



Indian Reprographic Rights Organisation

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

Indian Reprographic Rights Organisation (IRRO) is the sole and exclusive collective Copyright Society (a not-for-profit organisation) in India, as defined under the Copyright law of India, in published copyrighted literary works. It is duly approved and registered with the Copyright Board, Ministry of Commerce, India, and the International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organisations, Brussels, Belgium. Its main objective is to issue licenses and collect license fees from Indian and foreign establishments, including public institutions that indulge in the reproduction (photocopying) of published works of our members.

It is my proud privilege and honour to extend a hearty welcome to the 18th Annual General Meeting of the Indian Reprographic Rights Organisation . I present to you the IRRO's Annual Report for the year 2024-25.

The year 2024-25 has been defined by significant achievements and forward-looking initiatives. Our efforts have centered on expanding international engagement, advancing digital infrastructure, and collaborating with policymakers to shape the evolving copyright landscape in India.

Overview of IRRO Activities

Bilateral Agreements with International RROs

The signing of bilateral agreements with RROs across various countries reflects IRRO's ongoing commitment to fostering collaborative, mutually beneficial partnerships in the realm of copyright licensing. Following recent agreements with CLASS (Singapore) and MARC (Malaysia) this year, IRRO has now formalized a total of **27** bilateral agreements with RROs from the countries listed below.

TYPE-A – 13

1. CLL of New Zealand
2. CADRA of Argentina
3. COPYRUS of Russia
4. JSARRD of Japan
5. AIDRO of Italy
6. Tekst & Node of Denmark

7. CLA of UK
8. SIAE of Italy
9. CEDRO of Spain
10. KOPINOR of Norway
11. PROLITTERIS of Switzerland
12. DALRO of South Africa
13. CLASS of Singapore

TYPE-B – 14

1. TTRRO of Trinidad & Tobago
2. MASA of Mauritius
3. JAMCOPY of Jamaica
4. REPRONIG of Nigeria
5. HARR of Hungary
6. KOPIKEN of Kenya
7. FILCOLS of Philippines
8. OSDEL of Greece
9. KOLAA of Korea
10. LUXORR of Luxembourg
11. URRO of Uganda
12. COPYRO of Romania
13. MARC of Malaysia
14. ERRA of UAE

Copyright awareness events/campaigns

IRRO undertook a series of impactful promotional activities in the past year, strengthening its presence both nationally and internationally in copyright advocacy and intellectual property rights. These efforts have significantly advanced IRRO's mission to protect creators and foster fair copyright practices.

- IRRO, in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Publishers, had the privilege of hosting Ms. Sylvie Forbin, Deputy Director General, and Ms. Geidy Lung, Senior Counsellor, from the World Intellectual Property Organization on 31 March 2025. The round table facilitated rich discussions on the evolving IP landscape and future strategies for cooperation. This visit marked a pivotal step in fostering a stronger partnership with WIPO.
- IRRO participated in Asia's largest literature festival, Sahityotsav, organized by the Sahitya Akademi. In a session titled "Right to Create: Publishing and Copyright," the discussion focused on the future of publishing, intellectual property, and creative rights.
- IRRO participated in the 1st International Copyright Conference in the UAE, where Mr. Pranav Gupta, the Secretary General, presented IRRO's best practices on rights management.

- IRRO contributed to the "Copyright and Open Access in Asia" session at the Frankfurt Book Fair 2024, exploring innovative responses to digital piracy and open-access dynamics in Asia alongside international thought leaders.
- To build IP awareness at the grassroots level, IRRO collaborated with the National Law University Delhi. Mr. Pranav Gupta, the Secretary General addressed students on the significance of intellectual property in the Indian publishing ecosystem, enhancing awareness among future legal professionals
- At the 2nd edition of the Indian Publishers Conference, IRRO led a session on "Leveraging the Power of Copyright and Intellectual Property Rights in the Digital Ecosystem". Featuring experts such as Ms. Pragya Chaturvedi (IP Attaché, British High Commission), Mr. Ankit Sahni (Legal Expert), and Mr. Sourish Mitra (Author & Legal Counsel), the session highlighted effective digital IP strategies and frameworks for rights protection.
- In a feature by The Economic Times, Mr. Pranav Gupta, the Secretary General discussed the implications of generative AI on publishing and emphasized the need to protect authors' rights. IRRO continues to engage with national media to advocate for robust copyright policies and ensure fair compensation for creators.
- As part of its sustained outreach efforts, IRRO, in collaboration with the Authors Guild of India (AGI), conducts an annual seminar/workshop to promote awareness around IRRO and the value of copyright. This year, the 'Rights of Authors' and 'Multilingual India' seminar was held in Chennai from October 19–20, drawing participation from 98 authors representing various Indian languages. The event featured insightful discussions on copyright protection, equitable licensing, and the challenges and opportunities regional authors face in the digital age. This annual initiative continues to be a cornerstone in IRRO's mission to foster a deeper understanding of intellectual property rights across literary communities nationwide.

Development of Digital Repertoire

There is a necessity of establishing a Digital Repertoire for IRRO to act as a central repository for managing members' data and tracking usage, thereby facilitating accurate royalty distribution. To this end, IRRO has initiated discussions with Nielsen Managed Services for the development, standardisation, and enrichment of members' data. The software solution for this repertoire is currently under consideration and may either be WIPO Connect or a custom-developed CRM system. The primary objective of the Digital Repertoire is to generate detailed usage reports, thereby ensuring transparency and efficiency in royalty allocation.

Royalty Distribution

Each year, IRRO distributes royalties received under bilateral agreements with international RROs for the reprographic use of published works belonging to various rights owners. The distribution process is extensive, as it involves multiple stages—identifying rights holders, verifying their contact details, and confirming their copyright ownership before disbursement.

In the fiscal year 2024–25, a total amount of INR 93,11,088/- was earmarked for distribution. Out of this, INR 35,15,888/- has been successfully distributed to copyright holders.

IRRO has encountered situations where certain royalties collected could not be distributed to members/publishers due to specific reasons beyond its control. The details are summarized below:

1. Refusal to Accept Royalty

- AkiNik Publications
- International Organization of Scientific Research
- Kamla-Raj Enterprises
- Research Trends (P) Ltd.
- Sphinx Knowledge House

2. Copyright Expired

- Seagull Books Pvt. Ltd.
- Viva Books Private Limited

3. Titles in Public Domain

- Maple Press Pvt. Ltd.

4. Discontinued Printing of Title

- Jaico Publishing House

The above undistributable royalties have been kept securely in fixed deposits in nationalised bank by IRRO. These funds are transparently accounted for in IRRO's financial records and will remain earmarked until a final resolution or adjustment is decided in accordance with the applicable provisions.

Renewal of Registration

Discussions are ongoing with DPIIT regarding certain issues raised in relation to the **distribution of royalties**. IRRO is addressing these concerns to facilitate smooth renewal of its registration.

Representations to the Government of India

IRRO has been in constant communication with the Government of India to seek support in addressing the challenges arising under the existing Copyright Act. Through active participation in meetings, events, and representations, IRRO continues to share feedback and suggestions aimed at strengthening copyright and intellectual property protection.

In its recent submissions, IRRO has advocated for the inclusion of copyright and IP education in school curricula from the 6th standard onwards, recognising the need to instil respect for intellectual property from an early age. It has also proposed that academic bodies such as the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the University Grants Commission (UGC), and the Ministry of Education advise higher education institutions to formulate and publish their own copyright and IP policies. Additionally, IRRO has recommended the launch of targeted advertising and social media campaigns to raise

public awareness about the importance of respecting copyright and the consequences of infringement.

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Licensing update

Selling licenses remains a complex task; however, with appropriate bilateral agreements and sustained engagement with the government, a robust repertoire can facilitate license sales effectively. Going forward, IRRO's approach will focus on selling licenses to the Central Government for all educational institutions under its jurisdiction and to State Governments for their respective institutions, in line with the practices adopted by other Reprographic Rights Organizations (RROs) worldwide. Collaboration with the Ministry of Education for Central Universities and with state governments for their institutions will be central to this strategy.

In light of the Delhi University case, IRRO has faced challenges in retaining and expanding license sales within the education sector. To overcome these hurdles, IRRO plans to pivot towards the corporate sector through targeted strategies designed to diversify revenue streams. This shift is intended to reduce dependence on educational institutions and to strengthen IRRO's long-term growth and sustainability in the copyright licensing market.

International Collaborations:

IRRO has been actively engaged on international platforms, participating in a range of meetings and collaborations to strengthen its global presence and foster strategic partnerships. It has consistently represented itself at WIPO meetings, contributing to deliberations on intellectual property rights, copyright, and reprographic rights, thereby ensuring alignment with global standards and practices.

As a member of **IFRRO**, IRRO regularly participates in its annual general meetings and associated events, enabling it to remain updated on international developments and best practices in the field of reprographic rights. In addition, IRRO representatives have attended and presented at various international conferences and seminars on intellectual property, copyright, and publishing, further enhancing IRRO's visibility and engagement at the global level.

IFRRO Asia Pacific Meeting & Silver Jubilee Celebrations

IRRO will be hosting the **IFRRO Asia Pacific Committee (APC) Meeting** on **24–25 April 2025** at *The Claridges, New Delhi*. This significant event will coincide with the **Silver Jubilee Celebrations of IRRO** on the evening of 25 April 2025.

- Around 50 international participants from the Asia-Pacific region are expected to attend.
- To mark the Silver Jubilee, IRRO will also be bringing out a **Souvenir volume**, inviting contributions in the form of articles and advertisements.

These initiatives not only reinforce IRRO's growing international presence but also serve as a milestone celebration of its 25-year journey.

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IFRRO Mentorship Programme

The IFRRO Mentorship Programme, supported by IFRRO and the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC), is designed to help Reprographic Rights Organizations (RROs) achieve their business goals and secure sustainable funding. Under this programme, consultants are assigned to RROs for a period of 12 to 24 months, and several ASEAN RROs have already benefited significantly from this initiative.

IRRO initiated discussions with IFRRO regarding the possibility of engaging a consultant for six months. Following these discussions, IFRRO has finalised arrangements for IRRO to benefit from a tailored mentorship programme. As part of this, **Mr. Kevin Fitzgerald**—currently with WIPO and formerly associated with the UK RRO, CLA—has been engaged to provide ongoing practical mentorship to IRRO. His guidance will support the establishment of a viable collective copyright licensing system in India in the text and image sector.

WIPO Connect IT Solution for IRRO

IRRO is exploring the deployment of WIPO Connect as a comprehensive solution to manage its members' rights and to build and maintain a robust digital repertoire for efficient distribution and licensing. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) supports a range of activities in the collective management sector, including the development of technical tools. One such tool is the rights management platform, **WIPO Connect**. For Collective Management Organizations accurate collection and distribution of royalties is a core responsibility. This requires maintaining robust documentation and networks to manage the large volumes of data on members, works, and other creative contributions. This documentation ensures proper royalty collection and timely distribution to right holders at the national, regional, and international levels.

WIPO Connect provides an efficient, customizable solution tailored to the needs of CMOs. It supports day-to-day operations and enhances cross-border cooperation between CMOs by streamlining data management and rights documentation. A request for the deployment of the WIPO Connect toolkit has been submitted by IRRO to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). Upon their approval, DPIIT will formally approach WIPO to grant IRRO access to the toolkit. This system will enable IRRO to strengthen its digital operations and repertoire management.

Objectives: 2025-26

IRRO remains steadfast in its commitment to safeguarding and strengthening the publishing ecosystem. For the financial year 2025–26, our strategic priorities include the equitable distribution of royalties, expanding our membership base, establishing bilateral agreements with RROs, significantly enhancing license fee collections, and raising awareness about reprographic rights.

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We are also introducing initiatives such as corporate licensing to diversify revenue streams and extend copyright compliance beyond the education sector.

Before I conclude, I would like to thank the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, other Office Bearers and Members of the Governing Body and the staff of IRRO, who gave me their full support and cooperation in performing my duties.

PRANAV GUPTA
SECRETARY GENERAL, IRRO