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10,918 vs 10,340: Local patent filings beat overseas ones

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NEW DELHI: Patent filings by Indian applications were estimated at 10,918 during the December quarter, compared with 10,340 applications lodged by non-domestic entities, marking the second time during 2022 when quarterly filings by domestic players were higher.

Data available with the department for promotion of industry and internal trade showed that during January-March 2022, of the 19,796 patent applications filed, 10,706 were filed by Indian applicants, against 9,090 by non-Indian applicants. On Sunday, in his monthly radio broadcast, 'Mann ki Baat', PM Narendra Modi had referred to this number to point out how for the first time in 11 years filings by Indian players exceeded those from outside the country.

During the current financial year, the first half (April-September), however, saw a reversal of the trend with non-Indian patent applications beating those by domestic entities. As a result, during the nine months ended December 2022, of the 57,783 applications, close to 30,000 are by non-Indian players.

Trends available so far, however, indicate that the applications filed in 2022-23 will exceed last year's number of 66,440.

Over the last few years, the government has been laying emphasis on patents and has sought to streamline the system for filing applications, their examination and grant. As a result, there has been a 39% jump in the number of applications filed

between 2017-19 (47,854) and last year (66,440). The patents granted rose at a much sharper pace of 131% to 30,074 last year, compared to 13,045 in 2017-18.