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## **WTC GOA CREATES AWARENESS ON PATENTS AMONG MSMEs**

POST COVID 19 many Nations are looking to set up manufacturing facilities in India and thus the Indian economy is in the process of becoming a leading player in International Trade. However, with 'Make in India' and other schemes, it is understood that Global Manufacturers will set up facilities in India and hopefully Indian companies ramp up their strategies to make their presence felt. In light of this, Intellectual Property of each entity would have to be closely guarded and keeping this in mind, World Trade Center Goa along with Micro Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Development Institute, Goa, organized an awareness programme on Patents under the Intellectual property rights umbrella. Mr. A. R. Gokhe, Director, MSME DI, in his keynote address, explained that IPR can protect the ideas and business activities of entrepreneurs, and organising webinars on IPR would definitely bring about a sea of changes in the thinking of entrepreneurs. He revealed that for registered MSMEs, the Ministry of MSME has provisions for reimbursing certain expenditures involved in registering under the Intellectual property rights. Also, they can avail the benefits of various other schemes. Concluding his speech, Mr. Gokhe announced that a sustainable Zero Defect Zero Effect scheme is in the process of being launched by The Ministry of MSME shortly. Guest of Honour, Mr. Ashton Souza, Proprietor, Ashton Souza Consultancy, in his speech, gave specific statistics and comparisons of patent applications in India versus other countries. He shared that applying for patents in India is comparatively lower than other countries. Mr. Souza was of the opinion that the culture of patent registration in India should be encouraged and one should avoid disclosing their idea before filing for application. Guest of Honour, Mr. Gautam Kharangate, Social worker, in his speech, stressed the importance of promoting IPR among various self-help groups to safeguard their produce from being copied by others. This will not only benefit the individual self-help groups but can also benefit our economy at large, pointed out Mr. Kharangate. Mr. Deepak Parab, Nodal Officer, Goa State Patent Information Center, in his speech, spoke about the importance of IPRs, registration facilities for various IP generated within the state, and promotion and branding of Geographical Indications for the state of Goa. Goa State Patent Information Center, he said, plays the role of a facilitator for the inventors and helps in creating awareness relating to IPR in Goa Advocate Mr. Eeshan Usapkar, spoke about 'Patents' in detail. He emphasised on the list of things that cannot be patented as it consists of sixteen categories. He also elaborated about the criteria of patentability, types of applications, correct time and procedure for applying of a patent etc Ms. Deepa GL, Deputy Director, MSME DI, Goa, spoke briefly about the ministry organising programs to increase more awareness on IPR, how MSMEs could have competitive advantage in global market and how to face technical issues Mr. Cyril Desouza, Assistant Director - Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa, in his address, expressed his hope of having been able to help participants have a clear understanding of Patents under the IPR regime as it would assist them in safeguarding their business and be profitable in the long run.

The Webinar was held on January 7, 2021