

“DGFT Trade Facilitation App” launched

Press Information Bureau: April 13, 2021

Minister for Railways and Commerce & Industry and Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, launched DGFT 'Trade Facilitation' Mobile App during the online video conference, for promoting ease of doing business and providing quick access to information to importers/exporters. Trade facilitation App is READY for Industry 4.0, as it provides.

- Real-time trade policy updates, notifications, application status alert, tracking help requests.
- Explore item-wise Export-Import policy & statistics, Track IEC Portfolio.
- AI-based 24*7 assistance for trade queries.
- DGFT services made accessible to all.



The App will be available on Android and iOS platforms. The App can also be downloaded from the DGFT Website (<https://dgft.gov.in>). It has been developed by the Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), as per the directions of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).

Copyright (Amendment) Rules, 2021 notified; Amendments will bring the existing rules in parity with other relevant legislations; New rules will encourage accountability and transparency

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The Government of India has notified Copyright (Amendment) Rules, 2021 vide Gazette notification under reference G.S.R. 225(E) dated 30th March, 2021. In India, the copyright regime is governed by the Copyright Act, 1957 and the Copyright Rules, 2013. The Copyright Rules, 2013 were last amended in the year 2016.

The amendments have been introduced with the objective of bringing the existing rules in parity with other relevant legislations. It aims to ensure smooth and flawless compliance in the light of the technological advancement in digital era by adopting electronic means as primary mode of communication and working in the Copyright Office. A new provision regarding publication of a copyrights journal has been incorporated, thereby eliminating the requirement of publication in the Official Gazette. The said journal would be available at the website of the Copyright Office.

In order to encourage accountability and transparency, new provisions have been introduced, to deal with the undistributed royalty amounts and use of electronic and traceable payment methods while collection and distribution of royalties. To reinforce transparency in working of copyright societies a new rule has been introduced, whereby the copyright societies will be required to draw up and make public an Annual Transparency Report for each financial year.

The amendments have harmonised the Copyright Rules with the provisions of Finance Act, 2017 whereby the Copyright Board has been merged with Appellate Board.

The compliance requirements for registration of software works have been largely reduced, as now the applicant has the liberty to file the first 10 and last 10 pages of source code, or the entire source code if less than 20 pages, with no blocked out or redacted portions.

The time limit for the Central Government to respond to an application made before it for registration as a copyright society is extended to one hundred and eighty days, so that the application can be more comprehensively examined.

Record-breaking Milestone of Constructing 37 kilometres per day of Highways in FY 2020-21

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Tremendous progress has been achieved in building of National Highways across the country in the last few years by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. The Ministry has achieved the record-breaking milestone of constructing 37 kilometres highways per day in year 2020-21, which is unprecedented. Placed below, in brief, are the major achievements:

- Over the last 7 years, length of National Highways has gone up by 50% from 91,287 km (as of April 2014) to 1,37,625 km (as on 20 March 2021);
- Total budgetary outlay increased by 5.5 times, from INR 33,414 Cr in Financial Year 2015 to INR 1,83,101 CRORE in Financial Year 2022;
- Sanctioned amount has increased by 126% in Financial Year 2021 over Financial Year 2020 despite COVID-19 related impact. Sanctioned length in kilometers has also increased by 9% in Financial Year 2021 over Financial Year 2020;
- Average annual project award (annual average award length) during Financial Year 2015 to Financial Year 2021 has increased by 85% compared to FY10 to FY14
- Average annual construction (average annual construction length) during FY2015 to FY2021 has increased by 83% compared to FY2010 to FY2014
- Cumulative cost of ongoing project works has increased by 54% at the end of Financial Year 2021 compared to Financial Year 2020 (as on March 31st)

Ambassador met H.E. Mr. Fernand Etgen, President, Chamber of Deputies, Luxembourg for a courtesy call. Both discussed ways to further strengthen India-Luxembourg ties. Both called for greater parliamentary exchanges between India and Luxembourg.



Ambassador visited B medical Systems, global leader in medical refrigeration for vaccines. Fruitful interaction with CEO Luc Provost about ongoing Make in India partnership between B Medicals Systems and Indian companies.

