



MIA

MyMSME

NEWSLETTER

MIDC Industries Association (MIA) Hingna



MIDC Industries Association (MIA) Hingna is one of the oldest industrial associations of Maharashtra. Since its inception, MIA Hingna is working actively to address various issues of MIDC Hingna and the industrial ecosystem as a whole. MIA acts as a bridge between government and the industries in a way that the issues of industries are taken up at appropriate levels with the authorities and similarly government rules, schemes, information is passed onto the industries. MIA provides a platform to industries wherein their local issues related to various departments are addressed and major issues are taken up with relevant authorities in state and national level. Various programs, workshops, conferences, guest lectures, seminars, webinars as per the industry-market needs are conducted at MIA Hingna from time to time.

As per changing needs and demands of the industry, MIA Hingna too is working closely with industries to address and resolve their problems in real-time using modern methods. The betterment of industries and people working in MIDC Hingna is our sole motto and MIA Hingna will continue to strive for it.



Chandrashekhar G. Shegaonkar

Warm greetings to all! Hope you all are doing well!

Hope you all enjoyed our previous editions of 'MIA Connect' magazine.

The successful development, trials and the current inoculation drive of 'Made in India' – 'COVISHIELD' and 'COVAXIN' vaccines, is indeed a proud moment for all of us and is a big step towards our fight against COVID-19. But the fight isn't over yet and we all need to follow the health guidelines diligently and take utmost precautions. While our country is working its way back in the post-lockdown period, all of us were eagerly awaiting the Union Budget 2021-22. To boost the economic growth and revival of various sectors hit hard by the pandemic, government announced various measures and allocation of substantial amount towards infrastructure development. Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)s were one of the hardest hit sectors due to the pandemic. To mitigate the effect of COVID-19 and to provide relief to MSMEs, Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman announced Rs. 15,700 crores to the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME) in the Union Budget 2021-22, which is more than double of previous year. Previously, Rs. 3 lakh crore Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) for MSMEs was announced under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan package in order to mitigate the stress caused by the lockdown. The scheme was valid till the month of October. Finance Minister had later extended the ECLGS till November 2020 and had further extended it till March 21, 2021. Further, the government has proposed to allocate Rs. 300 crores towards the establishment of new technology centres for the MSME units, which is a welcome step.

In this edition of the newsletter, we bring before you some write-ups of our work done during COVID-19 lockdown, meetings and major decisions undertaken on important topics and for the benefit of industries like Gram Panchayat Tax, Traffic issues, discussion with Nagpur Metro Rail to facilitate and ease of conveyance for people working in MIDC Hingna Industrial Area, JCC meeting and representation regarding astronomical price rise of raw materials. For the benefit of industries, a meeting was held with Central Railway to facilitate transportation of goods through rail which will ensure quicker delivery at an optimum cost. Last but not the least, this edition also carries an article of Shri. S.M. Patwardhan, an eminent industrialist of MIDC Hingna expressing his views on an important topic – ESIC and an interactive webinar conducted under MIA-GIZ IFC in association with RGNIPM Nagpur on the topic of 'IPR and Patent Process.

This pandemic has severely affected industries and to address their grievances, MIA Hingna, on behalf of industries is giving proper representation at various levels. I would like to congratulate Team MIA and KNN for taking great efforts in making this 'Third Edition' of the magazine. Hope you all would enjoy reading this magazine. Any inputs or suggestions related to the magazine are utmost welcome!

Thanks and warm regards.

Chandrashekhar G. Shegaonkar

President

'A satisfactory budget with focus on Atmanirbhar Bharat'

At the outset, I congratulate our Hon'ble Union Finance Minister for introducing the First 'Digital Budget' in the history of India. In my opinion the overall budget considering the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery of sectors post pandemic while focusing on 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', is quite satisfactory.

Now as far the industries are concerned I feel that the following budget proposals would help – The 7 mega textile investment parks to be launched in 3 years, 5.54 lakh crores provided for capital expenditure, 1.18 lakh crores for ministry of roads while 1.1 lakh crores is allocated for railways.

To revive definition of small companies from less than 2 crore capital to turnover less than 20 crores and to constitute dispute resolution committee for taxable income upto Rs. 50 lakhs and 10 lakhs disputable income. Tax audit limit from 5 crores to 10 crores, tax holiday exemption for 1 more year to startups.

Import/Custom duties reduced on raw materials like steel scraps, chemicals, copper etc. To increase FDI from 49% to 74% in Insurance Act. As far as personal income tax is concerned there is no relief except that senior citizens above 75 years having pension income only are exempted from filing income tax and NRIs to be exempted from double taxation.



EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

- ✚ MIDC Hingna industries extend a helping hand towards COVID-19 relief
- ✚ District Collector appeals industrialists to work without fear and follow COVID-19 SOPs
- ✚ Maha Metro and MIA Hingna urge people working in MIDC Hingna to use metro services for convenient, safe, economical and pollution-free commuting
- ✚ MIA Hingna held discussions with Central Railway for faster and cost-effective transportation of goods manufactured in MIDC Hingna
- ✚ MIDC Hingna Industries decide to invoke legal course against hefty rise in Gram Panchayat Tax
- ✚ Government should step in to check the exorbitant price rise of raw materials: Joint Coordination Committee
- ✚ All concerned authorities should come together to solve the traffic woes of MIDC Hingna Industrial Area: MIA Hingna
- ✚ MSMEs can reap great benefits through IPR and Patent Process – An interactive webinar on IPR and Patent Process

ARTICLE

- ✚ Article by Shri S. M. Patwardhan on ESIC

STATE NEWS

- ✚ MSME News
- ✚ Economy News
- ✚ Technology/Innovation News

EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY 1

MIDC Hingna industries extend a helping hand towards COVID-19 relief

MIDC Industries Association (MIA) Hingna took the initiative of collecting the funds for the CM's COVID RELIEF FUND from the fellow industries as a humanitarian gesture. MIA Hingna persuaded its members to donate generously for the benefit of poor and needy in this time of COVID-19 induced pandemic lockdown. All the fellow industries, big or small contributed willingly as per their budget. MIA Hingna could gather close to Rs.3.00 lakhs in a very short time frame, through appeals via Emails and WhatsApp messages.

Out of these funds collected, MIA Hingna distributed dry ration kits worth Rs. 80,000/- to the stranded truck drivers, workers and locals in and around Hingna area during early days of lockdown. For ration kits distribution, MIA took the help of MIDC Hingna Police Station who very well supported us led by Police Inspector Shri Hemant Kumar Kharabe. The distribution drive was coordinated by Shri Pravin Palkar, Joint Secretary and Shri Manish Sawal, EC member, on behalf of MIA Hingna.



Shri. Pravin Palkar, Joint Secretary and Shri. Manish Sawal, EC member of MIA Hingna distributing dry ration kits with active support from MIDC Hingna Police Station during COVID-19 lockdown.

The balance of Rs. 2.25 lakhs was handed over to the Joint Director of Industries, Shri Ashok Dharmadhikari as a contribution towards CM's COVID RELIEF FUND. A cheque of the same amount on behalf of industries of MIDC Hingna was handed over to the JDI by the Executive Committee members of MIA Hingna including Mr. C.G. Shegaonkar (President), Mr. Sachin Jain (Hon. Secretary), Mr. Murali Mohan Pantula (Treasurer) and Mr. P. Mohan (EC member).



Shri. C.G. Shegaonkar, President, Shri. Sachin Jain, Hon. Secretary, Shri. Murali Mohan Pantula, Treasurer and Shri. P. Mohan, EC member of MIA Hingna handing over the cheque to Shri. Ashok Dharmadhikari, Joint Director of Industries towards CM's COVID Relief Fund

ACTIVITY 2

District Collector appeals industrialists to work without fear and follow COVID-19 SOPs



Shri. Ravindra Thakare, District Collector, Nagpur (Centre), Shri. C.G. Shegaonkar, President - MIA Hingna (Right) and Shri. Sachin Jain, Hon. Secretary - MIA Hingna (Left) during Collector's visit to 'MIA House' to address industrialists of MIDC Hingna related to COVID-19.

In order to remove the fear of rising Corona virus cases in industrial units of MIDC Hingna, District Collector, Shri. Ravindra Thakare visited 'MIA House' and addressed the Executive Committee (EC) members along with industrialists of MIDC Hingna. District Collector appealed all not to get frightened and follow standard operating procedures (SOPs) to contain the spread of COVID-19.

He elaborated to the industrialists present in the meeting to strictly follow the SOPs like:

- * Maintaining social distancing of 3-4 feet between individual workers while in operation as well as during lunch and free time.
- * Mandatory use of sanitizers every 2 hours.
- * Mandatory and continuous use of mask and not touching the mouth, nose and ear.
- * Keeping machinery and workspace environment clean, sanitized and disinfected.

Shri. Ravindra Thakare insisted on following the COVID-19 guidelines laid down and instant reporting of cases, even if cough and cold, to District/Tahsil administration for further isolation and testing. He also touched upon the issue of migrated workers and requested industrialists to recruit local workers, train them and increase their production capacity. He also urged industrial associations, industries, ITIs to come together and develop the required infrastructure for training and skill development, so that the total industrial ecosystem could be benefitted and assured his full support in this regard.

ACTIVITY 3

Maha Metro and MIA Hingna urge people working in MIDC Hingna to use metro services for convenient, safe, economical and pollution-free



C.G. Shegaonkar
President – MIA Hingna



Sachin Jain
Hon. Secretary – MIA Hingna



Mahesh Gupta
JGM (Civil), Incharge – MMI
Maha Metro

MIDC Industries Association (MIA) Hingna held a webinar with Maha Metro (Nagpur Metro) officials on Metro Rail services and feeder services for people working in MIDC Hingna Industrial Area. Mr. Mahesh Gupta, Joint General Manager (Civil), In-charge Multi-Modal Integration – Maha Metro gave insights through presentation and videos about the various aspects related to Nagpur Metro. He explained in detail about various facilities and services being offered and in plan for Nagpur. He also emphasized on the benefits of using metro rail and feeder services for daily commuting purpose. In addition he added that, Maha Metro have been doing maximum outreach campaigns with various stakeholders and have shared informational brochures with industry people, so that more people can avail the benefits of their services. He further shared statistics of metro along with MoUs done with many conveyance providers, so as to achieve first and last mile connectivity for users. A team from Maha Metro has been specifically assigned so that they visit each industry, interact with their people and collect data about their conveyance requirements in order to plan the services accordingly.

This interactive webinar was joined by members of MIA Hingna and many industries of MIDC Hingna, where in many queries and information related to the metro services were discussed. At the start, Mr. C.G. Shegaonkar, President MIA Hingna welcomed Mr. Mahesh Gupta and other webinar attendees. He on behalf

of industries of MIDC Hingna assured full support to the metro services and also said that MIA Hingna is ready to help in every possible way, so that maximum people take advantage of the metro and feeder services. He extended the vote of thanks to Mr. Gupta and his team of Maha Metro for taking such efforts and planning for first and last mile connectivity for MIDC Hingna.

Also he appealed to the industries of MIDC Hingna to propagate the use and benefits of Maha Metro to its' employees, along with providing the required data needed by Maha Metro to plan first and last mile connectivity in accordance with industries of MIDC Hingna.

ACTIVITY 4

MIA Hingna held discussions with Central Railway for faster and cost-effective transportation of goods manufactured in MIDC Hingna



Shri. Sumit Badarkhe, Divisional Railway Manager, Central Railways – Nagpur Division (Left), Shri. C.G. Shegaonkar, President – MIA Hingna (Centre) and Shri. Sachin Jain, Hon. Secretary – MIA Hingna (Right) during the meeting at 'MIA House'.

MIDC Industries Association (MIA) Hingna held a meeting with Central Railway officials of Nagpur division at 'MIA House' in order to facilitate transportation of goods from industries MIDC Hingna Industrial Area to other cities through railway. Initially, Shri. C.G. Shegaonkar, President – MIA Hingna welcomed the dignitaries from Central Railways and thanked them for their active role in taking forward the schemes. Shri. Sumit Badarkhe, Divisional Railway Manager, Central Railways – Nagpur Division and Shri. Manish Nagle, Marketing and Sales Inspector, Central Railways – Nagpur Division briefed the industrialists present on the occasion about the schemes and benefits of transporting the goods through Railways. Transportation through railways is much cheaper and the time taken too is less when compared to road transportation, they added. A proper mechanism and channel could be developed for industrial areas which if implemented would be a win-win situation for industries as well as railways, Manish Nagle added. He further added that, RO-RO service for transporting heavy vehicles led to substantial savings in terms of fuel and money and that they have tied up with dairy giants like Amul for transporting their products in specially designed cold-chain wagons, which has opened up further markets for them resulting in quicker deliveries to their respective destinations. Shri. Sumit Badarkhe, DRM, Central Railways added that, "We have also done a MoU with Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. for transporting their tractors to Bangladesh through our Ajni yard. They agreed

and as per their calculation, there is immense scope for their market expansion through Indian Railways wide network.”

Industrialists present for the meeting cleared their queries with the railway officials and agreed upon that the Railway, known as the lifeline of India will be beneficial for MIDC Hingna Industrial Area too. MIA Hingna members assured the Railway dignitaries that they will spread the word about this proposal which industries can definitely take forward. Dignitaries on their part assured industrialists of full support in carrying forward the proposal. Shri. Sachin Jain, Hon. Secretary – MIA Hingna proposed the vote of thanks.

ACTIVITY 5

MIDC Hingna Industries decide to invoke legal course against hefty rise in Gram Panchayat Tax



MIA Hingna Hon. Secretary Shri. Sachin Jain addressing the members during the Special General Meeting on Gram Panchayat Tax held at MIA House. Seated on the left – Shri. Murali Mohan Pantula, Treasurer – MIA Hingna and on the right – Shri. C.G. Shegaonkar, President – MIA Hingna

A Special General Meeting was convened by MIA Hingna of its members to discuss about the Gram Panchayat Tax issue at MIA House. Majority of industry members were present for this meeting.

President Shri. C.G. Shegaonkar gave a brief overview about the Gram Panchayat Tax issue and the current status of the issue to the members present. He also addressed the members regarding the agenda for Special General Meeting.

Secretary, Shri. Sachin Jain addressed the members present for the meeting through a brief presentation about the Gram Panchayat Tax issue. He briefed the members about how the tax calculation method and rules have evolved over the years. Major points which were put before the members were-

- * Earlier to the year 2000-01, Gram Panchayat Tax was calculated based on Capital Value or Rentable Value of a property. Thereafter, Gram Panchayat started calculating the tax on square foot basis which led to multifold increase in the tax amount.
- * MIA filed a suit in the court in 2004 to oppose this and court gave the verdict in MIA's favour in 2014. The court ordered to calculate the tax by the same method which was in vogue before the case was filed, and advised the Gram Panchayats to reassess the tax between the period 2001 to 2014 as per old method.
- * However in December 2018, GR was released which directed the Gram Panchayat to calculate capital value of the property based on the indexation method as published by RBI every year, for the period 2001 to 2015, and thereafter 30% for every four years slab as per GR of December 2015.

This has resulted in increase of taxes by 4 times since 2001 to 2020. Also, in future the capital value shall be calculated based on the Ready Reckoner values of Government of Maharashtra, as per GR of 2015 and the taxes thereon. MIA is anticipating a huge rise in the taxes in coming future years. Hence a legal course of action is suggested.

The probable outcomes anticipated are:

- * Reduction in old tax amount to three times as compared to four times as calculated by Gram Panchayat.
- * Calculation of Capital Value based on Ready Reckoner of MIDC rather than IGR.
- * Double taxation of the same property as MIDC also adds service charges to water bills.

The house agreed to take the legal course by majority.

Lastly these points were put forth by the Secretary and President in their concluding remarks-

- * Individual members can approach to their respective Gram Panchayat office for calculation, clarifications and to check their outstanding amount. They are however advised to pay some amount of tax which they deem fit, otherwise Gram Panchayat has sounded to take cohersive action against industries.
- * Payment of Gram Panchayat tax may also be done to MIDC. However current tax amount and old dues has to be settled at the respective Gram Panchayat office.
- * As regards industries falling under Nagar Parishad namely Wadi area will be taken up separately with concerned authorities.

For the convenience of members to get proceedings of the meeting live, MIA Hingna through its' Facebook page had broadcasted the meeting using 'Facebook Live'.



(From Right to Left on the table) Hon. Secretary Shri Sachin Jain, President Shri C.G. Shegaonkar and Treasurer Shri Murali Mohan Pantula of MIA Hingna addressing the queries of the members on Gram Panchayat Tax

A meeting of major industrial associations of Nagpur under the Joint Coordination Committee was held to discuss the astronomical raw material price increase. Joint Coordination Committee consisting of Vidarbha Industries Association (VIA) represented by its President Mr. Suresh Rathi and IPP Mr. Atul Pande, MIDC Industries Association (MIA) Hingna represented by its President Mr. C.G. Shegaonkar, Butibori Manufacturers Association (BMA) represented by its President Mr. Pradeep Khandelwal and IPP Mr. Nitin Lonkar, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) represented by its Nagpur Chapter Chairman Mr. Rahul Dixit, Laghu Udyog Bharati (LUB) represented by its Nagpur Vibhag President - Mr. Shrikant Dhondrikar and Nagpur IKAI President - Mr. Udayan Shrouti, Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DICCI) Vidarbha Chapter represented by its West India Mentor - Mr. Nishchay Shelke and President, Vidarbha Chapter – Mr. Gopal Wasnik and Kalmeshwar Industries Association (KIA).

The discussion was mainly centered regarding the abnormal price increase of raw materials especially steel and other allied materials with a heavy impact on MSME industries for their survival. This does not encourage the Prime Minister's vision calling for **'Atma-Nirbhar Bharat' - Self Reliant India Movement**.

MSMEs have already been suffering due to the impact of COVID-19 and in addition, a blow to MSMEs like heavy increase in prices of raw materials due to which MSMEs are facing with cancellation of orders, uncertainty of consumption in the market and declining of exports etc. The Micro, Small and Medium industries will cease to exist, if necessary corrective action is not directed from the Ministry on the increasing prices of raw materials and other allied materials. Our Hon'ble MSME Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari ji has already written to Prime Minister cautioning against profiteering by steel makers.

Vidarbha is a manufacturing hub powered by MSMEs and caters to the manufacturing of products across the various sectors like engineering, plastic, chemical, pharmaceutical etc. The growth of MSME sector is hindered by various factors in Finance, Marketing, Technology, Infrastructure, lack of skilled manpower, and Government Policies.

It may be seen that steel prices have increased from Rs. 37,000 per tonne to Rs. 54,000 per tonne in the past six months and the trend seems to be increasing continuously for items like for example- Iron Ore which has seen an increase from Rs. 3000 per tonne to Rs. 6000 per tonne, Copper from Rs. 4,50,000 per tonne to Rs. 6,80,000 per tonne, PVC Resin from Rs. 60,000 to Rs. 1,40,000 per tonne, Nitric Acid from Rs. 9000 per tonne to Rs. 20,600 per tonne and so for other major raw materials.

This has affected all the MSMEs that manufacture end products and those which operate under Annual Rate Contract, to complete their orders. Thousands of Micro, Small and Medium industries engaged in manufacturing activities using steel and allied raw materials, are badly affected, in not being able to keep up their commitments or to secure fresh orders for manufacture and supply.

With the prices of raw material spiraling high, MSMEs are faced with severe cash crunch, resulting in erosion of working capital to most of them. The trend of raw material prices going up, unabated till now. When the import of raw materials like steel, wire rods etc. were allowed, the prices were very competitive. But with Import Duty being increased and with the local manufacturers not being able to supply raw materials at

competitive prices, the MSMEs are getting crippled. Therefore we request for reducing the import duty and allowing imports of steel materials to India for smooth supply of steel items, which is a primary source of manufacturing activity.

Raw materials are being sold at premium rates and we request the Government to fix the MRP price as the selling rate for raw materials. Plastic Manufacturers and processors are also hit by sharp increase in price of raw materials such as PVC, ABS, Polypropylene, PC, PFT by 20 to 140% over the last five months. The Government should stop imposing barriers such as anti-dumping duty and mandatory BIS standards as demand for several polymers exceed domestic production. Immediate Ban on export of raw material is required to ease domestic supply and to check the price rise.

The Government of India and various State Governments had supported Industries during the lockdown. We request the governments to step in and to control the price rise.

ACTIVITY 7

All concerned authorities should come together to solve the traffic woes of MIDC Hingna Industrial Area: MIA Hingna



(From L to R) – Shri Rajendra Pathak, PI (Traffic – MIDC), Shri Sarang Awad, DCP (Traffic), Shri C.G. Shegaonkar, President – MIA Hingna and Shri Sachin Jain, Hon. Secretary – MIA Hingna during the meeting held at MIA House to discuss traffic and parking related issues in MIDC Hingna Industrial Area.

MIDC Industries Association (MIA) Hingna held a meeting with Traffic Police department led by Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP - Traffic) Shri Sarang Awad and Shri Rajendra Pathak, PI (Traffic – MIDC) to discuss the traffic and parking related issues of heavy vehicles in MIDC Hingna Industrial Area. Among those present for the meeting were - various industry representatives, executive committee members of MIA, transporters, transport associations and officials from Wadi Nagar Parishad.

C.G. Shegaonkar, President – MIA Hingna welcomed DCP Awad and PI Pathak and briefed them initially about the various traffic issues being faced at MIDC Hingna Industrial Area. One industry member sought clarification regarding the entry/exit timings in rule for heavy vehicles movement, to which DCP Sarang Awad clarified that there is already a GR issued regarding restricted timings for heavy vehicles movement for ease of traffic and that only is being followed. Other industry representatives also vouched for relaxation in timings for entry/exit of heavy vehicles in the morning and evening hours and also to allow movement of

the same within MIDC Hingna Industrial Area throughout the day, which will greatly help industries in avoiding loss of production and saving precious amount of time. DCP said that the flexibility in timings could be considered. But regarding the movement of heavy vehicles all day within MIDC, he said that it has to be ensured that these vehicles don't move towards the city during restricted timings and also various other factors related to people, traffic has to be taken into consideration. He assured that he will take up the matter with CP in the scheduled meeting.

Transporters present in the meeting requested DCP to take action and remove encroachments along main and artillery on Amravati and Hingna roads in and around MIDC Hingna, which are too a cause of traffic congestion, they added. Transport association people said that truckers are being fined for parking their vehicles on roads but there isn't a proper dedicated parking zone for them to park their vehicles. Dedicated parking terminals/zones at different places within MIDC Hingna should be discussed with authorities and implemented, which will be of much help to truckers and avoid traffic congestion, they added. DCP, PI and MIA strongly suggested that all concerned stakeholders should come together and think about implementing this at the earliest.

Some transporters raised the issue regarding the presence of godowns right on the highway and thus making it difficult for trucks, trailers to park and unload their vehicles, and ultimately they are challaned for parking their vehicles on main road as they have no other option. Also they urged PI (Traffic-MIDC) to not challan the vehicles standing in front of company gates, as the vehicles carry materials and stand in front of the company where they have to be unloaded.

Encroachments issue near Wadi was raised by Wadi Nagar Parishad official, to which DCP said that joint efforts have to be put in to tackle this issue. MIA Member Mr. Pravin Palkar said that a joint action committee was formed comprising of MIA, MIDC and Police and anti-encroachment drive was carried out on Hingna road. Non-functioning of traffic signal at Wadi T-Point was another issue discussed. Wadi Nagar Parishad people said that the old contract of operation and maintenance of the signal system is over and they are in lookout for a person who can ensure the proper functioning of signal at the earliest. DCP suggested that they should opt for Automatic Traffic Management System (ATMS) and said that they should address this issue on priority.

Lastly DCP added that all the above critical issue discussed will be put forth before CP during their meeting. He added that MIDC Hingna is a mix of industries, institutions and residences and hence traffic management has to be carefully planned. DCP (Traffic) Sarang Awad and PI (Traffic – MIDC) Rajendra Pathak appealed that MIA Hingna, transporters, transport associations, industries, MIDC, Traffic Police, Gram Panchayat and Nagar Parishad officials should come together and chalk out a plan for a proper amicable solution to the traffic and parking related problems of MIDC Hingna. DCP and PI on their part assured full support to ease the traffic problems.

MIA-GIZ Innovation Facilitation Cell (IFC)

Webinar Series – Webinar on IPR and Patent Process

‘MSMEs can reap great benefits through IPR and Patent Process’



(From Left to Right) – Shekhar Patwardhan, Vice-President, MIA Hingna, Chandrashekhar Shegaonkar, President, MIA Hingna and Dr. Ravindra Aher, Consultant, GIZ India during the webinar on ‘IPR and Patent Process’ at MIA House.

(Inset) – Speakers for the webinar - Pankaj Borkar, Dy. Controller of Patents and Design, RGNIIPM (Left) and Chhaya Satpute, ex-faculty, RGNIIPM (Right).

MIDC Industries Association (MIA) Hingna and GIZ India under their Innovation Facilitation Cell (IFC) in collaboration with Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Intellectual Property Management (RGNIIPM), Nagpur conducted a free exclusive webinar under the title ‘Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and Patent Process’. The experts for the session were Mr. Pankaj Borkar, Deputy Controller of Patents and Design, RGNIIPM and Mrs. Chhaya Satpute, ex-faculty, RGNIIPM Nagpur. This webinar was intended to create awareness regarding importance of patenting and patent filing process amongst MSME Stakeholders and help them explore benefits that can be leveraged through IPR certification and protections. The webinar focused mainly on - IPR - Patent procedures, what is an invention, how inventions can be protected, what is a trademark and why IPR is important for industries.

For the first session of the webinar Mrs. Chhaya Satpute introduced participants with the basic idea of Intellectual Property Rights summarizing brief history of patenting, some examples on IPR infringement, how IPR certification can provide competitive business advantages, some suggestions and advice that innovators could follow during patent filing procedure.

Mr. Pankaj Borkar initiated his presentation with introduction of six primary legal acts that supports the Indian Intellectual Property structure which consists of Patents Act 1970, Trade Mark Act 1999, Copyright Act 1957, The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999, The Designs Act, 2000, and Semi-Conductor Integrated Circuit Layout Design Act, 2000.

He further continued with explaining a Patent as an Exclusive privilege / Right given for Invention granted by Government to the patentee for 20 years from date of filing / priority for commercial gain in consideration of full disclosure of his invention as a Territorial Right & not worldwide. He added that, the reasons for loss of Patent rights occur due to - Premature disclosure, Employees disputes over IPR, Failure to recognize inventions and Problems with joint development agreements.

The speaker highlighted the background of Intellectual Property (IP), defining what constitutes for an IP, benefits offered by IPR, what represents IP and what does not. He further explained the definitions of terms as per Legal acts of 'invention', 'discovery', 'novelty', 'prior art', 'design'. He shared significance of IPR from avoiding duplication of research, providing 'Reward as Exclusive Right' for disclosure & right to sell or distribute an Invented product or process in India, Expanding market share and venturing into new markets / business, Preventing competitors from copying or imitating, Creating a corporate identity through a trademark, Negotiating, licensing, franchising IP based contractual agreements, Right to initiate legal proceedings against Infringement and much more.

The session progressed with overview of the patent filing process, differentiating between 'patentable invention' and 'non-patentable invention' under defined Legal Act, procedures for filing patent in India, structure for document preparation for applying for patent, and patent grant procedure structure.

ESI - A Fraud on Employers' & Employees



*An Article/Blog by S.M. Patwardhan
(Owner of Duraweld Metsys Pvt. Ltd., MIDC Hingna)*

Greetings to all! The problem of ESIC and its facilities for employees working in various industrial areas across India is a common problem. Here I would like to highlight some major issues concerning the industries and employees alike related to ESIC. Hope this article will be an informative yet interesting read to you all!

Under ESI scheme of Central Government, Employers' & Employees contribute presently @4.0% of wages (Employer-3.25%+0.75%- Employees) towards this scheme. For over 6 -7 decades Employees & Employers had been unfailingly contributing subscription towards ESI scheme, failing which ESI Authorities relentlessly levy penalty & penal Interest & recover dues from Employers. Against this backdrop, it is understood that corpus of somewhere ₹70000-80000 Crores is available with Central Government in over 6-7 decades & also substantial Interest is earned every year. The ill equipped & pathetic conditions of ESI hospitals in the states is very well known to concerned Authorities since it has been brought to their knowledge by numerous Industries Associations time & again on every possible platform available to them across the length & breadth of our Country. So much so is the redundant medical health / hospital infrastructure that no employees, willingly prefers to get treated there. Not to talk of competence of available Medical Staff & Doctors at ESI Hospitals! Only beneficiaries are ESI Authorities/ Staff who get paid handsomely at the cost

of ESI Subscribers; however the real subscribers are made to toil for affordable medical assistance encumbering them no end.

- * ESI leaves- While on Medical leave, Employees get benefits of wages to the extent of 50% of wages for the period they are absent & till declared fit to resume duty at works. The only benefit which is widely misused by habitual Industrial workmen.
- * ESI ACT came into existence since the year 1952 for the benefit of Industrial work force. It's over 6-7 decades, we hardly see any State of art ESI hospitals infrastructure (like the one in New Delhi/ Haryana) across the country even today. At Butibori Industrial Estate, Nagpur, Bhoomi Poojan was performed in March 2018 with much fanfare & contract was awarded too but the state of art ESI Hospital Project is yet to take off the ground. It remains the distant dream even now for Butibori Area.
- * With ₹70000-80000 ESI corpus available as on date, any well intentioned Authorities / Government should have planned / built the State of Art affordable Hospitals infrastructure across the length & breadth of India, but the same is sadly missing after 6 decades of this ESIC as a State/Government owned establishment. Some serious brain storming is the need of the hour to erase the stigma of "Fraud on Employees & Employers by ESI Authorities". This infrastructure should have been such that Employers' would voluntarily insist & request for their own inclusion also in ESI scheme on account of present day astronomical medical expenses at the private hospitals.
- * We request concerned Authorities to dwell upon establishing ESI Hospitals infrastructure all over the country at the earliest for the benefit of down trodden people who can't afford medical expenses of private/ star hospitals. It's indeed pity & shameful that, in Independent India since last 7 decades Authorities/ Concerned Government Ministry couldn't develop affordable chain of Health/ Hospital infrastructure across the country. Had this Health/Hospital infrastructure in place today, COVID -19 like pandemic situation could have been effectively managed by the authorities all over the country.
- * Reimbursement of Medical Expenses- It is matter of grave concern as well of interest to get information/ data on, since how long ESI had not cleared dues of Medical expenses incurred by poor employees during the treatment of Terminal diseases in the state of Maharashtra? Even after the death of employees & in spite of rigorous follow up such payments are not reimbursed to the diseased family. What has been observed with ESI is compliance / collection of ESI dues rests with one set of Authorities & reimbursement of dues rests with another set of Authorities. One who collects is not accountable for reimbursement. Here is a riddle one must look into to resolve issues for speedy settlement of such long outstanding issues. (Reference- Mr. Namdeo Patle- ESIC No.1245760 & IP no. 1245760 dtd. 26th May 2014. Expired on 23rd May 2014. Settlement of expenses still not done) there would be many such sufferers.
- * We at MIA - Hingna, Nagpur had been following up for 6-8 Bed ESI Hospital with primary facilities with local Authorities for several years now but all in vain so far. Forget about hospital, even the request for an Ambulance in Hingna Industrial Area has been a long pending matter and the same has not been fulfilled in spite of assurances from the ESI Authorities.
- * It is pertinent to note that ESI affiliated Hospitals at times even refuse to entertain employees, since these hospitals are not reimbursed their outstanding bills by ESI. Such is the state of affairs of a cash

rich ESI, thus need immediate correction from grass root level to top of the ESI Organization. Accountability & transparency is all for a toss here.

- * It is suggested that PIL must be filed jointly by All Industries Association with SC of India to dig out facts about issues highlighted above.
- * It is requested to take up these issues at Policy Makers' level & reform the ESI establishment on the whole for the betterment of common / downtrodden people of our Country.

I sincerely hope that you all in some way or the other got some insights related to the ESIC. We, at MIA Hingna Nagpur like other industrial associations are striving for better facilities for our employees and the industrial area. We, all together should work in tandem and can create a vibrant industrial ecosystem across India for truly realizing the vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'!

STATE NEWS

MSME NEWS

Government launches job portal for placing workers in MSMEs

This initiative will provide 10 lakh blue-collar jobs across India by directly connecting the workers with MSMEs eliminating middlemen or labour contractors. This portal will reduce the hardship of labourers in finding jobs in nearby MSMEs. Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), think-tank under the Department of Science and Technology has launched job portal 'Saksham' that will conduct skills mapping exercises of workers as per requirements of MSMEs. TIFAC said Saksham will help eliminate

middlemen, labour contractors as well as help in identification of skill proficiency level and development of skill cards for 'shramiks' (workers), the DST said.



"This initiative will facilitate placement of 10 lakh blue-collar jobs (pan-India), directly connect shramiks with MSMEs eliminating middlemen/labour contractors, identification of skill proficiency level and development of skill cards for shramiks. This portal will reduce the hardship of shramiks in finding jobs in nearby MSMEs," it said.

Here's how *Saksham* will help labourers to find work:

- * Saksham job portal conducts skills mapping exercises as per requirements of MSMEs across the country. Hence, it will help labourers to get work who were compelled to return to their native lands due to pandemic.
- * After the identification of skill proficiency level, the labourers will be provided with Skill Cards which will help them find job in MSMEs in the nearby areas.
- * This initiative will facilitate the placement of 10 lakh blue-collar jobs across India.

- * Saksham directly connects labourers with MSMEs eliminating middlemen labour contractor. Our initiatives have already generated several start-ups. However, there can be a massive escalation in the numbers if we can trigger confidence in the youth to have their own start-ups. Atamanirbhara needs a change in mindset, said Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary at DST. **Source: Livemint**

ECONOMY NEWS

Indian Bank signs MoU with SID of IISc, for funding Start-ups and MSMEs

State-owned Indian Bank on Friday said it has entered into an MOU with Society for Innovation and Development (SID), an initiative of Indian Institute of Science, for extending exclusive credit facility to Start-ups and MSMEs.

This initiative is a part of the Banks scheme Ind Spring Board for financing Start-ups and will empower Start-ups and MSMEs to realize their research efforts powered by financial support from the Bank and backed by incubation facilities offered by SID, it said in a release.



The Bank will extend loans of up to Rs 50 crore to these start-ups for their working capital requirements or for purchase of machinery, equipment etc, it added. Stating that SID is the forerunner in setting up joint R&D with industries and supporting start-up incubation, the bank said, it provides support to the MSME sector by providing joint research and development arrangements and technical and financial support for incubation and acceleration of high-end technology products under its department named TIME2.(Technology Innovation for Midsized

Enterprises).

Under the MOU, SID will identify the start-ups and MSMEs based on their credentials and past experience and will refer the list of such members who require financial assistance to the Bank, it added.

Source: Financial Express

TECH NEWS

Mastercard partners with Razorpay to drive digital payments acceptance by small businesses

Global payments solution major Mastercard on Tuesday said it has partnered with fintech player Razorpay to drive digital payments acceptance by small businesses and start-ups in the country.

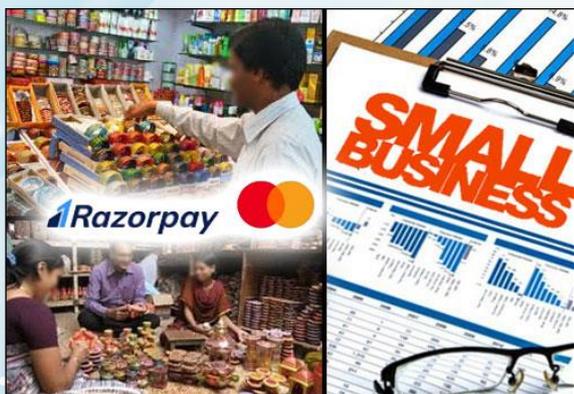
The partnership will empower Indian micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in digitizing their operations, maintaining business continuity in the challenging environment and preparing for the future beyond cash, MasterCard said in a release.

Mastercard said before the outbreak of COVID-19, around 90 per cent of India's retail payments were conducted in cash.

In recent months, the pandemic has accelerated the adoption of digital technologies and rapidly shifted how consumers prefer to shop and pay.

This presents a great opportunity to unite merchants, consumers, acquirers and fintech companies in expanding the adoption of digital payments in India, it said.

"We're going through one of the biggest transformations in Indian financial history – the Fintech Revolution – that will significantly alter the payment and banking experience of consumers and businesses now and in the years to come. New businesses are evolving every day with different payment and banking needs and catering to a different set of consumers and markets," said Amitabh Tewary, Chief Innovation Officer, Razorpay.



This partnership will help digital adoption and equip millions of businesses, especially in tier 2 and 3 cities, with industry-leading technologies that will help ensure business resilience, said Tewary. "One of the initiatives that we will be working on jointly is to make recurring payments more accessible to businesses and consumers by creating seamless onboarding solutions for bill payments, digital content platforms and other subscription services," he further said.

Mastercard said it has been actively working towards driving acceptance of digital payments in India. It will continue to enable ease of payments for merchants and payment aggregators to help them efficiently grow their businesses. Mastercard aims to make merchants across India digitally equipped and welcomes the fresh thoughts and technology that Razorpay will bring to help achieve this goal. "Mastercard is committed to developing safe, secure and more convenient ways to make payments with its technology and expertise and is confident this partnership will deliver that and more," said Rajeev Kumar K, Senior Vice President, Market Development, South Asia, Mastercard.

Source: Financial Express

INNOVATION NEWS

Niti Innovation Index: Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu top 3 states in innovation

Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Kerala have been ranked as top five states in innovation in Niti Aayog's second Innovation Index. The index, released by Aayog's vice chairman Rajiv Kumar and CEO Amitabh Kant, has been developed in the lines of Global Innovation Index. Among Union Territories Delhi topped the chart, while in the North-Eastern and Hill States category Himachal Pradesh occupied the top spot.

“Amongst major states, the average innovation score is 25.35. Karnataka tops at 42.5, which is attributable to its strong number of venture capital deals, registered GIs (Geographical Indications) and ICT (Information and Communication Technology) exports. Karnataka’s high FDI inflow has also enhanced the innovation capabilities of the state,” the India Innovation Index 2020 said.



Maharashtra was ranked second with an innovation score of 38, while Bihar finished last at 14.5. Speaking at the event, Kumar said the office of the Principal Scientific Advisor and Niti Aayog are working closely to create a seamless interaction among institutions that are there in any city to improve India’s innovation ecosystem.

He also said that with the partnership with the Principal Scientific Advisor K Vijay Raghavan, the Niti Aayog is working very hard to try and bring back and attract Indian talent from abroad.

“There are some schemes (to bring back Indian talent) already, we want to sharpen them, we want to improve them,” the Niti Aayog vice chairman said. Overall, the framework of India Innovation Index 2020, consists of 36 indicators, which include hard data (32 indicators) and four composite indicators.

Source: Financial Express

CONTACT US



MIDC Industries Association (MIA) Hingna



Address: “MIA House”, P-26,
Central MIDC Road,
MIDC Hingna, Nagpur – 440016



Contact Nos.: 9370287711, 9370287712, 9370287714, 9370287715



Email ID: mianagpur28@gmail.com, mia_midc@yahoo.com

Follow us on:

