

#IPR News - February 2025



OpenAI Plans to Develop Custom AI Chipset to Reduce Nvidia Dependence

OpenAI is developing its first in-house AI chipset to reduce reliance on Nvidia, with design finalization expected soon. The chipset, expected to be manufactured by TSMC, will feature 3-nanometer technology and high-bandwidth memory, with an initial limited rollout before broader AI deployment.



Bharathiar University Records 26 Patents in Five Years

Bharathiar University researchers secured 26 patents between 2019 and 2024, reflecting its growing emphasis on innovation and research.

India to Lead Global 6G Research and Patent Development

Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia announced India's goal to contribute 10% of global 6G patents. The Bharat 6G Alliance has formulated a strategic roadmap, with ₹300 crore sanctioned for 111 research projects to build a 6G testbed.



House of Masaba Wins Interim Relief in Trademark Dispute

Fashion and beauty brand 'House of Masaba,' founded by designer Masaba Gupta, has secured interim relief from the Delhi High Court in a trademark infringement case. The brand had approached the court to protect its distinctive identity against unauthorized use by third parties.



Lodha Matriarch Urges Sons to Honor Family Agreement in Trademark Dispute

Manju Lodha, mother of Abhishek and Abhinandan Lodha, has urged them to settle their ongoing disagreement over the use of the Lodha trademark. She reminded them of the 2017 family agreement, which was reached by all members, and asked them to resolve the issue amicably.



Meghan Markle’s Lifestyle Brand Faces Trademark Hurdles and Farming Mystery

Meghan Markle’s business venture has encountered trademark complications, forcing a rebranding from "American Riviera Orchard" to "As Ever." However, doubts have surfaced as Montecito’s farming community remains unaware of the existence of her much-talked-about jam.



India Refutes Pakistan’s Claim of Basmati Ownership Victory

Indian officials have dismissed reports suggesting that Pakistan has gained exclusive recognition for basmati rice in New Zealand and Australia. India clarified that it holds a logo mark registration for basmati in New Zealand, while Pakistan lacks such legal protection. The Agricultural and Processed Food Exports Development Authority is actively safeguarding India’s basmati trademark globally.

Government Pledges Support for Media’s Shift from Traditional to Digital

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw assured that the government is committed to assisting the media sector in transitioning to digital platforms. Speaking at the Storyboard18-DNPA Conclave, he addressed key concerns like copyright and fair compensation for traditional media content used by digital platforms.



Music Giants T-Series, Saregama, and Sony Challenge OpenAI in Copyright Dispute

Indian music labels, including T-Series, Saregama, and Sony, are preparing to take legal action against OpenAI over copyright concerns. While OpenAI maintains that it operates under fair-use principles, its use of publicly available data to train AI models continues to face legal scrutiny in India and globally.

India’s Patent Boom: Economic Survey Highlights Rising Filings, but Challenges Remain

The Economic Survey 2024-25 reveals a sharp increase in patent filings, with domestic applications making up over 50% in FY24, compared to 28% in FY15. Patents by women and educational institutes have also surged. However, despite these advancements, experts highlight the need for stronger innovation-to-commercialization efforts.

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Bombay High Court Rules Against Tilaknagar Industries in Trademark Dispute

Tilaknagar Industries Ltd. vs. Herman Jansen Beverages Nederland B.V. and Ors. (MANU/MH/0777/2025)

The Bombay High Court ruled that Tilaknagar Industries breached a 1987 agreement, leading to an automatic reversion of trademark rights for "MANSION HOUSE" and "SAVOY CLUB" to their original owner United Traders Organisation UTO. Tilaknagar's injunctive relief request was dismissed, and Allied Blenders and Distillers Private Limited, as UTO's assignee, was allowed to introduce products under these trademarks in West Bengal.



Delhi High Court Cancels "ROHIT" Trademark Over Fraud and Deceptive Similarity

Anshul Vaish vs. Hari Om and Co. and Ors. (MANU/DE/0704/2025)

The Delhi High Court ordered the cancellation of the respondent's "ROHIT" trademark, finding that it was deceptively similar to the petitioner's prior mark and registered using forged documents. The Trademarks Registry was directed to rectify the register.

Delhi High Court Grants Permanent Injunction Against Unauthorized Use of "TATA" Name & Trademarks

Sir Ratan Tata Trust and Ors. vs. Rajat Shrivastava and Ors. (MANU/DE/0708/2025)

The Delhi High Court granted a permanent injunction against the defendants for unauthorized use of "TATA" trademarks and Ratan Tata's name and photograph. The defendants agreed to cease usage and file an affidavit affirming their commitment.

Delhi High Court Blocks Unauthorized Streaming of Star India Content

Star India Pvt. Ltd. and Ors. vs. Ashar Nisar and Ors. (MANU/DE/0818/2025)

The Delhi High Court restrained the defendants from unauthorized broadcasting and streaming of Star India's copyrighted content. A permanent injunction was granted as the defendants did not contest the suit.

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<p>JAVATPOINT" Trademark Axed for Copying Oracle's "JAVA"</p> <p>Oracle America, INC. vs. Sandeep Khandelwal and Ors. (MANU/DE/O811/2025)</p>	<p>The Delhi High Court ordered the cancellation of the "JAVATPOINT" trademark, ruling that it was deceptively similar to Oracle's well-known "JAVA" marks and had been dishonestly registered. The Trademarks Registry was directed to remove the registration.</p>
<p>Delhi High Court Shuts Down "ASTELLAZ" for Trademark Infringement</p> <p>Astellas Pharma INC vs. Astellaz Pharmaceuticals (MANU/DE/O819/2025)</p>	<p>The Delhi High Court granted a permanent injunction against Astellaz Pharmaceuticals for infringing Astellas Pharma's trademark by using the deceptively similar mark "ASTELLAZ." The defendants did not contest the suit.</p>
<p>Novateur Electrical Gets Green Light to Add New Evidence</p> <p>Novateur Electrical and Digital Systems Pvt Ltd vs. V-Guard Industries Ltd (MANU/DE/O571/2025)</p>	<p>The Delhi High Court allowed Novateur Electrical to introduce additional documents in a design infringement case, as they were discovered post-filing. A cost of ₹50,000 was imposed on the defendant.</p>
<p>Johnson & Johnson Wins Jurisdiction Battle Over Online Sales</p> <p>Johnson and Johnson Pte. Ltd. vs. Abbireddi Satish Kumar and Ors. (MANU/DE/O754/2025)</p>	<p>The Delhi High Court dismissed the defendant's application for rejection of the plaint under Order VII Rule 11 CPC, ruling that online sales established territorial jurisdiction. The suit was allowed to proceed.</p>
<p>Havells Secures Injunction Against 'CAB-RIO'</p> <p>Mark Havells India Limited vs. Cab-Rio Industries and Ors. (MANU/DE/O935/2025)</p>	<p>The Delhi High Court ruled in favor of Havells India, finding that 'CAB-RIO' was deceptively similar to its 'REO' mark. The court granted an interim injunction, barring Cab-Rio from using the contested mark and ordering a corporate name change within a month, citing a likelihood of consumer confusion.</p>



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'KUKA' Trademark Declared Well-Known After Settlement Multani Pharmaceuticals Limited vs. S.A. Herbal Bioactives LLP and Ors. (MANU/DE/1045/2025)	The Delhi High Court approved a settlement between Multani Pharmaceuticals and S.A. Herbal Bioactives, wherein the latter paid ₹6,50,000 to resolve the dispute over the 'KYKA' mark. The court also recognized 'KUKA' as a well-known trademark under the Trade Marks Act, 1999.
'FACES' Brand Wins Trademark Battle Manash Lifestyle Private Limited vs. Shabina Kundial and Ors. (MANU/DE/0987/2025)	The Delhi High Court ruled in favor of Manash Lifestyle, ordering the removal of a deceptively similar trademark registered under Class 44. The court found that the respondent had dishonestly adopted the mark to benefit from Manash's goodwill and directed the Trade Marks Registry to enforce the removal.



'DROTIN' vs. 'DROTOWIN': Permanent Injunction Granted

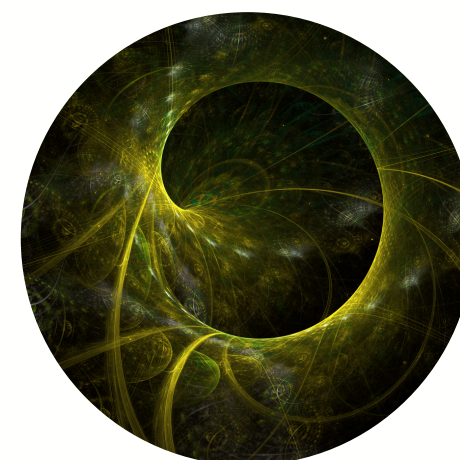
Cedar Properties and Trading LLP and Ors. vs. Maskon Life Sciences Pvt. Ltd. and Ors. (MANU/DE/0893/2025)

The Delhi High Court issued a permanent injunction against Maskon Life Sciences for infringing the 'DROTIN' trademark by using 'DROTOWIN' for pharmaceutical products. The court ruled that the defendants had no real chance of defending their claim and invoked Order XIII-A of the CPC to expedite the decision.

Patent Rejected for Lack of Scientific Basis

Abhishek Sharma and Ors. vs. Assistant Controller of Patents and Designs (MANU/DE/0986/2025)

The Delhi High Court dismissed an appeal challenging the rejection of a patent application related to the effects of black-colored clothing. The court ruled that the application was an abstract theory without scientific evidence and not a patentable invention under the Patents Act, 1970. The appeal was also dismissed due to a delay of 701 days.



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Territorial Jurisdiction Clarified in Copyright Suit
 Nilesch Girkar vs. Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited and Ors.
 (MANU/DE/O951/2025)

The Delhi High Court set aside a Trial Court order that dismissed a copyright infringement suit for lack of cause of action. The High Court clarified that the Trial Court misapplied jurisdictional rules and remanded the case for reconsideration, instructing the parties to appear on March 6, 2025.

₹20 Lakh Penalty for Software Copyright Infringement
 Siemens Industry Software Inc. & Anr. Vs. Mr. Dharmeshbhai R Sankharva & Anr.
 (MANU/OT/0011/2025)

The Saket District Court imposed ₹20 lakh in damages on defendants for copyright infringement of Siemens’ software, ‘NX.’ The court granted a permanent injunction against unauthorized use and dismissed additional damage claims due to a lack of concrete proof of ongoing infringement.

Delhi HC Rejects Patent Appeal for Recombinant Vaccine
 The Regents of The University of California vs. The Controller of Patents (MANU/DE/1060/2025)

The Delhi High Court dismissed the appeal by The Regents of The University of California against the Controller of Patents’ refusal to grant a patent for a recombinant Salmonella-based vaccine. The court examined whether the application met the disclosure and clarity requirements under Sections 10(4) and 10(5) of the Patents Act, 1970, and whether it was non-patentable under Section 3(c). It upheld the Controller’s decision, citing insufficient disclosure and the risk of covering naturally occurring mutations, making it non-patentable. The Registry was directed to inform the Controller’s office.