

DHINGRA & SINGH

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IP NEWS FROM INDIA

Record Grant of Patents by Indian Patent Office

The Indian Patent Office has granted a record number of 15,262 patents during the financial year 2007-08. This is more than double the number of patents granted (7539) during the previous year and almost eight times the number of patents granted just three years ago in 2004-05 (1911). The number of patents granted during 2007-08, the first year of the 11th Five Year Plan (FYP) compares well with the total number of patents granted during the entire 10th Five Year Plan period which was 17,618 only. The patent filings also crossed the 35,000 mark during 2007-08.

The surge in the number of patents has to do with the modernization of the patent and other intellectual property offices. It may be noted that the Government had spent Rs.149 crore on the first phase of modernization which resulted in the establishment of modern integrated Intellectual Property Offices in the four metros, computerization and enhancement of the human resources. The Indian Patent Office has also introduced the facility for e-filing of applications from 20 July, 2007. The Office has also been recognized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) as an International Searching Authority (ISA) and an International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA) under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) in October 2007.

The national exchequer also stands to gain from the improved functioning of the IP Office with an income of about Rs.194 crore during 2007-08 compared to a Non-Plan expenditure of less than Rs.23 crore for the year.

The Government has recently approved the second phase of modernization costing Rs. 300 crore. This program would see the construction of buildings for housing ISA/IPEA operations in Delhi and for Trade Marks Registry and Intellectual Property (IP) Archives at Ahmedabad, substantial

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increase in human resources to meet the requirements of increased IP filings, digitization of all the IP records and establishment of a total online office.

The Government has already separately commenced work on setting up a National Institute of Intellectual Property Management (NIIPM) at Nagpur which would cater to training, education, research and think tank functions in Intellectual Property Rights.

These steps are expected to give a big boost to the development of an innovative culture in India.

Surge in Registered Geographical Indications in India

The year 2007-08 recorded a surge in the registration of Geographical Indications (GIs). During the year, 31 GIs were registered. This is more than the total number of GIs registered during all the previous years since the registration process commenced in India. The total number of GI products registered in the country now stands at 61.

The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 was brought into force on 15 September 2003. This is a *sui generis* legislation intended to give better protection to GIs of India. The registration is done by the Geographical Indications Registry at Chennai.

The GIs registered during 2007-08, *inter alia*, include Muga Silk from Assam, Madhubani Paintings from Bihar, Aleppy Coir, Navara and Palakkadan Mutta Rice varieties, Malabar Pepper and Aleppy Green Cardamom from Kerala, Salem and Arani Silks and Kovai Cora Cotton from Tamil Nadu, Allahabad Surkha from Uttar Pradesh, Nakshi Kantha from West Bengal, Silver Filigree from Andhra Pradesh, and Ilkal Sarees and Monsooned Malabar Coffees from Karnataka and Kerala.

Earlier registered GIs include Darjeeling Tea from West Bengal, Chanderi Fabric from Madhya Pradesh, Solapur Chaddar from Maharashtra, Kotpad Handlooms from Orissa, Kota Doria from

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Rajasthan, Mysore Silk from Karnataka, Kullu Shawl and Kangra Tea from Himachal Pradesh and Pochampalli Ikat from Andhra Pradesh.

During 2007-08, the Geographical Indications Registry received 37 applications which include Bagh Prints of Dhar from Madhya Pradesh, Banaras Brocades and Sarees and Lucknow Chikan Craft from Uttar Pradesh, Kutch Embroidery from Gujarat, Naga Mircha from Nagaland, Fazli Mango from West Bengal, Pipli Applique Work from Orissa, Goan Cashew Feni from Goa, Assam Tea from Assam, and Nilgiri Tea from Tamil Nadu. These and other applications are under various stages of processing.

In order to give a boost to the registration of GIs, the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry has recently addressed all State Governments to take initiative in promoting registration of GIs of their states.

REGISTRATION DETAILS OF G.I APPLICATIONS 2003-2008

S. No	Product	State	Geographical Indications
1	Tea	West Bengal	Darjeeling Tea (word & logo)
2	Handicrafts	Kerala	Aranmula Kannadi
3	Textiles	Andhra Pradesh	Pochampalli Ikat
4	Textiles	Tamil Nadu	Salem Fabric
5	Textiles	Madhya Pradesh	Chanderi Fabric
6	Textiles	Maharashtra	Solapur Chaddar
7	Textiles	Maharashtra	Solapur Terry Towel
8	Textiles	Orissa	Kotpad Handloom fabric
9	Textiles	Karnataka	Mysore Silk
10	Textiles	Rajasthan	Kota Doria
11	Incense Sticks	Karnataka	Mysore Agarbathi

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12	Textiles	Tamil Nadu	Kancheepuram Silk
13	Textiles, Carpets	Tamil Nadu	Bhavani Jamakkalam
14	Textiles	Himachal Pradesh	Kullu Shawl
15	Handicrafts	Karnataka	Bidriware
16	Textiles	Tamil Nadu	Madurai Sungudi
17	Textiles	Orissa	Orissa Ikat
18	Handicrafts	Karnataka	Channapatna Toys & Dolls
19	Handicrafts	Karnataka	Mysore Rosewood Inlay
20	Tea	Himachal Pradesh	Kangra Tea
21	Wet Grinder	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore Wet Grinder
22	Textiles	Andhra Pradesh	Srikalahasthi Kalamkari
23	Essential Oil	Karnataka	Mysore Sandalwood Oil
24	Soap	Karnataka	Mysore Sandal soap
25	Embroidery (Textiles)	Karnataka	Kasuti Embroidery
26	Paintings	Karnataka	Mysore Traditional Paintings
27	Horticulture Product	Karnataka	Coorg Orange
28	Horticulture Product	Karnataka	Mysore Betel leaf
29	Horticulture Product	Karnataka	Nanjanagud Banana
30	Paintings	Bihar	Madhubani Paintings
31	Handicrafts	Andhra Pradesh	Kondapalli Bommallu
32	Paintings	Tamil Nadu	Thanjavur Paintings
33	Handicrafts	Andhra Pradesh	Silver Filigree of Karimnagar

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34	Coir Products	Kerala	Alleppey Coir
35	Textiles	Assam	Muga Silk
36	Handicrafts	Tamil Nadu	Temple Jewellery of Nagercoil
37	Horticulture	Karnataka	Mysore Jasmine
38	Horticulture	Karnataka	Udupi Jasmine
39	Horticulture	Karnataka	Hadagali Jasmine
40	Agricultural Products	Kerala	Navara Rice
41	Agricultural Products	Kerala	Palakkadan Matta Rice
42	Handicrafts	Tamil Nadu	Thanjavur Art Plate
43	Textiles	Karnataka	Ilkal Sarees
44	Handicrafts	Bihar	Applique - Khatwa Patch Work of Bihar
45	Handicrafts	Bihar	Sujini Embroidery Work of Bihar
46	Handicrafts	Bihar	Sikki Grass Work of Bihar
47	Agricultural Products	Kerala	Malabar Pepper
48	Guava	Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad Surkha
49	Textiles	New Delhi	Nakshi Kantha
*50	Handicrafts	Karnataka	Ganjifa cards of Mysore (Karnataka)
51	Textiles	Karnataka	Navalgund Durries
52	Handicrafts	Karnataka	Karnataka Bronze Ware

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53	Textiles	Karnataka	Molakalmuru Sarees
54	Coffee	Karnataka	Monsooned Malabar Arabica Coffee
55	Coffee	Karnataka	Monsooned Malabar Robusta Coffee
56	Agricultural Products	Kerala	Spices - Alleppey Green Cardamom
57	Agricultural Products	Karnataka	Coorg Green Cardamom
58	E. I. Leather	Tamil Nadu	E. I. Leather
59	Textiles and Textile Goods	Tamil Nadu	Salem Silk
60	Textiles and Textile Goods	Tamil Nadu	Kovai Cora Cotton
*61	Textiles and Textile Goods	Tamil Nadu	Arani Silk

**50-61 - Would be forwarded for Registration Certificate Signing on 30-03-2008 and would be dispatched to the respective registered proprietors on 31-03-2008*