INDIALAW

Document Legalization and Compliance

Document Legalization and Compliance Lawyers in India for MEA Apostille

PRACTICE PROFILE • OCTOBER 2026

Overview

- Apostille and Attestation Services: We provide end-to-end support in getting documents apostilled or attested by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), notaries, and embassies as required for immigration and visa purposes in India and abroad.
- MEA Coordination: Assistance with submission and follow-up of documents with the Ministry of External Affairs for inbound and outbound immigration requirements.
- Document Translation Services: Certified translations of legal, academic, and personal documents into required languages for immigration purposes in jurisdictions that demand localized versions.

Key Professionals



Shiju P V
Managing Partner



K.P. Sreejith
Founder

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1 **What does document legalization and compliance cover in India?**

It covers apostille, attestation, and authentication of documents for use abroad or by foreign nationals in India. This includes notarization, MEA stamping, embassy legalization, and certified translations required by immigration authorities or foreign institutions.

Q2 **When should I start the document legalization process for immigration?**

Ideally, four to six weeks before your visa application or filing deadline. Embassy attestation and MEA apostille timelines vary by document type and current processing loads. Starting early avoids last-minute rejections that can delay your entire immigration timeline.

Q3 **Which Indian laws and authorities govern document apostille and attestation?**

India is a signatory to the Hague Apostille Convention since 2023. The MEA handles apostille issuance under its established guidelines. Notarization is governed by the Notaries Act, 1952. Embassy attestation requirements vary by destination country and document category.

Q4 **How long does the MEA apostille or attestation process typically take?**

MEA apostille processing generally takes three to five working days once documents reach the MEA. However, prior steps like state-level authentication, notarization, and SDM attestation can add one to three weeks. Embassy attestation timelines depend on the specific mission's processing schedule.

Q5 **What documents are typically needed to begin the legalization process?**

Original documents such as birth certificates, degree certificates, marriage certificates, or corporate records. You will also need notarized copies, valid ID proof, and any prior authentication from state authorities or the SDM. For translations, source documents in their original language are required.

Q6 **What common mistakes can derail the document legalization process?**

Submitting documents with name mismatches across records, skipping mandatory state-level pre-authentication before MEA submission, or using uncertified translations that the destination country rejects. Another frequent issue is not verifying whether the destination country requires apostille or full embassy chain attestation.

Related Practice Areas

Immigration Law | OCI/PIO and Long-Term Visa Services | Citizenship and Residency Services