



The Maharashtra Official Languages Act, 1964

Act 5 of 1965

Keyword(s):

Appointed Day, Constitution, Marathi

Amendments appended: 36 of 2015, 14 of 2021

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THE MAHARASHTRA OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT, 1964

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MAHARASHTRA ACT No. V OF 1965.¹

[THE MAHARASHTRA OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT, 1964.]

[11th January 1965]

An Act to provide for the adoption of languages which may be used for the official purposes of the State including purposes of the Legislature of the State.

WHEREAS, it is expedient to provide for the adoption of languages which may be used for the official purposes of the State including purposes of the Legislature of the State ; It is hereby enacted in the Fifteenth Year of the Republic of India as follows :—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Maharashtra Official Languages Act, 1964.
- (2) It extends to the whole of the State of Maharashtra.

Short title,
extent and
commence-
ment.

(3) This section and section 3 shall come into force on the 26th day of January 1965 ; and the remaining provisions of this Act shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the *Official Gazette*, appoint ; and different dates may be appointed for different provisions of this Act or different matters referred to in those provisions.

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

Definitions.

(a) "appointed day" in relation to section 3 means the 26th day of January 1965, and in relation to any other provision of this Act or any such provision in relation to any matter therein means the day on which that provision or any provision in relation to that matter comes into force ;

(b) "Constitution" means the Constitution of India ;

(c) "Marathi" means the Marathi language in Devnagari script which is adopted in this State under Government Resolution in the Education and Social Welfare Department, No. TBK. 1762-G, dated 20th July 1962.

3. Notwithstanding the expiration of the period of fifteen years from the commencement of the Constitution mentioned in article 210, the English language may, as from the appointed day, continue to be used, in addition to Hindi and Marathi, for the transaction of business in the Legislature of the State.

Continuance
of English
language
for use
in State
Legislature.

4. Subject to the provisions of this Act, Marathi shall, as from the appointed day, be the language to be used for all official purposes referred to in article 345 of the Constitution, as respects the State of Maharashtra except such purposes as the State Government may, by rules issued from time to time in the *Official Gazette*, specify, and Hindi may be used as the official language for such excepted purposes.

Official
language
for official
purposes of
State.

5. Marathi shall, as from the appointed day, be the language to be used—

(a) in Bills introduced (or amendments thereto to be moved) in either House of the Legislature of the State ;

Marathi
language
to be used in
Bills, etc.

¹For Statement of Objects and Reasons, see *Maharashtra Government Gazette*, 1964, Part V Extra, page 364.

(b) in all Acts passed by the Legislature of the State and in all Ordinances promulgated by the Governor of Maharashtra under article 213 of the Constitution ;

(c) in all orders, rules, regulations and bye-laws issued by the State Government under the Constitution, or under any law made by Parliament or the Legislature of the State.

Power
to make
rules.

6. (1) The State Government may, by notification in the *Official Gazette*, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) Every rule made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of the State Legislature while it is in session for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session in which it is so laid or the session immediately following, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall from the date of publication of a notification in the *Official Gazette* of such decision have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be ; so however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done or omitted to be done under that rule.



महाराष्ट्र शासन राजपत्र असाधारण भाग आठ

वर्ष १, अंक ५०(८)]

शुक्रवार, ऑगस्ट २१, २०१५/श्रावण ३०, शके १९३७

[पृष्ठे २, किंमत : रुपये २७.००

असाधारण क्रमांक १०३

प्राधिकृत प्रकाशन

महाराष्ट्र विधानमंडळाचे अधिनियम व राज्यपालांनी प्रख्यापित केलेले अध्यादेश व केलेले विनियम आणि विधि व न्याय विभागाकडून आलेली विधेयके (इंग्रजी अनुवाद).

In pursuance of clause (3) of article 348 of the Constitution of India, the following translation in English of the Maharashtra Official Languages (Amendment) Act, 2015 (Mah. Act No. XXXVI of 2015), is hereby published under the authority of the Governor.

By order and in the name of the Governor of Maharashtra,

DR. MANGALA THOMBARE,
I/c. Draftsman-cum-Joint Secretary to Government,
Law and Judiciary Department.

MAHARASHTRA ACT No. XXXVI OF 2015.

(First published, after having received the assent of the Governor in the “*Maharashtra Government Gazette*”, on the 21st August 2015).

An Act further to amend the Maharashtra Official Languages Act, 1964.

Mah. V
of 1965.

WHEREAS, it is expedient further to amend the Maharashtra Official Languages Act, 1964, for the purposes hereinafter appearing; it is hereby enacted in the Sixty-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows :—

1. This Act may be called the Maharashtra Official Languages Short title. (Amendment) Act, 2015.

Mah. V
of 1965.

2. After section 1 of the Maharashtra Official Languages Act, 1964 (hereinafter referred to as “the principal Act”) the following shall be inserted, namely :—

Insertion of
new section
1A in Mah. V
of 1965.

“1A. The official language of the State of Maharashtra shall be Marathi.”

Marathi to be
the official
language of
State.

(१)

Amend-
ment of
section 2 of
Mah. V of
1965.

3. In section 2 of the principal Act, for clause (c), the following clause shall be substituted, namely :—

“(c) “Marathi” means the Marathi language in Devnagari script which is adopted in the State under Government Resolutions issued, from time to time.”.



महाराष्ट्र शासन राजपत्र असाधारण भाग आठ

वर्ष ७, अंक १३(६)]

शुक्रवार, जुलै १६, २०२१/आषाढ २५, शके १९४३

[पृष्ठे ६, किंमत : रुपये २७.००

असाधारण क्रमांक ३३

प्राधिकृत प्रकाशन

महाराष्ट्र विधानमंडळाचे अधिनियम व राज्यपालांनी प्रख्यापित केलेले अध्यादेश व केलेले विनियम आणि विधि व न्याय विभागाकडून आलेली विधेयके (इंग्रजी अनुवाद).

In pursuance of clause (3) of article 348 of the Constitution of India, the following translation in English of the Maharashtra Official Languages (Amendment) Act, 2021 (Maharashtra Act No. XIV of 2021), is hereby published under the authority of the Governor.

By order and in the name of the Governor of Maharashtra,

SATISH WAGHOLE,
I/C. Secretary (Legislation) to Government,
Law and Judiciary Department.

MAHARASHTRA ACT No. XIV OF 2021.

(First published, after having received the assent of the Governor in the "Maharashtra Government Gazette", on the 16th July 2021).

An Act further to amend the Maharashtra Official Languages Act, 1964.

Mah. V of 1965. **WHEREAS** it is expedient further to amend the Maharashtra Official Languages Act, 1964, for the purposes hereinafter appearing; it is hereby enacted in the Seventy-second Year of the Republic of India, as follows :-

1. This Act may be called the Maharashtra Official Languages Short title. (Amendment) Act, 2021.

Amendment
of section 2 of
Mah. V of
1965.

2. In section 2 of the Maharashtra Official Languages Act, 1964 (hereinafter referred to as "the principal Act"),-

Mah. V
of
1965.

(a) after clause (b), the following clause shall be inserted, namely :—

“(b-1) “District Marathi Language Committee” means a District Marathi Language Committee constituted in each district under section 5D;”;

(b) after clause (c), the following clauses shall be added, namely :—

“(d) “Marathi Language Officer” means an officer designated as the Marathi Language Officer under sub-section (1) of section 5B;

(e) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules ;

(f) “State Government” means the Government of Maharashtra ;

(g) “State Marathi Language Committee” means the State Marathi Language Committee constituted under section 5C.”.

Amendment
of section 4 of
Mah. V of
1965.

3. Section 4 of the principal Act shall be renumbered as sub-section (1) thereof; and after sub-section (1), as so renumbered, the following sub-section shall be added, namely :—

“(2) All official purposes under sub-section (1) includes the following namely :—

(a) all internal affairs or business of all offices of the State Government;

(b) all communication and correspondence to be made with the public in the State by all offices of the State Government;

(c) all noting, drafting, all remarks, comments and opinions thereon, manuals, any administrative proceedings, bye-laws, all types of notices, any administrative work and business, schemes, programs, policies, decisions, resolutions, administrative and other reports, press releases, invitation cards, letter-heads or any other orders or documents pertaining to public interface and public interest to be issued by any office of the State Government;

(d) all administrative and other reports and official papers to be laid before the both Houses of the State Legislature;

(e) any license, permit, certificate, tender or advertisement to be given or issued by or on behalf of the State Government or any Department or office thereof;

(f) all standard forms, proformas or registers to be used or any other documents pertaining to public interface and public interest in offices of the State Government;

(g) all sign boards, name plates, notice boards and any other display matters pertaining to public interface and public interest in offices of the State Government;

(h) all stamps or seals to be used in offices of the State Government;

(i) any other documents or services to be provided through internet and any communication pertaining to the public interface and public interest to be made through the website, apps, portals, and any other electronic mode of communication by any office of the State Government; and

(j) any other such official purposes as may be prescribed.”.

4. After section 5 of the principal Act, the following sections shall be inserted, namely :—

Insertion of new sections 5A, 5B, 5C, 5D, 5E, 5F, 5G, 5H and 5I in Mah. V of 1965.

5A. Every office of the State Government, including offices subordinate and under administrative control of each Department of Mantralaya, shall make suitable provisions in its policies pertaining to public interface and public interest for use of Marathi for effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

Provisions in policy for effective implementation of this Act.

5B. (1) Every office of the State Government shall designate a suitable officer as ‘Marathi Language Officer’ to discharge the functions assigned to him under this Act.

Designation of Marathi Language Officer.

(2) The Marathi Language Officer shall discharge the following functions, namely :—

(a) receive the grievances or complaints pertaining to non-use of Marathi in official purposes and implementation of the provisions of this Act in the office and to facilitate for its effective redressal; and

(b) to take steps to ensure the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder.

(3) The Head of the Office and any other officer and employees in the office shall render necessary assistance to the Marathi Language Officer for discharging the functions assigned to him under this Act.

5C. (1) There shall be a State Marathi Language Committee to exercise the powers conferred on and to discharge the functions assigned to it under this Act.

Constitution of State Marathi Language Committee.

(2) The State Marathi Language Committee shall consist of the following members, namely :—

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| (i) Minister, Marathi Language | Chairperson; |
| (ii) State Minister, Marathi Language | Vice-Chairperson; |
| (iii) Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra | Vice-Chairperson; |
| (iv) Additional Chief Secretary (Services), General Administration Department | Member; |
| (v) Secretary, Marathi Language Department | Member; |

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| (vi) Secretary, School Education Department | Member; |
| (vii) Secretary, Urban Development Department | Member; |
| (viii) Secretary, Revenue Department | Member; |
| (ix) Deputy Secretary, Marathi Language Department | Member-Secretary. |

(3) The State Marathi Language Committee may invite experts from various fields, as it may deems fit, from time to time, for the meeting.

(4) The State Marathi Language Committee shall meet at least once in a year.

(5) The State Marathi Language Committee shall exercise the following powers and discharge the following functions, namely :—

(i) ensure and review the implementation of the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder;

(ii) consider an annual report alongwith recommendations submitted by the District Marathi Language Committee about action taken by it in discharge of its functions under this Act and to give directions to the District Marathi Language committee as it deems fit for effective implementation of the provisions of this Act;

(iii) give directions to all offices of the State Government and the District Marathi Language Committee as it deems fit for effective implementation of the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder;

(iv) recommend such incentives, rewards or schemes as may be necessary for effective implementation of the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder.

Constitution
of District
Marathi
Language
Committee.

5D. (1) The District Collector of each district shall constitute a District Marathi Language Committee in the District to exercise the powers conferred on and to discharge the functions assigned to it under this Act.

(2) The District Marathi Language Committee shall consist of the following members, namely :—

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| (i) District Collector | Chairperson; |
| (ii) Municipal Commissioner | Member; |
| (iii) Superintendent of Police | Member; |
| (iv) Chief Executive Officer
(Zilla Parishad) | Member; |
| (v) District Education Officer | Member; |
| (vi) Two representatives amongst the
persons residing in the district
from the field of the Marathi language,
arts, performing arts, literature,
culture or publications to be
nominated by the District Collector | Member; |

- (vii) Two representatives of the non-Government institutions, organizations, movements or forums working in the district in the field of the Marathi language, arts, performing arts, literature, culture, publications or libraries to be nominated by the District Collector Member;
- (viii) Marathi Language Officer designated in the office of the District Collector Member-Secretary.

(3) The non-official members referred to in clauses (vi) and (vii) above shall hold the office for such period as the District Collector may, by an order, specify.

(4) The District Marathi Language Committee shall meet at least once within three months.

5E. (1) The District Marathi Language Committee shall exercise the following powers and discharge the following functions, namely :— Powers and functions of District Marathi Language Committee.

(a) give directions to all offices of the State Government in the District for effective implementation of the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder;

(b) enquire into and redress the grievances or complaints pertaining to non-use of Marathi for official purposes and implementation of the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder;

(c) call and receive the necessary information, records and reports pertaining to complaints or grievances under this Act from all offices of the State Government in the District;

(d) enquire into and resolve the complaints or grievances regarding implementation of this Act and dispose them in an expeditious manner;

(e) direct the concerned office of the State Government to comply with the provisions of this Act, if found violating any of the provisions of this Act;

(f) organize various programs, projects, activities, workshops, exhibitions and seminars as may be directed by the State Government, time to time, with regard to the implementation of the provisions of this Act;

(g) submit an annual report to the State Marathi Language Committee about action taken by it in discharge of its functions under this Act alongwith its recommendations with regard to the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act;

(h) exercise such other powers and perform such other functions as may be prescribed.

(2) The offices of the State Government shall comply with the directions of the District Marathi Language Committee within a period of fifteen days from the receipt thereof and forward a compliance report to the District Marathi Language Committee.

Proactive disclosure about use of Marathi.

5F. Each office of the State Government shall proactively publish on its website or any other electronic mode or any other mode of communication which are easily accessible to the public that Marathi is being used in all official purposes, other than excepted purposes under this Act and rules made thereunder.

Responsibility of implementation and compliance.

5G. The administrative Head or Head of the Department or Head of the office or Controlling Officer of the office of the State Government shall be responsible for,—

(a) effective implementation of the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder;

(b) compliance of all directions and instructions issued by the District Marathi Language Committee, the State Marathi Language Committee and the State Government, from time to time;

(c) providing all necessary facilities and services for effective implementation of the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder.

Power of Government to give directions.

5H. The State Government may issue such directions or instructions to all offices of the State Government as may be necessary for effective implementation of the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder.

Punishment.

5I. The Disciplinary Authority shall on receipt of complaint or grievance regarding non-implementation of the provisions of this Act, initiate disciplinary action against the concerned Government servant under the Maharashtra Civil Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1979 or any other service rules or regulations as applicable to him, if found necessary. The Disciplinary Authority shall submit a report regarding such disciplinary action taken by it to the State Marathi Language Committee and District Marathi Language Committee.”.