

Government to bear patent costs for start-ups

It will also relax public procurement norms among other benefits

New Delhi: To encourage young entrepreneurs and innovation, government has decided to bear the entire cost of facilitation for filing of patents, trademarks or designs as well as relaxed public procurement norms for start-ups.

As per the action plan announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday, the start-ups would only have to pay the statutory fees.

"The central government shall bear the entire fees of the facilitators for any number of patents, trademarks or designs that a start-up may file, and the start-ups shall

bear the cost of only the statutory fees payable," the action plan said.

The move is aimed at promoting awareness and adoption of intellectual property rights (IPRs) by start-ups and facilitate them in protecting and commercialising those rights.

Experts said that the incentives given by the government for IPR related things would help the start-ups in filing more number of patents, trademarks and designs.

"This will be an incentive for start-ups to engage in innovation and also for protection of their intellectual prop-



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi gestures as he speaks during an event to launch an initiative to bolster start-ups in New Delhi on Saturday.

—AFP

erty rights," National Intellectual Property Organi-

sation (NIPO) president T C James said.

The action plan says that a panel of facilitators would be empanelled by the Controller General of Patents Designs and Trademark. Facilitators will be responsible for providing general advisory on different IPRs as also information on protecting and promoting IPRs in other countries.

They would provide assistance in filing and disposal of the IP applications related to patents, trademarks and designs including appearing on behalf of start-up hearings and contesting opposition, if any, by other parties, till final disposal of the IPR application.

—PTI