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## Govt waives IP registration fees for sports sector for 3 years

*The government has waived all intellectual property registration fees for the sports sector for three years to spur domestic manufacturing. Commerce minister Piyush Goyal also launched a national design hackathon to accelerate the development of patentable sports technology.*

Harsh Kumar

Published 28 Apr 2026, 09:53 PM IST



New Delhi, Apr 28 (ANI): Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal addresses during World Intellectual Property Day celebrations, at Vanijya Bhawan, in New Delhi. (ANI)

Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday announced a three-year fee waiver on all intellectual property (IP) registrations related to sports, in a move aimed at boosting innovation and manufacturing in the sector.

The announcement was made at the World Intellectual Property Day celebrations in New Delhi, themed 'IP and Sports: Ready, Set, Innovate!'

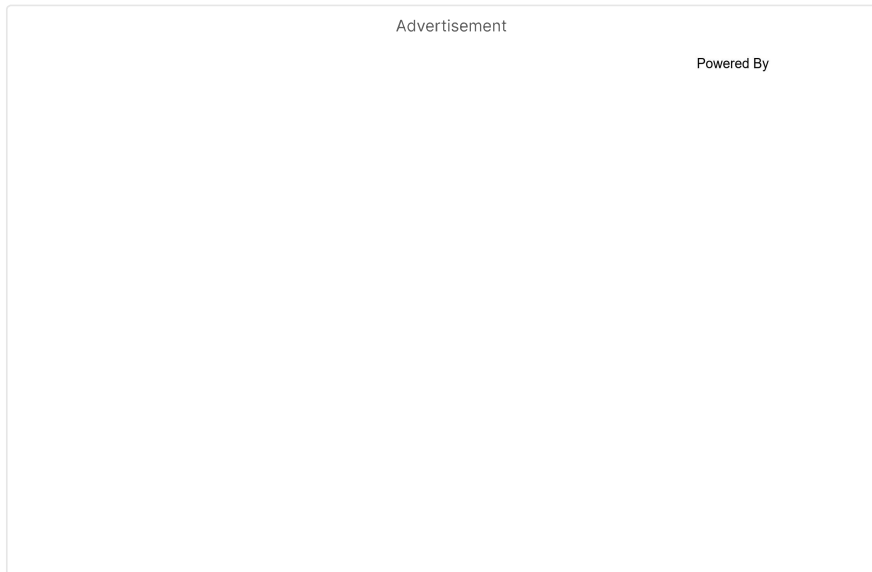
Under the special drive, registrations linked to trademarks, copyrights, patents, designs, traditional knowledge, and geographical indications (GI) in sports will be exempt from fees with immediate effect. [Goyal](#) also directed that a notification be issued immediately.

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The minister said the government would additionally provide facilitation support under existing schemes to help innovators, students, [artisans](#), and other stakeholders file and secure IP rights.

## Push for sports manufacturing hubs

Calling for stronger domestic manufacturing in sports goods, Goyal said India should develop sports manufacturing clusters in regions such as Jammu & Kashmir and Meerut. He said these hubs could emerge as key centres for bats, balls, hockey equipment, training aids, and gym equipment.



Highlighting Jammu & Kashmir's potential, he referred to the GI-tagged Kashmir willow cricket bat as a symbol of India's craftsmanship and IP strength, and urged for more efforts to expand its production and global reach.

The minister also felicitated the Jammu and Kashmir cricket team for its landmark Ranji Trophy performance, including a victory over the eight-time champions Karnataka. He said the achievement reflected the region's growing sporting potential and would inspire youth.

Referring to India's wider economic opportunities, Goyal cited the recently signed [India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement](#) and said expanding trade agreements were opening new markets for Indian innovators. He reiterated the government's mantra of 'innovate, patent, produce and prosper'.

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In another announcement, Goyal launched the 'Viksit Bharat Digital Matrix 2026 – Design Hackathon', organised by the department for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT) in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi.

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The six-month hackathon, focused on smart wearables, aims to encourage next-generation solutions for everyday living, performance, and wellness, while promoting patentable and design-led innovations.

Goyal also referred to India's sporting ambitions, including cricket's inclusion in the Olympics and India's bid to host the 2036 Summer Olympics.

He urged greater use of corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds for sports infrastructure such as open gyms and facilities in remote areas, and cautioned sportspersons and influencers against misleading endorsements, especially in nutrition and supplements.

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



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Harsh Kumar is a policy reporter at Mint (HT Media Group), where he covers the Ministry of Commerce and Industry along with key departments of the Min...[Read More](#)

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*England fast bowler Ollie Robinson has set his sights on a Test recall following positive feedback from England head coach Brendon McCullum and national selector James Taylor.*

ANI

Published 5 May 2026, 11:39 AM IST



*Ollie Robinson aims for test recall after encouraging feedback from McCullum and Taylor*

London [UK], May 5 (ANI): England fast bowler Ollie Robinson has set his sights on a Test recall following positive feedback from England head coach Brendon McCullum and national selector James Taylor.

Robinson, who has been in impressive form this domestic season in England, revealed that he received encouraging messages from both McCullum and Taylor, which have fueled his desire to push for a spot in the Test side.

Speaking to ESPN Cricinfo and quoted by the International Cricket Council (ICC), Robinson shared that he had received a text from McCullum at the start of the season, which provided him with a boost of confidence.

"I had a text from Baz (McCullum) at the start of the season, just to say that the door was still open, which was nice," the speedster said.

Additionally, James Taylor, who has been working closely with Robinson, also gave him positive feedback after his recent performances. "Keysy (Key) rang me as well, to say 'take wickets, knock the door down' and there's still a spot for you," Robinson revealed.

"Keysy came down to the Warwickshire game at Hove and just texted me saying how well I bowled, how nice my rhythm looked. It was really nice to hear that from him," the right-arm pacer added.

Robinson also shared how these interactions have motivated him in the

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