



Handwritten signature and date 28/12/15

वस्त्र समिति
भारत सरकार, वस्त्र मंत्रालय
Textiles Committee
Government of India, Ministry of Textiles

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GI APPLICATION No.

536

No: 10/47/8/2012 MR

27th November, 2015

The Registrar,
Geographical Indications Registry,
Intellectual Property Office Building,
GST Road, Guindy
Chennai - 600 032

Subject: Application for registration of Logo of selected craft indications of India.

Sir,

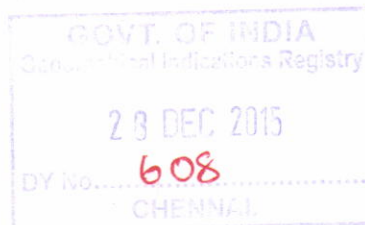
The Textiles Committee in collaboration with O/o the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) has prepared the application for registration of logo of the following products under the Geographical Indication (GI) Act, 1999.

- ✓ 1 Sikki Grass Products, Bihar
- 2 Applique (Katwa) Work, Bihar
- 3 Sujini Embroidery Works, Bihar
- 4 Molela Clay Work, Rajasthan
- 5 Blue Pottery of Jaipur, Rajasthan
- 6 Kuthputlis of Rajasthan, Rajasthan

It may be noted that the above products have already been registered under the said Act and the O/o of the DC(Handicraft) is the registered proprietor. Hence, the application of Logo is being filed by the O/o the DC(Handicraft).

Therefore we are submitting here with the (1) Application in triplicate (2) Affidavit of the applicant (3) Application fees (4) other supporting documents for the registration of the Logo of the above mentioned craft indications.

Thanking you,



Yours faithfully,

(Handwritten signature)
(Rakesh Garg)
Secretary

Encl: As above & Cheque No:529858 (Application fees)



भारतीय स्टेट बैंक
State Bank of India

(00290) - WORLI (NORTH), MUMBAI
NIRLON HOUSE, DR. ANNIE BESANT ROAD WORLI, MUMBAI
MAHARASHTRA 400030
IFS Code: SBIN0000290

24 NOV 2015 DEC 2014

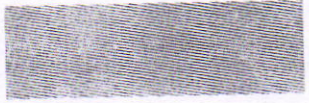
केवल 3 महीने के लिए वैध / VALID FOR 3 MONTHS ONLY
19 APR 2013
D D M M Y Y Y Y

PA The Registrar Geographical Indications
रुपये RUPEES Forty thousand only

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अदा करें ₹ 40000/-

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A/c. No. 10865756128



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R. PREMANAND
CHIEF ACCOUNTS OFFICER
TEXTILES COMMITTEE

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Please sign above

⑈ 529858⑈ 400002088⑈ 000007⑈ 29

**The geographical indications of goods
(Registration and Protection) act, 1999**

FORM G1-1A

**Application for Registration of LOGO of Sikki Grass Crafts of
Bihar**



GI APPLICATION No.

536

Received Rs. 5000 in cash/
Cheque/DD/MO on 26.12.2015
vide entry no. 2792 in the
register of valuables

Cashier

DDO

**GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS OF GOODS
(REGISTRATION AND PROTECTION) ACT, 1999**

FORM GI-1A

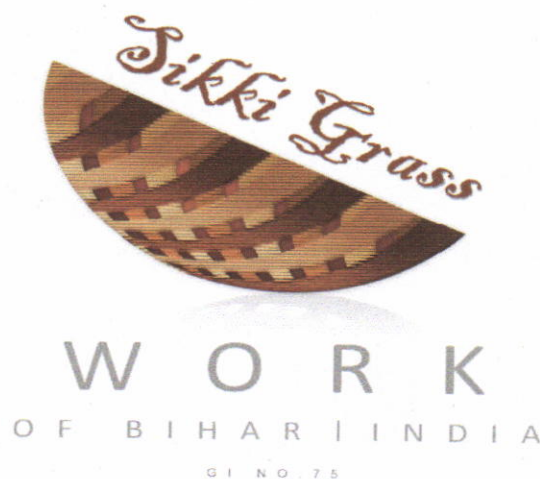
1. Application is hereby made for the registration Logo in Part A of the Register of the accompanying geographical indication furnishing the following particulars:-

1A. Name of the Applicant: O/o: The Development Commissioner (Handicraft) represented by Shri M. Prabakaran, Deputy Director (In-Charge Eastern Region), Regional Director (ER) Development Commissioner (Handicraft), Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India.

1B. Address:

**Development Commissioner (Handicrafts)
Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India
CGO Complex, 3rd Floor, A-Wing, DF Block
Salt Lake City, Kolkata, India**

1C. Name of the geographical indication: Sikki Grass Products of Bihar



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29/12/15

1D. Goods: Class-20: Containers, boxes, baskets, bangles, coasters, hand held fans, bowls, boxes, three dimensions figures of deities coasters, temples and modern functional items like trays, baskets, pen stands made from Sikki Grass falling under Class-20.

1F.Type of Goods:

Handicraft

1G. Description of the Goods:

Sikki the king of stemmed grass found in the wet lands of the North Bihar and used as the basic raw material for this product. The common long grass is wired and stitched together with the Pasikki, dyed in several different shades, using a thick needle called Takua. The craft products



often depict the daily rhythms of craftsperson's lives to their natural surroundings, mythological and religious aspects. Replicas of gods, goddess and temples depicting Hindu epics to modern functional items like tray, baskets, pen stand, necklaces, bangles etc. are also crafted.

1H.Geographical area of production:

The major production centre of lies in the Sitamari, Madhubani and Dharbanga district of Bihar. The details of the production centre are as follows:

Sitamarhi : Sitamarhi is located between $26^{\circ} 12' 51''$ to $26^{\circ} 49' 17''$ north latitude and between $85^{\circ} 12' 0''$ to $85^{\circ} 42' 48''$ east longitude.



It covers a total area of 2294 Sq. Km. The district is bounded in the north by Nepal, in the south by Muzaffarpur, in the west by East Champaran and Sheohar and on the east by Darbhanga and Madhubani.

Madhubani :

Madhubani is located between 85°-43' to 86°-42' north latitude and between 25°-59' to 26°-39' east longitude.

Madhubani district occupies a total area of 3501 sq. kms. The district of Madhubani was carved out of the old Darbhanga district in the year 1972 as a result of reorganisation of the districts in the State. This was formerly the northern subdivision of



Darbhanga district. It consists of 21 Development Blocks. Bounded on the north by a hill region of Nepal and extending to the border of its parent district Darbhanga in the south, Sitamarhi in the west and Supaul in the east, Madhubani fairly represent the centre of the territory once known as Mithila and the district has maintained a distinct individuality of its own.

Dharbanga:

Darbhanga is situated between longitude 85° 45' to 86° 25' east and latitude 25° 53' - 26° 27' north and is bounded on the north by Madhubani district, on the south by

Samastipur district, on the east by Saharsa district and on the west by Sitamarhi and Muzaffarpur districts. Presently Darbhanga district is having the total geographical area of 2279 sq. km. and population of 3295789 according to 2001 census.



However, the Nine craft villages of Madhubani are excelling in this profession. *The villages are :*

Raiyam:

This place is the place origin of this craft. This craft originated here and then spread over to other villages. The address of this village is vill. & P.O. Raiyam, Via-Jhanjharpur, Dist-Madhubani, Bihar. It is about 20 Kms. away from Madhubani Railway station. About 100 families here, practicing this craft at present.

Laheriaganj:

Vill & P.O. Laheriaganj, Dist. Madhubani, Bihar. It is 5 KM. Far from Madhubani Railway Station by road. Approx 30-40 artisan families are practicing here.

Jitwarpur:

Vill. & P.O. Jitwarpur, Dist.-Madhubani, Bihar. It is 8 Kms. Away from Madhubani Railway Station by road. More then 30 Families are practicing here.

Sapta:

Vill. & P.O. Sapta, Dist.-Madhubani, Bihar. It is only 3 Kms. Away from Madhubani Railway Station. Approx 12 Families are practicing here.

Rahika:

Vill. & P.O. Rahika, Dist.-Madhubani, Bihar. It is 8-10 Kms. Away from Madhubani Railway station by road.

Ranti:

Vill. & P.O. Ranti, Dist. – Madhubani, Bihar. It is about 4 Kms. Away from Madhubani Railway Station by road.

Bhagirathpur:

Vill. & P.O. Bhagirathpur, Dist.-Madhubani, Bihar. It is about 12 Kms. Away from Madhubani Railway Station by Road.

Umari:

Vill. & P.O. Umari, Via-Jhanjharpur, Dist. – Madhubani, Bihar. It is about 35 Kms. Away from Madhubani Railway station by Road, 6-7 families are engaged here.

Rampatti:

Vill. & P.O. Rampatti, Dist.-Madhubani, Bihar. It is about 12 Kms. Away from Madhubani Railway station by road and approx 5 families are engaged here.

II. Historical Origin:

Sikki craft is such an old that none is in a position to exactly when, where and how the system of sikki weaving originated. It is believed that it is originated thousands of years ago. The artisans have not taken this craft as their main profession but practice as a part time work. They are also engaged in farming or services or labour work.

An important feature of this crafts is that only female members of the families are engaged in this craft. So artisan families are not dependent only on this craft for making their survival successful. The female artisans are also not fulltime practitioners. They weave in leisure time, of their daily life. But they take to full time practice in the season during exhibitions. Occasionally, male members also take to this profession specially on getting huge orders or

during exhibitions. The artisans produce decorative items as well as functional once, specially various types of containers, jewellery, etc. Colour decoration is mostly used in this craft. Each item has vivid colour deco. Combination of red, blue, green, yellow, etc. and also the natural colour of sikki. The production of sikki grass items is a seasonal occupation specially during various festive occasions such as Marriage, etc.

Sikki work is a possessed by women in this region of Bihar. As an activity it generates not only income but also opportunities of their lives and their aspirations. There is growing demands for Sikki grass work not only for outstanding beauty but also for its cultural value. Like paintings, Sikki is also folk in nature, and was prompted by a prevalent Mithila social custom.

At one point of time a very large part of the population in North Bihar was engaged in this craft, which was a mainly practice in some of the pockets in Darbhanga, Madhubani and Sitamarhi districts of Bihar. Sikki work was a skill possessed by women in this region and gradually with active intervention of some of the local NGOs like Adithi this was carried actively to generate income along with an expression of form of their lives, their love and their aspirations. Ironically today, there is yet growing demands for Sikki grass work not only for their outstanding beauty but also for a certain culture; certain value system they stand for. But unfortunately there are not many actively involved in the craft due to lack of new design and product innovations and as a result there has been gradual reduction of regular sales and income flow due especially due to the bottle neck in regular market.

1J. Production Process:

Sikki craft is a virtual wonder of Bihar handicrafts. It transforms the simplest and the most common of things to the most wonderful objects, as if by magic. This wonder is executed by the extremely efficient artistry of the the sikki women. Bihar's Sikki craft is a product of the Mithila region of Northern Bihar. It is intrinsically connected to the cultural life of Bihar. Sikki craft objects are usually employed in making baskets, bags, hats and even intricate animal, bird and human figures.



Sikki is fundamentally a kind of a grass-like weed that grows on the banks of the Ganges. The women collect these weeds in plenty and dry them. The weeds are then dried, by virtue of which they get a lustrous golden hue and a beautiful coarse texture. Then they are twisted into ropes. These ropes are thereafter made into baskets and other such items of great beauty. In order to strengthen the baskets, the artisans use strands of the same sikki grasses. Sikki craft of Bihar are extremely environment friendly and exclusive and are greatly loved by one and all.

Sikki craft of Bihar have a natural golden glow, the natural color of the dried grass. However, sometimes the grasses are dyed in different colors. Then these colored strands of sikki are used to create the most intricate patterns within the baskets. If baskets are the basic products of Sikki craft in Bihar, then the innate creativity of the artists force them to take up more challenging products, including festival figures and headgears that protect one from the blazing sun of the Gangetic plains. The artisans have also updated themselves into creating various kinds of utilitarian objects like coasters and table wares.

Raw materials:

Sikki Grass craft is not a new craft being practiced only in Madhubani district of North Bihar due to the availability of ready raw materials locally. The process & technique involved in this craft is very laborious, through the raw materials are cheap. The useful materials of this craft are:

Sikki:

The **sikki** is the principal material of this craft. It is actually the internal part of a sikki grass looking like as paddy plant. It is thin but strong and smooth stick stained in the center of the grass as the backbone of the plant. A single sikki is collected from a single grass and then divided into two parts by splitting. The splitted sikki is collected from the peddlers who come to the villages occasionally for selling the sikki at the rate of Rs.8/- only per mutthi, containing about 60-70 pieces of sikki in number.

Khara (Straw):

After collecting of sikki, the rest of the grass is used as khara the local name. In this craft khara is also used along with sikki to form the shape of the craft item on which the texture and color decoration is made with colored sikki by weaving. Apart from this craft, khara is also used to thatch the mud houses. The artisans collect khara from the peddles at the rate of Rs. 100-130 per 'Bojha' (about 5-7 kg in weight).

Colour:

The chemical colours are used for colouring the sikki sticks – red, yellow, green, violet & black (Navy Blue) are directly collected from the local market and the other colours are made by mixing two or three colours by the artisan themselves. The artisans purchase the colour @ Rs.1000 per Kg. They use the Textile colours also.

Fuel:

Firewood, Kerosene, LPG are used as the fuel for making colours to colour the sikki sticks. The colours are boiled with water separately and then the sikki is submerged into the boiled colour for colouring permanently. Finally the sikki is kept under sunlight for drying.



Takua-needle shaper iron object with a rounded head of lac.

Tools & Equipments:

This craft involves an easy and totally manual process. Fingers & a 'Takua' are the main tools of this craft. Takua is a sharp metallic pointer with a wooden handle.

It serves a number of functions during forming the articles. One of its functions is to give pressure along with finger to flatten the sikki stick to make it ready for weaving. Another function is to make holes to pan the sikki stick during weaving.

The other equipments are small scissors & metal wire. Scissors are used to cut the sikki & khara while weaving on decoration and also during finishing. Metal wire is also used to make the structure rigid with.

Process:

The concept developments were done through paper drawings. First the forms of shapes were developed on each item with the help of many rough sketches. From those rough sketches, forms of shapes were selected, and then it was being explored by combining the forms with decoration concept were developed. Then the final concept was developed.

At the conceptualization stage, the forms of shapes were being thought keeping in mind the production processes. Colour combination was also thought according to the existing colours which are available at local markets. A number of new designs were developed with additional functional values as well as aesthetic values. To increase the aesthetic value, the colour combination was also thought for specially. The combination of sikki & bamboo has also been thought for the diversification of product as well as to increase the functional values, such as, serving Tray Napkin Box, Fruits Bowl, etc.

Prototype making:

This was the ultimate stage of the design development process. At this stage the production method and designing was determined from the final concept & the production drawings were made so that the artisans could understand them and easily make the prototypes.

The Technique of making Sikki products :

- Collection of spitted sikkis.
- Coloring of the sikkis.
- Drying the colored sikki.
- Applying water to soften the sikki during weaving.
- Flattening the soft sikki by the pressure of Takua & Finger.
- Forming by weaving with khara.
- Detailing & Finishing.

The desired forms are generally shaped with ordinary grass called khar which is coiled and encased in the softer Sikki, while many of the motifs are derived from the local tantric traditions. Technical improvement, by means of dyeing of grass with fast colours is being introduced. The coiling technique, is the oldest, is most commonly used in Sikki. The common long grass is wired and stitched together with the Pasikki, dyed in several different shades, using a thick needle called Takua. Especially in constructing the sculptural forms, the whole build up is made by the coils.

The technique used for making from Sikki is the ancient and time honored coiling method. Interestingly the actual form is shaped with Munj, raffia grass, or Khar, which is much cheaper and more abundantly available. This provides the basic shape and gives additional strength to the product. The Munj is completely oiled over and covered with Sikki; the only tool used by the women is a 6 inch long needle shaped iron object called takua with a rounded head, made of lac, which is used to hold the needle while coiling the grass. The object being made is held firmly while the right hand is completely free to wield the Takua. No threads or cords or any other materials are used. The Sikki is slightly dampened to make it more pliable as it is coiled around the Munj. The colouring is achieved by boiling it in dyes. Each of the Sikki products is not only colourful but also individual. Colours are used in dramatic contrast and each product reflects the creative impulse of its maker. Two dimensional images of birds and animals, trees, and figures are also beautifully crafted. Some craftswomen are now experimenting and making products only in Sikki grass, without using the traditional; Munj base.

1K. Specifications and Product Profile:

The variety of products made from sikki grass is utilitarian as well as ornamental. They include containers to store grain, rice, and lentils, boxes to keep their clothes and jewellery, baskets to store sweet and keep betel leaf, and containers to store their masalas (spices). Mobiles and toys are made for the children, while the women make bangles for themselves. Coasters, hand-held fans, and bowls and boxes of all types and sizes, mobiles, and three-dimensional figures are made for urban markets, while figures of deities are crafted for religious festivals. The craft products often depict the daily rhythms of

craftsperson' lives to their natural surroundings, mythological and religious aspects. Replicas of gods, goddess and temples depicting Hindu epics to modern functional items like tray, baskets, pen stand, necklaces, bangles etc. are also crafted.

The wide range of Sikki products can be categorized into two :

- 1) Religious & Mythological: Human figures, replicas of gods and goddess, models of chariots, temples, relief & sculpture.
- 2) Ornamental & functional products: Baskets, boxes, toys animals, birds and, animals & bird models, trays & baskets, jewellery, beads, pendants, necklaces bangles, bowls etc of different sizes and shapes.

The humble Sikki grass in marshy areas in Mithila is transformed by women into a range of objects that find both ritual and everyday use. Grass is dyed in colour and creatively used along with the natural golden to create objects steeped in the distinct Madhubani aesthetics. Using the ancient method of coiling, the needle-like takua is the only tool used to craft objects of great variety. Products are reinforced with a base of strong moonj grass, which also grows abundantly in the area. The craft is traditionally passes down from mother to daughter - well crafted items used in the house display the skills of a girl and become part of her dowry.

Figures of deities are made for worship, as are votive offerings for festivals. Sailesh puja, the only festival of the Moosahar tribe, involves a wide range of colourful sikki products of ritual use. Toys, table mats, coasters, traditional Ganesh masks and of late, even mobile phone covers are made for urban markets as far flung as Guwahati, Chennai and Mumbai.



An illustration of a sikki basket.

Utilitarian objects:




Pots, Bowls, Platters, Boxes, Cases and Baskets, Table mats, Coasters, and Hand fans.




Decorative objects:

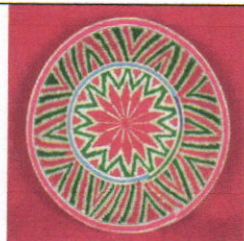
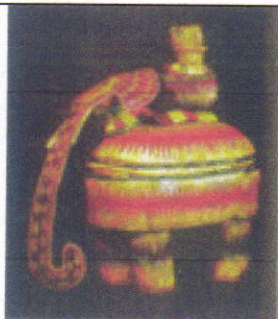
Mobiles, Bangles, Toys, and Figures of animals

Ritualistic objects:

Figures of deities and masks

	Specification
	Ardhanareeshwara, a representation of the half-male and half-female form of Shiva.
	A figure of the legendary hero, Raja Sailesh.
	<p>1. An image of a peacock; beautifully created images of animals and birds made with sikki grass are popular.</p> <p>2. A traditional box; the objects made from sikki are not only utilitarian, but also decorative and ornamental, often having a</p>

	<p>religious significance.</p> <p>3. Nataraj, the dancing form of Lord Shiva; detail from a wall hanging. The figures of deities are made with sikki and installed in homes for worship.</p> <p>4. The face of a goddess crafted with sikki grass.</p>	
	<p>A box in the form of an elephant; a contemporary product.</p>	
	<p>Sikki Toys, Dolls, Boxes (Pauti) and Baskets (dolchi)</p> <p>The boxes are used to hold sindoor, ornaments & jewelry.</p>	
	<p><u>'Sikki Maouni' - The Dancing Doll</u></p>	

Jewelry BoxTurtle - Jewelry BoxSoup or Basket

Bihari women also make baskets and festival figures out of tough sikki grass. This is dyed in bright radiant colours before being woven into basket form. This art is centred in the Mithila region of north Bihar.

1L. Uniqueness:

Sikki, the golden grass of Bihar, is found growing in the wet and marshy area of Madhubani district. Traditionally and till today sikki grass products are made by the women of the household especially brides-to-be and are taken to their husband(s) home(s) after marriage as part of their dowry. To make the sikki grass usable it is first cut from near its base and then dried. The upper portion of the flowering stem is then discarded. The remaining portion is finely sliced and shaved and used for making the products. Sikki is sold by the traders at the weekly hat (market) or by itinerant door-to-door sellers. The rate varies, but interestingly, sikki is not sold by weight, but measured by the fistful.



The sikki, which is characterised by its wonderful golden hue, is also coloured into myriad shades to make the products more attractive. The deities that are fashioned are depicted with their own special colours in two-dimensional images. The colours most popular are purple, deep blue, bright yellow, magenta pink, green, and red, all combined with the natural golden to make the final product a riot of colours. The women craft the products throughout the year according to their needs.

The coiling technique, which is the oldest, is most commonly used in Sikki. The common long grass is wired and stitched together with the Pasikki, dyed in several different shades, using a thick needle called Takua. Especially in constructing the sculptural forms, the whole build up is made with coils. The only tool used by the women is a 6 inch long needle shape iron object called Takua with a rounded head, made of lac, which is used to hold in grip the needle while coiling the grass. No threads or cords or similar materials, are used.

1M. Inspection Body:

The inspection body consisting of the following have been constituted for maintaining the quality of the product

- Officer In-charge, O/o the Development Commissioner (Handicraft), Patna.
- Director (Market Research), Textiles Committee, Ministry of Textiles, Mumbai

Representative of Producers Associations, Majafarpur Prominent Master Artisans of the product

1N.Others:

The product bears generational legacy as the artisans learn the art of printing from their forefathers.

An important feature of this crafts is that only female members of the families are engaged in this craft. So artisan families are not dependent only on this craft for making their survival successful. The female artisans are also not fulltime practitioners. They weave in leisure time, of their daily life. But they take to full time practice in the season during exhibitions. Occasionally, male members also take to this profession specially on getting huge orders or during exhibitions. The artisans produce decoarative items as well as functional once, specially various types of containers, jewellery, etc. Colour decoration is mostly used in this craft. Each item has vivid colour deco. Combination of red, blue, green, yellow, etc. and also the natural colour of sikki is used. The production of sikki grass items is a seasonal occupation specially during various festive occasions such as Marriage, etc.

Sikki work is a possessed by women in this region of Bihar. As an activity it generates not only income but also opportunities of their lives and their aspirations. There is growing demands for Sikki grass work not only for outstanding beauty but also for its cultural value. Like paintings, Sikki is also folk in nature, and was prompted by a prevalent Mithila social custom.

Along with the Statement of Case in **Class - 20** in respect of the name(s) of whose addresses are given below who claim to represent the interest of the producers of the said goods to which the geographical indication relates and which is in continuous use in respect of the said goods.

2. The Application shall include such other particulars called for in rule 32(1) in the Statement of case. The statement of case attached.

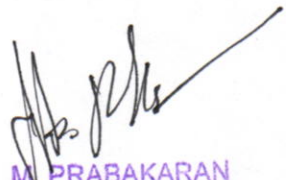
3. All communications relating to this application may be sent to the following address in India.

Development Commissioner (Handicraft)
Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India
CGO Complex, 3rd Floor, A-Wing, DF Block
Salt Lake City, Kolkata, India

4. In the case of an application from a convention country the following additional particulars shall also be furnished.

- a. Designation of the country of origin of the Geographical Indication.
- b. Evidence as to the existing protection of the Geographical Indication in its country of origin such as the title and the date of the relevant legislative or administrative provisions, the judicial decisions or the date and number of the registration, and copies of such documents.

Not Applicable


M. PRABAKARAN
Deputy Director (H)
O/O Dev. Commissioner (H)
Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India
M.S.O. Building
3rd Floor, 'A' Wing
DF Block, Salt Lake City
Kolkata - 700 064

SIGNATURE
NAME OF THE SIGNATORY

Dated this 18th day of December 2014