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Issue 162 Chief Editor: డాక్టర్ శ్రీనివాసరావు వేపచేదు | डॉक्टर श्रीनिवासराव वेपचेदू | Dr. Sreenivasarao Vepachedu[1], *JD, PhD, LLM*

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PATENT LAW UPDATE

SLOVAKIA (SK): The Federated European Patent Register (Federated Register) offers free access to basic official bibliographic and legal status data of European patent documents in the national post-grant phase available to the EPO by the national offices of the designated states concerned. It does not show the pre-grant status of EP applications[2].

The Federated Register allows federated searches in multiple patent registers to retrieve reliable legal status information on patents in national offices, implemented in a three-phase project. The deep linking service[3] is phase 1 of the project providing the legal status data of an EP document in each national patent register once it enters the national phase.

The Federated Register started retrieving official bibliographic and legal status information from the Slovakian Register and displaying it in the European Patent Register[4]. So far, the states participating in the Federated Register project are Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, and Turkey.

USPTO and WIPO: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) Dossier includes data from WIPO's global patent search system PATENTSCOPE. The dossier content provides the most up-to-date information about a patent application's progress through the examination process including:

- Search reports,
- Office actions, and
- Correspondence between the applicant and the patent office.

The national patent collections of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand are now available in WIPO's global patent search system PATENTSCOPE. Data from Viet Nam have been updated to bring the number of national/regional offices to 51 whose data is available in the PATENTSCOPE Search System and to over 65,000,000 the total number of records.

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INDIA (IN) and WIPO: The Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trademarks of India and the Director General of WIPO signed an agreement on 5th October 2017 at Geneva Switzerland to facilitate the exchange of data between these offices including Indian Patent documents, search and examination reports through WIPO Centralized Access to Search and Examination (CASE) and WIPO Digital Access Services to make priority documents available electronically. The Agreement covers cooperative activities for the improvement of IP business services at the Office, including projects for digitalization, data capture and data quality improvement, data exchange for the dissemination of IP information, provision of business systems by WIPO for digitization, document management, online search and any related systems or modules and creation of national and/or regional IP databases. The agreement will also facilitate India to become a despositing office for CASE thus enabling the office to make available the search and examination reports of Indian Patent applications[5].

AMERICA, JAPAN, and WIPO[6]: The electronic exchange of priority document data between the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and the Japan Patent Office (JPO) has ended at the end of September[7]. Effective October 1, 2017, electronic retrievals of priority documents between the USPTO and the JPO will be managed via the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Digital Access Service (DAS), under the WIPO DAS agreement established on April 20, 2009.

The certified copy requirement is satisfied when a priority document is retrieved electronically via the WIPO DAS service during pendency of the US application. There is no fee for this service and participation for a particular application is voluntary.

For applications filed before October 1, 2017, the WIPO DAS access code will not be required; however, applicants are encouraged to begin voluntarily providing the WIPO DAS access code for JP applications immediately. This practice will prepare the applicant for the switch to WIPO DAS. Also, having the WIPO DAS access code should reduce potential delays that may occur if electronic retrieval is attempted by the USPTO on or after October 1, 2017. The Foreign Priority Information Section of the Application Data Sheet (ADS) includes an Access Code field for this purpose.

BRAZIL (BR): Brazilian Patent and Trademark Office (BPTO) implemented the electronic software registration system, on September 12, 2017. Consequently, the registration process through the paper and with software source code on a CD-ROM are extinguished[8].

PCT PATENT PROSECUTION HIGHWAY (PCT-PPH):

- On 6 January 2017, a new two-way PCT-PPH pilot program started between the Canadian Intellectual Property Office and the National Institute of Industrial Property (Chile). Under this program, accelerated processing in the national phase in one country is available on the basis of a PCT application with a positive written opinion from either the International Searching Authority (ISA) or the International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA), or a positive international

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preliminary report on patentability (IPRP) (Chapter II) (that is, where at least one of the claims has been determined as patentable), issued by the Office of the other country in its capacity as ISA/IPEA.

- New one-way PCT-PPH pilot programs started between the Austrian Patent Office and the Mexican Institute of Industrial Property (on 1 December 2016) and between the European Patent Office (EPO) and the Eurasian Patent Office (on 1 October 2017). Under these programs, accelerated processing in the national or regional phase, as the case may be, before one Office is available on the basis of a PCT application with a positive written opinion from either the ISA or the IPEA, or a positive IPRP (Chapter II), issued by the other Office in its capacity as ISA/IPEA..

PCT FEE CHANGES: From 1 December 2017, there will be changes in the equivalent amounts payable in the currencies specified below for international searches carried out by the following Offices:

1.	Austrian Patent Office	USD
2.	Canadian Intellectual Property Office	USD
3.	European Patent Office	NZD, USD
4.	Finnish Patent and Registration Office (PRH)	USD
5.	Indian Patent Office	EUR
6.	Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine	USD
7.	National Institute of Industrial Property (Chile)	EUR
8.	Nordic Patent Institute	USD
9.	Spanish Patent and Trademark Office	USD
10.	Turkish Patent and Trademark Office (Turkpatent)	USD
11.	Swedish Patent and Registration Office	USD
12.	United States Patent and Trademark Office	EUR

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TRADEMARK LAW UPDATE

THAILAND (TH)[9]: On August 7, 2017, the Government of Thailand deposited its instrument of accession to the Madrid Protocol with WIPO's Director General, making Thailand the 99th member of the Madrid System. The Protocol will enter into force for Thailand on November 7, 2017. Starting November 7, local brand owners in Thailand can begin using the Madrid System to protect their marks in the 114 territories of the System's other 98 members by filing a single international application and paying a single set of fees.

CANADA (CA): A geographical indication (GI) is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. It prevents the adoption and use of GIs by a third party whose product does not originate from the territory identified by the GIs. In addition, the qualities, characteristics or reputation of the product should be essentially due to the place of origin. Since the qualities depend on the geographical place of production, there is a clear link between the product and its original place of production.

Canada has implemented some amendments to the Canadian Trademarks Act related to the protection of GIs. The changes were implemented as a result of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada and the European Union[10].

Since March 1, 2017, the Trademarks Opposition Board has been providing parties scheduled for an upcoming hearing in an opposition or a section 45 proceeding with an email address to ensure the timely communication of incoming hearing correspondence. The Trademarks Opposition Board will monitor the receipt of email communications from parties scheduled for an upcoming hearing in an opposition or a section 45 proceeding during ordinary business hours. Note that the Trademarks Opposition Board will not correspond by email.

SOME NOTABLE CHANGES AND THEIR BENEFITS, DATE MODIFIED: 2017-09-26[11]

- Providing the parties with the ability to file their evidence electronically
- Facilitating the service of documents within Canada
- Providing for the sequential filing and service of written representations in opposition and objection proceedings
- Creating greater certainty by setting out regulatory provisions for section 45 summary cancellation Proceedings at the request of a person and at the Registrar's initiative simplifying the procedures before the Trademarks Opposition Board by aligning the three administrative proceedings

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WIPO - MADRID AGREEMENT: Amendments to Common Regulations Take Effect November 1, 2017[12].

The Madrid System amendments include changes to:
Rule 9 – new "voluntary description" of a mark.
Rule 3 – publication in the WIPO Gazette of appointments and cancellations of representatives.
Rule 24(5) – irregularities in subsequent designations involving Form MM18 (Declaration of intention to use the mark – United States).

Effective November 1:

An international application must include, if required by the Office of origin, the same description of the mark contained in the basic application or registration, and (i.e., in the "basic mark"); and may also contain any other description of the mark (a "voluntary description").

International application Form MM2 and subsequent designation Form MM4 have been modified to include up to two descriptions for the trademark. These updates will be available.

Each time a representative is recorded (appointment or cancellation) in the International Register in connection with an international trademark registration, WIPO will notify the IP Offices in the countries/regions covered by the registration, and publish the appointment or cancellation in the WIPO Gazette.

Unremedied irregularities involving Form MM18 (Declaration of intention to use the mark in the United States) PDF, MM18 will no longer lead to the abandonment of the subsequent designation request in other target markets.

If an irregularity that relates only to Form MM18 is found during WIPO's examination, and this irregularity is not remedied within three months, only the designation of the United States will be canceled. Any other countries/regions included in the request will no longer be affected.

OTHER CHANGES INCLUDE:

TAJIKISTAN (TJ): Change in the Amounts of the Individual Fee, effective October 25, 2017[13], where Tajikistan is designated in an international application which is received by the Office of origin on or after that date; or is the subject of a subsequent designation which is received by the Office of the Contracting Party of the holder on or after that date, or is filed directly with the International Bureau of WIPO on or after that date; or has been designated in an international registration which is renewed on or after that date.

CAMBODIA (KH): Change in the Amounts of the Individual Fee, effective October 31, 2017[14], where Cambodia: is designated in an international application which is received by the Office of origin on or after that date; or is the subject of a subsequent designation which is received by the Office of the

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Contracting Party of the holder on or after that date, or is filed directly with the International Bureau of WIPO on or after that date; or has been designated in an international registration which is renewed on or after that date.

TUNISIA (TN): Change in the Amounts of the Individual Fee, effective October 5, 2017[15], where Tunisia (a) is designated in an international application which is received by the Office of origin on or after that date; or (b) is the subject of a subsequent designation which is received by the Office of the Contracting Party of the holder on or after that date, or is filed directly with the International Bureau of WIPO on or after that date; or (c) has been designated in an international registration which is renewed on or after that date.

FINLAND (FI): Change in the Amounts of the Individual Fee, effective August 1, 2017[16], where Finland is designated in an international application which is received by the Office of origin on or after that date; or is the subject of a subsequent designation which is received by the Office of the Contracting Party of the holder on or after that date, or is filed directly with the International Bureau of WIPO on or after that date; or has been designated in an international registration which is renewed on or after that date.

INDONESIA (ID): Accession to the Madrid Protocol. On October 2, 2017, the Government of Indonesia deposited with the Director General of the WIPO its instrument of accession to the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks (the Madrid Protocol). The Madrid Protocol will enter into force in Indonesia, on January 2, 2018[17].

EUROPEAN TRADEMARK REFORM[18]: Changes effective 1 October 2017:

TYPES OF TRADEMARKS: The list of specific types of marks has been extended and now includes word, figurative, shape (including appearance), color, sound, position, pattern, motion, multimedia, and hologram.

ABOLISHED GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION: The requirement to file a graphical representation of the mark has been removed and marks can now be represented in any appropriate format using generally available technology.

EU CERTIFICATION MARKS: A new type of EU trademark, the purpose of which is to indicate/guarantee that the goods and services bearing the mark comply with a particular standard (e.g., material, mode of manufacture of goods or performance of services, quality, accuracy or other characteristics) set out in the regulations for use**.**

CLAIM OF ACQUIRED DISTINCTIVENESS: Acquired distinctiveness can now be claimed on a subsidiary basis, either at the start of the application process, or in reply to the first objection.

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PRIORITY CLAIMS: Priority claims must be filed at the same time as the application but will now only be examined as to formalities (i.e. date, country, registration number).

ASSIGNMENT OF AN EUTM is a remedy in principal/agent disputes, instead of a declaration of invalidity. Proprietors of a trademark registered by an agent or representative without their consent (Article 6 septies of the Paris Convention) can now request an assignment of the EUTM in cancellation proceedings to reclaim a trademark from an agent or distributor.

SUBSTANTIATION OF EARLIER RIGHTS FROM ONLINE SOURCES: When relying on registered rights or provisions of national law, which are accessible from an online source recognized by the Office, the opponent or cancellation applicant may provide such evidence by simply referring to that source.

EVIDENCE: Various changes have been made to the structure and presentation of evidence. In particular, a detailed index of appendices must be attached and all pages must be numbered.

SUSPENSIONS: Now limited to a maximum of two years and will be granted for periods of 6 months (the previous practice allowing three-year-long suspensions).

LANGUAGES AND TRANSLATIONS: It will now only be necessary to translate evidence of substantiation (other than certificates of filing, registration, renewal and provisions of national law) into the language of proceedings where requested by the Office or the other party.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE OFFICE: Hand delivery and post-box deposits are no longer permitted as a means of filing. From 1 January 2018, fax will no longer be accepted for filing EUTM applications or renewals except as a backup system if technical malfunctions prevent efiling.

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COST OF EXTENDING LIFE IN MODERN TIMES

Public overwhelmingly wants free or cheap drugs. Members of Congress from both parties have said that drug prices are too high. The majority of the public favors four policy actions to hold drug prices in check: requiring pharmaceutical companies to publicly release information on how they set prices; allowing Medicare to negotiate medication prices; limiting charges for high-cost drugs; and allowing people in the United States to buy drugs imported from Canada[19]. The pharmaceutical industry that develops drugs for the public has been allegedly the villain[20].

The US healthcare spending per year is about $ 3 trillion ($ 3,000,000,000,000.00 only), out of which an estimated $ 1 trillion ($ 1,000,000,000,000.00 only) is wasted[21] on unnecessary treatments that could be saved. Medicare's spending on prescription pharmaceuticals has risen between 2004 and 2014 from $ 3.86 billion (2% of $ 193 billion) to $ 86.42 billion (29% percent of $ 298 billion)[22]. Meaning, Medicare's spending on non- pharmaceutical healthcare has risen from $ 189.14 billion to $ 213.58 billion. Prescription drug spending rose sharply in 2014, driven by growth in expenditures on specialty drugs, including medications to treat cancer, hepatitis C, and other diseases that need new medicines, making of which is very expensive. This is the elephant in the room killing the healthcare system.

Four out of five Americans (80%) want to continue these services[23], while only one in five Americans (20%) want to decrease spending on reproductive health services, such as family planning and birth control for lower-income women, while wasting $ 1 trillion on extending the life of misery with expensive new drugs. Interestingly, this powerful and vocal group hijacks the money to spend on wars of destruction so that rebuilding can be done with the collateral damage of millions of innocent lives in other countries after branding them demons and criminals in the eyes of the US voter.

In the absence of support from society, and funding sources, developing new drugs is difficult because of the large overhead associated the current landscape of research, where increasing isolationism and nationalism taking over the global economy, along with increasing pressure from society through governmental regulation and funding agencies to limit research to a handful of model organisms.

Along with the cancer and cardiovascular research, the neuroscience field is steaming ahead, fueled by a revolution in cutting-edge technologies in an industrialized era where animal facilities are largely equipped to handle standard model systems, scientists are expected to rapidly obtain data to compete for limited funding resources,

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స్వస్తి శ్రీ హేవిళంబి నామ సంవత్సరము/स्वस्ति श्री हेविलम्बी नाम संवत्सर/Swasti Sri Hevilambi Year,
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O Sun God, Savitr!
Thou dazzling fount of life-persuasive light!
Sublimest mystery speeding from afar!
Swift became that burst too potent on the sight!
This radiant type of strength and youth!
Glowing eternally!

May the golden-eyed Savitar come hither!
Shining forth he rises from the lap of the dawn!
Praised by singers, my God Savitar!
Stepped forth and never missed his place!
He steps forth the splendor of the sky the wide!
Seeing, far-shining, the shining wanderer!
-Rig Veda, vii, 65

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He alone shines!
All luminaries get illuminated by His Illumination!
The whole Universe is enlightened by His light!
– Kathopanisad

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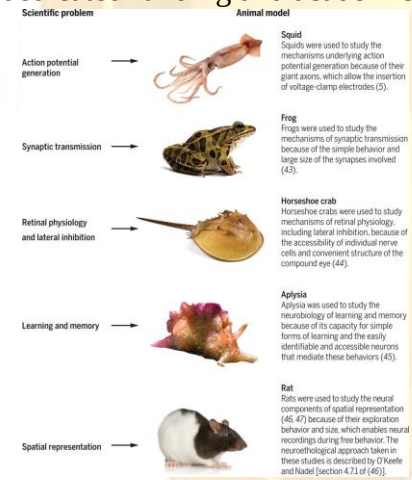
and academic promotion is tightly coupled to a rapid, high-impact publication rate[24]. Academic promotion is awarded when a candidate successfully demonstrates meeting or exceeding performance standards in teaching, research/scholarly/creative accomplishments, and service as established by the academic unit,[25] that often requires an innovative research program utilizing a nontraditional model system for which an immediate return cannot be promised. This operational model[26] is not compatible with the considerable time and financial investment required for the drug development in any area.

The specific details of such efforts can vary from one case to another but can be composed of difficulties in obtaining animal subjects, establishing appropriate custom facilities and operational procedures, meeting governmental regulation, performing a careful and detailed analysis of the new model organism, establishing necessary technologies for executing the research, and dealing with other challenges that one does not commonly need to overcome when utilizing a standard model system. In many cases, the benefits of this process can outweigh the costs, but such efforts will likely require dedicated funding and academic support to encourage scientists willing to undertake this challenge.



Neuroscientists have taken advantage of a handful of model organisms, out of more than 8 million species that reside on our planet, each possessing specialized skills and functions that have evolved to promote survival in their natural environment, to study the inner workings of the brain. Afflictions of the brain that compromise many of our normal activities and have huge implications for individuals' quality of life as they age, and the current demographic trends show that the population is becoming older in most parts of the first world[27].

Developing drugs that act on the brain isn't easy. It's been an area that many big pharmaceutical companies have moved away from in favor of less risky and more profitable drug development such as cancer, cardiovascular, and infectious diseases such as hepatitis C. There are only four treatments that treat the symptoms of Alzheimer's, and on average about 99% of all drugs in clinical trials never actually make it to approval. By 2050, the number of people living with Alzheimer's in the US alone is projected to triple to an estimated 13.8 million[28].

Because the biomarkers in neurological disorders are not as easily identified as they are in cancer, many drugs get disappointing results in late-stage trials for neurodegenerative disorders. In 2016, there were four major flops for Alzheimer's drugs, such as solanezumab based on the "amyloid hypothesis" that

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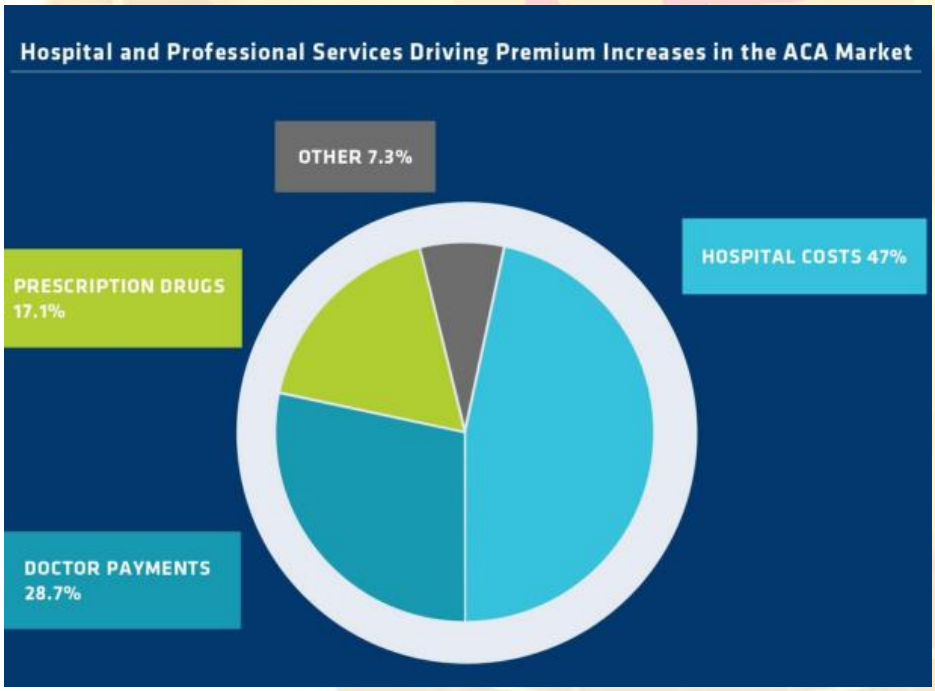
failed[29]. The exodus from CNS drug discovery across the industry is real because CNS drug discovery is challenging, both preclinically and clinically.

Per capita prescription drug spending in the United States exceeds that in all other countries, largely driven by brand-name drug prices that have been increasing in recent years at rates far beyond the consumer price index. But, in the United States, prescription medications now comprise an estimated 17% only and the costs associated with services comprise the lion share of 83% out of the overall personal health care services[30].

The most realistic short-term strategies to address the health care cost is to cut down ***the health service costs,*** but surprisingly it seems the political rhetoric is focused on the 17%[31] rather than on the 83% of the total cost. Hospitals comprise by far the largest share, at about 30% of US healthcare spending, or close to $1 trillion annually. Physicians and clinical services are another 20%. These health care services are driving premium increases for many insured Americans. A study by Avalere Health reports hospital and professional services are responsible for approximately 75% of premium increases for those in the ACA insurance market. Data reported by health plans show that hospital costs and doctor payments accounted for 47% and 28.7% (respectively) in 2015, while prescription drugs accounted for 17%[32].



As the drug discovery costs across all therapeutic areas are rising to an alarming level[33], instead of blaming the pharmaceutical industry inve(wa)sting[34] billions of dollars on developing expensive medicines and

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cheating[35], we should have fun, eat healthy meals that are good for us, and we may end up helping not only our brain and heart, but also the whole body and avoid the 100% of the total health care cost[36].

Disclaimer[37]: Every effort has been made to verify the accuracy of items in the Quarterly IP Law Update. However, readers are urged to check independently on specific matters from their corresponding foreign agents. For further information or support, please contact the editor[38].

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He alone shines!
All luminaries get illuminated by His Illumination!
The whole Universe is enlightened by His light!
– Kathopanisad

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- how your body works—how your body uses the food and drinks you consume and how being active may help your body "burn" calories

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- how to choose healthy foods and drinks
- how to get moving and stay active
- how getting enough sleep is important to staying healthy
- how to ease into healthy habits and keep them up
- how to plan healthy meals and physical activities that fit your lifestyle

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"Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high, Where knowledge is free Where the world has not been broken up into fragments, By narrow domestic walls." Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941), Gitanjali, 1912.

One World One Family
AUM! SWASTI!
Om! Asatoma Sadgamaya, Tamasoma Jyotirgamaya, Mrityorma Amritamgamaya, Om Shantih, Shantih, Shantih! (Aum! Lead the world from wrong path to the right path, from ignorance to knowledge, from mortality to immortality, and peace!)
SWASTI! AUM!

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