

THE NATIONAL TRANSLATION MISSION

A DETAILED PROJECT REPORT

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PREAMBLE

Translation has a chequered history in India. The earliest translations seem to have happened between Sanskrit, Prakrit and Pali and the emerging languages of the regions and between the same languages, and Arabic and Persian. Indian narrative and knowledge-texts like *Panchatantra*, *Ashtangahridaya*, *Arthashastra*, *Hitopadesa*, *Yogasutra*, *Ramayana*, *Mahabharata* and *Bhagavatgita* were translated into Arabic between 8th and 19th centuries; there was also an intense exchange between Persian and Indian texts. Sanskrit texts, especially the *Bhagavatgita* and *Upanishads* came into contact with other Indian languages during the Bhakti period producing great bhasha texts like *Jnaneshwari*, a translation of *Gita* by the Marathi saint poet, Jnaneshwar and several free translations of the epics, especially *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata* by the saint-poets of various languages. For example, one may look at the *Ramayana* adaptations of Pampa, Kambar, Molla, Ezhuthacchan, Tulasidas, Premananda, Ekanatha, Balaramadasa, Madhav Kandali or Krittibas.

The Colonial period saw a spurt in translations between European languages and Indian languages, especially Sanskrit. While there were exchanges between German, French, Italian, Spanish and Indian languages, English was considered privileged by its hegemonic status as it was used by the colonial masters. The British phase of translation into English culminated in William Jones's translation of Kalidasa's *Abhijnanasakuntalam*. *Sakuntalam* as a text has now become a marker of India's cultural prestige and one of the primary texts in Indian consciousness. This explains how it came to be translated into more than ten Indian languages in the 19th century. The (colonial?)/British attempts in translation were determined by the Orientalist ideology and the need for the new rulers to grasp, define, categorise and control India. They created their own version of India while the Indian translators of texts into English sought to extend, correct, revise and sometimes challenge the British understanding though the whole battle was fought around ancient texts rather than the contemporary ones. Raja Rammohun Roy's translations of Sankara's *Vedanta* and the *Kena* and *Isavasya Upanishads* were the first Indian interventions in English translations of Indian texts by Indian scholars. It was followed by R.C. Dutt's translations of *Rigveda*, the *Upanishads*, *Ramayana*, *Mahabharata*, and a few classical Sanskrit plays. These translations were meant to challenge the Romantic and Utilitarian notions of Indians as submissive and indolent. Then came a flood of translations by others like Dinabandhu Mitra, Aurobindo and Rabindra Nath Tagore to name only a few. Translations between Indian languages also began around this time, though in a limited way.

The reality however is that English still remains inaccessible to even the literate majority in India, and the real empowerment of these sections is possible only

through translations of significant literary as well as knowledge texts in Indian languages. Gandhi's views on translation may be relevant here: "I consider English as a language for international trade and commerce and therefore it is necessary that a few people learn it.... And I would like to encourage those to be well-versed (in English) and expect them to translate the masterpieces of English into the vernaculars." He even felt that the adoption of English as the medium of education might prevent the growth of Indian languages.

As L.M. Khubchandani points out, the education system in the pre-colonial India, working through *pathshalas* and *maktabs*, regarded school education as an extension of primary socialization and built a hierarchy of linguistic skills which promoted a chain of mutually intelligible speech varieties, ranging from local dialects to highbrow styles. Several functionally oriented languages and scripts equipped the learner with a rich and fluid linguistic repertoire. Uncomfortable with the traditional linguistic heterogeneity of India, the colonial rulers proposed monistic solutions to Indian education creating an opposition between English and the *bhashas*. Macaulay's 'Minute on Indian Education' (1835) and the work of his predecessors ignored Indian languages. The post-colonial period witnessed an increasing emphasis on using mother tongues as the media of instruction and UNESCO's recommendation that psychologically, socially and educationally a child learns better and faster through his/her mother tongue was quoted by many language planning authorities.

Therefore, both in our society and in our schools we need to create space for different languages represented in society. This will become possible only when there are plenty of translations of literary as well as knowledge texts available to the teachers as well as students. And, it is also important to translate such texts from one Indian language into another – by way of 'horizontal translation', rather than bringing the knowledge-based texts from the so-called 'donor' languages of the west in a 'vertical' manner (Singh 1990).

It is our firm belief that this knowledge should also be available to the common men and women in India, anxious to access the highest knowledge through their mother tongues. This is the general premise from which the idea of a National Translation Mission (NTM) has sprung.

Chapter 1: STATEMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER

The idea of the National Translation Mission (NTM) came originally from the Prime Minister of India, who in the first meeting of the National Knowledge Commission (NKC), said how vital access to translated material means increasing access to knowledge in many critical areas. Broadening and strengthening people's participation in education and continuous learning was the context. The Commission chaired by Sri Sam Pitroda felt immediate need to have a separate institution or mission to promote the cause of translation for education in India.

THE CONTEXT

While it is true that translation is an ongoing process, the need for productive public intervention in this key area comes primarily from the unevenness in the translation activity in the country – unevenness in terms of disciplines as well as languages and also that of quality, distribution and access. There is an unrecognized demand for translation in diverse existing and emerging domains like literature, pure sciences, applied sciences, social sciences, law, medicine, management, technology and more.

Further, the information available through translation is inadequate and asymmetric. The dissemination of translation is also unsatisfactory as the target readership is highly diffused and uncoordinated and the market reach of translation is seldom assessed and ensured. Only the proper dissemination of quality translations can create a benchmark and provide proper impetus to the private ongoing activity in the area. This is the context that demands public intervention in the mission mode, in the form of a set of measures that can kick-start a process of encouraging private initiatives to make feasible the availability of high quality translation in different disciplines. Translation activities can also generate direct and indirect employment, thus encouraging the educated unemployed to serve the people while finding a remunerative profession for themselves.

It was this awareness that prompted the NKC to form a working group led by Prof. Jayati Ghosh that would bring together different agencies and people involved in the activity of translation, its publication and dissemination. The working group included representatives from the relevant government and semi-government organisations, academics, linguists, translators, educationists, publishers and others associated with the translation activities in India. As the groups began meeting in Delhi in February, 2006, the broad contours of the field were outlined by Prof. Udaya Narayana Singh. On March 6, 2006, Prof. Jayati Ghosh, Member-Convenor NTM Committee, wrote to the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, forwarding the recommendations of the NKC and the revised proposal to the Commission. Thereafter, the groups met several times and had a large scale two-day workshops held at the Central Institute of Indian

Languages, Mysore on 12-13 April, 2007. On April 19, 2006, the revised proposal was commented upon by the Planning Commission, vide its letter no. P.11060/4/2005-Edn raising a set of five queries, which were responded to. Meanwhile, some detailed comments were received from several Social Science experts, especially from the Centre for the Studies of Developing Societies (CSDS), and other institutions such as Indian Council for Historical Research (ICHR). These raised several issues and gave creative suggestions as to the scope and organisation of the NTM, some of which are being incorporated into this detailed project report. On June 21 and July 3, 2006, suggestions from many publishing houses, involved in translation, were also received. Later, on 31st August, 2006, the Ministry of HRD's Working Group on Languages and Book Promotion also endorsed the idea vide its recommendations for the XIth Plan to the Planning Commission. Subsequently, on September 1, 2006, Shri Sam Pitroda, Chairman, NKC wrote to the Prime Minister giving details of the NTM after which, a detailed proposal was formulated by the Ministry of HRD.

An attempt could be made to list out about 70 domains here:

CHIEF DOMAINS COVERED BY NTM

1. Adult/Continuing Education (Andralogy/Non-formal Education)
2. Anthropology (Physical)
3. Anthropology (Social)
4. Arab Culture and Islamic Studies
5. Archaeology (including Numismatics)
6. Architecture
7. Astrophysics
8. Biophysics
9. Biochemistry
10. Biotechnology
11. Botany (General)
12. Chemistry (General)
13. Commerce
14. Comparative literature
15. Computer Science and Applications (incl. Artificial Intelligence & Robotics)
16. Criminology & Forensic Science
17. Culture Studies (incl. Indian Culture)
18. Cybernetics
19. Dance
20. Defence & Strategic Studies
21. Economics
22. Education
23. Engineering – Aeronautical (incl. Avionics)
24. Engineering – Chemical (incl. Ceramics & Polymer Technology)
25. Engineering – Civil
26. Engineering – Electrical
27. Engineering – Electronics (incl. Telecommunications)

28. Engineering – Mechanical (incl. Instrumentation, Engineering Mechanics & Automobile Engg)
29. Environmental Sciences (incl. Environmental Engineering)
30. Ethnology
31. Film Studies
32. Folklore (incl. Folk Literature & Tribal Literature)
33. Genetics , Eugenics, Genetic Engineering
34. Geography
35. Geology
36. History(General)
37. Home Science
38. Human Rights and Duties
39. Informatics (incl. Library & Information Sciences)
40. International Relations and Area Studies
41. Journalism/Media Studies/Mass Communication
42. Labour Welfare/Personnel (HRD) Management/Industrial Relations
43. Law
44. Linguistics
45. Management
46. Manuscriptology
47. Mathematics
48. Medical Sciences (at the MBBS level)
49. Microbiology
50. Museumology (incl. Museology & Conservation)
51. Musicology
52. Peace/Gandhian Studies
53. Performing Arts (incl. Dance, Drama, Theatre Studies)
54. Philosophy
55. Physical Education
56. Physics (General)
57. Poetics
58. Political Science
59. Population Studies
60. Psychology
61. Public Administration
62. Religious Studies/Comparative Study of Religions
63. Social Medicine & Community Health
64. Social Work
65. Sociology
66. Tourism Administration and Management
67. Translation Studies
68. Visual Arts (incl. Drawing & Painting/Sculpture/Graphics/Applied Art/History of Art)
69. Women's Studies
70. Zoology (General)

Section 2: PROBLEMS TO BE ADDRESSED

Coordination and cooperation with a variety of organizations like the Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT), National Council for Educational and Research Training (NCERT), National Book Trust (NBT), University Grants Commission (UGC), Sahitya Akademi, Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore, Granth Academies, Public Library Networks etc. would be needed for avoiding overlapping and duplication. Similar linkage would be needed with publishers, newspaper/media, corporate houses, booksellers. The point is to engage in strategic interventions building on and developing synergies with existing public institutions and private agents.

To elaborate all the major issues to be addressed by the NTM, the following is listed:

A. CREATING TECHNICAL & SCIENTIFIC TERMINOLOGY

The multilingual situation being present in India, there is a plenty of scope for the easy flow of translation from one language into another without the creation of hierarchies among the languages, provided we find ways and means of facilitating this free flow.

One crying need in the translation of knowledge texts will be the standardization of terminology as also disallowing the use of non-standard terms and slang words, as well as conceptual formulations so that the movement between languages is made easier. This remains one of the major problems to be addressed through NTM.

B. TRANSLATOR EDUCATION

Translation itself is a specialised activity and may require further specialisation when it comes to the question of translating texts in specific disciplines. The Mission can take initiative in the area of translator education by

1. Organising short-term training programmes for specific purposes like interpretation, subtitling, translation of law, pure sciences, applied sciences, social sciences etc involving scholars/experts in the areas concerned;
2. Producing course modules and packages for translators that could be incorporated into language teaching programmes across the country or run as special courses during vacations, post-work or post-class hours etc ;
3. Encouraging, supporting and assisting in the development of specialised courses in translation technology and related areas in universities and other institutions;

4. Encouraging research projects, including student research, intended specifically for making available good translations of identified texts as examples and generating resources that could also serve pedagogic purposes;
5. Instituting Fellowship programmes that would allow exchange of scholars between institutions with special emphasis on translation between Indian languages;
6. Organising workshops taking up specific texts as examples where experts and trainees come together and discuss and solve specific issues relating to the text in terms of knowledge content, terminology, cultural and linguistic context etc. and,
7. Organising workshops in vetting, editing and copy-editing translations.

C. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

The knowledge about the available translation capabilities in the country is still inadequate as there is no single source where such information is available. This is particularly true about language translators as English translators enjoy greater visibility on a pan-Indian plane.

The Mission can address this difficulty in accessing texts in translation and finding out about available skill in the following ways:

1. Creating a data repository of translators in different disciplines and areas with diverse skills and qualifications;
2. Producing an on line bibliography of existing translations of different works in all the Indian languages as also Indian works in English and other foreign languages, with search facilities based on disciplines, languages and areas as also facilities for users to have in-puts.

Both these should be constantly updated through linkages with Universities, Publishers, National Libraries, Akademies, the National Book Trust and Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT) etc.

Sahitya Akademi has put together a bibliography of translations in literature which is already available on the Anukriti website of the CIIL. Sahitya Akademi has also published a Translators' Register that lists many translators in the Indian languages, which could also be put on the NTM web-site. Both these need to be updated as well as expanded to include the newly recognized languages of India. As these are confined to literature, lists of translators and translations in other areas need to be developed afresh for which NTM may engage collectors and editors from different parts of India.

D. VISIBILITY and VIABILITY

Translation and translators need to be more visible. This has also something to do with the translators' remuneration levels, which need to be looked into afresh. Since we are now thinking of translation as a profession so that India eventually has a 'Translation Industry', we need to create a circumstance in which the translators can make a decent living out of translation alone, whatever is their specific area.

It is also possible to evolve a mechanism to get translators in different areas registered with NTM so that there is quality control as well as recognition for merit. Experts from the concerned disciplines, scholars in the original and target languages and enlightened readers can constitute these evaluation boards which will look at the quality of the translation and decide whether a translator is worthy of being registered and taken into the national pool. They could also be given the benefit of accreditation or certification and their names can be displayed on the NTM website.

E. ENSURING ACCESS TO AND PROPAGATION OF TRANSLATION

Some other means to promote and make visible translations are:

1. Organising book launches for translations;
2. Instituting Translation prizes and fellowships;
3. Organising regional Festivals of Translation (*Anuvaad Melaa*) with readings, discussions, book exhibitions, honoring translators of the area etc;
4. Linking up with library networks in order to ensure an initial market for quality translations;
5. Buyback arrangements under the NTM-Grants-in-Aid Scheme based on applications from publishers, authors and translators;
6. Subsidies to translators and publishing houses out of NTM-GIA to encourage the activity of translation;
7. Downloading facilities for translated pedagogic material, preferably from an open source site or by paying publishers a nominal fee per download as may be decided;
8. Providing an interface between translators, university departments offering specializations in translation, publishers interested in bringing out more and more translations, public as well as private sectors, and most importantly – the buyers, or the consumers of translation;

9. Grants-in-Aid subsidies for publication of the journals in English and Indian languages with a focus on translation, or to those journals that are engaged in bringing out e-contents in translation, or in publishing, in print, versions of important professional journals or serial publications in English in diverse disciplines into regional languages;
10. Suggesting and persuading to get translated material incorporated into the National/Regional Curriculum Framework – and into the syllabi of schools, colleges and universities;
11. Helping to set up language resource centres and book nooks/book corners dealing in translated books in educational institutions at all levels;
12. Projecting the importance of bilingual/multi-lingual skills by pointing out the areas of its use and application, including examinations and job tests; and
13. Linking up with public and civil society organisations to ensure greater access to translated materials especially in smaller towns and villages of India.

Section 3: PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The key activities of NTM will be

1. *Developing Scientific and Technical Terminology in all the 22 Languages of the VIIIth Schedule.*
2. *Translator Education*
 - Running short-term training programmes
 - Creating a course for translators as a part of language Teaching programme
 - Developing specialised courses in translation technology and related areas.
 - Fellowship programmes
 - Encouraging research projects
3. *Information dissemination*
4. *Promotion and dissemination of good quality translation*
5. *Promotion of Machine Translation (MT) and Machine Aided Translation (MAT)*
 - *Between English and Indian languages.*
 - *One Indian language and another Indian language.*
 - *Between Indian languages and major world languages.*
6. *Creation of high quality translation tools such as dictionaries, thesauri, word-finders, on-line look-ups and the sourcing software for translation, memory, wordnet etc., and also to explore if these facilities of look-up could be made available in newer and wider platforms such as mobile technology.*

Section 4

TARGET BENEFICIARIES

There is a range of target beneficiaries for the Mission, but the first and foremost are the weaker sections of students from the margins of the society, who, owing to their location as well as background – physical (mainly rural and semi-urban areas) as well as social – esp. being from disadvantaged caste or class, have very little or no access to knowledge of Technical and Scientific in nature which is available mostly in English. The Mission will attain its true objective only if and when the translated texts from diverse disciplines reach these seekers of knowledge from the marginalized sections of our society.

However in the process of reaching out, lateral benefits go to a large number of groups, such as:

1. The general public eager to read literary and knowledge texts in their own languages,
2. Translators who come to be employed in large numbers and are given reasonable remuneration for their work,
3. Publishers who are on the look out for new and interesting books in the languages,
4. Teachers in regular teaching in schools, colleges and universities,
5. Volunteers engaged in non-formal education,
6. NGOs working in areas like public health, civil rights, environment, popularization of science etc,
7. Agencies looking for interpreters,
8. Tourists and foreign scholars who need interpreting,
9. Film makers, producers and propagators eager to have the films subtitled,
10. Radio and TV programme producers who wish to have their programmes aired in different languages,
11. Translation trainees,
12. Departments of translation in universities and other translation institutions,
13. Researchers in various fields related to translation,
14. Translation software developers,
15. Comparative literature scholars

To kick-start quality translation industry, it is proposed to enhance the 'National Register for Translators' that was floated on the Anukriti web site, and done earlier in print form by Sahitya Akademi. Along with that, would also like to involve all Translators' Associations (there are several at the moment in the country) as well as the pool of translators from the Private Publishing Houses. The entire activity will have to be managed very professionally, also to provide services to those Government and other agencies that need a quick time-bound translation of certain texts. Besides these, holding of 'Anuvaad Melaa' (Translation Fairs and related sensitization activities even in small towns) and organizing 'Professional Translators' Training Programmes' should help in

generation and identification of appropriate manpower. We hope this approach will result in a large translation industry.

In order to bring in the maximum benefit to the common people, and also because the knowledge-based texts will be needed to meet the demands of our teaching and research institutions, the printed books would be priced moderately but for those who would like to access the translations. All such texts would be made available as e-book free of cost through a large networked web-site to be hosted and managed by the NTM from the CIIL's server. Only a register of users will be maintained so that there is a record of our end-users of net based texts. This will also enable us to get their feedback. Lastly, the translation tools generated such as the dictionaries, thesauri, word-finders, concordances, etymological dictionaries, visual and audio dictionaries etc will be all made available and updated as open-source packages.

The NTM will prioritize creation of digital dictionaries and 'Machine-Aided Translation Software' among different language pairs. But since the IITs and universities, IIITs, TIFR and IISc together as well as many large software giants have been working on the tough problem of Machine Translation (MT) for the last two decades, and the results have not been high-end error-free tools so far. Therefore, while the NTM will emphasize on this area cautiously. Certain parts of this recommendations are going to be implemented earlier (like digital dictionaries, word finders, thesauri etc) than certain others (such as automated tools).

Section 5

PROJECT STRATEGY

The whole Mission could be segmented, or broken down in terms of major tasks and events which should be described here as the strategy:

- Providing help and advice to CSTT in coining of Technical and Scientific Terms in all scheduled Indian Languages.
 - Towards this goal, the Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT) will be taking steps. CSTT's mandate is to evolve and define Scientific and Technical terms in both Hindi and modern Indian Languages, and it will play a critical role in this area. The results of their activity will feed into the NTM translations. On the other hand, the National Translation Mission (NTM) will also strengthen the efforts of CSTT to coin terminology in the 22 scheduled languages so as to enable quick translation of knowledge based texts. NTM will need to work with C-DAC and CIIL to develop tools to enable these terminologies to be available online in all the 22 languages.
- Preparation of Electronic Dictionaries/Thesauri either on its own or also by out-sourcing the tasks
- Publication of knowledge-based translations in all major disciplines taught in our colleges and universities, which will include 1760 knowledge-texts in 65 to 70-odd disciplines (with a focus on 42 disciplines initially) and about 200 text-books during the 11th Plan. (It may be mentioned that at present, the by NCERT text-books upto class 12 are translated into only two scheduled languages - Hindi & Urdu). The total translation and publication targets will be upped in the subsequent plans once a process is in place, and in an optimistic estimate, it could eventually even go up to 8,800 books per plan period.
- Subsidies for journals on translation or publishing translation-related texts and analysis etc in Indian languages
- Grants to authors/translators towards their IPR/Copyright fee
- Grants for Translation Training & accreditation at different levels
- Grants for Natural Language Processing, or NLP research related to translation
- Grants for University Departments conducting Degree/Diploma courses on translation, for specific projects (such as preparation of translation manuals between pairs of languages

To conclude, all these are possible to be taken care of under the proposed NTM, provided the Mission remains focused on the basic aims like the following expected yields:

- Creation of data repository of translators in different areas and with different skills and qualifications. This repository would be available

online and also through contacting the NTM with specific requirements.

- Creation of data repository and annotated catalogue of existing translations of different works, classified by area, with new lists to be sent regularly to educational institutions, library networks, etc.
- Training programmes of short-term duration for translators.
- Promotion and dissemination of good quality translation material.
- Promotion of machine translation.

To elaborate on the list of journals that could possibly qualify for support, we could give a tentative set of names here subject to further discussion once the project is approved:

JOURNALS FOR TRANSLATION

(Worth supporting under the proposed NTM)

Assamese

1. Gariyasi (editor Harekrishna Deka)
2. Prantik (editor P.G. Baruah)
3. Anuraadh Parampar (editor P. Thakur)

Bangla/Bengali

4. Anubad Patrika
5. Bhashanagar (Now occasional)
6. Bhashabandhan
7. Ebang Mushaira (Carries essays that restate the points in the knowledge-based texts)
8. Bigyapan parva (translation of art and critical writing)
9. Antarjatic angik (concentrating on tr from regional/international sources)
10. Parbantar (mainly regional translations – focusing on texts or author)

Bodo

11. Bodo Sahitya Sabha Patrika

English

12. Indian Literature (Sahitya Akademi)
13. Translation Today (Translation Studies journal from CIIL)
14. Yatra (Trs. from Assomiya)
15. Aniketana (from Kannada)
16. Malayalam Literary Survey (from Malayalam)
17. Urdu Alive (from Urdu)
18. Kobita Review (Bilingual, Bengali-English)
19. International Journal in Translation (Bahri Publications)

Gujarati

- 20. Vi (Carries a lot of trs)
- 21. Gadyaparva

Hindi

- 22. Tanav (from different languages, Indian and foreign)
- 23. Anuvad(Translations from other languages as also essays on translation)
- 24. Pahal (not exclusive for translations, but carries a lot of them)
- 25. Samakaalin Bharatiya Sahitya (Sahitya Akademi)
- 26. Vagarth
- 27. Naya Gyanoday
- 28. Bharatiya Avuvad Parishad Parika

Kannada

- 29. Aniketana(From other Indian languages, this is a sequel to Aniketana in English)
- 30. Desa-kala(A lot of translations)
- 31. Sankramana (a lot of translations)
- 32. Samvada (Publishes a good amount of translation)
- 33. Sankalana (Also publishes translation)

Kashmiri

- 34. Sheeraza-kashmiri (Dept of Culture, Govt of Kashmir)
- 35. Aalav (Dept of Information Technology, Govt of Kashmir)

Konkani

- 36. Jaag (monthly, with a log of translations)

Malayalam

- 37. Kerala Kavita (A lot of translations, chiefly literary texts)
- 38. Matribhumi (Transl special issues)
- 39. Kala-Kaumudi
- 40. Madhyamam

Marathi

- 41. Kelyane Bhashantar
- 42. Bhasha ani Jeevan
- 43. Pratishtan(A lot of trs)

44. Panchdhara (Trs from Hindi, Urdu, Telugu and Kannada with Marathi originals)
45. Sakshat (Brings out special issues on translation)

Maithili

46. Maithili Academy Patrika (Carries knowledge-based texts)
47. Ghar-Bahar (carries translation)

Oriya

48. Saptabhiksha

Punjabi

49. Samdarshi (Punjabi Academy, Delhi sometimes publishes translation)
50. Akkhar (Amritsar, publishes mainly creative and critical translation)

Santali

51. Sar-Sagun
52. Lohanti Patrika

Tamil

53. Disaikal Ettum (from Indian languages)

Telugu

54. Vipula (mostly translations from all languages)
55. Telugu Vajinakia Patrika (Telugu Academy)

Section 6 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The National Translation Mission, or the NTM is (to be) set up by an executive order of the Government, where the nodal agency will be the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), which has its headquarters in Mysore but with a liaison office in Delhi. This will obviously have its own advantage in terms of operation. However, it is open to review after the present plan period is over as to whether - after the programme is on a firm footing, it would be separated from the CIIL and established as an autonomous organization under the Societies Registration Act (1860, Central Act).

The management structure of the NTM has been planned to be a relatively small and flexible, and with a minimum infrastructure. As for the organizational structure of the NTM, it was initially proposed to have three layers:

- *Advisory Committee*¹ with members, headed by the Honb'le HRM.
- *Governing Board*² (GB), headed by a Senior Scholar/Nominee of Ministry of HRD, which will meet often to monitor the progress of the scheme.

¹ It was envisaged earlier that the Advisory Committee of the National Translation Mission would have 25 members as approved by the Ministry of HRD, and that this would be the apex decision-making body for the NTM.

² The plan was to draw up the members of this 'Governing Board' (GB) from different university departments teaching translation, institutes in different States devoted to translation in a major way, representatives from technical institutes, members of the publishing field, those engaged in development of translation tools and technologies from IITs, NITs, Industries etc, and also the official stakeholders in translation. It was suggested that the GB could have **two** members from different university departments teaching translation, **two** representing different State Governments (by rotation) – representing the institutes/academies of such states dealing with languages and translation, **three** members sent by the Booksellers and Publishers' Guild, **two** from the IITs, NITs, Industries etc engaged in development of translation tools and technologies, and also the **two** official stakeholders in translation such as the NERT, NBT and Sahitya Akademi. It was thought that this body be so created as to reflect the public-private partnership model advocated by the National Knowledge Commission (NKC) & the Planning Commission. The members were planned to have a two-year term, with some ex-officio members (such as the nominees of the Ministry of HRD's Jt Secretary (Languages) and Financial Advisor and the Chairman, CSTT). It was thought that after every two years, the Governing Board would be re-constituted by the HRD Ministry.

- *General Council*³ (GC) with 101 members, drawn out of the members – both institutional and individuals who are to be parts of the NTM.

However, it has now been decided to have only a *Project Advisory Committee (NTM-PAC)* which will provide guidance as well as act as a monitoring agency with 25 members. The Director, CIIL - as the nodal officer of the NTM - will be the Chair-person of the NTM-PAC. Until the Project Director, NTM is appointed, the work of the Mission should not stop, and hence the Academic secretary, CIIL should act as the Member-Secretary of the NTM-PAC. It will have three more ex-officio members - a nominee of Jt. Secretary (Languages), or Director (Languages), Department of Higher Education, MHRD, Government of India, a nominee of JS & FA, or IFD (HRD), and Chairman, Commission for Scientific & Technical Terminology (CSTT), New Delhi.

Besides these five, the other twenty members will be selected by the Ministry of HRD on rotational basis by nomination: (a) Two representatives from different university departments teaching translation, (b) Two representatives from different states (by rotation) – representing the institutes/academies of such states dealing with languages and translation, (c) One of the Vice-Chancellors of a language university, (d) Three from among the Booksellers and Publishers, (e) Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, (f) Director, National Book Trust (NBT), (g) Two representatives from different IITs/NITs/Industrial houses engaged in R&D in the area of Translation Tools/Technologies, (h) Five Translation Specialists from different Indian languages and English, (i) Two representatives from different disciplines, and (j) One from the private organizations/corporate houses or even private individuals with interest in translation activities.

Besides the above, the NTM would also have a number of Advisory Sub-Committees, or Working Groups, which will consist of individual consultants and experts in each category (such as Scientific translation, Technical Translation, Instant Translation/ Interpretation, or Machine Translation, etc).

³ It was suggested that to start with the GC could have up to 101 members. The flow within the three-tier structure was thought to be such that the Governing Board (GB) would receive suggestions from a 'General Council' (GC). It was thought that the membership of the General Council (GC) of the society would consist of representatives from the Translation Industry, various Translation Associations, individual authors, lexicographers, and translators representing different pairs of languages, CSTT, Chair-persons/Directors/Secretaries of the National Book Trust (NBT), Sahitya Akademi, ICSSR, ICPR, etc., eminent academics from the Universities that offers courses on translation under other disciplines (Hindi/English/Linguistics/Comparative Literature etc) or M.A./M.Phil/PG-Diploma programmes in Translation Studies, specialists from different fields of knowledge already engaged in translation (like Law, Medicine, Physical Sciences, Biological Sciences, Social Sciences, Literature, Arts etc), preferably associated with reputed institutions. Besides the above, the different wings of the Government dealing with Indian languages and/or Translation from the Ministries of HRD, Culture, Home Affairs (including the Department of Official Languages), Information & Broadcasting, Communication & Information Technology, and External Affairs etc, could also find place in the General Council (GC) of the NTM.

Section 7 ON-GOING INITIATIVES

7.1 PILOT PROJECT: 'ANUKRITI'

The Planning Commission had already granted a major project in the area of translation to the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore under the title 'Anukriti'. The translation website titled **Anukriti: Translating India** was designed to function as a translation service and information site in all the Indian languages. The idea of creating such a website was conceived by three institutions devoted to the development of Indian languages - Central Institute of Indian Languages (MHRD), Mysore, Sahitya Akademi and National Book Trust, New Delhi.

A total of Rs 59.64 lakhs was allocated for this project during the 10th plan period. Under the Anukriti project, as planned; the following has been achieved-

- A translation facilitation website, www.anukriti.net, has been launched and it has been updated and documented on a continual basis all these years.
- Three years' issues of an online translation journal called '**Translation Today**' have been brought out so far.
- Translation database and a National Register of Translators are being regularly updated.
- There has been some preliminary groundwork on English-Kannada machine aided translation package.
- Catalogues of translation publications obtained from major publishing houses are being put on the site.
- Details of various courses on translation that are available in the country and abroad are made available on the site.
- Links with different professional translation agencies have been established.
- Online links have been provided for the purchase of various translation software in order to facilitate the online translators.
- A dictionary of terms and a bibliography, relating to translation studies, are in the verge of completion.

7.2 WORK DONE BY NCERT

NCERT has translated all its text books upto class XII into Hindi and Urdu. It has for the first time got the National/Curriculum frame work (NCF) translated into all the 22 languages in the VIIIth Schedule. NTM could provide support to translate these into all the scheduled Indian Languages.

7.3 PUBLICATION OF TRANSLATIONS IN INDIA

Sahitya Akademi, founded in 1954, and the National Book Trust, founded in 1957, were the first public sector undertakings to publish translations as a part of their mission to build bridges across languages, regions and communities in India.

Sahitya Akademi has been publishing translations of literary texts from the regional languages and English into other regional languages and also from regional languages into English since its inception. It has brought about 7,000 titles so far in 24 languages. The translations were originally done only from languages recognised by the Akademi; but through a special tribal literature project, first located in Baroda and now in Shillong, it has begun to bring out translations from tribal languages and dialects like Gadwali, Bhili, Kui, Garo, Gammit, Mizo, Lepcha, Pahari, Mundari, Gondi etc. Its main contribution is in the area of interlanguage translation.

The National Book Trust has an '*Adan-Pradan*' series which selects contemporary classics from different eighth schedule languages and translates them into English and other Indian languages. The Trust's activity however is not confined to literature alone; it publishes knowledge books too about civil rights, health, environment, art, architecture, political science, history etc besides a series of biographies of important personalities from different walks of life.

The opening up of India's economy after the eighties has attracted the attention of international publishing houses who have begun publishing in India, though educational publishing still constitutes about 80 % of English language publishing in India. The industry is getting more and more professionalized, editorial standards are going up, and there is more of a focused marketing. While publishers like Pearson Education, Random House, Sage, McGraw Hill etc concentrate on the education sector in a broad sense, houses like Orient Longman(Disha Series), Macmillan(Modern Novels in English Translation Series),Penguin India, Oxford University Press, Rupa & Co, Harper-Collins etc have begun to attach great importance to translations. Another phenomenon is the emergence of publishing houses mostly devoted to translation like Katha. Small publishing houses like Stree, Zuban, Roli and Women Unlimited, etc. are also taking interest in translations.

Though the picture of literary translation into English seems somewhat bright, things are not all that cheerful when we come to (i), the translation of other categories of books into English, and (ii), translation from English and other Indian languages into Indian languages. (iii) The translation between Indian languages is also uneven, for example while 260 Bengali books are available in Malayalam, only 12 books from Malayalam have gone into Bengali. One reason for this unevenness, other than the open or closed nature of the languages themselves, is the sheer absence of translators from some languages into some others. While most languages have experts who can translate from English into a

Modern Indian Language and Hindi, there are practically no translators between Indian languages for example, between Tamil & Marathi, Malayalam & Gujarati and so on.

7.4. COURSES:

Formal courses in translation are currently offered only in a few universities. At present, the following courses are available:

1. **Annamalai University:**
 - (i).P.G.Diploma in Translation Studies
 - (ii)M.A. in Applied Linguistics and Translation
 - (iii) M.A. in Translation Studies
 - (iv)Ph. D in Linguistics (includes Translation)
 - (v) M. Phil in Translation Studies
2. **Agra University, K.M. Institute:** Diploma Courses in Translation.
3. **Himachal Pradesh University:** M. Phil in Translation Studies
4. **Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University:** Certificate course in Translation
5. **Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University:** Certificate course in Translation
6. **University of Pune:** Certificate and Diploma course in Translation
7. **University of Hyderabad (Centre for Distance Education):**
Post Graduate Diploma in Translation Studies (PGDTS)
8. **University of Hyderabad (Dept of Hindi):**
 - (i) Diploma in Translation
 - (ii) Advanced Diploma in Professional Translation
 - (iii). Post-Graduate Diploma in Translation Studies
9. **University of Hyderabad (CALTS):**
M. Phil & Ph.D. in Translation Studies
10. **CIEFL (Now TEFLU), Hyderabad) (The Center for Translation Studies (CTS):** Post-Graduate Diploma in Translation Studies
11. **University of Kerala:** Post graduate degree in Translation
12. **Madurai Kamaraj University:** P.G. Courses in Translation
13. **Tamil University, Thanjavur:** Diploma Courses in Translation.

14. **Viswa –Bharati:** M.A. in Functional Hindi (Translation)

Besides the above, there are a number of Comparative Literature Departments in different universities (e.g. Jadavpur University at Kolkata, and Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, Surat) that also offer courses in the area of Translation Studies. There are private institutions offering courses such as the following: Diploma in Translation, Institute of Translation Studies (Regd.), Bangalore. There are many such courses that are available now.

7.5 LINGUISTIC DATA CONSORTIUM OF INDIAN LANGUAGES (LDC-IL)

The LDC-IL was set up to help researchers and developers in the field of corpus linguistics and language technology related to Indian Languages. Language data is the key ingredient in terms of research and development in the area of language technology. The LDC-IL addresses the need to enhance machine readable language data in Hindi and other languages. The issues surrounding collection, processing and annotation of the quantities of linguistic data make it necessary to involve a number of disciplines like linguistics, statistics, engineering etc.

In addition to these Linguistic Data Consortium for Indian Languages will also

- Create a repository of linguistic resources in all Indian languages in the form of text, speech and lexical corpora.
- Facilitate creation of such databases by different organizations.
- Set standards for data collection and storage of linguistic corpora for different research and development activities.
- Support development and sharing of tools for data collection and management.
- Facilitate training through workshops, seminars etc. in technical as well as process related issues.
- Create and maintain the LDC-IL website that would be the primary gateway for accessing LDC-IL resources.
- Design or provide help in creation of appropriate language technology for mass use.
- Provide the necessary linkages between academic institutions, individual researchers and the masses.

These activities which will facilitate work in Machine Translation are directly useful for the National Translation Mission.

7.6 WORK DONE BY C-DAC & TDIL.

Skeptics who doubt the efficiency of Machine Translation (MT) systems would be surprised to know that there are several MT systems in use around the world. Examples include the well known Systran (used by the AltaVista search engine)

and METEO (used at the Canadian Meteorological Centre which does translation of over 45,000 words in weather bulletins since 1977). In India, the MT revolution was kick-started by C-DAC when it started work on NLP (Natural Language Processing) and developed a Tag-based Parser which could parse Hindi, Sanskrit, Gujarati, English and German. While developing this technology, the company was looking at practical implementations of the same and suggested it to various agencies. Realising the immense potential of MT, the Department of Official Language, (DOL) Government of India, began actively funding such projects. The Ministry of Communication & Information Technology (MC&IT) has identified the following domains for development of domain-specific translation systems:

- Government administrative procedures and formats;
- Parliamentary questions and answers. Pharmaceutical information.
- Legal terminology and judgments

The ministry also initiated the 'Technology for Development of Indian languages' (TDIL) project in the year 1990-91 to support and fund Research & Development (R&D) efforts in the area of Information processing in Indian languages covering MT among others. However, with 22 different official languages, translation poses a difficult challenge. As English and Hindi is a critical pair of languages and constitute a bulk of the correspondence in government offices, this pair has been identified as the priority area for MT.

Accordingly; two specific areas of research have been identified: MT systems for translation between Indian languages, and MT systems for translation between English to Hindi. Currently, three institutions in the country namely C-DAC Pune, NCST, or what is known as C-DAC-Mumbai now), IIIT-Hyderabad, and IIT-Kanpur have taken the lead in developing applications using this cutting edge technology.

Under the knowledge-based computer systems project of the Department of Electronics (DOE), C-DAC developed VYAKARTA, which could parse English, Hindi, Gujarati and Sanskrit. It used the same parser to develop MANTRA (a machine assisted translation tool for translating official language sentences from English to Hindi). The same was demonstrated to the Department of Official Languages who financed the project entitled 'English to Hindi Computer assisted Translation System' for administrative purposes. The aim of the project was to design, develop and implement a computer assisted translation system for personnel administration. The system is now able to translate letters and circulars such as appointment letters and transfers and is also capable of taking inputs from standard Word processing and DTP packages.

After successful completion of English to Hindi translation in the above-specified domain, C-DAC is now looking to extend it to other domains and apply the developed techniques for multi-lingual translation. This capability would also enable it to achieve Machine translation between any language pair.

Another organisation involved in the area of MT is Mumbai-based NCST, which is now re-named as C-DAC-Mumbai. NCST was one of the first institutes in India to work on Machine Translation. In the late 80s we developed an early prototype, ScreenTalk, to translate PTI news stories of specific categories, using a script-like approach. Since then, it developed another software called the MaTra, a general-purpose framework for translation between English and Indian languages, starting with Hindi. MaTra can be used in two ways. In the automatic mode, the system gives the best translation it can which can be later post-edited by the user. In the manual mode, the user can guide the system towards the correct translation using an intuitive GUI.

In developing this cutting edge technology, IIT-Mumbai and IIT-Kanpur took the lead through projects such as Anusaaraka, Anglabharati, Anubharati etc. Currently, a very modern approach to this problem through the Universal Networking Language (UNL) is being pursued in IIT Bombay. 'ANGLABHARATI' is said to be a revolutionary system in the field of Machine Translation. The system is a machine aided translation system for translation between English to Hindi, for the specific domain of Public Health Campaigns.

While all the current projects have focused their energies on machine translation from English to Hindi, extending them to other languages remains a challenge. The Anusaaraka project which started at IIT Kanpur and was later developed jointly by the IIIT Hyderabad and CALTS, University of Hyderabad was innovative and was started with the explicit aim of translation from one Indian language to another. Anusaaraka is a software which is capable of converting text from one Indian language to another. It produces output, which a reader can understand but is not exactly grammatical. For example, a Bengali to Hindi Anusaaraka can take a Bengali text and produce output in Hindi which can be understood by the user but will not be grammatically perfect. Likewise, a person visiting a site in a language he does not know can run Anusaaraka and read the text. Anusaaraka's have been built from Telugu, Kannada, Bengali, Marathi and Punjabi to Hindi. The system so developed will be available as open source software. The IIIT-Hyderabad has now come up with yet another translation support system called 'SHAKTI'.

As one would notice, still a lot of ground has to be covered by the researchers and both universities/IITs and the Software Industry are seriously engaged in this area, which needs NTM's support.

Section 8 TECHNOLOGY ISSUES

Electronic translation aids involving Indian languages are still at an early stage of development. Such tools would include word processors, dictionaries, management tools, term banks, online dictionaries, online and visual thesauri, word-finders, translation memory softwares, e-translators (=machine translation softwares) translation teaching softwares, glossaries, corpora, spell checkers, grammar checkers, electronic dictionaries, technical glossaries, gramatical glossaries, online tools, cultural vocabularies and various look up facilities. *All of them, except the machine translation package, support the translator but do not perform the actual translation task.*

NTM can facilitate technological advancement in machine translation by assisting in the training and development of human technical resources for some activities and supporting others through collaboration and providing synergy. NTM can come in to help in the following areas is association with bodies like C-DAC and Technology Development for Indian Languages (TDIL) etc.

- a. Building up of the necessary infrastructure, especially digital tools like the thesauri, bilingual dictionaries, software for translation memory etc which have immediate application for more efficient and effective translation
- b. Creation and maintenance of lexical resources like e-dictionaries, wordnets, language analysis and synthesis tools, concordancers, frequency analysers etc through multi-institute collaboration over a long period: here NTM could provide a common platform for teamwork through continuous interaction by holding meetings, on-line discussions etc.
- c. Working out the copyright issues for source texts and translations in clean digital form. NTM can ensure that this wealth of digital material is maintained in a standard format with standardised XML tags and DTDs.
- d. Production and maintenance of high quality parallel corpora with annotations and alignments being generated under LDC-IL project. Such corpora can be treated with machine learning techniques to obtain machine translation systems.
- e. Promotion of an interlingua based approach along the lines of the 'Universal Networking Language' (UNL) initiated by the United Nations in 1996 involving 15 countries. IIT, Bombay has already developed various tools, techniques and resources for English and Indian language MT which could be generalised.

Section 9 MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

9.1. THE MANAGEMENT

CIIIL as the nodal organisation, will set up and operationalise the National Translation Mission. The Director CIIIL will be the nodal officer for the implementation of the scheme. The Project Director of the NTM would act as the Member-Secretary of the Project Advisory Committee of the NTM (abbreviated as NTM-PAC).

9.2. PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NTM-PAC).

The structure of the NTM-PAC will be as follows:

1.	Director, Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore	Chairperson
2.	A Nominee of Jt. Secretary (Languages), or Director (Languages), Department of Higher Education, MHRD, Government of India	Member
3.	A Nominee of JS & FA, or IFD (HRD)	Member
4.	Chairman, Commission for Scientific & Technical Terminology (CSTT), New Delhi	Member
5-6.	Two representatives from different university departments teaching translation	Members
7-8.	Two representatives from different states (by rotation) – representing the institutes/academies of such states dealing with languages and translation	Members
9.	One of the Vice-Chancellors of a language university (by rotation)	Member
10-12.	Three from among the Booksellers and Publishers	Members
13.	Secretary, Sahitya Akademi	Member
14.	Director, National Book Trust (NBT)	Member
15-16.	Two representatives from different IITs/NITs/Industrial houses engaged in R&D in the area of Translation Tools/Technologies	Members
17-24.	Eight Specialists in Translation/representatives from private organizations/corporate houses or private individuals who have interest in translation activities (on rotational basis for two years)	Members
25.	Project Director, National Translation Mission, or in her/his absence, Academic Secretary, CIIIL	Member Secretary

9.3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE NTM SOCIETY

The membership of the NTM activity in general should be open to all professional as well as amateur translators as well as to all those agencies and individuals interested in the activity of translation. The details of how to register under the NTM could be seen in the web-site elsewhere.

9.4. THE PROJECT DIRECTOR

The Project Director of the National Translation Mission will be appointed by a Committee consisting of Joint Secretary (Languages) as the Chair-person, and Director, CIIL as Member-Secretary, with three experts – two from the PAC of the NTM, and one from outside, to be nominated by the Secretary (HE). The Essential and Preferable qualifications in respect of the Project Director are as follows:

- (i) The Project Director of NTM will be appointed for a period of 5 years.
- (ii) The Project Director, NTM should be ideally below 60 years of age,
- (iii) The nominated scholars should ideally be a Doctoral Degree holder in Translation Studies/any Language and Literature discipline (including Comparative Literature)/Linguistics, and / or an eminent scholar in the field of translation.
- (iv) Must have a teaching/research experience of at least 15 years,
- (v) Publications in Translation Studies/Lexicography as well as
- (vi) Evidence of actual published work of translation.

The Project Director, NTM shall report to Director, CIIL, as the latter will be the Nodal Officer of the Mission, with the responsibility to sign appropriate contracts, Intents of Collaboration, MoUs and assignments, for which all ground-work and correspondences will be done by the Project Director. The following shall be the nature of duties of the Project Director, NTM, who shall be

- (a) the custodian of the records and publications/e-publications and such other properties of the Institute as the Institute may commit to her/his charge;
- (b) to conduct official correspondence on behalf of the authorities of the Institute.
- (c) to convene meetings of the NTM PAC as well as Working Groups and various committees under the direction of the Chairperson of PAC;
- (d) to keep the minutes of the meetings of these Committees;
- (e) to maintain accounts of the NTM;
- (f) subject to the powers of the PAC of the NTM, to be responsible for seeing that all moneys are expended on the purposes for which they are granted or allotted;
- (h) to frame the budget of the Mission at the beginning of each financial year and forward it through the Director, CIIL to the Ministry for consideration and approval; and,
- (i) to exercise such administrative and financial powers as may be assigned to him by the Governing Board.
- (j) Notwithstanding anything stated above, the Government of India may, at any time after a Project Director has been selected, remove the incumbent from office on grounds of misconduct.

9.5. THE STAFF COMPLEMENT

No permanent posts will be created for the NTM. Requirement of personnel will be met on need basis through short-term contract. Services will be outsourced to the maximum extent possible. There would, however, be a total of 65 core project staff – with about one-third of them being located in Delhi office, the remaining being in Mysore. In addition, there would be a number of consultants for specific tasks and with specialization in different Indian languages.

The details of the 65 Core NTM staff are tentatively planned to be as follows:

Sl.No.	Head
1.	Human Resources (65 in total)
(a)	Project Director (1) @ Rs.40,000 plus
(b)	Dy. Directors/Professors (4) – one each for Science, Technology & Soc Sc/Hum @ Rs.35,000 – 38,000
(c)	Research Officers/Readers (12)– for North India, South India, East India and West India @ Rs.29,000 – 32,000
(d)	Junior Research Officers/Sr. Lecturer & Lecturers (12) for four zones and one north-east @ Rs.20,000 – 26,000
(e)	Research Associates (5) @ Rs.15,500 – 18,000
(f)	Senior Editors/Web-Editors for coordination (5) - each for one zone plus NER @Rs.24,000 – 26,000
(g)	Sub-Editors-Print & Web (5) - @Rs.20,000 – 22,000
(h)	Administrative Officers (Accts.) (1) @Rs.22,000
(i)	Office Superintendent (2)
(j)	Senior Project Technicians (4) @Rs.24,000 – 26,000
(k)	Junior Project Technicians (10) @Rs.20,000 – 22,000
(l)	Data Entry Operators (2) – English/Indian lgs.
(m)	Office Personnel – Accounts (2)

Estimated Total Cost during 11th Plan (Variable): Rs. 4,26,53,012

9.6. LOCATION

The EFC (and also the PAMD) decided that it was desirable that the Mission be housed in one single building with all its operating units under one single roof, and that no permanent construction of building of NTM could be avoided. *It has, therefore been decided to **begin functioning from Mysore at the CIIL premises as CIIL is equipped to co-ordinate the mission and has the necessary expertise to launch it.*** For operational purposes, an office may be hired on rent at Mysore.

However, since NTM will be constantly interacting with concerned Government departments and organisations, corporate houses, IT/software experts, publishing houses, autonomous cultural organisations, experts in Indian and foreign languages etc., and it is likely to have a lot of consultants and experts on its various committees, it has been decided to have a **liaison office of the NTM** in **Delhi**, or the National Capital Territory, as Delhi has the maximum number of publishing houses, many experts in IT and different Indian languages, and is the

location of many Government of India offices and many autonomous cultural organizations, etc. *For the present, a liaison office will begin functioning from a rented building in Delhi.*

9.7. DURATION

The need for NTM activities will be felt as long as the need for translation between various languages of literary and knowledge-texts is felt. As knowledge is ever-expanding and new texts get produced continuously, it is difficult to foresee the end of NTM activity in near future.

Section 10 MEANS OF FINANCE AND PROJECT INITIATION

10.1. FUNDING

NTM would be supported by the Government of India as a key institution in translation activity in India. NTM will be a central scheme. However, it is hoped that NTM will start generating some income of its own from the 12th Plan period onwards as it will develop translation tools like dictionaries, thesauri, translation software and actual translations of texts in diverse fields which it can market through agencies. The books will however have to be so priced as to make them affordable to all sections of our people. The publishing houses to be involved in co-publication and subsidy publications are yet to be decided by the NTM-PAC.

It has also been decided to make all its web-based contents and tools open to all and free of cost. The translation training programmes and accreditation may have some prescribed fee but that is yet to be decided.

10.2. BUDGET

Although the original recommendation of the NKC as well as the MHRD was Rs.250 crore, it was felt that in the initial stage, the total budget could be limited to within Rs. 100 crore. The EFC draft was accordingly revised in March 2008, and a proposal for Rs. 98.97 crore was prepared. However, it was decided at the NTM-EFC that the amounts shown against the CSTT (Rs. 20 crore) and NCERT (Rs.5 Crore) be removed (See *NTM-EFC Minutes*, Item 11(iv & v), page 6; *the observation of PAMD, reported under Para 4, Page 2; and also, Para 10 stating the consensus view on this item*).

Finally, the NTM budget was approved as Rs. 73.97 crore during the EFC meeting (see the NTM EFC-Minutes No. F.25-4/2008-IFD, dated May 22, 2008, (See *NTM Minutes*, Item 11.(i), page 6).

The Budget as approved could be elaborated here with year-wise distribution:

		2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	TOTAL
	Recurring	1519.712	2026.305	1800.731	2050.682	7397.43
1.	Human Res	99.312	100.305	108.831	118.082	4,26.53
2.	Publ+ Other Tasks	1181.00	1901.60	1661.00	1901.60	6645.20
3.	General Maint.	14.40	14.40	14.40	14.40	57.60
4.	Equip./ Softw.	220.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	2,20.00
5.	Equip. Maint.	00.00	5.00	11.50	11.50	28.00
6.	Travel	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	20.00

Table 1: Approved overall budget for NTM with year-wise break up

The total tasks (as referred to under Item 2 in the above table) were also detailed in the following manner (after removing the CSTT and the NCERT components):

COST OF EVENTS/TASKS (In Lakhs)		
a	Publication & translation of 1760 reference books + 200 text books	4520.00
b	G.I.A. Subsidies for journals on translation	200.00
c	G.I.A. Grants to authors/translators for Copyright Fee	35.20
d	G.I.A. Grants for Translator Training	100.00
e	Task+GIA Electronic Dictionaries/Thesauri (Rs 390 cr+Rs 600 cr)	990.00
f	G.I.A. Grants for NLP Research	400.00
g	G.I.A. Grants for University Departments conducting Degree/Diploma courses on translation	200.00
j	Web-Maintenance (National Register/Bulletin/E-zine /Search/Tools)	200.00
Total (in lakhs) : Rs		6645.20

Table 2: Approved Budget for Tasks, Consultancies, Outsourcing & GIA for NTM

It was also stated in the EFC Minutes that Anukriti and other projects on translation being done in CIIL should now on be under the NTM, and that there should be no duplication of work.

As for the GIA element of NTM was concerned, one would have to add the items under 'b' through 'g' (except for 'e', where tasks and GIA amounts are separated), and the figure for extending grants to the universities, organizations, translation outfits, individuals and researchers would be Rs. 1535.20 lakhs. It is obvious that proposals would have to be invited from all corners of the country to offer these grants in respect of **b**, **d**, **e** and **f**, although **c** will depend on the identification of texts, and **g** on a decision that may be taken in respect of quantum of grants to the relevant university departments offering translation studies courses. However, the GIA activity under NTM would, however, begin after the initial decisions are made by the NTM-Project Advisory Committee.

The total NTM project was finally approved by the Hon'ble HRD Minister on 18th June 2008. It may be mentioned that the Ministry had already allocated Rs. 90 lakhs as a token grant for NTM during 2007-08 (See Budget on Grants, Page 20) and created all budgetary heads and sub-heads for this purpose then. But since the EFC was delayed that amount was not spent. During the year 2008-09 again, a token of Rs. 100 lakhs was included for NTM in the BG, with the following details:

	2008-09 B.G.		
Salary, incl Consultancy/ Tr.Fee/Honor	50.00	Office Ex	13.00
O.T.A.	00.00	O.A.C.	05.00
Medical	00.50	O.C.	05.00

Travel Ex	10.00	G.I.A.	16.50
Total			100.00

Table 3: Approved Token BG for NTM 2008-09

The Institute has asked the PAO to release the first two quarter installments of the token budget (i.e. only Rs. 41.75 lakhs) already identified by the Ministry (vide its letter no. F.1-1/2008-09/Accts/BUDGET/(NTM)). Separate steps are also being taken to create a separate NTM-GIA account as per the procedures laid down by the CCA. Although it would mean that the remaining budget amount in respect of NTM as per the EFC for the year 2008-09 would be Rs. **1419.712 lakhs** (as estimated in April-May 2008), and since a lot of time has already lapsed in setting up the procedures and initiating the tasks, it is important to revise the first year's budget to bring it down to a reasonable extent. The following table would show the reduced amounts – year-wise in respect of the NTM. This table is created out of the earlier tables 1 and 2, and by separating tasks that could be done by out-sourcing and through consultants

NTM Budget (In Lakhs)

	2008-09 Released	2008-09 Addl to be asked for	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	TOTAL
Salary, incl Consultancy/ Tr.Fee/Honor	50.00	49.312 100.688 <u>124.950*</u> 274.950	100.305 110.757 183.260* 58.310 452.632	108.831 121.833 <u>331.079#</u> 561.743	118.082 134.016 <u>364.187</u> 616.285	1955.61
O.T.A.	00.00	00.000	00.000	00.000	00.000	000.00
Medical	00.50	00.000	00.550	00.600	00.65	002.30
Travel Ex	10.00	05.000	30.000	35.000	45.00	125.00
Office Ex	13.00	112.000	45.000	50.000	00.000	220.00
O.A.C.	05.00	09.400	14.400	14.400	14.400	057.60
O.C.	05.00	390.050	1099.923	1169.720	837.027	3501.72
G.I.A.	16.50	175.400	383.800	422.18	537.320	1535.20
Total	100.00	966.800				
Grand Total		1066.800	2026.305	2253.643	2050.682	7397.43

Note: * Translation fee for 300 books + Translation fee for 440 books plus 58.31 for a backlog payment for earlier year's 140 assignments # Fee for Fee for 580 books & 0.90 for web-based content translation

Table 4: Approved overall budget for NTM with year-wise break up

It may be noted that much less amount is being asked for under 2008-09 as the project is in the formative stage now: **Rs. 1166.88 lakhs** as against **Rs. 1519.712 lakhs**, which is the sanctioned amount (as per the *NTM Minutes & DPR*) as given in Table 1. The figures in other years have remained the same, except that the savings from 2008-09 have been passed on to 2010-11. Assuming that in the first year, 440 book translation assignments (of each book being 250 page long on average) are offered, and the submission rate is 68% to 70%, not more than

300 texts would be submitted as work completed by the translators. Under the 'Katha Bharathi' scheme as approved during the 10th Plan, the translation rate was Rs.300 per 1000 words (=close to three printed pages). If the NTM PAC agrees to pay Rs. 500 for 1000 words – these being highly technical translation, we would have to pay about Rs. 41,665 to each translator. As the total budgetary provision for 1960 books for all works, namely adaptation & translation, evaluation, copy-editing, was kept at Rs. 4520.00 lakhs (See Table 2) which also included amounts for printing and publishing subsidies/costs, we could now calculate the requirements for 2008-09. Assuming that in 2008-08, we could only assign 440 titles, and only 300 books (into 250 pages on average) are completed and evaluated/copy-edited, we would ask for only Rs.520.00 lakhs out of Rs. 4520.00 lakhs under this head (a part of which would be shown as consultancy, and a part under the OC head):

Justification for additionalities (Out of Table 2, item a): Rs. 520.00 lakhs

1. Translators' remuneration:	124.95 lakhs (Rs.41,650x300)
2. Evaluation:	15.00
3. Copy-editing:	75.00
4. Data-input/ Publ software:	30.00
5. Printing (adv/paper, etc):	200.05
6. IPR/Copyright paym:	75.00

As for Rs.220 lakhs on equipments, the first year's for only Rs.125.00 lakhs – especially to set up the office in Delhi which will require both machines and basic furnishing. We are asking additional amounts under the TE (Rs. 15.00 lakhs as against Rs.5.00 lakhs), also because this being the first year, there would be many meetings. The head under 'General Maintenance' remains the same as in table 1: OAC 14.20 lakhs.

Finally, coming to the NTM-GIA amount of Rs.1535.20 (See Table 2) for all four years, the share of 2008-09 would have been Rs.383.80 lakhs. However, considering that the time remaining is only seven months, the amount asked for under additionalities is Rs. 191.20 lakhs only.

10.3. INITIAL STEPS

To set up the basic structure of the project and to undertake the operationalization of the ideas behind the scheme, it was decided to take a series of steps such as follows:

- (1) Some basic information on the NTM is put up in the existing main web-site of the institute, since there is a lot of interest among the common public who would like to participate in the mission's activity;
- (2) The decision to merge all projects on translation and dictionaries etc be implemented under the NTM (See *NTM Minutes*, Item 11.(vi), page 6; also Para 8 under FA's observations), and the personnel already engaged for these earlier projects such as Anukriti are temporarily engaged as consultants now;

- (3) A draft 'domain'/web-site for NTM has been registered, and 'working groups' have been created (See *NTM Minutes*, Item 11(vii), page 6) so as to convert the draft web-site with all details in 22 languages;
- (4) All the above are being done by outsourcing this work to the Consultants (See *NTM Minutes*, Item 11(viii), page 6 as well as Secretary-HE's observations in Para 7 "to create an inbuilt system for outsourcing most of its work"). Once this ground-work is done, the whole work could be placed before the PAC for approval and eventually for launching it with their approval, or with the approval of the Ministry;
- (5) The basic print-dictionaries in at least six major languages are to be completed as soon as possible jointly with Longman group (in a PPP mode) as the work had been continuing as the first set of translation tools or products under the NTM (as reported in *Minutes*, Para 2, Page 1) and work for converting them into e-dictionaries be taken up with the same consultants;
- (6) The syllabi of selected major universities, UGC and UPSC are being gathered to create a database of texts and reference books out of which the PAC may like to choose texts for translation;
- (7) The original DPR has been expanded so as to populate the web-pages of the NTM web-site under preparation;
- (8) A draft National Register for Translation has been created through ASP scripting and with MySQL running as the background database;
- (9) Immediate steps are to be taken to create awareness advertisements/promotional material for media insertions in all 22 languages;
- (10) Steps are also being taken to link up the 'anukriti' web-site (so far run by CIIL, Sahitya Akademi and NBT; see www.anukriti.net) to this new NTM web-site (as observed in *the NTM Minutes*, Para 2, page 2 which stated: "The earlier web-based translation activities under 'Anukriti' project approved by the Planning Commission would be subsumed under the NTM activity"), and decide on segregating and upgrading its contents;
- (11) As far as possible, open source software and user-freindly background are being used to create NTM site as a public domain, easily accessible in any Indian language (as advised by the Planning Commission, see *NTM Minutes*, Para 3, page 2); and
- (12) The Institute has begun to negotiate to know the terms and conditions that major international publishing houses may offer to the NTM so that this could be further deliberated and decided at the level of PAC.

Section 11

CONCLUSIONS

As a country, India is presently poised at an intriguing stage of our evolution as a mature democracy, when the country is trying to assert its independence of thought, assert its willingness to own its problems and move towards a social order that will reaffirm its faith in coexistence of its diverse people who share a vision of common destiny. Languages are the soul of our pluralistic heritage and multilingualism is our way of life. Promotion of Indian Languages must be seen by the nation as an essential part of our development processes that will maximize democratic participation of its people and prove to be a key to our survival as a great nation. Our culture has always understood the importance of language studies. Even in Vedic times four of the six branches of 'knowledge': Shiksha [the word meant "Phonetics" but is presently used for education in general], Vyaakaran –"Grammar," Nirukta-"Etymology" and Chhandas "Prosody" were related to language. The work done by Indian grammarians [both in Sanskrit and Tamil] was of real high quality and laid the foundation for the scientific study of language and many of the modern theories continue to derive great benefit from the work of our ancestors. There was a point of time when knowledge-based texts from India found their way in different parts of Asia through translation. It is the same tool that we used to bring in the western concepts to India during the 18th and 19th century, and the last century saw a virtual explosion of that knowledge. However, much of what has happened has been a vertical and uni-directional flow of texts and knowledge from the west to our country. We are – in many instances, and in most disciplines – still teaching English-based texts. We are faced with a situation where, outside the metro centres, teaching takes place by necessity in the local languages, although resource material in those languages is hard to come by. English as a language of commerce and communication may be more widespread now, but as a mandated medium of tertiary education it is seriously in decline. Thus, linguistic displacement in the schools and colleges is becoming a real problem. A wide gap emerges between the languages of the taught and the languages through which teaching is being done.

A very important area of promotional activities may be seen in the area of technological advancement. Our languages and grammatical descriptions may help provide corpus and mechanisms to aid natural language processing. We have taken rapid gigantic strides in the world of information technology and this advantage should flow in to activities in the area of machine-aided translation. It is hoped that all concerned agencies will do their best to link all Indian languages with technological devices for that will definitely contribute to the empowerment of communities, and acceleration of translation activity.

Languages are precious gift for humanity and meant to build bridges across space and time. We need to be wary of those forces that think otherwise and seek to make issues of language divisive or conflict ridden. We should send a clear message to all that our languages are resources and multilingualism is an asset, and we realize that our destiny as a people is inextricably linked to the destiny of our languages, and to knowledge that we cultivate in and through them. We need to prepare for a culture where transfer of knowledge from one language to the other becomes feasible. The ***National Translation Mission*** as envisioned here may become a useful instrument of promotion for knowledge-based research and academic exchanges as well as all-round language development in India.

Promoting the Translation Industry

(Note from Jayati Ghosh)

The need for an efficient, rapid, high-quality translation industry in India is more than obvious, given the need to preserve and strengthen the richness and variety of Indian languages and the need to provide all of our linguistic groups access to a wide range of material in their own language as far as possible. It should be noted that all countries that put a premium on knowledge have systematically promoted translation services and tried to make as many types of material possible available in different languages. This is true in large developing countries such as China, which has a vibrant active translation industry which provides up-to-date translation in a wide range of areas. It is also true of very small developed countries where a very high proportion of people are fluent and educated in major foreign languages (such as The Netherlands and Finland in Europe) where the local languages remain strong because of the presence of extensive translations.

Translation is required:

- from English to Indian languages
- from Indian languages to English
- between Indian languages

The following materials need to be translated

- textbooks at school level
- textbooks at higher education level
- other pedagogic material
- specialised books in sciences, social sciences, humanities, arts
- reference books (encyclopedias, etc)
- literature
- non-fiction books of current interest
- instruction manuals
- magazines, journals
- web-based material

At the moment, there are some agencies dealing with these in different locations, as part of other activities – these include both public and private agencies. Thus National Book Trust provides translations (from English to major Indian languages and vice versa) of some major literary works, usually by famous or award-winning writers. Some private organisations (e.g. Katha publishers, Prajashakti newspaper group, etc.) have provided translations of well-known

literature and some books of current interest. There is no public institution that systematically deals with all the aspects mentioned above, and with all the major languages in terms of direct intervention, promotion, or supervision.

The current problems with respect to translation are as follows:

1. There are large and critical gaps in terms of the availability of translated material in all the areas mentioned above.
2. There are significant problems with respect to the quality and accessibility of translated material. The quality tends to be uneven and often poor. There is also a common tendency to translate literally or in excessively complicated language which reduces the accessibility of the translated work. The production quality of translated work also varies widely.
3. There are substantial time lags in translation, such that the most recent or current works are not generally available in translation for several years.
4. There is inadequate promotion and dissemination of translated material, such that many people who would avail of it are not aware that such material is available even when there are translations of good quality.
5. There is almost no co-ordination in carrying out translation, such that there is unnecessary duplication even while crucial gaps remain.
6. The web-translation services for translation into and from English and regional languages are still at a very nascent phase. There are MT initiatives, such as C-DAC: Vyakarta, MANTRA, NCST Mumbai: MaTra, IITs (especially Kanpur) Anusaaraka, Anglabharati, etc. There are still problems with these, and the relatively successful cases are only for Indian languages with similar syntax. There is a general lack of online lexical resources and lack of co-ordination.

However, there are also certain advantages which would facilitate the rapid development of translation services in India:

1. There is a significant bilingual educated population which could be usefully deployed in such activities. So this can become an important source of educated employment generation.
2. There are already a number of institutions providing language training, and these could be expanded relatively easily. The additional skills required for effective translation are not difficult to acquire, and could be incorporated into existing courses.
3. The copyright issues are typically much less when the translation involves a relatively limited market, and this means that lower cost editions of books etc. could be provided more easily.
4. Volumes will tend to be large, and this will allow for cheaper production as well as greater private sector participation, once the basic structures are developed.

The issues that need to be considered are:

- What are the existing public institutions that deal with providing translation, and how effective are they?
- What should be the nature of public sector involvement in such activity? Is there some critical infrastructure that needs to be provided publicly?
- Is there a way of ensuring that important recent material of various kinds (such as recent literature, works of current interest, important journals) are automatically translated into major languages? Who would decide which ones?
- Should such decisions be centralised or co-ordinated through state governments?
- Is there a case for one public agency which would consider, take copyright for, promote, monitor and delegate various types of translation services?
- How can more private activity in this area be promoted? Should fiscal or other incentives be provided for investment in these activities? Should partnerships be developed with publishing houses?
- How can the quality of translation be assured, monitored, supervised? Is it necessary to devote special resources to training and creation of dedicated professionals in this area?
- How can greater speed of delivery of translated material be encouraged?
- What are the possibilities in MT and can there be greater synergy between MT and traditional forms of translation?

Desirable immediate step:

National consultation on issues in promoting the translation industry, involving representatives from

- Central and state government officials (from Department of Official Languages, Education, Culture, Science departments)
- Schools, universities, technical institutes
- Industry (for translation needs of workers at different levels)
- Media
- Publishing industry
- Language schools.

We will need to identify the relevant people and organisations as soon as possible and formulate a concept note and draft agenda for circulation, on the basis of some discussion with experts in this area.

Proposal for National Translation Mission

submitted to NKC by Jayati Ghosh

(Based on discussions at the NKC Translation workshop, 11 February 2006,
and subsequent interaction with participants and others)

There is urgent need for expansion of quantity and improvement of quality of translations of different types (human, machine-aided, instant, etc.) and in different domains (literary, scientific, technical, business, etc.) that would provide greater access to knowledge across the country. The best way to kick-start this process and promote and disseminate good quality translation in the country may be to set up a **National Translation Mission**. This would urgently take up the task of identifying gaps, promoting good quality translation, training, disseminating information about translation and translators, and co-ordinating ongoing work by public and private organisations. The idea is not to duplicate or over-ride the work of various other public sector or private organisations, but to help them to re-examine their priorities, improve quality, and widen awareness.

As an activity, translation has been going on between different pairs of languages in the Indian subcontinent for a long time. Translation, as a passion, has seen many great minds in action in different speech communities in India and elsewhere. As a profession, translation is challenging and becoming more lucrative, particularly in recent decades. As a field of research, Translation Studies seem to have emerged as a field with numerous ideas emanating from linguistics, philosophy, literary studies, semiotics, lexicology, anthropology, computer science, and a host of other fields. But considering its spread across a large number of languages, cultures and nations, the field still seems to be lacking in efforts at coordinating its activities.

As a multilingual and multicultural country, and as one of the oldest knowledge bases, India has been in the forefront of translation for many centuries. With many languages and cultures, this country also provides a rich testing ground for all major theoretical initiatives in both literary and machine translation. It is expected that the proposed **National Translation Mission** (NTM) will fulfil a long-felt need that would satisfy different segments: teachers, learners, language technologists, business groups, newspaper establishments and other media groups, creative writers, readers, those engaged in comparative studies and translation theoreticians.

The NTM will have the following objectives:

- 1) To act as a store-house of information on translation involving Indian languages, and to make information regarding all aspects of translation available – by creating, maintaining and constantly updating information on translations published, training programmes scheduled, translation tools and instruments available and new initiatives, and facilities such as a ‘National Register for Translators’.
- 2) To work as a clearing house for all translation activities, both theoretical and practical, in as many Indian languages as possible;
- 3) To provide link to other agencies and organisations and individuals involved in translation and translation-related activities involving Indian languages;
- 4) To project Indian languages and literatures in this region and abroad through high-quality translation;
- 5) To create and maintain various tools for translation, and to especially prepare bilingual and multilingual bi-directional general as well as special-purpose translational dictionaries, word-finders, and thesauri; and
- 6) To enter into or promote printed as well as virtual publication of works on Translation Studies jointly or independently for the benefit of all institutions and individuals interested in the field.
- 7) To provide a forum for dialogue by creating a bulletin board for people to post questions and answers.
- 8) To provide guidance in the methodology of translation and undertake activities to enrich teaching and training activities in translation studies.

Key activities of the proposed National Translation Mission

1. Translator education.

This reflects the fact that while translation requires bilingualism as a necessary condition, it is a specialised function that cannot be assumed and some features of which must be learnt. In addition, different types of translation work require different skills – for example, translation of scientific or technical works requires very different skills and orientation from literary translation. Also, interpretation skills are relatively undeveloped and also need specialised training, with reference to the relevant media (e.g. radio or TV) and context.

The activities of the NTM in this area would include:

- Running short-term training programmes.
- Creating course packages for translators that could become part of language teaching programmes across the country.
- Fellowship programmes that would also allow exchange of scholars between institutions. Here, a special emphasis could be laid on translation between Indian languages, rather than only to/from English.

- Encouraging research projects, including student research, specifically for making available good translations of identified texts as examples and generating resources that could also serve pedagogic aims.

2. Information dissemination.

Since translation is currently not a very prominent or highly rewarded activity, there is also inadequate knowledge about the translation capabilities that exist in the country, even among potential users. For example, there are many good translators in particular regional languages, who are unknown to publishers or those who would otherwise use their services. The Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore, trains around 400 teachers fluent in one Indian language in another Indian language every year in 20 Indian languages in its Regional Language Centers in seven cities. This is increasingly recognised as a necessary but scarce skill, but these trained people (around 11,000 currently) are not widely known to potential users. In many languages, translations have already been created and printed by small publishers in a range of areas, but this output is not known to a wider group.

Therefore important activities of the NTM in this area would be:

- Creating a data repository of translators in different areas and with different skills and qualifications. This repository would be available online and also through contacting the NTM with specific requirements.
- Creating a data repository and annotated catalogue of existing translations of different works, classified by area, with new lists to be sent regularly to educational institutions, library networks, etc.

3. Promotion and dissemination of good quality translation material.

It may be argued that if there were need for much more translated material of various sorts, the market would already be delivering it. However, the lack of knowledge about possibilities actually prevents demand from emerging. As is the case with so much other knowledge, you do not know what you are missing until you are exposed to it. Further, those involved with translation of literary material (such as the National Book Trust and the Granth Academies) testify to the enormous demand for books translated into local languages once they are produced.

It is important to note that such translation however should not be a one-way street from English to Indian languages; rather, there is a wealth of material available in Indian languages which also require greater dissemination both in English and in other Indian languages. In particular, the tradition of viewing translation as a parallel avenue of creativity should be encouraged. There is need for a horizontal paradigm which does not create a vertical distinction between donor and receiving languages, and promotes the multilingualism and cultural diversity of India. There is already a proliferation of some translation in

certain areas (such as the works of Dr. Ambedkar which are being translated into many different languages) which reflects a wider social churning as well as the requirements and aspirations of newly literate groups.

In science and technical translation, unlike for literary translation, there is need for greater standardisation of terms and concepts so as to ensure both better comprehension and ease of moving across languages. Further, translation today is an under-rewarded activity both in terms of social recognition and monetary remuneration, and these needs to be changed. It is also important to note that translation is an individual activity but also a social enterprise, in which success which may require the involvement of a range of different people at different stages and team work.

In this context the following specific activities of the NTM could be considered:

- Active promotion of good quality translations through book launches, festivals, fellowships and prizes.
- Encouraging collaborative translation work, as well as long-term multi-translator projects, and organising workshops for translators to interact and exchange views and experiences.
- Buy-back arrangements with publishers and linking with library networks to ensure an initial market for good quality translation.
- Providing an interface between producers of translated material and publishers or purchasers, including both public and private organisations.
- Subsidising the initial translation of some current affairs journals and other useful and interesting material (such as the New Scientist, Economic and Political Weekly, and so on) for widespread dissemination into regional languages.
- Suggesting incorporation of translated material into syllabi of schools, colleges and universities, and in particular in literature studies at all levels bring in translated works from other Indian languages.
- Suggesting language resource centres in all schools and colleges and special book corners (dealing with translated materials) in schools.
- Promoting and disseminating less visible ongoing activities which emphasise bilingual skills (such as the compulsory translation section in the Karnataka police officers examination).
- Considering means to ensure greater access of translated material to smaller towns and villages, using other public and civil society organisations (such as the National Literacy Mission and the Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti).

4. Promotion of machine translation.

New technologies provide exciting new opportunities for rapid and large volume translation at relatively low cost, although there are issues of both technology development and human resources in this context. The NTM

could help create and use technology and facilitate technological progress in machine translation by adopting the following measures:

- Ensuring the creation of the necessary infrastructure, especially digital tools like Thesauri, Bilingual Dictionaries, software for Translation Memory, etc., which have immediate application for more efficient and effective translation.
- Lexical resources like e-dictionaries, wordnets, language analysis and synthesis tools, concordancers, frequency analysers etc. are the essential components of a machine translation system. These cannot be created and maintained by a single institute, but need multi-institute collaboration over a long time. NTM could provide a platform for team work, through continued interaction through meetings and online discussions.
- Source texts and translations should be made available in clean digital form as far as possible, with NTM working out the necessary copyright issues. NTM should ensure that this wealth of digital material is maintained in a standard form with standardised XML tags and DTDs.
- The international trend these days is to develop good quality parallel corpora with annotations and alignments. Such annotated corpora are treated with machine learning techniques to obtain machine translation systems. The sheer volume of this data and the magnitude of the effort require substantial initial investments which are not ideally made by individual organisations; however, the NTM could facilitate such efforts and provide some support.
- Promote an interlingua based approach along the lines of the "Universal Networking Language" (UNL) initiated by the United Nations in 1996 involving 15 countries. (IIT Bombay has already developed various tools, techniques and resources for English and Indian language MT, which could be generalised.)

Structure of the National Translation Mission

The NTM would be a relatively small body in terms of its own infrastructure and be flexible in organisation, but would have a budget sufficient to enable it to carry out targeted funding in identified areas. It could have a Director-General, assisted by about 15 to 20 full-time academic staff and an equal number of support staff (including accounts/audit, library & info, web-designing and print-specialists, editing assistants, event organisation assistants, technicians/documentation people etc). NTM would have an Advisory Council to guide its activities. The decision making body could consist of 10 members representing translators, academia, publishers, etc. with some sort of a rotating membership (for example, two to three year terms with two members being replaced every year).

The focus of the NTM would be on information, application, training and creativity in the area of translation. It will not function in a centralised way but will require involvement at many different levels, including state and local levels, and co-ordination with many different agencies.

It would co-ordinate and co-operate with a variety of organisations, to prevent duplication, create synergies and allow for integrated yet flexible development of translation activity. These will include public institutions such as National Book Trust, the UGC, Sahitya Akademi, Translation Kendras, Central Institute of Indian Languages, university departments offering teaching and research programmes in Translation, Granth Academies, other state-level institutions, public library networks, etc.) They will also include publishers, newspapers and other media, corporate houses, book sellers. In addition, the NTM will have to interact with and incorporate the requirements of teachers, students, parents, mature learners and other citizens. The point is to engage in strategic interventions building on and developing synergies with existing public institutions and private agents.

For logistic reasons, it may be better for the NTM to begin with the mandate of covering the 22 major languages in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution, but the importance of maintaining and disseminating the output of other regional languages should not be forgotten.

It is envisaged that a National Translation Mission performing these activities could be set up during the XIth Plan, with a proposed budget of Rs. 250 crore for the entire Plan period (around Rs. 80 crore for organisational costs, manpower and scholarships, and around Rs. 170 crore for all other activities, which would involve funding other collaborating institutions/parties). Depending upon the experience during the 11th Plan period, the extent of this support could be enhanced subsequently. The NTM may also require some additional one-time support for creating/developing the necessary infrastructure.

It may also have to be decided as to whether this task of creating and developing the NTM should be assigned to the Ministry of Human Resource Development (especially its Language Bureau, under which NBT works), since Universities, IITs, NBT and many Language Institutions – including the CIIL are under its fold, or to the Ministry of Culture (under which Sahitya Akademi works).

It is worth considering whether this proposal requires further elaboration and development before submitting to the Government. In addition to consultations with the relevant Ministries (HRD, Culture, IT) a possibility is to set up a 10-member committee that could act as a think-tank:

1. Prof. Bipan Chandra, Chairman, NBT
2. Prof. K. Satchidanandan (Secretary, Sahitya Akademi) **or** Dr. Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee (Editor, Indian literature, and Member, Sahitya Akademi)
3. Prof. Pramod Talgeri (former VC, CIEFL, and now in JNU) **or** Prof. Alok Bhalla, (CIEFL, Hyderabad)
4. Prof. Indra Nath Choudhuri (formerly Professor of Hindi, University of Delhi, Director Nehru Centre and Secretary, Sahitya Akademi)
5. Prof. U. R. Ananthamurthy (former President, Sahitya Akademi and VC- Mahatma Gandhi University) **or** Girish Karnad (formerly Director, Nehru Centre)
6. Prof. Amiya Dev **or** Prof. Nabaneeta Dev Sen (both formerly Professors, Comparative Literature, Jadavpur University)
7. Prof. S. B. Verma (Formerly Professor of Japanese, JNU, and well-known translator)
8. Prof. Harish Trivedi, Department of English, Delhi University
9. Prof. Pushpak Bhattacharya (IIT-Mumbai)
10. Prof. Udaya Narayana Singh (Director, CIIL, Mysore) - **Convenor**