

**LISBON AGREEMENT'S GENEVA ACT
RECEIVES FIRST GEOGRAPHICAL
INDICATION: KAMPOT PEPPER FROM
CAMBODIA**



Ref: wipo.int, Monday 18.01.2021

Cambodia has recorded Kampot Pepper as the first Geographical Indication (GI), registered via the Geneva Act of WIPO's Lisbon System, which provides protection for names identifying the geographic origin of products such as coffee, tea, cheese, wine, pottery and cloth. Kampot Pepper is produced in the provinces of Kampot and Kep in Cambodia and since 2020 it is registered domestically as a geographical indication. This system that took effect in the year 2020 allows protection for appellations of origin and geographical indications in the 30 plus countries covered by the system through a single registration procedure and one set of fees, facilitating international trade of origin products. Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications are distinctive product designations which require a qualitative link between the product to which they refer and its place of origin. Both are useful marketing tools for producers, as they inform consumers about a product's geographical origin, which influences the quality, characteristic and reputation of the product linked as being authentic. International Registration of Kampot Pepper under Lisbon System will further contribute to its success rate of export in international market. Local producers therefore will be able to enforce their rights in more than 30 countries including member states of European Union.

**USING GOD'S NAME TO SELL
ARTICLES ILLEGAL, RULES BOMBAY
HIGH COURT**



Ref: thehindu.com, Wednesday, 6.01.2021

Bombay High Court declared that advertisement of any article using name of any God and claiming the same has supernatural qualities is illegal and falls under Maharashtra Prevention and Eradication of Human Sacrifice and other Inhuman, Evil and Aghori Practices and Black Magic Act. This order was passed in a petition filed by a teacher seeking injunction to prevent advertisements on TV Channels that promote sale of articles like Hanuman Chalisa Yantra. This Yantra was made of 24 carat gold and was priced at Rs. 4900 claiming to special and miraculous qualities, prepared by one Baba who was blessed by Lord Hanuman. The court while passing this order stressed on the role of education and spreading awareness in order to remove superstitions for a balanced society with healthy mind set for our children.

**SCIENCE POLICY TO HELP
RESEARCHERS ACCESS TOP
JOURNALS FOR FREE**



Ref: thehindu.com, Thursday, 7.1.2021

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Science Technology and Innovation Policy has been proposed with an aim to establish a system whereby all researchers in India can access research published in top international journals for no cost. The Government shall be negotiating on behalf of all research bodies with the publishers so that access is enabled which presently costs around a whopping sum of Rs.1500 crore annually. Due to these high prices only a small fraction of researchers are able to benefit from these subscriptions. Considering the dynamic as well as fast pace of change that has hit the world at large owing to pandemic, new problems and various emerging trends can only be tackled and challenged through science, technology and innovation. This policy though still at the stage of drafting, involved around 300 rounds of consultations with more than 40,000 stakeholders. The policy has been designed to address and identify weaknesses of Science, Technology and Innovation ecosystem in India so that the gaps can be bridged and the Indian ecosystem can be more competitive with developed nations’.

IBM INDIA EMERGES AS SECOND HIGHEST CONTRIBUTOR AFTER US WITH 930 PATENTS IN 2020



Ref:thenewsminute.com,Wednesday,13.01.2021

IBM India has emerged as the second highest contributor to the global patent industry with 930 patents granted to employee inventors from India. This includes number of artificial intelligence, cloud, quantum computing and security related patents. A strong culture of innovation at IBM, has paved the way for new

products and new frontiers of information technology, greatly benefitting the society at large. More than 2300 AI patents have been received by IBM ranging from technology to making virtual agents more responsive to emotions when speaking to customers, to AI that can help people make difficult decisions- summarizing key decision points from a variety of information sources, both written and verbal and presenting them in easy to understand visualizations. Apart from this there are more than 3,000 patents relating to cloud and hybrid cloud technologies to intelligently distribute the data processing between the cloud, the edge and the computing devices in between. Patent setting the foundation for investigating more accurate and efficient risk analysis calculations on a quantum computer have added another feather to its cap. Further, security related patents allowing encrypted data to be organized so that FHE Vector comparison operations can be performed efficiently number more than 1400. Since the year 1920, IBM has received more than 150,000 US patents and has played a crucial role in innovation sector globally.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE MAJOR TESLA GETS AN INDIAN ADDRESS



Ref:thehindu.com, Wednesday, 13.01.2021

Electric Vehicle Company Tesla has registered with the Registrar of Companies as Tesla India Motors and Energy Pvt Ltd. and has entered India with its incorporation in Bengaluru on 8.01.2021. Vaibhav Taneja, Venkatrangam Sreeram and David Jon Feinstein have been named as Directors. According to ROC, it is registered as an unlisted private company with

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an authorized capital of Rs 15 lakh and paid up capital of Rs.1 lakh. Tesla's entry has the potential to prove to be a catalyst for India's Electronic Vehicle industry that is still in its nascent stage. The EV charging infrastructure still remains underdeveloped in India. The supply chain for essential EV components, such as batteries, is also heavily dependent on imports, driving up the end-consumer costs of EV purchase and limiting the mass adoption of hybrid and electric vehicles in a price-sensitive market. The company is planning to set up an R&D center in India to tap into the strong pool of local engineering talent. Eventually, Tesla will also set up a manufacturing unit in India to bolster its indigenous production capabilities and market capabilities, as well as to strengthen its global supply chain. We can expect these developments to provide a major fillip to indigenous EV manufacturing by mobilizing direct competitors and potential ecosystem partners to provide more innovative offerings.

SAME GENDER SEXUAL HARASSMENT COMPLAINTS MAINTAINABLE UNDER POSH ACT: CALCUTTA HIGH COURT



Ref: livelaw.in, Thursday,14.01.2021

In a landmark verdict in a writ petition titled Dr Malabika Bhattacharjee v Internal Complaints Committee, Vivekananda College and Others, Calcutta High Court has held that same-gender complaints are maintainable under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, commonly referred to as the POSH Act. This writ petition sought to challenge the actions

of Internal Complaints Committee that refused to accept a complaint under the Act on the grounds that complainant and respondent belong to same gender and hence there is no jurisdiction. The Court categorically observed that Section 2(m) of the 2013 Act shows that the term "respondent" brings within its fold "a person", thereby including persons of all genders. The court held that the definition and concept of "Sexual Harassment" as enshrined under the Act needs to be interpreted against the backdrop of social perspective. A person of any gender may feel threatened or sexually harassed when his/her modesty or dignity as a member of the said gender is offended by any acts as contemplated in relevant sections irrespective of sexuality and gender of the perpetrator of the act. This landmark verdict points toward a trend of upholding the dignity of each life irrespective of gender and burying the fundamentals of prevailing age-old customs and traditions.

SNAPDEAL, AND FOUR OTHER INDIAN SHOPPING COMPLEXES FIGURE IN US NOTORIOUS MARKETS LIST



Ref: ndtv.com, Friday, 15.01.2021

One of India's largest e-commerce platforms, Snapdeal along with four Indian shopping complexes, namely Heera Panna in Mumbai, Kidderpore in Kolkata, Palika Bazaar and Tank Road in Delhi have figured in 2020 Review of Notorious Markets for Counterfeiting and Piracy issued by Office of the US Trade Representative. Internet has been blamed for quiet sometime now in facilitating importation of counterfeit and pirated goods in the United

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States. Combatting piracy and counterfeiting will require sustained efforts from all stakeholders including government, companies that benefit from sale of such goods as well as consumers who purchase such products. Snapdeal founders have been accused of criminal conduct on many occasions on account of these activities. Counterfeit products also have a lot of health and safety concerns.

**GUJARAT GOVERNMENT RENAMES
DRAGON FRUIT AS 'KAMALAM'**



Ref: buisnessworld.in, Wednesday, 20.01.2021

The State Government of Gujarat through its Chief Minister has communicated its decision to rename Dragon Fruit as “Kamalam” since the outer shape of the fruit resembles a lotus. Kamalam in Sanskrit means Lotus and the fruit has gained a lot of popularity as a result of its unique look and taste.

**TENCENT BACKED START UP SEEKS
\$5.4 BILLION IN BIGGEST TECH IPO
SINCE UBER**



KUAISHOU TECHNOLOGY

Ref: livemint.com, Monday, 25.01.2021

A short video start-up under the name and style of Kuaishou Technology, the operator of China's most popular video service seeks to raise a whopping \$5.4 billion in the world's

biggest internet initial public offering since Uber Technologies Inc. Kuaishou means “fast hand” and has about 262 million average daily active users. This start up is backed by Tencent Holdings Ltd and is selling 365 million shares at HK\$105 to HK\$115 each. This will be the world's biggest internet IPO and is expected to give a boost to Hong Kong's capital market.

**FAKE VEHICLE SPARE PART SELLERS
BOOKED**



Ref: tribuneindia.com, Sunday, 31.01.2021

Hyundai Vehicles too has been attacked by the selling of fake spare parts racket with the registration of case under the Copyrights Act against three shops located in Paonta Sahib. Affixing of company's markings on fake products has been resulting into great financial losses to the company and many consumers are being duped and misled as well. 134 fake spare parts were found in these three shops leading to great distress and confusion in the market. Counterfeiting has been a great concern in India and continues to threaten the social fabric. What is required is a consolidated approach and a solution where all stakeholders including shops who benefit from sale of counterfeiting products, consumers who buy as well as entire nexus involved must participate to stifle and nip this evil in the bud.

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