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Patents related to Vacha (Acorus calamus)



Vacha is a semi aquatic herb with a creeping and branched aromatic rhizome. It is found wild or cultivated throughout India. In the Himalayas, it is found ascending to 2000m. It is known as the Sweet Flag in English,

Bach in Hindi and Bengali, Vekhand in Gujarati and Marathi, Vasa in Telugu, Vasambu in Tamil, Baje gida in Kannad and Vavambu in Malayalam. It is reported in the Pictorial Encyclopaedia of Plants and Animals by F.A. Novak, "The Sweet Flag, Acorus calamus [996, 997], is a native of southern Asia and central and western North America. It was introduced into Europe about the middle of 16th century." The dry rhizome contains some yellow aromatic oil. The dried rhizome is known to have emetic and anti spasmodic properties and also gives good results in dyspepsia and chronic diarrhoea (The Wealth of India). Root extract exhibits antimicrobial activity against staphylococcus, e-coli and aspergillus niger. (Compendium of Indian Medicinal Plants : Vol. 4)

It is not a very commonly known herb but several patent applications have been filed and granted around it in different parts of the world. There is only one application filed in India for manufacturing extract obtained from vacha plant by M/s J B Chemicals. There is a total of 26 patent applications filed around this plant. The list is given below in Table I:

Table I

Title	Application No	Filing date
Method for producing extract of Acorus calamus	P07196472A2	08/01/1995
Lipolysis promoter	JP1122843IA2	08/24/1999
Herbal mixture	LVO0012527B	11/20/2000
Cosmetic composition	JP00247897A2	09/12/2000
Composition for improving mental capabilities in mammals	WO00013696A1	03/16/2000
Composition for producing tea drink and method of using composition	RU02142235C1	12/10/1999
Balsam showing antiseptic, anti-inflammatory, analgetic, immuno-stimulating keratolytic and regenerating effects	RU02141328C1	12/10/1999
Methods of preparing agent showing anti ulcer and anti acid effect	RU0213908C1	10/10/1999
Acorus calamus extracts in use	CN1220260A	06/23/1999
"Species Coldnock" of medicinal plants showing sedative and anti-nicotin effect	RU02125883C1	02/10/1999
Preventing and improving agent for visual impairment	JP10324636A2	12/08/1998
Agent for treatment of patients with chronic hepatitis of an infectious etiology	RU02122418C1	11/27/1998
Curative cosmetic cream	RU02121341C1	11/10/1998
Gastroenteric species	RU02103001C1	01/27/1998
Method to treat female hypothalamic syndrome	RU02101024C1	01/10/1998
Health care medicine pillow	CN01162475A	10/22/1997
Green bamboo liquid for fumigation of eyes and preparation thereof	CN01162454A	10/22/1997
Medicinal substance with anti-infection properties and for use in the treatment of infertility and protection of pregnancy	WO9508318A2	03/30/1995
Skin external preparation	JP07017846A2	01/20/1995
Natural ingredients solid oral medicine for nervous system diseases	CN01093921A	10/26/1994
Queen cell high-efficient health-care tonic wine	CN01089847A	07/27/1994
Method for water culture using bottomless container and vegetable fiber	JP05137473A2	06/01/1993

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Prefix before application numbers stands for country code

RU- Russia

CN- China

JP- Japan

WO- PCT application

It is for the first time that we have noticed Russian patent applications related to herbs and there are as many as nine applications originating in Russia. These inventions have used sweet flag roots and rhizomes for several different applications/ uses like making antiseptic, anti inflammatory and immunostimulating drugs, tea drink, antiulcer and antacids compositions, sedative formulations, drug for chronic hepatitis and many others. There is one Russian PCT application dealing with medicinal substance with anti infection properties and for use in the treatment of infertility and protection of pregnancy. Similarly, there are five applications originating in China which are around *Acorus calamus* filed by Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica, Chinese Academy of Science, Neijiang Pharmaceuticals Factory and individuals. There are six Japanese applications as well on method for producing extract of *Acorus calamus*, lipolysis promoter, cosmetic composition, formulation for preventing and improving visual impairment and skin external preparations. There is one Latvian application and three Indian applications one filed in India and two are PCT applications. Both these applications relate to herbal compositions for improving overall mental performance in children, adult and mentally deficient people. In most of these cases *Acorus calamus* has been used with other herbs for making different compositions and it is difficult to say whether the herb is a part of claims in these applications.

Granted Patents

Fourteen US patents as listed in Table II have been granted in which the herb *vacha* has been mentioned. Four patents originated in Japan, three in Switzerland and one in Azerbaijan. One patent has been taken by inventors from Andhra Pradesh and another by inventors from Jammu.

Table II

Patent No.	Title
6,159,371	Constructed wetlands remediation system
6,080,401	Herbal and pharmaceutical drugs enhanced with probiotics
6,024,998	Process for the removal of undesired lipophilic contaminations and/or residues, which are contained in beverages or in vegetable preparations
5,906,848	Process for the removal of undesired contaminations and/or residues contained in beverages or in vegetable preparation
5,693,327	Herbal compositions
5,439,891	Process for preparation of pharmaceutical composition with enhanced activity for treatment of tuberculosis and leprosy.
5,322,035	Hydrological system for a closed ecological system
5,186,722	Hydrocarbon-based fuels from biomass
5,176,913	Process, for preparing a partial extract containing the volatile in steam components and further lipophilic components of medical plants and/or spice plants
4,732,759	Bath preparations and method for producing the same
4,728,510	Bath preparations and method for producing the same
6,041,738	Fish pond methods and systems.
5,698,199	Lipolysis acceleration method
5,626,854	Bath composition

The herb appears in claims of only following three patents, where it has been used as one of the constituents in the final composition. These patents are 6,159,371, 6,024,998 and 5,176,913. *It may be noted that no per se claim on the herb is found in these patents.*

There are a few patent applications originating in India as compared to those originating in China, Japan, Russia and USA. The interest taken by scientists in these countries in this herb is worth noting.

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Case study

Earthquake Detector and Alarm

This study covers a patent granted in USA in July 1999 based on an invention 'Earthquake Detector and Alarm System' designed to detect even very low seismic vibration activity and warn the user about an arriving earthquake. Its purpose is to notify dwelling occupants that an earthquake is under way so that they can avoid loss of time in taking emergency actions.

Background and Prior Art

Earthquakes are the vibrations produced in the earth's crust when rock in which elastic strain has been building up suddenly ruptures and then rebounds. The primary waves (P waves) are compression waves and radiate in all directions from the epicenter. When P waves reach the surface they cause movement at the surface of the earth, with horizontal and vertical components. The magnitude of each of the components is dependent on the incident angle of the wave and geological factors. Once at the surface, P waves are reflected and refracted to form secondary waves (S waves). The S waves impart both vertical and horizontal movement of the surface of the earth. Sensing the earlier P waves or the S waves provides the earliest warning that an earthquake is arriving. S waves arrive later but are more destructive than the P waves because their motion is largely horizontal. Damages and injuries can be reduced if some action could be taken before the arrival of S waves.

Most of the prior art detectors and alarms are very expensive, or plagued with false alarms. There is no provision of rejecting higher frequencies or impulses in the vibration sensor. A truck driving by or a strong gust of wind or banging of doors etc. could set off the alarm which would be taken as seismic alarm by the user and this would lead to unnecessary panic.

Summary of the Invention

The invention comprises of two or more independent simple pendulums, each connected to earth and the net swing of the two or more pendulums is summed to detect seismic activity. The use of multiple independent simple pendulums provides higher sensitivity than the prior art single or compound pendulums.

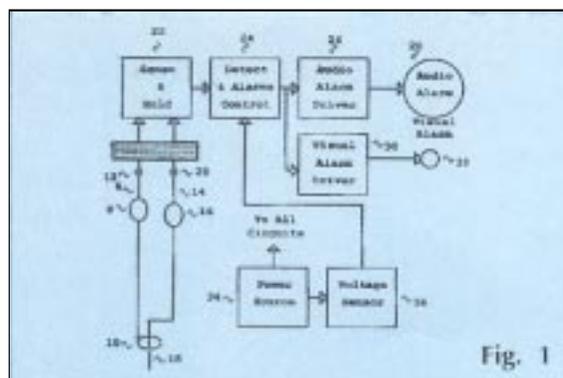
Leverage gain in simple pendulum can be achieved by extending the contactor on a rod below the pendulum mass to achieve a larger swing at the

contactor than at the mass in the pendulum. This gain is achieved at the expense of reducing the sensor's ability to reject out of band non-seismic frequencies. The sensitivity is increased in multiple independent simple pendulums. Studies have shown that the maximum energy levels in seismic event typically fall within a band of frequencies, and those events with the probability of having the highest energy density fall into an even smaller band of frequencies. The pendulums are designed to be sensitive to seismic vibrations. Since each pendulum is tuned to different frequency, the pendulums are predominantly out of phase. This out of phase condition allows the pendulum system to have peak sensitivity equal to the sum of the sensitivities of each pendulum.

The case for the present detector and alarm is designed to include a separate chamber to house only the sensor. As the sensor is being moved into place during manufacturing, ambient air is blown out of the chamber and replaced with an inert gas that is free from contamination and will not corrode the contacts. The chamber is sealed during the assembly through audio and visual indicators. On receiving a seismic vibration, the alarm sounds a very very loud audio signal and rapidly flashes a visual indicator.

Brief Description

FIG. 1 illustrates all components of the earthquake detector and alarm. The pendulum seismic detector is comprised of elements 6 through 20 in FIG. 1. In this sensor, first pendulum arm 6 is pivoted and suspended by first pendulum pivot and electrical coupling 12 at the top of first pendulum arm 6. The center frequency of the first pendulum 6-12 is determined by the distance of the first pendulum mass 8 from the first pendulum pivot and electrical coupling 12. At the end of first pendulum arm 6 there is a first pendulum electrical contactor loop 10 that makes electrical



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Case Study

contact with the tip of second pendulum arm 14 at second pendulum electrical contactor rod 18. Second pendulum arm 14 is pivoted and suspended by second pendulum pivot and electrical coupling 20. The center frequency of the second pendulum 14-20 is determined by the distance of second pendulum mass 16 from the second pendulum pivot and electrical coupling 20.

The leverage gain of the first pendulum 6-12 is determined by one plus the ratio of the portion of first pendulum arm 6 between first pendulum mass 8 and first pendulum electrical contactor ring 10, and the portion of first pendulum arm 6 between first pendulum pivot and electrical coupling 12 and first pendulum mass 8. The leverage gain of the second pendulum 14-20 is determined by one plus the ratio of the portion of second pendulum arm 14 between second pendulum mass 16 and the point where first pendulum electrical contactor ring 10 makes contact on second pendulum electrical contactor rod 18, and the portion of second pendulum arm 14 between second pendulum pivot and electrical coupling 20 and second pendulum mass 16.

A closed electrical path is formed when first pendulum electrical contactor ring 10 is in contact with second pendulum electrical contactor rod 18.

The sense and hold function 22 is further illustrated in FIG. 2 and is comprised of a charge storage and timing capacitor 42 and an alarm period timing resistor 40. Once the pendulum system 4 makes contact as a result of seismic activity, current passes through resistor 66 and places a charge on capacitor 42. This is held for a period determined by the value of timing resistor 40. During the period that the charge is held, the detect and alarms control 24 in FIG. 1 determines that a seismic event has occurred, and sends signals to enable the audio alarm driver 26 and visual alarm

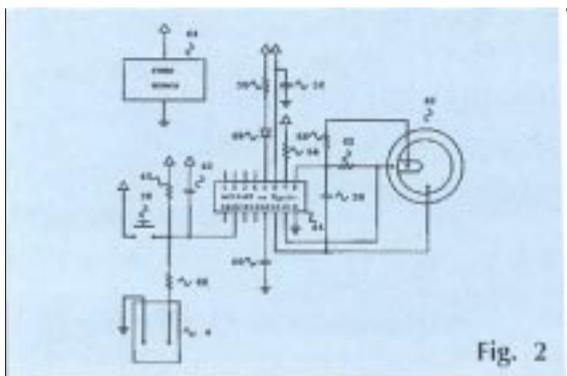
driver 30. The audio alarm driver 26 then drives the audio alarm 28, and the visual alarm driver 30 drives the visual alarm 32, with unique signals signifying that seismic activity detection has been made.

In FIG. 2 the detect and alarm function is performed by integrated circuit 44. Timing capacitor 46 and timing resistor 54 set the operating frequency and timing of all the functions in integrated circuit 44. When seismic activity is detected, a closed electrical path is formed when first pendulum electrical contactor ring 10 is in contact with second pendulum electrical contactor rod 18, this causes integrated circuit 44 to send signals to piezoelectric transducer audio alarm 62 and light emitting diode 48. Light emitting diode 48 blinks at a very low rate to indicate that the system is powered and operational, and blinks at a high rate to indicate that the system has detected seismic activity.

Claims

The patent has 21 claims. Few of them are given below :

1. An earthquake detector and alarm device comprising:
 - a) a first vibration sensor pivotally fixed to earth and tuned to a first frequency;
 - b) a second vibration sensor pivotally fixed to earth and tuned to a second frequency;
 - c) a summing device which sums the response of said first vibration sensor with the response of said second vibration sensor; and
 - d) an alarm which sounds when the sum of the responses exceeds a predetermined threshold.
2. The device of claim 1, wherein said first vibration sensor is a first pendulum banging from a first pivot and said second vibration sensor is a second pendulum hanging from a second pivot.
3. The device of claim 1, wherein said summing device sums the response of said first vibration sensor with the response of said second vibration sensor over time.
4. The device of claim 1, wherein said alarm is an electrical circuit.
5. The device of claim 4, wherein said electrical circuit includes an audio alarm and a visual alarm.



Patenting in Leather

Readers may recall that PFC had published a patent analysis on patent applications related to leather, filed in India from 1995 to 1999, in the IPR bulletin Vol 6 No 10-11, Oct-Nov 2000. Upon the request of one of our esteemed readers, a list of all the patents that have been accepted in this area by the Indian Patent Office from 1995 to 2000 is being presented in Table I. These patents include tanning of leather, processing of hides and skins, processing of leather and leather manufacture.

Table I

S. No	Patent No	Patent Application No	Date of Acceptance of Patent	Title of Invention
1)	174572	467/Mas/89	1/14/95	Apparatus for treating a hide with a chemical treatment fluid.
2)	174916	636/Cal/90	4/1/95	An improved process of producing insoles for footwears.
3)	175112	656/Del/87	4/29/95	Novel process for tanning fish skin.
4)	175339	126/Cal/91	6/10/95	A readily removable drop-in insert for an article of footwear.
5)	176268	856/Del/89	3/23/96	An apparatus for stretching flat materials such as leather.
6)	176682	1243/Del/89	8/24/96	A process for the preparation of polymeric fatty complexes in emulsion form for use as syntax in post-tannin operations in leather industry.
7)	176727	1026/Del/89	8/31/96	A method of preparing improved tanned leather.
8)	178091	603/Mas/90	3/8/97	A process for treating hides to preserve them from fungal and/or bacterial attack.
9)	178359	552/Cal/93	4/5/97	Improved safety toe caps for use in shoes and other like foot wear.
10)	179012	256/Del/92	8/9/97	Producing hides ready for tanning.
11)	179202	803/Mas/90	9/13/97	A process for manufacturing leather.
12)	180125	322/Cal/94	1/10/98	A process for obtaining animal feedstock supplement from kusum seed cake.
13)	180384	92/Del/91	1/31/98	A device for drying leather.
14)	180386	100/Del/91	1/31/98	A process for the production of leather like boards from cellulosic pulp.
15)	180394	367/Del/91	1/31/98	A process for the preparation of keratin hydrolysate from keratinous wastes useful as a leather filter-cum-retaining agent.
16)	180491	679/Del/92	2/7/98	A process for the preparation of a fumigating antifungal composition to prevent fungal attack on leather and leather articles.
17)	181152	16/Mas/93	4/25/98	A process for obtaining a stabilized hide.
18)	181268	26/Del/92	5/2/98	An improved nonenzymatic sulphide free process for the production of unhaird hides & skin.
19)	182192	644/Cal/94	1/30/99	A rasp hub assembly for use in a tire buffing machine.
20)	182274	645/Mas/93	2/27/99	A method of manufacturing leather.
21)	183092	354/Bom/95	9/4/99	A process of preparing of tanning composition from pterocarpus santalinus.
22)	184432	1280/Del/91	8/26/00	A device for sampling of process liquor in a leather tanning drum.

Copyright Infringement Case Law

The case law deals with an infringement of copyright. The case was tried between 1971 and 2000 in two courts, namely, the Trial Court and Delhi High Court between an organization called CARE and a writer Mr. P. N. Krishana Murthy. CARE, Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere is a US based international voluntary agency that undertakes forwarding of overseas aids voluntarily and Mr. Murthy (here in after referred to as the plaintiff) is a writer of children's story books carrying business under name M/s Children Are Precious (CAP). The Trial Court decided the case in plaintiff's favour at the district level in 1998 to which both the parties filed appeals in the High Court. The case was finally decided in favour of the plaintiff and CARE was ordered to pay the necessary damages to Mr. Murthy.

CARE had entered into a contract with the plaintiff in 1969 for getting a story written by the plaintiff titled, " Lakshman Kills A Tiger" printed and published in English and seven other Indian languages. CARE signed another contract with the plaintiff for printing 15 lakh copies of the book in Malayalam. CARE terminated this contract before its fulfillment and got the copies printed in Malayalam from some other printer, by-passing the plaintiff. The plaintiff, when came to know about this development filed a suit against CARE in Trial Court for a permanent injunction and recovery of damages.

CARE's Arguments

CARE claimed that :

- 1) The plaintiff was their employee and he wrote the story under an order from CARE. Therefore, the copyright vested with CARE only.
- 2) The work of translating the original text was given to the plaintiff and he was paid for it, so the copyright of the translation also vested with CARE.
- 3) The printed books were the property of CARE and therefore could be distributed by CARE without any license from the plaintiff.
- 4) Alternatively, CARE also claimed that the copyright of the book was assigned by the plaintiff to CARE and CARE was also given a license to exploit, publish and prominently declare the ownership of the copyright.

The plaintiff submitted before the Court that he owned the copyright for the story under Copyright No. 4681/69 dated 21st March, 1969. Both parties filed lengthy written submissions and it took many years

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Copyright Infringement...

for CARE to submit evidences. The Trial Court recorded the findings of both sides and raised certain issues. These were :-

- 1) Whether plaintiff was the original copyright holder for the story.
- 2) Whether copyright vested with CARE by employment of the plaintiff or by assignment.
- 3) Whether copyright of the plaintiff extended to translation.
- 4) Whether plaintiff was entitled to rendition of accounts and relief.

The Court held on the basis of the evidence produced that plaintiff was the original copyright holder of the story and remarked that :

1. The story was not written by the plaintiff while in employment with CARE.
2. There was no assignment of the copyright by the plaintiff in favour of the CARE. Therefore, the CARE had committed an infringement.
3. As the manuscript of the story was physically with the plaintiff, it cannot possibly belong to CARE.
4. The citation at the back of the cover displayed the plaintiff's organization i.e CAP as publisher and printer.
5. Books in English distributed in India and abroad having the print line bearing the name CAP as the printer and publisher, indicated clearly the ownership of the plaintiff over the copyright of the story.
6. The very fact that CARE had initially signed a contract with the plaintiff for printing and publishing books in eight languages and later in Malayalam indicates that the copyright vested with the plaintiff.

Brief of the Judgement given by the Trial Court

The judge therefore concluded that the plaintiff was entitled to injunction, rendition of accounts and damages. The Court passed a decree of Rs. 2.31 lakhs in favour of the plaintiff and an order of injunction. CARE and the plaintiff filed separate appeals in the Delhi High Court against the judgement of the Trial Court. The plaintiff appealed that the injunction order was not generic and the Court should have allowed exemplary damages. CARE appealed broadly on the earlier grounds.

The High Court while deliberating on the plaintiff's appeal agreed that the injunction order was not generic and allowed permanent injunction restraining

the defendants from printing the book. As the books were distributed to poor children free of cost, the Court considered that exemplary damages should not be granted in this case. The Court also reviewed the damages allowed by the Trial Court and came to the conclusion that the damages were not adequate. The Court took into consideration that the CARE had actually printed 14 million copies of which 4.126 million copies were printed and published under the earlier contract. So the infringing copies for which damages had to be calculated were 9.874 million. The Court awarded 17.5% of the cost as damages which was Rs.17.28 lakhs along with the yearly interest of 12 percent.

PFC on the move....

1. Two patent awareness workshops were organized in the month of January 2001. The first one was held at Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam on January 4. The second one was held in association with the West Bengal State Council for Science & Technology at Jadavpur University, Kolkata on 19th. More than 200 scientists and technologists participated in the proceedings.



(Workshop held at Jadavpur University)

2. A patent entitled "Highly acidic microporous synergistic solid catalyst and its applications" was granted by the US Patent and Trademark Office on January 23. The catalyst developed by the University Department of Chemical Technology, Mumbai has potential applications in the area of organic reactions such as mono-nitration and selective cyclization reactions of organic compounds.

3. One more patent application was filed in India.
4. The update Ekaswa-B CD-RoM was brought out.

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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

A. 9 December, 2000

185211. Institut Francias Du Petrole, France (568/Mas/94)

185212. Festo Ag & Co, Germany (593/Mas/94)

185213. The Chemithon Corp, USA (629/Mas/94)

185214. Deutsche Institute Fur Textil-Und Faserforschung Stuttgart, Germany (658/Mas/94)

185215. Mauser-Werke Gmbh, Germany (678/Mas/94)

185216. Siebe Automative Deutschland Gmbh, Germany (931/Mas/94)

185217. Comprimo B V, The Netherlands (1074/Mas/94)

185218. Basf Aktiengesellschaft, Germany(1012/Mas/94)

185219. Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing Co, USA (1095/Mas/94)

185220. Jobst Ulrich Gellert, Canada (1109/Mas/94)

185221. Indian Oil Corp Ltd, India (439/Bom/95)

185222. Infionik Pharmaceuticals Ltd, India(422/Bom/95)

185223. Pregussa Anlagebau Gmbh OG, Germany (97/Bom/96)

185224. Filterwerk Mann+Hummel Gmbh, Germany (156/Bom/96)

185225. Sandeep Baburao Dere Proprietor, India(197/Bom/96)

185226. Yoshiaki Takahashi, Japan (525/Bom/96)

185227. JK Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd, India (78/Bom/98)

185228. Dr Bakulesh Mafatlal Khamar, India(90/Bom/99)

185229. United Phosphorous Ltd, India(307/Bom/99)

INVENTION

An apparatus for regulating and measuring a unit for separation by adsorption a simulated mobile bed of a mixture of a plurality of components.

A device for opening nuts such as cashew nuts.

A process for preparing a concentrated detergent from a detergent paste.

Method of manufacturing a spun yarn and a double apron drawing equipment for carrying out the said method.

A pallet container and an apparatus and a method for manufacturing the same.

An apparatus for manufacturing soldered multiayer metal pipes.

A process of producing a gas stream free of sulfur from a gas containing sulfur present in the form of vapor and or entrained particles.

A process for purifying indigo.

A garment with an engaging area having an elastomeric laminate.

A multicavity injection molding apparatus.

A process for the preparation of bismuth dialkyldithiocarbamates.

A device for dispensing medicaments.

Screw joint for pipes.

An improved camshaft for motor vehicle gear shaft fork.

An improved emitter for a drip irrigation system comprising the same.

A process for manufacturing permanent magnet.

A process for preparing 7-substituted amino-3-hydroxymethyl-3- cephem-4-carboxylic acid for use in the preparation of cefixim.

Process for manufacturing topical ophthalmic preparations without systemic effects.

A process for preparation of a synergistic fungicidal composition of crop protection application comprising the two fungicides carbendazim and mancozeb with a stabilising dye.

International News

As per the Belgian patent law, applicants not established in Belgium must be represented by an approved patent agent. Also, only persons of Belgian nationality and domiciled there can be approved agents. The European Commission has asked Belgium to lift such restrictions, which prevent patent agents from elsewhere in the EU from offering services in Belgium.

An anti-malarial drug has been patented by the University of Lausanne (Switzerland) in conjunction with a US drug company. The drug is derived from plant indigenous to Southern Africa. The plant was submitted by the healers to the University of Zimbabwe which later passed this to Lausanne. To give due credit to the healers, the Zimbabwe National Traditional Healers Association has been given the right to share any future profits from this drug.

A new online service has been announced by Derwent Information by the name Derwent World Patent Index. The service claims to be the world's largest value added patent database and is available at <http://axion.iop.org>. Free online demo including records from the first quarter of 1997 will be available to all visitors to the site.

(Patent World, Iss 128, Dec 2000/Jan 2001)

In order to boost information security, Beijing has issued new regulations on computer software. The main features of the regulations are:

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185230. Shrikant Ramachandra Deshmukh, India(396/Bom/99)	Improved process for the manufacture of furfurylamine.
185231. Zeneca Ltd, UK (597/Del/91)	A process for the preparation of an anionic azo compound.
185232. Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corp, India (736/Del/91)	A folding stretcher.
185233. Esco Corp, USA (758/Del/91)	An excavating tooth point for installation of an adapter.
185234. CSIR, India (827/Del/91)	An improved electrochemical process for the synthesis of conducting polymer-poly-anisidine.
185235. Patel Mahendra Prahladbhai, India (943/Del/91)	A keyless shaft coupler.
185236. CSIR, India (1112/Del/91)	An apparatus for producing magnesium and a process therefore.
185237. CSIR, India (1113/Del/91)	A process for the preparation of novel composite catalysts useful for oxidative conversion of methane (or natural gas) to synthesis gas.
185238. Honda Giken Kagyo Kabushiki Kaisha, Japan (1155/Del/91)	Vehicle.
185239. Sultan Singh Jain, India (6/Del/92)	A pusher.
185240. Motorola Inc, USA (89/Del/92)	A radio telephone communication apparatus.
185241. Hindustan Lever Ltd, India (130/Bom/95)	Liquid aqueous cleaning composition.
185242. Hindustan Lever Ltd, India (367/Bom/95)	A process for the production of anionic surfactant granules by in situ neutralisation.
185243. Hindustan Lever Ltd, India (399/Bom/95)	An improved method of manufacture of soap.
185244. Hindustan Lever Ltd, India (417/Bom/95)	A synergistic oral composition for brushing the teeth and the like.
185245. Hindustan Lever Ltd, India (426/Bom/95)	A synergistic three phase emulsion and a method for manufacturing the same.
185246. Hindustan Lever Ltd, India (427/Bom/95)	A process for making detergent compositions.
185247. Dr Neelkanth Keshav Maladkar & Mr Samir Neelkanth Maladkar, India (449/Bom/95)	A process for the production of ethanol from the tubers of discorea sativa via dextrose.
185248. Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd, India (429/Bom/98)	Process for the preparation of stable oral pharmaceutical compositions of thie no [3 2-c] pyridine derivatives.
185249. Koproan Ltd, India (589/Bom/98)	An improved process for the preparation of rapidly soluble powders of lactam anti biotics.
185250. Shriballabh Bhiku Dhungat, India (186/Bom/99)	A process for refining gambirn katha.
B. 16 December, 2000	
185271. CSIR, India (1017/Del/90)	An improved process for the synthesis of conducting polyanisidine in doped form.
185272. Miss Smita Dua, Lucknow, India (425/Del/91)	Luggage handling device.
185273. CSIR, India (595/Del/91)	A process for the preparation of zebra connectors useful for electronic displays employing conducting composites of olyniline.
185274. The Procter & Gamble Co, US A(913/Del/91)	Liquid detergent compositions.
185275. CSIR, India (1527/Del/96)	A process for the preparation of a formulation useful for the detection and estimation of proteins present in biological fluids.

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International News

(a) Prohibition of import and export of unregistered computer software to and from the mainland.

(b) Computer software developers and vendors to register with the Ministry of Information Industry (MII) before launching any software on the mainland.

(c) Software producers to seek permission from copyright holders to produce computer software and other forms of media products such as chips, CD-ROM and VCD.

(d) MII shall be the sole regulator on the mainland and shall be empowered to ban any software that violates the national standards, infringes IPRs or contains viruses, illegal information or information that could pose a threat to computer system security.

(Copyright World, Iss 106, Dec 2000/Jan 2001)

US district court has reversed a decision from a lower court that gave Eli Lilly's block buster anti-depressant drug, prozac, an extension of patent protection till 2003. This has opened doors for generic forms of the drug.

A PCT patent has been granted (Pat No. WO0059586) which provides a cricket wicket assembly comprising three elongate stumps a separate support for holding the stumps in an upright position and securing the stumps to the support.

(WISTA, IPR for Industry, Vol. 2, Iss 7, Jan 2001)

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185276. Warner-Lambert Co, USA (1579/Del/96)	A process for the production of amorphous [(r-(r*))]-2-(4-fluorophenyl)-b dihydroxy -5-(1-methylethyl 4-(phenylamino) carbonyl)-ih-hyrrole -1heptanoic acid hemi calcium salt and hydrates thereof.
185277. CSIR, India (2738/Del/96)	An enzymatic process for the preparation of optically pure isomers of ethyl 2 3-dihydroxy-3-(4-methoxyphenyl) propanoate.
185278. Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd, India (1237/Del/97)	A process for preparation of an oral pharmaceutical composition containing quinolone antibacterial agents.
185279. CSIR, India (1257/Del/97)	An improved process for the isolation of saponins from mahua oil cake (madhuca latifolia) useful in fish aquaculture.
185280. CSIR, India (1259/Del/97)	An improved process for the extraction of beta cyanin dye from beta vulgaris.
185251. Kimberly-Clark Worldwide Inc, USA (803/Cal/95)	A hand held spraying device capable of spraying fluids.
185252. Keiper Gmbh & Co, Germany (1054/Cal/95)	An improved locking device for vehicle seats.
185253. Siemens Aktiengesellschaft, Germany (1024/Cal/95)	Method for producing a smart card model for contactless smart cards.
185254. Hans Oetiker Ag Maschinen Und Apparatefabrik, Switzerland (1091/Cal/95)	A tolerance compensating reusable clamp structure.
185255. Montell Technology Co, The Netherlands (1192/Cal/95)	Process for the polymerization of olefins.
185256. Arthur Ernest Bisho, Australia (1271/Cal/95)	A longitudinal railway rail for a vehicle track.
185257. Daewoo Electronics Co Ltd, Republic of Korea (1652/Cal/95)	Method for manufacturing an array of thin film actuated mirrors.
185258. Toyo Engineering Corp, Japan (235/Cal/96)	Wet exhaust gas treatment apparatus.
185259. Coronet-Werke Gmbh, Germany (2220/Cal/98)	Toothbrush with a one piece peastic injection moulded brush body.
185260. The Babcock & Wilcox Co, USA (115/Cal/99)	A boiler assembly for use with a gas turbine.
185261. CSIR, India (100/Del/92)	An improved refrigeration unit for cold rooms useful for storing temperature sensitive goods.
185262. Voest-Alpine Industrieanlagenbau Gmbh, Austria (110/Del/92)	Apparatus used in plant for the production of pig iron or steel pre-material.
185263. The Chief Controller Research & Development, Ministry of Defence, Government of India New Delhi (India) (150/Del/92)	Electroless deposition of copper on pipe articles.
185264. Alcan International Ltd, Canada (177/Del/92)	A coating composition.
185265. CSIR, India (191/Del/92)	An improved process for the preparation of vanadium titanium catalyst useful for preparing 2-cyanopyrazine.
185266. Sir Padampat Research Centre, India (478/Del/92)	A process for the manufacture of copolymers of caproamide.
185267. The Procter & Gamble Co, USA(496/Del/92)	A unitary disposable absorbent article.
185268. Colgate-Palmolive Co, USA (655/Del/92)	A linear visco elastic dentifrice composition.
185269. The Procter & Gamble Co, USA(657/Del/97)	An absorbent articles.
185270. Shriram Institute For Industrial Research, India (665/Del/92)	A process for the preparation of tetrabromobisphenola.

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International News

Pfizer's UK patent on a key ingredient for its block buster importing drug viagra has been declared invalid by a British High Court on grounds of obviousness. The high court found the patent obvious in the light of three different publications, which were already in the public domain.

For the eighth consecutive year IBM has topped the list of the US patents granted for utility patents in year 2000. The top 10 patenting organizations which received highest number of patents during 2000 are given below:

Rank in 2000	Organisation	No of Patents	Rank in 1999
1	International Business Machines Corp	2,886	1
2	NEC Corporation	2,020	2
3	Canon Kabushiki Kaisha	1,890	3
4	Samsung Electronics Co Ltd	1,441	4
5	Lucent Technologies Inc	1,411	9
6	Sony Corporation	1,385	5
7	Micron Technology Inc	1,304	14
8	Toshiba Corporation	1,232	6
9	Motorola Inc	1,196	7
10	Fujitsu Limited	1,147	7

USPTO has released a white paper on the use of patent pools to address the issue of access to vital patented biotechnology products and processes. A patent pool is an agreement between two or more patent owners to license one or more of

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185281. Timken Co, USA (897/Cal/95)	An apparatus having the combination of a bearing and axle.
185282. SKF Textilmaschinen Komponenten Gmbh, Germany (950/Cal/95)	Drafting system rolling mill for a spinning machine.
185283. Siemens Aktiengesellschaft, Germany (1042/Cal/95)	A gas turbine and steam turbine plant.
185284. Hindustan Controls & Equipment Pvt Ltd, India (1080/Cal/95)	A dispensing system for selectivity dispensing liquid/semi-liquid.
185285. General Electric Co, USA (1084/Cal/95)	An atmospheric gas burner.
185286. Siemens Aktiengesellschaft, Germany(1194/Cal/95)	Method for production of a read only memory cell arrangement having vertical MOS transistors.
185287. Innowave Eci Wireless Systems Ltd, Israel (1447/Cal/95)	A cellular communication network.
185288. Bundesdruckerei Gmbh, Germany(1499/Cal/95)	A reading device for examination of the authenticity of hologram copies of a master hologram.
185289. Stake Corp, Japan (1675/Cal/95)	Color sorting apparatus for grains.
185290. Peter Helmut Ebner, Austria (274/Cal/96)	Annealing base for hood type annealing furnaces.
185291. Shriram Institute For Industrial Research, India (767/Del/92)	A process for the preparation of fire retardant fr-4 grade epoxy resin.
185292. Rothmans Benson And Hedges Inc, Canada (988/Del/92)	A non self extinguishing factory made cigarette.
185293. Cosmo Films Ltd, India (1145/Del/92)	A process for the preparation of synthetic paper.
185294. CSIR, India (1789/Del/95)	An improved process for the kinetic resolution of 6methoxy methyl 2- naphthalene acetic acid.
185295. Flamel Technologies, France (679/Del/96)	Method for preparing particles based on poly amino acid (s).
185296. CSIR, India (697/Del/96)	A process for the synthesis of a nona peptide (l-pyro-glutamyl-d-arginyl - l - trypto-phanyl - l - prolyl-n- ethyl-lamide) useful as a spawning agent.
185297. Hampshire Chemical Corp, USA (1068/Del/96)	A process for preparing n-phosphonmethyl glycine of salts thereof.
185298. Biofine Inc, USA (1230/Del/96)	Production of levulinic acid from carbohydrate containing materials.
185299. British Technology Group Ltd, UK(1478/Del/96)	Process for the preparation of naphthoquinone compounds.
185300. Harry Winston SA, Switzerland (986/Del/91)	A method for the manufacture of diamond with identification markings.
185301. UOP, USA (0010/Del/92)	A process for isomerizing normal paraffin hydrocarbons to non-normal paraffin hydrocarbons.
185302. Imperial Chemical Industries Plc, UK (195/Del/92)	Process for the production of terephthalic acid.
185303. Punjab Tractors Ltd, India (0198/Del/92)	A tractor for use in horticulture operations in an orchard.
185304. Sony Corp, Japan (235/Del/92)	Apparatus for compressing a digital input signal.
185305. I Dr Ruma Purkait, India (273/Del/92)	An improved caliper.
185306. Institut Francais Du Petrole, France (342/Del/92)	A process for the production of olefins.

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International News

their patents to one another or third parties. A patent pool allows interested parties to gather all the necessary tools to practice a certain technology in one place, e.g. "one-stop shopping" rather than obtaining license from each patent owner individually.

(www.uspto.gov)

Computer Software Associates, Inc has developed a software, "Global IP Estimator" created for IP practitioners. This program offers a simple, effective, economical way to generate cost estimates for patent, trademark and design applications all over the world.

(www.globalip.com)

Domestic News

Monsanto will provide royalty-free licenses for all of its technologies that can help further development of 'golden rice' and other pro vitamin-A enhanced rice varieties. This was announced by Monsanto at an agricultural biotechnology symposium organized by Shri M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation in Chennai. The company is of the view that successful development and adoption of enhanced rice could help millions of people suffering from vitamin A deficiencies. The company also announced the launch of a new internet website opening its rice genome sequence database to researchers around the world.

(Indian Food Industry, Nov-Dec, 2000)

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185307. Uniroyal Chemical Co Inc, USA (349/Del/92)	Tire tread compositions.
185308. Cosmo Films Ltd, India (397/Del/92)	Process for the preparation of a synthetic paper.
185309. Centre Stephanois De Recherches Mecaniques Hydromecanique Et Frottement, France (483/Del/92)	Process for the manufacture of treated ferrous metal components to improve both corrosion resistance and friction properties.
185310. Eastman Chemical Co, USA (652/Del/92)	Fibers capable for spontaneously transporting fluids.
185311. Monsanto Co, USA (535/Del/94)	A process for the in-situ remediation of contaminated heterogeneous soil region.
185312. Maschinenfabrik Rieter Ag, Switzerland (554/Mas/94)	A spinning machine with a sliver feed.
185313. Maschinenfabrik Rieter Ag, Switzerland (555/Mas/94)	A spinning machine with a sliver feed with supporting means for a sliver.
185314. Chemadd Ltd, UK (559/Mas/94)	Fuel additive formulation.
185315. CTB Inc, USA (620/Mas/94)	A bulk storage tank with access panel.
185316. Claude Andre Marthe, Switzerland (637/Mas/94)	Noble metal watch case.
185317. Owens Brockway Glass Container Inc, USA (661/Mas/94)	An apparatus for inspecting and sorting containers.
185318. Owenillinois Closure Inc, USA (662/Mas/94)	A pellet delivery apparatus.
185319. Fisher-Rosemount Systems Inc, USA (722/Mas/94)	A control system for controlling a non linear process as function of a process error signal.
185320. Dipling Ernst Kreisellaier Vonbraun Strasse, Germany (764/Mas/94)	Method of producing coated tube plates and coolant tubes starting here from of heat exchanges.
D. 30 December, 2000	
185321. Dr Vinay Kumar, Professor, Chairman, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Regional Engineering College, Kurukshetra, India (517/Del/91)	Two in one room conditioner.
185322. Purolator India Ltd, India (876/Del/91)	A filter testing machine.
185323. Torotrak Development Ltd, UK (1227/Del/91)	A device for controlling a roller in a continuously variable ratio transmission (CVT) of the toroidal race rolling traction type.
185324. George Wallace Mcdonald, UK (789/Del/92)	An apparatus for producing sheet articles.
185325. CSIR, India (393/Del/96)	An improved process for the preparation of A and B naphthol by hydroxylation of naphthelene.
185326. CSIR, India (1805/Del/96)	An improved catalytic process for the production of pseudosapogenin diacetate.
185327. Glaverbel, Belgium (520/Del/92)	A process for preparing a coherent refractory mass on a surface based on a silicon compound.
185328. Sanofi, France (2288/Del/96)	Process for the preparation of indoli-n-2-one derivatives or one of their salts solvates of hydrates.
185329. CSIR, India (2337/Del/96)	An improved process for the preparation of a thiol modifier phosphoramidite reagent.
185330. CSIR, India (393/Del/98)	An improved process for the preparation of 2-cyanopyrazine using novel vanadium titanium.
185331. Maschinenfabrik Reiter Ag, Switzerland (815/Mas/94)	A textile machine with a variable speed drive.
185332. Hydromatic Ltd, Israel (826/Mas/94)	A method for making drip irrigation lines.

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Domestic News

Manu Agarwal, Chairman and Managing Director of the Mumbai based Design Expo Network Pvt Ltd has won a US patent for designing a computer chip which enhances the memory applications in various electronic gadgets such as mobile phones and microwave ovens. The patent was granted on grounds of cost efficiency, fast accessibility and redundancy.

(The Indian Express, 5 Jan 2001)

Antipiracyindia.com is a Maharashtra based organization dedicated to eradicate piracy in the country. It has a team of professional copyright lawyers, criminal lawyers and ex-IPS officers who work closely with government departments like Food and Drugs Administration, Police and others to eradicate piracy and adulteration. Their site antipiracyindia.com offers all relevant information on piracy prevalent in the country. They have devised a software solution for adulteration and piracy in the pharma industry and also an authentication agency on the net.

(www.antipiracyindia.com)

Apart from the earlier patented drug brands and generic brands a third category of branded generics has come into the Indian market. Pharma companies that were selling generic generics in addition to their branded formulations, have begun to give brand names to their generic generics. Cipla for example is selling Paracetamol as Paracip.

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185333. Schneider Electric Sa, France (854/Mas/94)	Electrical apparatus having a screw terminal.
185334. Polynor Partners, Norway (886/Mas/94)	A process for the production of a light cellular plastic product with closed cells.
185335. Dsm N V, The Netherlands (939/Mas/94)	A process for the polymerization of ethylene either alone or with one or more olefins with 3-12 carbon atoms.
185336. The BOC Group Inc, USA (940/Mas/94)	Process for the production of a partial oxidation product.
185337. Elf Atochem Sa, France (957/Mas/94)	A process for the purification of 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane.
185338. Sollac Immeuble Elysees La Defense, France (1003/Mas/94)	A rotor for a machine for removing burrs from slabs issuing from a continuous casting plant.
185339. S And S Industries And Enterprises Ltd, India (1084/Mas/94)	A bottle cap for dispensing liquids from a bottle.
185340. Siemens Building Technologies Ag, Switzerland (1092/Mas/94)	Fire alarm system for the early detection of fires.
185341. Mark Clayton Carter, USA (840/Cal/95)	A collapsible shelter.
185342. General Electric Co, USA (843/Cal/95)	A skew angle setting tool.
185343. Rawats International Pvt Ltd, India (1180/Cal/95)	Self steering device for Indian railways ride control wagon bogies.
185344. Daewoo Electronics Co Ltd, Republic of Korea (1334/Cal/95)	Objectives lens driving apparatus.
185345. Siemens Aktiengesellschaft, Germany (1350/Cal/95)	Monitoring system for an industrial plant.
185346. Thomson Consumer Electronics Inc, USA (1501/Cal/95)	A system for apportioning standby power.
185347. Gernd Hansen of Heerstrasse, Germany (167/Cal/96)	An improved plastic bottle and method for its manufacture.
185348. Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organization, Australia (894/Cal/98)	A method for producing generally uniformly cooked vegetables using microwave irradiation in a microwave oven.
185349. Kninklijke Philips Electronics N V, The Netherlands (1577/Cal/98)	Device for converting a series of bit information words into a series of n bit code words and for transfer by converting the code words into a modulated signal.
185350. Dr Mukherjee Krishna Joyti & Yazdani Syed Shams, India (791/Cal/99)	A process of preparing streptokinase protein from e coli.

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Domestic News

Nimesulide as Nicip and Metoclopramide as Vominorm. This is happening in the market as a result of the Centre's decision to increase the excise duty on generic generics from 8 to 16 percent to bring it on par with the duty on brands.

(The Economic Times, 12 Jan 2001)

In response to the petition filed by Research Foundation for Science that alleged that the Centre had failed to take steps to protect the interests of the farmers, the Supreme Court asked the Centre to indicate steps it had taken to protect the interests of farmers on the issue of the Basmati rice patent. A Bench comprising the Chief Justice Dr. A.S. Anand, Mr. Justice R.C Lahoti and Mr. Justice Brijesh Kumar passed this order. However, 4 claims of Ricetec Inc on Basmati rice have been nullified, but the company is still having patent over 'grains' and this may cause problems to the farmers in future.

(The Hindu, 6 Jan 2001)

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

NEXT ISSUE

- Herbs Related Patents
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Case Study

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