

# Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)

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**In news**– The Union Cabinet has recently approved a proposal to widen access of the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) database to users, besides patent offices.

## **About Traditional Knowledge Digital Library(TKDL)-**

- The TKDL is **an Indian digital knowledge repository of traditional knowledge**, especially about medicinal plants and formulations used in Indian systems of medicine.
- **Set up in 2001, as a collaboration between the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** and the Ministry of Ayush.
- **The objective of the library is to protect the ancient and traditional knowledge of the country from exploitation through biopiracy and unethical patents**, by documenting it electronically and classifying it as per international patent classification systems.
- **It provides information in languages and format understandable by patent examiners** at Patent Offices worldwide, to prevent the erroneous grant of patents.
- The **TKDL currently contains information from existing literature related to** Indian Systems of Medicine such as Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa and Yoga.
- The **information is documented in a digitized format in five international languages** which are English, German, French, Japanese and Spanish.
- Until now, access to the complete TKDL database is restricted to 14 Patent Offices worldwide for the purposes of search and examination.
- The approval of the Cabinet to widen the access of the database beyond patent offices lays emphasis on integrating and co-opting traditional knowledge with current practices towards enhancing innovation and

trade.

- The recent move by the government is aimed to drive research & development, and innovation based on India's traditional knowledge.