

# Institutes' IPR delivery rate not up to passing mark

## PATENTING INTELLIGENCE Ignorance about the process of filing IPRs hampers the research impact of Pune's institutes

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*India has few patent examiners as compared to the number of patent applications each year. Approximately 500 examiners have to look through over 80,000 applications each year, thus increasing the wait period.*

*PRAYANK KHANDELWAL, IPR consultant*

*IN INDIA, THE AVERAGE TIME FOR AN EXAM REPORT TO BE SUBMITTED IS AT LEAST THREE YEARS, WHILE IT IS TWO AND A HALF MONTHS IN COUNTRIES LIKE THE US, AND JUST 19 MONTHS IN JAPAN*

PUNE: In a world full of technological advancements, protecting one's intellectual innovation has become the need of the hour, say Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) experts.

Despite the growing need, they further point out the lacunae of awareness about IP in the city and the reluctance of educational institutions to encourage research students to file patent applications for their work.

A number of organisations like IP Facilitation Centre for MSMEs and Legasis Services have been making strides to spread awareness about patenting through short-term workshops in colleges and universities.

According to one of the IPR consultants, Prayank Khandelwal, the perspective towards filing patents needs to change for research to be both commercially and academically protected.

An alumni from the College of Engineering Pune, Khandelwal shared that his ignorance about IPR led him to venture into the sector.

"When I was a student, I had no idea about IPR. It was only later when I got a full scholarship to study advanced cyber security and business entrepreneurship at Tel Aviv University (TAU) in Israel, that I was truly introduced to the concept. Later, after joining Legasis, I saw the lack of knowledge spread wide across the country, especially in Pune."

Only a few institutes in the city, like Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune, College of Engineering Pune (COEP), Vishwakarma Institute of Information Technology (VIIT), All India Shri Shivaji Memorial Society's College of Engineering, Indira College of Pharmacy, Cummins College of Engineering and Sadhu Vaswani Institute of Management Studies for girls, currently have operational IPR cells. Dinesh Kamble, professor at VIIT, added that the pending period of at least four years or more, often works as a deterrent to filing a patent.

Agreeing, deputy director of COEP, BN Chaudhari, said, "My own research patent was filed in 2012 and am still waiting for the grant. The procedure is extremely slow."

In the last five years, while 50 patents have been filed from COEP, only nine have been granted; and for VIIT, out of 10 patents only two have been granted till date.

The number is similarly low for IISER Pune, where out of 20 patents, only one has been granted.

In agreement to the situation, Khandelwal said, "This is because India has few patent examiners as compared to the number of patent applications each year. Approximately 500 examiners have to look through over 80,000 applications each year, thus increasing the wait period."

In India, the average time for an exam report to be submitted is three years, while it is two and a half months in the US and only 19 months in Japan, informed Khandelwal.

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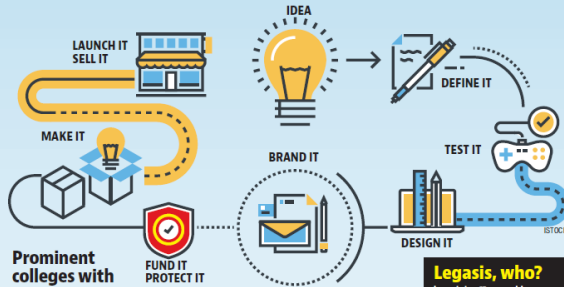
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## WHOSE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY?

Colleges and research institutes in Pune are more than aware of the need for IPR to protect its students' rights and the colleges' research. Yet, not enough is being done at the ground level



### Prominent colleges with IPR cells

- 1 College of Engineering Pune (COEP)
- 2 Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (ISER), Pune
- 3 Indra College of Pharmacy
- 4 Sadhu Vaswani Institute of Management Studies for girls
- 5 Hiraben Nanavati Institute of Management & Research for Women (HNIMR)
- 6 Vishwakarma Institute of Information Technology (VIIT), Pune
- 7 All India Shri Shwaji Memorial Society's College of Engineering

### PATENTS FILED

Institution	Patents Filed	Grants/Status
Indra College of Pharmacy	4 (four years)	0
AISSMS	23 (five years)	5 (Grants or patent process completed)
VIIT	10 (five years)	2 (Grants or patent process completed)
ISER	20 (5 years)	1 (Grant or patent process completed)
COEP	50 (5 years)	9 (Grants or patent process completed)

### Legasis, who?

Legasis is a 12-year-old group, focusing on helping universities, both domestic and international, large corporations, and cutting-edge startups in protecting their Intellectual Property (IP). This year, Legasis has taken up the initiative of delivering IP awareness sessions in 100 Science and Engineering colleges and universities in India. To inculcate IP culture and bridge the knowledge gap, Legasis has also developed an 'in-house' software tool to capture innovations from students and faculties which enables every stakeholder to scrutinise, analyse and improve on inventions through an online medium.