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January 2026

IPR&D SPARK NEWSLETTER

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02

WELCOME TO THE JANUARY EDITION OF IPR&D SPARK!

IPR&D Spark Newsletter aims to spark your creativity, ignite your curiosity, and keep you informed on industry trends, legal updates, and insightful analyses. Dive in and explore the fascinating world of IP and R&D with us! This newsletter isn't just about staying informed; it's about fostering a community of passionate minds.

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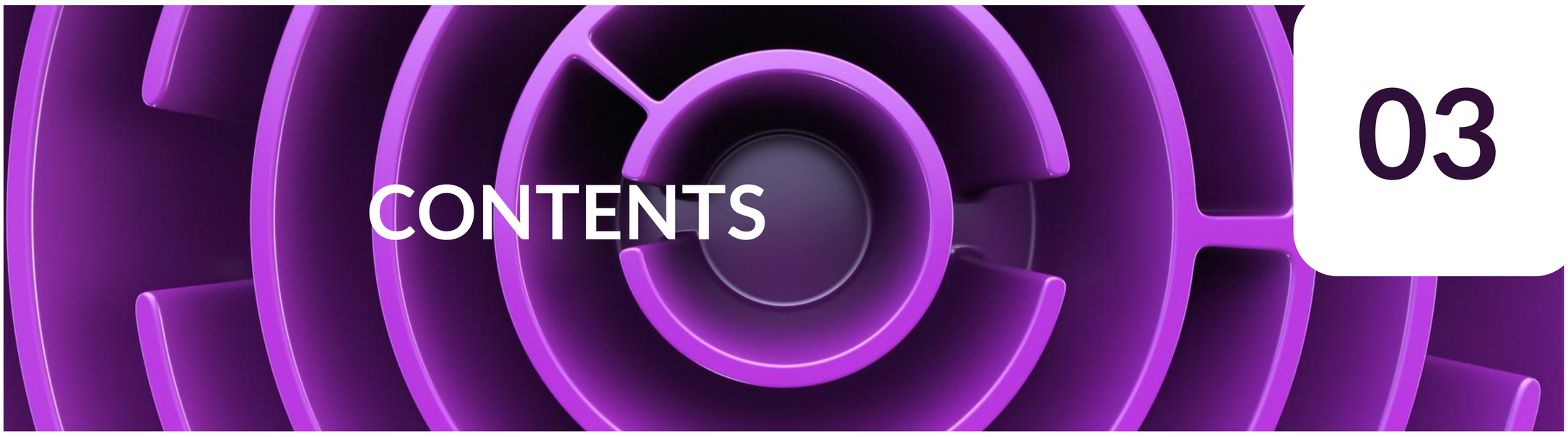

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LEGAL WATCH

USPTO AI-Inventorship Guidance (AI-Assisted Inventions)

Contributor: Subin Khullar

Dec’ 25: The USPTO issued revised guidance clarifying inventorship standards for **AI-assisted** inventions, making it a must-read for anyone drafting U.S. applications involving generative or analytical AI tools. The guidance confirms that only natural persons can be named as inventors, even where AI contributes materially to conception. It expressly characterizes AI as a tool and rescinds earlier USPTO materials that had blurred joint-inventorship analysis by over-reliance on the "**Pannu**" factors in AI contexts.

The document also ties implementation to Executive Order 14179, signaling a policy push to remove barriers to U.S. AI leadership while maintaining human-only inventorship. Practically, it emphasizes documenting human contribution, ensuring at least one overlapping human inventor across priority chains, and warns that claims relying solely on AI “**inventorship**” will not be accepted. The guidance applies across utility, design and plant patents, so it directly affects portfolio strategy, inventor declarations, and internal R&D protocols where AI systems are deeply embedded in ideation or design workflows (Source).

LEGAL WATCH

05

Patent Reset: 2025’s Pivotal Moments and What Comes Next

Contributor: Subin Khullar

Dec’ 25: Analysts have framed 2025 as a year of structural “reset” for the U.S. patent system, driven largely by new Commerce and USPTO leadership and an aggressive agenda on patent quality, backlog reduction, and modernization. This article explains how Director Squires accelerated changes in examination practice, particularly around subject-matter eligibility and PTAB procedure.

The article highlights strong pro-eligibility signals, including revised MPEP provisions, examiner memoranda and precedential decisions that collectively push toward more predictable §101 outcomes, especially for software and AI-enabled inventions. While courts still control doctrine, the USPTO’s stance is portrayed as consciously innovation-aligned, focusing on real-world utility and clarity for applicants. It also discusses proposed rules aimed at significantly curtailing PTAB’s role, which could reshape the balance between district court litigation and administrative challenges. For litigators and in-house counsel, the piece is important because it links policy moves at the Office to downstream effects on enforcement leverage, settlement dynamics, and risk modeling in U.S. infringement disputes (Source).

Federal Circuit Opinions & Orders – December 8, 2025

Contributor: Subin Khullar

Dec’ 25: This Federal Circuit roundup for the week of December 8, 2025, includes a precedential patent decision addressing trade secret misappropriation and correction of inventorship, alongside several nonprecedential patent opinions and Rule 36 affirmances. The lead precedential opinion underscores how inventorship disputes can intertwine with confidential information and collaboration breakdowns, offering guidance on evidentiary burdens and remedial mechanisms.

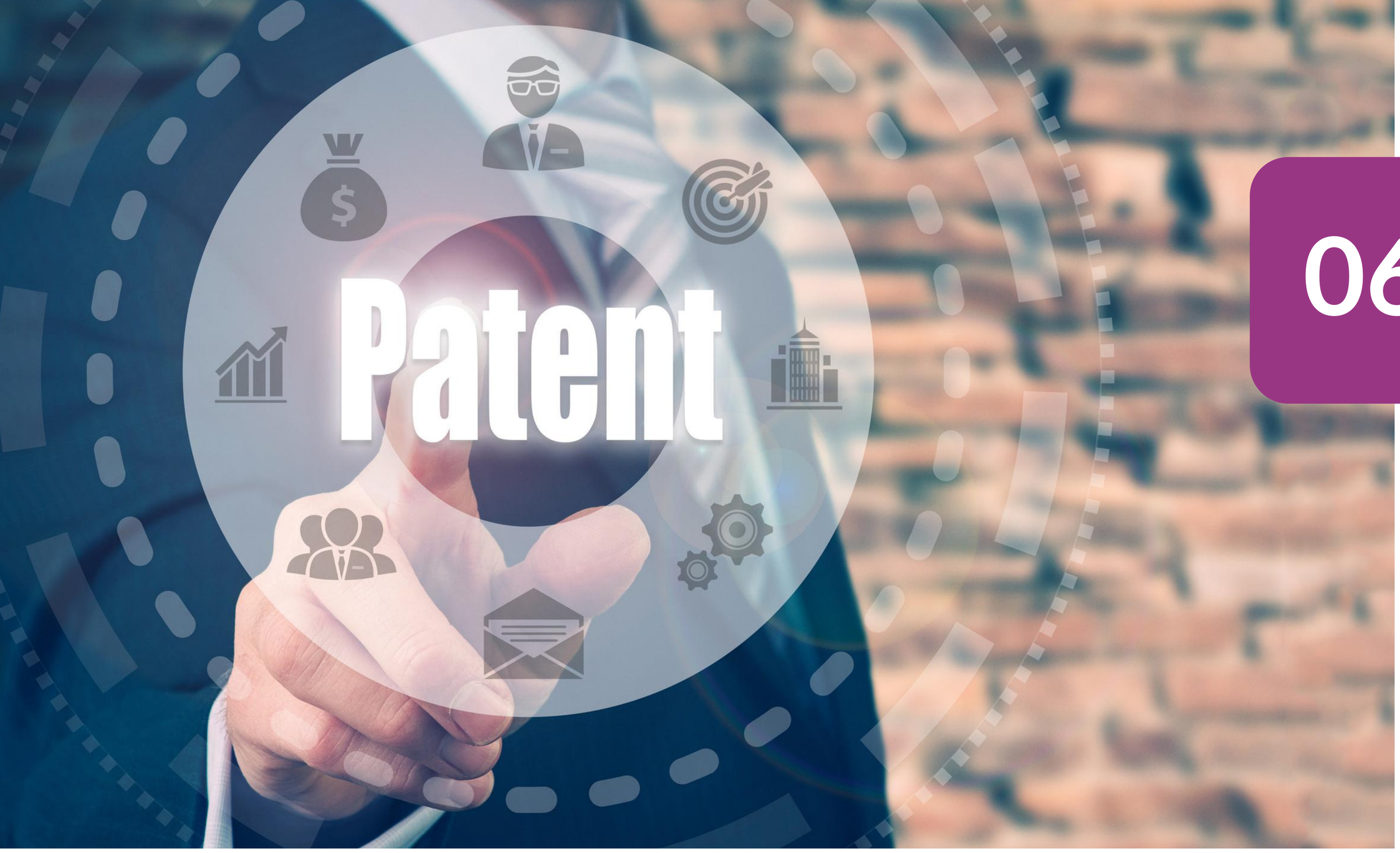
The summary notes that Shopify pursued a declaratory judgment of non-infringement against Express Mobile in the District of Delaware regarding multiple website-building patents. While the post is concise, it flags the case as part of ongoing platform-based infringement battles that influence drafting and enforcement strategies for web infrastructure patents. The piece is especially useful for tracking how the Federal Circuit is currently treating inventorship corrections and related equitable issues, which can directly impact ownership, standing to sue, and the viability of infringement claims or counterclaims in active U.S. litigation (Source).

Weekly Patent Case Summaries – Week Ending December 5, 2025

Contributor: Christy Titus George

Dec' 25: This article compiles precedential patent-related opinions issued by the Federal Circuit and notable PTAB decisions for the week ending December 5, 2025. It references appeals such as Nos. 2023-2424 and 2024-1176 from the Eastern District of Texas, a venue central to U.S. infringement and damages jurisprudence. By distilling holdings into short practice-oriented takeaways, the article is useful for quickly spotting doctrinal shifts affecting claim construction, validity and remedies.

The summaries cover how panels are applying existing Supreme Court and Federal Circuit precedent to issues like obviousness, written description, and procedural management of complex infringement suits. For litigators managing nationwide portfolios, this format helps calibrate arguments on appeal and anticipate how similar fact patterns might fare before the Federal Circuit. It also flags PTAB developments with precedential or informative designations, which can reshape inter partes review strategies that run in parallel with district court infringement proceedings (Source).



INDUSTRY NEWS

EPO Launches Third-Party Observation Tool and Restricts PACE Acceleration to Examination Stage

Contributor: Christy Titus George

Dec’ 25: In December 2025, the European Patent Office (EPO) announced a set of coordinated measures aimed at strengthening patent quality, transparency, and procedural efficiency. A central development is the launch of a new online tool that simplifies the filing of third-party observations on published European patent applications and patents under opposition. Accessible via MyEPO and other EPO digital platforms, the tool allows anonymous submissions, supports the upload of evidentiary material, and ensures that all observations are reviewed by the examining or opposition divisions and recorded in the European Patent Register—reinforcing the role of public input in maintaining examination quality. In parallel, the EPO formally revised its Programme for Accelerated Prosecution of European Patent Applications (PACE), replacing the 2015 framework. Reflecting sustained improvements in search timeliness—now averaging around five and a half months—the EPO confirmed that, from February 1, 2026, PACE acceleration will be limited exclusively to the examination phase. Acceleration requests must be filed using the dedicated online Form 1005 and may be made only once per application. The revision is intended to help applicants use acceleration more strategically while enabling the EPO to focus resources where they most effectively reduce overall prosecution timelines, in line with its Strategic Plan 2028 (Source 1, Source 2).

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INDUSTRY NEWS

IP5 Offices Extend Patent Prosecution Highway Pilot Through 2029

Contributor: Jitendra Shreemukh

Dec’ 25: On December 31, 2025, the five IP5 patent offices—the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA), European Patent Office (EPO), Japan Patent Office (JPO), Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)—announced a joint decision to extend the IP5 Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) pilot programme for a further three years. The extension will apply from January 6, 2026 to January 5, 2029, with the existing requirements and procedures for filing PPH requests remaining unchanged. The PPH framework enables participating offices to accelerate examination by relying on work already performed by another office, supporting work-sharing and reducing prosecution timelines for international filings. Since the first PPH pilot was launched in 2011, CNIPA has established PPH cooperation with 35 patent authorities covering 86 jurisdictions, highlighting the programme’s continued strategic importance for global patent applicants (Source).

WIPO’s 2025 Patent Data Signals Where Global Filing and Enforcement Strategies Are Shifting

Contributor: Sukriti Mittal

Dec’ 25: In its World Intellectual Property Indicators 2025 release, WIPO reported that global patent filings reached a new peak, providing timely insight into how innovation activity is reshaping prosecution and enforcement strategies. Innovators worldwide filed 3.7 million patent applications in 2024, a 4.9% increase over 2023 and the fastest annual growth since 2018. Filing activity remained highly concentrated, with China’s IP office receiving 1.8 million applications, more than three times the volume handled by the USPTO, while the top five offices—CNIPA, USPTO, JPO, KIPO and the EPO—accounted for over 85% of global filings. The data also points to sustained growth in computer-technology and energy-related patents, reinforcing Asia’s position as the centre of global patenting and signalling that IP planning, resource allocation, and risk assessment will increasingly need to account for high-volume Asian jurisdictions (Source).

EPO–Saudi Fast-Track Route Paused as PPH Pilot Reaches End

Contributor: Anuj Raj

Dec’ 25: The European Patent Office (EPO) has confirmed that the bilateral Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) pilot programme with the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP) will conclude on 31 December 2025, with no immediate continuation into a permanent framework. According to the EPO, while the pilot has run since July 2022, certain administrative measures required at the national level in Saudi Arabia remain outstanding, preventing a seamless transition beyond the pilot phase. As a result, PPH participation requests under the EPO–SAIP route will not be accepted from 1 January 2026. Until further notice, applicants seeking expedited European prosecution will need to rely on alternative mechanisms, such as the EPO’s PACE acceleration programme, while awaiting confirmation on the resumption of the Saudi PPH pathway (Source).

R&D and Innovation

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TECHNO-SPOTLIGHT

Biodegradable plastic from Milk

Contributor: Rachna Gupta

Dec' 25: Scientists are turning to milk proteins, starch, and nanoclay to create biodegradable plastics that break down quickly in soil. In a recent study published in Polymers, researchers describe creating a thin biodegradable film made by blending calcium caseinate, a widely available material derived from casein, the main protein found in milk, with modified starch and bentonite nanoclay. Glycerol and polyvinyl alcohol were added to the mixture to enhance the material's strength and flexibility.

Tests of the material's biodegradability showed a steady breakdown process, with complete disintegration expected to occur within about 13 weeks when placed in normal soil conditions. (Source).

This New Protein Grown From Carrot Waste Won Over Taste Testers

Contributor: Rachna Gupta

Dec' 25: Leftover carrots are being turned into fungal protein that makes vegan burgers and sausages taste even better. Modern food manufacturing creates large amounts of leftover material that often goes unused. Scientists reporting in ACS' Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry explored whether waste from carrot processing could be put to better use. By feeding these carrot side streams to edible fungi, they created a sustainable protein source that was later tested in vegan foods. The team used the fungal protein in experimental vegan patties and sausages. When volunteers sampled the foods, they rated the fungal versions as more enjoyable than comparable products made with common plant-based proteins (Source).

After 50 Years, MIT Chemists Finally Synthesize Elusive Anti-Cancer Compound

Contributor: Rachna Gupta

Dec' 25: In tests in human cancer cells, a derivative of verticillin A showed particular promise against a type of pediatric brain cancer called diffuse midline glioma. MIT chemists have, for the first time, successfully created in the laboratory a fungal molecule called verticillin A. Although verticillin A differs from some related molecules by only a small number of atoms, its complex structure made it much more challenging to synthesize than those similar compounds. The verticillin derivatives appear to interact with EZHIP in a way that increases DNA methylation, which induces the cancer cells to under programmed cell death (Source).

Paper Mill Trash Could Be the Secret to Cheap Clean Energy

Contributor: Rachna Gupta

Dec' 25: Researchers developed a high-performance catalyst from lignin waste that enhances oxygen evolution in water electrolysis, offering a sustainable and efficient route toward large-scale clean hydrogen production. The material is produced by embedding nickel oxide and iron oxide nanoparticles within carbon fibers derived from lignin. (Source).

Key M&A/Strategic Alliances

Contributor: Rachna Gupta

Dec' 25:

- Shell and Equinor complete formation of new company Adura (Source).
- UPM and Sappi Limited have signed a non-binding letter of intent to form a graphic paper joint venture (Source).
- Strategic partnership between UPM and Versowood finalized (Source).

Breakthrough in Pediatric Cancer: Repurposed Drugs Slow Tumor Growth

Contributor: Aparajita Basu

Dec' 25: Using machine learning and drug repurposing, Lund University researchers discovered a potent combination of statins and phenothiazines for treating high-risk neuroblastoma, an aggressive childhood cancer with low survival rates. Collaborating with Healx and Karolinska Institutet, the team analyzed large datasets on drug mechanisms and neuroblastoma-related genes. Tested on patient-derived tumors, the combo drastically reduced cholesterol in cancer cells, killed many, and made survivors more responsive to chemotherapy. Laboratory trials showed slowed tumor growth and improved survival, offering hope for resistant cases pending further optimization (Source).

Magnetically Controlled Microrobots for Programmable Microcatheter Navigation

Contributor: Shubham Suresh Gurav

Dec' 25: Helixoft is a magnetically controlled microrobot system designed for microcatheters (300 μm–1 mm) that enables programmable navigation and stiffness tuning using low-intensity magnetic fields. It integrates a rigid magnetic helix with a soft silicone microtube, allowing up to 40-fold stiffness adjustment by rotating the helix. Two decoupled magnetic fields control the system: a rotating field for stiffness modulation and a static field for directional steering. Experiments validated precise stiffness control and safe navigation through complex vascular paths, enabling tasks like biopsies and drug delivery. In vivo pig trials and ex vivo biopsies confirm its potential for minimally invasive procedures in small lumens (Source).

Baker Lab Unveils RFdiffusion3, Pioneering Next-Gen Enzyme and Protein Engineering

Contributor: Aparajita Basu

Dec' 25: The Baker Lab has released RFdiffusion3 as open source—a major leap in de novo protein design. Unlike previous models, RFdiffusion3 can create proteins that interact with DNA, small molecules, and catalyze complex reactions, enabling applications in gene therapy and industrial biocatalysis. Using an all-atom approach, it offers tenfold faster performance and unprecedented precision, such as specifying hydrogen bonds. This breakthrough opens doors to designing synthetic transcription factors and novel enzymes for sustainability and medicine, marking a transformative step in computational protein engineering (Source).

Proton Therapy Improves Survival in Head & Neck Cancer

Contributor: Ashmita Bera

Dec' 25: A groundbreaking Phase III trial published in The Lancet has shown that proton therapy significantly outperforms conventional photon radiation for oropharyngeal cancer. The study, involving nearly 1,000 patients across 21 centers, demonstrated a 10% absolute increase in 5-year overall survival and markedly fewer treatment-related toxicities, including reduced feeding tube dependence, less dry mouth, and improved swallowing. Proton therapy delivers radiation with exceptional precision, minimizing damage to surrounding tissues. While its dosimetric benefits were known, this is the first randomized trial proving survival advantage, signaling a major shift toward adopting high-precision radiotherapy as the new standard of care (Source).

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Techno-Spotlight
Hi-Tech

Advancing Large Language Models with Context-Aware Position Encoding

Contributor: Atul Kumar Pal

Dec’ 25: Large language models (LLMs) use attention mechanisms to prioritize important details in queries or documents, but they struggle with understanding word order. Traditional position-encoding methods like rotary position encoding (RoPE) only consider the relative distance between tokens, ignoring context. Researchers from MIT and the MIT-IBM Watson AI Lab have developed a new technique called “PaTH Attention” that makes positional information adaptive and context-aware. This method enhances the scalability and efficiency of transformers while improving state tracking capabilities. The research, led by Yoon Kim and presented at NeurIPS, aims to overcome limitations in LLMs and improve their performance in structured domains (Source)

Innovative Materials Enhance Energy Efficiency in Microelectronics

Contributor: Atul Kumar Pal

Dec’ 25: MIT researchers have developed a new fabrication method to create more energy-efficient electronics by stacking multiple functional components on a single circuit. Traditional circuits separate logic devices and memory devices, causing energy waste as data travels between them. The new integration platform allows transistors and memory devices to be fabricated in one compact stack on a semiconductor chip, reducing energy waste and increasing computation speed. This advance is enabled by a newly developed material with unique properties and a precise fabrication approach that minimizes defects. The resulting transistors perform faster and consume less electricity, potentially reducing the energy consumption of demanding applications like AI and deep learning. Lead author Yanjie Shao emphasizes the need for such technology to sustain progress in data-centric computation (Source)

Revolutionary Microchip Paves the Way for Advanced Quantum Computing

Contributor: Mukesh Kumar

Dec' 25: A new microchip-sized device could significantly advance quantum computing by precisely controlling laser frequencies while using less power than current systems. Made with standard chip manufacturing techniques, it can be mass-produced, enabling the creation of larger and more powerful quantum machines. Researchers have developed an optical phase modulator that is nearly 100 times thinner than a human hair, essential for future quantum computers that may use thousands or millions of qubits. This scalable manufacturing method, similar to those used for everyday electronics, makes the device practical for large-scale production, potentially transforming the future of quantum computing. The research is published in Nature Communications (Source)

Enhancing Small Language Models for Complex Reasoning Tasks

Contributor: Mukesh Kumar

Dec’ 25: As language models (LMs) advance in tasks like image generation and simple math, they still lag behind humans in complex reasoning. For instance, playing Sudoku with an AI reveals its inefficiency in filling boxes correctly. Researchers at MIT’s CSAIL have developed a collaborative approach where a large language model (LLM) plans and delegates tasks to smaller models. This method, called “Distributional Constraints by Inference Programming with Language Models” (DisCIPL), enables small LMs to provide more accurate responses efficiently. DisCIPL uses a programming language, LLaMPPL, to encode specific rules guiding models toward desired results. This framework improves inference efficiency and reduces energy consumption, enhancing the overall performance of LMs (Source)

L'Oreal to increase stake in skin care firm Galderma to 20%

Contributor: Simmi Kapoor

Dec' 25: L'Oréal announced the acquisition of an additional 10% in Galderma Group AG from a consortium led by EQT, which includes Sunshine SwissCo GmbH (SSCO), Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA), and Auba Investment Pte. Ltd. (all acting in coordination as sellers) for an undisclosed amount. The transaction brings L'Oréal ownership of Galderma's share capital to 20%.

L'Oreal is looking for new areas of growth and sees the injectable cosmetics market as an area of "adjacency" to its core beauty business (Source).

AB InBev to acquire 85% stake in BeatBox Beverages in US$490M deal

Contributor: Simmi Kapoor

Dec' 25: Anheuser-Busch InBev (AB InBev) has confirmed it will acquire an 85% stake in BeatBox Beverages for approximately US$490m, securing a majority position in one of the fastest-growing ready-to-drink (RTD) brands in the United States.

The deal would mark a significant expansion in AB InBev's ready-to-drink (RTD) offerings as the company targets younger legal-age consumers (Source).

FrieslandCampina Expands Global Protein Reach with Wisconsin Whey Protein Acquisition

Contributor: Akshyansh Kumar

Dec' 25: Royal FrieslandCampina N.V. plans to acquire Wisconsin Whey Protein, a leading U.S. producer of whey protein isolates. This strategic move will integrate Wisconsin Whey Protein into FrieslandCampina Ingredients, boosting its whey protein capacity to meet growing global demand for high-quality protein. The acquisition strengthens FrieslandCampina's leadership in Europe and Asia while expanding into North America. Wisconsin Whey Protein's modern facilities, located in the U.S. dairy heartland, are undergoing expansion to more than double whey protein isolate production. This integration will enhance FrieslandCampina's ability to serve performance, active, and medical nutrition markets worldwide (Source).

Mengniu Set To Launch Yoyic Galacto-oligosaccharides Probiotic Drink

Contributor: Akshyansh Kumar

Dec' 25: Mengniu Dairy has received China's "blue-hat" certification for its upcoming YoyiC Galacto-oligosaccharides Probiotic Drink, set to launch next year. This approval allows the product to make two health claims: supporting gut microbiome modulation and aiding digestion. Like other YoyiC products, the drink features Mengniu's proprietary probiotic strain Lacticaseibacillus paracasei PC-01. The "blue-hat" status, granted by China's State Administration of Market Regulation (SAMR), is a key regulatory milestone for health foods, achieved through filing or registration (Source).

FDA Finds Insufficient Data to Determine Safety of PFAS in Cosmetic Products

Contributor: Ganesh B

Dec' 25: FDA has released a mandated report under the Modernization of Cosmetics Regulation Act examining PFAS in cosmetics. The agency found significant data gaps and insufficient safety conclusions, noting that 51 PFAS are used in 1,744 cosmetic products and that toxicological data are largely incomplete. The FDA said it will continue monitor and reduce PFAS exposure in cosmetics (Source).

AstraZeneca, Daiichi's Enhertu wins FDA approval as first-line treatment for advanced HER2-positive breast cancer

Contributor: Latika Sharma

Dec' 25: The U.S. FDA has approved Enhertu (trastuzumab deruxtecan) with Perjeta (pertuzumab) as a first-line treatment for adults with advanced HER2-positive breast cancer confirmed by an FDA-approved test, alongside two companion diagnostics. Previously approved in 2019 as a third-line therapy, Enhertu gained this indication based on a 1,157-patient study showing improved median progression-free survival (40.7 vs 26.9 months) and higher tumor response rates (87% vs 81%) versus standard treatment, while overall survival data remain immature (Source).

FDA Proposes Addition of Bemotrizinol to Sunscreen Active Ingredient List

Contributor: Nisha Kumari

Dec' 25: The FDA announced a proposal to add bemotrizinol as a permitted active ingredient in sunscreens, aiming to advance innovation and expand consumer choices. Bemotrizinol offers protection against UVA and UVB rays, has low skin absorption, and rarely causes irritation. If approved, it will be safe for use by adults and children over six months old. This proposal follows a request from DSM Nutritional Products LLC to include bemotrizinol at concentrations up to 6 percent. If the FDA concludes bemotrizinol is generally recognized as safe and effective, the agency will issue a final order to add the ingredient to OTC Monograph (Source).

A New Era for Chemical Safety: The EU Common Data Platform is Official

Contributor: Mayank Kakkar

Dec' 25: On 12 Dec 2025, the EU's Official Journal published Regulation (EU) 2025/2455 creating a Common Data Platform for Chemicals. ECHA will build and run a single hub that consolidates legally required, research and voluntary datasets, applying FAIR principles and adding monitoring/early-warning tools. Public users get free access to non-confidential, machine-readable data; authorities can access confidential data; others may request it. An implementation plan is due 2 Jul 2026; study notifications start 2 Nov 2027; core launch is 2 Jan 2029 (Source).

India Bans High-Dose Nimesulide Tablets Over Serious Liver Safety Risks

Contributor: Chaitra J

Jan' 26: Nimesulide has long faced global restrictions due to safety concerns. On December 29, the MoHFW banned oral immediate-release formulations containing more than 100 mg, citing risks of liver toxicity and the availability of safer alternatives. The drug is already prohibited for use in children below 12 years and in veterinary medicine. This move aims to strengthen patient safety (Source 1; Source 2; Source 3).

FDA Approves First Cell-Based Therapy for Severe Aplastic Anemia (SAA) Patients

Contributor: Jiju Narayanan

Dec' 25: The USFDA approved Omisirge, the first HSCT therapy for SAA. It is approved for individuals 6 years and older with SAA who have undergone reduced-intensity conditioning. Safety and effectiveness were evaluated in an ongoing, open-label, prospective, single-arm study, which achieved early and sustained neutrophil engraftment in 12 of 14 patients, with a median recovery time of 11 days (Source).

SCCS Confirms Safe Use of Micron-Sized Silver in Cosmetics Under Defined Limits

Contributor: Shanju P

Dec' 25: SCCS finds micron-sized silver safe in cosmetics at ≤0.2% (rinse-off) and ≤0.3% (leave-on), with negligible dermal absorption and minimal systemic exposure. Spray products excluded; nanomaterials and soluble silver need separate review. This applies only to particulate silver and not to nanomaterials or soluble compounds (Source).

Rabies Vaccine Alert: Australia Warns, India Clarifies

Contributor: Kritesh Parihar

Dec' 25: Australia's ATAGI advised travellers that counterfeit Abhayrab vaccine batches may have circulated in India since 1 Nov 2023, meaning some recipients might not be fully protected and may need replacement doses with Rabipur or Verorab. Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL) rejected the implication as not reflecting the current situation, saying it found a packaging anomaly in a single batch (KA 24014) in Jan 2025, notified regulators, and counterfeit stock is off the market promptly (Source).

A Century Later, This Historic Italian Automaker Is Back

Contributor: Nitesh Kumar

Dec' 25: Founded in 1903, Itala was a pioneering Italian car brand. Acquired by DR Automobiles Group, Itala is set to return in 2026, aiming to become a luxury car player in Europe. Known for its innovative engineering and motorsport success, Itala's comeback highlights its historical significance in Italian automotive history (Source).

Changan has developed the R05E Wankel Rotary Engine

Contributor: Nitesh Kumar

Dec' 25: Changan has developed the R05E, a new high-powered Wankel rotary engine for the "low-altitude economy," including drones and eVTOLs. Scheduled for production in 2027, the engine offers advantages like smoothness, compactness, and a better power-to-weight ratio. Despite Changan's partnership with Mazda, Mazda was not involved in this development (Source).

Suzuki Built Five Adorable Concepts We're Not Allowed to Have

Contributor: Sachin Patel

Dec' 25: Suzuki unveils five new concept vehicles inspired by the Monster Hunter video game franchise at the Tokyo Auto Salon. Highlights include the Jimny SUV and DR-Z4S motorcycle, both featuring unique designs. Other concepts include the XBEE for nature photographers, Every Wagon for family outdoor fun, and the Super Carry Work & Play Pro truck (Source).

Volvo's New Font Is Designed To Make Screens Safer

Contributor: Sachin Patel

Dec' 25: Volvo has developed a new font, Volvo Centum, to improve in-car screen readability and enhance safety by reducing driver distraction. Debuting in the EX60 in 2026, the font aims to keep drivers focused on essential information. Despite this innovation, many argue that physical buttons would be a simpler solution for reducing screen interaction (Source).

Access Advance & Via Licensing Alliance Unite HEVC/VVC Licensing Pools

Contributor: Jitendra Shreemukh

Dec' 25: In a major move to simplify video codec SEP licensing, Access Advance LLC acquired Via Licensing Alliance's HEVC and VVC patent pools, creating a unified licensing platform for HEVC (H.265) and VVC (H.266). This consolidation aims to reduce fragmentation in the video codec licensing ecosystem, streamline access for implementers, and lower transactional complexity for licensors and licensees worldwide (Source).

Oppo Targets Asus in China with First Known VVC SEP Assertion

Contributor: Jitendra Shreemukh

Dec' 25: Oppo initiated what is believed to be the first known VVC (video codec) SEP infringement assertion against Asus in China, underlining the growing role of codec-related SEPs in cross-border disputes and expanding SEP enforcement beyond traditional cellular and Wi-Fi segments (Source).

Nokia Expands Wi-Fi SEP Licensing with Automotive Deals

Contributor: Jitendra Shreemukh

Dec' 25: Nokia announced new royalty-bearing Wi-Fi patent license agreements with major automakers Stellantis and Mercedes-Benz, marking a continued push into automotive connectivity IP. These agreements—bringing the total to eight automotive partners—highlight the rising importance of Wi-Fi (WLAN) standard-essential patents in connected vehicles and bolster Nokia's leadership in licensing for next-gen automotive wireless technologies (Source).

Ericsson Expands SEP Enforcement Across Africa, Asia & Latin America

Contributor: Jitendra Shreemukh

Dec' 25: Swedish telecom innovator Ericsson intensified its global SEP litigation campaign in December by filing cellular SEP infringement suits against Transsion in Morocco, Indonesia and Colombia, marking some of the first major SEP enforcement actions in these jurisdictions. This expanded multijurisdictional enforcement reflects a broader strategy to compel licensing on FRAND terms where protracted negotiations with Transsion have stalled (Source).

Launch Windows — From Roadmaps to Real-World Impact

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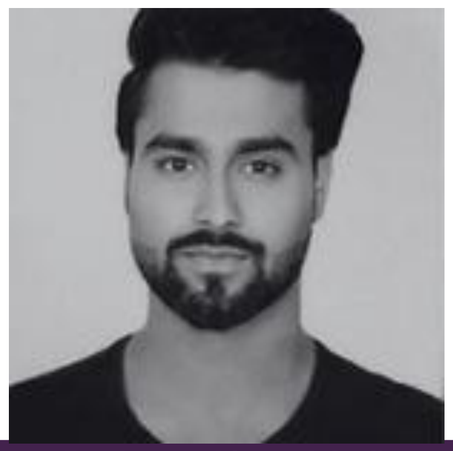

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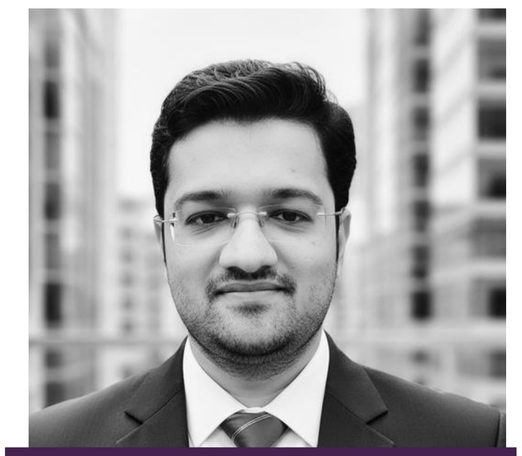

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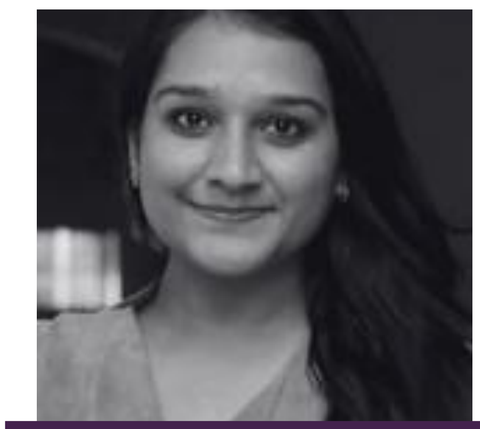

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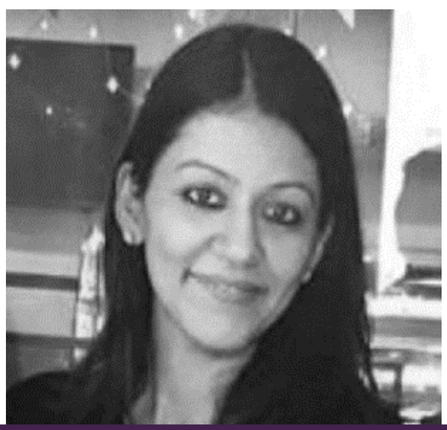

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