
India ropes in US, UK to protect traditional knowledge

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New Delhi: India has joined hands with the US and [Britain](#) to protect thousands of medicinal preparations based on traditional knowledge from piracy and patent controversies.

The government has made the [Traditional Knowledge Digital Library \(TKDL\)](#) available to these countries so that "misappropriation of its traditional knowledge at the [United States Patent and Trademark Office \(USPTO\)](#) and [United Kingdom Trademark and Patent Office \(UKPTO\)](#)" could be prevented, the [Council of Scientific and Industrial Research \(CSIR\)](#) told the sources in an e-mail.

[TKDL](#) is a collaborative project between the [CSIR](#) and the department of Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy ([AYUSH](#)) in the health ministry.

The country has signed a similar agreement with the 34-country [European Patent Office \(EPO\)](#), making [TKDL](#) database available to their patent examiners. This will prevent patent controversies based on Indian formulations but claimed by other countries, [CSIR](#) said.

"These unique international agreements would have long-term implications on the protection of traditional knowledge and global intellectual property systems in view of the fact that in the past, patents have been granted at [EPO](#) and [USPTO](#) on the use of over 200 medicinal plants due to the lack of access to the documented knowledge in public domain," the [CSIR](#) said.

At any point in time, 40-50 patent applications based on Indian traditional knowledge are awaiting grant of patents outside India, it said. *IANS*



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