

INDIAN REPROGRAPHIC RIGHTS ORGANISATION
NEW DELHI

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2019-20

It is my proud privilege and honour to extend to you all a hearty welcome to the 15th Annual General Meeting of the Indian Reprographic Rights Organisation (IRRO).

Registered by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, IRRO is exclusively permitted to commence and carry on the copyright business of “reprographic rights in the field of literary works” in India. It is the sole licensing authority to issue licenses to users of copyrighted works of its members, collect royalties on behalf of rights owners and distribute them.

I place before you the Annual Report of the IRRO for the year 2019-20


In the period under review, Indian Reprographic Rights Organisation has been able to achieve one important goal that is to create awareness about its activities and respect for Copyright Law among general public and educational institutions through online marketing using mainly social sites like Facebook, Linked-in etc. The aim was also to sensitize the intelligentsia and academia to support the creative industry and nurture respect for copyright law among students; and to gain some weight to urge the political clout to make implementation of Copyright Law more stringent and effective. In this effect, we have been able to develop good relations with the Registrar of Copyrights Office and Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DPIIT).

REPRESENTATION TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

The DPIIT, through its notification of 30 May 2019, had released the draft Copyright (Amendment) Rules, 2019 - notifying further amendments to the existing Copyright Rules 2013, and asked us to submit our comments. With regard to the proposed amendments in the Copyright Rules 2013, IRRO submitted its comments and views and suggested some amendments for consideration in Rule 58 relating to Distribution Scheme.

We also met the concerned Joint Secretary to request him to issue an advisory/notification to University Grant Commission, AICTE and all the Universities to obtain IRRO license for the photocopies being done in their libraries. The JS showed a positive response to this request.

The DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India under the Chairmanship of the Secretary had convened a meeting with all the collective societies including IRRO, representing different classes of Works and other stakeholders to discuss the issue of registration of multiple copyright societies within a class of work. Dr Ashok Gupta attended the meeting and supported and endorsed one single society for one class of Work and raised and apprised the Secretary about the issue of our pending renewal.



BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WITH FOREIGN RROs

The IRRO has 24 bilateral agreements with RRO's of different countries like Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) of UK, CLL, New Zealand, JAACC, Japan, KOPINOR, Norway and many others. IRRO is in the process of signing bilateral agreements with a couple of RROs. We hope to soon sign other significant bilateral agreements especially with CCC and CA, Australia. It is proposed to sign a bilateral agreement between IRRO, India and VIETRRO, Vietnam. In this regard, a draft bilateral agreement has been sent VIETRRO, Vietnam for their approval. Response from VIETRRO is awaited.

SEMINARS/COPYRIGHT AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

During the New Delhi World Book Fair 2020, the organizers ITPO gave us a complementary booth to support the cause of creative industry. We designed specific standees and danglers depicting activities and functions of IRRO, for display at the IRRO stall. The Omlogic digital marketing Agency appointed by us was asked to man the booth. They interviewed hundreds of people including visitors, writers, publishers and students and made them aware about the existence of IRRO and its role in making available published content at affordable prices legally. They also relayed the live coverage of the book fair on social platforms.

The Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, conducted a Workshop on "Copyright and Licensing Modalities in the Digital Era: Trends, Practices and prospects" during 13-14 February 2020. The workshop was attended by 20-25 participants, mostly librarians from various institutions around Kolkata. A presentation was given by Shri Prakash on the role of IRRO. He also distributed the application form and tariff structure amongst the participants and requested them to take IRRO License in consultation with their respective higher authorities.

During the year 2019-20 nearly 3900 communications were sent to various Educational Institutions for obtaining Licence. A few legal notices against educational institutes were also issued. At present, 14 educational institutions have obtained our licence. Special communications to Ratings Organisations /agencies were sent with a request to include Copyright Compliance as one of the criteria for evaluation of Educational Institutions. Letters have been sent to Companies manufacturing Photocopy machines with a request to include a note in their operating manuals about the legal requirement of obtaining an IRRO License.



ROYALTY DISTRIBUTION

IRRO collected INR 3,21,800/- as license fees within India and received INR 39,34,949/- as royalties from RROs of other countries - total amounting to INR 42,56,749/-, in 2019-20. An amount of INR 34,05,724/- was earmarked for distribution, out of which INR 11,19,260/- has been distributed so far and distribution of the remaining amount is in process. It is pertinent to mention here the CLA has suspended the distribution of the royalties of the Indian right holders to IRRO for want of renewal. We believe that CLA has been collecting the royalties for Indian rights holders but has not been releasing the royalties to IRRO. Moreover, owing to the paucity of funds available, IRRO is not able to plan promotional activities.

NEW DISTRIBUTION PLAN AND NEW TARIFF SCHEME STRUCTURE OF IRRO

After several round of discussions, The new Distribution Plan and Tariff scheme was approved in December 2019 during the AGM.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2020-21

The Corona virus crisis has brought the education system to a sudden halt by closure of all educational institutions in India. Since the lockdown has not been completely relaxed, only few institutions have reopened. At present, there are a number of limitations in returning to the normal work routines because of social distancing, restriction on transportation and inter-state movement of persons and therefore, it is likely to take quite some time for the business to restart and come back to the normal. Our objectives for 2020-21 are distribution of the royalties, increasing our membership, signing bilateral agreements with other RROs, increasing collection of license fees and generating awareness of reprographic rights among Government officials, police officers and on-ground personnel in Centre and States, authors, publishers and the general public.

Before I conclude, I would like to express my thanks to 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 the performance of my duties.


(DR. ASHOK GUPTA)
SECRETARY GENERAL