Prarambh, the two-day Startup India International Summit was inaugurated by Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry at New Delhi on January 15, 2021 with the participation of members of BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) nations. The Summit was organized by DPIIT as a follow up of the announcement made by Hon’ble Prime Minister at the 4th BIMSTEC Summit held in Kathmandu back in August, 2018.

With participation from over 25 countries and more than 200 global speakers, the Summit is the largest Startup International Summit organized by the Government of India since the launch of the Startup India Initiative in 2016. The Summit hosted 24 sessions with focus on enhancing multilateral cooperation and engagement with the countries from around the globe with an aim to collectively develop and strengthen the Startup ecosystem. Declaring the Summit open, Shri Goyal said that the Summit is a demonstration of India’s neighbourhood first policy which will boost partnership among the member countries. The partnership among the BIMSTEC countries in the sector will take startups to the forefront of new India, new world, new neighbourhood in the new normal, he said. India has over 41,000 startups registered with the Government but there are many more that are working at the grassroots level and doing good work.

On the second day of the Summit, Hon’ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi addressed the audience at the Grand Plenary Session. Hon’ble PM announced the launch of Rs. 1,000 crore Startup India Seed Fund Scheme to provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market-entry, and commercialization.

The summit was an opportunity for startups to learn from each other’s best practices. Secretary General BIMSTEC, H.E Mr. Tenzin Lekphell, in his address spoke of how the Covid pandemic badly affected the economy, jobs, livelihood, business, trade & commerce, and how Startups provide a ray of hope with a capacity to innovate and respond quickly to problems.

Wishing all our readers a Happy New Year!

It is a pleasure to bring to you the first issue of Volume 2 of DPIIT On The Move!

The New Year has begun for all of us at DPIIT with a flutter of activities and we are eager to share some key developments that we witnessed here in the past month.

The year started off with the launch of ‘Udyog Manthan’ – a marathon of 45 sector-specific webinars which will go on till March 2, 2021.

Hon’ble CIM Shri Piyush Goyal inaugurated ‘Prarambh’, the largest Startup International Summit hosted by India since the launch of the Startup India programme in 2016. The event was graced by Hon’ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi during the grand plenary session.

India’s 7th Trade Policy Review took place at the World Trade Organisation after a gap of 5 years wherein member nations lauded our strong economic growth during the period under review.

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.
The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the proposal of DPIIT for Central Sector Scheme for Industrial Development of Jammu & Kashmir. The scheme is approved with a total outlay of Rs. 28,400 crore up to the year 2037, and is aimed to boost the industrial development in Jammu & Kashmir.

The main purpose of the scheme is to generate employment which directly leads to the socio economic development of the area. Considering the development of reorganization of Jammu & Kashmir in October 2019 into UT of Jammu & Kashmir, the scheme is being implemented with the vision that industry and service led development of J&K needs to be given a fresh thrust with emphasis on job creation, skill development and sustainable development by attracting new investment and nurturing the existing ones.

Incentives such as Capital Investment Incentive, Capital Interest Subvention, GST Linked Incentive and Working Capital Incentive would be available under the scheme. The scheme has been made attractive for both smaller and larger units. In a first, the scheme also aims to take industrial development to the block level in the UT of J&K. It has been simplified on the lines of ease of doing business by bringing the GST Linked Incentive that will ensure reduced compliance burden without compromising on transparency.

It is expected that the proposed scheme will attract great investment which will provide for direct and indirect employment opportunities for about 4.5 lakh persons. Further, the capital interest subvention incentive is likely to indirectly support 35,000 persons.

The 1st India-EU Intellectual Property Rights dialogue was held virtually on January 14, 2021 between the EU Commission and DPIIT. The aim of the dialogue was to further strengthen the India-EU relation & facilitate enhanced cooperation in the field of IPRs. The meeting was co-chaired by Sh. Ravinder, Joint Secretary, DPIIT and Mr. Carlo Pettinato, Head of Unit Investment & Intellectual Property, DG Trade, European Commission.

The India Co-Chair provided an overview of various IPR developments, with an aim to meet the objectives set forth in the National IPR policy 2016. He also reiterated the importance of legislative reforms brought in by India to stimulate innovation and creativity among start-ups and MSMEs. Various initiatives taken up by the Indian government in this context were appreciated by EU representatives. The EU Co-Chair provided a brief overview of DG trade and the various activities being undertaken by them including IPRs in relation to Free Trade Agreements as well as effective enforcement of IPRs. After the opening remarks, exchange of information concerning specific areas of IP regimes took place which broadly included discussion on Copyright in the digital market, EU’s dual system with regards to Trademark, reduced pendency on trademarks applications in India, India’s IPR enforcement initiatives as well as discussions on plant protection and farmer’s rights and their importance for Indian economy.

Towards the conclusion of the dialogue, Co-Chairs thanked all the representatives for their participation and initiative in strengthening the bilateral relationship, particularly during the challenging times of the Covid19 pandemic. It was emphasized that this dialogue is an effective platform to discuss key intellectual property issues that affect business entities and to identify areas for closer collaboration for mutual benefit of both economies.
With the aim of promoting quality and productivity in the Indian industry, DPIIT is organising *Udyog Manthan* - a marathon of 45 sector-specific webinars between January 4, 2021 to March 2, 2021. *Udyog Manthan* is being organised in association with Quality Council of India, National Productivity Council and industry bodies.

The webinar series is focused on covering various major sectors in manufacturing and services. Each webinar comprises a two hour session involving discussions led by sectoral and industry experts of a particular sector. The participants of *Udyog Manthan* include representatives from industry, and testing and standardization bodies. The discussions are being live streamed on YouTube for those interested.

The marathon webinar series has already proven to be a platform for identifying challenges and opportunities, drawing upon solutions and sharing best practices. These discussions are essential to enable learning across industries and sectors for enhancing quality and productivity to promote 'Vocal for Local' and realizing the vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

Chairing the session of *Udyog Manthan* held on January 6, 2021, Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister for Commerce and Industry, described quality & productivity as two very important legs on which the future of Indian industry will stand. Addressing the webinar, he said that “we must take forward our journey to build 'Brand India' and make production & services extremely efficient & effective in delivery”. Shri Goyal also said that *Udyog Manthan* will be a harbinger of high productivity & high quality.

India’s 7th Trade Policy Review at World Trade Organization

India’s 7th Trade Policy Review (TPR) began on Wednesday, January 6, 2021, at the World Trade Organization in Geneva. The review continued on Friday, January 8, 2021 and was concluded the same day. The TPR is an important mechanism under the WTO’s monitoring function, and involves a comprehensive peer-review of the Member’s national trade policies. India’s last TPR took place in 2015. India’s official delegation for the TPR is headed by the Commerce Secretary, Dr. Anup Wadhawan. More than 1050 questions were asked during this exercise as well as 53 interventions made by the Member countries in the TPR meetings.

A comprehensive report issued by the WTO Secretariat on the occasion, chronicling all major trade and economic initiatives that India took over the last five years, acknowledged India’s strong economic growth at 7.4% during the period under review and made a positive note of India’s reform efforts during this period. The Secretariat report also commended India for liberalizing its FDI policy, ratifying the Trade Facilitation Agreement and implementing several trade-facilitation measures during the period under review. More than 50 WTO Members who delivered statements on the occasion, commended India for its strong and resilient economic growth and for the vast improvement in its ease of doing business, as acknowledged by the World Bank. Several Members applauded India’s leadership role in the global efforts against the Covid-19 pandemic, acknowledging India’s position as the ‘pharmacy of the world’. Further, members welcomed the adoption of the National IPR Policy and India’s efforts to improve its IPR regime. About 88 questions in this context were asked by various members during review. In his closing remarks of the Chair of the WTO’s TPR Body, Ambassador Harald Aspelund, congratulated India for its strong economic growth during the period under review, and commended India’s support during the TPR exercise.
In recent years, making G2B and G2C interface online, transparent and time bound have been among the key priorities of the Government of India. India’s rank has seen a meteoric rise in Word Bank’s Ease of Doing Business Report from 142nd in 2014 to 63rd in 2019.

 DPIIT has been made the nodal department for coordinating the exercise of minimizing regulatory compliance burden for citizens and businesses. A systematic exercise across Central Ministries/Departments and States/UTs is being undertaken by DPIIT to eliminate/reduce compliances which imposes on time and cost of businesses.

A major initiative in this regard is the launch of Regulatory Compliance Portal by DPIIT on 1st January 2021. The objective of this portal is to act as a bridge between citizens, industries and the Government in order to minimize burdensome compliances. It will also act as a first-of-its-kind central online repository of all Central and State-level compliances. All Central Ministries/Departments and States/UTs would examine laws/regulations/rules under their purview and implement an Action Plan to rationalize and simplify all the processes and remove burdensome compliances, decriminalize laws and repeal redundant Acts. These details would be captured and tracked on the Regulatory Compliance Portal. Industry stakeholders from Trade bodies such as CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM would also be able to submit compliances and proposed recommendations. This will be assessed by concerned Government authorities and suitable action would be undertaken to minimize the regulatory compliance burden.

DPIIT has conducted 21 training sessions from January 4 – 14, 2021 for all Ministries and States to familiarize them with Regulatory Compliance Portal. Additional 12 training sessions were conducted between January 18 – 23, 2021. These training sessions involve detailed information about submitting details on the Regulatory Compliance Portal.

CII, DPIIT launch first of its kind Geographical Indication Festival of India virtually

DPIIT and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) together launched a first of its kind Geographical Indication Festival of India with an aim to provide a platform for GI producers to display their product virtually. CII undertook the initiative in celebration of its 125th anniversary as an institution. The objective of this initiative is to connect consumers and producers, showcase & promote all the registered GIs of India on a single platform, and to improve livelihood and economy of rural community.

The month long festival began on January 9, 2021 and will go on till February 8, 2021; the same is being hosted on the CII Hive Platform. The festival showcases more than 100+ registered GIs at a single platform and serves as an opportunity for creating awareness among the public about Indian GIs and their uniqueness. GIs across categories such as handicrafts & textiles, manufactured goods, food stuff and agricultural products are being featured at the GIFI.

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: 

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