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Copyright Protection in India: An Overview of Statutory Provisions

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ABSTRACT

Copyright law is one of the most comprehensive forms of legal protection for intellectual and creative endeavors. It provides for the recognition, protection, and enforcement of rights over a wide range of original works, including traditional creations such as books, articles, poetry, song lyrics, paintings, musical compositions, sculptures, architectural designs, dramatic scripts, and cinematographic works. It also extends to contemporary forms of creative expression, such as computer programs, databases, compilations, and broadcasts. The underlying rationale for copyright protection is rooted in the principle of fairness, which seeks to ensure that creators receive due recognition and protection for their work while maintaining a balance between the interests of copyright owners and the public's right to access and benefit from works available in the public domain. In India, The Copyright Act, 1957, serves as the principal legal framework governing copyright protection in India. The Act recognizes the rights of authors and copyright owners, including economic and moral rights, and prescribes provisions relating to ownership, assignment and the duration of copyright protection. It also incorporates exceptions under the doctrine of fair dealing to balance the interests of creators with public access to knowledge and information. Furthermore, the Act provides civil and criminal remedies against copyright infringement, thereby facilitating the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights. Strengthening enforcement mechanisms, clarifying the scope of fair dealing, and addressing emerging issues such as artificial intelligence and digital content are essential to ensuring that copyright law continues to fulfil its intended purpose.

Keywords: Intellectual Property Rights, Copyright, Assignment, Infringement, Civil and criminal remedies

INTRODUCTION

Property can be defined as a tangible or intangible asset owned by an individual or entity. The owner generally possesses the legal right to use, sell, lease, mortgage, transfer, exchange, or dispose of the property, as well as the right to prevent others from exercising such rights without authorization. From a legal perspective, property represents a collection of rights granted by law to a person in relation to the ownership or possession of an object. Through the application of human labour and skill, natural resources can be transformed into valuable assets that may be recognized as property. Property is broadly classified into two categories: corporeal and incorporeal property. Corporeal property refers to physical assets, such as land and buildings, whereas incorporeal property includes non-physical assets, such as copyrights and other intellectual creations. Unlike physical property, where possession of the object generally enables the owner to restrict its use by others, intellectual creations are intangible and can be used or reproduced by multiple individuals. Intellectual property (IP) refers to creations of the human intellect, and intellectual property rights (IPR) are intended to safeguard the interests of creators by granting them legally recognized rights over their original works and inventions. These rights are established through statutory provisions and, once granted, enable creators or owners to prevent unauthorized commercial exploitation of their intellectual property for a specified period, subject to the applicable legal framework.

Intellectual property rights serve as an important mechanism for protecting the time, effort, financial resources, and investments contributed by inventors and creators. By granting exclusive rights for a limited duration, IPR encourages innovation, creativity, and investment in research and development. Furthermore, an effective intellectual property protection system contributes to a country's economic progress by promoting fair competition, encouraging industrial advancement, and supporting sustainable economic growth. The present review provides a concise overview of intellectual property rights, with particular emphasis on their significance and application in the pharmaceutical sector. Intellectual property is protected by the government in a variety of ways. Copyrights are awarded to protect original works of

authorship, such as literary, artistic, and musical works; trademarks allow a manufacturer exclusive right to a distinguished name, symbol or mark. These rights are only valid in the countries in which a patent application has been awarded. This lack of an international IPR system could have a significant impact on the amount of innovative activity.[1]

MEANING OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Every Human endeavour which promotes economic, social, scientific and cultural development of society must be encouraged and the creator must be suitably rewarded by affording legal protection to his intellectual creation. Thus, the Intellectual Property Rights (IPRS) are the legal rights governing the use of creations of human minds.[2]

According to TRIPs the Intellectual Property Rights are:

1. Copyrights and Related Rights:
a) Rights of artists, painters, musicians, sculptors, photographers, and authors for copyright in their works;
b) Rights of computer programmers whether in source or object code for a copyright in their programmes and compilation data;
c) Rights of performance producers of phonogrammes (sound recording) and broadcasting organizations in respect of fixation on their programmes for copyrights in their work.
2. Right of traders in their trademarks.
3. Right of manufacturers and producers on geographical indication in relation to such products and produce.
4. Rights of designers for their distinctive design striking to the eye.
5. Patents:
a) Rights of the inventor for patent of his invention.
b) Rights of plant breeders and farmers.
c) Rights of biological diversity.
6. Right of computer technologists for their layout design of integrated circuits.
7. Right of businessmen for protection of their undisclosed information on technology and management i.e., business secrets [Art.1(2) of TRIPs].

SCOPE OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

The Convention establishing World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) has given a wider definition of IPRs. According to this definition the IPRs shall include the rights relating to:

i. Literary, artistic and scientific work;
ii. Performances of performing artists, phonograms and broadcasts;
iii. Inventions in all fields of human endeavour;
iv. Scientific discoveries;
v. Industrial designs;
vi. Trademarks, service marks, and commercial names and designations;
vii. Protections against unfair competition and; all other rights resulting from intellectual activity in the industrial, scientific literary or artistic fields.[3]

TYPES OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

1. **Copyright**

Copyrights protect original works of authorship, such as literary works, music, dramatic works, pantomimes and choreographic works, sculptural, pictorial, and graphic works, sound recordings, artistic works, architectural works, and computer software. With copyright protection, the holder has the exclusive rights to modify, distribute, perform, create, display, and copy the work. In order to qualify under copyright laws, the work must be fixed in a tangible medium of expression, such as words on a piece of paper or music notes written on a sheet. A copyright exists from the moment the work gets created, so registration is voluntary.

2. **Patent**

A patent is a title which provides its owner the right to prevent others from exploiting the invention mentioned in the patent. It does not allow by itself making or selling an invention but it rather gives the right to exclude others from making, using,

[1] Dolly Biswas, "Intellectual Property Rights and Unfair Trade Practices: An Analysis", Indian Bar Review, vol. 44 (4), 2017, p. 56.
[2] Dr. M.K. Bhandari, "Law relating to Intellectual Property Rights", Central Law Publications, Allahabad, 7th ed., 2017, p.2.
[3] Id. p. 3.

selling or importing the patented invention. This monopoly is granted for a specific field, in a defined country and for a maximum of 20 years in return for the full disclosure of the invention with the publication of its technical details.

3. **Trademark**

A trademark is a sign by which a business identifies its products or services and distinguishes them from those supplied by competitors. It can be distinctive words, marks or other features. Its purpose is to establish in the mind of the customer a link between all the different products and/or services that the company offers, and then distinguish them from those supplied by competitors. A trade mark may consist of any signs capable of being represented graphically, particularly words, including personal names, logos, letters, numerals, the shape of goods or of their packaging, provided that such signs are capable of distinguishing the goods or services of one undertaking from those of other undertakings.

4. **Trade Secrets**

Trade secrets concern secret or proprietary information of commercial value. These are not covered by specific statutory provisions as other types of IP are, although there could be aspects of contract law, or employment law that might be relevant in a particular case. The level of protection conferred to trade secrets varies significantly from country to country. Trade secrets do not receive any protection from intellectual property rights, even though a doctrinal discussion exists on this issue and some authors consider trade secrets themselves as an IP right.

5. **Industrial design**

An industrial design right is an intellectual property right that protects the visual design of objects that are not purely utilitarian. An industrial design consists of the creation of a shape, configuration or composition of pattern or color, or combination of pattern and color in three- dimensional form containing aesthetic value. An industrial design can be a two- or three- dimensional pattern used to produce a product, industrial commodity or handicraft.

6. **Layout design**

In compliance with the TRIPS Agreement, India has enacted the Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout-Designs Act, 2000 in order to provide protection to layout designs of integrated circuits. The Act defines "Layout Design" to mean a layout of transistors and other circuitry elements and includes lead wires connecting such elements and expressed in any manner in a semiconductor integrated circuit. Under the (Indian) Semiconductor for Integrated Circuits Layout-Designs Act, 2000, a Semiconductor Integrated Circuit has been defined as a product having transistors and other circuitry elements which are inseparably formed on a semiconductor material or an insulating material or inside the semiconductor material and designed to perform an electronic circuitry function.

MEANING OF COPYRIGHT

Copyright is one of the most important branches of intellectual property law. It protects the creativity of authors, artists, musicians, filmmakers, and other creators by giving them legal rights over their original works.[4] Section 14 of Copyright Act defines copyright as the exclusive right subject to the provisions of this Act, to do or authorize the doing of any of the following acts in respect of a work or any substantial part thereof, namely:

(a) in the case of a literary, dramatic or musical work, not being a computer programme:

(i) to reproduce the work in any material form including the storing of it in any medium by electronic means;

(ii) to issue copies of the work to the public not being copies already in circulation;

(iii) to perform the work in public, or communicate it to the public;

(iv) to make any cinematograph film or sound recording in respect of the work;

(v) to make any translation of the work;

(vi) to make any adaptation of the work;

(vii) to do, in relation to a translation or an adaptation of the work, any of the acts specified in relation to the work in sub-clauses (i) to (vi);

(b) in the case of a computer programme,

(i) to do any of the acts specified in clause (a);

(ii) to sell or give on commercial rental or offer for sale or for commercial rental any copy of the computer programme: Provided that such commercial rental does not apply in respect of computer programmes where the programme itself is not the essential object of the rental.

(c) in the case of an artistic work,

(i) to reproduce the work in any material form including

[4] Aishwarya Agarwal, 'Copyright Act, 1957: An Overview" retrieved from https://lawbhoomi.com/copyright-act-1957/#Subject_Matter_of_Copyright_Section_13 visited on October 5, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

(A) the storing of it in any medium by electronic or other means; or
(B) depiction in three-dimensions of a two-dimensional work; or
(C) depiction in two-dimensions of a three-dimensional work;
(ii) to communicate the work to the public;
(iii) to issue copies of the work to the public not being copies already in circulation;
(iv) to include the work in any cinematograph film;
(v) to make any adaptation of the work;
(vi) to do in relation to adaptation of the work any of the acts specified in relation to the work in sub-clauses (i) to (iv);
(d) in the case of a cinematograph film,
(i) to make a copy of the film, including-
(A) a photograph of any image forming part thereof; or
(B) storing of it in any medium by electronic or other means;
(ii) to sell or give on commercial rental or offer for sale or for such rental, any copy of the film;
(iii) to communicate the film to the public;
(e) in the case of a sound recording,
(i) to make any other sound recording embodying it 1 [including storing of it in any medium by electronic or other means;
(ii) to sell or give on commercial rental or offer for sale or for such rental, any copy of the sound recording,
(iii) to communicate the sound recording to the public.[5]

COPYRIGHT ACT, 1957

No discussion on Indian copyright law can begin without reference to the seminal decision of the Supreme Court in R.G. Anand v Delux Films.[6] This case lays down the basic principles that copyright exists not in an idea but only its expression. While dealing with an adaptation of the play 'Hum Hindustani' the Supreme Court held that there cannot be copyright in an idea, subject-matter, themes, plots or historical or legendary facts and violation of the copyright in such cases is confined to the form, manner and arrangement and expression of the idea by the author of the copyrighted work. The Court was interpreting the Copyright, Patents and Designs Act of 1911. The Court also observed on the test for infringement –

"One of the surest and the safest test to determine whether or not there has been a violation of copyright is to see if the reader, spectator or the viewer after having read or seen both the works is clearly of the opinion and gets an unmistakable impression that the subsequent work appears to be a copy of the original."

Thus, the Supreme Court paved the way for development of copyright law, by laying down fundamental principles in clear terms. The law of copyright has evolved over the years to extend to not only original works but also to derivative works such as cinematograph films and sound recordings that are recognized for their commercial value. These are works which are an amalgam of various original works. The classification under the Copyright Act, between original works and derivative works, is of significance as the copyright industry expands into unknown terrain.[7]

The Copyright Act of 1957came into force from January 1958. The Copyright Act has been amended in 1983, 1984, 1992, 1994 and 1999, 2012. The Copyright Act, 1957 consists of 79 sections fewer than 15 chapters while the Copyright Rules, 1958 consists of 28 rules under 9 chapters and 2 schedules. The landmark amendment in copyright act 1957, in 1994 which is related to computer software, according to section 14 of this Act, making and distribution of copyright software without proper or specific permission is illegal.[8]

SALIENT FEATURES OF COPYRIGHT ACT

1. **Subject matter of Copyright**

Section 13 of the Copyright Act, 1957 (India) specifies the types of works that are eligible for copyright protection in India. Subject to the Act's conditions, copyright subsists in:

1. Original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic works
2. Cinematograph films
3. Sound recordings[9]

[5] The Copyright Act, 1957 (14 of 1957), sec.14.
[6] R.G. Anand v Delux Films (1978) 4 SCC 118.
[7] Justice Prathiba M. Singh, "Evolution of Copyright Law: The Indian Journey", Indian Journal of Law and Technology: Vol. 16: Issue. 2, p. 39.
[8] Vishwasrao S Mane, Namita Khot, "Copyright Act, 1957: A Study with Reference to Selected Cases in India", Journal of Advancements in Library Sciences, Volume 6, Issue 1, p. 337.
[9] The Copyright Act, 1957 (14 of 1957), sec.13.

I. Literary Works

This includes novels, poems, textbooks, articles, and even computer programs or databases. The law emphasises originality and requires a minimum degree of creativity. A recent example of copyright being adapted to prevent the unfair use of works created by or associated with modern technology is the way that many countries extended copyright expressly to include computer programs in the fold of copyright works.[10]

II. Dramatic Works

Plays, choreographies, recitations, and scenic arrangements fall under this category. They must be fixed in writing or another tangible medium to be protected.

III. Musical Works

Covers original compositions of music and notations, excluding the lyrics or performances. A musical score written down by a composer is a protected work.

IV. Artistic Works

Includes paintings, drawings, sculptures, engravings, photographs, and even architectural designs. Protection is given regardless of artistic quality.[11]

In **Servewell Products (P) Ltd. v Dolphin,**[12] the Court held that the tray-designs of the Plaintiff did not result in a copyrightable artistic work.

2. **Authorship And Ownership in Copyright**

Section 17 of this Act recognizes the author as the first owner, which states that subject to the provision of this Act, the author of a work shall be the first owner of the copyright therein:

- In the case of literary or dramatic composition, the author,
- In the case of musical work, the musician,
- In the case of creative work apart from photographic work, the artist,
- In the case of cinematographic or recording work, the producer,
- In case of any work generated by any computer virus, the one who created.

However, this provision provided to bound exception:

- In the case of creation is made by the author underemployment of the proprietor of any newspaper, magazine or any periodic, the said proprietor,
- In the case where a photograph is taken, painting or portrait is drawn, cinematograph is made for the valuable consideration of any person, such person,
- In the case of a work done in the course of the author's employment under the contract of service, such employer,
- In case of address or speech delivered on behalf of another person in public, such person,
- In the case of government works, the government,
- In the case of work done under direction and control of public undertaking such public undertaking, and
- In the case of work done in which provision of Section 41apply, concerned international organizations.

3. **Assignment of Copyright**

The owner of the copyright can generate wealth not only by exploiting it but also by sharing it with others for mutual benefit. This can be done by the way of assignment and licensing of copyright. Only the owner of the copyright has the right to assign his existing or future copyrighted work either wholly or partly and as a result of such assignment the assignee becomes entitled to all the rights related to copyright to the assigned work, and he shall be treated as the owner of the copyright in respect of those rights.

Mode of the Assignment Agreement

As per Section 19, these conditions are necessary for a valid assignment:

- It should be in writing and signed;
- It should specify the kinds of rights assigned and the duration or territorial extent; and
- It should specify the amount of royalty payable if required in any case.

[10] David Bainbridge, "Intellectual Property", Pearson Education Limited, England, 5th ed., 2002, p. 29.
[11] Supra Note 4.
[12] Servewell Products (P) Ltd. V. Dolphin 2010 SCC Online 1456

It is also provided that, if the period is not mentioned in the agreement, it will be considered as five years and if the territorial extent is not stipulated in the agreement, it will be considered as applicable to the whole of India.[13]

Disputes Related to the Assignment of Copyright
According to the Copyright Act, 1957, the appellant board where the receipt of the complaint by the assignor and after holding necessary inquiry finds that the assignee has failed to make the exercise of the rights assigned to him, and such failure is attributed to any act or omission of the assignor, may by suitable order, revoke such assignment. However, if the dispute arises with respect to the assignment of any copyright, then that appellate board may also order the recovery of any royalty payable.

Operation of Law in Assignment
According to The Copyright Act,1957, where under a bequest a person is entitled to the manuscript of any literary, dramatic or any other kind of work and such work has not been published before the death of the testator, unless the contrary is proved such person shall be treated as the owner for such work.

4. **Registration of Copyright**
Section 44 of the act describe that a register is kept in the register office which is in the prescribed form to be called the Register of Copyrights in which may be entered the names or titles of the works and the names and addresses of authors, publishers and owners of copyright.

5. Term of copyright

S.NO.	COPYRIGHT IN RELATION TO	TERM OF COPYRIGHT
1.	Literary Work Artistic Work Dramatic Work Musical Work (Published)	Life of Author + 60 Years After Death
2.	Literary Work Artistic Work Dramatic Work Musical Work (Posthumous)	60 Years After the First Publication of the Work
3.	Anonymous Works, Photographs Cinematographic Film, Sound Recordings Government Work (Published)	60 Years from the end of the year in which the work was first published
4.	Anonymous Works, Photographs Cinematographic Film, Sound Recordings Government Work (Unpublished)	60 Years from the end of the year in which the work was first created
5.	Broadcasts made by the broadcasting organizations	25 Years from the end of the year in which the broadcast was first made

6. **Infringement And Remedies**
Where a person intentionally or unintentionally infringes the rights of the copyright holder, the holder may be subjected to the following remedies available under this Act.

I. **Civil Remedies**
These remedies are given under Section 55 of The Copyright Act, 1957 which are:

1. **Interlocutory Injunction**
This is the most important remedy against copyright infringement, it means a judicial process by which one who is threatening to invade or has invaded the legal or equitable rights of another is restrained from commencing or contributing such act, or is commanded to restore matters to the position in which they stood previous to the relation. Thus, for granting the interlocutory injunction, the following three factors are considered as necessary:

- Prima facie case, is an assumption of the court that the plaintiff can succeed in the case and become eligible for relief.
- Balance of convenience, in it court will determine which parties suffer the greater harm, this determination can vary with the facts of each case.
- Irreparable injury, it is difficult to decide and determine on a case-by-case basis. Some examples of it include-loss of goodwill or irrevocable damages to reputation, and loss of examples of it include- loss of goodwill or irrevocable damages to reputation, and loss of market share.

[13] iPleaders, "Copyright Act, 1957", retrieved from https://blog.ipleaders.in/an-overview-of-the-copyright-act-1957/, visited on September 8, 2026 at 8:35 p.m.

2. **Mareva Injunction**

This is a particular form of the interlocutory injunction which restrains the defendant from disposing of assets that may be required to satisfy the plaintiff's claim or for removing them from the jurisdiction of the Court.

3. **Anton Piller Order**

The order is passed to take into possession the infringed documents, copies and other relevant material of the defendant, by the solicitor of the plaintiff. This order is named after the famous case of Anton Piller KG v/s Manufacturing Process Ltd, 1976. In this case, the plaintiff Anton Piller, the German manufacturer is successful in passing ex-parte awards of restraining the use of his copyrighted products against the defendant.

4. **John Deo's Order**

In this order, the Court has the power to injunct rather than those impeded in the suit, who may be found violating the rights in the field of copyright. Thus this order is issued against the unknown person, who has allegedly committed some wrong, but whose identities cannot entertain the plaintiff.[14]

II. **Pecuniary Remedies**

These are three types of pecuniary remedies provided:

1. An account of profit, lets the owner seek the sum of money made, equal to the profit made through unlawful conduct.
2. Compensatory damages, which let the copyright owner seeks the damages he suffered.
3. Conversational damages are assessed to the value of the article.

III. **Criminal Remedies**

Section 63 of the Copyright Act provides for criminal remedies if there is any copyright infringement. According to Section 63 of the Act, anyone found guilty of willfully violating or aiding in the violation of a work's copyright will be sentenced to at least six months in prison and a fine of at least 50,000 rupees. A person who is found guilty under Section 63A a second time faces an additional sentence of imprisonment for a term not less than one year and a fine that cannot be less than one lakh rupees due to the widespread copyright infringement. According to Section 63B, a person who intentionally uses an illegal copy of computer software on a computer faces a minimum seven-day sentence in jail and a fine of at least 50,000 rupees.

For infringement of copyright, the criminal remedies provided under Section 63:

- Imprisonment, not less than 6 months which may extend up to 3 years;
- Fine may not be less than 50,000 which may extend up to 2,00,000;
- Search and seizure of copyrighted goods; and
- Delivery of copyrighted goods to the copyrighted owner.[15]

In the last decade or so, the prevalence of the internet has required Courts to couch remedies for copyright infringement in a manner that the infringer is unable to escape with the infringement. One of the first cases which dealt with this issue was **Star India v Haneeth,**[16] where Star India Pvt. Ltd. approached the Delhi High Court for an injunction blocking entire websites which had infringing content. The practice until then was to merely block the Uniform Resource Locator i.e., the specific web-page containing the infringing content and not the entire website. However, owing to the prolific nature of infringement on certain websites, broadcasters sought a blocking order against the websites as a whole. Such websites which had predominantly infringing content were called 'rogue websites.'

In view of the various submissions made by the parties, including that 'rogue websites' blatantly infringe copyrighted material and pose a security risk to unsuspecting users, an ex parte ad interim injunction was passed blocking the rogue websites. The question as to whether entire websites ought to be blocked or not then arose in **Department of Electronics and Information Technology v Star India (P) Ltd.**[17] before the Division Bench. The Delhi High Court heard a challenge by the government against a blocking order qua entire websites. The government took the position that only the URLs ought to be blocked. However, the Division Bench held that in the case of rogue websites, blocking of URLs is not sufficient and the entire website ought to be blocked.

7. **Exceptions to copyright infringement**

The act shall not constitute copyright infringement in cases of:

[14] Ibid.
[15] Ibid.
[16] Star India (P) Ltd. v Haneeth Ujwal (2014) 7 HCC (Del) 333.
[17] Department of Electronics and Information Technology v Star India (P) Ltd. 2016 SCC Online Del 4160.

Fair Dealing

Fair dealing is the statutory limitation on the exclusive right of the copyright owner which permits reproduction or use of copyrighted work in a manner that otherwise would have constituted infringement. This law is given under Section 52 of the Copyright Act,1957 according to which the free uses can be made for any work except computer program for the purposes:

- For private and personal use including research,
- For criticism and review,
- For reporting of current events or issues including lectures in public,
- For broadcasting in cinematographic films or by posting photographs,
- For reproduction and reporting of any judicial proceeding,
- For reproduction, or publication of any kind of work prepared by the secretariat of a legislature,
- For reproduction of any kind of work in a certified copy made or supplied accordance with any law,
- For reading and recitation of any literary or dramatic work in the public domain,
- For publication of any non-copyright matter bonafide intended for the use of educational institutes, and
- For recording any sound by the owner of the right in the work.

CHALLENGES AND ISSUES FOR COPYRIGHT

1. India ratifies the trips agreement, as per guidelines of TRIPS. India had made amendment in their copyright act for protection of software industry and enacted laws as a concern in subject such as Information technology act 2000, Industrial Design Act 2000, The Trade Mark Act 1999 etc.
2. Information and technology have its own invention of inventor or creator; it further leads into business. So, if infringement cause financial loss or reputation of inventor, assignee or licence nor.
3. Growing software industry, and Protection of software technology, then however, they involve in complex and interrelated issues that encompass a mix of copyright and trade secrets law.
4. The infringement is so widely spread and so it damaging legitimate businesses, so these businesses are in danger to collapse. It is most challenges towards inventor and government to protect harm caused by infringement. In case of copyright is concern issues of piracy in music, sound, photography and film is still questionable. Copying remains a huge problem, causing harm for inventor in lots of economic, status of brand and harming consumers get dangerous goods.
5. While in infringement of copyright most issues that arise: Privacy of search and seizure orders of substance during the investigation of infringement, misappropriation of confidential information, wrongful appropriation of a person's 'publicity' – the photographs of celebrities, for instance for private gain.[18]

CONCLUSION

Copyright law constitutes an essential instrument or legal protection within any national framework, as it enriches a country's cultural heritage. The degree of protection afforded to literary, dramatic, musical and artistic works bears a direct relationship to the volume of intellectual creation produced and, consequently, to the prominence those works attain. It may therefore be concluded that copyright protection is a fundamental prerequisite for economic, cultural and social development. Within the Indian context, the Copyright Act, 1957 serves as a cornerstone of intellectual property jurisprudence. The statute seeks to reconcile the interests of creators with those of society by conferring exclusive rights upon authors while permitting limited fair use. Originating in the colonial period, the legislation has evolved into a contemporary framework broadly aligned with international standards. Although the Act has proved effective in safeguarding the interests of authors, artists and commercial entities, persistent challenges, including piracy, digital infringement and rapid technological innovation, necessitate further legislative reform. Strengthening enforcement mechanisms, clarifying the scope of fair dealing, and addressing emerging issues such as artificial intelligence and digital content are essential to ensuring that copyright law continues to fulfil its intended purpose.

[18] Supra Note 8, pp. 339- 340.