On December 1, 2020, DPIIT organised a virtual conference under the Chairmanship of Dr. Guruprasad Mohapatra, Secretary, DPIIT on the National Action Plan for Toys. The meeting, organised to discuss the National Action Plan for Toys and to develop synergies with States on promotion of indigenous toys at district level, was attended by many States & Union Territories.

DPIIT gave a detailed presentation on the National Action Plan for Toys which comprehensively deals with creation of Toys as a learning resource and their designing based on Indian traditions and values. Further, the action plan comprises aspects related to organisation of National Toy Fair; creating Toy repositories; promoting toy tourism, domestic manufacturing, investments & exports of Indian toys; development of skills for toy industry; and monitor quality of toys. Secretary, MSME, explained in detail about various schemes available for MSMEs which may be used for supporting indigenous manufacturing of toys.

The conference discussed key elements of the National Toy Fair which is being virtually organised from February 27 – March 2, 2021. Additional discussions also included the simplification of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) website for easing the procedures for certification of toys; leveraging 'My Gov' website for showcasing of indigenous toys; branding, marketing and social media strategy for promotion; and the role of MSME’s existing 18 Technology Centres readily available for assisting Toy Industry for tooling & technology support.

While DPIIT also spoke of on-boarding of indigenous toys on e-Commerce platform for sale, creation of dedicated storefront for promotion of toy industry, D/o Commerce presented the view on promoting districts as export hubs and increasing global outreach for indigenous toys. The workshop with States & UT was a step towards achieving Hon’ble PM's vision of 'Team up for Toys' for boosting up Indian Toy sector.

CURATOR’s NOTE

It is a pleasure to bring to you the sixteenth issue of DPIIT On The Move!
We hope that all our readers are safe in these times of COVID-19 pandemic and are taking due precautions for ensuring the same.

As always, we are eager to share some key developments with you that we witnessed here at DPIIT in the past month.

The month started off with the virtual conference on National Action Plan for Toys which was attended by representatives of all States and Union Territories- a key step towards boosting the Indian Toy Industry.

Hon’ble Minister of Commerce and Industry met with the Swiss Trade Minister this past month and also spoke at the CEO Forum of India-Sweden strategic business partnership.

Significant development was observed in the field of Intellectual Property as India and USA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Intellectual Property Cooperation.

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.
On December 2, 2020, DPIIT signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) in the field of Intellectual Property Cooperation. Dr. Guruprasad Mohapatra, Secretary, DPIIT and Mr. Andrei Iancu, Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property & Director, United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) conducted a virtual signing ceremony for the same. The Union Cabinet had given the approval for signing the MoU in its meeting dated February 19, 2020.

The MoU will allow an exchange of information and best practices on registration and examination of applications for patents, trademarks, copyrights, industrial designs and Geographical Indications, as well as the protection, enforcement and use of IP rights. It aims to facilitate cooperation in the development of automation and implementation of modernization projects, new documentation and information systems in IP and procedures for management of IP. Additionally, the MoU also brings together the two nations for cooperation to understand how Traditional Knowledge is protected, including the use of traditional knowledge related databases and raising awareness about existing IP systems. Further, it will facilitate collaboration in training programmes and outreach activities.

The two sides will draw up Biennial Work Plan to implement the MoU which will include the detailed planning for carrying out of the co-operation activities including the scope of action. The MoU will go a long way in fostering the cooperation between India and USA, and provide opportunities to both countries to learn from the experience of each other, especially in terms of best practices followed in the other country.

A Quality Control order has been issued by DPIIT for standardization and quality adherence of toys as a step towards realising the Hon’ble Prime Minister's vision of making India a global manufacturing hub for sale & exports of toys. The order, that will come into effect from 1st January, 2021, aims to bring forward the synergized efforts of the Indian Government, States and the stakeholders to promote ‘Team up for Toys’ vision keeping quality standards of the indigenous toys as the priority. As a part of the initiatives being taken to provide impetus to the medium, small and micro toy production units in the country, DPIIT has released Toys (Quality Control) Second Amendment Order, 2020. The order exempts goods manufactured & sold by artisans registered with Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), from use of Standard Mark under licence from Bureau of Indian Standards, as per Scheme1 of Schedule-II of BIS(Conformity Assessment) Regulations, 2018.

The Amendment Order 2020, also exempts products registered as Geographical Indications from following Indian Toy Standards & compulsory use of Standard Mark licence from Bureau as per Scheme 1 of Schedule-II of BIS(CA) Regulations, 2018. The Gazette notification issued by the department says that “nothing in this Order shall apply to goods or articles manufactured and sold by registered proprietor and authorised user of a product registered as Geographical Indication by the Registrar of Geographical Indications, Office of Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks (CGPDTM).
Speaking at the CEO-Forum of India-Sweden strategic business partnership on December 11, 2020, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal said that the two countries should work together to build a more resilient & strong partnership.

The Minister said that India, with 1.35 billion people, provides one of the world's largest business opportunities. “We believe our renewed focus on technology will help us re-align India's priorities and Sweden will have an important role to play, being our natural partner for innovation & growth” he added. Shri Goyal spoke about the efforts being made for building an Aatmanirbhar Bharat, wherein people are being encouraged to bring technologies, skills, better qualities of healthcare & education to India. The effort to increase the presence of both, domestic & international companies in manufacturing space, will help increase the income levels of the people of India, expand the economy, de-regulate & remove investment barriers and subsequently aid in the growth of the economy. He said that Sweden is as much a partner & a part of Aatmanirbhar Bharat as any other democratic, like-minded country which believes in rules of fair trade & reciprocal access to Indian businesses in their country. He further added that we will look for Sweden & European Union also opening its doors a little wider, removing some of the non-tariff barriers or standards, so that there is reciprocity in India’s trade with Sweden & Europe & expansion of business on both sides.

“We have a wonderful opportunity to expand the role of Swedish companies in India and simultaneously encourage Indian companies also to contribute to the development & growth of Sweden and for the better future for the people of Sweden. I continue to look forward to the support of Sweden in India's own efforts to expand our economy, to provide jobs & work opportunities to millions of boys & girls coming out with special skills which can help Swedish companies expand their businesses." he added.

DPIIT launches second edition of National Startup Awards

Taking forward the overwhelming success of the first edition of the National Startup Awards (NSA) 2020, DPIIT has launched the second edition of NSA 2021. Recognising the efforts, initiatives, and resilience demonstrated by start-ups across the nation against the unprecedented challenges presented by the pandemic, additional categories have been introduced to NSA 2021. The second edition also aims to recognise innovations focussed towards indigenisation of key products essential for realisation of an Aatmanirbhar Bharat. The applications for the awards are open till January 31, 2021.

The awards for startups will be given in 49 areas classified into 15 broad sectors that will range from Agriculture to Enterprize to Industry 4.0. In addition, there six special awards will be given to startups from educational institutions, making impact in rural areas, women entrepreneurs, potential for import substitution, innovation for combatting COVID-19 and content delivery in Indic languages. It will also reward exceptional incubator and accelerator as key building blocks of a robust startup ecosystem.

A cash prize of INR 5 lakh each will be awarded to the winning startup in each area. The winner and two runners up will also be given opportunities to present their solutions to relevant public authorities and corporates for potential pilot projects and work orders. They will also be given priority for participation in various national and international startup events. Further, a cash prize of INR 15 lakh each will be awarded to one winning incubator and one winning accelerator as well. The details of the application process may be seen at www.startupindia.gov.in.
Minister of Railways, Commerce & Industry, and Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Shri Piyush Goyal had a virtual meeting on December 8, 2020 with Federal Councillor H.E. Mr. Guy Parmelin, Vice-President of the Swiss Federal Council and Head, Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education, and Research.

Both the Ministers reiterated the desire to move forward on the India-EFTA Trade & Economic Partnership Agreement [TEPA] negotiations and agreed on next steps in this direction. The Ministers also discussed the India-Switzerland Bilateral Investment Treaty which is under negotiation. Shri Goyal sought Switzerland’s support for the joint proposal of India and South Africa in WTO for TRIPS waiver, so as to facilitate affordable access of Covid-19 vaccines and treatments throughout the globe. The meeting ended with exchange of courtesies and Shri Goyal reiterating his invitation extended to Federal Council H.E. Mr. Guy Parmelin to visit India.

Three global academic publishers, Elsevier Ltd., Wiley India Pvt. Ltd. And American Chemical Society, have claimed copyright infringement against online repositories Sci-Hub and Libgen and have asked the court to order blocking of the two websites.

Sci-Hub, which stores nearly 84 million articles and papers and Libgen, which stores nearly 80 million pieces of research, provide access to paywalled research and is widely used by students and researchers in India. On many of these articles and papers, the publishers have exclusive rights. The case raises an important question of not only piracy, but also access.


Picture Credit: [www.pharmafile.com](http://www.pharmafile.com)

The United Nations (UNCTAD) has declared Invest India-the National Investment Promotion Agency of India- as a winner of the 2020 United Nations Investment Promotion Award. The award ceremony took place on December 7, 2020 at UNCTAD Headquarters in Geneva. The award recognizes and celebrates the outstanding achievements and best practices of Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) across the globe. The evaluation was based on UNCTAD’s assessment of work undertaken by 180 Investment Promotion Agencies.

In March 2020, UNCTAD constituted a team to monitor the response of IPAs to the pandemic. UNCTAD reported best practices from IPAs in the IPA Observer publications in April and July 2020. The response of IPAs to the pandemic became the basis for the evaluation of the 2020 United Nations Investment Promotion Award.