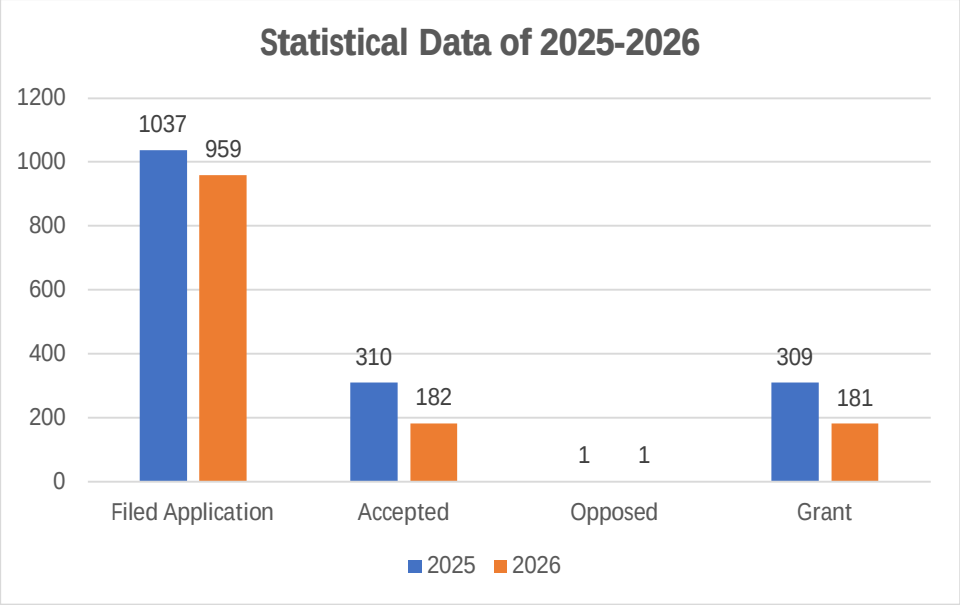
COUNTRY REPORT - PAKISTAN

PATENT STATISTICS 2025 & 2026

Pakistan's patent filing landscape reflects a noticeable shift in filing trends, with an increase in patent applications filed by domestic applicants and a corresponding decline in filings by foreign applicants and multinational companies. Despite the reduced participation of foreign applicants, the overall number of patent applications has shown an upward trend over the past two years compared to previous years. This indicates growing domestic engagement in innovation and patent protection, although the sustainability of this growth and its impact on the country's innovation ecosystem remain to be assessed. The statistical summary below provides an overview of these filing trends and the changing composition of patent applicants in Pakistan.

Statistical Data for 2025-2026				
Year	**Filed Application**	**Accepted**	**Opposed**	**Grant**
2025	1037	310	1	309
2026	959	182	1	181



CHANGES IN PATENT LAWS AND REGULATIONS-PAKISTAN

Following the enactment of the **Patents Ordinance, 2000** and its subsequent revisions in the years **2002, 2006, 2007,** and **2016**, the regulatory framework is undergoing further legislative modernization under the proposed **Patents (Amendment) Bill, 2025**.

This amendment is particularly important and critical, as it is the only amendment that directly addresses fundamental aspects of the patent system, including patentability, opposition proceedings, acceptance and grant of patents, as well as the potential adoption of the PCT system.

The details of all proposed revisions under the Patents (Amendment) Bill, 2025, will be available in public soon. However, the breakdown below focuses specifically on the sections with direct procedural and strategic implications for patent attorneys and applicants:

1. **Section 2 (Definitions):** Key amendments and additions designed to update statutory terms and align national terminology with international patent standards.

2. **Section 7 (Patentable inventions):** Insertion of explicit statutory language governing computer programs and algorithms, clarifying eligibility standards and subject-matter exclusions.

3. **Section 8 (Novelty):** Textual modifications to clarify core statutory novelty requirements, alongside a key substitution in sub-section (3) establishing clear parameters for grace period considerations regarding prior disclosures.

4. **Section 9 (Inventive steps):** Substitution of text to provide a more defined, objective legal standard for assessing inventive step (non-obviousness).

5. **Section 13 (Application for patent):** Incorporates procedural additions under sub-section (7) alongside expanded statutory requirements concerning the single inventive concept (unity of invention) for multi-claim applications under sub-section (3). Furthermore, provisions establishing exclusive marketing rights for pharmaceutical or agricultural chemical products under mailbox applications in sub-section (9) have been formally omitted.

6. **Section 14 (Complete and provisional application):** Insertion of the conjunction "and" to couple the acceptance condition with a strict statutory deadline, requiring applicant requests regarding non-Convention applications to be filed both before the acceptance of the specification AND within twelve months of the date of filing.

7. Section 16 (Examination of application): In sub-section 3, it is substituted that no more than three opportunities be provided to comply with requirements as prescribed in the Patents Ordinance and Rules during the examination stage. Furthermore, new sub-sections (6) and (7) have been added.

8. Section 21 (Acceptance of complete specification): On the acceptance of a complete specification, a notice of acceptance including the contents of the specification is published subject to payment of publication fee within 30 days of notice of acceptance. Additionally, sub-section (21A) has been added.

9. Section 23 (Opposition to the grant of patent): The four-month pre-grant opposition period following advertisement in the Gazette has been reduced to two months from the date of publication of the specification.

10. Section 26 (Residents not to apply outside Pakistan without permission): The insertion of sub-section 3 for persons resident outside Pakistan.

11. Section 27 (Grant and sealing of patent): Sub-sections (1)(a) and (1)(b) have been added to support the new procedure, under which the Controller shall issue a grant certificate within 15 days if no opposition is filed within two months of publication. Where an opposition is filed within the specified period, and the opposition fails, the Controller shall grant the patent and provide a grant certificate to the patentee.

12. Section 45 (Restoration of lapsed patents): The restoration period for a patent lapsed due to non-payment of renewal fees has been reduced from 18 months to 12 months.

13. Section 59 (Powers of Controller in granting compulsory licenses): The addition of section 59A for the compulsory licensing for the import and export of the patented pharmaceutical product is added.

14. Section 109 to 120: Insertion of a new chapter "Chapter XXIII Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) with additional sections 109 to 120.

NOTABLE COURT DECISIONS RELATED TO PATENTS IN PAKISTAN

The following is an overview of notable patent-related proceedings and judicial developments in Pakistan during 2025–2026, covering patent revocation, opposition, infringement, and procedural irregularities. While some matters involve interim orders or procedural directions, others concern substantive judicial determinations. Notably, one long-standing patent revocation proceeding culminated in a judgment delivered for the first time in Pakistan in over a decade.

SINDH HIGH COURT – J.M. NO. 27 OF 2025:

Alleged irregularities in patent examination, acceptance, and publication; revocation under Section 46 of the Patent Ordinance, 2000.

SUMMARY: A pharmaceutical company approached the Sindh High Court seeking revocation of a granted patent under Section 46 of the Patents Ordinance, 2000, alleging mala fide conduct and procedural irregularities in its grant. The applicant challenged the absence of a final order under Section 16 and alleged that publication of acceptance preceded the issuance of the Section 21 notice, thereby depriving interested parties of their statutory right to oppose the patent. The applicant also sought interim suspension of the patent seal pending adjudication.

SINDH HIGH COURT – J.M. NO. 21 OF 2013: (Judgment dated 03-09-2026)

Alleged irregularities in patent examination, acceptance, and publication; revocation under Section 46 of the Patent Ordinance, 2000.

SUMMARY: A telecommunications company approached the Sindh High Court seeking revocation of the patent under Section 46 of the Patents Ordinance, 2000, alleging mala fide conduct and procedural irregularities concerning the application forms, power of authorization, and assignment of inventorship rights to the applicant. The company also challenged the novelty of the claimed invention in light of an earlier patent publication in Azerbaijan, filed in the name of a different applicant.

JUDGMENT: The Court examined the alleged procedural irregularities on the part of the institution and the applicant. In view of the availability of substantially earlier prior art published before the filing date of the Pakistani patent application, the Court ordered the revocation/suspension of the granted patent, taking into consideration the facts and comments submitted by the Patent Office in support of the applicant's revocation request. In its judgment, the Court also raised an important question regarding the Patent Office's capacity to identify and examine prior publications originating from other countries. The matter remains pending adjudication.