeting.

Trademark Registry to conduct Show-Cause Hearing through video conferencing

A Public Notice was issued on August 26, 2020 by the Trademark Registry stating that in view of the prevailing Covid-19 situation and as provided under the TM Rules, 2017, Show-Cause Hearing will now be conducted through Video Conferencing. Hearings will be scheduled only in those matters where applicant or authorised agent give consent and confirm their participation for the hearing through Video Conferencing.

In this regard, all applicants/Agents who are interested in hearing of their matters through video conferencing have now been requested to submit their consent to attend Show-Cause Hearing by sending an email at tlahearing-tmr@gov.in. The notice also stated that only those cases where concerned applicant or their authorised agent submit consent on or before September 5, 2020 will be scheduled for hearing. Others applications will be kept in abeyance to schedule hearing in person as and when hearing with physical presence is started. If the applicant or his authorised agent, as the case may be, remains absent on the date of hearing the application will be decided as per law. For submitting consent for hearing through video conferencing, applicant or his authorised agent shall submit his request by writing in subject “consent for Show-cause Hearing through Video Conference”. The Office will try to schedule all pending applications of concern applicant / agent on same day in sequential order as per available time.
**Havmor sues Delhi based pickle and cereal brand for infringement of Trademark**

A Delhi-based pickle and cereals brand has been sued by Ahmedabad-based, 70-year-old ice-cream and desserts company Havmor, for trademark violation. VLS Foods manufactures products for Hands On Trade, which markets them under the alleged disputed ‘Havemore’ trademark. Havmor has accused Hands On Trade Pvt Ltd and Rajasthan-based VLS Foods Pvt Ltd of selling its products under the brand name of Usha Aunty’s Havemore.

Requesting the court to restrain the company from using the word ‘Havemore’ as its trademark or any such word which is phonetically or visually similar to Havmor, the ice-cream major has also dragged online retailer Grofers India Pvt Ltd in the case for selling the products through its platforms. It has asked all three companies to pay token damage of Rs 2.8 lakh. Havmor found out that Hands On Trade had applied for registration of trademark on January 10 and claimed that the registrar of trademark too in its report had cited of ‘finding the trademark identical and similar. The matter is sub-judice and being heard by the Ahmedabad city civil court. The next hearing will take place on September 4, 2020.

**Read More:**

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**Copyright infringement lawsuit filed against short video app Roposo by T-series**

T-Series, India’s largest music label, has filed a copyright infringement lawsuit against video entertainment app Roposo, which is owned by Bengaluru-based advertising tech unicorn InMobi. “The app is infringing content under the user-generated content. They are offering our music in their library and enticing users to upload our content in exchange for cash rewards. Their venture capitalists have not done due diligence, they are hand in glove,” said T-Series president Neeraj Kalyan.

The lawsuit, filed in Delhi high court, has also named Roposo investors Tiger Global and Bertelsmann. T-Series has sought a permanent injunction to stop Roposo from using their copyrighted works. The music label has alleged that Roposo is “blatantly, extensively and wilfully” infringing on T-Series’ copyrighted works through the provision of a specially curated ‘Music Library’ and extracting songs from user devices and using such songs for commercial gain. The music label also alleged that Roposo is removing the rights management information pertaining to its copyrighted songs in the ‘Music Library’ and knowingly distributing, broadcasting and communicating to the public infringing copies.

**Read more at:** https://inc42.com/buzz/t-series-accuses-short-video-app-roposo-of-copyright-infringement/

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