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**Sent:** Friday, March 20, 2020 11:47 AM

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**Subject:** URGENT-Request for Adjournment of Deadlines at the IPO in view of the COVID-19 pandemic

Dear Sir,

We are all aware that the Government of India is taking many comprehensive measures to combat and contain the ever-growing COVID-19 situation within our vast country.

These are uncertain times and the impact of the pandemic is unprecedented at all levels. The Hon'ble Supreme Court, Delhi High Court & the IPAB have all either severely restricted normal proceedings and/or have adjourned hearings. We also note that the IPO has notified that Trademarks hearings have been adjourned.

The Government has advised all companies/businesses/corporates to allow their employees to work from home in an effort to contain the spread of the virus. A representative notice issued by the Gurguram administration is attached. Also attached is a 'social distancing advisory' issued by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, which also advocates work from home amongst others, which has also been endorsed by our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi in many news releases.

**Most of the IP fraternity have responded to the Government's clarion call and have taken steps to have our attorneys/staff to work from home despite challenges. It may be appreciated that the IP fraternity is undeniably facing a lot of difficulty, especially in patents where there are various strict deadlines (which if not met, would lead to irrevocable loss of rights). It would not be inappropriate to bring to your kind attention that counterpart IP government organizations in other countries/jurisdictions like the EUIPO/EPO/USPTO have taken steps to support social distancing and have adjourned deadlines falling till April 30 to May 01, 2020(copy attached).**

Considering the magnitude of the pandemic at hand and given India's massive population and relatively inappropriate medical infrastructure, it is very important that each individual/organization/official adopt appropriate measures at the right time. **In line with the strong resolve of the Central government to contain the COVID-19 situation, the undersigned most humbly requests you to have appropriate steps taken to adjourn all deadlines in all IP matters in all areas, Patents, Trademarks, Copyright etc falling due from now till April 30, 2020 to at least May 01, 2020. This will facilitate easier work from home for everyone in the IP fraternity including government officials.**

Thanking you in anticipation.

Warm regards,

**Hemant Singh**  
**President- AIPPI India Group**



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