Registration of Intellectual Property (IP): Copyright & Trademark

Kartik Garg
Chaudhary Charan Singh University

I. INTRODUCTION

In today's growing world, ideas, creativity and innovation are some of the most valuable resources that a person or business can have. Intellectual Property (IP) is what that protects these original creative creations whether they are original works, inventions. Or brand identities. It gives creators and innovators the exclusive rights to control how their work is used, much like a lock that keeps their efforts safe from misuse; by doing so, IP laws not only prevent unauthorized use but also motivate people to keep creating and innovating.

This document aims to provide a simple and detailed guide to Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) mainly focusing on copyrights and trademarks in India. It is meant for creators, students, and educators who want to undertint what IP means, what it matters, and how to register and protect their rights legally.

What is Intellectual Property (IP)?

Intellectual Property (IP) means the rights given to people who created original works like books, videos, music, inventions, or art. Just like we lock our homes to keep them safe, law exist to protect the creative efforts pf individuals and organisations[1].

IP Laws makes sure that creators and owners have exclusive rights over their work. This means they can decide how their creations are used, whether reproduced, sold, or shared and these rights last for a fixed period of time or, in some cases, indefinitely, depending on the type of IP.

The most common types of IP relevant in classrooms are:

- Copyright- It protects creative work such as text, images, music, and videos. For example, if a teacher shows a movie clip, it should be from a legal source, not a pirated website[2].
- Trademarks- It protect logos, brand names, or symbols that represents a company, for example Nike's tick mark. Using brand names without permission in teaching material should be done carefully[3].
- Patents- It protects inventions or new ways of doing things, for example a new type of software or technology.

Key Point: Whenever you use someone else's work such as showing YouTube video, downloading worksheets, or using an image You must respect the creator's exclusive rights on that content.

"It is pivotal that students learn the ethical and legal frameworks that govern their digital output from the outset."

Why IP is Important?

- Protects Creators' Rights: Intellectual Property plays a very important role in today's society. It allows inventors, authors, artists, and business to benefit from their hard work and creativity. By protecting their exclusive rights on their work as no one can use it without their permission.
- Encourages People: It encourages people to keep innovating, experimenting and producing new-new ideas. It also ensures that businesses can complete fairly in the market without fear of their creations being stolen.
- Job Creation and Economic Growth: Industries that reply on intellectual property like publishing,

[1] World Intellectual Property Organization, what is Intellectual Property? https://www.wipo.int/about-ip/en/ (last visited Aug. 25, 2025).

[2] The Copyright Act, No. 14 of 1957, India.

[3] The Trade Marks Act, No. 47 of 1999, India.

film, software, fashion. And technology create millions of jobs worldwide. Protecting IP strengthen these industries and contributes to national economic growth.

- Promotes Cultural Exchange and Diversity: By protecting literature, films, art, and music, IP encourages creators from different cultures to share their work with the world. This enriches societies and promotes global cultural diversity.
- Consumer Protection: It protects consumers from being misled by fake products, counterfeit goods, or pirated content, this ensures that people get the original, safe and authentic product or service only.

II. GLOBAL AND INDIAN FRAMEWORK OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) are not limited to just one country. they are part of a global system. At the international level, the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), a United Nations (UN) agency works to bring countries together and create common rules for Protecting IP. Another important framework is the TRIPS Agreement (Trade-Related Aspect of Intellectual Property Rights)[4], which is managed by the World Trade Organisation (WTO). TRIPS requires member countries including India to maintain minimum standards of IP protection. These global agreements highlight how IPRs are essential not only for protecting creators but also for boosting world trade, promoting cultural exchange and encouraging technological progress.

In India intellectual property is protected through specific laws. The Copyright Act, 1957[5] protects literary, artistic, musical, and dramatic works as well as films and sound recordings etc. The Trade Marks Act, 1999[6] protects brand names, logos, symbols and other marks that help customers to recognize the source of goods or devices. These laws have given creators and businesses the ability to legally safeguard their work and their brand identity from being copied or misused.

India has also signed several important international agreements such as the Berne Convention (which protects copyrights across countries) and the Paris Convention (which protects industrial property, including trademarks).[7] By being a part of these treaties, India has brought its domestic laws in line with global standards. This not only strengthens enforcement within India but also ensures that Indian creators and businesses can claim protection for their work in other countries.

III. REGISTRATION OF IP

Why to register IP?

Even though copyright protection starts automatically as soon as a work is created, but still formally registering your intellectual property especially trademarks and copyrights, gives several clear benefits as mentioned below:

- Proof of Ownership: A registration certificate acts as strong evidence in court and makes it easier to prove your rights if someone copies your original work[8].
- Exclusive Control: Registration gives you the legal authority to stop others from using your work, logo, or brand without your explicit permission.
- Earning Opportunities: With registration you can license, franchise or sell your intellectual property and turn it into a source of income.
- Discourages Misuse: Because registered IP is listed in official record, it warns others not to copy or misuse it.
- Adds Brand Value: A registered trademark strengthens a brand's reputation, builds customer trust, and creates long-term goodwill.

[4] Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), Apr. 15, 1994.

[5] The Copyright Act, No. 14 of 1957, India.

[6] The Trade Marks Act, No. 47 of 1999, India.

[7] World Intellectual Property Organization, About WIPO, https://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/ (last visited Aug. 25, 2025).

[8] India Filings Editorial, Step-by-Step Guide for Copyright Registration, IndiaFilings, https://www.indiafilings.com/learn/copyright-registration-process-procedure/ (last visited Aug. 27, 2025).

In short, while trademark registration is necessary to enforce your rights, copyright registration though not required but it is highly recommended as it makes your legal position much stronger especially in business disputes or court cases.

How to Register IP?

This document explains step-by-step how to register copyright and trademarks in India. The aim is to help creators, students and teachers protect their original work. The ultimate goal is to help students, teachers, and creators understand how to legally protect their original work so that no one else can misuse it[9].

How to register a Copyright

A copyright protects original creative work such as books, stories, poems, drawing, songs, videos etc. Registering a copyright is not compulsory, but it gives you strong legal proof of ownership in case anyone tries to claim your work[10].

Below is the step-by-step process to register you copyright in India:

Step 1: Prepare Your Work

- Collect the work that you want to protect.
- Note down important details like title of your work, a short description, and your full name (or the creator's name).

Step 2: Fill Out the Application

- Visit the official Copyright office website at https://copyright.gov.in
- Create a user account if you do not have one.
- Fill the application form (Form XIV) by entering your personal information and providing details about your creative work.

Step 3: Upload Required Documents

- Upload digital copy of your work.
- Upload a scanned signature of the application.
- Provide any additional documents requested, such as a short statement confirming that the work is original and has been created by you only.

Step 4: Pay the Registration fees

- Pay the applicable registration fee online. The fee amount depends on the category of the works (Literature, artistic, musical, software, etc.)

Step 5: Acknowledgement and waiting period

- Once you have submitted thee application, you will immediately receive an acknowledgement slip called a "diary number."
- After this, there is usually a 30-days waiting period during which other can raise an objection, if any.

Step 6: Final Review and Certificate

- If no objection is raised within the waiting period, the Registrar of Copyrights will review your application and documents.
- If everything is in correct order, you will be issues a copyright registration certificate, which serves as official proof that the work belongs to you only.

Note: Although one has automatically got copyright protection as soon as he creates an original work. Registration of copyright is not compulsory, but having it makes it much easier to prove the ownership and exclusive legal rights if someone misuses your work[11].

How to register a Trademark

A trademark is a unique sign, symbol, word, logo, or slogan that helps people recognize and identify your brand, product or service. Registering a trademark gives you exclusive rights over that mark which means that nobody else can legally use it without your permission[12].

Below is a step-by-step process to register a trademark in India:

Step 1: Decide Your Trademark

- Think of a unique and creative logo, word, phrase, or symbol that crealy represents your brand.
- Make sure it is distinctive and not too similar to anu common or existing design.

[9] IndiaFilings Editorial, Step-by-Step Guide for Copyright Registration, IndiaFilings, https://www.indiafilings.com/learn/copyright-registration-process-procedure/ (last visited Aug. 27, 2025).

[10] The Copyright Act, 1957, §§44–50, India.

[11] Copyright Act, 1957, §13(1), India.

[12] Editorial Team, Trademark Registration Process and Procedure in India, Setindiabiz, https://www.setindiabiz.com/blog/trademark-registration-process (last visited Aug. 25, 2025).

Step 2: Classify Your Trademark

- Trademarks are divided into different "Classes" based on the type of goods and services.

For example, one class may be for clothing, another for food products, and another for education or training services.

- Find the correct class fir your trademark so that it is registered under the right category.

Step 3: Search for Uniqueness

- Before applying, check whether someone else has already registered a similar mark.
- You can do this by using India's official Trademark Search Portal at https://ipindiaonline.gov.in
- This step helps avoid rejection or legal disputes later.

Step 4: Fill Out the Application

- Complete the online trademark application form with your personal details.
- Upload the logo, word, or design you want to register.
- Provide information about your business, organisation, or project that will be using the trademark.

Step 5: Pay the Fees

- Pay the requires trademark registration fee online.
- The fee may vary depending on whether you are registering as an individual, startup, education institution, or business entity.

Step 6: Wait for Examination

- Once submitted, your application will be reviewed by the Trademark Registrar's office.
- They will check if your mark is unique and whether it follows the rules.
- During this stage, the authority may raise objections or ask for clarifications which you need to respond to.

Step 7: Get Your Certificate

- If your trademark passes the examination stage it will be published in the Trademark Journal.
- If no one objects to it within the given time period your application will be approved.
- Finally, you will receive a Trademark Registration Certificate which gives you legal ownership on your mark.

Note: Unlike copyright, trademark is not automatically protected under Indian law. So, in order to claim exclusive rights over trademark registration is essential[13].

IV. QUICK TIPS

- Keep copies of everything you submit[14].
- Use only official websites:
  - Copyright: https://copyright.gov.in
  - Trademark: https://ipindiaonline.gov.in
- Registration helps you prove ownership and stop misuse of your work.

V. ADVANTAGES OF COPYRIGHTS

1. Exclusive Control: The creator alone decides how their work id used whether to copy, share, perform, or license it.
2. Earning Opportunities: Creators can make money by selling their work, licensing it to other, or earning royalties. This supports careers in fields like music, writing, film and digital media.
3. Protection from Misuse: Copyright prevents others from copying, publishing, or changing the work without permission. This keeps both the creator's income and the originality of the work safe.
4. Boosts Creativity: When creators know their work is protected, they feel more confident to try new ideas and experiment, leading to innovation.
5. Clear Rules for Sharing: Copyright makes it easier to set terms for licensing and distribution, so content can be used and shared in a fair way.
6. Protects Culture and Knowledge: Copyright safeguards culture works, stories, art, and knowledge, ensuring they are preserved for future generations.

[13] Trade Marks Act, 1999, §27, 29, India.

[14] Copyright Office, https://copyright.gov.in (last visited Aug. 25, 2025).

VI. ADVANTAGES OF TRADEMARK

1. Protects Your Brand: A trademark keeps your brand name, logo, or symbol safe so that no one else can use it without your permission to confuse customers.
2. Gives Exclusive Rights: Once registered you alone have the legal right to use that trademark for your goods or services.
3. Builds Trust within Customers: A trademark helps people to quickly recognize your brand which helps them to connect it with the quality and reliability of your product or service.
4. Valuable Business Asset: A trademark not only protects but it is also an asset in itself, it can be sold, transferred or licensed to another, creating new way to earning revenue.

VII. LEGAL REMEDIES IF SOMEONE USES IP PROTECTED WORK WITHOUT PERMISSION

Using a copyrighted or trademarked work without permission is a serious legal issue world-wide. The consequences and available legal remedied depend on whether the infringement involve copyright or a trademark

1. Copyright infringement

When someone uses your copyrighted work without permission, it is considering copyright infringement used the Copyright Act, 1957. Legal remedies for this as per law:

Civil Remedies (Under Section 55)[15]:

- Injunction: owner can file suit again such misuse of his work, and court can issue an order to stop the infringer from further using reproducing or distributing this work.
- Damages or Account of Profits: You can sue for financial compensation for the harm caused to you. This can include either the actual damages you suffer or the profits the infringer gained from their illegal use of your work.
- Seizure of Infringing copies: The court can order the confiscation and distribution of pirated goods, like CDs, books, or software copies etc.

Criminal Remedies (Under Section 63)[16]:

- Imprisonment: The infringer can face a jail sentence of minimum of 6 months which may extended up to 3 years.
- Fine: A fine ranging from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 2,00,000 can be imposed.
- Stricter Punishment: Repeated offender faces more severe penalties.

2. Trademark Infringement:

If someone uses your registered brand name, logo, or symbol without your consent which was registered as a trademark is called trademark infringement under the Trade Marks Act, 1999. If your trademark is unregistered, you can still take legal action under the common law principle of "Passing Off," which prevents a person from misrepresenting their goods or services of another.

Civil Remedies (Under Section 135)[17]

- Injunction: A court can order the infringement to immediately stop using the identical or confusingly similar trademark.
- Damage or Account of Profits: You have the right to claim monetary compensation for the financial losses you have incurred or to take possession of the profits the infringer made.
- Destruction of Goods: The court can order the destruction of counterfeit labels, packing or the products themselves.

Criminal Remedies (Under Section 103-105)[18]

- Imprisonment: The punishment for this offense can range from 6 months to 3 years in prison.
- Fine: The infringer may be fined anywhere from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 2,00,000.

Note: These criminal penalties are typically applied to serious offenses like counterfeiting and selling goods with falsifies trademarks.

VIII. CONCLUSION

Copyright is mainly used to protect creative works such as written stories, poems, songs, movies, artwork, software, photographs, educational resources and digital content. In simple terms, if someone creates a

[15] Copyright Act, 1957, §55.
[16] Copyright Act, 1957, §63.
[17] Trade Marks Act, 1999, §135.
[18] Trade Marks Act, 1999, §§103–105.

drawing, writes a book, records a video, or takes a photograph, copyright law ensures that the work cannot be copied or used without the creator's permission.

Trademarks on the other hand, are used to protect business-related identities such as brand names, company logos, product names, slogans or unique taglines. They help consumers recognize and trust a brand while preventing others from misusing or copying it. Famous examples include the Nike tick mark, McDonald's name, or the Apple symbol all of which are protected trademarks.

In conclusion copyright protects original creatives expressions, while trademarks protect brand identities that distinguish goods and services in the market. Together they ensure that creativity and brand value are legally safeguarded.

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[4] Tax2win Team, Trademark Registration Process Flowchart in India, Tax2Win, https://tax2win.in/guide/trademark-registration-process-flowchart (last visited Aug. 25, 2025).

[5] IndiaFilings Editorial, Step-by-Step Guide for Copyright Registration, IndiaFilings, https://www.indiafilings.com/learn/copyright-registration-process-procedure/ (last visited Aug. 27, 2025).

[6] IndiaFilings Editorial, Step-by-Step Guide for Copyright Registration, IndiaFilings, https://www.indiafilings.com/learn/copyright-registration-process-procedure/ (last visited Aug. 27, 2025).

[7] IndiaFilings Editorial, Trademark Registration Process, IndiaFilings, https://www.indiafilings.com/learn/trademark-registration-process/ (last visited Aug. 26, 2025).

[8] IP and Legal Filings Editorial, Copyright Registration in India, IP and Legal Filings, https://www.ipandlegalfilings.com/copyright-registration-in-india/ (last visited Aug. 27, 2025