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Govt set to revise patent norms for pharma

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The government is set to revise the guidelines for evaluating applications seeking intellectual property rights (IPR) for pharmaceuticals.

This follows an increasing number of drug patent filings, along with litigation between innovator companies and generic drug producers.

The controller general of patents, designs and trademarks, under the department of industrial policy and promotion, issued draft guidelines last Tuesday in this regard. "The (aim is) to help examiners and controllers of the patent office consistently achieve uniform standards while examining and granting patents," a senior official said.

The proposed guidelines, he said, would complement the existing norms and procedures. Detailed guidelines on certain provisions of patent law will enable a standard procedure while evaluating and deciding on complex applications. The government feels pharma products require separate guidelines due to the intricacies involved and the implications in the case of medicines.

Uniform evaluation standards are also expected to reduce and bring clarity on patent challenges.

Patent.