

# Patent applications from India shoot up; Ranbaxy, CSIR lead

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The number of patent applications filed from India has grown considerably since 2001. In the last three years the number of applications filed by Indian companies and organisations has risen to 784 in 2004 from 295 in 2001, according to the World Intellectual Property Organisation. The figures could increase.

In 2004 the largest users from India of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) have been Ranbaxy and the CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research).

In 2003, Ranbaxy filed 66 applications whereas in 2004 it filed 121. In 2003, CSIR filed 124 applications whereas the number reported until now for 2004 is 69 applications.

In 2004, other Indian organisations which filed for

patent protection were Cipla which filed 32, Jubilant Organosys 16, Vaman Technologies (R & D) which filed 12, Matric Labs filed 12, Hetero filed 10, and Wockhardt Ltd which filed 10 applications.

According to Francis Gurry, deputy director-general of WIPO, "There will definitely be continued high growth from India. India will be a future power in intellectual property. It has many areas of originality and novelty such as science, biotechnology, traditional knowledge, the film industry, amongst others."

He analyses the increase in patent applications from India as a result of a greater awareness of patents and patent rights by organisations, an increase in export orientation for patenting gives them protection, and an increase in R&D and high performance in

IT and biotechnology.

Over a million patents have been filed with WIPO since the beginning of its PCT operations in 1978. A record number of 120,100 international patent applications were filed in 2004, with the biggest rate of growth coming from the Asian continent - namely Japan, the Republic of Korea and China.

WIPO predicts a further growth from Asia in the coming years, and if the current rates of growth continue, China will overtake Australia in 2005 to become the twelfth largest user of the system. WIPO has calculated a 4.3% increase in global patent applications filed for 2004 over those filed in 2003.

However, as WIPO continues to receive patent applications filed with national offices the previous year throughout the first half of the

year 2004, the percentage could rise.

India's national patent office has not yet switched over to electronic filing and take advantage of the UN organisation's new E-Pdoc application system which allows WIPO to receive, process and communicate priority documents in electronic form, already used by many WIPO member states' national patent offices. This system allows WIPO to receive, process, and communicate priority documents in electronic form.

The PCT route offers inventors and industry an advantageous route for obtaining patent protection internationally and the filing of one international patent application under the PCT, protection of invention can be sought simultaneously in each of a large number of countries. ♦