

Patent office to clear backlog of pending patent applications by 2016

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With a view to safeguard the interest of the patent applicants, the Indian Patent office informed that efforts are being taken to clear the huge backlog of about one lakh pending patent applications latest by 2016. As a step towards it, the patent office has already recruited 150 examiners to deal with the excess files and increased work pressure.

At present, there are about one lakh patent applications that are still awaiting to be examined at the patent office, which was delayed considerably due to lack of examiners to deal with the increased work pressure. The officers from the patent office informed that once the newly recruited officers complete their three months training at the National Institute of Intellectual Property Management (NIIPM), Nagpur they would be consistently contributing in reducing the work pressure at the patents office.

P H Kurian, Controller General of Patents, Designs & Trademarks informed that as of now, three to three and half years of pending cases are lying with the patent office with request for examination that is stuck in the bureaucratic process due to poor staffing. According to sources, each patent officer will examine almost 10 to 15 patent cases in a month, whereas, they get request to examine around 25,000 to 30,000 patent applications in a year.

He said, "If things go as planned, our estimate is that by 2016 we will be able to clear all the pending cases and handle cases on day to day basis with the help of our renewed work force. Most importantly, we will have an open approach to all the applicants and will ensure that cases are cleared on first come first serve basis giving equal credence to all the applicants."

The patent office informed that compared to previous years the percentage of patents filings with request for examination by the Indian companies have increased by 18 to 20 per cent over the time. Kurian stressed, "It must be understood that though there are many patent applications filed by applicants, the actual work for the examiners starts when request for examination is filed at the patent office. We are doing our level best to see to it that we can complete this work and bring a balance in the way things are being carried out at the office so that we can also match international standards."