Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance*

Why in News?

The National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI), Brazil and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), India have entered into a cooperation arrangement on access to the TKDL.

- It is a globally unique initiative established by the Government of India through a collaboration between CSIR and the ***Ministry of AYUSH.***
- **Established in –** 2001.
- It is a ***first-of-its-kind database*** of prior art on Indian traditional knowledge.
- **Aim -** To ***prevent the erroneous grant of patents*** on Indian traditional knowledge and to safeguard the country's knowledge heritage from misappropriation.
- **Available Information** - It currently contains information on formulations and practices drawn from Indian systems of medicine such as *Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Sowa Rigpa, as well as Yoga*, sourced from authoritative traditional texts.
- Knowledge from multiple languages and disciplines is translated, structured and linked with modern scientific and technical terminology.
- **Available Languages** - The database is available in 5 international languages—English, German, French, Japanese and Spanish thereby overcoming language and format barriers and enabling effective use by patent examiners worldwide.
- Access is provided to patent offices through Non-Disclosure Agreements.
- With the inclusion of INPI, Brazil, the number of patent offices worldwide with access to the TKDL rises to 18.
- The TKDL is widely regarded as a global benchmark for the defensive protection of traditional knowledge.
- **India – Brazil Cooperation** - Through this cooperation, the Brazilian Patent Office will gain access to the TKDL database for use during patent

examination and grant procedures.

- **Significance** – It will strengthen India’s global efforts to prevent biopiracy and misappropriation of traditional knowledge.
- It also supports Brazil in improving the quality and efficiency of its patent examination process by facilitating better assessment of novelty and prior art.

Reference

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