



World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)

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What is WIPO?

- WIPO is one of the oldest specialised agencies of United Nations.
- WIPO was created in 1967 "to encourage creative activity, to promote the protection of intellectual property throughout the world".
- WIPO currently administers 26 international treaties.
- It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Every year World Intellectual Property Day is being celebrated on 26th April.**

What is Intellectual Property?

- Intellectual property (IP) is a category of property that includes intangible creations of the human intellect, and primarily encompasses **copyrights, patents** and **trademarks**.
- It also includes other types of rights, such as **trade secrets, publicity rights, moral rights**, and rights against **unfair** competition.

What is the Status of WIPO Membership?

- WIPO currently has 193 member states.
- All member states of the UN are entitled, though not obliged, to become members of the specialized agencies like WIPO.
- 190 of UN member states as well as Cook Islands, Holy See and Niue are members of WIPO.
- Palestine has permanent observer status.
- Besides 281 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and 47 intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) 17 UN system of organizations and 10 IP organizations have official observer status at WIPO meetings.
- India joined WIPO in 1975.

What is the History of WIPO?

1883 — Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial property	First step taken to protect intellectual work in other countries. It covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Inventions(patents),▪ Trademarks,▪ Industrial Designs.
1886 — Berne Convention	For the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works. It covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Novels, short stories, poems, plays;▪ Songs, opera, musicals;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Drawings, paintings, sculptures, architectural
1891 – Madrid Agreement	The first international IP filing service is launched.
1893 – BIRPI established	Two secretariats set up to administer the Paris and Berne Conventions form the United International Bureaux for the Protection of Intellectual Property (BIRPI).
1970 – BIRPI becomes WIPO	WIPO becomes a member state-led intergovernmental organization.
1974 – WIPO joins the United Nations	WIPO become one of the agencies of UN.
1978 – Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) system launched	By filing one international patent application under the PCT, applicants can simultaneously seek protection for an invention in a vast number of countries.
1994 – Arbitration and Mediation Centre (AMC) established	The Centre offers alternative dispute resolution services for international commercial disputes between private parties.

What are Its Functions?

- Policy forum to shape balanced international IP rules for a changing world.
- Global services to protect IP across borders and to resolve disputes.
- Technical infrastructure to connect IP systems and share knowledge.
- Cooperation and capacity-building programs to enable all countries to use IP for economic, social and cultural development.
- A world reference source for IP information.

What are WIPO's Limitations and Exceptions?

- In order to maintain an appropriate balance between the interests of rightholders and users of protected works, copyright laws allow certain limitations on economic rights.
- These are cases in which protected works may be used without the authorization of the rightholder and with or without payment of compensation.
- Limitations and exceptions is an issue considered in the agenda of the WIPO.
- The debate has been focused mainly on three groups of beneficiaries or activities in relation to exceptions and limitations – on educational activities, on libraries and archives and on disabled persons, particularly visually impaired persons.

Name	Purpose	
WIPO Performance and Phonograms Treaty	Deals with the rights of two kinds of beneficiaries, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ performers (actors, singers, musicians, etc.); and ▪ producers of phonograms (persons or legal entities who bear the responsibility for the fixation of sounds). 	partic
Budapest Treaty	International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms and the Depositary Procedure.	organis
Madrid Protocol for the International Registration of Marks	Provides for the international registration of trade marks which can cover more than one country.	mark
Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works by Visually Impaired Persons and Persons with Print Disabilities	The treaty allows for copyright exceptions to facilitate the production of books and other copyrighted works for visually impaired persons.	impai
WIPO Copyright Treaty	A special agreement under the Berne Convention which updates copyright law and the rights of their authors in the digital environment.	men

What other WIPO-administered International Treaties and Conventions are there to which India is a Member?

- Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property
- Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization
- Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works
- Patent Cooperation Treaty
- Washington Treaty on Intellectual Property in respect of Integrated Circuits
- Nairobi Treaty on the Protection of the Olympic Symbol

What are Its Publications?

- **Global Innovation Index** - an annual ranking of countries by their capacity for, and success in, innovation.
 - It is published in association with Cornell University and INSEAD.

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