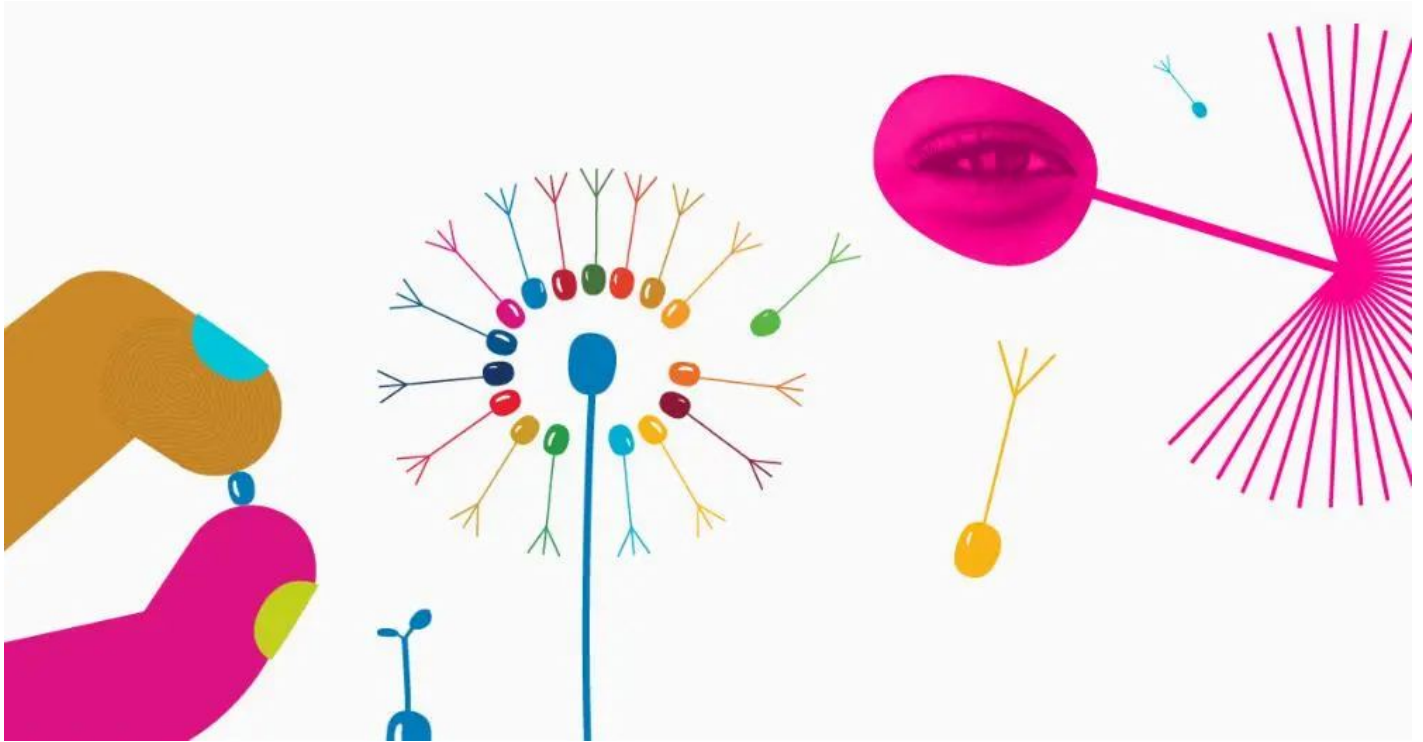


World Intellectual Property Day 2026, Theme, Types, India's Role

April 27, 2024 • vajiramandravi.com



World Intellectual Property Day 2026 is observed every year on 26 April to highlight the importance of intellectual property (IP) in encouraging creativity, innovation, and economic growth. The day is led by the World Intellectual Property Organization, a specialized agency of the United Nations that works to protect the rights of creators and innovators worldwide.

World Intellectual Property Day 2026 Theme

The theme for World Intellectual Property Day 2026 is **“IP and Sports: Ready, Set, Innovate.”** Celebrated on **26 April**, it focuses on how intellectual property rights support innovation, technology, and creativity in the sports sector. From advanced sports equipment and performance gear to broadcasting rights and digital fan engagement, IP plays a key role in shaping the modern sports industry.

World Intellectual Property Day History

World Intellectual Property Day is celebrated every year on **26 April** to raise awareness about the importance of intellectual property (IP) rights. It is organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization to promote creativity and innovation across the world. The day highlights how inventions, artistic works, and brands contribute

to economic growth and development. It also encourages people to respect and protect the ideas and creations of others.

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Types of Intellectual Property Rights

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) protect creations of the human mind and give legal rights to creators over their work. These rights encourage innovation, creativity, and fair competition in the economy.

- **Patents:** Protect new inventions, processes, or technologies for a limited period
- **Trademarks:** Protect brand names, logos, symbols, and slogans used in business
- **Copyrights:** Protect literary, artistic, musical, and digital works
- **Industrial Designs:** Protect the visual design or appearance of a product
- **Geographical Indications (GI):** Protect products linked to a specific region (e.g., Darjeeling Tea)
- **Trade Secrets:** Protect confidential business information like formulas, methods, or strategies
- **Plant Variety Protection (PVP):** Protect new plant varieties developed through research and breeding

India's Role in World Intellectual Property

- The World Intellectual Property Organization **WIPI 2024 report** highlights India as a **rapidly emerging global innovation hub**, with strong growth in patents, trademarks, and industrial designs.
- India has secured a place among the **top 10 countries globally** in all major IP categories, reflecting its **growing influence in the global intellectual property ecosystem**.
- The country recorded a **+15.7% growth in patent applications in 2023**, marking its **fifth consecutive year of double-digit growth**, showing consistent innovation momentum.
- India ranked **6th globally in patent filings (64,480 applications in 2023)**, placing it alongside leading economies like the US, China, Japan, and South Korea.
- A major milestone was that **55.2% of patent applications were filed by Indian residents**, indicating a **strong rise in domestic innovation** driven by startups, institutions, and industries.
- India witnessed a **149.4% increase in patents granted in 2023**, highlighting improved **efficiency, faster processing, and higher quality of innovations**.
- The **patent-to-GDP ratio increased from 144 (2013) to 381 (2023)**, showing that **innovation and intellectual property are becoming key drivers of India's economic growth**.

World Intellectual Property Day 2026 Importance

World Intellectual Property Day highlights how protecting ideas and innovations helps creators, businesses, and economies grow. It encourages respect for intellectual property rights and promotes a culture of creativity and innovation worldwide.

- **Promotes Innovation:** Encourages inventors and creators to develop new ideas and technologies
- **Protects Creators' Rights:** Ensures legal protection and recognition for original work
- **Boosts Economic Growth:** Supports industries that contribute significantly to **GDP** and employment

- **Encourages Creativity:** Motivates artists, writers, and innovators to create without fear of misuse
 - **Supports Startups:** Helps new businesses build brand identity through trademarks and patents
 - **Raises Awareness:** Educates people about the value and protection of intellectual property
 - **Strengthens Global Trade:** Builds trust in international markets through IP protection laws
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Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/world-intellectual-property-day/>

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