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## 1. Agrochemical firms spot a 'generic' promise in patent expiry in sector

**INDIAN FIRMS  
REPORTED SIGNIFICANT  
GROWTH IN BOTH  
VOLUME AND VALUE  
TERMS, ENCOURAGING  
MANY OTHERS TO TAP  
THESE MARKETS**

*Indian agrochemical companies are looking to replicate the success that the country's generic drug makers have had with medicines going off patent. They want to exploit the opportunity opening up with the patent expiry of several significant agrochemicals in the North and Latin American markets.*

*Falling commodity prices have been driving the US and Latin American farmers to shift to generic agrochemicals from expensive patented products over the past few years, said industry representatives and analysts.*

*Latin America and North America represent 27% and 17%, respectively, of the global agrochemicals market pegged at \$52 billion in 2016, said Rahul Veera. [Read more](#)*

## 2. US, EU Diverge On Medical Diagnostic Patents

**METABOLITES  
PRODUCED BY  
PATIENTS AND  
POTENTIAL CHANGES  
TO MEDICINAL DOSAGE  
WAS A "NATURAL LAW"**

*A recent article in the journal Nature Biotechnology finds that since a key United States Supreme Court decision, the European Union and United States have diverged in their patent filings for medical diagnostics.*

*The article, authored by Brian Amos and Alan Miller, attorneys with Amster, Rothstein & Ebenstein, LLP, in New York, tracks the status of 31 international patent applications which claimed diagnostic or prognostic methods filed in 2013 in the US and EU. While 30 of the applications filed in the European Patent Office have either matured into patents or are still pending, 29 of the same applications in the United States have been either. [Read more](#)*

## 3. Reforms Bear Fruits at Indian Trade Marks Office

**THE RIGHT HOLDERS  
HAVE WELCOMED THESE  
MODIFICATIONS AS THEY  
HAVE LED TO  
ACCELERATED  
EXAMINATION**

*With continuous reforms in the landscape of the Intellectual Property (IP) system, India is emerging as one of the dominating player in the modern world economics. Recently, the Government of India ushering into the new era, announced the new Trade Marks Rules, 2017 thereby repealing the Trade Marks Rules, 2002 and apart from simplifying and streamlining the trademark registration process it also upgrades the IP system at par with the International Standards. The endeavour has been towards refurbishing the preceding scenario and establishing of a productive IP based system at all statutory, administrative. [Read more](#)*

## 4. EPO and Argentina sign co-operation agreement

**ARGENTINA IS A MAJOR  
DESTINATION FOR  
TRADE AND  
INVESTMENT FROM  
EUROPEAN COMPANIES**

*The EPO and the National Institute of Industrial Property of Argentina (INPI) have signed a memorandum of understanding on bilateral co-operation. The agreement was signed by EPO President Benoît Battistelli and INPI President Dámaso Pardo during a visit to the EPO in Munich by an INPI delegation on 9 and 10 May. It foresees joint activities in the areas of patent procedures, search, examination and automation, as well as use and exchange of patent data and databases.*

*"We are very pleased to intensify our co-operation with the National Institute of Industrial Property," said EPO President Benoît Battistelli. "Argentina is a major destination for trade and investment from European companies so this co-operation agreement will be a win-win situation for companies and researchers in our regions, as well as our two offices." [Read more](#)*

## 5. Union govt is likely to bring new law to empower pharmacists to substitute brands with generics versions

**THE GOVERNMENT IS AIMED TO REDUCE THE HEALTHCARE COSTS OF THE PEOPLE AND PROVIDE QUALITY DRUGS AT AFFORDABLE PRICES**

*While the Union government is pushing for opening 3,000 Jan Aushadhi Stores across the country to promote generic medicines, it is also contemplating to bring a new law to empower the pharmacists to substitute the prescriptions, according to sources close to the central government.*

*With this, a pharmacist will have the power to dispense a product prescribed by the physician with another one with the same drug. If there is no law to empower the pharmacists to substitute a brand for its generic version, prescribe only branded medicines. As part of the upcoming amendment. [Read more](#)*

## 6. USPTO eMod Project To Improve E- Filing/Managing Patent Applications

**THE EMOD PROJECT WILL PROVIDE A NEW INTERFACE, PATENT CENTER, THAT COMBINES EFS-WEB AND PAIR INTO A SINGLE INTERFACE**

*The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is implementing eCommerce Modernization (eMod), as discussed at a Patent Quality Chat webinar on May 9, 2017. Highlighted features and the status of the eMod project are described below.*

*Patent Center.*

*The eMod project will provide a new interface, Patent Center, that combines EFS-Web and PAIR into a single interface for filing and managing patent applications. Benefits of Patent Center include an improved interface and improved processes for submitting, reviewing, and managing patent applications and increased application processing and publication accuracy. The Patent Center aims to be more efficient and have more functionality and features than EFS-Web and PAIR. [Read more](#)*

## 7. KIPO: Digital Assistant-Related Patents Rose 70% In 2016

**THE POPULARITY OF DIGITAL ASSISTANTS IN SOUTH KOREA IS ALSO EXPECTED TO INCREASE BY A SIGNIFICANT MARGIN OVER THE COURSE OF THIS YEAR**

Patents related to artificial intelligence (AI) assistants grew by almost 70 percent in South Korea in 2016, the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) revealed on Sunday. While companies and individuals in the Far Eastern country applied for 36 patents related to virtual companions in 2015, the number of related applications grew to 61 last year, continuing the years-long industry trend. For added context, the KIPO received only 11 patent applications pertaining to virtual helpers in 2013, with many industry insiders claiming that the trend will continue in the coming years as AI companions become more accepted among consumers. The South Korean agency confirmed as much, as one of its officials said that all consumer electronics. [Read more](#)

## 8. Chinese Taipei: Recent amendment to the Patent Act

**A DETAILED CHART OF ALL CHANGES HAS BEEN PUBLISHED ON THE TAIWAN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE'S (TIPO) WEBSITE**

Based on an official notice and further announcement, an amendment to the Patent Act of Taiwan concerning the novelty grace period was promulgated on 18 January 2017. The changes apply to applications filed on or after 1 May 2017. Major revisions include the following:

Extension of the grace period for invention and utility model applications from six to twelve months preceding the domestic filing date; the grace period for design applications will remain six months

Disclosures eligible for grace period now include both voluntary and involuntary disclosures; the limitation to certain types has been removed. Removal of requirement to claim the grace period at the time. [Read more](#)

## 9. India to unveil new drug policy: Officials

**THE GOVERNMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS, HAS DEVISED NEW RULES THAT WILL REQUIRE MORE INFORMATION**

*India is expected to roll out a new drug policy and devise rules for clinical trials that may bring new projects to the country, a top Indian official have said.*

*A team of Indian officials led by GN Singh, Drug Controller General (India), said a set of new procedures to facilitate clinical trials are expected to be unveiled shortly.*

*Addressing the annual US-India BioPharma and Healthcare Summit in Boston recently, Singh said the Indian government is working with stakeholders to devise new rules for clinical trials that are expected to bring new projects to India. Over the last few years, clinical trials in India slowed down amid tedious court litigation and rising protests from health. [Read more](#)*

## 10. WIPO Re:Search: New Plan for Fight Against Neglected Tropical Diseases, Malaria and TB

**NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES, MALARIA, AND TUBERCULOSIS ARE DEVASTATING CONDITIONS THAT DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECT THE POOREST AND MOST DISADVANTAGED AMONG US**

*WIPO Re:Search has launched a new five-year roadmap to guide its activities in the fight against neglected tropical diseases, malaria and tuberculosis.*

*The World Intellectual Property Organization and its partner BIO Ventures for Global Health (BVGH) established the initiative in 2011 to boost the use of intellectual property in catalyzing innovation and product development for ailments affecting more than 1 billion people. WIPO Re:Search now includes 126 members in 35 countries and has established 112 collaborations across the globe. The new plan, unveiled during WIPO Re:Search's biennial meeting May 23, 2017, in Geneva, will guide the public-private consortium's. [Read more](#)*

## 11. Japan's inventors lead world in number of patent filings

**CHINA'S SHENZHEN-HONG KONG TAKING SECOND PLACE IN WIPO'S RANKINGS, AHEAD OF CALIFORNIA'S SILICON VALLEY IN THIRD AND SEOUL IN SOUTH KOREA**

*Japan remains an innovation powerhouse, according to a geographical analysis of patenting that shows Tokyo-Yokohama is much the largest such cluster in world*

*The study comes from the World Intellectual Property Organisation (Wipo), based in Geneva, which analysed the addresses of inventors named in all 950,000 international patent applications published between 2011 and 2015 under the Patent Cooperation Treaty.*

*Two other Japanese clusters, Osaka-Kobe-Kyoto and Nagoya, are in the global top ten. The results also show strong inventive activity elsewhere in east Asia. [Read more](#)*

## 12. Online Filing of Trademarks Launched in Cambodia

**THIS SYSTEM ONLY FACILITATES MARK APPLICATION FILING, THE APPLICANT OR TRADEMARK AGENT MUST APPEAR AT THE DIP TO OBTAIN THE NOTICE OF PROVISIONAL REFUSAL, NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE AND ORIGINAL REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES**

*A new online trademark registration system was launched today, allowing for faster and more convenient filing. The E-Filing platform can be used only for new trademark application, while post-application actions must be filed in person at the Department of Intellectual Property. This system is optional, as it will operate alongside traditional paper-filing in person.*

*According to the Prakas (Regulation) issued by the Ministry of Commerce on May 4, 2017, an applicant with permanent residence or principal place of business inside Cambodia can use this system. The applicant has to request in writing to the DIP for a user name and password. For foreign applicants, the system can only be used through a registered Cambodian trademark agent.*

[Read more](#)