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India may win patent claims due to knowledge library, says PM

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India could win 105 claims on international patents due to its Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL), Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said here today, opening the high-level segment meeting at the Conference of Parties to Convention on Biological Diversity.

"We decided to build this knowledge database because of the patent on the use of neem extract in Europe and another patent on the use of turmeric as a healing agent. Since then, because of this database, over 1000 cases of biopiracy have been identified and over 105 claims withdrawn or cancelled by patent offices," he said.

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India has tried a unique approach to protect its traditional knowledge by establishing a Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL), which promoted the objectives of the Nagoya Protocol on the issue of protection of codified traditional knowledge systems such as Ayurveda, he said.

The vast database created by India has 34 million pages of information in five international languages in formats easily accessible by patent examiners, he said.

He said that the government of India would continue to work to strengthen its institutions to record this knowledge, to value its science and to provide benefits to its custodians.

Multilateral agencies like the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and some countries have approached India for assistance in setting up such libraries and the government would be happy to provide assistance, he told delegates from over 190 countries attending the CoP-11 of which India assumed presidency during the ongoing convention. (MORE)

