



Indian Council for Cultural Relations
भारतीय सांस्कृतिक सम्बंध परिषद

**Press Statement Released at the Press Conference presided
by Dr Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, President ICCR**

**The ICCR and Google collaborate to improve
and extend the Sanskrit translation experience**

Recognizing their respective mandates in promotion of Indic languages including Sanskrit globally and appreciating the role of technology in such promotional efforts, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Google have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate to help improve Google's provision of Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning language technology for translation of Sanskrit text to various other languages and vice versa. The exchange of MOUs will take place in the gracious presence of President, ICCR, Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe at 11 am on 29th September, 2022. The MOU was earlier signed by the Director General (DG), Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Kumar Tuhin and the Senior Vice President (SVP) and Business Head for Google, Philipp Schindler.

For India, Sanskrit is not just a language; it is the path to understand India's wisdom and soul. Sanskrit language and literature are a vast repository of knowledge encompassing all spheres of life, like science and technology, astronomy and architecture, medicine and metallurgy, agriculture and sculpture, mathematics and management, and economics and ecology. The ICCR, through Google, intends to disseminate this knowledge globally. For years, Google Translate has helped break down language barriers and connect communities all over the world. The ICCR recognizes Google's consistent commitment to support Indian languages across their products. Under this collaboration, the ICCR would provide to Google authentic sentences in three languages: English, Hindi and Sanskrit and vice versa which would cover sentences and words closely related to the Indian culture, and the various aspects of its cultural and literary heritage. It is estimated that Sanskrit is the number one most requested language at the Google Translate. With this collaboration with Google, the ICCR furthers their mandate to help extend Indian languages to more people across India and the world.

In the pilot phase of the project, the ICCR has already provided 100,000 sentence pairs to Google to train their AI/ML models. The raw data was prepared and collated by ICCR with assistance of the Sanskrit Team consisting of the scholars, students and teachers from University of Delhi headed by Prof. Amarjiva Lochan.

The raw data sets provided to Google will be used to incrementally train the machine learning model, which we hope will improve Google's translation quality of Sanskrit language. The ICCR views Google's ability to provide Sanskrit language capabilities as an important tenet in expanding India's cultural awareness. The discussion with Google was led by Shri Rajeev Kumar, the Deputy Director General (DDG) and Chief Technology and Information Officer (CTIO) of ICCR.

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