



UPSC & STATE PCS CURRENT AFFAIRS · UJIYARI.COM

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

India's Patent Surge: 1.43 Lakh Filings in FY26 — A 30.2% Year-on-Year Jump and the Domestic R&D Story

17 April 2026

SCIENCE & TECH

ECONOMY

GS3

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)**ALSO FROM THE CREATOR****BharatNotes**Free UPSC notes, MCQs, PYQ analysis. **100% Free.**bharatnotes.com →**ADVERTISE****Advertise with Ujiyari**

Reach thousands of UPSC aspirants daily.

epicbharat@gmail.com

India's Patent Surge: 1.43 Lakh Filings in FY26 — A 30.2% Year-on-Year Jump and the Domestic R&D Story

17 April 2026 · 5 min read

2 tags

WHY IN NEWS:

Union Commerce and Industry Minister **Piyush Goyal** announced on April 17, 2026, that **patent application filings in India rose 30.2% to a record 1,43,729 in FY 2025–26**, up from 1,10,375 in FY 2024–25. **Domestic filings reached 99,721** — accounting for **69.4% of total filings**, up from 61.8% the previous year. The growth reflects the maturing of India's R&D ecosystem and the cumulative impact of administrative reforms at the Indian Patent Office.

THE HEADLINE NUMBERS

METRIC	FY 2024–25	FY 2025–26	CHANGE
Total filings	1,10,375	1,43,729	+30.2%
Domestic filings	68,201	99,721	+46.2%
Foreign filings	42,174	44,008	+4.3%
Domestic share	61.8%	69.4%	+7.6 pp

The headline numbers reveal **domestic filings as the primary growth engine** — Indian inventors and corporations are filing patents at significantly higher rates than foreign applicants seeking Indian patent protection.

WHAT IS DRIVING THE SURGE?

1. The Indian Patent Office Modernisation

The **Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs & Trademarks (CGPDTM)** under the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** has implemented major modernisation:

- **Faster examination** — average time from filing to first examination report reduced from over 5 years (pre-2016) to under 18 months in 2026.
- **Digital filing** — over 95% of patent applications filed electronically.
- **AI-assisted prior art search** — pilot deployment to assist examiners in identifying prior art.
- **Examiner recruitment** — patent examiner cadre expanded significantly post-2017.

2. The Startup India IPR Fee Waiver

Under the **Startup India Action Plan (2016)**, recognised startups receive:

- **80% rebate on patent filing fees** (₹8,000 vs ₹40,000 for large entities).
- **Free legal facilitation** through empanelled patent agents.
- **Fast-track examination** for startup patent applications.

This has dramatically lowered the cost barrier for early-stage Indian innovation.

3. Domestic R&D Ecosystem Maturity

India's R&D landscape has matured:

- **Indian universities** — IITs, IISc, IISER campuses filing significantly more patents.
- **Domestic pharma R&D** — companies like Sun Pharma, Dr. Reddy's, Cipla, Biocon, Lupin filing in biosimilars, novel drug delivery, formulations.
- **Tech sector** — Indian software product companies (not just service exporters) filing in AI, machine learning, fintech.
- **Manufacturing R&D** — particularly in EV batteries, defence electronics, semiconductor design (linked to PLI schemes).

4. Government Policy Push

Multiple policy interventions have contributed:

POLICY	IMPACT
National IPR Policy 2016	Strategic framework for IP creation, commercialisation, enforcement
Patent (Amendment) Rules 2024	Streamlined filing, expedited examination expansion
Startup India	Fee waivers, fast-track facilitation
Atmanirbhar Bharat	Domestic R&D incentives across sectors
Anusandhan National Research Foundation (NRF)	Established 2023 for R&D ecosystem support
Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes	Indirect IP creation incentive

WHAT PATENTS ARE BEING FILED?

The composition of Indian patent filings has shifted:

- **Pharmaceuticals & biotechnology** — historically dominant; remains a leading category.
- **Computer & electronics** — fastest-growing category; reflects software product creation.
- **Mechanical engineering** — automotive components, EV, manufacturing equipment.
- **Chemistry** — specialty chemicals, agrochemicals, materials.
- **Defence & aerospace** — DRDO and private defence contractors filing in indigenous platforms.

INDIA'S POSITION IN GLOBAL PATENT RANKINGS

In international comparisons:

- **WIPO Global Innovation Index (GII) 2024:** India ranked 39th globally — up from 81st in 2015.
- **WIPO patent application data:** India has been the fastest-growing major patent jurisdiction globally for several consecutive years.
- **India's PCT (Patent Cooperation Treaty) filings** — Indian residents are filing more international patent applications, indicating cross-border commercialisation intent.

However, India still trails the absolute leaders:

- **China:** ~1.5 million patent filings annually
- **USA:** ~600,000+ patent filings
- **Japan, South Korea, Europe:** Each well above India's volume

The gap is narrowing but remains substantial. India's strength is in **growth rate and trajectory** more than absolute volume.

THE QUALITY QUESTION

Quantity of patent filings does not equal quality. Key quality indicators:

INDICATOR	INDIA'S POSITION
Patent grant rate	Improving but lower than US/EU
PCT international filings	Growing but small share of total
Patent commercialisation rate	Lower than peers — many granted patents not commercially exploited
University-industry technology transfer	Weak; Indian universities patent more than they license
Patent litigation depth	Limited specialised IP courts; cases pending for years

THE DOMESTIC R&D SPENDING GAP

Despite the patent filing surge, **India's gross R&D spending remains low:**

- **R&D as % of GDP:** ~0.65% (2024) vs world average ~2.7%.
- Compared to **South Korea (4.8%), Israel (5.4%), USA (3.4%), China (2.4%)** — India significantly lags.
- The **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (NRF) Act, 2023** aims to mobilise ₹50,000 crore over 5 years (2023–28), with 70% from private and philanthropic sources.

The patent filing surge thus reflects **rising R&D output efficiency** rather than R&D spending volume.

WAY FORWARD

For India to translate the patent filing surge into innovation outcomes:

- 1 **R&D spending expansion** — moving from 0.65% to 2% of GDP requires sustained government and private investment.
- 2 **University tech transfer** — institutionalising patent commercialisation offices in IITs, IISc, NITs.
- 3 **Specialised IP courts** — faster patent litigation resolution; the **Madras High Court IP Division** is a model worth scaling.

- ④ **PCT filing support** — incentives for Indian residents to file international applications, securing global market protection.
- ⑤ **SME innovation support** — extending Startup India-style fee waivers to small and medium enterprises.

UPSC RELEVANCE

PAPER	ANGLE
GS-3 — Science & Technology	IP regime, patent system, R&D ecosystem, innovation policy, NRF
GS-3 — Economy	Innovation-led growth, Startup India, Atmanirbhar Bharat, PLI schemes
GS-2 — Governance	Indian Patent Office reform, CGPDTM, DPIIT, regulatory modernisation
GS-2 — IR	TRIPS Agreement, WIPO, India's IP positioning in international forums
Mains Keywords	Indian Patent Office, CGPDTM, DPIIT, National IPR Policy 2016, Startup India, NRF, R&D as percentage of GDP, WIPO GII, PCT, TRIPS

FACTS CORNER

ITEM	DETAIL
FY26 total patent filings	1,43,729
FY25 total patent filings	1,10,375
YoY growth	+30.2%
FY26 domestic filings	99,721
Domestic filing share	69.4% (up from 61.8%)
Patent regulatory body	CGPDTM, under DPIIT
Examination time (current)	<18 months (vs 5+ years pre-2016)
Startup India IPR rebate	80% on patent filing fees
India GII Rank 2024	39th globally
India R&D spending (% GDP)	~0.65% (vs world avg 2.7%)
NRF Act	2023 — ₹50,000 crore mobilisation target by 2028

[← NEWER ARTICLE](#)

Supreme Court Clarifies: Dowry Givers Cannot Be Prosecuted...

[OLDER ARTICLE →](#)

Ayush Chintan Shivar 2026: Aligning Traditional Medicine...

RELATED EDITORIALS

THE HINDU

[Creeping Risk: India's Industrial Safety Failure and the Vedanta Chhattisgarh Tragedy](#)

17 Apr

INDIAN EXPRESS

[India's Migration Governance: From Crisis Response to Continuous Architecture](#)

17 Apr

INDIAN EXPRESS

[Trade Data Frames a Turbulent Year: India's FY26 Export Challenge in a West Asia Crisis](#)

17 Apr

THE HINDU

[Dry Days Ahead: El Niño Threatens India's 2026 Monsoon](#)

16 Apr

RELATED KEY TERMS

KEY TERM

[ACNAS](#)

Advisory Committee on National Accounts Statistics — the expert body...

KEY TERM

[Act East Policy](#)

India's strategic foreign policy framework prioritising active...

KEY TERM

[Active Case Finding \(TB\)](#)

A proactive public health strategy where health workers systematically...

KEY TERM

[Advanced Technology Vessel \(ATV\) Programme](#)

India's classified, decades-long programme to indigenously design and...



CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)[Read Full Article on Ujiyari](#) →<https://ujiyari.com/daily/2026/04/17/india-fy26-patent-filings-record-30-percent-rise/>

ALSO FROM THE CREATOR

BharatNotes

Free UPSC study platform — subject-wise notes across all 4 GS papers, Prelims MCQs, Mains answer frameworks, PYQ analysis & progress tracking. **100% Free • No Login Required.**

[Start Preparing](http://bharatnotes.com) → bharatnotes.com

📌 OPPORTUNITY

Advertise with Ujiyari

Reach **thousands of serious UPSC & State PCS aspirants** daily through our PDFs, website, and social channels.

Ideal for: Coaching institutes • EdTech platforms • Book publishers • Exam prep apps

[✉ epicbharat@gmail.com](mailto:epicbharat@gmail.com)

Write to us for rates & media kit

Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs · ujiyari.com · bharatnotes.com