Reporting Period: 2024–2026

1. Overview & Recent Patent Statistics

Myanmar reached a landmark milestone in its intellectual property regime with the formal operationalization of its patent system under the **Intellectual Property Department (IPD)**. Following the enactment of necessary subsidiary regulations and official fee schedules, the IPD commenced accepting and processing patent and utility model (petty patent) applications on 31 October 2024.

- **Published Applications:** From April to October 2026, the IPD has formally published **20 patent applications and 2 utility model applications** for 90-day third-party opposition.
- **Granted Patents: 0** (No patents have been granted to date, as applications remain in early publication, opposition, and substantive examination phases).

2. Changes in Patent Laws & Regulations

- **Enforcement of the Patent Law 2019:** The **Myanmar Patent Law 2019 (PTL)** officially came into force on **May 31, 2024** (Notification No. 106/2024), establishing the country's first modern statutory framework for invention patents (20-year term) and utility models (10-year term).
- **Patent Rules & Procedural Notifications:** The Ministry of Commerce issued the **Patent Rules** (Notification No. 44/2024) in June 2024, detailing filing procedures, application forms, substantive examination, publication, and opposition mechanics.
- **Official Fees & Annuity Schedules:** Subsequent notifications established official fee schedules for patent registration, application filings, and timelines for annuity maintenance payments.
- **Direction of Substantive Examination Process:** On October 27, 2025, MIPD issued a notification (Notification No. 26/2025) regarding the substantive examination process for patents. This Direction outlined two ways to carry out the substantive examination of patent applications.

TRIPS Transition Period for Pharmaceuticals: In accordance with WTO/TRIPS flexibility provisions for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), pharmaceutical products and processes remain exempt from patent protection until **January 1, 2033**, unless otherwise ordered by the Union Government.

3. Expanding Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs)

At the 1/2025 meeting of the Central Intellectual Property Committee, guidance was given to expand and establish TISC centers in universities and research departments. Following this, 35 universities and research departments proposed to establish TISC centers. Establishing TISC centers in universities and research departments would enable effective utilization of technological information, support the development and advancement of innovation, facilitate easy access to technology-related information,

promote the application of inventions, and contribute to the growth of technology-based economic enterprises. The Department of Intellectual Property is organizing online intellectual property awareness seminars twice a month for leaders and members of Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs), running from July 15, 2026, to December 15, 2026.

4. Notable Court Decisions & Enforcement Developments

- **Judicial Jurisdiction:** Special IP Courts (at the High Court and District Court levels) were designated pursuant to the IP law framework to adjudicate IP civil and criminal disputes.
- **Court Decisions:** There are **no notable court decisions or precedent-setting cases** regarding patent validity, infringement, or enforcement in Myanmar because the patent office only recently opened and no patents have yet been granted, litigation in this domain remains non-existent.