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India foils UK firms ginger cure patent bid

New Delhi: India has foiled an attempt by British pharma company Nicholas John Larkins to claim patent on the usefulness of ginger in treating cough and cold, reports Kounteya Sinha. The firm had filed a patent plea on March 16, 2006, claiming that it had discovered the effectiveness of ginger and the kutki plant in treating cough and lung ailments.

However, the department of AYUSH and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research intervened, providing proof from 18th century ayurveda and unani books detailing the use of ginger and kutki in curing cough, asthma and lung problems. Within 15 days of the evidence being presented, Nicholas John Larkins's claim was struck down. TNN P15

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