



# PIC Newsletter

Quarterly newsletter of Patent Information Centre-Kerala, KSCSTE

## ***Agali Pepper gets Union Government recognition***

The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFRA) has granted registration to a unique variety of pepper called Agali Pepper (black pepper). The Certificate of Registration issued by the Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFRA), New Delhi has declared that George Kalluvellil Varkey of Thachampara, who has 16 acres of this unique variety of pepper farm has developed Agali Pepper or black pepper (*Piper nigrum*) and is therefore the 'true breeder' (or the legal representative or assignee of the true breeder) of the plant variety.

The Certificate of Registration has declared that the farmer has developed Agali Pepper of black pepper (*piper nigrum*) and therefore he is the 'true breeder' (or the legal representative or assignee of the true breeder) as per the provisions of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Act, 2001.

K V George, who is engaged in planting this unique variety of pepper for the last 40 years in his farm in Agali grama panchayat of Attapadi Hills, said his pepper was not only high yielding but resistant to diseases and attack from birds. "This variety was recognized as unique and of high quality and disease-resistant formally by the scientists of Indian Institute of Spices Research in 2012. Since then, they were monitoring the plant and its yield and other uniqueness and on their recommendation, now the Government of India has given the Plant Varieties Registry," George said.

[www.ipera.in](http://www.ipera.in) August 02, 2017

## ***Monkey selfie copyright battle ends with a settlement***

The battle over who owns the rights to a monkey's selfies has raged for years, but it's coming to a quiet end. Camera owner David Slater, PETA and Blurb have reached a settlement in the case before a federal appeals court could rule whether or not Slater or PETA (on behalf of the monkey, a crested macaque named Naruto) owned the photos. The truce doesn't appear to alter Slater's original court victory, but it will have him donating 25 percent of future revenue from the selfies to charities that protect the habitats of Naruto and his species.

In a statement, Slater and PETA said that the case raised "cutting-edge issues" about the rights of non-human animals, and that they both supported the idea of expanding animals' rights. For all intents and purposes, Slater got the upper hand. However, it does serve as a reminder that ownership isn't always easy to determine, especially in an era where artist robots can produce work without human intervention.

[www.engadget.com](http://www.engadget.com), Sep 11, 2017

## ***West Bengal's Gobindobhog rice gets Geographical Indication status***

The Geographical Indications Registry (GIR) has granted geographical indication (GI) status to Gobindobhog rice, a speciality from Burdwan district of West Bengal. The state government had applied for GI status for Gobindobhog rice in August 2015.

Gobindobhog variety of rice is a short grain, white, aromatic, sticky rice having a sweet buttery flavor.

It derives its name from principal ingredient usage in preparation of offerings to Govindajiu, the family deity of sets of Kolkota.

The south Damodar belt has been the traditional area of Gobindobhog rice cultivation. The rice has several advantages. It is cultivated late and therefore not much affected by rains. It is less prone to pests as well. The productivity per area is high and farmers get better prices for Gobindobhog rice. The tag helps farmers or manufacturers, as the case may be, to get a better price in the market.

[www.currentaffairs.gktoday.in](http://www.currentaffairs.gktoday.in) August 29, 2017

### ***From Editor's Desk***

*I am happy to introduce the next quarterly issue of the newsletter published by Patent Information Centre – Kerala of KSCSTE. The latest nationwide and global news and verdicts with respect to IPR are covered in the newsletter. The IP awareness activities carried out by PIC-Kerala during the period are kept for your perusal. Readers are encouraged to remark and advocate on how to further ameliorate it to be more instructive and constructive. Please post your comments to [patentcentre@gmail.com](mailto:patentcentre@gmail.com).*

**Chief Editor**

## ***Flipkart introduces patent pending 'anti-theft' packaging***

While E-commerce major Flipkart awaits a patent grant for its 'anti-theft' packaging invention, Flipkart announced that it will begin rolling out the pilferage protection box which has been designed specifically for high-net products like mobiles, tablets, and watches.

Flipkart has stated that the packaging will take substantial amount of time, resources, information, and techniques to re-open and re-seal to ensure original form of shipment. This would ensure that in case a package has been tampered with, the next supply chain person or customer can easily detect the same and not accept the package.

"Designed specifically for high-net products like mobiles, tablets, and watches, this unique and exclusive pilferage protection box, which is currently awaiting patent grant, incorporates special security features in shipment," Flipkart said in a statement. This pilferage protection packaging box comes with many protective features to ensure that customers do not receive stolen or damaged shipments, it added.

[www.ipera.in](http://www.ipera.in) Sep 19, 2017

## ***Exam desk granted design registration***

In the design journal published on the 7th of July 2017, an interesting design has been granted registration by the designs office, Kolkata. The design pertains to the design of a desk to be used in exams. The design no. 283654 is titled "Exam Desk" and has been registered under Class 06-03, which pertains to Tables and Similar furniture.

The desk is designed in such a way that it provides for two people to sit on the opposite sides of the same desk separated from one another by a partition board. Additionally, two partitions are provided on the side, making the design similar to that of an office cubicle.

[www.ipera.in](http://www.ipera.in) July 12, 2017

## ***IISER Scientists develop wood-pulp balls to clean oil spills***

IISER Kerala scientists have found an inexpensive and efficient way to clean up marine oil spills by using marble-sized balls made of wood pulp. Marine oil spill is one of the common disasters worldwide, which has long-lasting, negative impacts for economy and the environment.

Apart from leading to huge economic losses, such accidents affect the flora and fauna. There is a lot of interest in developing methods to recoup the oil from such spills.

"We thought there is an urgent need to address this issue in economically viable way," Kana M Sureshan, Associate Professor at IISER Kerala, told PTI. Current methods of cleaning up oil spills include on-site burning, which do not efficiently remove the oil, researchers said. Moreover, there is no way to recover the spilt crude oil. "We have made small balls of cellulose and dipped them

in a solution of the gelator," Sureshan said. The gelator repels water and only absorbs the oil. It congeals the absorbed oil, which could be recovered by applying pressure or through distillation.

The researchers, including Annamalai Prathap from IISER Kerala, have filed a patent for their product in India and are planning to file international patents soon. The Indian coast guard and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) have shown interest to mass produce the material with the help of government support, Sureshan said. The researchers tested their material on various crude oil varieties from various parts of the world including Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

[www.economicstimes.indiatimes.com](http://www.economicstimes.indiatimes.com) Sep 18, 2017

## ***Nokia gets \$2 billion payment from Apple in a patent infringement case***

Apple has paid \$2 billion to Nokia as part of the settlement for a patent infringement case between the companies. Nokia alleged Apple of 32 patent infringements related to display, user interface, software, antenna, chip-set, and video encoding in 2016. Later, Nokia expanded the litigation against Apple to 40 patents in 11 countries.

According to a report by Nokiamob.net, Nokia, in its 2nd quarter 2017 results, has mentioned that the company has increased the cash inflow by an "up-front cash payment of approximately EUR 1.7 billion". This increased cash flow of \$2 billion is the amount paid by Apple to Nokia under the patent infringement case. According to another report by the website the PR team of Nokia confirmed the cash payment by Apple which was expected to be paid by the company under the patent infringement case.

According to the report, Apple has paid a certain amount of the money in the second quarter of 2017 and will continue to pay royalties to Nokia.

[www.firstpost.com](http://www.firstpost.com), Jul 29, 2017

## ***IMA copyrights logo and emblem to curb quackery***

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has come out with a copyrighted logo and a separate emblem for sole use by the association's members.

The logo is different from the one currently in use by a large section of doctors, along with the emblem that can be used solely by IMA members now onwards.

IMA Aurangabad chapter secretary Santosh Ranjalkar on Sunday said that only registered MBBS doctors can now use the IMA logo and emblem. "The move to copyright these two can serve as one of the measures aimed at putting a check on bogus doctors. The IMA was keen to have a separate logo and emblem for allopathy doctors for long and conscious efforts being made in the recent past," Ranjalkar said.

He said any unauthorised use of logo and emblem can draw legal action under the Trade Mark Act, 1999. IMA national president K K Aggarwal, in a letter addressed to local branches said with the move, the association has

found a cure for quackery and fake doctors.

The IMA logo carries the letters 'Dr' in the middle of the plus sign in red colour. The emblem mentions 'IMA' and its establishment year as 1928. While copyrighting both, the specific fonts and sizes have also been specified.

IMA's office bearers said they would appeal to each and every member to adopt the copyrighted logo and emblem. "We have been spreading awareness about the new logo and emblem. Once all registered IMA members adopt these, it would be easier to single out bogus doctors," Ranjalkar said.

According to official data updated in June, Aurangabad district had as many as 266 unauthorised doctors, of which only two were subjected to police action over the last year and a half.

[www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com](http://www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com) July 31, 2017

## ***Dr Reddy's Labs wins patent infringement case in US***

Dr Reddy's Laboratories Ltd has won a favourable judgement in patent infringement litigation in the US. The United States District Court, Delaware, has delivered judgement in favour of Dr Reddy's Laboratories, ruling that the proposed generic version of Suboxone (buprenorphine and naloxone) sublingual film does not infringe US patent as asserted by Indivior.

A company spokesperson stated: "The judgement reiterates our commitment to providing affordable and innovative medicines that address the unmet and undermet needs of patients around the world."

Suboxone (buprenorphine and naloxone) sublingual film is indicated for the maintenance treatment of opioid dependence.

Reckitt Benckiser developed Suboxone sublingual film using MonoSol Rx's PharmFilm technology. In December 2014, Reckitt Benckiser de-merged its pharmaceuticals business as Indivior.

The US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) have approved Suboxone film in four different strengths.

The Hyderabad-based company's scrip zoomed 9.48 per cent over the previous close and is trading at Rs.2,212 on the Bombay Stock Exchange on Friday.

[www.thehindubusinessline.com](http://www.thehindubusinessline.com), September 1, 2017

## ***Indian Patent Office reissues guidelines for computer-related inventions***

The Indian Patent Office has again issued guidelines on examination of computer-related inventions (CRIs) such as software programmes.

The aim of this document is to provide guidelines for the examination of patent applications in the field of CRIs by the Indian Patent Office so as to further foster uniformity and consistency in the examination of such applications.

"The objective of this document is to bring out clarity in terms of exclusions expected under section 3(k) so that eligible applications of patents relating to CRIs can be examined speedily," the guidelines said.

According to the Section 3(k) of the Indian Patents Act, a mathematical or business method or a computer programme per se or algorithms are not inventions.

Various representations have been received regarding these guidelines which were first published in August 2015. Associations strongly opposed that, saying the norms are detrimental to the domestic IT sector. After that the guidelines were put in abeyance and re-issued in February, last year. But associations again raised issues, after which an expert committee was set up to look at the issues.

Representations have been received by the expert committee set by the commerce and industry ministry. "After taking all the views into consideration, the guidelines for examination of CRI have been streamlined," it said. Stakeholders had stated that the guidelines issued in August 2015 could place the Indian software industry at the mercy of multinational corporations.

[www.firstpost.com](http://www.firstpost.com) Jul, 03 2017

## ***Ericsson sues smartphone maker Wiko over patent infringement***

Swedish mobile infrastructure firm Ericsson is suing French-Chinese smartphone maker Wiko in two German regional courts over patent infringements, it said on Thursday. Ericsson said Wiko had infringed its rights for several years without any licence or compensation, despite negotiations since 2013.

Wiko, which has its head office in France but is majority-owned by Chinese technology group Tinno Mobile, was not immediately available for comment. Ericsson said it was suing the company in the courts of Duesseldorf and Mannheim for infringement of patents essential for 2G, 3G and 4G cellular technology, as well as implementation patents.

Ericsson, which is in a legal dispute with China's TCL over royalty rates, has had longstanding disputes with companies such as Apple and Samsung. These were settled in 2015 and 2014.

Ericsson's intellectual property portfolio (IRP), which includes over 42,000 granted patents worldwide, covers 2G, 3G and 4G/LTE technologies and yields around 7 billion crowns (\$867 million) annually.

[www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) August 17, 2017

## ***Mercedes-Benz Patents External Pedestrian Airbags***

One of the leading causes of road accident fatalities is due to pedestrians being hit by moving cars. [Mercedes-Benz](http://www.mercedes-benz.com) has patented a new A-pillar mounted external airbag setup that will help reduce the injury of the accident victims even further.

The airbags themselves will be fitted inside a fabric tube which will not be visible when the car is being used normally as there will be small plastic covers on them. The design of the airbags will let them adjust automatically with the hood as it rises.

The airbags will also prevent pedestrians from banging into the windscreen or the side panels/metal surrounds of the windscreen and rather into the softer airbag structure, which will immediately reduce the risk of injury to a certain degree.

[www.auto.ndtv.com](http://www.auto.ndtv.com) August 09, 2017

## Copyright Board will be fully functional by end of this year says CGPDTM

The Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks, OP Gupta, said that the merging of Copyright Board with Intellectual Property Appellate Board will be completed by end of this year. Moreover, he stated that the government is planning to expedite the copyright registration process in the country.

"Currently, we are working towards fast tracking copyright approvals to under three months. In fact, we expect to approve them in one month going forward," Gupta said. He also said that once the copyright board is functional, all pending issues will be addressed.

The government has also created an awareness cell for intellectual property promotion management and is working on spreading knowledge on copyright issues and infringement, Gupta said. "We are working on awareness programmes for schools and colleges, and this year more than 200 institutions will be covered under this IPR promotion," he added.

[www.ipera.in](http://www.ipera.in) August 01, 2017

### Disclaimer:

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

## Seminars/ Workshops/ Exhibitions/ Lectures/ Talks organized

Title of the Programme	In association with	Date & Venue	Resource Persons
National seminar on 'IPR in Business'	Xavier Institute of Management & Entrepreneurship Kinfra, Kalamassery, Kochi	July 21, 2017 XIME, Kochi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adv. Benoy Kadavan</li> <li>Shri. R.S.Praveen Raj</li> <li>Adv. Febin James</li> <li>Shri. Arun Alfred</li> </ul>
Two day Seminar on 'Demystifying Patents'	Dept. of Electronics, Cochin University of Science & Technology CUSAT	August 10 <sup>th</sup> & 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2017 Dept. of Electronics, CUSAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shri. V.P.Balagangadharan</li> <li>Shri. Afsar.S</li> <li>Adv. Febin James</li> <li>Shri. Safikh S</li> </ul>
Seminar on 'Importance of Intellectual Property Rights'	Ammini College of Engineering, Mankara, Palakkad	17 <sup>th</sup> August, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Ajit Prabhu V.</li> <li>Shri. Rahmathali</li> <li>Shri. C.R. Rakesh</li> </ul>
Workshop on 'IP Management and Patent Filing'	Mohandas College of Engineering & Technology, Nedumangad, Trivandrum	18 <sup>th</sup> August 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shri. Afsar.S</li> <li>Shri. Safikh S</li> <li>Shri. Arun Alfred,</li> </ul>
Workshop on I'PR for Engineers'	College of Engineering, Trivandrum	19 <sup>th</sup> August, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shri. Afsar.S</li> <li>Shri. Safikh S</li> </ul>
Two day Workshop on 'IPR, Innovation, Patent Information & Drafting'	NSS College of Engineering, Palakkad	18 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup> August 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr.Ajit Prabhu V.</li> <li>Shri. Vishwas Sethuraman</li> <li>Adv. Febin James</li> <li>Shri. Rahmathali</li> </ul>
Awareness Workshop on 'Intellectual Property Rights'	Institute of Technology Mayyil, Kannur	30 <sup>th</sup> August 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shri.V.P.Balagangadharan</li> <li>Dr. Lawwellman</li> <li>Shri. Arun Alfred</li> </ul>
National Workshop on 'IPR and Patent Drafting'	Amal Jyothi College of Engineering, Kanjirapally	22 <sup>nd</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shri. Safikh S</li> <li>Adv. Febin James</li> <li>Shri. Nikhil S Reddy</li> </ul>
National Seminar on 'Intellectual Property Rights and Patent Drafting'	Sree Narayana Gurukulam College of Engineering, Kolenchery, Ernakulam	27 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shri. C.R.Rakesh</li> <li>Shri. Arun Alfred</li> <li>Adv. Febin James</li> <li>Ms. Jancy John</li> </ul>
National Seminar on 'Intellectual Property Rights for Academic Rendezvous'	JDT Islam Orphanage and Educational Institution, Kozhikode	22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Ajit Prabhu V.</li> <li>Dr. Lawwellman</li> <li>Ms. Jancy John</li> </ul>

## National Seminar on 'IPR in Business' at Kochi

PIC-Kerala in association with Xavier Institute of Management & Entrepreneurship Kinfra, Kochi, organised a one day National Seminar on "IPR in Business" at XIME, Kochi on 22nd July, 2017. Four technical sessions on the various topics of IPR was covered in the Seminar and it was led by eminent speakers in IPR. Around 100 participants including students and faculty members attended the Seminar.



A view from the inaugural function



Adv. Benoy Kadavan, Trademark Attorney delivering his lecture



Adv. Febin James, Trademark Attorney making his presentation



A view of participants

## Workshop on 'IP Management and Patent Filing' at Trivandrum

A Workshop on 'IP Management and Patent Filing' was organized at Mohandas College of Engineering, Trivandrum, on 18th August 2017. The Director of the College inaugurated the Workshop. Four Technical sessions covering various topics of IPR were handled in the Workshop. Around 80 Students and Faculty members participated in the Workshop.



Shri Safikh S, Technical Officer, KSCSTE delivering his lecture



Shri. Afsar.S Patent Attorney, Krishna and Saurastri Associates delivering his lecture



Shri. Arun Alfred, Project Scientist, PIC-Kerala making his presentation



A view of participants

## Workshop on 'IPR for Engineers' at Trivandrum

A one day Workshop on 'IPR for Engineers' was conducted at College of Engineering, Trivandrum, on 19th August 2017. The Principal of the College inaugurated the Workshop. Four technical sessions on the various topics of IPR was handled by experts. Around 75 participants including students and faculty members from the Institution as well as from nearby Institutions attended the Workshop.



View of Inaugural Session



Shri. Afsar.S, Patent Attorney, Krishna and Saurastri Associates, delivering his lecture



Shri. Safikh S, Technical Officer, KSCSTE delivering his lecture



A view of participants

## Workshop on 'IPR, Innovation, Patent Information & Drafting' at Palakkad

PIC-Kerala in association with NSS College of Engineering, Palakkad organized a two day Workshop on 'IPR, Innovation, Patent Information & Drafting' on 18th and 19th August, 2017. The Principal of the College inaugurated the Workshop. Dr. Ajit Prabhu V, Chief Scientist, KSCSTE & Nodal Officer, PIC-Kerala delivered the Keynote Address. The technical sessions in the Workshop were handled by eminent speakers. Around 100 participants including Engineering and Polytechnic Students attended the Workshop.



A view from the inaugural session



Dr.Ajit Prabhu V delivering his lecture



Shri. Vishwas Sethuraman . S, Associate, K&S Partners, Bangalore handling his session



A view of participants

## Awareness Workshop on Intellectual Property Rights at Kannur

An Awareness Workshop on IPR was organized at Institute of Technology, Mayyil, Kannur on 30th August 2017. Shri. V.P.Balagangadharan, Former Brahmaprakash Scientist, VSSC, Trivandrum delivered the Keynote Address. Three Technical Sessions on IPR were handled in the Workshop and the sessions were led by Experts. Around 80 participants including students and faculty attended the Workshop.



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



Dr. Lawwellman, Asst. Professor, Govt. Law College, Kozhikode, handling his session



A view of participants



## National Workshop on Intellectual Property Rights and Patent Drafting at Kanjirapally

PIC-Kerala in association with Amal Jyothi College of Engineering, Kanjirapally organized a two day Workshop on 'Intellectual Property Rights and Patent Drafting' on 22nd & 23rd September, 2017. The Principal of the College inaugurated the Workshop. Six technical sessions covering advanced topics including hands on sessions on Patent Searching and Patent Drafting were handled by Experts. Around 60 participants including students and faculty within and outside the Institution participated in the Workshop. Workshop were handled by eminent speakers. Around 100 participants including Engineering and Polytechnic Students attended the Workshop.



A view from Inaugural session



Adv. Febin James, Trademark Attorney delivering his lecture



Shri. Nikhil S Reddy, senior Associate, K&S Partners, Bangalore handling his session



A view of participants

## National Seminar on Intellectual Property Rights and Patent drafting at Kolenchery

PIC-Kerala in association with Sree Narayana Gurukulam College of Engineering, Kolenchery organized a two day Seminar on 'Intellectual Property Rights and Patent Drafting' on 27th & 28th September, 2017. Six sessions covering various topics of IPR were handled in the Seminar and the sessions were led by Experts. Around 80 participants including students and faculty attended the Seminar.



Shri. C.R.Rakesh, Former IP Manager, Tata Motors delivering his lecture



Adv. Febin James, Trademark Attorney delivering his lecture



A view of participants

### Editorial Board

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**If undelivered, please return to  
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To,