

IPR pendency down; Goyal calls for speedy clearance

By TIOL News Service

MUMBAI, AUG 02, 2021: THE

Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Mr Piyush Goyal, has expressed satisfaction over the reforms introduced in examining and granting patents, designs, copyrights and trademarks, saying the "ease of doing business"™ will go a long way in catapulting India as an innovation hub.

The Minister reviewed the functioning of the Office of Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks in Mumbai yesterday and deliberated on ways to build a robust Intellectual Property Rights infrastructure.

Shri Goyal while speaking about the CGPDT's™ speedy disposal of applications informed that,

“The pendency in the IPR department has come down drastically. It has also been decided that any pending application should be completed within days and not months.”

Fees for Start-ups, MSMEs, women entrepreneurs reduced by 80%

Mr Goyal also mentioned about the reduction in fee allowed by the department in order to help and support Startups and Women entrepreneurs in the country. Filing fees for Startups, MSMEs, Women entrepreneurs has been reduced by 80%.

The Minister added that emphasis has been laid on using Digital means. Every application is now processed online from start to finish, hearings are conducted on phones, people don't have to travel to patent offices now.

Mr Goyal also made a few suggestions to make the whole process more user friendly. He called for more efforts to increase awareness about GI tag and its significance. He also asked to consider instituting scholarships for students studying the Intellectual Property law as well as engage faculty from renowned institutions on a part time basis to help in the patent examination process.