

India foils UK company's bid to patent use of turmeric, pine & tea for hair loss

03 August 2015 | News | By BioSpectrum Bureau

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India once again has been successful in protecting its traditional knowledge by preventing an attempt made by Europe's leading dermaceutical laboratory, Pangaea Laboratories, to take patent on a medicinal composition containing turmeric, pine bark and green tea for treating hair loss.

CSIR-TKDL located the patent application filed at European Patent office by 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 above UK based company 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after the patent application got published on website, pursuant to which the patent application is finally deemed to be withdrawn by the applicant on June 29, 2015.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.

In recent past, CSIR-TKDL Unit has also foiled an attempt of 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.

CSIR-TKDL headed by Dr Archana Sharma, 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.