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Universities Forge Ahead in Patent Filing

Academic institutions and universities are storehouses of knowledge and knowledge givers, with new knowledge generated at these places on a continuous basis. Until recently the culture of protecting their inventive work legally through patents was almost nonexistent in these institutes, as most teachers felt that the knowledge should be shared freely through publications, seminars etc. This situation was no different from what existed in most Indian industries and R&D institutions except that the knowledge generated in industry was not so freely shared through publications etc. In the last four years after India became a member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), a new thinking has started taking roots in universities and other academic institutions regarding patents. One can notice vibrant activities in universities in this respect as shown by the number of patent applications filed since 1995. (Table 1)

It can be seen that the filings by universities have increased since 1995 although not on a continuous basis. The number of applications filed based on

Table 1
Patent Applications Filed Based on Research at Academic Institutions

Year	Universities & others	IIT & IISc	School	Total
1995	4	31		35
1996	11	18		29
1997	23	15		38
1998	15	34	1	50
Total	53	98	1	152

research work at these universities, has grown by about 300% in 1998 from the level of 1995. This increase has been about 40 % when IITs and IISc are also included. At this stage nothing could be said with great confidence about the trend as all these organisations are at early stages of the learning process. It is a well known fact that most universities have very little funds or no funds for carrying out R&D. Their funding is not comparable to the funds received by R&D institutions which are meant to carry out R&D. Similarly, infrastructure support available to universities is also limited. The situation is further complicated by the near-absence of administrative, managerial and technical support services for facilitating protection of inventive work generated at these places. Therefore, a sense of appreciation must be felt if more and more patentable inventions emanate

from this sector. The list below gives the names of academic institutions, which have filed patent applications in the last four years (1995 to 1998).

Institution	Applications filed since 1995
IIT, Madras	26
IIT, Khargpur	22
IISc, Bangalore	16
IIT, Mumbai	15
IIT, Delhi	15
UDCT, Mumbai	6
Harcourt Butler Technological Institute, Kanpur	6
Osmania University	5
Nagarjuna University	5
IIT, Kanpur	4
Delhi University	4
AIIMS	3
Jadavpur University	2
Bhavnagar University	2
Anna University	2
Pune University	2
Kerala Agricultural University	2
Calicut Engg. College	2
MG University, Kottayam	2
Sardar Patel University	2
Maulana Azad Medical College, Delhi	1
MS University, Vadodara	1
Jabalpur University	1
JNKV, Jabalpur	1
Lucknow University	1
Bhagalpur Engg College	1
Assam Agricultural University	1
Goa University	1
Seth Sampatramji Dugar Mal School, Rajasthan	1

Obviously, not many academic institutions have come forward to protect their inventive work. This is
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Universities Forge...

considered to be a transition period and as mentioned earlier, these places are undergoing a learning process. A paradigm shift in the university culture has started to take place. One expects that the picture will change with each passing day as it takes some time to re-orient your research towards patentable inventions. For example, most academicians have to imbibe the fact that they should not publish their research work without first filing patent applications.

One of the reasons for the increase is that many government departments have instituted systems for helping universities to protect their inventive work. The Department of Science and Technology set up the Patent Facilitating Cell (now Patent Facilitating Centre) in 1995 for providing technical and financial support to protect inventive work emanating from research carried out with universities' own funds and with funds from the government. The Departments of Biotechnology and Electronics provide similar facilities for inventions emerging from projects funded by them. Twenty four applications based on research work at universities and schools, and 5 applications from IISc, were filed with the PFC support. Similarly seven applications were filed with the DOE's support (Information provided by the IPR Cell, DOE). It is highly gratifying to note that the support provided by PFC has led to the filing of a patent application on the inventive work done at a higher secondary school in the Churu District of Rajasthan.

Patenting in Display Devices

Patent filing in India in the electrical and electronics sector has been growing steadily and it was reported earlier that this sector occupies the next position after the chemical sector in respect of patent filings. Display devices are one of the important segments of electronic products and it has been found that 5.6 percent of applications filed in the electronics sector belong to display devices. The study includes the patent applications filed from 1995 to 1998. A total of 287 patent applications have been filed over the span of four years. The year wise breakup is given in **Table 1**. The convention applications constitute 78% of the total applications filed during the period. Korea has filed the highest number of convention applications (82) followed by Japan (66) and USA (47). The other countries filing convention applications are UK, Germany, France, Belgium, Australia and Italy.

Table 1

Year	Applications filed
1995	51
1996	77
1997	107
1998	52

Of the total applications filed, Indians have a share of only 6 percent in this area. CSIR has filed three applications related to electroluminescent panel, liquid crystal displays and Cesium+ activated borate phosphorus for use in fluorescent lamps and television tubes. Indian individuals have filed 15 applications mainly

related to LED circuits, indicator cum display system, electrochromic display device using conducting polymer, high brightness, high resolution and very long life CRT for medical imaging application. The rest of the applications have been filed by the multinational companies. The companies filing 5 or more than 5 applications during this period are listed in **Table 2**.

Table 2

Company	Patent Applications Filed
Samsung Display Devices Co Ltd, Korea	66
Sony Corporation, Japan	40
LG Electronics Inc, Korea	17
Daewoo Electronics Co Ltd, Korea	16
Thomson Consumer Electronics Inc, USA	12
Motorola Inc, USA	6
Hitachi Ltd, Japan	6
IBM, USA	5
Toyo Kohan Co Ltd, Japan	5

It may be noted that Samsung has filed the highest number (66) of applications out of which 49 were filed in 1997. 31 applications filed by Samsung relate to cathode ray tubes (CRT). These include shadow mask, mask frame, device for cleaning CRT, apparatus for removing foreign material from a CRT panel, paste composition for screen printing of CRT shadow mask and screen printing method using the same, cathode structure and electron gun, correction lens system for an exposure apparatus, method for making a screen panel, method for screening a panel, method for forming a black matrix on a

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Patenting in Display Devices

faceplate panel for color CRT, phosphor screen for a flickerless CRT and process for preparing the same, multilayer coating device, flat panel CRT, CRT comprising CPM having convergence margin enlargement means and getter flashing method and getter for conducting the same. 18 patent applications filed by Samsung relate to liquid crystal displays. Out of these 18 applications, 7 relate to aligning methods employed for aligning of liquid crystal displays (LCD). Some of these applications include method for aligning liquid crystal molecules, heat resistant polymer composition and alignment layer formed using the same, aligning method for alignment layer, an alignment film material for a liquid crystal cell and a method for preparing the same and optical alignment composition and alignment layer formed using the same. The other LCD related applications include method of making LCD, plastic LCD panel and its fabrication, method for preventing a direct current shock, method for attaching LCD element on light transmission plate, LCD device using phosphor luminescence and multi LCD device. Three applications relate to composition and method for making shadow masks for color picture tube. Samsung has 3 applications for plasma display and one for flat panel display. A few applications have been filed in the name of Samsung Aerospace Industries Ltd and Samsung Electronics Co Ltd. These seem to be part of the

same Samsung group but are different legal entities. These two companies have filed applications related to video overhead display controller, character receiving and displaying device in pager and method thereof and a paging receiver of displaying a received signal strength indicator.

Sony Corp has filed maximum number of applications (20) in 1996. 8 applications filed by Sony relate to CRT, 8 to LCDs, 6 to plasma displays, 1 to flat panel display and the rest in areas other than these but related to display devices. The CRT related applications include method of manufacturing CRT, fluorescent screen, electron gun and color selecting apparatus for CRT, method for measuring focus, method of degaussing, beam shielding plate for preventing halation. The LCD related applications include plasma addressed LCD panel, liquid crystal panel and liquid crystal projector, light diffuser of a LCD device and method of manufacturing LCD device and optical block and liquid crystal projector. Applications for plasma display mainly include plasma addressed display device and plasma driver circuit capable of suppressing surge current of plasma display channel. Sony has filed some applications related to method of manufacturing flat display panel device, apparatus and method of controlling display of electronic program guide, display device using electron beam and method of erasing display screen and video display apparatus having an on-screen display and method for

controlling position thereof.

Out of the 17 applications filed by LG Electronics, 16 relate to cathode ray tubes and one relates to ghost eliminating apparatus for mobile image display device. The CRT related applications filed by LG mainly focus on magnet assembly for color cathode ray tubes, method for manufacturing of color CRT, electron gun, method for knocking CRT, method for manufacturing heater of color CRT, convergence yoke, magnetism shield, phosphor layer structure, electrode system for controlling electrostatic field in electron gun and dynamic 4 polar electrode system in pre-focussing electrode in electron gun. LG has filed maximum number of applications (12) in 1996. Daewoo Electronics has 16 applications to its credit, most of them filed in 1995; with only single application filed for a cathode ray tube. All other applications relate to circuitry used in video signal processing before it goes to the monitor for display. The single application filed for CRT is titled "A spot removing circuit for a cathode ray tube".

Thomson Consumer Electronics has filed 12 applications. Two of them relate to CRT, one to picture tube, 3 to apparatus and method for generating on-screen display image using true color mode and the rest to video signal processing for screen display arrangement. Motorola Inc, USA has 6 applications relating to visual display of speech communication, displaying information in a communication system including textual

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Patenting in Display Devices

information, previews of stored messages in a data communication receiver and method and apparatus for backlighting a display for different times in a battery powered device. Hitachi has filed 3 applications for CRT and 3 for LCD. CRT related applications include CRT and method of correcting deflection defocusing. LCD related ones are LCD apparatus, LCD device with wide viewing angle characteristics comprising high resistivity black matrix.

International Business Machines Corp, USA has 5 applications which relate to screen overlay system and method, display system including computer display having a display screen and a cursor. Japanese company Toyo Kohan Co Ltd has all the five applications related to color picture tubes. These include invar alloy steel sheet for shadow mask and method for producing the same and color picture tube and a material for an aperture grille for use in color picture tube and a method of producing the same and aperture grille.

In addition to the applications filed by the companies as discussed in the preceding paragraphs, companies like Hughes Training Inc, USA has one application titled, "Fiber optic ribbon subminiature display for head/helmet mounted display"; Projectavision has three applications titled, "Rear-screen video display system with an exposed beam path". In the year 1997 General Electric Company

filed a single application for a method and apparatus for scanning an object and displaying an image in a computed tomography system. El Du Pont De Nemours and Co Ltd has filed two applications related to display panels using fibrous field emitters and field emitter cathode backplate structures for display panels. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA had filed one application in 1997 for non-emissive displays and piezoelectric power supplies there for and two in 1998 titled, "Printable electronic display" and "Micro encapsulated electrophoretic display".

Broadly, the areas in which most of the applications have been filed are given in **Table 3** along with the number of applications filed:

Table 3

Areas in which Patent Applications filed	Patent Applications filed
Cathode Ray Tube (CRT)	64
Liquid Crystal Display (LCD)	41
Picture Tube	11
Plasma Display	9
Light Emitting Diode (LED)	8
Flat Panel Display	3

The analysis brings out cathode ray tube as an indisputable winner from among all the display devices being currently used. There are some new entrants like LCDs & plasma displays which may emerge as competitors of CRT in the near future.

Case Study

A patent on a cooked cereal product

The invention relates to a patent application entitled "A process for preparing a cooked cereal product" applied by Societe Des Produits Nestle S.A., Switzerland. The application was accepted by the Indian Patent Office and published in Part III Section 2 of the Gazette of India dated 27 February 1999.

Prior Art

The following methods are known in the art:

(i) Steam heat treatment of a starch product such as milled cereals, optionally under pressure is quite well known. Cooked cereals thus obtained have a characteristic underlying taste reminiscent of the taste of cooked grain and/or a toasted taste and/or a biscuity taste.

(ii) Preparing a milled mixture of milled cereals having moisture content of 14% to 22% by weight, and then extruding the said mixture is known via the French Patent Application No. 2640472. The extruded product can then be dried and then ground and agglomerated to obtain grains, which can be easily dissolved in liquid.

(iii) Another process for preparing breakfast cereals consists of preparing a mixture of milled cereals and sugars, and introducing this mixture into a twin-screw extruder with sufficient quantity of water so as to obtain expanded pieces of cereal of the desired density, the said pieces of cereal then being able to be coated in a syrup and then dried.

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Case Study

The cereals obtained by the above methods of extrusion do not have an underlying taste comparable to the taste traditionally obtained. This is because at the time of extrusion, the cooking time is short, generally about a minute, whereas for more traditional processes, for example steaming, the heat processing time may vary from 15 minutes to more than one hour. The object of the present invention is to mitigate the drawbacks of the prior art and to provide a process enabling cooked cereals to be prepared which have an appropriate underlying taste in spite of being obtained through extrusion.

Present Invention

The present invention provides a process for preparing a cooked cereal product comprising the steps of, preparing a first composition, having a dry matter content of 20% to 85% by weight, comprising water and at least one raw material selected from the group consisting of starchy substances and soya; heating and maintaining the first composition at a temperature of from 50°C to 160°C for from 10 minutes to 180 minutes to obtain a heat-treated composition; and introducing the heat-treated composition and a second composition comprising at least one raw material selected from the group consisting of starchy substances and soya into an extruder and extrusion cooking the two compositions for 20 seconds to 60 seconds at 125°C to 135°C to obtain a cooked cereal product.

The present invention, therefore, consists of extruding a mixture comprising, on the one hand, part of the raw material which has previously been processed by heat and, on the other the hand, rest of the said raw material, added to the first part, just before extrusion.

As one part of the final composition is heat treated initially, the final product is able to retain the appropriate underlying taste. At the same time, extrusion is employed limiting to the minimum, the residence time in the extruder and the temperature used. Thus, qualities of raw materials, like the vitamin content, are preserved.

The raw material used may be durum/common wheat, rice or maize flour or semolina. Sugars such as saccharose or glucose, can be added to the said first mixture. Suitable flavourings, preservatives or pH modifiers can also be added. Enzymes such as amylases may be added to the first mixture to modify viscosity or to lend certain characteristics of taste, texture or appearance to the final product. The heat treatment can be done in a vat with a double shell into which steam is injected.

Example

A first mixture is prepared comprising 25 kg of wheat flour, 15 kg of sucrose and water, having a dry material content of 75%, which is homogenized in a mill and the temperature of which is raised to 80°C. The first mixture thus prepared is left to stand in a vat while maintaining its temperature at 75-80°C for about 2 hours, so as to develop the desired underlying taste. A

second mixture is also prepared comprising 40 kg of maize flour, 10 kg of sucrose, 6 kg of glucose and 2 kg of honey and having a dry material content of 89% to 90.2%. The first mixture treated is introduced in to a twin-screw extruder, at the same time as the rest of the ingredients forming the second mixture, so as to obtain a total load of 100 kg of materials excluding the addition of water. The whole is extruded at 125°C - 135°C for about 30 seconds, and then shaped and dried, using conventional techniques, at 60°C for 30 minutes, and then at 160°C for one and a half minutes. A cereal -type breakfast product with a pleasant taste is thus obtained.

As a comparison, a product with the same composition is prepared by a process consisting of preparing a mixture which has a dry material content of 87% and comprising 40 kg of maize flour, 25 kg of sucrose, 25 kg of wheat flour, 6 kg of glucose and 2 kg of honey, and then processing it with steam at 90°C for one to two minutes and extruding it at 125 - 135°C for 30 seconds, before shaping it and drying it as before. A control product is thus obtained, able to be used as breakfast cereal.

The products thus prepared are "reconstituted" by adding 120 ml of milk to 30 grams of cereal, and the products obtained are tested for taste characteristics like biscuit taste, raw grain taste, cooked grain taste, toasted taste, caramel taste and brown sugar taste. It was found that all the characteristics were more pronounced in the invented

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Patents for Opposition

The following patent applications have been accepted by the Patent Office and published in the Gazette of India. These can now be opposed by filing opposition applications within a period of four months from the dates given. Six digit numbers allotted after acceptance by the Patent Office are given before the applicant names and patent application numbers given in brackets. Names of the branches of the Patent Office are denoted in the application number, e.g. 'Bom' for Bombay branch. An opposition application should be submitted at the appropriate office where the concerned application was originally filed.

PATENT APPLICANTS

INVENTION

A. 3 July, 1999

182711. Dr. Anil Krishna Kar, India (347/Cal/94)	A process for producing waterproof lightweight wall composites.
182712. Aimbridge Pty Ltd, Australia (671/Cal/94)	Transmission device.
182713. Sonoco Products Co, USA (839/Cal/94)	One piece blow-molded closed plastic drum with handling ring and method of molding it.
182714. Interline Hydrocarbon Inc, USA (153/Cal/95)	A method for production of oil free of contaminants and an apparatus therefor.
182715. General Electric Co, USA (225/Cal/95)	Refrigerant for rate control based on liquid level in dual evaporator two-stage refrigeration cycles.
182716. Mitsui Petrochemical Industries Ltd, Japan (300/Cal/95)	A process and apparatus for producing an aromatic carboxylic acid.
182717. Montell Technology Co, The Netherlands (331/Cal/95)	Process for the polymerization of olefins.
182718. Vesta Ag & Co, Germany (367/Cal/95)	Pot-shaped cooking and/or boiling appliance.
182719. Grant Prideco Inc, USA (725/Cal/95)	A tubular drilling member having a pin connector at one end and a box connector at the other end.
182720. Thomson Consumer Electronics Inc, USA (438/Cal/95)	Apparatus for aligning a receiving antenna utilizing an audible tone.
182721. Stein Industrie, France (357/Del/91)	Apparatus for performing an exothermal or an endothermal reaction.
182722. Madhok Construction Co (Pvt) Ltd, India (1136/Del/91)	A method and apparatus of producing damp-proofed walls of building by forming chemical barriers at pre-determined height.
182723. CSIR, India (133/Del/92)	An improved process for making bistable and high contrast surface stabilized ferro-electric liquid crystal display device.

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Case Study

product than the control, except the raw grain taste which was less than average.

Claims

The patent has two claims which are reproduced below:

1 A process for preparing a cooked cereal product comprising the steps of preparing a first composition, having a dry matter content of 20% to 85% by weight, comprising water and at least one raw material selected from the group consisting of starchy substances and soya; heating and maintaining the first composition at a temperature of from 50°C to 160°C for from 10 minutes to 180 minutes to obtain a heat-treated composition; and introducing the heat-treated composition and a second composition comprising at least one raw material selected from the group consisting of starchy substances and soya into an extruder and extrusion cooking the two compositions for 20 seconds to 60 seconds at 125°C to 135°C to obtain a cooked cereal product.

2. A process for preparing a cooked cereal product substantially as herein before described and exemplified.

Corrigendum

It was wrongly reported in our IPR bulletin Vol 5 No 4-6, Apr-Jun, 1999 on page No 3 in the block item titled, "Changes in fees charged by the Indian Patent Office" that the sealing fees for the individuals is Rs. 5000/-. The actual sealing fees charged by the Indian Patent Office for the individuals is Rs. 1500/- only. The inconvenience caused to the readers is regretted.

182724. CSIR, India (159/Del/92) An improved process for the preparation of polymers as colloidal particles having conducting properties.
182725. CSIR, India (261/Del/92) An improved process for the preparation of iron ore pellets.
182726. CSIR, India (267/Del/92) An improved process for the preparation of packages of micro and millimeter wave semiconductor devices.
182727. CSIR, India (308/Del/92) A device useful for the measurement of road roughness.
182728. CSIR, India (613/Del/92) An improved process for the preparation of reactive liquid polymers based on unsaturated polyether ester.
182729. CSIR, India (614/Del/92) An improved electrolytic cell useful for the production of alkali metal hydroxide and chlorine.
182730. CSIR, India (343/Del/94) A process for the preparation of a biochemically active formulation useful for estimating BOD in wastewaters.
182731. Hindustan Lever Ltd, India (351/Bom/94) Cosmetic composition.
182732. Hindustan Lever Ltd, India (535/Bom/94) Bleaching compositions containing quaternary oxaziridinium salts.
182733. Hindustan Lever Ltd, India (537/Bom/94) Bleaching compositions containing imine quaternary salts and bleach precursors.
182734. Santosh Vijay Sakhare, India (539/Bom/94) Improved stapler-cum-punch.
182735. Mintage Consultants Pvt Ltd, India (617/Bom/94) An inverter circuit.
182736. Harish Textile Engineering Ltd, India (665/Bom/94) Improved squeezing roller for fabric squeezing machine and fabric squeezing roller system having the same.
182737. Gujarat State Fertilizers Co Ltd, India (2/Bom/95) A process for manufacturing of carboxylated styrene acrylonitrile copolymer.
182738. Shamraj Madhusudar, India (23/Bom/95) A condenser for the process of converting sugar cane juice/beet juice into crystal sugar.
182739. Dr Biraja Bilash Paul, India (43/Bom/95) A process for the production of extra neutral alcohol directly from fermented molasses and apparatus for carrying out the process.
182740. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd, India (52/Bom/95) A process for the production of calcium borate type overbased sulphonate.
- B. 10 July, 1999**
182741. F L Smidth & Co, Denmark (678/Mas/93) A cooler for a rotary kiln.

Domestic News

A US patent has been awarded to Indian Institute of Chemical Technology for developing a process for the isolation of a chemical, 'gamma oryzanol' from rice bran acid oil. The substance 'gamma oryzanol' will have several pharmaceutical uses such as reducing wrinkles in aged women, converting grey hair to natural black.

(The Hindu, 7 Aug 99)

Godrej Agrovet has obtained a patent for a technology to commercially manufacture a new kind of plant growth promoter which will significantly increase the crop yield. The technology using the brassinolides class of plant growth hormones has proven successful in promoting growth of economically important crops like wheat, paddy, groundnut, potato, cotton, vegetables and grapes.

(The Economic Times, 9 Aug 99)

A public interest litigation has been filed in the Supreme Court of India by the Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology, the Lok Shakti Abhiyan, the Bhartiya Kisan Union, the People's Union for Civil Liberties and the Azad Bachao Andolan challenging the constitutional validity of the Patent (Amendment) Act, 1999. The petition alleges that the Act had been enacted without availing the exemptions granted under the GATT and the TRIPS on the grounds of public health, food security, public interest and national interest.

(The Hindu, 10 Aug 99)

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182742. Tetra Laval Holdings & Finance S A, Switzerland (700/Mas/93)	A method of producing packaging laminates having sterilized inside layer and packaging laminates produced thereby.
182743. Caterpillar Inc, USA (727/Mas/93)	Piston assembly for an internal combustion engine.
182744. Medvelop AB, Sweden (736/Mas/93)	An anchoring element supporting prostheses or parts thereof.
182745. Dr Ing Reinhart Von Nordenskjold, Germany (756/Mas/93)	Process and device for the purification of waste water.
182746. Dana Corp, USA (796/Mas/93)	A bearing assembly for rotatably supporting a shaft on a support surface.
182747. Zeppelin Schuttguitechnik GmbH, Germany (825/Mas/93)	Device for the pneumatic conveyance of bulk materials.
182748. Ekanampet Shanmugam Mohan, India (866/Mas/93)	Cylindrical rotary valve system for four stroke internal combustion engine.
182749. Dana Corp, USA (898/Mas/93)	A gasket for an internal combustion engine.
182750. Borealis Holding A/S, Denmark (906/Mas/93)	A method of preparing a procatalyst composition for the polymerization of olefins.
182751. Hoechst Aktiengesellschaft, Germany (657/Cal/93)	A process for preparing n-(2-sulfatoethyl) piperazine sulfate.
182752. Technological Resources Pty Ltd, Australia (404/Cal/95)	A process for alkaline leaching of a titaniferous material.
182753. Hoechst Aktiengesellschaft, Germany (418/Cal/95)	A process for the preparation of a triphendioxazine compound.
182754. The Babcock & Wilcox Co, USA (1063/Cal/94)	An integrated boiler-burner apparatus.
182755. Colloptics Inc, USA (35/Cal/95)	A system for producing laser shaping masks.
182756. Unichema Chemie B V, The Netherlands (144/Cal/95)	A perfume or fragrance composition to be incorporated into translucent or transparent soap.
182757. Samsung Electronics Co Ltd, Korea (361/Cal/95)	A refrigerator with improved cooling air supply control device.
182758. LG Electronics Inc, Korea (405/Cal/95)	A heating time control apparatus microwave oven.
182759. American Cyanamid Co, USA (130/Cal/96)	Process for preparing 2,6-disubstituted pyridines and 2,4-disubstituted pyrimidines.
182760. Copes-Vulcan Inc, USA (829/Cal/94)	Poppet valve having external adjustment for a flow restrictor.
C. 17 July, 1999	
182761. Chao-Cheng Chen & others, China (002/Mas/94)	High temperature adiabatic cooking device.

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Domestic News

In an exclusive interview to PTI, the Director-General of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Dr. R A Mashelkar has stated that CSIR has set a goal of filing at least 1000 patents every year from 2001 onwards. He also stated that the council aims to hold a portfolio of more than 500 foreign patents by 2001 to enable alliances with global technological leaders and generate at least five percent of its R&D budget from IP licensing. The new policy is also aimed at developing skills amongst scientists to understand, interpret and analyze techno-legal and business information contained in patents and other IP documents.

(Business Line, 6 Aug 99)

With a view to protecting the biodiversity of the country, National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) has launched a massive five-year project in mission mode, Collection and conservation of germplasm of different agriculturally important crops under the ongoing National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP). The project will undertake the task of plant germplasm exploitation and collection, maintenance/regeneration, evaluation, conservation and documentation. This 20 crore project to be operated by NBPGR in cooperation with 9 of its regional stations, 34 ICAR institutions, one institute of CSIR, 2 institutes of Union Environment Ministry, 21 state agricultural universities, 3

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182762. Rieter Ingolstadt Spinnereimaschinen-bau Aktiengesellschaft, Germany (841/Mas/93)	Thread draw-off pipe.
182763. Heilmeyer & Weinlein Fabrik F Oel-Hydraulic GmbH & Co Kg, Germany (909/Mas/93)	Electrohydraulic control device.
182764. BASF Aktiengesellschaft, Germany (28/Mas/94)	A process for the catalytic decomposition of dinitrogen monoxide.
182765. BASF Aktiengesellschaft, Germany (29/Mas/94)	A process for preparing catalysts with fine particle dispersion.
182766. Fiesto Ag & Co, Germany (85/Mas/94)	A functional element for demonstration and/or training purposes.
182767. Fisher Controls International Inc, USA (104/Mas/94)	A rotary valve noise attenuator device.
182768. Asturiana De Zinc S A, Spain (133/Mas/94)	A cathode for the electrolytic deposition of non-ferrous metals.
182769. Zimmermann & Jansen GmbH, Germany (1004/Mas/94)	A double disk wedge valve.
182770. Eniricerche S P A, Italy (314/Mas/95)	A fractionating tower suitable for a reactive distillation.
182771. BASF Aktiengesellschaft, Germany (152/Mas/96)	A process for the preparation of salts of 3-isopropyl-2 1 3-benzothiadiazin-4-one 2, 2 dioxide.
182772. Societe des Produits Nestle S A, Switzerland (205/Mas/96)	A process for injection moulding an extruded fat-containing confectionery material.
182773. Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore (461/Mas/96)	Process for preparing recombinant peanut agglutinin mutants for improved diagnosis of t-antigen expression.
182774. Societedes Produits Nestle SA, Switzerland (565/Mas/96)	Process and a machine for the production of textured proteins.
182775. Societedes Produits Nestle SA, Switzerland (1082/Mas/96)	Process for producing cocoa nib or liquor with improved flavour.
182776. Schreiber Foods Inc, USA (1097/Mas/96)	Method and apparatus for producing shredded cheese.
182777. ELF Atochem SA, France (1215/Mas/96)	Process for the preparation of alpha omega bromochloroalkanes.
182778. Societedes Produits Nestle SA, Switzerland (1232/Mas/96)	Process for the preparation of instant fried noodles.
182779. Bracco S P A, Italy (1308/Mas/96)	A process for the preparation of derivatives of diamides of 5-alkoxy-2 4 6-triido-1 3 benzenedicarboxylic acids.
182780. Daewoo Electronics Co Ltd, Korea (1523/Mas/96)	An electric rice cooker for selectively cooking rice to obtain cooked rice of desired consistency.

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Domestic News

institutes of DRDO, 9 other government departments/colleges and several NGOs will undertake 1100 exploration trips to collect about one lakh germplasm samples of different crops which would be conserved at the National Gene Bank. **(Financial Express, 24 Aug 99)**

The joint research project between Arya Vaidya Sala (AVS), Kottakkal and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) for identifying active molecules in classical ayurvedic formulations has picked up speed with the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology at Hyderabad and other CSIR labs achieving preliminary success in 'in-vitro' trials, indicating the potential for extracting new molecules out of combined ayurvedic drugs. CSIR and AVS will be entitled to the intellectual property rights (IPRs) accruing from the collaborative research in the ratio of 75:25, as per the MoU between the two institutions.

(Business Line, 6 Aug 99)

International News

A US patent (Pat No 5,929,208) has been granted to Nanogen Inc for an electronic technology for combinatorial synthesis of biopolymers at a number of locations on a microchip. The method uses electronic microarray technology to manipulate charged monomers to facilitate synthesis of DNA, oligonucleotides, or other biopolymers. The chips can electronically control the transport

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182781. PrestigeHm-Polycontainers Ltd, India (254/Bom/95)	A cylindrical decanting bung for a liquid storage container.
182782. Prestige Hm-Polycontainers Ltd, India (255/Bom/95)	A cylindrical air venting plug/bung used in containers.
182783. Crompton Greaves Limited, India (288/Bom/95)	A compact encapsulated dry outdoor current transformer and a method of manufacturing the same.
182784. Moniba Anand Electrical Pvt Ltd, India (289/Bom/95)	Water purification device.
182785. Mukesh Bhandari, India (387/Bom/95)	An improved metal refining convertor.
182786. Filterwerk Mann+Hummel GmbH, Germany (493/Bom/95)	An improved sealing device for filter arrangement.
182787. Hakeem Abdul Hai Osmani, India (524/Bom/95)	Method to make weedicide composition to kill parthenium hysterophorus.
182788. Sri Banoo Prasad & others, India (121/Bom/96)	A process of isolation and extraction of azadirachtin from neem seed powder.
182789. Lupin Laboratories Ltd, India (32/Bom/97)	An improved regiospecific process for synthesis of acyclic nucleosides.
182790. Hindustan Lever Ltd, India (206/Bom/97)	A process for preparing a tomato based product.
D. 24 July, 1999	
182791. Shama Pada Roy, India (327/Cal/94)	Production of magnesia carbon refractory bricks from used refractories.
182792. Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries Co Ltd, Japan & BHP Steel Pty Ltd, Australia (511/Cal/94)	A method for initiating a process for casting metal strip and an apparatus therefor.
182793. Glitsch Inc, USA (170/Cal/95)	An improved apparatus utilizing catalyst media.
182794. Dr Padma Kanta Bora, India (246/Cal/95)	An improved auger for deep foundation of piles.
182795. Mitsubishi Denki Kabushiki Kaisha, Japan (449/Cal/95)	A vehicular alternating current generator.
182796. Hoechst Aktiengesellschaft, Germany (698/Cal/95)	A process for the preparation of triphendioxazine dyestuff.
182797. Metallurgical & Engineering Consultants (India) Ltd & IIT, Kharagpur (853/Cal/95)	Process for preparing high temperature sustaining adhesive for thermoelectric modules.
182798. Indian Jute Industries Research Association, India (331/Cal/97)	Method for producing softened and lubricated lignocellulosic fibres.
182799. E I Du Pont De Nemours & Co, USA (1020/Cal/97)	Improved process for the preparation of dicarboxylate oxidiazine.
182800. Sh Mahesh Kumar Khaitan & others, India (2038/Cal/98)	A process for making table margarine.

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International News

and attachment of specific binding entities such as nucleic acids or peptides to designated microlocation. The technology will be useful in medical diagnostics, biomedical research, genomics, genetic testing and drug discovery.

(Genetic Technology News, Vol 19 No 33, Aug 18, 1999)

As part of the United States Patent and Trademark Office's changes in business practices to streamline its processing of patent applications, and thereby maximize patent term of patents, the USPTO has set the objective of issuing patents within four weeks of payment of the issue fee, by July of 1999 instead of the current average of three months.

(www.uspto.gov : 26 Aug 99)

The American Bar Association (ABA) has released two useful documentary collections on two different CD-ROMs. The first CD called Working Papers includes all the committee reports and resolutions from the Intellectual Property Law section's Annual Report 1996-1997. The second CD called Laws CD contains the full text of US Code Title 35 (Patents), Title 17 (Copyrights), and the Title 15- chapters 22 and 63 (trademarks and technology innovations).

Patenting of plant varieties has been restricted in 15 French speaking countries of Africa. They have agreed to abide by

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182801. The Boots Company Plc, England (1544/Mas/96) Process for the preparation of 1,2,4-triazole (1,5a) pyrimidine compounds.
182802. Soremartec S A, Belgium (1782/Mas/96) A method for producing a package for food articles.
182803. Akzo Nobel N V, The Netherlands (1900/Mas/96) A process for producing delta (8,9) dehydroestrone by isomerisation of equilin.
182804. Societe des Produits Nestle SA, Switzerland (1902/Mas/96) A process for forming an extruded fat containing confectionery material.
182805. Kurary Co Ltd, Japan (1917/Mas/96) Process for producing an all transform polyphenol.
182806. Daiichi Pharmaceutical Co Ltd, Japan (1960/Mas/96) A method for selectively obtaining a 3/2 hydrate of 7-(7-(s)-amino-5-azaspiro (2,4) heptan-5-yl) -8-chloro-6-fluoro-1-(1r,2s)-2 fluoro cyclopropyl)-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline carboxylic acid.
182807. Akzo Nobel N V, The Netherlands (2096/Mas/96) A method for the preparation of steroid derivative ketal.
182808. Societe des Produits Nestle SA, Switzerland (2097/Mas/96) Apparatus and method for producing heat treated fluid product.
182809. Fructamine S P A, Italy (1291/Mas/97) A process for the preparation of substituted benzendicarboxamide.
182810. Vittal Mallya Scientific Research Foundation, India (1987/Mas/97) A process for preparing a soluble double metal salt of group ia and iia of (-) hydroxycitric acid.
182811. Pradeep Bhaskar Parab, India (21/Bom/94) Improved nutrient composition useful for effective maintenance of hybridoma cell lines.
182812. Hindustan Lever Ltd, India (412/Bom/94) A sprayable clear single-phase cosmetic composition suitable for packaging in a clear bottle equipped with a spray nozzle.
182813. Mr Sathe Chintamani Mahadeo, India (88/Bom/95) Watering candle for lifting water from lower container to upper container containing clay and live plant for automatic watering of plant from root side.
182814. Mr Sathe Chintamani, India (97/Bom/95) Improved plant pot with inbuilt water compartment with watering candle to water the plant automatically from root side as per plant need.
182815. Rallis India Ltd, India (155/Bom/95) A process for the preparation of the fungicide methyl n-(2-methoxyacetyl) n-(2,6-xylyl) dl-alaniate commonly known as metalaxyl.
182816. Hindustan Lever Ltd, India (171/Bom/95) Fabric softening composition.

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International News

the latest version of the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, UPOV.

(Journal of Intellectual Property Rights, May 99)

Researchers at the Fraunhofer Resource Center and Fraunhofer IFAM (Institute for applied Materials Research) in Bremen, Germany have obtained a US patent (Pat No 5,151,246) for developing a metal foaming process based on powder metallurgy. This process provides high quality foams that are also not very expensive compared to foams developed by earlier process. The density of the metal foams is controlled by adjusting the amount and type of foaming agent and processing parameters. The material can be foamed into complex molds of the final desired structure. This technology is available for licensing.

(High-Tech Materials Alert, Vol 16 No 7, July 99)

Sightsound.com, a tiny company which owns two patents for methods of selling music on the Internet through on-line downloads, is demanding that other music companies pay licensing fees or face patent infringement law suits. The company has already sent formal warnings to some music sites, including MP3.com, one of the main sites for downloadable music, ordering them to pay a one per cent royalty on all revenue or cease and desist. Sightsound.com claims its patents

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182817. Hindustan Lever Ltd, India (172/Bom/95)	Fabric softening composition.
182818. Hindustan Lever Ltd, India (531/Bom/94)	A package for containing a flowable in fusible material.
182819. Leelavathi & others, India (218/Bom/95)	Improved quarter turn valve actuator.
182820. Pradip & others, India (231/Bom/95)	Improved fire extinguishing system for airport.
182821. Isover Saint Gobain, France (414/Cal/91)	Process for the production of glass fibers which can decompose in a physiological medium.
182822. Columbus Mckinnon Corp, USA (1055/Cal/94)	A cable restraining device for a cable.
182823. Livien Domien Ven, Belgium (108/Cal/95)	An improved multi-stage vapor force engine.
182824. Thomson Consumer Electronics Inc, USA (203/Cal/95)	Apparatus for detecting a synchronization component in a satellite transmission system receiver.
182825. Inductotherm Corp, USA (265/Cal/95)	An induction vessel for use in multi-phase heating.
182826. Nippon Kayaku Kabushiki Kaisha, Japan (590/Cal/95)	A process for producing a dioxazine compound.
182827. Hoechst Aktiengesellschaft, Germany (786/Cal/97)	A process for the preparation of nitrogen containing surface-active compound.
182828. Ila International Ltd, USA (1289/Cal/97)	A method for producing decomposition product of dicumylperoxide.
182829. Mahesh Kumar Khaitan & others, India (2036/Cal/98)	A process of reducing sulphurous compounds in brassica family oils to accepted level for hydrogenation.
182830. Mahesh Kumar Khaitan & others, India (2037/Cal/98)	A process of manufacturing "lecithin" from rice brand oil mustard oil and soybean oil.

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International News
 cover the idea of selling audio and video files through downloads, a claim which if upheld, could extract a fee from the entire on-line music industry.
(Copyright World, Issue 90, May 99)
 In order to amend Japan's intellectual property order some positive steps have been taken by the Japanese Patent Office and the Japanese judiciary. On April 2, 1999 the Supreme Court of Japan, in order to facilitate quicker decision-making by Japanese district courts over IPR disputes, has strengthened the Tokyo District Court's mediation panel, which consists of lawyers and patent attorneys. The panel, created in autumn 1998, was designed to speed up settlements of IPR disputes by providing specialized knowledge for district court judges. The Supreme Court decided to increase the number of panel members in Tokyo from eight to ten and create a similar panel at Osaka District Court.
(Patent World, Issue 113, May/June 99)

Please send us questions and topics you would like to see in the coming issues

NEXT ISSUE

- **Case Study**
- **Patent Law**
- **Patents for Opposition**

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 Department of Science and Technology (DST),
 Technology Bhavan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi - 110 016.
 Tel.: 6859581, 6863877, 6967458, 6567373 Fax: 6863866
 e-mail: tifac@nda.vsnl.net.in website: www.tifac.org.in
Adviser: Y.S. Rajan, Executive Director, TIFAC
Editor: R. Saha, Director

Typeset & Printed by Reliant Print O Graphics, New Delhi-110 020
 Ph. : 692 4567, 692 9593 Telefax: 91-11-692 9593

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