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Advocates, Patent And Trademark Attorneys

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2016

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1. Make way for automatic compulsory licencing in pharma

SJM ASKS GOVT. NOT TO GIVE IN TO U.S. PRESSURE New Delhi: Lauding India's tough stand on the patents issue, RSS affiliate Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) today asked the government not to give in to US pressure and urged it to make provisions for liberal and automatic compulsory licencing of pharma products.

Noting that India is known as the 'Pharmacy of the World' for providing cheap medicines for those affected by blood cancer, HIV-AIDS and other serious diseases, SJM said it should frame policies responsibly. Read more

2. Will bring patent pendency at same level as in US, Japan

PATENT PENDENCY
LEVEL TO MATCH
WITH U.S. AND
JAPAN IN NEXT
18 MONTHS

NEW DELHI: With India grappling with massive backlog of Intellectual Property Rights applications, the Government today said patent pendency will be brought down to the same level as in advanced countries like the US and Japan in the next 18 months.

"We have a huge pendency of IPR. We have just recruited about close to a 1,000 patent examiners and we are outsourcing to IITs.

"In 18 months time we will bring our patent pendency to exactly the same level as in the US and Japan. And in about a year's time we will bring the trade mark pendency down to zero level," DIPP Secretary Amitabh Kant said at the Startup India conference here amid huge applause. Read more

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3. A moment of clarity: China settles rules on trademarks and OEMs

NATURE AND
LEGITIMACY OF
TRADEMARK USE BY
ORIGINAL OEMS

On November 26, 2015 a decision by China's Supreme People's Court on a trademark infringement case settled the long-running debate over the nature and legitimacy of trademark use by original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) in China.

The case, Focker v Yahuan, was in relation to the trademark 'Pretul', which was used on OEM padlocks exported to Mexico from China; there were no sales in China. The Supreme Court reasoned that in the OEM business structure, 'Pretul' only functions to distinguish the origin of goods in the export market of Mexico. Read more

4. This Indian biotech firm is the world's first to ready a Zika vaccine for testing

BHARAT BIOTECH

FILES

WORLD'S FIRST

PATENT APPLICATION

FOR ZIKA VIRUS

Krishna Ella never expected to be holding the key to fighting a new global health emergency. Yet, his Indian firm—Bharat Biotech—has become the first to ready two vaccine candidates against the rapidly spreading Zika virus, which has already infected millions of people in Latin America.

Zika doesn't cause much harm to adults. Most of the infected individuals are symptomless, and those who show symptoms often recover from a bout of fever or red rash within a few days. What has raised alarm is its link to serious neurological conditions, such as microcephaly where babies are born with tiny brains. Read more

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5. USPTO designates San José library a Patent and Trademark resource center

OPENING OF A NEW
PATENT AND
TRADEMARK RESOURCE
CENTER (PTRC)

Washington – The U.S. Department of Commerce's United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) on Tuesday announced the opening of a new Patent and Trademark Resource Center (PTRC) at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library of the San José Public Library system located in San José, California. PTRCs, located across the United States, assist the public in learning more about patents and trademarks with reference assistance and training programs. They serve as the local face of the USPTO and promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.

PTRCs are a nationwide network of public, state and academic libraries. Read More

6. Patent office refuses Takeda's application for diabetes drug

TAKEDA'S PATENT
APPLICATION FOR
DIABETES DRUG
REJECTED

The Indian Patent Office has refused a patent application of Japanese drug major Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Ltd for its dipeptidyl peptidase-IV (DPP-4) inhibitor used to treat type-2 diabetes, which could be used as single weekly dose. While the company claimed that the compound is a succinate salt form, which is novel, the patent office said that it is not patentable under the Section 3(d) and 3(e) of the Patent Act.

The PCT International application was published on May, 2009 and a first examination report was issued on February 18,2014, following which a hearing was held on October 27, 2015, on technical objections of non-patentability of the claimed subject matter and lack of novelty and obviousness under various sections of the Patents Act, 1970. Read more