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## India Foils UK's Bid to Patent Use of Turmeric for Treating Hair Loss

NEW DELHI: India has foiled UK company's bid to patent use of turmeric, pine bark and green tea for treating hair loss, government said Sunday.

"India once again has been successful in protecting its traditional knowledge by preventing an attempt made by Europe's Leading Dermaceutical Laboratory-**Pangaea Laboratories Limited**, to take patent on a medicinal composition containing turmeric, pine bark and green tea for treating hair loss," said a senior official of the union ministry of science and technology.

**Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)**, a unit of **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**, located the patent application filed at European Patent office by **M/S Pangaea Laboratories Limited** and filed pre-grant opposition along with prior-art evidences from **TKDL**, proving that turmeric, pine bark and green tea, are being used as a treatment for hair loss, since long in Indian systems of medicine like Ayurveda and Unani.

The **Pangaea Laboratories Limited** had filed the patent application at European Patent office in February, 2011. **CSIR-TKDL Unit** had filed evidences from **TKDL** on January 13, 2014 after the patent application got published on website, pursuant to which the patent application is finally deemed to be withdrawn by the applicant on June 29, 2015.

Till date **CSIR-TKDL Unit** has achieved success in about 200 such cases without any cost. Recently, the **TKDL Unit** has foiled an attempt of **M/S Colgate-Palmolive Company** to patent a mouthwash formula containing herb (Nutmeg- Jayaphal) extract used in Indian traditional systems of medicine to cure oral diseases, at European Patent office.

India submitted proof in the form of references from ancient books in this case, which said the herb and its extracts of *Myristica Fragrans* were historically used for oral diseases in Indian systems of medicine.

Meanwhile, various institutions of **CSIR** filed applications for 14 patents in India and for 22 abroad in the month of April 2015. Out of these one patent was granted in India and 14 abroad.