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1. European fruit and vegetables threatened by Patent

EPO ALLOWS PATENTING OF NATURAL PLANT PROPERTIES

It was quite a shock for plant breeders when the European Patent Office decided this spring to allow the patenting of natural plant properties. Since then, multinationals such as Syngenta and Monsanto have bought so many patents that we are on the brink of a dangerous monopoly of plant patents.

Together with my colleagues from the Group of the European People's Party (EPP Group) in the European Parliament, I will table a Resolution in which we will call on the European Commission to finally tackle this problem. The biggest problem created by the patenting of plant characteristics is that further innovation is blocked in the breeding sector. [Read more](#)

2. World Intellectual Property Report 2015

FOCUSING ON THE IMPACT OF BREAKTHROUGH INNOVATIONS

WIPO's latest World Intellectual Property Report (WIPR) explores the role of IP at the nexus of innovation and economic growth, focusing on the impact of breakthrough innovations.

Extraordinary technological breakthroughs over the last 300 years have touched almost every aspect of human activity and transformed the world's economies. The 2015 report shows how three historical breakthrough innovations – airplanes, antibiotics and semiconductors – fueled new business activity. It examines three current technologies with breakthrough potential: 3D printing, nanotechnology and robotics. And it considers the future outlook for innovation-driven growth. [Read More](#)

3. US, Switzerland back out of disputed norm in patent law

MASSIVE OPPOSITION

BY

100 COUNTRIES

PUTS

PRESSURE ON US

Geneva: The US and Switzerland have agreed not to introduce a controversial norm in the global patent law regime for pharmaceutical products for another two years until end-2017 at the World Trade Organization (WTO), according to negotiators familiar with the development. The decision came as part of a compromise struck on Wednesday between the two nations, home to several pharmaceutical giants, on the one hand, and emerging economies Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Peru and Russia on the other. The norm which the US and Switzerland threatened to bring into the WTO's Trade-related Intellectual Properties (TRIPS) Agreement is called a non-violation complaint, or NVC, which enables a government to raise a dispute even when an agreement has not been violated.

[Read more](#)

4. National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) and DIPP launch pan India IPR awareness programmes

**GOVT. OF INDIA
LAUNCHES PAN INDIA**

**IPR AWARENESS
PROGRAMMES**

National Research Development Corporation, (NRDC), an Enterprise of the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research, Ministry of Science & Technology in association with the office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks, under Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt of India is launching series of IPR awareness and capacity building workshops in 25 Universities/Institutions in 21 States of the country, starting from 24th November 2015. The objective of this IPRs campaign is to create awareness about IP in the academia in the wake of new IPR policy being launched by government of India and connecting IPRs to the Make in India and Start up India programs of Government of India. [Read more](#)

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5. Beijing IP Court grants maximum statutory damages in a trademark case for the first time

**ABOUT \$470,000
AWARDED BY
BEIJING IP COURT IN
TRADEMARK
INFRINGEMENT CASE**

High-end outerwear maker Moncler announced in a press release this week that the Beijing IP Court has awarded it the maximum level of statutory damages in a trademark infringement suit – Rmb3 million (about \$470,000). Calling the ruling “ground-breaking” and a “landmark”, the Italian company said the award is believed to be the first to reach the maximum level provided for in China’s new Trademark Law, which took effect in May 2014. Practitioners say the judgment is an important signal that the country’s courts are more serious about punishing counterfeiters and other infringers, though some obstacles remain to collecting other forms of damages in China. [Read more](#)

6. Trademark registration charges may jump 100%

**DRAFT TRADEMARK
AMENDMENT RULES,
2015, ISSUED FOR
PUBLIC COMMENTS**

MUMBAI: A steep rise in various fees, from filing of trademark applications to its renewal, have been proposed in the draft Trademark Amendment Rules, 2015, issued for public comments by the ministry of commerce and industry (MCI) on Thursday. An extra 10% will be levied against the fees if the trademark application and forms are not submitted in the electronic mode, but are filed physically. However, the number of forms for filing various applications have been simplified and consolidated into fewer forms. The other notable amendments contained in this draft are the wide discretionary powers given to the Registrar of Trademarks to determine whether or not a trademark is “well-known” and include it in the list maintained at the registrar’s office. [Read more](#)

7. Patent registration: Centre plans cutting approval time to 15 months from 5-6 yrs

**RECRUITING 459
ADDITIONAL
PATENT EXAMINERS TO
EXAMINE THE PATENT
APPLICATIONS**

In a move that is likely to give a push to innovation and encourage patent registration in the country, the department of industrial policy and promotion (DIPP) is working towards reducing the time taken in getting approval for a patent application from the current 5-6 years to 15 months.

A senior official told The Indian Express that the industry department has already initiated the process of bringing down the time taken for completion of the process by recruiting as many as 459 additional patent examiners to examine the patent applications, a process that usually takes around 18 months. [Read more](#)

8. Names of Holy Books cannot be claimed as Trademarks: Supreme Court

**"TAKING
ADVANTAGE OF
GODS AND GODDESSES
IS OTHERWISE
NOT PERMITTED"**

Upholding a decision rendered by the Intellectual Property Appellate Board, a Division Bench of the Supreme Court comprising Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice R.K. Agrawal recently held that names of holy or religious books cannot be claimed as trademark for goods or services.

"There are many holy and religious books like Quran, Bible, Guru Granth Sahib, Ramayan etc., to name a few. The answer to the question as to whether any person can claim the name of a holy or religious book as a trade mark for his goods or services marketed by him is clearly 'NO'," the Bench observed. [Read more](#)

9. Delhi HC sets up commercial courts to speed up disposal of disputes

**NEWLY CONSTITUTED
BENCHES TO DEAL WITH
COMMERCIAL DISPUTES
OF VALUE
ABOVE 1 CRORE RUPEES**

New Delhi: To ensure quick settlement of commercial disputes, Delhi high court on Thursday set up six commercial division courts and four commercial appellate division courts for adjudicating commercial disputes of a specified value.

The step was taken to give effect to a recent ordinance, the Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts Ordinance, 2015, which was promulgated by President, Pranab Mukherjee on 23 October.

All disputes of a commercial nature, the specified value of which is above Rs.1 crore, will be dealt with under the newly constituted benches. [Read more](#)

10. Cipla Infringing Roche's Patent in Lung Cancer Drug: HC

CIPLA

Vs

ROCHE

In a setback to Cipla, the Delhi High Court today held that the Indian drug major was infringing Swiss pharmaceutical company Hoffman-La Roche's patent in lung cancer drug erlotinib hydrochloride, sold under the name of Tarceva.

A bench of justices Pradeep Nandrajog and Mukta Gupta arrived at the conclusion by noting that Cipla's lung cancer medicine, Erlolcip, was one polymorphic form of the erlotinib hydrochloride compound, which may exist in several forms, and Roche's patent claim was not limited to any one such version. [Read more](#)

11. About 2.46 lakh patents, 5.32 lakh trademark applications pending on manpower shortage

About 2.46 lakh patent applications and 5.32 lakh trademark registrations are pending with the government due to shortage of manpower, Parliament was informed on Monday

**PENDENCY OF PATENT
AND TRADEMARK
APPLICATIONS
PRIMARILY DUE TO
SHORTAGE OF
MANPOWER**

"There is pendency in patent and trademark applications, which are disposed of with the available manpower and infrastructure. The pendency as on November 1, is 2,46,495 in patent applications and 5,32,682 in trademark applications. This pendency is primarily due to shortage of manpower. The government has taken measures to augment available manpower and other necessary infrastructure," Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitahraman said in a written reply to Lok Sabha. [Read more](#)

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