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India's Patent Reforms: Competing on the Global Stage with China and the USA

This in-depth report examines the complex and often contentious interplay between patents and the pharmaceutical sector, highlighting the challenges and profound implications of this relationship.

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The symbiotic relationship between patents and the pharmaceutical industry is pivotal in driving healthcare innovation, influencing market dynamics, and ensuring access to essential medications.

This in-depth report examines the complex and often contentious interplay between patents and the pharmaceutical sector, highlighting the challenges and profound implications of this relationship.

At the core of pharmaceutical innovation is the patent system, which incentivizes research and development by granting inventors exclusive rights for a specified period. Patents act as essential catalysts, driving groundbreaking discoveries, drug formulations, and therapeutic

advancements that combat diseases and improve human health.

TRENDING NOW



Role of Patents in Promoting Economic Growth

In developing nations, the protection of *intellectual property rights* (IPR) fosters innovation and the development of a robust market economy, promoting economic progress.

Here are some ways in which patents impact economic growth:

Encouraging Investment in Research and Development (R&D): A survey by the European Patent Office found that companies with patents spend more on R&D than those without.

This increased R&D spending leads to the development of new technologies and products, contributing to economic expansion.

Positive Impact on GDP: Research by the European Patent Office shows that a 1% increase in patent filings results in a 0.1% rise in GDP. This indicates a direct correlation between patent activity and economic growth.

Encouraging Competition: Competition among companies generally results in the best pricing, quantities, and quality of goods and services for consumers. Patents prevent the replication and copying of inventions and products, thus supporting industry-wide competition and encouraging ethical business practices.

In 2002, more than 850,000 patent applications were filed in Europe, Japan, and the United States, compared to about 600,000 in 1992. These figures reflect the growing importance of patents in the economy. Several multinational companies have started their R&D processes in India, indirectly boosting the country's economic growth through increased tax payments and employment opportunities for Indian citizens.

Recent years have seen significant improvements in the patent application process, including simplified procedures, expedited examinations for various applicant categories, electronic certificate delivery, and video conferencing facilities.

Similarly, trademark application procedures have been enhanced with automatic application allotment to examiners and automated renewals. These reforms have led to increased filings and grants of both trademarks and patents. Notably, the number of patent applications has risen from 45,444 in 2016-17 to 66,440 in 2021-22.

Similarly, the number of patents granted in India increased from 9,847 in 2016-17 to 30,074 in 2021-22. During this period, the share of resident applicants also rose significantly, from less than 30 percent in 2016-17 to 44.5% in 2021-22.

In 2020, India saw 56,771 patent filings, which is just 4% of the 1.497 million applications filed in China and 9.5% of the 597,000 applications filed in the United States during the same year.

In the same year, India granted 26,361 patents, significantly fewer than the 530,000 granted in China and the 350,000 granted in the United States.

Year	Patent Applications in India *thousands	Patents Granted in India *thousands	Patent Applications in China ** million	Patents Gr
2016-17	45444	9847	1.3	
2020	56771	26361	1.5	
2021-22	66440	30074	1.59	

Additionally, the average time to dispose of a patent application in India is about 58 months, compared to roughly 20 months in China and 23 months in the United States. This report's analysis indicates that the primary cause of this delay is a shortage of manpower in the Indian patent office. Apart from the shortage of manpower, the paper identifies certain other procedural issues in the patent application process.

Addressing Procedural Issues and Potential Solutions

Lack of Fixed Timelines:

There are no fixed timelines for various steps, such as filing an opposition against a patent application, leading to delays.

Cumbersome Compliance Requirements:

Submitting information on the processing of foreign patent applications is still required.

Potential solutions include:

- Introducing Utility Model Patents: Simplifying the process through utility model patents
- Outsourcing Administrative Tasks: Delegating administrative parts of the patent process

Enhancing the Portal and Filing System: Improving the overall patent filing and portal systems

In India, holding patents is vital for fostering innovation and protecting intellectual property, enabling companies to secure exclusive rights to their inventions. When it comes to chemical or API manufacturing company, it takes a significant factor. According to a recent report by IPR (Intellectual Property Rights) news the company's impressive portfolio includes 9 patents, underscoring its role as a leader in the industry.

As we look into the API manufacturing companies as a patent holder, [West Bengal Chemical Industries Limited](#) (WBCIL), Kolkata has grabbed the spotlight. It has emerged as a significant player in the API manufacturing sector. This company has been recently highlighted as one of the top patent holders in India. Established with a vision to advance API manufacturing, West Bengal Chemical Industries Limited has carved out a niche for itself through innovation and a robust commitment to quality.

The cornerstone of this API manufacturing company's accomplishment lies in its research and innovative capabilities, as evidenced by its 9 patents. These patents cover a range of breakthroughs in API manufacturing processes, reflecting the company's commitment to advancing pharmaceutical science. Each patent represents a significant milestone, marking West Bengal Chemical Industries Limited's contributions to making drug production more efficient, cost-effective, and sustainable.

The latest patent is Ferric Maltol, Improved Ferric Carboxymaltose with Less Side-Effects Obtained Cost Effectively and the other 7 patents are Ferric Carboxymaltos, Iron-Isomaltoside, Iron (III) Coordination Complex, Ferric Derisomaltose, Ferric Citrate, SucroferricOxyhydroxide, and Enclomiphene Citrate.

This API pharma company was also invited to the 75th Republic Day parade, highlighting the company's contributions to India's pharmaceutical industry and its role in advancing the nation's intellectual property landscape.

As India continues to celebrate its innovators, the achievements of companies like West Bengal Chemical Industries Limited (WBCIL) serve as a beacon of progress, inspiring future generations to pursue excellence in science and technology.

As West Bengal Chemical Industries Limited (WBCIL) continues to lead the charge in innovation, it remains dedicated to driving sustainable growth and technological self-sufficiency, in alignment with India's vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

West Bengal Chemical Industries Limited (WBCIL) is now a global exporter of various APIs, having transformed over the past 62 years from a modest setup into a leading player in the industry. This remarkable journey has been fueled by the adoption of cutting-edge technology and the cultivation of a culture of rigorous research and development.

Over the years, this API pharma company has built a reputation for producing high-quality APIs including chelated minerals, DC granules, animal nutrients, and bio-active products. They have over 150 API products, each meeting stringent regulatory standards, reflecting the company's dedication to excellence and safety.

West Bengal Chemical Industries Limited's success in securing patents is a testament to its strong emphasis on research and development (R&D). This company invests significantly in its R&D department, fostering a culture of innovation. Its state-of-the-art laboratories are equipped with the latest technology, and its team of experienced scientists continuously works on developing new methods and compounds. This focus on R&D not only helps in securing patents but also ensures that WBCIL remains at the forefront of the pharmaceutical industry. Its official website www.wbcil.com brings a lot of news regarding research and development.

As India continues to implement reforms and address existing challenges, the country's patent system will play a crucial role in driving innovation, protecting intellectual property, and ensuring the availability of high-quality and affordable medications. This progress aligns with India's vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat,' promoting self-sufficiency and sustainable growth in the pharmaceutical industry and beyond.

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Healthcare Innovation

India's Patent Reforms

China

USA