

India patent filings FY26: Record 30% jump to over 1.43 Lakh

Deccan Chronicle | New Delhi

Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said on Sunday that filing of patent applications has increased by 30.2 per cent to 1,43,729 in 2025-26 against 1,10,375 in the previous fiscal, on account of several initiatives taken by the government to strengthen the intellectual property rights ecosystem.

As India is the world's sixth largest patent filer, the minister also said that the country's



Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal.

patent filings soared to a historic 1.43 lakh plus in FY 2025-26, marking a 30.2 per cent increase over last year.

"With over 69 per cent of patents filed domestically, led by innovators from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Maharashtra, we are showing the world that Made in India is powered by Invented in India," he said in a social media post.

The central government has undertaken several measures to strengthen the patent ecosystem in the country, particularly

aimed at start-ups, MSMEs and educational institutions.

The filings have been continuously increasing since 2016-17, when they were 45,444. It was 47,894 in 2027-28, 50,660 in 2018-19, 56,268 in 2019-20, 58,503 in 2020-21, 66,440 in 2021-22, 82,208 in 2022-23, and 92,163 in 2023-24.

These steps include the reduction of fees for startups, small entities, and educational institutions; providing expedited examination of patent applications; and pro bono facil-

itation to Indian startups for the filing and processing of patent, trademark, and design applications.

The patent applications are granted only after substantive examination to determine compliance with the requirements of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability under the Patents Act, 1970.

The examination process follows a two-tier system, wherein applications are examined and subsequently reviewed by the controller.

UK Taylor Swift dance party stabbing spree 'avoidable'

● Axel Rudakubana was jailed last year for a minimum of 52 years for the July 2024 attack

● Taylor Swift fans Alice Da Silva Aguiar, aged nine, Bebe King, six, and Elsie Dot Stancombe, seven, were killed in the attack.

● Viral misinformation that Rudakubana was a Muslim asylum seeker contributed to a week of anti-immigration riots in more than a dozen English and Northern Irish towns and cities.

AFP | London, United Kingdom

A UK teenager's 2024 frenzied stabbing spree in northwest England which killed three young girls and sparked nationwide anti-immigration riots was "foreseeable and avoidable", a public inquiry concluded Monday.

The attack on a Taylor Swift-themed dance class in Southport, which seriously wounded 10 others, including eight chil-

dren, could have been prevented if the killer's parents and various agencies had acted sooner over his "escalating behaviour", it found.

Axel Rudakubana was jailed last year for a minimum of 52 years for the July 2024 attack, which triggered a wave of shock and revulsion in the UK as well as the worst mass disorder seen on the streets in decades.

Taylor Swift fans Alice Da Silva Aguiar, aged nine, Bebe King, six, and Elsie Dot Stancombe, seven, were killed in the attack.

Viral misinformation that Rudakubana was a Muslim asylum seeker contributed to a week of anti-immigration riots in more than a dozen English and Northern Irish towns and cities.

The public inquiry, led by retired judge Adrian Fulford and which last year held nine weeks of hearings, identified failures by Rudakubana's parents and agencies including in health, education and the police.

The teenager's parents were at fault for not reporting his behaviour and other issues to authorities, while the public bodies failed to manage the risk he represented, according to its 776-page report.

It was "highly likely" the attack would not have occurred had they acted.

"History simply would have

taken a different course," Fulford said as he published the report, which made 67 recommendations.

"Harrowing" The probe found five major areas of "systemic failure", including that Rudakubana's worsening conduct was "wrongly attributed to his autism spectrum disorder".

That led to "inaction and a failure to address dangerous behaviours", the report concluded.

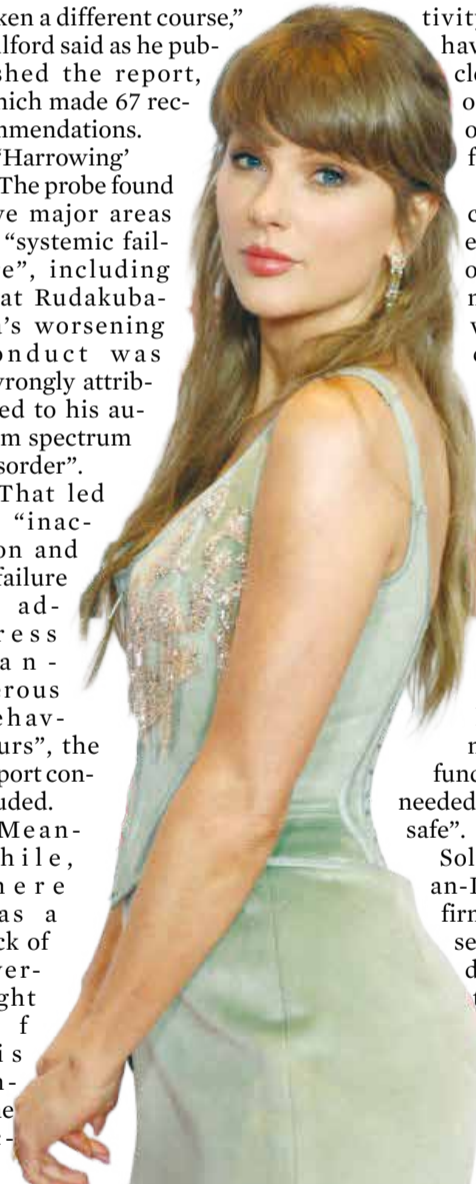
Meanwhile, there was a lack of oversight of his online ac-

tivity, which would have "provided the clearest indications of his violent pre-occupations", it found.

The report also criticised his parents for, among other things, permitting knives and weapons to be delivered to the home and failing to report crucial information in the days leading up to the attack.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer called the report "truly harrowing and profoundly disturbing" and said he was "determined to make the fundamental changes needed to keep the public safe".

Solicitor Nicola Ryan-Donnelly, whose firm Fletchers represents 22 of the children affected by the attack, urged individuals and agencies to "take action now".



ASEAN urges Iran peace talks, reopening of Hormuz



AFP | Manila, Philippines

ASEAN encouraged the United States and Iran yesterday to press ahead with talks to end the Middle East war and ensure safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz.

Southeast Asian nations like the Philippines and Malaysia rely heavily on oil from the Middle East, much of it exported through the key strait that's been effectively closed during the conflict.

Foreign ministers of the 11-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations met online to discuss the US-Israeli war against Iran, hours before the US Navy was to start a blockade of Iranian ports.

ASEAN foreign ministers agreed to urge the United

States and Iran to "continue negotiations that will lead to the permanent end of the conflict and lasting peace and stability in the region", said a joint statement issued after the meeting.

They also called for the "full and effective implementation" of an ongoing two-week ceasefire and the "restoration of the safe, unimpeded, and continuous transit passage of vessels and aircraft in the Strait of Hormuz".

The Philippines, which holds ASEAN's rotating chairmanship, last month adopted a four-day work week for civil servants in a bid to conserve fuel, while Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam encouraged public employees to work from home.

Judge tosses Trump defamation suit against Wall Street Journal

● Trump sued media magnate Rupert Murdoch and the Journal in July after it published a report about a birthday letter he allegedly sent to one-time close friend Jeffrey Epstein.

AFP | Miami, United States

A US federal judge yesterday tossed out a \$10 billion defa-

mation lawsuit filed by President Donald Trump against The Wall Street Journal.

Trump sued media magnate Rupert Murdoch and the Journal in July after it published a report about a birthday letter he allegedly sent to one-time close friend Jeffrey Epstein.

District Judge Darrin Gayles, in a 17-page ruling, said Trump had failed to prove the Murdoch-owned newspaper had knowingly published false statements, the legal standard to prove defamation.

"Because President Trump has not plausibly alleged that

defendants published the article with actual malice, both Counts must be dismissed," Gayles wrote.

The judge, who was appointed by former president Barack Obama, gave Trump the opportunity to amend his complaint and refile the suit by April 27.

A spokesman for Trump's legal team said the suit would be resubmitted.

"President Trump will follow Judge Gayles's ruling and guidance to refile this powerhouse lawsuit against the Wall Street Journal and all of the other Defendants," the spokesman said in

a statement.

"The President will continue to hold accountable those who traffic in Fake News to mislead the American People."

Trump has intensified his long-established hostility toward the media since his return to the White House, and the suit against the Journal is one of numerous attacks against news organizations he accuses of bias against him.

Trump's attacks on media outlets have seen him restrict access, badmouth journalists critical of his administration, and bring lawsuits demanding

huge amounts of compensation. According to the Journal, Trump wrote a "bawdy" birthday letter to Epstein in 2003 to mark his 50th birthday, part of an album of messages from rich and well-known figures.

Trump's alleged missive included a hand-drawn illustration of a naked woman and referred to their shared "secret."

Trump has said he broke off his friendship with Epstein prior to the wealthy financier's 2008 guilty plea in Florida to solicitation of prostitution with a minor.

Epstein was found dead in a New York prison cell in 2019

as he awaited trial on sex trafficking charges. His death was ruled a suicide but like much else around Epstein is the subject of lurid conspiracy theories.

The Epstein case has repeatedly overshadowed Trump's second presidency and led to the downfall of a number of powerful figures around the world who were associated with Epstein.

The US Justice Department has over the past year released huge tranches of files related to Epstein. Trump, 79, figures prominently in the files but has not been formally accused of wrongdoing.