

## Intellectual property rights

### Why in news?

India secures position in top 10 countries in Patents, Trademarks, and Industrial Designs as per WIPO 2024 Report.

### What are the highlights of the WIPO 2024 report?

- **WIPO report** - The World Intellectual Property Report, published *biennially* by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), provides insights into global IP trends and innovations.
- **India's growth in patents** - India recorded a 15.7% increase in patent applications, ranking 6th globally with 64,480 applications in 2023.
- This marks the fifth consecutive year of double-digit growth, with over half of these applications from domestic applicants.
- **Industrial design surge** - India's industrial design sector also witnessed significant growth, with applications rising by 36.4%.
- This surge reflects the increasing focus on product design, manufacturing, and the creative industries in India.
  - **Leading sectors of Industrial Design** - Textiles and Accessories, Tools and Machines, and Health and Cosmetics, together accounted for nearly half of the design filings.
- **Strength in trademark filings** - With a 6.1% increase in 2023, India ranked 4th globally for trademarks.
  - **Leading sectors in trademark filings** - Health (21.9%), Agriculture (15.3%), and Clothing (12.8%).
- India's trademark office now holds the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest number of active trademark registrations worldwide, with over 3.2 million trademarks in force.
- **Patent-to-GDP ratio** - Over the past 5 years, India's IP activity has shown significant growth.
- Between 2018 and 2023, patent and industrial design applications more than doubled, while trademark filings increased by 60%.
- This surge reflects the growing importance of intellectual property in India's economic expansion, with the country's patent-to-GDP ratio rising sharply from 144 in 2013 to 381 in 2023.
- **Global patent trends** - Worldwide, 3.55 million patent applications were filed in 2023, a 2.7% increase from 2022, with Asian economies like China, Japan, South Korea, and India leading the charge.
- This surge highlights Asia's dominance in IP and innovation.

## Press Release on India's Position in Top 10 countries in Patents, Trademarks, and Industrial Designs

### Record Patent Growth

- ▲ 15.7% growth (highest in top 20)
- ▲ 6th globally (64,480 applications)
- ▲ 55.2% resident filings
- ▲ 149.4% increase in grants

### Industrial Design Success

36.4% surge in applications

#### Top Sectors:

- Textiles & Accessories
- Tools & Machines
- Health & Cosmetics

### Trademark Leadership

- ▶ Ranks 4th globally
- ▶ 6.1% increase in 2023
- ▶ 90% resident filings
- ▶ 3.2M+ active registrations

### 5-Year Growth (2018-2023)

- ▶ Patents & designs: >100% increase
- ▶ Trademarks: 60% increase
- ▶ Patent-to-GDP ratio: 144 → 381

Source: World Intellectual Property Indicators 2024

## What is intellectual property?

- **Intellectual Property (IP)** - It refers to creations of the mind, including inventions, literary and artistic works, designs, and symbols used in commerce.
- IP is protected by laws that allow creators to earn recognition or financial benefits from their innovations.
- **Types of intellectual property**
- **Patents** - Exclusive rights for inventions, allowing owners to decide how or if others may use their invention.
- **Copyright** - Rights for creators over literary and artistic works, such as books, music, and films.
- **Trademarks** - Symbols or marks that distinguish the goods or services of one entity from others.
- **Industrial designs** - Protection for the aesthetic aspects of articles, including patterns and colors.
- A design may consist of three-dimensional features, such as the shape or surface of an article, or of two-dimensional features, such as patterns, lines or color.
- **Geographical indications** - These are signs used on goods that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities, a reputation or characteristics that are essentially attributable to that place of origin.
- **Trade secrets** - These are IP rights on confidential information which may be sold or licensed.

## What are the importances of Intellectual Property?

- **Encourages innovation and creativity** - By protecting creators' rights, IP fosters an environment where innovation can thrive.
- Inventors are motivated to develop new technologies, knowing their efforts are legally safeguarded.

- **Economic growth** - IP-intensive industries contribute substantially to GDP and job creation.
- IP rights allow businesses to commercialize their products, generating revenue and spurring economic activity.
- **Attracting investments** - Strong IP protection encourages foreign and domestic investment in research and development, fueling industrial growth and global competitiveness.
- **Consumer confidence** - IP rights ensure that consumers receive authentic products, improving trust and safety in the marketplace.

### What are the Indian government measures to improve IP?

- **National IPR Policy 2016** - This comprehensive policy unifies all IP rights under a single framework, focusing on innovation promotion, IP protection, and policy review mechanisms.
- **Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM)** - CIPAM, established under the National IPR Policy, coordinates policy implementation and promotes IP awareness across sectors.
- **National Intellectual Property Awareness Mission (NIPAM)** - NIPAM aims to spread IP awareness and provide training in educational institutions, building a culture of innovation from a young age.
- **Startup Intellectual Property Protection (SIPP) scheme** - This program supports startups in managing and protecting IP assets, fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in the tech and creative industries.
- **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** - Launched by NITI Aayog in 2016, AIM encourages innovation and entrepreneurship.

### What lies ahead?

- Enhancing IP education and awareness to help innovators understand IP benefits and protection mechanisms, especially at grassroots levels.
- Strengthening IP enforcement to boost investor confidence and protect innovators' rights.
- Investing in IP infrastructure to streamline processes, reducing wait times and improving IP service quality.
- Encouraging domestic innovation to reduce dependence on foreign patents and strengthen India's self-reliance in innovation.

### Reference

1. [PIB | India's Performance In WIPO 2024 Report](#)
2. [WIPO |Intellectual Property](#)