

**Bill No. 273 of 2024**

THE SUPREME COURT (USE OF HINDI IN PROCEEDINGS  
AND OTHER PROVISIONS) BILL, 2024

By

SHRI GANESH SINGH, M.P.

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BILL

*to provide for the use of Hindi language in the proceedings of the  
Supreme Court and certain other provisions and  
for matters connected therewith.*

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-fifth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Supreme Court (Use of Hindi in Proceedings and Other Provisions) Act, 2024.

Short title and  
commencement.

5 (2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by a notification in the official Gazette, appoint.

Definitions.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) “appointed day” means the date as may be notified by the appropriate Government for the purposes of this Act;

(b) “document” means document as defined in section 2 of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023;

5 47 of 2023.

(c) “party” includes any person authorized by the party to the matter or an advocate for the party;

(d) “proceedings” includes pleadings, petition, application, appeal, reference, revision, review, affidavit, counter affidavit, other documents filed or received during course of conduct of the matter, appearance, leading of arguments, during hearing in any matter, judgment, decree or order and such other matters as may be prescribed by the Supreme Court or a High Court, as the case may be; and

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(e) “Supreme Court” means the Supreme Court of India.

Right of the Party to Prefer Hindi language during the course of proceedings.

3. (1) From the appointed day, any party to a proceeding before the Supreme Court shall have the right to prefer the Hindi language in conduct of such proceedings.

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(2) The party to the proceeding shall make an application to the Supreme Court for the conduct of the proceedings in the Hindi language in such manner as may be laid down by the Supreme Court under section 4.

Conduct of proceedings in the Supreme Court.

4. (1) Where any party to a proceeding has made preference for the conduct of the proceedings in Hindi language, the Supreme Court shall conduct proceedings before it in the Hindi language.

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(2) The Supreme Court may lay down by rules the procedure for conduct of proceedings in the Hindi language:

Provided that such procedure shall not entail any additional expense on any party to the case for conducting such proceedings in the Hindi language.

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Measures by Central Government.

5. The Central Government shall,—

(a) bear the expenses of translation of proceedings from Hindi language in English language with use of Artificial Intelligence bases tools or translators; and

(b) ensure availability of requisite infrastructure in the Supreme Court for conduct of proceedings in the Hindi language in the Supreme Court from the appointed day.

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*Explanation.* — For the purpose of this section, requisite infrastructure includes appropriate translation, typing facility in the Hindi language and such other facilities as may be necessary for conduct of the proceedings in the Hindi language.

## STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Under Article 348(1) of the Constitution of India, Parliament is empowered to make laws for the use of languages other than English for judicial proceedings in the Supreme Court. However, the requirement of English alone in proceedings creates a major barrier for a significant population of India, who is not proficient in English, thereby making it difficult to get justice at the highest level.

Access to justice is a fundamental right of democracy and is protected under article 14, 21 and 39 of the Constitution. According to the 2011 Census of India, about 43.63 percent of India's population and more than 52.8 crore people identify Hindi as their primary language, while only about 10.6 percent of the population is proficient in English. The Bill seeks to remove this linguistic disparity by permitting Hindi-speaking petitioners to "file documents and make oral submissions in Hindi in the Supreme Court".

Further, Global Best Practices underscore the importance of linguistic inclusivity in judicial systems. For example Judicial proceedings are allowed in Canada in both English and French, ensuring accessibility in both official languages. In Belgium judicial proceedings are allowed in Dutch, French and German, according to regional demographics. 11 official languages have been recognized in South Africa, allowing citizens to access justice in their mother tongues. In Switzerland, proceedings in legal cases are allowed in German, French, Italian and Romance, which reflects its linguistic diversity. Petitions in 24 official languages are accepted in the Court of Justice of the European Union, ensuring fairness and inclusivity.

By enabling the use of Hindi in the judicial proceeding of Supreme Court and by implementing translation technologies, India keeps pace with these international standards while respecting global standards and its language diversity. This Bill ensures clarity and access to justice for all citizens.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;  
*November 13, 2024*

GANESH SINGH

## FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 5 of the Bill provides that the Central Government shall take such measures as may be necessary ensuring availability of requisite infrastructure to the Supreme Court for conduct of proceedings in the Hindi language in the Supreme Court from the appointed day. The Bill, if enacted, will involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. However, at this stage, it is not possible to quantify the exact amount of recurring and non-recurring expenditure likely to be involved.

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