



PIC Newsletter

Quarterly newsletter of Patent Information Centre-Kerala, KSCSTE

Number of patents granted by India shot up by 50% in 2017

The number of patents granted by India shot up by 50 per cent in 2017, according to the UN's World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). The patents granted by India increased from 8,248 in 2016 to 12,387 last year, as per the WIPO's World Intellectual Property Indicators 2018 report.

Globally, 1.4 million patents were granted in 2017. China's patent authority led the world in the number of patents granted with 420,144 and was followed by the US with 318,829, according to the WIPO. India received a total of 46,582 patent applications last year, of them 14,961 were from Indian individuals or entities and 31,621 were from foreigners, out of them 9,222 came from the US, the report said. Pharmaceuticals accounted for 15.7 per cent of the Indian domestic applications for patents last year. Out of the total of 606,956 patent applications made in the US last year, 10,309 came from India.

While India ranked 10th in the number of patents granted last year, no Indian company or university figures in last year's global list of the top 50 patent applicants. India, which has 1.6 million active trademarks, registered a total of 339,692 applications last year, 287,139 from domestic and 52,553 of foreigners, according to the WIPO. Last year, India registered 10,188 designs of which 6,622 were from domestic applicants and 3,566 from foreigners.

www.economicstimes.indiatimes.com December 04, 2018

Patent applications by female innovators to get faster clearance

A patent application filed by a female innovator will be examined expeditiously with a view to promote women entrepreneurship in the country, as per a DIPP proposal.

The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), under the Ministry of Industries and Commerce has floated draft rules to amend the Patents Rules, 2003. As per the draft rules, if the applicant or at least one of the applicant in a group seeking patent is a female, that application would get an expedited examination by the Indian Patent Office. The move is part of the DIPP's efforts to significantly reduce time for examination and grant of patents. The department is taking several steps, including

hiring more manpower and increasing use of technology, to reduce time for granting patents and trademarks.

It is targeting to bring down the time for patent examination and grant to 18 months by March 2020 from about 5-7 years currently. India granted 13,045 patents in 2017-18, compared to 9,847 in the previous fiscal.

www.economicstimes.com December 16, 2018

Govt. to launch initiative to boost intellectual property in defense sector

The Indian Ministry of Defence (MoD) has launched an initiative to boost Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) applications from the Country's state-owned defence industry. Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the scheme – known as Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti – on 27 November, stating that Indian industry needed to be more aware of the requirement to secure patents.

The initiative, which aims to encourage industry to seek more patents for indigenously developed technologies, is led by the MoD's Department of Defence Production (DoDP) and the associated Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA), which certifies Indian-made defence products.

The MoD also disclosed that it established an "IP Facilitation Cell". This aims to encourage defence public sector undertakings (DPSUs), the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) to file at least 1,000 new IPR applications in fiscal year 2018-19. During the first six months of the fiscal year more than 200 IPR applications had reportedly been lodged.

www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com November 30, 2018

326 products registered as geographical indication so far

As many as 326 products such as Kancheepuram silk saree, Alphonso Mango, Nagpur Orange and Kolhapuri Chappal have been registered as Geographical Indications (GI) so far, according to government data. "The GI Registry hits a new milestone with the registration of 326 Geographical Indications classified into different

categories. This also includes 14 foreign GIs," the Cell for IPR Promotions & Management (CIPAM) said in a tweet.

A GI is primarily an agricultural, natural or a manufactured product (handicrafts and industrial goods) originating from a definite geographical territory. Typically, such a name conveys an assurance of quality and distinctiveness, which is essentially attributable to the place of its origin. Once a product gets this tag, any person or company could not sell a similar item under that name. This tag is valid for a period of 10 years following which it can be renewed. The other benefits of registration of GI include legal protection to that product, prevention against unauthorized use by others, and promoting exports.

www.economicstimes.indiatimes.com October 23, 2018

The rice that needs no cooking: magic rice variety from Assam gets GI tag

The indigenous Boka Chaul (*Oryza sativa*) or Assamese soft-rice is the latest natural produce from Assam to be registered with the Geographical Indications (GI) tag.

Boka Chaul is mostly cultivated in Nalbari, Barpeta, Goalpara, Baksa, Kamrup, Dhubri, Kokrajhar and Darrang districts of lower Assam. It is a winter rice or sali, which is sown from the third and fourth week of June. This native variety of rice is unique because it requires no fuel to cook and can be eaten by just soaking it in water at room temperature. It is known for its nutrition and is consumed during summer because of its cooling effect.

Nalbari-based Lotus Progressive Centre (LPC), a local NGO involved in the promotion and preservation of native variety of rice in and around the district, and Centre for Environment Education (CEE) were the applicants for the GI registry of the Boka Chaul. They had applied for the GI tag in 2016. This variety of rice is mostly used as part of the traditional cuisine with curd, jaggery, milk, sugar or other items.

In September 2017, Boka Chaul entered the examination stage where the applicants were asked to furnish scientific details pertaining to the rice's unique quality and the geo-climatic factors responsible for its characteristics. Assam Science Technology and Environment Council (ASTEC) acted as a facilitator for the application of the GI tag. Boka Chaul was mentioned in the GI journal published by the GI registry in March this year.

www.indianexpress.com, December 21, 2018

Set up Intellectual Property Centre's, Innovation labs: UGC tells universities

The UGC has asked all Universities and Higher Educational Institutions to set up 'Intellectual Property Centers' and 'Innovation labs' to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship. "The start-ups, innovators and entrepreneurs from across the country have appreciably applied their creativity to address social issues.

Setting up Intellectual Property Centres at Universities,

establishing Innovation Labs, setting up Entrepreneurship Cells and adding Entrepreneurship into curriculum is among the activities prescribed by UGC. It has also asked Universities to encourage organization of boot camps, mentoring and investor sessions and holding entrepreneurship focused events at Colleges where successful entrepreneurs be invited to interact with students.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com> October 18, 2018

LG Patent Hints at a Smartphone with 16 Rear Camera Sensors

In a patent received by LG in the US from the USPTO, the company has detailed a design to fit in a 16-camera setup. Placed in a matrix arrangement, these multiple sensors will allow the user to take a single photo from multiple perspectives. The different angles can then be used to choose the shot of your choice.

Additionally, the patent suggests that this camera setup will allow for a sophisticated face recognition technology. This feature will allow users to replace head shots with other people from photos clicked beforehand. A mirror will likely also be placed just below the 16 rear camera sensors to allow users to take selfies with the same cameras, instead of using the possibly underpowered selfie camera. The patent also specifies that this design could be applied to a non-traditional smartphone design like a foldable phone or a phone with any other kind of form factor.

www.gadgets.ndtv.com, November 26, 2018

Chhota Bheem maker moves Delhi High Court over sale of fake products

Green Gold Animation, the company behind Chhota Bheem, has filed a case in the Delhi High Court alleging two sellers on e-commerce sites — Tech Connect Retail and Acme Housewares — of trademark infringement and selling Chhota Bheem counterfeit products including bed sheets, pillow covers, stationery items, water bottles among a host of other fake products with the characters of the show emblazoned on them.

However, a spokesperson for Tech Connect said there are several companies selling online under Tech Connect and said it is not the one against who Green Gold has filed a case. "We are not a party to the case and we haven't received any court summons," a spokesperson for Tech Connect said.

Acme Housewares said it buys the Chhota Bheem products from a company called Trident and then sells them online. "Green Gold must have given permission to sell Chhota Bheem products to Trident. We are Trident's online distributors,"

Selling fake products online has been a major issue for Indian as well global brands since the rapid growth of e-commerce in India for the past five years. A recent survey by citizen engagement platform Local Circles found that one out of every five products sold on e-commerce platforms is a fake.

www.economicstimes.indiatimes.com November 06, 2018

World Intellectual Property Indicators: Filings for Patents, Trademarks, Industrial Designs Reach New Records on Strength in China

Worldwide demand for intellectual property (IP) tools reached record heights in 2017, with China driving the growth in filings for patents, trademarks, industrial designs and other IP rights that are at the heart of the global economy.

Innovators across the globe filed 3.17 million patent applications in 2017, up 5.8% for an eighth straight yearly increase, according to WIPO's annual World Intellectual Property Indicators (WIPI) report. Global trademark filing activity totalled 12.39 million, while that for industrial designs reached 1.24 million. China recorded the highest application volume for each of these IP rights.

Worldwide plant varieties applications grew by 11.7% to reach 18,490 applications in 2017, while data received from 82 national and regional authorities show the existence of around 59,500 protected geographical indications (GIs) in 2017.

China's IP office received the highest number of patent applications in 2017, a record total of 1.38 million. China's IP office was followed by the offices of the United States of America (U.S.; 606,956), Japan (318,479), the Republic of Korea (204,775) and the European Patent Office (EPO; 166,585). Germany (67,712), India (46,582), the Russian Federation (36,883), Canada (35,022) and Australia (28,906) also featured among the top 10 offices.

An estimated 9.11 million trademark applications covering 12.39 million classes were filed worldwide in 2017. The IP office of China had the highest volume of filing activity with a class count of around 5.7 million, followed by the U.S. (613,921), Japan (560,269), the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO; 371,508) and the Islamic Republic of Iran (358,353). An estimated 945,100 industrial design applications containing 1.24 million designs were filed worldwide in 2017. The office of China received applications containing 628,658 designs in 2017, corresponding to 50.6% of the world total. It was followed by the EUIPO (111,021), the KIPO (67,357), Turkey (46,875) and the U.S. (45,881).

China became the top filing office in 2017, receiving 4,465 plant variety applications, followed by the Community Plant Variety Office of the European Union (CPVO; 3,422), the U.S. (1,557), Ukraine (1,345) and Japan (1,019). In 2017, there were 59,500 geographical indications (GIs) in force worldwide. Germany (14,073) reported the largest number of GIs in force, followed by Austria (8,749), China (8,507), Hungary (6,646) and the Czech Republic (6,191).

www.wipo.int December 03, 2018

Union HRD Minister launches 'Institution's Innovation Council (IIC)' Program of MHRD's Innovation Cell through video conferencing

Union HRD Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar through video conferencing launched the 'Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) program under Innovation Cell of MHRD in New Delhi on 21.11.2018. Ministry of Human Resource Development has established an "Innovation Cell" at

AICTE with a purpose to systematically foster the culture of Innovation in all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across the country.

Speaking on the occasion the Minister said that the purpose of formation of network of Institution's Innovation Councils (IICs) is to encourage, inspire and nurture young students by exposing them to new ideas and processes resulting in innovative activities in their formative years. He also informed that more than 1000 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) have already formed IICs in their campuses and enrolled for the IIC network managed by MHRD's Innovation cell to promote innovation through multitudinous modes leading to an innovation promotion eco-system in their campuses.

The Union Minister said that now Indian Universities are also setting up research centers through 'Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) program and we are expecting good rank in global innovation ranking in next 2-3 years through this initiative. The Minister said that the educational advancement in higher education can only be achieved by encouraging best practices in innovation and advance research and Innovation Cell has undertaken many initiatives in this direction such as implementing programs like Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievement (ARIIA), Smart India Hackathon (SIH)- 2019, etc.

www.pib.nic.in November 21, 2018

Delhi Court Awards T-Series Rs. 40 Lakh In Copyright Infringement Cases

court awarded Rs. 40 lakh to music giant T-series in two separate cases of copyright infringement of its musical and audio visual works by cable network operators in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. Additional District Judge M P Singh directed Chhattisgarh's Sun Cable Network and Rajasthan-based Brij Network to pay Rs. 20 lakh each to Super Cassettes Industries Private Limited for unauthorised utilizing and broadcasting its works on their cable network. Super Cassettes Industries Private Limited does business under the T-Series label. The court directed both network operators to hand over to T-series all the audio and video tapes, copies and negatives, which infringed the copyright of Super Cassettes. The court also restrained the two cable operators their agents and partners from further exploitation of any of the music label's works. "Thereby, restraining the defendant from either engaging themselves or from authorising the recording, distributing, broadcasting, public performances, communication to the public or in any other way exploiting the cinematograph films, sound recordings and literary works and musical works throughout India, that is owned by the plaintiff," it said. As per the complaint filed by T-Series, both the cable operators had broadcasted movies and audio visual clips which included songs that the company owns. T-series claimed in court that it has suffered financial loss and damage because of the continuous infringement of its copyright and it is disrupting the company's business, which depends partly on license income from the use of its copyrighted works.

www.ndtv.com, November 16, 2018

Disclaimer:

The views expressed in the IPR News of the newsletter are not necessarily those of the KSCSTE or its Institutions.

IPR AWARENESS PROGRAMMES CONDUCTED

Title of the Programme	In association with	Date	Resource Persons
Talk on IPR	Kerala Start-Up Mission	13th October, 2018	• Ms. Pamitha N. S.
Workshop on 'IPR, Patent Search and Filing'	Mar Athanasios College for Advanced Studies, Tiruvalla	16th October, 2018	• Dr. Bismi Gopalakrishnan • Adv. Febin James • Shri. Vishnu V. A.
Seminar on 'Current perspectives of Intellectual Property Rights in Economic growth - An indication'	MEA Engineering College, Perinthalmanna	24 th October, 2018	• Dr. Lawwellman • Adv. Febin James
Workshop on 'Intellectual Property Rights and Patenting Procedure'	College of Engineering, Attingal	8th November 2018	• Shri. S. Balram • Ms. Pamitha N. S. • Shri. Vishnu V. A.
Talk on 'How to convert ideas to innovative products'	Mohandas College of Engineering and Technology, Trivandrum	8th November 2018	• Dr. Ajit Prabhu V.
Talk on 'Introduction to IPR'	Mohandas College of Engineering and Technology, Trivandrum	8th November 2018	• Shri. Safikh S.
Exhibition on IPR	Sree Chithra Thirunal Residential Central School, Karakkonam	28th November 2018	
Seminar on 'Intellectual Property Rights and Academic Research: Procedures and Possibilities'	Sacred Heart College (Autonomous), Kochi	30 th November 2018	• Shri. V.P. Balagangadharan • Adv. Febin James • Shri. Vishnu V. A.
Seminar on 'Intellectual Property Rights'	Bharath Matha College, Thrikkakara	4th December 2018	• Shri. V. P. Balagangadharan • Adv. Binoy Kadavan • Adv. Febin James • Shri. Vishnu V. A.

PHOTO GALLERY



Shri. V. P. Balagangadharan, Former Brahmaprakash Scientist, VSSC delivering his lecture.



Dr. Bismi Gopalakrishnan, Dean, Professor and Director, School of Indian Legal Thought, M.G University delivering her lecture.



Shri. Balram S, Scientist 'G', SCTIMST, Trivandrum delivering his lecture.



Adv. Benoy Kadavan, IPR Consultant & Advocate, High Court of Kerala delivering his lecture



Dr. Lawwellman, Asst. Professor, Govt. Law College, Kozhikode delivering his lecture.



Adv. Febin James, Trademark Attorney & Advocate delivering his lecture.



Views of participants



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