



GUIDELINES FOR TRANSLATION OF JUDGMENTS OF THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA AND HIGH COURTS INTO REGIONAL LANGUAGES

The AI-Assisted Legal Translation Advisory Committee Supreme Court Of India

The translation guidelines have been formulated in light of the discussions and deliberations in the meetings of the AI-Assisted Legal Translation Advisory Committee of the Supreme Court of India with the AI-Translation Committees of the High Courts and other stakeholders. The object of these guidelines is to improve access to justice by making judgments available in regional languages and bringing transparency in the justice delivery system. These guidelines provides for creation of a permanent translation establishment in each High Court to achieve this purpose effectively.

Article 39-A of the Constitution imposes an obligation on the State to provide free legal aid to ensure access to justice to all citizens. That is why, it is the duty of the State to see that important Judgments of the Supreme Court and High Courts are available in the local language, so that even a common man can understand the law laid down by the Constitutional Courts.

A. TRANSLATION OF SUPREME COURT JUDGMENTS

1. Strategic Prioritization:

- High Courts are required to translate all reportable Supreme Court judgments, including detailed head notes, into regional languages for cases originating within their jurisdictions.
- Special focus must be given to landmark rulings, constitutional bench decisions, and judgments with significant societal impact irrespective of their origin from that High court or not.

2. Centralized Database Integration:

- Develop a centralized digital repository that integrates translated judgments with their original English versions, allowing bilingual comparison and reference.

3. Real-time updation:

- Considering the fact that the backlog of translation of Supreme Court judgments is substantially clear in Hindi-speaking High Courts, the Hindi-speaking High Courts shall endeavor to translate the judgments on the e-SCR portal arising out of their respective States/UTs on real-time basis.
- Non-Hindi speaking High Courts shall endeavor to translate all important and historical judgments of the Supreme Court uploaded on e-SCR portal in their local language, irrespective of whether those judgments arise out of their States/UT or not.
- All High Courts shall upload the translated versions of the judgments of the Supreme Court of India along with the headnotes directly on the mechanism prepared by NIC which is part of the NJDG Intranet. Use automated tracking systems to monitor compliance.

4. AI translation tool implementation:

- For the purpose of translation of judgments of the Supreme Court of India and High Courts, any software including “SUVAS” (Supreme Court Vidhik Anuvaad Software) or paid version of any other AI translation tool may be used, funds for which may be sought by the High Court from the

State Government. The High Courts may develop their own translation tools.

- However, due care should be taken in verification of the correctness of the AI translations by the translators/reviewers. If meticulous verification is not made, the very object of the scheme will be frustrated.
- *In case of any technical issue related to the use of 'SUVAS' Software, the High Courts may contact Mr. Karthickeyan on the email karthickeyan.chandrasekar@tarento.com*

5. Payment of remuneration to translators:

- The existing arrangement of payment of remuneration @ Rs. 100 per page, which may be enhanced hereafter, by the Supreme Court of India will continue till 30.06.2025, if the High Court avails the services of retired Judicial Officers/Advocates for translation and verification of the Supreme Court judgments. An invoice in this regard has to be submitted by the translator (appointed by the High Court) and shall be certified by the Secretary to AI Assisted Legal translation Committee of the High Court.
- This facility will be available till High Courts create their own cadre of translators and it shall be done by all the High Courts before 30.06.2025. Thereafter, the High Court shall utilize State fund for translation of Supreme Court Judgments.

B. TRANSLATION OF HIGH COURTS JUDGMENTS

1. Universal Translation Coverage:

Translate all reportable High Court judgments into official State languages and predominant local dialects to promote comprehensive access.

2. Multi-Channel Dissemination:

Leverage multiple platforms such as official High Court websites, mobile applications, e-SCR portals, and public libraries to ensure widespread availability of translated judgments.

3. **Incorporation of Metadata Standards:**

Enrich translations with detailed metadata, including case summaries, procedural history, key issues, and legal principles, for enhanced usability and research.

4. **Stakeholder Coordination:**

(a) Partner with State Government departments to distribute translated judgments relevant to specific domains:

- Criminal law for police departments.
- Revenue and land-related judgments for municipal and revenue departments.
- Environmental rulings for Pollution Control Boards and Forest Departments.

(b) A mechanism to be created by the respective High Courts in association with the State government, such that the judgments when uploaded by the High court are immediately and automatically on realtime basis communicated to the concerned department and the concerned department webhosts the judgments on its website as also communicate to all the concerned officers of the department.

5. **Community Engagement:**

- Conduct regional legal literacy campaigns through Legal Services Authority and Law Colleges to promote awareness and usage of translated judgments, targeting rural communities, marginalized groups, and self-represented litigants.
- The Judicial academies can prepare compilation of translated judgments subject wise for easy dissemination.
- The translated Judgments to be also shared with colleges imparting legal education in the Local language, to enable both teachers and students to study the translated judgments, with reference to neutral citation. In this regard, the necessary arrangement could be worked out with the concerned universities and/or colleges.

C. Digital Indian Law Reports (DILR)/Digital High Court Reports (DHCR)

There must be an e-Law Report of the translated versions of the judgments.

1. Unified Digital Platform:

- o Develop an all-encompassing digital platform for hosting Judgments of Supreme Court and High Courts in both English and regional languages.
- o The High Courts shall in accordance with the “*Guidelines for High Court Publishing Digital Indian Law Reports (DILR)/Digital High Court Reports (DHCR)*” circulated by the Committee, endeavour to create a functional portal of DILR/DHCR on the lines of the Digital SCR portal by March 2025.
- o Introduce features like multilingual search capabilities, side-by-side bilingual viewing, and downloadable case bundles.

2. Periodic Content Updates:

- o Ensure that the DILR/DHCR platforms are updated bi-weekly to include the latest judgments and amendments.

3. Educational Outreach:

- o Partner with universities, law schools, Bar Councils, Government department and continuing legal education (CLE) programs to integrate the use of these platforms into curricula and training programs.
- o The object of an e-version of the Indian Law Reports is to provide free access to reportable Judgments of the High Courts and Supreme Court of India (arising from the concerned States/UTs) at one place in digital law report form. This digital portal shall contain judgments both in English and vernacular languages with proper headnotes.

4. Infrastructure and IT Support:

- o High Courts must collaborate with NIC and private IT vendors to ensure robust, scalable, and secure platforms with disaster recovery systems in place.
- o The High Courts may move the State Government for necessary funds to create infrastructure to start DILR/DHCR.

D. CREATION OF PERMANENT ESTABLISHMENT FOR TRANSLATION IN HIGH COURT

1. Institutional Frameworks:

- The project of translation of judgments is a continuous project. Therefore, permanent infrastructure should be created in each High Court. Adequate number of posts of full time/ part time posts of translators should be created by every High Court.
- Establish Translation Divisions within each High Court, comprising legal translators, editors, software engineers, and administrative personnel.

2. Comprehensive Recruitment and Training:

- Recruit linguists, legal professionals, and translators through competitive selection processes. Provide advanced training on legal translation, technology tools, and domain-specific terminologies.
- The High Court shall coordinate with the State Government for creation of adequate posts of translators, editors, reporters, etc. on permanent basis and/or contractual basis (retired Judicial Officers/Advocates).
- The High Courts may also request the Language department of the State Government to appoint a Nodal Officer who shall coordinate with the Secretary to the AI-Translation Committee of the High Courts.
- It is recommended that a single department handles all matters relating to the judgments, like reporting, translation, uploading on the website, creation of necessary software etc., towards this end necessary

personnel technical and non-technical would have to be deputed to the said department, which shall be administered by a single committee, without being dependent on any other committee of the High Court.

E. INTEGRATING WITH THE INDIA CODE PORTAL

1. Comprehensive Legislative Integration:

- Facilitate systematic uploading of primary and subordinate legislations, incorporating bills, acts, rules, and notifications in regional languages.
- The High Courts shall coordinate with the concerned Nodal Officer of the State Government to monitor the uploading of State/UT laws - primary legislations (which include bills, Law Commission Reports related to the legislation, legislative debates regarding the said legislation, the Act, amending acts, etc.) and subordinate legislations (which including Rules, Regulations, Notifications, Government Orders, Circulars, etc.) as also delegated legislations both in English and regional language of the respective States on the website of “India Code” (<https://www.indiacode.nic.in/>) which is a digital repository of all Central and State Acts.
- The High Court shall also coordinate with the appointed Nodal Officer of the State Government to monitor that Central laws - primary legislations (which include bills, Law Commission Reports related to the legislation, legislative debates regarding the said legislation, the Act, amending acts, etc.) and subordinate legislations (which including Rules, Regulations, Notifications, Government Orders, Circulars, etc.) as also delegated legislations are translated in regional languages and are forwarded to the legislative department of the Central Government, so that the same are uploaded on the “India Code” portal.

2. Bilingual Documentation:

- Ensure parallel availability of documents in English and regional languages to cater to diverse users.

3. **Dynamic Search Features:**

- Develop advanced search filters by jurisdiction, topic, and enactment year to enhance user accessibility.

4. **Time-Bound Implementation:**

- Adhere to strict timelines to complete legislative uploads by 1st November 2025, monitored through quarterly progress reviews.

F: MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

1. **Performance Audits:**

- Conduct quarterly audits of translation initiatives, evaluating metrics like accuracy, timeliness, and user satisfaction.

2. **Feedback Mechanisms:**

- Develop feedback channels for judges, advocates, litigants, and the public to suggest improvements in translation processes.

3. **Adaptive Policy Framework:**

- Revise guidelines periodically based on technological advancements, user feedback, and emerging needs in legal interpretation.
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Conclusion

This framework provides a detailed roadmap for integrating linguistic inclusivity into the judiciary's fabric. By aligning cutting-edge technology, structured processes, and collaborative initiatives, these guidelines aim to uphold the principles of justice, equity, and transparency. Through sustained commitment and innovative strategies, the Indian judiciary can emerge as a global exemplar of linguistic diversity and accessibility.