

# Macro Trends: Indian Patent Filings

WIPO's annual World Intellectual Property Indicators (WIPI) report collects and analyses IP data from some 150 national and regional offices to inform policy makers, business leaders, investors, academics and others seeking macro trends in innovation and creativity. Here are some highlights from the 2020 WIPI report supplemented with data from the Indian IP Office.

## WHAT WIPO'S 2020 REPORT REVEALS

### Patent Filings



India continues to be ranked **7th in the world** in terms of patent filings at its IP Office. 56,284\* patent applications were filed at the Indian Patent Office in 2019-20 (between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020).

\*Indian IP Office data



**Global patent applications fell 3%** for the first time in a decade. The fall was driven by a decline in filings by Chinese residents. Excluding China, global patent filings rose 2.3%.



Among the top 20 offices, 11 had higher patent filings in 2019 than 2018. The growth in Indian filings (+7.1%) was 3<sup>rd</sup> highest globally (following Singapore and Indonesia). In fact, **Indian filings have risen 20% over the past 5 years.**

WIPI data indicates that the strong growth in Indian patent applications is primarily led by an increase in resident applications. This is interesting for, as 'Fig. 1' below reveals, majority of filings (63.7%) at the Indian Patent Office are still attributable to non-residents. That said, 'Fig. 2' reveals that filings by residents have been rising rapidly over the last decade. Compared to a 24% rise in non-resident applications between 2009-19, resident applications increased more than 140%.

Fig. 1: Patent applications at the top 10 offices, 2019

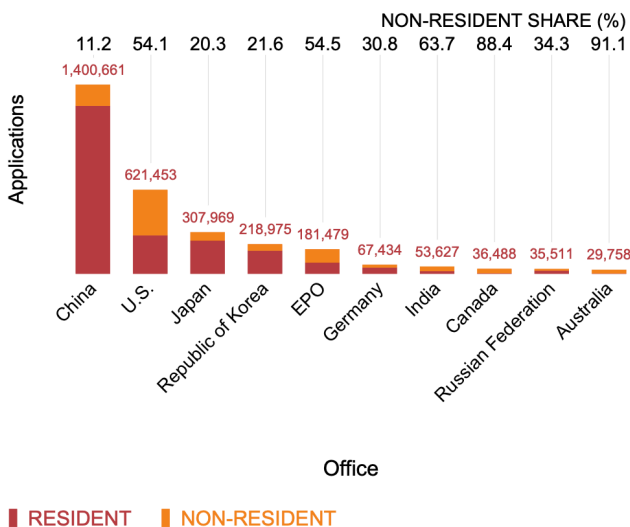
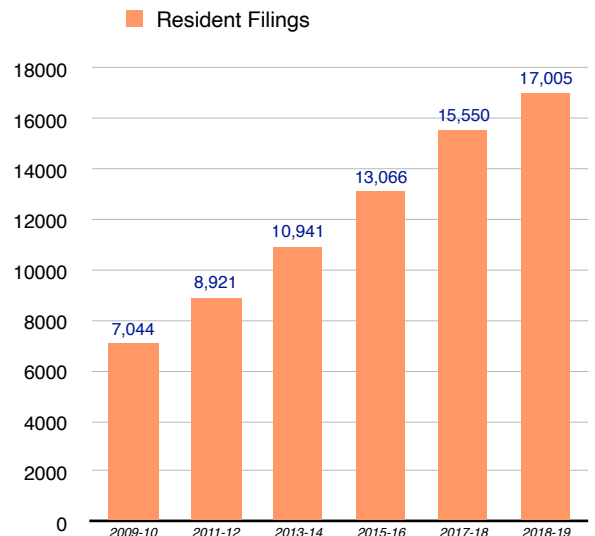


Image: WIPO (2020). World Intellectual Property Indicators 2020.

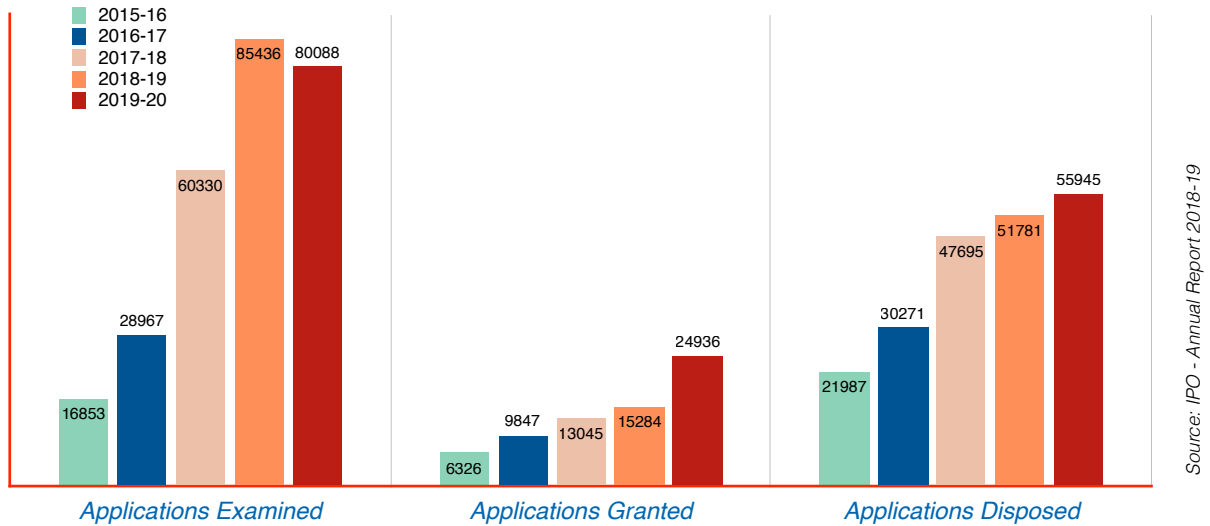
Fig. 2: Indian Resident filings in the last 10 years



Source: IPO - Annual Report 2018-19

## Patent Examination, Grant and Disposal

Fig. 3: Statistics from the Indian IP Office: 2015-20



In recent years, IT-enabled functioning of the Patent Office (including video conferencing systems for hearings) and computerised work-flow for patent processing has resulted in quicker patent processing, examination and grant - as borne out by Fig. 3 above. Increase in patent examiner numbers is also a significant factor. Overall, patent examination figures have risen 375% over the last 5 years. Grant and disposal of patent applications have also shown a rapid rise - there has been a nearly 300% and 155% rise respectively in grant and disposal figures between 2015-20.

## Benchmarking India Against Other Economies

Per WIPO’s Report patent examination outcomes vary greatly across offices, which makes cross-country comparisons difficult. That said, among 10 selected offices, India, China and the U.S. granted patents for fewer than 43% of all applications processed in 2019. Statistics also revealed that India (54.2%) had a large proportion of withdrawn or abandoned applications, as did Thailand (71.8%), Ecuador (71.7%) and the Philippines (57.1%). Fig. 4 (see below) gives a good indication of the distribution of patent examination outcomes for selected offices.

Fig. 4: Patent examination outcomes for selected offices, 2019

